

Economy

War threatens Bangladesh remittance inflows: ADB

March 29, 2026

- Bangladesh and other South Asian countries could face lower remittances from the Middle East as the ongoing conflict in the region weakens labor demand and squeezes migrant worker incomes, according to new research by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The report, released yesterday, estimates that the conflict could lower economic growth in developing Asia and the Pacific by up to 1.3 percentage points over 2026-2027 and push inflation up by 3.2 percentage points if energy market disruptions persist beyond a year.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/war-threatens-bangladesh-remittance-inflows-adb-4136366>

Revenue collection surges 12pc in 8 months

March 29, 2026

- Revenue collection has rebounded sharply from the slump seen during the interim government's final months, registering a 12pc growth in the first eight months of the ongoing fiscal year.
- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) released the latest data on Wednesday, showing total revenue collection of BDT 2.54tn (USD 20.69bn) in July–February, compared with BDT 2.26tn (USD 18.41bn) in the same period last year.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/revenue-collection-surges-12pc-in-8-months>

National foreign debt rises by USD 1.30b in last quarter of 2025

March 29, 2026

- The central bank published the latest foreign debt report today (25 March), showing a rise in borrowing during the period.
- At the end of the July–September quarter of the same year, foreign debt stood at over USD 112bn.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/national-foreign-debt-rises-130b-year-end-1393576>

Banking

BB relaxes borrower exposure limit for LPG imports

March 29, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has relaxed the single borrower exposure limit for LPG imports to mitigate domestic shortages caused by the Iran war, ensuring an uninterrupted energy supply across the country.

- To this end, a circular was issued today and sent to all banks. According to the circular, if the single borrower exposure limit exceeds 25pc, banks will be allowed to extend additional loans subject to approval from the Bangladesh Bank. However, the central bank will determine the specific lending limit for any particular institution.

From: <https://observerbd.com/news/570549>

Trade and Commerce

Bangladesh can now export potatoes to Vietnam

March 29, 2026

- Vietnam has opened its market to potato imports from Bangladesh, creating new opportunities for local exporters and farmers.
- According to the Bangladesh embassy in Vietnam, the country's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment approved Bangladesh's eligibility to export potatoes on Friday.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-can-now-export-potatoes-vietnam-4137521>

Bangladesh seeks EU support for LDC graduation deferment

March 29, 2026

- Bangladesh today sought the European Union's (EU) support for deferring its graduation from the group of least developed countries (LDCs).
- Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir raised the issue at a bilateral meeting with Maros Sefcovic, EU Trade Commissioner, on the sidelines of the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference in Yaounde, Cameroon.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-seeks-eu-support-ldc-graduation-deferment-4137721>

Gold prices rise by BDT 2,157 (USD 17.57) per bhoiri after seven straight cuts

March 29, 2026

- The Bangladesh Jewellers Association (Bajus) set the price of 22-carat gold at BDT 237,012 (USD 1,930.85) per bhoiri (11.664 grams), according to a statement issued in the morning.
- Bajus said the adjustment was made in line with a rise in the price of pure gold (tejabi gold) in the local market considering the overall market situation.
- Under the revised rates, 21-carat gold will cost BDT 226,282 (USD 1,843.44) per bhoiri while 18-carat gold is priced at BDT 193,914 (USD 1579.75) per bhoiri. Gold produced under the traditional

method will be sold at BDT 157,931 (USD 1,286.61) per bhori.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/gold-prices-rise-tk-2157-bhori-gold-after-seven-straight-cuts-1395856>

AIIB to extend USD 164.57m loan

March 29, 2026

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has expressed consent to extend a USD 164.57mn loan to procure 30 meter-gauge (MG) diesel-electric locomotives for Bangladesh Railway under the Railway Capacity Expansion (RACE) project, officials at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) say.
- The Ministry of Railways has already submitted the Preliminary Development Project Proposal (PDPP) to the Planning Commission, with an estimated cost of over BDT 22.45bn (USD 182.89mn), officials concerned have confirmed.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/aiib-to-extend-16457m-loan>

Govt to reprioritize foreign-funded projects in line with election manifesto

March 29, 2026

- The government is preparing a revised priority list for foreign-funded projects currently under review in the pipeline to align them with the new administration's election manifesto, according to officials at the Economic Relations Division (ERD).
- Since the BNP government assumed office on 17 February, it has placed the highest priority on fulfilling its electoral pledges, already introducing Family Cards and waiving farm loans up to BDT 10,000 (USD 81.47).

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-reprioritise-foreign-funded-projects-line-election-manifesto-1396226>

62,150MT US wheat arrives in Ctg port under G2G deal

March 29, 2026

- A shipment of 62,150 metric tons of wheat from the United States arrived at the outer anchorage of Chattogram Port on Friday as part of an ongoing government-to-government (G2G) agreement.
- This marks the second delivery under the deal, following a previous consignment of 58,457 metric tons, according to the Ministry of Food

From: <https://observerbd.com/news/570662>

Energy and Power

Fuel queues pushing up transport costs

March 29, 2026

- Amid long queues at refueling stations, trucks carrying perishable vegetables, food items and factory raw materials are charging at least BDT 5,000 (USD 40.73) more than pre-war rates per trip to Dhaka from different parts of the country.
- These higher transport costs risk pushing up production expenses and the price of kitchen staples, a ripple effect of the US-Israel war on Iran.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fuel-queues-pushing-transport-costs-4137751>

BPC ramps up fuel supply oversight with new depot hours, pump disclosure rules

March 29, 2026

- The Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has introduced a new schedule for fuel release from its main installations and depots, while mandating petrol pumps to publicly display detailed daily supply charts.
- The move comes as the government steps up monitoring to ensure steady fuel supply and curb artificial shortages amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bpc-ramps-up-fuel-supply-oversight-with-new-depot-hours-pump-disclosure-rules>

Govt deploys 293 mobile courts in 62 districts to monitor fuel situation

March 29, 2026

- The government has deployed a total of 293 mobile courts across 62 districts to monitor the fuel supply situation nationwide.
- During these drives, 78 cases were filed, and fines amounting to BDT 315,550 (USD 2,570.67) were imposed.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-deploys-293-mobile-courts-in-62-districts-to-monitor-fuel-situation>

Fuel shortage hurts Chattogram industries

March 29, 2026

- A tightening diesel supply has begun to disrupt operations across key industrial sectors, with manufacturers in Chattogram reporting reduced output and rising costs amid an ongoing fuel crunch.
- Leading steelmaker BSRM Group, which operates six factories in the port city, requires around 35,000 liters of diesel daily to run heavy equipment and maintain production. However, company officials say they have been receiving

between 18,000 and 27,000 liters from state-run fuel marketing companies in recent weeks.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/fuel-shortage-hurts-chattogram-industries-1395531>

Corporate

GP warns of Q1 slowdown on global, domestic strains

March 29, 2026

- Grameenphone has projected a modest year-on-year decline in its financial performance for the first quarter of 2026, citing mounting pressures from global geopolitical tensions and domestic economic challenges.
- The country's largest telecom operator said in a stock exchange filing on Tuesday that its revenue for the January-March period is anticipated to fall by around 2pc from BDT 38.35bn (USD 312.42mn) recorded in the same quarter last year.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/gp-warns-of-q1-slowdown-on-global-domestic-strains>

Shwapno's database hacked; 40 lakh customers' details at risk

March 29, 2026

- The country's largest supermarket chain Shwapno has said hackers breached its customer database and are demanding a ransom of USD 1.5mn, or more than BDT 183mn.
- The disclosure came after customer names, phone numbers and purchase histories began making round-ups on social media

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/shwapnos-database-hacked-40-lakh-customers-details-risk-4137566>

Bank Asia to acquire Bank Alfalah's Bangladesh operations for USD 47.5mn

March 29, 2026

- The shareholders of Pakistan-based Bank Alfalah Limited have approved the sale and transfer of its Bangladesh operations to Dhaka-based Bank Asia Limited for approximately USD 47.5mn (equivalent to around BDT 5.80bn).
- A source at Bank Asia confirmed that as part of the acquisition, an internal audit of Bank Alfalah's Bangladesh operations has already been completed.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bank-asia-to-acquire-bank-alfalahs-bangladesh-operations-for-475-million>

Capital Market

Investor pullback leaves 23pc BO accounts without shares

March 29, 2026

- A prolonged bearish trend and deepening crisis of confidence in the capital market have prompted a large number of investors to exit equities, leaving nearly 13,000 beneficiary owner (BO) accounts empty over the past three months.
- Data from the Central Depository Bangladesh Ltd (CDBL) show that BO accounts with zero share balance surged from 367,423 on December 30, 2025 to 380,297 on March 25, marking an increase of 12,874 such accounts during the period.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/investor-pullback-leaves-23pc-bo-accounts-without-shares>

Regulator probes Premier Leasing, Green Delta Securities over negative equity issues

March 29, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has launched enquiries into two brokerage firms-Premier Leasing Securities and Green Delta Securities-over alleged irregularities involving negative equity accounts and margin lending practices.
- The probe into Premier Leasing Securities will focus on compliance failures, including the declaration of cash dividends despite sustained negative equity and unrealized losses. The BSEC will also examine whether client receivables were improperly classified as assets without adequate provisioning, potentially masking financial stress.
- In a parallel order, the BSEC outlined an extensive set of concerns regarding the operations of Green Delta Securities. These include the methodology used in calculating negative equity, particularly the practice of capitalizing prior-year interest into principal, and the failure to maintain required provisions in line with regulatory directives and international accounting standards.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/regulator-probes-premier-leasing-green-delta-securities-over-negative-equity-issues>

Delays in MF conversion, liquidation trap investors' funds

March 29, 2026

- Delayed conversion or liquidation of close-ended mutual funds (MFs) is preventing investors from recovering their investments on time and leaving funds idle for extended periods.
- One of the funds, SEML Lecture Equity Management Fund, was scheduled to be converted into an open-ended fund by December last year. However, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) approved the

conversion proposal only last week. Meanwhile, officials of the Bangladesh General Insurance Company (BGIC), the trustee of the SEML Fund, said they have yet to receive the consent letter from the Commission.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/delays-in-mf-conversion-liquidation-trap-investors-funds>

Akij Food gets nod for BDT 5bn (USD 40.73mn) bond

March 29, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission approved the move at a commission meeting held today (25 March) at its headquarters, allowing Akij Food to raise funds through the bond at face value.
- According to a press release of the commission, the bond will be unsecured, non-convertible, and fully redeemable, with a tenure ranging from six months to a maximum of five years.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/akij-food-gets-approval-raise-tk500cr-through-bonds-1393731>

International

U.S. stocks drop amid Middle East uncertainty

March 29, 2026

- U.S. stocks accelerated their losses on Thursday as conflicting messages from the United States and Iran fueled uncertainty regarding the war.
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 1.01pc to 45,960.11. The S&P 500 sank 1.74pc to 6,477.16. The Nasdaq Composite Index shed 2.38pc to 21,408.08.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/us-stocks-drop-amid-middle-east-uncertainty>

Oil rises as traders doubt prospects of ceasefire in Iran war

March 29, 2026

- Oil prices rose on Friday and notched weekly gains, reflecting skepticism about prospects for a ceasefire in the month-old Iran war.
- Brent crude futures rose by USD 4.56, or 4.2pc, to USD 112.57 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate futures rose USD 5.16, or 5.5pc, to settle at USD 99.64.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oil-rises-traders-doubt-prospects-ceasefire-iran-war-4137766>

Services firms feel the squeeze as oil rally fails to spur drilling

March 29, 2026

- Global oilfield services companies are bracing for a hit to earnings as the Iran war disrupts energy infrastructure across the Middle East and producers hold back on new drilling until higher oil prices prove durable.
- Surging commodity prices - the Brent benchmark is up 53pc since February 27, the day before the US and Israel launched strikes against Iran - typically make oil and gas projects more profitable, boosting demand for rigs and crews

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/services-firms-feel-the-squeeze-oil-rally-fails-spur-drilling-4137771>

US consumer sentiment slides to three-month low as war fans inflation fears

March 29, 2026

- US consumer sentiment fell more than expected in March, touching a three-month low, as war in the Middle East stoked inflation worries and cast a shadow over the economic outlook.
- The decline, reported by the University of Michigan's Surveys of Consumers on Friday, occurred across political party affiliation and age groups, with large decreases among middle- and higher-income consumers as well as those owning stocks

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-consumer-sentiment-slides-three-month-low-war-fans-inflation-fears-4137831>

UN chief launches task force to aid passage of fertilizer through Hormuz

March 29, 2026

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has launched an interagency task force to help secure the passage of fertilizers through the Strait of Hormuz, his spokesperson announced on Friday.
- "As the conflict in the Middle East unfolds and threatens to intensify, disruptions in maritime trade through the Strait of Hormuz risk creating ripple effects impacting humanitarian needs and agricultural production in the coming months," Stephane Dujarric said.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/un-chief-launches-task-force-aid-passage-fertiliser-through-hormuz-4137816>

Saudi pipeline pumping 7mn bpd of oil, bypassing Hormuz

March 29, 2026

- Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline, which circumvents the Strait of Hormuz, is pumping oil at its full capacity of 7mn barrels a day, Bloomberg

News reported on Saturday, citing a person familiar with the matter.

- Crude oil exports from Saudi Arabia's Yanbu port on the Red Sea have now reached 5mn barrels a day, and the country is also exporting about 700,000 to 900,000 barrels a day of oil products, the Bloomberg report said.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/saudi-pipeline-pumping-7-million-bpd-oil-bypassing-hormuz-4137796>

defense cooperation agreement which includes the exchange of expertise in countering missiles and unmanned aerial systems.

- Zelenskiy had earlier been to the UAE and met President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as the two countries agreed to cooperate in the fields of security and defence

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/ukraines-zelenskiy-agrees-defence-cooperation-uae-qatar-during-gulf-visit-1396136>

Dollar rises

March 29, 2026

- The dollar rose on Friday and was on course for its strongest monthly gain in almost a year, buoyed by safe-haven demand as the Middle East war intensifies and hopes fade for de-escalation.
- The yen was particularly under pressure, falling in afternoon trading to its weakest since July 2024 and raising the possibility of currency market intervention by the Japanese authorities.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/dollar-rises-4137786>

Ukraine's Zelenskiy agrees defense cooperation with UAE, Qatar during Gulf visit

March 29, 2026

- Qatar's defence ministry said in a statement today (28 March) that Doha and Kyiv have signed a

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