

Economy

New govt faces fiscal space squeeze

February 22, 2026

- A total of 86 development projects, stalled for more than a decade despite having an approved estimated cost of BDT 4,760bn (USD 39.0), significantly squeezed the previous government's fiscal space, potentially limiting the new administration's ability to take up fresh schemes, officials at the Planning Commission say.
- According to them, BDT 3,230bn (USD 26.5bn), about 67.94pc of the approved cost has already been spent, while an additional BDT 1,530bn (USD 12.5bn) is required to complete the projects

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/new-govt-faces-fiscal-space-squeeze>

Election pledges to be reflected in next budget, 8pc tax-GDP target set: Finance minister

February 22, 2026

- Newly appointed Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has instructed the authorities to ensure that the government's election pledges are reflected in the upcoming national budget, signaling the administration's intent to implement its commitments from the very first fiscal year.
- He directed policymakers to move forward with budget preparations in a way that clearly demonstrates progress on campaign promises.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/election-pledges-be-reflected-next-budget-8-tax-gdp-target-set-finance-minister-1367826>

Taka gains slight competitive relief

February 22, 2026

- Bangladesh's exporters enjoyed a modest boost in December last as the country's real effective exchange rate (REER) edged down, easing pressure on the Taka and slightly improving its global competitiveness.
- The latest central bank data suggest that while the currency remains somewhat overvalued, the gap has narrowed.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/taka-gains-slight-competitive-relief>

UN CDP to assess Bangladesh's graduation readiness as 3-year deferral sought

February 22, 2026

- A five-day meeting of the UN Committee for Development Policy (UN CDP) is set to begin

tomorrow in New York City, where Bangladesh's graduation-related submission will be assessed.

- The EMM (Enhanced Monitoring Mechanism) sub-committee of UN CDP reviews how smoothly graduating and graduated LDCs are progressing. It also analyses whether countries that have already graduated are actually able to maintain sustainability. Bangladesh's request for graduation deferral will also be discussed at the meeting.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/un-cdp-assess-bangladeshs-graduation-readiness-3-year-deferral-sought-1367661>

Industry sees big 6.97pc growth in Q1 FY26

February 22, 2026

- Bangladesh's industrial sector saw a strong recovery in the first quarter of FY26, driven by robust growth in construction, mining, and manufacturing activities.
- According to the latest Bangladesh Bank (BB) data, industrial growth rose to 6.97 per cent in Q1 of FY26, a significant improvement from 2.38 per cent in the previous quarter and 3.59 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. The turnaround was supported by strong performances in key sub-sectors.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/industry-sees-big-697pc-growth-in-q1-fy26>

Banking

Banks' interbank, BB borrowings plummet amid credit demand squeeze

February 22, 2026

- Commercial banks' interbank and central-bank borrowings continue to plummet amid credit-demand squeeze for sluggish economic activity and also liquidity saturation through foreign-exchange conversion to local currency, experts say.
- The central bank intensifies its foreign-exchange-market intervention to stabilize the dollar-taka exchange rate, thereby funneling local-currency liquidity into bank vaults as spinoffs.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/banks-interbank-bb-borrowings-plummet-amid-credit-demand-squeeze>

Trade and Commerce

Mongla Port to undergo radical changes in 6 months: Shipping Minister

February 22, 2026

- Shipping Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam on Saturday said radical changes will be brought to the

management of Mongla Port within the next 180 days.

- Government plans to centre more import-export activities on the south-west region, review suspended bilateral port agreements based on national interest, consider a suspension bridge over the Mongla River, and expand train operations on the Mongla–Khulna route through additional coaches and engines.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/mongla-port-to-undergo-radical-changes-in-6-months-shipping-minister>

Bangladesh to seek US trade deal status after Trump tariffs scrapped

February 22, 2026

- The government plans to send a letter to Washington seeking clarity on the implications of its trade deal after the US Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's retaliatory tariffs.
- Under the Feb 9 agreement with Bangladesh, the supplementary tariff had been set at 19pc, bringing the total to 34pc.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bangladesh-to-seek-us-trade-deal-status-after-trump-tariffs-scrapped>

Potato farmers stare at losses as prices dip

February 22, 2026

- Potato growers across the country are bracing for financial losses for the second consecutive year as prices of one of the nation's largest vegetable crops have plunged further during the peak harvesting season.
- Farmers in the north, central and southern regions said they are selling potatoes in the field at BDT 300–350 (USD 2.5–2.9) per maund (37.32kg), depending on the variety.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/agriculture/news/potato-farmers-stare-losses-prices-dip-4111026>

Agri product imports to reduce over the years, says new agriculture minister

February 22, 2026

- The government plans to reduce agricultural product imports over the next year, Agriculture Minister Mohammed Amin Ur Rashid said.
- He added that within the next year, agricultural products will be exported on an industrial scale, speaking while exchanging greetings with senior officials of the ministry.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/agri-product-imports-reduce-over-the-years-says-new-agriculture-minister-4110081>

Corporate

BTRC cancels BEXIMCO's VSAT license

February 22, 2026

- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission cancelled the VSAT license of Bangladesh Export Import Co. Ltd. (granted Nov 2009), declaring it expired and warning that any continued operation will be treated as an offence under the Bangladesh Telecommunication Act, 2001; BEXIMCO must surrender the license within 10 days.
- BTRC directed stakeholders to avoid telecom agreements or financial transactions under the cancelled license and instructed its enforcement wing to monitor unauthorized activity, signaling tighter regulatory oversight.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/btrc-cancels-beximcos-vsats-license>

Robi posts record BDT 9,370mn (USD 76.8mn) profit in 2025

February 22, 2026

- Robi Axiata achieved its highest-ever profit of BDT 9,370mn (USD 76.8mn) in 2025, despite only marginal revenue growth, crediting what it described as disciplined capital allocation.
- The telecom operator registered a 33.3pc year-on-year surge in profit, driven by robust data revenue that more than compensated for the continued decline in voice services.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/robi-posts-record-BDT-937-crore-profit-2025-4110056>

Capital Market

Olympic Industries' chairman to buy 10m shares from market

February 22, 2026

- The chairman of Olympic Industries is set to acquire more than 5pc of the company's shares from the market.
- According to a disclosure on Thursday, Aziz Mohammad Bhai plans to purchase 10mn shares from the block market at the prevailing market price, amounting to nearly BDT 1.55bn (USD 12.7mn).

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/olympic-industries-chairman-to-buy-10m-shares-from-market>

Regulator urges compensation for shareholders before NBFIs liquidation

February 22, 2026

- The securities regulator has sought a compensation package for investors before delisting the non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) that are set to be liquidated.
- A committee from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) met representatives of the central bank a few days before the 13th national election and handed over a letter containing recommendations to protect the rights of investors in the NBFIs.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/regulator-urges-compensation-for-shareholders-before-nbfi-liquidation>

International

Trump says he will raise global tariffs from 10pc to 15pc

February 22, 2026

- President Donald Trump said Saturday he is raising the worldwide tariffs on goods entering the United States from 10pc to 15pc "effective immediately," a day after the Supreme Court largely struck down his sweeping duties.
- Trump said on his Truth Social platform that after a thorough review of Friday's "extraordinarily anti-American decision" by the court to rein in his tariff program, the administration was hiking the import levies to the fully allowed, and legally tested, 15pc level.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/trump-says-he-will-raise-global-tariffs-10-15-4111491>

India, Brazil sign mining pact

February 22, 2026

- India moved to deepen trade ties with Brazil on Saturday, signing a pact to expand cooperation in mining and minerals as it seeks to meet rising domestic steel demand and support capacity expansion amid a global race for raw materials.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who arrived in New Delhi earlier this week for a three-day visit.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/india-brazil-sign-mining-pact-4111536>

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