

*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's revenue-GDP ratio to hit double-digits in FY27: IMF**

- In its latest edition of the Fiscal Monitor report released on 17 April, the multilateral lender forecasted that the country's revenue-to-GDP ratio will reach 9.3% in FY25 and 9.9% in FY26 before hitting 10% in FY27.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-revenue-gdp-ratio-hit-double-digits-fy27-imf-830541>

**NBR swings axe on exemptions, eyes BDT 94 Bn VAT hike in FY25**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has projected to collect an additional BDT 94 Bn in value-added tax (VAT) in the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25, according to official documents. This increase is expected to come from three main sources: the highest by phasing out exemptions, restructuring cigarette taxation and installing electronic fiscal and sales devices.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-swings-axe-on-exemptions-eyes-tk-94b-vat-hike-in-fy25-1713378344>

**Sectors & Industries:****APPAREL | BSK Bangladesh to invest USD 6.14 Mn in Cumilla EPZ**

- They will invest USD 6.14 Mn to produce 3 Mn pcs of handbags, backpacks, travel bags, wallets and trolley bags, reads a press statement issued today (17 April).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bsk-bangladesh-invest-614-million-cumilla-epz-830216>

**RMG | US trade bodies oppose tariff hike idea for garments from Bangladesh**

- Four major American trade bodies have strongly opposed the suggestion aimed at imposing higher tariffs on apparel items imported from Bangladesh and four other countries since it is the end-consumers who bear the additional prices ultimately.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/us-trade-bodies-oppose-tariff-hike-idea-garments-bangladesh-3589536>

**Stocks:****AAMRANET | Aamra Networks posts 39% revenue growth in IT support, software services**

- During the July to March period of FY24, its total revenue saw an 8% growth, and its net profit surged by 11.91% compared to the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aamra-networks-posts-39-revenue-growth-it-support-software-services-830551>

**DUTCHBANGL | Dutch-Bangla Bank profits jumps 42%, reaches BDT 8.01 Bn in 2023**

- Moreover, the bank recommended a 17.50% cash dividend and a 17.50% stock dividend to its shareholders for the last year, which will be the highest payout in the last three years. Its earnings per share stood at BDT 10.72 in 2023, which was BDT 7.57 a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dutch-bangla-bank-profit-jumps-42-tk801cr-2023-830391>

**ADNTEL | ADN Telecom expands: Secures space in Sylhet Hi-Tech Park**

- According to a disclosure on the stock exchange website, the company has acquired approximately 1.75 acres of land for a tenure of 40 years. According to the disclosure, the project's annual lease rent will be set at USD 1.50 per square metre for the initial 10 years, subject to adjustment every 3 years with a maximum increment of 10%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/adn-telecom-expands-secures-space-sylhet-hi-tech-park-830546>

**BANKASIA | Bank Asia plans to acquire Bank Alfalah's Bangladesh unit**

- The disclosure said the board of directors of Bank Alfalah Ltd had given approval in-principal for the non-binding indicative offer received from Bank Asia Ltd to acquire the bank's Bangladesh operations, assets and liabilities, subject to compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and obtaining of necessary regulatory approvals.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bank-asia-plans-acquire-bank-alfalabs-bangladesh-unit-3589116>

**MJLBD, PRIMEBANK | MJL Bangladesh to buy 22 Mn Prime Bank shares within 30 days**

- Lubricant producer MJL Bangladesh Ltd has announced that it will acquire 22 Mn shares of Prime Bank at the prevailing market rate through the block market on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) within the next 30 days.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mjl-bangladesh-buy-220cr-prime-bank-shares-within-30-days-830151>

**PADMALIFE | Padma Islami served show cause notice over BDT 2.11 Bn unsettled claims**

- The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) has given Padma Islami Life Insurance five working days to explain why they should not be penalised for failing to settle claims amounting to BDT 2.11 Bn last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/padma-islami-served-show-cause-notice-over-tk-211cr-unsettled-claims-3589196>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 82.81	USD 11.16	15.58%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 87.48	USD 10.44	13.55%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,373.14	USD 310.16	15.03%
DSEX	5,763.77	-482.72	-7.73%
S&P 500	5,022.21	252.38	5.29%
FTSE 100	7,847.99	114.75	1.48%
BSE SENSEX	72,943.68	703.42	0.97%
KSE-100	70,355.30	7,975.89	12.79%
CSEALL	11,792.16	1,138.00	10.68%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.47 BDT****1 GBP = 136.46 BDT****1 Euro = 116.88 BDT****1 INR = 1.31 BDT**

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