

Following is a summary of important business news published in the leading daily newspapers of Bangladesh. For the complete news, please follow the online link given below each news. Please note that the news summary doesn't reflect the opinion of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited.

Macro:**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. The IMF, led by Mission Chief Chris Papageorgiou, presented its revenue targets during a scheduled meeting with NBR officials at the board's headquarters in the Agargaon area of the capital on Sunday.

<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>

International:**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>

Stocks:**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>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	%Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.58	(USD 9.85)	-13.79%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 64.97	(USD 9.42)	-12.66%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,002.99	USD 394.51	15.12%
DSEX	5,196.70	-19.74	-0.38%
S&P 500	5,062.25	-844.69	-14.30%
FTSE 100	7,702.08	-418.93	-5.16%
BSE SENSEX	73,137.90	-5,062.03	-6.47%
KSE-100	114,909.49	-349.51	-0.30%
CSEALL	14,660.45	-1,284.16	-8.05%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.79 BDT****1 GBP = 155.78 BDT****1 Euro = 133.75 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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