

Economy

Finance minister rules out tax relief for now, assures of easing trade barriers

April 30, 2026

- Business leaders' hopes for a lighter tax burden in the upcoming national budget were effectively dashed yesterday (29 April) as the government rejected pleas for tax cuts for now. Instead, it assured removal of the systemic obstacles that have long stifled the ease of doing business.
- With the national budget set to be unveiled in June, business leaders raised a range of demands at a high-level meeting with government representatives, calling for tax reductions and the removal of various barriers to doing business to support trade and commerce under current conditions, while urging the government to take concrete steps to address these challenges.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/we-want-remove-all-obstacles-ease-doing-business-finance-minister-1424711>

Banking

Banks barred from opening LCs for dietary supplements without DGDA nod

April 30, 2026

- Banks will no longer be allowed to open letters of credit (LCs) for importing 'dietary supplements' without prior approval from the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA).
- The instruction was issued on Wednesday through a circular sent by Bangladesh Bank to all commercial banks, based on a letter from the drug administration.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/banks-barred-from-opening-lcs-for-dietary-supplements-without-dgda-nod>

Capital Market

Renata sees double digit profit growth in Jul-Mar

April 30, 2026

- Renata PLC, one of the leading drug-makers, maintained a robust 28pc year-on-year increase in consolidated profit, maintaining double-digit growth, while revenue rose 6.46pc in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, driven primarily by higher sales volume.
- According to its financial statements, during the July to March period, its consolidated profit surged to BDT 2.3bn (USD 19.2mn) with an earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 20.39 (USD 0.17), and its revenue surged to BDT 33.6bn (USD 275.6mn) at the end March.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/renata-sees-double-digit-profit-growth-jul-mar-1425431>

Square Pharma's Q3 profit slips slightly despite revenue growth

April 30, 2026

- Square Pharmaceuticals PLC reported a slight decline in profit in the January–March quarter of FY26, despite posting steady revenue growth during the period.
- According to the company's latest financial disclosure, consolidated revenue rose 8pc year-on-year to BDT 21.7bn (USD 177.9mn) in the third quarter. However, consolidated net profit slipped 1.40pc to BDT 5.97bn (USD 48.9mn), indicating mild pressure on earnings. Consequently, earnings per share (EPS) stood at BDT 6.73 (USD 0.0552), down from BDT 6.83 (USD 0.0559) in the same quarter of the previous year.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/square-pharmas-q3-profit-slips-slightly-despite-revenue-growth-1425396>

Trade and Commerce

Soybean oil prices raised by BDT 4 (USD 0.033) per liter

April 30, 2026

- The government has announced a price hike for soybean oil, increasing the rate by BDT 4.0 (USD 0.033) per liter effective immediately.
- Under the new pricing structure, bottled soybean oil will now retail at BDT 199.0 (USD 1.6) per liter, up from the previous price of BDT 195 (USD 1.59). Loose soybean oil has also seen a similar increase, rising from BDT 175 (USD 1.43) to BDT 179 (USD 1.46) per liter.

From: <https://observerbd.com/news/574614>

Novo Nordisk eyes Bangladesh as an insulin hub

April 30, 2026

- Bangladesh is stepping into high-end pharmaceutical manufacturing as Novo Nordisk begins producing modern insulin locally in partnership with Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Ltd, a concern of Transcom Group.
- The move promises to expand access for millions of people with diabetes while positioning the country as a future export hub for advanced biologic medicines.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/novo-nordisk-eyes-bangladesh-insulin-hub-4164181>

Higher exports bring no relief to potato farmers

April 30, 2026

- Potato exports this year so far surpass last year's figures by 10.7pc, yet that is not enough to cover a surplus in production and bring relief to farmers.
- As per provisional data from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), so far, approximately 11.7mn tonnes of potatoes have been produced this year, compared to about 11.5mn tonnes last year.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/higher-exports-bring-no-relief-potato-farmers-4164166>

International

US war in Iran has cost USD 25bn so far, says Pentagon official

April 30, 2026

- The United States' war in Iran has cost USD 25bn so far, a senior Pentagon official said on Wednesday (29 April), providing the first official estimate of the military's price tag for the conflict
- With just six months before midterm elections in which President Donald Trump's Republicans may face an uphill battle to keep their House majority, Democrats are riding high in public opinion polls as they attempt to link the unpopular Iran war with affordability.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/us-war-iran-has-cost-25-billion-so-far-says-pentagon-official-1425491>

Oil prices jump 5pc on fears of prolonged Hormuz blockade

April 30, 2026

- At around 1335 GMT, a barrel of Brent crude for June delivery was up 5.16pc at USD 117, its highest level since the fragile ceasefire between the United States and Iran came into effect.
- Benchmark US oil contract, West Texas Intermediate, for delivery in the same month, gained 4.85pc to reach USD 104.78, following the report in The Wall Street Journal.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/global-economy/oil-prices-jump-5-fears-prolonged-hormuz-blockade-1425236>

Gold loses lustre on Middle East war

April 30, 2026

- Gold is seen as a safe haven asset in times of volatility but investment volumes fell in the first quarter, industry data showed Wednesday, as the Middle East war forced some investors to liquidate holdings to raise cash.
- Investment volumes fell by 5.0pc during the quarter, according to the World Gold Council,

despite gold having set a record high in January as investors sought refuge from a weak dollar and US President Donald Trump's erratic policy shifts.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gold-loses-lustre-middle-east-war-4163681>

Dollar gets safe-haven lift

April 30, 2026

- The dollar edged higher on Wednesday as investors awaited a closely watched Federal Reserve rate decision in what was likely to be Chair Jerome Powell's swan song, against a backdrop of an Iran war that shows little sign of imminent resolution.
- Activity was tempered by markets in Japan closing for a public holiday and by caution ahead of a string of major central bank decisions over the coming 48 hours, along with the likes of Amazon, Microsoft and Meta reporting earnings after Wednesday's closing bell.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/dollar-gets-safe-haven-lift-4164126>

Biman set to sign USD 3.7bn Boeing deal for 14 aircraft in largest fleet expansion

April 30, 2026

- Bangladesh's flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines is poised to sign a USD 3.7bn agreement with US aerospace giant Boeing to purchase 14 aircraft, marking the largest fleet expansion in the airline's history.
- Under the agreement, Biman will acquire a mix of long-haul and short-haul aircraft, including eight Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner, two Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner and four Boeing 737-8 MAX jets. The list reflects a strategic shift towards expanding long-distance capacity while maintaining flexibility on regional routes.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/biman-set-to-sign-37-billion-boeing-deal-for-14-aircraft-in-largest-fleet-expansion>

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Morning Newsflash

Thursday, 30 April, 2026

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