TOP NEWS

BSRM Group posts record Tk23,943cr revenue, Tk1,418cr profit in FY26

Two listed BSRM Group companies, Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills Limited (BSRM Ltd) and BSRM Steels Limited, together posted record revenue of Tk23,943 crore for the year ended 30 June 2026, about 20% higher than the previous year, according to price-sensitive disclosures reported by The Business Standard. Combined net profit rose 25% to Tk1,418 crore from Tk1,132 crore, on strong demand and higher volumes. BSRM Ltd reported consolidated revenue of Tk10,995 crore, up from Tk9,664 crore, net profit of Tk703 crore and earnings per share (EPS) of Tk23.54 against Tk20.57, and the board recommended a 55% cash dividend. BSRM Steels, the group's flagship re-rolling unit, recorded revenue of Tk12,949 crore, up 25% from Tk10,367 crore, with net profit up 38% to Tk715 crore, EPS of Tk19.03 against Tk13.77 and a recommended 60% cash dividend. Both AGMs will be held digitally on 17 December, with a record date of 15 November.

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DBH Finance posts 22% profit fall in Q3 on lower treasury income

DBH Finance PLC reported a 22% year-on-year fall in net profit to Tk25 crore for July-September 2026, with quarterly EPS dropping to Tk1.24 from Tk1.60, according to a Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) filing reported by The Business Standard. Investment income from government securities plunged 76% to Tk8.38 crore, offsetting a 91% surge in net interest income to Tk55.60 crore. For January-September, net profit rose 9% to Tk80.76 crore and EPS reached Tk3.98 against Tk3.67, helped by the reversal of about Tk5.5 crore in investment impairment provisions and lower loan loss provisioning. Net operating cash flow per share turned negative at Tk4.51 against a positive Tk17.36 on a contraction in deposits. The shares fell 0.76% to close at Tk39.10 on 14 October.

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BSEC relaxes investment ban on market intermediaries' directors, mandates quarterly disclosures

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has eased its blanket ban on capital market investments by directors of market intermediaries, according to The Business Standard. A directive issued on 12 October and signed by Chairman Masud Khan amends the commission's 1 September order by removing directors from the barred list. Directors of the stock exchanges, Central Depository Bangladesh Ltd (CDBL) and Central Counterparty Bangladesh Ltd (CCBL) may now invest but must report their personal and institutional capital market investments to the commission within 10 days after each quarter ends. The ban still applies to officers and employees of the exchanges, CDBL, CCBL and related training institutes. Insiders said the change lets experienced business leaders join boards and improves transparency, but because disclosures are self-declared BSEC will need to verify compliance, and an asset manager warned of conflicts of interest if directors trade on price-sensitive information.

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BSEC official penalised over unauthorised Navana Pharma letter

The BSEC has withheld the annual increment of Assistant Director Md Ibrahim Ali for one year after an internal investigation found him guilty of professional misconduct and breach of confidentiality, according to The Business Standard. A gazette notification also reinstated him. The case began on 4 March 2026, when Ali issued a letter on the appointment of independent directors at Navana Pharmaceuticals PLC without approval from higher authorities while a complaint about the company's board was pending. That afternoon he handed the letter to the company's acting company secretary and let it be photographed, then initially denied the meeting when questioned. BSEC suspended him on 1 April and an inquiry found severe misconduct warranting major penalties, including dismissal. At its 29 September meeting the commission opted for a lighter punishment, citing his written confession and unconditional apology, and his suspension period will count as active service with full pay.

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BSEC toughens dividend deposit rules, eases independent director hiring; warns of legal action against defaulters

The BSEC has resolved to take strong legal action against listed companies that fail to place declared final cash dividends in separate bank accounts before their AGMs, according to The Business Standard. The decision came at a 13 October meeting chaired by Chairman Masud Khan. Existing rules require the full amount to be deposited in a designated account at least one day before the AGM, with a bank certificate submitted to the exchanges. The commission will amend the directive to explicitly bar companies from tabling dividend proposals at AGMs unless the full amount is deposited and the certificate obtained. Under the Corporate Governance Code, 2018, existing independent directors seeking reappointment will be approved once an updated clean Credit Information Bureau (CIB) report is received, and earlier qualification or experience waivers will apply automatically to new appointments elsewhere and to reappointments.

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US inflation rises to 3.7% as gasoline prices surge: What it means for consumers

US inflation rose faster than expected to 3.7% in the 12 months to September from 3.4% in August, in what the report calls the final major inflation release before next month's midterm elections, according to The Business Standard citing the BBC. Gasoline drove the increase: fuel prices rose 34.2% over the year and 9.1% in September alone, accounting for more than half of the overall rise,

while energy inflation reached 20.4% and fuel oil climbed 74.2%. The report links this to Middle East supply disruptions, with crude above US$100 a barrel against just over US$70 before the conflict. Food prices were up 2.5% over the year and core inflation stood at 2.6%. Tariffs also play a role, with President Trump announcing a new 10% global tariff after the Supreme Court struck down most earlier ones. Persistent inflation keeps the Federal Reserve cautious.

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US, China signal support for Bangladesh's economy, energy security

The United States and China have both signalled support for Bangladesh's economic recovery and energy security, according to The Business Standard. In separate meetings on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank annual meetings, China Exim Bank said it wants to increase investment in Bangladesh's energy and power sectors with its chairman due in Dhaka next week, while the US Treasury pledged cooperation on debt management and bilateral relations. Washington's backing matters for IMF financing because it holds veto power at the Fund. Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said Bangladesh has received less US support than expected and cited its purchases of American aircraft and soybeans as reasons for greater backing. The Prime Minister's Economic Adviser, Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, said the IMF, World Bank and US Treasury recognise that the government inherited economic difficulties and high inflation, and expects assistance to be confirmed in two to three months.

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Current account deficit this fiscal may redouble

Bangladesh's current account deficit (CAD) may redouble to 2.1% of GDP in the current fiscal year, driven mainly by higher import bills, according to an IMF projection reported by The Financial Express. The Fund cites costlier imported petroleum products and possibly larger overall imports as the domestic economy rebounds, a clear deterioration from its earlier World Economic Outlook forecast of a deficit equal to 0.3% of GDP. A wider CAD matters as Bangladesh tries to rebuild reserves. Exports and remittances remain the main buffers, while higher import payments could widen the trade deficit as activity recovers. Stronger imports could reflect healthy industrial demand, but if exports and remittances lag, keeping the exchange rate stable could be harder. The impact on reserves depends on how the deficit is financed, and heavy reliance on short-term borrowing or volatile capital flows would increase vulnerability.

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Take growth forecast downgrades seriously

Economists have urged the government to take recent growth downgrades seriously, according to The Daily Star. The IMF cut its FY27 forecast to 3.2%, which would be the weakest GDP growth in 37 years, with average inflation of 10.9%; the World Bank projects 3.4% and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) 4.0%, all well short of the 6.5% target. Ashikur Rahman of the Policy Research Institute (PRI) estimated growth at 3-4% and said banking distress, energy shortages and weak fiscal capacity constrain investment. Selim Raihan of SANEM, forecasting 3.5-4% growth, called the target "increasingly detached from economic realities" and described the slowdown as structural, citing stagnant private investment, weak credit growth and high interest rates. Fahmida Khatun of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) urged predictable policies and transparent loan classification, while Kazi Iqbal of BIDS said faster Annual Development Programme (ADP) spending is the only short-term way to lift growth. Ashikur warned against an unconditional bailout of bank owners.

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