

Key News

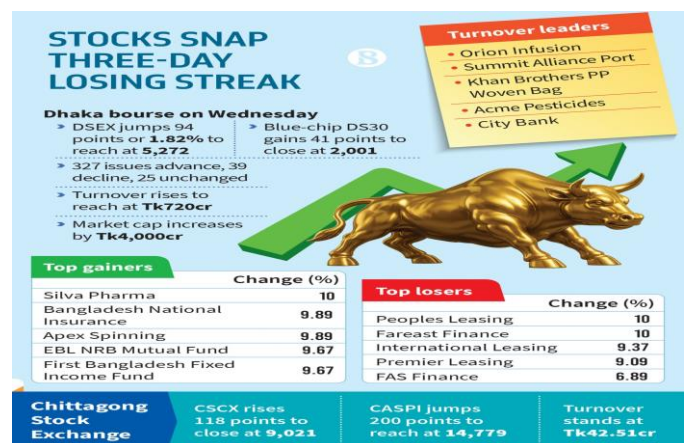
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Stock Market & Company

Stocks rebound sharply at DSE as govt keeps fuel prices unchanged

The Business Standard, Apr 01, 2026

- Stocks staged a strong comeback today (1 April), with the benchmark Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) index posting a sharp gain after the government decided against raising fuel prices despite ongoing global energy market volatility.
- The DSEX index surged 94 points, or 1.82%, to close at 5,272, recovering from a recent downturn linked to Middle East tensions. The blue-chip DS30 index also rose 41 points to settle at 2,001, reflecting renewed buying interest in fundamentally strong stocks.
- Market activity turned decisively positive, with 327 advancing issues against 39 decliners, while 25 remained unchanged. Turnover rose significantly to Tk720 crore, and overall market capitalisation increased by around Tk4,000 crore.
- Analysts and participants attributed the rally to improved investor sentiment following the government's decision, which eased fears of inflationary pressures and rising business costs.
- EBL Securities noted the rebound came after three consecutive sessions of losses, driven by broad-based bargain hunting. Buying pressure intensified throughout the day, leading to widespread price appreciation across sectors.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-rebound-sharply-dse-govt-keeps-fuel-prices-unchanged-1400311>

BAT Bangladesh incurs Tk714cr relocation cost amid factory shutdown

The Business Standard, Apr 01, 2026

- British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh, a listed multinational company, has incurred Tk714.58 crore in restructuring and relocation costs, with the largest portion – Tk375 crore –stemming from fixed asset impairment, according to its auditor.
- In an emphasis of matter in the audited financial statements for 2025, the auditor noted that these developments indicate significant operational changes during the year.

- In June last year, BAT Bangladesh decided to shut down operations at its Dhaka factory after the Supreme Court rejected its appeal to extend the land lease agreement. The company also relocated its head office from Mohakhali DOHS to Ashulia in Savar.
- Following the decision, the company approved an investment of approximately Tk297 crore to expand production capacity at its Savar facility.
- In a disclosure accompanying its 2025 annual dividend announcement, BAT Bangladesh said that operations at the Dhaka factory were shut down in July 2025, and plant, machinery, and cigarette manufacturing equipment were transferred to its Savar factory.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bat-bangladesh-incurs-tk714cr-relocation-cost-amid-factory-shutdown-1400356>

Nitol Insurance recommends 10% cash dividend for 2025

The Business Standard, Apr 01, 2026

- Nitol Insurance PLC, a listed insurer on the stock exchange, has recommended a 10% cash dividend for its shareholders for 2025.
- In 2024, the company paid a 10% dividend, comprising 5% stock and 5% cash, according to company data.
- Following the declaration, its share price today (1 April) surged by 3.66%, or Tk1, to Tk28.30 at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- According to a disclosure published yesterday (31 March) on the stock exchange website, its earnings per share (EPS) declined to Tk1.93 for 2025, from Tk1.97 in the previous year.
- Its net asset value per share stood at Tk31.30 and net operating cash flow per share at Tk0.28, compared to Tk31.33 and Tk0.22, respectively, in 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/nitol-insurance-recommends-10-cash-dividend-2025-1400331>

BRAC Bank moves to surrender trustee licence for mutual fund

The Business Standard, Apr 01, 2026

- BRAC Bank PLC has decided to surrender its trustee registration for mutual funds to comply with updated regulations, a move that could have wider implications for the country's struggling fund management industry.
- The bank, acting in its capacity as a trustee, has submitted an application to Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission seeking formal approval for the surrender, according to officials.
- Shaheen Iqbal, additional managing director and head of Wholesale Banking at the bank, confirmed the development, saying a public notice has already been published to inform stakeholders of the decision to surrender the trustee licence.
- Under the latest mutual fund regulations, banks are no longer allowed to act as both custodian and trustee for the same fund. BRAC Bank, which has primarily operated as a custodian and never served as a trustee, said it will continue focusing on that role to remain fully compliant with regulatory directives.
- Market data shows several institutions—including Eastern Bank PLC, Agrani Bank, Investment Corporation of Bangladesh and Grameen Bank—currently act as trustees for mutual funds in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brac-bank-moves-surrender-trustee-licence-mutual-fund-1400346>

Economy & Industry

LSM shrinks 6.34pc on apparel slowdown

The Financial Express, Apr 02, 2026

- The large-scale manufacturing (LSM) sector contracted sharply in December last, underlining mounting pressure on the country's industrial base amid weak exports and rising global uncertainties.
- Output in the sector fell 6.34 per cent year on year in December of the current fiscal year, according to data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).
- The segment accounts for roughly 11 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), signifying a broader implication for overall economic growth.
- People familiar with the development and some industry insiders attributed the decline primarily to a slowdown in the clothing industry, which carries the heaviest weight on the manufacturing index at about 61 per cent.
- A fall in this segment tends to disproportionately drag down the overall index.



<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/lsm-shrinks-634pc-on-apparel-slowdown>

Khosru flags 3-pronged economic challenges, urges resource harnessing

The Financial Express, Apr 02, 2026

- Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has said the new government is facing a “three-way challenge” in managing the economy—fragile fiscal conditions, rising expenditure pressures, and external shocks.
- Speaking to reporters after an internal meeting at the National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Wednesday, he said the administration inherited a “very weak” economy and that stabilising it without printing money is the immediate priority.
- Officials at the meeting said the minister approved a waiver of the 7.5-percent Advance Tax (AT) on newsprint imports for the industry in the next budget. Leaders of the Newspaper Owners Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) had long demanded the withdrawal of the tax.
- Currently, newspaper imports face multiple charges, including 3.0-percent import duty, 15-percent VAT, 5.0-percent advance income tax, and 7.5-percent advance tax. With additional costs such as transportation, the total landed cost rises to around 130–132 percent.
- The minister also directed tax authorities not to impose taxes on sensitive sectors in the FY 2026–27 budget that could affect the general public.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/khosru-flags-3-pronged-economic-challenges-urges-resource-harnessing>

Govt to review tax evasion by major companies

The Financial Express, Apr 01, 2026

- The Bangladesh government is reviewing alleged tax evasion by major companies as it attempts to raise revenue amid the “three-sided challenge” of economic recovery amid various crises in the macro economy, the implementation of the BNP election manifesto, and rising fuel prices amid the war in the Middle East.
- Highlighting these three challenges, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said the National Board of Revenue (NBR), which had investigated tax evasion by industrial groups close to the Awami League during the interim government, is being reviewed.

- After meeting with the NBR on Wednesday, he was asked about the progress of the investigation and whether a new drive would be conducted. Khosru said, "Everything (was discussed). It's not just about one issue."
- "There are many issues involved. Everything is being reviewed."
- Once the interim government took power, the NBR's Central Intelligence Cell launched tax evasion investigations into various industrial groups including Beximco, Summit, and S Alam. The agency also collected some of these taxes.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/govt-to-review-tax-evasion-by-major-companies>

International

In tight market, China resells record LNG volumes

The Daily Star, Apr 02, 2026

- Chinese firms are reselling record volumes of LNG, cashing in on soaring spot prices as China has enough domestic and pipeline gas to meet its own weakened demand, in stark contrast to other Asian buyers scrambling to replace supplies cut off by the Iran war.
- The world's top importer of liquefied natural gas, China reloaded 8 to 10 cargoes in March, its highest monthly total on record, according to analytics firms ICIS, Kpler and Vortexa.
- So far this year, China has reloaded a record 1.31 million metric tons of LNG, or 19 cargoes, with 10 delivered to South Korea, five to Thailand and the remainder to Japan, India and the Philippines, Kpler data showed.
- By comparison, China resold 0.82 million tons in 2025 and 0.98 million tons in 2023, the second-highest annual total on record.
- The country has been able to resell bigger volumes as its own need for LNG has plateaued, with weaker economic activity sapping industrial demand while domestic gas production and pipelined Russian supply is growing.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/tight-market-china-resells-record-lng-volumes-4141326>

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