

Robi posts record Tk 937cr profit in 2025

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Robi Axiata achieved its highest-ever profit of Tk 937.1 crore in 2025, despite only marginal revenue growth, crediting what it described as disciplined capital allocation.

The telecom operator registered a 33.3 percent year-on-year surge in profit, driven by robust data revenue that more than compensated for the continued decline in voice services.

This milestone marks the sixth straight year of profitability for the country's second-largest operator.

Robi's total revenue for 2025 reached Tk 9,992.2 crore, which was 0.4 percent higher than the previous year.

Voice revenue declined by 2.9 percent, but data revenue expanded strongly by 5.1 percent compared to 2024.

At a meeting yesterday, the board of directors of the company recommended a cash dividend of



17.5 percent (Tk 1.75 per share).

Robi's total capital expenditure for 2025 stood at Tk 1,304.1 crore. Total payments to the government exchequer reached Tk 6,201.1 crore by the end of 2025, accounting for 62 percent of the company's total revenue for the year.

Robi's active subscriber base reached 5.74 crore at the end of 2025. Its data subscriber base and 4G subscriber base stood at 4.45 crore and 3.99 crore, respectively.

About 77.5 percent of Robi's active subscribers were data users, and 69.5 percent were 4G users—the highest proportions among operators in

Bangladesh.

Commenting on Robi's performance in 2025, Robi Managing Director and CEO Ziad Shatara said: "Despite the continued slide in voice revenue, Robi managed to register positive revenue growth thanks to robust growth in data revenue, driven by sizable additions of data and 4G users and increased data usage per user."

"Sustained high inflation and challenging macroeconomic conditions limited subscriber spending, moderating our revenue growth," he said.

Additionally, contributions of 62 percent of revenue to the government exchequer—through various taxes—underscore an excessively burdensome tax regime impeding industry progress, he said.

"Nevertheless, with nearly 70 percent of active subscribers being 4G users, we believe Robi is clearly emerging as the natural first choice for digitally savvy users in the country."

Premier Bank gets Tk 5,000cr in liquidity support from BB

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Premier Bank has received Tk 5,000 crore in emergency liquidity support from Bangladesh Bank (BB) amid a deposit outflow.

The central bank approved the support last week following the withdrawal of some of Premier Bank's deposits, said BB Executive Director and Spokesperson Arief Hossain Khan.

However, of the Tk 5,000 crore, nearly Tk 4,000 crore was deducted to meet its SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio) requirements, as the bank had fallen short, according to the spokesman.

The SLR is the minimum percentage of deposits that a commercial bank must maintain in the form of liquid cash, gold,

or other approved securities with the BB. Conventional banks are required to maintain 13 percent of their deposits as SLR.

The Daily Star tried to reach Md Monzur Mofiz, managing director (in current charge) of Premier Bank, for comment via phone and text message. He did not respond until the report was filed.

Following the political changeover, the BB dissolved Premier Bank's board in August last year and formed a seven-member panel.

The private bank's former chairman and former Awami League lawmaker, HBM Iqbal, stepped down in January last year after holding the position for 26 years.

Govt plans higher agri exports within a year

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government plans to reduce imports of agricultural products over the next year while stepping up exports, Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Mohammad Amin Ur Rashid said yesterday.

He made the remarks while exchanging greetings with senior officials at the Ministry of

Agriculture's conference room.

"Within a year, agricultural products will be exported on an industrial scale," the minister said.

Calling agriculture the backbone of the national economy, he said that a large share of the population depends on the sector for its livelihood. Strengthening it, he said, is not only an economic priority but a social one.

He said that the sector would be modernised and reorganised through careful planning, with reforms to raise productivity and improve competitiveness.

To further strengthen the economy, agriculture must be given top priority, he said. The minister also urged all stakeholders to work together to advance the country's agri development.

Sutor Golpo: Before Eid

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Nearby, Munia Zaman had brought her jute creations from Kalindi: bags, wallets, objects that made a case for the material as something more than utilitarian. But it was not the products she seemed most moved to talk about.

"This is not just a fair," said the executive director of Kalindi. "It has created a reunion of clients and entrepreneurs ahead of Eid. After a prolonged period of instability, this exhibition has brought a sigh of relief for us."

Kanak Aditya, chief creative officer of Deshal Limited, one of the fair's more established participants, spoke of a similar sentiment. "We participated in this fair to display our new products ahead of the Eid festival. Customers can purchase from here or visit our showroom."

FEAB is hosting the exhibition for the first time. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the association's President Azharul Haque Azad, who also runs renowned local fashion label Sadakalo, framed the fair as something of a call to conscience.

In a market flooded with alternatives, he said, consumers have a role to play. He urged shoppers to fill at least 30 to 40 percent of their wardrobes with domestic brands.

"This will encourage and help sustain the homegrown industry," he said.

Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, managing director of the SME Foundation, offered a more grounded note, reminding that sentiment alone cannot carry an industry.

"Patriotism alone will not protect domestic brands," he said. "We must also ensure quality products at fair prices."

Sutor Golpo — literally, a story of threads — runs until February 21. For Bristy, the afternoon had already delivered what she came for — a dress, yes, but also the quieter satisfaction of buying it from someone who made it here.

Govt borrowed

FROM PAGE B1

lakh crore the year before, a gain of 6.4 percent. But recurring operating expenditure galloped ahead at 15.5 percent, reaching Tk 4.59 lakh crore.

The broader revenue shortfall — the difference between total projected revenue and what was actually collected — exceeded Tk 1 lakh crore in FY25 and is projected to do so again in FY26, according to the paper.

The situation is compounded by a ballooning debt-repayment bill. Foreign debt payments surged by 37.4 percent to Tk 30,835 crore in FY25, sharply up from 28.3 percent growth the previous year.

Counting the full budget, including development spending and foreign debt servicing, the overall deficit reached Tk 60,294 crore, nearly three times the Tk 21,684 crore recorded in FY24.

Gold gains

REUTERS

Gold prices edged up on Thursday after rising more than 2 percent a day earlier, as persisting geopolitical tensions between the US and Iran lifted safe-haven demand, while investors assess the Federal Reserve's monetary policy path.

Spot gold rose 0.5 percent to \$5,004.47 per ounce by 0634 GMT. US gold futures for April delivery were up 0.3 percent at \$5,025.10.

"If there's anything fundamental you could point to that would be supporting (gold) prices, it's the prospect of conflict in the Middle East and the kind of safe-haven demand that goes along with it," said Kyle Rodda, senior market analyst at Capital.com.

Some progress was made during Iran talks this week in Geneva but distance remained on some issues, the White House said on Wednesday, while Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned that any new US strike on Iran would have serious consequences.

Meanwhile, January Fed minutes showed that policymakers were in near-unanimous agreement to keep interest rates on hold, but remained split over their next steps, with "several" open to rate hikes if inflation remains elevated, while others were inclined to support further cuts if inflation recedes.

Non-yielding bullion tends to do well in low-interest rate environments.

Substantial gaps

FROM PAGE B1

According to it, institutional readiness is also in question. Implementation of the Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) has been slow, while coordination and monitoring across ministries are patchy.

Non-performing loans have reached historic highs, limiting credit to the private sector.

The report said that real growth, which topped 7 percent before the Covid-19 pandemic, has lost momentum in recent years. Employment fell by 19 lakh between 2023 and 2024, with women bearing the brunt.

Meanwhile, external pressures are mounting.

The United States has imposed reciprocal tariffs of 19 percent on imports from Bangladesh, adding to existing duties and squeezing exporters further. More trade shocks during the transition could drive up adjustment costs.

CRITICAL VULNERABILITIES

The report identifies six major risks to smooth and sustainable graduation. Those are erosion of trade preferences, fiscal fragility, debt sustainability pressures, banking sector weaknesses, structural competitiveness gaps and limited access to climate finance.

Bangladesh currently enjoys duty-free access to the EU. After 2029, clothing exports to the bloc will face tariffs of 12 percent. But market competitors such as India and Vietnam will continue to pay zero duty.

The EU accounts for roughly half of Bangladesh's exports, meaning even small shifts in competitiveness could have outsized effects.

Safeguard provisions under the EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) remain unresolved.

"This represents the single most critical unresolved trade policy challenge with potential to severely erode competitiveness in Bangladesh's largest export market."

Another vulnerability is narrowing fiscal space and rising debt burden.

Revenue mobilisation fell to 6.8 percent of GDP in the financial year 2024-2025. Debt servicing now

absorbs 31 percent of government revenue. In August 2025, the IMF World Bank Debt Sustainability Analysis moved Bangladesh from "low" to "moderate risk" of debt distress.

"This fiscal fragility severely constrains capacity to finance investments and social protection measures needed for graduation-related adjustments."

Structural costs further weigh on competitiveness. Logistics costs amount to about 16 percent of GDP, well above the global benchmark of around 10 percent. Energy inefficiencies and infrastructure bottlenecks add to production expenses.

Setting out 157 time-bound actions across five pillars, the STS was adopted only in February 2025, limiting the effective implementation horizon before graduation.

"Stakeholder consultations consistently indicated slow and uneven implementation progress, with limited momentum in competitiveness-critical areas," the report said.

WHAT NEXT?

The assessment urges Bangladesh to seek a safeguard waiver or alternative arrangement with the EU to avoid steep tariffs on apparel after 2029.

It also calls for faster tax reforms to lift the revenue to GDP ratio, a comprehensive plan to tackle non-performing loans and a reliable, reasonably priced energy supply for exporters.

Due to the "unprecedented and cumulative series of shocks", many stakeholders believe the country may need three to five more years to prepare, according to the report.

It said Bangladesh could approach the UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP) to request a deferral on the grounds that exceptional circumstances have undermined its readiness.

The report stresses anchoring macroeconomic stability through credible monetary and exchange rate policies, ensuring foreign exchange access for exporters and shoring up the banking system before the graduation clock runs out.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Upazila Engineer

Itna, Kishoreganj.

www.lged.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice: 02/2025-2026

Memo.No.46.02.4833.000.18.000.26- 85

Date: 18/02/2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following scheme listed below:

Sl. No	Package No. & Name of Work	Tender ID	Last Date & Time
01	<p>Package No-e-Tender/ADP/ Itna/2025-26/ 01</p> <p>(1) Estimate for Protection Wall at Borohatkabila West Para Mikail Miya Bari to Eddis Miya Bari, Under Word No-3, Union: Elongjuri, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (2) Estimate for C.C Road at Salpahatkubila Manu Mia Bari to Badal Mia Bari, Under Word No-1, Union: Alongjuri, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (3) Estimate for C.C Road at Nayahati Johuriul Membar Bari to Nayahati Masjid, Under Word-5, Union: Itna Sadar, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (4) Estimate for Protection Wall at Betega Bazar, under Word No-6, Union: Itna Sadar, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (5) Estimate for Protection Wall at Anandapara Gram, Under Word No-4, Union: Itna Sadar, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (6) Estimate for Protection Wall at Nandihati Box Culvert to Nandihati Martob, Under Word No-2, Union: Itna Sadar, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (7) Estimate for Protection Wall at Boribari Kabarstana, Under Union: Boribari: Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (8) Estimate for Box Culvert at Shimulbak Tunu & Lebur Land Side, Under Union: Boribari, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj.</p>	1230018	
02	<p>Package No-e-Tender/ADP/2025-2026/02</p> <p>(1) Estimate for C.C Road at Cacuya Barohati Gramer Abasisto Road, Under Union: Dhanpur, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (2) Estimate for Brick Soling at Dailang Chatohati Gram Mide Side Road, Under Union: Dhanpur, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (3) Estimate for C.C Road at Laimpasha Submersible Road to Ruhul Amin Bari, Under Word-6, Union: Mriga, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (4) Estimate for C.C Road at Laimpasha Submersible Road to Alpti Bari & Hosen Ali Bari, Under Word-5, Union: Mriga, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (5) Estimate for C.C Road at Bati Rajipur Sbsaner Samone to Budu Pal Bari, Under Word-6 Union: Mriga, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (6) Estimate for C.C Road at Laimpasha Submersible Road to Renu Bhuya Bari, Under Word-6, Union: Mriga, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (7) Estimate for Box Culvert at Jaysiddi Uttar Bondr Bachur Marar Asar Mia Land Side, Under Union: Jaysiddi, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (8) Estimate for Box Culvert at Mudrigau Uttarbondr Goyal Bader Mid, Under Union: Jaysiddi, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (9) Estimate for Box Culvert at Algapara Nayahati Side Andar Kandi Drain Side, Under Union: Jaysiddi, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj.</p>	1230034	Procurement Method: LTM
03	<p>Package No-e-Tender/ADP/2025-2026/03</p> <p>(1) Estimate for C.C Road at Thaneshor Gram Saidul Bhuya Ghat to Kabarsthan, Under Word No-4, Union: Badlia, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (2) Estimate for Protection Wall at Chondropur Saheb Uddin Bari to Lokman Bari, Under Word-9, Union: Chowganga, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (3) Estimate for Protection Wall at Raytuti Union Porishod West Side, Union: Raytuti, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (4) Estimate for C.C Block at Raji Village Kaluma Road South Side, Under Word No-2, Union: Raytuti, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (5) Estimate for Ghat Work at Kamolbuk Gram Fazlur Rahaman Bari Front Side, Under Word No-2, Union: Chowganga, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (6) Estimate for Grill Work at Thaneshor School and Collage, Under Union: Badlia, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (7) Estimate for C.C Road at Thaneshor Gram Arshad Mia Land, Under Word No-4, Union: Badlia, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj.</p>	1230046	Tender Document Last Selling: 04-Mar-2026 15:00 Tender Closing & Opening 05-Mar-2026 13:00
04	<p>Package No-e-Tender/ADP(Unnayan)/2025-2026/04</p> <p>(1) Estimate for C.C Road at Borshikura Bridge Main Road to Borshikura GPS, Under Union: Badlia, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (2) Estimate for Ghat & Guide Wall Work at Itna Modho Gramer Abdul Aziz Bari Front Side, Under Union: Itna Sadar, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (3) Estimate for Protection Wall at Itna Nondihati Abdul Hai Munshi Bari to Abdul Mannaf Mia Bari, Under Union: Itna Sadar, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (4) Re-Construction for Rajendra Asha Lota High School to Munsipara Beribadh, Under Word No-2 Union: Itna Sadar, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (5) Estimate for Protection Wall at Jaysiddi High School, Under Union: Jaysiddi, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (6) Estimate for Protection Wall at Dhanpur GPS, Under Union: Dhanpur, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (7) Estimate for Brick Flat Soling at Taleb Ali Mia Bari to Araliya, Under Union: Raytuti, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (8) Estimate for C.C Road at Amirganj Bazar to Prozarakanda, Under Union: Mriga, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (9) Estimate for Toilet at Dhara Noshuti Para Sri Sri Radha Gobindho Mondir, Under Word No-1, Union: Raytuti, Upazila: Itna, Dist: Kishoreganj. (10) Estimate for Solar Street Light at Itna Jetti Ghat to Itna Puran Bazar, Under Upazila: Itna Sadar, Dist: Kishoreganj.</p>	1230047	

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no Offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

18/02/26
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