

## Fortnightly Summary

### Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 27 Sept. - 12 Oct. 2021

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><b><u>Banks cut rates both ways</u></b>  <b><u>Fortune still favours bankers as spread remains same</u></b></p> <p>Fortune favours the bankers as the spread remains same though they cut interest rates both ways-on deposits and lending-to match current realities. Banking sources said the interest-rate spread remained unchanged in August 2021 as the banks cut their both deposit and lending rates equally. The weighted average spread between the lending and deposit rates, offered by the scheduled banks, remained unchanged at 3.19 per cent in August from the previous level. It was 3.20 per cent in June 2021.</p> <p>The weighted average interest rate on deposits fell further to 4.05 per cent in August 2021 from 4.11 per cent in the previous month while such rate on lending came down to 7.24 per cent from 7.30 per cent, according to the Bangladesh Bank (BB)'s latest statistics. And the weighted average interest rate on deposits maintained a downturn in August despite implementation on rationalisation of interest rate on term deposits by the banks in line with BB instructions.</p> <p>Earlier on August 08, all the scheduled banks were instructed to fix interest rates on term deposits with maturity of three months and above at rates not less than the rate of inflation, which was published three months before. Only individuals and holders of two recognized funds-provident fund and gratuity fund- are eligible to receive such interest rate on their deposits, according to the central bankers. The banks are now offering interest rate on such fixed deposits at 5.60 per cent as per the BB directives, according to senior bankers.</p>	27 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/fortune-still-favours-bankers-as-spread-remains-same-1632680060?date=27-09-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/fortune-still-favours-bankers-as-spread-remains-same-1632680060?date=27-09-2021</a></p>	
02	<p><b><u>NRCC identifies 60,000 grabbers of 770 rivers</u></b></p> <p>The National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) of Bangladesh has identified more than 60,000 grabbers of at least 770 rivers and evicted 18,000 of them to ensure natural river flow, reports bdnews24.com. However, as there are no proper statistics available, the commission is working to list the rivers across Bangladesh to figure out how many of them can be restored to their natural flow and how many have already lost it. Bangladesh may soon face a severe natural disaster like Europe, if the government fails to prioritise the conservation of rivers and water bodies, according to environment activists.</p> <p>The British Columbia Institute of Technology has been observing World River Day on the last Sunday of September every year, since 1980. This year the day falls on September 26.</p>	27 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/nrcc-identifies-60000-grabbers-of-770-rivers-1632678842?date=27-09-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/nrcc-identifies-60000-grabbers-of-770-rivers-1632678842?date=27-09-2021</a></p>	
03	<p><b><u>Banks can now invest up to Tk 200cr in green Sukuk</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh Bank today said banks can buy private sector-issued green Sukuk from their special funds, which they were allowed to form to invest in the stock market.</p> <p>The central bank in February this year permitted banks to set up a Tk 200 crore fund for investment in stock market by borrowing from it in order to increase liquidity flow in the market.</p>	27 Sept. 2021	<p>The Daily Star  <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-can-now-invest-tk-200cr-green-sukuk-2185311">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-can-now-invest-tk-200cr-green-sukuk-2185311</a></p>	

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04	<p><b><u>UNCTAD praises growth but sees wide inequality</u></b>  <b><u>It stresses product diversification to fit in competitive market</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh has recorded sustained growth over the decades following restructuring but the structure of the country's economy remains concentrated on a few sectors and products that may prove counterproductive when its trade preferences go. A UN agency rings the alarm that such narrow focus or concentration may adversely affect Bangladesh when it graduates from the LDC category, currently scheduled for 2026, that leaves it to play in an open field of international trade.</p> <p>The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) made the observations in the Least Developed Countries Report 2021, released on Monday evening in Geneva. "Despite dispiriting picture of the impact of international and domestic policies to boost the development of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), some successful cases indicate that the paths to development can be differentiated," says the report. "As of the 1970s, Bangladesh accelerated its development as it undertook trade liberalization and started developing an export-oriented garment industry," it noted, indicating structural adjustments carried out as per donor recipes in a shift from the country's journey with state-controlled economy. While mentioning that Bangladesh also invested in other economic sectors, such as the pharmaceutical industry, by creating a conducive national innovation system, the report sounds a note of caution about fallout from less diversification of the country's export basket as well as overall economic activities.</p>	28 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/unctad-praises-growth-but-sees-wide-inequality-1632766281?date=28-09-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/unctad-praises-growth-but-sees-wide-inequality-1632766281?date=28-09-2021</a></p>	
05	<p><b><u>60pc returnee women migrants jobless, 65pc have no regular income</u></b>  <b><u>BILS study reveals</u></b></p> <p>About 60 per cent of the returnee women migrant workers remain jobless at home, while 65 per cent have no regular income, according to a BILS study. It showed, 61 per cent are bearing the burden of loans, 75 per cent have no savings, and 73 per cent of the returnee women cannot meet daily expenses of their families. On the other hand, 55 per cent women migrants were forced to return home following different kinds of difficulties including wage, food and workplace related harassments. Nearly 23 per cent of the women returned before completing one year, and 18 per cent stayed at their workplaces in job destination countries one year and more.</p> <p>The findings were shared at a press conference on Monday at the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) office in the capital. The research on 'Economic and Social Condition of Returnee Women migrant' was conducted during the July-December period of 2020 in Chattogram, Jashore and Faridpur districts. The number of respondents was 323 returnee women.</p>	28 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/60pc-returnee-women-migrants-jobless-65pc-have-no-regular-income-1632765705?date=28-09-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/60pc-returnee-women-migrants-jobless-65pc-have-no-regular-income-1632765705?date=28-09-2021</a></p>	

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06	<p><b><u>BD gets highest \$1.14b foreign aid in July-Aug</u></b>  Bangladesh received the highest foreign aid worth US\$ 1.14 billion in the first two months of the current fiscal year (FY), 2021-22, as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) released loans amounting to more than half a billion US dollar, officials said on Monday. The amount of medium- to long-term (MLT) loans is \$194.75 million higher than the amount, received in the same period of last FY, 2020-21, they said. In July-August period of FY 2021, the multi-lateral and bilateral donors disbursed \$948.18 million as foreign assistance, the Economic Relations Division (ERD) provisional data showed.</p> <p>The development partners, including the World Bank, ADB, Japan's JICA, UK's DFID, and Islamic Development Bank, disbursed concessional aid every year for development of Bangladesh.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the development partners made commitment of \$73.32 million loans and grants during the first two months of the current FY, the ERD data showed. In the corresponding period of last FY, the commitment of foreign assistance was \$354.04 million, the data showed.</p>	28 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-gets-highest-114b-foreign-aid-in-july-aug-1632763530?date=28-09-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-gets-highest-114b-foreign-aid-in-july-aug-1632763530?date=28-09-2021</a> )	
07	<p><b><u>Handling Covid health emergency</u></b>  <b><u>BD makes 'notable progress' in data initiatives</u></b>  Bangladesh made significant progress in data initiatives in response to Covid which relates to tracking infection, vaccination and delivery of public interventions, experts said and stressed building network suiting the digital era. The current challenge is to create a consolidated data hub and to develop a network of data generators and users and promulgate a data-privacy framework. Most important is, for the public representatives, to make greater use of data resources.</p> <p>The views came from an expert-group meeting on a project titled "Data Ecosystem amid COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh: A Forward-Looking Review" organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) on Tuesday, held virtually. CPD distinguished fellow Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya moderated the programme where senior research associate Muntaseer Kamal presented study findings.</p>	29 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-makes-notable-progress-in-data-initiatives-1632852862">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-makes-notable-progress-in-data-initiatives-1632852862</a> )	
08	<p><b><u>Inflation up to 5.54pc</u></b>  <b><u>Price hike of non-food items major factor</u></b>  The rate of point-to-point inflation increased to 5.54 per cent last month (August) due to significant price escalation of some non-food items, according to official data. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data, released on Tuesday, showed the rate of non-food inflation swelled to 6.13 per cent in August 2021 from that of 5.80 per cent in July, coupled with a higher trend in both rural and urban areas. The BBS data showed that the rate of food inflation in the national level was recorded at 5.56 per cent in August, which is 0.08 percentage points higher than the rate in July. Meanwhile, the point-to-point inflation was recorded at 5.68 per cent in August 2020.</p> <p>A senior BBS official told the FE that since the consumer price index in the non-food item had gone up, the overall inflation also showed a higher trend last month. The expenses of people for clothing and footwear, house rent, fuel and lighting, furniture, house equipment and some other products rose, and so, the non-food inflation across the country also increased, he told the FE.</p>	29 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-up-to-554pc-1632853091">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-up-to-554pc-1632853091</a> )	

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09	<p><b><u>Women's participation in decision-making still poor</u></b>  Women's participation in the economic decision-making is still poor in the country even though their employments have increased substantially in the last one decade, speakers at a webinar on Tuesday said. Despite significant allocations in the gender budget, they also said, women don't get its full benefits as those are not duly implemented. The observations came at a webinar on 'An Analysis of Gender-Sensitive Budgeting: Bangladesh Perspective' jointly organised by South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM) and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP).  BMP President Dr Fauzia Moslem chaired the function while Executive Director of SANEM Dr Selim Raihan made the opening remarks. Dr Fauzia Moslem said BMP has been working on gender budgeting since 1990 that eventually led to almost 43 ministries to work on the concept. The impacts of gender budgeting on reducing gender equality need to be assessed, she added.  In his opening remarks, Dr Selim Raihan said all stakeholders including government and political parties acknowledge the importance of women empowerment. "Even important documents like five-year plan or national budget also acknowledge the importance of women empowerment, but we want to see whether the acknowledgment is reflected in pragmatic action," said Mr Raihan, also an economics professor at Dhaka University. Hailing the comprehensive outline of the gender budget, he underscored the need for making proper assessment of their implementation and identifying the barriers.</p>	29 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/womens-participation-in-decision-making-still-poor-1632851904">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/womens-participation-in-decision-making-still-poor-1632851904</a> )	
10	<p><b><u>Trans-fat must be regulated to combat heart diseases: Experts</u></b>  Speakers at a webinar in the city on Tuesday urged the government to finalise the regulations to limit the intake of Trans Fatty Acid (TFA) or trans-fat-laden foods, which is a major cause of heart diseases, reports UNB. On the eve of the World Heart Day 2021 (September 29), the webinar titled "Risks of Trans Fat-induced Heart Diseases in Bangladesh and Way Forward" was jointly organised by PROGGA (Knowledge for Progress) and National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh in association with Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI).  "Elimination of trans fat will play a key role in preventing non-communicable diseases. We expect that the government will finalise the regulations at the earliest," said Prof Sohel Reza Chowdhury of the National Heart Foundation. Muhammad Ruhul Quddus, GHAI's Bangladesh Country Lead, said, "Unless trans-fat in food is eliminated, the risks of trans-fat-induced heart diseases will rise, expenditure on healthcare services will increase, and the economy of the country will incur losses." PROGGA Executive Director ABM Zubair said young people generally consume more trans-fat-laden food. "If the trans-fat is not eliminated from food products, the young generation will be at fatal health risks," he said.  At the webinar, it said TFA or trans-fat is a toxic food element that increases the risks of heart diseases and related premature deaths. Dalda or bonospoti ghee, as well as the foods prepared with it, fast food, and bakery items contain trans-fat. A study has estimated that one in every five youths in Bangladesh is vulnerable to heart diseases. Aiming to reduce the prevalence of risks of heart diseases and related premature deaths, the WHO has set the target of eliminating trans-fat from the global food supply chain by 2023.  The Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) has drafted the "Limiting Trans Fatty Acids in Foodstuffs regulations, 2021". It has already been vetted, but not finalised yet. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Bangladesh ranks among the 15 countries with the highest burden of trans-fat-induced heart diseases.</p>	29 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/trans-fat-must-be-regulated-to-combat-heart-diseases-experts-1632852045">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/trans-fat-must-be-regulated-to-combat-heart-diseases-experts-1632852045</a> )	

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11	<p><b><u>VAT authority to access audited fiscal reports</u></b>  <b>NBR, ICAB sign MoU</b></p> <p>The Value Added Tax (VAT) authority is going to get access to the DVS-verified audited financial reports of corporate taxpayers in a bid to check evasion. Duplication of financial reports to conceal actual collection of consumers' tax would be checked after the VAT authority gets access to the Document Verification System (DVS). The National Board of Revenue (NBR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) on Tuesday to get the access.</p> <p>NBR Member (VAT policy) Masud Sadiq and ICAB President Mahmudul Hassan Khusru signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations. A group of VAT officials would get user ID and password of the ICAB to crosscheck information of VAT returns with the audited financial report of a company.</p>	29 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/vat-authority-to-access-audited-fiscal-reports-1632853192">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/vat-authority-to-access-audited-fiscal-reports-1632853192</a></p>	
12	<p><b><u>Draft e-com act, watchdog by Nov</u></b></p> <p>A newly constituted high-powered committee is now doing homework to draft a digital commerce act and a regulatory authority by November with intent to discipline the crisis-ridden sector. As part of the exercise, commerce ministry has recently constituted a 16-member high-powered panel to this end. The panel will prepare a draft act on digital commerce to control and operate the next two months. It also will create a structure and modus operandi of the proposed regulatory authority. Besides, the committee will submit a set of recommendations within the next two weeks to resolve the ongoing online trade-related complications.</p> <p>An inter-ministerial review meeting at commerce ministry on September 22 suggested formation of a separate regulator and a separate actor for the sector. Other recommendations include a central complaint management cell, mandatory registration provision, 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 joined the meeting chaired by commerce minister Tipu Munshi. Commerce secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh, IGP Benazir Ahmed, and representatives from different state agencies and e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB), among others, attended the meeting. Additional secretary (IIT) AHM Shafiquzza-man is the convener of the powerful panel. One deputy secretary of the central digital commerce cell under commerce ministry will be the member secretary.</p> <p>It has representatives from law, post and telecoms division, ICT division, central bank, consumer rights protection directorate, Bangladesh Competition Commission, Dhaka University, BUET, WTO cell under commerce ministry, a2i Programme, FBCCI, BASIS, e-CAB and a Supreme Court lawyer.</p>	29 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/draft-e-com-act-watchdog-by-nov-1632853266">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/draft-e-com-act-watchdog-by-nov-1632853266</a></p>	

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13	<p><u><b>Apex supports school children</b></u></p>  <p>To commemorate the special occasion of Founder's Day, on Sunday, Apex has lent its support to school going children with 5,000 pairs of shoes through Spreeha Bangladesh, an organisation that inspires change by empowering people and working to improve the lives of school-going children from economically-distressed sections of the society. Additionally, the day also saw various initiatives meant to celebrate and reinforce the human values that Apex and its Founder Chairman stands for among all employees and partners of Apex. The main event was organised at Spreeha Bangladesh's Head Office, where officials from Apex handed over the 5000 pairs of shoes to Spreeha Bangladesh authority. This was followed by interactions with these children at the Rayerbazar area. The event was graced by Rajan Pillai, Deputy Managing Director and CEO. Arif Shahriar, Chief People and Culture Officer, Sagnik Guha, General Manager Marketing, and Ibn Abu Zaed, Head of Brands, along with Asgar Ali Sabri, Executive Director, Spreeha Bangladesh Foundation and representatives of SPREEHA Bangladesh and other officials from Apex.</p>	29 Sept. 2021	<p>The Financial Express (<a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/apex-supports-school-children-1632843304">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/apex-supports-school-children-1632843304</a>)</p>	

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14	<p><b><u>Aug imports surge as economy rebounds</u></b>  Bangladesh sees an import surge as apparel exporters made big purchases of textile products as capital goods from the international market to meet buyers' enhanced requirements after the reopening of economies in the western world. A rising trend in fuel-oil prices on the global market following restoration of connectivity gradually across the world despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has also pushed up overall import-payment obligations, market operators said. The settlement of letters of credit (LC), generally known as actual import, in terms of value, ballooned by 30.62 per cent to \$5.17 billion in August 2021 from \$3.96 billion in the previous month, according to the central bank's latest statistics. On the other hand, the opening of LCs, generally known as import orders, rose more than 48 per cent to \$6.29 billion in August from \$4.25 billion a month before. BB officials as well as the market operators predicted that the rising trend in import-payment obligation would continue in the coming months.</p>	30 Sept. 2021	The Financial Express <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/aug-imports-surge-as-economy-rebounds-1632939240?date=30-09-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/aug-imports-surge-as-economy-rebounds-1632939240?date=30-09-2021</a>	
15	<p><b><u>ব্যংকঋণ পরিশোধে সময় পেলেন ট্যানারিমালিকেরা</u></b>  ঢাকার হাজারীবাগ থেকে সাভারের চামড়াশিল্প নগরীতে স্থানান্তরিত ট্যানারিমালিকদের ব্যংকঋণ পরিশোধে বিশেষ ছাড় দিয়েছে বাংলাদেশ ব্যংক। বিশেষ এ সুবিধার আওতায় ঋণ পুনর্গঠন ও পুনঃ তফসিলের সময় আগামী ৩০ ডিসেম্বর পর্যন্ত বাড়ানো হয়েছে। এ সুযোগ আজ ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর পর্যন্ত ছিল। গত মঙ্গলবার বাংলাদেশ ব্যংকের ব্যংকিং প্রবিধি ও নীতি বিভাগ এ বিষয়ে একটি প্রজ্ঞাপন জারি করেছে।</p>	30 Sept. 2021	Prothom Alo <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B%E0%A6%A3-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%B%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%A7%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%AP%E0%A6%BC-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%AB-%E0%A6%9F%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AP%E0%A6%B%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%B7%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B%E0%A6%A3-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%B%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%A7%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%AP%E0%A6%BC-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%AB-%E0%A6%9F%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AP%E0%A6%B%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%B7%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE</a>	
16	<p><b><u>Multidimensional poverty rate high</u></b>  <b>Study finds poverty rate at 25.87pc</b>  Multidimensional poverty in Bangladesh far outstrips the current income-based estimation, shows a study that puts the rate at 25.87 per cent, as of immediate pre-pandemic period. Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and a UK university jointly conducted the survey on the country's poverty situation, sans the picture in a changed context now when poverty took deeper dimensions. Now 25.87 per cent of the total population of the country is poor measured under multidimensional poverty index (MPI), says the study report of the BIDS and the University of Bath, released Thursday in Dhaka. In terms of income poverty, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in its HEIS 2016 showed 12.9 per cent of the population living in extreme poverty while 24.30 per cent people live under the upper poverty line. Meanwhile, government's General Economics Division (GED) in a simulation showed that Bangladesh's poverty in 2019 was nearly 20 per cent (upper poverty line). The duo of BIDS and Bath University conducted the study, titled 'Extreme Poverty: the Challenges of Inclusion in Bangladesh', taking data up to the year 2019 when the Covid-19 pandemic did not affect the country. The study is conducted for the General Economics Division of the Planning Commission. The study has failed to provide any latest data on the poverty spectrum after the impact of the pandemic. The report says that the MPI is prepared considering 10 indicators in addition to income of the people and households. The indicators include gender, marginalization, religion identities, ethnic identities, access to credits, shocks, electricity access, major illness, and land distribution.</p>	01 October 2021	The Financial Express <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/multidimensional-poverty-rate-high-1633023922?date=01-10-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/multidimensional-poverty-rate-high-1633023922?date=01-10-2021</a>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
17	<p><b><u>Rationalise import tariff to WTO-set rates</u></b>  <b><u>Suggests panel ahead of BD's LDC graduation</u></b></p> <p>Trimming Bangladesh's tariff rates to suit the WTO-set levels is suggested by an official panel before the country's graduation to a developing nation that will subject it to competitive trading regime. Officials said the suggestion came from a study group which is part of a subcommittee on internal resource mobilisation and tariff rationalisation, formed by the prime minister's office in the process of doing spadework for the country's status change. The subcommittee is tasked with recommending ways of facing successfully the challenges that may be stemming from LDC graduation.</p> <p>"We need to examine effective tariff rates so that those do not cross WTO-bound rates for the country," says Syed Golam Kibria, a member of the national board of revenue, who heads the tariff- rationalisation study group. Mr Kibria, at a meeting of the sub-committee recently, further viewed that the para-tariffs also need to be examined as they may come under review by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in the future. Also, in some cases, the existing minimum value as the baseline for fixing duties is not compliant with international practices and the protection given for local industry has to be time-bound and performance- based.</p> <p>For effective preparation to fit in the post-graduation era, the panel recommends that the facilities offered to the apparel sector should be given other sectors as well. And it is imperative to examine how the import duties can be lowered gradually. Presently, the simple MFN (most favoured nation) average tariff rate in Bangladesh is 14 per cent, which in the case of agricultural produce is average 7.5 per cent and in non-agricultural products 13.4 per cent. Officials said high tariffs are a big barrier to Bangladesh signing trade deals like free-trade agreement (FTA) and preferential trading agreement (PTA) though entering into such pacts has become imperative for the country ahead of the LDC graduation.</p>	01 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/rationalise-import-tariff-to-wto-set-rates-1633023873?date=01-10-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/rationalise-import-tariff-to-wto-set-rates-1633023873?date=01-10-2021</a> )	
18	<p><b><u>Elimination of child labour</u></b>  <b><u>Draft of national plan of action in its final stage</u></b></p> <p>The draft of national plan of action (NPA) to eliminate all forms of child labour within next five years is in its final stage. However, the country is set to miss its target to eliminate worst forms of child labour within this year. Sources said the final draft has been sent to the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) to take necessary steps for its adoption to end all forms of child labour by 2025. This new target has been set engaging all concerned for Bangladesh's graduation from the least-developed country status, they added. Official sources said though the number of child labour has been reduced significantly in the country, its total eradication was not possible for a lack of coordination of the activities.</p> <p>Child labour is linked with poverty, rehabilitation, employment creation for family members and child education, they said, adding that NPA has tried to focus on these areas and set the new target.</p> <p>After ratification of the ILO Convention 183 in March 2001, the government had taken the NPA on child labour from 2012 to 2021. Besides, it has incorporated child-labour issues, including age and identification of hazardous sectors, in the Labour Act.</p>	01 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/draft-of-national-plan-of-action-in-its-final-stage-1633023030?date=01-10-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/draft-of-national-plan-of-action-in-its-final-stage-1633023030?date=01-10-2021</a> )	



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19	<p><b><u>Quest for ending drought in gas discovery</u></b>  <b><u>Govt hiring int'l consultant to brush up PSC baits</u></b></p> <p>The government is going to hire an international consultant for a brush-up of the existing model production-sharing contracts (PSCs) to lure foreign firms into exploration of hydrocarbons in Bangladesh's unexplored blocks, amid gas crunch. Official sources say the corona-upended global fuel-market ecosystem -- hot and humid for high demand to feed resurgent global economies -- apparently prompts the domestic gas-exploration move.</p> <p>Energy and mineral resources division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR) has already directed state-run Petrobangla to initiate the process of appointing a reputed consultant, a senior energy official told the FE Thursday.</p>	01 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-hiring-intl-consultant-to-brush-up-psc-baits-1633024194?date=01-10-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-hiring-intl-consultant-to-brush-up-psc-baits-1633024194?date=01-10-2021</a> )	
20	<p><b><u>9 firms to invest \$55m in hi-tech parks</u></b></p> <p>Nine foreign and domestic firms are going to invest \$55 million in Bangladesh's hi-tech parks to set up manufacturing units for a number of products, including semiconductors, digital devices, and medical equipment.</p> <p>The companies will also assemble automated teller machines, cash recycling machines, smartphones and other electronics items at the new units, which are expected to create nearly 3,500 job opportunities. The Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) disclosed this information during an agreement signing ceremony to lease the required lands for these projects for a 40-year period.</p>	01 October 2021	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/investments/news/9-firms-invest-55m-hi-tech-parks-2188166">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/investments/news/9-firms-invest-55m-hi-tech-parks-2188166</a> )	
21	<p><b><u>Govt mulls FTAs with China, India to face post-LDC challenges</u></b></p> <p>The government is considering free trade agreements (FTAs) with China and India as part of its endeavour to strengthen ties with major trading partners to face post-LDC graduation challenges.</p> <p>According to sources at the commerce ministry, China has already expressed its interest to sign a FTA with Bangladesh. On the other hand, the government has moved forward on a feasibility study for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Cepa) with neighbouring India.</p> <p>The Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) is conducting the feasibility study.</p>	01 October 2021	The Business Standard (TBS) ( <a href="https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-mulls-ftas-china-india-face-post-ldc-challenges-310147">https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-mulls-ftas-china-india-face-post-ldc-challenges-310147</a> )	
22	<p><b><u>Dhaka drops 25 notches in Digital Quality of Life Index</u></b>  <b><u>Its internet affordability worst in Southern Asia</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh dropped 25 notches in Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index-2021 from the last year and mobile internet users in the country experienced the slowest speed -- 10.60Mbps -- among all the other countries, a latest global digital wellbeing study has found. The third annual edition of the DQL has ranked Bangladesh 103rd among 110 countries. Conducted by the cybersecurity company Surfshark, the DQL study that covers 90 per cent of the global population evaluates countries based on a set of five fundamental digital wellbeing pillars.</p> <p>Bangladesh ranks 84th in internet affordability, 89th in internet quality, 89th in e-infrastructure, 86th in e-government and shows the lowest result in e-security, which comes only in 103rd place, revealed the study. Compared to the last year's position, Bangladesh dropped 25 places down this year - its internet affordability index decreased by 37 per cent and internet quality by 22 per cent, the report said. The country has the worst internet affordability in Southern Asia, it insisted.</p> <p>Neighbouring India has topped the index among the South Asian countries, ranking 59th globally followed by Nepal, 87th, Sri Lanka, 88th, and Pakistan, 97th, the study mentioned. Denmark ranks 1st in DQL for the second year in a row and is closely followed by South Korea. Finland ranks 3rd, while Israel and the US round out the top five of 110 nations that were evaluated. The bottom 5 countries are Ethiopia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Guatemala, and Angola.</p>	02 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/dhaka-drops-25-notches-in-digital-quality-of-life-index-1633111042">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/dhaka-drops-25-notches-in-digital-quality-of-life-index-1633111042</a> )	

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23	<p><b>ব্যবসার খরচ কমানোর পরামর্শ</b></p> <p>চলতি ২০২১-২২ অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশের প্রবৃদ্ধির হার দাঁড়াতে পারে ৭ দশমিক ২ শতাংশ। মূলত রপ্তানি বাজার, প্রবাসী আয়ে চাঙাভাব ও সরকারি বিনিয়োগের ওপর ভর করে এই প্রবৃদ্ধি হতে পারে। তবে ব্যবসা-বাণিজ্যের সক্ষমতা বাড়তে আমদানি-রপ্তানির খরচ কমাতে হবে।</p> <p>স্ট্যান্ডার্ড চার্টার্ড ব্যাংক বাংলাদেশের অর্থনৈতিক পরিস্থিতি নিয়ে এক প্রতিবেদনে এই পূর্বাভাস দিয়েছে। প্রতিবেদনে বাংলাদেশের প্রবৃদ্ধির ধারাকে আগ্রহ উদ্দীপক আখ্যা দেওয়া হয়েছে</p>		<p><b>Prothom Alo</b></p> <p>(<a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%96%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%9A-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A7%BB%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B6">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%96%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%9A-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A7%BB%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B6</a>)</p>	
24	<p><b>Import-share removal</b></p> <p><b>Dhaka now can apply for EU GSP-plus</b></p> <p>The latest European Union move to remove the import-share threshold is a chance for Bangladesh to apply for GSP (Generalised System of Preference)-plus benefit there after its LDC graduation. The European Commission in its new GSP regulation for 2024-2034 proposed to remove 7.4-per cent import-share threshold from the GSP-plus vulnerability criteria. The move will ensure a smoother transition and continued access to GSP-plus status for a large number of LDCs that will soon rise up from the LDC category.</p> <p>Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) president Faruque Hassan said this on Saturday. "The proposal removed a big barrier for Bangladesh to applying for the GSP-plus facility irrespective of losing its EBA (everything but arms) facility," he said while addressing a press conference at a city hotel.</p> <p>On September 22, the commission adopted the fresh legislative proposal for the new EU GSP framework for the period in question. The proposed regulation removes import duties from products coming into the EU market from vulnerable developing countries to alleviate poverty and create jobs based on international values and principles, including labour and human rights.</p> <p>The average share of GSP imports from a country in overall imports from all GSP beneficiaries should be lower than 7.4 per cent. Bangladesh is ineligible to apply for GSP-plus facility as its share is 26 per cent, explains Mr Hassan. "We've repeatedly requested the EU to exempt Bangladesh from the existing 7.4-per cent import threshold or take alternative measure for Bangladesh." "It is good news for the country that the EC in the new GSP regulation proposed to remove the threshold," says the BGMEA leader.</p> <p>The EU's GSP sustainable development principles are currently based on a list of 27 relevant international conventions. The revised GSP updates this list and adds six new international instruments. "Bangladesh has already ratified all the six (instruments). So, we are clearly ahead in fulfilling this new criterion."</p>	03 October 2021	<p><b>The Financial Express</b></p> <p>(<a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dhaka-now-can-apply-for-eu-gsp-plus-1633201418?date=03-10-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dhaka-now-can-apply-for-eu-gsp-plus-1633201418?date=03-10-2021</a>)</p>	
25	<p><b>For dev projects costing Tk 500m and above</b></p> <p><b>Feasibility study to be mandatory</b></p> <p>The government is set to make some changes to project formulation-and approval process that will involve the disbanding of two committees associated with the execution of projects, officials said Saturday. A changed provision will make feasibility study mandatory for all projects of the ministries and agencies, they said. The government ministries or agencies would be bound to conduct a feasibility study before taking projects costing Tk 500 million or above, they added.</p> <p>The government is going to scrap the project steering committee (PSC) and the project implementation committee (PIC) at the ministries and agencies for "checking misuse of public funds and streamlining the execution process". Currently, the secretary-headed PSC and the agency chief-headed PIC sit for hundreds of meetings every year for their respective development projects where a significant amount of public funds are misused and time wasted, Planning Commission (PC) officials said.</p> <p>The PC has recently drafted the 'Development project formulation, processing, approval and revision in the government sector method' for finalising it shortly. It will organise a workshop on Wednesday next on the draft proposal to get opinions and suggestions from all the ministries and agencies of the government, said PC officials.</p>	03 October 2021	<p><b>The Financial Express</b></p> <p>(<a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/feasibility-study-to-be-mandatory-1633201454?date=03-10-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/feasibility-study-to-be-mandatory-1633201454?date=03-10-2021</a>)</p>	

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26	<p><b><u>Avery Dennison, Youngone to set up manufacturing unit in Bangladesh</u></b></p> <p>Avery Dennison has launched a manufacturing facility in Bangladesh in partnership with Youngone Corporation. The 2,052-sqm unit, located in the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) in Chattogram, will enable strong service quality and flexibility to local customers, the partners announced on Sunday. Chairman and CEO of Youngone Corporation Kihak Sung said the investment in KEPZ will give a competitive edge to Avery Dennison in terms of speed and flexibility to serve its clients with reduced business cost and lead time.</p>	03 October 2021	The Business Standard (TBS) ( <a href="https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/avery-dennison-youngone-set-manufacturing-unit-bangladesh-310888">https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/avery-dennison-youngone-set-manufacturing-unit-bangladesh-310888</a> )	
27	<p><b><u>Central bank eases export trade</u></b></p> <p>Exporters are now allowed to directly dispatch shipping documents of their export consignments to their foreign buyers, as a further measure for facilitating Bangladesh's external trade. Bangladesh Bank Sunday issued a circular to this effect, asking for bringing the contents of this circular to the notice of the ADs (authorised dealers) constituents concerned. Currently, the ADs are required to pass all shipping documents covering exports from Bangladesh as per declaration on EXP Form within 14 days from the date of shipment as per the chapter 8 of the Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Transactions-2018 (GFET). According to the circular, it has been decided that ADs may allow exporters to dispatch export documents (excluding original transport document of title to cargo) directly to importers or their agents abroad through secure media. It says the underlying sales contracts/letters of credit provide for such direct dispatch of export documents, and ADs shall be satisfied with the arrangement of realisation of export proceeds within statutory period. ADs shall endorse original transport document retained with them on receipt of payment against relevant export. "ADs shall, within 14 days from the date of shipment, obtain EXP Form from exporters to comply with regulatory instructions including reporting routine to Bangladesh Bank," it stated.</p>	04 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/central-bank-eases-export-trade-1633285798?date=04-10-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/central-bank-eases-export-trade-1633285798?date=04-10-2021</a> )	
28	<p><b><u>Multibillion-dollar med apparel mkt</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Low investment, skill gap cost BD's entry in big way</u></b></p> <p><b><u>German GIZ study reveals</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh's apparel industry could not grab its share up to the potential in a multibillion-dollar global technical textiles trade for a lack of awareness of market requirements and adequate technical expertise. A German agency in a study revealed such missed opportunity of Bangladesh for tapping prospects of technical textiles (TT), including personal protective equipment (PPE), while these medical apparel products topped global supply chain during the coronavirus pandemic. The difficulty in sourcing high-performance raw materials, compliance and certification requirements, and the need for capital investment also came as a barrier. The feasibility study, commissioned by German development agency GIZ, revealed these bottlenecks alongside the challenges and constraints facing the textile and apparel sector in making TT and PPE. According to data of the Export Promotion Bureau, Bangladesh exported PPE worth \$618.25 million in fiscal year (FY) 2020-21, compared to \$501 million earned during the previous FY from the export of the same.</p>	04 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/low-investment-skill-gap-cost-bds-entry-in-big-way-1633285432?date=04-10-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/low-investment-skill-gap-cost-bds-entry-in-big-way-1633285432?date=04-10-2021</a> )	

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29	<p><b><u>Trade deficit widens six times in July-Aug on import jump</u></b>            The country's trade deficit widened by six times or \$3.42 billion year-on-year in the July-August period of the current fiscal year 2021-2022 amid a sharp increase in import payments. The latest Bangladesh Bank data showed that the trade deficit surged to \$4.12 billion in July-August of FY22 from \$697 million year-on-year. In the first two months of FY22, the country's import payments rose by 45.96 per cent or \$3.42 billion compared with that in the same period of the previous year when the country was going through the first wave of Covid outbreak and the businesses were sceptic about how long it would take to restore normalcy. So, import payments increased to \$10.85 billion in July-August from \$7.43 billion in the same months of the past year. The export earnings were low in the first two months of FY22 due to the lower shipments of readymade garment products as production in the factories was suspended for seven-nine days for Eid-ul-Azha holidays.</p> <p>The BB data also showed that the country's gross foreign direct investment increased by 12 per cent to \$583 million in July-August of FY22 from \$518 million in the same period of FY21. The country's net FDI increased by to \$295 million in the first two months of FY22 from \$151 million in the same period of the previous fiscal year.</p> <p>In July-August of FY22, the country's current account balance turned \$1.24 billion negative from a positive balance of \$345 million in the previous month and a \$3.23 billion surplus in the first two of FY21. The country, however, has a surplus financial account of \$1.87 billion in July-August of FY22 against a deficit of \$1.07 billion in the same period of FY21.</p>	04 October 2021	New Age ( <a href="https://www.newagebd.net/article/150944/trade-deficit-widens-six-times-in-july-aug-on-import-jump">https://www.newagebd.net/article/150944/trade-deficit-widens-six-times-in-july-aug-on-import-jump</a> )	
30	<p><b><u>BD sees single-month record export growth on RMG pickup</u></b>  <b><u>Sept exports fetch 38pc higher earnings at \$4.16b</u></b>            Bangladesh saw single-month exports grow a record 38 per cent, year on year, last September with overall US\$4.16-billion income as apparel shipments rebound through pandemic recession. Sources in business circles said as readymade garment (RMG) industry kept its wheels rolling, under special arrangements, even amid the coronavirus onslaught, the clothing exporters were happy to make substantial shipments with supply chains restored and a demand surge in the reopening western world. The country had received \$3.01 billion in total from merchandise shipments this very month (September) last year, according to data released Monday by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). This past September earnings also overshot the target set for the month by 39.17 per cent. September RMG exports fetched \$3.41 billion, registering a 41.66-per cent growth over the receipts this month in 2020.</p> <p>Besides, the country's overall merchandise exports during the first three months of the current fiscal year 2021-22 also marked a growth of 11.37 per cent to \$11.02 billion. The July-September earning in 2020-21 fiscal year-which fell into full flash of the pandemic-was US\$9.89 billion. The overall export earnings also surpassed the set target by 5.65 per cent, according to EPB data. Out of the total \$11.02 billion worth of export income during the July-September period, the RMG sector fetched \$9.05 billion, recording an 11.48-per cent growth compared to the corresponding period of last fiscal. The country earned \$8.12 billion from apparel exports in the corresponding period of FY'21. The sector's earnings also exceeded the set target by 7.48 per cent. A breakdown of the clothing-sector performance shows that knitwear subsector of RMG earned \$5.16 billion from exports, registering a growth of 15.69 per cent. Earnings from export of woven garments amounted to \$3.89 billion in the last three months, up by 6.35 per cent.</p>	05 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-sees-single-month-record-export-growth-on-rmg-pickup-1633372697?date=05-10-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-sees-single-month-record-export-growth-on-rmg-pickup-1633372697?date=05-10-2021</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
31	<p><b>Tax revenue up as economy rebounds</b>  <b>Receipt up 14.55pc in July-Aug period</b></p> <p>Tax-revenue collection in Bangladesh marks an upturn amid economic rebound, both globally and locally, following reopening from corona lockdowns. Transitional period in economy after the anti-Covid lockdowns has helped the tax authority hammer in a 14.55-per cent growth in the first two months of the current fiscal year (FY), provisional data with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) show. The revenue growth was negative 1.50 per cent in the same period last fiscal year-the period when the mortal global pandemic had upended normal order of life and business. However, the NBR counted a shortfall against its target worth Tk 52.12 billion for the past July-August period.</p> <p>The taxmen collected Tk 345.48 billion in tax revenue in the first two months against its target for Tk 397.59 billion. Collection of import and export duties registered the highest growth at 15.72 per cent while VAT collection from domestic sources grew 14.21 per cent. Income-tax wing of the revenue board registered 13.66-per cent growth in this period. A senior NBR official said import growth contributed to the higher revenue collection.</p>	05 October 2021	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tax-revenue-up-as-economy-rebounds-1633372577?date=05-10-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tax-revenue-up-as-economy-rebounds-1633372577?date=05-10-2021</a>)</p>	
32	<p><b>Loan-restructuring facility</b>  <b>Defaulters get yet another extension</b>  <b>BB issues circular on 'one-time exit' facility of 2019</b></p> <p>The loan defaulters, who were granted special loan rescheduling or 'one-time exit' facility under a central bank scheme, known as the loan-restructuring facility, will get time extension to repay their outstanding loans until December 31 of this year, according to a Bangladesh Bank (BB) circular -- issued on Monday. In 2019, the central bank allowed the defaulters to enjoy a waiver of their whole unrealised interest, if they applied to pay back their loans within one year by giving a 2.0 per cent down payment. Under the facility, such defaulters got loan payment deferral facility for instalments, which were overdue between January 1 and December 31.</p> <p>A good number of clients, however, failed to pay their loan instalments in time due to the ongoing economic adversity amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Some, however, failed to pay instalments even before the pandemic violating the provisions of the facility. The clients also enjoyed moratorium facility throughout last year, after which the central bank extended the time by another six months until June to repay the loans under the 'one-time exit' facility. The clients would enjoy the relaxed provision now, if they repay their total loans within this December, according to the BB circular.</p> <p>On May 16, 2019, the defaulters were allowed 10-year loan repayment tenure, including one year grace period, through payment of 2.0 per cent of their loans as down payment. Apart from the rescheduling for 10 years, the BB also allowed settlement of defaulted loans under the scheme, allowing the defaulters to enjoy interest waiver for the preceding period of loan settlement. A BB circular issued on the day said the loan payment deferral facility would be applicable for the defaulters who received the rescheduling facility on easy terms.</p>	05 October 2021	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/defaulters-get-yet-another-extension-1633372752?date=05-10-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/defaulters-get-yet-another-extension-1633372752?date=05-10-2021</a>)</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
33	<p><b><u>No fear of debt trap for BD</u></b>  <b>Says minister, seeks more Chinese investment</b></p> <p>Planning Minister MA Mannan on Monday said there is no scope for Bangladesh to get stuck in debt trap, noting that its foreign-currency reserves are growing with lower rate of borrowing in comparison with the size of GDP, reports UNB. "There's no fear for Bangladesh to get into debt trap," he said while addressing a webinar. Speaking as the chief guest, Minister Mannan said Bangladesh takes loan considering all aspects and thinking well before taking a decision. He hoped that the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and China will be strengthened further. Mannan also hoped that the investment of Chinese companies in Bangladesh will increase with an improved relation between the two countries.</p> <p>The Planning Minister hoped that the Chinese government will take all necessary steps to help Bangladesh students who got stuck here due to Covid-19 to return to China for continuing their studies.</p>	05 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/no-fear-of-debt-trap-for-bd-1633369547?date=05-10-2021">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/no-fear-of-debt-trap-for-bd-1633369547?date=05-10-2021</a> )	
34	<p><b><u>Number of mobile connections nears 18cr</u></b></p> <p>The number of connections of the country's four mobile phone operators increased by 16.7 lakh to 17.86 crore at the end of August, according to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission data. The number of mobile internet connections also rose by 17.2 lakh in August. The BTRC data showed that the number of mobile phone connections was 17.69 crore at the end of July.</p> <p>According to BTRC officials, the number of active connections does not represent unique users rather it represents the number of SIMs issued by the telecom operators as the telecom rules allow an individual to buy up to 20 SIMs of the telecom operators. Besides, many people use multiple connections for various reasons and thus the number of internet and mobile phone connections exceeded the total number of population in the country, the officials said.</p>	06 October 2021	New Age ( <a href="https://www.newagebd.net/article/151091/number-of-mobile-connections-nears-18cr">https://www.newagebd.net/article/151091/number-of-mobile-connections-nears-18cr</a> )	
35	<p><b><u>তুলার বাজারে অস্থিরতা, বাড়তে পারে সুতার দাম</u></b></p> <p>প্রচুর ক্রয়াদেশ থাকলেও নানান সমস্যা পিছু ছাড়ছে না দেশের তৈরি পোশাকশিল্পের মালিকদের। চীনে বিদ্যুৎ-সংকটের কারণে বস্ত্রকলগুলো পুরোদমে উৎপাদন করতে পারছে না। সে জন্য সময়মতো কাঁচামাল পাওয়া নিয়ে দুশ্চিন্তায় আছে অধিকাংশ ওভেন কারখানা।</p> <p>এদিকে বিশ্ববাজারে তুলার দাম আবার বাড়ছে। ফলে সুতার মূল্যবৃদ্ধির শঙ্কা তৈরি হচ্ছে। সেটি হলে বিপদে পড়তে পারেন নিট পোশাক কারখানার মালিকেরা।</p> <p>সুতার মূল্যবৃদ্ধির ইঙ্গিত দিয়েছেন বস্ত্রকলের মালিকদের সংগঠন বিটিএমএর নেতারা। তাঁরা বলছেন, গত এক দশকে বিশ্ববাজারে তুলার দামের সূচক (ইনডেক্স) সর্বোচ্চ পর্যায়ে রয়েছে। এটি চলতি মাসজুড়ে অব্যাহত থাকলে ডিসেম্বরে সুতার দাম বাড়তে পারে ১৫ শতাংশের মতো। তাই নতুন ক্রয়াদেশ নেওয়ার ক্ষেত্রে বিদেশি ক্রেতাদের সঙ্গে দর-কষাকষিতে পোশাকশিল্পের মালিকদের সতর্ক থাকতে হবে।</p>	06 October 2021	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0%E0%A4%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0%E0%A4%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
36	<p><b><u>Ratify two int'l pacts</u></b>  <b><u>BIBM research suggests amid Covid-induced fallouts for external trade</u></b>  Bangladesh should urgently ratify two international compacts to protect the country's external trade interests, according to a latest research recommendation. The trade-related international agreements are: UN Vienna Convention on Sale of Goods (CISG) and UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts (UPICC). The country is not a signatory and is yet to ratify the pacts, but its major trading partners like the United States, members of the EU, China are the signatory, the research paper pointed out, adding that it may pose risks to the country's external trade.</p> <p>Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) organised a virtual workshop on Wednesday to share the findings of the draft research titled "Applicability and Legal Enforceability of Sales-Purchase Contract in International Trade Operations in Banks". A research team led by BIBM Professor (Selection Grade) Dr. Shah Md. Ahsan Habib prepared the paper. A total of 32 banks (4 SCBs, 26 PCBs and 2 FCBs) responded to the questionnaire of a survey conducted under the research. The paper pointed out that the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in extensive devastation to the international trade, traders, and trade financing banks of Bangladesh. It said that the vulnerability associated with the legal enforceability of purchase-sale contract was exposed on several occasions during the pandemic when importers had canceled the orders. As of March 2020, the global clothing brands and retailers canceled import orders worth US\$ 1.40 billion from the country as the pandemic hit the businesses badly mostly in European and US markets, it said. A total of 347 apparel exporters faced order cancellations worth US\$ 927 million, and 220 knitwear exporters faced cancellations of work orders worth US\$ 480 million. Bangladesh lost roughly US\$ 3.0 billion in export earnings amid cancellations/terminations of contracts/purchase orders that were initially estimated to be US\$ 6.0 million.</p>	07 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ratify-two-intl-pacts-1633545171">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ratify-two-intl-pacts-1633545171</a> )	
37	<p><b><u>e-TDS rollout to check tax evasion</u></b>  The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Wednesday launched the electronic tax deduction at source (e-TDS) system countrywide to check evasion. With this automation, some 350,000 mostly corporate taxpayers will be able to deduct tax at source in a simplified way and deposit it to the public exchequer. The NBR collects 64 per cent of its direct tax as TDS. A 21-member team of tax officials has developed the e-TDS system through interconnecting with the automated challan or AChallan system of finance ministry. Currently, tax-deducting authorities have to submit 26 types of reports manually to the taxman in a year.</p> <p>NBR officials said the reports would now be submitted through the e-TDS system without visiting tax offices. The system was launched at a programme, the 'Official roll-out of e-TDS', presided over by NBR chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem at the NBR headquarters.</p> <p>The e-TDS system should be integrated with the online tax returns and e-payment system to make it more successful. Automated system has helped the finance ministry bring efficiency in pension and stimulus packages.</p>	07 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/e-tds-rollout-to-check-tax-evasion-1633545220">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/e-tds-rollout-to-check-tax-evasion-1633545220</a> )	
38	<p><b><u>Govt eases rules for duty-free import</u></b>  Export-oriented industries in Bangladesh have been allowed to import the raw materials needed for six months duty-free under the bonded warehouse facility, the government said yesterday, in a major boost to the manufacturing sector. Earlier, manufacturers could bring in the raw materials and packaging materials for four months of their capacity. The decision came as the cabinet committee on economic affairs approved an amendment to the import policy order yesterday.</p>	07 October 2021	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/export/news/govt-eases-rules-duty-free-import-2192546">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/export/news/govt-eases-rules-duty-free-import-2192546</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
39	<p><b><u>MCCI-PEB Business Climate Index unveiled</u></b>  <b><u>BD scores 61 in maiden index</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh scores 61 out of 100 points in its first-ever homegrown business index called BBX, showing modest improvements in doing-business environment. The BBX (Bangladesh Business Climate Index), based on a total of 100 points, divides the business environment into four categories. The bottom 0-20 points indicate the business environment is difficult, if 21-40, there are substantial bottlenecks remaining for business. Index staying within the next 20 points indicates generally complex business environment. If the index is between 61 and 80, the business environment is improving and if the index is 81-100, then the business environment is friendly. The first-ever 'Bangladesh Business Environment Index' could manage to score 61.01, which states the business environment in Bangladesh is improving, but there is room for progress. This is more or less similar to that of World Bank's 'doing business index' which now discontinued over audit report of the data controversy. However, BBX is contextualized to Bangladesh. Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) and Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB) jointly unveiled the survey-based report on Thursday. It may be released annually. MCCI and PEB have developed the BBX specifically for Bangladesh, assessed overall business climate and ecosystem as well as the strengths and weaknesses in 10 areas relating to the setting up and operation of businesses in Bangladesh, across industrial, geographical and business-size matrices.</p> <p>Bangladesh has best performed in access to infrastructure out of its 10 pillars as it obtained 72.02 score. The worst pillar is cross-border trade facilitation where the country scored 49.43. The performances of Bangladesh in 10 areas are: pillar 1: starting a business 68.91, pillar 2: access to land 58.90, pillar 3: availability of regulatory information 59.83, pillar 4: access to infrastructure 72.02, pillar 5: labour regulations 66.35, pillar 6: dispute resolution 57.48, pillar 7: cross border trade facilitation 49.43, pillar 8: paying taxes 68.72, pillar 9: technology adoption 57.70 and pillar 10: access to finance 50.78.</p> <p>The objective is to visualise what appropriate policy measures and reforms need to be brought about to continually improve Bangladesh's business climate, which is already on the path of improvement. The Index will help potential investors and policymakers to target action programs to address specific issues. The methodology of the survey is survey/sampling. Weighted average for divisions and sectors based on contributions to GDP and employment. It has reached 1000 firms, 451 total response and 356 high-quality responses.</p> <p>There are such more indices in neighbouring countries. China has China Business Climate Index, Malaysia has Business Condition Index and Vietnam has got Business Climate Index.</p>	08 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-scores-61-in-maiden-index-1633632093">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-scores-61-in-maiden-index-1633632093</a> )	



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40	<p><b><u>Economy to bulge to \$500 billion by 2026</u></b>  <b><u>StanChart also predicts per-capita income rise to \$3,000 on growth expansion</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh may become a US\$500 billion economy with the per-capita income rising to \$3,000 by 2025-26 fiscal year on the back of a steady growth, Standard Chartered Bank predicts. The international bank reported Thursday the country's economic outlook that estimates a GDP growth of 7.2 per cent in the current fiscal year (FY), driven by several macroeconomic factors. Higher domestic consumption and global growth rebound coupled with the vaccination drive in anti-corona battle will continue to remain as key drivers, says Standard Chartered.</p> <p>It views that sustained GDP (gross domestic product) growth over 7.0 per cent during a five-year period starting in FY'22 will drive the size of Bangladesh's gross domestic product up to US\$500 billion and per-capita income to \$3,000 by FY'26. "Bangladesh's economy is set to accelerate after a speed bump...The momentum will be driven by an export-demand recovery, strong remittance inflows, and public investment," said Saurav Anand, an economist at Standard Chartered, South Asia. He feels that policy intervention will be needed for a smooth transition to middle-income status as various benefits will start to get phased away after graduation in 2026.</p> <p>Global Head of Research and Chief Strategist at Standard Chartered Eric Robertsen observed while the pace and distribution of global recovery remains highly uneven, Bangladesh has made a strong comeback with one of the highest GDP growths in the world in 2020. "A robust vaccination programme and implementation of strategic infrastructure projects are expected to further increase momentum towards the nation's LDC graduation," he said.</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bangladesh Naser Ezaz Bijoy said the government of Bangladesh has navigated the internal and external challenges of the pandemic "remarkably well". "The resilience of Bangladesh economy gives us cause for optimism. As the vaccination drive continues, the economy is set to accelerate, while lower debt levels compared to its peers provide medium-term fiscal runway for growth," he said.</p>	08 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economy-to-bulge-to-500-billion-by-2026-1633632004">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economy-to-bulge-to-500-billion-by-2026-1633632004</a> )	
41	<p><b><u>WB revises GDP growth to 6.4pc</u></b>  <b><u>Any new Covid waves, curbs, RMG demand slump, labour migration are downside risks</u></b></p> <p>The World Bank now projects an upbeat economic growth to 6.4 per cent for Bangladesh in the current fiscal, 1.3-percentage points higher than its earlier forecast, despite some headwinds. In its earlier projection during the second wave of Covid-19 last June the Washington-based lender had forecast the country's gross domestic product (GDP) would grow at a rate of 5.1 per cent. The Bank, in its 'South Asia Economic Focus: Fall 2021' report published Thursday, also painted a rosy picture for the Bangladesh economy ahead as it said the GDP here could grow at 6.9 per cent in the next FY2022-23.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the government has targeted economic expansion at a 7.2-per cent rate in the current fiscal in a turnaround from the Covid-induced slowdown.</p> <p>The global development financier at a press briefing from its headquarters on Wednesday evening said that Bangladesh's GDP growth would reach 6.4 per cent in FY2022, before accelerating to 6.9 per cent in FY2023, as exports and consumption continue to recover from downturns.</p>	08 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/wb-revises-gdp-growth-to-64pc-1633632215">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/wb-revises-gdp-growth-to-64pc-1633632215</a> )	

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42	<p><b><u>BD ranked 108th in passport index</u></b>  <b><u>It slips two notches</u></b>            Bangladesh ranked 108th out of 116 countries in the Henley Passport Index 2021, slipping two notches, which means the country's passport weakened further. Bangladeshi passport-holders can now travel 40 countries without an advance visa, according to the report published on Thursday. Earlier, Bangladesh ranked 106th in the passport index. At that time, Bangladeshi passport-holders could travel 41 countries without an advance visa. Bangladesh's partners on the list are Kosovo and Libya.</p> <p>According to the latest edition of the index, Japan has become the strongest country in terms of passport. Singapore is also at the top along with Japan. Citizens of both the countries are now able to travel 192 countries without an advance visa. South Korea and Germany jointly hold the second position.</p> <p>Three countries in South Asia are behind Bangladesh in the latest passport index. Of these, Nepal ranked 110th, Pakistan 113rd and Afghanistan 116th. Besides, the Maldives ranked 66th, India 90th, Bhutan 96th and Myanmar 102nd in the list.</p> <p>With historical data of 16 years, the Henley Passport Index published the ranking, based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Authority (IATA).</p>	08 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-ranked-108th-in-passport-index-1633632880">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-ranked-108th-in-passport-index-1633632880</a> )	
43	<p><b><u>PRAN Dairy receives taxpayer award</u></b>            PRAN Dairy Limited, a sister concern of PRAN-RFL Group, received a taxpayer award from Tax Zone-5, Dhaka. Choudhury Atiur Rasul, Director (Accounts) of PRAN-RFL Group received the award on behalf of PRAN Dairy from Shoaib Ahmed, Commissioner at Tax Zone-5, Dhaka through a program held at the capital on Tuesday evening, states a press release.</p> <p>Tax Zone-5, Dhaka, honored the five companies and five persons for paying the highest tax at the zone. The program arranged to increase tax collection by reducing gap between taxpayers and tax receivers.</p>	08 October 2021	The Business Standard (TBS) ( <a href="https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/pran-dairy-receives-taxpayer-award-313093">https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/pran-dairy-receives-taxpayer-award-313093</a> )	
44	<p><b><u>Industry urges easing US cotton import</u></b>  <b><u>Also seeks duty concession on RMG made from American cotton</u></b>            Bangladesh spinners requested authorities concerned to address the barriers they face in importing cotton from the United States for smooth supply of the main raw material used in apparel manufacturing, as industry prospects are flourishing. They also urged the US government to grant duty concession on RMG products made from US cotton in order to enhance the bilateral trade.</p> <p>"The USA has always maintained its cotton quality, resulting in no complaints," Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) president Mohammad Ali Khokon said Thursday while making the twin calls about facilitating the clothing trade-Bangladesh's main export-earner. The only limitation faced in importing US cotton by the Bangladeshi spinners is its fumigation at Chittagong seaport, which is not required for the cotton imported from other countries. He requests the government, USDA, Cotton Council International (CCI) and Bangladesh Cotton Association (BCA) to look into the matter seriously.</p>	09 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/industry-urges-easing-us-cotton-import-1633716264">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/industry-urges-easing-us-cotton-import-1633716264</a> )	

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45	<p><b><u>Focus sharpens on regional value chain, connectivity</u></b>  <b>Economists push for two-pronged strategy amid emerging global economic order fuelled by Brexit, US-China trade war, pandemic</b></p> <p>Experts Friday emphasised establishing increased connectivity and regional value chain by resolving high tariff issues among the countries for navigating a changing global economic order stemming from some mega-events of the day. They think these two mechanisms can help in deepening the Bay of Bengal cooperation with augmented trade relations particularly among the BIMSTEC member-countries.</p> <p>In substantiating their recommendations for looking east to raise intra-regional trade and communications they cited incidents like Brexit, US-China trade war, and the covid-19 pandemic that are fuelling the latest geopolitical and economic changes. They observed the pandemic generated the need for deepening the regional connectivity as it disrupted all kinds of cross-border activities -- trade, transport, tourism, investment, as well as people-to-people connectivity. Such great disruptions are upending normal global order and leaving extremely negative impact on life and business in the Bay of Bengal region.</p> <p>The observations came in a panel discussion titled 'Global Trends and Bay of Bengal Integration' held as part of 'Bay of Bengal Regional Trade and Connectivity Capacity Building Program' held in Dhaka. South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), through the USAID and US Department of State-funded Cross-Border Infrastructure and Connectivity project, organised the panel discussion online. Government and non-government officials from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, who work on trade and connectivity issues, participated in discussion.</p>	09 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/focus-sharpens-on-regional-value-chain-connectivity-1633716007">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/focus-sharpens-on-regional-value-chain-connectivity-1633716007</a> )	
46	<p><b><u>Manpower export rebounds as 300,000 go abroad</u></b>  <b>The last nine-month figure 46pc higher than entire last year's</b></p> <p>Bangladesh has sent more than 300,000 workers abroad with jobs in the last nine months of this calendar year, official statistics show, as manpower export picks up after a slump in 2020. The migration of workers, numbering 317799, during the January-September period of 2021 was 46 per cent or 100,130 higher than the figure of entire calendar year 2020. Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) data released recently reflect the corona-inflicted fall last year and a rebound this year with the pandemic receding after a surging second wave. Manpower recruiters could send only 217,669 workers in 2020 according to official count. Vital job-destination countries had suspended air travel for a certain time to check coronavirus infection last year, resulting in fresh recruitment stalemate alongside return of many.</p> <p>According to the BMET latest data, of the total number of jobseekers sent abroad, 42,008 went in September alone with the situation of restrictions increasingly turning for the better. Officials said that, presently, Saudi Arabia is mainly recruiting workers from Bangladesh under an extended quota. The Arab nation increased job quota for Bangladeshi workers to 40 per cent from 30 per cent in private sector recently.</p>	09 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/manpower-export-rebounds-as-300000-go-abroad-1633716348">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/manpower-export-rebounds-as-300000-go-abroad-1633716348</a> )	

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47	<p><b>Transport sector</b> <b>LoC-funded projects still in slow lane</b> <b>Implementers seek time, money</b></p> <p>The Indian line of credit (LoC)-funded projects in the road-transport sector are still slow in progress, excepting those taken to procure goods. Eight projects are under implementation under three LoCs at an estimated cost of \$947.61 million to upgrade infrastructure facilities in Bangladesh. The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has been implementing five projects while the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) three others under the LoCs signed in 2010, 2016 and 2017. However, sources said the BRTC could only complete purchasing buses and trucks at \$126 million. The RHD has also a procurement project taken under the second LoC which is still to be completed. It could only record 48 per cent of its target to buy building equipment and machinery at \$59.84 million until September 2021 even after a lapse of four years. The Indian government has committed to providing \$7.8 billion under the three LoCs.</p> <p>Sources says most of the RHD projects have been delayed due to taking longer time in preparing development project proposals (DPPs), fund release from India and the concurrence to select consultants or contractors. Official sources, however, attribute the Covid-19 pandemic to slowdown in most projects for restrictions on border movement and travel since March 2020. They have received goods like laboratory equipment, shot-mixing asphalt plant, bulldozer, heavy-duty crane, motorcycles and air compressor with trolley from India.</p>	09 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/loc-funded-projects-still-in-slow-lane-1633715604">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/loc-funded-projects-still-in-slow-lane-1633715604</a> )	
48	<p><b>BD among lowest in South Asia, show WB jab data</b> <b>It gives 14.1 doses per 100 people until Sept</b></p> <p>Bangladesh has secured one of the lowest positions in terms of Covid-19 vaccination among the South Asian (SA) nations, as the country has inoculated only 14.1 doses per one hundred people until September, the World Bank (WB) data showed. According to the WB data, Sri Lanka is on the top of the list with 143.9 doses per 100 people, followed by Nepal with 62.1 doses, and Pakistan with 39.4 doses.</p> <p>Analysts said the government's poor planning kept Bangladesh behind on the vaccination list among the South Asian states, although vaccination is very critical for the country's economic recovery. Different multilateral development partners, including the WB, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) also opined that Bangladesh's quick economic recovery would depend on its vaccination pace.</p>	09 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-among-lowest-in-south-asia-show-wb-jab-data-1633715673">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-among-lowest-in-south-asia-show-wb-jab-data-1633715673</a> )	
49	<p><b>বেপজার ওয়ান স্টপ সার্ভিসে কাস্টমসের ২১ সেবা</b></p> <p>রপ্তানি প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকার (ইপিজেড) বিনিয়োগকারীদের জন্য করসংক্রান্ত বিষয়গুলো আরও সহজ হচ্ছে। এখন থেকে বেপজার ওয়ান স্টপ সার্ভিসের মাধ্যমে বন্ড রেজিস্ট্রেশন ইস্যু করা সহ কাস্টমসবিষয়ক ২১ ধরনের সেবা অনলাইনেই দেবে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড (এনবিআর)। এ বিষয়ে বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানি প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষ (বেপজা) ও এনবিআরের মধ্যে সমঝোতা স্মারক (এমওইউ) সই হয়েছে।</p> <p>সমঝোতা স্মারক সইয়ের ফলে এখন থেকে ইপিজেডের বিনিয়োগকারীরা অনলাইনে খুব সহজেই এনবিআর থেকে কাস্টমসের বন্ড রেজিস্ট্রেশন ইস্যুকরণ, আমদানি-রপ্তানিসংক্রান্ত কাস্টমসের অনুমতি, হ্যান্ডক্যারি আমদানি পণ্য শুল্কমুক্ত ছাড়করণ, ব্রিং-ব্যাক, শিপ-ব্যাকের মতো বিষয়গুলোর অনুমতি-সংক্রান্ত সেবা পাবেন। এছাড়া বন্ড টু বন্ড ট্রান্সফার, ভাড়া মেশিন গ্রহণ, পুরাতন মেশিনারিজ স্থানীয় শুল্ক এলাকায় বিক্রয়ের অনাপত্তি বা ছাড়পত্র প্রদান, মেশিন মেরামতের অনুমতি প্রদান, আমদানি-রপ্তানি মালপত্র, কনটেইনার ও কার্গো পরীক্ষণ, শুল্কায়ন, ছাড়করণও সহজেই অনলাইনে দেবে এনবিআর।</p>	09 October 2021	The Sangbad ( <a href="http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-10-09/news/business/104444">http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-10-09/news/business/104444</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
50	<p><b><u>১০ বছরে ডিমের উৎপাদন বেড়েছে তিন গুণেরও বেশি</u></b></p> <p>গত ১০ বছরে দেশে ডিমের উৎপাদন তিন গুণেরও বেশি বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। বর্তমানে বছরে ১০৪টি হারে ডিমের প্রাপ্যতা জনপ্রতি ১০৪.২৩টি। গত বৃহস্পতিবার প্রাণিসম্পদ অধিদপ্তর এক সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে এ তথ্য জানিয়েছে। অধিদপ্তরের হিসাব অনুযায়ী, ২০০৯ সালে বাংলাদেশে ডিমের উৎপাদন ছিল ৫৭৪.২৪ কোটি এবং ২০১৯-২০ সালে এ পরিমাণ দাঁড়ায় ১ হাজার ৭৩৬ কোটিতে। অর্থাৎ গত ১০ বছরে বাংলাদেশে ডিমের উৎপাদন তিন গুণেরও বেশি বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ ডিম উৎপাদনে স্বয়ংসম্পূর্ণ।</p> <p>জাতিসংঘের খাদ্য ও কৃষি সংস্থার তথ্য অনুযায়ী, ২০০৮ সালে সারাবিশ্বে যেখানে ডিমের উৎপাদন ছিল ৬১.৭ মিলিয়ন টন সেখানে ২০১৮ সালে তা বেড়ে হয়েছে ৭৬.৭ মিলিয়ন টন। অর্থাৎ দেখা যাচ্ছে মাত্র এক দশকের ব্যবধানে ডিমের উৎপাদন প্রায় ২৪ শতাংশ বেড়েছে।</p> <p>সরকারের নির্বাচনী অঙ্গীকার অনুযায়ী, ২০২৩ সালের মধ্যে হাঁস-মুরগির উৎপাদন দ্বিগুণ করা এবং ২০২৪ সালে এলডিসি থেকে মধ্যম আয়ের দেশে পর্দাপণের নিমিত্ত অষ্টম পঞ্চবার্ষিকী (২০২০-২০২৪) পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন করা হয়েছে। তাছাড়া টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট-২০৩০ বাস্তবায়নে জনপ্রতি দুধ, মাংস ও ডিম যথাক্রমে ২৭০ মি.লি, ১৫০ গ্রাম এবং ১৬৫টি বছরে ধরা হয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ দ্বিতীয় প্রেক্ষিত পরিকল্পনা (২০২১-৪১) বাস্তবায়নের মাধ্যমে রূপকল্প-২০৪১ ক্ষুধা ও দারিদ্র্যমুক্ত বাংলাদেশে রূপান্তরের লক্ষ্যে জনপ্রতি দুধ, মাংস ও ডিম যথাক্রমে ৩০০ মি.লি, ১৬০ গ্রাম এবং ২০৮টি বছরে ধরা হয়েছে।</p>	09 October 2021	The Sangbad ( <a href="http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-10-09/news/business/104441">http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-10-09/news/business/104441</a> )	
51	<p><b><u>City circular road</u></b> <b><u>BD urges WB backing</u></b></p> <p>Dhaka has requested that the World Bank bankroll its flagship circular road and riverine communication project around the city, officials said on Saturday. Finance minister AHM Mustafa Kamal during a virtual meeting with WB vice-president Hartwig Schafer called for faster fund release against the ongoing projects and expediting the ones in the pipeline. He also sought extended budgetary support from the Washington-based global lender to recover from the Covid-19 economic shocks, ministry officials said.</p> <p>Ahead of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-World Bank annual meeting from October 11-17, Mr Kamal joined the meeting with Mr Schafer on Friday evening, according to a press statement issued on Saturday. A senior Economic Relations Division (ERD) official told the FE that a Bangladesh team, headed by finance minister, would participate in the virtual meeting that kicks off on October 11. "Since Bangladesh has been affected severely by first and second waves of coronavirus," he says, "our delegation will emphasise getting extended support from the lender in the coming days too." Another official says since Dhaka city struggles with huge traffic congestion and the four rivers around it are almost unutilised for goods and passenger transportation due to inadequate planning and investments, the minister has sought the WB's support. "Besides, the WB-funded ongoing and pipeline projects are very important for Bangladesh. Quick fund release is imperative to recover from the losses."</p>	10 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-urges-wb-backing-1633799310">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-urges-wb-backing-1633799310</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
52	<p><b>ঐতিহাসিক চুক্তিতে পৌঁছল ১৩৬ দেশ, করপোরেট কর হবে ১৫ শতাংশ</b></p> <p>বহুজাতিক কোম্পানিগুলোকে একটি ন্যায্য করহারের আওতায় আনতে এক ঐতিহাসিক এক চুক্তিতে পৌঁছেছে বিশ্বের অধিকাংশ দেশ। এ চুক্তির মধ্য দিয়ে ১৩৬টি দেশ ঘোষণা করেছে, কোম্পানিগুলোর কাছ থেকে কমপক্ষে ১৫ শতাংশ হারে করপোরেট কর আদায় করবে তারা। পাশাপাশি যে লাভ তারা করবে, সেটির একটি ন্যায্য অংশ যেন তারা কর হিসেবে দেয়, সেটাও নিশ্চিত করা হবে। বিবিসি, রয়টার্স।</p> <p>বিবিসির এক প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়, আয়ারল্যান্ড, ইস্তোনিয়া ও হাঙ্গেরি বহু কাঙ্ক্ষিত মাইলফলক এ চুক্তিতে সই করতে সম্মতি জানালে গুগল, অ্যাপল ও অ্যামাজনের মতো বৃহৎ কোম্পানিগুলোর কর ফাঁকি দেয়ার দীর্ঘদিনের চলে আসা ব্যবস্থার ইতি ঘটতে যাচ্ছে বলে আন্তর্জাতিক গণমাধ্যমের খবরে উঠে এসেছে।</p> <p>রয়টার্সের আরেক প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়েছে, বহুজাতিক কোম্পানিগুলোর বিনিয়োগ টানার পাশাপাশি কর্মসংস্থান বাড়ানোর চেষ্টায় গত চার দশক ধরে বিভিন্ন দেশের সরকার করপোরেট করহার কমানোর যে প্রতিযোগিতা চালিয়ে আসছিল, সেটির অবসান ঘটানোই এ চুক্তির লক্ষ্য।</p> <p>এ চুক্তির জন্য আলোচনা চলছিল গত চার বছর ধরেই। মার্কিন প্রেসিডেন্ট জো বাইডেনের সমর্থন আর কোভিড-১৯ মহামারীর অর্থনৈতিক অভিঘাত সেই আলোচনাকে আরও বেগবান করে। যে ১৪০টি দেশ এ আলোচনায় ছিল, তাদের মধ্যে চার উন্নয়নশীল দেশ কেনিয়া, নাইজেরিয়া, পাকিস্তান ও শ্রীলঙ্কা আপাতত চুক্তিতে আসছে না। এ আলোচনার নেতৃত্বে থাকা প্যারিসভিত্তিক অর্গানাইজেশন ফর ইকোনমিক কো-অপারেশন অ্যান্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট (ওইসিডি) বলছে, বিশ্ব অর্থনীতির ৯০ শতাংশ এই চুক্তির আওতায় আসবে। বিশ্বের শীর্ষস্থানীয় প্রযুক্তি জায়ান্ট ও বহুজাতিক কোম্পানিগুলোর কাছ থেকে আরও বেশি কর আদায়ের এই মাইলফলক চুক্তির বিষয়ে চলতি বছরের ৬ জুন সমঝোতায় পৌঁছায় যুক্তরাষ্ট্র ও যুক্তরাজ্যসহ জি-৭ জোটের দেশগুলো। আন্তর্জাতিক গণমাধ্যমগুলো তখন বৈশ্বিক করারোপের এ সমঝোতাকে 'ঐতিহাসিক' হিসেবে বর্ণনা করে বলেছিল, 'ট্যাক্স হেভেন' হিসেবে পরিচিত নিঃস্বার্থ দেশগুলোতে কোম্পানিগুলোর মুনাফা স্থানান্তরের বিষয়টিকে নিরুৎসাহিত করতেও জি-৭ প্রণোদনা কমাবে।</p>	10 October 2021	The Sangbad ( <a href="http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-10-10/news/business/104487">http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-10-10/news/business/104487</a> )	
53	<p><b>LPG users to count extra 21.87pc</b> <b>BERC announces new rates for October</b></p> <p>The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has increased the retail prices of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) by around 21.87 per cent for trading in domestic market in October. The hike will only heighten the sufferings of the consumers who are already hit hard by the soaring prices of most essentials. The retail price of a 12-kg LPG cylinder - to be provided by private operators - has been adjusted higher to Tk 1,259 for October trading, compared to Tk 1,033 for September, BERC Chairman Md Abdul Jalil said, while announcing the new tariff virtually on Sunday. The new prices are effective from October 10, he added.</p> <p>The commission considered the Saudi Aramco contract price (CP) of October 2021 as the benchmark for fixing LPG prices in the domestic market. It also considered fluctuations of foreign currency and change in the value added tax (VAT) amount to fix the domestic LPG prices. Private sector operators will sell LPG to consumers in different sizes of cylinders - 5.5kg, 12.5kg, 15kg, 16kg, 18kg, 20kg, 22kg, 25kg, 30kg, 35kg, and 45kg.</p>	11 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/lpg-users-to-count-extra-2187pc-1633886192">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/lpg-users-to-count-extra-2187pc-1633886192</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
54	<p><b><u>2nd nuclear power plant in southern region: PM</u></b>  <b><u>First reactor pressure vessel of RNPP installed</u></b>            Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday said the government is looking for a suitable place in the Southern region to build another nuclear power plant to meet the country's growing demand for electricity, report agencies. Sheikh Hasina said this while addressing the installation programme of the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) of unit-1 of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) project.            Mentioning that the government is conducting surveys to select a suitable place, she said it would not be a tough job to select a site. "If the government can build another nuclear power plant in the country, there'll be no problem in power supply." The Prime Minister said the government has set a target to make the country a developed one within 2041. "Already, we've got the status of a developing country...this is not enough." In 2071, the Prime Minister said, the country will celebrate its 100 years of independence. "That will surely be celebrated by the new generation in a beautiful, developed, prosperous and modern technology knowledge-based country," she said.</p>	11 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/2nd-nuclear-power-plant-in-southern-region-pm-1633886386">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/2nd-nuclear-power-plant-in-southern-region-pm-1633886386</a> )	
55	<p><b><u>BB rejects Padma-SOCB merger</u></b>  <b><u>Recapitalising by bringing foreign funds deemed fit</u></b>            Disapproving of a plea for merger of the problem-ridden Padma Bank with any state-owned bank as a remedy, the regulator rather prescribes its capital replenishment by bringing in funds from abroad. Officials said the Bangladesh Bank gave its opinion last week in a letter after the Financial Institutions Division (FID) had forwarded Padma Bank's plea to the regulator late August.            The troubled bank in a letter in July had sought finance ministry's intervention to rescue it from the position by issuing preferential shares and additional subordinated bond for maintaining required capital adequacy. Alternately, the authority had proposed to merge the bank with any of its partner banks like Sonali, Janata, Agrani, and Rupali or any other state-owned commercial bank.            The central bank in its opinion said the issuance of preferential share and additional subordinated bond for maintaining capital adequacy is not consistent with the Bank Company Act 1991. About the other proposal the regulator said there is a scope for merger of banks under section 77 (16) of the Bank Company Act 1991. But, in this case, there should be a prospect that depositors, creditors, and shareholders of the two parties should be benefited from the merger. The central bank further noted that state-owned banks themselves are overwhelmed with high non-performing loans and capital shortages, and facing various operational and managerial problems.</p>	11 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-rejects-padma-socb-merger-1633886896">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-rejects-padma-socb-merger-1633886896</a> )	
56	<p><b><u>Swiss entrepreneurs want to invest in Bangladesh's leather sector: Swiss envoy</u></b>            Swiss entrepreneurs are interested to invest in Bangladesh's leather sector, Switzerland's Ambassador to Bangladesh Nathalie Chuard said today.            The Swiss envoy shared the information in a meeting with Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun at the latter's office in Dhaka.            During the meeting, the two agreed to work together on issues such as patents, designs, trademarks of products and services, and geographical indication products for the protection of intellectual property.</p>	11 October 2021	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/swiss-entrepreneurs-want-invest-bangladeshs-leather-sector-swiss-envoy-2195211">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/swiss-entrepreneurs-want-invest-bangladeshs-leather-sector-swiss-envoy-2195211</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
57	<p><b><u>Automobile industry an emerging investment destination for Japan</u></b></p> <p>The automotive industry in Bangladesh could be an emerging investment destination for Japanese entrepreneurs, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (DCCI) President Rizwan Rahman said yesterday. Rahman said this in a bilateral business meeting with Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki held at DCCI office.</p> <p>He said 321 Japanese companies are now operating in Bangladesh and Japanese foreign direct investment in Bangladesh was \$397.15 million in March 2021.</p> <p>Stating that Bangladesh mainly exports garment products to Japan, he urged the ambassador to facilitate other promising products for export to Japan.</p>	11 October 2021	<p>The Daily Star (<a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/news/automobile-industry-emerging-investment-destination-japan-2195621">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/news/automobile-industry-emerging-investment-destination-japan-2195621</a>)</p>	
58	<p><b><i>Spot LNG purchase in switch from contracts</i></b> <b>Global energy dearth upsets BD's import plan</b></p> <p>Global energy supply dearth upsets Bangladesh's switch to LNG purchase from spot market as the government opted for a pause until December after three cargoes costing record-high prices. Officials say the state-run Petrobangla has so far confirmed the purchase of liquefied natural gas or LNG cargoes from spot market for this month and the latest cargo is expected to reach FSRU (floating storage, re-gasification unit) on October 26. Higher price of spot LNG on the international market and lesser demand for natural gas during the winter months of November and December might have prompted the government to halt the purchase of LNG during November-December period, a senior energy ministry official told the FE Monday. Petrobangla had not imported LNG during five months from last October to February as it did not get suitable price quotes.</p> <p>State-owned Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL), a fully owned subsidiary of Petrobangla that looks after LNG trading, invited tenders repeatedly from select suppliers and got price quotes several times that ranged up to around US\$ 8.0 per million British thermal unit (MMBTU). But the prices were deemed 'high' and so the government did not purchase the fuel from spot market after September last year. The government, however, reinitiated purchase of spot LNG from March 2021 and continued purchasing until early August before a halt for a brief period until late September 2021 following an instruction from the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR). Seeing the mounting demand for natural gas in industries and power plants the government started purchasing LNG from spot market in September at US\$28 per MMBTU from Vitol Asia Pte Ltd. Petrobangla also bought two LNG cargoes at record-high rates of \$35.89 per MMBTU and \$36.95 per MMBTU from Vitol and Gunvor for early and late October delivery. The prices are over threefold the price the government purchases LNG at from long-term suppliers averaging around US\$10.50 per MMBTU. The country's overall LNG re-gasification as on October 10, 2021 was around 683 million cubic feet per day (mmcf). Sources said natural gas crisis, which prevailed across the country over the past one month, eased with the increased supply of natural gas.</p>	12 October 2021	<p>The Financial Express (<a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/global-energy-dearth-upsets-bds-import-plan-1633971859">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/global-energy-dearth-upsets-bds-import-plan-1633971859</a>)</p>	



Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
59	<p><b><u>MCCI anatomy of Bangladesh economy</u></b>  <b><u>Investment hits three-pronged headwinds, recovery may slow</u></b>  <b><u>Pinpoints weak infrastructure, policy inconsistency, graft</u></b></p> <p>Bangladesh's elite trade-body MCCI diagnoses underdeveloped infrastructure, policy inconsistency and corruption as cardinal causes of investment getting stymied, and fears slowdown in economic recovery. The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) in its report on 'Bangladesh's Economy During FY'21' pinpointed the headwinds facing the country's economic advances and called for early remedies.</p> <p>To allure more local and foreign investors, the trade body suggests, the government ought to address these impediments to attract more foreign direct investment (FDI) in order to ensure the country's economic recovery from the damage done by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. "The low level of private investment, local and foreign, is largely due to the underdeveloped infrastructure and such other impediments as lack of adequate energy and weak transmission infrastructure, lack of consistency in policy and regulatory frameworks, scarcity of industrial land, corruption, and non-transparent and uneven application of rules and regulations," it says.</p> <p>The chamber also found the rates of growth in both savings and investment very slow. As proportion of GDP, gross investment was recorded at 29.92 per cent in FY21 from 30.47 per cent in FY20. The share of private investment in GDP recorded at 21.25 per cent in FY21 from 22.06 per cent in FY20, whereas the share of public investment rose to 8.67 per cent of GDP in FY21 from 8.41 per cent in FY20.</p> <p>Domestic saving as proportion of GDP increased by 0.40 percentage points to 24.17 per cent in FY21 from 23.77 per cent in FY20. The national savings ratio also rose to 30.39 per cent in FY21 from 28.67 per cent in FY20.</p> <p>About agriculture, the MCCI stated that favorable natural factors and strong government support in terms of timely availability of inputs and finances notwithstanding, the agriculture sector achieved a lower growth of 3.45 per cent in FY21, compared to 4.59 per cent in FY20.</p> <p>Regarding export performance, it said export earnings from top twelve countries, bar Japan, bounced back, year-on-year, in FY21 after facing a setback for some time due to the COVID-19 pandemic and continued registering positive growth now. Most of them registered a double-digit growth.</p> <p>According to MCCI's observation, the disbursement of foreign aid decreased by US\$0.16 billion or 2.20 per cent to US\$7.11 billion in FY21 compared to US\$7.27 billion in the previous fiscal year (FY20) despite hurdles in execution of the foreign-funded projects amid the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Public-sector credits, on the other hand, recorded a growth of 18.95 per cent at the end of June 2021, compared with a much higher growth of 53.97 per cent at the end of June 2020. June's growth was much lower compared with BB's target of 44.40 per cent in June 2021. Within public-sector credits, credit to government (net) recorded a growth of 21.57 per cent, and credit to other public sectors recorded a growth of 2.74 per cent, during the period under review.</p>	12 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/investment-hits-three-pronged-headwinds-recovery-may-slow-1633971507">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/investment-hits-three-pronged-headwinds-recovery-may-slow-1633971507</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
60	<p><b><u>Rebuilding Bangladesh: A resolute plan for resilient recovery</u></b></p> <p>Building a resilient economic recovery to emerge stronger from the Covid pandemic would be Bangladesh's growth mantra for the next three years. This inference can be drawn from a government document that looks at how the Covid second wave and the consequent economic slowdown have affected the growth momentum in Bangladesh and mulls measures to overcome the crisis, reports UNB. According to the Finance Ministry document, economic recovery will be central to Sheikh Hasina government's forward-looking agenda for the next three years, which will focus on the effective implementation of a slew of state policies through aggressive spending. "In the medium term, the government will put emphasis on economic recovery from the fallout of Covid-19 and on implementing the Eighth Five-Year Plan, SDGs (sustainable development goals), Second Perspective Plan, Delta Plan 2100, and Blue Economy strategies," it states.</p> <p>Over the past decade, Bangladesh has been achieving a steady and stable economic growth along with maintaining sound macroeconomic stability with stable inflation, low public debt, and greater resilience to external shocks. In fact, in FY19, the growth rate reached a record 8.15 per cent but due to the Covid-19 fallout, "the growth rate sharply declined to 5.2 per cent in FY20", the document says. "In the last fiscal, the gross domestic product (GDP) growth target was initially set at 8.2 per cent, but the second wave of the pandemic in April 2021 forced a revision of the target to 6.1 per cent." On the demand side, private consumption, export-import and public investment have largely been affected by the pandemic. And on the supply side, farm output has been satisfactory so far "but manufacturing, construction and service sectors have been significantly affected", the document says. Alongside, Bangladesh also achieved praiseworthy improvement in social indicators, such as reducing poverty rate and infant mortality rate and increasing life expectancy and literacy rate.</p> <p>As per the document, Bangladesh has already qualified for the least developed country (LDC) graduation. "It has met, for the second time, all the three eligibility criteria for LDC graduation involving income per capita, human assets, and economic and environmental vulnerability." According to the United Nations Capital Development Fund's (UNCDF) recommendation, Bangladesh's transition will be effective in 2026. It means until 2026, Bangladesh will be able to enjoy all benefits applicable to LDCs. However, under the current rules, Bangladesh will be able to enjoy duty-free and quota-free market access for another three years, that's until 2029, after entering the EU market.</p> <p>Bangladesh adopted Vision 2041, Second Perspective Plan 2021-2041, with an aim to eliminate poverty and reach the upper middle-income country status by 2031 and high-income country status by 2041. The Eighth Five Year Plan (2020-25) has been approved with the following objectives-recovery from Covid-19, preparing Bangladesh for LDC graduation, achieving SDGs, realising Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, and setting a trajectory towards a prosperous country by 2041.</p> <p>The government has already announced a comprehensive economic recovery programme to tackle the aftershocks of the pandemic. It has also raised the coverage of different safety net schemes for social protection to address the Covid setbacks. A nation-wide vaccination drive began in February 2021. However, the document points out that achieving mass vaccination and herd immunity will take significant time. Priority should be given to sectors like health care, agriculture, education, rural development, employment and social security, it advocates.</p>	12 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/rebuilding-bangladesh-a-resolute-plan-for-resilient-recovery-1633969613">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/rebuilding-bangladesh-a-resolute-plan-for-resilient-recovery-1633969613</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
61	<p><b><u>Registration made mandatory for expatriate Bangladeshis</u></b>  <b><u>WEWB issues circular</u></b></p> <p>The government has made registration under the membership programme of the Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) mandatory for expatriate Bangladeshis to bring them under its database. To this effect, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment issued a circular on October 7. It directed the Bangladesh missions abroad to enlist expatriates mandatorily under the WEWB membership programme while providing consular services to them. It also suggested initiating campaigning programme to increase the number of memberships. The WEWB launched the enlistment programme for the Bangladeshi expatriate workers and diaspora (long-term expatriates) in June 2017 to bring them under the government database. The expatriates can get membership by paying an immigration clearance fee of Tk 3,500 each. Only 66,123 Bangladeshis received membership cards until June 2021, showed the WEWB data. Except some, campaigning programme - conducted by most of the missions - was not satisfactory, the circular said.</p> <p>Earnings from immigration clearance fees from the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), and membership charges from the WEWB are vital sources of income of the welfare fund. The fund is being used for different types of welfare activities for expatriates, it noted. Expatriates would also be benefitted, if they become members of the board, it added.</p>	12 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/registration-made-mandatory-for-expatriate-bangladeshis-1633970458">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/registration-made-mandatory-for-expatriate-bangladeshis-1633970458</a> )	
62	<p><b><u>Salim Osman re-elected BKMEA president</u></b></p> <p>AKM Salim Osman has been re-elected the president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) for 2021-23 -- his sixth term in a row. Names of the newly elected 35 members of the board of directors were announced at the trade body's Dhaka office in the city on Monday, according to a BKMEA statement. Mohammad Hatem and Mansoor Ahmed were elected the executive president and the senior vice president - the two newly created posts - respectively. The vice presidents for the 2021-23 terms are Fazlee Shamim Ehsan, Amal Podder, Gauhar Siraj Jamil, Akhter Hossain Apurbo, Ashikur Rahman and Morshed Sarwar Sohel (finance). The BKMEA in its last annual general meeting increased the number of its director posts to 35 from 27, creating two new posts and incorporating the newly created posts in its memorandum.</p>	12 October 2021	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/salim-osman-re-elected-bkmea-president-1633969907">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/salim-osman-re-elected-bkmea-president-1633969907</a> )	
63	<p><b><u>No tax fair this year: NBR</u></b></p> <p>Individual taxpayers will have to submit their income tax returns at tax offices this year too as the annual tax fair will not be held this time to avoid mass gatherings amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) took the decision in a meeting on October 7 regarding facilitating submission of tax returns.</p> <p>The idea of holding a tax fair was to motivate people into paying taxes and increasing the country's tax-GDP ratio, one of the lowest globally. The initiative created a lot of enthusiasm among taxpayers to furnish returns at the fair. The tax authority said it would create festive environment in all field offices of taxes from November 1 to November 30, so that taxpayers can furnish returns easily.</p>	12 October 2021	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/tax-customes/news/no-tax-fair-year-nbr-2196331">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/tax-customes/news/no-tax-fair-year-nbr-2196331</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
64	<p><b>RECOVERING BAD LOANS</b> <b><u>State banks far away from targets</u></b></p> <p>The Bangladesh Bank yesterday ordered four state banks to speed up cash recovery from defaulters as their record in realising delinquent loans has remained dismal. In addition, the central bank asked them to take prompt measures to bolster the capital base since they have been facing a capital shortfall for a long time.</p> <p>The four state-run lenders – Sonali, Janata, Agrani and Rupali – were also asked to invest their excess liquidity to make a profit.</p> <p>The central bank had set a loan recovery target of Tk 1,610 crore from the top defaulters of the banks for 2021. But they got back only Tk 53.38 crore as of June. Similarly, the banks recovered Tk 320 crore from other defaulters in contrast to an annual target of Tk 1,700 crore, according to data from the central bank. Non-performing loans (NPLs) at the lenders stood at Tk 43,836 crore, which accounted for 45 per cent of the total bad loans in the banking industry in Bangladesh. The BB asked the banks to beef up efforts to recover the delinquent loans as their performance has so far been dismal to this end, said three central bankers.</p>	12 October 2021	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/state-banks-far-away-targets-2196356">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/state-banks-far-away-targets-2196356</a> )	
65	<p><b><u>ব্যবসায়ীরা শোনালেন নানা ভোগান্তির কথা</u></b></p> <p>বড় বিনিয়োগকারীরা বাংলাদেশে ব্যবসা করতে গিয়ে কী ধরনের হয়রানি ও ভোগান্তির মুখোমুখি হন, সেটি জানতে গতকাল সোমবার এক কর্মশালার আয়োজন করে বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (বিডা)। ব্যবসায়ীদের কথা শুনতে এ ধরনের উদ্যোগ এটিই প্রথম। রাজধানীর আগারগাঁওয়ে বিডা কার্যালয়ে অনুষ্ঠিত সভায় দেশি-বিদেশি মোট ২১টি ব্যবসায়ী গ্রুপের প্রতিনিধিরা এ কর্মশালায় অংশ নেন।</p> <p>জানতে চাইলে বিডার নির্বাহী সদস্য ও সরকারের অতিরিক্ত সচিব অভিজিৎ চৌধুরী প্রথম আলোকে বলেন, বিনিয়োগকারীরা যাতে নিজেদের অসহায় না ভাবেন, সে জন্য তাঁদের সমস্যার কথা শোনার উদ্যোগ নেওয়া হয়েছে। যেসব সমস্যা সমাধানের ক্ষমতা বিডার হাতে আছে, সেগুলো বিডা নিজেরাই সমাধান করবে। আর যেগুলো সরকারের অন্য দপ্তরের সমস্যা, সেসব সমস্যা নীতিনির্ধারকদের কাছে তুলে ধরা হবে। অভিজিৎ চৌধুরী আরও বলেন, ‘আমরা নিয়মিত বিনিয়োগকারীদের সমস্যার কথা শুনব। প্রতি তিন মাস পরপর এ ধরনের বৈঠক হবে।’</p> <p>কর্মশালায় অংশ নিয়ে হাতিলের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক সেলিম হাফিজুর রহমান বলেন, ভারতে হাতিলের ২২টি শোরুম পরিচালনার খরচ কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের বেঁধে দেওয়া সীমার চেয়ে অনেক বেশি। ব্যবসার পরিধির ওপর ভিত্তি করে এ সীমা বেঁধে দেওয়া উচিত বলে জানান তিনি। সেলিম প্রথম আলোকে বলেন, ‘অনেক ব্যবসাপ্রতিষ্ঠানের বিদেশে লিয়াজেঁ অফিস আছে ছোট পরিসরে। তাদের জন্য বছরে ৩০ হাজার ডলার যৌক্তিক। কিন্তু যাদের ব্যবসা বড়, তাদের জন্য ৩০ হাজার ডলার কিছুই নয়। তাই আমরা এ নির্দেশনা সংশোধনের প্রস্তাব করেছি।’</p> <p>গতকালের বৈঠকে অংশ নিয়ে জার্মানিভিত্তিক একটি ব্যবসায়ী গ্রুপের প্রতিনিধি জানান, অগ্রিম আয়কর নিয়ে তাঁদের বেশ ভোগান্তিতে পড়তে হয়। শুষ্ক-কর ফেরত পাওয়া একটি জটিল প্রক্রিয়া। এতে সময়ও বেশি লাগে। তাই এ সমস্যা সমাধানের অনুরোধ জানিয়েছেন তিনি।</p> <p>বৈঠকে অংশ নেওয়া দেশি ব্যবসায়িক গ্রুপের মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য ছিল বিএসআরএম, আকিজ গ্রুপ, হাতিল, ফেয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন ও আজিজুল হক অ্যাপ্রো বিজনেস। বিদেশি কোম্পানির মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য ছিল স্ট্যান্ডার্ড চার্টার্ড, বার্জার পেইন্টস, জাপান টোব্যাকো ও সিঙ্গার।</p>	12 October 2021	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE</a> )	

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66	<p><b>দাম কমার আশা কম, ব্যয় আরও বাড়ছে</b> কোনো স্বস্তির খবর শোনাতে পারলেন না মন্ত্রী-সচিব। রেস্টোরাঁ ও ছাত্রাবাসে খাবারের দাম বাড়ছে। বেড়েছে রুটি-বিস্কুটের দামও।</p>  <p><b>জীবনযাত্রার ব্যয় বাড়ছে</b></p> <p><b>পেঁয়াজ</b> ৪০ টাকার পেঁয়াজ ৮০ টাকা। এক মাস বাজার 'একটু নাজুক' থাকবে।</p> <p><b>তেল-চিনি</b> তেল-চিনির দাম বাড়ানোর প্রস্তাব। শিগগিরই বৈঠক।</p> <p><b>রুটি-বিস্কুট</b> ৭ টাকার পুরোট্টা ১০ টাকা। ৩ টাকার বিস্কুট ৪-৫ টাকা।</p> <p><b>মেসে খাবার</b> মুরগির ও মাছের তরকারির দাম বেড়েছে ১৪-২০%।</p> <p>নিত্যপণ্যের দাম শিগগিরই কমার বিষয়ে কোনো আশার কথা শোনাতে পারল না বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়। সরকারের সংশ্লিষ্ট সব সংস্থা ও ব্যবসায়ীকে নিয়ে গতকাল সোমবার এক বৈঠকের পর বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয় উল্টো জানিয়েছে, পেঁয়াজের বাজার এক মাস 'একটু নাজুক' থাকবে। বৈঠকে ভোজ্যতেল ও চিনির দাম নিয়ে তেমন কোনো আলোচনা হয়নি। সূত্র জানিয়েছে, ব্যবসায়ীরা দাম বাড়ানোর যে প্রস্তাব দিয়ে রেখেছেন, তা নিয়ে বাংলাদেশ ট্রেড অ্যান্ড ট্যারিফ কমিশনে (বিটিটিসি) শিগগিরই বৈঠক হবে। সেখানে দাম বাড়ানো নিয়ে সিদ্ধান্ত হতে পারে। অবশ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের পক্ষ থেকে জানানো হয়, ভোজ্যতেল ও চিনির দাম কমানোর নিয়ে এক মাস আগে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডকে (এনবিআর) চিঠি দেওয়া হয়েছে। নতুন করে চিঠি দেওয়া হয়েছে পেঁয়াজের ৫ শতাংশ শুল্ক তুলে নেওয়ার অনুরোধ জানিয়ে। বৈঠকে চাল, আটা, ময়দা, মুরগি, গুঁড়া দুধ, সবজি, সাবান, টিস্যু ও তরলীকৃত পেট্রোলিয়াম গ্যাসের (এলপিগ্যাস) দাম নিয়ে আলোচনা হয়নি। এসব পণ্যের বেশির ভাগ বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধীনও নয়। সব মিলিয়ে মানুষের জন্য তেমন কোনো স্বস্তির খবর নেই। বরং দুশ্চিন্তার বিষয় এই যে বেশির ভাগ নিত্যপণ্যের আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারদর বাড়তি।</p>	12 October 2021	<p>Prothom Alo (<a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%AE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%9F-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%93-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87">https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%AE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%9F-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%93-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87</a>)</p>	