Economy

Remittance inflows jump 56pc to USD 1.44bn in early May
May 13, 2026

- Remittance earnings in Bangladesh rose sharply in the first 11 days of May, climbing 56.4pc year on year to reach 1.44bn US dollars, according to the latest data from Bangladesh Bank. During the same period last year, expatriate Bangladeshis sent home 922mn dollars.
- Cumulative figures also show sustained momentum. From July 2025 to May 11, 2026, total remittance inflows stood at USD 30.77bn, marking a 20.9pc increase compared with USD 25.45bn received during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

From: https://observerbd.com/news/576163

ADB to provide USD 100mn loan to strengthen Universal Pension Scheme: Khosru
May 13, 2026

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has pledged a $100 million loan to strengthen Bangladesh's Universal Pension Scheme, with a feasibility study on the initiative currently underway, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said on 12 May.
- During the meeting, the finance minister directed the National Pension Authority to set a target of enrolling at least one member from each of the country's nearly 4 crore families under the pension scheme by 2030

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/adb-pledge-100m-loan-strengthen-universal-pension-scheme-khosru-1437361

Govt moves to unify Bida, Beza, Bepza under single entity: Commerce minister
May 13, 2026

- The government is moving ahead with a plan to bring the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida), Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) and Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) under a single umbrella entity to streamline the investment ecosystem and improve coordination among investment-related institutions, Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir said yesterday (12 May).
- As part of the reforms, the government plans to introduce provisional licenses valid for 12 months for six essential approvals, including fire service, DIFE and chamber memberships, allowing entrepreneurs to begin operations without delay, he said.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-moves-unify-bida-beza-bepza-under-single-entity-commerce-minister-1437476

Banking

Central bank to overhaul tax certificate rule for foreign investors
May 13, 2026

- The central bank has assured the prime bourse that the requirement for foreign investors to obtain a tax certificate after each executed sale order will be withdrawn to help attract overseas investment to the equity market.
- DSE officials and brokers said the existing policy hinders the reinvestment of foreign funds that become available after the execution of a sale order until the tax certificate is submitted

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/central-bank-to-overhaul-tax-certificate-rule-for-foreign-investors

Govt may raise excise duty-free deposit limit to BDT 0.5mn (USD 4,098)
May 13, 2026

- In order to provide relief to small savers, the government is likely to raise the excise duty exemption threshold for bank deposits in the upcoming budget for fiscal year 2026-27
- Under the proposed measure, individuals with bank deposits of up to BDT 0.5mn (USD 4,098) will be exempt from paying excise duty starting next fiscal year

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-may-raise-excise-duty-free-deposit-limit-BDT-5-lakh-4174311

Five troubled financial firms approved for shutdown as govt pledges funds
May 13, 2026

- The decision was taken at a board meeting held yesterday (12 May), chaired by Governor Mostakur Rahman.
- The institutions included in the liquidation list are FAS Finance, Fareast Finance, Aviva Finance, Peoples Leasing and International Leasing

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/five-troubled-financial-firms-approved-shutdown-govt-pledges-funds-1437511

Trade and Commerce

Govt to purchase 2 crore litres of refined palm olein
May 13, 2026

- The government has greenlit a proposal to procure two crore litres of refined palm olein to bolster the national supply of edible oil.
- The decision was made during a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Public Procurement held at the Secretariat on Tuesday

From: https://observerbd.com/news/576164

Tax on export incentives may double in upcoming budget
May 13, 2026

- If implemented, the move could significantly boost tax collection from export incentive payments at a time when exporters – particularly the RMG sector, which accounts for nearly 85pc of Bangladesh's export earnings – are already under mounting pressure from slowing shipments and rising costs.
- In the current fiscal year 2025-26, the government allocated BDT 90.25bn (USD 740mn) for export incentives, including support for the jute export sector

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/tax-export-incentives-may-double-upcoming-budget-1437491

International

Oil crisis sparks austerity push in India
May 13, 2026

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made austerity appeals to Indians, urging them to place "nation first above personal comfort", and avoid foreign trips, use less fuel and start working from home (WFH) more often.
- PM Modi made this request during a public meeting on May 10, after inaugurating infrastructure projects in Secunderabad city in Telangana state

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oil-crisis-sparks-austerity-push-india-4174291

US to loan 53.3mn barrels of oil from Strategic Petroleum Reserve
May 13, 2026

- The Trump administration said on Monday it will loan energy companies 53.3mn barrels of crude from the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve as part of a global agreement to calm oil markets that have spiked on the US-Israeli war with Iran.
- Nine companies, including Exxon Mobil, Trafigura, and Marathon Petroleum Company, borrowed only about 58pc of the 92.5mn barrels the Department of Energy last month had offered to loan from the SPR

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/us-to-loan-533mn-barrels-of-oil-from-strategic-petroleum-reserve

Top Asian LNG markets boost coal use
May 13, 2026

- Major Asian liquefied natural gas (LNG) importers Japan and South Korea ramped up coal-fired power generation in April and into early May, market data showed, as the Iran war disrupted supplies of the super-chilled fuel and boosted prices.
- Japan's gas-fired power supply hit two-year lows in April and South Korea's dropped to six-month lows, according to data from the Japanese Electricity Market Data Hub and Korea Power Exchange (KPX)

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/top-asian-lng-markets-boost-coal-use-4174281

US CEOs seek China business gains from Trump-Xi summit
May 13, 2026

- From Meta to Tesla and BlackRock, the US business delegation for President Donald Trump's summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping this week consists mainly of companies seeking to resolve business issues with the world's second-largest economy

- More than a dozen CEOs and top executives from companies such as Tesla, BlackRock, Illumina, Mastercard and Visa will accompany Trump on his visit on 14 and 15 May, a White House official said yesterday (11 May)

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/worldbiz/usa/us-ceos-seek-china-business-gains-trump-xi-summit-1437106

Iran now defines Strait of Hormuz as far larger zone: IRGC
May 13, 2026

- Iran has expanded its definition of the Strait of Hormuz into a "vast operational area" far wider than before the Iran war, according to a senior officer in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy.
- The strait is no longer viewed as a narrow stretch around a handful of islands but instead has been greatly enlarged in scope and military significance, said Mohammad Akbarzadeh, deputy political

director of the IRGC Navy, the state-affiliated Fars news agency reported on Tuesday (12 May)

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/world/iran-now-defines-strait-hormuz-far-larger-zone-irgc-1437166

Hopes fade for Iran peace deal as Trump says ceasefire on 'life support'
May 13, 2026

- Hopes for a peace deal on Iran faded on Tuesday (12 May) after Donald Trump said a ceasefire with Iran was "on life support" as Tehran rejected a US proposal to end the conflict and stuck to a list of demands the US president described as "garbage".
- Iran has called for an end to the war on all fronts, including Lebanon, where US ally Israel is fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah militants

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/world/iran-says-ready-any-aggression-trump-warns-mideast-truce-life-support-1436671

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