

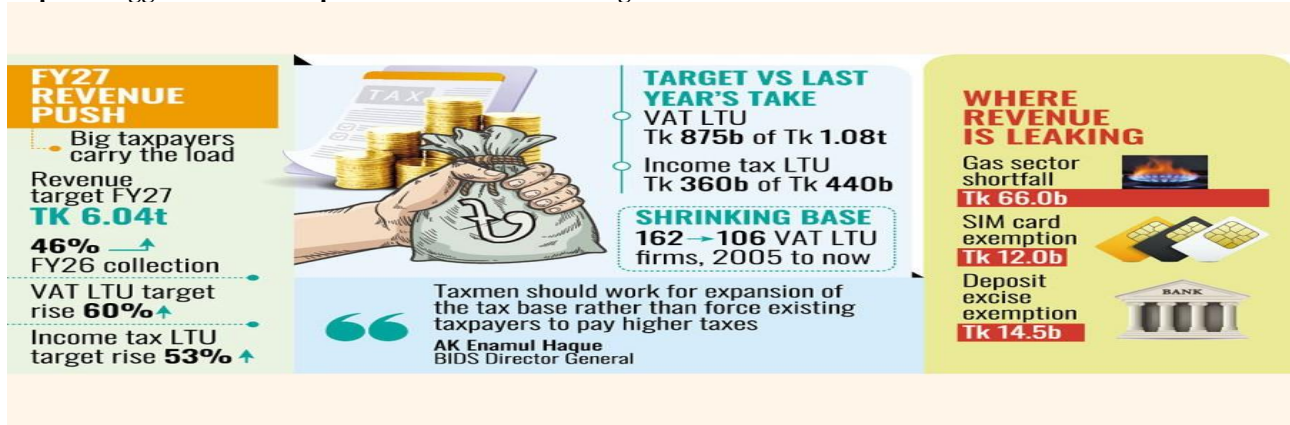
Summary of Business News – 109

Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 08 - 16 September 2026

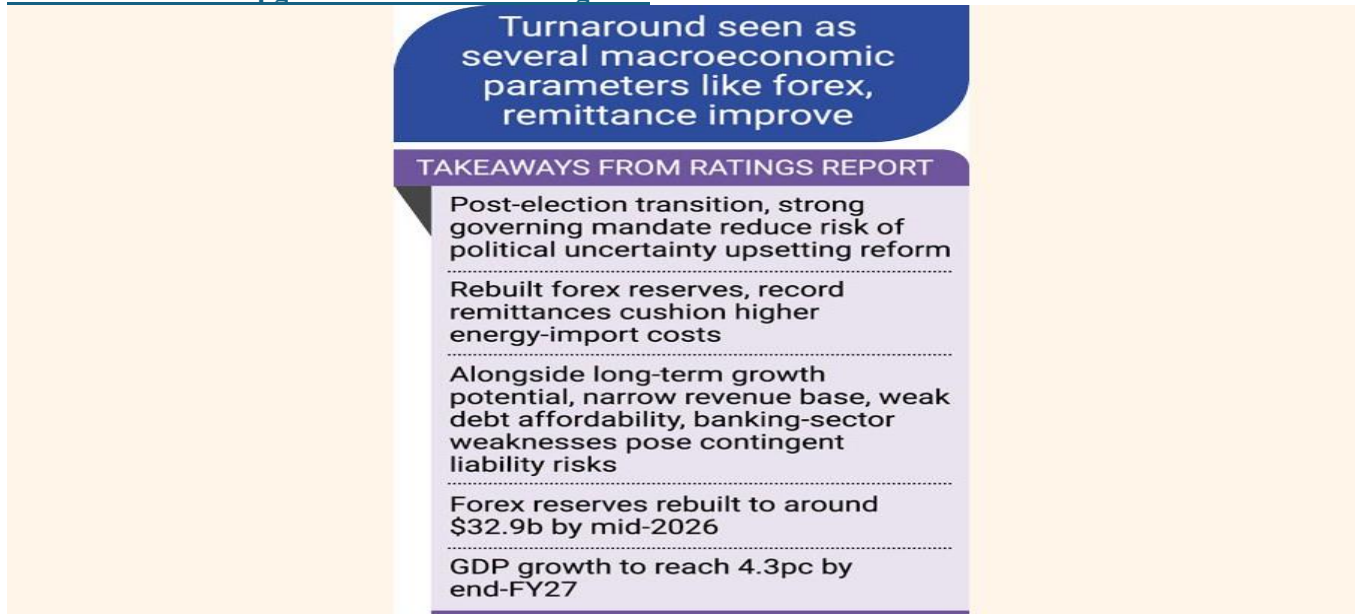
Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<u>Inflation further edges down to 8.26pc in Aug</u> Overall inflation has somewhat eased for a second consecutive month as official count put the rate at 8.26 per cent for August on account of little lower food cost. Yet, according to official data, villagers across Bangladesh go on struggling with higher price indices with a hike in the last month again. And the rate of non-food inflation stayed steeply high, affecting all across the board, economists say. The point-to-point inflation rate in August had fallen to 8.26 per cent, down 0.06-percentage points from 8.32 per cent in the previous month of July, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data released on Monday showed. Inflationary pressure is particularly biting the rural people as it was registered at 8.31 per cent in the past month, 0.05-percentage-point higher than the average rate, the official data showed. According to the BBS statistics, prior to hitting this new low in August 2026, the lowest point-to-point inflation recorded was 8.29 per cent in November 2025. In the same period (August 2025), the inflation rate was recorded at 8.29 per cent.	08 Sept. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-further-edges-down-to-826pc-in-aug-1788805073?date=08-09-2026)	
02	<u>WB recommends phased tariff reform to boost Bangladesh's trade competitiveness</u> The World Bank today (8 September) recommended a phased approach to tariff reform in Bangladesh, with reductions in duties on intermediate inputs, lower protection for highly protected consumer goods and a pre-announced multiyear phase-out of para-tariffs to make the country's trade regime more competitive. The recommendations were made in a new World Bank study titled "Bangladesh Trade Policy at a Crossroads: Evidence for the National Tariff Policy, LDC Graduation, and the Next Generation of Trade Agreements," presented by Dr Nora Dihel, Senior Economist for Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment at the World Bank, at a programme here today. The Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI), in collaboration with the World Bank Group organized the programme at its Banani office in the city.	08 Sept. 2026	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/wb-recommends-phased-tariff-reform-boost-bangladeshs-trade-competitiveness-1536971)	
03	<u>Economic activity shrinks in Aug as PMI drops to 49.9</u> The overall economic activity contracted in August, with disruptions to electricity and energy supplies weighing on manufacturing and services, according to the latest Bangladesh Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) released on Tuesday. The PMI fell 7.9 points from the previous month to 49.9 in August, slipping below the 50-point threshold that separates expansion from contraction. A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while one below 50 signals contraction. A reading of 50 indicates stagnant economic activity. The index was developed by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) and PEB, with support from the UK government and technical assistance from the Singapore Institute of Purchasing and Materials Management.	09 Sept. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economic-activity-shrinks-in-aug-as-pmi-drops-to-499-1788890200?date=09-09-2026)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks						
04	<u>Banks' provisioning shortfall crosses Tk 2.0 trillion</u> Deficit in provisioning exposes weakening lending capacity, rising vulnerabilities across economy Overall provisioning shortfall Figures in trillion Tk <table><tr><td>Dec 31 2025</td><td>1.91</td></tr><tr><td>March 31 2026</td><td>2.05</td></tr><tr><td>June 30 2026</td><td>2.22</td></tr></table> Main cause: Rising NPLs, weak credit discipline, inadequate supervision and governance problems Sector-wise impact ▶ Private banks worst affected ▶ State-owned banks' shortfall rose ▶ Foreign banks saw provisioning surplus ▶ Specialised banks moved from deficit to surplus NPLs increase Non-performing loans rose nearly 9% to Tk 6.06t as of June 30 2026 “ Law going to parliament to create formal market for bad loan buy-sale –BB official Overall provisioning shortfall against loans in Bangladesh's banking system overran Tk 2.0-trillion mark with a 16-percent or Tk 309.16 billion rise in the first half of 2026. Economists say such deficit in provisioning reflects the weakening lending capacity of banks and causing vulnerabilities across the economy. The aggregate amount of provisioning shortfall crossed Tk 2.0 trillion again, indicating poor credit discipline in many of the banks due mainly to growing non-performing loan (NPL) buildup in the industry.	Dec 31 2025	1.91	March 31 2026	2.05	June 30 2026	2.22	09 Sept. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-provisioning-shortfall-crosses-tk-20-trillion-1788890056?date=09-09-2026)	
Dec 31 2025	1.91									
March 31 2026	2.05									
June 30 2026	2.22									
05	<u>Bangladesh, Hong Kong sign investment protection agreement</u> Bangladesh and Hong Kong signed an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) today (9 September) to strengthen bilateral investment flows and provide greater protection for investors from both sides. The agreement was signed during the opening session of the 11th “Belt and Road Summit 2026” in Hong Kong. Industries, Commerce and Textiles and Jute Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir signed the agreement on behalf of Bangladesh, while Hong Kong Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau signed for the Hong Kong government.	09 Sept. 2026	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-hong-kong-sign-investment-protection-agreement-1537791)							

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
06	<u>ফ্রান্সের টোটাল এনার্জিস থেকে কেনা হবে ১৮ জাহাজ এলএনজি</u> ফ্রান্সের বহুজাতিক প্রতিষ্ঠান টোটাল এনার্জিস থেকে ১৮ জাহাজ তরলীকৃত প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস (এলএনজি) কিনবে সরকার। সরাসরি ক্রয় পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে আগামী ৯ মাসে প্রতি মাসে ২ জাহাজ করে এসব এলএনজি আমদানি করা হবে। দুই পক্ষের সম্মতিতে এ প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে আরও বেশি এলএনজি আমদানি করতে পারবে বাংলাদেশ। আজ বুধবার সচিবালয়ে অর্থমন্ত্রী আমির খসরু মাহমুদ চৌধুরীর সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠিত অর্থনৈতিক বিষয়সংক্রান্ত মন্ত্রিসভা কমিটির বৈঠকে এ বিষয়ক প্রস্তাব নীতিগতভাবে অনুমোদিত হয়েছে। বৈঠক শেষে অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয় এ তথ্য জানায়। অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয় জানায়, মধ্যপ্রাচ্যে যুদ্ধের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে অস্থিতিশীল ভূরাজনৈতিক প্রেক্ষাপটে, দেশে জরুরি গ্যাসের চাহিদা মেটানোর জন্য টোটাল এনার্জিসের কাছ থেকে চলতি বছরের অক্টোবর থেকে আগামী বছরের জুন পর্যন্ত প্রতি মাসে ২ জাহাজ করে মোট ১৮ জাহাজ এলএনজি আনা হবে।	09 Sept. 2026	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/jnjuc6c96j)	
07	<u>BHOLA GAS TO BE BORNE MAINLAND IN LNG FORM</u> <u>PM announces plans to ensure gas supply to industries</u> Prime Minister Tarique Rahman explained Wednesday his government's plan to harness potential domestic gas and build newer facilities for imported-LNG regasification, as Bangladesh navigates a fuel crisis. The ambitious plan includes establishing a new deep-sea LNG terminal and drilling 150 new gas wells by the fiscal year 2030-31 as well as industrial use of a cache of natural gas found in southern coastal district of Bhola. He outlined the government's short- and long-term strategies, blending alternative sources and renewable energy, during a session of parliament presided over by Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed.	10 Sept. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/pm-announces-plans-to-ensure-gas-supply-to-industries-1788977257?date=10-09-2026)	
08	<u>Pertamina to get O&M contract for BD's first SPM</u> Indonesian state-run company -- PT Pertamina -- is all set to bag the operation and management (O&M) contract of Bangladesh's maiden single-point mooring (SPM) for carrying fuel from vessels in outer anchorage to onshore storage tanks. The state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) recently completed the evaluation for selecting the O&M contractor to initiate the operation of the country's much-needed oil carrying infrastructure two years after its installation, a senior official of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR) told The Financial Express on Thursday. A total of 11 companies had purchased tender documents to compete in the bidding, and three of them submitted bids in February this year to carry out the job. After inking the deal, the Indonesian company will carry out the operation and management job for five years.	11 Sept. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/pertamina-to-get-om-contract-for-bds-first-spm-1789064389?date=11-09-2026)	
09	<u>Govt entities directed to revise budget plans by September 15</u> The government has stepped up its oversight of public financial management, issuing a strict directive to all government ministries, divisions, and institutions to revise and update their budget-implementation plans (BIPs), according to the finance ministry. Under the initiative, the finance ministry has asked various state agencies, including ministries, divisions, and other government entities, to urgently revise their BIPs to align public spending with the government's election manifesto, reform agenda, and priority programmes for the fiscal year 2026-27. "The ministry also sent the instruction to the cabinet secretary, comptroller and auditor general, chief election commissioner, and secretaries of more than 20 ministries and divisions, including home, planning, finance, economic relations, railways, disaster management, foreign affairs, education, and youth and sports," an official involved in the matter said.	12 Sept. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/govt-entities-directed-to-revise-budget-plans-by-september-15-1789149426?date=12-09-2026)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
10	Govt aid for restart of factories, stimulating economy <u>No disbursement from BB-launched stimulus package</u> A government stimulus package worth Tk 600 billion for giving a shot in the sagging economy's arm remains unused even over three months after the central bank launched the massive financing scheme, sources say. The Bangladesh Bank came up with the financing scheme on May 22 last in line with the new government's election manifesto promising to create 2.5 million jobs through reinvigorating Bangladesh's slowing private-sector-led economy with vibrant business activity. But the progress in releasing the funds appears not satisfactory as the banking regulator verbally instructed the banks to disburse at least one-fourth of the package within this September, according to central and commercial bankers. Getting frustrated by the lax progress, government high-ups indirectly instructed the banking regulator to further accelerate the process so that resumption of production in the closed or struggling industrial units can take place as quickly as possible, the sources said. Seeking anonymity, a BB official has said no disbursement under the stimulus package has so far been made although all the formalities like agreements with 17 lending banks were completed. He says the package has two components: a Tk 410-billion refinancing fund, sourced from banks with excess liquidity through long-term deposits of at least three years at policy rate (now 9.5 per cent), and a Tk 190-billion support fund drawn from the central bank's own resources, subject to government guarantee.	12 Sept. 2026	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/no-disbursement-from-bb-launched-stimulus-package-1789148589?date=12-09-2026)	
11	CHASING AN AMBITIOUS TAX TARGET <u>Greater revenue burden falls on large taxpayers</u> Experts suggest tax-base expansion rather than raising tax load  Government's greater reliance on large taxpayers -- both individuals and corporates -- to achieve its higher revenue target in the current fiscal year is putting additional pressure on the existing taxpayer base. The Large Taxpayers Unit (LTU) under the VAT wing of the National Revenue Board has been assigned a revenue target 60-percent higher than its collection last fiscal year. And the income-tax LTU's target is nearly 53-percent higher than its collection in FY26. The government has set an overall revenue-collection target at Tk 6.04 trillion for FY27, which is 46-percent higher than the amount collected in the past fiscal year.	14 Sept. 2026	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/greater-revenue-burden-falls-on-large-taxpayers-1789321712)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
12	<u>BB eases foreign borrowing rules for BIDA-registered firms</u> Bangladesh Bank (BB) has eased rules on medium- and long-term external borrowing by industrial enterprises operating in specialised zones, exempting firms registered with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) from the central bank's approval requirement. The clarification means industrial enterprises registered with the Invest Bangladesh Authority, formerly known as BIDA, will no longer need to obtain separate approval from Bangladesh Bank to take medium- and long-term external loans. The central bank issued a circular in this regard today.	14 Sept. 2026	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-eases-foreign-borrowing-rules-bida-registered-firms-4272696)	
13	<u>Taming exchange rate upturn</u> BB auctions greenback in first such mkt intervention In first such intervention in foreign-exchange market, Bangladesh's central bank Monday auctioned the US dollar to tame a sudden exchange-rate upturn. The Bangladesh Bank (BB) sold US\$11.50 million to five banks on the day through what stands out as first-ever auction-based dollar sale by the regulator in the country. The regulatory move comes against the backdrop of a rising trend in the exchange rate of the US currency against the Bangladesh taka (BDT) recent days following higher import-payment obligations, according to market operators. They also said comparatively lower remittance inflows, particularly in the middle of each month, had pushed up demand for the greenback on the market. The local currency depreciated by 4.0 paisa to BDT 123.2000 per dollar on Sunday from BDT 123.1600 on the previous day on the interbank market, according to the central bank monitoring report. It was BDT 123.0300 per dollar on Thursday.	15 Sept. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/taming-exchange-rate-upturn-1789409840?date=15-09-2026)	
14	<u>Nearly 55% knitwear factories faced order cancellations or reductions: BKMEA</u> Some 55 percent of knitwear factories have experienced either the cancellation or reduction of work orders from their international clothing retailers and brands because of the ongoing gas and power crisis, according to a survey by the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) released today. The BKMEA conducted the survey among 20 percent of its member factories located in Narayanganj, Gazipur, Chattogram, Dhaka and other areas between August 21 and September 14 this year, said BKMEA Executive President Fazlee Shamim Ehsan. The survey also found that approximately 60 percent of those surveyed were forced to provide discounts to their buyers, approximately 78 percent experienced partial production shutdowns and approximately 87 percent experienced shipment delays.	15 Sept. 2026	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nearly-55-knitwear-factories-faced-order-cancellations-or-reductions-bkmea-4273606)	
15	<u>Bangladesh's gas supply situation improves amid higher LNG imports</u> Bangladesh's gas supply situation has improved, with total gas supply reaching 2,610 million cubic feet per day on Tuesday afternoon. Of the total supply, 1,620 mmcf was supplied from domestic gas fields, while imported regasified liquefied natural gas accounted for 990 mmcf, according to the latest gas supply data of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. The increased supply is expected to ease pressure on the gas distribution system, particularly for industries, power plants and other gas-dependent consumers that have faced supply constraints. The supply figure recorded at 12:00pm reflects a significant contribution from LNG, which is being used to supplement declining domestic gas production and meet the country's overall demand.	15 Sept. 2026	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/power-energy/313938/bangladeshs-gas-supply-situation-improves-amid-higher-lng-imports)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
16	Moody's latest health checkup of Bangladesh economy <u>Economic outlook upgrades to stable from negative</u>  Global ratings agency Moody's has revised Bangladesh economic outlook to stable from negative following the easing of political and external pressures, stronger foreign-exchange reserves and record remittance inflows. The ratings agency has, however, kept the long-term rating at B2 that balances long-term growth potential, supported by favourable demographics, a diversified economy and a competitive readymade garment (RMG) sector, against weaknesses in other sectors.	16 Sept. 2026	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economic-outlook-upgrades-to-stable-from-negative-1789495248)	