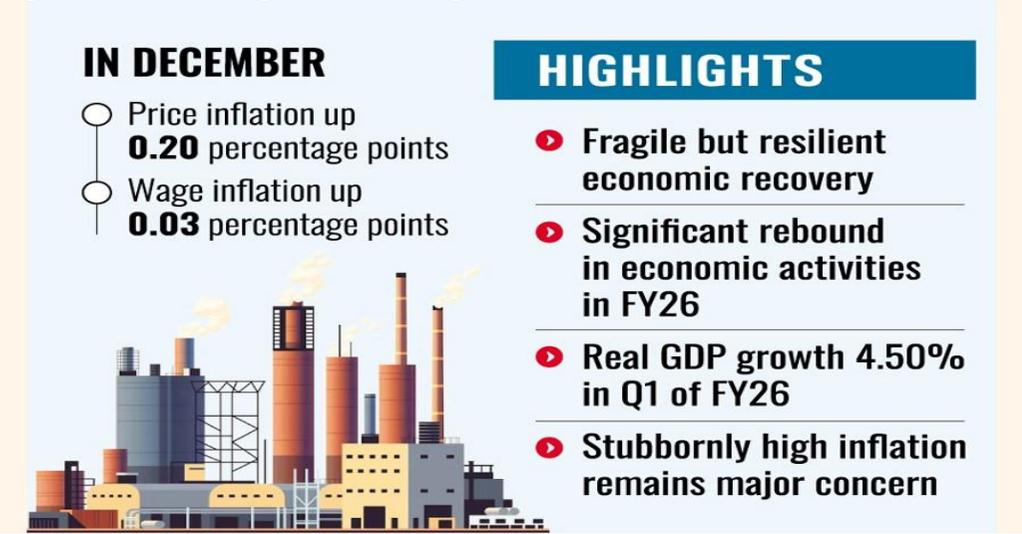


Summary of Business News – 94

Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 19 Jan. – 01 Feb. 2026

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><u>Forex reserves stand at \$32.62b</u> Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves have stood at US\$ 32.62 billion, reports BSS. But, as per the International Monetary Fund (IMF) methodology under the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6), Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$28.03 billion, according to the latest data of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) released on Sunday. The central bank has been boosting reserves mainly by purchasing US dollars from commercial banks through auctions.</p>	19 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/forex-reserves-stand-at-3262b-1768754508?date=19-01-2026)	
02	<p><u>H1 tax revenue posts double-digit growth</u> Strong growth fails to close a nearly Tk 460b gap The tax revenue collection posted double-digit growth, more than 14 per cent, in the first half of the current fiscal year (H1), but the gains were not enough to offset a widening gap against official targets. Provisional figures show that while domestic revenue mobilisation improved year on year, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) remains under mounting pressure to accelerate collections in the second half (H2) of FY 2025-26. With more than Tk 3.0 trillion still needed to meet the full-year goal, the latest data underscore the scale of the challenge facing the revenue authority amid a slowing economy and rising fiscal demands. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) recorded a revenue shortfall of nearly Tk 460 billion during the July-December period, according to provisional data released on Tuesday.</p>	21 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/h1-tax-revenue-posts-double-digit-growth-1768930114?date=21-01-2026)	
03	<p>SINGLE-ENTREPRENEUR CORPORATE MODEL SHINES <u>One-person company registration galore</u> Record 301 firms formed in six months One-person companies (OPCs) galore with a record 301 registered in just first six months of the fiscal year, surpassing the total formed in several previous full years, official data show. According to statistics from the Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC), the six-month figure is significantly higher than the 139 OPCs registered throughout the entire FY2023-24 and more than double the 140 in FY2022-23, indicating a renewed interest in the single-entrepreneur corporate model. The growth also marks a sharp turnaround from FY2021-22, when only 124 OPCs came up following the formal introduction of the concept under amendments to the Companies Act. With 301 OPCs already registered midway through the financial year, the current pace suggests that total OPC registrations could reach a new high by year-end if the trend holds steam.</p>	24 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economy-to-grow-at-5pc-in-2026-1769364292?date=26-01-2026)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
04	<p><u>Economy to grow at 5pc in 2026</u> Says GED Economic Update for January</p>  <p>The General Economics Division (GED) has projected a delicate balance between a recovering growth trajectory and persistent structural hurdles, saying the economy could grow at 5.0 per cent in the current calendar year. According to the January 2026 Economic Update and Outlook released on Sunday by the GED under the Planning Commission, the economy will expand by 5.0 per cent in 2026.</p>	26 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economy-to-grow-at-5pc-in-2026-1769364292?date=26-01-2026)	
05	<p><u>Tk 100cr subsidy, 20% power rebate for fisheries, livestock</u></p> <p>The government has approved a Tk 100 crore subsidy and a 20 per cent rebate on electricity bills for marginal-level fish farms, hatcheries and livestock, and poultry farms to reduce production costs and stimulate investment in the sector. The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock said on Monday that the decision was taken following a directive issued by the finance ministry on January 22.</p> <p>Under the existing electricity rebate policy, a 20-per cent rebate is being provided to 16 sectors to boost agricultural production, encourage agro-based exports and support industrial growth. Of these, four sectors under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock have been included in the subsidy scheme, with the Finance Division approving a Tk 100 crore allocation in principle.</p> <p>The sectors brought under the facility include animal and poultry feed manufacturing, fish feed production, the poultry industry, and dairy processing industries—such as milk pasteurisation, powdered milk, ice cream, condensed milk, sweets, cheese, ghee, butter, chocolate and yoghurt.</p>	26 Jan. 2026	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/mis/289371/tk-100cr-subsidy-20-power-rebate-for-fisheries-livestock)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
06	<p>TRADE BODY MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE FOR IRCs <u>Businesses oppose move to drop requirement</u></p> <p>Business leaders have voiced strong opposition to the commerce ministry's proposal to remove the requirement for chamber-or trade-association membership certificates when issuing or renewing import registration certificates (IRCs), warning that the move could heighten the risk of fraudulent trade and weaken the existing compliance safeguards. They argue that without mandatory membership, unscrupulous traders could more easily obtain IRCs, opening the door to non-compliance, deception, money laundering, and trade-based financial crimes, such as over-and under-invoicing. Besides, they fear the decision could undermine trade bodies themselves as a decline in membership will threaten the financial sustainability of chambers and associations, as well as weaken their ability to engage effectively with the government on sector-specific issues.</p> <p>According to the commerce ministry, the proposal emerging from a meeting held on December 21 last year aims at simplifying business processes. Following the meeting, the ministry sent a letter on December 30 to the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, instructing it to implement several decisions, including dropping the requirement for chamber or association membership certificates for IRCs.</p>	27 Jan. 2026	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/businesses-oppose-move-to-drop-requirement-1769451308?date=27-01-2026)</p>	
07	<p><u>Govt moves to merge DSE, CSE into one bourse</u> Finance adviser to meet regulators, stock exchanges today</p> <p>The government has moved to merge the Dhaka Stock Exchange and the Chittagong Stock Exchange to form a single national stock exchange, aiming to streamline operations and reduce duplication in the capital market. The proposal also includes listing Central Depository Bangladesh Limited on the stock market and making Central Counterparty Bangladesh Limited a subsidiary of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, officials said.</p> <p>The Financial Institutions Division of the finance ministry will hold a meeting today at 11:00am to discuss the proposals.</p>	27 Jan. 2026	<p>New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/stocks/289471/govt-moves-to-merge-dse-cse-into-one-bourse)</p>	
08	<p>LDC GRADUATION <u>Country not yet ready to absorb aftershocks</u> Key sectors like banking-finance, manufacturing see looming challenges, stakeholders forewarn</p> <p>Bangladesh is not yet fully prepared to absorb the aftershocks from least-developed country (LDC) graduation with key sectors like banking and finance and manufacturing staring at significant challenges looming large. Economists, business leaders and experts came up with such forewarning at a roundtable discussion Tuesday, as the cutoff time for UN certification for the country's status change keeps nearing now. They said following the graduation set for November 2026, such sectors would face difficulties adjusting the loss of preferential treatment and increased competitive pressure on the global market. They have cautioned that without swift reforms along with adequate preparation, the transition could strain the financial system and undermine economic stability.</p> <p>The speakers, mostly bankers, representatives of financial institutions and corporate executives, were speaking at the roundtable titled 'Implications of LDC Graduation for the Banking Industry: Bangladesh Perspective', organised by the International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICCB) at a city hotel.</p>	28 Jan. 2026	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/country-not-yet-ready-to-absorb-aftershocks-1769537513)</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
09	<p><u>Impose travel restriction, publish identity of loan defaulters: ABB</u> The Association of Bankers, Bangladesh proposed a series of reforms to curb bad loans The Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB) has proposed a series of legal, regulatory, and institutional reforms to curb the country’s mounting default loans and speed up the recovery of classified assets. The association submitted the proposals to the Bangladesh Bank governor through a letter following a discussion it held with the banking regulator earlier on November 12. In its recommendations, the bankers’ body called for stricter action against wilful defaulters, including travel restrictions, public disclosure of their identities, and disqualification from contesting elections of business associations. At the same time, it suggested providing limited and time-bound relief for borrowers facing genuine distress due to illness, death, or natural disasters, aligning such measures with international best practices.</p>	28 Jan. 2026	<p>The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/impose-travel-restriction-publish-identity-loan-defaulters-abb-4092581)</p>	
10	<p><u>Taka appreciates with trade implications</u> Imports getting cheaper, exports losing competitive edge Bangladesh's exports are set to lose competitiveness to foreign buyers while imports getting cheaper as the local currency appears increasingly overvalued in the foreign-exchange basket in real terms. Economists explain that this economic paradox appears for sluggish import demand, weak private-sector credit growth, and stubbornly higher inflation on the economy. Bangladesh Bank's latest data show the real effective exchange rate (REER) of the taka against the globally losing US dollar climbed to 106.37 in November, remaining almost same with October figure. This REER rise signals that the local currency remains stronger than its equilibrium level. Economists alert that the overvaluation could erode export competitiveness at a time when export receipts are in decline.</p>	29 Jan. 2026	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/taka-appreciates-with-trade-implications-1769623539)</p>	
11	<p><u>Foreign loan inflows fall 29% as ADP hits five-year low</u> Bangladesh received reduced foreign loans in the first half of the current fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 as the execution of foreign-funded projects under the Annual Development Program fell to its lowest level in at least five years. During the July-December period, the country received \$2.49 billion from international financial institutions, namely the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), as well as bilateral lenders such as Russia, China, Japan, and India. This represented a 29 percent year-on-year decline in fund releases. ERD data showed that commitments of financing from international and bilateral lenders declined as lenders awaited the country’s political transition ahead of the national election scheduled for February 12. ERD said funding promises fell 13 percent year-on-year to \$1.99 billion during July-December of FY2025-26, with the ADB pledging \$1.26 billion of the total. Despite the decline in both commitments and disbursements, pressure to repay foreign loans increased. Bangladesh’s debt servicing rose 11 percent year-on-year, amounting to \$2.19 billion during the same period.</p>	29 Jan. 2026	<p>The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-loan-inflows-fall-29-adp-hits-five-year-low-4092931)</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
12	<p><u>MPS declaration deferred over inflation issue</u></p> <p>The announcement of the Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) for the second half of the current fiscal year (FY26), scheduled for today, has been postponed. The reason for postponement, according to BB officials concerned, is that some central bank board members have sought to know the reasons behind the failure of the tight monetary stance to lower inflation. The central bank was scheduled to publicly unveil the MPS through a press conference today. Some BB board members at Tuesday's board meeting raised questions about why the inflation-containment target has not been achieved despite the continuation of a tight monetary policy stance since October 2024, and sought detailed clarification from the monetary policy department of the central bank, BB officials involved in the MPS said. The BB traditionally announces the Monetary Policy Statement in January, whether annual or half-yearly.</p>	29 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/mps-declaration-deferred-over-inflation-issue-1769623469)	
13	<p><u>BB rebases REER to reflect economic reality</u></p> <p>Bangladesh Bank has redrawn one of the most closely-watched indicators of the country's external competitiveness, updating its real effective exchange rate (REER) index to better reflect today's economic realities. For the first time, the central bank has factored remittance inflows into the calculation, an acknowledgement of how deeply overseas earnings now shape the foreign exchange market. The rebasing of the index to fiscal year 2023-24, from 2015-16, also captures shifts in trade patterns, inflation differentials and bilateral exchange rates over the past decade. Officials say the changes are intended to give policymakers, businesses and analysts a clearer signal on whether the taka is fairly valued, and how competitive Bangladesh really is in global markets. The central bank believes the revision will make assessments of currency valuation and export competitiveness more realistic and policy-relevant.</p>	30 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-rebases-reer-to-reflect-economic-reality-1769710118?date=30-01-2026)	
14	<p><u>New import policy provides generous trade facilities</u></p> <p><u>Export industries can import raw materials duty-free for trade boost</u></p> <p>Export-oriented industries can import raw materials duty-free under a new import policy that the government believes will strengthen trade competitiveness and support industrial growth. The post-uprising interim government Thursday approved the Import Policy Order 2025-2028 alongside a raft of ordinances aimed at strengthening trade facilitation, expanding legal protections for women, and updating regulatory frameworks across several sectors. The decisions were made at the weekly meeting of the Council of Advisers with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus presiding.</p>	30 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/export-industries-can-import-raw-materials-duty-free-for-trade-boost-1769710226?date=30-01-2026)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
15	<p>GOVT TO PLACE HIGH-STAKE TRADE STRATEGY AT WTO MEET <u>Bangladesh to seek 12-yr trade grace for post-graduation era</u></p> <p>Bangladesh is set to seek a binding 12-year transition period to safeguard its export-oriented economy from post-LDC-graduation trade challenges in a high-stakes strategy to be placed at the upcoming WTO ministerial meet. Officials say the government has finalized a comprehensive Position Paper for placing at the 14th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC14) will be held in Cameroon on March 26-29.</p> <p>The Position Paper outlines a strategy that balances the prestige of "Developing Nation" status with the pragmatic needs to shield its around US\$50billion export economy from the "graduation shock." "The four-day global trade summit...in Yaoundé will mark Bangladesh's final Ministerial appearance as a Least-Developed Country (LDC) ahead of its scheduled graduation on November 24, 2026," says one trade official. The Bangladesh delegation, led by the Ministry of Commerce and supported by the ERD or Economic Relations Division, is expected to fly to Cameroon with a clear mandate: 'No agreement is better than a bad agreement that compromises the livelihood of millions of garment workers and small-scale farmers'.</p> <p>According to the finalised position paper, Dhaka will lead the LDC group in demanding a structured graduation "Support Package".</p>	31 Jan. 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/mps-declaration-deferred-over-inflation-issue-1769623469)	
16	<p><u>ইইউ ও ভারতের মুক্ত বাণিজ্য চুক্তিতে বাংলাদেশের দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি</u></p> <p>প্রায় ২০ বছর ধরে আলোচনার পর ভারত আর ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়ন (ইইউ) গত সপ্তাহে মুক্ত বাণিজ্য চুক্তি (এফটিএ) চূড়ান্ত করেছে। এটি কার্যকর হলে ভারতে রপ্তানি করা ইইউর প্রায় ৯৬ শতাংশ পণ্যে শুল্ক উঠে যাবে। অন্যদিকে ভারতের ৯০ শতাংশ পণ্যের ওপর থেকে শুল্ক তুলে নেবে ইইউ। সেটি হলে উভয় দেশের দ্বিপাক্ষিক বাণিজ্য বাড়বে। এই চুক্তির মাধ্যমে ইউরোপের ২৭টি দেশের সঙ্গে বিশ্বের দ্বিতীয় বৃহত্তম জনসংখ্যার দেশ ভারতের পণ্যের মুক্তবাণিজ্য শুরু হবে। বিশ্বের ২৫ শতাংশ মোট দেশজ উৎপাদন (জিডিপি) যৌথভাবে দখলে রেখেছে ইইউ ও ভারত। তাদের হাতেই আছে প্রায় ২০০ কোটি টাকার বড় এক বাজার। দুই দেশের শীর্ষ নেতা এটিকে 'মাদার অব অল ডিলস' (সব চুক্তির সেরা) হিসেবে অভিহিত করেছেন।</p> <p>এফটিএ কার্যকর হলে ইইউর বাজারে তৈরি পোশাক, চামড়াজাত পণ্য, হিমায়িত মাছ ও চিংড়ি, প্লাস্টিকসহ বিভিন্ন পণ্যে ভারত শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধা পাবে। সেটি হলে বাজারটিতে বাংলাদেশের তৈরি পোশাকসহ বিভিন্ন পণ্যের রপ্তানি প্রতিযোগিতার মুখে পড়বে। যদিও বর্তমানে অগ্রাধিকারমূলক বাজারসুবিধা জিএপির অধীনে ইইউতে শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধা পায় বাংলাদেশ। তবে চলতি বছরের নভেম্বরে স্বল্পোন্নত দেশের (এলডিসি) তালিকা থেকে উন্নয়নশীল দেশে উন্নীত হবে বাংলাদেশ। তারপর তিন বছর অর্থাৎ ২০২৯ সাল পর্যন্ত ইইউর বাজারে জিএসপি-সুবিধা পাবে বাংলাদেশ।</p>	31 Jan. 2026	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/lc57etiwt)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
17	<p>IMF mission assessment report rings alert, prescribes must-dos <u>BD economic growth modest 4.7pc in FY26, no better luck next</u></p> <p>Bangladesh's economic growth may stay stymied to 4.7 per cent in the current fiscal year for elevated inflationary pressure and delays in financial and fiscal reforms, and there's no better luck next. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has come up with such observations after a protracted spot assessment by its staff mission, and prescribed a slew of macro-level dos to avert looming financial and fiscal risks, including "sovereign debt distress". Tight policies, weak investment amid financial-sector strains, election-related uncertainties, and higher US trade tariffs are expected to constrain the growth to 4.7 per cent in 2025-26, the Washington-based monetary observer said Saturday.</p>	01 Feb. 2026	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-economic-growth-modest-47pc-in-fy26-no-better-luck-next-1769879922)</p>	
18	<p><u>Lenders stare at Tk 6.46b loss after bank merger</u> Shares pledged as collateral by Exim's Nazrul and 31 other shareholders now worthless papers</p> <p>At least five financial institutions risk losing assets following the recent bank merger, as shares held as collateral for loans they disbursed have been valued at zero. IFIC Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank, Shahjalal Islami Bank, Southeast Bank and National Housing Finance together face losses exceeding Tk 6.46 billion, according to the Central Depository Bangladesh Limited (CDBL).</p> <p>Among the borrowers, former EXIM Bank chairman Nazrul Islam Mazumder alone took out loans equivalent to Tk 1.46 billion, pledging shares of his own bank as collateral. His action was replicated by 31 other EXIM Bank shareholders. The aggregate value of EXIM Bank shares held as lien by the above mentioned financial institutions amounts to Tk 6.20 billion. Four shareholders of Social Islami Bank Ltd (SIBL) also took out loans worth Tk 264 million, putting their holdings in SIBL as collateral. The shareholders of EXIM Bank and SIBL may have borrowed from one or more lending institutions. Smaller loans were also disbursed against shares of the merged banks.</p>	01 Feb. 2026	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/lenders-stare-at-tk-646b-loss-after-bank-merger-1769879754)</p>	