

## Summary of Business News – 79

### Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 28 April – 11 May 2025

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><b>দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতি এখন বাংলাদেশেই বেশি</b></p> <p>দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার দেশগুলো খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতি কমিয়ে আনতে পারলেও বাংলাদেশ এখনো পারছে না। বিশ্বব্যাংকের খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতির তালিকায় বাংলাদেশ টানা দুই বছর ধরে 'লাল' শ্রেণিতে রয়েছে। এখন খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতি বাংলাদেশেই বেশি। বিশ্বব্যাংকের তথ্য বলছে, ভারতে খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতি এখন ৬ শতাংশের কম। পাকিস্তানে মূল্যস্ফীতি এখন 'মাইনাস' (নেতিবাচক), অর্থাৎ খাদ্যপণ্যের দাম কমছে। শ্রীলঙ্কায়ও একই চিত্র। নেপাল ও মালদ্বীপে খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতি ৮ শতাংশের কম। ভুটানের হিসাব পাওয়া যায়নি। সার্কভুক্ত দেশ আফগানিস্তানেও খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতি এখন মাইনাস। সম্প্রতি বিশ্বব্যাংক বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন দেশের খাদ্যনিরাপত্তার হালনাগাদ পরিস্থিতি তুলে ধরে মূল্যস্ফীতি ধরে হালনাগাদ তথ্য-উপাত্ত প্রকাশ করেছে। সেখানে দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার দেশগুলোর এ চিত্র পাওয়া গেছে। সর্বশেষ হিসাব মূলত জানুয়ারি ও ফেব্রুয়ারি মাসের।</p>	28 April 2025	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/93vt99vjr9">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/93vt99vjr9</a> )	
02	<p><b>এশিয়ার নবম বৃহৎ অর্থনীতির দেশ বাংলাদেশ</b></p> <p>এশিয়ার মধ্যে নবম বৃহৎ অর্থনীতির দেশ হলো বাংলাদেশ। মোট দেশজ উৎপাদনের (জিডিপি) আকারের ভিত্তিতে এই হিসাব করা হয়েছে। বাংলাদেশের জিডিপির আকার এখন ৪৫০ দশমিক ৫ বিলিয়ন ডলার বা ৪৫ হাজার ৫০ কোটি ডলার। এটি ২০২৪ সালের হিসাবের ভিত্তিতে করা হয়। এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংক (এডিবি) সম্প্রতি এশিয়ার দেশগুলোর অর্থনীতির বিভিন্ন সূচকের পরিসংখ্যান প্রকাশ করেছে, যা ২০২৫ বেসিক স্ট্যাটিস্টিকস নামে পরিচিত। সেখানে বাংলাদেশের এই চিত্র পাওয়া গেছে। ৪৬টি দেশের জিডিপির আকারের হিসাব দিয়েছে এডিবি। তবে সেই তালিকায় জাপান নেই। এডিবির পরিসংখ্যান অনুসারে, দক্ষিণ এশিয়ায় এখন ভারতের পর বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতি সবচেয়ে বড়। বাংলাদেশ দক্ষিণ এশিয়ায় দ্বিতীয় বৃহত্তম অর্থনীতির দেশ।</p>	29 April 2025	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/2sd1ihsoz5">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/2sd1ihsoz5</a> )	
03	<p><b>Dollar eases slightly</b></p> <p>Bangladesh's currency, the Taka, has strengthened against the US dollar, bolstered by recent growth in remittances and exports. The exchange rate of the US dollar is falling against the taka due to a reduced pressure on paying import bills. Bankers believe the price may continue to decline in the coming days.</p> <p>On Thursday, banks were paying between Tk 122.50 and Tk 122.60 to exchange remittance. In contrast, just in the second week of this month, banks were paying between Tk 123 and Tk 123.20 for the same, reflecting a decrease of Tk 0.50 to Tk 0.70 in the dollar's price within two weeks. Bank officials predict a further decline in the dollar's value in the near future.</p>	30 April 2025	New Age ( <a href="https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/263634/dollar-eases-slightly">https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/263634/dollar-eases-slightly</a> )	

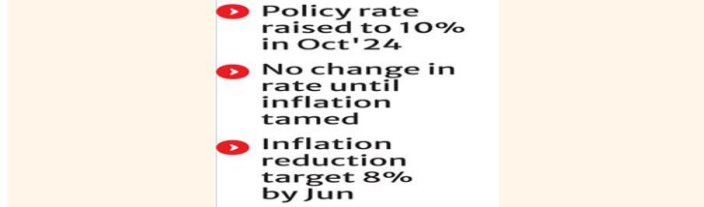
Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
04	<p><b><u>Govt forms taskforce to strengthen BBS, review data quality</u></b></p> <p>The government has formed an eight-member expert taskforce to strengthen the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) by reviewing the quality, transparency, and accessibility of the data it produces, reports BSS. Headed by Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman of the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), the taskforce will consult relevant stakeholders to devise specific, actionable recommendations with the aim of enhancing the capacity of the institution.</p> <p>The other members are: Former Director General of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Dr Mohammad Abdul Wazed, Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Dr Fahmida Khatun, Chairman of the Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID) Dr Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, Professor of the Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT) of Dhaka University and President of the Bangladesh Statistical Association Dr Syed Shahadat Hossain, Professor of the Department of Population Sciences of Dhaka University Dr Mohammad Moinul Islam, Professor of the Department of Economics of Dhaka University Dr Atanu Rabbani and Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Dr Mohammad Yunus, said an order issued by the Statistics and Informatics Division.</p> <p>The taskforce will submit a full report to the Planning Adviser within 90 days.</p>	30 April 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/fIRST-page/govt-forms-taskforce-to-strengthen-bbs-review-data-quality-1745952388?date=30-04-2025">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/fIRST-page/govt-forms-taskforce-to-strengthen-bbs-review-data-quality-1745952388?date=30-04-2025</a> )	
05	<p><b><u>Bangladesh may seek more time from US on tariffs: Salehuddin</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh will seek an extension from the United States if it fails to reach a deal within the 90-day tariff pause announced by the Trump administration, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed today. "We will engage, not anger them," Ahmed said while addressing a group of business leaders at a budget consultative meeting organised to discuss tax measures for the upcoming fiscal year 2025-26. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) jointly organised the event at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka.</p>	30 April 2025	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-may-seek-more-time-us-tariffs-salehuddin-3884061">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-may-seek-more-time-us-tariffs-salehuddin-3884061</a> )	
06	<p><b><u>Respite for BD economy from external front</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Forex reserves steadily rise over \$27b now</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Mark 20-month high even after payout of overseas debts</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh economy feels some respite as the country's foreign-exchange reserves rebound to a 20-month high of US\$27.41 billion by the end of April 2025 by official count, despite major payouts. Bangladesh Bank (BB) sources say the recorded reserves size was the highest since August 2023 when the figure was \$29.26 billion. Despite the government having to make substantial payment in clearing accumulated external overdue bills in recent months, they add, the forex reserves continued rising, which gives an indication of steady rebound in foreign-exchange reserves. Officials and money-market analysts say significant rises in inflow of remittances and export receipts largely prop up the country's foreign-exchange reserves notwithstanding a steady increase in import orders and settlements.</p> <p>According to the latest statistics of the BB, the country's central bank, the gross forex reserves stood at \$27.41 billion and \$22.05 billion in BB and IMF's BPM6 calculations respectively.</p>	01 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/fIRST-page/forex-reserves-steadily-rise-over-27b-now-1746037245?date=01-05-2025">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/fIRST-page/forex-reserves-steadily-rise-over-27b-now-1746037245?date=01-05-2025</a> )	

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07	<p><b><u>Govt forms committee to set up free trade zone</u></b></p> <p>The government has formed a national committee to establish a Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in the country, aligning with the growing global trend of trade liberalisation and investment facilitation, reports BSS. The committee was formed on April 21 to look into the issues of establishing such an FTZ within a year, said a press release.</p> <p>Representatives from Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), Ministry of Commerce, Economic Relation Division (ERD), Ministry of Industries, National Board of Revenue (NBR), Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) were included in the committee. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled to be held on May 6 with Executive Chairman of BIDA and BEZA Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun in the chair.</p> <p>The committee is tasked with reviewing existing laws-such as the Bangladesh Economic Zones Act, the Customs Act and import-export regulations-and recommending necessary amendments or the formulation of new laws, rules and guidelines conducive to the establishment of FTZ.</p>	01 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/govt-forms-committee-to-set-up-free-trade-zone-1746032486?date=01-05-2025">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/govt-forms-committee-to-set-up-free-trade-zone-1746032486?date=01-05-2025</a> )	
08	<p><b><u>NSDA inks deal with four major universities of BD</u></b></p> <p>In an effort to bolster students' professional and technical capabilities while fostering stronger ties between academia and industry, the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) signed four separate memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on Saturday with the major universities of Bangladesh. The signing ceremony took place at the NSDA conference room in Agargaon, where agreements were inked with Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET), National University (NU), and Bangladesh Open University (BOU).</p> <p>This initiative builds on similar partnerships formed with the University of Dhaka and Jahangirnagar University in June 2024.</p>	04 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/nsda-inks-deal-with-four-major-universities-of-bd-1746293096">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/nsda-inks-deal-with-four-major-universities-of-bd-1746293096</a> )	
09	<p><b><u>টাকা পাচার ঠেকাতে বিশেষ ইউনিট গঠন করতে চায় এনবিআর</u></b></p> <p>টাকা পাচার ঠেকাতে বিশেষ ইউনিট গঠন করতে চায় জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড (এনবিআর)। মূলত বাণিজ্যের আড়ালে যে বিদেশে টাকা পাচার হয়, তা প্রতিরোধ করতেই এমন উদ্যোগ। দুই প্রক্রিয়ায় টাকা পাচার হয় বলে মনে করে এনবিআর। এগুলো হলো—আমদানি-রপ্তানিতে মিথ্যা ঘোষণা এবং ট্রান্সফার প্রাইসিং। এসব কারণে প্রতিবছর বিপুল পরিমাণ রাজস্ব লোকসান হয় বলে মনে করে এনবিআর। সম্প্রতি এনবিআর মধ্য ও দীর্ঘমেয়াদি রাজস্ব কৌশল নামে ১০ বছরের একটি পরিকল্পনা চূড়ান্ত করেছে। সেখানে এই তথ্য দেওয়া হয়েছে। গ্লোবাল ফাইন্যান্সিয়াল ইনটিগ্রিটির (জিএফআই) উদ্ভূতি দিয়ে এনবিআরের ওই প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়েছে, বাণিজ্যের আড়ালে (মিথ্যা ঘোষণা) ৭০ শতাংশ অর্থ পাচার হয়ে থাকে।</p>	04 May 2025	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/f30hfcq8dn">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/f30hfcq8dn</a> )	
10	<p><b><u>Remittances \$2.75b in Apr</u></b></p> <p>The country's remittance inflow witnessed a year-on-year growth of 34.6 per cent, reaching \$2.75 billion in April. According to the latest data of the Bangladesh Bank, the country logged a total of \$2.04 billion in remittances during the same period last year.</p> <p>Expatriates have sent remittances of \$24.54 billion during the July-April of FY25.</p>	05 May 2025	New Age ( <a href="https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/264006/remittances-275b-in-apr">https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/264006/remittances-275b-in-apr</a> )	

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11	<p><b>Tax audit selection</b>  <b><u>NBR halts manual system, preparing for digital one</u></b>  <b>Says its chairman</b></p> <p>National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan on Sunday said the NBR has halted manual tax-audit selection in preparation for a risk-based digital audit system and plans a performance-measurement mechanism to track all the suspects made by tax officers. He also said all potential taxpayers who did not submit tax returns are now getting text notices and tax collection from them will be confirmed following inquiry, inspection, and assessment.</p> <p>The revenue board chairman made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar titled "Fiscal Issues for National Budget 2025-26 to Foster Economic and Business Growth". The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB), in collaboration with the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI), hosted the event at a hotel in the capital.</p>	05 May 2025	<p>The Financial Express  (<a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-halts-manual-system-preparing-for-digital-one-1746382980">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-halts-manual-system-preparing-for-digital-one-1746382980</a>)</p>	
12	<p><b><u>April inflation falls marginally to 9.17pc</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh's inflation rate in April fell slightly as that of both food and non-food items showed a downward trend, official data showed on Monday. The inflation rate on point-to-point basis in April decreased to 9.17 per cent, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data unveiled on Monday showed. In the previous month of March, the inflation rate was recorded at 9.35 per cent.</p> <p>The BBS prepared the inflation statistics by collecting data from 154 haats and bazaars of 64 districts across the country. Over the last five months, the country's point-to-point inflation rate had been showing an easing trend as the prices of main foods and some other essential items have dropped.</p> <p>The rate of inflation climbed to a 13-month high at 11.38 per cent in November of the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, which started falling in the subsequent months of December, January, February, and March.</p> <p>The rate of inflation in December fell to 10.89 per cent, then to 9.94 per cent in January, and 9.32 per cent in February.</p>	06 May 2025	<p>The Financial Express  (<a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/april-inflation-falls-marginally-to-917pc-1746469549">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/april-inflation-falls-marginally-to-917pc-1746469549</a>)</p>	
13	<p><b><u>July-April exports hit \$40.20b</u></b></p> <p>The country's earnings from merchandise exports in April 2025 reached US\$ 3.01 billion, the lowest in terms of single-month receipts in the current fiscal year (FY). Bangladesh's total export receipts were recorded at \$2.99 billion in April of the last fiscal year, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data released on Monday. Of the total, earnings from exports of readymade garment (RMG) products amounted to US\$ 2.39 billion in April of this fiscal, slightly up from \$2.38 billion in April 2024.</p> <p>On the other hand, the country's overall export earnings stood at \$40.20 billion during July-April period of FY 2024-25, reflecting a 9.83 per cent year-on-year growth. Bangladesh fetched US\$36.61 billion through exporting merchandise products during the corresponding period of last fiscal, data showed.</p> <p>The country's largest export-earning sector RMG fetched US\$ 32.64 billion during the first 10 months of the current fiscal, registering a 10 per cent growth over the matching period last fiscal year.</p>	06 May 2025	<p>The Financial Express  (<a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/july-april-exports-hit-4020b-1746469736">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/july-april-exports-hit-4020b-1746469736</a>)</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
14	<p><b>যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের সঙ্গে বাণিজ্য ঘাটতি কমাতে পথনকশা তৈরি করা হচ্ছে-বাণিজ্য উপদেষ্টা</b></p> <p>বাণিজ্য উপদেষ্টা শেখ বশিরউদ্দীন বলেছেন, ট্রাম্প প্রশাসনের করা শুল্কনীতি নিয়ে যেসব কথাবার্তা হয়, সেগুলোর একটি বড় অংশ অনুমাননির্ভর। তবে উচ্চ শুল্ক আরোপের পেছনে বাণিজ্য-ঘাটতির বাস্তবতাও ছিল। এ জন্য আমরা স্পষ্ট হিসাব-নিকাশের মাধ্যমে কিছু পণ্যের তালিকা ও একটি পথনকশা নির্ধারণ করেছি। এর মাধ্যমে আশা করছি বাংলাদেশের সঙ্গে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের বাণিজ্য-ঘাটতি উল্লেখযোগ্যভাবে কমাতে পারব। বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (বিডা) আয়োজিত বিনিয়োগ পরিবেশ নিয়ে আজ মঙ্গলবার সন্ধ্যায় মাসিক ওয়েবিনারে বাণিজ্য উপদেষ্টা এ কথা বলেন। অনুষ্ঠান সঞ্চালনা করেন বিডার নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান চৌধুরী আশিক মাহমুদ বিন হারুন (আশিক চৌধুরী)।</p>	06 May 2025	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/4n623lks2q">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/4n623lks2q</a> )	
15	<p><b>ট্রাম্পের পাল্টা শুল্ক আরোপ হলে বাংলাদেশের রপ্তানি দশমিক ৫ শতাংশ কমবে</b></p> <p>যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের প্রেসিডেন্ট ডোনাল্ড ট্রাম্পের ঘোষণা করা পাল্টা শুল্ক কার্যকর হলে বাংলাদেশের মোট দেশজ উৎপাদন বা জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধি শূন্য দশমিক ৩ শতাংশ কমে যেতে পারে। এ ছাড়া রপ্তানি প্রবৃদ্ধি কমেতে পারে শূন্য দশমিক ৫ শতাংশ। ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অর্থনীতি বিভাগের অধ্যাপক সেলিম রায়হান ও ইউনাইটেড নেশন্স ইউনিভার্সিটির ওয়ার্ল্ড ইনস্টিটিউট ফর ডেভেলপমেন্ট ইকোনমিকস রিসার্চের পরিচালক কুনাল সেনের এক গবেষণায় এই তথ্য উঠে এসেছে। গ্লোবাল ট্রেড অ্যানালাইসিস প্রকল্পের আওতায় এই গবেষণা করা হয়। গবেষণায় প্রাপ্ত তথ্যের একটি সারমর্ম যুক্তরাজ্যভিত্তিক সংবাদমাধ্যম দ্য কনভারসেশনে ২ মে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।</p> <p>দুই অর্থনীতিবিদের এই গবেষণায় আরও বলা হয়েছে, যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে পণ্য রপ্তানিতে ট্রাম্পের পাল্টা শুল্ক আরোপ না হয়ে বিদ্যমান শুল্ক বহাল থাকলে সে ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশের জিডিপিতে কোনো প্রভাব পড়বে না। উল্টো রপ্তানি ১ দশমিক ১ শতাংশ বাড়তে পারে। গবেষণায় বলা হয়েছে, ট্রাম্পের পাল্টা শুল্কের প্রভাবে বিশ্বের সব দেশ ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হবে। বিশেষ করে উন্নয়নশীল দেশগুলো। বাংলাদেশ, কম্বোডিয়া, ইন্দোনেশিয়া, শ্রীলঙ্কা, ভিয়েতনামের মতো দেশগুলো প্রাথমিকভাবে লাভবান হলেও দীর্ঘ মেয়াদে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হবে। এক গাণিতিক মডেলিং ব্যবহার করে এই গবেষণা করা হয়েছে।</p>	06 May 2025	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/9777z3i9lu">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/9777z3i9lu</a> )	
16	<p><b>Pvt sector credit growth rises to 7.57pc</b></p> <p>The private sector credit growth in Bangladesh increased to 7.57 per cent in March after hitting 21 years' low in the previous month, according to available data. The continuous fall of private sector credit growth ended in March, but it remains well below the central bank's target, reflecting persistent weakness in investment and business confidence.</p> <p>It was 6.82 per cent in February, 7.15 per cent in January 2025, 7.28 per cent in December, 7.66 per cent in November, 8.3 per cent in October, 9.2 per cent in September, 9.86 per cent in August, 10.13 per cent in July and 9.84 per cent in June 2024, according to the Bangladesh Bank data. BB officials said that the growth improves due to Ramadan centric economic activities, which began on March 1. Besides, some overdue foreign currency payments turned into forced loans, which also contributed to credit growth, they said.</p>	07 May 2025	New Age ( <a href="https://www.newagebd.net/post/mis/264197/pvt-sector-credit-growth-rises-to-757pc">https://www.newagebd.net/post/mis/264197/pvt-sector-credit-growth-rises-to-757pc</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
17	<p><b><u>PMI indicates softer pace of economic expansion</u></b>  <b>Agro sector continues to post stronger rate of growth</b></p> <p>Bangladesh's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slowed in April, falling 8.8 points from the previous month to 52.9, signaling a softer pace of economic expansion. The latest reading reflects weaker growth across manufacturing, construction, and services sectors, although agriculture posted a stronger rate of expansion. A PMI above 50 indicates expansion, 50 suggests no change, and below 50 signals contraction. April's reading, while still in expansionary territory, marks the lowest since October 2025, when the current growth trend began.</p>	08 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/pmi-indicates-softer-pace-of-economic-expansion-1746644732">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/pmi-indicates-softer-pace-of-economic-expansion-1746644732</a> )	
18	<p><b><u>Labour law to see amendments by Jul</u></b>  <b>Recommendations from Labour Reform Commission to be included</b></p> <p>The government plans to incorporate the recommendations made by the Labour Reform Commission and make required amendments to the labour law by July. Also the labour inspection system will be digitized and brought under real-time monitoring framework.</p> <p>Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) Secretary AHM Shafiquzzaman made the remarks at a validation workshop on 'labour inspection assessment' jointly organised by the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) on Wednesday. The event aims to present and validate the findings and recommendations from a comprehensive assessment of the country's labour inspection system.</p>	08 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/labour-law-to-see-amendments-by-jul-1746645022">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/labour-law-to-see-amendments-by-jul-1746645022</a> )	
19	<p><b><u>Matarbari power plant generated only 15% of capacity in April</u></b></p> <p>The Matarbari coal-fired power plant, one of the most expensive power infrastructure projects in the country, is generating only a fraction of its intended capacity, raising serious concerns over coal quality, maintenance failures, and weak project governance. The 1,200-megawatt facility, located in the Moheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar, was expected to play a pivotal role in ensuring energy security. However, in April, the Power Development Board (PDB) could generate only 185 megawatts, around 15 percent of the plant's full potential.</p>	08 May 2025	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/matarbari-power-plant-generated-only-15-capacity-april-3889436">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/matarbari-power-plant-generated-only-15-capacity-april-3889436</a> )	
20	<p><b><u>BBS finally empowered to publish data independently</u></b></p> <p>As part of policy reforms aimed at improving the credibility and accuracy of national statistics, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has been empowered to publish official data without prior government approval. At present, approval from the planning minister and head of state is required before the BBS can publish data. This process causes significant delays in data publishing, as files often remain stuck in limbo before ultimately being approved.</p> <p>As a result, data are published much later than expected. For example, data on inflation are supposed to be published by the BBS at the start of each month, but due to the complicated process, they were sometimes not even published halfway through a month. Additionally, this process leaves room for independent economists and experts to cast doubt on the accuracy and reliability of government-published data for years.</p>	09 May 2025	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bbs-finally-empowered-publish-data-independently-3890351">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bbs-finally-empowered-publish-data-independently-3890351</a> )	

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21	<p><b><u>Policy rate to remain unchanged at 10pc</u></b>  <b>Monetary policy committee members decide</b></p>  <p>The cost of bank credit is not being relaxed now as the monetary policy committee (MPC) members have decided not to make any change in the policy rate until the inflation-combating target is achieved. The decision came in the eighth MPC meeting chaired by Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur and held virtually on Thursday.</p> <p>Sources said the committee reviewed the current economic situation, along with the decisions made in the seventh MPC meeting and their implementation status. It assessed the current macroeconomic challenges and outlook from both domestic and global perspectives. Particular attention was given to analysing inflation trends and forecasts, economic activities and growth potential, recent developments in the financial markets, and the external sector's performance, according to sources.</p>	10 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/policy-rate-to-remain-unchanged-at-10pc-1746813688">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/policy-rate-to-remain-unchanged-at-10pc-1746813688</a> )	
22	<p><b><u>Progressive Knit Alliance wins BKMEA election</u></b></p> <p>The Progressive Knit Alliance (PKA), led by Mohammad Hatem, managing director of MB Knit Fashion, won the biennial election of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) held on Saturday, according to preliminary results. The election was held at two centres -- one in Dhaka and the other in Narayanganj.</p> <p>A total of 38 candidates -- 35 from PKA panel and three independents -- contested 35 posts of directors. Following the election of the directors, the new board will elect one president, one executive president, and seven vice presidents on May 15. Approximately 75.35 per cent, or 431 out of 572 eligible voters across the country, cast their ballots in the election, according to BKMEA election board sources.</p>	11 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/progressive-knit-alliance-wins-bkmea-election-1746898820">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/progressive-knit-alliance-wins-bkmea-election-1746898820</a> )	
23	<p><b><u>World Bank sees favouritism in digital bank licensing</u></b>  <b><i>bKash, granted a digital banking window, is now preparing to establish a full digital bank</i></b></p> <p>A diagnostic report by the World Bank Group has cast a shadow over the 2023 awarding of two digital banking licenses to Nagad and Kori in Bangladesh. The report asserts that the selection process, which saw these two entities chosen from 52 applicants, lacked transparency and exhibited signs of favouritism towards politically connected interests.</p> <p>The World Bank Group's report, titled "Bangladesh: Country Private Sector Diagnostic," pinpointed corruption, political interference, and regulatory ambiguity as significant impediments to progress within the sector.</p>	11 May 2025	The Business Standard (TBS) ( <a href="https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/world-bank-sees-favouritism-digital-bank-licensing-1139226">https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/world-bank-sees-favouritism-digital-bank-licensing-1139226</a> )	

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24	<p><b><u>Bangladesh lags behind Ldc-graduating peers in public spending and revenue mobilisation efforts</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh's fiscal deficit is projected to remain above 4 percent of GDP through 2026, as revenue growth continues to fall short of expanding public expenditure.</p> <p>Despite rising development needs, the country allocates a significantly smaller share of its economic output to public spending than its South and Southeast Asian peers. In 2025, Bangladesh's public expenditure stood at just 13.0 percent of GDP, compared to 23.4 percent in Nepal, 18.4 percent in Lao PDR, and 17.9 percent in Cambodia. The trend is expected to persist in 2026, with Bangladesh projected to spend 14.0 percent of GDP.</p> <p>At the same time, Bangladesh's revenue mobilisation remains among the weakest in the region. Government revenue is forecast to rise to only 9.8 percent of GDP by 2026, well below levels seen in countries with comparable or even lower income levels.</p> <p>Public debt is rising gradually but remains modest relative to regional norms. Bangladesh's debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to reach 40.7 percent in 2026, up from 37.9 percent in 2022. Economists view the trajectory as broadly sustainable, though they caution that further borrowing capacity may depend on tangible improvements in tax collection and the efficiency of public investment.</p>	11 May 2025	<p>The Daily Star  <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2025-26/news/bangladesh-lags-behind-ldc-graduating-peers-public-spending-and-revenue-mobilisation-efforts-3891761">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2025-26/news/bangladesh-lags-behind-ldc-graduating-peers-public-spending-and-revenue-mobilisation-efforts-3891761</a>)</p>	