TOP NEWS

## NBR moves to cut textile sector income tax to 15% until 2030

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) plans to cut the income tax rate for the textile sector from 27.5% to 15% until 30 June 2030, according to The Business Standard. A draft statutory regulatory order (SRO) has been sent to Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, and a senior finance official said it would be issued soon after approval, under Section 76(1) of the Income Tax Act. The NBR cited the need to protect exports and jobs. It covers yarn production, dyeing, finishing, printing and related activities. A 15% rate applied for 10 years from 2015 and reverted to 27.5% after expiring in 2025. In May 2026 the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) asked for 10% until 2030, noting that export-oriented garments pay 12%. The NBR's 5 November proposal cites rising gas and electricity prices, energy shortages, high interest rates, reduced export incentives, competition after least developed country (LDC) graduation and subsidised yarn and fabric imports, and says most mills run at only 60-70% of capacity. The article gives no revenue estimate and does not say whether the SRO has been approved.

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## BSC recommends 25% cash dividend

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC), a state-owned ocean freight operator, recommended a 25% cash dividend, or Tk2.50 per Tk10 share, for the year ended 30 June 2026, according to a price-sensitive disclosure on 8 November reported by The Business Standard, with a record date of 15 December and the annual general meeting (AGM) date to be announced. Earnings per share (EPS) were Tk19.11 against Tk20.10 in FY25, which the company attributes to one-off capital gains in FY25 from selling two vessels, MT Banglar Jyoti and MT Banglar Sourabh. Net asset value (NAV) per share rose to Tk121.45 from Tk104.84, and net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) more than doubled to Tk25.40 from Tk11.96. For July-September 2026, EPS rose to Tk5.88 from Tk5.14, NOCFPS to Tk8.28 from Tk7.94 and NAV per share reached Tk127.36, with the company crediting income from new ships added to the fleet. The dividend is about 13% of FY26 EPS.

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## Renata posts 37% Q1 profit growth on lower finance costs, export gains

Renata PLC's consolidated net profit rose 37% to Tk102 crore in July-September 2026, with consolidated revenue up 11% to Tk1,260 crore, according to The Business Standard. Standalone profit rose 45% to Tk98 crore. Domestic pharmaceuticals grew 8.6% to Tk991 crore, animal health 10% to Tk197 crore, contract manufacturing 102% to Tk65 crore and exports 59% to Tk109 crore. Gross profit rose 12.7% against cost of sales up 10.5%, although a shift toward lower-margin, tender-driven contract products put some pressure on margins. Gross debt fell by Tk521 crore to Tk1,483 crore, net debt is Tk1,085 crore after Tk398 crore of cash and deposits, and net financing costs fell 35.2%. Earnings per share (EPS) rose 37% to Tk8.87, net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) rose 74% to Tk21.98 and net asset value (NAV) per share rose 3% to Tk339.31. Management cited geopolitical conflict, energy volatility and higher utility costs as challenges and is investing in research and development for injectables and anticancer products.

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## Padma Oil recommends 170% cash dividend as FY26 profit rises 21%

State-run petroleum distributor Padma Oil recommended a 170% cash dividend, or Tk17 per Tk10 share, for the year ended 30 June 2026, up from 160% a year earlier, according to a Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) filing on 8 November reported by The Business Standard. The record date is 29 November and the annual general meeting (AGM) is on 1 January 2027 on a digital platform. Net profit grew 21.24%, with earnings per share (EPS) of Tk69.47 against Tk57.30, and net asset value (NAV) per share rose to Tk328.33 from Tk274.86. Net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) turned positive at Tk63.72 from negative Tk39.83. For July-September 2026, EPS rose to Tk17.28 from Tk16.04, negative NOCFPS narrowed to Tk46.28 from Tk91.49 and NAV per share reached Tk345.61. The shares closed at Tk197.70, down 0.65%, and have no circuit breaker limit after the announcement.

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## DSE downgrades Golden Son to 'Z' category over dividend failure

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) moved Golden Son Limited from the 'B' to the 'Z' category effective 8 November because it failed to declare dividends for two consecutive years, following a Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) directive of 20 May 2024, according to The Business Standard. From 9 November, stockbrokers and merchant bankers must not give margin loans for buying its shares. The board met on 5 November, approved the audited FY26 accounts and recommended no dividend, with a record date of 29 November and an annual general meeting (AGM) on 26 December. Consolidated loss per share widened to Tk3.00 from Tk1.83 and standalone loss to Tk2.18 from Tk1.11, which the company blamed on a significant fall in turnover. Consolidated net asset value (NAV) per share fell to Tk13.07 from Tk16.06, while net operating cash flow per share edged up to Tk0.37 from Tk0.28. The shares fell 6.06% to Tk9.30 after the 7 November disclosure.

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## Govt outlines reform plans to address statistical flaws in previous GDP calculations

A joint study by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and the planning ministry found serious flaws in GDP calculations under the previous government, and the government is pursuing three reforms to restore confidence in official statistics, according to The Business Standard. At a National Statistics Day event on 8 November, Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said reliable data is essential for policy and that the review aims to correct problems rather than assign blame. The reforms are alignment of GDP and other indicators with the System of National Accounts (SNA) with geospatial

tracking of enumerators, a scientific proxy means test to target social safety nets and an integrated digital public infrastructure linking national ID, birth and death records. Officials said the previous government reported 13,000 engine-powered boats while a later count found 267,000, and Finance Adviser Rashed Al Titumir alleged the data failures contributed to 80 lakh people falling below the poverty line. Consumer price index (CPI) data is now collected digitally and published in real time without ministerial approval, and an Open Data Policy is planned.

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## Gas shortage keeps Ashuganj fertiliser factory shut for 1.5 years

The state-run Ashuganj Fertiliser and Chemical Company Limited (AFCCL) in Brahmanbaria has been idle since 1 March 2025 for lack of gas, according to a report published by The Daily Star on 26 October. Lost output is estimated at nearly Tk3,000 crore over 19 months, based on about Tk5 crore of daily output value. The plant produces about 1,150 tonnes of urea a day, down from 1,600, and needs about 48 million cubic feet of gas a day for full capacity. The energy minister said in April that gas would resume on 1 May, but that has not happened, and Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company says it is ready once it receives instructions. BCIC Chairman Md Babul Mia hopes production resumes before the end of 2026. Bangladesh imports about 26-27 lakh tonnes of urea a year, and restarting all fertiliser factories is meant to save about Tk22,000 crore in import costs. The government keeps paying salaries during the shutdown, and officials worry about idle machinery.

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## Bangladesh's external debt reaches $113.44 billion: World Bank

Bangladesh's external debt stands at US$113.44 billion, or about US$646 per citizen, according to the World Bank's International Debt Report 2026 as reported by The Financial Express through bdnews24.com. At Tk124.35 per dollar this is about Tk14.1 trillion, up from US$38.77 billion in 2015. Public and publicly guaranteed (PPG) debt is US$89.51 billion, private non-guaranteed debt US$9.87 billion and short-term debt US$14.06 billion. Multilateral lenders hold US$51.14 billion of PPG debt and bilateral lenders US$32.65 billion. The World Bank is the largest creditor at US$22.64 billion, followed by the Asian Development Bank at US$17.52 billion, Japan at US$12.72 billion and Russia at US$9.02 billion. Bangladesh Bank figures released on 12 October put external debt at a record US$114.98 billion at the end of FY2025-26, up 3.65% in three months. The two figures differ, and the article does not explain why.

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## BPC's 90-day fuel stock plan to safeguard against global shocks

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) Chairman Dr Md Rafiqul Islam said on 8 November that strategic fuel storage will rise from the current 60 days to 71 days by December and to 90 days of demand by 2027, according to The Financial Express citing BSS. The plan expands BPC's infrastructure, builds depots, renovates idle tanks and leases surplus tanks, including 82,200 tonnes at dormant power stations and a possible 30,000 tonnes from private company Omera. Projects include two 9,500-tonne tanks at Padma Oil, three 10,000-tonne tanks at Meghna Petroleum and 58,500 tonnes of new storage at Jamuna Oil. Demand for 2026 is estimated at 8,426,400 tonnes of petroleum products, including 4,473,000 tonnes of diesel. BPC's own cover is 57 days for diesel, 46 days for octane, 29 days for petrol and 78 days for furnace oil. Energy experts said reactivating idle tanks and using surplus power-sector and railway tanks would be cheaper and more practical than buying land for large projects.

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