

Fortnightly Summary

Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 13 – 26 September 2021


Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
1	<p><u>Bangladesh to hold Int'l Investment Summit</u></p> <p>Bangladesh needs to boost both domestic and foreign investment to meet emerging challenges for its graduation to a middle-income country from the world's poor-country club. Keeping this in view, the government is set to hold a two-day 'Bangladesh International Investment Summit 2021 (BIIS 2021)' from November 28 at Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka-five years after the last summit of its kind. Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) will organize the summit in conjunction with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), to be held both virtually and physically in view of the pandemic. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would inaugurate the event virtually.</p> <p>The announcement came during the launch of the BIIS 2021 website and logo for registration at a summit-disclosure ceremony Sunday at the BIDA multipurpose auditorium with BIDA Executive Chairman Mohammad Sirajul Islam in the chair. Prime Minister's Adviser for Private Industry and Investment, Salman Fazlur Rahman, made the declaration as the chief guest and called upon foreign investors, Bangladesh expatriates and local investors to invest in the country to reap advantages.</p> <p>The BIDA Executive Chairman said at least 1000 investors, including big companies, and 10 target countries are expected to attend the summit to explore the investment opportunities in Bangladesh. He said the summit would provide an effective national platform to promote private-sector-investment opportunities in an integrated manner covering areas like economic zones, 4th IR and ICT, readymade garments, textiles, electrical, electronics manufacturing, agribusiness, leather and leather goods, healthcare and pharmaceuticals. Besides, transports and logistics, power and energy, public-private partnership (PPP) opportunities, financial services, capital market and blue economy will also get focus in the summit when business-to- business meetings will also be organized to facilitate the investors in successful business dealings.</p>	13 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bangladesh-to-hold-intl-investment-summit-1631467882?date=13-09-2021) </p>	

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2	<p><u>Reducing dependency on import</u> <u>PRAN-RFL ramps up plastic recycling</u></p> <p>The PRAN-RFL Group has ramped up its plastic recycling activities, aiming to reduce dependency on the import of raw materials as well as keeping the environment clean. With its three recycling plants in operation, the company's recycling capacity has now reached 30,000 metric tonnes a year. Through plastic recycling, the company presently produces around 27,000 metric tonnes of raw materials such as plastic granules and pellets per year. If this amount of raw materials was to be imported, it would cost about Tk 4.0 billion, PRAN-RFL Group Director (Marketing) Kamruzzaman Kamal said, adding that a huge amount of foreign currencies are being saved every year due to the company's recycling activities. He also said the company churns out about 300,000 metric tonnes of plastic products a year, including household items, pipes and fittings, garment accessories and food packaging products.</p> <p>In the country, the demand for plastic products is about 2.4 million tonnes a year and per capita consumption is about 15 kg per annum, which is, however, far behind the global average of 60 kg. In developed countries in North America and western Europe as well as in Japan, the per capita consumption of plastic products is much higher-more than 100 kg per year.</p> <p>As a leading manufacturer of household products and processed foods, PRAN-RFL Group has a responsibility to maintain the balance of the environment, and keeping that in mind, the Group started plastic recycling in 2012, said Mr Kamal. The Group has so far invested Tk 3.20 billion in the plastic recycling, which has created direct employment for over 2,000 people while 4,000 more people are indirectly dependent on it, he added.</p>	13 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/pran-rfl-ramps-up-plastic-recycling-1631464028?date=13-09-2021)</p>	
3	<p><u>Experts focus on redefining SMEs</u> <u>Make updated Nat'l Industrial Policy for 4IR, DCCI webiner told</u></p> <p>Experts at a virtual dialogue on Sunday emphasised the need for redefining SMEs and startups in the proposed National Industrial Policy to ensure adequate financing - to have a vibrant private sector in the country and to get ready to face challenges of post-LDC era. They said product diversification, skill development, policy reforms, private sector-led economic transformation, technology adaptation, adequate training, and SME development are some of the areas that the industrial policy should focus on to help compete in the international market even after the LDC graduation. Speakers also emphasised protecting domestic market, facilitating import-substitute industries, cluster development, and participation of women entrepreneurs to make the policy up to date as per the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).</p> <p>They made these remarks at the webinar - 'Private Sector Expectation in the Proposed National Industrial Policy 2021' - organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).</p>	13 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/experts-focus-on-redefining-smes-1631462772?date=13-09-2021)</p>	

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4	<p>Govt seeks 12-year duty-free access to EU</p> <p>Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi is hopeful that the European Union will continue its trade benefit for Bangladesh for 12 years after the country's graduation from the grouping of the least-developed countries (LDCs). Bangladesh is set to leave the LDC group to become a developing nation in 2026.</p> <p>The country is negotiating with the EU, the largest export destination for Bangladesh, to secure the duty-benefit for 12 years after graduation, Munshi said.</p> <p>He spoke during a meeting with Rensje Teerink, the outgoing ambassador of the EU to Bangladesh, at his residence in Dhaka.</p>	13 Sept. 2021	<p>The Daily Star</p> <p>(https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-seeks-12-year-duty-free-access-eu-2174651)</p>	
5	<p>হালাল পণ্যের সনদ দেবে বিএসটিআই</p> <p>শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধীন সংস্থা বাংলাদেশ স্ট্যান্ডার্ডস অ্যান্ড টেস্টিং ইনস্টিটিউশন (বিএসটিআই) হালাল পণ্যের সনদ দেবে। সম্প্রতি শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয় এ বিষয়ে একটি প্রজ্ঞাপন জারি করেছে।</p> <p>প্রজ্ঞাপনে বলা হয়, প্রক্রিয়াজাত দ্রব্য, প্রসাধন সামগ্রী, ওষুধ ও অন্যান্য প্রক্রিয়া বা সেবার জন্য হালাল সনদ দেওয়া হবে। ক্ষুদ্র শিল্পে সনদ বা নবায়ন ফি এক হাজার টাকা, যা মাঝারি শিল্পে তিন হাজার ও বৃহৎ শিল্পের ক্ষেত্রে পাঁচ হাজার টাকা।</p>	13 Sept. 2021	<p>Prothom Alo</p> <p>(https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%A3%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%A6-%E0%A6%A7%87%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%87)</p>	
6	<p>Extended warehouse facility for exporters</p> <p>NBR relaxes rules as imported raw materials get stuck</p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has amended the relevant rules granting the exporters an extended time to avail bonded warehouse facility, as imported raw materials get stuck following external marketing slowdown. Officials said the board has relaxed rules for export industries across the board so that the businesses could enjoy the facility of duty-free import and warehousing of raw materials smoothly. Exporters, however, want a year instead of six months in extended period for the facility and also plead for the conditions tagged to the package to be scrapped. Warehousing period of duty-free products imported under the facility could now be extended following certain conditions under a circular to this effect.</p> <p>Export and bond division of the customs issued the circular under Section-119A and Section-219B of the Customs Act 1969. As per the Customs Act, exporters can avail bonding period for keeping duty-free products in warehouse up to 24 months for apparel units, which may vary from industry to industry. Customs commissioners can allow six more months, if necessary, bending the rule.</p> <p>The latest circular, signed by second secretary of the customs wing Moshir Rahman Mondol, empowers the top customs officials to allow extended bonding time with the approval from the revenue board. It would be valid for all export-oriented industries under bonded- warehouse facility, including those in EPZs, Economic Zone, and Hi-tech Park. The commissioner of customs or other authorized commissioners can consider applications of exporters, on a case-to-case basis, in case of ensuring compliance with all tagged conditions under the circular. The conditions for enjoying a flexible period by an exporter include keeping the qualitative standards of the stored raw materials, having capacity to export finished products using the raw materials and having updated audit or renewal.</p>	14 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express</p> <p>(https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/extended-warehouse-facility-for-exporters-1631554016?date=14-09-2021)</p>	

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7	<p><u>Simplifying GSP rules for graduating drawbacks</u> <u>Dhaka urges London to amend 'goods graduation' provision</u></p> <p>Facing LDC graduation drawbacks for the current crisis, Bangladesh urges the UK to simplify its Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) system through amending its 'goods graduation' provision. The government made the move for mitigating the evolving challenges, including the upset done by the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, on way to Bangladesh's exit from the world's poor-country club. It has suggested offering LDC graduation in the Enhanced Framework and same Rules of Origin (ROO) provisions as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) enjoy.</p> <p>Bangladesh made the request in a position paper prepared by the commerce ministry on the United Kingdom's future tariffs and policies in relation to simplification of its draft GSP document. The ministry already sent its position paper to the UK government, an official confirmed. Currently, the UK is working to introduce a new GSP scheme next year, suiting the changed context. Earlier, the UK had provided a questionnaire on its new GSP scheme and asked for position paper from Bangladesh, alongside other countries concerned, by 12 September 2021. The London launched an eight-week public consultation on the new GSP documentation that ended on September 12.</p>	14 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/dhaka-urges-london-to-amend-goods-graduation-provision-1631554258?date=14-09-2021</p>	
8	<p><u>Trade, investment summit begins on October 26</u></p> <p>Bangladesh foreign ministry will extend its all-possible support to holding of the week-long 'Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit' next month. Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and the Ministry of Commerce are going to organise the global investment summit virtually, in order to deepen Bangladesh's collaboration with investors from six continents.</p> <p>Scheduled to be held between October 26 and November 1, the week-long virtual summit is expected to promote Bangladesh as an attractive destination of trade and foreign direct investment (FDI). Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen assured of the support during a meeting with DCCI President Rizwan Rahman at the ministry on Sunday.</p> <p>To celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of the independence of Bangladesh, the commerce ministry and DCCI have taken the initiative to jointly organise the summit. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given her consent to inaugurate the summit as the chief guest.</p> <p>The theme of the summit is 'Connecting the Economy of Tomorrow', coinciding with the spirit of 1971 where the number 1 stands for a single host nation, 9 stands for nine sectors, 7 stands for seven days and 1 stands for a summit, said a press release.</p>	14 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/trade-investment-summit-begins-on-october-26-1631548958?date=14-09-2021</p>	

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9	<p><u>Beximco Pharma acquires majority stakes in Sanofi Bangladesh for Tk 400 crore</u> Beximco Pharmaceuticals today made final agreement to acquire 54.6 per cent stakes in Sanofi Bangladesh for over Tk 400 crore. Beximco acquired the shares as it looks to expand its product base and diversify into new areas. With this, the French pharmaceuticals giant Sanofi will exit Bangladesh ending its presence in the country that spans over more than six decades.</p>	14 Sept. 2021	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/beximco-pharma-acquires-majority-stakes-sanofi-bangladesh-tk-400-crore-2175891)	
10	<p><u>NBR honours 33 large taxpayers</u> <u>BB chief deploras lax governance in financial sector</u> Bangladesh Bank (BB) governor Fazle Kabir on Tuesday termed the state of governance in the financial sector lax and underscored its improvement for the sake of sound economic health of the country. He felt that the tax-revenue collection from the financial sector could be increased by improving governance. Speaking at a function, attended by leading taxpayers and high tax officials, in Dhaka, he said the banks and financial institutions occupy 78 per cent of the financial sector, and it is they who could contribute to raising the country's tax-GDP ratio. The governor was speaking at an award-giving ceremony where some large corporate taxpayers were awarded for their fair tax records. The Large Taxpayers Unit (LTU) under income-tax wing of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) hosted the ceremony to honour the top taxpayers for their contribution to the public exchequer in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21. A total of 33 large taxpayers, including 13 private commercial banks, two non-banking financial institutions, two insurance companies, one telecoms operator, 10 manufacturing units, and an international oil and gas company received the tax award. The award-winning banks are: Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, The Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation, Dutch Bangla Bank Limited, United Commercial Bank Ltd, National Bank Ltd, Eastern Bank Ltd, Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd, Export Import Bank of Bangladesh, Trust Bank Ltd, The Premier Bank Ltd, BRAC Bank Ltd, and Prime Bank Ltd. From service sector, Grameenphone, Chevron Bangladesh Block 13 and 14 Ltd, MJL Bangladesh Ltd received the award. Two NBFIs--IDLC Finance Ltd and Infrastructure Development Company Ltd--also received the laurels. American Life Insurance and Shadharan Bima Corporation also were awarded. Recipients of the honour from the manufacturing-sector corporate taxpayers include British American Tobacco Bangladesh Limited, Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Sheikh Akijuddin Ltd, Uttara Motors Ltd, Uttara Automobiles Ltd, Perfect Tobacco Company Ltd, Nestle Bangladesh Ltd, Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd, and Olympic Industries Ltd. BB, Titas Gas and Grameenphone received award as withholding tax- deducting authorities.</p>	15 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-chief-deploras-lax-governance-in-financial-sector-1631643446?date=15-09-2021)	


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11	<p><u>IDLC Finance earned first position in non-banking financial institution category by providing the highest amount of revenue financial year 2020-2021</u></p>  <p>IDLC Finance Limited, the country's largest financial institution has earned the first position in the non-banking financial institution category by providing the highest amount of revenue in the financial year 2020-2021. Governor of Bangladesh Bank Fazle Kabir, the chief guest of the occasion, handed over a memento of honor the MD & CEO of IDLC Finance, M Jamal Uddin for providing the maximum amount of revenue to the government in this category.</p>	15 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/idlc-finance-earned-first-position-in-non-banking-financial-institution-category-by-providing-the-highest-amount-of-revenuefinancial-year-2020-2021-1631641588?date=15-09-2021)</p>	
12	<p><u>Stimulus for farm sector</u> <u>BB unveils Tk 30b fresh refinancing scheme</u></p> <p>A Tk 30-billion fresh refinancing scheme has been under the stimulus package for agriculture for bolstering the sector as part of Bangladesh's economic recovery, officials said. Low-cost funds from the package will be used to help in offsetting the adverse impact of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic on the priority sector, they added.</p> <p>The participatory banks of the scheme will get refinance facilities from the central bank at 1.0 percent interest, according to a notification issued Tuesday by the Bangladesh Bank (BB). "The interest rate for the farmers has been fixed at maximum 4.0 per cent and it will be the same for old-and new loan-recipients," it says.</p> <p>Earlier on August 23, the board of directors of the central bank had approved the refinancing scheme to help Covid-hit agriculture sector. Under the scheme, the money will come from BB's own fund and its tenure will end on June 30, 2022. Interested scheduled banks have been asked to sign participation agreements with the Agricultural Credit Department of the central bank within 15 days from the issuance of the notification.</p> <p>The special refinancing fund has been formed for the agriculture sector as second phase of the refinancing facility for the sector, which came to a great help when economic activity was upended in Bangladesh and countries across the globe. The BB earlier had formed a special refinancing scheme worth Tk 50 billion for the agricultural sector on the same grounds.</p>	15 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-unveils-tk-30b-fresh-refinancing-scheme-1631643625?date=15-09-2021)</p>	

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13	<p><u>Trade thru Ctg port reaches pre-pandemic level</u></p> <p>Exports and imports through the Chattogram port have reached pre-pandemic levels, riding on an ongoing recovery in global trade.</p> <p>In August this year, the country's premier port handled 2,76,690 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of containers in contrast to 2,41,867 TEUs in the same month a year ago, according to the Chattogram Port Authority. In January-March 2020, the number was 2,59,000 TEUs on an average before the pandemic had hit the country. Chattogram customs house's revenue collection crossed Tk4,410 crore in August 2021, up from Tk3,265 crore a year ago and Tk2,927 crore in 2019.</p>	15 Sept. 2021	<p>The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/trade-thru-ctg-port-reaches-pre-pandemic-level-302632)</p>	
14	<p><u>Sukuk gets VAT waiver</u> Beximco, BB beneficiaries</p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has offered tax benefit to popularise Sukuk, an Islamic financial instrument. The waiver has been offered in a bid to make the local bond market vibrant. The Value Added Tax (VAT) wing of the board has waived taxes on sale and purchase of assets between originator and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of Sukuk. VAT applicable to rent of assets or leasing of assets between them has also been waived through issuing a Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO). The VAT wing issued the SRO, dated September 7, 2021, offering the waiver against issuance of Sukuk. However, the NBR has imposed a condition to avail the waiver. Sukuk is a real asset-backed security and its issuing company will get back the asset after expiry of the leasing time or end of the term.</p> <p>Beximco as a maiden Bangladeshi company decided to issue the first-ever private-sector Sukuk 'Al Istisna' for Tk 30 billion. In December 2020, the government issued the first-ever Tk 80-billion Sukuk for a safe water supply project. According to a senior VAT official, the rate of VAT ranging from 7.5 per cent to 15 per cent has been waived for popularising the bond. The demand from the BB and the BSEC was to waive the VAT. In the budget for current Fiscal Year, the government has offered income tax exemption on Sukuk. It has waived gain tax at a rate of 4.0 per cent on transfer of asset to the SPV. Sukuk is akin to a treasury bond, which complies with the shariah laws. The market size of Islamic banks is an estimated 35 per cent of the total banking sector.</p> <p>The issuer of Sukuk will have to obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Bangladesh Bank, if needed from Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), for formation of SPV.</p>	16 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/sukuk-gets-vat-waiver-1631727908)</p>	

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15	<p><u>BB tightens grip on NBFIs</u> Loan rescheduling not more than thrice The central bank now tightens noose around loose-run lending operations by non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) limiting their loan or lease rescheduling to only thrice. Officials of the Bangladesh Bank say the brake is being pressed to ensure "credit discipline" in the sector -- where a slew of fiascos are being complained in some cases.</p> <p>The NBFIs have been instructed to make decisions on the rescheduling of loans or leases within one month after receiving requisite down payments, according to a notification issued Tuesday by the BB. Application for first-time rescheduling will be taken into consideration upon receiving cash payments of at least 15 per cent of the overdue installments or 10 per cent of the total outstanding amount of a loan or lease, whichever is less. Rescheduling application for a second time will be considered upon receiving cash payments of minimum 30 per cent of the overdue installments or 20 per cent of the total outstanding amount of a loan or lease, whichever is less. For third time, application for rescheduling will be considered upon receiving cash payments of minimum 50 per cent of the overdue installments or 30 per cent of the total outstanding amount of a loan or lease, whichever is less.</p>	16 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-tightens-grip-on-nbfis-1631727977)	
16	<p><u>BD, Australia sign TIFA agreement</u> Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and Australian minister for trade, tourism and investment Dan Tehan signed a trade and investment framework on Wednesday (15 Sept.2021). The Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA), the first of its kind between Australia and Bangladesh in the past five decades, is expected to provide a platform for institutionalised economic interactions and open newer opportunities. A spokesperson for foreign ministry said this while announcing the deal that was done during a virtual signing ceremony.</p> <p>Bangladesh-Australia bilateral trade has grown sixfold over the past decade, reaching A\$2.6 billion last year. Ready-made garment, agriculture, food and education services were the key drivers of this growth.</p> <p>A joint working group (JWG) will be formed under the TIFA with due representations from relevant sectors and sub-sectors. The JWG is expected to offer a mechanism to take forward negotiations to realise the fuller potential of trade and investment.</p>	16 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-australia-sign-tifa-agreement-1631728132)	
17	<p><u>Per capita foreign debt now stands at Tk 24,890</u> Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal on Wednesday (15 Sept.2021) said the per capita foreign debt of Bangladesh citizens is now Tk 24,890, reports BSS. The minister revealed this information in parliament while replying to a tabled question from Awami League MP Didarul Alam from Chittagong-4. The finance minister said the current foreign debt now stands at US dollar 49,458 million.</p> <p>According to the Bureau of Statistics, the total population of the country is 169.31 million. And, in that context, the per capita foreign debt is now 292.11 dollars. If one dollar is equivalent to Tk 85.21, it stands at Tk 24,890, the minister said.</p> <p>Replying to another query from Didarul Alam, he said the amount of loan agreements with various development partner countries and institutions as of June 30 is \$ 95,908.34 million. Of the total amount, \$59,458 million have been disbursed while \$46,450.34 million are under the process of disbursement, he said.</p>	16 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/per-capita-foreign-debt-now-stands-at-tk-24890-1631728214)	

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18	<p><u>BSCIC to launch e-commerce platform</u></p> <p>The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) is all set to launch an e-commerce platform enabling local entrepreneurs to sell different products in the domestic and global markets. Artisans of cottage and micro industries and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will be able to get registered with this BSCIC Online Market to promote and expand the market of their products.</p>	16 Sept. 2021	<p>The Daily Star</p> <p>(https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/e-commerce/news/bscic-launch-e-commerce-platform-2177046)</p>	
19	<p><u>Experts call for enhancing SME Foundation's capacity</u></p> <p>Experts have urged the government to take long-term plans and allocate adequate funds to enhance the capacity of the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Foundation as its loan recovery rate is around 99%. SME Foundation Chairperson Dr Md Masudur Rahman said, "The SME Foundation started its activities with an endowment fund of Tk200 crore. It is running on the interest of that Tk200 crore. No more money was allocated after that. It is difficult to work with about one crore entrepreneurs with this fund. Yet we are working. We have made good progress in the last 13 years."</p> <p>"If the SME sector, the main driving force of the country's economy, could not be taken forward, it would be difficult to build a developed Bangladesh by 2041 as per the government's target. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the SME Foundation's capacity, especially its financial capacity," he said at the signing ceremony of an agreement between the SME Foundation and banks and financial institutions for disbursement of Tk200 crore loan for the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprise (CMSME) sector on Thursday.</p>	16 Sept. 2021	<p>The Business Standard (TBS)</p> <p>(https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/experts-call-enhancing-sme-foundations-capacity-303586)</p>	
20	<p><u>Money for poor pours into wrong pockets, says WB</u></p> <p><u>Report on Bangladesh's social-safety-net, food-support recipes published</u></p> <p>Some 49-66 per cent of Bangladesh's social-safety-net-allowance-and food-support beneficiaries are not poor, says the World Bank, indicating porous delivery system for the state annuity. It is one of the findings laid down in a WB report, titled 'Bangladesh Social Protection Public Expenditure Review', launched Thursday (16 Sept.2021) in Dhaka.</p> <p>In its report the global development financier shows that overall 36 per cent of total social- protection spending serves only 0.45 percent of the country's population through the pensions for government officials. The young but poor children are getting only 1.6 per cent of the total social-protection benefits from government exchequer although they represent one in eight poor in the country, it noted.</p> <p>Presided over by Operation Manager in WB Dhaka office Dandan Chen, the report-launching programme was addressed, among others, by BRAC Chairperson Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Director-General Dr Binayak Sen and Additional Secretary at the Finance Division Nazma Mobarek. The WB in its report suggests reallocating existing transfers (social safety-net proceeds) to the poorest could reduce poverty from 36 per cent to 12 per cent in Bangladesh. The Bank finds the social-protection programmes mostly focused on rural areas. It found about 11 per cent of people in urban areas covered by social protection whereas 19 per cent of urban population poor.</p>	17 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express</p> <p>(https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/money-for-poor-pours-into-wrong-pockets-says-wb-1631814847)</p>	

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21	<p><u>Quick power supply act gets five-year extension</u> <u>JS passes bill amid protests, experts decry move</u></p> <p>The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) on Thursday extended the tenure of the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) (Amendment) Act, 2010 by five more years until October 2026 amid strong opposition from parliamentarians, experts and rights groups. Nasrul Hamid, state minister for the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, moved the Bill, and it was passed by voice vote.</p> <p>The law allows a sweeping authority to bypass existing legislation for quick implementation of projects in the energy and power sectors. All types of power and energy projects, including the import of natural gas, coal, LNG (liquefied natural gas) and petroleum products, as well as the extraction of mineral resources would be eligible for implementation without the usual tendering process - at least for the next five years under the purview of the law. Electricity generation, transmission and distribution projects would also be covered under the Act. The legislation states that any activity, which comes under its purview, or any official or employee implementing such activities cannot be subject to any legal challenge. The law also allows parties interested in power and energy projects to enter into contracts through negotiations with a special committee. The committee comprises top officials of the energy ministry and the state-owned power end energy entities. Under the special law, the government has already approved and implemented a number of power and energy projects, including dozens of furnace oil, diesel, coal and gas-fired power plants, FSRUs (floating, storage and re-gasification unit), drilling of over a dozen of onshore gas-wells by local and international oil companies, and installation of oil-carrying pipelines, etc.</p> <p>The law was first enacted in October 2010. It was extended for the first time by two years until October 11, 2014. The special law was further extended by four years until October 11, 2018. It later got a three-year extension until October 2021.</p>	17 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/quick-power-supply-act-gets-five-year-extension-1631814951)</p>	
22	<p><u>No record in National Archives can be destroyed</u></p> <p>The Bangladesh National Archive Bill, 2021 was passed in Parliament on Thursday with a strong provision that no record can be destroyed, reports UNB. The Bill moved by State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid to replace the National Archive Ordinance, 1983 in line with a High Court order, was passed by voice vote.</p> <p>The provision of destroying any record has been dropped from the law. So, no record stored in the National Archives can be destroyed. The soft copies of classified documents will have to be stored in Kaliakoir Data Centre after a certain period of time. There will be a 17-member advisory council for three years for the National Archives and its Director General (DG) will be appointed by the government.</p> <p>As per the proposed law, the National Archives will provide records to any individual upon application and provide applicable fees. Regarding sending any file abroad, which is above 75 years' old and has historical, cultural and literature value, it will require permission from the Director General. If the DG thinks that this will go against the country then the DG can deny the permission. The aggrieved person can apply to the government within 14 days of informing him officially and the decision of the government is final.</p> <p>If anyone tampers or destroys or erases or hacks any file of the Archive that person will be imprisoned for three years or fined Tk 20,000. If anyone takes any file from the Archive illegally, smuggles it abroad or takes it outside the Archive building with an ill intention, that person will be imprisoned for five years or fined Tk 100,000.</p>	17 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/politics-policies/no-record-in-national-archives-can-be-destroyed-1631814398)</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
23	<p><u>Gas supply crunch cuts mills' output by 40pc</u> <u>BTMA claims</u> Many textile and spinning mills, operated with captive power plants, lost their production capacity by 40 per cent on an average due to shortage of gas supply, leaders of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) claimed on Thursday. They noted that following low pressure in the gas-lines - connected to the captive power plants, production of yarn dropped significantly, which may have an adverse effect on the country's ready-made garments (RMG) sector.</p> <p>The BTMA leaders said these at a press conference, organised by the association at a hotel in the city's Gulshan-2 area. Referring to the production crunch in spinning, weaving, dying, printing and finishing mills, BTMA President Mohammad Ali Khokon said most of these factories run on captive power, where gas is the main source of fuel. But recently gas supply to those factories, specially located in Narayanganj, Savar, Dhamrai, Sauria, Gazipur and Chattogram, reduced significantly that led to shutdown of their production.</p>	17 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/gas-supply-crunch-cuts-mills-output-by-40pc-1631815605)	
24	<p><u>Regional GDP data to help cut disparity, says state minister</u> Economic growth estimation broken down by region will help reduce disparity, according to State Minister for Planning Shamsul Alam, reports bdnews24.com. "Regional GDP [gross domestic product] is very significant. It is important to know the position of different regions with regard to GDP," Alam said at the inauguration of a workshop on Thursday as he made a recommendation to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. "We need to know which areas like Dhaka, Chattogram, Barishal or Rajshahi are making good progress."</p> <p>Bangladesh, at one time, used to estimate the regional GDP growth rate, Alam recalled. The autocratic government in the 1980s repealed the system as they never wanted statistics that showed this regional disparity, he said. Most of the countries keep a quarterly account of GDP, which provides important information and data. "Not only is collecting data important, but its timely dissemination is also necessary," he said.</p>	17 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/regional-gdp-data-to-help-cut-disparity-says-state-minister-1631811133)	
25	<p><u>BAT Bangladesh received special recognition from Large Taxpayer Unit</u></p>  <p>BAT Bangladesh has received special recognition from Large Taxpayer Unit (LTU) as one of the top taxpayers in the country. This recognition was given to BAT Bangladesh in the manufacturing sector for its contribution in paying income tax. The chief guest and Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Fazle Kabir handed over the recognition to BAT Bangladesh Chairman Mr. Golam Mainuddin and Mr. Sheikh Shabab Ahmed, Head of External Affairs at a function held at a hotel in the capital on Tuesday.</p>	17 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bat-bangladesh-received-special-recognition-from-large-taxpayer-unit-1631811368)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
26	<p><u>Sadharan Bima wins taxpayer award</u> The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has awarded Sadharan Bima Corporation as a top taxpayer in the Insurance category for financial year 2020-21, says a statement. Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir handed over the awards to the top taxpayers in different categories at a programme organised by the NBR's Large Taxpayers Unit (LTU), Dhaka, recently.</p>	17 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/sadharan-bima-wins-taxpayer-award-1631811571)	
27	<p><u>ডুয়িং বিজনেস রিপোর্ট আর দেবে না বিশ্বব্যাপক</u> বহুল আলোচিত ডুয়িং বিজনেস রিপোর্ট বা ব্যবসা করার সূচকবিষয়ক প্রতিবেদন আর দেবে না বিশ্বব্যাপক গ্রুপ। বেশ কিছু অনিয়মের অস্তিত্ব টের পাওয়া ওয়াশিংটনের সদর দপ্তর থেকে এ সিদ্ধান্ত নেওয়া হয়েছে। গতকাল এ বিষয়ে নিজেদের ওয়েবসাইটে একটি বিবৃতি দিয়েছে বিশ্বব্যাপক।</p>	17 Sept. 2021	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%A1%E0%A7%81%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%82-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%BB-%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%99)	
28	<p><u>Harnessing MMF potential vital for BD economy</u> <u>Vietnam already outmatches Bangladesh over manmade fibre apparel</u> As Bangladesh struggles to keep its position as the second-largest apparel exporter of the world, the country is desperately in need of policy support to make a solid foothold on potential man-made fibre (MMF) in which its rival marches ahead. This apparel sub-sector holds the prospect of emerging as the game-changer in global textile trade, as is evident from its growth, outmatching the traditional wear. Over the decade the world has seen a spectacular growth of the MMF sector in apparel trade, but, in Bangladesh, the contribution of MMF to the country's apparel basket is less than 30 per cent, far below the world average of 63 per cent. Industry experts say that if the country fails to boost the share of MMF in the trade cake, it may slip from its present ranking as one of the top apparel exporters. According to a report, in the year 2019, the global manmade-apparel trade stood at around \$179 billion with Bangladesh holding roughly 5-percent market share, whereas its main rival, Vietnam, had a 10- percent share. MMF has versatile use in end-use categories such as sportswear, leisurewear, women dresses, home textiles, automotives, carpets and other industrial sectors. The 27 factories producing manmade yarns in Bangladesh meet only 20 percent of the national demand. Foreign investors are, however, eager to set up MMF factories in Bangladesh sensing a huge untapped demand. Industry analysts suggest that incentives in producing MMF can also lure huge FDI into the country as Bangladesh has a strong forward linkage in the apparel sector.</p>	18 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/harnessing-mmf-potential-vital-for-bd-economy-1631901079)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
29	<p><u>Rediscover economic priorities</u> Economists suggest at PRI report launch</p> <p>Bangladesh can emulate Vietnam's development experiences by adapting their policies to its context in the changing paradigm, including increasing investment on innovation and technology, research and skills development, according to a study report. The report, revealed in a virtual event Friday (17 Sept.2021), identified other lessons from Vietnam experiences Bangladesh could emulate. Those are flexible exchange rate to keep export competitive, competitive tariffs to attract foreign direct investment, well-connected global value chain and comprehensive policy reforms and regular update. Titled 'Vietnam's Superb Export Performance: Lessons for Bangladesh', the report of Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) mentions that Vietnam spends 5.0 per cent of its GDP on education and training, 2.0 per cent on health and 6.0 per cent on social protection. "As compared to this 13 per cent of GDP investment, in human capital, Bangladesh spends 1.9 per cent on education, 0.7 per cent on health and 1.0 per cent on social protection accounting for a mere 3.6 per cent on human development," says the report, discussed by eminent economists, policymakers and business leaders. At 0.53 per cent, Vietnam's R&D spending is modest and ranked 53rd out of 92 countries. In comparison, Bangladesh spends a mere 0.2 per cent on R&D and doesn't have any focus on R&D, innovation or technology acquisition. Chairman of PRI Dr Zaidi Sattar, Vice Chairman Dr Sadiq Ahmed and Director of PRI Abdur Razzaque prepared the study report.</p> <p>Managing Director of Apex Footwear Ltd Syed Nasim Manzur said FDI has to be welcomed. He expressed his support for FDI-facilitated growth rather than FDI-driven growth, but said "FDI is a must for growth". He noted that consistency in policies played an important role in Vietnam growth which has not been present in Bangladesh. The prominent businessman said Bangladesh can't remain protectionist and still expects participation of FDI in the growth. "Tariffs must be brought down to be competitive with global business," he told the virtual meet. He also stressed mind shifting in policies and improvement in connectivity and logistics.</p> <p>Barrister Nihad Kabir questions whether relevant authority in Bangladesh keeps touch or knows anything really about foreign investors here. She also questions the country's negotiating capacity for making the most of free-trade deals.</p>	18 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/rediscover-economic-priorities-1631901188)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
30	<p><u>Hasina's six proposals for making world better</u></p> <p>Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday put forward six proposals to make the world more liveable by bringing down carbon emissions and tackle the people being displaced across the globe due to climate change, reports UNB.</p> <p>She placed her proposals while delivering the pre-recorded speech in the 'Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate', convened by US President Joe Biden.</p> <p>The Prime Minister, in her first proposal, asked the major emitters to reduce their emissions to keep the global temp rise at 1.5 degrees Celsius. In her second proposal, Hasina renewed her call for fulfilling the commitment of an annual 100-billion-dollar climate fund and distributing it 50:50 between adaptation and mitigation. The Prime Minister, in her third proposal, advised the developed countries to come forward with the most effective energy solutions along with technology transfer to the developing countries. While transitioning to renewables, stocktaking of respective development priorities of nation-states, according to loss and damage experienced by them should be considered, she said in her fourth proposal. In the fifth proposal, Hasina mentioned that the responsibility of rehabilitating people displaced because of sea-level rise, increased salinity, riverbank erosion, floods and draughts needs to be shared by all countries. The PM finally said the major economies have to work with all the stakeholders globally in partnership for ensuring a sustainable future for the next generation.</p> <p>Regarding Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said it is one of the most climate vulnerable countries. She mentioned that Bangladesh is the pioneer in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.</p>	18 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/hasinas-six-proposals-for-making-world-better-1631901323</p>	
31	<p><u>Bangladesh seeks duty-free access for 137 products to Saudi Arabia</u></p> <p>Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment advisor to prime minister, has requested Saudi Arabia to give duty-free export facility for 137 Bangladeshi products to reduce trade deficit between the two countries.</p> <p>Saudi Arabia can import halal meat from Bangladesh along with the products it currently imports from here, said Salman F Rahman during a virtual meeting with Dr Majid Bin Abdullah Al Qasabi, commerce minister of Saudi Arabia, on Saturday.</p> <p>Currently Saudi Arabia imports readymade garments, leather goods, plastic products, frozen fish, medicine from Bangladesh. At present, the trade between the two countries amounts to \$1.3 billion.</p>	18 Sept. 2021	<p>The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-seeks-duty-free-access-137-products-saudi-arabia-304372</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
32	<p>Growth of Covid-time tax revenue <u>Rise in source-tax does the trick</u></p> <p>Government's growing dependence on at-source-tax collection, including tax on service-holders' pay, is practically shifting tax burden onto common people because of absence of effective refund mechanism (ERM). Sources said despite tax squeeze for economic slowdown amid Covid-19 pandemic and corporate- tax cutbacks, the overall tax revenue recorded growth during the last financial year. The rise in the collection of withholding tax or payroll tax had made it possible. People who do not have taxable income are compelled to pay tax in the form of source tax, which, according to experts, economists and accounting professionals, turns out to be 'tax injustice' as they are not getting credit for the paid tax. The government offered a tax-free threshold for individual taxpayers up to Tk 0.3 million to facilitate low- income group of people. However, they are being deprived of the exemption benefit due to the levying different forms of WHT (with-holding tax) on them.</p> <p>The collection of withholding taxes is a common practice globally to mobilize tax revenue with effective refund system which is missing in the case of Bangladesh, analysts said. Individual taxpayers in the country hardly get refund of their paid tax at source if it exceeds their actual payable taxes. However, adjustment of source taxes can be done with the actual payable taxes on the basis of source- tax deduction.</p>	19 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/rise-in-source-tax-does-the-trick-1631985360</p>	
33	<p><u>BD eyes SOFR as LIBOR goes dead in January</u></p> <p>The government is working out transition, prospect and risk of SOFR-based borrowing as the incumbent LIBOR-based lending will be discontinued from January 2022. Finance ministry has asked the economic relations division (ERD) to scrutinise this transition, officials said on Saturday.</p> <p>The SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate), the new global benchmark for setting interest rates on commercial and consumer loans, will replace the LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate), introduced in 1986. Multiple scandals and a stirring role in the financial meltdown of the Great Recession have inspired efforts to replace LIBOR worldwide.</p> <p>The US markets started transitioning from LIBOR to SOFR in 2017 after the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) announced that LIBOR was at risk of discontinuation at the end of 2021. A senior finance ministry official said, "We have recently requested the ERD to work out the transition (process). The ERD will review the matter." Actually, Bangladesh has nothing to do with SOFR's implementation as the global financial market has decided to transit from the current LIBOR benchmark for borrowing, said an ERD official. Multilateral donors, including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank have already reminded Bangladesh of the transition from the next year, the official mentioned.</p>	19 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-eyes-sofr-as-libor-goes-dead-in-january-1631985815</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
34	<p><u>Private firms to get undersea cable licences</u> The government has initiated a move to award licences for submarine cable to the private sector with a view to attracting private investment to the telecommunication industry to support the growth in bandwidth consumption. "We will initially issue two licences for submarine cable in the private sector," said Mustafa Jabbar, posts and telecommunications minister, recently.</p>	19 Sept. 2021	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/private-firms-get-undersea-cable-licences-2179131)	
35	<p><u>RMG exports overwhelm Dhaka airport</u> Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) is struggling to handle the mounting pressure of container cargos as buyers of international apparel brands are now keen to take their goods by air to avoid congestion at transshipment ports with growing demand at their home markets. The airport is now handling 1.5 times more cargo than its capacity. Still, the huge number of containers is overwhelming the airport capacity, airport sources said.</p>	19 Sept. 2021	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/dropped/trade/rmg-exports-overwhelm-dhaka-airport-304381)	
36	<p><u>FIRMS WITHOUT BOND LICENCE</u> Committee formed to resolve local LC opening issue The commerce ministry on Sunday formed a working committee, subject to the commerce minister's approval, to resolve a crisis regarding the opening of back-to-back letters of credit by exporters without bond licence and payment of cash incentives to such exporters. Referring to a provision of Foreign Exchange Transaction Guideline-2018, the National Board of Revenue on August 31 sent a letter to the central bank, requesting it not to extend the facility of back-to-back LCs to the exporters without bond licence. It also opposed cash incentive payment against receipts of the factories which do not have bonded warehouse licence. Following the NBR letter, the country's readymade garment exporters sought the commerce ministry's intervention so that the exporters who do not hold bond licence could retain the facility of opening back-to-back LCs for sourcing raw materials from the local market. They claimed that more than 500 RMG factories procure raw materials from the local market against their master export LCs and if the facility is discontinued, the country would lose export earnings worth \$5 billion a year. Commerce minister Tipu Munshi on September 16 held a meeting with the exporters, the NBR and the Bangladesh Bank to resolve the issue. According to the decision made in the meeting, the ministry formed a working committee headed by commerce ministry additional secretary Md Hafizur Rahman.</p>	19 Sept. 2021	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/149572/committee-formed-to-resolve-local-lc-opening-issue)	


Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
37	<p><u>A swift somersault over LNG import</u></p> <p>The government has reversed its decision to discard import of expensive LNG from spot market within a month following a surge in demand for the fuel in industries and power plants. The Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR) had already instructed the state-run Petrobangla to take necessary action to resume the import of LNG or liquefied natural gas from open market this month, a senior energy official told the FE Sunday. The Petrobangla had stopped importing LNG from spot market in the first week of August following an instruction from the EMRD in view of price rises on the open market. The EMRD had decided not to import the expensive gas from spot market because of the price volatility on the international market after importing over a dozen cargoes until August.</p> <p>The state-owned Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL), a fully owned subsidiary of Petrobangla, also had stopped floating tender subsequently, thus ceasing open LNG import. Before the temporary pause in procurement from spot market, Switzerland's AOT Trading AG had supplied the last spot LNG cargo to Bangladesh for August supply at US\$13.069 per million British thermal unit (MMBTU) -- around 50-percent higher than the then LNG prices under term deals of around US\$8.5-US\$9.0 per MMBTU. Asian spot prices of LNG were, however, hovering around their highest seasonal level on record as European buyers competed with the East for limited world supply. The average LNG price for October deliveries into Northeast Asia was estimated at about \$20.10 per MMBTU, industry-insiders said. Sources said LNG re-gasification through FSRUs (floating, storage, re-gasification units) dropped 29.41 per cent to around 600 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) from around 850 mmcf following the halt.</p>	20 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/a-swift-somersault-over-lng-import-1632075253?date=20-09-2021</p>	
39	<p><u>Bank commissions cut to squeeze savings certificate sales growth</u></p> <p>Net govt borrowings with savings tools increased 67.47pc</p> <p>The government presses the brake on sales of national savings certificates (NSC) by way of slashing receivable commissions of commercial banks against transactions in these borrowing tools. The banks will receive commissions at a rate of 0.05 per cent from now on instead of 0.5 per cent on sales of the government borrowing tools. And banks will not receive more than Tk 500 on each of the registrations or purchases of savings tools, the latest decision says, thus halving the ceiling of receivable commission from Tk 1000. The Internal Resources Division (IRD) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) made the new rate of commissions effective from September 16, 2021.</p> <p>It has issued a circular making the new rate of commissions effective for five types of savings tools: family savings certificate, five-year-term Bangladesh Savings Certificate, three-monthly profit-based savings certificate, pensioners' savings certificate, and post office bank-term account (on total deposited amount).</p> <p>Talking to the FE, Director-General of the Directorate of National Savings (DNS) Maksuda Khatun said the government is trying to bring down the benefits of savings instruments considering its increased debt burden due to high rates of yield on the tools.</p>	20 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bank-commissions-cut-to-squeeze-savings-certificate-sales-growth-1632075677?date=20-09-2021</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
38	<p><u>BTTC starts study on BD's inclusion in RCEP</u> <u>It'll give report in three months</u></p> <p>A state-body has started conducting an in-depth feasibility study on possible impact and challenges of proposed inclusion of Bangladesh in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), officials said. The Ministry of Commerce (MoC) has instructed the state-run Bangladesh Trade and Tariff commission (BTTC) to take next course of actions in this regard, and submit a report on the research study within the next three months, they added. The BTTC has already requested different entities, including the National Board of Revenue and the Bangladesh Bank, to provide necessary information, an official of the agency said. He also said, "We have started the feasibility study, but it is now at initial stage."</p> <p>Possible challenges and potential goods and sectors, including future projection, would be identified and included under the study, according to a recent review meeting - on Bangladesh's possible inclusion in the RCEP and its impact - with Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh in the chair. The RCEP negotiations were formally launched during the 2012 ASEAN Summit in Cambodia. India withdrew its name from the agreement in November 2019 despite participation from the beginning of negotiations.</p> <p>On November 15, 2020 the ASEAN nations and Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea signed an FTA to boost trade among the Asia-Pacific nations under the banner of RCEP. The ASEAN members include Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos.</p> <p>In November 2020, the MoC formed a nine-member committee to review the possibility of Bangladesh's inclusion in the world's largest free trade area and sign FTA with the ASEAN bloc to boost the country's exports to the member states. The government is now considering giving importance to trade treaties with regional countries, a senior MoC official said.</p> <p>Member countries of the RCEP hope that formal ratification of the deal would be completed within January 01, 2022. The 15 member countries account for about 30 per cent of the world's population (2.2 billion people) and 30 per cent of the global GDP (US\$ 26.2 trillion) as of 2020, according to Wikipedia.</p>	20 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bttc-starts-study-on-bds-inclusion-in-rcep-1632075393?date=20-09-2021)	
40	<p><u>বৈদ্যুতিক গাড়ির জগতে ঢুকছে বাংলাদেশও</u></p> <p>বিশ্বজুড়েই বৈদ্যুতিক গাড়ি উৎপাদনের জোয়ার উঠেছে। জাপানের সহ বিশ্বের বড় বড় গাড়ি প্রস্তুতকারক কোম্পানি এরই মধ্যে বিদ্যুচ্চালিত গাড়ি বাজারে আনার ঘোষণা দিয়েছে। বাংলাদেশও এ ক্ষেত্রে পিছিয়ে থাকবে কেন? আধুনিক প্রযুক্তির বিদ্যুচ্চালিত গাড়ির জগতে প্রবেশ করতে যাচ্ছে বাংলাদেশ। কার্বন নিঃসরণ কমাতে ব্যাটারি তথা বিদ্যুচ্চালিত গাড়ি বাজারে আনার কাজ শুরু করেছে বাংলাদেশ অটো ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড। আসছে বছর দেশের রাস্তায় দেখা মিলবে বৈদ্যুতিক গাড়ি।</p> <p>বৈদ্যুতিক গাড়ি উৎপাদনে কারখানাটি তৈরি হচ্ছে চট্টগ্রামের মিরসরাইয়ে, বঙ্গবন্ধু শিল্পনগরে। এটি এখন পর্যন্ত দেশের সবচেয়ে বড় অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল। ৩০ হাজার একর জায়গার ওপর প্রতিষ্ঠিত অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চলে ইলেকট্রিক গাড়ি প্রস্তুত করতে ১০০ একর জায়গা পেয়েছে বাংলাদেশ অটো ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড। ২০১৮ সাল থেকে শুরু হয়েছে কারখানার কাজ। তবে করোনার ধাক্কায় মাঝখানে কিছু সময় গতি কমেছে কাজে। চীন, হংকং, দক্ষিণ কোরিয়া ও ইতালিকে অংশীদার করে আগামী বছরের শুরুতেই দেশের বাজারে বৈদ্যুতিক গাড়ি আনতে চায় বাংলাদেশ অটো ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ।</p>	20 Sept. 2021	Prothom Alo https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%88%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95-%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%A2%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%9B%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%E0%A6%93)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
41	<p><u>US-Bangladesh FTA deal</u> <u>Possibility looks bleak as compliance issues crop up</u></p> <p>Diplomats and trade officials see a bleak possibility of striking a free-trade area (FTA) agreement between Bangladesh and the United States as political and compliance issues may stand as deterrents. They, in this context, pointed out that the US did not restore the generalised system of preferences (GSP) facility for Bangladeshi products on various considerations and those could again stand in the way of signing a free-trade pact.</p> <p>Eager to sign a free-trade deal with the US, the ministry of commerce recently sought opinion of the Bangladesh embassy in Washington, D.C., on how the issue can be taken forward. Ambassador M Shahidul Islam replied to commerce secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh that the US is generally reluctant to strike FTAs and has so far concluded only 14 such deals covering 20 countries. "It would also appear that most of these FTAs have been concluded on political rather than economic considerations," he wrote. Mr Islam also wrote that tariffs may not be the main barrier to further growth of export to the US market for Bangladeshi products. "Also, elimination of tariff may not automatically increase our exports to the US market since we have limited exportable commodities, excepting readymade garments," he noted.</p> <p>Rather he feared that any move to sign an FTA deal with the US may only open another front of talk about Bangladesh's labour issues, intellectual-property rights and many other compliance requirements. He recommended that the commerce ministry examine the possible advantages and disadvantages associated with the proposed FTA deal with America before going forward or placing a formal proposal.</p>	21 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/possibility-looks-bleak-as-compliance-issues-crop-up-1632162304</p>	
42	<p><u>Commodities costlier as BDT falls vs dollar</u> <u>Import payments impact forex mkt</u></p> <p>Bangladesh Taka (BDT) has depreciated by 50 poisha against the US dollar during the past one month, making imports costlier and heating up the commodity market. Economists and businesses said depreciation of taka coupled with soaring prices of some essential commodities in the international market has hit the consumers hard. However, they say, exporters and remitters are gaining from the loss of value of the taka and the rise of the dollar. Sources said higher demand for the greenback for settling the import- payment obligations and lower inflow of the greenback mainly made the forex-market a bit overheated.</p> <p>The US dollar was quoted at Tk 85.30 each on the inter-bank foreign-exchange market on Monday against Tk 84.80 on August 17. It was Tk 85.25 on Sunday. Depreciation of the local currency started on August 18 last to meet the growing demand for the US currency on the market, according to market operators. The central bank has already extended its foreign-currency liquidity support to the banks to settle their import-payment obligations, a senior official of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) told the FE.</p>	21 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/commodities-costlier-as-bdt-falls-vs-dollar-1632162431</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
43	<p><u>Four add to export subsidy list</u> <u>Cash incentives for exporters under specialised zones enhanced</u></p> <p>The government unveiled a list of 42 exportable products, including four new, to receive cash subsidy in the current fiscal year while enhanced cash incentives for exporters under specialized zones. Officials said the four new products in the promotional export basket are tea, bicycle and its parts, MS steel products and cement sheet, produced locally. These export items will get 4.0-percent cash bounties in the fiscal year 2021-22. The exporters will cash subsidy on the products against net repatriation of the FOB (free-on-board) prices from July 01, 2021 to June 30, 2022, according to the announcement.</p> <p>The central bank issued a circular to this effect on Monday, asking the commercial banks to follow its provisions in handing out cash subsidy for the exportable products.</p> <p>For the FY'22, the rates of cash incentives have been fixed ranging between 1.0 per cent and 20 per cent like in the previous fiscal year, according to the central banker. He also said cash incentives for exporters under specialized zones like Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority have been enhanced.</p>	21 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/four-add-to-export-subsidy-list-1632162477</p>	
44	<p><u>Aiding pandemic recovery</u> <u>ADB to give \$250m loan for Bangladesh CMSMEs</u> <u>Deal signing likely by month-end</u></p> <p>The Asian Development Bank (ADB) would provide US\$ 250 million policy-based loan to Bangladesh for facilitating economic recovery of the CMSMEs amid the Covid-19 pandemic, officials said on Monday. The board of directors of the Manila-based lender is likely to approve the loan for Bangladesh on Friday, a senior official of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) told the FE. He said the ERD had taken preparations to sign a loan deal within the last week of the current month.</p> <p>Under the Sustainable Economic Recovery Programme, the ADB would help the CMSMEs (Cottage, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) to get enhanced access to finance, and the government to strengthen public financial management systems. It would also help rapid economic and social recovery from Covid-19 by increasing the tax-GDP ratio to 12.3 per cent in fiscal year (FY) 2025 from 8.9 per cent in FY 2019, increasing the public investment-GDP ratio to 9.24 per cent in FY 2025 from 8.03 per cent in FY 2019, and reforming the state-owned enterprises (SoEs) to minimise subsidies that drain the public exchequer.</p>	21 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/adb-to-give-250m-loan-for-bangladesh-cmsmes-1632162939</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
45	<p><u>Brummer & Partners to sell 24.93pc shares in Runner Auto</u> Brummer & Partners (Bangladesh) Limited, a concern of Sweden's largest hedge fund manager Brummer & Partners, has decided to sell off its entire shares of 24.93 per cent in Runner Automobiles Limited gradually. The foreign strategic partner of Runner Automobiles has recently applied to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission seeking permission to sell off the shares. Brummer & Partners (Bangladesh) Limited has run a fund called Brummer Frontier PE II (Mauritius) to provide long term growth equity capital to companies in Bangladesh. Earlier on September 28 in 2013, Brummer Frontier made an equity investment of Tk 105 crore through buying 13,478,261 shares at an issue price of Tk 77.91 each. The number of shares now stands at 28,304,347 after the company declared bonus for shareholders. Sponsor-directors hold 50 per cent shares of Runner where Brummer holds 24.93 per cent or 28,304,347 shares, according to the latest annual financial report of Runner. Runner's paid-up capital is worth Tk 113.5 crore and has 11.35 crore in outstanding shares. Runner Automobiles made debut on the stock exchange on May 21 in 2019 after raising Tk 100 crore through the IPO book building method. Shares of the company traded at Tk 64.7 each on Tuesday.</p>	21 Sept. 2021	New Age https://www.newagebd.net/article/149760/brummer-partners-to-sell-2493pc-shares-in-runner-auto	
46	<p><u>ব্যবসায়ীদের হয়রানি বাড়ার শঙ্কা</u> বিশ্বব্যাংক তার ডুয়িং বিজনেস প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশ হঠাৎ বন্ধ ঘোষণা করায় সংস্কারকাজ বড় ধরনের হেঁচট খেতে পারে বলে মনে করছেন দেশের ব্যবসায়ী ও অর্থনীতিবিদরা। সরকারি সংস্থা বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের (বিডা) কর্মকর্তারাও বলছেন, এত দিন বিশ্বব্যাংকের সহজে ব্যবসা করার সূচকের কথা বলে বিভিন্ন দপ্তরে বেশ কিছু সংস্কারকাজের তাগিদ দেওয়া হতো। এখন আরও বেশি শক্ত অবস্থানে যাবে সরকারি দপ্তরগুলো। সে জন্য সংস্কারকাজের গতি আরও শ্লথ হয়ে পড়ার আশঙ্কা করছেন তাঁরা। দেশের একাধিক ব্যবসায়ী প্রথম আলো কে জানান, বিশ্বব্যাংকের ওই প্রতিবেদন বন্ধ ঘোষণার ফলে সরাসরি বিদেশি বিনিয়োগে (এফডিআই) নেতিবাচক প্রভাব পড়বে। দেশের বাইরে বিনিয়োগ চলে যাওয়ার প্রবণতা বাড়বে। একই সঙ্গে ব্যবসায়ীদের হয়রানি বাড়বে।</p>	21 Sept. 2021	Prothom Alo https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BB%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%B9%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%99%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE	
47	<p><u>Axe falls on savings tools' rates</u> The government has slashed the yield rates on state-owned savings instruments and investment bond substantially, purportedly to contain its growing liabilities on account of servicing its debts from the borrowings. The Internal Resources Division (IRD) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) published a notification to this effect. It shows up to 2.0 per cent of yields cut on almost all savings schemes. The new rates, effective from Tuesday (21 Sept 2021), will be applicable to procurement of savings certificates afresh while the existing owners will continue receiving previous rates until maturity of their instruments. However, the government has also rearranged the yield rates on the basis of varied slabs of investment under the savings schemes. The developments on the important aspect of financial front came only two days after the IRD had made the new rate of commissions of commercial banks against transactions in these borrowing instruments.</p>	22 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/axe-falls-on-savings-tools-rates-1632247241	

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48	<p><u>Hasina receives SDGs Progress Award</u></p>  <p>Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina posing with the 'SDGs Progress Award' conferred by the UN-sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network in New York on Monday — PID</p> <p>NEW YORK, Sept 21 (UNB): Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been honoured with the "SDGs Progress Award" in recognition of Bangladesh's achievements in sustainable development from 2015 to 2020. The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and other organisations, including the Earth Institute of Columbia University and the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, jointly gave the award. The Prime Minister accepted the award at the 9th Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD), held virtually on Monday. Accepting the award, Sheikh Hasina dedicated it to the people of Bangladesh. The Prime Minister also extended her sincere thanks to ICSD for honouring the people of Bangladesh with this award.</p>	22 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/hasina-receives-sdgs-progress-award-1632247318)	
49	<p><u>44 global, local companies major plastic polluters</u></p> <p>Eleven global and 33 local parent companies are among the major plastic polluters in Bangladesh, a new study has showed. Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Pran-RFL Ltd, Nestlé and Unilever have been the country's largest plastic polluters for the fourth consecutive year, according to an Environmental and Social Development Organization (ESDO) Branding Audit Report. The report titled "Bitter Truth of Plastic Pollution" was published at a virtual information session on Tuesday (21 Sept 2021).</p> <p>This year ESDO conducted the Brand Audit-an initiative of measuring the number of different brands that can be found on plastic waste across the country, for three consecutive days in Dhaka and Mymensingh cities. They collected 19,963 pieces of plastic waste with a total weight of 132 kilograms and found 11 international and 33 local parent companies producing about 200 brands.</p> <p>The brands included Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Nestlé, Unilever, Perfetti Van Melle, Bombay Sweets and Co. Ltd, Pran-RFL Ltd, Square Foods and Beverage Ltd, Akij Group, and Meghna Group of Industries. ESDO's chief technical advisor Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmed said for four years in a row, top plastic polluters have been the same large companies. "These companies keep claiming that they are moving forward to an eco-friendly system but the truth is that they are still investing in false solutions. They must stop using single-use plastic packaging to prevent plastic pollution," he added. Siddika Sultana, executive director of ESDO, said from plastic packaging, chemicals such as dioxins are released into water and food which can cause endocrine disruption and lead to cancer, birth defects, immune system issues and developmental problems in children. The brand audit tool is designed by Break Free from Plastic (BFFP) global movement. The brand audit is mainly done to create awareness among people and manufacturers on safeguarding the environment from harmful consequences of using single-use plastics.</p>	22 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/44-global-local-companies-major-plastic-polluters-1632243867)	

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50	<p><u>NBR automates diplomatic bonded warehouse facility</u> <u>Ensuring speedy services, checking abuse aimed at</u></p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has brought diplomatic bonded warehouse (DBW) facility under automated system in a bid to ensure speedy services to the diplomats and check abuse of the duty-free import. People having DBW have to follow the new rules to avail duty-free facility on import of products from October 1, 2021.</p> <p>The NBR's Customs Wing issued a circular, on Monday, to simplify activities of DBW with a software, developed by diplomatic bond automation system. The circular contains specific guidelines and orders to operate DBW that has been issued under the Customs Act 1969 (Act no IV of 1969) - sections 13 (2), 119A and 219B. It has defined activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), NBR, Customs Bond Commissionerate (CBC), DBW and ICT Wing of NBR to operate the new system and allow the duty-free import. Currently, diplomats enjoy DBW facility by obtaining tax exemption certificate - issued by the MoFA, and passbook issued by the CBC.</p>	22 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/nbr-automates-diplomatic-bonded-warehouse-facility-1632248228)</p>	
51	<p><u>Govt to set up e-commerce regulatory body: Minister</u></p> <p>Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi on Wednesday said the government will set up an e-commerce regulatory body to monitor the sector. He also noted that there will be a detailed e-commerce law passed and enforced soon, alongside establishing a central complaint cell.</p> <p>"Legal actions as per the current law will be taken against those companies who have cheated customers," he said. He made the remarks after presiding over a meeting at the commerce ministry to review the recent problems in the country's digital e-commerce business and policy-related decisions regarding the sector.</p>	22 Sept. 2021	<p>The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-set-e-commerce-regulatory-body-minister-306103)</p>	
52	<p><u>ADB pegs Bangladesh's GDP growth at 6.8 pc in current fiscal</u></p> <p>The Asian Development Bank has revised Bangladesh's growth forecast for the current fiscal amid fears of a third wave of the Covid pandemic. In its latest report, the regional lender has pegged Bangladesh's gross domestic product growth at 6.8 per cent in the current fiscal.</p> <p>The growth projection for the current fiscal reflects a strong recovery supported by strengthening manufacturing, continued expansion in the global economy and effective government recovery policies, the ADB said. On the other hand, inflation is expected to slightly edge up to 5.8 per cent and current account deficit to narrow down to 0.6 per cent of GDP in financial year 22. However, FY22 growth is expected to remain below pre-pandemic levels, as per the Asian Development Outlook 2021 report released on Wednesday.</p>	22 Sept. 2021	<p>New Age https://www.newagebd.net/article/149798/adb-pegs-bangladeshs-gdp-growth-at-68-pc-in-current-fiscal)</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
53	<p>একগুচ্ছ সুযোগ চান তৈরি পোশাকশিল্পের মালিকেরা</p> <p>করোনাকালে শ্রমিকদের মজুরি পরিশোধে সরকারের ঘোষিত প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজ থেকে নেওয়া ঋণের অর্থ ১৮ কিস্তির পরিবর্তে ৩৬ কিস্তিতে পরিশোধের সুবিধা চান তৈরি পোশাকশিল্পের মালিকেরা। এই দাবি আদায়ে অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ের সিনিয়র সচিব আবদুর রউফ তালুকদারের সঙ্গে গত সপ্তাহে সাক্ষাৎ করেন পোশাকশিল্প মালিকদের সংগঠন বিজিএমইএর নেতারা। একই দাবিতে গতকাল মঙ্গলবার বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের গভর্নর ফজলে কবীরের সঙ্গে সাক্ষাৎ করেন তাঁরা। এ সময় আরও পাঁচটি দাবিও জানিয়েছেন সংগঠনটির নেতারা।</p> <p>গভর্নরের কাছে বিজিএমইএর নেতারা দাবি করেন, বর্তমান সংকটময় সময়ে পোশাকশিল্পকে টিকিয়ে রাখতে শ্রমিক-কর্মচারীদের বেতন-ভাতা দেওয়ার জন্য সরকারের ঋণের কিস্তির সংখ্যা ১৮ থেকে বৃদ্ধি করে ৩৬ করা। এ ছাড়া কোনো একটি শিল্পগোষ্ঠীর বা গ্রুপ অব কোম্পানির একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান ঋণখেলাপি হলে তাদের সহযোগী প্রতিষ্ঠানের চলমান ঋণ বন্ধ না করে খেলাপি ঋণ পুনঃ তফসিলের সুযোগ দেওয়া। করোনাকালে ইউএফ ফান্ডের সুদের হার ২ শতাংশ থেকে হ্রাস করে দেড় শতাংশ করা।</p> <p>গভর্নরের কাছে করোনাকালে পোশাক খাতের যেসব উদ্যোক্তা ব্যাংকঋণের কিস্তি পরিশোধ করতে পারেনি, তাদের ওপর আরোপিত-অনারোপিত সুদ, কস্ট অব ফান্ডসহ সব ধরনের চার্জ মওকুফ করার দাবি করেছেন বিজিএমইএর নেতারা। একই সঙ্গে অবশিষ্ট ঋণকে আগামী জানুয়ারিভিত্তিক হিসাব করে স্থিতির ওপর ২ শতাংশ ডাউন পেমেন্ট নিয়ে দুই বছরের গ্রেস পিরিয়ডসহ দশ বছর মেয়াদে ঋণ হিসাব পুনঃ তফসিল করার সুযোগ চেয়েছেন তাঁরা।</p>	22 Sept. 2021	<p>Prothom Alo https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%97-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%88%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE</p>	
54	<p><u>Govt issues automobile policy with fiscal perks</u></p> <p>The government has issued the country's first-ever automobile policy for the next ten years with a bunch of fiscal and other incentives, aiming to launch 'Made in Bangladesh' brand worldwide. With a vision to build Bangladesh as a regional hub of automobile industry by 2030, the Ministry of Industries (MoI) issued the Automobile Industry Development Policy 2021 on Tuesday (21 Sept 2021). It issued a gazette in this regard. The draft policy was approved by the cabinet on June 14.</p> <p>According to the policy, the buyers of locally assembled or manufactured vehicles would get a certain amount of income tax rebate on the prices of 'Made in Bangladesh' automobiles. The government would provide 15 per cent cash incentives against export of locally manufactured or assembled vehicles. Foreign investors of local spare-parts manufacturing industries would be able to repatriate their full dividends as per the policy. For ensuring local value addition, the policy prescribed a progressive production rate for the Original Equipment Manufacturers - to be eligible for cash incentives.</p>	23 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-issues-automobile-policy-with-fiscal-perks-1632333631</p>	

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55	<p><u>NBR lifts bar on sale of used duty-free machinery</u> Exporters are now free to sell their used capital machinery and spares, imported under duty-free facility, on the local market at duty-deducted cheaper prices. Heretofore, 100-per cent export-oriented industries are entitled to enjoy bonded-warehouse facility but had to pay duty-taxes for selling or transferring that duty-free machinery locally. The customs wing of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) issued Wednesday a circular lifting the deadweight to clear the path of affordable resale.</p> <p>Exporters said the restrictions on sale of used machinery put many in problem when they wanted to replace existing machinery or import advanced ones. Due to the pecuniary barrier they used to scrap the used machines despite their having working capacity.</p> <p>According to the current customs act, sale of duty-free machinery on the local market would require payment of full duty-taxes applicable to commercial imports. As such, despite having demand for such machinery on the domestic market, the exporters were unable to sell off those as none can afford the duty-loaded high price of second-hand capital goods.</p> <p>Absence of specific guidelines created confusions in the field-level customs offices, too, much to the embarrassment of the industrialists.</p>	23 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-lifts-bar-on-sale-of-used-duty-free-machinery-1632333734)	
56	<p><u>Sheikh Hasina offers more sectors for US investments</u> NEW YORK, Sept 22 (Agencies): Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought US investment in various potential fields apart from the existing energy, banking and insurance sectors as Bangladesh is developing its infrastructure and power supply systems to facilitate FDI. "The US is, of course, the largest investor in Bangladesh with stakes in energy, banking and insurance sectors. We invite US investment in other lucrative sectors like ICT, renewable energy, shipbuilding, automobile, light engineering, agro-processing, blue economy, tourism, knowledge based hi-tech industries," she said.</p> <p>She was presenting the keynote speech at a business roundtable joining virtually from her palace of residence in the Lotte New York Palace here on Tuesday (New York Local Time). The US-Bangladesh Business Council organised the virtual roundtable titled "Bangladesh Forward: The Frontier for Growth" in honour of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.</p> <p>The Prime Minister hoped that the US-Bangladesh Business Council may continue to play a catalytic role in raising the present annual bilateral trade of US\$ 9 billion to higher figures. She also expressed her expectation that Bangla-desh's trade relations can be further strengthened with duty free access and other trade privileges in the US market. US-Bangladesh Business Council president Nisha Biswal presided over the event.</p>	23 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/sheikh-hasina-offers-more-sectors-for-us-investments-1632334193)	

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57	<p><u>Separate regulator to govern e-com business</u> The government is going to constitute a separate regulatory authority to govern the country's e-commerce business and bring discipline in this area. An inter-ministerial meeting on Wednesday suggested bringing all the e-commerce portals in operation under a legal framework. Other proposals include formation of a central complaint management cell, mandatory registration, action against schemers and amending the Digital Security Act and Money Laundering Prevention Act.</p> <p>Home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, law minister Anisul Huq, and information minister Dr Hasan Mahmud attended the review meeting held with commerce minister Tipu Munshi in the chair. Commerce secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh, IGP Benazir Ahmed, representatives from different state agencies and e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB), among others, attended the meeting. Mr Ghosh presented the decisions made by the high-ups at a press conference. He said commerce ministry would start implementing the decisions from Thursday.</p>	23 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/separate-regulator-to-govern-e-com-business-1632334318)	
58	<p><u>Foreign JV to build 50MW solar power plant</u> Two foreign companies yesterday got the government nod to set up a 50-megawatt solar power plant in Khulna's Terokhada upazila.</p> <p>The cabinet committee on government purchase approved the joint venture, under which Business Research International Corporation Inc (BRIC), a Panamanian registered company, and Singapore-based Hero Future Energies Asia Pte Ltd will establish the solar power project.</p> <p>The government will buy each kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity produced at the plant for Tk 8.20 for 20 years. The project is estimated to cost Tk 1,328 crore.</p>	23 Sept. 2021	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-jv-build-50mw-solar-power-plant-2182161)	
59	<p><u>Economic recovery 'on track'</u> <i>BB says in Q4 review, attributing rebound to improving Covid situation</i></p> <p>The central bank sees a possible broad-based economic recovery in the near future due to improvement in Covid situation and wider reopening. It, however, warned of lurking downside risks from both internal and external fronts.</p> <p>In its latest quarterly review of the state of national economy and international causatives the Bangladesh Bank attributed the turnaround largely to the decline in Covid-19 infections alongside vaccination drives for immunization. The ongoing growth-supportive fiscal and monetary policies and optimistic outlook of exports are expected to help revamp the Covid-hit economy, according to officials.</p> <p>On the global front, slower-than-expected growth, rising inflation, shortage of inputs and labour, and rising shipping costs appear to be the downside risks to recovery, says the Bangladesh Bank Quarterly (BBQ) for April-June 2021. "In addition, some inflationary pressures may build up in the coming quarters because of any unexpected supply-chain disruption on top of the continuation of global price hikes," the BBQ says on a note of caution.</p> <p>As reaffirmed in the recent monetary policy statement (MPS), the central bank will remain vigilant and take necessary actions to contain any undue inflationary pressure and maintain macro-financial stability. It is expected that the continuation of the supportive monetary-and fiscal-policy measures could help mitigate the pandemic-inflicted economic losses and uplift the economy to its normal course in fiscal year (FY) 2021-22.</p>	24 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economic-recovery-on-track-1632419399?date=24-09-2021)	

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60	<p><u>BB eases forex release rules</u> <u>Dealers now can determine multiple-year private travel entitlements</u> Authorized dealer (AD) banks now can endorse foreign exchange for private travel for multiple years, but not exceeding the set limit per annum. The flexibility on account of private-travel purpose comes as the central bank further simplified its regulations on the release of foreign exchange to travelers, officials said. Under the relaxation, the authorized dealer banks are allowed to endorse/set travel entitlements to Bangladeshi nationals holding international cards for multiple years up to the validity of passports, according to a notification issued Thursday by the Bangladesh Bank.</p> <p>In this context, the AD banks need to observe specific conditions which include that yearly use will not exceed the set limit at US\$ 12,000. "Unused quota will not be brought forward to following years," the notification says about the latest of a series of updating of the forex regime. He also said the central bank has continuously been updating rules and regulations to facilitate foreign-exchange transactions. However, the central bank imposed restrictions on use of multiple-year travel entitlement for individuals proceeding abroad for employment/immigration or study purposes. The time limit for annual travel quota will be counted from January 01 to December 31. In case the travel involves subsequent year, travel entitlement will be counted for the particular year concerned. In that case, post-facto endorsement will be required for the subsequent year unless multiple years' endorsement facility has not been used. Cardholders can use an excess amount exceeding travel quota for unavoidable but bonafide grounds.</p>	24 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-eases-forex-release-rules-1632420151?date=24-09-2021)	
61	<p><u>Two-day int'l confce on business starts at DU tomorrow</u> The Faculty of Business Studies of Dhaka University (DU) will organise the two-day 5th International Conference on Business and Economics on September 25-26. This year the theme of the conference is 'business and economy in the new normal landscape.' The aim of the conference is to bring together academics and professionals under a common forum for developing strategies to meet the challenges of global business in the years to come.</p> <p>The conference will also create opportunity to share experience, exchange new ideas, foster innovations and establish research relations among participating individuals and institutions. The virtual opening ceremony will be held on September 25 at 10:00 am (Bangladesh Standard Time). Faculty of Business Studies has been organising such conference on business for the last five years.</p>	24 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/two-day-intl-confce-on-business-starts-at-du-tomorrow-1632419214?date=24-09-2021)	
62	<p><u>চামড়া শিল্প কর্তৃপক্ষ গঠনের প্রস্তাব</u> চামড়া একটি বৃহৎ শিল্পখাত। চামড়া শিল্পের উন্নয়ন ও এ খাতের বিদ্যমান সমস্যাগুলো সমাধানের লক্ষ্যে চামড়া শিল্প কর্তৃপক্ষ গঠনের প্রস্তাব করেছে টাস্কফোর্স কমিটি। গতকাল শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়ের সম্মেলন কক্ষে চামড়া শিল্পখাতের উন্নয়নে সুপারিশ প্রদান ও কর্মপরিকল্পনা প্রণয়নের লক্ষ্যে গঠিত টাস্কফোর্সের ৪র্থ সভায় এ প্রস্তাব করা হয়।</p> <p>শিল্পমন্ত্রী বলেন, 'চামড়া একটি বৃহৎ শিল্পখাত। চামড়া রপ্তানির জন্য বিদেশে নতুন বাজার খুঁজতে হবে। চামড়া ব্যবসায়ীদের ব্যবসা সম্প্রসারণের জন্য প্রচেষ্টা চালাতে হবে। এজন্য সরকার সর্বকম সহযোগিতা করবে।' তিনি বলেন, ট্যানারি কারখানাগুলো হাজারীবাগ থেকে সাভারে নির্মাণ অসম্পন্ন চামড়া শিল্পনগরীতে স্থানান্তর করা হলেও কেন্দ্রীয় বর্জ্য শোধনাগার বা সেন্ট্রাল ইফলুয়েন্ট ট্রিটমেন্ট প্লান্ট (সিইটিপি) এবং অন্য উপাদানের কাজ এখনও শেষ হয়নি। এ অবস্থায় কয়েকটি ট্যানারির অনুকূলে পরিবেশ ছাড়পত্র দেয়া হলেও এখন পরিবেশ ছাড়পত্র নবায়নে সময়ক্ষেপণ করা হচ্ছে। আর পরিবেশগত ছাড়পত্র নবায়ন প্রাপ্তি বিলম্বিত হওয়ায় রপ্তানিকারক হিসেবে এক্সপোর্ট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট (ইআরসি), আমদানিকারক হিসেবে ইমপোর্ট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট (আইআরসি) ও শুষ্কমুক্তভাবে পণ্য আমদানির বন্দ সুবিধার ছাড়পত্র পেতে জটিলতা হচ্ছে।</p>	24 Sept. 2021	The Sangbad http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-09-24/news/business/103433/)	

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63	<p><u>UN chief lauds development miracle of BD</u> NEW YORK, Sept 23 (UNB): UN Secretary-General António Guterres has highly praised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the development in Bangladesh, calling it a 'miracle'. "The UN chief commended Bangladesh for its development in different sectors and humanity...he thanked the Prime Minister for achieving a development of miracle," said Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen. The Foreign Minister was briefing reporters after a bilateral meeting held between Sheikh Hasina and António Guterres at the UN Secretariat Building in New York on Thursday. As the Bangladesh Prime Minister arrived at the meeting venue, the UN Secretary-General said, "Welcome to your home." He said both the UN and Bangladesh shared common priorities in different areas, including climate, financing and SDGs. "We share common priorities. Whether it's climate, financing and SDGs. Those priorities in the UN are also the priorities of Bangladesh," Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Rabab Fatima, who was at the briefing, quoted António Guterres as saying. Sheikh Hasina urged the Secretary-General to appoint more Bangladeshis to higher posts in the United Nations since Bangladesh plays a significant role in the United Nations. "We're your major tools, but there're a few Bangladeshis in your different higher posts," she said. In reply, the Secretary General said they would consider it. The Bangladesh Prime Minister also had a bilateral meeting with Queen Maxima of the Netherlands at the former's place of residence. Hasina also held two separate bilateral meetings with President of the Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and President of Vietnam Nguyễn Xuân Phúc at the UN Headquarters.</p>	25 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/un-chief-lauds-development-miracle-of-bd-1632505491	
64	<p><u>Talks on Japan trade pact get fresh push</u> <u>Joint feasibility study on FTA or PTA proposed</u> Bangladesh moves to hold talks with Japan on the spadework for striking a much-envisaged free-trade agreement (FTA) or a preferential-trade agreement (PTA) with the developed Asian nation. Officials said the initial discussion would take place later this month on a joint feasibility study on the planned trade pact with Japan, currently world's third-largest economy after the US and China. Officials at the Bangladesh Ministry of Commerce and Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) would sit for the talks virtually, to minimise a gap on this long-pending issue, they added. The additional secretary of FTA Wing of the commerce ministry would lead the Bangladesh team comprising representatives from the Ministry of Industries, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority. Bangladesh in November last year requested Japan to conduct a joint feasibility study for signing FTA. However, Japan had shown reluctance to take forward the proposal regarding conducting a joint feasibility study. Amid the situation, Bangladesh has asked its commercial counsellor in Japan to keep constant contact with the METI officials to pursue them. Since Japan is yet to respond positively, now the commerce ministry officials in Dhaka have opted to intervene by holding talks with METI officials.</p>	25 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/talks-on-japan-trade-pact-get-fresh-push-1632505440	

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65	<p><u>Proposed new GSP may make Bangladesh's gains harder in EU</u></p> <p>The European Commission has proposed a new GSP (generalized scheme of preferences) framework which focuses on core issues like climate protection and good governance, and lowers thresholds for exports which, an economist and businessmen fear, may limit Bangladesh's gains from 'GSP plus' in key export items like apparels. The proposed scheme, to be discussed by the European Parliament, calls for lowering product graduation thresholds (that is, the temporary suspension of tariff preferences for highly competitive products) by ten percentage points so that the large industrialised producers leave more space in sectors where they are very competitive.</p> <p>Though the proposed step has been intended to maximise the opportunities for low-income countries to benefit from the GSP, it may prove difficult for Bangladesh's largest export sector, apparels.</p>	25 Sept. 2021	<p>The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/proposed-new-gsp-may-make-bangladeshs-gains-harder-eu-307522</p>	
66	<p><u>Lame ducks set to go from ADP</u> <u>Projects receiving funds despite no physical progress</u></p> <p>Fourteen lame-duck projects, which have been receiving government funds with "no execution progress" made for years, are destined to be dropped from the current ADP, Planning Ministry officials said. The ministry has taken a tough stance on those schemes, they said Saturday, adding that the ministry is likely to scrap those projects from the Tk 2.25-trillion Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the current Fiscal year (FY) 2021-22.</p> <p>The Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) has asked the relevant project-executing agencies and line ministries for sending details on the progresses, difficulties and their remedies, and the particulars of project directors.</p> <p>Among the "nil-progressed" projects, the Social Welfare Ministry has had three, the railway ministry, housing, and public works ministry have two each, the power division, foreign affairs ministry, local government division, internal resources division, information and broadcasting ministry, water resources ministry and the women and children affairs ministry have one each.</p>	26 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/lame-ducks-set-to-go-from-adp-1632590033</p>	
67	<p><u>BD gets \$250m ADB loan for post-pandemic recovery</u></p> <p>The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$250-million policy-based loan to support Bangladesh's economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Directors of the Manila-based lender approved the loan Saturday, the first sub-programme of the programmatic \$500 million Sustainable Economic Recovery Program, ADB said. Now the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance will sign a loan deal with the ADB for confirming its disbursement, officials said on Saturday.</p> <p>The assistance will help Bangladesh to facilitate a rapid and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, generate employment, and expand economic activities for micro-entrepreneurs and small businesses.</p>	26 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-gets-250m-adb-loan-for-post-pandemic-recovery-1632590261</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
68	<p><u>Int'l Investment Summit begins on Oct 26</u></p> <p>To attract investments from six continents, a week-long International Investment Summit will begin on October 26, where the country will be promoted as an attractive trading destination to global businesses. Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and the Ministry of Commerce have jointly organised the virtual summit to deepen collaboration with investors from Americas, Europe, Middle East, Southeast Asia, Australia and Africa. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the summit.</p> <p>According to a concept note of DCCI, the summit has been organised with the objectives to promote Bangladesh as an attractive trading and FDI (foreign direct investment) destination to global businesses, extend global integration on trade and investment into new global reality and secure investment in diverse priority and emerging industries for mutual benefits.</p> <p>The summit will congregate top policymakers of Bangladesh, leaders of successful companies and leading investors, business analysts, CEOs of large conglomerates and multilateral agencies from all over the world to harness investment treasure.</p> <p>The sectors to be highlighted in the summit are Infrastructure (Physical, logistics & Energy), IT/ITES & FINTECH, Leather goods, Pharmaceuticals, Automotive & Light Engineering, Plastic products, Agro & food processing, Jute & Textiles, FMCG & Retail.</p>	26 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/intl-investment-summit-begins-on-oct-26-1632590820)</p>	
69	<p><u>Experts for harnessing closer Sino-Bangla trade ties</u></p> <p>Alongside reaping the benefits of the Sino-Bangla ties, Bangladesh needs to sign seven to eight free trade agreements (FTAs) or preferential trade agreements (PTAs) with to help its business flourish. Such trade deals would help the country become a middle-income one in the next 15 years, said state minister for planning Dr Shamsul Alam on Saturday. Referring to the closer Sino-Bangla partnership, he says, "Within the next one decade, China will become the world's largest economy and it can contribute significantly to the development of Bangladesh."</p> <p>Mr Alam said this while addressing a webinar styled 'Chinese Investment: Prospects & Challenges in Bangladesh' hosted by the Bangladesh-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCCI). Mentioning that Bangladesh is on a clear pathway to development through framing the Delta Plan-2100, Dr Alam says foreign investment is crucial to make the development targets possible. Bangladesh requires \$6.0 billion worth of foreign investment on average every year to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030, he adds. Terming Bangladesh's decision to join China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' in 2016 courageous as many countries hesitated, Mr Alam says about 40 countries have joined the initiative for better trade connectivity.</p>	26 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/experts-for-harnessing-closer-sino-bangla-trade-ties-1632591037)</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
70	<p>Bangladesh joins New Dev Bank</p> <p>The Finance Ministry announced yesterday that Bangladesh has joined the NDB, a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS, an alliance of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.</p> <p>Bangladesh is the first country to become a member of the bank despite being outside the BRICS since its establishment in 2015.</p> <p>As a member, the country's total share in the bank will stand at \$942 million. Of this, \$753 million is authorised capital and the rest \$188.4 million is paid-up capital, an official of the ministry said. Bangladesh will have to pay \$188.4 million in seven instalments in seven years.</p>	26 Sept. 2021	<p>The Daily Star</p> <p>(https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bangladesh-joins-new-dev-bank-2184341)</p>	
71	<p>বাড়ছে ডলারের দাম, কমছে টাকার মান</p> <p>প্রবাসীদের পাঠানো আয় বা রেমিট্যান্স গত তিন মাস ধরে ধারাবাহিকভাবে কমছে। প্রত্যাশা অনুযায়ী আসছে না রপ্তানি আয়ও। অন্যদিকে আমদানি ব্যয় বেড়ে গেছে। ফলে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা সরবরাহে ঘাটতি দেখা দিয়েছে। বাড়ছে টাকার বিপরীতে ডলারের দাম। সবশেষ আন্তঃব্যাংক মুদ্রাবাজারে প্রতি ডলারের বিনিময় মূল্য দাঁড়ায় ৮৫ টাকা ৩০ পয়সা। যা এষাবৎকালের সর্বোচ্চ মূল্য। তবে খোলাবাজার ও নগদ মূল্যে ডলার ৮৮ থেকে ৮৯ টাকায় কেনাবেচা হচ্ছে।</p> <p>ব্যাংক সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মকর্তারা বলছেন, করোনা পরিস্থিতি কিছুটা স্বাভাবিক হওয়ায় দেশে আমদানি চাপ বেড়েছে। ফলে এর দায় পরিশোধে বাড়তি ডলার লাগছে। এ কারণে ডলারের দর বাড়ছে। তবে কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের কাছে পর্যাপ্ত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা মজুত রয়েছে। এখন বাজার স্থিতিশীল রাখতে ব্যাংকগুলোর চাহিদার বিপরীতে ডলার বিক্রি করেছে কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংক।</p>	26 Sept. 2021	<p>The Sangbad</p> <p>(http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-09-26/news/business/103563/)</p>	
72	<p>যুক্তরাষ্ট্র-বাংলাদেশের অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক ব্যবসায়িক সম্পর্ক জোরদারে এফবিসিসিআইয়ের আহ্বান</p> <p>যুক্তরাষ্ট্র ও বাংলাদেশের মধ্যে বাণিজ্যিক ও অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্কোন্নয়নে প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশী ব্যবসায়ীদের এগিয়ে আসার আহ্বান জানিয়েছে ব্যবসায়ীদের শীর্ষ সংগঠন এফবিসিসিআই। শুক্রবার যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের নিউইয়র্কে আমেরিকান বাংলাদেশী বিজনেস অ্যালায়েন্স আয়োজিত বার্ষিক বিজনেস সামিটে এ আহ্বান জানানো হয়।</p> <p>এ আয়োজনে প্রধান অতিথি ছিলেন এফবিসিসিআই সভাপতি মো. জসিম উদ্দিন। তিনি তার বক্তব্যে বাংলাদেশ ও মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের মধ্যে বাণিজ্যিক ও অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক আরো জোরদার করতে দুই দেশের ব্যবসায়িক যোগাযোগকে শক্তিশালী করার ওপর জোর দেন।</p>	26 Sept. 2021	<p>Bonik Barta</p> <p>(https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_description/275632/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%95-%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%AB%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%87%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%B9%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8)</p>	