



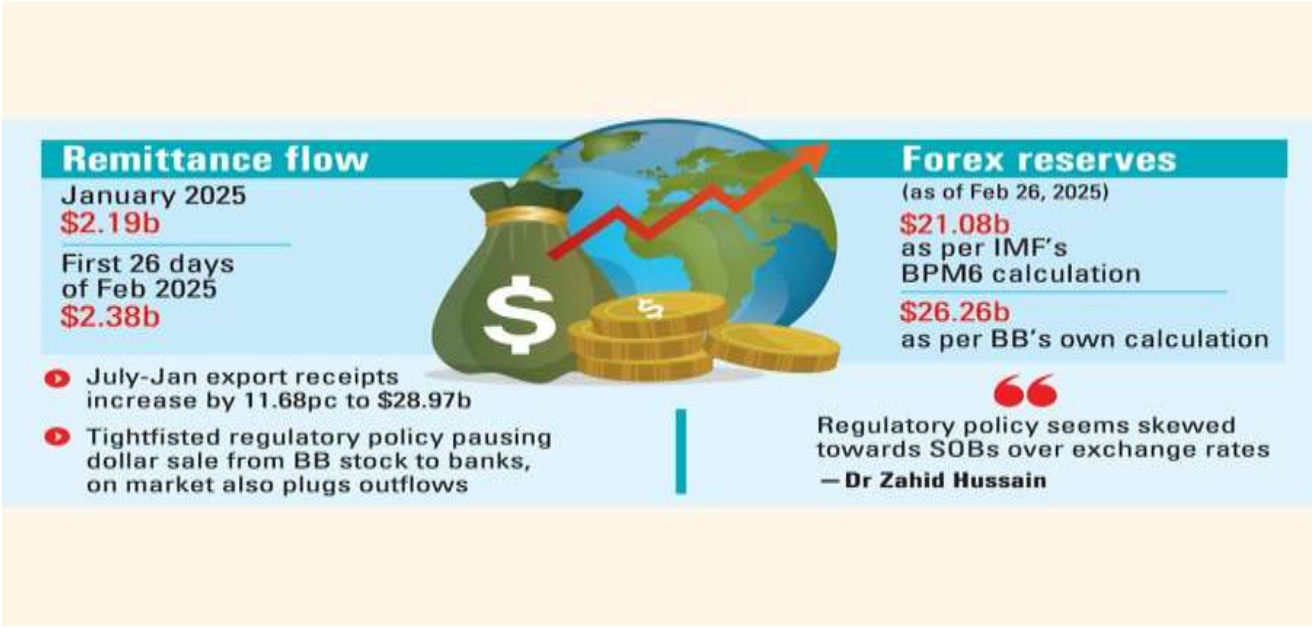
Summary of Business News – 75

Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 24 February – 05 March 2025

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p>Faster, transparent trade-FDI processes in place <u>Corporates get AEO key for rapidly crossing customs corridors</u> A long wait is over now for the golden-gate key as government's revenue authority awarded Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) certificate to large corporate taxpayers for expeditiously clearing export-import cargoes through customs ports. For faster and transparent processes of trade and investment certification and clearance, the AEO tool comes in sync with few other facilities, too, namely BSW, Import-Export Hub, and Customs Strategic Plan. A total of 10 business biggies received AEO certificate at a cutting-edge function organised Sunday by the National Board of Revenue. The recipients are Incepta Pharmaceuticals, Square Pharmaceuticals, Fair Electronics, ACI Godrej Agrovet, Popular Pharmaceuticals, Bangladesh Steel and Re-rolling Mills, GPS Ispat, Towa Personal Protective device Bangladesh, Berger Paints Bangladesh, and Unilever Bangladesh.</p>	24 February 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/corporates-get-aeo-key-for-rapidly-crossing-customs-corridors-1740331041?date=24-02-2025)	
02	<p><u>BEZA plans to implement 20 SEZs in 20 years</u> Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) is planning to implement 20 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) within 20 years under three phases, reports BSS. The information was revealed on Sunday at a national workshop on "Economic Zone Prioritisation and Phasing Offsite Infrastructure Planning and Development Mechanism" at Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) conference room in the city. Executive Chairman of BIDA and BEZA Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun chaired the workshop while World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan Gayle Martin attended the event as the special guest. BEZA organised the event with the participation of stakeholders to prepare a National Master Plan for the planned economic zones of the country.</p>	24 February 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/beza-plans-to-implement-20-sezs-in-20-years-1740327976?date=24-02-2025)	
03	<p><u>চাল উৎপাদনে বিশ্ব বাংলাদেশ তৃতীয়</u> চাল উৎপাদনে বাংলাদেশ এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে। বিশ্বে চাল উৎপাদনে শীর্ষ দুই অবস্থানে আছে যথাক্রমে চীন ও ভারত, আর বাংলাদেশ তৃতীয়। মার্কিন কৃষি বিভাগের (ইউএসডিএ) তথ্যানুযায়ী, বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন দেশে গত ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরে ৫২ কোটি মেট্রিক টন চাল উৎপাদন হয়েছে। এই উৎপাদন তার আগের অর্থবছরের তুলনায় মাত্র ১ শতাংশ বেশি। ইউএসডিএর তথ্য অনুযায়ী, ২০১৪ থেকে ২০২৩ সাল থেকে ১০ বছরে বাংলাদেশে গড়ে সাড়ে তিন কোটি টন চাল উৎপাদিত হয়। গত অর্থবছর বিশ্বের মোট চাল উৎপাদনের ৭ শতাংশ বাংলাদেশে হয়েছে। পরিমাণ ৩ কোটি ৭০ লাখ টন। গত ২০২২-২৩ অর্থবছরের তুলনায় গত অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশে চাল উৎপাদন বেড়েছে ২ শতাংশ। গত অর্থবছর বিশ্বের মোট উৎপাদিত চালের ২৮ শতাংশ উৎপাদন হয়েছে চীনে। এদিকে গত অর্থবছর ভারতে দ্বিতীয় সর্বোচ্চ ১৩ কোটি ৭৮ লাখ টন চাল উৎপাদন হয়, যা বিশ্বের মোট উৎপাদিত চালের ২৬ শতাংশ। এ ছাড়া গত অর্থবছর ইন্দোনেশিয়ায় ৩ কোটি ৩০ লাখ টন, ভিয়েতনামে ২ কোটি ৬৩ লাখ, থাইল্যান্ডে ২ কোটি, ফিলিপাইনসে ১ কোটি ২৩ লাখ, মিয়ানমারে ১ কোটি ১৯ লাখ, পাকিস্তানে ৯৮ লাখ এবং কম্বোডিয়ায় ৭৪ লাখ টন চাল উৎপাদন হয়েছে।</p>	24 February 2025	The Sangbad (https://sangbad.net.bd/news/business/2025/136168/)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
04	<p><u>Revenue collection 21pc less than target in Jul-Jan FY25</u> Domestic revenue mobilisation from July to January of the current fiscal year lagged behind the target by nearly 21 per cent, raising deep concerns about the macroeconomic landscape to meet the necessary expenditures, officials said.</p> <p>In the first seven months, the revenue board collected 42.25 per cent of the revised target of Tk 4.63 trillion for FY25. To achieve the FY25 target, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) will have to collect Tk 535.27 billion per month from February to June. The NBR collects Tk 300 billion per month on average. However, collection in the last quarter of every fiscal year jumps significantly due to the execution of development expenditures. In January of FY25, the tax authorities collected Tk 354 billion, higher than the average monthly collection.</p>	25 February 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/revenue-collection-21pc-less-than-target-in-jul-jan-fy25-1740418484)	
05	<p><u>Lower gas prices: BTMA</u> Textile millers yesterday urged the interim government to reduce gas prices to less than Tk 20 per unit from the current rate of Tk 31 per unit and to bar yarn imports through land ports, reasoning that it was essential to safeguard the sector. They said they have been operating at half their capacity due to inadequate gas pressure in the supply lines, and were finding it difficult to compete with cheap yarn imported from India. The requests came at a press conference organised by Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) at Gulshan Club in Dhaka.</p>	25 February 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lower-gas-prices-btma-3832981)	
06	<p><u>Bailout plan for affected businesses</u> <u>Banks balk at rescheduling non-wilful defaulters' loans</u> BB-mandated body meets all banks' CEOs soon to push thru bank-led rescue model</p>  <p>A bailout policy-support committee constituted by the central bank for the affected businesses sits with all commercial banks' chief executives soon to motivate them as the lenders hesitate to reschedule non-wilful defaulters' loans. Sources said at the last meeting with the committee, some commercial banks had expressed unwillingness to reschedule such loans as they said the lenders were already struggling with massive non-performing loans (NPLs) and a financial crisis. Some banks also suggested the committee not to recommend changing any rules and regulations of the central bank for the exigencies of helping out non-wilful defaulters as the existing ones are enough, bankers said.</p>	26 February 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-balk-at-rescheduling-non-wilful-defaulters-loans-1740507556)	



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07	<p>Stocktaking of economic progress, problems <u>Economic recovery on, but riddled with headwinds</u> Inflationary pressures, revenue shortfall, sluggish investment among hurdles MCCI mentions A gradual recovery of Bangladesh economy during the second quarter of this fiscal year is a bit retarded by 'substantial' hurdles like inflationary pressures, revenue shortfall and sluggish investment, a business body says. "In the quarter under review (October-December of FY25), the economy had been recovering gradually from political instability that began in the first week of July 2024," says the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka. The country's elite trade body makes the observations in its review styled 'Economic Situation in Bangladesh for October-December period of the FY25'.</p>	26 February 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economic-recovery-on-but-riddled-with-headwinds-1740507720)	
08	<p><u>Banks see NPLs make quantum leap to Tk3.45t</u> Soured loans in banking system rise by Tk 2.0t YoY until last December</p>  <p>Classified loans in Bangladesh's banking sector keep rising fast with the cumulative volume having made a quantum leap by over Tk 2.0 trillion year on year till last December, official statics show. With such leaps in the volume of non-performing loans (NPLs), the figure hit a record-high Tk 3.45 trillion by the end of last calendar year, accounting for 20.20 per cent of the entire loans worth Tk 17.11 trillion disbursed by the country's commercial banks. Hamstrung by such all-time-high volume of NPLs, banks limit their credit supply to the borrowers. Besides, banks' profitability is also dented as they have to maintain a portion of funds for NPL provisioning.</p>	27 February 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-see-npls-make-quantum-leap-to-tk345t-1740593353)	

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09	<p><u>Govt to create private sector advisory council</u></p> <p>The government will create a private sector advisory council which will advise the interim government on what needs to be done to improve the business ecosystem, said Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, executive chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida), on Wednesday. The new council may be formed in the middle of this year as such councils have been in operation in many countries to advise governments, particularly in Singapore, he said.</p>	27 February 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-create-private-sector-advisory-council-3835631)	
10	<p><u>Forex reserves rebound to \$21b, propelled by export, remittance</u></p> <p>Remittances from expats growing, export earnings also help in reserves upturn over IMF-set mark</p>  <p>Rising inflow of remittances and export receipts largely prop up Bangladesh's foreign-exchange reserves with the figure crossing the US\$21-billion mark set in IMF arithmetic on the country's macroeconomic parameter. A sustained growth in export earnings also helped out. The country's export earnings in the first seven months (July-January) of the fiscal year (FY'25) increased by 11.68 per cent to \$28.97billion, according to the data of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). Exports fetched \$25.94 billion during the same period of time last fiscal (FY'24). Apart from increased remittance netting, the central bank's current decision not to sell foreign currencies, the American greenback in particular, from its stock to commercial banks to facilitate the lenders to meet their overseas payments against imports helps in stopping forex bleeding, officials and bankers said.</p>	28 February 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/forex-reserves-rebound-to-21b-propelled-by-export-remittance-1740679440?date=28-02-2025)	

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11	<p>Rethink on big-dream economic zoning <u>Hundred economic zones scaled down to five priority EZs</u> Bangladesh scales back its big-dream plan to establish 100 economic zones across the country by 2030 and the current government prioritizes five full-blown EZs to deliver the desired goods. It now focuses on select few zones "to maximize the attraction of foreign investment and impact on the country's economy", according to a top government official.</p> <p>Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) planned to create 100 special economic zones across the country to promote economic growth and employment by 2030, according to a report published by fdi intelligence in its February-March issue. Once completed, these EZs were envisaged to create 10 million jobs and provide a manufacturing base for US\$40 billion worth of exports.</p> <p>Executive chairman of BEZA Ashik Chowdhury says that it will prioritize five economic zones to ensure they reach these goals. The select five are National Special Economic Zone in Chattogram, Srihatta Economic Zone in Sylhet, Japanese Economic Zone in Narayanganj, Maheshkhali Economic Zone in Cox's Bazar and Jamalpur Economic Zone in Jamapur. All are under development.</p>	01 March 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/hundred-economic-zones-scaled-down-to-five-priority-ezs-1740766383?date=01-03-2025)	
12	<p><u>Stabilisation fund within BB reserves stock planned</u> Banks can get foreign exchange from the fund for external dealings Bangladesh Bank now plans to establish a stabilisation fund within its gross foreign -exchange reserves to forestall any volatility on the forex market. The move comes amid rising concerns over exchange- rate fluctuations that have put pressure on import costs, inflation, and overall stability in the economy.</p> <p>The proposed fund, estimated to range between \$1.0 billion and \$1.5 billion, will be deployed as needed to support banks in financing essential imports, particularly during periods of liquidity stress.</p> <p>At present, banks primarily source foreign exchange from the open market or aggregators when they do not have adequate funds-a practice that often leads to an artificial hike in the value of the U.S. dollar, further destabilising the market.</p>	02 March 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/stabilisation-fund-within-bb-reserves-stock-planned-1740849198)	
13	<p><u>Feb remittance flow at record high of \$2.53b</u> 'Dismantling grey market to plug illicit forex outflow pays off' Bangladesh received the third-highest monthly remittance ever of US\$2.53 billion in just-past February as officials said the dismantling of forex-sapping grey market now pays off. The latest remittance-receipt disclosure by Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Sunday came at a time when the country struggles to replenish its emaciated foreign-exchange reserves. The country bagged the highest amount of remittance in December last, \$2.64 billion, followed by the July 2020 count of around of \$2.60 billion.</p> <p>With the latest amount, the total receipt stood at \$18.49 billion in the first eight months of this fiscal year (FY'25), which is 23.8-percent higher than the \$14.94 billion obtained during the same period of time of the previous fiscal. Such a steady rise in the receipt of foreign currencies, the US dollar in particular, gives some respite to the economy that has been facing multipronged macroeconomic strains because of depletion of its foreign-exchange reserves. In fact, the upturn comes at a time when the central bank takes several regulatory measures to bolster the reserves on clearing overdue government import payments.</p>	03 March 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/feb-remittance-flow-at-record-high-of-253b-1740940002)	

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14	<p>Interim govt downsizes ADP by Tk 490 billion NEC endorses revised ADP</p>  <p>Projects and costs both see deep cuts as the interim government downsizes the ongoing annual development programme (ADP) to Tk2.16 trillion under its policy to economize spending in crunch time. The revised annual development programme or RADP for the current fiscal year sheds Tk 490 billion from the original ADP outlay, while maintaining priority on transport and communications, power and energy, and education, mirroring the original plan left over by the ousted Sheikh Hasina government.</p> <p>The approval for the revised development budget came Monday from the meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) held at the NEC auditorium in Dhaka with Chief Adviser of the interim government Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus in the chair.</p>	04 March 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/interim-govt-downsizes-adp-by-tk-490-billion-1741028419)	
15	<p>Blanket VAT waivers to make pricey essentials affordable</p> <p>A blanket waiver of value-added tax (VAT) is given in government bid to make pricey essentials affordable as Ramadan business binge further heats up the market. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) waived VAT, partially, on a slew of essential commodities like overpriced edible oils, flour, Ata and lentils to keep the market stable during the holy month of Ramadan. On the waiver list are also biscuits, salt, and various pricey spices.</p> <p>This exemption applies at the production level for some products and at the business level for others. On Monday, the NBR issued a Statutory Regulatory Order waiving the all-encompassing tax-VAT-that any consumer, be they rich or poor, of products and services have to pay.</p>	04 March 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/blanket-vat-waivers-to-make-pricey-essentials-affordable-1741028627)	

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16	<p><u>Most shrimp factories shut as exports from Bangladesh halve in 7 years</u></p> <p>The once-thriving shrimp processing industry is now facing a severe downturn, with processing units shutting down as exports have halved in seven years. Formerly a major contributor to the country's export earnings and rural employment, the industry is struggling due to a combination of factors, including a shortage of raw materials, declining global demand, environmental changes, financial mismanagement and failure to adapt to changing market conditions.</p>	04 March 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/shrimp-processing-units-close-exports-halve-7-years-3839046)	
17	<p><u>শ্রমিকপক্ষের আপত্তি সত্ত্বেও শ্রম আইন সংশোধনের খসড়া চূড়ান্ত</u></p> <p>শ্রমিকপক্ষের অনেক আপত্তি আমলে না নিয়েই শ্রম আইন সংশোধনের খসড়া চূড়ান্ত করেছে শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়। মন্ত্রণালয় আজ মঙ্গলবার এ খসড়া প্রধান উপদেষ্টা অধ্যাপক মুহাম্মদ ইউনুসকে দেখাবে। সুইজারল্যান্ডের জেনেভায় ১০-২০ মার্চ অনুষ্ঠেয় আন্তর্জাতিক শ্রম সংস্থার (আইএলও) গভর্নিং বডি'র বৈঠকেও উপস্থাপন করা হবে খসড়াটি। শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় সূত্রে এ তথ্য জানা গেছে। তবে চলতি মার্চ মাসের মধ্যে শ্রম আইন সংশোধন হচ্ছে না। কারণ, আইএলও'র গভর্নিং বডি'র বৈঠক শেষ করার পর দেশে ফিরে মার্চ মাসের মধ্যে পুরো কাজ শেষ করা যাবে না। শ্রম আইন সংশোধনের খসড়া মন্ত্রিপরিষদ বিভাগ ও উপদেষ্টা পরিষদের বৈঠক থেকে অনুমোদন হওয়ার পর অধ্যাদেশ আকারে জারি হবে। সে ক্ষেত্রে আরও কিছু সময় লাগবে বলে জানান শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়ের কর্মকর্তারা।</p>	04 March 2025	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/1pij4pkjym)	
18	<p><u>China gains, India loses out in Bangladesh trade</u></p> <p><u>Import taboo, consumer boycott bite India's share</u></p> <p>Political equations have a perceived economic cost</p> <p>India's share in Bangladesh's total trade has been on a downturn since April 2024 as import restrictions and a consumer-driven boycott of Indian-made products weigh amid a change of wind, sources say. On the contrary, China's share in Bangladesh's trade has been on the up and up since then, according to data from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). Meanwhile, the United States of America, traditionally the third-largest trading partner, moved one rung up to become Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner in July 2024. Historically, China had been Bangladesh's top trading partner in total trade in goods, followed by India in the second place and the United States in third. However, the latest data show a shift in this pattern-perceivably amid a change in politico-economic equations. The US surpassed India to become Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner in July in total merchandise trade, in what economists see as a significant development in trade dynamics, after maintaining the third position for seven months since December 2023.</p>	05 March 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/import-taboo-consumer-boycott-bite-indias-share-1741113151)	
19	<p><u>Align labour law with global standards: US agency</u></p> <p>The United States has urged Bangladesh to align its domestic labour laws with international standards, according to the 2025 Trade Policy Agenda and 2024 Annual Report published yesterday by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). The report highlights trade agreements, labour rights, and various bilateral and regional engagements.</p>	05 March 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/align-labour-law-global-standards-us-agency-3839671)	

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20	<p><u>Export earnings up 10.53pc to \$32.94b in Jul-Feb of FY25</u> Exporters lament unrest, gas crunch denying expected growth</p>  <p>Bangladesh's export earnings recorded a 10.53-percent rise to US\$32.94 billion during the first eight months of this fiscal year--singularly dominated by apparel sector--although growth potent got stunted for adversities. According to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data released Tuesday, the country's export earnings aggregated US \$29.80 billion during the July-February period of last fiscal year.</p> <p>The single-month export earnings in February 2025 were also on the up and up, with a 2.77-percent year-on-year rise to US\$3.97 billion compared to US\$3.86 billion in February 2024, the EPB data revealed.</p>	05 March 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/export-earnings-up-1053pc-to-3294b-in-jul-feb-of-fy25-1741113245)	
21	<p><u>Govt wants single VAT rate if businesses agree</u> Says NBR chairman</p>  <p>National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan on Tuesday said the government wants to implement a single, universal value-added tax (VAT) rate in the country if the business community reaches a consensus. "If necessary, we will lower the rate. But it should be a single rate, provided the business people come to a consensus," he said at a pre-budget meeting with the leaders of Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) at the NBR office in the capital. Elaborating further, he said there might be two VAT rates at best.</p>	05 March 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-wants-single-vat-rate-if-businesses-agree-1741113484)	