

Economy

Bangladesh restarts

February 18, 2026

- Bangladesh turns a new page in history as Tarique Rahman took the oath as the country's 11th prime minister on 17 February. With the swearing-in of the newly elected government, the country has returned to the path of democracy.
- Fifty members of the new cabinet, including the prime minister, 25 ministers and 24 state ministers, were sworn in.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/tarique-takes-oath-pm-1364096>

Bangladesh's forex reserves rise to USD 29.86bn

February 18, 2026

- In the first month of 2026, Bangladesh received USD 3.17bn in remittances, the third-highest monthly inflow on record. This marks a 45.41pc increase compared to the same month in 2025.
- The central bank has been increasing reserves mainly by purchasing US dollars from commercial banks through auctions. The rise in remittance inflows through formal banking channels has contributed significantly to this growth

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-forex-reserves-rise-2986b-1364416>

Govt to focus on lowering cost of doing business: Amir Khasru

February 18, 2026

- Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, who is set to take charge as the finance and planning minister of the BNP-led new government, has set boosting investment and employment as his top priority, saying the government will focus on simplifying the business climate and lowering the cost of doing business to stimulate economic activity.
- In a short interview with The Business Standard shortly after taking oath in the government led by Tarique Rahman, Khasru said effective measures would be taken to curb corruption and extortion, which he identified as barriers to growth. He also said deregulation would be introduced to ease bureaucratic complexity and reduce business costs.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/well-lower-cost-doing-business-finance-minister-amir-khasru-1364501>

Machinery imports rise on hopes of political stability

February 18, 2026

- Imports of capital machinery are picking up, showing signs of renewed business interest on expectations of greater stability in both politics and the economy.
- In the first half of the fiscal year 2025-26, the opening of letters of credit (LCs) to import capital machinery increased by 24pc year-on-year, reaching USD 1,079mn, according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/machinery-imports-rise-hopes-political-stability-4108696>

NBR revises LPG tax structure

February 18, 2026

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has restructured the VAT on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to reduce the tax burden on consumers and stabilize the domestic fuel market.
- The NBR has withdrawn the 7.5pc VAT at the production and trading stages of LPG, as well as the 2pc advance tax on imports

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/nbr-revises-lpg-tax-structure-4108686>

Trade and Commerce

2,100 tons of rice imported through Benapole Port in six days

February 18, 2026

- On 18 January, the government allowed 232 importing firms to bring in 2,00,000 metric tons of rice, setting 3 March as the deadline for completing the imports and marketing the grain in Bangladesh.
- The consignments, brought in through 15 separate shipments, entered the port's 31 No transshipment yard, Port Director Shamim Hossain said on 17 February.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/2100-tonnes-rice-imported-through-benapole-port-six-days-1364321>

Ramadan supplies adequate, but Ctg feels port backlog impact

February 18, 2026

- With Ramadan at the doorstep, price movements in the essential commodities market present a mixed picture.
- Analysis of import data and market visits suggests that while overall import volumes of major Ramadan essentials are higher than last year, temporary logistical constraints have influenced price trends in certain wholesale hubs.

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ramadan-supplies-adequate-ctg-feels-port-backlog-impact-4108671>

IT exports up 14pc in Jul-Nov on AI-driven demand

February 18, 2026

- Bangladesh's information technology (IT) exports grew 13.54pc in the first five months of fiscal year 2025-26, buoyed by accelerating global artificial intelligence (AI) adoption and the widening digitalization of services, according to government data.
- Between July and November, the sector's exports reached USD 269.84mn, up from USD 237.67mn in the same period a year earlier, shows Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data.

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/it-exports-14-jul-nov-ai-driven-demand-4108691>

Corporate

Govt approves Nabil Mustafizur Rahman as MD of Sammilito Islami Bank

February 18, 2026

- The government has approved the appointment of Nabil Mustafizur Rahman as Managing Director (MD) of the state-owned Sammilito Islami Bank PLC, formed through the merger of five Shariah-based banks.
- Currently, he is serving as Additional Managing Director (AMD) of United Commercial Bank PLC

From:

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-approves-nabil-mustafizur-rahman-as-md-of-sammilito-islami-bank>

Capital Market

Coppertech's pre-IPO accounts come under fresh regulatory scrutiny

February 18, 2026

- The securities regulator has set out to verify the authenticity of Coppertech Industries' pre-IPO financial statements to uncover any irregularities linked to the controversy surrounding the company's 2019 listing.
- A decision to investigate Coppertech Industries was made in November last year, but the market watchdog finally deployed three members on Monday to start the probe, according to an order issued in this regard

From:

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/coppertech-accounts-come-under-fresh-regulatory-scrutiny>

Sponsors, directors of Asiatic Lab barred from selling shares

February 18, 2026

- The stock market regulator has barred the sponsors, directors, and placement shareholders of Asiatic Laboratories Limited from selling their shares after irregularities were found in the use of funds from the initial public offering (IPO) and inconsistencies in the company's expansion plans.
- As per its IPO prospectus, the company planned to use the funds for business expansion, including procurement and installation of machinery, construction of a factory building, repayment of bank loans, and meeting IPO expenses. However, the company has not yet completed the utilization of the IPO proceeds.

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/sponsors-directors-asiatic-lab-barred-selling-shares-4108681>

International

UK jobless rate rises to five-year high

February 18, 2026

- Britain's unemployment rate rose to a five-year high of 5.2pc in the final quarter of 2025, official data showed Tuesday, as the country's economy struggled to grow.
- It was a slight increase from the 5.1pc jobless rate seen in the three months to end-November, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/uk-jobless-rate-rises-five-year-high-4108621>

Oil prices fall back

February 18, 2026

- Shares dipped and oil prices dropped back Tuesday as Tehran gave an encouraging response during talks with US officials in Geneva on Iran's nuclear program, after days of escalating rhetoric from President Donald Trump.
- Oil prices had earlier risen after Trump ramped up threats towards Iran, a large crude producer, but Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi "a new window of opportunity has opened"

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/oil-prices-fall-back-4108581>

India looks to new steel export markets

February 18, 2026

- India is seeking new steel export markets in the Middle East and Asia to offset the impact of the European Union's carbon tax that took effect in January, a government source said.

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IDLC-SL Research

- India, the world's second-biggest producer of crude steel, ships roughly two-thirds of its steel exports to Europe, where flows have come under pressure following the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/india-looks-new-steel-export-markets-4108591>

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