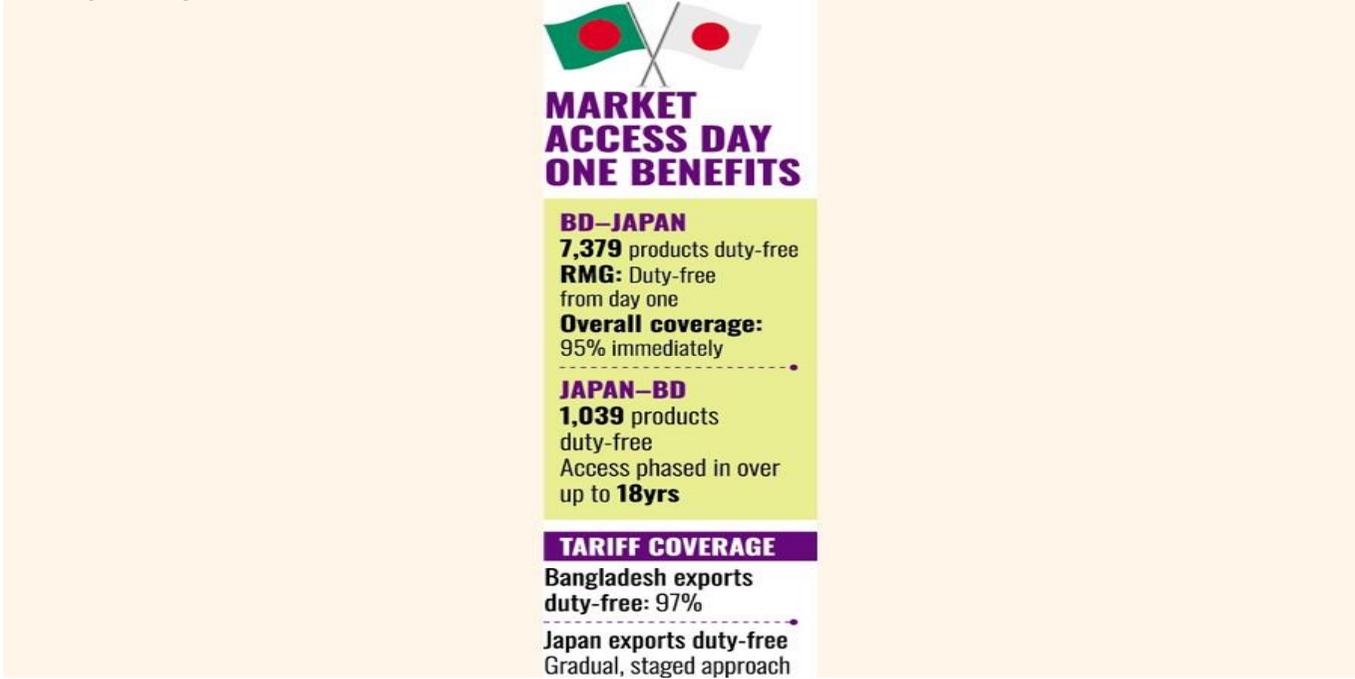


Summary of Business News – 92

Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 09 Dec. 2025 – 04 Jan. 2026

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p>BD already in debt trap: NBR chief <u>No hope for interest cut as inflation stays intractable</u> BB governor rules out lowering policy rate in near future</p> <p>Interest rate cannot be reduced in the near future as price-fueled inflation still stays intractably high, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur said Monday to set at rest businesses' pleas. Speaking at same function, Meanwhile, National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan also sounded alarm that Bangladesh has already got into "debt trap", a "truth" which should be acknowledged.</p> <p>On the conundrum of high interest and high inflation Ahsan H Mansur said, "Besides, the deposit rate is still high at nearly 10 per cent. This trend may not change within a year or in one and a half years. So, the reduction in policy rate at this moment may not be possible.</p>	09 Dec. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/no-hope-for-interest-cut-as-inflation-stays-intractable-1765215524?date=09-12-2025)	
02	<p><u>NBR to bring 4m entities under VAT net in two years</u></p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has set an ambitious goal to bring four million businesses under VAT registration within the next two years. This is part of its efforts to expand the VAT net and ensure greater compliance across the country. NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan says the current 644,000 VAT-registered entities do not reflect the true scale of Bangladesh's business sector. "In the future, no one will be able to operate a business without VAT registration," he said at a press briefing on Tuesday. The briefing was arranged at the NBR headquarters in the capital to mark the National VAT Day and VAT Week.</p> <p>To boost enrolment, the NBR will run a nationwide special VAT registration campaign from December 10 (today) to 31, targeting 100,000 new registrations this month. This year, the VAT Week will be observed from December 10 to 15 under the theme "Register on Time, Pay VAT Accurately".</p>	10 Dec. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-to-bring-4m-entities-under-vat-net-in-two-years-1765300361?date=10-12-2025)	
03	<p>Paying for five-in-one bank, 9 NBFIs' liquidation <u>Govt on bank borrowing spree for bailout funds</u></p> <p>Government bank borrowing goes ballooning with the fundraising through special auction of bonds and bills to pay for five-in-one Sammilito Islami Bank and possible liquidation of nine hard-up nonbanks. To meet the fresh financing challenges, amid less-than-expected level of revenue-mobilisation drives, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) keeps holding special auction of government securities (G-sec) going beyond the regular schedule through which it is borrowing from the banking sector.</p> <p>As part of the move to foot the bill for bailout of the banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) pushed into problems through past malpractices, the ministry has called for a special auction of 91-day- tenure treasury bill today (Wednesday) to generate an additional Tk 50 billion from the banks. Earlier on November 27, the government borrowed Tk 50 billion from the commercial banks through issuing its 5-year treasury bond.</p>	10 Dec. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-on-bank-borrowing-sprees-for-bailout-funds-1765300024?date=10-12-2025)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
04	<p><u>BB allows importing capital machinery without BIDA's approval</u> Bangladesh Bank now allows capital- machinery import in foreign credit without permission from the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), reports UNB. Companies can now directly import necessary machinery and equipment using foreign loans with a minimum three-year term, without needing prior approval from the BIDA. The Foreign Exchange Policy Department of Bangladesh Bank issued the directive on Wednesday (December 10). Industry stakeholders believe this new initiative will significantly ease the import process for the industrial sector. The directive states that this industry-friendly measure was introduced as part of implementing the decision of BIDA's foreign debt committee. Previously, the long-term credit facility was primarily available only for the import of new machinery. The new regulation expands the scope: Various capital goods, including ships, equipment, and machinery, can now be imported on three-year installment credit. The foreign loan can be secured from either the foreign supplier or a foreign bank.</p>	11 Dec. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-allows-importing-capital-machinery-without-bidas-approval-1765391583?date=11-12-2025)	
05	<p><u>ADB lowers Bangladesh's growth forecast further</u> For the second time, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) yesterday revised down its growth forecast for Bangladesh, citing sluggish investment ahead of the elections and slower growth in export earnings. The Manila-based lender said GDP growth in the current fiscal year (FY2025-26) may reach 4.7 percent, down from its September forecast of 5 percent. In April, ADB had projected a 5.1 percent growth for the same year.</p>	11 Dec. 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adb-lowers-bangladeshs-growth-forecast-further-4055481)	
06	<p><u>Patenga Container Terminal boosts capacity with addition of 14 new cranes</u> The Patenga Container Terminal at Chattogram Port has enhanced its container handling capabilities with the addition of 14 new Rubber-Tyred Gantry (RTG) cranes to improve container handling speed and overall operational efficiency at the terminal. The cranes, manufactured by the Chinese company GENMA, arrived in October. Following the completion of their commissioning, they were formally handed over this morning (15 December) to the terminal's Saudi operator, Red Sea Gateway Terminal International (RSGTI).</p>	15 Dec. 2025	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/patenga-container-terminal-boosts-capacity-addition-14-new-cranes-1310751)	
07	<p>PERCEIVED INCONGRUITIES IN LABOUR LAW AMENDMENT <u>Four major trade orgs to seek review of three amended provisos</u> <u>They may seek legal remedy, if needed</u> Four major trade bodies in Bangladesh's industrial realm seek a rethink on three key amended sections of the labour law as they believe such new provisos could adversely affect employment and hike the cost of doing business. As planned, the organisations will initially request the reigning interim government to scrap those sections of the law. They claim there are gross anomalies in the wording of different parts of the legislation, including inconsistencies in defining worker, compensation provisions, and the incorporation of several "illogical" clauses in the law. If their request is not addressed, the organisations will later file with the High Court a writ petition challenging the impugned sections. The trade bodies gearing up for the legal challenge are Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturer and Exporters Association (BKMEA) and Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF).</p>	16 Dec. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-japan-close-to-landmark-epa-signing-1766425600)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
08	<p><u>Govt to host Global Sourcing Expo twice a year from 2026</u> Pvt sector engagement promoted to strengthen Bangladesh's export growth The government is set to organise the Global Sourcing Expo twice a year to showcase Bangladesh's strengths to international buyers and diversify its export basket, according to sources at the Ministry of Commerce. Officials said the decision follows positive responses from exhibitors, global buyers, and their representatives during the first-ever Global Sourcing Expo, held from December 1-3, 2025, at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre in the capital's Purbachal. The event displayed products from eight major export sectors -- apparel, textiles, leather goods, ICT, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, jute, and furniture -- connecting local exporters with global buyers to promote market diversification and growth.</p>	17 Dec. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-japan-close-to-landmark-epa-signing-1766425600)	
09	<p><u>Bangladesh, Japan close to landmark EPA signing</u> Deal expected by late next month</p>  <p>Bangladesh is poised to sign its first-ever Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan by the end of January 2026, as the two countries finalised the draft text proposing immediate duty-free access for a wide range of products, including readymade garments, from the very first day.</p>	23 Dec. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-japan-close-to-landmark-epa-signing-1766425600)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
10	<p><u>সংশোধিত বাজেট ৭ লাখ ৮৮ হাজার কোটি টাকা</u></p> <p>চলতি অর্থবছরে রাজস্ব আহরণের গতি বৃদ্ধি পাওয়ায় রাজস্ব আয়ের লক্ষ্যমাত্রা বাড়ানো হয়েছে। সংশোধিত বাজেট অনুযায়ী তা ২৪ হাজার কোটি টাকা বৃদ্ধি করে চলতি অর্থবছরের জন্য মোট ৫ লাখ ৮৮ হাজার কোটি টাকা নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে। আর সংশোধিত বাজেটের আকার ২ হাজার কোটি টাকা কমিয়ে ৭ লাখ ৮৮ হাজার কোটি টাকা নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে। আগামী ১ ফেব্রুয়ারি থেকে সংশোধিত জাতীয় বাজেট কার্যকর হবে। বিষয়টি আজ বুধবার অনুষ্ঠিত উপদেষ্টা পরিষদকে অবহিত করা হয়েছে। তেজগাঁওয়ে প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়ে প্রধান উপদেষ্টার সভাপতিত্বে উপদেষ্টা পরিষদের বৈঠক হয়।</p>	24 Dec. 2025	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/4n3snoo1cw)	
11	<p><u>RMG exporters seek re-fixing of cash incentives on local yarn</u></p> <p>They cite worsening condition of spinning mills and the need to improve export competitiveness</p> <p>Apparel exporters have called for the restoration and re-fixing of cash incentives on the use of local yarn, citing the deteriorating condition of domestic spinning mills and the need to improve export competitiveness. They have proposed restoring the cash incentive on the use of local yarn in export-oriented apparel production to 5.0 per cent through apparel exporters. The incentive earlier stood at 4.0 per cent before being reduced to 1.5 per cent as part of government preparations for Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) status. Exporters also decided to request the government to provide a direct 10.0 per cent incentive to spinners as an alternative support measure.</p> <p>At a closed-door meeting in Gulshan on Wednesday afternoon, leaders of the BGMEA, BKMEA and BTMA agreed to jointly appeal to the government on the issue by next Sunday.</p>	27 Dec. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/rmg-exporters-seek-re-fixing-of-cash-incentives-on-local-yarn-1766768047?date=27-12-2025)	
12	<p><u>Rationing fuel in govt recipe</u></p> <p><u>Industry first in gas supply to fuel economic growth</u></p> <p>Petrobangla to ramp up LNG import in new year</p> <p>Industrial consumers will get top priority in gas supply as the government prepares such a fuel-feeding recipe aimed at fuelling economic growth, now largely subdued following political upheavals, sources say. "Industry will be on top of our priority and we want that the industrial consumers will get as much gas as possible next year to run their industries," state-run Petrobangla Chairman Md Rezanur Rahman told The Financial Express Saturday. As part of this plan, Petrobangla will be importing increased volumes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from global suppliers next year," he said.</p> <p>In 2026--the year close by now--the government corporation will import some 115 LNG cargoes, 5.50-percent higher than current year's imports. Petrobangla now imports some 109 LNG cargoes from the international market under its set arrangements, he mentions.</p>	28 Dec. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/industry-first-in-gas-supply-to-fuel-economic-growth-1766854766)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
13	<p><u>BB issues risk-based supervision framework for banks</u> Each bank will have a lead supervisor under a continuous monitoring system Bangladesh Bank (BB) has issued a detailed framework outlining how banks will shift to risk-based supervision (RBS), with the new supervisory system set to be implemented across the banking sector from January 2026. Directing all commercial banks to comply with the framework, the central bank issued a circular on Sunday outlining the operational, supervisory and reporting arrangements applicable from the commencement of RBS. In view of increasing globalisation of financial services, rapid technological advancement, product innovation and heightened interconnectedness of financial institutions, the complexity of banking operations and the overall risk profile of banks have significantly increased, the circular said. Traditional compliance-based supervision, which primarily emphasises rule-checking and reliance on historical data, is no longer sufficient to proactively address these evolving challenges and risks, it added.</p>	29 Dec. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-issues-risk-based-supervision-framework-for-banks-1766944879?date=29-12-2025)	
14	<p><u>Graduation may hit country's apparel exports hard: Study</u> LDC graduation poses a significant threat, with Bangladeshi exporters likely to bear a large share of tariff costs, as they may need to absorb 40 per cent of post-graduation tariffs to remain competitive in the European Union, according to a recent study. After Bangladesh's graduation from the LDC category and the end of the transition period in 2029, the country will lose duty-free market access in the EU. Apparel exports could face a 12-percent tariff under "EU safeguard measures," while major competitors like Vietnam are expected to retain duty-free access. The study, conducted by RAPID (Research and Development Integration for Development), also found that the unit value of Bangladesh's top apparel exports is consistently lower than that of major competitors in the EU market.</p>	30 Dec. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-issues-risk-based-supervision-framework-for-banks-1766944879?date=29-12-2025)	
15	<p><u>Remittances hit record high in 2025</u> Overseas workers send a historic \$32.82b, easing pressure on external accounts Remittance inflows to Bangladesh surged to an all-time high of US\$32.82 billion in the calendar year 2025, underscoring the growing role of migrant workers in supporting the country's economy at a time of persistent domestic and global challenges. The record inflows have provided crucial relief to the external sector, bolstering the current-account balance, strengthening foreign- exchange reserves and stabilising the forex market, even as concerns lingered over global uncertainty and tighter immigration policies in key host countries. The 2025 figure marks an increase of more than 8.0 per cent from the US\$30.32 billion received in 2024, according to Bangladesh Bank data released on Thursday. December capped the year on a strong note, with inward remittances reaching US\$3.22 billion during the month, up 22.35 per cent year-on-year. The strong performance contrasts with earlier concerns that global economic uncertainty and tighter immigration policies in some host countries, including the United States, could dampen inflows.</p>	02 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/remittances-hit-record-high-in-2025-1767290960?date=02-01-2026)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
16	<p><u>NBR digitises UP system to expedite raw material imports</u> The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has launched fully online services enabling direct exporters to obtain Utilisation Permissions (UPs), aiming to expedite the import of raw materials and reduce lead times. Under the new system, the Customs Bond Management System (CBMS) software has been made mandatory for all UP application and approval processes. An office order to this effect was issued by the NBR on Thursday. According to the order, all UPs will now be issued online through the three Customs Bond Commissionerates operating under the NBR. As a result, the manual submission, acceptance and approval of UP applications have been discontinued with immediate effect. The NBR introduced the CBMS software on January 1, 2025 to provide online services to bonded warehouse licence-holding companies. Since its launch, exporters availing bonded warehouse facilities have been able to apply for and receive UPs digitally in line with policies approved by the Duty Exemption and Drawback Directorate. With the introduction of full online UP issuance, bonded companies are no longer required to submit physical documents or appear in person at the Customs Bond Commissionerates.</p>	02 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-digitises-up-system-to-expedite-raw-material-imports-1767290813?date=02-01-2026)	
17	<p><u>Private sector credit growth remained slow at 6.58% in November</u> Private sector bank credit growth has remained stuck below 7% for six consecutive months. As of the end of November 2025, growth fell to 6.58% – below the target set by Bangladesh Bank – raising renewed concerns about the country's investment climate. Economists and bankers say this slowdown in private sector credit growth mainly reflects a decline in new investment in the country. They note that weakening credit growth signals subdued investment demand, reduces capital formation, and can slow economic growth, employment creation and export competitiveness.</p>	02 Jan. 2026	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/private-sector-credit-growth-remained-slow-658-november-1324511)	
18	<p><u>Commercial court ord issued</u> Such courts will adjudicate at least 24 types of disputes President Mohammed Shahabuddin has signed the Commercial Court Ordinance 2026, a landmark move for speedy, efficient, and transparent adjudication for commercial disputes. The gazette, issued on Thursday night, said the ordinance would come into effect immediately. Analysts say this initiative is a major step in improving the judicial infrastructure for commerce, a longstanding demand from both domestic and foreign investors. Under the ordinance, the required number of commercial courts will be established at the district level to exclusively handle commercial disputes, ensuring their speedy resolution.</p>	03 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/commercial-court-ord-issued-1767377183)	
19	<p><u>ক্ষুদ্রঋণের আঞ্চলিক সীমা আর থাকছে না, সারা দেশেই কাজ করা যাবে</u> নিয়ন্ত্রক সংস্থা মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরি অথরিটির (এমআরএ) দেওয়া সনদ থাকলেও দেশের ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলো এত দিন সারা দেশে কাজ করতে পারছিল না। অধিকাংশ প্রতিষ্ঠানকেই নির্দিষ্ট আঞ্চলিক সীমার মধ্যে কার্যক্রম চালাতে হচ্ছিল। এক জেলার অনুমতি থাকলে পাশের জেলায় কাজ করার এখতিয়ার ছিল না। এ সীমাবদ্ধতা আর থাকছে না। বিদ্যমান এমআরএ বিধিমালা, ২০১০ সংশোধন করে এ-সংক্রান্ত ধারাটি বিলুপ্ত করার উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে এমআরএ। এর ফলে যেকোনো ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রতিষ্ঠান দেশের যেকোনো অঞ্চলে কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার সুযোগ পাবে। শুধু আঞ্চলিক সীমা নয়, সনদের শর্ত ভঙ্গসহ বিদ্যমান বিধিমালার মোট ৩১টি বিধি ও উপবিধি সংশোধনের সিদ্ধান্ত নেওয়া হয়েছে।</p>	03 Jan. 2026	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/97p88iri5m)	