The Daily Star | Prime Bank

MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

WAGE PROTESTS ROCK GARMENT HUBS



Wage demand: Tk **30,000** vs Tk **12,500** now

Actual earnings: up to Tk **20,000,** including overtime

Grievances: High cost of living, unpaid wages, blacklisting, arbitrary dismissals

Protest points: Uttara, Mirpur, Ashulia, Savar, Gazipur, Narayanganj

Wage board: **Six** members; formed **Nov 1**, first meeting **Nov 4**

First revised salary: January 2027

Factory disruption: **529** affected on **Nov 1**; **414** closed on **Nov 3**

New pay scale: Amount to be announced; effective Dec 2026

Economic risks: Production losses, export delays, weaker buyer confidence

CONSUMERS SQUEEZED BY LPG PRICE HIKE

Official price of a 12kg cylinder

- Sept: Tk **1,585**
- Oct: Tk **1,837**
- Nov: Tk **2,060**
- Increase: Tk **475** in two months

Market price: Remains above the official rate

Higher business charges (per kg)

- Storage & bottling: Tk **16.74** ➡ Tk **23.48**
- Distribution: Tk **4.17** ➡ Tk **7.08**
- Retail: Tk **3.75** ➡ Tk **5.83**

LPG market

- Nearly **1 crore** consumers
- **35** licensed firms, **10-12** active importers
- Private sector dominates supply



LDC GRADUATION DELAYED; JAPAN PLEDGES BIG

LDC graduation

- New deadline: Nov **24, 2029**
- Trade benefits: Duty-free access to **38** markets retained
- Export reliance: **73**% of export benefit from LDC preferences
- Key reforms: Banking, revenue, trade, export diversification

Japan's investment bet

- Investment: **¥1** trillion ($**6.35**b) over **5** years
- Jobs: **2** lakh expected
- Energy loan: **¥50**b ($**317**m)
- Security grant: **¥2.12**b ($**13**m)
- BIG-B: Upgraded for shared prosperity
- Focus: Energy, ICT, trade, infrastructure





ECONOMY: KEY NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Exports
$**3.99**b
Oct earnings
⬆ **4.4**% YoY |
⬆ **1.4**% MoM

Remittances
$**2.87**b
Oct inflow
⬆ **12.1**% YoY |
⬆ **3.89**% MoM
Below $**3**b for the fifth straight month

Forex reserves
$**36.43**b
Gross reserves as of Nov 3
$**31.56**b under IMF's BPM6 method

Dollar rate
Tk **124.35**
Average exchange rate on Nov 4

Inflation
8.34%
Sept inflation
⬆ from **8.26**% in Aug

Private-sector credit
4.17%
Growth in Sept
Lowest on record

CYBER FLAWS DISRUPT BANKING SERVICES

Q-Cash disruption

- Affected: 31-33 banks
- Period: Oct 4-6
- Services: ATMs, POS, cards, internet banking, transfers
- Cause: Server fault forced early migration
- Operator: IT Consultants PLC
- BB action: Explanation sought; action to follow

PHP security flaws

- Threat: Two flaws expose websites to hacking
- Impact: BB, six banks, land ministry took sites offline
- Global risk: 70% of websites potentially vulnerable



DP WORLD GETS NCT; LNG TERMINAL PLAN RETURNED

NCT OPERATING DEAL

- Tenure: **15** years
- Investment: $**150**m
- Signing money: Tk **600**cr
- Revenue share: **67**% for Bangladesh
- Capacity target: **1.6-1.8**m TEUs yearly
- Upgrades: Equipment & automation
- Timeline: Full capacity in two years

THIRD LNG TERMINAL

- Proponent: China's CNEE
- Location: Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar
- Status: Sent back by Cabinet Purchase Committee
- Reason: Address observations before resubmission
- Capacity: **600** mmcfd; peak **750** mmcfd
- Cost: Tk **12,324**cr (**15** years); Tk **13,161**cr (**20** years)