

TOP NEWS

Private sector credit growth stays below 5% for six months

Private sector credit growth has stayed below 5% for six straight months, at 4.75% in August after 4.72% in March and 4.47% in June, Bangladesh Bank data showed. Bankers and economists blamed weak business and investment demand, sluggish consumption and an energy crisis raising costs, with high inflation keeping the policy rate elevated. Bank Asia MD Sohail RK Hussain said unused industrial capacity makes large new investment unlikely for six months to a year, while CPD's Fahmida Khatun said inflation must fall before rate cuts resume; bankers urged reviving sick industries via the Tk20,000 crore support package.

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Govt borrows Tk16,601cr from banks in first two months of FY27

The government borrowed Tk16,601 crore from scheduled banks in July-August of FY27, sharply up from just Tk463 crore a year earlier, against an annual target of Tk1.12 lakh crore, Bangladesh Bank data showed. Economists linked the jump to weaker revenue collection, higher spending, and banks parking excess liquidity from weak credit demand into treasury bills. Outstanding government debt stood at around Tk7 lakh crore by end-August; reserve money growth has meanwhile surged from -0.12% in June 2025 to 17.86% in August 2026, partly from over \$6 billion in central bank dollar purchases, a trend officials say could add inflation risk if credit demand picks up.

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Beximco Pharma board reshuffled, Salman F Rahman excluded

The BSEC has approved a reconstituted nine-member board for Beximco Pharmaceuticals excluding Beximco Group Vice-Chairman Salman F Rahman, comprising three Beximco Group representatives (Chairman ASF Rahman, Osman Kaiser Chowdhury and Iqbal Ahmed), one from IFIC Bank, four independent directors including a woman, and a new managing director. The move follows Rahman's earlier decision to quit Beximco boards to pave the way for restructuring, as he faces separate legal proceedings including an ACC case over a loan to an allegedly non-existent firm.

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ACI approves Tk60cr fresh investment in CO-RO JV

ACI PLC's board has approved an additional Tk60 crore investment in ACI CO-RO Bangladesh, its joint venture with Denmark's CO-RO A/S which makes the Sunquick fruit drink brand, to expand production and exports, taking ACI's cumulative investment to around Tk110 crore pending regulatory approval; CO-RO is not injecting fresh capital at this stage. The same board meeting also approved a new joint venture, ACI-ICHINEN Bangladesh, with Japan's ICHINEN Holdings, in which ACI will hold 60% of Tk15 crore paid-up capital for HR/manpower supply, motorcycle financing and agriculture. ACI's nine-month revenue to March 2026 rose 16% to Tk3,995 crore, with net profit up 13% to Tk368 crore.

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Brent rises to \$105.47

Oil prices rose for a second straight session as lingering concern over Middle East supply disruption from the US-Israeli war on Iran outweighed signs of recovering regional crude exports, with Brent up 0.2% to \$105.47 a barrel and WTI at \$92.82. Middle East crude exports climbed to 12.8 million barrels a day in September, the highest since February, on higher Saudi and UAE shipments, though much of the increase relies on costlier ship-to-ship transfers. US and Iranian officials held separate talks with mediators, but Trump said he had offered Iran nothing, while Washington weighs regulatory relief on red-dyed diesel as an alternative to a broader export ban.

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Five banks to raise Tk3,500cr for capital, green financing

The BSEC has approved bond proposals worth a combined Tk3,500 crore from five banks to strengthen Tier-II capital under Basel III and fund green projects: One Bank (Tk400 crore), Southeast Bank (Tk800 crore), BRAC Bank (Tk1,000 crore, three-year zero-coupon green bond), Al-Arafah Islami Bank (Tk500 crore) and Bank Asia (Tk800 crore), most carrying a coupon of the reference rate plus 3%. All will be privately placed with institutional and high-net-worth investors rather than retail investors; Prime Bank Investment will act as trustee for BRAC Bank's green bond and issue manager for Bank Asia's bond.

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BB to unveil first-ever quarterly monetary policy today

Bangladesh Bank will announce its Monetary Policy Statement on a quarterly basis for the first time today, replacing the six-month cycle, with the October-December MPS unveiled at 3pm. The shift, recommended by the IMF over a year ago and by a BB policy panel this year, aims to make policy more responsive to volatile conditions. BB cut its policy rate to 9.5% from 10% in July, its first cut in six years, while inflation eased for a third straight month to 8.26% in August; the July MPS had projected inflation easing only to 8.9% by December, still above the government's 7.5% FY27 ceiling.

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BBS plans advance calendar for data releases

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is set to introduce an annual advance calendar for publishing censuses, surveys and microdata under a draft Data and Microdata Dissemination and Access Policy, 2026, now open for stakeholder feedback. It also proposes a Microdata Portal splitting datasets into open Public Use Files and vetted-access Licensed or Secure Research Files. SID Secretary Md Firoz Sarker said the calendar would cut wasted time and cost from ad hoc surveys, while CPD's Towfiqul Islam Khan called treating data as a public good significant and urged other agencies to adopt similar release schedules.

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IMF picks holes in NBR revenue reform plan

The IMF has found the NBR's proposed reform plan, submitted ahead of the Fund's October 12-18 annual meetings in Bangkok, too focused on this fiscal year's revenue target and lacking a credible multi-year roadmap. A Finance Division official said the ministry will hold a virtual tripartite meeting with the IMF and NBR to narrow the gaps, with a delegation led by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury discussing the blueprint in Bangkok. Officials are targeting roughly \$4 billion under a new programme, after the previous \$5.5 billion facility was scrapped, having disbursed \$3.595 billion before termination.

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Bangladesh's export supply chain riddled with 66 info gaps

A Ministry of Commerce diagnostic, done by BUILD with GIZ support, has identified 66 operational and policy gaps in supply-chain traceability across RMG, leather and agro-food/fisheries, with 39 critical or structural, threatening compliance with tightening EU and US rules. Gaps span technical/data systems, policy, institutional governance, sectoral structure, industry capacity and financing, with no real-time link between exporter-origin data and customs, and blended-origin cotton complicating US Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act compliance. Looming deadlines include the EU's live CATCH seafood system, Digital Product Passport rules for apparel from late 2027, and the EU Deforestation Regulation from December 2026, prompting plans for a National Traceability Platform.

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