

## Summary of Business News – 80


### Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 12 - 25 May 2025

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><b><u>NBR targets land, flat and building owners to expand tax net</u></b></p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has initiated a move to track down owners of land, flats and buildings across the country in an effort to widen the country's tax net, reports UNB. The move comes as more than two-thirds of individuals submitting income tax returns report earnings below the taxable threshold of Tk 350,000, according to NBR data.</p> <p>As per the law, people with annual income below this threshold are exempt from paying income tax. Currently, the number of Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) holders in the country stands at over 11.5 million. However, some 4.0 million of them submitted their income tax returns. Among them, a significant portion reported income below the taxable limit.</p>	12 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/nbr-targets-land-flat-and-building-owners-to-expand-tax-net-1746981089?date=12-05-2025">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/nbr-targets-land-flat-and-building-owners-to-expand-tax-net-1746981089?date=12-05-2025</a> )	
02	<p><b><u>Govt can now temporarily take over banks</u></b></p> <p>The government and Bangladesh Bank can take temporary control of any scheduled bank if needed by issuing share transfer orders in line with the Bank Resolution Ordinance 2025. The ordinance states that the share transferee must be a government entity.</p> <p>The government published an official gazette on Friday on the Bank Resolution Ordinance 2025, which was approved by the Advisory Council on April 17. The ordinance states that if a bank's owner directly, indirectly or fraudulently utilises the bank's assets or funds for personal gain, Bangladesh Bank reserves the right to initiate resolution proceedings against that bank.</p>	12 May 2025	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-can-now-temporarily-take-over-banks-3892626">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-can-now-temporarily-take-over-banks-3892626</a> )	
03	<p><b><u>Govt to form trade expert pool</u></b></p> <p><b>The body will preserve knowledge, experiences gained from trade data analysis, negotiations</b></p> <p>The government is set to form a trade expert pool (TEP) to preserve the required knowledge and experiences gained from trade-data analysis and negotiations, sources said. The commerce ministry has already started working on this. Its FTA wing will carry out the task. The much-expected pool will be constituted under the Regional Trade Agreement (RTA) framed by the ministry in June 2022.</p> <p>The provision for setting up such a pool is mentioned in the agreement. The provision says, "In order to retain experience and knowledge in the area of trade analysis and negotiation, the Ministry of Commerce may establish a TEP comprising ministry officials and representatives from the relevant ministry (ies), division(s), department(s), agency (ies), etc."</p> <p>Besides, the TEP may also include representatives from experienced former senior officials of the government, the private sector, think tanks, and academia.</p>	13 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/govt-to-form-trade-expert-pool-1747073990?date=13-05-2025">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/govt-to-form-trade-expert-pool-1747073990?date=13-05-2025</a> )	

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04	<p><b><u>Remittance receipt breaks annual record in 10 months</u></b>  <b>Over \$25b came in Jul-Apr</b></p> <p>Bangladesh's remittance receipt breaks annual record in over 10 months of this fiscal year with more than US\$25 billion bagged, in a much-needed prop to its foreign-exchange reserves. With the receipt of US\$2.75 billion in April 2025 (\$922 million in the first 11 days of this month), the forex-hungry nation got \$25.46 billion so far in the FY'25 and accumulated figure crossed the previous yearly recorded remittance inflow of \$24.777 billion registered in FY'21, official data showed.</p> <p>In terms of yearly growth, a 27.70-percent growth was recorded as the country received \$19.93 billion in remittance during the same period in the previous fiscal (FY'24).</p>	13 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/remittance-receipt-breaks-annual-record-in-10-months-1747073315?date=13-05-2025">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/remittance-receipt-breaks-annual-record-in-10-months-1747073315?date=13-05-2025</a> )	
05	<p><b><u>Bida holds discussion with political parties on sustainable investment environment</u></b></p> <p>The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) held a view exchange meeting with major political parties regarding policy consistency, ongoing reform initiatives, and recent progress toward ensuring a sustainable investment environment in Bangladesh.</p> <p>The meeting began at 12pm today (13 May) in the conference room of Bida.</p> <p>The discussion, focused on improving the investment climate, is being chaired by Bida Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun. He discussed the ways to improve the investment environment in the country.</p>	13 May 2025	The Business Standard (TBS) ( <a href="https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bida-holds-discussion-political-parties-sustainable-investment-environment-1141066">https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bida-holds-discussion-political-parties-sustainable-investment-environment-1141066</a> )	
06	<p><b><u>BB to form \$500 million forex intervention fund</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh Bank announced today that it will form a \$500 million fund in order to keep the forex market stable after switching to a market-based exchange regime. "If the market became unstable due to market-based exchange rate, we will intervene," said BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur.</p> <p>The announcement comes after the central bank signals to switch to a market-based exchange regime.</p>	14 May 2025	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-form-500-million-forex-intervention-fund-3894441">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-form-500-million-forex-intervention-fund-3894441</a> )	
07	<p><b>Foreign financiers to disburse \$3.5b by June: Governor</b>  <b><u>Market-driven forex rate with \$500m guardrails decided</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh finally moves towards market-driven exchange rate, with US\$500-million guardrails against instability on the foreign-exchange market, to remove a last roadblock to IMF loan payout worth \$1.3 billion.</p> <p>Foreign financiers have now confirmed providing an aggregate sum of \$3.5 billion for budget-deficit financing by June, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur announced Wednesday on conclusion of last-ditch negotiations particularly with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).</p> <p>The ministry of finance in Dhaka and the Washington-based Fund declared conclusion of the fourth review of the IMF credit package on a positive note, clearing decks for the release of held-back two tranches of a \$4.7-billion lending package on fulfillment of the conditions.</p> <p>The central bank of Bangladesh moves towards lifting controls on the exchange-rate regime repealing the buying-selling spread in US dollar exchange with taka to fulfill IMF's last unmet condition for securing the stalled fund release.</p>	15 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/market-driven-forex-rate-with-500m-guardrails-decided-1747245331?date=15-05-2025">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/market-driven-forex-rate-with-500m-guardrails-decided-1747245331?date=15-05-2025</a> )	

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08	<b>Bangladesh set to remain world's top cotton importer in MY26</b> Bangladesh is on track to retain its status as the world's biggest cotton importer in the marketing year (MY) 2025-26, with imports projected to reach 8.5 million bales, according to a record-setting forecast by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Vietnam is set to follow closely with 8 million bales, marking an all-time high for both countries, as per the USDA's latest Cotton: World Markets and Trade report. The report highlights a modest rebound in global cotton consumption, which is expected to hit a five-year high of 118.1 million bales. This resurgence is attributed to stable economic activity, particularly in major textile-exporting countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam.	15 May 2025	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-set-remain-worlds-top-cotton-importer-my26-3894986">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-set-remain-worlds-top-cotton-importer-my26-3894986</a> )	
09	<b>Mohammad Hatem becomes BKMEA president</b> Mohammad Hatem has been elected president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) today. Earlier, on May 10, Progressive Knit Alliance, a panel led by Mohammad Hatem, won all 35 directorial posts in the biennial election of the association. The 35 directors today nominated Hatem as the association's president, along with nominating one executive president and seven vice-presidents. The president, executive president, and vice-presidents will form the executive committee to run the association for the 2025–27 tenure, according to a statement from the trade body.	15 May 2025	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mohammad-hatem-becomes-bkmea-president-3895441">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mohammad-hatem-becomes-bkmea-president-3895441</a> )	
10	<b>বিদেশে একবার পণ্য পরীক্ষা হলে দেশে আর লাগবে না</b> বাংলাদেশের কোনো আমদানি পণ্য বিদেশের কোনো পরীক্ষাগারে একবার পরীক্ষা করা হলে দেশে আর সেটি পরীক্ষা করা লাগবে না। এমন ধারা যুক্ত করেই নতুন আমদানি নীতি আদেশ ২০২৫-২৮ করতে যাচ্ছে সরকার। বাণিজ্যসচিব মো. মাহবুবুর রহমানের সভাপতিত্বে গত ১৩ মে ঢাকায় সচিবালয়ে ‘আমদানি নীতি আদেশ ২০২১-২৪-এর সংযোজন, বিয়োজন ও সংশোধন বিষয়ক সভা’ শীর্ষক বৈঠকে এ সিদ্ধান্ত হয়েছে। বৈঠকে বিভিন্ন ব্যবসায়িক চেম্বার ও অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের প্রতিনিধিরা উপস্থিত ছিলেন। স্বল্পোন্নত দেশ (এলডিসি) থেকে বাংলাদেশ বের হবে ২০২৬ সালের নভেম্বরে। এদিকে যুক্তরাষ্ট্র দেড় মাস আগে অন্যান্য দেশের পাশাপাশি বাংলাদেশি পণ্যেও পাল্টা শুল্ক আরোপ করেছে। যদিও তা পরে তিন মাস স্থগিত করা হয়েছে। ইতিমধ্যে এক মাস চলে গেছে। নতুন আদেশ করার সময় তা বিবেচনায় রাখা হচ্ছে। জানা গেছে, সরকারের চেষ্টা হচ্ছে আগামী ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরের প্রথম দিন, অর্থাৎ ১ জুলাই থেকে যেন নতুন আমদানি নীতি কার্যকর করা যায়।	17 May 2025	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/fqj6rjat9r">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/fqj6rjat9r</a> )	
11	<b>Govt plans to scrap reduced tax benefits for textile sector</b> The government plans to scrap the benefits of a reduced 15% tax rate for textile entrepreneurs in the upcoming fiscal year as part of moving away from tax exemptions, according to officials at the National Board of Revenue (NBR). In the next budget, the sector is expected to face the regular corporate tax rate of 27.5%. However, companies listed on the stock market will enjoy a relatively lower rate of 22.5%, the officials said. Additionally, a 2% advance income tax (AIT) may be imposed on the import of key raw materials such as cotton and man-made fibres.	19 May 2025	The Business Standard (TBS) ( <a href="https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-plans-scrap-reduced-tax-benefits-textile-sector-1145816">https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-plans-scrap-reduced-tax-benefits-textile-sector-1145816</a> )	

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12	<p><b><u>Jul-Jan budget deficit up 73pc on slow tax receipts</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh's budget deficit surged by 73.04 per cent in the first seven months of the current fiscal year compared to the same period in FY24, driven largely by sluggish tax collection, official data shows. According to the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the total government expenditure stood at Tk 2.746 trillion during the July-January period of FY25, while revenues reached Tk 2.362 trillion, resulting in a deficit of Tk 384.93 billion. During this period of FY24, the deficit was Tk 222.44 billion.</p>	20 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/jul-jan-budget-deficit-up-73pc-on-slow-tax-receipts-1747678601?date=20-05-2025">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/jul-jan-budget-deficit-up-73pc-on-slow-tax-receipts-1747678601?date=20-05-2025</a> )	
13	<p><b><u>Jul-Apr ADP execution hits record low of 41.31pc</u></b></p> <p>The government agencies continued to show poor performance in projects implementation as they spent only 41.31 per cent of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) during the first 10 months of the current fiscal, officials said on Monday. The ADP implementation rate during July-April period of the current FY2025 was the lowest in last 12 years, available IMED data revealed. However, the ADP execution rate had been ranging between 49 per cent and 54 per cent during July-April period in the previous four fiscals, they said.</p>	20 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/jul-apr-adp-execution-hits-record-low-of-4131pc-1747678886?date=20-05-2025">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/jul-apr-adp-execution-hits-record-low-of-4131pc-1747678886?date=20-05-2025</a> )	
14	<p><b><u>Competition commission to redefine 'dominant players'</u></b></p> <p>The authorities are drafting amendments to the Competition Commission Act, enacted in 2012, to establish clearer criteria for identifying dominant market players across various sectors, according to officials. The law was made to promote, ensure and sustain a congenial atmosphere for competition in trade and to prevent, control and eradicate collusion, monopolies and oligopolies, combination or abuse of dominant position, or activities adverse to the competition. Officials said the changes aim to enhance regulatory oversight and support fair market competition. Clearly defining dominant market players has emerged as a key focus, as the commission seeks to mitigate potential anti-competitive practices by influential entities.</p>	20 May 2025	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/top-news/news/competition-commission-redefine-dominant-players-3898466">https://www.thedailystar.net/top-news/news/competition-commission-redefine-dominant-players-3898466</a> )	
15	<p><b><u>BDT closer to equilibrium level against US dollar</u></b></p> <p>The local currency Bangladesh Taka (BDT) is now almost in an equilibrium against the US dollar, according to the latest Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) index data. This indicates that Taka is approaching its fair value against the dollar. Based on the REER index, the equilibrium exchange rate suggests the dollar should be priced at Tk 122.92. In April, the dollar was traded at Tk 122, putting the currency just Tk 0.92 above its equilibrium value. The REER index declined to 100.76 in April from 101.90 in March 2025, implying that the Taka is marginally overvalued. A REER value of 100 signifies balanced trade competitiveness. Values above 100 indicate overvaluation, which can make exports less competitive in the global market.</p>	21 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bdt-closer-to-equilibrium-level-against-us-dollar-1747765951?date=21-05-2025">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bdt-closer-to-equilibrium-level-against-us-dollar-1747765951?date=21-05-2025</a> )	
16	<p><b><u>To appease US, NBR to offer zero-duty for 100 more goods</u></b></p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is set to propose zero import duties on an additional 100 goods in the upcoming national budget, aiming to boost bilateral trade with the United States and cushion higher tariffs on Bangladeshi products entering the American market. The move received policy-level approval from Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus during a meeting with National Board of Revenue (NBR) officials on Monday, where Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed was also present.</p>	21 May 2025	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/appease-us-nbr-offer-zero-duty-100-more-goods-3899606">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/appease-us-nbr-offer-zero-duty-100-more-goods-3899606</a> )	

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17	<p><b><u>Trump's remittance tax plan poses threat to Bangladesh</u></b></p> <p>The US House Budget Committee voted late on Sunday to move forward with President Donald Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill Act", a proposal that could make sending money back home more expensive for three lakh Bangladeshis currently living in the United States. The bill proposes a 5 percent tax on all international money transfers made by non-US citizens, including holders of non-immigrant visas such as the H-1B and green card holders. During the January-March quarter of this year, Bangladesh received the highest amount of remittances from the US -- which was more than 18 percent of the total inflow.</p>	21 May 2025	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trumps-remittance-tax-plan-poses-threat-bangladesh-3899341">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trumps-remittance-tax-plan-poses-threat-bangladesh-3899341</a> )	
18	<p><b><u>Inefficient market system drives up food costs: BB study</u></b></p> <p>Despite adequate production in many cases, Bangladeshi consumers are paying significantly more for essential food items – rice, potatoes, onions, eggs, and broiler chicken – due to a fragmented and inefficient market system.</p> <p>A recent study by the Bangladesh Bank revealed that supply chain distortions, poor storage management, speculative trading, delayed government interventions and rising input costs were collectively driving up retail prices.</p>	21 May 2025	New Age ( <a href="https://www.newagebd.net/post/business-economy/265511/inefficient-market-system-drives-up-food-costs-bb-study">https://www.newagebd.net/post/business-economy/265511/inefficient-market-system-drives-up-food-costs-bb-study</a> )	
19	<p><b><u>Businesses call for bettering law and order</u></b></p> <p>Businessmen urged on Wednesday the government to improve law and order in the interest of the country's business and economy. They said that without stable and predictable law-and-order situation business and investment would not expand. They said that in recent times, businessmen lost confidence in the case of trade and investment due to an insecure business environment, extortion, fraudulent online activities, transportation risks, corruption, cyber threat, etc.</p> <p>They made the observations at a roundtable on the recent law and order situation in the country organised by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) at the trade body's Motijheel office in the capital.</p>	22 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/businesses-call-for-bettering-law-and-order-1747851000">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/businesses-call-for-bettering-law-and-order-1747851000</a> )	
20	<p><b><u>NBR split after amendments to ordinance: MoF</u></b></p>  <p>The ordinance to bifurcate the National Board of Revenue (NBR) will only be implemented after incorporating the necessary amendments to be made based on comprehensive discussions with all stakeholders, including the Revenue Policy Reform Advisory Committee, says the Ministry of Finance (MoF). It said this in a press statement on Thursday quoting Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed.</p> <p>The revenue policy and revenue management ordinance 2025, issued on May 12, sparked strong agitations among NBR officials.</p>	23 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-split-after-amendments-to-ordinance-mof-1747943122?date=23-05-2025">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-split-after-amendments-to-ordinance-mof-1747943122?date=23-05-2025</a> )	



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21	<p><b>India's export ban</b>  <b><u>BKMEA seeks govt's intervention</u></b></p> <p>The country's apparel sector leaders sought the interim government's diplomatic intervention over export ban imposed by India so that all ongoing work orders are exempted from the ban. They also requested for deferment of the ban's implementation for at least three months. Mohammad Hatem, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), wrote to the commerce ministry on Wednesday in this connection.</p> <p>India on May 17 imposed the ban on export of certain goods, including ready-made garments, from Bangladesh through its land ports just a month after Bangladesh had restricted yarn import through the same route.</p>	23 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bkmea-seeks-govts-intervention-1747943355?date=23-05-2025">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bkmea-seeks-govts-intervention-1747943355?date=23-05-2025</a> )	
22	<p><b><u>দৈনিকভিত্তিক শ্রমিকদের মজুরি বাড়ছে ১৫০-২২৫ টাকা পর্যন্ত</u></b></p> <p>সরকারি দপ্তরে দৈনিকভিত্তিক সাময়িক শ্রমিকদের মজুরি আগামী ১ জুলাই থেকে বাড়ছে। এবার মজুরি বাড়ছে ১৫০ থেকে ২২৫ টাকা পর্যন্ত। অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অর্থ বিভাগ গতকাল বৃহস্পতিবার এ-সংক্রান্ত পরিপত্র জারি করেছে। সরকারের বিভিন্ন মন্ত্রণালয়, বিভাগ, সংস্থা এবং রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত্ব ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে জরুরি কাজ সম্পাদনের জন্য সাময়িকভাবে দৈনিকভিত্তিতে শ্রমিকদের জন্য এই পরিপত্র প্রযোজ্য। পরিপত্র অনুযায়ী, ঢাকা ও চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন এলাকায় নিয়মিত দক্ষ ও অনিয়মিত অদক্ষ শ্রমিকের মজুরি দৈনিক মজুরি হবে ৮০০ টাকা। এত দিন এ এলাকায় নিয়মিত দক্ষ শ্রমিকের মজুরি ছিল ৬০০ টাকা আর অনিয়মিত অদক্ষ শ্রমিকের মজুরি ছিল ৫৭৫ টাকা। অর্থাৎ মজুরি বাড়ছে ২০০ থেকে ২২৫ টাকা পর্যন্ত।</p>	23 May 2025	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/hdxu3tlthw">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/hdxu3tlthw</a> )	
23	<p><b><u>Govt's higher borrowing may impact pvt sector credit flow, warns GED</u></b></p> <p>The General Economic Division (GED) of the Planning Commission has warned that increased public sector borrowing from commercial banks may be crowding out the credit flow to the private sector. The government's economic think-tank noted that public sector borrowing from commercial banks had risen significantly in recent months, primarily due to sluggish revenue collection and suspension of direct lending from the central bank. The GED found a notable shift occurred in public sector borrowing, with government borrowing from commercial banks rising sharply to Tk 985.79 billion by mid-April -- a 60 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. The paper attributed it to sluggish revenue collection and suspension of direct financing from the central bank.</p> <p>The remark was made in the May issue of "Economic Update and Outlook" released by the GED on Saturday.</p>	25 May 2025	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govts-higher-borrowing-may-impact-pvt-sector-credit-flow-warns-ged-1748109089">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govts-higher-borrowing-may-impact-pvt-sector-credit-flow-warns-ged-1748109089</a> )	
24	<p><b><u>Bangladesh per capita debt mounts to \$483</u></b>  <b>The amount was \$257 in 2015-16 fiscal year</b></p> <p>As 2024 drew to a close, a sobering economic milestone quietly took shape: every Bangladeshi now carries the burden of \$483 in public external debt. This revelation stems from the latest figures released by the Bangladesh Bank, which show the nation's outstanding foreign debt ballooning to \$103.64 billion by December 2024. Of this, the government's share alone is \$84.21 billion. With the population nearing 174 million, the per capita burden has nearly doubled since fiscal year 2015-16 when the figure was \$257.</p>	25 May 2025	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-capita-debt-mounts-483-3902566">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-capita-debt-mounts-483-3902566</a> )	