Bangladesh Market	
Major Indices	**Last closing**
DSEX Index	5,763.77
% change	-0.19%
DS30 Index	2,007.34
% change	-0.27%
DSES Index	1,262.42
% change	-0.13%
Turnover (BDT mn)	4,825.33
Turnover (USD mn)	43.87
% change	-10.68%
Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange	

International Market	
Major Indices	**Last closing**
Dow Jones Industrial Average	37,753.31
% change	-0.12%
S&P 500	5,022.21
% change	-0.58%
Nikkei 225	37,961.80
% change	-1.32%
FTSE 100	7,847.99
% change	0.35%
Source: Bloomberg	

Exchange rate		
Major Currencies	**Low (BDT)**	**High (BDT)**
USD	110.00	110.00
EUR	116.79	116.83
GBP	136.66	136.71
INR	1.32	1.32
Source: BB		

Money market		
Date	**Call Money Rate Range (%)**	**Weighted Average**
17-Apr-24	7.90 - 9.50	8.82
16-Apr-24	8.00 - 9.50	8.82
Source: BB		

Commodities		
Major Commodities	**Price**	**% Change**
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	87.29	-3.03%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	2,361.02	-0.92%
Cotton, USD/lb.	81.33	-2.12%
Source: Bloomberg		

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX lost 0.19% in the last trading day, closing at 5,763.77 points.
- The daily turnover fell 10.68% in the last trading day.

Global Market

- Majority of the leading global indices posted negative returns as Dow Jones posted 0.12% loss, S&P 500 posted 0.58% loss, and FTSE 100 posted 0.35% gain.
- One of the leading Asian market indices, NIKKEI 225 posted 1.32% loss.

Key macro indicators

- All the major currencies fell against BDT yesterday.
- The average overnight rate is falling in the past week.
- The current weighted average overnight rate stood at 8.82% with a high rate of 9.50% and low rate of 7.90%.
- The oil price fell 3.03% in the last trading day.

Bangladesh Macro Update

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

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects that Bangladesh will achieve a double-digit revenue-to-GDP ratio in the fiscal 2026-27, a milestone that neighbouring economies such as India, Nepal, and Pakistan have already reached.
- 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.
- The government's revenues are expected to improve in the ongoing fiscal year, as the collection may reach 8.8% of gross domestic product compared to an estimated 8.3% a year ago. The ratio was 8.9% in FY22 and 9.4% in FY21.

News Source:

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

NBR swings axe on exemptions, eyes Tk 94b VAT hike in FY25

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has projected to collect an additional Tk 94 billion 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.
- A VAT collection action plan prepared by the VAT wing of the NBR estimates the highest contribution of Tk 50 billion will come from scrapping full and partial exemptions currently enjoyed by businesses.
- The paper, to be presented to an upcoming International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission later this month, also proposes imposing taxes on sectors currently exempt through budgetary measures.

News Source:

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

Prices here higher among many SA countries

- Prices of essentials here prevail on a higher trajectory in Bangladesh than in many other regional countries as steep inflation acts as an inexorable hiker, statistics show.
- The groceries' prices in Delhi in particular are 21.4% lower than in Dhaka. The consumer-price indices in Islamabad in Pakistan are 25.1% lower than in Dhaka of Bangladesh.
- In Kathmandu of Nepal also consumer prices are lower than in Dhaka, by 2.0%. On the other hand, in Male in the island country most products are imported by the tourist country. Consumer prices in Male are 84.1% higher than in Dhaka.
- The scarcity of land, combined with the desire to preserve the natural beauty and environment, limits the number of resorts and accommodations available, which can drive up prices due to high demand and limited supply for long.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/prices-here-higher-among-many-sa-countries-1713378371

Sectoral Update

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

Bank Asia to take over Bank Alfalah's Bangladesh unit

- Bank Asia is likely to acquire the Bangladesh operations of Karachi-based Bank Alfalah, according to information disclosed to the Pakistan Stock Exchange yesterday.
- The disclosure, by Bank Alfalah itself, said its board approved in principle the non-binding offer given by Bank Asia to take over Bank Alfalah's Bangladesh operations, subject to compliance of all applicable laws and regulations as well as the necessary regulatory approvals.
- Bank Asia Managing Director Sohail RK Hussain said negotiations are still underway. But it is not linked to the ongoing discussion about the merger of some weak banks with other banks.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bank-asia-take-over-bank-alfalahs-bangladesh-unit-3589321

Padma Islami served show cause notice over Tk 211cr 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 Tk 211.82 crore last year.
- As per the Insurance Act 2010, claims must be settled within 90 days of a policy reaching maturity. The claims owed to policyholders of Padma Islami amounted to Tk 233.70 crore in 2023, of which the company paid out just Tk 21.88 crore, according to an IDRA document.
- The insurance regulator also mentioned that it is a punishable offence for Padma Islami to not pay these dues, especially as they have an investment portfolio amounting to Tk 190.69 crore.
- Padma Islami settled 65% of its total claims in 2020, 46.89% in 2021, 72.80% in 2022.

News Source:

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

Deposits in commercial banks rise in Feb

- Deposits in commercial banks increased by 10.43 per cent year-on-year in February, primarily due to a rise in the banks' interest rates.
- According to Bangladesh Bank data, bank deposits in the country rose to Tk 16,61,649 crore in February, marking an increase from Tk 15,04,767 crore in February 2023.
- Bankers attributed the continuous increase in deposit rates to attracting many people to keep money in the banks. Most banks raised their interest rates during this period to attract more deposits, as the banking sector was facing a liquidity shortage. The interest rates ranged from 8 to 11 per cent.

News Source:

https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/232857/deposits-in-commercial-banks-rise-in-feb

Apparel & Textile

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.
- The American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA), the National Retail Federation (NRF), the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA), and the United States Fashion Industry Association (USFIA), collectively made the observation in a letter to David Johanson, chair of the US International Trade Commission (USITC), on March 25.
- Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Pakistan are, respectively, the third, fourth, fifth, sixth and the eighth largest apparel supplier to the US.

News Source:

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

Bangladesh gets another LEED-certified green factory

- Another garment factory in Bangladesh has been awarded LEED certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). With this, the number of green factories in the country rose to 215.
- Fashion Makers Ltd factory located in Gazipur secured a platinum rating, with a score of 87, according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).
- Before giving the LEED certification, USGBC considers several criteria, such as transformation performance, energy, water, and waste management. The best performers are rated with platinum, followed by gold and silver.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladesh-gets-another-leed-certified-green-factory-830021

Telecommunication

Bangladesh slips six notches in mobile internet speed: Ookla

- Bangladesh has slipped six notches down and stood at the 112th position out of 148 countries in its ranking in terms of mobile internet speed performance on the global stage, despite the operators making progress in their performance individually, according to the Ookla's Speedtest Global Index for March.
- Bangladesh held the 106th position in the previous report published by the Ookla in February. As per the latest report, the median download speed in Bangladesh stood at 24.59 Mbps, which was 24.19 Mbps in the previous report published in February.
- As per the index published by Ookla, neighbouring India secured the 16th position globally, with a median download speed of 105.85 Mbps.
- Among other South Asian countries, the Maldives secured the 32nd position, Myanmar 104th, Sri Lanka 123rd, Pakistan 127th, Nepal 136th and Afghanistan 145th in terms of mobile internet speed.

News Source:

https://www.newagebd.net/post/telecom/232761/bangladesh-slips-six-notches-in-mobile-internet-speed-ookla

Capital Market

Stocks decline for 3rd day straight

- Although companies listed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) regained some strength in the early hours of trading yesterday, they eventually ended in a decline that extended their losing streak for the third day consecutively.
- The DSEX, the benchmark index of the premier bourse of Bangladesh, shed 10.80 points, or 0.19%, to close the day at 5,763.77 points. Likewise, the DSES, an index that represents shariah-compliant companies, slipped by 1.65 points, 0.13%, to 1,266.41 points. The DS30, which comprises blue-chip stocks, fell by 5.36 points, 0.27%, to 2,014.93 points.
- Daily turnover, which indicates the volume of shares traded during the session, stood at Tk 482 crore, down 10.68% from the previous trading session.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/stocks-decline-3rd-day-straight-3589296

Govt moves to strengthen bond market for economic stability

- The government is looking for ways to develop its bond market for economic stability, but the major obstacle is the inability to forecast fund requirements through an approximate estimation of revenue income and expenses.
- However, it is determined to fix all the problems that come in the way, which is why the Ministry of Finance commissioned a four-member committee of the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) to figure out how to help the bond market flourish.
- Efficient debt management would ensure a consistent and regular supply of bonds and in that case investors will be able to make investment plans.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/govt-moves-to-strengthen-bond-market-for-economic-stability-1713377335