

## Key News

[Stocks slide further as cost-side concerns, geopolitical uncertainty weigh on sentiment](#)

[Unilever Consumer Care revenue drops by 8% in Jan-Mar](#)

[Pioneer Insurance profit rises 25% despite 19% drop in premium income](#)

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[Eco-friendly handicraft venture creates 400 rural jobs](#)

[MGH Group to build first-ever private container terminal at Chattogram port](#)

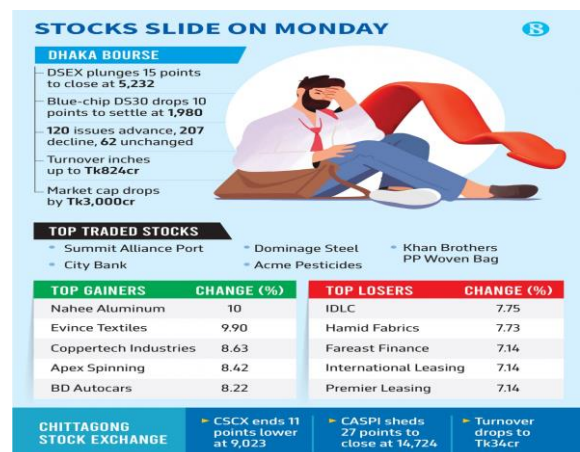
[US trade bodies urge USTR not to impose new tariffs](#)

## Stock Market & Company

### Stocks slide further as cost-side concerns, geopolitical uncertainty weigh on sentiment

The Business Standard, Apr 20, 2026

- The capital market extended its losing streak for a second consecutive session today (20 April) as investor confidence remained under significant pressure.
- A combination of domestic macroeconomic shifts and geopolitical uncertainty continues to weigh on the bourse, with the benchmark DSEX index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) plunging by 15 points to settle at 5,232.
- The blue-chip DS30 index followed a similar trajectory, dropping 10 points to close at 1,980, reflecting a cautious risk-off sentiment among both retail and institutional participants.
- Market analysts at EBL Securities said in their daily review that the recent adjustment in domestic fuel prices has rekindled concerns over rising production costs and broader inflationary pressures in the economy. This domestic factor, coupled with persistent uncertainty surrounding ceasefire negotiations in the Middle East conflict, has significantly dampened the risk appetite of investors.
- The broad-based selling pressure resulted in a substantial erosion of the market's total valuation, with the market capitalisation of the premier bourse dropping by approximately Tk3,000 crore in a single day.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-slide-further-cost-side-concerns-geopolitical-uncertainty-weigh-sentiment>

### Unilever Consumer Care revenue drops by 8% in Jan-Mar

The Business Standard, Apr 21, 2026

- Unilever Consumer Care reported that its revenue dropped by 8% in the first quarter of this year.
- According to the financial statement for the January-March period of 2026, the health drinks like Horlicks producer posted a revenue of Tk87.44 crore, which was Tk95.40 crore during the same quarter a year ago.
- Following the revenue decline, its net profit also dropped by 12% year-on-year to Tk12.11 crore in the first quarter.
- At the end of March, its earnings per share stood at Tk6.29, which was Tk7.13 a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/unilever-consumer-care-revenue-drops-8-jan-mar-1416981>

## Pioneer Insurance profit rises 25% despite 19% drop in premium income

The Business Standard, Apr 20, 2026

- Pioneer Insurance PLC posted a 25% year-on-year growth in net profit in the first quarter of 2026, driven largely by a sharp cut in management expenses, even as its premium income declined significantly.
- According to the company's financial statements for the January–March period, net profit after tax rose to Tk16.59 crore, up from the same period last year. Earnings per share (EPS) also increased to Tk1.70, compared to Tk1.36 a year earlier.
- However, the insurer's premium income dropped by 19% to Tk77.72 crore during the quarter, reflecting a broader slowdown in the general insurance sector.
- The profit growth was mainly supported by a 45% reduction in management expenses, which fell to Tk16.37 crore. The decline followed a regulatory move by the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) to cancel agent commissions for non-life insurers, easing operational costs.
- Despite the improved bottom line, the company faced rising claims, which surged by 64% year-on-year to Tk12.11 crore during the quarter.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/pioneer-insurance-profit-rises-25-despite-19-drop-premium-income-1416856>

## Shahjibazar Power profit surges 138% in Jul-Mar FY26

The Business Standard, Apr 20, 2026

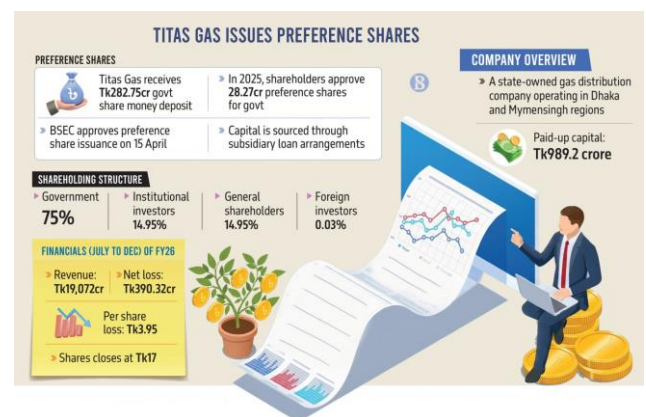
- Shahjibazar Power Co Ltd, a concern of Youth Group, has reported a staggering 138% growth in its consolidated net profit during the first nine months of the 2025-26 fiscal year, driven by higher operational efficiency and strong contributions from its associate companies.
- According to the company's price-sensitive disclosure released on Monday following its board meeting, consolidated net profit reached Tk81.53 crore for the July-March period, while the consolidated earnings per share (EPS) surged to Tk4.37 from the previous year's levels.
- This growth was supported by a 15% increase in total consolidated revenue, which climbed to Tk1,055 crore.
- The company's performance was even more robust in the third quarter alone, spanning January to March, where consolidated net profit skyrocketed by 254% to settle at Tk24.71 crore.
- During these three months, consolidated revenue grew by 13% to Tk331.31 crore, yielding an EPS of Tk1.32.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/shahjibazar-power-profit-surges-138-jul-mar-fy26-1416711>

## Titas Gas gets BSEC nod to issue Tk282cr preference shares

The Business Standard, Apr 20, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has approved a proposal by state-owned Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited to issue irredeemable, non-cumulative preference shares worth approximately Tk282.75 crore.
- According to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange today (20 April), Titas Gas will issue 282,747,469 preference shares at a face value and issue price of Tk10 each, amounting to Tk2,827,474,690. The shares will be issued in favour of the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance.
- Today, the company's share price closed at Tk17 on the DSE.
- Titas Gas said the proposal was unanimously approved by shareholders at its 5th Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held on 24 December 2025. It was later submitted to the regulator, which granted approval on 15 April 2026.



- The move aims to align the company's capital structure with equity support provided by the government. According to Titas, the government had injected a total of Tk282.75 crore into the company as equity up to 30 June 2023, which will now be formally converted into share capital through the issuance.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/titas-gas-gets-bsec-nod-issue-tk282cr-preference-shares-1416826>

## Economy & Industry

### Eco-friendly handicraft venture creates 400 rural jobs

The Daily Star, Apr 20, 2026

- Before the Covid-19 pandemic, Sabekunnahar Mitu, a young woman from Faridpur, had vague notions, but no concrete plans of becoming an entrepreneur. An unlikely event made her curious about eco-friendly handicrafts, and she now not only makes a good profit from her venture but also employs around 400 people in her locality.
- Mitu completed her Secondary School Certificate in 2015 and got married while preparing for her Higher Secondary School Certificate. She later enrolled in the Management Department at Government Rajendra College in Faridpur.
- "I kept thinking about becoming an entrepreneur while studying at the college," she said
- One day, while visiting the Kolarhat area of Rajbari in late 2019, Mitu got caught in a sudden rainstorm and took shelter in a roadside shed, where handicraft workers were busy making different products.
- "I became curious and started asking questions. That is where the dream began."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/eco-friendly-handicraft-venture-creates-400-rural-jobs-4156256>

### MGH Group to build first-ever private container terminal at Chattogram port

The Daily Star, Apr 20, 2026

- A Bangladeshi multinational company, MGH Group, is going to construct the country's first privately built container terminal at Chattogram port on the bank of the Karnaphuli River in Patenga.
- Through a competitive bidding process, Transmarine Logistics, a subsidiary of MGH Group, secured the lease of a seven-acre plot of the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) to build the terminal, said a press release issued by MGH.
- The group's CEO Anis Ahmed and CPA Chairman Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman signed a 20-year land lease agreement at an annual rent of Tk 15 crore today.
- MGH Group is a diversified multinational headquartered in Bangladesh, with a presence in 26 countries.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/icds-announce-increase-container-handling-charges-85-4156206>

## International

### US trade bodies urge USTR not to impose new tariffs

The Daily Star, Apr 21, 2026

- The American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA), along with several other organisations, has urged the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the US government's chief trade body, not to impose any new tariffs on countries currently under investigation over production capacity.
- In a letter sent to the USTR on April 15, the AAFA warned that additional tariffs on supplying countries could raise costs for American consumers.
- Last month, the USTR launched an investigation into 60 economies, including Bangladesh, over alleged failures to address issues related to production capacity and forced labour.
- Bangladesh is scheduled to take part in a virtual USTR hearing on the matter on April 29.

- The AAFA said in its letter that the US already imposes relatively high tariffs on textiles, apparel, footwear and accessories, even though these products contain significant US value, including intellectual property, raw materials such as leather, and textile inputs like yarns and fabrics.
- As a result, textiles, apparel, footwear and travel goods face higher effective tariff rates than most other sectors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-trade-bodies-urge-ustr-not-impose-new-tariffs-4156421>

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## About Bank Asia Securities Ltd

Bank Asia Securities Limited (BASL) is one of the leading full-service brokerage companies in Bangladesh. The company was formed in 2009 and running its operation as a majority owned subsidiary of Bank Asia Limited. BASL offers full-fledged standard brokerage services for retail, institutional and foreign clients with a dedicated team of skilled professionals. The company is currently providing the brokerage services under the membership of Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited (DSE).

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