

TOP NEWS

Eastern Housing recommends 20% cash dividend amid earnings decline

Eastern Housing Limited (EHL) has recommended a 20% cash dividend (Tk2 per share on a Tk10 face value) for the year ended 30 June 2026, down from 25% a year earlier, as earnings per share fell 19.5% to Tk6.66 from Tk8.27. NAV per share rose to Tk94.15 from Tk89.99, but net operating cash flow per share turned negative at Tk7.43 against a positive Tk2.90 in FY25, which the company attributed mainly to heavier land inventory investment and higher working capital needs. The shares fell 5.44% to Tk78.20 on the DSE on 6 October from Tk82.70 and traded without a price limit after the disclosure. The AGM will be held online on 22 December, with the record date on 29 October. The negative operating cash flow is the key liquidity point to watch.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Compliance concerns deter local firms from going public: BSEC chair**

BSEC Chairman Masud Khan said local businesses remain hesitant to list because of concerns over corporate compliance, governance requirements and the appointment of independent directors. Speaking at a World Investor Week seminar at DSE Tower on 6 October, he announced that BSEC will no longer scrutinise paper-based IPO documents, passing vetting to the stock exchanges, and aims to cut IPO approval time to around three to three-and-a-half months. He noted that market capitalisation is only about 6% of GDP, against more than 130% in India, and said direct listing rules are being revised to attract state-owned enterprises, multinationals, financial institutions and large private firms with turnover or assets above Tk1,000 crore. Close-ended funds will get no further extensions, and fund management will be reviewed or liquidated if NAV stays below 75% for six consecutive months. He also said the current bar on mutual funds investing in bonds should be lifted.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Salman F Rahman finally left out of Beximco Group firms**

BSEC has approved the reconstitution of the boards of Beximco Ltd and Shinepukur Ceramics PLC, excluding Group Vice Chairman Salman F Rahman, to break a years-long operational deadlock; consent letters will be sent to the companies. The approval follows the 29 September clearance of a new nine-member board for Beximco Pharmaceuticals, with three Beximco Group directors, one from IFIC Bank and four independent directors. Both companies have published financials only up to the December 2024 quarter, leaving at least five quarters of reports overdue, with FY26 annual accounts also due within 120 days of the June year-end. They plan to withdraw their writ petitions once the boards are approved. According to a Bangladesh Bank report submitted to the High Court, the group's liabilities stood at Tk50,098 crore as of 30 November 2024, of which Tk25,524 crore was classified as defaulted. The default burden remains the key overhang.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Beximco seeks to reopen factories with \$23m investment**

Beximco Group is seeking to reopen its shuttered factories with a fresh investment of about US\$23 million, according to The Daily Star. The effort follows the shutdown of around a dozen factories in the Gazipur Industrial Park and the layoff of more than 40,000 workers amid working-capital shortages, bank account freezes and administrative hurdles. Earlier restart plans centred on a lease arrangement with Japan's Revival Project and state-owned Janata Bank, which had envisaged an initial US\$20 million of back-to-back LC funding. Lender consent and the treatment of the group's large defaulted loans remain central to any reopening.

[Read the full story ›](#)**WB lowers Bangladesh GDP growth to 3.4pc for FY27**

The World Bank's latest Bangladesh Development Update projects real GDP growth of 3.4% in FY2026-27, a cut of 1.2 percentage points from its April forecast and well below the decade average of about 5.6%, with a modest recovery to 3.9% in FY28. It cited energy shortages, banking-sector vulnerabilities, weak investment and persistent inflation, projected at 8.6% in FY27 and 7.1% in FY28. On banks, it noted a capital adequacy ratio of negative 2.6% against a 10% minimum, about US\$17 billion of deferred loan-loss provisioning and Tk760 billion of uncollateralised liquidity support, and urged removal of the 4% interest spread cap reinstated in June 2026. Private-sector credit growth has fallen to about 4.5%, the lowest in decades. Government revenue was only 8.3% of GDP, with NBR collecting 82.6% of its FY26 target, while record remittances of US\$35.6 billion in FY26 supported the external sector.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Trade deficit widens 29% in first two months of FY27**

Bangladesh's trade deficit widened 29% year-on-year to US\$3.82 billion in July-August FY27, as imports rose 12.1% to US\$12.20 billion while exports grew 5.8% to US\$8.38 billion. Petroleum imports more than doubled to US\$2.49 billion from US\$1.25 billion and were the main driver of higher import payments, while RMG exports rose 5.3% to US\$7.49 billion. The current account surplus more than tripled to US\$599 million from US\$197 million, supported by remittances that rose nearly 19% to US\$5.83 billion. However, a larger financial account outflow pressured the overall balance, with medium- and long-term loan disbursements down 60.9% to US\$291 million against US\$572 million of amortisation. Gross reserves were US\$37.35 billion at end-August (US\$32.44 billion under BPM6), equal to about 5.2 months of import cover.

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Q-Cash network glitch disrupts digital transactions at some banks: BB

Bangladesh Bank said card, ATM and NPSB-related services of some banks have been disrupted due to technological upgrading, system migration and maintenance of the Q-Cash network, which is operated by IT Consultants PLC. The disruption began at around 9:00pm on 4 October, and the central bank has summoned the operator's management and instructed it to restore all card-related services, including switching, as soon as possible. It clarified that transactions through banks directly connected to NPSB, mobile financial service providers and other payment service providers continue normally, while BACPS, BEFTN and RTGS operate normally.

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Foreign funding cuts put 2,200 NGOs at risk

A study by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), presented at a seminar in Dhaka on 6 October, warns that funding for about 2,200 small and medium NGOs is at risk as donor countries keep cutting development assistance. Foreign grants released through the NGO Affairs Bureau stood at Tk10,480 crore in FY2025-26. The NGOs most exposed are those without microfinance programmes, which depend almost entirely on grants. The study recommended an open list of eligible NGOs for access to government procurement, CSR and other funding. Planning State Minister Zonayed Abdur Rahim Saki said foreign financing for NGOs is almost coming to an end ahead of LDC graduation, making green and carbon finance more important.

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6.2cr people one shock away from poverty: WB

The World Bank's latest Bangladesh Development Update says nearly 62 million people (6.2 crore) live just above the poverty line and remain vulnerable to falling into poverty if hit by a shock. National poverty is estimated to have risen to 22.5% in FY26 from 18.7% in 2022, with about 2.1 million more people falling below the US\$3-a-day international poverty line, and is projected to reach 22.8% in FY27. Real wage growth for low-paid workers remains negative. About half of the poorest households remain outside any safety-net programme, and the richest urban quintile receives nearly half of electricity subsidy spending. The Bank estimates that better targeting and consolidation of food subsidies and cash programmes could lift an additional 2.85 million people out of poverty at a modest extra cost.

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Oil's new problem isn't supply. It's logistics

Reuters columnist Ron Bousso argues that oil prices are now driven less by supply than by the ability to move and refine crude. Middle East crude flows through the Strait of Hormuz reached 14.2 million barrels per day on a seven-day average on 26 September, nearly 80% of pre-war levels according to Kpler, yet Brent remains above US\$100 a barrel. The global deficit has narrowed to about 1.6 million bpd from roughly 4 million bpd at the May peak, but record tanker rates, higher insurance costs and lost refining capacity in the Middle East and Russia, particularly for diesel, are keeping prices elevated. These bottlenecks may take months or years to unwind, implying persistently high energy bills for importers such as Bangladesh even if crude supply continues to ease.

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