

Big Tech investors to gauge payoff as AI spending nears $600b

DHAKA **WEDNESDAY** 29 APRIL 2026

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Business

E-mail: business@daily-sun.com

currenciesmarket

	$ USD	€ EUR	₹ INR	¥ CNY
BUY (Tk)	122.00	141.00	1.30	16.00
SELL (Tk)	123.00	145.00	1.45	18.60

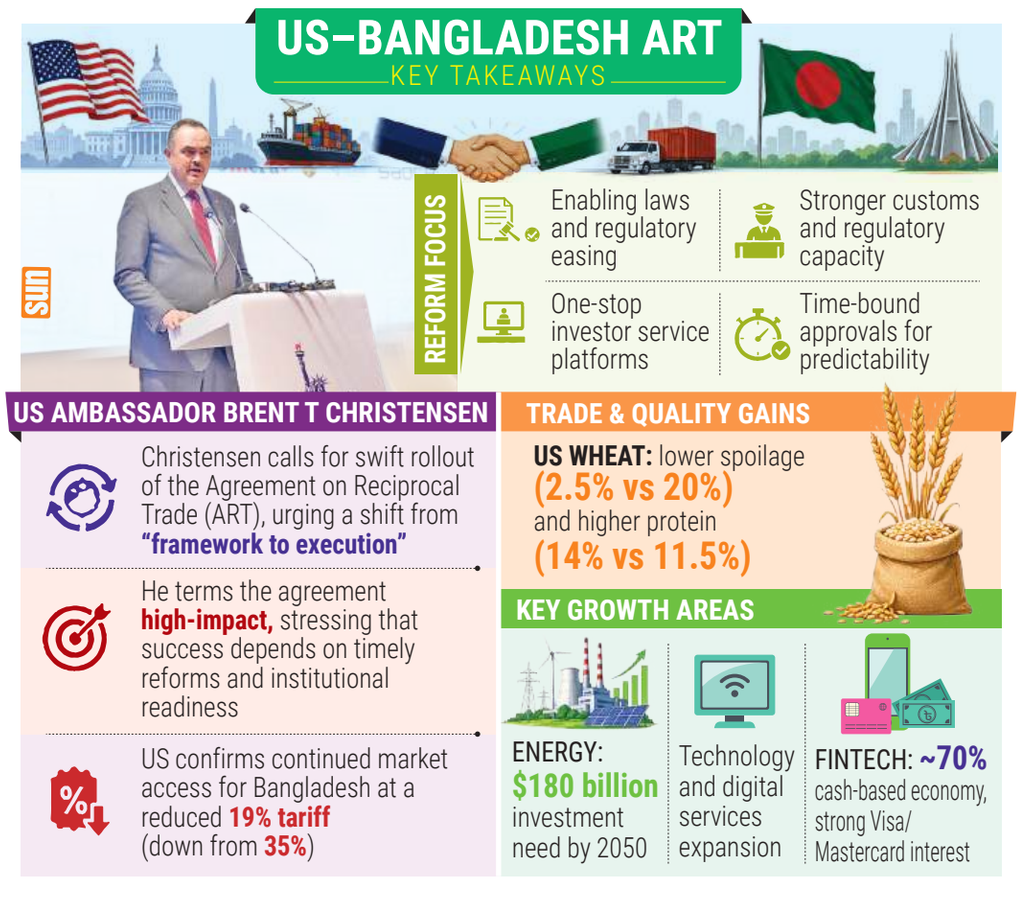
commoditiesmarket

Gold (22/22 Carat)
Tk20,980 (per gram)
Source: Bajus

Brent Crude Oil
USD 111.28 (per barrel)
Source: OILPRICE.com

US envoy urges swift implementation of trade pact

Energy imports, digital investment emerge as key pillars of deeper Bangladesh-US economic ties



Daily Sun Report, *Dhaka*

United States Ambassador Brent T Christensen has called for swift and coordinated implementation of the newly concluded Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART), urging Bangladesh to move decisively from policy framework to execution to realise its full economic potential.

Describing the pact as a high-impact framework capable of reshaping the country's trade trajectory, the envoy said its success would depend on timely reforms and institutional readiness.

Speaking at a high-level luncheon and policy dialogue hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Dhaka on Tuesday, Christensen said the ART ensures continued access for Bangladeshi exports to the US market at a competitive 19% tariff, reduced from 35%, while laying the foundation for a more balanced bilateral trade relationship.

The agreement, concluded on 9 February 2026, has sparked debate in Bangladesh, with critics raising concerns over asymmetry and long-term economic balance.

'Now we need action'

Shifting focus from negotiation to implementation, the ambassador said the real benefits of the agreement would only materialise through coordinated execution.

"We have a strong framework. Now we need action," he said, stressing that policy implementation and administrative efficiency would determine outcomes on the ground.

He outlined five priority actions for Bangladesh: enacting enabling legislation to operationalise the ART, removing regulatory bottlenecks that discourage investment, strengthening customs and regulatory capacity to handle higher trade volumes, establishing one-stop service platforms for investors, and introducing time-bound approval mechanisms to improve predictability.

Reaffirming Washington's commitment, Christensen said the United States was ready to invest and collaborate throughout the implementation phase.

Calling for greater private sector engagement, he added: "I encourage you to reach out, to share challenges, and to work with us on finding and implementing solutions."

Trade, energy and long-term commitments

Christensen said the agreement was grounded in commercial fundamentals rather than aid dependency.

Under its provisions, Bangladesh has committed to purchasing US$3.5 billion worth of US agricultural commodities, including wheat, soybeans, cotton and corn.

"Quality matters," he said, noting the higher protein content and lower spoilage rates of US wheat.

He said wheat imported by Bangladesh's Ministry of Food from other sources had recorded spoilage rates as high as 20%, compared with 2.5% for US wheat. Protein content, he added, had increased from 11.5% to 14%. >> **Biz-3 Col 5**



BCCCI seeks more Chinese investment, tech support in Bangladesh's textile sector

Daily Sun Report, *Dhaka*

The Bangladesh China Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCCI) has urged increased Chinese investment and technology transfer in Bangladesh's textile sector to boost competitiveness in high-value garment production.

The call came at a high-level meeting at the BCCCI office in Dhaka on Monday with a 20-member delegation from the China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC), China Dyeing and Printing Association (CDPA), and leading dyeing, printing and chemical firms.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation across garments, textiles, dyeing and printing, stressing the need to enhance trade, investment and industrial collaboration between Bangladesh and China.

Key issues discussed included joint ventures and strategic partnerships, establishing Export Processing Zones (EPZs), addressing energy challenges affecting industrial growth, strengthening supply chain integration, and promoting technology transfer. The meeting ended with a shared commitment to deeper economic ties and sustainable industrial development.

BCCCI President Mohd Khorshed Alam led the Bangladesh side and thanked the visiting delegation, saying the chamber was honoured to host representatives from sectors vital to both countries' industrial growth.

He said the meeting provided a valuable platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange, particularly in textile, dyeing and printing, noting that over 40 industrial units in Bangladesh face financial and technical challenges. He stressed that upgrading existing facilities through foreign collaboration would be more practical and cost-effective than setting up new factories, and encouraged Chinese investors to pursue joint ventures, partnerships and technology transfer to improve efficiency and competitiveness.

Delegation leader Li Lingshen thanked BCCCI for its hospitality, noting that China exports around US$9 billion worth of fabrics to Bangladesh annually, reflecting strong bilateral trade.

He said Chinese state-owned and private firms are actively considering investment opportunities in Bangladesh and Southeast Asia, identifying Bangladesh as a promising destination due to its strong manufacturing base and skilled workforce. He also expressed hope that BCCCI would continue to play a key role in facilitating coordination and strengthening bilateral industrial cooperation.

BCCCI was also represented by Secretary General Jamilur Rahman; Advisers to the President Harun Ar Rashid and Shahid Alam; Vice Presidents Khandaker Atiqur Rahman and Masud Ali Khan; Director (Public Relations) Md Zinnatul Islam; Director Mohammad Amanur Rahman; Executive Director Md Abu Taher; and other members, along with media representatives.

Indices mixed, DSE turnover tops Tk1,000cr

Daily Sun Report, *Dhaka*

Indices showed mixed performance on Tuesday amid higher investor participation, with Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) turnover exceeding Tk1,000 crore.

Most listed companies on both the DSE and Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) saw price declines, though the key index edged up slightly.

Trading on the DSE opened with gains in most shares and units, keeping the index positive for the first two hours. After noon, prices fell broadly, but gains in some large-cap stocks helped the main index close marginally higher despite more declines.

At the close, 90 companies advanced, 251 declined and 54 remained unchanged on the DSE. The insurance sector, which led gains in the previous two sessions, mostly declined, with 13 gainers, 41 losers and four unchanged out of 58 companies.

The benchmark DSEX rose by eight points to 5,308. The DS30 index fell by one point to 2,016, while the DSE Shariah Index dropped by two points to 1,054. Turnover on the DSE increased to Tk1,026.73 crore from Tk956.01 crore in the previous session.

NCC Bank topped the turnover chart with Tk83.73 crore in shares traded, followed by Crystal Insurance with Tk47.25 crore and City Bank with Tk34.32 crore.

At the CSE, the overall index CASPI rose by 26 points. Of the 198 issues traded, 64 advanced, 113 declined and 21 remained unchanged. Turnover stood at Tk25.17 crore, up from Tk22.53 crore in the previous session.

PRE-BUDGET TALKS

Tobacco tax reform would raise revenue, curb premature deaths: ATMA

Daily Sun Report, *Dhaka*

The Anti-Tobacco Media Alliance (ATMA) on Tuesday called for tobacco tax reform, saying it would boost government revenue while reducing premature deaths and health risks.

According to ATMA, merging the low and medium cigarette tiers into one, setting retail prices at Tk100 per 10 sticks, Tk150 for the high tier and Tk200 or above for premium brands, and introducing a specific tax of Tk4 per 10-stick pack alongside the existing 67% supplementary duty could generate about Tk44,000 crore in additional revenue compared to the current fiscal year. The reform could also prevent around four lakh premature deaths in the long term.

The proposal was presented at a pre-budget discussion at the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan said increasing tobacco taxes and prices reduces cigarette consumption, adding that further hikes would be considered.

Participants noted that without effective price increases, the real prices of cigarettes and other tobacco products are falling, making them cheaper relative to essential commodities. According to 2025 World Health Organization data, prices of the most sold cigarette brands in Bangladesh remain lower than in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal and India.

To raise tobacco prices effectively, 69 countries–including India, Thailand and Turkey–have introduced specific taxes alongside the ad valorem system. Such taxes help increase minimum prices and are easier to administer.

The meeting also proposed a uniform price of Tk30 for 20-stick filtered and non-filtered bidis with a 50% supplementary duty. For zarda and gul, retail prices were proposed at Tk60 and Tk30 per 10 grams respectively, with a 60% supplementary duty. It also recommended retaining 15% VAT and a 1% health development surcharge on all tobacco products.

In Bangladesh, 35.3% of adults use tobacco, and nearly two lakh people die annually due to tobacco-related causes. In the fiscal 2024-25, the health and environmental costs of tobacco use reached Tk87,000 crore–double the revenue generated from the sector.

ATMA representatives at the discussion included Kawser Rahman, chief reporter of Daily Janakantha; Md Monir Hossain Liton, head of online (Bangla) at Daily Times of Bangladesh; Md Shafiqul Islam, business incharge at Bangla Tribune; ATMA Convener Murtuza Haider Liton; and Co-conveners Nadira Kiran and Mizan Chowdhury.

Additional 72,341 tax returns picked for audit



Daily Sun Report, *Dhaka*

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has selected 72,341 income tax returns for audit in the second phase for the 2023-24 tax year, using an automated system based on risk criteria to ensure transparency and improve revenue collection.

Earlier, in July 2025, 15,494 cases were selected in the first phase through a random method.

The information was disclosed on Tuesday by NBR Public Relations Officer Md Al Amin Sheikh.

He said the system applies specific criteria, selecting between 20 and 200 taxpayers from each circle. With no scope for manual intervention, it meets long-standing demands from taxpayers and civil society for a fully transparent audit selection process.

He added that the list of selected TINs has been published on the NBR website. The automated system is expected to strengthen transparency and impartiality while supporting revenue targets.

Bangladesh, Bhutan eye stronger energy, trade cooperation

Daily Sun Report, *Dhaka*

Bangladesh and Bhutan have expressed keen interest in deepening bilateral cooperation, particularly in renewable energy and trade, to unlock the untapped economic potential of the South Asian region.

The matter on Tuesday came to the fore during a meeting between Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktadir and Bhutanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Dasho Karma Hamu Dorji at the Secretariat in the capital, according to a press release.

During the meeting, the commerce minister stressed the need to enhance intra-regional trade, noting that despite significant economic potential, South Asia remains one of the least integrated regions globally in terms of trade.

He observed that intra-regional trade accounts for only a small fraction of total trade in the region, underscoring the urgency of strengthening economic ties among neighboring countries.



Highlighting Bangladesh's commitment to regional connectivity and cooperation, Muktadir proposed exploring joint initiatives in the energy sector, particularly renewable energy.

He suggested establishing joint-venture hydroelectric projects and expanding solar energy cooperation, taking advantage of Bhutan's hydropower potential and the geographical proximity between the two countries.

The Bhutanese ambassador welcomed the proposals and expressed her country's interest in enhancing collaboration in energy and trade.

She noted that Bhutan's border lies in close proximity to Bangladesh's Burimari land port, making bilateral trade and connectivity both convenient and cost-effective.

Dorji also highlighted the longstanding people-to-people ties between the two nations, particularly in the education sector, where Bhutanese students pursue medical studies in Bangladesh, fostering mutual trust and cooperation.

Senior officials from both sides, including Additional Secretary (FTA) of the Ministry of Commerce Ayesha Akter and Bhutan's Minister Counsellor (Trade) Dawa Tshering, were present at the meeting.

Both sides expressed optimism that enhanced cooperation, particularly in renewable energy and trade, would contribute to sustainable economic growth and regional integration, the release added.