TOP NEWS

Bangladesh economy returns to expansion after two months of contraction: PMI

Bangladesh's overall Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose 3.2 points to 51.8 in October 2026, returning to expansion after two months of contraction, according to figures released on 9 November by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Policy Exchange Bangladesh and reported by The Business Standard. September's reading was 48.6. All four sectors expanded: agriculture rose 6 points to 61.2, its 14th straight month of expansion, manufacturing rose 6.1 points to 50.9, construction rose 2.5 points to 51.0 and services rose 1.3 points to 50.3. Demand remained weak, though: new orders, export orders and output stayed in contraction in manufacturing, new business still contracted in construction and services, and input costs kept rising strongly. Policy Exchange's M Masrur Reaz called the recovery fragile and not yet broad-based.

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Listed state-owned firms post mixed earnings in FY26

Of 14 listed state-owned enterprises (SOEs) that have published FY26 accounts, six reported higher profit, two reported lower profit and six reported net losses, according to The Business Standard. The 20 listed SOEs have a market value of Tk23,211 crore, or 3.46% of total Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) capitalisation. Bangladesh Submarine Cable's profit rose 37% to Tk283 crore, Padma Oil's rose 21% to Tk682 crore and Meghna Petroleum's rose 3% to Tk685 crore, while Jamuna Oil's fell 34% to Tk425 crore. Desco posted a Tk40 crore profit against a Tk125 crore loss, Power Grid returned to a Tk353 crore profit, and Titas Gas narrowed its loss to Tk595 crore. The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) cut its loss to Tk652 crore from Tk1,214 crore but moved to the 'Z' category after missing dividends for two years. Eleven state-run firms are now in the 'Z' category.

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Inflation eases slightly to 8.27% in October

General inflation eased to 8.27% in October 2026 from 8.34% in September, a fall of 0.07 percentage points, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data released on 9 November and reported by The Business Standard. The rate is still 0.10 percentage points above the 8.17% recorded in October 2025. Food inflation fell to 6.40% from 7.22%, a drop of 0.82 percentage points in a month, while non-food inflation rose to 9.89% from 9.30%, an increase of 0.59 percentage points. The article gives no reasons for the changes. The split shows cooling food prices masking faster non-food price growth.

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Trump to meet Iran war mediator Qatar, no imminent deal seen to end the war

President Donald Trump was due to meet Qatar's prime minister and foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, on 9 November as efforts to end the Iran war intensified after the US midterms, according to a Reuters report carried by The Business Standard. Vice President JD Vance was also to meet him. Iran's plan would end the US blockade of its ports and halt bombing in return for Tehran ending its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. The US has repeatedly rejected it, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the conditions unrealistic and said no breakthrough was imminent. UAE official Anwar Gargash said a comprehensive settlement looks difficult and urged preparation for a long period of uncertainty. Attacks on Gulf tankers rose sharply in October to the highest rate since the war began.

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Saudi East-West oil pipeline hit by new attack in Medina region

Saudi Arabia's East-West oil pipeline was hit by a new attack in the Medina region, causing a limited fire that was extinguished, according to The Business Standard, citing the Saudi Press Agency and an Energy Ministry official. The official said no injuries or deaths were reported and pipeline operations were unaffected, and authorities did not say who was responsible. The 1,200 km line carries crude to the western port of Yanbu, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz, which remains heavily restricted by the war. Saudi Arabia reroutes about 4 million barrels per day through it, roughly 4% of global oil supply. The pipeline has been targeted several times during the crisis, and a September attack forced a shutdown of several days. The article does not give the date or damage of the latest attack.

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IT Consultants sees Q1 profit dip

IT Consultants PLC, operator of the Q-Cash electronic payment network, reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk0.53 for July-September 2026, down 42% from Tk0.92 a year earlier, according to unaudited accounts filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange and reported by The Business Standard. Net operating cash flow per share rose to Tk1 from Tk0.35, and net asset value (NAV) per share was Tk25.69. The shares fell 3.53% to Tk38.30 on 9 November. In FY26 net profit fell 14.09%, with financial constraints at member banks reducing transaction volumes on a network that links 37 banks and more than 6,000 branches. The board recommended a 10% cash dividend, or Tk1 per share, for FY26, down from 12% in FY25, with the annual general meeting (AGM) on 13 December.

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Energypac's FY26 loss more than doubles to Tk212cr as debt burden deepens

Energypac Power Generation PLC's net loss more than doubled to Tk212.22 crore in FY26 from Tk104.67 crore, with the loss per share widening to Tk11.16 from Tk5.50, according to The Business Standard. Net asset value (NAV) per share was Tk21.61

including revaluation surplus, and term loans were about Tk1,510 crore as of March 2026. It is the fourth straight loss-making year. The article cites the FY23 sale of much of its stake in subsidiary Energypac Power Venture, uneven segment results with a sharp fall in motor vehicles, and inflation, taka depreciation, higher fuel and import costs and supply-chain problems. Bangladesh Bank granted a 10-year loan restructuring with a two-year principal moratorium, but the article says it may not be enough without higher revenue and tighter costs. Even so, the shares rose 11.81% to Tk16.40 on 9 November with no price limit.

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ICB caught in bind as Tk3,000cr Beximco Sukuk nears maturity

The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), trustee of Beximco's Green Sukuk, faces a dilemma over the Tk2,800 crore still outstanding on the five-year instrument, which matures on 23 December, according to The Business Standard. The original Tk3,000 crore raised in 2021 was reduced after about Tk200 crore was converted into Beximco Ltd shares, and exposure is spread across 22 banks. ICB says it lacks legal grounds to declare default while Teesta Solar's cash flows keep yield payments going, which in turn blocks recovery steps such as liquidating pledged assets. The plant earns about Tk50 crore a month and has paid about Tk1,500 crore in interest. In June the trustee asked the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) for a six-year extension, and BSEC has not responded. Revival Global and Adsum Capital have shown interest.

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Sabotage fears rise amid political tension as Dhaka steps up security

More than 50 crude bomb explosions and at least eight bus fires were reported in Dhaka from the night of 8 November, hitting targets including Dhaka University, police facilities, court premises and major roads, according to The Business Standard. Police increased patrols and checkpoints and are analysing CCTV footage, and a Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) official said the attacks aimed to create panic. The DMP arrested 541 people in 24 hours with 48 cases filed, 15 of them linked to the incidents, and Chattogram Range reported 1,078 arrests, including 106 members of the banned Awami League and affiliates. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed blamed "fallen forces" but did not name perpetrators before investigations conclude. The tension coincides with a "Dhaka lockdown" called by the banned Awami League on 13 November, the day a verdict is due in a crimes-against-humanity case involving former PM Sheikh Hasina, and an 11 November rally by Jamaat-e-Islami and seven other parties.

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Banks back away from Standard Chartered Bangladesh retail business sale

Most top local banks that were interested in buying Standard Chartered Bangladesh's retail business are stepping back, according to bank officials quoted by The Daily Star. At least six lenders showed interest, including BRAC Bank, City Bank, Pubali Bank, Mutual Trust Bank, Dhaka Bank and Dutch-Bangla Bank, but only City Bank has signed a non-disclosure agreement. BRAC, Pubali and Mutual Trust decided in principle not to engage, while Dhaka Bank's chairman Abdul Hai Sarker said the bank is still weighing profitability. The attraction was low-cost deposits, but lenders question their use as credit growth slowed to 4.17% in September, and the buyer must absorb about 1,500 highly paid employees. Standard Chartered announced the sale of its wealth and retail business in early October, with a transition of 18 to 24 months. An employee group has demanded severance of 120 months' salary.

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