

Fortnightly Summary

Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 10-22 August 2021

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><u>Sales of savings tools triple in FY'21</u> <i>Many invested in high-yielding DNS tools even after borrowing from banks, say officials</i></p> <p>The government's net borrowing through the national savings instruments more than doubled in the fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 than that of the FY's target, according to the official statistics. The Department of National Savings (DNS) disclosed recently that the net sales of national savings certificates stood at Tk 419.59 billion in the last FY against a target of Tk 200.00 billion. The net sales of the instruments were nearly three times higher in the last FY than that of the previous FY's Tk 144.28 billion, data showed.</p> <p>Officials said the savers have invested more in these savings schemes due to lucrative yield rates. Many of them even borrowed money from the banks and invested in the instruments as the yield rates were higher than the interest rates on bank loans, said an official at the DNS.</p>	22 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/sales-of-savings-tools-triple-in-fy21-1629567018)	
02	<p><u>Successful farmers to be Agricultural VIPs</u></p> <p>Successful persons in agriculture and its subsectors, which evidently saved the situation during the current penury-inflicting pandemic, are being honoured with VIP status that entitles them to state privileges. Officials said pioneers in agriculture, fisheries, livestock and so will be awarded as the important-person title under a newly issued policy.</p> <p>Exporters of agricultural produce having market value of exportable goods at least US\$ 0.15 million would also be eligible for the award. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) issued the 'Agricultural Important Person Policy-2019' Thursday. The policy had got the cabinet nod on November 20, 2019. As per the policy, the AIP status would be given by the month of October through issuing a gazette. The policy has determined the process of awarding API annually to 45 individuals under five categories.</p>	22 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/successful-farmers-to-be-agricultural-vips-1629567089)	
03	<p><u>Business sustainability largely depends on strong ties</u> Speakers tell ICAB webinar</p> <p>Sustainability of a business organisation largely depends on strong relationship between all of its stakeholders, including employees, employers, people involved in the supply chain and buyers. Besides, binding the corporate entities to environmental and social responsibilities as well as strengthening corporate governance are of vital importance in increasing productivity of an organisation.</p> <p>Speakers made the above observations at a webinar styled 'Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG)-Global Perspective' organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) on Saturday.</p>	22 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/business-sustainability-largely-depends-on-strong-ties-1629564573)	
04	<p><u>Children in BD, three countries at major climate risks: Unicef</u></p> <p>Children in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India are among those most at risk of the impacts of climate change, threatening their health, education, and protection, according to a new Unicef report launched on Friday,</p>	22 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/me)	

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	<p>reports UNB.</p> <p>Bangladesh is ranked second among South Asian countries and 15th globally in Unicef's index "The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index." The index, first of its kind, ranked countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as cyclones and heat waves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks based on their access to essential services. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and India are four South Asian countries where children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis, with global rankings of 14, 15, 15, and 26. Nepal is ranked 51, Sri Lanka is at 61st place. Bhutan is ranked 111, with children at relatively lower risk.</p>		tro-news/children-in-bd-three-countries-at-major-climate-risks-unicef-1629564513)	
05	<p><u>High transport costs bear down on RMG exporters</u></p> <p>Truck and covered vans with a capacity to carry six to seven tonnes of goods are charging as much as Tk 20,000 and Tk 25,000 respectively to take apparel items from Dhaka and its adjacent areas to the Chattogram port. The cost even went up to Tk 30,000 and Tk 40,000 before Eid festivals when there was a rush to ship goods. In normal times, the fare ranges from Tk 10,000 to Tk 12,000. Because of the abnormal hike in carrying costs, apparel exporters, especially small and medium enterprises, are in big trouble as it adds an additional financial burden.</p>	22 August 2021	<p>The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/high-transport-costs-bear-down-rmg-exporters-2157766)</p>	
06	<p><u>Soaring freight rates fuel commodity prices</u></p> <p>Essential commodities such as edible oil, wheat and sugar have become costlier in Bangladesh as their prices rose in the international markets because of the supply crunch and increased shipping costs, hitting the pocketbooks of consumers. Importers and traders say the cost and time of transporting goods have more than doubled as almost all ports in the world are facing ship and container congestion because of the pandemic.</p>	22 August 2021	<p>The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/soaring-freight-rates-fuel-commodity-prices-2157756)</p>	
07	<p>DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS</p> <p><u>Planning flaws blamed for cost, time overruns</u></p> <p>Scope for corruption, wastage created: experts</p> <p>The government is failing to check time and cost overruns in development projects as the present planning process is flawed along with improper implementation exercises. Economists and experts largely blamed poor planning and flawed feasibility studies by implementing agencies and also improper scrutiny by the planning commission for development projects becoming laggard, many of which are taken up on political consideration. The Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division under the planning ministry, in its annual reports, has identified improper work plan, low capacity and lengthy procurement process, among other reasons, for the unwarranted situation.</p>	22 August 2021	<p>New Age https://www.newagebd.net/article/146941/planning-flaws-blamed-for-cost-time-overruns)</p>	
08	<p><u>Saudi Arabia looking to sign FTA with Bangladesh</u></p> <p>Saudi Arabia is looking at signing a free trade agreement (FTA) with Bangladesh in a bid to increase bilateral trade, which is considered below its potential. According to Arab News, Saudi Arabia is looking for more trading</p>	21 August 2021	<p>Dhaka Tribune https://www.dhaka.tribune.com/busines</p>	

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	<p>partners under FTA as the country aims to increase non-oil exports share in the gross domestic product (GDP). The kingdom is resuming negotiations for free trade agreements with 11 countries, Okaz paper reported, citing a circular by the Federal of Saudi Chambers (FSC) to all chambers of commerce operating in the kingdom, based on directions of the General Authority for Foreign Trade (GAFT). The targeted countries are: China, India, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Indonesia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the US.</p>		s/2021/08/21/saudi-arabia-looking-to-sign-fta-with-bangladesh)	
09	<p><u>Banks see NPL surge despite policy backup</u> <u>Loan restructuring works little as deterrent</u> Classified loans in the banking sector went ballooning in the first half (H1) of the current calendar year despite policy perks coming from the central bank to stem the rot. The volume of non-performing loans (NPLs) grew nearly 12 per cent or Tk 104.71 billion to Tk 992.05 billion as on June 30 from Tk 887.34 billion six months before, according Bangladesh Bank (BB) latest statistics. BB officials, however, said the amount of NPLs increased slightly in the second quarter (Q2) compared to the first quarter (Q1) of this year because of 'soft repayment policy' along with less rescheduling during the period under review. The volume of NPLs increased by more than 4.0 per cent or Tk 41.20 billion to Tk 992.05 billion as on June 30 from Tk 950.85 billion three months before, the BB data showed. A portion of restructured large loans has already turned NPL that also pushed up the overall volume of classified loans in the banking system, they explained.</p>	20 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-see-npl-surge-despite-policy-backup-1629395082?date=20-08-2021)	
10	<p><u>BD, Australia going to strike TIFA deal</u> <u>To bolster trade, boost investment</u> Bangladesh and Australia are set to sign Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) aimed at bolstering bilateral trade by way of removing barriers and tapping potential, officials said. Both the sides have completed the spadework and taken approval for signing the umbrella agreement, possibly in mid-September, they added. Bangladesh's Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and Australian Trade Minister Dan Tehan would sign the deal virtually on behalf of their governments respectively. Under the agreement a working group will be formed which will meet annually discussing issues to facilitate bilateral trade and investment by removing the bottlenecks. Sectors like garments and textiles and, manufacturing, information and communications technology, skills development, and education are among the top-listed arenas to get priority in bilateral cooperation. Also expects that the deal will pave the way for enhancing Australian investment in Bangladesh. Until June last year, Australian investment in Bangladesh had stood at US\$845 million which mainly went for gas and petroleum sectors. As a least-developed country, Bangladesh enjoys duty-and quota-free market access to Australia. Yet, Bangladesh's annual export to the 14th-largest economy could not cross a billion-dollar mark so far. In fiscal year 2019-20 Bangladesh exported goods worth \$678 million to Australia and \$805 million in the previous year. On the other hand, Bangladesh's imports from Australia cost \$649 million in FY 2019-20, up from \$597 million in the previous fiscal. Bangladesh's major export items included apparel, textiles, footwear, articles of leather, frozen fish, jute, pharmaceuticals, and ceramics. On the other hand, Bangladesh's top imports from Australia are cotton, edible</p>	20 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/bd-australia-going-to-strike-tifa-deal-1629392364?date=20-08-2021)	

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	vegetables, cereals, copper, iron and steel, paper, zinc, and machinery, among others.			
11	<p><u>Bangladesh, South Sudan seek greater trade ties</u></p> <p>Bangladesh and South Sudan are in discussion about establishing cooperation in agriculture, education, food security, health, education and vocational training sectors. The two sides emphasised the need for increased bilateral trade and commerce for mutual benefit.</p> <p>Foreign minister AK Abdul Momen met his South Sudan counterpart Beatrice Wani-Noah at her office in Juba Thursday and discussed ways to build cooperation. Both sides agreed to collaborate in areas such as food security, social safety net, IT and ICT, health, medical education and vocational training.</p>	20 August 2021	<p>New Age</p> <p>(https://www.newagebd.net/article/146851/bangladesh-south-sudan-seek-greater-trade-ties)</p>	
12	<p><u>ঢালাও কর অবকাশ থাকছে না</u></p> <p><u>লাগাম পড়ছে পিপিপির প্রণোদনায়</u></p> <p>পিপিপিতে কেউ বিনিয়োগ করলে এত দিন যেসব সুযোগ-সুবিধা দেওয়া হতো, নতুন প্রকল্পের ক্ষেত্রে সেসব সুবিধা আর ঢালাও মিলবে না। কর অবকাশসহ নানা সুবিধা থাকার পরও সরকারি-বেসরকারি অংশীদারত্বে বা পিপিপিতে বিনিয়োগে আগ্রহ দেখাচ্ছেন না বেসরকারি খাতের উদ্যোক্তারা। এ কারণে গত এক যুগেও পিপিপির আওতায় দেশে বড় কোনো অবকাঠামো গড়ে ওঠেনি। এ অবস্থায় পিপিপি থেকে ঢালাও প্রণোদনা তুলে নেওয়ার সিদ্ধান্ত নিতে যাচ্ছে সরকার। ঢালাও কর অবকাশ সুবিধার বদলে যাচাই-বাছাই করে এ সুবিধা দেওয়া হবে। পিপিপি কর্তৃপক্ষের নির্বাহী বোর্ডের সভায় এ সিদ্ধান্ত হয়েছে।</p> <p>পিপিপি কর্তৃপক্ষের তথ্য অনুযায়ী, বর্তমানে জাতীয় মহাসড়ক, এক্সপ্রেসওয়ে, বন্দর, টানেলসহ মোট ১৪ ধরনের প্রকল্পে কর অবকাশ সুবিধা রয়েছে। কোনো বিনিয়োগকারী এই ১৪ ধরনের প্রকল্পে বিনিয়োগ করলে তাঁকে ১০ বছরের জন্য কর অবকাশ সুবিধা দেওয়া হয়। পাশাপাশি এসব প্রকল্পের জন্য পণ্য আমদানিতে শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধা দেওয়ার ঘোষণা দেওয়া আছে। কিন্তু সর্বশেষ সভায় সিদ্ধান্ত হয়েছে, এখন থেকে বেসরকারি বিনিয়োগকারীকে এই সুবিধা ঢালাও দেওয়া যাবে না। যেসব আবেদন যৌক্তিক মনে হবে, তাঁদেরই এ সুবিধা দেওয়া হবে।</p>	20 August 2021	<p>Prothom Alo</p> <p>(https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%6A%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%6B-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A3%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F)</p>	
13	<p><u>বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন</u></p> <p><u>এলএনজির দাম বাড়ায় জ্বালানি তেলে ঝুঁকতে পারে বাংলাদেশ</u></p> <p>একসময় বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদনে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের ওপর সবচেয়ে বেশি নির্ভরশীল ছিল বাংলাদেশ। পাশাপাশি গড়ে উঠেছিল জ্বালানি তেলভিত্তিক বেশকিছু বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র। তবে সশ্রয়ী প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের মজুদ ফুরিয়ে আসায় গুরুত্ব বাড়ে কয়লা ও তরলীকৃত প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসভিত্তিক (এলএনজি) বিদ্যুতের। কিন্তু বিশ্ববাজারে অব্যাহত দরবৃদ্ধির কারণে সরকারকে এখন এলএনজি নিয়েও চাপে পড়তে হচ্ছে। তবে আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে বর্তমানে ফার্নেস ও ডিজেলের দাম পড়তির দিকে। তুলনামূলক সশ্রয়ী হওয়ার কারণে সামনের দিনগুলোয় বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদনে জ্বালানি তেলনির্ভরতা বাড়ার জোর সম্ভাবনা দেখতে পাচ্ছেন খাতসংশ্লিষ্টরা।</p> <p>আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে জ্বালানি তেলের দাম কমছে। অন্যদিকে জ্বালানি হিসেবে এলএনজির দাম এখনো তুলনামূলকভাবে বেশি। পরিবেশ দূষণকারী হিসেবে কয়লার জনপ্রিয়তাও দিন দিন কমছে। ফলে আবারো আলোচনায় উঠে আসছে জ্বালানি তেলভিত্তিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্রগুলো। এরই ভিত্তিতে বিশেষজ্ঞরা মনে করছেন, অদূরভবিষ্যতে বাংলাদেশকেও জ্বালানি তেলভিত্তিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্রের দিকে ঝুঁকতে হতে পারে। জ্বালানিবিষয়ক তথ্যসেবা ও আন্তর্জাতিক বাজার বিশ্লেষক সংস্থা এসঅ্যান্ডপি গ্লোবাল প্ল্যাটফর্মের এক সাম্প্রতিক পর্যবেক্ষণেও একই কথা উঠে এসেছে।</p>	20 August 2021	<p>Bonik Barta</p> <p>(https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_description/272162/%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F-%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%9D%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%81%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6)</p>	

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14	<p><u>Light engineering lights up export hope</u> <u>Steep 81pc shipment growth posted in last FY</u></p> <p>Bangladesh's light engineering sector (LES) lights up trade hopes as it achieved nearly 81 per cent growth in shipments to overseas markets in the last fiscal year (FY21), analysts say, as the country strives to enlarge its slim export basket. They said light-engineering, a hub for nearly 800,000 jobs, after meeting some 30 per cent of local demands, earned about half a billion US dollars in foreign exchange on average per annum.</p> <p>According to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), the Bangladeshi small and medium scale manufacturers exported US\$529 million worth of engineering goods in the FY 2020-2021, posting an 80.60 per cent growth year on year. In the previous FY2020, the export of engineering products fetched \$292.92 million, EPB data showed.</p> <p>Bangladesh has attained a very small pie of the global big export cake as its international market size is of a hefty \$7 trillion, the analysts said Wednesday. Bangladesh mainly exports bicycle, electrical equipment, construction-related equipment and machinery, stone and brick crushers, spare parts for paper and cement mills, bicycle light fittings, cast-iron articles, carbon rods and automobile spares, train-and-rail-support equipment, marine spare parts and the like.</p>	19 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/light-engineering-lights-up-export-hope-1629310014)	
15	<p><u>BD, Japan to sign MoU soon on feasibility study</u> <u>Setting up Mitsubishi car manufacturing plant in BD</u></p> <p>Bangladesh and Japan will soon sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to carry out a feasibility study towards setting up a manufacturing factory for Mitsubishi cars here in Bangladesh. The process for signing the MoU is now at the final stage and is expected to be signed during the current month, said Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun during a meeting with Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh ITO Naoki at the ministry on Wednesday. The minister requested the Japanese envoy to come up with more investment in sugar, agri-food processing and ship-rebuilding sectors for mutual benefits of the two countries.</p> <p>It is to be mentioned that the Japanese government has already assured Bangladesh of investing in automobile and fertiliser factories. The meeting discussed elaborately on enhancing bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan, for instance, setting up more Japanese industries here.</p>	19 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-japan-to-sign-mou-soon-on-feasibility-study-1629310304)	
16	<p><u>Mahbubur Rahman reappointed as Arbitrator of CIETAC</u></p> <p>Mahbubur Rahman, a prominent businessperson of the country and the founding Chairman of Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC), has recently been reappointed as an Arbitrator to the prestigious Panel of Arbitrators of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), a well-known arbitral institution in the world, for five more years, says a statement. He is the first and only Bangladeshi Arbitrator on the CIETAC Panel since July 2017.</p> <p>BIAC is Bangladesh's first and only registered ADR institution. Apart from facilitating arbitration and mediation, BIAC also provides training courses and awareness programmes on ADR.</p>	19 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/mahbubur-rahman-reappointed-as-arbitrator-of-cietac-1629310382)	
17	<p><u>Banks asked to raise core capital ratio</u> The move will beef up banks' risk resilience against unexpected losses: BB</p>	19 August 2021	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.com.bd/news/banking/banks-asked-to-raise-core-capital-ratio-1629310382)	

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	<p>The central bank yesterday asked banks to raise their core capital ratio to 3.25 per cent in 2023 after they failed to put in place enough shareholders' equity and reserves in line with international standards to absorb unexpected shocks.</p> <p>In 2014, the Bangladesh Bank issued the guidelines on risk-based capital adequacy for banks in line with the Basel III Accord, the primary banking regulation that sets the minimum tier 1 capital ratio requirement for financial institutions. The BB ordered banks to maintain at least 3 per cent tier 1 capital, also known as the leverage ratio, by 2015 to strike a balance between capital and assets.</p>		lystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/banks-asked-raise-core-capital-ratio-2155686	
18	<p><u>MTB ranked as one of top ten sustainable banks</u></p> <p>Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) has recently been recognised as one of the top ten sustainable banks of Bangladesh by Bangladesh Bank based on its performance in 2020. Bangladesh Bank's Sustainable Finance Department (SFD) prepared a list of top 10 sustainable banks and five non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) based on their performances and published their names on its website based on a rating.</p> <p>This is the first time Bangladesh Bank has published such a rating based on four indicators such as Sustainable Finance, Green Refinance, Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) and Core Banking Sustainability, said a statement.</p>	18 August 2021	<p>The Financial Express</p> <p>(https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/mtb-ranked-as-one-of-top-ten-sustainable-banks-1629224011?date=18-08-2021)</p>	
19	<p><u>ক্রিংকার রপ্তানিতে শুল্ক বৃদ্ধির প্রস্তাব ভিয়েতনামে, দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি দেশের উদ্যোক্তারা</u></p> <p>সিমেন্ট তৈরির প্রধান কাঁচামাল ক্রিংকার রপ্তানিতে শুল্ক দ্বিগুণ করার প্রস্তাব দিয়েছে ভিয়েতনামের অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়। গত মাসে এই প্রস্তাব দিয়েছে তারা। ওখানে শুল্ক বাড়ানো হলে ক্রিংকারের দর আরেক দফা বাড়তে পারে—এখন এই শুল্ক দেশের উদ্যোক্তাদের মনে জাঁকিয়ে বসেছে।</p> <p>ভিয়েতনাম ইনভেস্টমেন্ট রিভিউ পত্রিকার খবরে বলা হয়েছে, ক্রিংকার রপ্তানিতে এখন ৫ শতাংশ শুল্ক আছে। তা বাড়িয়ে ১০ শতাংশ করার প্রস্তাব তৈরি করেছে অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়। অনবায়নযোগ্য প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদ রপ্তানিতে নিয়ন্ত্রণ আরোপে এই বাড়তি শুল্ক আরোপের কথা বলা হয়।</p> <p>গত বছর ভিয়েতনাম সারা বিশ্বে ২ কোটি ৪০ লাখ টন ক্রিংকার রপ্তানি করেছে। বাংলাদেশে ক্রিংকার আমদানির শীর্ষ চারটি উৎসের একটি হলো ভিয়েতনাম। গত অর্থবছরে চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর দিয়ে ভিয়েতনাম থেকে ২৫ লাখ টন ক্রিংকার আমদানি হয়েছে—এই বন্দর দিয়ে মোট ক্রিংকার আমদানির যা ১২ শতাংশ।</p>	18 August 2021	<p>Prothom Alo</p> <p>(https://www.prothomalo.com/business/%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%95-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%83%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AC-%E0%A6%AD%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%BB%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE)</p>	
20	<p><u>Overmanned FBCCI seeks to slash number of directors Requests govt not to issue licence to any more trade body</u></p> <p>The country's apex trade body, FBCCI, is heavily burdened with its large-sized leadership and the present board finds it a 'problem' while making coordination and taking decisions. The present board of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) consists of 80 directors, who represent different sectors and regional bodies. There are some 409 associations, 87 chambers, and 20 joint chambers as member bodies of</p>	17 August 2021	<p>The Financial Express</p> <p>(https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest/page/overmanned-fbcci-seeks-to-slash)</p>	

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	<p>the FBCCI. There is a provision that 46, out of 80, directors will be elected by direct vote of members -- 23 each from chamber and association groups. The remaining 34 are nominated directors -- 17 each from chamber and association groups.</p> <p>FBCCI President Md Jashim Uddin, in a recent letter to Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, requested him not to issue any more trade organisation licence in favour of any initiative to set up a chamber or association. At the same time, he urged the minister not to further enhance the size of the board of directors of the FBCCI by raising the number of nominated directors.</p>		number-of-directors-1629137718?date=17-08-2021)	
21	<p>Loans from banks, NBFIs <u>Women entrepreneurs to get 1pc cash incentive</u></p> <p>The Bangladesh Bank on Tuesday announced incentive for the financial institutions and customers against disbursement of loans to women entrepreneurs to encourage lending to women. The cash incentive would be given at the rate of 1 per cent to both— the lenders and the borrowers — upon repayment of loans within the stipulated time on the principal loan amount, said a BB circular issued to banks and non-bank financial institutions in this regard on the day.</p> <p>It said that the facility would be valid from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024 with an intention to taking the lending to women entrepreneurs to at least 15 per cent of the lending to cottage, micro, small and medium entrepreneurs by the banks and NBFIs.</p>	17 August 2021	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/146601/women-entrepreneurs-to-get-1pc-cash-incentive)	
22	<p><u>IFC to invest in Bangladesh, South Asian countries to produce vaccine</u></p> <p>In the context of Covid-19, International Finance Corporation (IFC) will invest in the pharmaceutical industry, including vaccine production in Bangladesh and other South Asian countries.</p> <p>IFC came up with the announcement today, a day after Dhaka and China signed an agreement to produce vaccines.</p> <p>The investment will support medical facilities, vaccines and supplies, and to hard-hit micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) while also spurring investments in renewable energy, affordable housing, and distressed assets resolution, IFC said in a statement.</p>	17 August 2021	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/investments/news/ifc-invest-produce-vaccine-bangladesh-south-asian-countries-2154261)	
23	<p>আবদুল মোনেম ইজেড <u>এবার আসছে হান্সম্যান ও সিঙ্গার</u></p> <p>বেসরকারি আবদুল মোনেম অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চলে বিনিয়োগ করেছে জাপানের হোল্ডা মোটর। নতুন করে বিনিয়োগে আসছে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের হান্সম্যান ও সিঙ্গার। করোনা অতিমারির মধ্যেও বিদেশি বিনিয়োগের দুটি সুখবর মিলেছে। মুন্সিগঞ্জের গজারিয়ায় অবস্থিত বেসরকারি আবদুল মোনেম অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চলে (ইজেড) বিনিয়োগ করবে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের হান্সম্যান করপোরেশন লিমিটেড। বিনিয়োগের আগ্রহ দেখিয়েছে সিঙ্গার বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেডও।</p> <p>আবদুল মোনেম অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল কর্তৃপক্ষের উপদেষ্টা মোহাম্মদ হারুনুর রশিদ প্রথম আলোকে বলেন, করোনার মধ্যে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের কোম্পানির এ দেশে বিনিয়োগের ঘটনা নিশ্চয়ই ইতিবাচক। তা দেখে অন্য বিনিয়োগকারীরাও আগ্রহী হবেন। হান্সম্যান করপোরেশনের কারখানার নকশা এরই মধ্যে চূড়ান্ত হয়ে গেছে। আগামী মাস থেকে কারখানা নির্মাণের কাজ শুরু হবে। হারুনুর রশিদ আরও বলেন, ঢাকার পাশে হওয়ায় মোনেম অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চলে সিঙ্গার বাংলাদেশও বিনিয়োগের আগ্রহ</p>	17 August 2021	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8)	

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	দেখিয়েছে। দুই পক্ষের মধ্যে এখন আলোচনা চলছে। আবদুল মোনেম অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চলে সবার আগে বিনিয়োগ করেছে জাপানের মোটরসাইকেল উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হোন্ডা মোটর করপোরেশন। সেখানে তারা এরই মধ্যে মোটরসাইকেল উৎপাদন শুরু করেছে।		-%E0%A6%93-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%99%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0)	
24	<p><u>Outbound investments up to 5% of forex reserve on cards</u></p> <p>According to a draft overseas investment guideline, the govt will allow local companies, SMEs and NGOs with outbound investments to enlist in foreign stock markets</p> <p>The government is set to provide outbound investment opportunities to local exporters and any company running their business in the domestic market for 10 years.</p> <p>This opportunity will be extended to small and medium enterprises interested in establishing backward and forward linkage industries, along with NGOs with a reputation for working towards society's betterment and improving people's quality of life in Bangladesh.</p> <p>The government will allow local companies with outbound investments to enlist in foreign stock markets too. However, Bangladesh's total outbound investment in a single fiscal year will not exceed 5% of the central bank's foreign exchange reserves for that particular fiscal year.</p> <p>After finalising the "Overseas Investment Guideline 2021" with such provisions and more, the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) will submit it to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for approval, said Bida Executive Chairman Md Sirazul Islam.</p> <p>The guideline will come into effect following the final approval at the cabinet meeting, he added while responding to The Business Standard through WhatsApp from the USA.</p>	17 August 2021	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/outbound-investments-5-forex-reserve-cards-289750)	
25	<p><u>Textile millers to seek govt support to protect local industry</u></p> <p>If Bangladesh allows yarn imports through all land ports across the country, and permits partial imports of the readymade garment industry's key material under the same letters of credit (LCs), it will seriously impact the local textile mills, industry leaders have said.</p> <p>They worry that such facilities will be misused to bring a large quantity of yarn into the country under false declarations, which in turn will flood the domestic market.</p> <p>The Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) has launched an effort to reach out to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and ministries concerned in a bid to prevent such a scenario, and the decision came following a meeting of the association's senior leaders on Tuesday.</p>	17 August 2021	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/dropped/industry/textile-millers-see-govt-support-protect-local-industry-289747)	
26	<p><u>MFIs falling into NPL trap</u></p> <p><u>Classified loans soar 25pc in FY'20 amid Covid-19 pandemic</u></p> <p>The amount of classified loans in the micro-finance institutions (MFIs) jumped by 25 per cent in fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic, officials said. The non-performing loans (NPLs) grew by Tk 5.9 billion to Tk 29.5 billion in FY'20 from Tk 23.6 billion in the previous FY, according to the latest statistics of Micro-credit Regulatory Authority (MRA).</p>	16 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/mfis-falling-into-npl-trap-1629050156)	

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	The market operators have expressed the fear that the upward trend of NPLs in the MFIs may continue also in FY'21 on the same ground. The share of NPLs also rose by 0.30 percentage point to 3.30 per cent of the total outstanding loans in FY'20 from 3.0 per cent in the previous FY, according to the official figures, calculated by the Bangladesh Bank (BB). Meanwhile, total outstanding loans in the MFIs increased by nearly 13 per cent to Tk 889.0 billion in FY'20 from Tk 787.6 billion in FY'19.			
27	<u>Banks' capital base weaker than regional peers</u> The capital base of the banking industry in Bangladesh is much weaker than its peer countries in South Asia, which indicates their fragile financial health and poor brand image in the outside world. Banks maintained a capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of 11.60 per cent last year, way less than 18.6 per cent in Pakistan, 16.5 per cent in Sri Lanka, and 15.8 per cent in India.	16 August 2021	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/banks-capital-base-weaker-regional-peers-2153271)	
28	<u>স্থলবন্দর দিয়ে কাঁচামাল আমদানি আংশিক শিপমেন্টের অনুমতি চায় পোশাক খাত</u> দেশে ইয়ার্ন বা সুতার চাহিদার একটি উল্লেখযোগ্য পরিমাণ আমদানি করা হয়। আবার এর প্রায় পুরোটাই আসে বেনাপোল স্থলবন্দর দিয়ে। কিন্তু স্থলবন্দরের মাধ্যমে তুলা, সুতা, কাপড়সহ বস্ত্র সুবিধার আওতায় বস্ত্র ও পোশাক খাতের অন্যান্য কাঁচামাল আমদানি-সংক্রান্ত বিধিনিষেধ রয়েছে। যে কারণে লিড টাইমের যথাযথ ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করতে পারছেন না পোশাক শিল্প মালিকরা। আবার কেবল বেনাপোল বন্দরের মাধ্যমেই বস্ত্র সুবিধার আওতায় কাঁচামাল আমদানির অনুমোদন রয়েছে। তবে পার্শ্বীয় বা আংশিক শিপমেন্টের অনুমোদন নেই। ফলে এ বন্দরে প্রায়ই আমদানি-রফতানিতে জট থাকে। এজন্য বিলম্বের কারণে আর্থিকভাবে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হচ্ছে পোশাক শিল্প। এ অবস্থায় বেনাপোলসহ অনুমোদিত সব স্থলবন্দর দিয়ে বস্ত্র ও পোশাক খাতের কাঁচামাল আমদানির ক্ষেত্রে আংশিক শিপমেন্টের অনুমোদন চান শিল্প মালিকরা।	16 August 2021	Bonik Barta (https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_description/271747/%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95-%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9F%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%BO-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%95-%E0%A6%96%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A4)	
29	<u>Updated FY '21 data NBR Revenue receipts up 21pc</u> The tax revenue collection recorded an impressive 21 per cent growth in the fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 over that of the previous FY. Greater mobilisation of corporate and withholding tax made the feat possible on the part of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the NBR data show. However, the collection fell short of the target by Tk.411.18 billion, set for the last FY. The NBR collected Tk2.61 trillion in tax revenue in FY 2020-21 against the revised target of Tk 3.01 trillion. The updated data for the last FY was placed before National Board of Revenue (NBR) chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem in a meeting on Thursday last. Though the collection fell short of the target, tax officials and economists have appreciated the NBR's efforts for registering higher internal revenue under a very difficult situation.	15 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/revenue-receipts-up-21pc-1628960769)	
30	<u>BB rates BRAC Bank as one of top 10 sustainable banks</u> BRAC Bank, the pioneer of SME Banking in Bangladesh, has earned a place among the top 10 sustainable banks based on their performance in the year 2020.	15 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/revenue-receipts-up-21pc-1628960769)	

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	The Sustainable Finance Department of Bangladesh Bank published the top-ten sustainable banks' list and top-five NBFIs on its website, based on a rating. It is the first time that BB has published such a rating, a press release said. BRAC Bank has a well-defined policy and governance structure with a dedicated sustainable finance unit to oversee its sustainability.		express.com.bd/stock-corporate/bb-rates-brac-bank-as-one-of-top-10-sustainable-banks-1628954433)	
31	<u>Growing e-commerce sector in need of coordinated policy: experts</u> Experts and businesses on Saturday (14 August 2021) urged for a coordinated policy from the government to tap into the potentials of the growing e-commerce market in Bangladesh. Stakeholders at a virtual event said that automation, flexible regulations, access to finance, inter-ministerial coordination, easy tax structure and cross-border trade facilitation could be key to fostering the country's e-commerce sector. The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised the virtual discussion titled 'Building a Sustainable Ecosystem for Ecommerce'.	15 August 2021	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/146363/growing-e-commerce-sector-in-need-of-coordinated-policy-experts)	
32	আমানতকারী বনাম বিনিয়োগকারী ব্যাংকে সুদ ৩%, লভ্যাংশ ৩৫% ব্যাংকে আমানতের সুদহার এত নিচে নেমে এসেছে যে ৫ শতাংশও সুদ পাচ্ছেন না আমানতকারীরা। অন্যদিকে শেয়ারধারীদের দিচ্ছে উচ্চ মুনাফা। ইস্টার্ন ব্যাংকে টাকা জমা রেখে কোনো কোনো আমানতকারী বছরে পাচ্ছেন আড়াই শতাংশ হারে সুদ। আর শেয়ারে বিনিয়োগ করে এই ব্যাংকের বিনিয়োগকারী পেয়েছেন ৩৫ শতাংশ মুনাফা। একইভাবে ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংকের কোনো কোনো গ্রাহক বছরে সুদ পাচ্ছেন ২ থেকে আড়াই শতাংশ হারে। আর শেয়ারে বিনিয়োগ করে এই ব্যাংকের বিনিয়োগকারী পেয়েছেন ৩০ শতাংশ মুনাফা। ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংকে টাকা রেখে আমানতকারী সুদ পাচ্ছেন ২ থেকে ৩ শতাংশ। আর শেয়ারে বিনিয়োগ করে বছরে মুনাফা পেয়েছেন ২০ শতাংশ। একইভাবে সব ব্যাংকের আমানতের সুদহার এত নিচে নেমে এসেছে যে ৫ শতাংশ হারে সুদও পাচ্ছেন না আমানতকারীরা। অন্যদিকে শেয়ারধারীদের দেওয়া হচ্ছে উচ্চ মুনাফা। এর মাধ্যমে ব্যাংকের উদ্যোক্তা-পরিচালকেরা ব্যাংক থেকে মুনাফা বাবদ বেশি টাকা বের করে নিচ্ছেন। শেয়ারে বিনিয়োগকারীরা ঝুঁকি নিচ্ছেন, এটা সত্য। শেয়ারবাজার থেকে ১০ টাকা অভিহিত মূল্যের শেয়ার কিনছেন কয়েক গুণ বেশি দামেও। আমানতের সুদহারের সঙ্গে শেয়ারের মুনাফার সম্পর্ক কোথাও বিবেচনায় নেওয়া হয় না, এটাও সত্য। তবে আমানতকারীদের ঠকানো নিয়ে এখন প্রশ্ন তুলেছে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক। এ জন্য বেঁধে দিয়েছে আমানতের সর্বনিম্ন সুদহার।	15 August 2021	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/bank/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A6-%E0%A7%A9-%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%AD%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%B6-%E0%A7%A9%E0%A7%AB)	
33	<u>BD economy under plan of structural transformation</u> The government has taken structural transformation of the economy as a priority agenda for the coming days to maintain its position among the developing countries and become a higher middle-income country by 2031 defying all the hurdles of the post-LDC era, according to an official budget document. To this end, the government will provide necessary financial assistance for the implementation of some activities. These are - mechanisation of agriculture, development of the agro-processing sector, skill development and productivity enhancement, and expansion of training and education related to 4th Industrial Revolution. The government will also provide necessary financial assistance for encouragement of online based outsourcing work, self-employment/creation of new entrepreneurs, and encouragement of basic and practical research at the university level.	14 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/bd-economy-under-plan-of-structural-transformation-1628871982)	
34	<u>এক প্ল্যাটফর্মে আনা হবে সব সেবা</u>	14 August	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/)	

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	<p>নতুন কলকারখানা ও বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠান করতে সরকারের বিভিন্ন দপ্তরে যাতে ব্যবসায়ীদের দৌড়াতে না হয়, তার উপায় খোঁজা হচ্ছে। একই ছাদের নিচে সব সেবার (ওয়ান-স্টপ সার্ভিস) মতো ব্যবসায়ীদের সব সেবা একসঙ্গে দিতে একটি প্ল্যাটফর্ম তৈরি করা হবে। যেখানে সেবা পেতে ব্যবসায়ীরা আবেদন করবেন। সরকারের বিভিন্ন দপ্তরে না গিয়ে এক জায়গা থেকে সব সেবা পাওয়া যাবে।</p> <p>গত বৃহস্পতিবার (12 August 2021) কলকারখানা ও বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে দুর্ঘটনা রোধ এবং নিরাপদ কর্মপরিবেশ নিশ্চিত করতে গঠিত ২৪ সদস্যের কমিটির প্রথম বৈঠকে এ সিদ্ধান্ত হয়েছে। প্রধানমন্ত্রীর বেসরকারি শিল্প ও বিনিয়োগ উপদেষ্টা সালমান এফ রহমানকে সভাপতি করে গত ১৫ জুলাই ২৪ সদস্যের একটি কমিটি গঠন করে সরকার। সেই কমিটির প্রথম বৈঠক করে কমিটির সদস্যসচিব স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের সুরক্ষা সেবা বিভাগের সচিব মোকাক্বির হোসেন প্রথম আলোকে বলেন, নতুন কলকারখানা ও বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠান করার আগে কিংবা নবায়নের সময় বিভিন্ন দপ্তরে যাতে না যেতে হয়, সে জন্য একটি প্ল্যাটফর্ম গঠনের মতামত এসেছে। এই প্ল্যাটফর্মে ব্যবসায়ীদের সব ধরনের সেবা দেওয়া হবে, হয়রানি কমবে। বৈঠকে বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের (বিডা) নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান সিরাজুল ইসলামকে প্রধান করে একটি উপকমিটি গঠন করা হয়েছে। এ কমিটি আগামী তিন মাসের মধ্যে প্রতিবেদন জমা দেবে।</p>	2021	business/industry/%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%95-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%AB%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE	
35	<p>Asset quality challenge lies ahead for banks BB alerts, advises devising coping tricks for new normal</p> <p>Maintaining the existing asset quality, now largely helped by generous government support regimes, may emerge as a key challenge in post-pandemic situation for Bangladesh's banking sector. Such prognosis comes from the central bank as the country begins to gather wits despite the rampage by the covid-19 scourge as the world starts reopening and economies recovering from ruins.</p> <p>The Bangladesh Bank's latest prediction, incidentally, comes against the backdrop of falling trend in non-performing loans (NPLs) as manifest by the end of 2020 following a loan-moratorium facility handed out by the central bank. The share of classified loans in the total outstanding credits came down to 8.1 per cent end-December 2020 from 9.3 per cent in the same period of 2019, partly due to temporary relaxation in loan-classification regulations during the period under review, the central bank said in its latest Financial Stability Report (FSR) 2020.</p>	13 August 2021	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/asset-quality-challenge-lies-ahead-for-banks-1628790628)</p>	
36	<p>All banks to inform BB of transactions daily at close Direction meant for tracking fund flow</p> <p>Bangladesh tightens financial management requiring all scheduled banks to inform a central monitoring authority of entire money-market transactions at the day's close. Officials said the latest direction from the central bank is meant for ensuring proper liquidity management in the banking system as well as keeping track of money movements in and out of the market.</p> <p>Under the new provisions, the banks will be required to submit information on short-term loans or placements with name of the clients to the Department of Offsite Supervision of the central bank by 5:00 pm each working day.</p>	13 August 2021	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/all-banks-to-inform-bb-of-transactions-daily-at-close-1628790870)</p>	
37	<p>Fast enrich exports, invite FDI, strike trade deals Economists urge as Vietnam usurps Bangladesh's RMG crown</p> <p>Bangladesh may lose its crown as second RMG-exporting nation on the global market enduringly due mainly to its</p>	13 August 2021	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/all-banks-to-inform-bb-of-transactions-daily-at-close-1628790870)</p>	

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	overwhelming reliance on cotton-made apparel, lack of preferential trade deals and product diversification, analysts say as its close competitor stands neck-and-neck. Vietnam's several free trade agreements (FTA) and preferential trading arrangements in an aggressive market-expansion drive, higher non-cotton apparel items, stable political and business environment, and Chinese investment shifting ameliorated its position in the global arena, they said.		ncialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/fast-enrich-exports-invite-fdi-strike-trade-deals-1628790329)	
38	<u>Uniform tariff for broadband internet</u> The telecom regulator yesterday fixed the tariffs for broadband internet all through the value chain to implement a uniform rate for internet use across the country. The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) set the prices for transmission, bandwidth and services availed by internet service providers (ISPs) from the Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network (NTTN) and the International Internet Gateway (IIG) operators. ISPs welcomed the move as fixing the rates for the bulk purchase of bandwidth and transmission services will enable them to comply with the government-fixed rate for broadband internet.	13 August 2021	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/telecom/news/uniform-tariff-broadband-internet-2151246)	
39	<u>Deposit security in Bangladesh lower than most neighbouring countries</u> Bank depositors in Bangladesh receive lower insurance coverage compared with a number of other countries in Asia. The country's bank depositors enjoy one-sixth of the insurance coverage given to depositors in India even though the two neighbouring countries share almost the same socio-economic perspective, including per capita income. Under the existing rules, depositors' money up to Tk.5,71,000 or INR 5 lakh is fully insured in India. However, the amount is Tk 1 lakh in Bangladesh and the government has been in the process of enhancing the amount to Tk 2 lakh but the process is yet to be completed even after two-years the initiative was taken. In terms of per capita income, Bangladesh is even ahead of India as Bangladesh's per capita income increased to \$2,227 against India's \$1,947. If non-performing loans are taken into account, a major consideration in measuring the risk of a country's banking sector and depositors' funds, NPL in both India and Bangladesh stand at around 9 per cent.	13 August 2021	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/146249/deposit-security-in-bangladesh-lower-than-most-neighbouring-countries)	
40	<u>Linking deposit rates to inflation</u> <u>BB dispels bankers' worry, sticks to gun</u> Scuttling all concerns of top bankers, the central bank said it wouldn't budge from its instructions on fixing the interest rates on fixed deposits commensurate with inflation so to protect depositors' interest. The latest stance came at a meeting of the bankers online on Wednesday (11 August 2021) with BB Governor in the chair. All the scheduled banks have been asked to take preparation to properly execute the instructions on fixing the interest rates on fixed deposits with maturity of three months and above at rates not less than the rate of inflation. Dismissing all the worries, high-ups of the central bank told the bankers that they had issued the directive after studying the overall deposition situation in the country's banking system.	12 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-dispels-bankers-worry-sticks-to-gun-1628706655)	
41	<u>BD smells systematic campaign against its Image</u> Bangladesh believes international agencies appear to have run a systematic campaign against the country to tarnish its image abroad. The observation came in the wake of a recent UN query on 'forced disappearance' in Bangladesh,	12 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefin)	

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	<p>issuing a Covid red alert by the EU for Bangladesh and a derogatory comment in a French film. About forced disappearance, foreign minister Dr AK Abdul Momen resented the UN did not dare to question rich countries like the USA and the UK on such issue.</p> <p>A UN human rights body recently sought information from Bangladesh on the whereabouts of 34 people believed to be the victims of forced disappearance. In this regard, the minister mentioned that although the fatality of Covid is much more in India than in Bangladesh, the EU lifted red alert for Indians.</p>		ancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-smells-systematic-campaign-against-it-1628707248)	
42	<p>Decent work, biz practice <u>Asia Garment Hub launched</u></p> <p>The Asia Garment Hub, a one-stop digital knowledge platform, was launched on Wednesday (11 August 2021) to help industry stakeholders understand, promote and operationalise decent work and sustainable business practices. It aims to elevate best practices, foster partnerships, facilitate learning and exchange, and inspire action to address critical challenges in the industry.</p> <p>The knowledge platform (www.asiagarmenthub.net) is part of the collaboration between GIZ FABRIC and ILO's Decent Work in Garment Supply Chains in Asia project. Its key features include a comprehensive resource library, an interactive industry map, country data as well as access to training, expertise and online discussions.</p>	12 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/asia-garment-hub-launched-1628701639)	
43	<p><u>Investment-GDP ratio misses mark as investors falter</u></p> <p>A global setback in private investment in the trying time, combined with local deterrents, waved down Bangladesh's investment-GDP ratio, throwing economists into dilemmas about an early rebound. The ratio fell from an earlier peak to as low as 29.92 per cent in FY21 from 30.47 per cent in FY20, and economists see investments upturn as a far cry. They, however, spell out some remedies that can save the situation, but find it not that easy to get to in the prevailing course of managing investment-both public one as the fulcrum and private capital investment as the growth booster.</p> <p>Analysts say the COVID-19 pandemic that unsettled all set orders of life and business threw Bangladesh into a ditch as regards fulfilling its ambitious target of enhancing the investment-GDP ratio to 32.3 per cent in FY21. In addition, the lingering of the coronavirus pandemic is giving Bangladesh a worse signal for the new financial year, FY22, when the government wants to boost the investment-GDP ratio to 33.1 per cent.</p>	11 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/investment-gdp-ratio-misses-mark-as-investors-falter-1628618459)	
44	<p><u>July inflation falls to 5.36pc</u></p> <p>The first month of the current fiscal year (FY22) started with lower inflationary pressure as the country's point-to-point inflation fell to 5.36 per cent in July, according to BBS data. The rate of inflation came down by 0.28 percentage points in July from 5.64 per cent in the previous month of June. In the corresponding period (July) of the last FY21, the inflation rate was recorded at 5.53 per cent.</p> <p>Both the inflation in food and non-food items had fallen in July compared to the previous month of June.</p>	11 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/july-inflation-falls-to-536pc-1628619766)	
45	<p><u>Trade deficit hits all-time high</u></p> <p>Bangladesh's trade deficit hit an all-time high of \$22.27 billion last fiscal year due to a rise in commodity prices in the global market. In fiscal 2019-20, this trade gap, which occurs when imports outweigh exports, swelled 27.66</p>	11 August 2021	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/ne)	

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	of suspension, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) withdrew Tk.26.05 billion from the market on the first day. According to BB, the sale of the instruments was aimed at ensuring proper liquidity management in the banking system. As part of the latest move, the BB withdrew the amount from the market by issuing 07-Day and 14-Day BB Bills at an auction held at the central bank's headquarters in Dhaka.		rst-page/withdrawing-excess-money-begins-1628532289)	
50	<u>Govt announces discovery of 28th gas field at Zakiganj</u> The government on Monday (9 August 2021) announced the discovery of the country's 28th gas field -- Zakiganj -- in the gas-rich Sylhet region. Earlier, the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd (BAPEX) revealed potential prospect of the gas field in early June this year. The field has the potential to produce around 10 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of natural gas and the field has a recoverable gas reserve of around 48 billion cubic feet.	10 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-announces-discovery-of-28th-gas-field-at-zakiganj-1628532422)	
51	<u>PRAN-RFL, Runner get EBL award</u> Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL) has recently hosted the first ever award ceremony for Supply Chain Finance industry in Bangladesh. The ceremony was held on a digital platform where PRAN-RFL Group won the EBL Supply Chain Finance Excellence Award 2021 in Supplier Finance Category and Runner Automobiles Ltd won the award in Dealer Finance Category, said a statement. Uzma Chowdhury, Director (Finance) of PRAN RFL Group and Shanat Datta, Chief Financial Officer of Runner Automobiles Ltd, took part on behalf of their respective organisations.	10 August 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/pran-rfl-runner-get-ebf-award-1628530371)	
52	বিনিয়োগ দেড় হাজার কোটি টাকা জামালপুরে দেশের সবচেয়ে বড় সৌর বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র হচ্ছে নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি থেকে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন বাড়াতে জামালপুরের মাদারগঞ্জে দেশের সবচেয়ে বড় সৌর বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র নির্মাণ পরিকল্পনা করছে সরকার। ১০০ মেগাওয়াট ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন সোলার পার্কটি নির্মাণ করবে রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত্ব রূরাল পাওয়ার কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (আরপিসিএল)। ২০২৩ সালের মধ্যে এ সোলার পার্ক তৈরি করবে সংস্থাটি। এরই মধ্যে প্রকল্প প্রস্তাব চূড়ান্ত করা হয়েছে।	10 August 2021	Bonik Barta (https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_description/271253/%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%87-%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%87%E0%A7%9C-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8C%E0%A6%BD-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%81%E0%A7%8E%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%6A%60%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%BD-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87)	