

## Weekly Market Update

### Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-0.27%) lost -13.93 points and closed the week at 5,205.23 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (+0.69%) gained 13.21 points and stood at 1,927.90 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+0.42%) gained 4.85 points and stood at 1,172.96 points. The large cap index CDSET (+0.06%) gained 0.60 points and closed at 1,050.11 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -0.21%, -0.61%, +0.35%, -1.50%, respectively.

**Total Turnover During The Week (DSE):** BDT 24.4 billion (USD 200 million)  
**Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV):** BDT 4.9 billion (Δ% Week: +19.8%)  
**Market P/E:** 14.6x

### Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started negatively on Sunday (-0.27%), and remained negative throughout Monday (-0.16%) and Tuesday (-0.21%) but was positive on Wednesday (+0.20%) and ended the week in positive on Thursday (+0.18%).

### Sectoral Performance

- Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Mutual Fund booked the highest gain of 6.55% followed by Life Insurance (+1.79%). Bank experienced the highest loss of 1.75% followed by NBF1 (-1.72%), General Insurance (-1.07%).
- Non-financial (large-cap) sectors posted mixed performance this week. Fuel & Power booked the highest gain of 2.27% followed by Pharmaceutical (+1.00%), and Engineering (+0.35%). Food & Allied experienced the highest loss of 0.48% followed by Telecommunication (-0.09%).

### Macroeconomic Arena

Yunus welcomes Trump's 90-day tariff pause. Foreign investors reaffirm commitment to Bangladesh. UK firms to invest USD 50 Mn for stolen asset recovery. Bangladesh fertile ground for transformative ideas. Chinese commerce minister to visit Bangladesh next month with 200 investors: Bida chairman. Govt committed to maintain smooth exports at own capacity, says adviser after India cancels transshipment facility. BDT 570 Bn in extra revenue not possible to realise, NBR tells IMF. UK allows 92% BD products duty-free access after 2029. Scarcity, high cost of energy, power among key barriers to FDI. Stop sending investors to licensing maze. Foreign investors eye consumer market, textiles, pharma, light engineering, renewable energy: Bida chairman. ADB considerably cuts BD's growth forecast.

**AGRICULTURE** | Bangladesh eyes foreign investment to unlock agro-processing potential. Growth jumps by 4.48% in second quarter, but poor left more vulnerable. Shift focus from US to Asian markets to cut the risk of export fall: economists. Inflation inches up to 9.35% in March. US loses cotton market share in Bangladesh. WB identifies four sectors ripe for reform. Green shoots in economy. China keen to set up SEZ in Mongla. Investors seek policy continuity, conducive business climate. South Korean businesses set to make significant investment in Bangladesh. Investment SUMMIT 2025: Bangladesh signs MoU with NASA for space exploration. Top US firms commit to champion growing Bangladesh-US economic partnership in meeting with CA. BD open to China, India bets on Teesta project.

### Stock Market Arena

LHB | Holcim Group reaffirms commitment to Bangladesh market. SILVAPHL | BSEC to look into Silva Pharma's financial Strength. EXCHANGE | BDT 20 Bn sukuk in the offing. EXCHANGE | BB extends tenure of BDT 2 Bn stock market fund. RENATA | Renata launched 13 products in Europe, Australia, Canada, UK in 2024. NEWLINE | DSE inspection finds New Line Clothings headquarters, factory closed. EXCHANGE | Task force suggests separate auditors' panel for IPO proposals. RECKITT BEN | Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh declares record 3,330% cash dividend for 2024. EXCHANGE | Provisioning shortfall against negative stock equity hits BDT 78.24 Bn. EXCHANGE | BSEC approves inspecting 10 struggling firms' business status.

## DSEX ended in Red (-0.27%) in the week

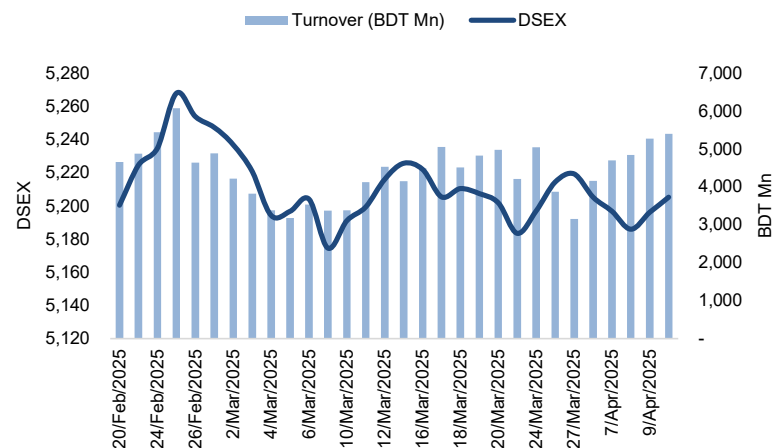
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	30-Dec-2024	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	5,205.23	5,219.16	-13.93	5,216.44	-0.27%	-0.21%
DS30	1,927.90	1,914.69	+13.21	1,939.73	0.69%	-0.61%
DSES	1,172.96	1,168.11	+4.85	1,168.90	0.42%	0.35%
CDSET	1,050.11	1,049.51	+0.60	1,066.09	0.06%	-1.50%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	6,716,438	6,738,662	-0.33%
	Mn USD	55,053	55,235	
Turnover	Mn BDT	24,364	16,271	49.74%
	Mn USD	200	133	
Average Daily	Mn BDT	4,873	4,068	19.79%
	Mn USD	40	33	
Volume	Mn Shares	986	586	68.46%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in Last Four Weeks



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**Table 3: Top Ten Gainers**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
HEIDELBCEM	273.6	214.4	+27.6%	15,459	70.1	42.0x	3.8x
IFIC1STMF	4.2	3.4	+23.5%	765	127.0	NM	0.5x
ABB1STMF	5.4	4.5	+20.0%	1,291	418.7	NM	0.6x
EASTRN LUB	2,344.3	1,985.7	+18.1%	3,722	325.1	66.8x	11.2x
LRGLOBMF1	4.1	3.5	+17.1%	1,275	23.7	NM	0.5x
ECABLES	119.7	102.9	+16.3%	3,160	11.9	NM	0.3x
AMBEEPHA	850.9	740.5	+14.9%	2,042	62.2	NM	67.6x
BDLAMPS	134.0	117.4	+14.1%	1,411	66.5	NM	2.8x
BSC	98.2	86.1	+14.1%	14,979	1,241.4	5.1x	1.0x
JMISMDL	154.4	135.9	+13.6%	4,641	53.2	54.2x	1.8x

**Table 4: Top Ten Losers**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
NEWLINE	8.2	9.7	-15.5%	644	39.4	NM	0.3x
SALAMCRST	25.4	29.5	-13.9%	2,499	232.0	NM	1.4x
SONARGAON	38.0	43.8	-13.2%	1,006	64.7	NM	2.0x
BEACHHATCH	95.6	110.0	-13.1%	3,958	706.7	28.0x	6.3x
FUWANGFOOD	15.5	17.6	-11.9%	1,718	211.7	NM	7.4x
CENTRALPHL	10.9	12.3	-11.4%	1,306	57.5	NM	1.6x
HFL	9.6	10.8	-11.1%	874	6.0	NM	0.3x
HAKKANIPUL	58.9	66.1	-10.9%	1,119	138.1	NM	2.4x
AOL	14.3	16.0	-10.6%	1,570	16.9	27.5x	0.8x
SHARPIND	18.6	20.8	-10.6%	5,644	43.7	28.6x	1.8x

**Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
BSC	98.2	86.1	+14.1%	14,979	1,241.4	5.1x	1.0x
BXPHERMA	105.3	99.1	+6.3%	46,976	1,159.4	7.3x	0.9x
SPCERAMICS	25.8	26.2	-1.5%	3,792	763.0	NM	0.9x
BEACHHATCH	95.6	110.0	-13.1%	3,958	706.7	28.0x	6.3x
SUNLIFEINS	71.3	70.7	+0.8%	2,550	549.5	NM	NM
ACI	207.3	183.9	+12.7%	18,167	471.3	NM	3.0x
SOURPHARMA	219.0	220.1	-0.5%	194,133	434.3	8.7x	1.5x
ORIONINFU	396.0	391.7	+1.1%	8,062	426.7	NM	25.8x
NAVANAPHAR	58.9	52.2	+12.8%	6,327	422.4	15.0x	1.3x
ABB1STMF	5.4	4.5	+20.0%	1,291	418.7	NM	0.6x

**Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe**

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
ACI	207.3	+48.5%	18,167	NM	3.0x
BXPHERMA	105.3	+29.0%	46,976	7.3x	0.9x
IFADAUTOS	25.8	+26.5%	6,921	NM	0.7x
HEIDELBCEM	273.6	+23.5%	15,459	42.0x	3.8x
ESQUIRENIT	23.4	+20.0%	3,157	13.8x	0.4x
UCB	10.6	+15.2%	16,434	5.8x	0.4x
ACTIVEFINE	9.1	+15.2%	2,183	NM	0.4x
CROWNCEMNT	49.9	+14.7%	7,410	14.3x	0.9x
GHAIL	13.1	+12.9%	2,827	NM	1.0x
EBL	26.9	+8.9%	36,534	5.5x	0.9x

**Table 7: Sector Indices**

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,403.0	1,427.9	1,429.64	-1.75%	-1.87%
NBFI	1,073.4	1,092.2	1,188.21	-1.72%	-9.66%
Mutual Fund	666.6	625.6	603.30	+6.55%	+10.48%
General Insurance	2,560.8	2,588.5	2,772.79	-1.07%	-7.64%
Life Insurance	1,824.6	1,792.5	1,827.34	+1.79%	-0.15%
Telecommunication	5,065.1	5,069.6	5,185.99	-0.09%	-2.33%
Pharmaceutical	2,974.2	2,944.6	2,959.70	+1.00%	+0.49%
Fuel & Power	1,110.3	1,085.6	1,108.63	+2.27%	+0.15%
Cement	1,904.1	1,781.3	1,957.26	+6.90%	-2.72%
Services & Real Estate	1,028.0	1,020.5	1,013.65	+0.74%	+1.41%
Engineering	2,483.9	2,475.3	2,496.75	+0.35%	-0.52%
Food & Allied	15,699.3	15,774.4	17,177.59	-0.48%	-8.61%
IT	1,967.7	1,966.2	1,994.92	+0.08%	-1.36%
Textile	1,081.4	1,135.4	1,093.38	-4.75%	-1.10%
Paper & Printing	4,487.9	4,642.1	3,998.20	-3.32%	+12.25%
Tannery	1,929.3	1,958.4	2,020.25	-1.49%	-4.50%
Jute	12,136.3	12,049.9	14,455.60	+0.72%	-16.04%
Ceramics	434.2	427.9	359.12	+1.48%	+20.92%
Miscellaneous	4,247.5	4,249.2	4,252.62	-0.04%	-0.12%

**Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix**

Sector Name	Daily Avg this Week	Daily Avg last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	341.2	319.7	+6.74%	+7.35%	8.4x	0.7x
NBFI	121.9	153.1	-20.37%	+2.63%	NM	NM
Mutual Fund	317.4	150.5	+110.91%	+6.84%	NM	0.6x
General Insurance	104.6	76.5	+36.73%	+2.25%	13.0x	1.1x
Life Insurance	255.4	178.6	+42.96%	+5.50%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	75.1	46.1	+63.06%	+1.62%	13.3x	4.0x
Pharmaceutical	921.3	757.2	+21.67%	+19.84%	13.4x	1.6x
Fuel & Power	296.6	233.1	+27.24%	+6.39%	16.4x	0.6x
Cement	87.8	45.9	+91.11%	+1.89%	18.0x	2.0x
Services & Real Estate	151.0	119.0	+26.90%	+3.25%	20.2x	0.4x
Engineering	383.4	338.7	+13.19%	+8.26%	12.7x	0.9x
Food & Allied	377.3	317.5	+18.83%	+8.12%	15.7x	4.3x
IT	145.7	75.4	+93.07%	+3.14%	20.1x	1.7x
Textile	373.8	331.4	+12.78%	+8.05%	89.8x	0.8x
Paper & Printing	129.2	102.4	+26.18%	+2.78%	NM	0.9x
Tannery	36.6	11.6	+214.83%	+0.79%	NM	1.6x
Jute	14.9	7.6	+97.69%	+0.32%	NM	NM
Ceramics	203.2	186.7	+8.87%	+4.38%	NM	1.2x
Miscellaneous	307.3	151.5	+102.90%	+6.62%	94.9x	1.9x

**Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe**

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
RENATA	499.4	-21.4%	57,279	19.4x	1.7x
POWERGRID	35.4	-15.3%	32,349	NM	0.2x
PIONEERINS	40.7	-15.2%	3,981	8.5x	0.9x
BATBC	322.2	-12.4%	173,988	9.9x	3.0x
ISLAMIBANK	42.7	-11.8%	68,747	14.7x	0.9x
LHB	47.7	-11.5%	55,398	14.5x	3.0x
LINDEBD	902.4	-11.5%	13,733	2.1x	3.9x
RECKITT BEN	3,871.1	-11.0%	18,291	24.3x	11.0x
BATASHOE	819.0	-9.5%	11,204	50.4x	3.3x
DBH	35.8	-8.0%	7,120	7.2x	0.8x

\*BDT

\*BDT Mn

## Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

### Yunus welcomes Trump's 90-day tariff pause

- Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus, has thanked US President Donald Trump for granting a 90-day pause on the sweeping tariffs announced earlier this week. In a tweet posted last night, Prof Yunus said, "Thank you, Mr President (@POTUS) for responding positively to our request for 90-day pause on tariffs. We will continue to work with your administration in support of your trade agenda."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/yunus-welcomes-trumps-90-day-tariff-pause-3867826>

### Foreign investors reaffirm commitment to Bangladesh

- Foreign investors and global brands reaffirmed their commitment to Bangladesh yesterday, voicing confidence in the country's economic prospects and policy environment at the Bangladesh Investment Summit in Dhaka. At meetings held on the sidelines of the four-day summit, senior corporate executives and trade envoys conveyed their interest in expanding investments and deepening partnerships, especially in the garments, healthcare and infrastructure sectors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/foreign-investors-reaffirm-commitment-bangladesh-3867821>

### UK firms to invest USD 50 Mn for stolen asset recovery

- UK-based firms have expressed interest in investing up to USD 50 Mn to help Bangladesh recover assets allegedly stolen and laundered abroad during the Awami League regime, according to a statement from the Chief Adviser's Office.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/uk-firms-invest-50m-stolen-asset-recovery-3867801>

### Bangladesh fertile ground for transformative ideas

- Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged global investors to do business in Bangladesh because the country is the best place for investment. "Bangladesh is a country with crazy ideas to change the world... so we invite you to join that craft not only to change Bangladesh by your business but to change the world," he said while inaugurating the Bangladesh Investment Summit-2025 at Hotel Intercontinental.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-land-crazy-ideas-work-dr-yunus-tells-foreign-investors-3867111>

### Chinese commerce minister to visit Bangladesh next month with 200 investors: Bida chairman

- China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao is set to visit Bangladesh next month along with 200 investors to encourage investment in Bangladesh, Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, executive chairman of Bida and Beza, announced today (9 April). He made the announcement in response to a question at a press conference on the overall activities at the end of the third day of the Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 at InterContinental Dhaka in the capital.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/chinese-commerce-minister-visit-bangladesh-next-month-200-investors-bida-chairman-1112031>

### Govt committed to maintain smooth exports at own capacity, says adviser after India cancels transshipment facility

- The government is committed to maintaining smooth RMG export activities at its own capacity, Commerce Adviser SK Bashir Uddin said tonight (9 April) after a two-hour meeting with stakeholders following India's announcement of cancelling Bangladesh's transshipment facility.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-committed-maintain-smooth-exports-own-capacity-says-adviser-after-india-cancels>

### BDT 570 Bn in extra revenue not possible to realise, NBR tells IMF

- Officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday said it is not possible to raise an additional BDT 570 Bn in revenue in the upcoming fiscal 2025-26 – a target set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). They said the authorities can increase revenue collections by only BDT 80 Bn – just one-seventh of the target – through policy measures in FY26.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/tk57000cr-extra-revenue-not-possible-realise-nbr-tells-imf-1112071>

### UK allows 92% BD products duty-free access after 2029

- Beyond the current scheme of trade preferences, United Kingdom will continue to provide 92% of Bangladeshi exports duty-free access to the UK market. "Bangladesh is the biggest beneficiary of UK's trade-preference scheme, the developing country's trading scheme. This gives Bangladesh duty-free and quota-free access to the UK market until 2029. And after that date, 92% of Bangladeshi exports will continue to get duty-free access to the UK," she said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/uk-allows-92pc-bd-products-duty-free-access-after-2029-1744218160>

**Scarcity, high cost of energy, power among key barriers to FDI**

- Local and foreign investors have identified the high cost and scarcity of energy and power, policy inconsistency, and poor inter-agency coordination as key barriers to foreign investment, urging the government and political leaders to take immediate corrective measures. However, the policymakers from the government said that the country is undergoing a transformative phase, with investment barriers being identified and addressed through policy reviews, risk mitigation, and improved infrastructure to attract greater investment.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/scarcity-high-cost-of-energy-power-among-key-barriers-to-fdi-1744218381>

**Stop sending investors to licensing maze**

- To attract both local and foreign investment, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has urged Bangladesh to simplify its business licensing process, which currently requires investors to navigate over two dozen government offices to secure more than 150 regulatory approvals.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/stop-sending-investors-licensing-maze-3867816>

**Foreign investors eye consumer market, textiles, pharma, light engineering, renewable energy: Bida chairman**

- Foreign businesses attending the investment summit have shown interest in the consumer market, textiles, pharma, light engineering, renewable energy, e-commerce and agro-processing sectors. Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, executive chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida), said this in a press briefing on the outcome of the 3rd day events of Bangladesh Business Summit 2025.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-investors-eye-consumer-market-textiles-pharma-light-engineering-renewable-energy>

**ADB considerably cuts BD's growth forecast**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has significantly cut Bangladesh's economic growth forecast, suggesting necessary reforms by this government to achieve higher growth. It has also drawn a grim picture for Bangladesh as it says the global economic slowdown sparked by the sweeping US tariff may hit GDP expansion. The Manila-based lender cut the GDP projection significantly by 1.20% points to 3.9% for fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 from that of its earlier projection last September, according to the ADB's Asian Development Outlook (ADO).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/adb-considerably-cuts-bds-growth-forecast-1744218642>

**BANK | BB plans to form two large Islamic banks by merging all**

- The Bangladesh Bank has plans to form two large Islamic banks by merging all 10 of the Shariah-compliant lenders in the country, according to its Governor Ahsan H Mansur. Expressing optimism that the plan will move forward, he said the Islamic banking sector would be completely restructured as most lenders in this category are facing various challenges, including poor governance and financial constraints.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-plans-form-two-large-islamic-banks-merging-all-3867811>

**RMG | China's Handa Industries to invest USD 150 Mn in Bangladesh's textile, garment sectors**

- Handa Industries Limited, a renowned China-based apparel manufacturing company specialising in high-quality knitted textiles, dyeing processes, and garments on a global scale, is set to invest USD 150 Mn in Bangladesh. Of the total investment, USD 100 Mn will be allocated to the textile and dyeing sectors within an economic zone, while the remaining USD 50 Mn will be directed towards the garment industry within an export processing zone, according to a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/chinas-handa-industries-invest-150m-bangladeshs-textile-garment-sectors-3867346>

**RMG | Spanish clothing giant Inditex wants to bolster ties with Bangladesh**

- Oscar Garcia Maceiras, chief executive officer of Inditex, has expressed the Spanish clothing retailer's intention to deepen its partnership with Bangladesh, considering the pivotal role the South Asian nation plays as a sourcing hub for the company. "We have very strong ties. We are looking to strengthen the relationship," said Maceiras. "Bangladesh is very business-friendly for sourcing."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/spanish-clothing-giant-inditex-wants-bolster-ties-bangladesh-3867391>

**FUEL& POWER | Power producer to sell directly to consumer**

- Bangladesh is getting into the merchant power generation model for the first time with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between an electricity buyer and seller for a solar power plant. It is a model which allows a power producer to sell directly to the consumers. Swedish multinational fashion retailer Hennes & Mauritz AB (H&M), Bangladesh's Pran-RFL Group and International Finance Corporation (IFC) signed the MoU Yesterday to build a floating solar power plant in Moulvibazar.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/power-producer-sell-directly-consumer-3867311>

**NBFI | Financial sector reform: IMF team inquires about progress on enactment of relevant laws**

- The visiting team of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday inquired about the progress made towards enactment of laws relevant to ensure good governance in the banking sector, sources said. The FID officials informed the IMF team that the Deposit Protection Ordinance (DPO) is almost at its final stage of enactment while work is underway for the enactment of the Bank Resolution Ordinance (BRO).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/financial-sector-reform-imf-team-inquires-about-progress-on-enactment-of-relevant-laws>

**E-COMMERCE | ShopUp, Sary to merge, raise USD 110 Mn**

- Sary, the largest B2B marketplace and services platform in Gulf, is merging with ShopUp, Bangladesh's most funded start-up, in a deal expected to facilitate the entry of Bangladeshi products into the Saudi Market. The merged outfit will be called the Silq Group and the strategic merger is backed by a USD 110 Mn (about BDT 13 Bn) funding round led by Sanabil Investments, a wholly owned company of Saudia Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), and Peter Thiel's Valar Ventures, according to ShopUp.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/shopup-sary-merge-raise-110m-3866756>

**AGRICULTURE | Bangladesh eyes foreign investment to unlock agro-processing potential**

- With over 70 Mn tonnes of agricultural production annually and a rapidly growing USD 7.3 Bn packaged food market, Bangladesh's agro-processing sector is poised for transformative growth. Tapping into this potential, however, hinges on attracting robust foreign investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-eyes-foreign-investment-unlock-agro-processing-potential-1112196>

**Growth jumps by 4.48% in second quarter, but poor left more vulnerable**

- Bangladesh's economic growth has increased by 4.48%, a huge jump from the growth of 1.96% registered in the first quarter of last year. Compared to the second quarter last year, the growth is still seen – from 4.47% to 4.48%, according to a report released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) report today (8 April) on Bangladesh's economic growth in the second quarter (October-December) of the current fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-economic-growth-slightly-rises-448-fy2024-25-second-quarter-1110766>

**Shift focus from US to Asian markets to cut the risk of export fall: economists**

- Bangladesh should consider shifting its focus from the United States to Asian markets, particularly India and China, in order to offset the risks of export loss due to tariff hikes by the Trump administration, economists said today. The country enjoys more than USD 6 Bn worth of trade surplus with the USA, and a portion of the export could be affected if local exports face higher tariffs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/shift-focus-us-asian-markets-cut-the-risk-export-fall-economists-3866336>

**Inflation inches up to 9.35% in March**

- Inflation in Bangladesh increased slightly to 9.35% in March, driven by an increase in non-food prices, according to data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) today. In February, the price pressure was at 9.32%. In March, non-food prices spiralled to 9.70% compared to 9.38% in February, indicating rising costs of goods and services such as clothing, healthcare, education, and transport.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/inflation-inches-935-march-3866411>

**US loses cotton market share in Bangladesh**

- The United States is losing its market share in cotton exports to Bangladesh amid concerns about logistics and the lengthy shipment duration for American cotton, according to a recent report by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Bangladesh's millers imported 7.8 Mn bales of cotton in the marketing year (MY) 2023-24, beginning in August. Of that, the share of US cotton, a key raw material for the country's apparel industry, was 9%. A year ago, in MY23, the share of cotton imported from America was 10%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-loses-cotton-market-share-bangladesh-3866891>

**WB identifies four sectors ripe for reform**

- Bangladesh has the potential to attract significant investment and generate millions of jobs by carrying out key reforms in four promising sectors – green readymade garments (RMG), housing for the middle class, paint and dyes, and digital financial services, according to a new report by the World Bank Group. Although not the only drivers of growth, these industries were singled out for their capacity to stimulate investor confidence, both domestic and international, and to signal that Bangladesh is ready to do business, the report said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/wb-identifies-four-sectors-ripe-reform-3866886>



### **Green shoots in economy**

- Bangladesh's economy started showing signs of a turnaround in the second quarter of the fiscal year, official statistics show, although economists caution that Trump's tariff measures are likely to slow down the momentum. Between October and December last year, Bangladesh's GDP expanded by about 4.5% to BDT 8868 Bn, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the state agency for collecting data on demographics, the economy and other facts.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/green-shoots-economy-3866796>

### **China keen to set up SEZ in Mongla**

- China has expressed interest in establishing a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Mongla to expand trade relations and increase investment flows, according to the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida). Chowdhury pointed to Mongla's location near the seaport, referring to it as a gateway for maritime and export-linked industries.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/china-keen-set-sez-mongla-3866671>

### **Investors seek policy continuity, conducive business climate**

- Seeing robust potential in Bangladesh, foreign investors have called on the interim government to ensure policy consistency and uphold its commitment to fostering a more predictable and business-friendly environment. Investors also stressed that the government should intensify its efforts to attract foreign investment by offering more competitive incentives and adopting investor-friendly policies.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/investors-seek-policy-continuity-conducive-business-climate-3866231>

### **South Korean businesses set to make significant investment in Bangladesh**

- South Korean businesses are set to make significant investments in Bangladesh following the interim government's efforts to create a new era of hope for foreign investors. A delegation of Korean investors, led by Youngone Corporation Chairman Kihak Sung, made the announcement during a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/south-korean-businesses-set-make-significant-investment-bangladesh-3866616>

### **Investment SUMMIT 2025: Bangladesh signs MoU with NASA for space exploration**

- Bangladesh has become the 54th country to sign the Artemis Accords, an international space exploration agreement by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States. The Artemis Accords, established by NASA in 2020, are a set of non-binding agreements aimed at promoting peaceful, cooperative, and transparent exploration of outer space, particularly focusing on activities related to the Moon, Mars, and other celestial bodies.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-investment-summit-2025/news/investment-summit-2025-bangladesh-signs-mou-nasa-space-exploration-3866476>

### **Top US firms commit to champion growing Bangladesh-US economic partnership in meeting with CA**

- Leading US investors in Bangladesh, represented by the US-Bangladesh Business Council, expressed their commitment to champion a growing Bangladesh-US economic partnership and to help catalyze and support mutually beneficial commercial relations between the two nations. The meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the Bangladesh Investment Summit, focused on strengthening trade and investment ties between the two countries.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/top-us-firms-commit-champion-growing-bangladesh-us-economic-partnership-meeting-ca-1111241>

### **BD open to China, India bets on Teesta project**

- China, India or anyone else can be engaged for implementing the long-awaited Teesta river-management project as Bangladesh now takes an open position on bets in this regard. "Bangladesh government takes an open position on Teesta issue. In this case, cooperation with India is also possible as it is possible with China. Nothing is barred," Foreign Affairs Adviser of the interim government Touhid Hossain said Tuesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-open-to-china-india-bets-on-teesta-project-1744131861>

### **Govt looks to amicable solution**

- Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed on Tuesday said the government is expecting an amicable solution of the complications created over imposition of 'reciprocal tariff' by the Trump administration. "We responded positively. We hope we will cooperate (with them) and they will also cooperate (with us)," he said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-looks-to-amicable-solution-1744131947>

**Private credit growth keeps falling in recent months**

- The private-sector credit growth continues plummeting, painting not an encouraging picture for the economy largely dominated by the private sector. Apart from persisting energy crisis in the industrial hubs coupled with latest labour unrest and depreciation of the local currency against the American greenback, the existing business uncertainty stemming from the recent mass uprising made private entrepreneurs cautious on expansion of their businesses, according to them.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/private-credit-growth-keeps-falling-in-recent-months-1744132443>

**Paul Krugman slams US tariffs on Bangladeshi clothing**

- Nobel Prize-winning American economist Paul Krugman has opposed the US decision to impose tariffs on imports of clothing from Bangladesh, calling it a wrong move, reports UNB. "Putting high tariffs on imports of clothing from Bangladesh is exactly what you shouldn't be doing. That's the kind of thing that is disruptive, raises the cost of living for American consumers, does nothing to make us more secure," Krugman, who specialises in trade, told The New York Times during a recent interview.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/paul-krugman-slams-us-tariffs-on-bangladeshi-clothing-1744133084>

**Public-private consolidation vital to face US tariff impact**

- Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD), a private sector think tank, has called for stronger public-private consolidation to safeguard the country's interests in response to the potential shock from the recently announced US tariff hikes. BUILD also emphasised conducting a comprehensive review of tariff implications involving government, private sector stakeholders, and trade experts.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/public-private-consolidation-vital-to-face-us-tariff-impact-1744127496>

**BRICS-backed bank to lend USD 1 Bn this yr to Bangladesh**

- The New Development Bank established by the BRICS has planned to raise its lending to Bangladesh development projects to USD 1 Bn this year, a senior official of the Shanghai-based multilateral lender said yesterday. Vladimir Kazbekov, a vice president of the NDB, said the bank has approved USD 320 Mn for the implementation of the Expanded Dhaka City Water Supply Resilient project, but this year it wants to more than triple the funding in view of Bangladesh's development needs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/brics-backed-bank-lend-1b-yr-bangladesh-3866691>

**FUEL & POWER | Govt to procure 2 cargos of LNG, 12 Mn litres soybean oil**

- The government today (8 April) approved separate proposals for procuring two cargos of LNG, 12.0 Mn litres of soybean oil, and 50,000 tonnes of non-Basmati boiled rice to meet the growing demand for the country. The approvals came from the 14th meeting of the Advisers Council Committee on Government Purchase held at the Cabinet Division Conference Room at Bangladesh Secretariat with Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed in the chair.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-procure-2-cargos-lng-120cr-litres-soybean-oil-1110691>

**BANK | Can 'bridge banks' act as a 'financial ambulance' for ailing banks?**

- Bangladesh's banking sector, once celebrated for its contribution to economic growth, is currently facing a crisis. The sharp increase in non-performing loans (NPLs), severe liquidity issues, and persistent governance scandals have placed several banks on the brink of failure. This precarious situation not only threatens the stability of the financial system but also undermines public trust. In such a challenging environment, the concept of "bridge bank" emerges as a potential solution.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/can-bridge-banks-act-financial-ambulance-ailing-banks-3866846>

**BANK | US tariffs: Banks in Bangladesh to be among worst hit in Asia, says Moody's**

- Banks in Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Thailand are predicted to be the hardest hit in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region due to increased import tariffs imposed by the United States, according to a Moody's ratings report. The higher tariffs are more negative, on a relative basis, for banks in Vietnam, Thailand and Bangladesh because of their economies' higher reliance on exports to the US compared with other economies in the region, the report states.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/us-import-tariffs-banks-bangladesh-vietnam-thailand-be-worst-hit-asia-1110371>

**ENERGY | Dhaka urges Finnish enterprises to invest in clean energy**

- Bangladesh has urged Finnish enterprises to invest in Bangladesh, particularly in sectors such as clean energy, green tech, innovation and digital services, e-commerce and textiles, reports BSS. The call was made at the fourth round of Bilateral Consultations held at the foreign service academy in the capital on Tuesday, said a foreign ministry statement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dhaka-urges-finnish-enterprises-to-invest-in-clean-energy-1744127797>

**Bangladesh offers zero tariffs on 100 more US goods to narrow trade gap**

- Bangladesh is ready to offer zero import tariffs for another 100 US goods in addition to the existing 190, in order to minimise the trade gap and address Trump's reciprocal tariffs, according to a letter from Commerce Adviser Sk. Bashir Uddin sent to US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer today. Bangladesh is one of the largest importers of US cotton, manufactures readymade garments, and faces higher tariffs on its exports to the United States, the adviser wrote in the letter.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-offers-zero-tariffs-100-more-us-goods-narrow-trade-gap-3865856>

**NBR needs to collect BDT 2 Tn in three months**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) faces the Herculean task of collecting nearly BDT 2 Tn in the final three months of the current fiscal year to meet conditions set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under its USD 4.7 Bn loan programme.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-needs-collect-tk-2-lakh-crore-three-months-3865781>

**March PMI points to slower economic growth in Bangladesh**

- The Bangladeshi economy might have expanded in March, but at a slower pace due to sluggish growth in sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and construction. The Bangladesh Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slipped by 2.9 points to 61.7 in March from the previous month, reflecting a slower pace of economic expansion.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/march-pmi-points-slower-economic-growth-bangladesh-3865606>

**Bangladesh moves to ease business operations with key reforms in licensing, finance**

- The interim government is working to simplify business operations by streamlining the trade licence process, improving access to finance, enhancing internet usability, and lowering costs. At the Bangladesh Investment Summit, senior officials and policymakers outlined ongoing efforts to strengthen data protection and amend laws preventing arbitrary internet shutdowns to boost investor confidence.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-moves-ease-business-operations-key-reforms-licensing-finance-1110231>

**Samsung backtracked from investing USD 22 Bn during AL regime due to land problems: Bida chairman**

- South Korea-based multinational electronics giant Samsung wanted to invest USD 22 Bn in Bangladesh during the Awami League regime but backtracked from their decision due to land-related problems, said Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida). Not just Samsung, many other investors turned away from Bangladesh because the previous government did not provide opportunities, he added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/samsung-backtracked-investing-22b-during-al-regime-due-land-problems-bida-chairman-1110206>

**60 foreign delegates explore Chattogram's investment environment**

- In the lead-up to the highly anticipated Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025, around 60 foreign investors and company representatives from countries including South Korea, China, Japan, Australia, and India visited two of Chattogram's major industrial hubs today (7 April). The delegation explored the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) in Anwara and the National Special Economic Zone in Mirsarai, gaining firsthand exposure to the investment environment in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/60-foreign-delegates-explore-chattograms-investment-environment-1110081>

**Exports see 11.44% YoY growth, hit USD 4.25 Bn in March**

- Bangladesh's merchandise exports grew by 11.44% year-on-year in March to USD 4.25 Bn, up from USD 3.81 Bn in the same month last fiscal year, according to data released by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) today (7 April). From July to March of the current fiscal year, total exports reached USD 37.19 Bn, registering a 10.63% growth compared to USD 33.61 Bn recorded during the same period of the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/export-grew-1144-425bn-march-1110066>

**BDT 40.65 Bn project aims to attract Chinese investment**

- The government seeks to fast-track infrastructure development of the Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone (CEIZ) to attract investment from the world's second-largest economy. To this end, the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) yesterday (6 April) sent a restructured BDT 40.65 Bn project to the Planning Commission for approval to establish the zone on a government-to-government basis over around 800 acres of land in Anwara, Chattogram.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tk4065cr-project-aims-attract-chinese-investment-1109541>



### **Form taskforce to fight tariff fallout**

- The International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICCB) has suggested forming a taskforce to tackle the challenges arising from the imposition of reciprocal tariffs by the US and undertaking diplomatic negotiations with the US authorities. "The taskforce may meet at regular intervals to monitor trade trends between Bangladesh and the US, to reduce the trade gap and suggest remedial measures," ICCB President Mahbubur Rahman said at the event.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/form-taskforce-fight-tariff-fallout-3866026>

### **NBR says no to IMF's extra BDT 570 Bn target**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has declined to accept the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) revised target to collect an additional BDT 570 Bn in taxes next year. In a meeting with an IMF team on Monday, the NBR chairman along with his board members from income tax, VAT and customs, made it clear that the current economic context was not ready to take the pressure of high tax burden to meet the target.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-says-no-to-imfs-extra-tk-570b-target-1744046524>

### **BB to launch BDT 9 Bn fund for startups: Governor Ahsan H Mansur at Investment Summit**

- Bangladesh Bank is planning to set up a dedicated fund of nearly BDT 9 Bn to provide capital support to startup companies, Governor Ahsan H Mansur announced today (7 April) at the Bangladesh Investment Summit. Speaking at the the four-day Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 at the Hotel InterContinental Dhaka, he said Bangladesh Bank would grow this fund from private commercial banks and they will be equity holders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bb-launch-tk1000cr-fund-startups-governor-ahsan-h-mansur-investment-summit-1109711>

### **IMF for luxury item tax hike, questions public investment decline**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recommended that the National Board of Revenue (NBR) increase the supplementary duty on luxury items. However, the multilateral lender did not specify whether the proposed tax hike should apply only at the import stage or at both the import and domestic stages for luxury goods. During a meeting with NBR officials at its headquarters in Dhaka today, the visiting IMF delegation emphasised the need for fiscal reforms.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-luxury-item-tax-hike-questions-public-investment-decline-1110236>

### **Trump threatens new 50% tariffs on China**

- Donald Trump has threatened China with an extra 50% tariff on goods imported into the US if it does not withdraw its 34% counter-tariff, as global markets continue to fall. Beijing retaliated on Sunday, following last week's decision by Trump to slap a 34% tax on Chinese imports as part of his "Liberation Day" that set a minimum 10% levy on nearly all of America's trading partners. In a social media post on Monday, Trump gave China until Tuesday to scrap its countermeasure or face the 50% tax.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8rgkkl7v8lo>

### **Raise tax collection, cut budget size**

- The visiting mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is prioritising four conditions for releasing two instalments of an ongoing USD 4.7 Bn loan programme, according to Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed. The conditions comprise raising overall tax collection, reducing the national budget for the next fiscal year of 2025-26, shifting to a more market-based exchange rate regime, and reducing budget deficits.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/raise-tax-collection-cut-budget-size-3865136>

### **USTR flags persistent trade barriers in Bangladesh**

- High tariffs, investment hurdles and entrenched corruption continue to undermine American businesses operating in Bangladesh, according to the latest report by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). The 2025 report on foreign trade barriers, released last month, also raised concerns about Bangladesh's data localisation efforts and restrictive digital laws, warning that such policies could stifle cross-border digital trade.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ustr-flags-persistent-trade-barriers-bangladesh-3865126>

### **Govt to seek 3-month pause on 37% US tariff**

- Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus will write to President Donald Trump today, requesting a three-month suspension of the 37% US reciprocal tariffs as part of measures to shield Bangladesh's exports to its largest single-country market. Meanwhile, the commerce ministry will send a letter to the US Trade Representative (USTR) for the same purposes.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-seek-3-month-pause-37-us-tariff-1109506>

## **Investment Summit to spotlight 5 high-growth sectors, including digital economy, apparel**

- The Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 begins today, offering a prime platform to highlight the country's potential investment opportunities across five key sectors – renewable energy, digital economy, textile and apparel, healthcare and pharma, and agro-processing. Set against the backdrop of Bangladesh's evolving economic landscape, the summit aims to emphasise the country's readiness for transformative growth, positioning it as a dynamic hub for foreign investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/investment-summit-spotlight-5-high-growth-sectors-including-digital-economy-apparel-1109501>

## **What's drawing investors to Bangladesh?**

- After nearly a year marred by macroeconomic turbulence and political uncertainty, the interim government has rolled up its sleeves and begun addressing the economy's deep-rooted ailments with an urgency rarely seen in recent times. An often-overlooked fact is the size of its middle and affluent class – now estimated at over 35 Mn people. That is more than three times the population of Portugal and about half that of Germany. This domestic consumer base alone is reason enough for foreign companies to take note.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/whats-drawing-investors-bangladesh-1109496>

## **External balance continues to improve, deficit falls 75% in Jul-Feb**

- The overall deficit in the country's Balance of Payments – known as the external balance – decreased by 75% in the first eight months of the fiscal 2024-25 compared to the same period last year due to a decline in hundi transactions leading to strong growth in remittance inflow, and export growth outpacing import growth. According to Bangladesh Bank data, the overall Balance of Payments deficit stood at USD 1.11 Bn during the July-February period of FY25, down from USD 4.44 Bn at the same period a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/external-balance-continues-improve-deficit-falls-75-jul-feb-1109456>

## **Policy rate to be lowered if inflation falls below 8%, Bangladesh Bank tells IMF**

- The Bangladesh Bank has informed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that the central bank will consider lowering the policy rate once inflation drops below 8%. "In response to the IMF's query, the governor noted that inflation is expected to come down to 8.2% by June, according to projections from both the Bangladesh Bank and the IMF," he added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/policy-rate-be-lowered-if-inflation-falls-below-8-bangladesh-bank-tells-imf-1109286>

## **Investment Summit: US tariff to have no negative impact, boost investment climate, says Bida chief Ashik**

- The US administration's tariff issue, which comes ahead of the Bangladesh Investment Summit, will have no negative impact but rather, the additional push would help Bangladesh create a better investment environment, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun said today (6 April).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/no-negative-impact-bida-chief-ashik-us-tariff-1109201>

## **IMF notes some progresses on BD economic front**

- Some positive notes in the latest IMF review of Bangladesh's economic situation raise hope in government high-ups for release of a stalled loan tranche together with the next one by June. We are optimistic," Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed told reporters when asked whether he remains hopeful about receiving the fourth installment of the USD 4.7 Bn credit after he had a meeting with the visiting IMF team members Sunday at the secretariat.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/imf-notes-some-progresses-on-bd-economic-front-1743960476>

## **TELECOM | Starlink gets nod to launch in Bangladesh**

- Starlink, a US-based satellite internet provider owned by billionaire Elon Musk, has received formal approval from the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) to begin operations in Bangladesh — a move hailed as a step forward in bridging the digital divide.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/starlink-gets-nod-launch-bangladesh-3865121>

## **AGRICULTURE | Rubber producers hit by price slump, security strains**

- Bangladesh's natural rubber industry, once a bright spot in the economy, is losing its lustre as slumping demand and volatile law and order in the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) send prices tumbling. Over the past six months, domestic rubber prices have dropped sharply – from BDT 280 per kilogramme to below BDT 220 – leaving growers and investors grappling with mounting losses.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rubber-producers-hit-price-slump-security-strains-3865106>

**RMG | RMG makers to seek buyers' support in emerging situation**

- Apparel makers are now considering writing US buyers seeking their patience and support in the wake of the emerging situation over new US tariff regime, insiders said. Meantime, US buyers of the locally made apparel items have started renegotiation with some of their local suppliers with few asking to hold their shipments either in ports or factories while some others seeking price concession, they added.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/rmg-makers-to-seek-buyers-support-in-emerging-situation-1743959133>

**TELECOM | BTRC moves afresh to introduce NEIR**

- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) is once again moving forward with the implementation of the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR), aiming to curb illegal handset usage through a triplet-based registration system. While mobile operators have welcomed the broader objective of blocking unauthorised devices, they are raising concerns over the intricacy of deregistration requirements, which they say may cause unnecessary hardship, particularly for women and rural users whose SIM cards are often registered under family heads.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/btrc-moves-afresh-to-introduce-neir-1743959575>

**Bangladesh's forex reserves cross USD 25 Bn ahead of Eid**

- Bangladesh Bank has delivered positive news regarding the country's foreign exchange reserves, as it surpassed USD 25 Bn before the end of March, following a record inflow of remittances this month. This comes after a significant increase in remittance inflows, which reached USD 2.94 Bn in the first 26 days of March – the highest for any month in the country's history.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-forex-reserves-cross-25-billion-ahead-eid-1103841>

**IMF team to arrive in Dhaka tomorrow**

- A delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow (5 April) to assess progress on various conditions before the disbursement of the fourth and fifth tranches of the USD 4.7 Bn loan agreement. According to the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance, the team will engage in continuous discussions with various government departments for a two-week period starting from 6 April.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-team-arrive-dhaka-tomorrow-1107706>

**Bangladesh earned BDT 15 Bn tariff from US imports in FY24**

- Bangladesh generates a negligible amount of revenue from taxes levied on goods imported from the United States, according to an internal assessment by the revenue board following Washington's announcement of imposing a 37% reciprocal tariff on Bangladeshi products entering the US market. In the July-March period of fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, taxes on US imports brought in just around BDT 10 Bn – less than 2% of the total revenue collected from all imports during that period.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-earned-tk-1500cr-tariff-us-imports-fy24-3864346>

**Chinese investment booms in Bepza EZ: 24 deals signed, 34 more in pipeline**

- Chinese investment in Bangladesh's economic zones is rising, driven partly by tariff policies imposed by the USA and the competitive labour market, according to the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza). So far, 41 companies from various countries have signed lease agreements to invest in the Bepza Economic Zone in Chattogram's Mirsharai, with 24 of them being Chinese firms.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/chinese-investment-booms-bepza-ez-24-deals-signed-34-more-pipeline-1104386>

**Startups allowed to invest up to USD 10,000 abroad**

- Bangladeshi startups can now establish legal entities abroad with an amount of up to USD 10,000 or its equivalent. According to a circular issued today (27 March) by the Foreign Exchange Investment Department of the Bangladesh Bank, applicants must submit their applications to authorised dealers after effecting remittances of up to USD 10,000 or its equivalent on behalf of a resident enterprise.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/startups-allowed-invest-10000-abroad-1103511>

**Rising costs erode business competitiveness**

- Bangladesh, long regarded as a cost-competitive destination and once hailed as the next Asian tiger, is now grappling with mounting pressure as the cost of doing business is rising sharply across key sectors. What was once considered the country's strongest advantage – a cheap labour pool -- is now being undermined by persistent infrastructural weaknesses, policy unpredictability, and rising input costs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rising-costs-erode-business-competitiveness-3864336>

### **WB resumes TA project for BR to help it go green**

- After more than one and a half decades, the World Bank is coming forward with its technical assistance to conduct a feasibility study on greening the operations of Bangladesh Railway (BR), officials said on Saturday. The global lender has recently proposed to provide USD 6.0 Mn in assistance under the "Green railway transport project preparation facility" under which a massive green-railway plan would be framed, said a senior official at the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/wb-resumes-ta-project-for-br-to-help-it-go-green>

### **Finance for boosting non-tax revenue**

- The finance ministry is pressing various ministries and divisions for steps with an eye to increasing non-tax revenue for the upcoming fiscal year, 2025-26. The development came from tripartite meetings with different line ministries hosted to discuss budget estimates for the next fiscal and projections for the following two years. The finance division data disclosed that achievements in the indicator in the latest three consecutive years remained around 80% of the targets. Several ministries and divisions received non-tax revenue worth BDT 392.55 Bn last fiscal, which was only 78.51% of BDT 500 Bn targeted.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/finance-for-boosting-non-tax-revenue>

### **CA to discuss tariff issue with US**

- Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin has said Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus will discuss the tariff issue with the US administration. The adviser gave the information at a press conference after an emergency meeting, convened by Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus, at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka on Saturday evening.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ca-to-discuss-tariff-issue-with-us-1743873786>

### **Bimstec reaffirms its critical role to deal with shared security, challenges**

- Against the backdrop of an increasingly complex and uncertain global political and economic landscape, the just-held 6th Bimstec Summit has reaffirmed Bimstec's critical role in forging regional cooperation to enable the member states to deal with their shared security and sustainable development challenges, says its Secretariat.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bimstec-reaffirms-its-critical-role-deal-shared-security-challenges-1108606>

### **Bida gears up to woo foreign investors in upcoming summit amid Trump tariffs**

- As the world reels from Trump's tariffs, the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) is gearing up to host a major investment summit on 7-10 April, aimed at attracting job-creating foreign investments in five key sectors – renewable energy, digital economy, textile and apparel, healthcare and pharma, and agro-processing. Organisers said that in response to the US imposing a 37% tariff on Bangladeshi goods, the government is already working on a reduced tariff structure to attract international investors at the Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bida-gears-woo-foreign-investors-upcoming-summit-amid-trump-tariffs-1108101>

### **IMF presses for raising BDT 570 Bn more in taxes or face loan delay**

- Following the National Board of Revenue's (NBR) unexpected tax hike in January – estimated to generate BDT 120 Bn across various goods and services – the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is now pushing for even more. The IMF wants Bangladesh to raise an additional BDT 570 Bn in the next fiscal year by reducing exemptions and further increasing taxes. Without this, securing the fourth loan instalment – already delayed since March – as well as the upcoming fifth tranche, remains uncertain, according to NBR officials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-presses-raising-tk57000cr-more-taxes-or-face-loan-delay-1106906>

### **How US tops among remittance sending countries surpassing UAE in Jul-Feb**

- The United States (US) became top remittance source for Bangladesh surpassing the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in July-February of fiscal year 2024-25. The remittance inflow from the US doubled to USD 3.39 Bn during the eight months of FY25 from USD 1.6 Bn in the same period of FY24, Bangladesh Bank data shows.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/how-us-tops-among-remittance-sending-countries-surpassing-uae-jul-feb-1104326>

**TANNERY | Footwear exporters see opportunity in US tariffs**

- As the United States moves to impose reciprocal tariffs, concerns are mounting among Bangladeshi exporters, particularly in the footwear and pharmaceutical sectors, over potential implications for the country's trade prospects.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/footwear-exporters-see-opportunity-us-tariffs-3863121>

**ENGINEERING | Steelmakers struggle against growing headwinds**

- Local steel industry is enduring a turbulent phase, grappling with subdued demand due to sluggish government spending and wavering private sector confidence, driven largely by political uncertainty. Adding to the strain, the sector – already weighed down by high operating costs and regulatory inefficiencies – now faces an additional blow with the proposed gas price hike.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/steelmakers-struggle-against-growing-headwinds-3864326>

**FOOD&ALLIED | Shrimp exports rebound, but raw material crisis threatens sustained growth**

- After plummeting to a five-year low in the last fiscal year, Bangladesh's shrimp exports have begun to rebound in the current fiscal year, driven by renewed demand from international markets. But, industry insiders warn that a worsening raw material shortage – raw shrimp – may hinder sustained growth. According to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), exports of frozen and live fish, including shrimp, rose by 14.45% year-on-year to USD 316.2 Mn in the first eight months of FY2024-25 (July–February).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/shrimp-exports-rebound-raw-material-crisis-threatens-sustained-growth-1108096>

**TEXTILE | Cotton imports from US decline for two consecutive years**

- Bangladesh's cotton imports from the US have seen negative growth for the last two consecutive years, a trend spinners attribute to the high price and longer lead time of US cotton compared to Indian raw materials, despite the US cotton's higher quality and lower wastage rate. The country imported US cotton worth USD 252 Mn in 2024, a 25.51% decrease from the previous year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/cotton-imports-from-us-decline-for-two-consecutive-years-1743873237>

**FUEL & POWER | Tax reform framed to cut state subsidy burden on LNG**

- A tax-reform package for imported LNG has been prepared to help reduce state subsidy burden being created through multiple taxation and marketing the item at cut rates. To reduce its burden from gas subsidies, officials say, the state-owned Petrobangla has proposed a set of tax reforms on the import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to be ratified in the upcoming budget for the fiscal year 2025-26.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/tax-reform-framed-to-cut-state-subsidy-burden-on-lng-1743871853>

**BANK | Cenbank lifts ban on banks' foreign training fee payments**

- The Bangladesh Bank has allowed banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) to freely use their dollar funds for employee registration and participation in overseas training, seminars, and workshops. The central bank's Foreign Exchange Policy Department issued a circular on the matter last week, lifting restrictions that had been in place since May 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bangladesh-bank-lifts-ban-banks-foreign-training-fee-payments-1107101>

**ENERGY | EGCB plans 220MW solar plant at Sonagazi**

- Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB) now plans to set up a 220MW solar power plant in Sonagazi upazila of Feni district. The company has some 650 acres of land in Sonagazi after setting up a 75MW solar plant there. The selected firm has to conduct power flow analysis for a base case with power evacuation of EGCB's 220MW photovoltaic power plant and also contingency analysis for a set of contingencies to determine the plant's impact on system voltage and line flows.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/egcb-plans-220mw-solar-plant-at-sonagazi>

**IT | Govt to boost ICT exports to offset US tariff impacts: CA's Special Assistant Taiyeb**

- The interim government is planning to boost information communication and technology (ICT) related exports, aiming to offset the impact of the 37% reciprocal tariff on Bangladesh announced by the United States recently, said Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, the chief adviser's special assistant for posts, telecommunications and ICT.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-boost-ict-exports-offset-us-tariff-impacts-cas-special-assistant-taiyeb-1107966>



## Important News: Stocks

### **LHB | Holcim Group reaffirms commitment to Bangladesh market**

- Martin Kriegner, Holcim Group executive committee member and regional head for Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, reaffirmed the group's commitment to Bangladesh during his meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna in Dhaka today. The meeting addressed the country's cement consumption trends, the environmental impact of the industry, and Holcim's future plans for the Bangladeshi market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/holcim-group-reaffirms-commitment-bangladesh-market-3867481>

### **SILVAPHL | BSEC to look into Silva Pharma's financial Strength**

- The market watchdog decided to investigate the financial strength of Silva Pharmaceuticals as it has been incurring losses for one and a half years. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has formed a three-member enquiry committee and outlined 15 specific terms of reference (TOR) for the investigation. The committee has been instructed to submit its report within 60 days from the date of issuance of the order.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bsec-to-look-into-silva-pharmas-financial-strength>

### **EXCHANGE | BDT 20 Bn sukuk in the offing**

- The Shariah Advisory Committee of the Bangladesh Bank decided on Wednesday to issue the 6th Bangladesh Government Investment Sukuk, worth BDT 20 Bn, next month for a project titled "Rajshahi Division Important Upazila and Union Road Widening and Strengthening Project (RDIRWSP)".

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tk-2000cr-sukuk-the-offing-3867806>

### **EXCHANGE | BB extends tenure of BDT 2 Bn stock market fund**

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) issued a circular on Tuesday extending, till the end of 2026, the tenure of a BDT 2 Bn fund that each bank was individually allowed to create in order to make investments in the stock market. Back in February 2020, Bangladesh Bank allowed banks to form the special funds, some of them by taking low-interest loans from the central bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-extends-tenure-tk-200cr-stock-market-fund-3866866>

### **RENATA | Renata launched 13 products in Europe, Australia, Canada, UK in 2024**

- Renata PLC, a leading local pharmaceutical company, launched 13 new products in the highly-regulated markets of Europe, Australia, Canada, and the UK in 2024. The launches are a testament to Renata's vision of developing world-class, high-quality medication and becoming a revered pharmaceutical company on a global scale, the pharmaceutical manufacturer said in a statement today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/renata-launched-13-products-europe-australia-canada-uk-2024-3866581>

### **NEWLINE | DSE inspection finds New Line Clothings headquarters, factory closed**

- A Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) inspection team has found that New Line Clothings headquarters and factory in Gazipur were completely shut down. The textile firm, which was listed on the bourse in 2019, has not officially disclosed the closure. The DSE published the findings on its website today, prompting a 4.44% drop in New Line Clothings' share price, which closed at BDT 8.60.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-inspection-finds-new-line-clothings-headquarters-factory-closed-1111206>

### **EXCHANGE | Task force suggests separate auditors' panel for IPO proposals**

- Task force of the capital market has recommended criteria for individual auditors to be eligible to examine financial statements that issuers submit with IPO proposals; the main objective is to make them answerable for any misconduct.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/task-force-suggests-separate-auditors-panel-for-ipo-proposals-1744128237>

### **RECKITT BEN | Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh declares record 3,330% cash dividend for 2024**

- Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh declared a 3,330% cash dividend to its shareholders for 2024, which will be the highest payout in its history, according to a company source. To approve the dividend, the UK-based company will conduct the annual general meeting on 28 May, and the record date is set for 29 April.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/reckitt-benckiser-bangladesh-declares-record-3330-cash-dividend-2024-1110076>

**EXCHANGE | Provisioning shortfall against negative stock equity hits BDT 78.24 Bn**

- The provisioning shortfall of merchant banks and brokerage houses against negative equity in the capital market reached BDT 78.62 Bn as of October last year. Brokerage houses linked to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and Chittagong Stock Exchange, as well as merchant banks, have provisioned only BDT 27.01 Bn against the total negative equity of BDT 105.25 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/provisioning-shortfall-against-negative-stock-equity-hits-tk7824cr-1110196>

**EXCHANGE | BSEC approves inspecting 10 struggling firms' business status**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has given approval to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to inspect ten companies listed on-site as financially struggling. The ten companies selected for inspection are: Associated Oxygen Limited, Far Chemical Industries Limited, Krishibid Seed Limited, Nahee Aluminium Composite Panel PLC, Ring Shine Textiles Limited, Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries Limited, Beach Hatchery Limited, Global Heavy Chemicals Limited, Indo-Bangla Pharmaceuticals Limited, and Fu-Wang Ceramic Limited.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-approves-inspecting-10-struggling-firms-business-status-1110151>

**EXCHANGE | Market slides over Trump-tariff-induced fear, experts see it as temporary hiccup**

- The stock market ended lower on Sunday as jittery investors reacted to the "reciprocal tariffs" imposed by the US administration. That was the first trading day after a week-long Eid vacation. In the meantime, the US government imposed a higher import tariff, 37%, on Bangladeshi goods as part of its taxing of all foreign goods in order to narrow trade deficits with exporting countries. At present, the US tariff on Bangladeshi items is about 15%. The additional tariff is feared to negatively impact many listed ready-made garment manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies, as they have substantial exports to the US.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/market-slides-over-trump-tariff-induced-fear-experts-see-it-as-temporary-hiccup-1743953437>

**SAIFPOWER, UCB | Saif Powertec in talks with UCB to resolve BDT 5.18 Bn loan issue**

- Saif Powertec said yesterday that it is in discussions with United Commercial Bank (UCB) to resolve a loan-related issue, following a recent notice by the bank regarding the planned auction of Saif's assets. "We are going to settle the matter with UCB, Mohakhali Branch, Dhaka, for which our management is in discussions with the bank authorities to resolve it as early as possible," the company said in a disclosure to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/saif-powertec-talks-ucb-resolve-tk-518cr-loan-issue-3865101>

**EXCHANGE | BSEC fines BDT 23.6 Mn to Shakib, associates for share manipulation**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has imposed fines totalling approximately BDT 23.6 Mn on eight individual investors, including cricketer Shakib Al Hasan and Md Abul Khayer Hiru, as well as four institutions, for manipulating the share price of Crystal Insurance Company Ltd. In addition, the regulatory body has issued warnings to Al-Amin Chemical Industries Ltd, Sonali Paper Board Mills Ltd, and NRBC Bank for their involvement in the manipulation of Crystal Insurance shares. This decision was finalised by the commission last month.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-fines-tk236cr-shakib-associates-share-manipulation-1109416>

**EXCHANGE | Dhaka bourse to inspect 10 more worrisome companies**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has received permission from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to conduct on-site inspections of 10 listed companies. The companies' headquarters, factory premises, and other relevant operational areas will be visited to assess their actual business and financial conditions. The companies that will come under scrutiny this time are Associated Oxygen Limited, FAR Chemical Industries Limited, Krishibid Seed Limited, Nahee Aluminum Composite Panel, Ring Shine Textiles Limited, Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries Limited, Beach Hatchery Limited, Global Heavy Chemicals Limited, Indo-Bangla Pharmaceuticals Limited and Fu-Wang Ceramic Industries Limited.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dhaka-bourse-to-inspect-10-more-worrisome-companies-1743953504>

**MAKSONSPIN | Cost escalation hits Maksons Spinning, widening losses**

- Losses of Maksons Spinning Mills – a concern of Maksons Group – widened further in the first half of the current fiscal year due to rising costs and a decline in overall sales. According to a stock exchange filing, the company incurred a per-share loss of BDT 3.49 during the July-December period, amounting to a total loss of BDT 830 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/cost-escalation-hits-maksons-spinning-widening-losses-1103716>

**ARAMITCEM | Aramit Cement's revenue drops 51% in H1 FY25**

- Aramit Cement reported a 51% decline in revenue for the July-December period of FY25 due to the severe business disruptions. The company approved its unaudited financial statements in a virtual board meeting on 27 March, as most shareholder directors did not attend in person, according to a company source.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aramit-cements-revenue-drops-51-h1-fy25-1105116>

**EXCHANGE | Corporate bond market struggles due to high treasury yields, political uncertainty**

- Although the corporate bond market saw a significant boost from the former Shibli commission, which approved bonds worth around BDT 410 Bn between May 2020 and July 2024, it is now grappling with a severe crisis due to the ongoing economic slowdown and political instability, industry insiders say.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/corporate-bond-market-struggles-due-high-treasury-yields-political-uncertainty>

**EXCHANGE | Reform Task Force proposes allowing issue managers to participate in IPOs**

- The Capital Market Reform Task Force proposed that the issue manager — the entity responsible for managing the initial public offering (IPO) of a company — or any of its related parties (such as affiliates, directors, or subsidiaries) should be allowed to bid for or participate in the IPO process. The task force has submitted the report titled, "Proposed Changes in Initial Public Offering (IPO) and Related Laws" to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) in March.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/reform-task-force-proposes-allowing-issue-managers-participate-ipos-1107436>

**EXCHANGE | Eight MNCs recommend BDT 81.41 Bn in dividends for 2024**

- Eight listed multinational companies (MNCs) have recommended a combined dividend payout of BDT 81.41 Bn for 2024 – a staggering 120% year-on-year increase. The other five multinationals out of the total 13 listed on the country's stock exchanges – including Reckitt Benckiser, Bata Shoe, and Heidelberg Materials – have yet to announce dividends for 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/eight-mncs-recommend-tk8141cr-dividends-2024-1106776>

**EXCHANGE | Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka sign deal to strengthen capital market cooperation**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), and Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 27 March to strengthen regional capital market cooperation. The agreement aims to establish an exchange forum to facilitate technology development and sharing, human resource collaboration, product development, regulatory coordination, investor protection, and knowledge exchange across the three markets, according to Arab News.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bangladesh-pakistan-sri-lanka-sign-deal-strengthen-capital-market-cooperation-1105136>

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