

Economy

Net FDI rises 39.36pc in 2025 as intra-company loans increase: BB report

May 06, 2026

- Net FDI in the outgoing year stood at nearly USD 1.77bn, up from USD 1.27bn in 2024. FDI inflows to Bangladesh had declined over the past three years but rebounded in 2025. Total FDI inflows in 2025 were USD 4.69bn, while FDI outflows stood at USD 2.92bn.
- According to Bangladesh Bank data, growth in new equity investment was comparatively slow. However, reinvested earnings increased and intra-company loan flows rose significantly, contributing to higher net FDI.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/net-fdi-rises-3936-2025-intra-company-loans-increase-bb-report-1430796>

ADB to provide USD 1.0bn budget support to Bangladesh

May 06, 2026

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide \$1 billion in budget support to Bangladesh by June to tackle economic challenges stemming from soaring energy prices triggered by the Middle East war situation.
- During the ADB AGM, the finance minister discussed the North-West Dhaka South-East Economic Corridor, involving about USD 79.0bn proposed by the ADB to Bangladesh under a 20-year development plan, as well as a visit by the ADB president to Dhaka and technical assistance for the development of the capital market.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/adb-provide-1b-budget-support-bangladesh-4168546>

Red tape hobbles Japanese investment in Bangladesh

May 06, 2026

- Despite decades of development ties, Japanese investment in Bangladesh has yet to match the scale seen in Vietnam or other peer economies. Official figures put direct Japanese investment in Bangladesh at around USD 350mn, compared to USD 79bn in Vietnam.
- The gap is less about a lack of interest and more about bureaucratic hurdles, policy inconsistencies and a shortage of mid-level managerial talent, according to Akiko Okumura, executive vice-president of the Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro).

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/red-tape-hobbles-japanese-investment-bangladesh-4168516>

ADB expects surge in private sector demand for investment services in Bangladesh

May 06, 2026

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) expects that there will be a "significant growth in demand" from the private sector for its investment services in Bangladesh, a senior official said.
- The increased demand is likely as a new government has been in power since February, and things have started to stabilize, said Isabel Chatterton, director general of the Private Sector Operations Department at ADB.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/adb-expects-surge-private-sector-demand-investment-services-bangladesh-4168531>

NBR eyes bringing small businesses under coverage

May 06, 2026

- The National Board of Revenue is planning to expand the value-added tax (VAT) base to the grassroots, netting even small businesses at district, upazila, and village levels to boost overall revenues and raise the country's low tax-to-GDP ratio.
- The plan includes introducing a "token" VAT between BDT 500 (USD 4.1) and BDT 1,000 (USD 8.2) on trial basis for small businesses and making Business Identification Number (BIN) mandatory for bank accounts and trade licences, according to officials familiar with the initiative

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/vat-goes-village-nbr-eyes-bringing-small-businesses-under-coverage-1429816>

Banking

BB raises auto, personal loan ceilings

May 06, 2026

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has revised its prudential regulations on consumer financing, raising the ceiling for auto and personal loans and introducing incentives to promote electric and hybrid vehicles.
- The central bank issued a circular in this regard yesterday, stating that banks will now be allowed to provide auto loans of up to BDT 8mn (USD 0.066mn) per individual, including insurance coverage, for purchasing electric and hybrid vehicles.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-raises-auto-personal-loan-ceilings-4168536>

BB buys USD 50mn through dollar auction

May 06, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Tuesday purchased USD 50mn from three commercial banks through multiple auction methods. According to central bank data, it bought dollars at the rate of BDT 122.75.
- Accordingly, total purchases stood at USD 80mn in May 2026 and USD 5,753.50mn in FY 2025-26.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bb-buys-50m-through-dollar-auction-1>

Defaulters to be barred from BB's factory reopening fund

May 06, 2026

- Money launderers, scammers and wilful defaulters will not be eligible for a BDT 200bn (USD 1.64bn) refinance fund being prepared by the central bank to restart fully or partially closed factories, according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) officials.
- They said only genuine businesses whose factories have shut down due to unavoidable circumstances and which are willing to repay their loans will qualify for loans from the fund.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/defaulters-be-barred-bbs-factory-reopening-fund-4168526>

Trade and Commerce

Urea supply concerns surface ahead of Aman season

May 06, 2026

- The country may face a shortfall of around 1 lakh tons of urea in July for the Aman planting season unless the government is able to secure fresh import commitments in the coming weeks, after two consecutive international tenders failed to attract adequate supply.
- The agriculture ministry currently holds 3.54 lakh tons of urea, below its benchmark reserve level of around 4 lakh tons, according to officials.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/urea-supply-concerns-surface-ahead-aman-season-4168551>

Airbus eyes role in Biman mixed fleet

May 06, 2026

- European aerospace giant Airbus expressed strong interest in supporting the formation of a mixed fleet for Biman Bangladesh Airlines, signaling a renewed push to expand its footprint in Bangladesh's aviation sector.
- The interest was conveyed when Airbus Vice President Edward Delahaye paid a courtesy call on

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam at the Secretariat.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/airbus-eyes-role-in-biman-mixed-fleet>

Govt advances talks with DP World on NCT operations

May 06, 2026

- The government is advancing discussions with UAE-based port operator DP World on the long-term leasing of Chattogram Port's largest functional New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT)
- The company has also proposed operating the adjoining Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) along with NCT as a single integrated terminal.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-advances-talks-dp-world-nct-operations-4168326>

Corporate

Central bank calls meeting amid uncertainty over SIB

May 06, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Mostaqur Rahman has called the administrators of the state-owned Sammilito Islami Bank (SIB) to a meeting. The meeting comes amid growing uncertainty among depositors and employees about the bank's operational structure and recent legislative changes.
- Although operating under a single license, the five constituent banks continue to conduct banking activities separately. The central bank previously decided that independent operations would continue until their core banking software is integrated into a unified system.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/central-bank-calls-meeting-amid-uncertainty-over-sib>

Capital Market

BSEC fines four firms, several officials BDT 10.9mn (USD 0.089mn)

May 06, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has fined four firms and several of their officials BDT 10.9mn (USD 0.089mn) for securities law violations and fraud in the stock market.
- The firms are: NBL Securities Limited, Gibson Securities Limited, UCB Stock Brokerage Limited, and Khulna Printing Packaging Limited.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bsec-fines-four-firms-several-officials-BDT-109cr-4168446>

Energy & Power

Energy supply disruption, IMF conditions push PDB to propose electricity price hike

May 06, 2026

- The Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) has sent a proposal to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to increase wholesale electricity prices by 17pc to 21pc.
- The move comes amid the US-Israel war on Iran, disrupting the energy supply chain, increasing its prices and leading to a volatile situation rarely seen.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/energy-supply-disruption-imf-conditions-push-pdb-to-propose-electricity-price-hike>

International

Asia battles rising, uneven toll of energy crisis caused by Iran war

May 06, 2026

- Governments in Asia, the top oil importing region, are scrambling to find alternatives and insulate their economies from the worst of the energy crisis triggered by the Iran war, but the pain is getting increasingly costly
- The disruption spurred the Asian Development Bank to cut its growth forecast for developing Asia and the Pacific to 4.7pc this year and 4.8pc in 2027, down from 5.1pc for both years previously, and lifted its inflation outlook to 5.2pc for this year.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/asia-battles-rising-uneven-toll-energy-crisis-caused-iran-war-4168086>

Araghchi visits China to discuss ties, global developments

May 06, 2026

- In a brief statement, Iran's foreign ministry said Araghchi will meet Wang Yi to discuss bilateral relations as well as regional and international developments.
- The visit comes amid a continued stalemate between the United States and Iran in negotiations aimed at ending the devastating war launched against Iran by Israel and the US on 28 February.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/araghchi-visits-china-discuss-ties-global-developments-1430561>

US, Bahrain push UN-backed action for Hormuz as Washington seeks maritime coalition

May 06, 2026

- UN Security Council members will begin talks on Tuesday (5 May) on a US- and Bahrain-backed draft resolution that could lead to sanctions against Iran, and potentially authorise force, if Tehran fails to halt attacks and threats to commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, three Western diplomats said.
- Fresh exchanges of fire on Monday underscored the stakes as the US and Iran struggle for control of the narrow waterway, a vital artery for global energy and trade, shaking a fragile four-week-old truce and reinforcing rival maritime blockades.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/us-bahrain-push-un-backed-action-hormuz-washington-seeks-maritime-coalition-1430536>

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