

## Weekly Market Update

### Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-2.07%) lost -107.91 points and closed the week at 5,097.33 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-2.72%) lost -52.51 points and stood at 1,875.39 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-2.49%) lost -29.25 points and stood at 1,143.71 points. The large cap index CDSET (-1.53%) lost -16.06 points and closed at 1,034.05 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -2.28%, -3.32%, -2.16%, -3.01%, respectively.

**Total Turnover During The Week (DSE):** BDT 16.0 billion (USD 131 million)  
**Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV):** BDT 4.0 billion (Δ% Week: -18.1%)  
**Market P/E:** 14.4x

### Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed four sessions this week. It started negatively on Sunday (-0.68%) and remained negative throughout Tuesday (-0.73%), Wednesday (-0.51%), and Thursday (-0.16%).

### Sectoral Performance

· Most of the financial sectors registered negative performance this week. Mutual Fund experienced the highest loss of -6.05% followed by Life Insurance (-5.40%), NBFIL (-3.16%), Bank (-1.60%), and General Insurance (+0.79%).

· All the non-financial (large-cap) sectors registered negative performance this week. Pharmaceutical experienced the highest loss of 2.05% followed by Engineering (-1.90%), Fuel & Power (-1.38%), Telecommunication (-0.72%), and Food & Allied (-0.39%).

### Macroeconomic Arena

Govt sets BDT 4.99 Tn target for NBR in FY26. Private sector short-term foreign debt rises USD 355 Mn in a month. Beza plans low-cost housing for workers in special EZs. Bay Terminal project inches forward. Karnaphuli Tunnel's daily losses hit BDT 1.2 Mn amid low traffic. AVIATION | Novair may be grounded from May. FUEL & POWER | Bida expresses concern over gas price hike. FUEL & POWER | EZ, EPZ industries to get priority as gas connections resume amid supply crunch. FUEL & POWER | Govt plans to dig deeper into existing gas fields. BANK | Provide info on willful loan defaulters every 3 months. PHARMACEUTICALS | Drugmakers take wait-and-see approach amid possible US tariff on pharma imports. BANK | Banks' CSR spending falls to 8-year low.

Business as usual at Darshana port despite India's transshipment halt. CPA calls for ministry's intervention as port rate row deepens. Businesses for talks to steer US tariff regime. Trump's tariff policy a wake-up call. Customs bond automation: Why hasn't it taken off after all these years?. Water supply cost set to rise by BDT 28.28 Bn more. TEXTILE | Importers seek incentive on US cotton to bridge trade gap. TEXTILE | Increase imports of US goods to reduce trade gap: textile millers. TELECOM | Nearly half of Bangladeshi homes still without internet access: BBS. RMG | Bangladesh at risk of slipping to third in global RMG export. HEALTHCARE | Govt courts healthcare FDI as market heads towards USD 23. Bn by 2030. FUEL & POWER | Adani plant supplying at half capacity.

### Stock Market Arena

BEACONPHAR | Beacon Pharma MD fined for inflating price of Khan Brothers. PREMIERBAN | BFIU fines Premier Bank for unfreezing HBM Iqbal's account. NTC | Steeping trouble: National Tea keeps investors in the dark. IFIC | Salman, Shayan, Shibli face embezzlement charges in IFIC Aamar bond 'fraud'. EXCHANGE | Boards responsible for performance of listed companies: BSEC. BEACONPHAR | DSE seeks clarification from Beacon Pharma on export halt. CROWNCEMENT | Crown Cement directors to gift BDT 212.8 Mn in shares to family members.

## DSEX ended in Red (-2.07%) in the week

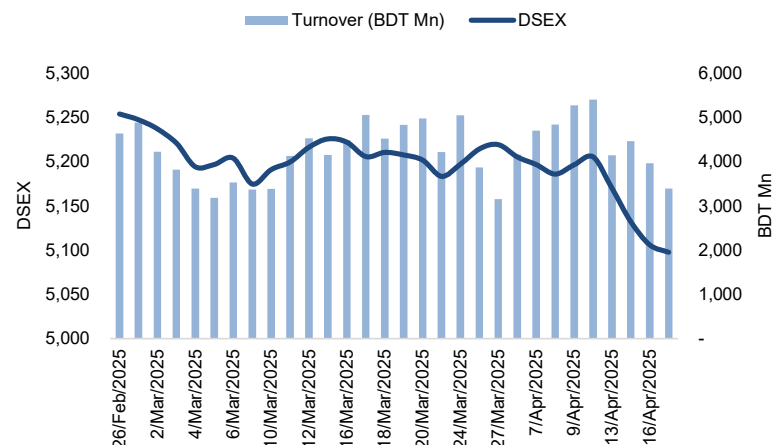
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	30-Dec-2024	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	5,097.33	5,205.23	-107.91	5,216.44	-2.07%	-2.28%
DS30	1,875.39	1,927.90	-52.51	1,939.73	-2.72%	-3.32%
DSES	1,143.71	1,172.96	-29.25	1,168.90	-2.49%	-2.16%
CDSET	1,034.05	1,050.11	-16.06	1,066.09	-1.53%	-3.01%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	6,705,362	6,716,438	
	Mn USD	54,962	55,053	-0.16%
Turnover	Mn BDT	15,962	24,364	
	Mn USD	131	200	-34.49%
Average Daily	Mn BDT	3,990	4,873	
	Mn USD	33	40	-18.11%
Volume	Mn Shares	580	986	-41.24%

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
DGIC	31.6	25.4	+24.4%	1,264	136.6	39.0x	2.5x
MIDLANDBNK	17.7	14.7	+20.4%	11,322	257.7	10.2x	1.2x
RENWICKJA	730.5	630.5	+15.9%	1,461	7.5	NM	NM
SPCL	38.3	33.6	+14.0%	7,148	178.0	98.2x	1.0x
FAREASTFIN	3.8	3.4	+11.8%	623	10.8	NM	NM
PREMIERCEM	60.0	55.2	+8.7%	6,327	76.4	12.6x	0.9x
GLOBALINS	29.3	27.2	+7.7%	1,188	73.4	21.1x	2.0x
ASIAPACINS	31.4	29.2	+7.5%	1,330	9.4	14.7x	1.3x
EASTRNLUB	2,504.3	2,344.3	+6.8%	3,976	322.3	71.4x	12.0x
NRBBANK	13.4	12.6	+6.3%	9,254	98.2	22.1x	1.0x

**Table 4: Top Ten Losers**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
BDFINANCE	10.0	11.9	-16.0%	1,882	24.1	NM	0.9x
UNIONCAP	4.9	5.8	-15.5%	846	10.7	NM	NM
SONARGAON	32.9	38.0	-13.4%	871	52.7	NM	1.7x
SALAMCRST	22.0	25.4	-13.4%	2,164	112.9	NM	1.2x
SPCERAMICS	22.4	25.8	-13.2%	3,292	341.8	NM	0.8x
1JANATAMF	3.4	3.9	-12.8%	986	18.0	NM	0.4x
SSSTEEL	6.9	7.9	-12.7%	2,268	17.0	32.9x	0.3x
AIL	45.1	51.2	-11.9%	2,195	172.4	16.9x	1.9x
IFIC1STMF	3.7	4.2	-11.9%	674	55.8	NM	0.4x
PRIMEBANK	21.3	24.6	-11.3%	24,721	17.7	3.4x	0.6x

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

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
BSC	93.3	98.2	-5.0%	14,232	850.3	4.9x	1.0x
BXPBARMA	95.2	105.3	-9.6%	42,470	437.8	6.6x	0.9x
BEACHHATCH	96.7	95.6	+1.2%	4,003	434.0	28.4x	6.4x
UTTARABANK	25.2	25.3	-0.4%	20,809	427.6	4.4x	0.8x
SPCERAMICS	22.4	25.8	-13.2%	3,292	341.8	NM	0.8x
EASTRNLUB	2,504.3	2,344.3	+6.8%	3,976	322.3	71.4x	12.0x
ABB1STMF	5.1	5.4	-5.6%	1,219	304.7	NM	0.6x
MIDLANDBNK	17.7	14.7	+20.4%	11,322	257.7	10.2x	1.2x
FINEFOODS	190.1	188.9	+0.6%	2,656	223.0	82.3x	15.5x
EBL	27.1	26.9	+0.7%	36,806	213.1	5.6x	0.9x

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

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
ACI	194.6	+39.4%	17,054	NM	2.8x
IFADAUTOS	24.6	+20.6%	6,599	NM	0.7x
HEIDELCEM	264.2	+19.3%	14,928	40.6x	3.7x
BXPBARMA	95.2	+16.7%	42,470	6.6x	0.9x
UCB	10.7	+16.3%	16,589	5.9x	0.4x
CROWNCEMNT	48.1	+10.6%	7,143	13.7x	0.9x
ESQUIRENIT	21.4	+9.7%	2,887	12.6x	0.3x
EBL	27.1	+9.7%	36,806	5.6x	0.9x
MARICO	2,499.6	+9.5%	78,737	14.1x	10.4x
ENVOYTEX	42.6	+8.1%	7,146	7.5x	0.8x

\*BDT

\*BDT Mn

**Table 7: Sector Indices**

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,380.5	1,403.0	1,429.64	-1.60%	-3.44%
NBFI	1,039.5	1,073.4	1,188.21	-3.16%	-12.52%
Mutual Fund	626.2	666.6	603.30	-6.05%	+3.80%
General Insurance	2,581.0	2,560.8	2,772.79	+0.79%	-6.92%
Life Insurance	1,726.0	1,824.6	1,827.34	-5.40%	-5.55%
Telecommunication	5,028.5	5,065.1	5,185.99	-0.72%	-3.04%
Pharmaceutical	2,913.3	2,974.2	2,959.70	-2.05%	-1.57%
Fuel & Power	1,095.0	1,110.3	1,108.63	-1.38%	-1.23%
Cement	1,824.9	1,904.1	1,957.26	-4.16%	-6.76%
Services & Real Estate	985.8	1,028.0	1,013.65	-4.11%	-2.75%
Engineering	2,436.7	2,483.9	2,496.75	-1.90%	-2.40%
Food & Allied	15,638.8	15,699.3	17,177.59	-0.39%	-8.96%
IT	1,901.2	1,967.7	1,994.92	-3.38%	-4.70%
Textile	1,048.1	1,081.4	1,093.38	-3.08%	-4.14%
Paper & Printing	4,357.9	4,487.9	3,998.20	-2.90%	+9.00%
Tannery	1,911.0	1,929.3	2,020.25	-0.95%	-5.41%
Jute	11,745.7	12,136.3	14,455.60	-3.22%	-18.75%
Ceramics	408.0	434.2	359.12	-6.04%	+13.62%
Miscellaneous	4,214.5	4,247.5	4,252.62	-0.78%	-0.90%

**Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix**

Sector Name	Daily Avg this Week	Daily Avg last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	418.4	341.2	+22.62%	+11.36%	8.3x	0.7x
NBFI	71.3	121.9	-41.51%	+1.94%	NM	NM
Mutual Fund	218.7	317.4	-31.10%	+5.94%	NM	0.6x
General Insurance	193.7	104.6	+85.15%	+5.26%	13.1x	1.1x
Life Insurance	105.0	255.4	-58.88%	+2.85%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	51.2	75.1	-31.78%	+1.39%	13.2x	4.0x
Pharmaceutical	494.4	921.3	-46.34%	+13.42%	13.1x	1.5x
Fuel & Power	282.1	296.6	-4.89%	+7.66%	16.2x	0.6x
Cement	112.9	87.8	+28.62%	+3.07%	17.2x	1.9x
Services & Real Estate	92.0	151.0	-39.05%	+2.50%	19.3x	0.4x
Engineering	352.5	383.4	-8.08%	+9.57%	12.5x	0.9x
Food & Allied	363.5	377.3	-3.67%	+9.87%	15.6x	4.3x
IT	87.8	145.7	-39.75%	+2.38%	19.5x	1.6x
Textile	265.1	373.8	-29.07%	+7.20%	87.0x	0.7x
Paper & Printing	105.8	129.2	-18.10%	+2.87%	NM	0.9x
Tannery	42.3	36.6	+15.61%	+1.15%	NM	1.5x
Jute	16.0	14.9	+7.38%	+0.44%	NM	NM
Ceramics	110.9	203.2	-45.43%	+3.01%	NM	1.1x
Miscellaneous	299.3	307.3	-2.62%	+8.13%	94.2x	1.9x

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

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
RENATA	499.9	-21.3%	57,337	19.4x	1.7x
LHB	45.0	-16.5%	52,262	13.7x	2.8x
POWERGRID	35.1	-16.0%	32,075	NM	0.2x
ISLAMIBANK	40.8	-15.7%	65,688	14.1x	0.9x
PIONEERINS	40.9	-14.8%	4,000	8.5x	0.9x
BATBC	323.3	-12.1%	174,582	10.0x	3.0x
LINDEBD	905.4	-11.2%	13,779	2.1x	3.9x
RECKITTEN	3,919.3	-9.9%	18,519	24.6x	11.2x
DBH	35.1	-9.8%	6,981	7.0x	0.8x
BATASHOE	818.8	-9.6%	11,201	50.4x	3.3x

## Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

### Govt sets BDT 4.99 Tn target for NBR in FY26

- The government has set a revenue collection target of BDT 4.99 Tn for the National Board of Revenue (NBR) in the upcoming fiscal year 2025–26 — a 7.6% increase from the revised target for this year. The decision came from a meeting of the Fiscal Coordination Committee, chaired by Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed, on Tuesday this week, according to finance ministry officials.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-sets-tk-499-lakh-crore-target-nbr-fy26-3873086>

### Private sector short-term foreign debt rises USD 355 Mn in a month

- After a continuous seven-month decline, private sector short-term foreign debt returned to an upward trend in February, driven by signs of exchange rate stability and a widening gap between international and local interest rates. According to data from the central bank, as of the end of February this year, the outstanding amount of private sector short-term foreign debt stood at USD 10.16 Bn—an increase by USD 355 Mn from the previous month.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/private-sector-short-term-foreign-debt-rises-355-million-month-1117966>

### Delegation to visit US next week to discuss tariffs

- A high-powered delegation from Bangladesh is scheduled to visit the US next week to discuss the tariffs imposed by the Trump administration, Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin said. "The delegation will explore the factors behind the trade imbalance, tariff and non-tariff barriers, and strategies to increase the supply of complementary goods between the two countries," he said at a view-exchange meeting organised by the Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/delegation-visit-us-next-week-discuss-tariffs-3873071>

### Beza plans low-cost housing for workers in special EZs

- Beza plans to develop low-cost housing in the National Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) to address the shortage of adequate housing for workers amid growing industrial activities. To make this possible, Beza will allocate land within the zone to investors and facilitate access to low-interest loans for constructing worker accommodations. A meeting between Beza and the Bangladesh Bank was held on Wednesday to discuss the initiative.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/beza-plans-low-cost-housing-workers-special-ezs-1117961>

### Bay Terminal project inches forward

- After seeing very little progress over the past one and a half years, the Bay Terminal project at the Chattogram port is expected to gain momentum as a development project proposal (DPP) for three crucial components is expected to be placed soon. According to port officials, once the DPP is approved, a loan agreement with the World Bank will follow, enabling physical work to start. The much-discussed port expansion project has seen little progress since former prime minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the masterplan on November 14, 2023.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bay-terminal-project-inches-forward-3873051>

### Karnaphuli Tunnel's daily losses hit BDT 1.2 Mn amid low traffic

- The Karnaphuli Tunnel continues to incur huge losses due to much lower traffic than the estimation amid a lack of initiatives to implement the "one city, two towns" concept. According to the latest toll collection data, 3,000 vehicles on average use the tunnel daily, much lower than 17,000 estimated in the feasibility study. In March this year, Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) collected BDT 29.9 Mn in tolls from the 92,495 vehicles, mostly cars and minibuses, using the tunnel.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/karnaphuli-tunnels-daily-losses-hit-tk-12m-amid-low-traffic-1744827445>

### AVIATION | Novoair may be grounded from May

- Novoair is likely to shut down its operation for around three months from May as the private airline has started the process of selling the five ATR aircraft in its fleet. The process is likely to be completed this month, said Md Mofizur Rahman, MD of Novoair. "If we get the new investor, we will not sell our aircraft to foreign buyers. In that case, our flights will not shut down. Otherwise, we will have to discontinue the flight operations for three months."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/novoair-may-be-grounded-may-3872961>

### FUEL & POWER | Bida expresses concern over gas price hike

- The newly fixed gas tariff discriminates against new investors, as it compels them to pay 33% more in bills than existing ones, said Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun. In a letter sent to the BERC on April 15, Bida called for a tariff revision, warning that the move to hike prices could hurt the country's investment prospects. "This discriminatory policy will discourage new investments," Chowdhury said. "Investors are already considering this decision unfair and have taken a stand against it."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bida-expresses-concern-over-gas-price-hike-3872441>

**FUEL & POWER | EZ, EPZ industries to get priority as gas connections resume amid supply crunch**

- Due to limited gas supply, not all factories and businesses will receive new connections. The government will prioritise export-oriented industries located within EPZs, basing decisions on economic impact assessments. The Energy Division issued new guidelines, instructing distribution companies to prepare and submit lists of eligible businesses for new connections and load increases, based on a first-come, first-served basis.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/ez-epz-industries-get-priority-gas-connections-resume-amid-supply-crunch-1118036>

**FUEL & POWER | Govt plans to dig deeper into existing gas fields**

- The Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) is set to implement two development projects worth BDT 9.11 Bn to reduce import dependence by tapping into domestic mineral resources. One project titled 'Drilling of Two Deep Exploration Wells at the Titas and Bakhraabad Gas Fields' would cost BDT 7.98 Bn and the other 'Enhancement and Strengthening of Drilling Capacity of the Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB)' would require BDT 1.13 Bn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/govt-plans-to-dig-deeper-into-existing-gas-fields>

**BANK | Provide info on willful loan defaulters every 3 months**

- Bangladesh Bank yesterday instructed banks to furnish detailed information about willful loan defaulters. The central bank issued a notice stating that lenders must submit detailed information on the willful defaulters to its CIB every three months. As per the new notice, once a bank identifies and confirms a borrower as a willful defaulter, it must send the information to the CIB and those borrowers must be listed in the CIB as "willful defaulters".

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/provide-info-wilful-loan-defaulters-every-3-months-3872826>

**PHARMACEUTICALS | Drugmakers take wait-and-see approach amid possible US tariff on pharma imports**

- Bangladeshi pharmaceutical companies are closely monitoring developments following the Trump administration's move to explore imposing tariffs on pharmaceutical imports, a decision that could reshape trade dynamics with the United States. Now, Bangladeshi pharmaceutical exporters are adopting a cautious wait-and-see approach, ready to take strategic actions once the situation becomes clearer.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/drugmakers-take-wait-and-see-approach-amid-possible-us-tariff-pharma-imports-1117071>

**BANK | Banks' CSR spending falls to 8-year low**

- Banks' spending on CSR activities fell to an eight-year low in 2024 as the pressure to provide finance from higher-ups declined following the political changeover in August. Banks spent BDT 6.15 Bn last year, down 33% year-on-year, according to Bangladesh Bank data. This was the second consecutive year that spending by banks for CSR purposes declined since the highest spending of BDT 11.42 Bn was registered in 2022.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-csr-spending-falls-8-year-low-3873081>

**INSURANCE | Insurance sector under strain as claim settlements drop**

- The rate of claim settlements in Bangladesh's insurance sector declined last year, deepening concerns over transparency and further eroding the confidence of policyholders in an industry already trailing behind global standards. In 2024, only 57% of insurance claims were settled, according to the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Idra). This marks a sharp decline from around 65% the previous year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/insurance-sector-under-strain-claim-settlements-drop-3873076>

**BANK | BB to start buyback in FY '26, asks PDs to get ready**

- The central bank has asked the primary dealer (PD) banks to prepare for the buyback arrangement of G-Sec from the 2025-26 fiscal year. The instruction came at a quarterly tripartite meeting held at the BB headquarters on Wednesday, with Istequenal Hussain, Director at the Debt Management Department of. "We've planned to start the buyback arrangement of the government securities and bonds from FY '26 for effectively managing liquidity," a senior official told The Financial Express after the meeting.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bb-to-start-buyback-in-fy-26-asks-pds-to-get-ready>

**Budget size set to decrease by BDT 70 Bn to BDT 7.90 Tn next fiscal year**

- The finance ministry has decided to reduce the budget for the next fiscal year 2025-2026 (FY26) to BDT 7.90 Tn, a BDT 70 Bn drop compared to the original budget for the current fiscal year, officials familiar with the matter said. If implemented, this will mark the first time since the country's independence when the size of the new budget will be smaller than the previous year. Finance Division officials have said that the size is being reduced to make the budget "feasible".

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget-size-set-decrease-tk7000-crore-tk790-lakh-crore-next-fiscal-year-1116801>

## **Russia extends Rooppur loan repayment by two years, waives USD 164 Mn penalty**

- Russia has agreed to ease loan conditions, relieving Bangladesh from a USD 164 Mn penalty for delayed instalments on a USD 500 Mn loan used for the feasibility study of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. Additionally, Moscow has responded to Dhaka's request by extending the tenure of an USD 11.38 Bn Russian state loan for the main nuclear power project by two years, postponing the start of repayments by 1.5 years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/russia-extends-rooppur-loan-repayment-two-years-waives-164m-penalty-1117041>

## **Main focus of next budget to remove NTBs: NBR chief**

- NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan on Tuesday said that the main focus of the national budget for the next fiscal year (FY26) would be removing the non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to facilitate the business community. "We'll try to ease the non-tariff barriers for you (businessmen), we'll remove all the hurdles from your path and that is our main target. We're working on that," he said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/main-focus-of-next-budget-to-remove-ntbs-nbr-chief-1744740880>

## **NBR plans to roll back tax benefits for exporters**

- In a bid to rationalise tax benefits and meet revenue targets set by the IMF, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is considering reducing tax exemptions for export-oriented sectors in the upcoming national budget, according to a top official. Industries such as readymade garments, footwear and frozen foods currently enjoy lower corporate tax rates — between 10% and 15%— compared with the 25% to 27% levied on non-exporting businesses.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-plans-roll-back-tax-benefits-exporters-3872126>

## **LDC graduation on time despite tariff turmoil**

- There is no going back for Bangladesh in its LDC graduation as the plane of status change has already taken off, a top-level meeting noted Tuesday and decided on measures to maximize its trade-economic benefits. "One should keep in mind that we are not on the ground—we are flying to the crew side. We were supposed to take off in 2024, but we got extra years due to the Covid," said Anisuzzaman Chowdhury.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/ldc-graduation-on-time-despite-tariff-turmoil>

## **Inflation forces government to frame contractionary budget**

- Inflation control remains pivotal priority alongside shunning unwanted spending as the government decides to frame contractionary budget for the upcoming fiscal year, as Bangladesh crosses critical pass-through following the changeover. A panel meeting Tuesday decided to prepare the smaller budget for financial year 2025-26 keeping in mind the trend in revenue earnings and the inflow of foreign aid, officials said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/inflation-forces-government-to-frame-contractionary-budget>

## **Bangladesh feels like South Korea of the 80s**

- In the 1980s, South Korea embarked on an economic transformation that would turn it into a global manufacturing powerhouse driven by export-led industrialisation, strategic investments, and an increasingly skilled labour force. Around four decades later, Bangladesh, with its competitive workforce and growing industrial ecosystem, seems to be treading a similar path. One of the keen observers of this evolution is Junseok Han, chairman and CEO of Giordano Korea.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-feels-south-korea-the-80s-3872121>

## **Fitch flags risk to Bangladesh after Trump tariffs**

- Bangladesh is among several Asia-Pacific economies at risk of credit pressure from escalating US tariffs, Fitch Ratings warned yesterday, as trade tensions continue to rattle global markets. In a report released from its Hong Kong office, the rating agency said the US tariff hikes will weigh on the credit profiles of many sovereigns in the region, particularly those with high external debt and limited foreign exchange reserves.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/top-news/news/fitch-flags-risk-bangladesh-after-trump-tariffs-3872161>

## **BANK | Banks' deposit, pvt credit growth falls due to high inflation**

- The growth of overall bank deposits decelerated in February 2025, following weaker credit growth in the private sector, officials said. The aggregate deposit growth in the country's banking system came down to 7.88% in February 2025 from 8.29% a month ago, according to the central bank's latest statistics. The private sector credit growth keeps falling remarkably in recent months to reach 6.82% in February 2025, which is believed to be the lowest in recent years.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/banks-deposit-pvt-credit-growth-falls-due-to-high-inflation>



**FUEL & POWER | Investors in economic zones demand high-pressure gas supply, uninterrupted electricity**

- Amid rising utility costs and infrastructure concerns, investors operating in Bangladesh's economic zones have urged the government to ensure high-pressure gas supply, uninterrupted quality electricity, and necessary permissions for captive power plants. During a high-level meeting with the BEZA on Monday, they voiced serious concerns over recent gas price hikes and US tariffs.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/investors-economic-zones-demand-high-pressure-gas-supply-uninterrupted-electricity-1116941>

**FUEL & POWER | Petrobangla seeks BDT 20 Bn from BPC**

- For the first time in history, Petrobangla has sought BDT 20 Bn in loans from Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) to foot the bill for liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports, officials said on Tuesday. The state-owned oil company BPC for the first time is going to help another government entity with its investment support to facilitate LNG procurement from the overseas market, they said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/petrobangla-seeks-tk-20b-from-bpc>

**FUEL & POWER | Foreign investors concerned about gas price hike**

- The Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (EuroCham) have expressed concern over a recent decision by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to introduce a revised gas tariff structure that differentiates between new, committed, and existing customers within the same industrial category.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/foreign-investors-concerned-about-gas-price-hike-3871741>

**TEXTILE | EU postpones CSDDD implementation giving breathing space to Bangladesh apparels**

- The European Commission has proposed a two year postponement of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), pushing its entry into force to 2028 or 2029, depending on company size, as part of its broader Omnibus Initiative. The delay is intended to give member states and businesses more time to prepare for the directive's far-reaching due diligence obligations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/eu-postpones-csddd-implementation-giving-breathing-space-bangladesh-apparels-1116916>

**TEXTILE | Apparel sector urges NBR to retain current tax rate**

- Apparel industry stakeholders today urged the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to retain the existing corporate tax rates for the readymade garment sector in the upcoming budget. Inamul Haq Khan, a member of the support committee at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), made the call during a pre-budget meeting with the NBR at its headquarters in Agargaon, Dhaka.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/apparel-sector-urges-nbr-retain-current-tax-rate-3871711>

**TEXTILE | Yarn import curb thru land ports raises mixed reactions**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has restricted yarn imports through land ports to protect the local textile and spinning sector from Indian imports of the raw material — a move hailed by textile millers but opposed by garment and knitwear exporters. Apparel exporters said they could import yarn from neighboring India through land ports in as little as a week. Now, their lead time will increase, affecting competitiveness in the global market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/yarn-import-curb-thru-land-ports-raises-mixed-reactions-3871621>

**TELECOM | Starlink applies for BTRC licence**

- Starlink has applied to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) for a licence to operate in the country as both Elon Musk's company and the Bangladesh government look to facilitate the faster entry of satellite-based internet services. "They already applied last week," Maj Gen Md Emdad Ul Bari, chairman of the BTRC, told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that due process would be followed in awarding the licence.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/starlink-applies-btrc-licence-3872116>

**Bangladesh, Singapore to finalise FTA by end of next year**

- Bangladesh and Singapore have committed to finalising an FTA by the end of next year, as discussed during the fourth Bangladesh-Singapore Foreign Office Consultations held in Singapore. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, while the Singaporean side was headed by Luke Goh, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Recognising Singapore as one of the top investors in Bangladesh, the Foreign Secretary invited increased investment from the city-state, particularly in the energy sector and Economic Zones.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/diplomacy/news/bangladesh-singapore-finalise-fta-end-next-year-3871286>

### **Overdue import bills down to USD 88 Mn from USD 445 Mn in five months**

- The overdue import bills of several Bangladeshi banks have dropped significantly, from USD 445 Mn to USD 88 Mn, over the past five months. A recent report by the Bangladesh Bank revealed that a number of banks had failed to settle their import payment dues to foreign banks for a long time. However, due to intensified monitoring and intervention, the situation has improved significantly.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/overdue-import-bills-down-88m-445m-five-months-1115361>

### **BDT 31 Bn promised: BIDA**

- The recently concluded Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 has yielded investment declaration worth BDT 31 Bn, says Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA). He shared the information at a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital yesterday. "Personally, I believe the summit hasn't achieved a perfect 10. There's still plenty of room for improvement. However, this was our first attempt to organise an investment summit of a global standard..."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tk-3100-crore-promised-bida-3870391>

### **Licences of 10 economic zones cancelled: Beza executive chairman**

- The government has cancelled the licences of 10 economic zones, said Ashik Chowdhury, executive chairman of the Bida and Beza. The cancelled government economic zones are: Sonadia Eco Tourism Park, Cox's Bazar; Sundarban Tourism, Bagerhat; Gajaria Economic Zone, Munshiganj; Shreepur Economic Zone, Gazipur; and Mymensingh Economic Zone, Ishwarganj Mymensingh. The cancelled private economic zones are: 'Garments Industries Park' proposed by BGMEA, Munshiganj; Chatak Economic Zone, Sunamganj; Famkam Economic Zone, Bagerhat; City Special Economic Zone, Dhaka; and Sonargaon Economic Zone, Narayanganj.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/approval-10-economic-zones-cancelled-bida-chief-ashik-1115121>

### **No scope to cut corporate tax**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday said there was no scope to reduce corporate or individual tax rates in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, a stance that businesses opposed. At a pre-budget discussion organised by the DCCI, Daily Samakal and Channel 24 at the InterContinental Dhaka, NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan said the national debt burden has increased over the past 50 years and those debts need to be repaid.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-scope-cut-corporate-tax-3870841>

### **How Bangladesh struggles to secure WTO trade benefits ahead of LDC graduation**

- Despite efforts since 2018 to secure WTO trade benefits ahead of LDC graduation – including duty-free exports and continuing government subsidies for agricultural and non-agricultural products – Bangladesh has yet to achieve them due to member states' lack of interest, according to former and current commerce ministry officials. A commerce ministry official said discussions on Bangladesh's proposal to increase TRIPS benefits at the WTO are currently "frozen".

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/how-bangladesh-struggles-secure-wto-trade-benefits-ahead-ldc-graduation-1115426>

### **Go all out to remove trade barriers with US**

- Business leaders from Bangladesh and the United States have called on the government to make every effort to remove both tariff and non-tariff barriers on imports from the US to narrow the trade gap and facilitate Bangladeshi exports to the American market. At a dialogue in Dhaka yesterday, organised by the AmCham, the trade leaders also called for modernising key government services to improve efficiency and reduce delays.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/go-all-out-remove-trade-barriers-us-3870846>

### **NBR mulls uniform tax rate across sectors; RMG owners oppose**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is contemplating the introduction of a uniform tax rate across all sectors in a move to eliminate existing disparities, NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan announced at a pre-budget discussion in the capital on 12 April. "You must consider taxes when planning a business. If there is taxable income, you pay tax; if not, you don't."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/nbr-mulls-uniform-tax-rate-across-sectors-says-chairman-rmg-owners-oppose-1114706>

### **Ctg port authority eases tender terms for Kamalapur ICD contractor appointment**

- The Chattogram Port Authority has dropped a key condition from its latest contractor recruitment tender for container and cargo handling at the Kamalapur Inland Container Depot (ICD), raising hopes among logistics businesses for fairer competition and an end to the dominance of a single operator. The CPA's decision comes in response to formal objections raised by ICD owners and logistics stakeholders, who argued that the requirement was unfair.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-port-authority-eases-tender-terms-kamalapur-icd-contractor-appointment-1115286>

**Businesses for resolving US tariff hurdles within 90-day suspension period**

- Leading business figures in the country on 13 April said that non-tariff barriers, including lengthy lab tests and delays in product transportation, alongside tariffs and taxes cause significant obstacles to trade. "If the issue is not resolved within the 90 days, Bangladesh risks losing the entire apparel export season," Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director (MD) of Apex Footwear, said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/businesses-resolving-us-tariff-hurdles-within-90-day-suspension-period-1115281>

**BANK | BB again asks banks to clear overdue LC payments**

- The Bangladesh Bank instructed banks to further clear overdue letters of credit (LC) payments, as this type of non-payment tarnishes the image of the country's banking system, increases the cost of foreign trade, and disrupts the trade environment. After issuing similar directives a couple of times over the past five months, the central bank reiterated the order to all banks in a circular issued yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-again-asks-banks-clear-overdue-lc-payments-3870821>

**INSURANCE | 68% of claims unpaid in non-life insurance sector, policyholders in distress**

- Insurance companies in the non-life sector are failing to settle around 68% of the claims, resulting in outstanding claims amounting to approximately BDT 26.35 Bn by the end of 2024. As a result, many policyholders are suffering, unable to receive their rightful compensation. This information was obtained from the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA), based on unaudited data from 46 public and private non-life insurance companies for the year 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/68-claims-unpaid-non-life-insurance-sector-policyholders-distress-1115311>

**Govt plans for 2 new economic zones for Chinese investors**

- The Bangladesh government is planning to establish two additional economic zones exclusively for Chinese investors, complementing the existing Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone in Anwara, Chattogram. Among the planned zones, Power Construction Corporation of China Ltd (PowerChina)—a state-owned enterprise—will develop Chandpur Economic Zone-1 on 3,038 acres in Matlab North upazila, Chandpur. The second economic zone, the Bhola Eco-Development Economic Zone, will be located in Bhola Sadar and Daulatkhan upazilas.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-plans-2-new-economic-zones-chinese-investors-1113671>

**Country's foreign debt rose by USD 3.39 Bn in 2024, outstanding now USD 103.64 Bn**

- After receiving long-term loan tranches from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and various bilateral and multilateral development partners, the country's foreign debt increased by USD 3.39 Bn in 2024. According to a report by the central bank, at the end of December 2024, the outstanding public foreign debt stood at USD 103.64 Bn, of which at least USD 84 Bn is long-term debt.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/public-foreign-debt-rose-339b-2024-outstanding-now-10368b-1113061>

**Bepza to start allocating plots in Patuakhali EPZ from early 2026**

- "The land development work of Patuakhali EPZ has already been started. Around 55% work has been completed. The development work will be completed by June 2026. But we may start allocating plots from early 2026. Factory construction work and land development will continue simultaneously," said BEPZA Executive Chairman Major General Abul Kalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bepza-start-allocating-plots-patuakhali-epz-early-2026-1113576>

**Next budget likely BDT 7.92 Tn with doable Targets**

- Bangladesh's upcoming budget may be BDT 7.92 Tn in size, smaller than the current one, as the interim government walks a tightrope amid a subdued trend in revenue earnings and foreign-aid inflow in the present context. Officials give the possible budgeting outlook, saying that this is for the first time Bangladesh is framing a smaller budget compared to the previous one, as the government also takes into consideration slower implementation of the current budget.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/next-budget-likely-tk-792t-with-doable-targets>

**Inflation expected to ease to 8%: ADB**

- Bangladesh's inflation is projected to ease to 8.0% in FY 2025-2026, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The bank predicted it by assuming that there will be favourable weather, moderating global oil prices, and tighter monetary as well as fiscal stances. Despite several inflation-control measures, including monetary tightening and agricultural policy support, monthly inflation remained in double digits in the first six months of FY2025, ending June 30 next.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/inflation-expected-to-ease-to-8pc-ADB>



**WB to supply USD 250 Mn for reforming 5 agencies**

- The World Bank (WB) will lend USD 250 Mn financial support to the interim administration's reforms at five government agencies with an eye to establishing governance and accountability, according to officials. The National Board and Revenue (NBR), the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA), the Statistical Informatics Division (SID) and the Planning Division would do the reforms.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/wb-to-supply-250m-for-reforming-5-agencies-1744479289>

**25 dev projects lined up for foreign funding**

- The Economic Relations Division (ERD) under the Ministry of Finance is set to host a meeting of the "foreign assistance search committee" today to finalise foreign funding for 25 development projects proposed for inclusion in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the upcoming fiscal year. The combined preliminary cost of the projects that will be discussed at the meeting with ERD secretary Shahriar Kader Siddiky in the chair, stands at around BDT 2.0 Tn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/25-dev-projects-lined-up-for-foreign-funding>

**Ireland backs Bangladesh's LDC graduation, eyes stronger ties**

- Irish Ambassador to Bangladesh and India Kevin Kelly has reaffirmed Ireland's commitment to supporting Bangladesh's LDC graduation process and strengthening bilateral cooperation under Ireland's Asia-Pacific Strategy. Ambassador Kelly emphasised the deepening relationship between the two nations and praised Ireland's Honorary Consul in Bangladesh Masud Jamil Khan's energy and ambition.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ireland-backs-bangladeshs-ldc-graduation-eyes-stronger-ties-1113371>

**Foreign investment pipeline created; roadmap planned to monitor progress: Bida**

- The four-day Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 concluded on Thursday (10 April), with foreign investors expressing strong interest in the country's economic prospects and committing to substantial investments. In response, the government announced plans to chart a roadmap involving personalised communication with each investor and continuous monitoring to ensure these investment pledges come to fruition.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-investment-pipeline-created-continuous-monitoring-and-communication-will-be>

**NBR chief says revenue target unattainable with so few taxpayers**

- National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan believes that the revenue target is unachievable with just 1.5 Mn taxpayers in the country. Speaking at Chattogram on Thursday, he said 4.5 Mn taxpayers filed returns in the FY2024-25, and of them, 3 Mn filed zero returns. "We're sending a notice to those who are not filing returns. Their bank accounts will be sought next. Bangladesh's tax-to-GDP ratio is very low."

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/nbr-chief-says-revenue-target-unattainable-with-so-few-taxpayers>

**Middle-class growth, infrastructure, and high returns make Bangladesh attractive for FDI**

- A vibrant and expanding middle class, high returns on investment, and substantial infrastructure development are the key factors drawing foreign investments into Bangladesh, experts observed at the BIDA's Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 on Thursday. Presenting a keynote paper, Md Ariful Haque from BIDA said that Bangladesh has one of the most lucrative geographic locations, situated between China, ASEAN and the Middle East, with direct trade routes to over 3.0 Bn consumers.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/middle-class-growth-infrastructure-high-returns-make-bangladesh-attractive-for-fdi-experts>

**Chittagong Chamber wants widening of tax net**

- The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) has recommended widening the tax net without increasing the burden on regular taxpayers. In the proposals, the chamber also wanted strict monitoring to prevent misuse of bond facilities, prompt refund of advance income tax over-collected at the import stage, and initiatives to increase the number of taxpayers by lowering income tax rates.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/chittagong-chamber-wants-widening-tax-net-3868361>

**NBR okays release of 12 more imported goods from Ctg inland container depots**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has expanded the list of imported items eligible for delivery from private inland container depots (ICDs), commonly known as off-docks, in Chattogram. Previously, 38 types of imported goods—including essential food items such as rice, wheat, mustard seed, chickpeas, and pulses were permitted for off-dock delivery.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-okays-release-12-more-imported-goods-ctg-inland-container-depots-1114306>

## **Bangladesh has potential to become digital powerhouse**

- Bangladesh has all the potential to position itself as a rising digital powerhouse through the development of one of the top-tier e-governments and by increasing ICT exports and cultivating a tech-savvy workforce, said experts yesterday. They said backed by a youthful population, competitive costs, and ongoing progressive policy reforms, the country is drawing increased attention from global investors in sectors ranging from fintech and semiconductors to digital services.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-has-potential-become-digital-powerhouse-3868666>

## **Govt to rationalise tariffs on around 350 items**

- The government is expected to rationalise tariff rates on numerous items next fiscal year to help Bangladesh prepare for challenges after graduation from least developed country (LDC) status in November 2026. As part of the exercise, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is likely to remove minimum import prices — a price it uses to assess duties on imported items — for over 40 items in FY26.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-rationalise-tariffs-around-350-items-3869941>

## **Business as usual at Darshana port despite India's transshipment halt**

- Despite the cancellation of the transshipment facility by India, Darshana rail port in Chuadanga witnesses no impact on exports and imports as the port is only used for bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India, with no commercial linkage to third countries such as Nepal or Bhutan. However, he noted a slight slowdown in port activities since August 5. "Goods movement is continuing, but the pace is not what it used to be. Traders are waiting for things to return to normal," he said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/business-usual-darshana-port-despite-indias-transshipment-halt-1113646>

## **CPA calls for ministry's intervention as port rate row deepens**

- The feud between shipping agents and berth operators over increasing the onboard container handling rate has remained unresolved for over three months now, despite repeated attempts by the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA). The CPA, in a tripartite meeting last month, unilaterally determined an incremental rate, but the shipping agents opposed it.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/cpa-calls-ministrys-intervention-port-rate-row-deepens-3869856>

## **Businesses for talks to steer US tariff regime**

- Businesses on Saturday called for analysing US priorities and objectives related to its new tariff regime and devising fast, strategic and coordinated negotiations to navigate the challenges. They also suggested addressing the challenges identified by USTR report like high tariffs, investment hurdles, non-tariff barriers, bureaucratic tangles, corruption and lack of transparency to offset post-graduation hiccups.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/businesses-for-talks-to-steer-us-tariff-regime-1744479335>

## **Trump's tariff policy a wake-up call**

- The imposition of high tariffs by the USA without following due process signals a flawed policy approach, said Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue. The US-China trade tensions have created a global tariff storm, and Bangladesh is not immune, she said at a shadow parliament session held at the Film Development Corporation in the capital yesterday. "The 37 percent tariff imposed on Bangladesh is also part of a flawed process," she said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/trumps-tariff-policy-wake-call-fahmida-3869921>

## **Customs bond automation: Why hasn't it taken off after all these years?**

- After eight years since the initiation of customs bond automation, aimed at benefiting exporters by enhancing efficiency and transparency in bond-related processing, only 70 out of 4,000 institutions have been fully automated by obtaining utility permission for imported raw materials from the customs office. However, when full automation was expected to commence in January, neither customs authorities nor importers, exporters, and businesses were prepared to use it.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/customs-bond-automation-why-hasnt-it-taken-after-all-these-years-1114456>

## **Water supply cost set to rise by BDT 28.28 Bn more**

- The cost of the first investment initiative by the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) to bring water to the capital from the Meghna is set to rise by another BDT 28.28 Bn. The Local Government Division (LGD) has submitted the third revision proposal for the project styled 'Dhaka Environmentally Sustainable Water Supply Project' at a cost of BDT 109.75 Bn—an increase of 35% from the latest revised estimate of BDT 81.47 Bn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/water-supply-cost-set-to-rise-by-tk-2828b-more>

**TEXTILE | Importers seek incentive on US cotton to bridge trade gap**

- Apparel industry leaders have urged the government to offer an additional incentive to help offset the higher cost of importing cotton from the United States, as part of broader efforts to reduce the trade gap with the country. Speaking at a discussion event in Dhaka today (12 April), Envoy Textile Limited Chairman Kutubuddin Ahmed noted that US cotton costs about four cents more per pound than cotton from other sources.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/importers-seek-incentive-us-cotton-bridge-trade-gap-1113961>

**TEXTILE | Increase imports of US goods to reduce trade gap: textile millers**

- Textile millers and garment exporters today urged the government to increase imports from the US market in order to reduce the trade imbalance between Bangladesh and the United States. They made the call at a roundtable on "US Tariffs on Bangladesh's Exports: Reciprocal Strategies and Way Forward for Negotiations," organised by the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) at Gulshan Club in Dhaka.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/increase-imports-us-goods-reduce-trade-gap-textile-millers-3869756>

**TELECOM | Nearly half of Bangladeshi homes still without internet access: BBS**

- Just over half of Bangladesh's households were direct internet users by the end of December 2024, according to a new survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). The BBS quarterly report on the use of ICT revealed that 52.4% of households had access to internet services at the end of last year, up from 50.4% in the July–September quarter. Despite the rise, nearly 48% of families remained outside the reach of internet connectivity.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nearly-half-bangladeshi-homes-still-without-internet-access-bbs-3869531>

**RMG | Bangladesh at risk of slipping to third in global RMG export**

- Bangladesh's position as the world's second-largest apparel exporter could be at risk as Vietnam is quickly catching up with better logistics, more diverse products, and smoother trade processes, a top exporter warned yesterday. "Bangladesh is very close to Vietnam. But if we don't jump into our businesses, we may lose the glory of holding the second spot," said Kihak Sung, chairman of Youngone Corporation, a pioneer in Bangladesh's readymade garments and textile sectors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-risk-slipping-third-global-rmg-export-3868671>

**HEALTHCARE | Govt courts healthcare FDI as market heads towards USD 23 Bn by 2030**

- Bangladesh's healthcare sector has the potential to reach USD 23 Bn by 2030, positioning the country as a major destination for foreign direct investment (FDI), according to a presentation shared at the Bangladesh Investment Summit. The growth of the local healthcare market, according to the presentation, is being fuelled by rising domestic demand, a burgeoning middle class and mounting pressure on the public health system.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-courts-healthcare-fdi-market-heads-towards-23b-2030-3868676>

**FUEL & POWER | Adani plant supplying at half capacity**

- India's Adani plant is supplying power through one of its units due to technical glitches, a development that can increase load-shedding. On April 8, the first of the power plant's two 800-megawatt (MW) units shut operation and the second one stopped operation on early Saturday at around 12:45am, said ABM Badiuzzaman, deputy manager (public relations) at the PGCB.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/environment/natural-resources/energy/news/adani-plant-supplying-half-capacity-3869681>

**RMG | Apparel leaders push for lower costs, policy overhauls to stay competitive**

- Leaders of Bangladesh's apparel industry have urged the government to reduce freight costs and bank interest rates, streamline logistics, and cut import tariffs to preserve the sector's competitiveness, particularly in the US. At a discussion held in Dhaka 12 April, industry representatives also stressed the need to boost productivity through advanced technologies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/apparel-leaders-push-lower-costs-policy-overhauls-stay-competitive-1114381>

**AVIATION | Japanese consortium set for operation, maintenance job**

- A Japanese consortium is likely to get operation and maintenance work of the newly-built third terminal of the country's prime international airport for 15 years as the preliminary bid discussion went on successfully. "We will soon call the request for proposal from the Japanese consortium and sign a concessional agreement after negotiation," said Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Chairman Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/japanese-consortium-set-for-operation-maintenance-job-1744479084>

**RMG | BD set to become world's largest cotton importer in FY '25**

- Bangladesh is set to become the world's largest cotton importer in the current fiscal year (FY 2024-25), overtaking China, according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The country's heavy reliance on export-oriented readymade garment industry that employs around 5.0 Mn people, mostly women, is driving the surge in cotton imports. The industry, world's second-largest garment manufacturing hub globally, is projected to import 8.0 Mn bales of cotton this FY, reads the USDA data released recently.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-set-to-become-worlds-largest-cotton-importer-in-fy-25-1744479166>

**BANK | Why is private credit demand at its lowest level?**

- Private sector credit growth stood at 6.82 percent in February this year, as per Bangladesh Bank data, down from 7.15% the month prior. This raises the question: Why is the demand for credit in the private sector so low? To answer this question, The Daily Star spoke to bankers, central bank officials, economic experts, and businesspeople. They highlighted several reasons, including uncertainty in the investment climate due to the recent political changeover, high interest rates owing to the tight monetary policy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/why-private-credit-demand-its-lowest-level-3869901>

**RMG | Competitiveness, efficiency, skills key to apparel sector growth, say experts**

- Improving competitiveness, efficiency and skill development are crucial for the manufacturers, including the apparel sector, to strengthen their footprint in the international market and cope with the new challenges, speakers said. They came up with the observations at a panel discussion titled 'Resetting the Competitive Edge: Rethinking Bangladesh's Apparel Strategy Post-Tariffs & Beyond' organised by Bangladesh Apparel Youth Leaders Alliance (BAYLA) at a city hotel on Saturday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/competitiveness-efficiency-skills-key-to-apparel-sector-growth-say-experts-1744479127>

## Important News: Stocks

### BEACONPHAR | Beacon Pharma MD fined for inflating price of Khan Brothers

- The managing director of Beacon Pharmaceuticals has been identified as a manipulator of the stock of Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries in 2023 and accordingly penalized for the misconduct. He, however, acted in collaboration with his kith and kin and his company officials. Now, all of them are facing an aggregate penalty of BDT 8.7 Mn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/beacon-pharma-md-fined-for-inflating-price-of-khan-brothers-1744825273>

### PREMIERBAN | BFIU fines Premier Bank for unfreezing HBM Iqbal's account

- The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has fined Premier Bank BDT 11.1 Mn and USD 30,000 (in equivalent local currency) for unfreezing the bank account of HBM Iqbal, the former chairman of the bank, and allowing fund withdrawals from the account in violation of law. The anti-money laundering agency sent a letter to the bank in this regard on Wednesday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bfiu-fines-premier-bank-unfreezing-hbm-iqbals-account-3872726>

### NTC | Steeping trouble: National Tea keeps investors in the dark

- After failing to hold its annual general meeting (AGM) for fiscal year 2023–24, National Tea Company, a listed firm on the stock exchange, has now also failed to publish its financial statements for the last two quarters of the current fiscal year, up to December 2024, keeping investors in the dark. Both failures — not holding the AGM and not disclosing six months' financials — constitute non-compliance with stock exchange listing rules.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/steeping-trouble-national-tea-keeps-investors-dark-1118016>

### IFIC | Salman, Shayan, Shibli face embezzlement charges in IFIC Amar bond 'fraud'

- The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is preparing to initiate an embezzlement case against former IFIC Bank chairman Salman F Rahman, his son Shayan F Rahman, former BSEC chairman Shibli Rubayat UI Islam, and 27 others on charges of "fraud" over IFIC Amar Bond. ACC Director General Akhtar Hossain said on Wednesday that the case will be filed by Assistant Director Sajjad Hossain, and it has already been greenlit by the anti-graft agency.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/salman-shayan-shibli-face-embezzlement-charges-in-ific-amar-bond-fraud-1744827487>

## EXCHANGE | Boards responsible for performance of listed companies: BSEC

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has said that the primary responsibility for the performance of companies listed on the stock market lies with the respective company's board of directors. The regulatory body said its approval of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) is based solely on the verification of company disclosures and information provided at the time of listing. Consequently, the subsequent performance of a listed entity, whether positive or negative, is the sole purview of its own board.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/boards-responsible-performance-listed-companies-bsec-1117926>

### BEACONPHAR | DSE seeks clarification from Beacon Pharma on export halt

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has sought an explanation from Beacon Pharmaceuticals regarding why the medicine manufacturer stopped its exports abroad without issuing any disclosure on the website of the premier bourse. On March 27, the Dhaka bourse sent the query to Beacon based on a news item published in The Daily Star on the same day.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dse-seeks-clarification-beacon-pharma-export-halt-3871886>

### CROWNCEMENT | Crown Cement directors to gift BDT 212.8 Mn in shares to family members

- Two sponsor directors of Crown Cement, one of the country's leading cement manufacturers, have announced plans to gift a total of 4.47 Mn shares to their family members. Of these, sponsor director Md Alamgir Kabir will transfer 2.97 Mn shares, while another sponsor director Mohammed Jahangir Alam will transfer 1.5 Mn shares. The share transfers will be carried out outside the trading system of the exchange and are expected to be completed by 30 April 2025.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/crown-cement-directors-gift-tk2128cr-shares-family-members-1116931>

### ILFSL | High Court reconstructs International Leasing board

- The Board of Directors of International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL) was reconstituted by the High Court on 25 March this year. According to a disclosure made to the stock exchange yesterday, Md Mahbulul Hoque has been appointed by the Court as the independent chairman of the Board. He is a former deputy auditor general of Bangladesh and holds the rank of Secretary Grade 1.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/high-court-reconstructs-international-leasing-board-1117031>



**EXCHANGE | Regulator decides against keeping cash dividends idle before AGM**

- The securities regulator has decided to change the rules tied to the handling of cash dividends paid by listed companies, including banks, aiming to facilitate efficient use of the funds and protect the interest of shareholders. Currently, when a company's board recommends a cash dividend, the equivalent cash must be deposited into a separate bank account within 10 days after the announcement.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/regulator-decides-against-keeping-cash-dividends-idle-before-agm>

**EXCHANGE | Yield on BGTBs increases sharply**

- The yield on Five-Year Bangladesh Government Treasury Bonds (BGTBs) marked a sharp rise on Tuesday as banks showed reluctance to invest in the securities. The cut-off yield, generally known as the interest rate, on the BGTBs rose to 12.39% on the day from 11.48% earlier, according to auction results. The government borrowed BDT 35 Bn through issuing the BGTBs on the day to partially meet its budget deficit.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/yield-on-bgtbs-increases-sharply>

**UCB, SSSTEEL | Now UCB to auction off SS Steel assets to recoup BDT 2.9 Bn debt**

- United Commercial Bank (UCB) has announced plans to auction off the assets of publicly listed SS Steel Limited in a bid to recover an outstanding loan of BDT 2.9 Bn. An auction notice issued by the Pragati Sarani branch of the bank, published in daily newspapers on Friday, invited interested buyers to submit price quotations by 8 May. The auction follows provisions of the Money Loan Court Act, 2003.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/now-ucb-auction-ss-steel-assets-recoup-tk290cr-debt-1115376>

**ACI | ACI director to buy company shares worth BDT 160 Mn**

- Shusmita Anis, a director of ACI PLC, has announced plans to buy 0.78 Mn shares of the company from the block market within the next 30 days, according to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today. This move follows Shusmita's acquisition of 1.52 Mn shares in January. As per the March shareholding report, she currently holds 3.2 Mn shares, which is 3.66% of ACI's total shares.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aci-director-buy-company-shares-worth-tk16cr-1115331>

**EASTLAND | Eastland Insurance declares 10% cash dividend**

- Eastland Insurance has announced a 10% cash dividend exclusively for its general shareholders for the fiscal year 2024. In a recent statement, the company disclosed that its sponsors and directors opted to forgo their dividends due to the insurer's underwhelming financial performance in the past year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/eastland-insurance-declares-10-cash-dividend-1115326>

**EXCHANGE | Foreign investors exit equity market as fresh concerns replace optimism**

- Foreign investors have retreated from Bangladesh's equity market once again over persistent economic challenges and political uncertainties after signs of a return following political changeover in August last year. Economic reform measures taken by the interim government gave rise to optimism about a turnaround of the market, which was why foreign stakes in well-performing companies jumped in October last year compared to what was in June the same year.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/foreign-investors-exit-equity-market-as-fresh-concerns-replace-optimism>

**HAMI | Crisis deepens for Hami Industries. What lies ahead?**

- After a significant setback, following the original owners fleeing abroad, a ray of hope emerged for Hami Industries, formerly known as Imam Button Industries, when a general shareholder took charge to run the company. However, the company's crisis deepened when the new owner died, leading to various non-compliance issues.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/crisis-deepens-hami-industries-what-lies-ahead-1113071>

**ARGONDENIM, ETL | Evince Textiles, Argon Denims directors to transfer ownership to next generation**

- Three directors of listed textile companies Evince Textiles and Argon Denims have announced plans to transfer a portion of their ownership in the companies to the next generation. According to separate disclosures published on the stock exchanges on 10 April, each director is set to transfer shares to their son or daughter as a gift outside the trading system by 30 April. The directors involved hold positions in both companies, which are under the same ownership.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/evinced-textiles-argon-denims-directors-transfer-ownership-next-generation-1113031>

**EXCHANGE | Brokerages facing operating losses for years due to persistent volatility: DBA**

- Brokerage firms have been incurring operating losses for years, primarily due to the volatile capital market and persistently low investor confidence, said Saiful Islam, president of the DSE Brokers Association (DBA). "If operating income alone is considered, all brokerage firms have been incurring losses for years, mainly because of prolonged market downturn," he said at a press conference today (12 April).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brokerages-facing-operating-losses-years-due-persistent-volatility-dba-1114371>

**EXCHANGE | BSEC seeks finance ministry's help to resolve negative equity**

- The securities regulator has sought the finance ministry's intervention for a "quick solution" to negative equity that has been hindering the market's growth for more than a decade. The outstanding negative equity against margin loans taken for investments in the equity market stood at BDT 105.2 Bn as of October last year. In this, the loans taken were worth BDT 78.6 Bn and interest on that amounted to BDT 26.6 Bn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bsec-seeks-finance-ministrys-help-to-resolve-negative-equity>

**EXCHANGE | High tax on stock trading deters investment**

- The existing tax structure discourages investors from investing in the stock market, according to representatives of the top brokerage houses of Bangladesh. They said the National Board of Revenue (NBR) collects advance turnover tax from brokerage houses even if they incur losses, that too at a high rate compared to neighbouring countries. Additionally, investors are also required to pay annual fees amounting to BDT 450 even if they incur losses and do not trade any shares.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/high-tax-stock-trading-deters-investment-3869911>

**EXCHANGE | Clients of Moshior Securities demand chief adviser's help to get their money back**

- Hundreds of investors of Moshior Securities demand the chief adviser's intervention to get their money back from the brokerage firm that had reportedly siphoned off more than BDT 1.61 Bn. One of them, Gazi Mohammad Elias spoke on behalf of 200 defrauded investors at a press briefing at the CMJF auditorium in the capital on Thursday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/clients-of-moshior-securities-demand-chief-advisers-help-to-get-their-money-back>

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