

### Economy

#### Bangladesh Bank buys USD 60mn from banks to maintain exchange rate stability

April 21, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) purchased an additional USD 60mn from commercial banks on Monday as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the country's foreign exchange reserves. The dollars were acquired through an auction at a rate of BDT 122.75 per dollar.
- This move follows a similar trend from last week, where the central bank bought a total of USD 120mn over two days at the same exchange rate. Officials state that these consistent dollar purchases serve a dual purpose: increasing the national buffer of foreign currency and injecting money into the banking system to improve liquidity flow.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-bank-buys-60-million-from-banks-to-maintain-exchange-rate-stability>

#### IMF lending terms outwit negotiators, stir rethink

April 21, 2026

- Finance authorities are set to seek Prime Minister's guidance as to how far the government can go in complying with the International Monetary Fund conditions to secure hard-term budget-support funds.
- Key IMF strings binding the release of the next two tranches from a lending package in June 2026 include withdrawal of subsidies, raising the tax-to-GDP ratio to 9.2 per cent, and adopting a market-based exchange rate.
- Given the ongoing Middle East conflict, sluggish investment, rising fuel prices, persistent inflation, and a downward trend in exports, the government is unlikely to take any drastic measures in the upcoming budget, the official adds.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/imf-lending-terms-outwit-negotiators-stir-rethink>

#### Remittance crosses USD 2bn in first 19 days of April

April 21, 2026

- The positive trend in remittance inflows has continued into April, with Bangladeshi expatriates living in different countries sending USD 2.12bn in the first 19 days of April, according to the latest data from Bangladesh Bank.
- This marks a significant surge compared to the same period last year, when inflows stood at USD 1.71bn. This year's figures show an increase of USD 408mn.

- Central bank sources noted that this momentum follows a record-breaking performance in March 2026, which saw the highest single-month remittance inflow in the country's history. In March, expatriates sent a staggering USD 3.75bn.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/remittance-crosses-2b-in-first-19-days-of-april>

### Trade and Commerce

#### Bangladesh trade deficit with India hits USD 7.86bn: Minister

April 21, 2026

- Industries Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir informed parliament on 20<sup>th</sup> April that Bangladesh witnessed its highest trade imbalance with India among Saarc member countries, with the gap reaching USD 7.86bn in the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- The minister said Bangladesh has also trade deficits with Afghanistan, Bhutan and Pakistan, but it enjoys trade surpluses with Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, among the Saarc countries.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-trade-deficit-india-hits-786-billion-minister-1416926>

#### ICDs announce increase in container handling charges by 8.5pc

April 21, 2026

- The owners of 21 private inland container depots (ICDs) have announced an 8.5pc increase in various container handling charges, effective from April 19.
- Operators of lighter vessels transporting imported cargoes from Chattogram port's outer anchorage to different destinations on inland water routes will meet with government authorities on April 22 to discuss freight adjustments.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/icds-announce-increase-container-handling-charges-85-4156206>

#### Chinese economic zone project in Ctg moves ahead after years of delay

April 21, 2026

- The long-delayed Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone in Chattogram's Anwara is expected to enter the implementation stage by June, with the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) hoping to finalize a developer agreement after key negotiations with the Chinese side enter their final phase.
- Beza Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun told yesterday, "We expect to sign the land developer agreement with China

Road and Bridge Corporation by June." Officials involved in the project said several important agreements and understandings are nearing completion, allowing work on the project's core infrastructure to begin

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/chinese-economic-zone-project-ctg-moves-ahead-after-years-delay-1416036>

### MGH Group to build first-ever private container terminal at Chattogram port

April 21, 2026

- A Bangladeshi multinational company, MGH Group, is going to construct the country's first privately built container terminal at Chattogram port on the bank of the Karnaphuli River in Patenga.
- Through a competitive bidding process, Transmarine Logistics, a subsidiary of MGH Group, secured the lease of a seven-acre plot of the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) to build the terminal, said a press release issued by MGH

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mgh-group-build-first-ever-private-container-terminal-chattogram-port-4156241>

### Capital Market

#### BD Lamps sees strong Q3 as profit soars 142pc

April 21, 2026

- Bangladesh Lamps, widely known as BD Lamps, reported a sharp 142pc year-on-year growth in profit to BDT 2.73mn (USD 0.02mn) for the January-March quarter of FY26, driven by higher sales and improved cost efficiency.
- The electric and energy-saving bulb manufacturer secured earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 0.26 (USD 0.002) in Q3 of FY26, compared to BDT 0.11 (USD 0.0009) in the corresponding quarter last year, according to a stock exchange filing on Sunday.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bd-lamps-sees-strong-q3-as-profit-soars-142pc>

#### Fuel price surge may hit some firms harder than others

April 21, 2026

- A steep increase in fuel prices has sent fresh shockwaves across the country's corporate sector and capital market, raising concerns over profitability, inflation, and overall economic momentum. The government on Saturday raised fuel prices to record highs, increasing diesel by BDT 15 (USD 0.123) per litre, octane by BDT 20, (USD 0.16) petrol by BDT 19 (USD 0.156), and kerosene by BDT 18 (USD 0.15).

- The latest adjustment is expected to push up production, transportation, and distribution costs across industries, potentially eroding corporate profitability in the upcoming quarters unless companies pass on the increased cost burden to consumers

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/fuel-price-surge-may-hit-some-firms-harder-than-others>

### Unilever Consumer Care revenue drops by 8pc in Jan-Mar

April 21, 2026

- According to the financial statement for the January-March period of 2026, the health drinks like Horlicks producer posted a revenue of BDT 874.4mn (USD 7.2mn), which was BDT 954.0mn (USD 7.8mn) during the same quarter a year ago. Following the revenue decline, its net profit also dropped by 12pc year-on-year to BDT 121.1mn (USD 0.99mn) in the first quarter.
- At the end of March, its earnings per share stood at BDT 6.29 (USD 0.05), which was BDT 7.13 (USD 0.06) a year ago.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/unilever-consumer-care-revenue-drops-8-jan-mar-1416981>

### Energy and Power

#### Govt eases rules on industrial gas distribution to cut costs, boost efficiency

April 21, 2026

- According to the circular, industrial units will be allowed to rearrange or replace gas equipment while keeping the approved hourly load unchanged. The commissioning work must be carried out by a contractor enlisted with the relevant gas company, but prior permission from the gas distribution company will no longer be required.
- The circular also allows the transfer of unused gas load between industrial units located within the same premises and under the same ownership, subject to approval from the managing director or regional head of the respective gas distribution company. Previously, such transfers required approval from the head office board, often resulting in lengthy delays.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/govt-eases-rules-industrial-gas-distribution-cut-costs-boost-efficiency-1416571>

### Two ships unload fuel at Ctg port, three more enter Bangladesh waters

April 21, 2026

- Two ships have begun unloading diesel at the Dolphin Jetty of the Chattogram Port, while two more ships carrying diesel and one carrying octane have entered the country's waters on Monday.
- The two ships—MT Oaktree and MT Cape Bonnie - were carrying 35,000 and 33,000 tonnes of diesel respectively.
- The ships entered the Bangladesh waters include 'MT Lian Song Hu' carrying about 41,000 tonnes of diesel, 'MT Pacific Indigo' carrying about 33,000 tonnes of diesel and 'MT Nave Cielo' carrying about 27,000 tonnes of octane.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/two-ships-unload-fuel-at-ctg-port-three-more-enter-bangladesh-waters>

### Farmers in distress as diesel price hike drives up costs

April 21, 2026

- The recent diesel price hike has made service providers increase charges for harvesting the largest rice crop, Boro, as well as for irrigating farmlands, and threshing maize - leaving farmers struggling to cope.
- Costs soared because of a 15pc hike in the price of diesel, a key fuel used by nearly 1.5mn shallow tube well pumps to water the Boro fields.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/farmers-distress-diesel-price-hike-drives-costs-4156316>

### International

### Dollar pushes to one-week high as Middle East tensions reignite

April 21, 2026

- The U.S. dollar firmed to its highest level in a week against major currencies on Monday before paring gains as renewed U.S.-Iran tensions and fading hopes for a Middle East peace deal sent investors toward safe havens.
- The United States said on Sunday that it had seized an Iranian cargo ship that tried to run its blockade, while Iran said it would retaliate, stoking fears about a resumption of hostilities. Tehran also said it would not participate in a second round of negotiations that the U.S. had hoped to kick off before its two-week ceasefire with Iran expires on Tuesday.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dollar-pushes-one-week-high-middle-east-tensions-reignite-4155846>

### Gold prices fall

April 21, 2026

- Gold prices fell on Monday as the dollar firmed, while news that the Strait of Hormuz is closed again pushed oil prices higher, reviving inflation fears.
- Spot gold was down 0.7pc at USD 4,792.89 per ounce, as of 0730 GMT, after hitting its lowest since April 13 earlier in the session.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/gold-prices-fall-4156366>

### Oil prices bounce back on Iran war escalation

April 21, 2026

- Oil prices jumped and stock futures fell on Monday as rising tensions in the Middle East kept shipping in and out of the Gulf to a minimum, though traders held out hope for a resolution and Asia's equity markets breezed toward record highs.
- Brent crude futures LCOc1 rose about 6pc to USD 95.36 a barrel. S&P 500 futures ESC1 fell around 0.6pc and European futures STXEc1 fell 1.2pc. But equity benchmarks in Seoul, Taipei and Tokyo shrugged off risks to advance, with Taiwan's shares touching a record high and the other two not far behind.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/oil-prices-bounce-back-iran-war-escalation-4155831>

### US tariff refund system launches as thousands of companies file claims

April 21, 2026

- The refund system set up to allow companies to recover illegally collected tariffs from the US government went live yesterday (20 April) as thousands of companies rushed to file claims.
- Companies contacted by Reuters in recent days expressed concerns about the durability of the new system, created by US Customs and Border Protection in response to a court order that it prepare to return up to USD 166bn to importers.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/tariff-refund-system-launches-thousands-companies-file-claims-1416931>

### US trade bodies urge USTR not to impose new tariffs

April 21, 2026

- The American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA), along with several other organizations, has urged the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the US government's chief trade body, not to impose any new tariffs on countries currently under investigation over production capacity.

- In a letter sent to the USTR on April 15, the AAFA warned that additional tariffs on supplying countries could raise costs for American consumers.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-trade-bodies-urge-ustr-not-impose-new-tariffs-4156421>

### **Bulgaria's Kremlin-friendly ex-president wins election in landslide**

April 21, 2026

- Pro-Russian former President Rumen Radev has won Bulgaria's parliamentary election by a landslide, official results showed today (20 April), crushing long-dominant political forces and possibly pushing the EU and NATO member state closer to Moscow.
- The performance, exceeding opinion poll forecasts, is one of the strongest results for a single party in a generation and may end, for now, the chronic instability that led to eight elections in five years

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/bulgarias-kremlin-friendly-ex-president-wins-election-landslide-1416651>

### **Pakistan places USD 1.5bn Sudan weapons sale on hold after Saudi objection, sources say**

April 21, 2026

- Pakistan has put a USD 1.5bn deal to supply weapons and jets to Sudan on hold after Saudi Arabia asked for the agreement to be terminated and said it would not finance the purchase, two Pakistani security sources and a diplomatic source said.
- The conflict between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces has stoked the world's worst humanitarian crisis for around three years, turning into a flashpoint for competing foreign interests and threatening to break up the Red Sea country, a major gold producer

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/pakistan-places-15-billion-sudan-weapons-sale-hold-after-saudi-objection-sources-say-1416641>

### **India pushes for regional energy hub in Sri Lanka**

April 21, 2026

- Indian officials called for the swift implementation of a proposed regional energy hub in Sri Lanka, at the start of bilateral talks in Colombo on Sunday.
- The planned oil hub in the northeastern port of Trincomalee featured in a meeting with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, India's visiting Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told reporters.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/india-pushes-regional-energy-hub-sri-lanka-4156391>

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