

Economy

Govt eyes 6.2pc growth in FY27 under five-year economic strategy

April 16, 2026

- The proposed framework, presented at the first meeting of an advisory committee chaired by former planning adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud, sets out a gradual rise in growth over the following years, with targets of 7.1pc in FY28, 7.5pc in FY29 and 8.0pc in FY30.
- The plan also aims to increase total investment to 36.7pc of gross domestic product by FY30, while reducing inflation to 5pc by the period.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-eyes-62-growth-fy27-under-five-year-economic-strategy-1412581>

Govt drafts 5-year strategic plan

April 16, 2026

- The government has drafted a five-year strategic framework proposing to designate ICT as a special priority sector and send 20 lakh workers abroad annually. The draft framework has been made in line with the government's aim of achieving a trillion-dollar economy by 2034, according to a presentation by the General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission at an advisory council meeting.
- It projects real GDP growth reaching 8pc by fiscal year 2029-30 (FY30), nominal GDP at USD 749.0bn, inflation falling to 5.0pc, and gross investment rising to 37.6pc of GDP. The outline will go through further consultations with relevant stakeholders before being finalized.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-drafts-5-year-strategic-plan-4152386>

Banking

BB resumes dollar purchase

April 16, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has resumed purchasing US dollars from the market after one and a half months, driven by higher inflows than outflows amid strong remittance earnings. The central bank bought USD 70mn from Islami Bank Bangladesh at cut-off rate of BDT 122.75 per US dollar.
- Earlier, on March 2, BB purchased USD 25mn from two commercial banks through multiple auction methods. During the 2025-26 fiscal year, total US dollar purchases stood at USD 5.56bn.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-resumes-dollar-purchase-4152371>

Energy and Power

PPP guidelines rolled out to use public land for renewables

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- The government has introduced a new policy framework to speed up renewable energy development by allowing unused or underutilized state-owned land to be used for clean energy projects under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.
- The "Guidelines for Development of Renewable Energy Projects using Land Owned by Government Agencies under PPP Modality, 2026," unveiled on April 12, aim to ease one of the biggest bottlenecks in expanding renewable energy in Bangladesh - the shortage of suitable land.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ppp-guidelines-rolled-out-use-public-land-renewables-4152391>

Corporate

iFarmer raises USD 1.5mn in foreign funding

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- Bangladesh-based agri-tech startup iFarmer has secured USD 1.5mn in foreign funding as it seeks to strengthen the country's agricultural value chain.
- The funding comes from Symbiotics, a Switzerland-based market access platform for impact investing, according to a statement.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ifarmer-raises-15m-foreign-funding-4152301>

Capital Market

EBL's profit rose 20pc in 2025

April 16, 2026

- Eastern Bank PLC posted a 20pc year-on-year growth in profit after tax in 2025, with earnings reaching BDT 9.0bn (USD 73.9mn), driven by strong growth in deposits, investments and steady asset quality.
- The bank's performance was supported by prudent balance sheet management and disciplined risk practices, which helped sustain momentum across key financial indicators, according to a press release

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/ebls-profit-rose-20-2025-4152321>

Trade and Commerce

Traders wary about Teknaf port 'reopening' as Myanmar conflict persists

April 16, 2026

- Traders have expressed mixed reactions following the government's announcement to resume operations at Teknaf Land Port after about a year of disruption, citing ongoing security risks and uncertainties linked to the situation in Myanmar.
- State Minister for Shipping Razib Ahsan made the announcement on April 6 during his first visit to the port since his appointment, saying the decision followed consultations with relevant stakeholders.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/traders-wary-about-teknaf-port-reopening-myanmar-conflict-persists-4152366>

International

Trump says talks with Iran could resume soon, as US blockades Iranian ports

April 16, 2026

- President Donald Trump said talks with Iran to end the war could soon resume and end in a deal, telling the world to watch out for an "amazing two days", while US forces imposing a blockade turned back vessels leaving Iranian ports.
- With the prospect of US and Iranian officials returning to Pakistan for more talks, Vice President JD Vance, who led negotiations that ended on Sunday with no breakthrough, said he felt positive about where things stood.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/worldbiz/middle-east/us-shuts-down-irans-maritime-trade-despite-optimism-more-talks-1411841>

Japan announces USD 10bn fund to help Southeast Asia tackle oil price spike

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- The fund also aims to expand an oil reserve system within Asia, diversify energy, and promote energy conservation and industrial advancement, Takaichi said.
- Japan, which imports petroleum-related products such as medical supplies from Southeast Asia, is increasingly worried that the region's oil supply shortages would affect the Japanese economy.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/japan-announces-10b-fund-help-southeast-asia-tackle-oil-price-spike-1412201>

Uber commits USD 10.0bn to robotaxis in strategy shift: FT

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- Uber has committed more than \$10 billion to buying thousands of autonomous vehicles and taking stakes in their developers, breaking from its asset-light "gig economy" business model to avoid disruption from robotaxis, the Financial Times reported on Wednesday.
- Uber is positioning itself as a marketplace for multiple robotaxi operators, and has partnered across much of the autonomous vehicle industry, including with Baidu, Rivian and Lucid, and has outlined plans to launch robotaxi services in at least 28 cities by 2028.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/global-economy/uber-commits-10-billion-robotaxis-strategy-shift-ft-1411661>

Australia to raise defence spending to 3pc of GDP by 2033

April 16, 2026

- Australia on Wednesday said it would raise defence spending to 3pc of gross domestic product by 2033 from about 2pc currently, in response to the most "complex and threatening" circumstances since World War Two.
- The expansion would be achieved through an additional A\$14bn (USD 10.0bn) in expenditure over four years and A\$53bn over the next decade, the government said.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/australia-to-raise-defence-spending-to-3-of-gdp-by-2033>

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