

Economy

NSC sales stay in the red despite slowing outflows

April 20, 2026

- Investment in National Savings Certificates (NSCs) continues to remain under pressure, with persistent net withdrawals reflecting weakening investor appetite despite brief signs of recovery.
- Net sales of savings certificates remained on a negative trajectory in early 2026, indicating continued outflows from the instrument.
- Net sales during July-February FY25 recorded a deficit of BDT 87.71bn (USD 718.9mn), which narrowed sharply to BDT 5.55bn (USD 45.5mn) in FY26. This suggests that outflows have slowed, even though the instruments have not yet returned to positive growth.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/nsc-sales-stay-in-the-red-despite-slowing-outflows>

16.2pc growth of remittance inflow till April 18

April 20, 2026

- Inflow of remittances witnessed a year-on-year growth of 16.2pc reaching USD 1,968mn in the first 18 days of April, according to the latest data of Bangladesh Bank (BB) issued on Sunday. Last year, during the same period, the country's remittance inflow was USD 1,694mn, BSS reports.
- During the July to April 18, 2026 of the current fiscal year, expatriates sent remittances of USD 28,177mn, which was USD 23,479mn during the same period of the previous fiscal year.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/162pc-growth-of-remittance-inflow-till-april-18>

BanglaBiz to become single investment portal after 2030: Bida

April 20, 2026

- All investment-related services in Bangladesh will be brought under a single digital platform called BanglaBiz after 2030, a senior Bida official said yesterday at a memorandum of understanding signing ceremony with five private banks at Bida Bhaban.
- Bida, in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), also unveiled new features of BanglaBiz. The first version was launched on 28 September 2025 as an information portal linking OSS systems of Bida, Beza, Bepza, BHTPA and BSCIC. Bida said its OSS platform currently offers 142 services and is integrated with 47 agencies. So far, more than 215,000 applications have been processed.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banglabiz-become-single-investment-portal-after-2030-bida-1415926>

Energy and Power

Govt increases fuel supply from today as chaos lingers on

April 20, 2026

- A day after hiking fuel prices, the government has announced a 10-20pc increase in diesel, octane and petrol supplies from today to ease the shortages that kept motorists waiting in long queues for hours in Dhaka and elsewhere as of yesterday.
- In a notification last night, the Energy Division said the distribution companies under the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) will sell 13,048 tonnes of diesel, 1,422 tonnes of octane and 1,511 tonnes of petrol per day from 20 April. This marks a 10pc increase for diesel and petrol, and 20pc for octane.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/govt-increases-fuel-supply-10-20-tomorrow-ease-shortage-1415966>

Bangladesh begins deep drilling at Titas to add 15mmcf gas to national grid

April 20, 2026

- Drilling has commenced for the country's first deep exploration well at the Titas Gas Field in Brahmanbaria, a move expected to add 15 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf) to the national grid.
- AKM Mizanur Rahman, director (finance) of Petrobangla, inaugurated the drilling operations at the Budhal area in Brahmanbaria Sadar Upazila on Sunday afternoon.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bangladesh-begins-deep-drilling-at-titas-to-add-15mmcf-gas-to-national-grid>

Ammonia shortage halts Chattogram DAP plant operations

April 20, 2026

- An acute shortage of ammonia has closed down production at the state-owned DAP Fertilizer Company Limited (DAPFCL).
- The ammonia needed for production at the factory is primarily sourced from Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Company Limited (CUFL) and Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO).
- These two fertilizer factories were among the five shut down in early March, as a precaution amid fears of gas supply disruptions caused by the widening war in the Middle East and Iran's closure

of the Hormuz Strait, a key global energy route. They are yet to resume operations, and ammonia supply to the DAP facility remains cut off.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ammonia-shortage-halts-chattogram-dap-plant-operations-4155216>

Telecom

Telcos warn of nationwide disruption amid energy crisis

April 20, 2026

- Bangladesh's mobile operators have warned of an imminent nationwide telecom disruption as a deepening electricity and fuel crisis pushes networks to the brink, raising serious concerns over the vulnerability of data centres and the wider digital economy.
- In an urgent letter to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, they said the situation has "reached a point where continued telecom operations can no longer be sustained without immediate government intervention."

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/telcos-warn-nationwide-disruption-amid-energy-crisis-4155551>

Trade and Commerce

MCCI seeks turnover tax cut to 0.3pc to ease business burden

April 20, 2026

- The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) today urged the government to cut turnover tax on gross receipts to 0.3pc from 1.0pc, saying the existing regime burdens businesses and distorts the tax framework.
- The chamber pointed to mismatches between tax deducted at source (TDS), taxes on gross receipts and final corporate tax liabilities, which it said raise compliance costs, strain cash flow and risk double taxation.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mcci-seeks-turnover-tax-cut-03-percent-ease-business-burden-4155156>

Food, transport, trade costs set to spike

April 20, 2026

- Food production, trade and transportation costs may increase further on fuel-price hike by BDT 15-20 (USD 0.12-0.16) per litre in Bangladesh amid an exigent global crunch.
- Bangladesh uses about 4.35mn tonnes of diesel annually, and around 24pc of it is used in agriculture. About 80pc of irrigation depends on this fuel oil. It is also needed for land preparation, harvesting, threshing, and transporting crops.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/food-transport-trade-costs-set-to-spike>

International

World Bank launches new strategy to help small states tackle challenges

April 20, 2026

- The World Bank on Friday unveiled a new strategy aimed at helping small island states and other small countries better address unique challenges such as remoteness, exposure to shocks and a narrow economic base by focusing firmly on jobs.
- World Bank President Ajay Banga discussed the initiative at a closed-door gathering of ministers and central bank governors from 50 small countries held during the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.
- It will focus on areas such as health, affordable energy, resilient infrastructure and micro- and small businesses where Bank officials see the greatest opportunities to boost growth, strengthen businesses, and create more and better jobs.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/world-bank-launches-new-strategy-help-small-states-tackle-challenges-1415176>

Allies fear a rushed US-Iran framework deal could backfire, leaving technical deadlock

April 20, 2026

- European allies fear an inexperienced US negotiating team is pushing for a swift, headline-grabbing framework deal with Iran that could entrench rather than resolve deeper problems, diplomats with past experience dealing with Tehran said.
- They worry Washington, eager to claim a diplomatic win for President Donald Trump, could lock in a superficial agreement on Iran's nuclear program and sanctions relief, then struggle through months or years of technically complex follow-on talks.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/allies-fear-rushed-us-iran-framework-deal-could-backfire-leaving-technical-deadlock-1415626>

IMF, World Bank meetings show limits in mitigating shocks, reliance on US for solutions

April 20, 2026

- Global finance leaders, whipsawed by Middle East war news, came to grips this past week with their inability to mitigate the economic damage from increasingly frequent geopolitical shocks, and a realization that counting on US leadership to

resolve crises is no longer the guarantee it had long been.

- At International Monetary Fund and World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington, participants swung from gloom over a worsening global economic outlook due to deepening energy price and supply shocks to tentative optimism as it appeared Iran may reopen the Strait of Hormuz and allow flows of oil, gas, fertilizer and other commodities to resume.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/imf-world-bank-meetings-show-limits-mitigating-shocks-reliance-us-solutions-1415581>

Political change in Hungary collides with entrenched energy realities

April 20, 2026

- Peter Magyar's centre-right Tisza party won a landslide victory in Hungary's April 2026 parliamentary election, ending 16 years of rule by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, according to official results, says Al Jazeera
- Magyar campaigned on a platform of realigning Hungary more closely with the European Union and reducing its reliance on Russian energy, which he described in his election manifesto as a "systemic risk." He has also acknowledged the structural constraints facing Hungary's energy policy, saying: "The geographical position of neither Russia nor Hungary will change."

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/worldbiz/europe/political-change-hungary-collides-entrenched-energy-realities-1415136>

Dollar falls to multi-week lows

April 20, 2026

- The safe-haven US dollar dropped to multi-week lows on Friday as risk appetite soared after Iran said the Strait of Hormuz is open, boosting optimism that the Middle East conflict is winding down.
- In afternoon trading, the dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.3pc to 97.96 after earlier dropping to 97.632, its lowest in seven weeks. The index was down 0.6pc on the week, set for a second straight weekly decline.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/dollar-falls-multi-week-lows-4155521>

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