

TOP NEWS

Treasury bill yields fall below 8% for first time since October 2023

Yields on all three Treasury bill tenors fell below 8% at the 11 October auction, according to Bangladesh Bank data cited by The Business Standard. The 91-day bill cleared at 7.65%, the 182-day at 7.75% and the 364-day at 7.89%, compared with 8.13% for the 91-day paper on 4 October, a 48 basis point fall in one week, and 8.59%, 8.65% and 8.73% across the three tenors on 6 September. The report links the slide to excess liquidity and weak private credit demand: credit growth has stayed below 5% for six consecutive months, while surplus bank liquidity rose 45% over the past year to more than Tk4 lakh crore, mostly parked in government securities. Lower yields reduce the government's short-term borrowing cost, but also signal that banks are finding few creditworthy private borrowers.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Fresh FDI falls 5% in April-June amid credit and banking woes**

Fresh foreign equity investment fell 4.77% year-on-year to US\$77.42 million in April-June 2026, the second straight quarterly fall after a 70.34% plunge in January-March, according to Bangladesh Bank data cited by The Business Standard. Total net FDI rose about 12.8% year-on-year to US\$346.94 million but dropped 22% from the previous quarter on net reinvested earnings of existing firms (US\$260.91 million), while net inter-company loans fell 85.17% to US\$8.61 million. Economists pointed to repeated sovereign rating downgrades and banking-sector stress as deterrents: the NPL ratio stood at 33.2% in June 2026 and the capital adequacy ratio was negative 2.6% in December 2025 against a 10% minimum. Moody's affirmed B2 with a stable outlook in September, while S&P and Fitch hold B+ with negative outlooks. The headline rise masks weak appetite for new commitments.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Foreign debt rises to \$114.98b**

Bangladesh's foreign debt grew 3.65% from the previous quarter to US\$114.98 billion at the end of April-June 2026 (Q4 of FY2025-26), according to central bank data cited by The Daily Star. Public sector foreign debt rose by US\$4.19 billion to US\$95.10 billion, reversing an earlier decline from US\$93.74 billion in June 2025 to US\$90.91 billion in March 2026 attributed to sluggish implementation of foreign-funded projects. The rebound followed nearly US\$3 billion in budget support from development partners, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), meant to cushion the economy from the Middle East conflict. Private sector foreign debt fell by US\$140 million to US\$19.89 billion on lower short-term loans, buyer's credit and trade credit. The shift points to growing reliance on external budget support, while private firms borrowed less abroad.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Fuel prices raise Jul-Aug import payments 11pc**

Import payments rose nearly 11% year-on-year to US\$12.47 billion in July-August of FY2026-27, from US\$11.26 billion, driven mainly by higher global petroleum prices, according to Bangladesh Bank data cited by The Financial Express. Payments for petroleum products rose about 38% to US\$2.04 billion from US\$1.48 billion, fresh letters of credit (LCs) rose 17.91% to US\$13.94 billion, while industrial raw material imports slipped 2.19% to US\$3.80 billion and capital machinery imports fell 5.52% to US\$0.29 billion. A senior Bangladesh Bank official said the upward trend may continue, with import demand possibly rising further ahead of Ramadan. BIBM Director General Md Ezazul Islam said the rise suggests gradual recovery and that elevated oil prices could last until December 2026. Weak raw material and machinery imports suggest no broad investment pickup yet.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Bangladesh eyes currency swap to facilitate remittances from Maldives**

Bangladesh Bank has proposed three mechanisms to ease remittances from the Maldives, according to The Business Standard. In an 8 October letter to Ahmed Munawar, governor of the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA), Governor Md Mostaqur Rahman suggested exploring use of the Maldivian rufiyaa through an Asian Clearing Union (ACU) arrangement, with taka paid out through authorised dealer banks; letting Maldivian banks and money transfer operators make eligible travel payments in rufiyaa for Bangladeshi travellers; and a bilateral currency swap to facilitate repatriation of workers' earnings. All options would need regulatory approval in both countries, and Bangladesh Bank offered joint talks with the MMA. Remittances from the Maldives fell about 16.4% to roughly US\$118 million in FY2025-26 from US\$141.1 million a year earlier, as banks resist holding rufiyaa and workers turn to the curb market. A workable channel could help recover formal remittance inflows.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Bangladesh eyes Algerian LNG, LPG imports amid supply crunch**

Bangladesh is considering imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from Algeria as supply disruptions in the Middle East persist, according to a BSS report carried by The Business Standard. Energy Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood met Algerian Ambassador Abdelouahab Saïdani on 11 October, and the talks covered possible memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on LNG and LPG imports as well as preparations for Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's upcoming visit to Algeria, the power and energy ministry said. The report describes Algeria as an emerging alternative supplier for South Asia because its shipping routes bypass the Strait of Hormuz, although its exports have traditionally gone mainly to Europe. No volumes, prices or signing dates were disclosed, and it is unclear whether any agreement has been finalised. The move reflects efforts to diversify supply amid LPG price pressures at home.

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Bottled soybean oil, packet sugar scarce in market

Consumers in Dhaka are facing shortages of bottled soybean oil and packet sugar, while loose versions sell above government-fixed maximum retail prices (MRPs), according to The Financial Express. Retailers say bottled oil has become unprofitable, with margins down to about Tk1 per litre, even after the MRP was raised by Tk5 to Tk204 per litre last month; at Rayer Bazar only two of at least six shops had stock. Refiners seek a further Tk13 per litre rise, under ministry review. Loose sugar sold at Tk120-125 per kg against a Tk110 MRP, with traders alleging stockpiling ahead of Ramadan. Bangladesh imports about 2.4 million tonnes of edible oil and 2.0 million tonnes of sugar annually, and seven to eight companies control roughly 90% of both supply chains.

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BSEC fines trio Tk73.76 lakh for manipulating Trust Islami Life shares

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has fined three people a combined Tk73.76 lakh for artificially inflating the share price of Trust Islami Life Insurance Limited, according to The Business Standard. Investor Md Abu Taher Shikder, the alleged mastermind, was fined Tk53.25 lakh, his brother-in-law SM Shahed Shakil Tk15.51 lakh and his wife Umma Salma Nipa Tk5 lakh under an order issued on 5 October for breaching the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969. A Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) probe covering 1 June to 28 August 2025 found the closing price rose 131.11%, from Tk36.00 to Tk83.20. The three traded against each other 46 times (1.72 lakh shares), booking gains of Tk2.82 crore plus over Tk5.08 crore unrealised. BSEC rejected their good-faith defence and ordered payment within 30 days.

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Walton Hi-Tech signs MoU with Kenyan firm to expand global footprint

Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Kenya's North Light Holdings Limited to expand its international presence, according to a Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) disclosure on 11 October cited by The Business Standard. The partnership aims to strengthen Walton's brand profile and increase its market share in the designated territory through product procurement, marketing, customer service and promotion. North Light, a Nairobi-based private company founded in late 2018, describes itself as a diversified conglomerate active in telecoms and IT infrastructure, security, energy retail, real estate and trading. Financial terms, the territory and the signing date were not disclosed, so any earnings impact is unclear. The deal adds to Walton's export push.

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Econo ball pen maker returns to profit after nine years, shares jump 6.65%

GQ Ball Pen Industries, maker of the Econo pen, posted a net profit of Tk1.31 crore in FY26, ending nine consecutive years of losses, according to The Business Standard. It last reported a profit of Tk1.55 crore in 2016. The board recommended a 12.5% cash dividend, up from 10% for FY25, with a record date of 4 November and an AGM on 30 November, and the share price rose 6.65% to Tk609.30 on the DSE, about 4.2 times its net asset value per share of Tk143.60. Management credits lower operating costs after scaling down production on ageing machinery and rental income from its 14-storey Uttara building, with the core pen business still weak. A modernisation programme will be funded internally as bank loans cost 15-16%. The profit is therefore driven by property and investment income rather than a revival of manufacturing.

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