TOP NEWS

Govt moves to ease capital repatriation to boost investor confidence

The government plans a 30-day deadline for processing applications to repatriate profits from lawful foreign investments, according to a budget document reported by The Financial Express. Proceeds from shares bought through a Non-Resident Investors' Taka Account (NITA) will no longer need an auditor's certificate, allowing repatriation or reinvestment within one working day. For unlisted companies, no valuation report is needed for deals up to Tk1 crore, and repatriation of up to Tk100 crore will not need prior Bangladesh Bank approval. Other steps include digital e-loans of up to Tk5 lakh, doubled unsecured personal loan limits and higher credit card and electric-vehicle loan ceilings.

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Forty commercial banks report losses in corporate tax returns

Forty of Bangladesh's 62 commercial banks reported losses in their corporate tax returns for assessment year 2025-26, with 22 reporting profits, according to an internal National Board of Revenue assessment obtained by The Financial Express. Losses deepened in 2026-27, when 21 banks reported combined losses of about Tk38,200 crore, excluding Bangladesh Krishi Bank. Loss-making banks still paid some tax through turnover tax and tax deducted at source on bond sales. Sonali Bank and Dutch-Bangla Bank ranked among the top corporate taxpayers, while a former Sonali chairman called for an overhaul of governance and ownership.

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Money supply beating output growth pace fuels inflation

Broad money (M2) growth accelerated from 6.5% in June 2025 to 12.4% in May 2026, and the link between money supply and inflation may be strengthening, the World Bank said in its latest Bangladesh report, according to The Financial Express. Expansion was driven by public-sector borrowing, which grew more than 20% and largely financed current spending, and by Bangladesh Bank's foreign-exchange purchases against rising remittances, while private credit growth fell to a multi-decade low. With bottlenecks limiting output, extra liquidity is feeding prices rather than production. The Bank still attributes much of the FY2022-25 inflation surge above 9% to fuel price shocks and currency depreciation.

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Rooppur's first unit passes physics test, power start-up awaits clearance

The first 1,200MW unit of the Rooppur nuclear plant has completed its physics test, and the reports were submitted to the regulator, BAERA, on Wednesday, NPCBL Managing Director Zahedul Hasan said, according to bdnews24.com carried by The Financial Express. The final "power start-up" stage can begin once BAERA approves, with the company ready to start late this month. Engineers hope to supply test power to the grid after reaching 25-30% capacity, adding at least 300MW by year-end. The deadline has been extended twice to June 2028, and the taka cost has risen by about Tk26,000 crore to Tk1.39 trillion on a stronger dollar.

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Govt plans market-based property valuation to curb tax evasion, hidden wealth

The government plans to require property registration at actual market values instead of minimum mouza rates, according to The Business Standard. Valuation committees at divisional, district and upazila levels have been told to assess land, flats and commercial properties within four months, with a progress review due in early January 2027 and revised fees and taxes expected from 1 July 2027. The Centre for Policy Dialogue estimates undervalued registrations cost about Tk6,000 crore a year in lost revenue, against Tk12,643 crore collected from registration fees and taxes in FY24. An automated valuation model with South Korea is expected to take 1.5 to 2 years.

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Japan eyes Bangladesh as a place to make cars

Ahead of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's Japan visit from 26 to 29 October, JETRO Bangladesh's Kazuiki Kataoka said part of a potential ¥1 trillion (about $6.35 billion) of Japanese private investment over five years could go into vehicle and parts production, starting with local assembly, according to The Daily Star. Toyota Tsusho plans $40 million for sales and service centres in Dhaka and Chattogram from November, and a hybrid vehicle plant in the National Special Economic Zone targeting production by 2029, though details are not final. Kataoka said energy, including LNG, could draw even more investment, and urged policy predictability and better steel quality.

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Protests across EU could squeeze apparel orders

Cost-of-living protests in France and other European countries could weaken consumer spending and pressure garment orders from Bangladesh's largest export market, according to The Financial Express. Carrefour said about 50 of its stores were hit, with an income impact of €80 million to €200 million. Eurostat data show EU apparel imports fell 3.83% to €60.29 billion in January-August 2026, while imports from Bangladesh fell 11.67% to €11.93 billion, though August rose 1.39%. Exporters said some Italian and French buyers are checking on order status, and one France buyer warned of about 20% lower January work orders.

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Bangladesh retains EU's top denim supplier spot

Bangladesh remained the EU's largest denim supplier in January-August 2026, with exports of €869.13 million and a 29.40% market share, according to The Daily Star citing Eurostat. Exports fell 5.85% year-on-year, slightly more than the 4.40% decline in total EU denim imports (€2,956.21 million), and the share slipped from 29.85%. August brought a recovery, with shipments up 12.71% to €134.08 million. Pakistan ranked second at €525.49 million, while Vietnam (+45.38%), Egypt (+31.46%) and China (+17.70%) posted growth.

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EU's new waste rules may put Bangladesh's steel scrap imports at risk

The EU's draft list of authorised waste destinations includes Bangladesh for paper and rubber waste but excludes metal waste, which could cut access to EU ferrous scrap from 21 May 2027, according to The Business Standard. Imports supplied about 84% of Bangladesh's 6.29 million tonnes of ferrous scrap in FY25, and steelmakers warn of higher scrap and rebar prices. The European Commission cited doubts over environmentally sound management of metal waste. The commerce ministry says Bangladesh has applied for inclusion and notes that India and Pakistan were also left out. The first list is expected by end-2026.

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UK inflation rises to 3.5% in September, keeping pressure on Bank of England

UK consumer price inflation rose to 3.5% in September from 3.1% in August, above the 3.4% forecast and the highest since October 2025, according to Office for National Statistics data released on 21 October. Core inflation was 2.8% and services inflation 3.7%, while average petrol prices reached 169.5 pence a litre, the highest since August 2022. With Bank Rate at 3.75%, markets largely price a rate rise at the Bank of England's 5 November meeting.

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US consumer sentiment hits a near-record low before midterm elections

The University of Michigan's Consumer Sentiment Index edged down to 48.0 in October from 48.1 in September, the second-lowest reading on record after 44.8 in May, as US-Iran tensions lifted grocery and petrol prices, according to Al Jazeera and Reuters. Sentiment among independents fell to 42.4, and five-year inflation expectations rose to 3.5%. The Federal Reserve is widely expected to hold rates at 3.75-4.00% on Wednesday after a 25 basis point rise in September, with CME FedWatch showing an 89.5% chance of no change.

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The world is $365 trillion in debt, and the interest bill is climbing

Global debt rose by $10 trillion in the first half of 2026 to more than $365 trillion, according to the Institute of International Finance as cited by Al Jazeera. Advanced economies paid more than $3.3 trillion in interest on government bonds over the past year, above global defence spending of $3.1 trillion. France now pays about 5% to borrow for 10 years against 3.41% for Germany, its highest cost since 2002. US government debt stands at $41.4 trillion, or 127% of GDP, while Japan's ratio is the highest among major economies at 199%.

Read the full story ›

Ambani's $3.2 billion Jio IPO lures investors as bids surge on final day

Jio Platforms' $3.2 billion IPO, India's largest and the first from Reliance in two decades, closed on 23 October after bids surged on the final day, according to Reuters. Exchange data tracked by IPO portals show it was subscribed about 21 times overall, with institutional investors near 67 times and retail 2.7 times. Priced at Rs1,065-1,119 a share, the offer values Jio at up to $108.3 billion, with listing set for 28 October. Up to $2.89 billion of proceeds will repay borrowings at its telecoms unit, and anchor investors, including ADIA and BlackRock, took $853 million earlier.

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