

Economy

IMF sees Bangladesh growth rebounding to 4.7pc in FY26-27

February 01, 2026

- Bangladesh's economic growth is expected to rebound to 4.7pc in both FY26 and FY27 following a recent slowdown but the economy continues to face mounting macro-financial challenges, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said.
- The IMF's assessment came after its Executive Board completed the Article IV Consultation for Bangladesh recently.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/imf-sees-bangladesh-growth-rebounding-to-47-in-fy26-27>

BB's exchange rate framework incomplete: IMF

February 01, 2026

- International Monetary Fund termed Bangladesh Bank's exchange rate regime "incomplete", citing opaque and inconsistent FX interventions, non-adherence to announced auction volumes and a de facto preference to keep the taka near a flat level, limiting true market-driven price discovery.
- BB bought over USD 2bn in Jul-Nov to cap appreciation, while reserves covered only 3.6 months of imports at end-FY25 versus IMF's 4-6.2 months comfort range, with the Fund urging greater flexibility, rule-based auctions and reduced quasi-fiscal FX lending to rebuild buffers.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bbs-exchange-rate-framework-incomplete-imf-4095156>

Foreign debt servicing rises to USD 7.09bn

February 01, 2026

- Foreign debt servicing by the government and its guaranteed loans rose 17 percent to USD 7.09bn at the end of June in the last fiscal year. The amount ate up around 76pc of the total grants and loans of USD 9.3bn that Bangladesh received in the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25.
- Of the total repayment, USD 5bn was principal, including USD 2.6bn in state-guaranteed loans taken by public agencies. For example, Bangladesh paid USD 1.41bn to settle crude oil import bills. The remaining USD 2.08bn went to interest payments, according to data from the Economic Relations Division (ERD).
- The government repaid USD 6.08bn in principal and service charges to foreign lenders in FY24, double the USD 3.3bn paid in FY21.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-debt-servicing-rises-709b-4095171>

Bank

BB buys USD 55mn through dollar auction

February 01, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank bought USD 55mn from five banks through auctions at BDT 122.30 per USD, absorbing excess dollar liquidity to support the taka and strengthen remittance and export inflows.
- Total dollar purchases reached USD 798mn in Jan'26 and USD 3,933.5mn in FY26-to-date, indicating continued intervention to stabilize the FX market and limit exchange rate volatility.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bb-buys-55m-through-dollar-auction>

BB autonomy deadlocked as interim govt nears end

February 01, 2026

- With around two weeks left in office, the interim government has yet to pass two important banking reform laws that the central bank says are crucial for strengthening its oversight of the financial sector. The laws are related to the autonomy of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) and the ownership and governance of banks.
- Those laws topped the reform agenda that the interim government had pledged following the July uprising in 2024. Besides, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has long advocated greater autonomy for the BB. Under its USD 5.5bn loan program, the Fund provided technical support in drafting the amendments..

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-autonomy-deadlocked-interim-govt-nears-end-4095151>

Merged Islamic banks' clients getting maximum 9.5pc profit

February 01, 2026

- Depositors in the five Islamic banks merged into the newly formed Sammilito Islami Bank will receive profits at market rates of up to 9.5pc, says the regulator. But depositors in nine non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) up for liquidation would receive only their principal amounts -- no interest or profit.
- The central bank governor said depositors will receive 4.0pc profit for the years 2024 and 2025, while those whose deposits cannot be immediately repaid will be entitled to up to 9.5pc in profit on their savings.
- Monthly-scheme accountholders will receive profits on a monthly basis and will be able to withdraw the full profit amount. The governor

clarifies that profits will be paid gradually, citing liquidity- management concerns.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/merged-islamic-banks-clients-getting-maximum-95pc-profit>

Trade and Commerce

Oil, chicken, rice prices increase while vegetable market remains stable

February 01, 2026

- Loose soybean oil is now selling at around BDT 170 (USD 1.4) per litre, up from about BDT 165 (USD 1.4), and bottled soybean oil has risen from BDT 190 (USD 1.6) to BDT 200 (USD 1.6) per litre.
- Broiler chicken now commands about BDT 170 to BDT 180 (USD 1.4 to USD 1.5), compared with BDT 155 to BDT 160 (USD 1.3) per kg a couple of weeks ago.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bazaar/oil-chicken-rice-prices-increase-while-vegetable-market-remains-stable-1348231>

Float glass cracking under overcapacity, low demand

February 01, 2026

- Float glass industry capacity has expanded to over 1.0mn tonnes annually against domestic demand of ~350,000 tonnes, leaving plants under-utilized as post-pandemic construction and real estate slowdown weakens pricing, forcing continuous furnace operations and loss-making output
- Major producers such as AkijBashir Group, Nasir Group and Meghna Group of Industries face margin pressure from oversupply and 20pc low-priced imports from China and India, prompting a shift to value-added products while seeking anti-dumping and policy support.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/float-glass-cracking-under-overcapacity-low-demand-1348316>

Warehouse shortages, lighter vessel crisis choke Ctg port

February 01, 2026

- Supply chain bottlenecks at the nation's primary maritime gateway have left approximately 2.1mn tons of essential consumer goods stranded at sea
- As of Friday, 46 mother vessels remain anchored at the Chattogram Port's outer anchorage, unable to discharge their cargo due to a critical shortage of storage space and a dwindling fleet of lighterage vessels

From: <https://www.observerbd.com/news/564345>

Cash incentives or bond suspension; govt weighs options to boost local yarn use

February 01, 2026

- The policy alternatives were discussed during a meeting in the capital on 29 January, chaired by the Commerce Adviser and attended by leaders from the readymade garment (RMG) and textile sectors.
- While the commerce ministry is exploring several relief measures, a final decision is expected to be reached on 3 February following a meeting with the finance adviser.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/cash-incentives-or-bond-suspension-govt-weighs-options-boost-local-yarn-use-1347726>

IATA urges Bangladesh to reconsider airfare control provisions

February 01, 2026

- The International Air Transport Association (IATA), the trade association for the world's airlines, has objected to the proposed airfare control measures under Section 43A of the Civil Aviation (Amendment) Ordinance 2026, warning that the move could have unintended negative consequences for consumer choice, air connectivity and overall economic productivity.
- In a letter to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, IATA said it remains unclear whether the proposed fare-filing requirement is intended for informational purposes or for regulatory intervention.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/aviation/news/iata-urges-bangladesh-reconsider-airfare-control-provisions-4095011>

Gold sees sharpest one-day fall, down BDT 15,746 (USD 129.1) per bhoari

February 01, 2026

- Gold prices in the Bangladesh market fell sharply again, with the price of 22-carat gold dropping by BDT 15,746 (USD 129.1) per bhoari (11.664 grams) in a single day.
- In a morning notification, Bajus said the new price of 22-carat gold has been fixed at BDT 255,617 (USD 2,095.2) per bhoari, citing a decline in the local price of refined gold (tejabi sona). The 21-carat gold is now priced at BDT 244,011 (USD 2,000) per bhoari, while 18-carat gold stands at BDT 209,136 (USD 1,714.2) per bhoari. Gold made under the traditional method has been fixed at BDT 171,869 (USD 1,408.8) per bhoari.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/gold-sees-sharpest-one-day-fall-down-tk15746-bhoari-1348566>

Telecom

Plan to reduce SIM limits deferred until after polls

February 01, 2026

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has halted its plan to reduce the number of mobile SIM cards registered under a single national identity (NID) card from ten to five ahead of the upcoming national election.
- The regulator had earlier reduced the limit from 15 to 10 in Jun'25 and secured approval from the Posts and Telecommunications Division to enforce the 5-SIM ceiling from Jan'26, but implementation was paused amid 187mn+ active connections and industry concerns over operational disruption, including from Robi Axiata PLC.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/plan-reduce-sim-limits-deferred-until-after-polls-4095161>

Corporate

Singer Bangladesh steps up long-term investment drive

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- Singer Bangladesh Limited advanced its long-term expansion with a USD 78mn manufacturing plant, new concept retail formats and workplace upgrades, reporting 14.3pc revenue growth and BDT 214mn higher gross profit in 2025 while entering the European export market and starting in-house AC production.
- The facility at Bangladesh Special Economic Zone, backed by parent Beko under Koç Holding, targets localized output of major appliances, reduces import dependence with 90%+ local manufacturing and is expected to create up to 4,000 jobs alongside initial component exports.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/press-releases/news/singer-bangladesh-steps-long-term-investment-drive-4094791>

Olympic Industries posts modest profit growth, buys land in Narayanganj

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- Olympic Industries recorded a slight year-on-year increase in profit in the October–December quarter of 2025, supported by higher revenue and effective management measures.
- The board approved purchase of 159 decimals of land near its Sonargaon, Narayanganj factory for BDT 230mn (USD 1.9mn) to support future capacity expansion, though operating cash flow per share edged down to BDT 7.15 (USD 0.06) from BDT 7.25 (USD 0.06) due to higher tax payments.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/olympic-industries-posts-modest-profit-growth-buys-land-narayanganj-4093451>

International

Oil hovers near 6-month high

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- Brent crude settled at USD 70.69/bbl (-0.03%) and West Texas Intermediate crude at USD 65.21/bbl (-0.32%), consolidating near six-month highs as prices remained supported by elevated geopolitical risk.
- Oil prices dipped a few cents per barrel on Friday, consolidating recent gains and holding near six-month highs on Friday, supported by nagging tensions between the US and Iran

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oil-hovers-near-6-month-high-4095241>

WTO faults US in dispute brought by China over clean energy subsidies

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- World Trade Organization ruled that United States tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act violate WTO rules, siding with China and recommending withdrawal of ITC/PTC domestic bonus credits by Oct 1, 2026, citing inconsistencies with GATT and subsidy agreements.
- Washington rejected the decision as flawed, while both sides have 60 days to appeal; however, the WTO appellate body remains inactive, limiting enforcement, as clean energy and EV subsidies remain central to US-China trade tensions under Joe Biden's law and policies continued by Donald Trump.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/wto-faults-us-dispute-brought-china-over-clean-energy-subsidies-4095246>

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