

TOP NEWS

Positive signals on \$4.5b IMF loan

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) may provide Bangladesh with a US\$4.5 billion loan under a new three-year programme, according to officials cited by The Financial Express. Talks opened on 12 October when a delegation led by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury met the IMF on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Bangkok; the amount, terms and conditions are not final. A finance ministry official said the proposed conditions resemble the previous programme, which has been terminated (a higher tax-to-GDP ratio, banking reform, rationalised subsidies and tighter monetary policy), and that an IMF mission is likely to visit within a month. The earlier programme, approved in January 2023 at US\$4.7 billion and later raised to US\$5.5 billion, disbursed US\$3.64 billion. The minister said the country needs a two-to-three-year cushion for energy and banking pressures.

[Read the full story ›](#)**IMF further cuts Bangladesh's FY27 growth forecast to 3.2pc, sees inflation surging to 10.9pc**

The IMF has lowered its FY2026-27 growth forecast for Bangladesh to 3.2% from the 3.5% projected in July, and expects inflation to climb to 10.9%, well above its April forecast of 6.0%, according to The Financial Express. The figures are from the World Economic Outlook released in Bangkok. Inflation has already run at 8.32%, 8.26% and 8.34% in the first three months of FY27. The IMF update follows weaker outlooks from other lenders: the World Bank on 6 October projected FY27 growth of 3.4% and inflation of 8.6%, citing energy and banking vulnerabilities, while the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in September cut its growth forecast to 4.0% from 4.5% and projected 9.0% inflation. The three lenders now see FY27 growth of 3.2-4.0% and inflation of 8.6-10.9%, pointing to a slower, more inflationary year.

[Read the full story ›](#)**ADB plans to lend Bangladesh \$200m for private sector reforms**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) plans to lend Bangladesh about US\$200 million in policy-based financing to support private sector development reforms and deregulation, according to The Financial Express. Officials said US\$100 million is planned for next year and another US\$100 million for 2029 under the proposed Bangladesh Reforms for Investment and Growth (BRIGHT) programme, which targets the investment climate, domestic and foreign direct investment, the public-private partnership (PPP) framework and growth sectors. An ADB mission held policy talks in Dhaka in August and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) asked for measurable indicators. Business groups urged less discretionary intervention in tax, VAT and customs services and stronger capacity at the Invest Bangladesh Authority. The funds will come as budget support credit, with the agreement expected to be signed in June next year.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Strong deposit growth fails to spur private credit: GED**

Banking sector deposits rose 12% year-on-year to Tk21.31 lakh crore in August 2026, faster than 10.01% a year earlier, but private sector credit grew only 4.75% to Tk18.30 lakh crore, down from 6.35% in August 2025, according to the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission's Economic Update & Outlook September 2026, cited by The Daily Star. Public sector credit surged 32.45% to Tk7.22 lakh crore, more than double the 14.81% pace of the previous year, and the GED warned that heavy public borrowing may crowd out private lending. It said liquidity and depositor confidence have improved but expects private credit to stay subdued if borrowing costs stay high and credit risk remains elevated, and recommends easing financing costs and strengthening banks' lending capacity. The widening gap points to idle liquidity rather than productive investment.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Import LCs rise 22% YoY in Sep as fuel, raw material become costlier**

Import letters of credit (LCs) opened in September reached US\$8.10 billion, the highest monthly figure in 53 months, up 22.37% from US\$6.62 billion a year earlier, according to a senior Bangladesh Bank official cited by The Business Standard. LC settlements were US\$6.38 billion. Bankers attributed the rise mainly to higher import bills, especially petroleum products, as Middle East tensions lifted fuel prices, with fertiliser imports above US\$200 million; capital machinery imports did not increase. Importers say costs have jumped over the past two months, with zinc up to US\$4,200 from US\$3,200, flat steel to US\$575 from US\$500 and bitumen to US\$650 from US\$450. Merchandise imports grew over 12% to US\$12.20 billion in July-August, leaving a trade deficit of US\$3.82 billion.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Dollar firm near 18-month highs as Gulf unrest, US inflation keep investors on edge**

The US dollar traded near an 18-month high on 12 October as investors watched the Middle East conflict and US inflation data due on Wednesday, according to a Reuters report carried by The Business Standard. The dollar index rose 0.2% to 102.43, just below last week's peak. Brent crude fell 0.5% to US\$104 a barrel after President Donald Trump announced an energy ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia, though it remains nearly 45% above pre-war levels amid Houthi strikes on Saudi Arabia. The Federal Reserve raised rates last month for the first time since 2023, and traders now price an 81% chance of a hold this month, up from 51% a month earlier, according to CME FedWatch. The euro fell 0.22% to US\$1.1176 for a fifth weekly loss on French fiscal worries. A strong dollar adds to import costs for Bangladesh.

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Banks lift financial restrictions on Beximco firms

Bangladesh Bank has eased financial restrictions on two Beximco Group companies, Shinepukur Ceramics and Beximco LPG Unit-1, exempting them from Section 27Kaka(3) of the Bank Company Act until 31 December 2027, according to a 12 October circular reported by The Business Standard. Listed Shinepukur Ceramics can now open LCs with a 15% margin, down from 100%, and Sonali Bank's Tk105 crore working capital limit was renewed in the national interest, with earnings to go into a designated account to repay dues. National Bank may open LCs and provide working capital to Beximco LPG Unit-1 against a 100% margin. Separately, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) approved reconstituting the boards of Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Beximco Ltd and Shinepukur Ceramics without Vice Chairman Salman F Rahman, who agreed in September to step down.

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BSEC to publish draft IPO rules for public consultation this week

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) will publish a draft of revised initial public offering (IPO) rules within a couple of days for public consultation, aiming to make new listings more effective and investment-friendly, according to BSS and The Financial Express. BSEC Chairman Masud Khan announced the plan at a World Investor Week 2026 seminar at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), where he said the commission is also framing direct listing rules. He said regulators must scrutinise fundamentals before a company raises capital and advised investors to avoid promises of unusually high returns.

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BSEC seeks bank investment scheme extension, unveils major IPO overhauls

The BSEC has asked Bangladesh Bank to extend and enlarge the special capital market investment scheme for commercial banks, proposing to raise each bank's ceiling from Tk200 crore to Tk300 crore, according to The Business Standard. Chairman Masud Khan, speaking at a DSE seminar on digital scams, said the scheme ends on 30 November and warned that if it is not extended, the market will suffer. The IPO amendments would require independent external auditors to verify financial statements, allow large infrastructure, power and mega industrial projects to list despite accumulated initial losses, and raise the ceiling for using IPO proceeds to repay loans. The commission also plans to shift mutual funds from closed-end to open-end structures. The scheme's fate is a key near-term liquidity factor for the market.

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Chinese, Turkish firms collect offshore bid documents; ExxonMobil, BP in talks

Chinese and Turkish state-backed firms have led the purchase of bid documents in Bangladesh's offshore bidding round, while Petrobangla courts Western majors, according to The Business Standard. The round, relaunched on 24 May, offers 26 Bay of Bengal blocks, 11 shallow-water and 15 deep-water, with a bid deadline of 30 November 2026. Petrobangla records show TPAO of Turkey (23 July), CNOOC International (17 August) and Sinopec (23 September) have bought promotional packages, and ten companies have bought information packages in total. A Bangladeshi delegation met ExxonMobil, BP and Eni on 30 September, and Petrobangla is also approaching Murphy Oil, Petrobras and KUFPEC.

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