

BANGLADESH

Regulatory and Business Updates APRIL 2026

*Insights on Income Tax, VAT, Customs, Foreign Direct Investment,
Banking and Labour laws and other business regulations shaping the
Bangladesh business landscape.*

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Key highlights & Information of April 2026

Area	Key Update	Impacted Stakeholders
Income Tax	The NBR selected 72,341 income tax returns of individual assesses for AY 2023–24 for audit using a fully automated, risk-based system, including a prior random selection.	All individual assesses
	Corporate tax-return filing deadline extended from 15 March 2026 to 15 May 2026 for entities with FY ending 30 June 2025.	Corporate taxpayers; tax practitioners
	NBR Proposes Separate Wealth Tax Act to Replace Existing Surcharge System for High-Net-Worth Individuals	High-Net-Worth Individuals
VAT & SD	600 VAT-registered entities selected for audit through automated e-VAT Risk Management Module.	VAT-registered entities; VAT authorities
	NBR empowered to exclude specified sectors from deemed-export scope under Rules 18B and 18C.	VAT-registered businesses; deemed-export sectors
	Optional standard 15% VAT regime introduced for the construction sector.	Construction firms; VAT-registered entities
Customs	CD, RD, VAT, SD, AT and AIT exempted on import of electric buses (≥17 seats) for student transport.	Educational institutions; bus importers
BIDA / FDI	UNDP, UNCTAD and BIDA launched the IPR Implementation Report to advance investment reforms ahead of LDC graduation.	Government; investors; advisors
Labour Law	Maternity leave increased from 112 to 120 days; definition of maternity welfare and dependents updated under the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act 2026.	Employers; female employees
	Trade-union registration cap increased from 3 to 5 per establishment.	Workers; trade unions; employers
	Provident Fund mandatory for 100+ permanent workers in an establishment.	Employers; employees

INCOME TAX

Reference	Summary
<p>The NBR selected 72,341 income tax returns of individual assesses for AY 2023-24 for audit</p> <p>NBR Press Release dated 28 April 2026</p>	<p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has selected 72,341 income-tax returns for audit under a fully automated, risk-based audit system for the Assessment Year 2023-24. In the first phase, 15,494 returns were chosen through random selection in July 2025; a second phase followed, applying predefined risk criteria. Each tax circle selects between 20 and 200 taxpayers with no manual intervention, ensuring transparency and fairness.</p> <p>https://nbr.gov.bd/uploads/public-notice/Press_Release-Risk_Based_Audit_Selection.pdf</p>
<p>Corporate tax-return filing deadline</p> <p>NBR Circular Letter No. 08.01.0000.030.011.003.12/53 dated 13 April 2026</p>	<p>The deadline for submission of income-tax returns for taxpayers classified as a “Company” under Section 2(31) of the Income Tax Act 2023 including private and public limited companies, NGOs, foundations, trade bodies, partnership firms and branch/liaison or representative offices is 8 months and 15 days from the end of the financial year, as stipulated under Section 2(80A) of Income Tax Act 2023. Accordingly, for entities with a financial year ending on 30 June 2025 (Assessment Year 2025-2026), the original deadline of 15 March 2026 has been extended to 15 May 2026 through two separate circulars issued by the NBR.</p> <p>https://nbr.gov.bd/uploads/public-notice/ইস্যু নং-৫৩.pdf</p>
<p>NBR Proposes Separate Wealth Tax Act to Replace Existing Surcharge System for High-Net-Worth Individuals</p>	<p>The NBR is planning a major fiscal reform by replacing the existing surcharge on high-net-worth individuals with a proposed wealth tax under the Wealth Tax Act, 2026.</p> <p>Under the reported proposal, the tax may be imposed on total net asset value at progressive rates ranging from 0.25% to 1%, with a tax-free threshold of Tk. 4 crore.</p> <p>https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/govts-revenue-authority-ponders-property-taxation#google_vignette</p>

VALUE ADDED TAX & SUPPLEMENTARY DUTY

Reference	Summary
<p>600 VAT-registered entities selected for audit</p> <p>NBR Public Notice dated 2 April 2026</p>	<p>NBR has introduced an automated Risk Management Module within the e-VAT system to strengthen transparency and efficiency in VAT audits. Using predefined risk criteria, 600 VAT-registered entities have been selected for audit without manual intervention.</p> <p>https://nbr.gov.bd/uploads/public-notice/Audit_BIN_List_(3).pdf</p>
<p>NBR empowered to exclude specified sectors from deemed-export</p> <p>SRO No. 81-Law/2026/329-Mushak dated 23 April 2026</p>	<p>The NBR has been empowered to exclude specified sectors from the scope of deemed export under Rules 18B and 18C of the VAT and Supplementary Duty Rules, 2016. The amendment provides the NBR with authority to fine-tune the deemed-export regime by sector, enabling more targeted application of the related VAT facilities.</p>

Reference	Summary
	https://www.dpp.gov.bd/upload_file/gazettes/61450_20281.pdf
<p>Optional standard 15% VAT regime introduced for the construction sector.</p> <p>General Order No. 1/Mushak/2026 dated 30 April 2026</p>	<p>An optional standard 15% VAT regime has been introduced for the construction sector. Eligible enterprises may opt into the standard rate subject to filing of the Bill of Quantities (BOQ) and prescribed Form-KA with the relevant VAT authority. The scheme is intended to facilitate input VAT credit and improve the VAT chain in construction contracts.</p> <p>https://www.dpp.gov.bd/upload_file/gazettes/61554_72203.pdf</p>

CUSTOMS

Reference	Summary
<p>Duty Exemption for Student Electric Buses</p> <p>SRO No. 84-Law/2026/02-Customs dated 27 April 2026</p>	<p>The NBR has exempted Customs Duty, Regulatory Duty, VAT, Supplementary Duty, Advance Tax and Advance Income Tax on the import of electric buses with a seating capacity of 17 or more (including driver) intended exclusively for transportation of students of educational institutions. The exemption supports adoption of clean-energy transport and reduces the cost of student mobility solutions.</p> <p>https://www.dpp.gov.bd/upload_file/gazettes/61504_26764.pdf</p>

BIDA / FDI

Reference	Summary
<p>UNDP, UNCTAD and BIDA launched the IPR Implementation Report to advance investment reforms ahead of LDC graduation.</p> <p>UNDP Press Release dated 27 April 2026</p>	<p>UNDP, UNCTAD and BIDA have launched the Investment Policy Review (IPR) Implementation Report to support Bangladesh's investment reforms ahead of LDC graduation. The report reviews progress since 2013, including the establishment of BIDA and the expansion of digital investment services. It recommends further reforms a unified investment policy, a consolidated investment law and full digitalisation of investment procedures to improve competitiveness, attract sustainable foreign investment, support economic diversification, strengthen institutional coordination and promote long-term growth under Vision 2041.</p> <p>https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/press-releases/undp-unctad-bida-launch-investment-policy-review-report-advance-investment-reform</p>

LABOUR LAW

Reference	Summary
<p>Maternity leave increased from 112 to 120 days; definition of maternity welfare and dependents updated under the</p>	<p>The Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 (Amended in 2026) increases paid maternity leave for female workers from 112 days to 120 days (four months) and refines the statutory definition of maternity welfare and the scope of dependents recognized under the Act.</p>

Reference	Summary
<p>Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act 2026.</p> <p>Sections 46 & 47 of the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 (as amended 2026)</p>	
<p>Trade-union registration cap increased from 3 to 5 per establishment</p> <p>Section 179 of the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 (as amended 2026)</p>	<p>The maximum number of registered trade unions permitted per establishment has been increased from 3 to 5.</p> <p>The Bangladesh Labour Law amendments revise the minimum membership requirement for trade union registration. Under amended Section 179(2), at least 20 workers may apply for registration, subject to establishment-wise minimum membership thresholds ranging from 20 workers to 400 workers, depending on the total number of workers in the establishment. The amendments also allow online or digital verification of worker information by the concerned authority.</p>
<p>Provident Fund mandatory for 100+ permanent workers in an establishment.</p> <p>Section 264 of the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 (as amended 2026)</p>	<p>The provident-fund regime for private-sector establishments continues to operate under Section 264 of the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006: a fund is administered by a Board of Trustees with equal employer and employee representation (Section 264(5)); every permanent worker who has completed one year of service contributes between 7% and 8% of basic monthly salary, with the employer making a matching contribution (Section 264(9));</p> <p><i>The Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 (Amendment in 2026) adds a new participation-led trigger: establishments employing 100 or more permanent workers must establish a provident fund or, alternatively, enrol in the National Pension Authority's Pragati Scheme upon a written application from workers.</i></p> <p><i>The Pragati Scheme itself is operated by the National Pension Authority under the Universal Pension Management Act 2023; individual enrolment is made directly with the National Pension Authority and contributions are remitted by the employer once the employee is enrolled.</i></p>

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