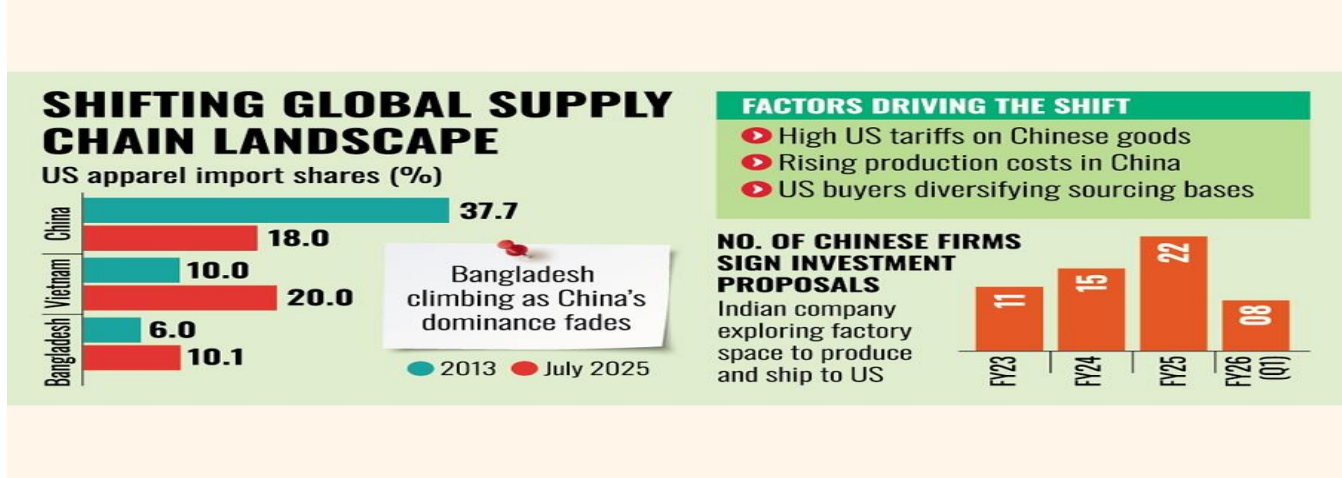


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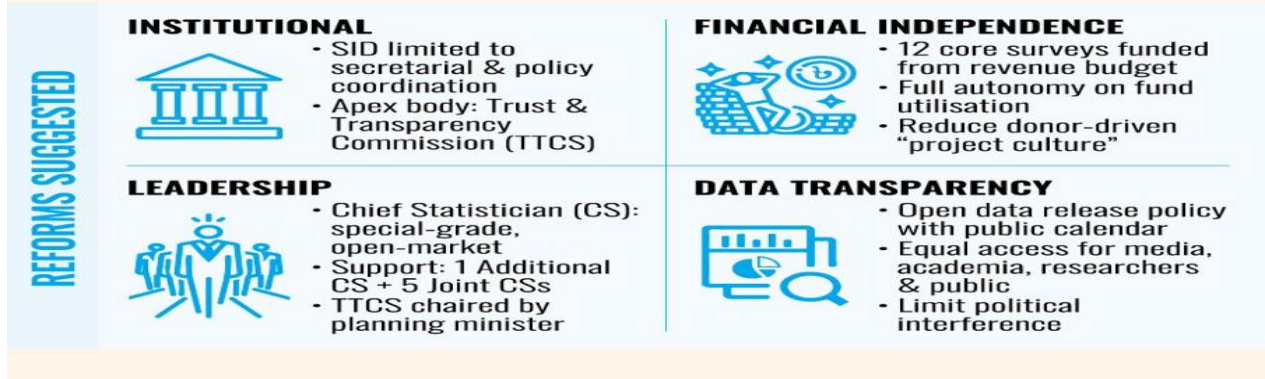
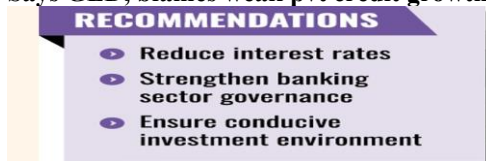
Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 13 - 26 October 2025

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><u>BB slashes loan provisioning rates for agri, CMSMEs</u></p> <p>Bangladesh Bank has issued a directive significantly reducing the required loan provisioning rates for banks handling specific credit lines in the agricultural and CMSME sectors, aiming to encourage greater participation by banks in disbursing these credits. To this end, the central bank today issued a circular, instructing all banks to maintain provision at the rate of 1 per cent against all unclassified standard and Special Mention Account (SMA) Short Term Agricultural Credits and Cottage, Micro and Small (CMS) enterprise credits under CMSME sector till 31 December 2026. All other instructions of earlier circular and its subsequent modifications will remain unchanged. Earlier, banks are required to maintain provisions at the rate of 1 percent and 5 percent of outstanding loans against standard and SMA respectively. Earlier, Bangladesh Bank extended a loan rescheduling facility for raw jute exporters till December 31, 2025, allowing them to reschedule loans for the next two years with a two percent down payment based on their outstanding loans as of December 31, 2024.</p>	13 Oct. 2025	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/278974/bb-slashes-loan-provisioning-rates-for-agri-csmses)	
02	<p><u>Bhutan wants to upgrade PTA with Bangladesh to FTA</u></p> <p>Bhutan is looking to transform its existing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Bangladesh, signed in December 2020, into a full-fledged Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to utilise the untapped business potential between the two countries, Bhutanese Ambassador Dasho Karma Hamu Dorjee said yesterday. "I believe that despite current challenges, both countries can overcome them and realise the full potential of an FTA," Dorjee said at a discussion on Bangladesh-Bhutan bilateral trade relations organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) in Dhaka.</p>	14 Oct. 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bhutan-wants-upgrade-pta-bangladesh-fta-4009291)	
03	<p><u>চলতি অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশের জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধি হবে ৪.৯%: আইএমএফ</u></p> <p>আন্তর্জাতিক মুদ্রা তহবিল (আইএমএফ) মনে করে, চলতি ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতি কিছুটা ঘুরে দাঁড়াবে। এ বছরে মোট দেশজ উৎপাদনে (জিডিপি) প্রবৃদ্ধির হার আগের অর্থবছরের চেয়ে বাড়বে। আবার মূল্যস্ফীতির হার কমবে। আইএমএফ বলছে, চলতি ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছর শেষে বাংলাদেশের জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধির হার দাঁড়াবে ৪ দশমিক ৯ শতাংশ। ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে ৩ দশমিক ৮ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি হয়েছিল। অন্তর্বর্তী সরকার অবশ্য চলতি অর্থবছরের প্রবৃদ্ধির হার ঠিক করেছে ৫ দশমিক ৫ শতাংশ। যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের রাজধানী ওয়াশিংটনে আজ মঙ্গলবার বিশ্বব্যাংক ও আইএমএফের বার্ষিক সভা উপলক্ষে প্রকাশিত 'ওয়ার্ল্ড ইকোনমিক আউটলুক' বা 'বিশ্ব অর্থনৈতিক পূর্বাভাস' শীর্ষক প্রতিবেদনে এসব তথ্য উঠে এসেছে। আইএমএফের নতুন পূর্বাভাস অনুসারে, এ বছর বৈশ্বিক গড় জিডিপিতে প্রবৃদ্ধি হবে ৩ দশমিক ২ শতাংশ।</p>	14 Oct. 2025	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/nzkygg6waz)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
04	<p>US Tariffs & Reshaping Global Supply Chain <u>Chinese, Indian firms eye BD to invest in RMG sector</u> Exporters divided over potential impact on local industry</p>  <p>A growing wave of Chinese and Indian companies is eyeing Bangladesh's textile and garment sector as an emerging alternative for relocation, driven by steep US tariffs and rising production costs. Industry insiders say global buyers, particularly from the United States, have been scouting for new sourcing hubs for years due to the US-China trade war. The latest tariff hikes have only accelerated that shift, with Bangladesh appearing increasingly on investors' radar.</p> <p>While many local exporters see this as a chance to benefit from Chinese expertise and technology, others worry that foreign players could intensify competition in areas where Bangladesh already leads. Yet, with global trade dynamics changing fast, the country's long-standing hesitation toward foreign investment in its garment sector may now be harder to sustain.</p>	14 Oct. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/chinese-indian-firms-eye-bd-to-invest-in-rmg-sector-1760377675)	
05	<p><u>Five more garment factories receive LEED green certification</u></p> <p>Five more local garment factories have received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for their efforts in energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. With these additions, Bangladesh—the global leader in LEED-certified garment factories—now has 268 such facilities, including 114 platinum-rated, 135 gold-rated, 15 silver-rated, and four certified factories. The country also leads globally in platinum-rated facilities, with 68 of the world's top 100 LEED-certified garment factories located in Bangladesh. Among the newly certified factories, Pakiza Knit Composite Ltd, Fashion Pulse Ltd, and GAVA Pvt Ltd have earned platinum ratings, while Visual Knitwears Ltd and Talisman Performance Ltd have received gold certifications.</p>	15 Oct. 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/five-more-garment-factories-receive-leed-green-certification-4010746)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
06	<p><u>Bida moves to ease foreigners' recruitment thru streamlined visa, work permit process</u></p> <p>The interim government is moving to modernise Bangladesh's visa and work permit system, aiming to make the recruitment of foreign workers easier, by digitising payments, simplifying permit and visa procedures, and introducing stricter penalties for violations. Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun made the announcement today (15 October) during a high-level workshop on "Work Permit and Security Clearance Process", organised by the development authority.</p>	15 Oct. 2025	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bida-moves-ease-foreigners-recruitment-thru-streamlined-visa-work-permit-process-1261666)	
07	<p><u>ব্যবসায়ীদের আপত্তির মুখে চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরের নতুন মাশুল কার্যকর</u></p> <p>ব্যবসায়ীদের আপত্তির পরও চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ নতুন মাশুল কার্যকর করেছে। বুধবার প্রথম প্রহর অর্থাৎ মঙ্গলবার রাত ১২টার পর থেকে বন্দরের সব সেবা খাতে নতুন মাশুল আদায় শুরু হয়। গত ১৪ সেপ্টেম্বর বন্দরের নতুন মাশুলের গেজেট প্রকাশ করা হয়। প্রজ্ঞাপন অনুযায়ী, বন্দরের বিভিন্ন ধরনের সেবায় আগের তুলনায় গড়ে ৪১ শতাংশ মাশুল বাড়ানো হয়েছে। সবচেয়ে বেশি বেড়েছে কনটেইনার পরিবহনের মাশুল। ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরের নিরীক্ষিত হিসাব পর্যালোচনায় দেখা যায়, গড়ে প্রতিটি কনটেইনারে (২০ ফুট লম্বা) বাড়তি মাশুল ধরা হয়েছে প্রায় ৩৯ ডলার (৪ হাজার ৩৯৫ টাকা)।</p>	15 Oct. 2025	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/ce4es9rk1m)	
08	<p><u>Business climate improves, but remains challenging</u></p> <p>The country's business climate showed slight improvement in the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 after a decline the previous year, according to the Bangladesh Business Climate Index (BBX). Several factors that had weakened the business environment in FY 2023-24, including inflationary pressure, higher interest rates and global uncertainty, continued to trouble local industries in the following year. In FY25, political and investment uncertainties, along with exchange rate volatility, added to the existing challenges facing businesses, according to the index prepared by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) and Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB).</p>	17 Oct. 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/business-climate-improves-remains-challenging-4012156)	
09	<p><u>Bangladesh Bank to align Credit Guarantee Scheme with CMSME Master Circular</u></p> <p>Bangladesh Bank is in the process of aligning its Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) with the CMSME Master Circular, which will be finalised soon, said Nurun Nahar, deputy governor of the central bank. She made the remarks at the 13th Financial Sector Development Working Committee (FSDWC) meeting titled "CMSME Financing Master Circular 2025 - An Analysis" organised by Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) at its conference room today (16 October).</p>	17 Oct. 2025	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-bank-align-credit-guarantee-scheme-cmsme-master-circular-1262631)	
10	<p><u>Pakistan proposes use of Karachi Port for Bangladesh-China trade</u></p> <p>Pakistan has proposed that Bangladesh use the Port of Karachi, managed by the Karachi Port Trust (KPT), for trade with China, a move that Islamabad believes would open an alternative maritime route and strengthen regional connectivity. The proposal is likely to be discussed and possibly finalised during the upcoming Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting scheduled to be held in Dhaka on 27 October, the first such meeting in nearly two decades. Economic Relations Division (ERD) sources said the session will also review the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) and the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) to enhance direct maritime trade links.</p>	17 Oct. 2025	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/pakistan-proposes-use-karachi-port-bangladesh-china-trade-1262761)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
11	<p><u>Multiple factors ‘weaken BD’s macroeconomic stability’</u></p> <p>Factors like subdued investment, inflationary pressure, financial sector vulnerabilities and political impasse have weakened Bangladesh's macroeconomic stability despite having decades of rapid expansion, economists and private sector entrepreneurs have said. They also highlighted several key challenges facing the economy, including a lower tax-to-GDP ratio, stagnant private investment, fiscal pressures from the power sector, structural barriers to employment, and the potential loss of trade preferences as the country prepares to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status.</p> <p>The observations came at an engagement session titled "AmCham Insights: Economic and Investment Outlook," organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) at a Dhaka hotel on Thursday.</p>	18 Oct. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/multiple-factors-weaken-bds-macroeconomic-stability-1760723998)	
12	<p><u>BB MAKES POLICY CHANGES ON LOAN DEFAULT</u></p> <p><u>Banks must inform borrowers 30 days before loan write-offs</u></p> <p>Commercial banks have to inform the borrowers at least 30 days before their loans being written off, a latest central-bank instruction says on a policy update. Bangladesh Bank, the country's central bank, issued the directive so that loan defaulters can avert the post-BLW (Bad/Loss-Write Off) consequences through taking measures to repay loans, sources at the BB said Sunday.</p> <p>The banking regulation and policy department (BRPD) of the banking regulator officially issued the instruction Sunday, ordering the commercial lenders to ensure compliance.</p>	20 Oct. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-must-inform-borrowers-30-days-before-loan-write-offs-1760897475?date=20-10-2025)	
13	<p><u>ফেব্রুয়ারির মধ্যে সব বিনিয়োগ সংস্থা একীভূত হবে: বিডা</u></p> <p>আগামী বছরের ফেব্রুয়ারি মাসের মধ্যে বিনিয়োগ-সংক্রান্ত ছয় সংস্থা একীভূত করা হবে। নতুন সংস্থার পরিচালনা পর্ষদ গঠনের কাজ এরই মধ্যে শুরু হয়েছে। সার্বিক পখনকশা তৈরির জন্য আগামী মাসে আন্তর্জাতিক পরামর্শক প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়োগ দেওয়া হবে। বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের (বিডা) কর্মকর্তারা এ তথ্য জানিয়েছেন। তাঁরা জানান, আন্তর্জাতিক পরামর্শক প্রতিষ্ঠান নতুন সংস্থার কাঠামো ও আইনি ভিত্তি তৈরি করবে।</p>	20 Oct. 2025	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/w124jomhi5)	
14	<p><u>Damage done in Dhaka airport warehouse blaze</u></p> <p><u>Businesses count \$1.0b losses in burnt goods, harmed exports</u></p> <p>Trade bodies have initially estimated a loss of over \$1.0 billion or Tk 120 billion inflicted on Bangladesh's export sector by the devastating fire in the cargo village of Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA). The Exporters Association of Bangladesh (EAB) came up with the loss assessment at a press conference Monday in a city hotel, where exporters demanded unassailable safety and security at all trade gateways.</p> <p>Speaking at the press meet, EAB President Mohammad Hatem said the government should ensure great security in key areas like cargo villages and export-import ports for the sake of assuring global buyers of shipment of goods in time. Raw materials of some 32 pharmaceutical companies worth about Tk 2.0 billion were burnt in the fire, which may cause disruption to production and distribution of finished goods worth between Tk 30 billion and Tk 50 billion in next two to six months. Leaders of the country's export-oriented sectors believe there had been failure of the authorities concerned in ensuring effective fire-detection and-protection system at the cargo village.</p>	21 Oct. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/businesses-count-10b-losses-in-burnt-goods-harmed-exports-1760982810?date=21-10-2025)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
15	<p><u>Statistics bureau be made an independent body</u> Taskforce suggests in its report, proposes new name for BBS as Statistics Bangladesh (StatBD)</p>  <p>A government taskforce has recommended transforming the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) into an independent statutory body to reduce bureaucratic control by the Statistical and Informatics Division (SID). On Monday, the taskforce, led by Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), presented its reform report at an event marking the National Statistical Day, with Planning Adviser Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud attending as the chief guest.</p>	21 Oct. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/statistics-bureau-be-made-an-independent-body-1760982666?date=21-10-2025)	
16	<p><u>Economy stabilising amid sluggish investment momentum</u> Says GED, blames weak pvt credit growth, high borrowing costs</p>  <p>Bangladesh's economy shows signs of cautious stabilisation, but investment momentum remains sluggish as the private-sector credit growth weakens and borrowing costs remain high, according to a report of the General Economics Division (GED) under the Planning Commission. Released on Tuesday, the October issue of the Economic Update and Outlook highlights that despite recent reforms by the government and the Bangladesh Bank, credit to the private sector grew only 6.35 per cent in August - the lowest in the past decade - while bank lending continues to favour government borrowing. High interest rates, currently averaging 13-15 per cent, have discouraged entrepreneurs from new ventures, technology expansion, and factory setups, contributing to stagnation in both employment and production, the report says.</p>	22 Oct. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economy-stabilising-amid-slaguish-investment-momentum-1761071167?date=22-10-2025)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
17	<p><u>বিনিয়োগ ঝুঁকি ও সহনশীলতা সূচকে বাংলাদেশ ১৯৩তম: হেনলি অ্যান্ড পার্টনার্স</u></p> <p>বিনিয়োগ ঝুঁকি ও সহনশীলতা সূচকে বাংলাদেশ সারা বিশ্বে ১৯৩তম স্থানে আছে। ২২৬টি দেশের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশের এই অবস্থান। দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার ৮টি দেশের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশের অবস্থান পঞ্চম। সম্প্রতি বৈশ্বিক পরামর্শক প্রতিষ্ঠান হেনলি অ্যান্ড পার্টনার্স 'গ্লোবাল ইনভেস্টমেন্ট রিস্ক অ্যান্ড রেসিলিয়েন্স ইনডেক্স' প্রকাশ করেছে। সেখানে বাংলাদেশের এই চিত্র মিলেছে। মূলত বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন দেশের ধনী ও বিনিয়োগকারীরা অন্য কোনো দেশে বসবাস ও নাগরিকত্ব পরিকল্পনা করার সময় এই ধরনের সূচক দেখেন।</p>	22 Oct. 2025	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/nd736ut910)	
18	<p><u>Dhaka ratifies 3 more ILO conventions</u></p> <p>The government yesterday signed three International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions guaranteeing workers' rights, safety, and freedom from violence and harassment in the workplace. Two of the conventions -- No. 155 and No. 187 -- relate to occupational safety, health, and the working environment, while Convention No. 190 recognises the right to a workplace free from violence and harassment, says a statement of chief adviser's press wing. The move comes amid growing calls from trade unions, labour rights bodies, and Western countries, including those in Europe and the United States, for Bangladesh to improve working conditions following repeated industrial disasters and continuing concerns over workers' rights.</p>	23 Oct. 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/dhaka-ratifies-3-more-ilo-conventions-4016686)	
19	<p><u>Signing ILO convention raises factory owners' onus</u></p> <p>BKMEA 'frames gender sensitivity, workplace safety guidelines'</p> <p>Following Bangladesh's signing of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Convention 190, employers now face greater responsibilities to ensure gender sensitivity and prevent workplace harassment, in line with the convention, industry leaders have said. As the second Asian country to sign it, the Convention will come into force in Bangladesh from early next year, they said, adding that both the formal and informal sectors, including the apparel industry, would require to comply with the convention.</p> <p>Keeping these in view, the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) has already devised guidelines on compliance of the convention. Besides, 100 trainers have been trained to promote workplace awareness, said Fazlee Shamim Ehsan, Executive President of BKMEA.</p>	24 Oct. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/signing-ilo-convention-raises-factory-owners-onus-1761241812?date=24-10-2025)	
20	<p><u>Inflation outpaces wage growth for 44th month</u></p> <p>For nearly four years, prices in Bangladesh have been rising faster than people's pay. Every month, workers earned a little more on paper, but that extra money did not stretch as far in the market. Now, for the past two months, even the pace of income growth has started to slow, making an already difficult situation even worse for low- and middle-income families. Latest data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) show that wages grew by 8.02 percent in September, down from 8.15 percent in August and 8.19 percent in July. Inflation in these months stood at 8.36 percent, 8.29 percent, and 8.55 percent, respectively. This means workers' real earnings—the amount their wages can actually buy—have continued to erode.</p>	24 Oct. 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/inflation-outpaces-wage-growth-44th-month-4017561)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
21	<p>Fiscal redoing to face post-graduation economic ordeals <u>BD pursues aggressive tariff overhaul</u> Govt bids for securing post-LDC economy, boost competitiveness preceding graduation</p> <p>Bangladesh adopts a time-bound implementation roadmap on aggressive tariff overhauls, including deep cuts, to rationalize the country's trade regime to play tidily on the global market in post-graduation era. The government has formally adopted the roadmap in its National Tariff Policy (NTP), sources have said, as time ticks past towards the cutoff time for Bangladesh's graduation from the world's poor-country club.</p> <p>The blueprint outlines a decisive roadmap for tariff rationalization, reduction in import dependence, bolstering domestic industry competitiveness, and expansion of exports-all essential steps to mitigate the challenges of losing LDC-specific trade privileges after Bangladesh graduates from the status of a least-developed country (LDC) on November 24, 2026.</p> <p>The NTP itself, titled 'National Tariff Policy', was issued through a gazette on August 10, 2023 by the then government. Some tariff structures under the NTP have already been implemented in the budgets for the financial years (FY) 2024-25 and 2025-26. The implementation plan sets ambitious deadlines for deep structural reforms, stretching through 2031, centered on compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and simplifying the trade and business environment.</p>	25 Oct. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-pursues-aggressive-tariff-overhaul-1761328336?date=25-10-2025)	
22	<p><u>Govt moves to form Bangladesh Business Promotion Council</u></p> <p>The government has drafted 'Bangladesh Business Promotion Council Ordinance, 2025', to institutionalise and strengthen public-private collaboration in enhancing the country's export competitiveness, diversifying products and markets, and simplifying trade procedures in line with international standards.</p> <p>According to the draft, the proposed 'Bangladesh Business Promotion Council (BBPC)' will act as a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce, with the mandate to assist entrepreneurs, traders, and relevant associations through coordinated initiatives involving both public and private sectors, a finance ministry source said. Once enacted, the BBPC will replace the existing eight sector-based business promotion councils, ensuring better coordination among them. The draft states that the head office of the council will be based in Dhaka, while branch offices may be established anywhere in the country with prior government approval to ensure smooth operations.</p>	26 Oct. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-moves-to-form-bangladesh-business-promotion-council-1761411892)	
23	<p><u>Government tightens grip on financial rules</u></p> <p>In a fresh push to restore fiscal discipline across public offices, the government has reminded all ministries and agencies that no financial directive can be issued without the Finance Division's consent. The warning comes amid growing concern over ministries and divisions issuing revenue-related circulars and orders on their own, bypassing central scrutiny. Officials said the move is meant to bring order and accountability to the management of state revenues, particularly from non-tax sources, and to ensure that all financial decisions follow a single, coordinated policy framework.</p> <p>The government has asked all ministries, divisions, and agencies to seek approval before issuing any financial regulatory documents, including Statutory Regulatory Orders (SROs), circulars, or directives relating to revenue collection or fee determination.</p>	26 Oct. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/government-tightens-grip-on-financial-rules-1761412481)	

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24	<p><u>BD less exposed to AI risks: Report</u></p> <p>World Bank says most local jobs still safe from automation</p> <p>Bangladesh's job market remains among the least exposed to the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) compared to other emerging economies, according to a new World Bank report. Only 1.44 per cent of total jobs in Bangladesh are related to AI, far below 7.29 per cent in Sri Lanka and 5.8 per cent in India, the global lender said in its latest report titled "South Asia Development Update: Jobs, AI and Trade".</p> <p>While the region's exposure to AI-driven automation is relatively limited, the World Bank warned that countries like Bangladesh must strengthen digital infrastructure and workforce skills to harness the opportunities of AI while minimising potential disruption.</p>	26 Oct. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/government-tightens-grip-on-financial-rules-1761412481)	