

TOP NEWS

Food inflation rises, pushes up overall inflation in September

Point-to-point inflation rose to 8.34% in September 2026 from 8.26% in August, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), though it remained slightly below the 8.36% recorded a year earlier. Food inflation increased to 7.22% from 7.02%, while non-food inflation edged down to 9.30% from 9.32%. Rural general inflation rose to 8.38% from 8.31%, with rural food inflation at 7.18% (7.01% in August), while urban general inflation rose to 8.26% from 8.20%, with urban food inflation at 7.25% (7.04% in August). Non-food inflation eased in both areas, to 9.57% in rural and 8.94% in urban areas. Non-food inflation remains well above food inflation, keeping overall price pressure elevated.

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GDP growth accelerates to 3.68pc in FY26

GDP growth accelerated to 3.68% in FY2025-26, according to provisional BBS estimates, driven mainly by stronger industrial and services performance in the fourth quarter. Quarterly growth was 4.96%, 3.03%, 2.22% and 4.60% in Q1 to Q4, with Q4 sharply above the 2.05% recorded in the same quarter of FY25. Industry grew 6.52% in Q4 (0.92% a year earlier) but was uneven through the year, at 6.82% in Q1, 1.27% in Q2 and a 0.28% contraction in Q3. Services grew 4.28% in Q4 against 2.26%, while agriculture slowed to 1.73% from 3.19%. At current prices, Q4 GDP stood at Tk16,116.743 billion, up from Tk14,385.272 billion a year earlier. The figures show the economy gained momentum in the final quarter.

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Lexus, Glucose biscuit maker Bangas sees domestic sales drop as exports surge

Bangas Limited, a listed biscuit maker, saw profit fall 14% in FY2025-26 as domestic sales declined despite a strong rise in exports. Local sales of biscuits and bread dropped 18.64% to Tk14.57 crore from Tk17.91 crore, while exports rose 41% to Tk1.17 crore from Tk83 lakh. EPS fell to Tk0.24 from Tk0.28, with net profit of Tk18.26 lakh against Tk21.34 lakh. The board approved a 3% cash dividend for general shareholders only, costing Tk17.60 lakh, so sponsor-directors will receive none. NAV per share was Tk21.10 and net operating cash flow per share was negative Tk0.25. The AGM will be held on 12 November on a hybrid platform, with 19 October as the record date. The shares closed at Tk117.40 on the DSE, significantly above NAV per share.

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GPH Ispat seeks BB help to reschedule part of its Tk 12,000cr debt

GPH Ispat is seeking Bangladesh Bank's help to reschedule part of its debt, which The Daily Star puts at Tk12,000 crore, as an acute working capital shortage disrupts operations. According to The Business Standard, net revenue fell 29% to Tk3,940 crore in FY26 from Tk5,606 crore, a four-year low, and net profit plunged to Tk3.54 crore, a margin of just 0.08%. Limited LC openings for scrap and other raw materials have kept factories well below capacity. Long-term loans rose 40.43% to Tk4,088 crore and total liabilities reached Tk8,319 crore, with major exposures to Pubali Bank (Tk559 crore), Trust Bank (Tk506 crore), United Commercial Bank (Tk436 crore) and Dutch-Bangla Bank (Tk426 crore). The company is negotiating rescheduling and plans a Tk967.77 crore rights issue, mainly to repay bank debt, subject to approvals. Steel industry capacity utilisation has fallen to 30%-40%.

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Govt seeks \$6.47b foreign loans for 13 projects, including Dhaka-Ctg 6-lane, MRT-2

The government is seeking US\$6.47 billion in foreign loans from multilateral and bilateral partners for 13 new projects with a combined estimated cost of Tk1,06,439 crore, of which Tk79,583.47 crore is proposed as foreign financing. The proposals go before the Foreign Assistance Search Committee on 8 October. The largest is upgrading the 232.76-km Dhaka-Chattoogram highway to a six-lane expressway at Tk71,850 crore, including Tk55,080 crore in foreign loans, with ADB-led co-financing involving AIIB or JICA under consideration. For MRT Line-2 from Gabtoli to Narayanganj, the World Bank has agreed to lend US\$72 million but additional co-financing is needed. Other proposals include four-laning the Cumilla-Brahmanbaria highway (Tk7,188.66 crore), 300 electric buses for BRTC (Tk2,713 crore), two 60MW solar plants and three urban projects. The pipeline will add to future debt-servicing obligations.

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Bangladesh weathers US apparel import downturn better than peers

US apparel imports fell 7.42% year-on-year to US\$49.08 billion in January-August 2026, while imports from Bangladesh declined by a smaller 4.43% to US\$5.39 billion, according to Otexa data. Shipments from China and India fell 29.39% and 26.44%, Pakistan declined 3.83% and Vietnam 0.76%, while Cambodia and Indonesia rose 6.91% and 2.58%. Bangladesh's volume fell 2.75% in square-metre equivalent terms and its unit price fell 1.73%, against a 1.71% rise in the overall US average unit price. Industry leaders attributed the resilience partly to a favourable tariff position compared with competitors such as China. Bangladesh's RMG exports to the US rose 25.65% year-on-year to over US\$817 million in August, with July-August exports at US\$1.61 billion, up 11.42%. Executives said winning more share will need shorter lead times, product diversification and stronger man-made fibre capacity.

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Iran to soon close 'unauthorised routes' in Strait of Hormuz

Mohammad-Reza Naqdi, a senior adviser to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps chief commander, said on 7 October that Iran will soon close routes created by violators in the Strait of Hormuz. He said the strait is closed and under the full control of Iran's armed forces, and that this will continue unless Iran's demands are met. He added that some individuals use small vessels to smuggle oil to tankers, and that the few passages opened by destroying rocky routes will soon be shut. Iran tightened its grip on the strait on 28 February, barring vessels linked to Israel and the United States after their joint strikes, while US officials, including President Donald Trump, claim the waterway is open and under US control with oil moving through it. He also said the range of Iran's weapons is limited by policy decisions rather than technical constraints and could be extended when authorised. The conflicting claims keep shipping and energy-price risks elevated for import-dependent economies such as Bangladesh.

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Stock brokers seek extension of bank liquidity scheme

The DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) has urged Bangladesh Bank to extend the banks' special capital market fund facility by five years, until 30 November 2031, and to raise the per-bank ceiling to Tk300 crore from Tk200 crore. The request was made in a letter to the Bangladesh Bank Governor. The scheme, introduced in 2020, allowed each bank to create a Tk200 crore fund with a five-year tenure and was later extended to November 2026, so its expiry is near. The DBA said the facility has supported institutional participation, market liquidity, stability and investor confidence, and cited a liquidity dearth in the market amid Middle East tensions. Brokers argue that a longer tenure and larger limit would provide continued institutional support, improve market depth and strengthen investor confidence. In September, brokers had also proposed reviving the pre-opening session and a margin net-off facility to ease liquidity pressure. The association also reaffirmed its commitment to working with Bangladesh Bank and other regulators to support the government's capital market development initiatives.

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ECNEC approves country's largest 442MW solar plant

ECNEC, chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, approved a 442MW solar plant with eight hours of battery storage at Rampal, billed as the country's largest, along with 12 other projects at a combined cost of Tk162.07 billion. The BPDB will build the plant beside the Rampal coal-fired power station on 918.50 acres it has already acquired, expanding renewable capacity alongside conventional power infrastructure. The project costs Tk21.23 billion and will run from September 2026 to March 2029, funded mainly through the Power Sector Development Fund at 2% interest with a one-year grace and 16-year repayment period, plus Tk3.75 billion from BPDB's own funds. Seven local government projects were approved, including Tk57.29 billion for the second phase of the urban infrastructure project, Tk37.67 billion for rural infrastructure in Sirajganj, Bogura and Naogaon, Tk25.87 billion for roads and drains in Gazipur City Corporation and Tk16.02 billion for Rangpur City Corporation infrastructure. Other approvals include Tk27.69 billion for 30 diesel-electric locomotives and Tk21.69 billion for BIWTC vessels and slipways, as well as Tk8.89 billion for the Thanchi-Rimakri-Madak-Likri road and Tk2.11 billion for renovating the Chancery building in Paris. The meeting was also informed of a project of nearly Tk500 million, already approved by the Planning Minister, to re-excavate rivers and canals in Joypurhat.

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