

Economy

WB raising USD 2.0bn in quick financing within FY26

May 23, 2026

- Bangladesh expects an off-the-cuff USD 1.835bn financing from the World Bank for use before the close of the current fiscal year to cushion the economy against mounting external shocks, sources say. Of the amount, the financier has proposed an emergency financing fund worth up to USD 250mn for Bangladesh government to tackle fiscal pressures stemming from the ongoing Middle East conflict.
- The proposed emergency Investment Project Financing (IPF) would be financed through the reallocation of cancelled and uncommitted funds from five of ongoing or closing projects.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/wb-raising-20b-in-quick-financing-within-fy26>

Bangladesh SOEs cost treasury BDT 882bn (USD 7.19bn) as losses mount: WB study

May 23, 2026

- Bangladesh's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) drained nearly BDT 882bn (USD 7.19bn) from the national exchequer in a single year, emerging as one of the country's biggest fiscal risks, according to a World Bank study.
- The study report highlighted that the deteriorating financial condition of public enterprises has become "unsustainable" at a time when Bangladesh is already facing falling revenue collection, slower economic growth and mounting pressure on public finances, BSS reports citing a press release.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-soes-cost-treasury-tk-882b-as-losses-mount-wb-study>

Govt moves to slash business licensing time, decriminalize business failure: Commerce minister

May 23, 2026

- Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir has announced that the government is undertaking regulatory overhauls to simplify business operations, including cutting down licensing times, ensuring consistent energy supply, and introducing structural exit routes for businesses.
- The minister also said investment is the sole driver of job creation, which cannot be forced by laws or administrative decrees but must instead be supported by market-friendly policies.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/government-moves-slash-business-licensing-time-decriminalise-business-failure-commerce>

Predictable tax regime: Rates likely to be set for next five years

May 23, 2026

- The rates introduced in last year's budget were set for a two-year period, covering FY2026-27 and FY2027-28. This means the upcoming budget will provide an indication of tax rates for the next five years.
- An NBR senior official involved in tax policy formulation stated that businesses have long demanded a predictable tax regime.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/predictable-tax-regime-rates-likely-be-set-next-five-years-1445576>

Expatriates can invest undisclosed income in several sectors

May 23, 2026

- The government may offer a special tax amnesty allowing non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) to invest undisclosed income in several sectors back home facing no questions from revenue authorities or other agencies.
- Under a proposed arrangement, already approved at government's high level, NRBs can invest their undeclared incomes in select sectors, excepting real estate, in the upcoming financial year, officials say.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/expatriates-can-invest-undisclosed-income-in-several-sectors>

Govt may lower AIT on industrial raw material imports to 4pc

May 23, 2026

- The government may reduce Advance Income Tax (AIT) at the import stage on primary and intermediary raw materials and other industrial goods from the existing 5pc to 4pc, in a move aimed at easing pressure on businesses and encouraging investment.
- The upcoming budget may also introduce a provision allowing businesses to claim refunds of excess advance tax deducted after a specified period. Although the current system allows tax adjustment, most businesses fail to recover the excess tax due to various procedural complexities.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-may-lower-ait-industrial-raw-material-imports-4-1445591>

Trade and Commerce

Riyadh Air to launch Dhaka flights on August 1

May 23, 2026

- Saudi Arabia's new national carrier, Riyadh Air, is set to launch daily direct Dhaka-Riyadh flights on August 1, intensifying competition in Bangladesh's booming Saudi Arabia aviation market, driven by expatriate and Umrah travel demand.
- The Saudi carrier's entry is expected to reshape one of Bangladesh's busiest international aviation markets, currently dominated by Biman Bangladesh Airlines, US-Bangla Airlines and Saudia.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/riyadh-air-to-launch-dhaka-flights-on-aug-1>

Ginger prices spike before Eid as importers delay port release

May 23, 2026

- Ginger prices have nearly doubled in a matter of weeks ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, as importers left up to 1.1mn kg of the spice stranded for as long as a month at Chattogram port.
- The spice - essential for cooking meat - that sold for BDT 110 (USD 0.90) to BDT 120 (USD 0.98) per kg in early May is now retailing at BDT 200 (USD 1.63) to BDT 210 (USD 1.71) per kg across the country.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ginger-prices-spike-eid-importers-delay-port-release-4181556>

Energy and Power

BERC recommends retail power tariff hike

May 23, 2026

- A technical committee formed by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) on Thursday recommended hike in power tariffs at the retail level too to cut the volume of subsidies.
- Consumer-rights groups, business representatives, and other stakeholders, however, opposed the tariff hike proposals by the state-run Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and other state-owned power distribution companies, including West Zone Power Distribution Company Ltd (WZPDC), Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DPDC), Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd (DESCO), and Rural Electrification Board (REB).

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/berc-recommends-retail-power-tariff-hike>

Govt unveils onshore wind power project guidelines

May 23, 2026

- Draft guidelines for onshore wind-power-project development have been unveiled under a government priority as this clean energy remains under explored despite offering a "complementary and increasingly cost-competitive pathway".
- Until now, the country generates only 62 megawatts of electricity from wind resources out of total 1,774mw power generated from renewable sources, according to Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA).
- In the Renewable Energy Policy 2025 the government has set a target of generating 20pc of total energy by 2030 and 30pc by 2040 from renewable sources.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-unveils-onshore-wind-power-project-guidelines>

Corporate

Investment gains help NBFIs weather tough business conditions

May 23, 2026

- Leading non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) posted improved financial performance year-on-year in 2025, buoyed by strong investment income despite persistent macroeconomic challenges and elevated funding costs.
- Market analysts said reputed NBFIs managed to navigate the difficult business environment through diversified income sources, prudent Treasury management, and operational efficiency.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/investment-gains-help-nbfis-weather-tough-business-conditions>

Officials of two listed firms fined BDT 15mn (USD 122,200)

May 23, 2026

- The stock market regulator fined directors and top officials of two companies -- Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries and Genex Infosys -- around BDT 15mn (USD 122,200) for breaching securities rules.
- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) also ordered Aftab Automobiles to pay dividends within 30 days, failing which its directors and top officials would face fines amounting to BDT 15.5mn (USD 126,273).

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/officials-two-listed-firms-fined-tk-15cr-4181541>

Power Grid gets BSEC nod to issue BDT 15.3bn (USD 124.56mn) preference shares to govt

May 23, 2026

- In a move to convert its share money deposits into equity, Power Grid Company Bangladesh (PGCB), a state-owned power transmission company, is now set to issue preference shares to the government worth BDT 15.3bn (USD 124.56mn).
- In several tranches, Power Grid had already issued preference shares to the government worth BDT 101.46bn (USD 826.56mn) against funds received from the government for development projects.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/power-grid-gets-bsec-nod-issue-tk1529cr-preference-shares-govt-1445741>

Capital Market

Bangladesh Bank eases tax certificate rules for foreign investors

May 23, 2026

- Bangladesh's capital market has taken a significant step toward fulfilling the requirements for a market upgrade by aligning the trading cycle of foreign portfolio investors with that of local ones.
- The development came on Wednesday through a circular issued by Bangladesh Bank (BB), which lifted the requirement for foreign portfolio investors to submit a tax certificate after the execution of every sale order.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bangladesh-bank-eases-tax-certificate-rules-for-foreign-investors>

CSE unveils first Bengali publication on commodity derivatives trading

May 23, 2026

- The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) has published a Bengali guidebook named "Commodity Derivatives Insights" the first Bengali-language guidebook on commodity derivatives trading, as part of its broader efforts to prepare market participants ahead of the launch of commodity exchange market.
- The CSE Chairman AKM Habibur Rahman formally unveiled the cover of the publication on Thursday in the presence of members of the CSE Board of Directors and senior officials of the exchange.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/cse-unveils-first-bengali-publication-on-commodity-derivatives-trading>

BSEC clears stock dividends for MTB, Southeast Bank, Trust Bank

May 23, 2026

- According to regulatory disclosures filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), the banks are utilizing these stock issuances to strengthen their capital bases in alignment with Basel III requirements and to provide the necessary fiscal cushion for future business expansion.
- These regulatory clearances allow the banks to convert retained earnings into equity paid-up capital, a strategic move often preferred by lenders to maintain high capital adequacy ratios while supporting larger credit portfolios.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-clears-stock-dividends-mtb-southeast-bank-trust-bank-1445746>

International

Dollar edges up

May 23, 2026

- The US dollar firmed on Thursday but stayed below a six-week peak as hopes that Washington was nearing a deal with Tehran to end the war in the Middle East capped further rises.
- US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said negotiations with Tehran were in the final stages, while also warning of further attacks if Iran does not agree to a deal.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/dollar-edges-4181461>

Oil rebounds on Iran peace deal uncertainty and inventory drawdowns

May 23, 2026

- Oil prices gained more than 1pc on Thursday, paring previous losses as investors monitored peace talks between the United States and Iran, while supply tightness and US inventory drawdowns provided some support.
- Brent crude futures rose USD 1.27, or 1.21pc, to USD 106.29 a barrel by 0618 GMT, and US West Texas Intermediate futures were up USD 1.29 cents, or 1.31pc, at USD 99.55.
- Both benchmarks dropped more than 5.6pc on Wednesday to their lowest in more than a week after President Donald Trump said talks with Iran were in the final stages, but also threatened further attacks if Tehran did not agree to a peace deal.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/oil-rebounds-iran-peace-deal-uncertainty-and-inventory-drawdowns-4181121>

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