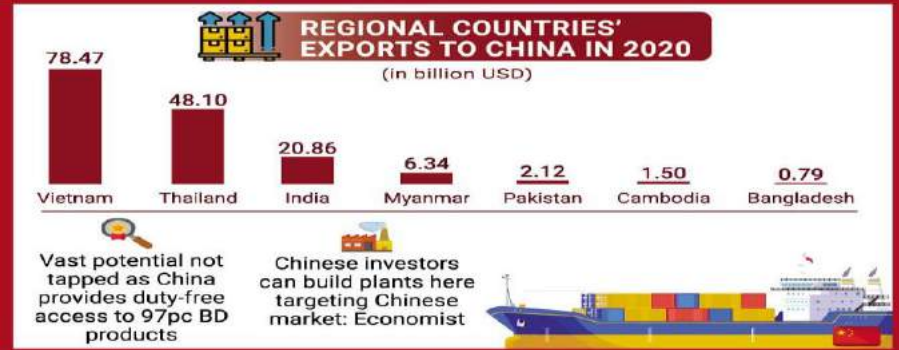


Fortnightly Summary

Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 13 - 25 October 2021

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p>TT/PPE manufacturing <u>Study finds huge potential for BD</u></p> <p>Bangladesh has huge potential in technical textiles (TT) and personal protective equipment (PPE) manufacturing, as the global market for these items is projected to grow to more than US\$300 billion by 2025, according to a study. It, however, identified a number of critical challenges, including uncontrolled unit costs and lead time, lack of certification for raw and processed materials, and absence of marketing intelligence and branding, that currently limit the country's potentials to grab the global TT/PPE market. The global market for TT and PPE is projected to grow to \$224 billion and \$93 billion respectively by 2025, according to the findings of a feasibility study - 'Scaling up Production of TTs including PPEs in Bangladesh' - conducted by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). The study findings along with a number of recommendations were disclosed at a virtual webinar on Tuesday.</p> <p>Charles Dagher, one of the authors of the study, presented a list of the most important critical gaps that currently limit potential growth of the sub-sector. He also mentioned that absence of collaboration within industry, low international recognition as suitable TT/PPE sub-sector supplier, little awareness among key players of traditional textile and clothing sector are negatively impacting its competitiveness. Inadequate capacity to master new technologies, limited training for technical or human resources management, and slow customs clearance and other procedures are also affecting the growth potentials, he noted.</p>	13 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/study-finds-huge-potential-for-bd-1634059042)	
02	<p><u>Fresh pacts ahead as PPP funding barren</u> <u>PPPA about to sign new deals with banks, FIs</u></p> <p>Fresh financing agreements are set to be signed with banks and financial institutions following the expiry of previous deals sans successful funding of any PPP projects in the last five years under the latest economic model. Officials said the Public-Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) got armed with fit preparations to strike the deals, in a fresh bid to give a shot in the dormant PPP arm. Fifteen banks and non-banking financial institutions or NBFIs will join hands with the PPPA this time around under memorandum of understanding (MoU) to be inked at a city hotel today (Thursday).</p> <p>The PPPA signed the first MoU on 'PPP Financing Partnership' with 14 banks and FIs, including a Japanese bank, on November 03, 2016 to facilitate smooth financing and speedy implementation of projects under the emerging model which a mix of already-tested public and private sectors. However, the sources said, none of the 32 PPP projects now under various implementation stages could get any finance from these banks and FIs in the last five years. Though the PPPA claimed the financing of two projects -Dhaka Elevated Expressway and Dhaka Bypass- those projects have got funds from government-owned financing institutions like Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Limited.</p>	14 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/fresh-pacts-ahead-as-ppp-funding-barren-1634148627)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
03	<p><u>BD looks on as competitors seize China's import surge</u> Experts for supply-side capacity boosting, as global market also goes nearly dry</p> <p>Bangladesh lags far behind its regional trade competitors in seizing a share of surging imports going to China, world's second-largest economy, as many stores in developed countries also go dry for supply crunch. Official data show Bangladesh's export to China was worth only 799 million US dollars in 2020-albeit a crisis year for the invasive pandemic. The figure is dwarfed by Vietnam's volume of export to China, amounting to \$78.47 billion, the same year. Myanmar's export to China was 6.3 billion and Cambodia's 1.5 billion-almost double than Bangladesh's. Even despite serious geopolitical rivalry with China, India made the most of the import bonanza on the rival neighbour's market. India's average export to China had seen a 1.2-per cent growth in five years until the pandemic outbreak. Bangladesh's average export growth to China during the same period was a peanut 0.05 per cent.</p>  <p>Talking to the FE, experts suggest a comprehensive move by the stakeholders to augment exports to China-a market of around 1.4 billion people. Professor Mostafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) feels that supply-side constraint is the major challenge facing Bangladesh in its quest for higher-income status. "Each year, China imports goods worth 2,200 billion dollars and our share is very insignificant - nearly 800 million dollars," he told the FE. According to commerce ministry data, Bangladesh exports 98 types of goods to China, 60 per cent of which are readymade garments. Other products in the not-so-rich export basket are jute and jute thread, textile thread, fish, crab, Asian swamp eel, rawhide, leather goods etc.</p> <p>"Our major exportable product is RMG, which is not a major product in Chinese import basket," Professor Mostafiz noted in suggesting concentration on much-needed product diversification. "And the Special Economic Zones can play a vital role in this regard. We can also attract Chinese investors so that they can set up export-oriented plants here targeting Chinese market," he said. He also reminds that Bangladesh has a vast opportunity to explore Chinese market as China has provided duty-free access to 97 per cent of its products.</p>	14 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-looks-on-as-competitors-seize-chinas-import-surge-1634147975)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
04	<p><u>IMF predicts 6.5pc GDP growth for BD in FY'22</u> After the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also come up with a higher growth projection for the Bangladesh economy for the current fiscal year (FY). In its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO), the Washington-based global financial monitoring agency said Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) might grow at 6.5 per cent in FY 2021-22. The IMF also forecasted a 7.1 per cent GDP growth for the country in FY'26. The IMF has made the projection at the week-long IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings being held virtually. Meanwhile, the WB in its 'South Asia Economic Focus: Fall 2021' report released on October 7 last said that Bangladesh's GDP will grow at 6.4 per cent rate in the current FY2022. The government is, however, expecting the economy to grow at a rate of 7.2 per cent in the current FY.</p> <p>In the last FY2021, Bangladesh's economy witnessed a substantial fall as its GDP growth rate lowered at only 4.6 per cent after a stirring more than 7.0 per cent growth momentum over the past few years. The IMF at its latest WEO said Bangladesh's inflation could be higher at 5.8 per cent in FY'22 compared to 5.6 per cent in FY'21. Among the South Asian nations, the IMF in its report projected that India will grow higher at 8.5 per cent rate, the Maldives at 13.2 per cent, Bhutan at 4.2 per cent, Nepal at 4.4 per cent and Sri Lanka at 3.3 per cent rate.</p>	14 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/imf-predicts-65pc-gdp-growth-for-bd-in-fy22-1634148675)	
05	<p><u>50 years of Bangladesh: FICCI to unveil 3 growth drivers on FDI</u> The Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is going to have an event on November 21 to commemorate the 50 years of Bangladesh's Independence with a roadmap for FDI and facilitating the economic progress of Bangladesh with three growth drivers, reports UNB.</p> <p>A research report titled "3 Growth Drivers of Bangladesh: Accelerating Investment Opportunities in Agribusiness, Digital Economy and Green Finance" will be unveiled at the event. Planning Minister MA Mannan will be present at the programme as the chief guest, while Salman F Rahman, Private Industry and Investment Adviser to Prime Minister will join it as special guest. Shwapna Bhowmick, EC Member of FICCI and Country Manager of Marks and Spencer will chair the event. The research report on three growth drivers will be revealed by FICCI President Rupali Haque Chowdhury, N. Rajashekar, Country Officer - CitiBank N.A, and Dr. M Masrur Reaz Founder & Chairman of Policy Exchange of Bangladesh.</p> <p>In regards to the report, each of these growth drivers has the potential to help the country achieve its economic goals, such as increasing employment opportunities for the people of Bangladesh, FDI, impact on small and medium enterprises (SME), achieving sustainable growth, and unlocking doors to new investment opportunities.</p> <p>The inaugural session will be on "Changing the landscape". Subsequently comes "Branding Bangladesh" where FICCI is expecting to have Md Sirazul Islam - BIDA Chairman, Yasir Azman- CEO of Grameenphone Ltd, Shehzad Munim - CEO of British American Tobacco, and many more as the discussants to discuss the key aspects to generate more FDI and ways to achieve the 'Developed Bangladesh' goal.</p> <p>FICCI has planned to continue the momentum of the 3 growth drivers to bring in more FDI and have more engagement with the government.</p>	14 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/50-years-of-bangladesh-ficci-to-unveil-3-growth-drivers-on-fdi-1634148852)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
06	<p>Govt bank borrowing Tk 4,597cr in July-Sept</p> <p>The net government borrowing from the banking sector stood at Tk 4,597.02 crore in the July-September period of the current fiscal year 2021-2022. At the end of August, the figure was Tk 7,519 crore. The net domestic borrowing by the government from the banking sector has remained low since the Covid outbreak amid a slow ADP spending, higher flow of external debt and payment of state-owned entities' surplus fund to the government, Bangladesh Bank officials said. A rebound in tax collection by the National Board of Revenue also contributed to the lower government borrowing from banks despite lower net sales of national savings certificates, they said.</p> <p>The government's bank borrowing includes its borrowing from the BB and from the scheduled banks. In the three months of the current fiscal year, the government's borrowing from the central bank declined against an increase in its borrowing from the scheduled banks. As per a BB report, the government repaid Tk 9,524.16 crore to the BB but borrowed Tk 14,121 crore from scheduled banks against Bangladesh government treasury bills and bonds. With the repayment to the BB, the government's outstanding loans with the central bank dropped to Tk 14,819.38 crore at the end of September 2021 from Tk 24,343.54 crore three months ago. The net government bank borrowing was Tk 26,304.1 crore in FY21 against Tk 70,714.8 crore in FY20. The borrowing dropped significantly when the government received a significant amount of external debts from different multinational lenders. In FY21, the government's external debts increased by \$7.7 billion to \$59.35 billion from \$51.65 billion at the end of FY20.</p> <p>Though the government targeted to borrow Tk 76,452 crore from the banking sector in FY22, the actual figure might remain low until or unless the government's ADP implementation achieves its annual target.</p>	14 October 2021	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/151659/govt-bank-borrowing-tk-4597cr-in-july-sept)	
07	<p>শুল্ক সুবিধা অব্যাহত রাখতে ইইউকে অনুরোধ বিজিএমইএর</p> <p>ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়নভুক্ত (ইইউ) দেশগুলোয় পণ্য রফতানিতে বাণিজ্য সুবিধা পায় বাংলাদেশ। এ সুবিধা ২০২৬ সালে স্বল্পোন্নত দেশের (এলডিসি) মর্যাদা থেকে উত্তরণের পরও ১২ বছরের জন্য অব্যাহত রাখার অনুরোধ জানানো হয়েছে। ইইউ প্রতিনিধির সঙ্গে আলোচনায় এ অনুরোধ জানিয়েছে বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রফতানিকারক সমিতি (বিজিএমইএ)।</p> <p>গতকাল বিজিএমইএর গুলশান অফিসে সংগঠনটির সভাপতি ফারুক হাসানের সঙ্গে সৌজন্য সাক্ষাৎ করেন বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়নের রাষ্ট্রদূত চার্লস হোয়াইটলে। এ সময় উপস্থিত ছিলেন সহসভাপতি মিরান আলী।</p> <p>বিজিএমইএ জানিয়েছে, স্বল্পোন্নত দেশ (এলডিসি ক্যাটাগরি) থেকে উত্তরণের পর বাংলাদেশের জন্য বাণিজ্য সুবিধা ১২ বছর অব্যাহত রাখার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো হয়েছে। এ সম্প্রসারণ বাংলাদেশকে মসৃণভাবে এলডিসি থেকে উত্তরণ এবং উত্তরণ-পরবর্তী চ্যালেঞ্জগুলো মোকাবেলায় প্রয়োজনীয় প্রস্তুতি গ্রহণেও সহায়তা করবে।</p>	14 October 2021	Bonik Barta (https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_description/277365/%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%95-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%A4-%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%96%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%89%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%A7-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%B0)	

08	<p>এবারও ভারতকে ছাড়িয়ে বাড়ছে মাথাপিছু আয় আবারও সুখবর পাওয়া গেল আইএমএফ থেকে। সংস্থাটি বলছে, ২০২১ সালে মাথাপিছু জিডিপিতে ভারতকে পেছনে ফেলবে বাংলাদেশ। এর আগে অর্থাৎ ২০২০ সালেও বাংলাদেশ প্রতিবেশী এই বড় অর্থনীতির দেশটিকে পেছনে ফেলেছিল।</p> <p>তবে অর্থনীতিবিদরা বলছেন অন্য কথা। তারা বলছেন, মাথাপিছু জিডিপিতে ভারতকে পেছনে ফেললেই যে বাংলাদেশের সার্বিক অর্থনীতি ভারতের চেয়ে এগিয়ে, তা বলা যাবে না। কারণ মাথাপিছু জিডিপির মধ্যে জীবনযাত্রার মানের অনেক সূচক অন্তর্ভুক্ত থাকে না। ক্রয়ক্ষমতার সমতা বা পারচেজিং পাওয়ার প্যারিটি (পিপিপি) সূচকে ভারতের চেয়ে অনেক পিছিয়ে আছে বাংলাদেশ। তবে মাথাপিছু জিডিপি বেশি হওয়াও অর্থনীতি এগিয়ে যাওয়ার একটি পূর্ব লক্ষণ।</p> <p>গত মঙ্গলবার প্রকাশিত আন্তর্জাতিক মুদ্রা তহবিলের (আইএমএফ) এর ওয়ার্ল্ড ইকোনমিক আউটলুক প্রকাশিত হয়। সেই প্রতিবেদনে এই তথ্য জানায় সংস্থাটি।</p> <p>আইএমএফ পূর্বাভাস অনুযায়ী, চলতি ২০২১ সালে চলতি মূল্যে বাংলাদেশের মাথাপিছু জিডিপি হবে ২ হাজার ১৩৮ দশমিক ৭৯৪ ডলার। অন্যদিকে ভারতের মাথাপিছু জিডিপি হবে ২ হাজার ১১৬ দশমিক ৪৪৪ ডলার।</p> <p>অর্থাৎ ভারতের চেয়ে বাংলাদেশের মাথাপিছু জিডিপি বেশি হবে ২২ দশমিক ৩৫ ডলার। গত বছরও ভারতকে পেছনে ফেলেছিল বাংলাদেশ। সোঁট হিসেব করলে পর পর দুই বছর ভারতকে পেছনে ফেলল বাংলাদেশ।</p>	14 October 2021	The Sangbad (http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-10-14/news/frontpage/104779)	
09	<p>Calls grow for removal of PPP project funding hurdles PPP Authority, 15 banks and FIs sign deal to finance PPP projects Prime minister's Principal Secretary Dr Ahmad Kaikaus has called for removing technical difficulties in financing the public-private partnership (PPP) projects by banks and financial institutions (FIs). The top government official also criticised the tendency of selecting troublesome projects to be implemented under the PPP. "There must be some reasons why the deal (previous MoU between PPP Authority and banks and FIs) did not work...there is another problem in the PPP... We allocate the projects that have problems to the PPP. We must come out of such a tendency," he added. Dr Kaikaus was addressing the signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the PPP Authority and 15 banks and FIs in the city on Thursday. The new agreement took place due to the expiry of an earlier MoU signed with 14 banks and FIs in 2016.</p> <p>Pointing out some problems in the PPP financing, the principal secretary said mortgage of public property could not be given under the PPP projects - this is possible in joint venture projects. Giving a mortgage of public side partnership to the bank means losing ownership by the government, he said. The principal secretary called upon both sides to find out amicable solutions to make the PPP projects viable, keeping in mind the interest of the</p>	15 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/calls-grow-for-removal-of-ppp-project-funding-hurdles-1634226746?date=15-10-2021)	

	country while not losing self interest.			
10	<p><u>BD ranks 76th in Hunger Index-2021</u></p> <p>Bangladesh secures 76th position out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI)-2021 with a 19.1-point score. With a notch slip from the previous year's rank, the country is still the second best performer in South Asia next to Sri Lanka (65th). According to the index, Bangladesh is way ahead of Pakistan, India and Afghanistan as these countries are placed at 92nd, 101st and 103rd spots respectively. However, Nepal shares the same position with Bangladesh while other two South Asian neighbours Bhutan and Maldives are not considered in the ranking. Bangladesh ranked 75th out of 107 nations in 2020, 88th out of 117 in 2019, and 86th out of 119 in 2018. Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe (German for World Hunger Aid) has been publishing the GHI since 2018. The GHI is a tool made to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional and national levels.</p>	16 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-ranks-76th-in-hunger-index-2021-1634315545?date=16-10-2021)	
11	<p><u>Per-capita foreign debt buildup hits \$460</u></p> <p>Stress on productive use of borrowed money to avoid debt burden</p> <p>Bangladesh's per-capita foreign debt ballooned to USD460 or Tk 39,000 in the fiscal year 2021, up by over \$67 from the figure a year before, according to central bank statistics. Such a buck in external debt derives from a rise in the total external debts of the country in the year under review -- a time when there had been great disruptions to economy and finances worldwide while extra needs for combat against the pandemic were created.</p> <p>The Bangladesh Bank in its latest publication shows that the country's total external debt stock stood at \$78.04 billion at the end of last June, or up by nearly 19 per cent in the fiscal 2021. This is equivalent to 22 per cent of the country's GDP [gross domestic product].</p>	16 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/per-capita-foreign-debt-buildup-hits-460-1634315732?date=16-10-2021)	



12 Govt moves to boost revenue

The government is aiming to take up the economy's revenue-GDP ratio to 11.5 per cent by the fiscal year 2023-24 through modernisation of revenue administration, broadening the tax base, higher tax compliance, reform of laws and simplification of process. "This is expected to significantly impact revenue mobilisation, and hence, over the medium term, the total revenue-GDP ratio is projected to increase to 11.5 per cent in FY 2023-24," an official document stated. The projection for FY 2022-23 is 11.3 per cent while the target for the current FY 2021-22 is 11.3 per cent, reports UNB. It said in recent years, the government has taken several stringent measures to reinforce domestic resource mobilisation. Revenue income elasticity with respect to GDP is low in Bangladesh. "The current revenue-GDP ratio is very low compared to the neighbouring and other developing countries," said the document. It mentioned that to recover the economy from shocks of the Covid-19 pandemic, the government has maintained an expansionary fiscal policy stance. In the context of Covid-19, revenue earning has declined significantly. On the other hand, higher spending due to adoption of countercyclical measures by the government as responses to the economic impact of Covid-19 is creating budgetary pressure. Several reform initiatives have also been taken by the government to reinforce domestic resource mobilisation as well as to improve the revenue-GDP ratio. In this connection, the document stated that automation of the VAT collection and bonded warehouse system are ongoing. Enactment of new Customs Act, 2020 is in the final stage. In FY 2019-20, the revenue-GDP ratio was 9.5 per cent while the target for FY 2020-21 was 11.9 per cent, but it was revised to 11.4 per cent.

**16
October
2021**

The Financial Express
<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/govt-moves-to-boost-revenue-1634315039?date=16-10-2021>

13	<p><u>Dhaka-Ctg high-speed train</u> <u>Govt, ADB plan for feasibility study</u></p> <p>The plan to run Dhaka-Chattogram high-speed train is going to see light, as the government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently decided to go ahead with the transportation system, officials said on Friday. The ADB agreed to support the ambitious project for connecting the country's business capital with the administrative capital, the Ministry of Railways (MoR) officials said. They said the Bangladesh Railway (BR) decided in principle to construct a dedicated cord-line, run by electricity, between the two cities for operating trains at a speed of 160km/hour, they added.</p>	16 October 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-adb-plan-for-feasibility-study-1634316281?date=16-10-2021</p>	
14	<p><u>Cumilla EPZ sees export growth even in pandemic</u></p> <p>Factories inside the Cumilla Export Processing Zone have registered excellent export growth by fetching \$751 million over the last 15 months when the pandemic raged, riding on uninterrupted production in compliance with health safety guidelines. They exported \$565 million worth of goods in FY21 in contrast to \$464 million earned in FY20. In the first three months of the current fiscal year, their export receipts amounted to \$185 million, according to Cumilla EPZ sources. In FY19, the EPZ raked in \$490 million in export earnings.</p>	16 October 2021	<p>The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/cumilla-epz-sees-export-growth-even-pandemic-316510</p>	
15	<p><u>BD ranks 124th in rule of law index</u></p> <p>Bangladesh has ranked 124th out of 139 countries in the Rule of Law Index-2021 prepared by the US-based World Justice Project (WJP). Despite its one notch up, Bangladesh's overall score dropped to 0.40 per cent from the previous year's 0.41 per cent, according to the index released on Friday. In South Asia, Nepal performed the best with 70th position globally followed by Sri Lanka (76th), India (79th), Bangladesh (124th), Pakistan (130th) and Afghanistan (134th). The ranking was published at a time while a majority of the countries across the world have been struggling to maintain the rule of law amid the coronavirus pandemic. Denmark (score 0.90), Norway (0.90) and Finland (0.88) become the first three countries while Venezuela (0.27), Cambodia (0.32) and the DR Congo (0.35) are the bottom three in the ranking. Performance is determined using 44 indicators divided into eight main key factors-government power, government openness, absence of corruption, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, and criminal and civil justice systems. Out of these indicators, Bangladesh performed the worst in fundamental rights with 0.31 score, followed by 0.32 in criminal justice, 0.35 in absence of corruption, 0.37 in government powers, 0.38 in civil justice, 0.40 in regulatory enforcement, 0.42 in open government. It performed the best in order and security with 0.63.</p>	17 October 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-ranks-124th-in-rule-of-law-index-1634404824</p>	
16	<p><u>Taxpayers to get services in fair environment</u></p> <p>Considering the coronavirus situation, tax fair is not being held this year but preparations are being made as the</p>	17 October	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/taxpayers-to-get-services-in-fair-environment-1634404824</p>	

	<p>taxpayers get all types of facilities in the tax zones like tax fair, reports BSS. Taxpayers will get tax related services in the tax zones amid the tax fair environment throughout the month of November.</p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has already instructed the tax authorities to create a conducive environment for taxpayers as the taxpayers can go to their respective tax zones and file their returns. In this regard, NBR's income tax policy member Md Alamgir Hossain told BSS, "Considering the COVID-19 situation, this time there is no tax fair. But the facilities will be increased as the taxpayers can go to their respective tax zones and file their returns."</p>	2021	ancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/taxpayers-to-get-services-in-fair-environment-1634404926	
17	<p><u>Stimulus loan for CMSMEs: Disbursement may miss Dec deadline</u></p> <p>Bangladesh's cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs), a priority sector of the government, cannot avail of the stimulus loan as fast as they had expected due to its slow disbursement process.</p> <p>Bangladesh Bank has set a loan disbursement target of Tk 20,000 crore in its second round to cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) by December next.</p> <p>But the disbursement target may be missed as only 2.82 percent loan was disbursed during the July-August period among 2390 firms of CMSMEs, according to the central bank statistics.</p> <p>"The disbursement of the remaining volume by December may not be possible as many of the CMSMEs finally cannot fulfil the conditions of banks to receive the loan," said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Managing Director and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank.</p>	17 October 2021	<p>The Business Standard (TBS)</p> <p>(https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stimulus-loan-cmsmes-disbursement-may-miss-dec-deadline-317185)</p>	
18	<p><u>Investment Summit to focus on BD's success stories</u></p> <p>Set to start on Oct 26</p> <p>The Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit 2021, scheduled to start on October 26, will draw attention of potential foreign investors by showcasing success stories of the country and its resilience during the pandemic. The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce will organise the investment summit virtually from Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC). The week-long summit is set to bring together around 552 companies and business groups from 38 countries through a host of Business to Business (B2B) match-making sessions, organisers said on Sunday at a press briefing held at the DCCI auditorium in the city's Motijheel. Presided over by DCCI President Rizwan Rahman, the programme was addressed by Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi as the chief guest while Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh also spoke at the event.</p> <p>The minister said Bangladesh has made impressive progress over the years in different socio-economic indicators like per capita income, GDP growth, electricity coverage, internet penetration, infrastructural development, etc which have made the country an attractive destination for investors. Mentioning that the country may face some difficulties in export after graduating from the LDC status in 2026, he said, "The government has been trying to avail the GSP+ facility in European Union to avoid any export crunch." Besides, he said the government has also been trying to sign bilateral preferential trade agreements (PTA) and free trade agreements (FTA) with several countries and regions. Emphasising product and market diversification, Mr Munshi said the country's sole</p>	18 October 2021	<p>The Financial Express</p> <p>(https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/investment-summit-to-focus-on-bds-success-stories-1634496622)</p>	

	<p>dependency on RMG export should be reduced by promoting other potential sectors to grow. Sectors like leather goods, jute, pharmaceutical, IT, plastic, agro processing, automobile, etc have great potential to bring foreign direct investment in the country, he added.</p> <p>In a presentation, DCCI president mentioned that the summit will focus on nine sectors for promotion -- infrastructure (physical, logistics, and energy), IT/ITES and FINTECH, leather goods, pharmaceuticals, automotive and light engineering, agro and food processing, plastic products, jute and textiles, and FMCG and retail businesses. Moreover, six webinars on different trade and investment-related issues will be organised in the sideline where representatives from the business community, experts from local & international and policy makers will participate. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the summit as the chief guest.</p>			
19	<p><u>PM offers Nepal use of Mongla, Paira ports</u> Bangladesh on Sunday offered Nepal use of its both Mongla and Paira seaports. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the offer when Nepalese Ambassador Dr Banshidhar Mishra met her at her official residence Ganobhaban, reports UNB. PM's press secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting. The Prime Minister said Bangladesh is developing Syedpur Airport as a regional one and Nepal can use that airport. She recalled with gratitude Nepal's support during Bangladesh's Liberation War. The Nepalese envoy sought cooperation from Bangladesh for the development of their agriculture sector. He also praised Bangladesh's overall development saying that they are moved by its economic development.</p>	18 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/pm-offers-nepal-use-of-mongla-paira-ports-1634496408)	
20	<p><u>Flood losses to be \$2.2b per yr</u> A noteworthy victim of climate change, Bangladesh is likely to incur losses worth US\$ 2.2 billion on average per year, which is equivalent to 1.5 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), due to floods, according to a keynote presentation. Besides, global warming will also cause economic losses for the country, as with the current rate, annual average temperature in Bangladesh will increase by 0.94 per cent within 2030. In such circumstances, the upcoming COP26 conference is important for Bangladesh along with other climate vulnerable countries to raise their voice, the keynote said. The paper was presented at CPD-ICCCAD Virtual Dialogue on 'Bangladesh's Expectations from COP26' jointly organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) on Sunday. Special Envoy, Climate Vulnerable Forum Presidency of Bangladesh Md Abul Kalam Azad joined as the special guest, Ambassador and Head to the Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley joined as the guest of honour. The 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will begin on October 31 in Scotland's Glasgow. The outcome of the COP26 is critically important for climate vulnerable countries like Bangladesh.</p>	18 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/flood-losses-to-be-22b-per-yr-1634496298)	
21	<p><u>BD speeds up SDGs efforts</u> Says country's Unesco rep Bangladesh is making its best efforts to accelerate action on SDGs while addressing the unprecedented health</p>	18 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.b)	

	<p>crisis, said Tarik Sujat, Bangladesh representative to the UNESCO Executive Board. Bangladesh has adopted a 'whole of society' approach in realising the SDGs and ensuring a Covid-19 recovery that will 'leave no one behind', he said. He was addressing the plenary debate of the 212th session of the UNESCO Executive Board held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on Monday last, according to a press release received here on Sunday.</p> <p>Mr Sujat cited the receipt of the prestigious "SDG Progress Award" by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as a testimony of Bangladesh's success in its continued efforts to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all. He explained to the Board that Bangladesh recently has reopened the educational institutions following a guideline adopted by the Ministry of Education to maintain proper health protocols.</p> <p>The 212th session of the UNESCO Executive Board started on October 6 and will continue till October 20, 2021.</p>		<p>d/metro-news/bd-speeds-up-sdgs-efforts-1634495501</p>	
22	<p>FTA with Thailand: Bangladesh conducts feasibility study</p> <p>Bangladesh has conducted a feasibility study for signing a free trade agreement (FTA) with Thailand. Mahbulul Haque, additional secretary to the commerce ministry, informed The Daily Star today without further elaboration.</p> <p>Bangladesh has been taking preparation to sign FTA, preferential trade agreement (PTA) and comprehensive economic partnership agreement with several potential trading nations as it graduates to a developing nation from least developed country in 2026.</p>	18 October 2021	<p>The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/fta-thailand-bangladesh-conducts-feasibility-study-2201196)</p>	
23	<p>\$300m IDA loan to create high-skilled labour society</p> <p>The International Development Association (IDA) will provide Bangladesh with a \$300 million low-cost concessional loan to create future employment opportunities for youth and workers including women and disadvantaged people.</p> <p>The main objective of the loan is to create a high-skilled labour society by 2030. The project will be implemented from July 2021 to December 2026.</p>	18 October 2021	<p>The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-signs-300-mln-loan-agreement-ida-economic-project-317668)</p>	
24	<p>ওষুধশিল্পের কাঁচামাল উৎপাদনে আয়কর অব্যাহতি, প্রজ্ঞাপন জারি</p> <p>বাংলাদেশে নিবন্ধিত দেশীয় ও যৌথ উদ্যোগে যেসব ওষুধ কারখানা অ্যাকটিভ ফার্মাসিউটিক্যাল ইনগ্রিডিয়েন্টস (এপিআই) মলিকিউল ও ল্যাবরেটরি বিকারক উৎপাদন করবে, সেগুলো আগামী ২০৩২ সাল পর্যন্ত কর অব্যাহতি পাবে। জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড (এনবিআর) সম্প্রতি এ ব্যাপারে প্রজ্ঞাপন জারি করেছে।</p> <p>এপিআই হচ্ছে ওষুধপণ্য উৎপাদনের কাঁচামাল, যা আমদানিনির্ভর। ওষুধশিল্প খাতে টেকসই শিল্পায়নের মাধ্যমে রপ্তানি বহুমুখীকরণ এবং দেশি-বিদেশি বিনিয়োগ উৎসাহিত করার লক্ষ্যেই এ কর অব্যাহতি দেয়া হয়েছে বলে জানা গেছে। এই সুবিধা পাঁচ বছর আগে থেকে অর্থাৎ ২০১৬ সালের ১ জুলাই থেকে কার্যকর বলে গণ্য হবে।</p>	18 October 2021	<p>The Sangbad (http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-10-18/news/business/105009)</p>	
25	<p>Health Div: most important healer but worst dev performer</p>	19	<p>The Financial Express</p>	

	<p>Spends only 2.33pc from its total ADP share in Q1 Once again has the health division positioned itself lowest in development spending as it could spend during the first quarter of the current fiscal year only 2.33 per cent from its total ADP allocation, when it ought to move fastest, said officials. As in over a decade now, the Health Services Division (HSD) remained all the same laggard when entire Bangladesh got in health-service emergency during this Covid-19 pandemic, they observed. Its fellow 14 other larger development budget-receiving ministries and divisions spent 8.5 per cent, on average, of their respective allocations, an FE analysis has found. Meanwhile, the government ministries and agencies altogether implemented 8.26 per cent of the Tk 2.36 trillion Annual Development Programme (ADP) outlay in the first quarter (Q1) of the current financial year (FY2021-22). According to the FE analysis, the HSD under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stood out as the worst performer in implementing development works in the first quarter of the current FY2022. Government ministries and agencies altogether spent Tk 195.59 billion, or 8.26 per cent, of the total Tk 2.36-trillion ADP outlay during the July-September period of FY2022. In the same period last FY2021, they had spent Tk 173.01 billion, 8.06 per cent of the total Tk 2.14-trillion outlay.</p>	<p>October 2021</p>	<p>https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/health-div-most-important-healer-but-worst-dev-performer-1634581541?date=19-10-2021</p>	
<p>26</p>	<p>Pran-RFL generates 33,000 jobs in Narsingdi Pran-RFL Group has recently generated 33,000 more jobs at three factories in Narsingdi. Around 90 per cent of the employees are locals and about 20,000 female employees, said a press release.</p>	<p>19 October 2021</p>	<p>The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/pran-rfl-generates-33000-jobs-narsingdi-2201731</p>	
<p>27</p>	<p>ইউনিলিভারের ব্যবসাবিষয়ক প্রতিযোগিতা বিজমায়েস্ট্রোজের ১২তম আসর শুরু দেশের উচ্চশিক্ষিত তরুণদের মধ্যে ব্যবসায়িক দক্ষতাসহ নেতৃত্ব ও সৃজনশীলতা বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে ইউনিলিভার বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (ইউবিএল) এবারও 'বিজমায়েস্ট্রোজ ২০২১' শীর্ষক ব্যবসাবিষয়ক প্রতিযোগিতার আয়োজন করেছে। এটি এই প্রতিযোগিতার ১২তম আসর। বিজমায়েস্ট্রোজ প্রতিযোগিতা উপলক্ষে গত রোববার একটি অফিশিয়াল নিবন্ধন ওয়েবসাইট (https://bizmaestros.site) চালু করেছে ইউনিলিভার বাংলাদেশ। প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণে আগ্রহী শিক্ষার্থীরা এই ওয়েবসাইটে ঢুকে নিবন্ধন ও নিজেদের 'বিজনেস কেস' দাখিল করতে পারবেন। এক সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে এসব তথ্য জানানো হয়েছে। এতে বলা হয়, দেশের বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়পড়ুয়া শিক্ষার্থীদেরকে 'বাস্তবমুখী করপোরেট চ্যালেঞ্জের রোমাঞ্চকর অভিজ্ঞতা ও বিভিন্ন আকস্মিক পরিস্থিতি মোকাবিলার বিষয়ে হাতেখড়ি দিতে' ইউনিলিভার এই ফ্ল্যাগশিপ বিজনেস কম্পিটিশনের আয়োজন করে আসছে। সে অনুযায়ী সাম্প্রতিক পরিস্থিতি ও বাস্তবমুখী প্রেক্ষাপটের আলোকে এবারে বিজমায়েস্ট্রোজের থিম বা প্রতিপাদ্য ঠিক করা হয়েছে 'নেভিগেটিং ইন দ্য নিউ নরমাল' □</p>	<p>19 October 2021</p>	<p>Prothom Alo </p>	

28	<p><u>ILO adopts CoP for workers of four industrial sectors</u></p> <p>The International Labour Organization (ILO) has adopted a code of practice (CoP) for textile, clothing, leather and footwear industries to improve the health and safety conditions of more than 60 million workers employed in these sectors around the globe. Based on international labour standards and other sectoral guidelines, the code, adopted for the first time, provides comprehensive and practical advice on how to eliminate, reduce and control all major hazards and risks, according to the CoP draft. The hazards and risks included chemical substances, ergonomic and physical hazards, tools, machines and equipment, as well as building and fire safety.</p> <p>The purpose of this code is to provide practical guidance for the use of all those, both in the public and private sectors, who have obligations, responsibilities, duties and rights regarding safety and health in the textiles, clothing, leather and footwear industries, it said. The ILO sectoral code was adopted on October 08 which will shortly be available in Bangla, according to the ILO Dhaka office.</p>	20 October 2021	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/i-lo-adopts-cop-for-workers-of-four-industrial-sectors-1634667124?date=20-10-2021)</p>	
29	<p><u>Ctg to get first rail-linked container depot</u></p> <p>The port city is set to get its first multi-modal container depot in two years, which will enhance Chattogram port's capacity to handle export-bound and imported goods.</p> <p>The terminal-cum-off-dock in Chattogram will have an annual handling capacity of three lakh TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of containers. It will accommodate around 8,500 containers at a time.</p> <p>Saif Logistics Alliance Ltd, a concern of Saif Power Group, will invest around Tk 300 crore to build it on the railway's land in the Hlishahar area of the port city. The company yesterday signed a contract with Container Company of Bangladesh Ltd (CCBL), a concern of Bangladesh Railway (BR), to develop the facility on the "design, build, finance, operate, maintain and transfer" basis.</p>	20 October 2021	<p>The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/ports-and-shipping/news/ctg-get-first-rail-linked-container-depot-2202576)</p>	
30	<p><u>মাশুলে আরও ছাড় দেওয়ার ইচ্ছে</u></p> <p>ভারত ট্রান্সশিপমেন্টের আওতায় পণ্য আনা-নেওয়ার জন্য বাংলাদেশের চট্টগ্রাম ও মোংলা বন্দর ব্যবহার করবে। ইতিমধ্যে পণ্যের পরীক্ষামূলক চালান কলকাতা থেকে আগরতলা গেছে। ভারতকে এই দুটি বন্দর ব্যবহারের ক্ষেত্রে মাশুলে আরও ছাড় দিতে চায় বাংলাদেশ। বাংলাদেশ যে মাশুল প্রস্তাব করেছিল, তাতে আরও ছাড় দিতে অনুরোধ জানিয়েছে ভারত।</p> <p>জানা গেছে, বন্ধুত্বপূর্ণ বাণিজ্যিক সম্পর্কের সুবাদে ভারতীয় পণ্যের শুল্ক-করের বিপরীতে কোনো ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি নেবে না বাংলাদেশ। বিভিন্ন মাশুলেও ছাড় দেওয়া হচ্ছে। যেমন বন্দরে কাগজপত্র প্রক্রিয়াকরণ মাশুল টনপ্রতি হিসাবের পরিবর্তে প্রতি চালানের জন্য নির্ধারিত মাশুল রাখা হবে। ফলে এক চালানে যত পণ্যই থাকুক না কেন, মাশুলের পরিমাণ বাড়বে না। এ ছাড়া পণ্যের পাহারা মাশুল ও ইলেকট্রনিক কার্গো ট্র্যাকিং সিস্টেম মাশুলে যেকোনো একটি মাশুল আরোপের চিন্তাভাবনা করছে বাংলাদেশ। তবে নিরাপত্তা, স্ক্যানিংসহ অন্যান্য প্রশাসনিক মাশুল থাকবে। সব মিলিয়ে এক টন পণ্য পরিবহনে মাশুল প্রস্তাব করা হয়েছে ৫৫৪ টাকা।</p>	20 October 2021	<p>Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/world-business/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%93-%E0%A6%9B%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9C-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%93%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%BD-%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87)</p>	

	আজ বুধবার থেকে ভারতের রাজধানী নয়াদিল্লিতে তিন দিনব্যাপী দুই দেশের নৌসচিব পর্যায়ের বৈঠক অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। এতে বাংলাদেশের প্রতিনিধিদলের নেতৃত্ব দেবেন নৌসচিব মেজবাহ উদ্দিন চৌধুরী। বৈঠকে চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর ও মোংলা বন্দর ব্যবহারের মাশুল নিয়ে আলোচনা হবে। মাশুল নিয়ে বাংলাদেশ একটি অবস্থানপত্র তৈরি করেছে। তাতে মাশুলে ছাড় দেওয়ার কথা রয়েছে। মাশুল নির্ধারণ করেছে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের (এনবিআর) শুল্ক বিভাগ।			
31	<p>Living gets costlier with inflation upswing Sept inflation rises to 5.59pc officially, but perception differs for price rises</p> <p>Living gets costlier for people as inflation maintains a steep rise amid price rises, although official figures apparently water down the inflationary pressures. The point-to-point inflation over the last couple months have maintained a steep rise with September consumer price index (CPI) having recorded a bit high as per official statistics revealed Thursday. In the last month of September, the rate of point-to-point inflation rose to 5.59 per cent underpinned by higher CPI of non-food items, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data showed. The national statistical agency shows the rate of non-food inflation having swelled to 6.19 per cent in September from 6.13 per cent in the previous month, riding on higher trends in both rural and urban areas. The data show the rate of food inflation at the national level at 5.21 per cent in September this year, 0.05-percentage-point higher than in August.</p> <p>Economists were, however, critical about the lower food-inflation data in comparison to real market prices of rice, vegetables, edible oils, onions etc across the country. Meanwhile, the overall point-to-point inflation a year ago in September 2020 was recorded at 5.68 per cent. After higher inflation in June (5.64 per cent), it had been cooling down in the following months of July and August but again heated up in September -- evidently amid quirky price rises of some essential items. The rate of inflation in July was recorded at 5.36 per cent and in August at 5.54 per cent, according to the BBS data. The rate of point-to-point inflation both in rural and urban areas increased too in the past month of September. In the rural areas, the inflation rate went up to 5.77 per cent last month from 5.71 per cent in the previous month, August.</p>	22 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/living-gets-costlier-with-inflation-upswing-1634842463?date=22-10-2021)	
32	<p>Mega expo centre opens in Dhaka</p> <p>The government yesterday opened the country's first and biggest multipurpose trade exhibition centre at Purbachal in Dhaka aiming to hold fairs and business-to-business matchmaking events for facilitating domestic and international trade, and thereby, advance the economy.</p> <p>The "Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre" project was taken up by Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) at a cost of Tk 817 crore.</p>	22 October 2021	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/mega-expo-centre-opens-dhaka-2203611)	
33	<p>Bangladesh remains on top in shipbreaking</p> <p>As in the first two quarters of this year (January-March and April-June), Bangladesh continued to be the top shipbreaking country in the third quarter (July-September).</p> <p>In the third quarter of this year, 120 ships were scrapped worldwide, of which 41 ships (34%) were dismantled in Bangladesh, according to the latest report from NGO Shipbreaking Platform, a Belgium-based organisation that has been working worldwide on shipbreaking and its harmful effects.</p>	22 October 2021	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/dropped/industry/bangladesh-remains-top-shipbreaking-319333)	

37	<p><u>Korea to give \$700m loan for economic recovery, improving transportation</u> Bangladesh will receive a \$700 million soft loan from South Korea, 2021-2025, for sustainable economic recovery, improving transportation, and health services. For the loans, on Sunday the Bangladesh government signed a "Framework Arrangement" with the Korean government to implement various development projects in the country, said a press release. Under this Framework Arrangement, signed in the capital city's NEC Bhaban of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the Korean government will provide financial assistance to implement various development projects in Bangladesh over the next five years.</p>	24 October 2021	TBS https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/korea-give-700m-loan-economic-recovery-improving-transportation-320227	
38	<p><u>Two Square Group firms to invest Tk676cr to boost production capacity</u> To meet the growing demand and increase their market stakes, two listed companies of Square Group will invest Tk676 crore for enhancing their production capacity. Square Textiles will invest Tk376 crore and Square Pharmaceuticals Tk300 crore. Square Pharma said in its financial report that the board of the company approved the investment plan to buy new capital machinery and land for expansion.</p>	24 October 2021	TBS https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/two-square-group-firms-invest-tk676cr-boost-production-capacity-320338	
39	<p><u>Govt drafts guidelines on investing abroad</u> The government has framed draft rules to allow local firms to set up subsidiaries or buy shares in companies in other countries with a view to facilitating investment abroad. As per the draft, exporters will be able to invest as much as 20 per cent of their five-year average annual export receipts as equity to establish subsidiaries on foreign soil. In order to qualify, exporters will need to have an adequate balance in their Export Retention Quota (ERQ) accounts, where entrepreneurs keep a portion of their export proceeds in foreign currency. Alternatively, an exporting firm can invest 25 per cent of its net asset based on its most recent financial statement, according to the draft rules on equity investment abroad framed by the Financial Institutions Division of the finance ministry.</p>	24 October 2021	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-drafts-guidelines-investing-abroad-2204776	
40	<p><u>FDI inflow rises marginally</u> Foreign direct investment to Bangladesh rose 6 per cent year-on-year to \$2.51 billion in the last fiscal year, continuing the recent trends whereas peer countries secured a higher level of investment from external investors. The FDI flow has been far lower than expected because of strict regulations and bureaucratic complexities, according to analysts.</p>	25 October 2021	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fdi-inflow-rises-marginally-2205596	