

Economy

ADP spending plunges to 16-year low

February 17, 2026

- The government's development expenditure in the first seven months of the current fiscal year 2025-26 (FY26) has slumped to its lowest level in at least 16 years amid fiscal restraints and political disruptions.
- Ministries and divisions spent just BDT 505.6bn (USD 4.1bn) a mere 21.18pc of the total Annual Development Program (ADP) outlay – during the period, shows Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) data published yesterday

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/development-spending-plunges-16-year-low-4107841>

Debt rises BDT 2,600bn (USD 21.3bn) in 14 months of Yunus govt

February 17, 2026

- Debt of the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus increased by 2,600bn (USD 21.3bn) during the first 14 months of its tenure, even though development expenditure fell to its lowest level in seven years.
- According to the latest debt bulletin published by the finance ministry, total domestic and foreign debt stood at BDT 21,490.4bn (USD 176bn) as of 30 September 2025.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/debt-rises-BDT26-lakh-core-14-months-yunus-govt-1363596>

Import LC opening highest in 11 months in January

February 17, 2026

- Import letters of credit (LCs) opened in January climbed to USD 6.61bn, the highest in 11 months as businesses stepped up purchases ahead of the national election and the fasting month of Ramadan.
- A senior official of the Bangladesh Bank confirmed the figures, adding that LC openings in January last year stood at USD 6.85bn

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/import-lcs-opening-highest-11-months-january-1363486>

Dhaka division gets half of remittances in December

February 17, 2026

- Dhaka division remained the largest recipient of remittances in December, receiving nearly half of the total inflows, as migrant earnings continued to strengthen foreign currency reserves and support

millions of households, according to a report by Bangladesh Bank (BB).

- In December 2025, the Dhaka division received USD 1.60bn, accounting for 49.93pc of the country's total remittances

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/dhaka-division-gets-half-remittances-december-4107816>

Banking

Bangladesh Bank buys USD 5.0bn in 7 months to stabilize forex rate

February 17, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank has purchased more than US\$5.0 billion from commercial banks over the past seven months in a sustained effort to keep the dollar-taka exchange rate stable and support exporters and remitters.
- As part of its ongoing market operations, Bangladesh Bank on Monday bought a further USD 145mn from 11 commercial banks through an auction in the interbank spot market. The purchase was conducted under the Multiple Price Auction method, with a cut-off rate of BDT 122.30 per dollar, officials said.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bangladesh-bank-buys-50b-in-7-months-to-stabilise-forex-rate>

Trade and Commerce

Navigability crisis in Padma leaves hundreds affected as Faridpur port operations remain suspended

February 17, 2026

- Cargo vessels arriving from distant districts are also getting stranded at various points due to emerging sandbars.
- The disruption has left hundreds of workers and small traders jobless, severely affecting their livelihoods

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/navigability-crisis-padma-leaves-hundreds-crisis-port-operation-remains-suspend-faridpur>

Corporate

Petrobangla struggles to recover BDT 2.1bn (USD 17.2mn) stuck in seven troubled banks

February 17, 2026

- State-owned energy corporation Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) is facing mounting challenges in recovering BDT 2.10bn (USD 17.2mn) placed as fixed deposits in seven troubled private and scheduled banks, raising concerns over funding for key gas-development projects. According to an official letter from Petrobangla, the funds belong to two

crucial accounts - the Gas Development Fund (GDF) and the International Oil Companies (IOC) payment fund.

- A total of 44 FDRs remain stuck across seven commercial banks: First Security Islami Bank PLC, Global Islami Bank PLC, Padma Bank PLC, Union Bank PLC, EXIM Bank PLC, Social Islami Bank PLC and Bangladesh Commerce Bank.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/petrobangla-struggles-to-recover-tk-21b-stuck-in-seven-troubled-banks>

- Spot gold fell 0.9pc to USD 4,997.59 per ounce by 0726 GMT, after losing more than 1pc earlier in the session

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/gold-drops-more-1-4107791>

International

China sees strong rebound in FDI

February 17, 2026

- Net inflows of foreign direct investment to China quadrupled in 2025 according to balance-of-payments data, official figures showed on Friday, signaling a structural improvement in inbound investment and renewed confidence in China's long-term growth prospects.
- Preliminary balance-of-payments data from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange showed that China recorded an increase of USD 76.5bn in direct investment liabilities in 2025, representing net FDI inflows on a balance-of-payments basis

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/china-sees-strong-rebound-fdi-4107786>

Japan's GDP falls short of expectations

February 17, 2026

- Japanese economic growth fell short of market expectations in late 2025, official data showed Monday, adding to pressure on Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to stimulate activity after her recent election landslide
- Gross domestic product (GDP) in the world's fourth-biggest economy expanded by just 0.1pc in the fourth quarter, undershooting market forecasts of growth of 0.4pc

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/japans-gdp-falls-short-expectations-4107426>

Gold drops more than 1pc

February 17, 2026

- Gold prices dropped on Monday, pressured by thin trading volumes as US and China markets remained shut due to local public holidays, while some traders booked profits after last session's 2.5pc jump.

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