

**Soaring import payments widen trade gap further:** The country's overall trade deficit widened further in the first eight months of the current fiscal year (FY) 2017-18 mainly due to higher import payments against lower export receipts, officials said. The deficit rose by nearly 93% or USD 5.64 billion to USD 11.73 billion in the July-February period of FY 18 from USD 6.09 billion during the same period of the previous fiscal, according to the latest central bank's statistics released on Sunday.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/soaring-import-payments-widen-trade-gap-further-1523814563>

**PM gives nod to USD 2.67b Chinese loan:** All the formalities have been completed to get the highest amount of loan worth USD 2.67 billion from China for Padma rail link project with the Prime Minister's seal of approval on Sunday. Sources said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved the summary of the Chinese loan before she left the country for Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and United Kingdom (UK). She also directed the Economic Relations Division (ERD) to finalise the date for signing a deal in this regard.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/pm-gives-nod-to-267b-chinese-loan-1523814683>

**Term of Trade: Unchanged in FY '17, but likely to worsen this fiscal:** Bangladesh's terms of trade (ToT) remained unchanged in the past financial year (2016-17) showing the economy avoided shock in prices in the year under review. The ToT, representing a ratio between export prices and import prices, remained the same means there was no price shock in both import and export prices. The central bank of Bangladesh showed the ToT was 87.11 index points in fiscal year 2017, exactly the same of FY 2016, as the import prices index was 237.36 and export prices index at 206.71.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/unchanged-in-fy-17-but-likely-to-worsen-this-fiscal-1523814729>

**NBR receives BDT 3.88b arrear income tax:** Field-level income tax and Value Added Tax (VAT) offices across the country observed 'Halkhata' festival on Sunday, and realised a significant amount of arrear tax from the taxpayers. According to a provisional figure, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) received BDT 3.88 billion arrear income tax on the occasion. Large Taxpayers Unit (LTU) under VAT Wing received BDT 31.3 million tax from four large corporate houses - Aristopharma, Dhaka Tobacco, Renata and Transcom.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-receives-BDT-388b-arrear-income-tax-1523814823>

**Prime Bank plans to double its retail, SME financing by 2021:** Prime Bank Limited (PBL) has planned to double its financing in retail as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) sectors for minimising risks and diversifying portfolios by 2021. Under the new plans, the investment in retail and SMEs would reach 40% of its total loans and advances within the next four years from the existing level of 20%. "We'll double our investment in retail and SMEs as part of our vision for 2021," Rahel Ahmed, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of the PBL, told The FE in an exclusive interview recently.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/prime-bank-plans-to-double-its-retail-sme-financing-by-2021-1523805919>

**Construction sector to witness double digit growth:** Construction sector of the country is set to post double digit growth in the current fiscal year, FY18. Provisional estimation of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) showed that the sector is set to post 10.11% growth in FY18, which was 8.77% in the previous fiscal year. The sector's share in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is also estimated to increase to 7.53% in the current fiscal, which was 7.36% in FY17.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/construction-sector-to-witness-double-digit-growth-1523797433>

**Directors' disregard:** Some 219 directors of 78 listed companies have failed to hold the requisite minimum 2% shares of their companies and yet no actions were taken against them in the last seven years. With a view to enhancing the directors' commitment towards the companies, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission in 2011 instructed them to hold at least 2% shares of the companies' paid-up capital. The independent directors were spared from the directive.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/directors-disregard-1562929>

### Index Summary

	15/04/18	12/04/18	Point Change	% Change
DSEX	5,773.61	5,813.14	(39.53)	-0.68%
DS30	2,175.93	2,186.79	(10.86)	-0.50%
DSES	1,350.60	1,352.84	(2.24)	-0.17%

### Market Activities

	15/04/18	12/04/18	% Change
Mkt. Turnover (BDT mn)	4,122.54	5,534.26	-25.51%
Mkt. Turnover (USD mn)	51.16	68.68	-25.51%
Total No of Trade	108,761	127,261	-14.54%
Trade Volume (mn)	105.91	152.10	-30.37%

### Market Valuation

	15/04/18	12/04/18	% Change
Mkt. Capitalization (BDT bn)	4,028.30	4,046.15	-0.44%
Mkt. Capitalization (USD bn)	49.99	50.21	-0.44%
Trailing Market P/E*	16.94	17.02	-0.49%
Annualized Market P/E**	17.55	17.63	-0.49%
Market P/BV	2.22	2.23	-0.50%
Dividend Yield	3.41%	3.39%	0.52%

**BB eases use of ERQ for import payments:** Bangladesh Bank on Sunday said the exporters would be allowed to pay the import payments of their subsidiaries or sister concerns from their export retention quota accounts. The BB issued a circular to authorised dealer branches of all banks saying that from now on an exporter would be allowed to retain export proceeds in foreign currency for a period of 30 days to settle import payments of exporters' subsidiaries within this time subject to observance of the instructions contained in paragraph 28(A)(ii) chapter 13 of Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Transactions.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/39082/bb-eases-use-of-erq-for-import-payments>

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