

### Economy

#### **ADB slashes Bangladesh's economic growth outlook for third time**

April 12, 2026

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has cut Bangladesh's economic growth further to 4pc for the current fiscal year 2025–26 from its previous projection of 4.7pc amid a fuel price spike and disruption in global supply chains due to the war in the Middle East.
- The ADB said the economy might pick up and grow by 4.7pc in the next fiscal year 2026–27, according to the latest Asian Development Outlook (ADO) April 2026.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adb-slashes-bangladeshs-economic-growth-outlook-third-time-4148246>

#### **NBR seeks US treasury dept's co-operation**

April 12, 2026

- Bangladesh has sought the US Department of the Treasury's assistance to strengthen the National Board of Revenue's (NBR) capacity in the areas of tax- policy analysis, digital forensic-data analysis, and taxing digital economy, sources say.
- Also, assistance was sought to obtain techniques of risk-based audit selection, digital transformation of tax operation and administration, techniques of treaty negotiation, and understanding Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) framework.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/nbr-seeks-us-treasury-depts-co-operation>

#### **Pre-shipment credit refinance scheme extended until 2030: BB**

April 12, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has extended the tenure of its pre-shipment credit refinance scheme until December 31, 2030, aiming to ensure continued financing support for export-oriented industries amid persistent global economic uncertainty.
- The central bank, through a circular, said the refinancing facility—originally scheduled to expire in April 2025—will now remain available for another five years under a revolving arrangement.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/pre-shipment-credit-refinance-scheme-extended-until-2030-bb-4147641>

### Banking

#### **Parliament removes age limit for Bangladesh Bank governor**

April 12, 2026

- In a significant policy shift, parliament has passed a bill removing the 67-year age limit for the Bangladesh Bank governor.
- The amendment to the Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972, was tabled by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury on Friday during a sitting chaired by Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal.

From:

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/parliament-scraps-age-cap-for-bb-governor>

#### **Law change paves way for former owners to reclaim distressed banks**

April 12, 2026

- An amendment to the Bank Resolution Ordinance has created a legal pathway for former owners to reclaim control of distressed banks currently under resolution. The amendment specifically impacts the ongoing merger of five distressed institutions – First Security Islamic Bank, Social Islamic Bank, Union Bank, Global Islamic Bank, and Exim Bank – which were being consolidated into Sammilito Islami Bank under the previous interim government's reforms.
- Under the new provision passed in the parliament on Friday, former owners can apply to the Bangladesh Bank to reacquire their shares, assets, and liabilities, potentially leading to the dissolution of the newly merged entity.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/law-change-paves-way-former-owners-reclaim-distressed-banks-1409111>

#### **Islamic banking grows steadily amid quarterly slowdown**

April 12, 2026

- Deposits and investments in the Islamic banking system saw steady year-on-year growth at the end of 2025, although quarterly trends point to a moderation in momentum amid broader economic pressures. Deposits rose modestly in the final quarter of 2025, while export earnings declined and employment dropped, reflecting a mixed performance across key indicators.
- According to the latest Bangladesh Bank (BB) data, total deposits at Islamic banks stood at BDT 4.81tn (USD 39.4bn) at the end of December 2025, marking an increase of BDT 108.76bn (USD 891mn) (2.31pc) from BDT 4.70tn (USD 38.5bn) recorded at the end of September. On a year-on-

year basis, deposits grew by BDT 414.34bn (USD 3.3bn) (9.42pc). Total deposits in the Islamic banking system were BDT 4.40tn (USD 36.1bn) at the end of December 2024.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/islamic-banking-grows-steadily-amid-quarterly-slowdown>

## Corporate

### Commercial Bank of Ceylon plans Shariah banking rollout in Bangladesh

April 12, 2026

- Commercial Bank of Ceylon, a Colombo-based regional bank, plans to introduce Shariah-compliant banking in Bangladesh, leveraging its reputation for stability and governance to support the broader development of the country's financial sector.
- The latest move follows the recent launch of priority banking in Dhaka, said Najith Meewanage, chief executive officer (CEO) of the bank's Bangladesh operations.

From:

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/commercial-bank-of-ceylon-plans-shariah-banking-rollout-in-bangladesh>

### AB Bank pivots to SMEs amid recovery push

April 12, 2026

- AB Bank has made a decisive strategic shift toward micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), moving away from its earlier concentration in large corporate lending, said Reazul Islam, acting managing director and CEO.
- The move by the oldest private commercial bank of the country is a recalibration amid a weak economic environment marked by subdued private sector demand and geopolitical uncertainties.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ab-bank-pivots-smes-amid-recovery-push-4149331>

## Capital Market

### BSEC orders probe into Constellation Asset Management

April 12, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has ordered an investigation into Constellation Asset Management Company Limited over its prior decision to cancel the company's registration.
- According to the order, the investigation will look into the latest status of receivables and payables with clients, gather detailed information about the company's assets and liabilities, and identify any

issues of non-compliance with securities rules and regulations.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bsec-orders-probe-into-constellation-asset-management>

### Foreign investor Brummer to offload more Runner shares

April 12, 2026

- Mauritius-based Brummer Frontier PE II has announced its plan to further withdraw its investment in Runner Automobiles by selling 5 million shares of the company in the secondary market.
- The move is part of Brummer's exit strategy set out in 2013 when it made the investment and follows the sale of 10 million shares in 2022.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/foreign-investor-brummer-to-offload-more-runner-shares>

### Linde cuts cash dividends to 100pc after 9pc profit drop

April 12, 2026

- Linde Bangladesh has declared a 100pc cash dividend for the year 2025, marking its lowest payout since listing, as profit declined in a challenging business environment, according to a price-sensitive disclosure.
- The drastic decline in dividends from the 4,500pc paid for the previous year followed around a 9pc year-on-year decline in profit to BDT 344mn (USD 2.8mn) in 2025.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/linde-cuts-cash-dividends-to-100pc-after-9pc-profit-drop>

### City Bank logged record BDT 13.24bn (USD 108.5mn) profit in 2025

April 12, 2026

- City Bank PLC reported its highest-ever profit of BDT 13.24bn (USD 108.5mn) in 2025, posting a 31pc year-on-year growth despite a challenging economic environment. The bank had earned BDT 10.14bn (USD 83.1mn) in the previous year.
- The strong performance was driven by robust income growth, disciplined cost management and prudent risk practices.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/city-bank-logged-record-tk-1324cr-profit-2025-4149336>

### Trade and Commerce

#### Labour law amendment to deprive many employees of protections: Experts

April 12, 2026

- The Labour (Amendment) Bill 2026, passed in the parliament on Thursday, has removed provisions that had brought officials and employees under the definition of workers, raising concerns that many will now be excluded from benefits such as gratuity, provident fund and other service entitlements.
- The bill was passed in parliament by voice vote after being placed by State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Md Nurul Haque on behalf of Labour and Employment Minister Ariful Haque Chowdhury.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/labour-law-amendment-deprive-many-employees-protections-experts-1409086>

#### Mideast war drives surge in imported essential commodity prices

April 12, 2026

- The ongoing war in the Middle East, coupled with a deepening energy crisis, has pushed the prices of import-dependent daily essentials sharply upward at wholesale markets across Bangladesh as international supply chains face mounting pressure.
- Key wholesale markets, including Khatunganj in Chattogram and Moulvibazar in Dhaka, are feeling the heat.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/mideast-war-drives-surge-imported-essential-commodity-prices-1408316>

#### Price of staples soars as oil crisis disrupts supply to Dhaka markets

April 12, 2026

- Vegetable and fish prices have surged in Dhaka's kitchen markets over the past week, with traders citing increased transport costs triggered by rain and a fuel crisis as reasons behind the hike.
- A visit to several kitchen markets, including Rayerbagh, Shonir Akhra, Kaptan Bazar, Shantinagar, and Segunbagicha on Friday revealed a sharp rise in the cost of most essential kitchen items.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/price-of-staples-soars-as-oil-crisis-disrupts-supply-to-dhaka-markets>

#### Fertilizer, irrigation challenges may shrink Boro rice output: USDA

April 12, 2026

- Bangladesh may harvest a lower quantity of rice from the current Boro season as farmers have faced difficulties in ensuring adequate irrigation and fertilizer application, due to shortages of key production inputs, according to a projection by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- Growers may bag 20.2mn tons of Boro rice this season in the marketing year (MY) 2026-27, down 1.4pc year-on-year, even though overall acreage has not declined.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/fertiliser-irrigation-challenges-may-shrink-boro-rice-output-usda-4149141>

#### Third round of CEPA talks with S Korea begins

April 12, 2026

- Bangladesh is hopeful of signing a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with South Korea within the year as the two sides are set to hold the third round of negotiations in Seoul today.
- A delegation of the commerce ministry has left the country to join the negotiation with the South Korean side.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/third-round-cepa-talks-s-korea-begins-today-4149286>

#### USTR hearing on Bangladesh set for Apr 29

April 12, 2026

- The hearing on the United States Trade Representative's (USTR) twin investigations into alleged overcapacity in various sectors and forced labour in Bangladesh is scheduled for April 29, as the country prepares for it.
- Last month, the USTR launched investigations under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 into Bangladesh and several other economies. The probe is examining whether trade policies and production practices contribute to global overcapacity that could harm US manufacturing, as part of Washington's efforts to reshore supply chains and boost American jobs.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ustr-hearing-bangladesh-set-apr-29-4149291>

### **ADB to provide USD 115.8m to improve urban services in Narayanganj**

April 12, 2026

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 115.8mn loan for the Narayanganj Green and Resilient Urban Development Project to upgrade drinking water supply, modernize drainage systems, and expand green public spaces in Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC).
- The initiative is expected to benefit at least 400,000 residents and support the government's efforts to ease congestion in Dhaka by reinforcing governance in a major urban growth centre, the Manila-based lender said in a statement yesterday.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adb-provide-1158m-improve-urban-services-narayanganj-4148991>

### **International**

#### **Dollar set for biggest weekly drop since Jan**

April 12, 2026

- The dollar slipped on Friday, putting it on track for its largest weekly drop since January, as investors sold safe-haven assets on the assumption that oil shipping will resume if a ceasefire holds in the Gulf.
- The dollar had towered in March as one of the few bastions of safety as the Iran war sent oil prices surging and hit stocks and gold, while inflation worries pressured bonds.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/dollar-set-biggest-weekly-drop-jan-4149306>

#### **US inflation surges to 3.3pc as Iran war impact bites**

April 12, 2026

- Inflation in the United States rose sharply in March, government data showed Friday, as higher energy prices due to the war in the Middle East hit Americans hard.
- The nationwide sticker shock put pressure on President Donald Trump, who has ordered peace talks with Iran and faces mid-term elections in November.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-inflation-surges-33-iran-war-impact-bites-4148856>

#### **Asia boosts US LPG imports to replace Middle East supply**

April 12, 2026

- Asia's biggest liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) importers, including India and China, are racing to

replace disrupted Middle East supplies with cargoes from the Americas, driving spot premiums to record highs, analysts and traders said.

- LPG exports from the Middle East, Asia's top supplier of the fuel used for cooking and feedstock for petrochemical plants, have plunged since the US-Israeli war with Iran started in late February

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/asia-boosts-us-lpg-imports-replace-middle-east-supply-4149316>

#### **ADB predicts slowing Asia growth as Middle East war takes toll**

April 12, 2026

- That prediction could prove optimistic, however, if new evidence suggesting a "more prolonged conflict and more persistent disruptions" bears out, it said.
- Growth predictions could fall to as low as 4.7pc for 2026 and 4.8pc for 2027 should the US-Israeli war with Iran drag into the third quarter.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/adb-predicts-slowing-asia-growth-middle-east-war-takes-toll-1407791>

#### **Tankers exit Gulf via Strait of Hormuz as US-Iran talks begin**

April 12, 2026

- Tehran's blockade of the strait, a chokepoint for about 20% of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments, since the start of the Iran war at the end of February has disrupted global energy supplies and sent oil prices soaring.
- The Liberia-flagged Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) Serifos and China-flagged VLCCs Cospearl Lake and He Rong Hai, entered and exited the "Hormuz Passage trial anchorage" that bypasses Iran's Larak Island on Saturday, LSEG data showed

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/tankers-exit-gulf-strait-hormuz-us-iran-talks-begin-1408956>

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