TOP NEWS

Economic outlook upgrades to stable from negative

Global ratings agency Moody's has revised Bangladesh's economic outlook to stable from negative, saying the acute political and external pressures behind the earlier negative outlook have eased, while keeping the long-term rating at B2. The post-election transition and a strong governing mandate have reduced the risk of political uncertainty derailing reform, while the external position has improved on rebuilt foreign-exchange reserves, a more flexible exchange-rate regime, and record remittances. Reserves have rebuilt to around $32.9 billion by mid-2026 - over four months of import cover - from about $21.4 billion at end-2024. Moody's projects GDP growth reaching 4.3% by end-FY27 before recovering to around 4.9% from FY2028, with inflation staying around 9.0% before easing slowly. The agency estimates bank recapitalization needs at around 10% of GDP, and flagged interest payments absorbing close to 30% of government revenue against a debt burden of around 40% of GDP. Earlier, S&P revised its outlook to negative in July and Fitch to negative in May, both citing banking-sector and macroeconomic vulnerabilities.

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Salman F Rahman to quit Beximco boards, paving way for restructuring

Salman F Rahman, former private industry and investment adviser to ousted PM Sheikh Hasina, has agreed to resign from the boards of Beximco Group companies, a move expected to break a nearly two-year regulatory and legal deadlock. Beximco Ltd, Beximco Pharmaceuticals PLC and Shinepukur Ceramics PLC have separately informed the BSEC of his intention to resign and sought approval to reconstitute their boards. Shares of all three companies gained as the DSEX rose 93 points on the news, snapping a five-session losing streak. Beximco Pharma's proposed board would reduce the sponsor group's combined shareholding to roughly 28%, below the 30% regulatory threshold, a hurdle the BSEC and company are still working through. According to a Bangladesh Bank report, Beximco Group had total outstanding loans and liabilities of Tk50,098 crore as of 30 November 2024, of which Tk25,524 crore had already been classified as defaulted. BSEC Chairman Masud Khan said the commission would accept the board reconstruction once the shareholding issue is resolved.

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Gas supply situation improves in industrial areas

Gas supply to industrial units has started improving as supplies through the national gas transmission pipeline increased, with pressure already back to normal in the Chattogram region. Business leaders expect pressure to improve further from last night and return to normal in most industrial areas by today. At 4pm on Monday, 260.6 crore cubic feet of gas was supplied to the national grid, against 234.53 crore cubic feet at the same time a day earlier. The improvement follows a Prime Minister's Office assurance to business leaders that gas supply would return to the level of about one and a half months ago from Tuesday evening. Business leaders in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Gazipur, Manikganj, Savar, Ashulia, Narayanganj and Narsingdi said they had yet to see significant improvement, but expected conditions to normalise through today as supply to the grid keeps rising.

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Remittance inflow hits $1.52b in first 14 days of September

Bangladeshi expatriates sent home $1.526 billion in remittances during the first 14 days of September, a 3.4% increase from $1.475 billion in the same period last year, according to Bangladesh Bank data. The country received $98 million in remittances on 14 September alone. Cumulative remittance inflows between 1 July and 14 September in FY2026-27 reached $7.351 billion, up 15.3% year-on-year from $6.375 billion in the same period of FY26.

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Brokers seek pre-opening session revival, margin net-off to ease liquidity pressure

Market intermediaries have proposed reviving the long-suspended pre-opening trading session and introducing new trading strategies to improve liquidity on the Dhaka Stock Exchange, at a meeting between the DSE and leading brokerage firms. Brokers called for a review of debt repayment deadlines, extensions of Bangladesh Bank's special capital market schemes, and a members' margin net-off facility to ease liquidity-management pressure on brokerage houses. DSE Managing Director Nuzhat Anwar said the proposals would go before the DSE board and BSEC where necessary, and confirmed preparations for a derivatives market were progressing alongside plans for online account opening and T+1 settlement. DBA President Saiful Islam described the market as going through a difficult and frustrating period. Participants also called for more risk-based, data-driven surveillance, a clearer regulatory framework for dealers, and steps to attract foreign and high-net-worth investors. The DSE's new website is scheduled to launch on 22 September.

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RMG exports to US jump 26% in Aug after first-half decline

Bangladesh's apparel exports to the US surged 25.65% year-on-year in August to more than $817 million, despite a decline in shipments during the first half of 2026, according to EPB data compiled by Bangladesh Apparel Voice. RMG exports to the US in July-August totaled $1.61 billion, up 11.42% year-on-year, even though US Otexa data showed Bangladesh's RMG exports to the US had fallen 5.75% in the first half of 2026 versus a year earlier. The US remains Bangladesh's single largest export market, taking more than $7.74 billion of RMG in FY2025-26. Exporters offered mixed outlooks: HKC Apparels' managing director Rakibul Alam Chowdhury said order flows for coming months look better than before, provided geopolitical tensions and the energy situation do not worsen, while Team Group's Abdullah Hil Nakib said the US market remains far from a normal scenario.

Bangladesh Apparel Voice CEO Mohiuddin Rubel said RMG exports to the US could reach nearly $9 billion in FY27 if the current pace holds.

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Energy crisis hits orders at 55% of knitwear factories

Some 55% of knitwear factories have seen international retailers and brands either cancel or reduce work orders amid the ongoing energy crisis, according to a BKMEA survey of 20% of its member factories in Narayanganj, Gazipur, Chattogram, Dhaka and other areas conducted between 21 August and 14 September. Nearly 78% reported partial production shutdowns, 87% faced shipment delays, and 60% had to offer buyer discounts. Electricity shortages affected around 90% of factories and gas shortages about 75%, with gas pressure down roughly 78% from normal requirements and load-shedding hours up around 200%. Knitting output fell 37-38% on average, dyeing production 51% and garment sewing 40%. About 59% of factories face the risk of defaulting on bank loans, and 7% have completely shut down production. BKMEA Executive President Fazlee Shamim Ehsan said the sector needs stronger policy support to overcome the challenge.

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Govt hikes fertilizer dealer commission

The government has raised the commission paid to dealers on urea, TSP, DAP and MOP by Tk1 to Tk3 per kilogram, while keeping farmer-level prices unchanged, following a Finance Division order issued after an Agriculture Ministry letter dated 14 September. The revised dealer-level prices take effect from 1 July 2027. Dealer commission on urea rises from Tk2 to Tk3 per kg, with the dealer-level price cut from Tk25 to Tk24 (farmer price unchanged at Tk27); DAP's dealer price falls from Tk19 to Tk18 (farmer price Tk21); TSP's dealer price falls from Tk25 to Tk24 (farmer price Tk27); and MOP's dealer price falls from Tk18 to Tk17 (farmer price Tk20). Dealers had sought the increase since commissions were last revised in 2009, citing rising loading and handling costs. The move comes alongside a Special Branch report alleging dealer-retailer collusion to create artificial shortages, which recommended a transparent digital-lottery system for appointing dealers and stronger online monitoring of stocks and distribution.

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