

Economy

Forex reserves dip below USD 30bn after ACU payment

May 11, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank spokesperson and Executive Director Arief Hossain Khan on 10 May said that the country's reserves stood at USD 29.48bn under the BPM-6 calculation method.
- According to BPM-6, the central bank's reserves now stand at USD 29.48bn, down from USD 30.96bn reported on 7 April.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/forex-reserves-dip-below-30b-after-acu-payment-1435306>

Negotiation on comprehensive co-op deal with UAE begins tomorrow

May 11, 2026

- Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are opening negotiations on a major economic-cooperation deal for expanding bilateral trade and investment, as Dhaka ramps up the country's forthcoming LDC-graduation preparation.
- A 20-member high-powered Bangladesh delegation is set to leave for Abu Dhabi on Sunday to participate in the first round of negotiations on the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the wealthy Gulf Arab country.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/negotiation-on-comprehensive-co-op-deal-with-uae-begins-tomorrow>

Bangladesh moves to sign FTA with S Korea

May 11, 2026

- Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir on Saturday said Bangladesh is moving forward with discussions to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with South Korea to boost exports and strengthen bilateral trade ties.
- "The proposed FTA would open up new opportunities for Bangladesh's export sector and help local products become more competitive in global markets," he said while addressing a discussion after visiting the country's first beet sugar mill at Ramganj Bilashi Char in Debiganj upazila of Panchagarh

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-moves-to-sign-fta-with-s-korea>

Japanese EZ shows early promise as investment flows in

May 11, 2026

- The Bangladesh Special Economic Zone is showing promise as a manufacturing hub, with swift land handover and private-sector efficiency drawing investments into the zone, according to the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza)
- Three companies currently in operation are driving initial industrial activity at the zone, widely known as the Japanese economic zone, with combined investments exceeding USD 97mn and generating thousands of jobs, said the authority

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/japanese-ez-shows-early-promise-investment-flows-4172526>

Bangladesh fails to capture China's lost US apparel market share despite tariff shifts

May 11, 2026

- Data released by the Office of Textiles and Apparel show that US apparel imports fell nearly 12pc year-on-year during the January-March period of 2026 following the imposition of reciprocal tariffs from mid-2025.
- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the US market declined 8.38pc during the three months compared with the same period a year earlier.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-fails-capture-chinas-lost-us-apparel-market-share-despite-tariff-shifts-1435506>

Banking

War puts forex market under strain: BB

May 11, 2026

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange market came under mild pressure in March as heightened global uncertainty stemming from the Middle East war situation pushed up exchange-rate volatility and interbank dollar transactions, according to a monthly report by the central bank
- The interbank exchange rate rose to BDT 122.75 per dollar at the end of March from BDT 122.30 per dollar at the end of February 2026, reflecting marginal depreciation.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/war-puts-forex-market-under-strain-bb-4172521>

Home loan demand remains strong despite rising costs

May 11, 2026

- Bangladesh's home loan sector is showing cautious resilience despite rising construction costs and soaring property prices that are squeezing middle-income homebuyers amid

persistent inflationary pressures, according to Md Mahiul Islam, deputy managing director (DMD) of BRAC Bank.

- Despite these challenges, the sector's underlying fundamentals remain strong, as a decade of rapid urbanization and industrial growth continues to fuel housing demand beyond short-term economic fluctuations.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/home-loan-demand-remains-strong-despite-rising-costs>

Energy and Power

Govt to buy three more spot LNG cargoes by mid-June

May 11, 2026

- The government is set to purchase three more liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes from the spot market by mid-June
- State-run Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL) floated tenders to purchase three more LNG cargoes from the spot market by mid-June for delivery over June 8-9, June 9-10, and June 14-15 windows amid the persistent Middle East crisis and Strait of Hormuz disruptions

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-to-buy-three-more-spot-lng-cargoes-by-mid-june>

Corporate

Shipping Corp profit falls over 15pc after ship purchase with FDR savings

May 11, 2026

- Bangladesh Shipping Corporation posted a 15.61pc year-on-year decline in profit to BDT 637.60mn (USD 5.23mn) in Q3 of FY26 as interest income fell following the use of savings from fixed deposits to acquire new ships
- Earnings per share slid to BDT 4.08 (USD 0.03) in the January-March quarter from BDT 4.95 (USD 0.04) in the same quarter a year earlier.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/shipping-corp-profit-falls-over-15pc-after-ship-purchase-with-fdr-savings>

Capital Market

Pressure grows on BSEC to allow loan clearance with IPO proceeds

May 11, 2026

- The securities regulator has come under intensifying pressure to lift the limit on using IPO (initial public offering) proceeds for bank loan repayments.
- Amid liquidity stress in banks due to a high volume of bad loans and the repayment burden on businesses caused by high interest rates,

entrepreneurs and top bank officials at a meeting with the regulator last month insisted that restrictions on using IPO proceeds to repay loans and rescheduled loans be withdrawn

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/pressure-grows-on-bsec-to-allow-loan-clearance-with-ipo-proceeds>

Telecom

Broadband sector set for major overhaul

May 11, 2026

- Bangladesh is preparing a massive overhaul of the broadband internet sector in decades, as the government moves to dismantle a complex licensing regime, introduce a reseller model and attract foreign investment.
- In this regard, top government officials have been holding a series of meetings with the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) on broadband reform guidelines prepared under the interim government, according to half a dozen people involved in the process

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/broadband-sector-set-major-overhaul-4172536>

International

Sri Lanka to hike power tariff amid energy crisis

May 11, 2026

- Sri Lanka will increase electricity rates by up to 18pc from Monday to offset the additional costs of generating power using thermal plants due to the Middle East war, the Public Utilities Commission said
- Consumers using more than 180 units (kilowatt hours) of electricity a month will have to pay an additional 18pc from Monday, while those using less than that will not see their bills affected

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/sri-lanka-hike-power-tariff-amid-energy-crisis-4172491>

Asean eyes oil reserve, shared grid

May 11, 2026

- Southeast Asian nations hit by soaring fuel and food prices caused by the Middle East war are weighing solutions that include setting up a regional oil reserve, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said on Friday
- Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) called for the opening of the Strait of Hormuz, while also debating a series of ambitious projects aimed at stemming the effects of the next global crisis

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/asean-eyes-oil-reserve-shared-grid-4172486>

EU opens door to using US jet fuel as shortages loom

May 11, 2026

- How big is the jet fuel threat to Europe's summer holidays? The EU says it is not facing shortages yet, but it is readying for the worst -- and weighing options including using US kerosene as a back-up
- The US-Israeli war with Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz have sent aviation fuel prices soaring and raised the spectre of shortages during Europe's peak travel season

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/eu-opens-door-using-us-jet-fuel-shortages-loom-4172506>

Pakistan eyes Chinese capital markets with panda bond

May 11, 2026

- Pakistan is expected to access Chinese capital markets for the first time through a yuan-denominated bond next week, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Saturday
- "God willing, next week you will hear good news that for the first time, we will be accessing Chinese capital markets through Panda bond," he said at a press conference

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/pakistan-eyes-chinese-capital-markets-panda-bond-4171946>

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