

Economy

Top 1pc hold nearly a quarter of Bangladesh's total wealth: Report

December 14, 2025

- Despite a decade of economic growth, wealth inequality in Bangladesh remains severe and largely unchanged, with the richest 1% of the population controlling almost a quarter (24%) of the nation's total wealth, according to "World Inequality Report 2026", published by the Paris-based World Inequality Lab.
- The top 10pc of earners capture about 41pc of the total national income, while the bottom 50pc capture only 19pc. The inequality report notes that the income gap between the top and bottom halves of the population decreased only slightly, from 22 to 21, between 2014 and 2024, confirming the overall stability of inequality metrics.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/top-1-hold-nearly-quarter-bangladeshs-total-wealth-report-1306996>

USD 211.7mn green project: IFAD approves USD 51.4m co-financing

December 14, 2025

- The Executive Board of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has approved USD 51.4mn in financing for Bangladesh as part of a USD 211.7mn development project, a spokesman said on Saturday.
- The six-year project from 2026–2031 will cover climate-vulnerable regions, be implemented by PKSF, and promote climate-smart agriculture, inclusive finance, and sustainable rural enterprises aligned with national plans.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/2117m-green-project-ifad-approves-514m-co-financing>

MRT Line-1 slashed 91pc, Line-5 down 60pc in Revised ADP

December 14, 2025

- The government has slashed development allocations for two major metro rail projects by record margins, with the flagship MRT Line-1 facing a reduction of more than 90pc in the revised Annual Development Programme (RADP).
- Officials say the cuts reflect stalled tender processes, slow implementation and an ongoing review of project costs under the interim government.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/mrt-line-1-slashed-91-line-5-down-60-revised-adp-1306926>

Bank

Bangladesh Bank purchases USD 149mn from 16 banks to stabilize forex rate

December 14, 2025

- Bangladesh Bank has purchased a significant amount of US dollars from local banks as part of its ongoing efforts to stabilize the foreign exchange market and support the flow of remittances and repatriate export earnings.
- On Thursday (December 11), the central bank acquired approximately USD 149mn from 16 banks through a 'Multiple Price Auction' system. With this latest acquisition, the total amount of foreign currency purchased by the central bank through the auction mechanism in the current Fiscal Year (FY) 2025–26 has reached USD 2.663bn.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-bank-purchases-149-million-from-16-banks-to-stabilise-forex-rate>

BB-backed startup investment cos formed with BDT 4.25bn (USD 0.03bn) capital

December 14, 2025

- Bangladesh Bank guided formation of Bangladesh Start-up Investment Company PLC with paid-up capital of BDT 4,250mn (USD 34.8mn), structured as an equity-backed public limited company to finance startups and promising economic ventures.
- The company was formed with contributions from 39 commercial banks to address funding gaps in Bangladesh's largely unexplored startup sector, which officials and bankers cite as constrained primarily by limited access to capital.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bb-backed-startup-investment-cos-formed-with-BDT-425b-capital>

Agri credit overdue surges 88pc in Sep

December 14, 2025

- Bangladesh Bank reported overdue agricultural credit surged 88pc YoY to BDT 221.2bn (USD 1.8bn) by September 2025, driven by revised loan classification rules and higher delinquencies at state-owned and private banks.
- Outstanding agri credit rose 8pc YoY to BDT 595bn (USD 4.9bn), while MFIs' overdue loans increased 20pc to BDT 83.8bn (USD 0.69bn), reflecting flood-related crop losses, rising living costs, and repayment stress.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/agri-credit-overdue-surges-88-sep-4057376>

Outstanding consumer lending rises 7.1pc in Q3 of 2025

December 14, 2025

- Bangladesh Bank data shows consumer loans rose to BDT 1,500bn (USD 12.3bn) in Jul–Sep 2025 from BDT 1,400bn (USD 11.5bn) a year earlier, marking 7.1pc YoY growth and extending the upward trend in household credit.
- Consumer lending jumped 26.3pc YoY to BDT 1,730bn (USD 14.2bn) in Apr–Jun 2025, with experts warning increased reliance on consumption credit amid high inflation and weak employment growth raises long-term household and economic risks.

From:

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/outstanding-consumer-lending-rises-71pc-in-q3-of-2025>

Trade and Commerce

Bangladesh's healthcare market projected to reach USD 23mn by 2033

December 14, 2025

- Bangladesh's healthcare market is projected to reach USD 23mn by 2033, driven by rising demand for quality care and the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cancer, a top official of United Hospital Ltd said today.
- The current market size, including hospitals, diagnostics, devices, and pharmaceuticals, is around USD 14mn, said Malik Talha Ismail Bari, managing director and CEO of the leading hospital.

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshs-healthcare-market-projected-reach-23-billion-2033-4057581>

Bangladesh holds just 0.01pc of global potato market

December 14, 2025

- The thriving global potato industry is currently valued at approximately USD 120mn, but an agriculture-based country like Bangladesh holds less than 0.01pc share in the international market, experts said yesterday.
- The South Asian nation shipped only USD 14mn worth of the tuber in the 2024-25 fiscal year, which highlights the country's minimal global footprint and untapped potential for growth, they added

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-holds-just-001-global-potato-market-4057846>

Grey handset market booms as taxes, currency shock push prices up

December 14, 2025

- High import duties of 57–59pc, dollar shortages, and taka depreciation have pushed Bangladesh's smartphone buyers toward grey-market devices, making unofficial phones 30–50pc cheaper and eroding official sales and local manufacturing viability.
- Industry data show grey phones account for 40–50pc of the market, valued at about USD 0.8mn in 2025, with premium models seeing up to 93pc unofficial penetration despite planned NEIR enforcement.

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/grey-handset-market-booms-taxes-currency-shock-push-prices-4056506>

RMG industry under strain amid factory closures, job losses

December 14, 2025

- BKMEA president Mohammad Hatem warned Bangladesh's RMG sector faces severe strain as 250–260 factories closed in 18 months, over 220,000 jobs were lost, and borrowing costs rose to 15–16pc after key funds and incentives were withdrawn.
- He highlighted weak global demand, capacity utilization down 20–50pc, banking constraints on LCs amid taka depreciation from BDT 83 to 122 per dollar, and policy gaps threatening exports, employment, and sector stability.

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rmg-industry-under-strain-amid-factory-closures-job-losses-4057881>

NBR proposes 47pc increase in staff to run two new divisions

December 14, 2025

- As part of a long-awaited restructuring, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has proposed a nearly 47pc increase in staff to operate two newly created divisions following the split of the tax authority.
- Under the plan, the Revenue Policy Division and Revenue Management Division would together have 1,077 officials, up from the current 732, according to officials at the finance ministry.

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/nbr-proposes-47-increase-staff-run-two-new-divisions-4057856>

NBR in dilemma over tax benefit on edible oil import

December 14, 2025

- NBR is reviewing a Commerce Ministry proposal to grant Ramadan tax relief on edible oil imports, warning a full waiver could cost about BDT 4.0mn (USD 0.03mn) per month in lost revenue under current tax expenditure rules.

- Officials said limited tax relief at local production and trading stages for 2–3 months may cost around BDT 700mn (USD 5.7mn), while bottled soybean oil prices were recently raised to BDT 195 (USD 1.6) per litre.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/nbr-in-dilemma-over-tax-benefit-on-edible-oil-import>

Corporate

Janata Bank struggles while Sonali recovers

December 14, 2025

- Sonali Bank shows the strongest financial health among state-run banks, with lowest NPL ratio at 20.98pc, manageable capital shortfall of BDT 32.7mn (USD 0.27mn), disciplined lending, and high liquidity of BDT 841.6bn (USD 6.9bn).
- Janata Bank remains under severe stress, with NPLs at 70.84pc or BDT 721.1bn (USD 5.9bn), capital shortfall of BDT 650.9bn (USD 5.3bn), low liquidity of BDT 63bn (USD 0.52bn), and high loan concentration among 33 borrowers.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/janata-bank-struggles-while-sonali-recovers-4057886>

International

Nvidia may increase H200 chip output due to robust China demand

December 14, 2025

- Nvidia has told Chinese clients it is evaluating adding production capacity for its powerful H200 AI chips after orders exceeded its current output level, according to two sources briefed on the matter.
- The move comes after US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday the US government would allow Nvidia to export H200 processors, its second-fastest AI chips, to China and collect a 25pc fee on such sales

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/nvidia-may-increase-h200-chip-output-due-robust-china-demand-4057866>

Fed makes third straight rate cut

December 14, 2025

- The US Federal Reserve cut rates by 25 bps to a 3.50–3.75pc range, the third cut in 2025, while signaling a possible pause as officials assess inflation risks and a softening labor market.
- The decision exposed internal divisions, with 3 dissenters among 12 voters, one more cut projected for 2026, higher employment risks flagged, and rates now near neutral after being described as modestly restrictive.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/america/news/fed-makes-third-straight-rate-cut-4056451>

Asia Gold: India gold discounts widen as prices hit record high; China demand muted

December 14, 2025

- Gold discounts in India widened this week as demand fell despite the wedding season after prices scaled record highs, while Chinese demand remained muted amid volatility and high spot prices.
- Indian dealers were offering a discount of up to USD 34 per ounce to official domestic prices this week, inclusive of 6pc import and 3pc sales levies, wider than last week's discount of up to USD 22

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/asia-gold-india-gold-discounts-widen-prices-hit-record-high-china-demand-muted-4057241>

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