

Fortnightly Summary

Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 23 Aug. – 12 Sept. 2021

| Sl. No. | News / Events | Date | Source | Remarks |
|---------|--|-------------------|--|---------|
| 01 | <p><u>Who to guide equity investment abroad?</u> <u>BB, BIDA run parallel in rules drafting</u></p> <p>Two regulatory bodies run parallel preparing separate guidelines on equity investment abroad by Bangladeshi businesses, raising concern about possible clash of authority, sources said. Both the Bangladesh Bank (BB) and the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) are preparing the guidebook under instructions from two separate government high-ups, according to the sources.</p> <p>The central bank has already prepared its draft of the guidelines and the ministry of finance has forwarded it to the law ministry for vetting, being instructed by the cabinet committee on government purchase back in June 2017. Besides, the sub-section 6 of the section 4 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1947 empowered the central bank to specify, in consultation with the government, the classes of permissible capital-account transaction. On the other hand, the BIDA also has prepared a separate set of draft guidelines on the same, being instructed by its governing body, headed by the Prime Minister. In March this year, the BIDA shared the guidelines with the ministries and departments concerned for their opinion. The financial institutions division had forwarded the copy to the central bank for comment on the draft.</p> <p>According to sources, the BB in its comment said according to the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act only the central bank is empowered to specify the classes of permissible capital-account transaction. If any organisation other than the central bank wants to prepare guidelines on capital- account transaction, necessary amendment has to be brought first in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, it argued.</p> | 23 August 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/who-to-guide-equity-investment-abroad-1629654238?date=23-08-2021)</p> | |
| 02 | <p><u>UN report hails e-govt efforts</u> <u>The country ranks 119th in EGDI</u></p> <p>Bangladesh has ranked 119th among 193 countries in the UN E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2020, according to a new report. Earlier, the country held a similar position in the EGDI published in 2018. Bangladesh, however, emerged as one of the leaders in e-government development among the LDCs, according to the latest report.</p> <p>In South Asia, Sri Lanka has ranked 85th in the latest report while India 100th, Bhutan 103rd, Nepal 132nd, Myanmar 146th and Pakistan 153rd. The UN report said that three least developed countries (LDCs) in Southern Asia-Bangladesh, Bhutan and Cambodia-moved from the middle EGDI group in 2018 to the high EGDI group in 2020 and were working on different e-government initiatives to improve efficiency and capacity in public services delivery.</p> | 23 August 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/un-report-hails-e-govt-efforts-1629654510?date=23-08-2021)</p> | |
| 03 | <p><u>Bailout for agriculture, tourism sectors</u> <u>BB approves two more refinancing schemes</u></p> | 24 August 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-approves-two-more-refinancing-schemes-1629654510?date=24-08-2021)</p> | |

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| | <p>Two refinancing schemes worth Tk 35 billion are being launched to help out Covid-hit agriculture and tourism sectors under government stimulus packages, officials said. Two proposals to this effect were approved at a board-of-directors meeting of Bangladesh Bank Monday with BB Governor Fazle Kabir in the chair.</p> <p>A refinancing fund amounting to Tk 30 billion will be formed for the agriculture sector in second phase of the refinancing facility for the priority sector. The BB had earlier formed a special refinancing scheme worth Tk 50 billion for the agricultural sector on the same grounds. Another refinancing scheme worth Tk 5.0 billion will be constituted to help the tourism industry to clear salary and allowances of their employees.</p> <p>The rate of interest on the loan is 8.0 per cent, but the borrowers will get loan paying only 4.0 percent interest while the government will provide the remaining 4.0 per cent to the banks concerned as interest subsidy.</p> <p>Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has so far announced 28 stimulus packages worth Tk 1.35 trillion to offset the impacts of the pandemic on various sectors, which account for 4.9 per cent of the country's GDP.</p> | | ancianews.com.bd/first-page/bb-approves-two-more-refinancing-schemes-1629741148 | |
| 04 | <p><u>Taka loses value</u> <u>High demand for greenback prompts depreciation</u></p> <p>The exchange rate of Bangladesh currency depreciated significantly against the US dollar in the last couple of days mainly as higher demand for the greenback for settling import-payment obligations dragged the taka down. According to market operators, the Bangladesh Taka (BDT) lost its value by 35 poisha on the inter-bank foreign-exchange market in the last three working days in such a fall after more than a year. The dollar was quoted at Tk 85.15 each on the inter-bank market on Monday (23 August 2021) against Tk 85.10 of the previous working day. It was Tk 84.80 last Tuesday.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the central bank has already started selling the US dollar on the market indirectly through different commercial banks.</p> | 24 August 2021 | The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancianews.com.bd/first-page/taka-loses-value-1629741325) | |
| 05 | <p><u>Nestle seeks benefit from SAFTA on India imports</u> <u>BD won't give duty concession on TCI</u></p> <p>Bangladesh will not allow concessionary duty benefit under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) treaty in case of documentation completed in a non-member SAARC country. Officials said the restriction would be applicable to all of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries -- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. However, Third Country Invoicing (TCI) is a well-accepted model under the World Customs Organisation (WCO) for its member- countries. WCO has clear guidelines for TCI model under which importers can avail the concessionary duty benefit.</p> <p>However, customs wing under the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) find it difficult to allow TCI benefit for not having relevant provision in the Rules of Origin (RoO). The SAFTA Agreement also has a common RoO for determining the eligibility for tariff benefits available under the trade accord. Addressing the issue, the customs wing of the NBR instructed its all customs houses across the country not to allow TCI for deriving SAFTA benefit.</p> | 24 August 2021 | The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancianews.com.bd/first-page/bd-wont-give-duty-concession-on-tci-1629741506) | |
| 06 | আইএলও-জার্মান সরকারের অর্থায়ন | 24 August | Bonik Barta (https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_d) | |

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| | <p>আয়-মুনাফা কমলে শ্রমিকের জন্য ভর্তুকি পাবে পোশাক কারখানা</p> <p>কভিড-১৯ মহামারীর অভিঘাতে অন্য শিল্পগুলোর মতো ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হয়েছে দেশের পোশাক খাতও। অনেক কারখানার ব্যবসা কমেছে। মুনাফা কমেছে বেশির ভাগ প্রতিষ্ঠানেরই। কভিডকালে আয়-মুনাফা কমে গেছে এমন প্রতিষ্ঠানের শ্রমিকদের চাকরি নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে চায় আন্তর্জাতিক শ্রম সংস্থা (আইএলও)। এ জন্য জার্মান সরকারের সহযোগিতায় ঘোষণা হয়েছে প্রকল্পও, যার আওতায় শ্রমিকের জন্য এককালীন মজুরি বাবদ ভর্তুকি পাবে সংশ্লিষ্ট পোশাক কারখানা।</p> <p>২০২০ সালের মার্চে বাংলাদেশে প্রথম কভিড-১৯-এর সংক্রমণ শনাক্ত হয়। এরপর সাধারণ ছুটির নামে অঘোষিত লকডাউনে অর্থনীতি কার্যত স্থবির হয়ে পড়ে। এপ্রিল থেকে জুন সময়ে কার্যাদেশের অভাবে অনেক কারখানা সাময়িক ও স্থায়ী বন্ধ হয়ে যায়। কর্মচ্যুত হন অনেক শ্রমিক। একদিকে করোনা অন্যদিকে বেকারত্ব, জীবন ও জীবিকার টানা পোড়েনে বিপর্যস্ত শ্রমিকদের সহায়তায় এগিয়ে আসতে আগ্রহী হন পোশাক খাতের স্থানীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক মহলের সংশ্লিষ্টরা।</p> <p>গত বছরের শেষার্ধে শ্রমিকদের নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতের তাগিদে সহায়তার আগ্রহ প্রকাশ করে আইএলও। হাতে নেয়া হয় 'এমপ্লয়মেন্ট রিটেনশন ফর আরএমজি ওয়ার্কাস: কভিড-১৯ রেসপন্স' শীর্ষক প্রকল্প। সহযোগিতা নিশ্চিত করা হয় জার্মান সরকারের অর্থনৈতিক সহযোগিতা ও উন্নয়নবিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় বা ফেডারেল মিনিস্ট্রি ফর ইকোনমিক কো-অপারেশন অ্যান্ড ডেভেলপমেন্টের (বিএমজেড)। এরপর প্রস্তাব দেয়া হয় পোশাক শিল্প মালিকদের সংগঠন বিজিএমইএ ও বিকেএমইএকে।</p> | 2021 | | |
| 07 | <p>দূষণ ঠেকাতে সাভারের চামড়া শিল্পনগরী বন্ধের সুপারিশ</p> <p>সঠিকভাবে বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা না করায় সাভারের চামড়া শিল্পনগরী বন্ধ করে দেয়ার সুপারিশ করেছে সংসদীয় কমিটি। গতকাল বিকালে জাতীয় সংসদ ভবনে অনুষ্ঠিত পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয় সম্পর্কিত সংসদীয় স্থায়ী কমিটির বৈঠক থেকে এ সুপারিশ আসে। বৈঠক থেকে জানানো হয়, কয়েক দিনের মধ্যে পরিবেশ মন্ত্রণালয়, শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয় এবং বাংলাদেশ স্কুদ্র ও কুটির শিল্প করপোরেশনকে (বিসিক) এ বিষয়ে চিঠি পাঠানো হবে। সংসদীয় কমিটি বলছে, পরিবেশ দূষণ ও বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনার ক্ষেত্রে সঠিক পদক্ষেপ নিলে তারপর ট্যানারিগুলো চালুর বিষয়ে সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়া হবে।</p> <p>সংসদীয় কমিটির পক্ষ থেকে মন্ত্রণালয়কে জানানো হয়েছে, সাভারের চামড়া শিল্পনগরীতে দৈনিক বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনার সক্ষমতা ২৫ হাজার ঘনমিটার। অথচ সেখানে এখন রোজ ৪০ হাজার ঘনমিটার বর্জ্য উৎপাদন হয়। অর্থাৎ দৈনিক ১৫ হাজার ঘনমিটার বর্জ্য পরিবেশে মিশছে। সব মিলিয়ে গত তিন বছরে ১ কোটি ৬৪ লাখ ঘনমিটার বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনার বাইরে থেকে গেছে, যা পরিবেশকে দূষিত করেছে।</p> | 24 August 2021 | <p>Bonik Barta</p> <p>()</p> | |
| 08 | <p>বিসিকের ৯১৩টি প্লট বরাদ্দ দেওয়া হবে</p> <p>দেশের ১৪টি স্কুদ্র ও কুটির শিল্প নগরীতে ৯১৩টি প্লট বরাদ্দ দেওয়া হবে। গতকাল সোমবার প্লট বরাদ্দ দেওয়ার বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ করেছে বাংলাদেশ স্কুদ্র ও কুটির শিল্প করপোরেশন বা বিসিক। বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ৪৫ দিনের মধ্যে আগ্রহী বিনিয়োগকারীরা প্লটের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন। বরাদ্দ পাওয়ার পর প্লটের দাম পাঁচ বছরে কিস্তিতে পরিশোধ করা যাবে।</p> | 24 August 2021 | <p>Prothom Alo</p> <p>()</p> | |
| 09 | <p>Investment abroad needs 'BSEC nod'</p> <p>Third claimant to authority comes amid BB-BIDA parallel drafting of rules</p> | 25 August 2021 | <p>The Financial Express</p> | |

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| | <p>Local businesses willing to make equity investment abroad will have to take consent from the securities regulator, too, if the deals are conducted in the form of 'capital issue'. The third claimant to authority over such offshore investments comes after reports that Bangladesh Bank (BB) and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) are running parallel drafting rules in this regard.</p> <p>The officials of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) say they, too, have authority on equity investments abroad amid developments of formulating separate guidelines by the central bank and the investment regulator. As per sub-section (1) of section 2A of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance 1969, no issuer, or no company incorporated in Bangladesh, except with the consent of the commission, can make an issue of capital outside Bangladesh. The term 'issue of capital' means the issuing of any securities whether cash or otherwise, the ordinance defines.</p> <p>Both BB and BIDA sources have said their draft rules on equity investment are at final stages of drafting.</p> | | https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/investment-abroad-needs-bsec-nod-1629827729 | |
| 10 | <p><u>Cash management prime concern</u> <u>Govt halts bank borrowing thru bills, bonds</u> <u>Surplus liquidity in govt accounts swells</u></p> <p>Cash management is cited as prime concern as the government suspends its bank borrowing through cancelling auctions of both treasury bills or T-bills and bonds until August 31 amid swelling public coffers. Officials said the central bank communicated Tuesday the latest government decision on suspension of the auctions with all the scheduled banks and non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs).</p> <p>On quick compliance with the government decision, a scheduled auction for Bangladesh Government Treasury Bonds (BGTBs), generally known as bonds, for Tuesday was cancelled. Another auction for treasury bills (T-bills), scheduled for August 26, has already been halted on the same ground, the official added.</p> <p>The government's latest moves came against the backdrop of rising trend in surplus liquidity in its accounts in recent days. The surplus liquidity in government accounts swelled to Tk 110 billion as on August 22 from Tk 60 billion six days ago, according to the officials. Market operators, however, do not see any major blowback from such suspension of auctions. They think the cessation might push up excess liquidity slightly in the country's banking system.</p> | 25 August 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-halts-bank-borrowing-thru-bills-bonds-1629827788</p> | |
| 11 | <p><u>Dhaka at bottom in global safe city index</u></p> <p>Dhaka still remains at the bottom of the global list of safest cities as it ranked 54th out of 60 cities in The Economist Intelligence Unit's 'Safe City Index' 2021. The 'Safe City Index' is a report from The Economist Intelligence Unit, sponsored by NEC Corporation. The report is based on the fourth iteration of the index, which ranks 60 cities across 76 indicators covering digital, health, infrastructure, personal and environmental security. Findings from the index were supplemented with wide-ranging research and in-depth interviews with experts in the field.</p> <p>Dhaka's score stands at 48.9 while Copenhagen is at the top of the list with a score of 82.4. At the bottom of the list is Yangon of Myanmar at 39.5. Karachi of Pakistan lagged behind Dhaka in South Asia, one step ahead of Yangon.</p> | 25 August 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dhaka-at-bottom-in-global-safe-city-index-1629827954</p> | |

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| | ফাউন্ডেশনের অনুকূলে এ বরাদ্দ দিয়েছে। | | %E0%A6%AB%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%89%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A1%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%A8 | |
| 16 | <p><u>Economy showing signs of recovery</u> Bangladesh's economy has been showing signs of recovery ever since the fourth quarter of fiscal 2020-21 despite facing various challenges amidst the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, according to a quarterly analysis by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI). The government's stimulus packages eased the suffering of numerous industries, from large firms to micro-enterprises, which eventually gave a boost to the economy, it said. Besides, Bangladesh has done well in terms of export and inward remittance, two important drivers of the country's economy, amid the Covid-19 crisis.</p> | 27 August 2021 | The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/economy-showing-signs-recovery-2161936) | |
| 17 | <p><u>BB further relaxes loan repayment policy</u> The central bank has further extended the policy relaxation regarding loan repayment to the scheduled banks by their borrowers to help recover the country's pandemic-hit economy, officials said. Under the relaxation, the borrowers would get a fresh chance to remain unclassified, if they repay minimum 25 per cent of the total outstanding amount of loans for the whole calendar year within December 31, according to a notification issued by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Friday. In that case, the remaining 75 per cent of the outstanding loans from January 2021 to December 2021 would be payable within one year from the date of expiry of the loans, it added. The BB officials, however, said the central bank would issue a separate directive, relating to maintaining provisioning against such loans, by the end of this year. All borrowers are eligible to avail such loan repayment facility, if they repay one-fourth of their total outstanding loans within the stipulated timeframe, the officials explained. On June 27, the BB relaxed its policy, allowing the borrowers to get a chance to remain unclassified, if they repay minimum 20 per cent of the total outstanding amount of March and June quarters within August 31 on the basis of 'banker-customer' relationship, following the resurgence of the Covid-19 outbreak.</p> | 28 August 2021 | The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-further-relaxes-loan-repayment-policy-1630083739?date=28-08-2021) | |
| 18 | <p><u>প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজের টাকা পায়নি ৭৯% প্রতিষ্ঠান</u> করোনা সংকট কাটিয়ে অর্থনৈতিক পুনরুদ্ধারের জন্য সরকার ঘোষিত প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজের টাকা পায়নি ৭৯ শতাংশ ব্যবসাপ্রতিষ্ঠান। তাদের মধ্যে ৬৫ শতাংশ প্রতিষ্ঠান কোনো টাকা পায়নি। আর ১৪ শতাংশ প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিক প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজ সম্পর্কে জানেই না। বাকি ২১ শতাংশের মতো প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রণোদনার অর্থ পেয়েছে। বড়দের তুলনায় ছোট প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজের টাকা কম পাচ্ছে। বেসরকারি গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান সাউথ এশিয়ান নেটওয়ার্ক অন ইকোনমিক মডেলিংয়ের (সানেম) 'কোভিড-১৯ এবং বাংলাদেশে ব্যবসায় আস্থা' শীর্ষক জরিপের ৫ম ধাপের ফলাফলে এসব তথ্যে উঠে এসেছে। গত এপ্রিল থেকে জুনের পরিস্থিতি বিবেচনা করে গত জুলাইয়ে ৫০১টি প্রতিষ্ঠানের ওপর এই জরিপ করা হয়। আজ শনিবার সকালে অনলাইনে এক সংবাদ সম্মেলনের মাধ্যমে জরিপের ফল প্রকাশ করা হয়। দ্য এশিয়া ফাউন্ডেশন এই জরিপে সহায়তা করেছে।</p> | 28 August 2021 | Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%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%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%AD%E0%A7%AF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B7%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8) | |

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| 19 | <p><u>এডিবি বাণিজ্য করিডর উন্নয়নে ১৭৮ কোটি ডলার দেবে</u></p> <p>এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংক (এডিবি) সড়ক নিরাপত্তা এবং নাগরিকদের চলাচল প্রাধান্য পাওয়া ঢাকা-সিলেট বাণিজ্য করিডর উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পে বাংলাদেশকে ১৭৮ কোটি মার্কিন ডলার দেবে। এই অর্থ বাংলাদেশি প্রায় ১৫ হাজার ১৩০ কোটি টাকা (প্রতি ডলার ৮৫ টাকা ধরে)। পরিবহন ও আঞ্চলিক বাণিজ্য জোরদারে সহায়তা হিসেবে এই অর্থ দিচ্ছে এডিবি।</p> <p>এডিবি বলছে, ঢাকা-সিলেট করিডরের নির্মাণকাজ শেষ হলে চট্টগ্রাম থেকে শুরু করে বাংলাদেশের তিনটি স্থলবন্দর আখাউড়া, শেওলা ও তামাবিল হয়ে ভারতের উত্তর-পূর্বাঞ্চলীয় রাজ্যগুলো পর্যন্ত ব্যবসা-বাণিজ্যের নতুন সংযোগ গড়ে উঠবে। আবার এই সংযোগ ভারতের উত্তর-পূর্বাঞ্চলীয় রাজ্যগুলো থেকে ভূটান ও মিয়ানমার পর্যন্তও বিস্তৃত হবে। এ ছাড়া ঢাকা-সিলেট করিডরটি জ্বালানি উত্তোলন ও নির্মাণসামগ্রীর উৎপাদন কার্যক্রম এবং দেশের অন্যান্য অঞ্চলের অর্থনৈতিক সম্পৃক্ততা জোরদারে সরকারের পরিকল্পিত উত্তর-পূর্বাঞ্চলীয় অর্থনৈতিক করিডর বাস্তবায়নে অবদান রাখবে।</p> | 28 August 2021 | <p>Prothom Alo https://www.prothomalo.com/business/%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A3%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%89%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87-%E0%A7%A7%E0%A7%AD%E0%A7%AE-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87</p> | |
| 20 | <p><u>UK GSP scheme Dhaka to back LDCs' enhanced facilities</u></p> <p>As the United Kingdom (UK) is introducing a new Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) scheme next year, Bangladesh will advocate enhanced facilities for the least developed countries (LDCs), being a member of the group. The UK has launched an eight-week public consultation on the country's future tariff and policies in relation to simplification of its draft GSP document. Governments of the beneficiary countries and their private sectors, general public, civil society groups, consumers and other interested stakeholders are eligible to provide opinions on the draft document.</p> <p>The consultation aims at simplifying rules of origin requirements for the LDCs, and incorporating a potential series of amendments to reduce tariffs for low income and lower-middle income countries. It also targets potential amendments to the approach to goods graduation, which suspends preferential rates on particular goods from certain countries on the basis of their competitiveness. The consultation further aims to find out potential amendments to the conditions and reporting requirements that enable a low income or lower-middle income country to benefit from the generous provisioning through the values-based incentivised arrangement.</p> | 30 August 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dhaka-to-back-ldcs-enhanced-facilities-1630260892?date=30-08-2021</p> | |
| 21 | <p><u>Global Business Summit 2021 to be held in Dubai in Sept</u></p> <p>The 2nd Global Business Summit 2021 is going to commence in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates in September 29-30, said a press release. This year's theme is 'Connect Your Business'. The '2nd Global Business Summit Dubai, 2021' is jointly being organised by the NRB CIP Association and Business America Magazine.</p> <p>The Bangladesh government has honoured talented entrepreneurs residing across the world with the CIP title. These CIPs have formed an association to participate in the development of Bangladesh by attracting investments. The '2nd Global Business Summit Dubai 2021' is being held this year in honour of the 50th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh and the birth centenary of the country's founding president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, said the release.</p> | 31 August 2021 | <p>New Age https://www.newagebd.net/article/147846/global-business-summit-2021-to-be-held-in-dubai-in-sept</p> | |

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| | This summit is aimed at harnessing business opportunities for Bangladeshi entrepreneurs and the overall national development of the country. Non-Resident Bangladeshis along with foreign entrepreneurs are participating in this summit. Numerous Bangladeshi conglomerates are participating in this summit to showcase their products and projects. | | | |
| 22 | <p>Export fee for jute to see four-fold rise</p> <p>The jute department is going to increase the revenue fee by 400% for exports of jute and jute products, the lone \$1 billion forex earner alongside the biggest contributor apparel sector.</p> <p>In this way, the department will earn an additional Tk12-17 crore. Banks will deduct the fee at source at the time of exports.</p> <p>When exports of all major products, including readymade garments, plummeted during pandemic-triggered lockdowns across the globe last year, jute showed a lot of promise, putting up an excellent performance. But in the first month of the current fiscal year, the jute sector started registering a big slump.</p> <p>Exporters think an increase in the revenue fee collected as an inspection fee during this time will have a serious negative impact on jute and jute exports.</p> | 31 August 2021 | <p>The Business Standard (TBS)</p> <p>(https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/export-fee-jute-export-see-four-fold-rise-295432)</p> | |
| 23 | <p>ভারতে যাচ্ছে প্রাণ, সৌদিতে নাসা</p> <p>বিদেশে বৈধভাবে বিনিয়োগের আগ্রহ বাড়ছে বাংলাদেশি উদ্যোক্তাদের। তাঁদের কেউ দেশীয় অভিজ্ঞতা কাজে লাগিয়ে বিদেশে ব্যবসা করতে চাইছেন। কেউবা কোন দেশে কোন ব্যবসা উপযোগী, অর্থাৎ চাহিদাকে প্রাধান্য দিয়ে বিনিয়োগ করছেন। এ ছাড়া আরও অনেকে ব্যবসার প্রয়োজনে বিদেশে অফিস, ছোট আকারের কারখানা গড়ে তুলছেন। এ জন্য তাঁরা সরকার ও বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের অনুমোদন নিয়েছেন। অনুমোদনের অপেক্ষায় আছে আরও অনেক উদ্যোক্তার আবেদন।</p> <p>বিদেশে বিনিয়োগের অনুমোদন পেয়েছে, এমন ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠানের সংখ্যা দাঁড়িয়েছে ১৭। এর মধ্যে ২০২০ সাল পর্যন্ত অনুমোদন পেয়েছে ১২ প্রতিষ্ঠান—মবিল যমুনা বাংলাদেশ, ইনসেপ্টা, ডিবিএল, স্কয়ার ফার্মা, স্পেকট্রাম ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, এএসএম মহিউদ্দিন মোনাম, আকিজ জুট, বেক্সিমকো ফার্মা, এসিআই হেলথকেয়ার, বিএসআরএম, সামিট পাওয়ার ও টেকআউট লিমিটেড। আর চলতি আগস্ট অনুমোদন পেয়েছে আরও পাঁচ কোম্পানি—এমবিএম গার্মেন্টস, রেনেটা, প্রাণ ফুডস, নাসা গ্রুপের এজে সুপার গার্মেন্টস ও ইনসেপ্টা ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস। এর মধ্যে সর্বোচ্চ প্রায় ১৭০ কোটি টাকা বিনিয়োগের অনুমোদন পেয়েছে আকিজ জুট। তবে অনুমোদন পেলেও সবাই যে বিদেশে অর্থ নিয়ে গেছে, তা-ও নয়।</p> <p>বিনিয়োগের জন্য দেশি উদ্যোক্তাদের পছন্দের তালিকায় থাকা শীর্ষ দেশগুলো হচ্ছে সিঙ্গাপুর, কেনিয়া, মালয়েশিয়া, ভারত, শ্রীলঙ্কা ও সৌদি আরব।</p> | 31 August 2021 | <p>Prothom Alo</p> <p>(https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%AD%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A3-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8C%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE)</p> | |
| 24 | <p>উদ্বোধন করা হলো 'বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ পুস্তিকা ২০২১'</p> <p>বাংলাদেশকে নরডিক বিনিয়োগকারীদের কাছে আকর্ষণীয় গন্তব্য হিসেবে তুলে ধরতে 'বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ পুস্তিকা ২০২১' প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ নরডিক চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি (এনসিসিআই); বাংলাদেশে নরওয়ে, ডেনমার্ক ও সুইডেন দূতাবাসের সহযোগিতায় এই বিনিয়োগ পুস্তিকাটি প্রকাশ করা হয়।</p> <p>গতকাল সোমবার ভার্সুয়াল এক অনুষ্ঠানে এর উদ্বোধন করেন প্রধানমন্ত্রীর বেসরকারি শিল্প ও বিনিয়োগ খাতের উপদেষ্টা সালমান এফ রহমান। এতে বিশেষ অতিথি ছিলেন বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের (বিডা) নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান মো.</p> | 31 August 2021 | <p>Prothom Alo</p> <p>(https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%89%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8B-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%B2-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE)</p> | |

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| | সিরাজুল ইসলাম। নরডিক চেম্বারের সভাপতি তাহরিন আমানের সভাপতিত্বে অন্যদের মধ্যে বক্তব্য দেন জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান আবু হেনা মো. রাহমাতুল মুনিম, বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত নরওয়ারের রাষ্ট্রদূত এসপেন রিকটার সুভেন্দ্রসেন প্রমুখ। | | %E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%97-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%8B%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A7%A8%E0%A7%A6%E0%A7%A8%E0%A7%A7 | |
| 25 | <p>Global RMG market BD to face tough fight in post-LDC trade regime Experts warn of losing competitiveness</p> <p>Bangladesh would have to face a tough fight from its competitors like Vietnam in the post-LDC trade regime as its existing tariff advantages would erode substantially by then. For instance, Vietnam would then get a tariff advantage of more or less 23 per cent than Bangladesh in case of exporting readymade garments (RMG) to the EU market. Presenting this estimate at a virtual dialogue on Tuesday, trade experts and economists voiced concern that it would be a major challenge for the country to sustain global competition unless it can find alternatives to reduce the cost difference.</p> <p>Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh and Christian Aid in Bangladesh jointly organized the meeting on "Bangladesh's RMG Sector and Workers: Anticipating the Future", which observed that the workers will be the worst victims of the consequences.</p> <p>The economists suggested taking national level measures for next five years to address the challenges through signing FTAs and regional and comprehensive economic partnerships for getting zero tariff facilities even after the country's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) status. They also suggested attracting foreign direct investment in the RMG sector and its linkage industries for creating fresh employment, reducing dependency on preferential benefits and enhancing competitiveness by increasing productivity, product and sector diversification, and skills development of the workers in line with the automated technology.</p> | 01 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-to-face-tough-fight-in-post-ldc-trade-regime-1630433781?date=01-09-2021)</p> | |
| 26 | <p>World Bank to help train 10 lakh youths for employment</p> <p>The government is going to create employment opportunities for 10 lakh youths through technical training with financial assistance from the World Bank.</p> <p>The Technical Education Board will arrange the training across the country.</p> <p>Women, students from polytechnic institutes, those who lost jobs amid Covid-19, and returnee migrants will be brought under the scheme titled "Accelerating and strengthening skills for economic transformation."</p> <p>The project cost will be Tk4,300 crore. Of the money, the World Bank will give Tk2,580 crore in loan with the rest coming from the government exchequer.</p> | 01 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/world-bank-help-train-10-lakh-youths-employment-296404)</p> | |
| 27 | <p>Accord launches its activities for 2 more years</p> <p>The International Accord on Health and Safety for Textile and Garments Industry has started its activities again on Wednesday and will continue operating in the country for two more years.</p> <p>Four global workers' rights alliances and 77 brands signed an agreement on Wednesday in a bid to ensure a safe</p> | 01 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/accord-launches-its-activities-2-more-</p> | |

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| | and healthy RMG industry, says a press release. | | years-296467) | |
| 28 | <p><u>'Dhaka's air pollution cuts life expectancy by 7.7 yrs'</u></p> <p>Air pollution cuts the life expectancy of the residents of Dhaka, one the most polluted cities in the world, by 7.7 years, says a new study. The residents of Dhaka could live 7.7 years longer while the average life expectancy in Bangladesh would have been 5.6 years higher if pollution concentrations had been complied with the World Health Organisation (WHO) guideline, said an analysis of data from the Air Quality Life Index, conducted by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC), reports UNB.</p> <p>The study finds that particulate pollution cuts global life expectancy by nearly 2.2 years. Bangladesh, known as one of the most densely-populated countries in the world, has been struggling with air pollution for a long time. In many cases, Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is often found to be the most polluted city in the world in global indices. Particulate matter pollution continues to rise in Bangladesh. Since 1998, the average annual particulate pollution has increased by 15.3 per cent, cutting 0.9 years off the lives of the average Bangladesh residents over the years, it said. In each of the 64 districts, the levels of particulate matter were found to be at least three times higher than the WHO guidelines.</p> <p>According to the study, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan account for nearly a quarter of the global population and consistently rank among the top five most polluted countries in the world.</p> | 02 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/dhakas-air-pollution-cuts-life-expectancy-by-77-yrs-1630522126?date=02-09-2021) | |
| 29 | <p><u>BD inks deal to make Mitsubishi car</u></p> <p>Bangladesh and Japan signed on Thursday a historic deal to produce world renowned Japanese Mitsubishi cars in Bangladesh. Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) and the Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC) Japan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the Ministry of Industries (MoI) in Dhaka to carry out the feasibility study jointly for manufacturing cars.</p> <p>The MoU has been signed to carry out the feasibility study so that the country would be able to manufacture Mitsubishi cars jointly with Japan by 2025 through a joint venture company to be formed by the two friendly countries.</p> | 03 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/bd-inks-deal-to-make-mitsubishi-car-1630607236?date=03-09-2021) | |
| 30 | <p><u>BRICS' NDB embraces BD as new member</u></p> <p>The New Development Bank (NDB) - established by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) in 2015 - has welcomed Bangladesh, UAE, and Uruguay as new members as parts of its membership expansion move, reports UNB. NDB's Board of Governors authorized the Bank to conduct formal negotiations with prospective members in late 2020. After a round of successful negotiations, NDB approved the admission of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uruguay and Bangladesh as its first new member countries.</p> <p>Once admitted, a country's membership to NDB becomes effective when it completes its domestic processes and deposits the instrument of accession. NDB was established to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries, complementing the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development.</p> | 03 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/brics-ndb-embraces-bd-as-new-member-1630607785?date=03-09-2021) | |

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| 31 | <p><u>Banks' capital base bends under NPL weight</u> Much money goes for provisioning classified credits Banks' capital base somewhat weakened in the first half of the current calendar year mainly under the weight of rising non-performing loans (NPLs), officials said. Strengths of the banking industry, thus, got a bit sapped as much of their money used for provisioning the funds lying with the borrowers beyond repayment timeline. The capital-to-risk weighted-asset ratio (CRAR) of all the scheduled banks came down to 11.57 per cent as on June 30 from 11.64 per cent six months before, according to the latest statistics available with Bangladesh Bank (BB). The CRAR was 11.67 per cent as on March 31, 2021.</p> | 04 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-capital-base-bends-under-npl-weight-1630607403?date=03-09-2021) | |
| 32 | <p><u>Group insurance for all industrial units being planned</u> Regulator seeks cooperation from ministers The regulator seeks cooperation from ministers concerned in implementing mandatory group insurance in all industrial units pursuant upon the Bangladesh Labour Law, as the issue comes to the fore following recent tragedies. The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) recently requested that the ministry of labour holds a high-level stakeholder meeting to devise strategies for implementing the mandatory group insurance. To this end, the IDRA sent a letter to the financial institutions division recently to pursue the labour ministry to open the discussion immediately. The issue of group insurance came to light after a recent deadly fire incident at a factory in Narayanganj district which claimed over 50 lives and injured many. Under a provision of the labour law the owners of factories and industrial units where 100 or more permanent workers are employed must buy group insurance for them.</p> | 04 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/group-insurance-for-all-industrial-units-being-planned-1630691330?date=04-09-2021) | |
| 33 | <p><u>Execution time overrun entails huge cost overruns</u> All but two fast-track projects miss deadlines All the fast-track projects in Bangladesh, save two, missed execution deadlines to entail massive cost escalation, insiders said. The Padma Bridge, its rail link, Rampal power plant, Pyra seaport development, Dohazari-Ramu-Cox's Bazar-Ghundum railway route, and Matarbari power-plant projects have been revised on several occasions so far. Only two other fast-track mega-projects—MRT line-6 and Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant—are on track, needing no revision.</p> | 04 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/all-but-two-fast-track-projects-miss-deadlines-1630690852?date=04-09-2021) | |
| 34 | <p><u>Impact of US Fed's taper-tantrum</u> Corporate debts may get costlier Bangladesh's private corporate organisations may feel economic pressures from a blowback as the US Fed prepares to squeeze its spendthrift pandemic supports in a corrective action likely to cause 'taper tantrum' market disruptions. Some leading economists of Bangladesh sounded a note of caution that such tapering may spark a surge in global borrowing costs of the dollar like in market-temper tantrums. They think this is right time the authorities created</p> | 05 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/corporate-debts-may-get-costlier-1630773700) | |

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| | awareness in the financial sector to avoid any big trouble. | | | |
| 35 | <p><u>Refiners to reopen petrochem plants</u> Currently-shut private petrochemical and refinery plants might be allowed to resume operations, concentrating on diesel output, amid a demand-side fine change of fortune, sources said. One precondition is tagged: the private owners ought to sell the fuel to state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). A dozen such plants, which have been closed over the past 16 months for a lack of raw material, were mainly manufacturing petrol before the machines came to a grinding halt in June 2020.</p> | 05 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/refiners-to-reopen-petrochem-plants-1630773785 | |
| 36 | <p><u>7.0pc of target jabbed</u> <u>Russian Covid vaccine arrival unlikely soon</u> Bangladesh has so far received 38,913,730 vaccine doses from different global sources and administered 27,235,548 shots in the past eight months, covering only 7.0 per cent of the target. The government has a target to administer 117,856,000 people with two doses, meaning that the country needs 23.4-million jabs. According to health ministry statistics, Chinese Sinopharm vaccine tops the list in vaccination as 12,299,323 doses of this vaccine are administered. With 11,394,499 doses in volume, AstraZeneca stands second followed by Moderna with 15,742,065 doses and Pfizer with 98,984 doses.</p> | 05 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/70pc-of-target-jabbed-1630773902 | |
| 37 | <p><u>Noose tightened around cigarette makers' neck</u> <u>NBR plugs hole to stop VAT evasion</u> Government's revenue authority has issued new directives to check VAT evasion and also simplify the process of business operations of cigarette companies, who, nevertheless, pay a king's ransom to the exchequer. The Value Added Tax (VAT) policy wing under the National Board of Revenue (NBR), avowedly to plug the hole, defined anew the way of transfer of raw materials, machinery, spare parts or supply of manufactured cigarettes from one unit to another of a same company. It issued an instruction to all of its VAT offices across the country to follow it, allowing cigarette companies to transfer or supply their products from one unit to another and obtain one VAT registration for relevant wings of a factory. The directive came into effect from August 31, 2021. In the budget for current financial year, the NBR has barred the cigarette companies from obtaining central VAT registration along with imposing some new regulations.</p> | 05 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/nbr-plugs-hole-to-stop-vat-evasion-1630774255 | |
| 38 | <p><u>BTMA signs MoU with Uzbek counterpart</u> BTMA President Mohammad Ali Khokon signed the MoU with his Uzbek counterpart in Uzbekistan on Saturday Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with its Uzbek counterpart regarding investment opportunities by the Bangladeshi businessmen and industrialists in Uzbekistan on Saturday. So far, it is the most lucrative offer for investment in Uzbekistan as the country will provide land without cost to establish industries and utilities at a minimum price. A Bangladesh delegation headed by Salman F Rahman , advisor to the Prime Minister on Private Investment and Industry, have been in Uzbekistan since August 31 on an official visit, according to a statement.</p> | 05 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/btma-signs-mou-with-uzbek-counterpart-1630771313 | |
| 39 | গ্রিন ট্রান্সফরমেশন তহবিলের অর্থ পাবে সরকারি ব্যাংকও | 05 Sept. | Prothom Alo https://www.prothomalo.com/busin | |

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| | <p>বিদ্যমান কারখানা পরিবেশবান্ধব কারখানায় রূপান্তরে সহযোগিতা করার জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক যে তহবিল গঠন করেছে, তার অর্থ এখন থেকে সরকারি ব্যাংকগুলোও পাবে। খেলাপি ঋণ বেশি থাকায় এত দিন সরকারি ব্যাংকগুলো এই তহবিল থেকে অর্থ নিতে পারত না। ফলে এসব ব্যাংকের গ্রাহকদের কম সুদের এই তহবিল থেকে ঋণ নেওয়ার সুযোগ ছিল না। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক আজ এক প্রজ্ঞাপনের মাধ্যমে এই তহবিলের নীতিমালা শিথিল করেছে।</p> <p>২০১৬ সালে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক রিজার্ভের অর্থ দিয়ে গ্রিন ট্রান্সফরমেশন তহবিল গঠন করে—২০০ কোটি ডলার ও ২০ কোটি ইউরো রয়েছে সেখানে। এ তহবিল থেকে অর্থ নিয়ে ব্যাংকগুলো রপ্তানিমুখী শিল্পপ্রতিষ্ঠানগুলোকে অর্থায়ন করতে পারে। এই অর্থ দ্বারা সবুজ ও পরিবেশবান্ধব উদ্যোগ গ্রহণের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় মূলধনি যন্ত্রপাতির আমদানি করা যায়।</p> | 2021 | ess/bank/%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%9F%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%AB%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%BD%E0%A6%A5-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%93] | |
| 40 | <p><u>Tk 5b credit scheme for low-income people</u> The Bangladesh Bank (BB) launched a Tk 5.0-billion re-financing scheme on Sunday to help mitigate adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the marginal/landless farmers, low-income groups, school banking account-holders and small businesses. The central bank, in a press release, said Tk 10, Tk 50 and Tk 100 account-holders are entitled to get money from the special fund. The main purpose of the special fund is to revitalise economic activities of these people, affected from the second wave of the virus outbreak, through continuation of their formal credit access. Under the scheme, the scheduled banks are allowed to disburse collateral-free loan of maximum Tk 0.5 million to a client. In terms of group funding, the regulator set a loan limit of maximum Tk 2.0 million for a group having two to five members. The rate of interest under the scheme will be 1.0 per cent for the banks, while the beneficiaries will get loans at the rate of maximum 7.0 per cent from the banks.</p> | 06 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tk-5b-credit-scheme-for-low-income-people-1630865473)</p> | |
| 41 | <p><u>Waivers eat up 8.0pc of BD's tax-GDP ratio</u> <u>Exemptions pivotal to higher consumption, growth: NBR chief</u> Tax exemptions are eroding 8.0 per cent from Bangladesh's tax-GDP ratio, but the government's revenue authority says it is necessary to spur economic growth. Bangladesh's tax-GDP ratio is one of the lowest in the region. The country's tax-GDP ratio is currently below 9.0 per cent which could have been 17 per cent if the government refrained from offering exemption, admitted NBR chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem. The NBR chief said they were not frustrated over the ratio as the tax waivers fall within fiscal policy in the current budget with the greater goal of higher consumption by well-off middle-class people.</p> | 06 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/waivers-eat-up-80pc-of-bds-tax-gdp-ratio-1630865539)</p> | |
| 42 | <p><u>Participating in green transformation fund</u> <u>BB relaxes regulations for SoCBs</u> The central bank has relaxed regulations for the state-owned commercial banks (SoCBs) to participate in green transformation fund (GTF), officials said. Under the relaxation, the banks are now allowed to participate in the GTF without maintaining regulations regarding classified loans and capital shortfall, they added. Under the existing provisions, participating banks need to maintain an acceptable level of non-performing loans of</p> | 06 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-relaxes-regulations-</p> | |

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| | <p>not more than 10 per cent. No banks shall be eligible with shortfall in loan/investment provision, capital and liquidity, as per circular of the GTF issued in 2016. Instructions of eligibility criteria of participating authorized dealer (AD) of private commercial banks and foreign commercial banks shall remain unchanged, according to the notification.</p> <p>The central bank manages GTF with fund of US\$ 200 million and EUR 200 million. Participating banks can receive finance from the GTF against their lending to export oriented industries. The fund is used to import capital machinery and accessories for implementing green or environment-friendly initiatives.</p> | | for-socbs-1630865928) | |
| 43 | <p><u>Execution of stimulus packages provides spur</u> <u>Private credit flow grows as businesses reopen</u> <u>Some banks give short-term loans to corporates at lower interest</u></p> <p>Credit flow into private sector grows gradually as July demand for loans, particularly for working capital, rose for Eid-ul-Azha festival and the after-lockdown reopening of businesses began creating needs for funds. Such credit flow rose to 8.38 per cent in July 2021 on a year-on-year basis, from 8.35 per cent a month ago, according to the central bank's latest statistics. The growth was 7.55 per cent in May 2021. It was 2.62 percentage points lower than the Bangladesh Bank (BB)'s target of 11 per cent for the first half (H1) of fiscal year (FY) 2021-22.</p> <p>The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic along with deepening uncertainties had pushed down the credit growth in the past couple of months, according to the bankers. But the private-sector credit growth returned to an upturn in June 2021 after maintaining a falling trend in three consecutive months, the BB's data show. The bankers, however, say some banks have provided short-term loans to the corporate entities offering lower interest rates to meet their working-capital requirements. Besides, relaxation of lockdown ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha had helped increase the demand for loans, particularly trade finance, they explained. Earlier, the government had relaxed restrictions on movement for a week from July 15 midnight to facilitate economic activity centering Eid-ul-Azha fiesta.</p> | 06 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/private-credit-flow-grows-as-businesses-reopen-1630866232)</p> | |
| 44 | <p><u>Three maiden one-man cos get going</u> <u>Tk 2.5m paid-up capital dubbed too much for small firms</u></p> <p>Bangladesh's company registrar has approved first three 'one-person company (OPC)' firms under a new business-ownership model that is expected to lure investments from home and abroad. Business promoters think the modus operandi for one-man company would diversify company incorporations with smaller ventures becoming formal firms, ushering in a boom-time for business if a few perceived hurdles are removed.</p> <p>Such type of company incorporation is believed to attract investment from both local and foreign entrepreneurs as there are many entities having ownership of single natural person. And adding a deeper dimension to the country's trade-and-business ambiance -- this reform may help improve upon the ease-of-doing-business status of Bangladesh.</p> <p>The new-generation OPCs registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) are: JR Aviation Services OPC, Boalia Services OPC and Akkas Uddin Mollah OPC. "This is a new type of company owned by a single person and we are allowing it as per amendment of the Companies Act 1994," said one senior</p> | 07 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/three-maiden-one-man-cos-get-going-1630952094?date=07-09-2021)</p> | |

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| | official at the RJSC. He hopes this will attract both foreign and local investments at a time when the total private-investment scenario remained sluggish for covid consequences. There are few more such companies in the pipeline, according to RJSC. | | | |
| 45 | <p>Bangladesh decides to join largest trade bloc</p> <p>Bangladesh has decided to join the world's largest trading bloc, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), to stay eligible for duty-free trade facilities in the markets of nearly one-third of the global economies after it graduates to a developing nation in 2026.</p> <p>The commerce ministry will send a formal proposal to the RCEP headquarters, conveying the country's interest in availing a membership to the bloc, as decided in a meeting on Sunday, Hafizur Rahman, additional secretary to the ministry, told The Business Standard.</p> <p>With the trading alliance of 15 economies, including China and Japan, entering into force at the beginning of 2022, Bangladesh's exports to the RCEP nations will not face much trouble until 2026 when the country's duty-free access to these two major markets will end, according to commerce ministry officials.</p> | 07 Sept. 2021 | The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-decides-join-largest-trade-bloc-299347) | |
| 46 | <p>৬৪০ কোটি টাকার বিদেশি বিনিয়োগ পেল শপআপ</p> <p>সারা দেশের ৮-৯ লাখ ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি উদ্যোক্তার কাছে পৌঁছে গেছে শপআপ। এই স্টার্টআপ নতুন করে সাড়ে সাত কোটি মার্কিন ডলার বা ৬৪০ কোটি টাকার বড় বিনিয়োগ পেয়েছে। ১০ মাসের ব্যবধানে শপআপে এটি দ্বিতীয় বিদেশি বিনিয়োগ। আর্থিক সেবা মাধ্যম পেপ্যালের সহপ্রতিষ্ঠাতা পিটার থিয়েলসহ তিনজনের প্রতিষ্ঠিত যুক্তরাষ্ট্রভিত্তিক ভেঞ্চার ক্যাপিটাল ফান্ড ভালার ভেঞ্চারসের নেতৃত্বে এই বিনিয়োগে আরও রয়েছে প্রসুস ভেঞ্চারস, ফ্লোরিশ ভেঞ্চারস, সেকুইয়া ক্যাপিটাল ইন্ডিয়া এবং ভিওন ভেঞ্চারস।</p> <p>শপআপ কর্তৃপক্ষ গতকাল সোমবার আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে বিনিয়োগের বিষয়টি ঘোষণা দিয়েছে। তারা বলেছে, সিরিজ বি হিসেবে এটি দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার বিটুবি কমার্সভিত্তিক যেকোনো স্টার্টআপে সবচেয়ে বড় বিনিয়োগ। গত অক্টোবরে ১৯০ কোটি টাকার 'সিরিজ এ' বিনিয়োগ পেয়েছিল শপআপ। মূলত নতুন কোনো উদ্যোগ যখন প্রাথমিক পুঁজি নিয়ে বাজারে ভালো ফল দেখায়, তাদের ক্ষেত্রে সিরিজ এ শ্রেণির বিনিয়োগ করা হয়। তারপরের ধাপে হয় সিরিজ বি বিনিয়োগ। সব মিলিয়ে শপআপে বিদেশি বিনিয়োগের পরিমাণ গিয়ে দাঁড়াল ৯৩৫ কোটি টাকার বেশি, যা বাংলাদেশের যেকোনো স্টার্টআপে সবচেয়ে বেশি বিনিয়োগ।</p> | 07 Sept. 2021 | Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A7%AC%E0%A7%AA%E0%A7%A6-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%97-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B2-%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%AA) | |
| 47 | <p>11 banks asked to submit plans for overcoming capital shortfall</p> <p>The Bangladesh Bank has asked 11 banks, which have suffered capital shortfalls in the first half of 2021, to submit their respective plans for mitigating their capital shortfalls. The central bank issued letters to the banks asking them to explain what steps they had already been taken or would take to mitigate their shortfalls.</p> <p>The banks which were asked to submit their plans are Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Agrani Bank, ICB Islamic Bank, BASIC Bank, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, Bangladesh Commerce Bank, Rupali Bank, Padma Bank and AB Bank.</p> | 08 Sept. 2021 | New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/148567/11-banks-asked-to-submit-plans-for-overcoming-capital-shortfall) | |

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| | <p>বুধবার দুপুরে মোংলা বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষের সঙ্গে সভা করেছে নেপালের একটি প্রতিনিধিদল। বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত নেপাল হাই কমিশনের ডেপুটি চিফ অব মিশন কুমার রাইয়ের নেতৃত্বে দুই সদস্যের ওই দল দুপুর সোয়া ১২টায় মোংলা বন্দরে পৌঁছায়।</p> <p>এরপর বন্দরের পক্ষ থেকে প্রতিনিধিদলকে বন্দরের নানা সুবিধা সম্পর্কে অবহিত করা হয়। পরে প্রতিনিধিদলের সদস্যরা জেটিসহ বন্দর এলাকা ঘুরে দেখেন। এ সময় তাঁরা বন্দরের সম্প্রসারণসহ নানা সুযোগ-সুবিধা দেখে সন্তোষ প্রকাশ করেন।</p> | | <p>%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2)</p> | |
| 51 | <p><u>Long-term lending in focus for industrial units</u> <u>'Banks cannot provide long-term credit as banks do not have long-term deposits'</u></p> <p>The country's business leaders and top bankers have stressed the need for a collective effort to find a solution to a long-term lending for industries, especially for the small and medium enterprises (SMEs). In a views exchange meeting held at a city hotel on Thursday, both sides agreed to the fact that the industries badly needed long-term credit supply to grow and contribute to the country's economy. But chief executives of banks said banks could not provide long-term credit to the industries as the banks did not have long-term deposits. Banks also cannot compromise basic documents required for getting a loan as banks do not own the money, said the top bankers, against the business leaders' demand for easing procedures of loans for the SMEs. The bankers also reminded the business leaders that the banks were business entities too and that they had to make profits to survive and provide more loans to businesses. On the other hand, business leaders recommended that the banks should reduce its operating costs and narrow spread to make loans cheaper. They also demanded waiver of loan interests for certain periods so that businesses cope with the loss of Covid-19.</p> <p>Speaking at the discussion, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBICCI) President Jashim Uddin said the term loan needed to be extended to 10-15 years and the grace period to two years for the development of the SME sector. He recommended providing bank loans to entrepreneurs of the SME sector who do not have bank accounts as per recommendations of the concerned trade body. "To do so, banks can enter into agreements with local trade bodies," he suggested.</p> <p>If the rate of down payment is fixed at 1-2 per cent at the time of renewal or rescheduling of industrial loans, industrialisation will flourish in the country, he observed. The FBCCI recommends that the corporate tax on banks, insurance and financial institutions should be reduced from 36.50 per cent to 35 per cent, in order to reduce the cost of business, said the president of the apex trade body.</p> | 10 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/long-term-lending-in-focus-for-industrial-units-1631210107</p> | |
| 52 | <p><u>Stimulus lending to SMEs</u> <u>BB softens terms, extends time for disbursement</u></p> <p>The central bank of Bangladesh Thursday (9 Sept. 2021) eased some rules related to implementation of the corona recovery stimulus package dedicated to cottage-micro-SME sector, as they had faced odds in accessing the subsidized funds. Earlier, the Prime Minister had announced Tk 200 billion worth of stimulus exclusively for the CMSMEs, which mostly remained undisbursed.</p> | 10 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-softens-terms-extends-time-for-</p> | |

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| | <p>Of the total allocation, some 70 per cent will go for cottage, micro and small enterprises while the remaining 30 per cent for medium sector, the BB circular says in apportioning the package. Of the 70 per cent, 65 per cent should be disbursed for production and service sub-sector while 35 per cent for cottage and micro-trading business. There will be 8.0 percent loan reserved for women entrepreneurs. The package will last up to June 30, 2022.</p> <p>The banks should sanction the loans both for working capital and term loan. The loanees will enjoy subsidiary for a period of one year. The government will pay 5.0 per cent of the interest and the remaining 4.0 per cent to be paid by the borrower. The repayment will be monthly and quarterly.</p> | | disbursement-1631210194 | |
| 53 | <p><u>Rules ease for re-export of returned exports</u> A special customs order doubles time for re-exporting rejects</p> <p>Re-export of products returned by foreign buyers to Bangladesh has been simplified through relaxing restrictions in customs rules under a special order, now that a crunch time prevails over the world. To this end, the customs authority allows exporters to re-export returned products within one year, by doubling the previous time of six months, from the date of send-back. Also, the timeframe has been made flexible, if needed in any untoward situation, on the basis of application from exporters.</p> <p>Two cardinal purposes are meant to be served with this bending of the trade rules: to prevent returned product sale on the local market and restrain some 'unscrupulous' traders from cashing in on cash incentives and duty refund. Apparel exporters are happy as they think the additional time after the product return from buyers would help them ship seasonal products on time to the importing countries.</p> | 10 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/rules-ease-for-re-export-of-returned-exports-1631210400) | |
| 54 | <p><u>Govt goes all out to sign FTAs</u></p> <p>Bangladesh is gearing up to sign free trade agreements (FTAs) and amend labour laws to continue to avail duty benefits on merchandise export once it comes out of the least developed country (LDC) status, said Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh yesterday.</p> <p>FTAs and preferential trade agreements (PTAs) with major trading partners are considered to be the major tool for future market access once the country graduates from a least developed to a developing nation in 2026.</p> <p>Moreover, negotiations with the European Union (EU) are underway for becoming eligible for the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Plus after the expiry of the European GSP in 2029, said Ghosh.</p> | 10 Sept. 2021 | The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-goes-all-out-sign-ftas-2172601) | |
| 55 | <p><u>Capital support to local industries</u> <u>IFC to issue taka bond on Bangladesh bourse</u></p> <p>The International Finance Corporation (IFC) plans to issue taka-denominated bond on Bangladesh market to extend financial support to domestic industries and agencies in need of funds. Official sources said Friday the World Bank Group's private-sector-lending arm had recently sought approval from the government of Bangladesh for issuing the bond. IFC had sought opinion from different relevant government agencies, including the Finance Division, Financial Institutions Division as well as Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), on this move by the international financial institution. After getting their opinion, they would examine the proposal together and then the approval decision would be made, the official added.</p> | 11 Sept. 2021 | The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ifc-to-issue-taka-bond-on-bangladesh-bourse-1631295114) | |

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| | <p>A senior IFC official says they would issue the IFC's BDT-denominated bonds on the Dhaka Stock Exchange through securities regulator BSEC for mobilising the funds for the local industries and enterprises to be financed. The official said the amount of the proposed bond was not fixed yet, but would be issued based on demands for investment by the local firms and industries.</p> <p>Earlier, the IFC for the first time had issued BDT-denominated 'Bangla Bond' on the London Stock Exchange, worth Tk 800 million (US\$9.5 million), to help expand operations and distribution of funds in Bangladesh. The three-year bond, listed on the UK stock market, was placed with asset managers dedicated to emerging markets, with the deal arranged by Standard Chartered Bank and Bank of America Merrill Lynch.</p> <p>The proceeds from the bond will be used to provide financing to Bangladesh's private enterprise PRAN Group to boost their processing capacities and deepen the rural distribution reach. A senior MoF official says the IFC had proposed to mobilise funds through the bonds to finance agriculture, manufacturing, and climate-related projects, and microfinance institutions. It has a plan to finance Bangladesh's SMEs and women-owned firms and companies, he added.</p> | | | |
| 56 | <p><u>Economy faces revenue shortfall, defaulting bank loan challenges: Document</u></p> <p>Revenue deficit defaulting bank loans and worsening poverty situation due to Covid-19 are causing some problems in the country's economy. According to a budgetary document, revenue deficit and increasing unrealised loans in banking sector are hurting the economy. It also stated that poverty situation is also a matter of future concern. The document mentioned that due to increasing revenue deficit it is becoming tougher day by day for very necessary public expenditure financing in various sectors like infrastructure, health, education, water resources and social safety net. It also said that in the banking sector especially in the public banks high rate of unrealised loans is creating pressure on economic situation of damaged banks and causing hurdles to collect deposit.</p> | 11 Sept. 2021 | New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/148804/economy-faces-revenue-shortfall-defaulting-bank-loan-challenges-document) | |
| 57 | <p><u>বাস্তবায়ন পরিকল্পনা বাধ্যতামূলক</u></p> <p>সাধারণত অর্থবছরের প্রথমার্ধে বাজেট বাস্তবায়ন যেমন ধীর হয়, তেমনি রাজস্ব আহরণের গতিও থাকে প্রায় একই রকম। যেমন চলতি ২০২১-২২ অর্থবছরের প্রথম মাস জুলাইয়ে বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচির (এডিপি) মাত্র দেড় শতাংশ বাস্তবায়িত হয়েছে। এ রকম অবস্থা থেকে উত্তরণ চায় অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অর্থ বিভাগ। তাই সব মন্ত্রণালয় ও বিভাগের কাছে অর্থ বিভাগ বাজেট বাস্তবায়নের পরিকল্পনা চেয়েছে।</p> <p>অর্থ বিভাগ এরই মধ্যে সব মন্ত্রণালয় ও বিভাগে চিঠি পাঠিয়ে ১৫ সেপ্টেম্বরের মধ্যে বাজেট বাস্তবায়ন পরিকল্পনা এবং এখন থেকে প্রতি প্রান্তিক (তিন মাস) শেষ হওয়ার পরের এক মাসের মধ্যে বাজেট বাস্তবায়ন পরিবীক্ষণ প্রতিবেদন দাখিল করতে বলেছে।</p> | 11 Sept. 2021 | Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A7%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%82%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%95) | |
| 58 | <p><u>দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ার বাজার ধরতে এফটিএ করার আহ্বান</u></p> <p>স্বল্পোন্নত দেশ (এলডিসি) থেকে উত্তরণ-পরবর্তী আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্যে বাংলাদেশকে বেশকিছু চ্যালেঞ্জ মোকাবেলা করতে হবে। চ্যালেঞ্জ মোকাবেলায় বিভিন্ন দেশের সঙ্গে আগাম বাণিজ্য চুক্তির কথা বলছেন সংশ্লিষ্টরা। এরই মধ্যে</p> | 11 Sept. 2021 | The Sangbad (http://print.thesangbad.net/news/business/%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B7%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A3%2B%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8) | |

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| | <p>এলাডিসি-পরবর্তী দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ায় বাংলাদেশী পণ্যের বাজার ধরে রাখতে মুক্ত বাণিজ্য চুক্তির (এফটিএ) আহ্বান জানানো হয়েছে। ঢাকা চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রির (ডিসিসিআই) সভাপতি রিজওয়ান রাহমানের সঙ্গে সাক্ষাৎকালে সম্প্রতি এ আহ্বান জানান বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ার রাষ্ট্রদূত লি জ্যাং কিয়ুন। সাক্ষাৎকালে রাষ্ট্রদূত বলেন, ‘দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ায় রফতানীকৃত বাংলাদেশী পণ্যের ৯৩ শতাংশই শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধা ভোগ করে। দক্ষিণ কোরিয়া বাংলাদেশে পঞ্চম বৃহত্তম বিনিয়োগকারী দেশ। সামনের দিনগুলোয় এ ধারা অব্যাহত থাকবে।’</p> <p>দুই দেশের মধ্যে দ্বিপাক্ষিক সম্পর্ক অত্যন্ত সুদৃঢ় বলে উল্লেখ করে রাষ্ট্রদূত বলেন, এরই মধ্যে ৭০টি দেশের সঙ্গে দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ার এফটিএ রয়েছে। যার মধ্যে ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়ন, চীন ও আশিয়ান উল্লেখযোগ্য। এ সময় রাষ্ট্রদূত দুই দেশের উদ্যোক্তাদের মধ্যকার সম্পর্ক উন্নয়নে বাণিজ্য সংগঠনগুলোর মধ্যকার যোগাযোগ আরো বৃদ্ধির আহ্বান জানান।</p> | | B%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%2B%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%2B%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87%2B%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%AB%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%8F%2B%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%2B%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%B9%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8-102609/ | |
| 59 | <p>১ অক্টোবর শুরু বিশ্ব এক্সপো-২০২০ তিন খাতে বিদেশী বিনিয়োগের প্রত্যাশা বাংলাদেশের</p> <p>কভিড-১৯ সংক্রমণ কমে আসায় আগামী ১ অক্টোবর থেকে শুরু হচ্ছে ‘বিশ্ব এক্সপো-২০২০ দুবাই’। দুবাই এক্সপো থেকে এবার তিন খাতে বিদেশী বিনিয়োগ প্রত্যাশা করছে বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (বিডা)। এ খাতগুলো হলো খাদ্য ও কৃষিপণ্য প্রক্রিয়াকরণ শিল্প, মেডিকেল ডিভাইস ও স্বাস্থ্যসেবা খাত এবং অটোমোবাইল ও খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ উৎপাদন। সম্প্রতি বিডা থেকে এ-সংক্রান্ত একটি চিঠি বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ে পাঠানো হয়েছে। বিডার পরিচালক মো. আশরাফুল ইসলাম মুকুট স্বাক্ষরিত ওই চিঠিতে বলা হয়েছে, আগামী অক্টোবর থেকে মার্চ ২০২২ পর্যন্ত অনুষ্ঠিতব্য বিশ্ব এক্সপো-২০২০ দুবাইয়ে বাংলাদেশ অংশগ্রহণ করতে যাচ্ছে। এ এক্সপোতে তিনটি সেমিনারের আয়োজন করেছে বিডা। যেখানে বাংলাদেশে উৎপাদিত খাদ্য ও কৃষিজাত পণ্য প্রক্রিয়াকরণ, স্বাস্থ্যসেবা ও মেডিকেল ডিভাইস এবং অটোমোবাইল খাত নিয়ে আলোচনা হবে। এ আলোচনার মূল্য লক্ষ্য এসব খাতে বিদেশী বিনিয়োগ আকর্ষণ করা। জানা গেছে, করোনা অতিমারী মোকাবেলায় এবারের এক্সপোতে বাংলাদেশ সবচেয়ে বেশি গুরুত্ব দিচ্ছে স্বাস্থ্য সেবা খাত ও মেডিকেল পণ্যসামগ্রী উৎপাদন খাতে।</p> <p>সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মকর্তারা বলছেন, দুবাই এক্সপো থেকে বিদেশী বিনিয়োগ আকর্ষণ করা সম্ভব বলে মনে করছে বিডা। এরই মধ্যে ওয়ানস্টপ সার্ভিস, বিদেশী বিনিয়োগে কর রেয়াত সুবিধা প্রদান এবং বিনিয়োগের লভ্যাংশ সহজে দেশে ফেরত নেয়াসহ নানা ধরনের প্যাকেজ ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে। এছাড়া গ্যাস-বিদ্যুতের নিশ্চয়তা, জমিপ্রাপ্তি সহজীকরণ এবং ঘুষ দুর্নীতি নিয়ন্ত্রণসহ সরকারের বিভিন্ন উদ্যোগের কথা তুলে ধরা হবে দুবাই এক্সপোতে।</p> | 11 Sept. 2021 | <p>Bonik Barta https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_description/274208/%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%96%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%96%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0</p> | |
| 60 | <p>BD acquires 1.0pc stake of NDB</p> <p>Bangladesh finally attains 1.0- per cent share in the Shanghai-based New Development Bank (NDB) as the country has been offered one of three fortunate shareholders after the five founding BRICS nations. Officials said Saturday -- close on the heels of the China-sponsored bloc's summit -- that Dhaka is now taking preparation to pay its subscription to the NDB, formerly known as BRICS Bank. Earlier, the Shanghai-based multilateral bank had offered Bangladesh some 0.76-per cent share as a new member after the five founding members -- Brazil, Russia,</p> | 12 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-acquires-10pc-stake-of-ndb-</p> | |

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| | <p>India, China and South Africa (BRICS). A senior Ministry of Finance (MoF) official gave the latest developments, saying: "If other United Nations member-countries join the bank, the share of Bangladesh would ultimately reach 0.42 per cent." Another MoF official said Dhaka will have to pay some \$400 million in the next seven years for becoming a shareholder of the bank. The board of the Shanghai-based multilateral development lender approved membership of three countries -- Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. Bangladesh then negotiated with the lender for getting 1.0-percent stake in the newly established BRICS bank.</p> | | 1631380982) | |
| 61 | <p><u>Budget gap at record Tk 1.87tn last FY</u> <u>Four-pronged corona recovery recipe framed</u> Bangladesh's budget deficit amounted to a record Tk 1.87 trillion in the past financial year as stimulus packages and emergency health payouts bloated public spending against revenue shrinkage for pandemic. The budget shortfall accounts for approximately 6.1 per cent of the GDP or gross domestic product -- a gaping gap usually not seen in recent history, of course amid a situation at home and abroad unforeseen in a hundred years, since the 1918 Spanish flu. In the previous fiscal, 2019-20, such national spending gap was just 5.5 per cent of the GDP. Usually, the government wants to maintain 5.0 per cent of the GDP for a fiscal comfort. The government announced fiscal and stimulus packages amounting to Tk 1.28 trillion in additional expenditure on healthcare, emergency humanitarian assistance and economic recovery to keep the country's economic activities rolling in the face of the pandemic coronavirus disruptions to normal course of life and business. The pandemic death toll is nearly 27,000 in the country and over 45 hundred thousand globally.</p> | 12 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/budget-gap-at-record-tk-187tn-last-fy-1631381406)</p> | |
| 62 | <p><u>Fearing impact on infant RMG sector</u> <u>Three EEC states shy of any trade deal with BD</u> All but three Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) countries are discouraged to enter into any trade deal with Bangladesh, fearing any possible adverse impact on their infant apparel sector. Even any preferential trade agreement (PTA) or free trade agreement (FTA) with Russia separately is unfeasible as it is an integral part of the EEC. The Bangladesh Mission in Russia recently shared this opinion with commerce ministry on the potential of signing any FTA/PTA with the EEC trade bloc. The EEC currently comprises five countries-Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Russia. The EEC is the permanent regulatory body of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). It started work on 02 February 2012. These five states have common customs border and a single market of 184.3-million people and \$1.7-trillion gross domestic product. The volume of their external trade stands at \$731.1 billion. A commerce ministry delegation is expected to visit Russia next month and they are supposed to join the first 'Joint Working Group' meeting in Moscow. Earlier, the EEC signed FTAs with Vietnam, Serbia and Singapore. These are international treaties. The EEC has</p> | 12 Sept. 2021 | <p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/three-eec-states-shy-of-any-trade-deal-with-bd-1631374943)</p> | |

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| | an interim FTA with Iran. It has also signed a memorandum with Thailand, Cambodia, Mongolia, Chile, Peru and Indonesia. | | | |
| 63 | <p>Space shortage stifles export thru Banglabandha land port</p> <p>Several hundred trucks have been waiting outside the Banglabandha land port for the past 12 days for space to be made available for exports to be offloaded on the Indian side.</p> <p>While the port can accommodate only a small number of trucks, exports through it have increased nearly fourfold since the 2015-16 financial year, according to data from various sources.</p> <p>That year, 31,128 tonnes of exports passed through the port and it increased to 1,13,390 tonnes in 2019-20 financial year.</p> <p>Other than the administrative and immigration building, the port's warehouse, open stack-yard, truck terminal, weighbridge and other existing infrastructures are not enough to accommodate the increase in trade.</p> | 12 Sept. 2021 | The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/space-shortage-stifles-export-thru-banglabandha-land-port-2173711) | |
| 64 | <p>Govt hopeful of 12-year duty benefit</p> <p>Bangladesh is hopeful that it will enjoy the duty-free export benefit for a more extended period after graduating from the grouping of the least-developed countries (LDCs) as the negotiation with the World Trade Organisation is underway.</p> <p>The country was supposed to become a developing nation from an LDC in 2024, but the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (UNCDP), which assesses the transition procedures, has pushed back the deadline to 2026 following a request from Dhaka.</p> <p>"We have sought an extension of the LDC-linked facilities for 12 years after the formal graduation to a developing country takes place," said Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh last week.</p> <p>The WTO members might not grant the extension for 12 years, but they are positive about providing a reasonable time to graduating LDCs as all the LDCs, and the influential members of the global body agreed to extend trade facilities for low-income countries after their graduation, he said.</p> | 12 Sept. 2021 | The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-hopeful-12-year-duty-benefit-2173936) | |
| 65 | <p>সিডিসির গবেষণা কভিড-১৯ টিকা না নিলে মৃত্যুঝুঁকি ১১ গুণ</p> <p>বিশ্বের যেসব মানুষ কভিড-১৯ রোগ প্রতিরোধী পূর্ণাঙ্গ ডোজ টিকা গ্রহণ করেনি, তারা ১১ গুণ মৃত্যুঝুঁকিতে রয়েছে। পাশাপাশি টিকা গ্রহণকারীদের তুলনায় তাদের হাসপাতালে ভর্তির সম্ভাবনা ১০ গুণ বেশি। সেন্টার ফর ডিজিজ কন্ট্রোল অ্যান্ড প্রিভেনশনের করা নতুন গবেষণায় এ তথ্য উঠে এসেছে। খবর ওয়াশিংটন পোস্ট।</p> <p>মূলত নভেল করোনাভাইরাসের উচ্চসংক্রামক ডেল্টা ভ্যারিয়েন্টের বিরুদ্ধে কোন টিকা কতটুকু কার্যকর তা অনুসন্ধান করতেই গবেষণাটি পরিচালিত হয়। গত জুন থেকে আগস্টের শুরু পর্যন্ত বিভিন্ন হাসপাতাল, জরুরি বিভাগ ও ক্লিনিকের ৩২ হাজার রোগীর ওপর গবেষণা চালানো হয়। সেখানে দেখা যায়, হাসপাতালে ভর্তি প্রতিরোধ করতে সবচেয়ে বেশি ভূমিকা রাখে মডার্নার কভিড প্রতিরোধী টিকা। এক্ষেত্রে মডার্নার তুলনায় কম কার্যকর</p> | 12 Sept. 2021 | Bonik Barta (https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_description/274305/%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%AD%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A1-%E0%A7%A7%E0%A7%AF-%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%83%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%81%E0) | |

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| | <p>ফাইজার-বায়োএনটেক ও জনসন অ্যান্ড জনসনের টিকা। সার্বিকভাবে এ তিনটি টিকা সম্মিলিতভাবে হাসপাতালে ভর্তি হওয়ার মতো অবস্থা ৮৬ শতাংশ ক্ষেত্রে প্রতিরোধ করতে পারে। মডার্নার ক্ষেত্রে এ হার বেশ উল্লেখযোগ্য। পূর্ণাঙ্গ ডোজ মডার্নার টিকা গ্রহণকারী ৯৫ শতাংশ ব্যক্তির হাসপাতালে ভর্তি হওয়ার মতো অবস্থা সৃষ্টি হয়নি। ফাইজার-বায়োএনটেকের ক্ষেত্রে এ হার ৮০ শতাংশ এবং জনসন অ্যান্ড জনসনের ক্ষেত্রে ৬০ শতাংশ।</p> <p>এর আগে আগস্টে মায়ো ক্লিনিক হেলথ সিস্টেম সীমিত পরিসরে একটি গবেষণা চালায়। সেখানেও দেখা যায়, ফাইজার-বায়োএনটেকের তুলনায় ডেল্টা ভ্যারিয়েন্টের বিরুদ্ধে মডার্নার টিকা বেশি কার্যকর।</p> | | %A6%9D%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%81%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A7%A7%E0%A7%A7-%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A3) | |