



Can we overcome our economic woes?

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The banking sector was another ticking time bomb. Instead of making meaningful reforms, the Hasina administration let politically connected businesses rack up billions in bad loans, leading to a fragile financial sector. Bangladesh's economy was teetering on the precipice.

And then came the student-led protests, a moment that revealed just how deep the frustration ran. A White Paper committee laid it all out: mass capital flight, policy failures and a financial system that had been gutted by a decade of reckless decision making. The new government, headed by Professor Muhammad Yunus, wasted no time setting up teams to dig into the economic wreckage.

But while the interim government inherited a disaster, they haven't exactly been doing a stellar job fixing it. Inflation is still stubbornly high, eating away at household budgets, businesses are struggling to stay afloat, and the same market inefficiencies that plagued the previous administration remain firmly in place. The message is clear—without structural changes, the cycle of economic mismanagement will continue.

When Professor Yunus entered office, foreign exchange reserves were dwindling. His actions, including efforts to improve policymaking and restore confidence, appear to have averted a bigger economic crisis. "But the economy has still taken a hit, due to political unrest and the uncertainty it has sown for businesses and investors," the International Crisis Group said in a report on January 30.



For nearly two years now, inflation has been running wild, often clocking in at over 10 percent.

PHOTO: TITU DAS



The International Monetary Fund expects economic growth to rebound sharply and inflation to halve in the next fiscal year, but "a buoyant economy will require reforms to encourage local and foreign investment, tackle corruption and red tape, and diversify into new sectors."

"Conversely, failure to create enough jobs for Bangladesh's young, increasingly well-educated population risks sowing the seeds of future political unrest," Crisis Group said.

For ordinary people, all of this is more

than just numbers on a spreadsheet—it's a daily struggle. Families are cutting back on spending. The purchasing power of the Bangladeshi taka is eroding.

The frustration is mounting, and unless something changes soon, the economic strain could spark more discontent. People are tired of promises, tired of policies that don't work, and tired of seeing their money disappear while a handful of elites get richer. Inflation isn't just an issue that can be ignored anymore—it's a crisis that's hitting every

household. The government needs to stop running in circles and start making meaningful reforms before it's too late—and not shoot the messenger just for telling the inconvenient truth.

So, what's the way out? Bangladesh needs to break up monopolies in essential goods markets, enforce real price regulation, and invest in a smarter, more resilient economy. But whether the interim government has the political will—and the time—to pull off these reforms remains to be seen.

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