Bangladesh Market	
Major Indices	**Last closing**
DSEX Index	5,633.61
% change	-0.73%
DS30 Index	1,980.43
% change	-0.18%
DSES Index	1,235.73
% change	-0.59%
Turnover (BDT mn)	5,975.61
Turnover (USD mn)	54.32
% change	3.94%
Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange	

International Market	
Major Indices	**Last closing**
Dow Jones Industrial Average	38,503.69
% change	0.69%
S&P 500	5,070.55
% change	1.20%
Nikkei 225	37,552.16
% change	0.30%
FTSE 100	8,044.81
% change	0.26%
Source: Bloomberg	

Exchange rate		
Major Currencies	**Low (BDT)**	**High (BDT)**
USD	110.00	110.00
EUR	117.19	117.21
GBP	135.84	135.85
INR	1.32	1.32
Source: BB		

Money market		
Date	**Call Money Rate Range (%)**	**Weighted Average**
22-Apr-24	8.00 - 9.50	9.05
22-Apr-24	8.00 - 9.50	8.88
Source: BB		

Commodities		
Major Commodities	**Price**	**% Change**
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	88.42	1.63%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	2,322.02	-0.23%
Cotton, USD/lb.	81.72	-0.85%
Source: Bloomberg		

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX lost 0.73% in the last trading day, closing at 5,633.61 points.
- The daily turnover increased 3.94% in the last trading day.

Global Market

- Majority of the leading global indices posted positive returns as Dow Jones posted 0.69% gain, S&P 500 posted 1.20% gain, and FTSE 100 posted 0.26% gain.
- One of the leading Asian market indices, NIKKEI 225 posted 0.30% gain.

Key macro indicators

- All the major currencies fell against BDT yesterday.
- The average overnight rate is rising in the past week.
- The current weighted average overnight rate stood at 9.05% with a high rate of 9.50% and low rate of 8.00%.
- The oil price increased 1.63% in the last trading day.

Bangladesh Macro Update

ADP spending picks up in July-March

- Development spending rose 42.30% in the first nine months of the current fiscal year (FY) thanks to a higher execution rate in March following the national election.
- The government managed to spend BDT 107,612 crore from the annual development programme (ADP) in the July-March period of fiscal 2023-24, according to data of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED).
- During the same period of FY23, public development spending amounted to BDT 98,521 crore, or 41.65% of the ADP.
- Effective ADP implementation improves the usage of public resources as it enhances the quality of public investment.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adp-spending-picks-july-march-3593866

Inflation, exchange rate stability should get priority: experts

- The government should focus more on taming inflation, stabilising exchange rate and increasing forex reserve in the upcoming national budget for 2024-25 fiscal year, experts said today.
- Besides, tightening of the monetary policy, tax collection reforms, broadening of the social safety net as well as ensuring food security and healthcare services should get priority, they said.
- They spoke at a pre-budget discussion organised by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka.
- In the upcoming budget, priority will be given to IT-based budget management, development of infrastructure and technology, human resource and steps to give more incentives to the agricultural sector.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/inflation-exchange-rate-stability-should-get-priority-experts-3593786

Industries on survival mission as costs soar

- By leveraging efficient machinery and cutting-edge technologies, including robotics, companies are economising on energy, water, and manpower while maintaining or even boosting production levels.
- To maintain competitiveness in the market, firms have explored options such as securing low-cost loans from international sources.
- This is how industries are finding ways to maintain minimum profit margin and stay afloat coping with high-priced dollars, hikes in energy tariffs, rising interest rates and wage pressure amid roaring inflation as all are increasing the cost of businesses.
- Industry owners said gas prices have surged by up to a staggering 179% since early 2023. Expensive energy affects all industries, but smaller ones take the biggest blow.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/industries-survival-mission-costs-soar-835141

Sectoral Update

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

TIB calls for halting implementation of bank merger

- Transparency International Bangladesh has called for halting the implementation of the merger of banks.
- The way it is proceeding, it can sidestep the main problem of the banking sector and give impunity to the people who are responsible for loan default and forgery, the anti-graft watchdog said in a press release issued today.
- Recently, the central bank initiated steps to merge underperforming banks with stronger counterparts in order to save weak banks in the sector which creates anxiety and uncertainty among the banking people.
- The TIB asserts that the lack of transparency in the bank merger process, particularly concerning the management of default loans and issues of accountability within weak banks burdened by default loans.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tib-calls-halting-implementation-bank-merger-3593796

BB sells USD 11.67b to banks in 10 months

- The Bangladesh Bank sold USD 11.67 billion from its foreign exchange reserves to banks in less than 10 months amid a severe dollar crisis faced by the country's banks.
- According to Bangladesh Bank data, the central bank sold USD 6.7 billion to banks in July-December, the first six months of the financial year of 2023-24, and the sales crossed USD 11 billion on April 22.
- Bankers said that the BB took various steps to save foreign exchange reserves from draining, but no step was working.
- The ongoing dollar crisis has made it challenging for banks to settle import payments and open letters of credit, posing significant challenges for businesses.

News Source:

https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/233408/bb-sells-$11.67b-to-banks-in-10-months

Depositors deposit in merged banks will remain completely safe: BB

- Even after the completion of the merger, the accountholders of two merging banks will be able to maintain their respective accounts as before, said BB in a press release issued today.
- Moreover, the merger process will be completed with the consent of the sponsor directors, the current board of directors and the general shareholders of the banks.
- The process of merger will strengthen the financial sector by solving the existing problems of relatively weak banks and at the same time developing the activities of relatively strong banks.
- Through this, the merged bank-company will be able to provide better services as per public interest.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/depositors-deposit-merged-banks-will-remain-completely-safe-bb-835061

Sustainability disclosure standards needed to access external financing

- Banks and financial institutions need to embrace global sustainability disclosure standards to access international financing and promote private sector development, said Mizanur Rahman, a commissioner of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).
- He said the sustainability reporting guideline recently introduced by the Bangladesh Bank should be mandatory for banks and financial institutions to ensure accountability and transparency.
- This is because Bangladesh requires an audit system to meet global standards in order to secure international financing for private sector development.
- Therefore, there is a need for accounting professionals to address these challenges through standard reporting and adherence to professional ethics.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/sustainability-disclosure-standards-needed-access-external-financing-3593751

Apparel & Textile

EU votes today to hold brands liable for manufacturers' rights violations

- The European Union is set to vote on a bill today that has the provision for holding brands responsible for violations of human rights or environmental laws by manufacturers.
- Exactly 11 years after the Rana Plaza collapse, the European Parliament will vote on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive," said the Clean Clothes Campaign in a press release recently.
- On the day where we remember the lives lost in the Rana Plaza collapse, this vote represents a significant milestone for workers, communities, and activists worldwide and a major step for corporate accountability.
- The bill, if passed, will be applicable for companies having over 500 employees on average and a net worldwide turnover exceeding 150 million euros.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/diplomacy/news/eu-votes-today-hold-brands-liable-manufacturers-rights-violations-3593991

Apparel demand resurgence in West promises new bonanza

- A significant bounceback in global demand for textiles and apparel promises new opportunity but Bangladesh lags far behind China in bagging the bonanza for reasons that include recent cost escalation.
- Records of inspections and audits among buyers for China show the giant economy had a double-digit growth in recent months, according to latest report.
- Similar trend is also reflected in both US and EU official import data for the first two months of 2024.
- Global demand for textile and apparel inspections and audits from garment- manufacturing countries, including Bangladesh, increased over 20% in the first quarter of 2024, according to QIMA latest report.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/apparel-demand-resurgence-in-west-promises-new-bonanza-1713895087

Textile millers call for reverting gas tariff to pre-hike level

- Primary textile millers urged the government on Tuesday to revert the gas tariff to its pre-hike level, saying the sector is facing a severe gas shortage despite the price hike.
- They said the government increased the gas price in January last year promising uninterrupted supply of the energy.
- They also demanded that the concerned authorities address the crisis related to US dollar and take required measures so that businesses do not face any harassment by Customs officials.
- The observations were made at a view exchange meeting organised by Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) at its Gulshan office in the city.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/textile-millers-call-for-reverting-gas-tariff-to-pre-hike-level-1713893906

Power & Energy

Load-shedding more frequent in villages

- Power cuts remain far more frequent in villages than in cities, with a massive heatwave sweeping Bangladesh for about two weeks now, corroborating the proposition that global warming puts the poor under far more stress than the rich.
- The situation of the poor is even worse in countries like Bangladesh, where, as revealed by high officials in the country's five power distributors, city dwellers are prioritised in supplying electricity.
- At 9:00pm on Tuesday, the PDB said, 16,233MW was generated, the highest-ever electricity generated, against the demand of 16,700MW.
- The Rural Electrification Board, on the other hand, responsible for supplying electricity to over 3.5 crore domestic consumers in villages along with other consumers, received 9,250MW against their demand of 9,981MW at 9:00pm on Tuesday.
- This is usual for villages to suffer more load-shedding since cities accommodate more important establishments,' said Debasish Chakraborty, member, REB

News Source:

https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/233420/load-shedding-more-frequent-in-villages

Capital Market

Stocks slump to 3-year low

- Stock market indices dropped again yesterday after rising on the preceding day as a fact-finding meeting of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) failed to restore confidence among investors.
- The DSEX edged down 41.26 points, or 0.73%, to close at 5,633.61, which is a 35-month low, meaning the lowest since May 2021.
- The DSES, an index that represents Shariah-compliant companies, fell 7.36 points, or 0.59%, to 1,235.73.
- Likewise, the DS30, which comprises blue-chip stocks, dropped 3.48 points, or 0.17%, to 1,980.43.

- However, turnover, which indicates the volume of shares traded during a session, increased 3.94% to BDT 5.97 crore.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/stocks-slump-3-year-low-3593881

All hopes lost, stock investors want BSEC chief to go, PM to intervene

- Investors have lost patience watching storm clouds hanging over the stock market for years and so on Tuesday took to the streets in the capital demanding resignation of the chief of the securities regulator.
- While they were chanting slogans accusing the regulator of inaction against market manipulation and fraudsters, the broad index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) continued its slide down by more than 41 points for the day to 5,633, lowest since May 2021.
- The key index lost 703 points while the market capitalisation shed BDT 844 billion since the floor price removal in January, the DSE data shows.
- They demanded that companies with weak fundamentals be not allowed to float IPOs, saying such organisations come to the market only to rob investors of money. Prime minister's intervention was also sought for market stability.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/all-hopes-lost-stock-investors-want-bsec-chief-to-go-pm-to-intervene-1713888787