

MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW



The new bank will have paid-up capital of Tk 35,000 crore. Of it, Tk 15,000 crore will come from institutional deposits and Tk 20,000 crore from the government.

Five Islamic banks merge into one

In the middle of October, the government decided to merge five troubled shariah-based commercial banks into a new state-run Islamic lender named Sammilito Islami Bank Limited. The decision to merge the five banks -- First Security Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank and Exim Bank -- was taken to protect the depositors and restore confidence in the sector.

Dhaka airport fire sends shockwave across businesses

ESTIMATED LOSSES:

- » About \$10 million in losses were reported by garment exporters
- » 901 RMG factories reported losses so far
- » 32 pharmaceuticals suffered damages worth about Tk 200 crore
- » Garment accessories sector losses already exceed Tk 23 crore

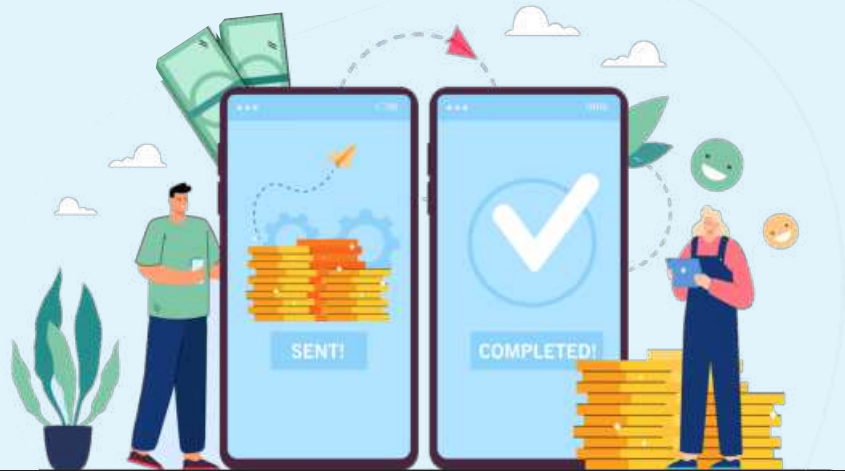
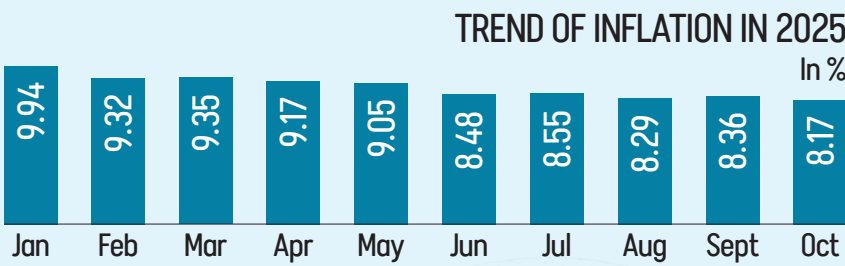
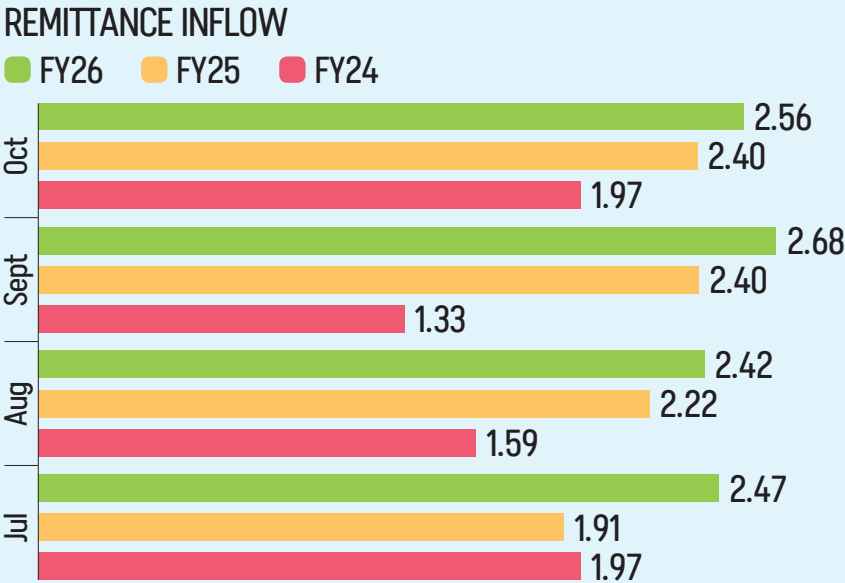
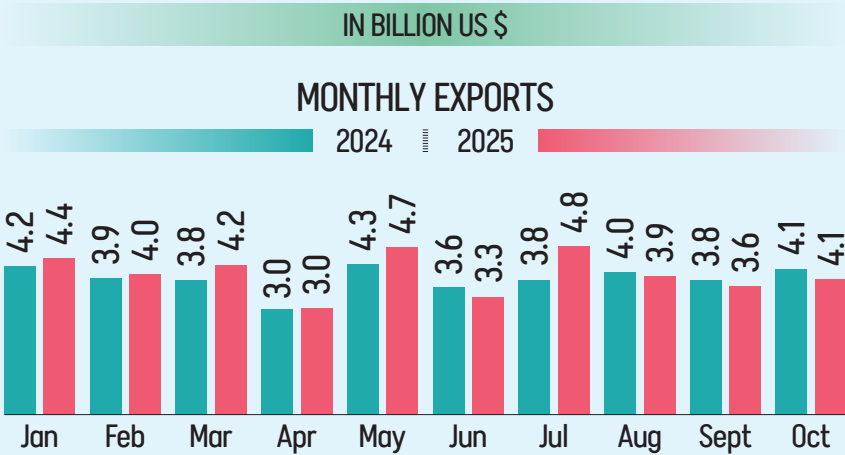
A massive fire tore through the cargo complex of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on October 18, burning goods stored at the facility, disrupting flights, and causing long delays and diversions. The fire started around 2:30pm, with thick black smoke engulfing the airport and surrounding areas, visible from afar for hours.

The blaze broke out near Gate No. 8 of the import cargo complex and quickly engulfed warehouses packed with imported chemicals, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and garments. Experts say the airport fire may delay RMG and pharma production by at least two months.



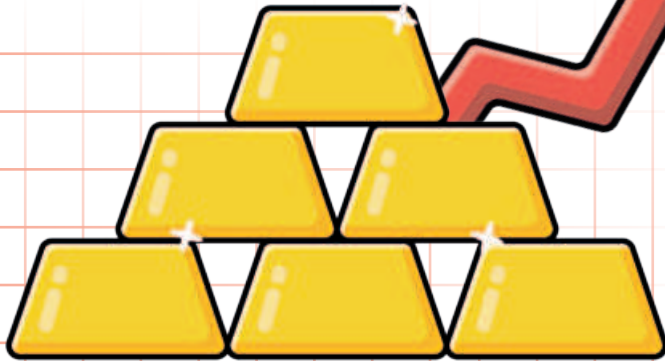
KEY DATA OFFER A MIX OF RELIEF AND RENEWED CHALLENGES IN OCTOBER

Exports dropped for the third month while inflation moderated and remittance growth slowed



SOURCE: BANGLADESH BANK

Gold breaks record Tk 2 lakh locally, \$4,200 globally



Gold prices crossed the Tk 2 lakh mark for the first time in Bangladesh on July 7, hitting Tk 200,775 for each bhoiri of 22 carat gold. In the middle of October, global gold price also went past \$4,000 an ounce for the first time, climbing to \$4,039.86 on October 8, which later crossed past \$4,200 on October 16.

LOCAL GOLD HISTORY

During Bangladesh's Liberation War, gold was sold for Tk 170 per bhoiri. Within ten years, it reached Tk 3,750 per bhoiri. By 2000, it hit Tk 6,900, and by 2010, Tk 42,165. In January 2018, gold crossed Tk 50,000 per bhoiri for the first time. Five years later, in July 2023, it hit Tk 100,000. After further jumps, it reached Tk 150,000 in February 2025, and later surged past Tk 200,000 per bhoiri.



CHATTOGRAM PORT TARIFF HIKE CRISIS

The Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) implemented a significant tariff hike—the first in over 30 years—effective from October 15, 2025, following a government gazette notification issued in September. This move came after the finance ministry's approval in July.

TIMELINE

- Jul 24: Finance ministry approves tariff proposal
- Sept 14: Gazette notification issued
- Oct 15: New rates enforced at 12:01 am
- Oct 19: Transport strike over vehicle entry fees begins
- Oct 21: Port congestion and cargo backlogs reported

- » New tariffs apply to port services like berth hire, container handling, storage, and vessel-related charges
- » The hike affects both shipping lines and port users, causing a ripple effect across the import-export chain
- » Transport operators protested the increased vehicle entry fees, calling an indefinite strike on October 19, which disrupted cargo movement
- » Exporters reported delays and backlogs, especially in handling RMG export containers
- » CPA argues the hike was necessary to recover rising operational costs and to upgrade port infrastructure

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