

TOP NEWS

Forex reserves reach \$37b despite economic challenges: State minister

Foreign exchange reserves have risen by US\$11 billion over the past seven months to US\$37 billion, State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam said on 10 October, according to The Financial Express. He said reserves stood at US\$20 billion when the previous government was ousted on 5 August 2024 and rose to US\$26 billion under the interim government led by Dr Muhammad Yunus, while the overall debt burden fell from 37% to 32% over the period. Speaking at a discussion on installing solar power systems through cooperative societies at Samabaya Bhaban in Agargaon, he said remittances worth Tk7,776 crore arrived over the past five days despite an opposition leader's call to halt them, and that Bangladesh is supplying 1,872MW of solar-generated electricity to the national grid. He added that the government would buy surplus electricity produced by household solar systems and called for coordinated efforts through the Department of Cooperatives to expand solar use in urban and rural areas. A larger reserve buffer would support import payments and exchange-rate stability, though the figures are the minister's own statements and were not independently verified in the report.

[Read the full story ›](#)**RMG exports grow 6.1% in Q1**

Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) exports rose 6.1% year-on-year to US\$10.58 billion in the first quarter (July-September) of FY2026-27, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data cited by The Business Standard. The European Union remained the largest destination at US\$4.9 billion, or 46.36% of the total, up 3.33%, while the United States ranked second with a 10.4% rise to US\$2.22 billion (20.99% share). Shipments to the United Kingdom grew 5.94% to US\$1.29 billion and to Canada 3.85% to US\$349.65 million, while non-traditional markets expanded 9.4% to US\$1.81 billion, taking a 17.13% share. By product, knitwear exports rose 6.88% and woven garments 5.11%. Mohiuddin Rubel, CEO of the RMG think tank Apparel Voice, said exports maintained positive growth despite global and domestic challenges. Growth in the US and non-traditional markets outpaced the EU, suggesting gradual market diversification, although the EU still accounts for nearly half of all shipments.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Steelmakers pin hopes on revival of govt projects**

Bangladesh's steelmakers see hope in the resumption of public infrastructure projects after more than two years of weak demand, rising costs and financial strain, The Daily Star reports. Annual domestic steel consumption has reportedly fallen to about 40 lakh tonnes from around 70 lakh tonnes, with the government's share dropping from roughly 60% to 20%. Seven of the country's 39 mills have shut down and the rest are running at 40%-60% of capacity, putting about Tk1 lakh crore of investment at risk. Costs have climbed, with scrap prices up about US\$20 a tonne and electricity tariffs up 18%, while 60-grade rod prices rose to Tk92,500-Tk94,500 a tonne on 5 October from Tk83,500-Tk86,000 a year earlier, without improving margins. GPH Ispat's gross revenue fell nearly 25% to Tk3,320 crore in the first nine months of FY2025-26 and it posted a loss of Tk10.65 crore; it has sought a four-month Credit Information Bureau relaxation from Bangladesh Bank to restructure its debt. The BSMA is seeking affordable working capital and loan restructuring for viable mills, while recently approved ECNEC projects, including MRT Line-5, may lift demand, with BSRM running at about 80% capacity.

[Read the full story ›](#)**BSEC set to raise direct listing asset threshold for private firms to Tk1,000cr**

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) plans to double the minimum turnover or asset threshold for private companies seeking a direct listing to Tk1,000 crore, from the Tk500 crore proposed earlier, BSEC Chairman Masud Khan said at World Investors Week events. He said the change followed public feedback on the draft and is meant to prevent market misuse, and that the final regulations are expected to be approved within the week. On 5 October, the finance ministry revoked a 2010 circular that had barred private, state-owned and foreign firms from direct listing. Under the draft Direct Listing of Securities by Stock Exchange Rules, 2026, eligible companies could list on the main board by selling 10%-20% of existing shares on the secondary market, bypassing an IPO and any capital raising. State-owned enterprises, multinationals, banks, NBFIs and insurers will be assessed under separate criteria, while BTRC-licensed telecom and ICT infrastructure providers with at least Tk300 crore paid-up capital will also qualify. The route, introduced in 2006, was closed in 2010 after volatility, notably in Navana CNG, so the higher bar aims to admit only financially strong, institutionalised firms.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Doreen Power profit surges 58%, recommends 15% cash dividend for FY26**

Doreen Power Generations and Systems Limited reported a 57.68% rise in consolidated earnings for the year ended 30 June 2026, with EPS of Tk5.03 against Tk3.19 a year earlier. The company attributed the growth mainly to a significant reduction in extraordinary impairment losses on non-current assets compared with the previous year. The board recommended a 15% cash dividend (Tk1.50 per Tk10 share) for general shareholders only, up from 10% for FY25, with the AGM set for 24 December 2026 on a digital platform and 12 November as the record date. Consolidated net operating cash flow per share rose 60.95% to Tk18.96 from Tk11.78 on higher collection of revenue bills, and NAV per share with revaluation increased to Tk57.12 from Tk52.43. The shares closed 0.32% higher at Tk31.40 on the DSE, equal to about 6.2 times FY26 EPS and 0.55 times NAV per share, with a cash dividend yield of roughly 4.8%. Sponsor-directors hold 66.61%, institutions 16.90% and general shareholders 16.49%. Cash flow well above earnings supports the dividend, though profit growth came largely from lower impairments.

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CSE operating loss widens 13.54% to Tk16.58cr, recommends 3.25% cash dividend

The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) PLC's operating loss widened 13.54% year-on-year to Tk16.58 crore in FY26 from Tk14.60 crore, while net profit after tax fell 28.35% to Tk20.59 crore from Tk28.74 crore amid subdued trading activity. EPS declined to Tk0.32 from Tk0.45, net operating cash flow per share was nearly flat at Tk1.05 (Tk1.06 in FY25) and NAV per share eased to Tk11.93 from Tk11.96 as of June 2026. A CSE official said the exchange stayed profitable mainly because of interest income from fixed deposits held with banks, while the operating loss reflected a shortage of listed products and low trading turnover. The board, which approved the results on 8 October, recommended a 3.25% cash dividend for the year ended 30 June 2026, subject to shareholder approval at the AGM on 10 December at the CSE Building conference hall in Agrabad, Chattogram, with 8 November as the record date. The results show that the exchange's earnings depend on treasury income rather than market activity, which makes new listings and higher turnover important for its operating performance.

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Recognise halal sector as key to export diversification

Business leaders say Bangladesh could win a larger share of the global halal food market with a comprehensive national policy and internationally accepted certification, reducing its heavy reliance on garments. The Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) report, "Halal Product Exports: One of the Key Sectors for Diversification", puts the global halal food market at US\$5.2 trillion, growing about 12.4% a year towards US\$9.45 trillion by 2034, with only about 20% of demand currently met. Bangladesh's halal exports are roughly US\$940 million, against a total export base of about US\$48 billion in which RMG accounts for about 81.5%. The report recommends a national policy led by the Ministry of Industries with the Ministry of Commerce as co-lead, tax exemptions and export incentives, and a stable 10-15 year support plan, with halal named a priority in the current and next five-year plans. The Bangladesh Islamic Foundation has certified 600 products from 276 organisations and holds JAKIM approval, renewed in 2026 for three years, but large processors such as PRAN say the certificate carries little weight abroad. BCI President Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury said what is needed is certification and the necessary recognition, and leaders link wider export diversification to the goal of a US\$1 trillion economy by 2034.

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Trump calls for replacing Ukraine's Zelenskiy in tussle over diesel deal with Russia

US President Donald Trump said on 10 October that Ukraine should replace Volodymyr Zelenskiy with "a new leader who can make a deal", a day after announcing a deal that lifts sanctions on Russian diesel exports, Reuters reported via The Business Standard. Russia partially lifted its diesel export ban with immediate effect, while Trump also criticised Ukrainian strikes on Russian refineries, saying they have pushed up global energy prices and must stop. The move comes as fuel prices stay high after the US conflict with Iran, a political liability for the Republican Party ahead of next month's midterm elections. Zelenskiy said Russia responded to the sanctions relief with a strike on Zaporizhzhia that killed 20 people, and that the diesel deal caught Kyiv by surprise during talks with US negotiators in Miami. Nearly 80 civilians were killed in Russian strikes on Wednesday and Thursday, and Putin said after a call with Trump that an immediate resumption of peace talks was unlikely. Any easing of Russian diesel supply could help global fuel prices, which matters for import-dependent economies such as Bangladesh.

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