

### Economy

#### ADP spending rate ticks up

May 24, 2026

- The rate of development spending improved marginally in the first ten months of the current fiscal year 2025-26, but the amount of money spent during the period was actually lower compared to a year earlier.
- Spending under the Annual Development Programmes (ADP) stood at BDT 865.16bn (USD 57.42mn) during the July-April period, or 41.41pc of the total revised allocation, according to data released yesterday by the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED). In April alone, spending rose 5.22pc. The ten-month execution rate is slightly higher than the 41.31pc achieved during the same period of FY25 but is BDT 69.08bn (USD 562.77mn) less in absolute terms.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/adp-spending-rate-ticks-4183041>

#### ADB flags Bangladesh debt pressures before LDC graduation

May 24, 2026

- Bangladesh's public debt rose to around 41pc of gross domestic product (GDP) in fiscal year 2024-25, with rising domestic borrowing and weak revenue mobilization increasing fiscal pressure ahead of the country's graduation from least developed country (LDC) status in 2026, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said.
- In a report titled Bangladesh at a Crossroads of Reforms, released earlier this month, the Manila-based lender said Bangladesh faces a moderate risk of both external and overall debt distress, with limited capacity to absorb shocks in the near term. The ADB said the risks stem from structural weaknesses rather than a sharp deterioration in headline debt indicators.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/adb-flags-bangladesh-debt-pressures-ldc-graduation-4182901>

#### Govt to scrap AL-era IMF loan deal, seek new USD 5.0bn package

May 24, 2026

- The BNP government has decided to opt out of the existing loan agreement signed between the International Monetary Fund and the erstwhile Awami League administration, amid mounting differences over structural reforms tied to the current facility.

- Instead, the government is planning to secure a fresh loan package worth USD 5.0bn with a maturity period of three to four years to effectively manage the ongoing liquidity crisis. High-level sources within the finance ministry have confirmed the strategic shift to the media.
- A senior official from the finance ministry, stated that a high-profile virtual meeting was held between a Bangladeshi delegation led by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and an IMF team headed by its Deputy Managing Director Nigel Clarke where the proposal was floated.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-scrap-al-era-imf-loan-deal-see-new-5b-package-1446386>

#### Govt turns to repurposing project loans as budget support shortfall looms

May 24, 2026

- Amid economic stress triggered by the Middle East war, the government had set a target of securing at least USD 3.2bn in budget support from development partners, but the response has so far reached only about half of expectations.
- As an alternative, authorities have begun repurposing the remaining funds through loans from ongoing development projects that are not immediately required.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-turns-repurposing-project-loans-budget-support-shortfall-looms-1447141>

### Banking

#### BB announces BDT 600bn (USD 4.9bn) stimulus package for private sector

May 24, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank has announced a BDT 600bn (USD 4.89bn) stimulus package to support the troubled private sector, boost investment, and revive the economy.
- The package has two components: a BDT 410bn (USD 3.34bn) refinancing fund, sourced from banks with excess liquidity through long-term deposits of at least three years at a 10pc interest rate, and a BDT 190bn (USD 1.55bn) fund drawn from Bangladesh Bank's own resources, subject to a government guarantee.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-announces-tk-60000-crore-stimulus-package-private-sector-4182656>

### Energy and Power

#### Jet fuel prices fall

May 24, 2026

- The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has reduced the price of jet fuel after increasing it earlier at May.
- According to a BERC notification issued on Saturday, the price of jet fuel for domestic flights has been cut by BDT 39.57 (USD 0.32) per liter, bringing the new rate down to BDT 165.88 (USD 1.35) per liter. The commission also reduced the price of jet fuel for international flights by USD 0.256 per liter, fixing the new rate at USD 1.0823 per liter.

From: <https://observerbd.com/news/577363>

### RMG

#### Apparel exports to EU fall 19pc in Jan-Feb

May 24, 2026

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the European Union (EU) fell 19.26pc year-on-year to €2.89bn in January-February this year, according to data from Eurostat. Exports stood at €3.57bn during the same period a year earlier.
- In terms of volume, Bangladesh's apparel exports to the bloc declined 11.14pc to 205.52mn kilogrammes during the two-month period.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/apparel-exports-eu-fall-19-jan-feb-4182841>

### Capital Market

#### BB bars banks with under BDT 20bn (USD 162.93mn) paid-up capital from declaring cash dividends

May 24, 2026

- Banks with a paid-up capital of less than BDT 20bn (USD 162.93mn) will not be allowed to declare any cash dividends, according to a circular issued by the central bank today (23 May).
- Also, the banks that meet all statutory requirements and qualify to distribute profits can pay a maximum of 50pc of their total declared dividends in cash.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/no-cash-dividend-banks-under-tk2000cr-paid-capital-bb-1446966>

### Trade and Commerce

#### Govt expects no urea shortage for Aman season

May 24, 2026

- The government expects no shortage of urea fertilizer during the upcoming Aman season in July–August, with officials from relevant agencies saying existing stocks, domestic production and planned imports are sufficient to meet demand.
- Bangladesh's urea requirement during the Aman season stands at 0.65mn tons, according to the

Ministry of Agriculture. As of May 20, the country held 0.39mn tons in stock.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/agriculture/news/govt-expects-no-urea-shortage-aman-season-4183001>

#### No plans for new state-owned mills, private sector to lead industrial growth: Mukhtadir

May 24, 2026

- Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Mukhtadir on Saturday said the government has no plans to establish or operate any new state-owned mills or factories, reaffirming that the private sector will drive industrial growth while the government plays a facilitative role.
- "The government will not do business. Business will be done by the private sector, and the government will provide support," Mukhtadir said at a seminar titled "Sustainable Transition to Employment: Preparedness and Pathways for Textile Students," held at the Jute Diversification Promotion Centre in Farmgate.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/no-plans-for-new-state-owned-mills-private-sector-to-lead-industrial-growth-minister>

### International

#### Mexico, EU to lower tariffs in bid to grow non-US trade

May 24, 2026

- The European Union and Mexico will on Friday sign a deal reducing tariffs on each other's goods as both seek to lessen their dependence on trade with the United States.
- The expansion of an accord dating to 2000 comes as Mexico fights hard to preserve a three-way free trade agreement with the United States and Canada, which is crucial to all three economies.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mexico-eu-lower-tariffs-bid-grow-non-us-trade-4182551>

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