

Thursday, June 4, 2026

# Good Morning



## **Unverified bank balances raise fears of fraud in insurance sector**

Insurance companies in Bangladesh routinely report bank balances in their financial statements that remain unverified by auditors or regulators, raising concerns about potential fraud and asset misrepresentation. The issue has come under scrutiny as the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) intensifies oversight of the sector amid a broader push for financial sector reform.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/unverified-bank-balances-raise-fears-fraud-insurance-sector-1453626>

## **Govt may drop planned wealth tax, bike and rickshaw AIT**

The government is set to scrap plans to reintroduce a wealth tax and impose advance income tax (AIT) on motorcycles and battery-run auto-rickshaws in the FY2026-27 budget, following Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's directive. The planned AIT had sparked public protests by motorcycle owners and ride-share drivers. Plans to allow legalisation of undisclosed income have also been shelved. Finance Minister Amir Khosru is expected to present the budget in parliament on June 11.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2026-27/news/govt-may-drop-planned-wealth-tax-bike-and-rickshaw-ait-4190076>

## **Retail power tariff hiked 16.7% amid subsidy cuts**

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has raised the consumer-level electricity tariff by Tk 1.52 per unit — a 16.68% increase —

Thursday, June 4, 2026

effective from the June billing cycle, pushing the weighted average retail rate from Tk 9.11 to Tk 10.63 per kWh. The wholesale tariff was also raised 19.85% to Tk 8.39 per unit. All sectors — industry, commerce, hospitals, and educational institutes — face an 18–19% increase. Even with the hike, PDB will still require around Tk 41,000 crore in annual government subsidies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/retail-power-tariff-hiked-tk152-amid-subsidy-cuts-1453181>

### **Bangladesh to buy five more LNG cargoes**

Bangladesh has moved to procure five additional spot LNG cargoes to address mounting gas demand this summer, as several long-term suppliers from Qatar and Oman suspended deliveries by declaring force majeure amid the Middle East conflict. RPGCL has floated tenders for delivery windows in June, with cargoes priced in the range of \$16–17 per MMBtu. Total spot LNG purchases in 2026 have already reached 22 cargoes, of which 20 were procured after the outbreak of the Middle East conflict.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-buy-five-more-lng-cargoes-4190031>

### **Bangladesh among 60 countries facing 'forced labour' US tariffs**

The US Trade Representative has proposed additional tariffs of 10–12.5% on goods from 60 countries accused of failing to prohibit imports made with forced labour. Bangladesh is among 54 economies identified as failing to impose and effectively enforce such a ban. Economies that commit to enforcement through an agreement on reciprocal trade would face a lower 10% rate; all others face 12.5%. The proposal includes a textile mechanism allowing certain volumes of apparel to enter at a reduced Section 301 rate. Written comments are due by July 6 and public hearings are scheduled for July 7. The proposal follows the US Supreme Court's strike-down of Trump's earlier reciprocal tariffs.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-among-60-countries-facing-forced-labour-us-tariffs-1780509280>

### **Exports fall 7% in May**

Bangladesh's merchandise export earnings declined 7% year-on-year in May 2026, returning to negative territory after a brief April rebound, as Eid-ul-Azha holidays reduced factory working days and weak demand from Western buyers continued to weigh on shipments. In the first 11 months of FY2026, garment exports fell 3.4% to \$35.31 billion. On a month-on-month basis, May earnings were up nearly 10% from April, suggesting some sequential recovery.

Thursday, June 4, 2026

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshs-exports-fall-7-may-4189681>

### **Bonded warehouse benefits to cover all exporters: Finance Minister**

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has announced that bonded warehouse facilities — which allow duty-free import of raw materials for export production — will be extended to all exporters, not just the garment sector. Non-RMG sectors such as jewellery, diamond cutting, and light manufacturing will now access back-to-back LC arrangements. The minister said simplified rules are being introduced and that no form of harassment over bonded warehouse access will be tolerated.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bonded-warehouse-benefits-cover-all-exporters-finance-minister-4190341>

### **Bangladesh seeks IMF loan under new scheme**

Bangladesh has formally requested a new IMF financial arrangement to replace the existing \$5.5 billion programme approved in January 2023, which the government says was designed for a different economic reality. The IMF confirmed the request on June 3, noting that banking sector weaknesses and low revenue mobilisation underscore the need for a renewed reform effort. An IMF staff mission is expected to visit Dhaka soon to begin discussions on the new programme's scope and conditionalities.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-seeks-imf-loan-under-new-scheme>