

Economy

Income tax return filing deadline for companies extended to Apr 15

March 16, 2026

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has extended the deadline for companies to submit their income tax returns by one month to April 15
- Previously, the deadline for filing returns for the 2025–26 tax year was set for March 15.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/income-tax-return-filing-deadline-companies-extended-apr-15-4129121>

Remittance inflow up 35.7pc in first half of March ahead of Eid

March 16, 2026

- Remittance inflows have increased by 35.7pc in the first half of March, ahead of Eid, with expatriate Bangladeshis sending USD 2.20bn in the first 14 days of the month.
- During the same period in 2025, remittances stood at USD 1.62bn, confirmed the central bank's spokesperson and Executive Director Arief Hossain Khan today (15 March).
- A senior official of a private bank told The Business Standard that the rise in remittances is mainly due to the upcoming Eid festival, as expatriates typically send more money home during this period.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/remittance-inflow-357-first-half-march-ahead-eid-1387681>

NBR moves to ease raw material sourcing for 1,100 non-bonded RMG factories

March 16, 2026

- The National Board of Revenue is set to remove restrictions preventing non-bonded exporters from sourcing raw materials locally through back-to-back letters of credit (LCs), a move expected to ease exports and improve access to inputs for hundreds of garment factories.
- NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan confirmed to The Business Standard that the board is actively working to remove these barriers

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/nbr-moves-ease-raw-material-sourcing-1100-non-bonded-rmg-factories-1386991>

Banking

War further clouds private credit demand

March 16, 2026

- Credit growth to the private sector has been staying around 6 percent as businesses continue

to be shy about taking on fresh projects amid economic uncertainty.

- In January, banks' credit to the private sector grew by 6.03 percent, the lowest in at least five years. This makes it the eighth straight month of below 7 percent growth in credit demand.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/war-further-clouds-private-credit-demand-4129641>

BB raises credit card loan limit to BDT 4mn (USD 32,587)

March 16, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has raised the maximum credit card loan limit for individuals to BDT 4mn (USD 32,587) from BDT 2.5mn (USD 20,367) for local use and has also doubled the unsecured credit card loan ceiling.
- A directive in this regard was issued yesterday, including a comprehensive new guideline for banks aiming to promote a cashless economy and strengthen credit card governance.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-raises-credit-card-loan-limit-tk-40-lakh-4129531>

Farmers' BDT 10,000 (USD 81.5) loans: Govt asks banks to write them off, withdraw cases

March 16, 2026

- The government has decided to pay the loans and interest owed to banks for farmers whose debts have been waived, on the condition that all cases filed against those farmers are withdrawn.
- The conditions were outlined in a directive sent by the finance ministry to Bangladesh Bank yesterday.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/agriculture/news/farmers-tk-10000-loans-govt-asks-banks-write-them-withdraw-cases-4129811>

Banks make do with available funds sans crunch

March 16, 2026

- Notwithstanding pressure of liquidity amid splurges ahead of Eid festival, Bangladesh's interbank call-money market showed signs of stability with banks successfully making do with available cash thanks in part to central bank's backing.
- Although the volume of borrowings through interbank call-money market keeps increasing slowly, the weighted average rate (WAR) of call money stood just over 10pc Sunday, the second last working day before Eid-ul-Fitr vacation, against 10.38pc on March 05, 2026.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/liquidity-pressure-banks-make-do-with-available-funds-sans-crunch>

40pc extra for new banknotes on footpath as central bank halts supply

March 16, 2026

- The festive spirit of Eid-ul-Fitr has been dampened for many as the central bank's decision to halt the supply of new banknotes has forced citizens to pay up to a 40pc premium on the black market.
- The lack of official distribution has left footpath vendors in areas like Gulistan and Motijheel as the only source of crisp bills, which are in high demand during Eid, when many elders traditionally give money to younger people, especially children and youth.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/40pc-extra-for-new-banknotes-on-footpath-as-central-bank-halts-supply>

Trade and Commerce

Govt body to probe unusual gap between wholesale and retail prices

March 16, 2026

- Commerce, Industries, Textiles and Jute Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktadir has said the government will form a fact-finding committee to examine the unusual price gap between wholesale and retail markets.
- At a discussion on the supply and price situation of essential commodities amid the US-Israel war on Iran yesterday, he said the government is closely monitoring the supply and pricing of essential goods.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-body-probe-unusual-gap-between-wholesale-and-retail-prices-4129631>

378 containers of unclaimed goods from Ctg Port to be auctioned digitally

March 16, 2026

- The Chattogram Custom House has initiated the process to auction 378 containers of unclaimed and auctionable goods through an electronic auction (e-auction) system in March 2026 in a move to reduce container congestion at Chattogram Port.
- The initiative aims to ease the existing container backlog at the port, minimize security risks arising from congestion, ensure physical and financial safety, safeguard lives and property, and prevent wastage of state resources while enhancing the operational efficiency of the country's busiest seaport, according to an NBR press release.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/378-containers-of-unclaimed-goods-from-ctg-port-to-be-auctioned-digitally>

Sales of beauty products pick ahead of Eid

March 16, 2026

- With Eid-ul-Fitr just around the corner, cosmetics counters in shopping malls and roadside stores are buzzing with activity as shoppers browse rows of lipsticks, foundations and skincare products in search of the perfect festive look.
- While new clothes remain central to Eid celebrations, beauty products have become an equally important part of the shopping list for many. Traders say cosmetics sales usually surge during the final weeks of Ramadan as people prepare to complete their Eid look.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/sales-beauty-products-pick-ahead-eid-1386996>

RMG

32.34pc factories fail to pay wages for February

March 16, 2026

- About 32.34pc or 3,266 industrial units, including readymade garment (RMG) factories operating across the country under the jurisdiction of Industrial Police (IP) failed to pay wages for the month of February until Sunday as per the government instruction.
- On the other hand, nearly 63.45pc or 6,408 factories have not paid festival allowance although the government issued an instruction to pay the same by March 12,

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/3234pc-factories-fail-to-pay-wages-for-february>

Corporate

Islami Bank delays US investor's entry into mCash

March 16, 2026

- Islami Bank has decided to postpone its earlier plan to onboard US-based B100 Holdings LLC as a strategic investor in mCash Ltd, a subsidiary formed to operate mobile financial services.
- The shariah-based bank disclosed the decision yesterday on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/islami-bank-delays-us-investors-entry-mcash-4129581>

City Bank commits to Swift framework to improve cross-border payments

March 16, 2026

- City Bank PLC has committed to adopting a new Swift framework aimed at improving the cross-border payments experience for individuals and small businesses.
- Through the initiative, City Bank will guarantee customers full value delivery, no hidden fees and the fastest possible speeds when sending and receiving money internationally, according to a press release.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/city-bank-commits-swift-framework-improve-cross-border-payments-4129561>

Trust Bank gets BB exemption for multiple nominee directors

March 16, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank has allowed Trust Bank PLC to appoint more than one director to its board by exempting the lender from a provision of the law.
- The central bank issued a notice permitting the Army Welfare Trust, the sponsor shareholder of Trust Bank, to appoint multiple directors to the board by exempting the bank from Section 23 of the Bank Companies Act, 1991, as amended in 2023

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trust-bank-gets-bb-exemption-multiple-nominee-directors-4129286>

Capital Market

BSEC clears merger of two Walton companies

March 16, 2026

- The stock market regulator has said it has no objection to the proposed merger of two companies of Walton Group.
- Local electronics giant Walton disclosed the development on the website of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), saying that the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) had raised “no objection” to the proposed merger.
- According to the company, the merger of listed Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC with non-listed Walton Digi-Tech Industries will expand the overall business portfolio, reduce operational costs, and improve efficiency.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bsec-clears-merger-two-walton-companies-4129526>

BB issues new rules for bank dividend reporting

March 16, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has come up with a new directive mandating all scheduled banks to report any dividend declaration against shares within 7 days of the respective board meeting.

- The central bank issued the instruction to safeguard the interests of depositors and ensure the overall financial stability of the country's banking sector, said a BB circular issued.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bb-issues-new-rules-for-bank-dividend-reporting>

International

Oil poised for further gains

March 16, 2026

- Oil prices could extend gains at Monday's open as the US-Israeli war against Iran entered a third week, putting oil infrastructure at risk and keeping the Strait of Hormuz shut in the world's largest supply disruption.
- US President Donald Trump threatened further strikes on Iran's Kharg Island oil export hub, drawing a defiant response of further retaliation from Tehran.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oil-poised-further-gains-4129571>

Japan to release oil stocks

March 16, 2026

- Japan plans to start releasing oil from its stockpiles on Monday to soften the shock from the US-Israeli war on Iran, a stark reminder of the oil crisis half a century ago that prompted Tokyo to create reserves.
- As gasoline prices across Japan started to rise with the war disrupting supplies from the Gulf's Strait of Hormuz, Tokyo pledged to release a record 80mn barrels of oil, about 45 days of supply for the resource-poor nation.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/japan-release-oil-stocks-4129566>

US Fed expected to hold rates steady as Iran war roils outlook

March 16, 2026

- US Federal Reserve policymakers are expected to leave interest rates unchanged at their meeting next week, as the US-Israel war on Iran sends shock waves through markets and recent economic data has begun to show weakness.
- The Fed will start its two-day meeting on Tuesday, with an announcement of the benchmark lending rate in the world's largest economy a day later.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-fed-expected-hold-rates-steady-iran-war-roils-outlook-4129146>

Oil loading operations at UAE's Fujairah have restarted:

Industry source

March 16, 2026

- Oil loading operations at the United Arab Emirates' Fujairah emirate, a major bunkering hub and crude export terminal, have resumed following a drone attack and fire on Saturday, a Fujairah-based industry source told Reuters.
- Fujairah, outside the Strait of Hormuz, is the outlet for about 1mn barrels per day of the UAE's Murban crude oil - a volume equal to about 1pc of world demand.
- Abu Dhabi state oil giant ADNOC, which operates in the emirate, did not immediately respond to a request for comment

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/worldbiz/middle-east/oil-loading-operations-uaes-fujairah-have-restarted-industry-source-1387251>

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