

### Economy

#### Inflation to ease in coming months: BB

February 19, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) expects inflation, which has remained high in recent years, to ease in the coming months due to strong rice and winter vegetable harvests and declining global commodity prices.
- In its quarterly report for July-September 2025, published yesterday, the central bank said it, along with other government agencies, has worked hard to control inflation and support lower-income groups

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/inflation-ease-coming-months-bb-4109546>

#### Govt initiates process for LDC graduation deferral

February 19, 2026

- The government has begun the process to seek a deferral of the country's scheduled graduation from the least developed country (LDC) club at the end of this year, newly appointed Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktadir said yesterday.
- "The process has been initiated by the Ministry of Commerce, and in coordination with the Economic Relations Division (ERD), necessary communications and procedures will be expedited," a commerce ministry statement said

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-initiates-process-ldc-graduation-deferral-4109551>

### Banking

#### BDT 10mn+ household deposits rose 8pc in June 2025: BB

February 19, 2026

- The number of household deposit accounts containing between BDT 10mn (USD 0.08mn) and BDT 250mn (USD 2.0mn) rose by nearly 8pc year-on-year in June 2025, reflecting the key role played by households in sustaining the financial system.
- According to a Bangladesh Bank (BB) report, these accounts increased to 36,932 as of June 2025, up from 34,258 in June 2024

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/BDT-1cr-household-deposits-rose-8-june-2025-bb-4109476>

### Trade and Commerce

#### Africa emerges as key partner, Bangladesh eyes USD 4b trade

February 19, 2026

- As growth in traditional markets such as the United States and European Union slows, Bangladesh is accelerating efforts to deepen economic engagement with Africa, with total trade nearing USD 4bn.
- According to data from the Export Promotion Bureau, the Bangladesh Bank and the National Board of Revenue, African exports to Bangladesh stood at USD 3.76bn in the fiscal 2022-23, USD 2.84bn in FY24 and USD 2.90bn in FY25

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/south-africa-emerges-key-partner-bangladesh-eyes-4b-trade-1364961>

#### Prices of essential items rise in Karwan Bazar ahead of Ramadan

February 19, 2026

- A market survey shows chickpeas selling at BDT100-110 per kg, up slightly from a few days ago.
- Packaged sugar is BDT100-105, loose sugar over BDT110, and lentils range from BDT120-180 per kg depending on quality

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/prices-essential-items-rise-karwan-bazar-ahead-ramadan-1365306>

#### Hybrid rice coverage doubles in five years

February 19, 2026

- Bangladesh has recorded a sharp jump in hybrid rice coverage as many farmers gradually move away from farming inbred and local varieties, looking for higher yields and profits.
- Hybrid rice, a type of rice bred from two very different parental lines, occupied 15pc of the total rice area of 2.83 crore acres in the fiscal year 2024-25

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/hybrid-rice-coverage-doubles-five-years-4109571>

### Corporate

#### MEP Group to invest BDT 2,000mn (USD 16.4mn) in Mirsharai EZ

February 19, 2026

- MEP Hi-Tech Industrial Park Limited, a concern of MEP Group, will invest BDT 2,000mn (USD 16.4mn) to set up a modern electrical and electronic products manufacturing facility on nearly 10 acres of land at the National Special Economic Zone in Mirsharai upazila, Chattogram.
- A land lease agreement was signed between the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) and MEP Hi-Tech Industrial Park Limited at Beza's

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office in Dhaka's Agargaon yesterday, according to a press release

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/mep-group-invest-BDT-200cr-mirsharai-ez-4109501>

### International

#### **Japan launches first investments under USD 550b US trade deal**

February 19, 2026

- The United States announced Tuesday a first tranche of investments by Japan out of a colossal USD 550bn promised by Tokyo in its trade deal with President Donald Trump.
- The commitments of USD 36bn for three infrastructure projects came as Japan comes under pressure to deliver on its pledges made in 2025 in return for lower US trade tariffs

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/japan-launches-first-investments-under-550b-us-trade-deal-4109521>

#### **Ukraines Zelenskiy says Trump exerting undue pressure on him**

February 19, 2026

- Zelenskiy, in an interview with US website Axios published on 11 February, also said any plan requiring Ukraine to give up territory that Russia had not captured in the eastern Donbas region would be rejected by Ukrainians if put to a referendum.
- Axios quoted Zelenskiy as saying it was "not fair" that Trump kept publicly calling on Ukraine, not Russia, to make concessions in negotiating terms for a peace plan

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/worldbiz/europe/ukraines-zelenskiy-says-trump-exerting-undue-pressure-him-1364951>

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