

Fortnightly Summary

Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 26 Oct. to 7 Nov. 2021

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><u>New investment strategy suiting business bounceback on anvil</u> <u>BIDA bands with JICA to make it for netting capital afloat in 'new normal'</u></p> <p>A new investment strategy suiting business bounceback is in the making for Bangladesh for netting capital now afloat in post-Covid 'new normal'. This was disclosed Monday at a meet in Dhaka under a move assisted by Japanese cooperation agency JICA. Bangladesh Investment Development Authority executive chairman Md. Sirazul Islam told the function that BIDA needs to make new post-Covid investment strategy to grab more investment opportunities that are set to come in new-normal business climate. "So, we need to make new investment-promoting strategy with the changing circumstances and implement it to catch more investment opportunities here," he said while speaking as a chief guest at the seminar.</p> <p>BIDA in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) hosted the seminar titled 'Post- Covid Investment Promotion Strategy' at its Agargaon headquarters.</p> <p>Sharing downward trend in the global investment scenario, executive chairman of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) Shaikh Yusuf Harun said foreign direct investment (FDI) fell by 42 per cent globally in 2020. But the flow of FDI will surely be increasing in the post-covid regime at a faster pace, he said. "So, we need to be ready identifying the key sectors for attracting potential global investors."</p> <p>JICA's chief representative in Bangladesh Yoho Hayakawa suggested that the country's policymakers take quick steps to overcome existing investment-related hurdles.</p>	26 October 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/new-investment-strategy-suiting-business-bounceback-on-anvil-1635187127?date=26-10-2021)</p>	
02	<p><u>PM opens weeklong 'Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit'</u></p> <p>Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today inaugurated the weeklong "Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit 2021" that is bringing together policymakers, business leaders and investors from the world.</p> <p>The summit aims to showcase Bangladesh's preparedness during the Covid-19 pandemic to the investors and entrepreneurs. A total of 552 companies from 38 countries along with Bangladesh of five continents will participate in 450 business to business (B2B) match-making sessions, which will help explore new business opportunities and attract FDI in Bangladesh.</p>	26 October 2021	<p>The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/pm-opens-weeklong-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-summit-321001)</p>	

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03	<p><u>Diversified products, new EPZs to net in more FDIs</u></p> <p>Bangladesh is developing a new EPZ for attracting more foreign direct investment (FDI) with diversified products, as investors queue up for plots amid economic bounceback, says a top official. Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Export Procession Zones Authority (BEPZA) Major General Nazrul Islam says they have started developing its ninth EPZ and diversifying investment products for netting more FDI. The Authority is working to build the BEPZA EPZ at Mireswarai in Chattogram where some 140 plots have already been developed, he told the FE. Some 107 plots have already been allocated provisionally to some local and foreign companies, he said in an interview recently at his office in Dhaka. "The main vision of our 9th EPZ would be attracting investment from diverse sectors in addition to the apparel one," the Executive Chairman said. "We have lot of investments from readymade garment sector in the EPZs like Dhaka, Chattogram. Now we want to diversify our export products for reducing dependence on the RMG. So the BEPZA EPZ will be a destination for diversified productions," Mr Nazrul added. According to BEPZA, it would develop a total of 539 plots in the EPZ being built at Mireswarai in Chattogram. The Authority will develop 1,150 acres of land in the zone, close by the Bangabandhu Special Economic Zone at Mireswarai. Meanwhile, some 250 applications for the plots in the BEPZA EPZ are pending for settlement.</p>	27 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/diversified-products-new-epzs-to-net-in-more-fdis-1635271672?date=27-10-2021)	
04	<p><u>Agri credit for farming of four new fruits, crops</u></p> <p>From now on, farmers will be eligible for getting farm loans from banks for cultivating four new fruits/crops to help boost domestic production. The Bangladesh Bank issued a circular to this effect on Tuesday. The new fruits/crops are Saudi dates, Vietnamese coconut, sweet corn and coffee, reads the circular. A planter (Saudi date) will get the highest Tk 5.03 million on five acres of land. The farmers who will cultivate Vietnamese coconut will get the highest Tk 2.2 million, sweet corn Tk 330,000 and coffee Tk 1.9 million. They will get loans for cultivation on minimum 0.5 bigha of land. Date, coffee and Vietnamese coconut farmers will get the loans round the year while sweet corn producers be entitled for loan between November 15 and December 15.</p>	27 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/agri-credit-for-farming-of-four-new-fruits-crops-1635271371?date=27-10-2021)	
05	<p><u>Govt gives Tk 12b for exporters' cash perks</u></p> <p>The government released Tk 12 billion for payment of cash incentives to local exporters on their export earnings. It is the second installment of cash subsidy for the October-December period of the current fiscal year (FY), 2021-22. Export-oriented sectors, including ready-made garment (RMG), frozen shrimp and other fish, leather, jute and jute goods, will enjoy the incentives, according to a circular of the Finance Division.</p>	27 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-gives-tk-12b-for-exporters-cash-perks-1635271395?date=27-10-2021)	

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06	<p><u>Dhaka to host World Congress on IT next month</u> The 25th World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) will begin in Dhaka on November 11 to bring together the global leaders in business, government and academia in the IT sector, reports UNB. The four-day conference will be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city. The IT sector leaders will attend the summit both in person and virtually, said a PID handout on Tuesday.</p> <p>With the initiative of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division and Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) and Bangladesh Computer Samity are jointly arranging the mega event. This year 'ICT the Great Equalizer' is the theme of the WCIT, said State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak joining a press conference at a city hotel virtually on Tuesday. A total of 23 seminars, ministerial conference and B2B session are the main features of the international event, he said.</p> <p>Besides, a session titled 'Digital Bangladesh Night' will be held there on the opening day of the great event, focusing on the progress of Bangladesh in the IT sector in the last 12 years. PM's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy will join its ministerial conference as the keynote speaker virtually on November 11.</p> <p>An app titled 'WCIT 2021' has been launched for the visitors, which can be downloaded from Google play store and iphone app store at free of cost. But the users need to complete the prior registration process to visit the event. Besides, the visitors can enjoy the conference virtually through www.wcit2021.com.bd site. All the necessary information over registration and others will be available on www.wcit2021.org.bd site.</p>	27 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/dhaka-to-host-world-congress-on-it-next-month-1635268172?date=27-10-2021)	
07	<p><u>করের আওতায় প্রায় ৬৮ লাখ ব্যক্তি</u> এখন পর্যন্ত ৬৭ লাখ ৯২ হাজার ব্যক্তি ই-টিআইএন রেজিস্ট্রেশন করেছেন। আগের অর্থবছরের তুলনায় ২০২০-২১ অর্থবছরের ইটিআইএন রেজিস্ট্রেশনের প্রবৃদ্ধি ২৬ শতাংশ। অর্থাৎ ২০২০-২১ অর্থবছরে নিবন্ধন নিয়েছেন রেজিস্ট্রেশন করেছেন ১৩ লাখ মানুষ। আর চলতি অর্থবছরের প্রথম তিন মাসে ই-টিআইএন রেজিস্ট্রেশন করেছেন ৪ লাখেরও বেশি ব্যক্তি। গতকাল রাজধানীর সেগুনবাগিচায় জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডে (এনবিআর) এক সংবাদ সম্মেলনে সংস্থাটির চেয়ারম্যান আবু হেনা মো. রহমাতুল মুনিম এসব কথা জানান।</p> <p>টিআইএন রেজিস্ট্রেশনের প্রবৃদ্ধি সন্তোষজনক হলেও রিটার্ন দাখিল সেই অর্থে বাডেনি- এমন প্রশ্নের জবাবে এনবিআর চেয়ারম্যান বলেন, টিআইএন রেজিস্ট্রেশন বাধ্যতামূলক হলেও আমরা এখনও কঠোর হচ্ছি না। আমরা চাই করদাতারা নিজ উদ্যোগে রিটার্ন দাখিল করুক। আমরা ডোর টু ডোর সার্ভে শুরু করেছি। করোনার কারণে যা বন্ধ ছিল। সংবাদ সম্মেলনে করোনা পরিস্থিতিতে আয়কর মেলা আয়োজনের পরিবর্তে কর কমিশনার অঞ্চলগুলোতে জাকজমকপূর্ণভাবে ও উৎসবমুখর পরিবেশে ১ থেকে ৩০ নভেম্বর পর্যন্ত আয়কর রিটার্ন গ্রহণের জন্য করদাতাদের সেবাদানের বিষয়টি জানানো হয়।</p>	27 October 2021	The Sangbad (http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-10-27/news/business/105570)	
08	<p><u>বাংলা বন্ডের পর টাকা বন্ডের ব্যবসায় আইএফসি</u> লন্ডনে 'বাংলা বন্ড' ছাড়ার পর এবার দেশে 'টাকা বন্ড' ছাড়ার উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে বিশ্বব্যাংক গ্রুপের প্রতিষ্ঠান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল ফিন্যান্স করপোরেশন (আইএফসি)। বন্ড ছেড়ে টাকা তুলে দেশের বিভিন্ন শিল্পে বিনিয়োগের লক্ষ্য সংস্থাটির।</p> <p>দেশের শেয়ারবাজারে প্রাথমিক গণপ্রস্তাবের (আইপিও) মাধ্যমে এই বন্ডের টাকা সংগ্রহের পরিকল্পনা করছে আইএফসি। এর ফলে শেয়ারবাজারে বন্ড মার্কেটের উন্নয়ন ঘটবে বলে মনে করে আইএফসি।</p>	27 October 2021	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/market/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A1%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%BD%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BD%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A1)	

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09	<p>Deep cuts in corporate tax for specific products <u>NBR's income-tax SRO reduces rates to help local manufacturing growth</u></p> <p>Government's revenue authority slashed corporate tax sharply for local manufacturers of a number of products for a longer term until June 30, 2032, as a measure for manufacturing sector to flourish. Manufacturers of refrigerators, complete freezers with spare parts, motorcycles, air-conditioners and their compressors will enjoy 10-per cent concessionary tax rate on their incomes for the period after the date of commencing commercial production, according to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) notification. Income-tax wing under the Internal Resources Division (IRD) issued a Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) on October 21, 2021 to give effect to the cut-down corporate-tax rate.</p> <p>Currently, the manufacturers of those products are required to pay corporate tax at regular rates, like other companies, ranging from 22.5 to 30 per cent on the basis of categories of companies. However, the income-tax wing of the revenue board has tagged some conditions to availing the concessionary tax. The company will have to invest at least 10 per cent of its tax-exempted income within next three years in its industry or new industrial undertaking. The 'investment' has been defined in the SRO as increasing own production capacity and purchase of machinery for constructing physical infrastructure. "Manufacturing companies will have to be registered under the Company Act 1994, have capacities to manufacture mould and dices on their own, have own poly urethane foaming plant, power-coating plant and waste- management plant," the SRO says. The existing manufacturing industry that has reconstructed businesses or classified as new businesses or industry formed through transfer of machinery or building structure would not be entitled for the reduced rate of tax. However, industries that have been enjoying 5.0-per cent tax rate under an SRO issued in 2009 would continue to avail the facility until its tenure ends. After expiry of their tenure under the SRO, those industries would have to pay 10-per cent tax until June 30, 2032.</p>	28 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/deep-cuts-in-corporate-tax-for-specific-products-1635360500)	
10	<p><u>New income tax law in the offing</u> NBR unveils draft, seeking public opinion</p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Wednesday unveiled a draft of new income tax law - 2022 with updated provisions for global business practices. The draft has proposed a changed structure of the existing Income Tax Ordinance -1984 to make the law simple and flexible. Domestic transfer pricing, amortisation of pre-commencement expenditures of a business, Earning Striping Rules (ESR) provision with de-minimis threshold are the new provisions of the draft law to increase tax potentiality.</p> <p>The draft has been prepared in Bangla and made public, seeking opinion from the stakeholders concerned by November 25, 2021. The NBR officials said they were expecting to place the draft before the cabinet by December 15 next. The new law would replace the Income Tax Ordinance -1984.</p>	28 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/new-income-tax-law-in-the-offing-1635361494)	

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11	<p><u>23 entities get Bangabandhu Industrial Awards</u> A total of 23 entrepreneurs and organisations of the industrial sector under seven categories on Thursday received the "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Industrial Award 2020", reports BSS. Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun handed over the awards to the representatives of the organisations at a function at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city. The Ministry of Industries has introduced the award for the first time, marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.</p> <p>The first prize in each category of the awards is Tk 300 thousand (three lakh) and a 25 gram gold-plated crest. The second prize is Tk 200 thousand (two lakh) and a 20 gram gold-plated crest, and the third prize is Tk 100 thousand (one lakh) and a 15 gram gold-plated crest.</p> <p>In the large industries category, Square Pharmaceuticals Limited secured the first place, followed by Jaj Bhuiyan Textiles Mills. Aduri Apparels Limited and Universal Jeans Limited jointly won the third place.</p> <p>Auko-Text Limited and Fortune Shoes Limited jointly secured the first position as medium-scale industries. Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Limited ranked second, while Madhobdi Dying Finishing Mills Ltd emerged third in this award category.</p> <p>Winners in the small-scale industries category are Aman Plastic Industries, (first position), SR Handicrafts (second) and Alim Industries Limited (third).</p> <p>In the micro-industries category Karukola emerged first, followed by Trim-Text Bangladesh and Janata Engineering second and third respectively.</p> <p>In the hi-tech industries category, Service Engine Limited was first, Super Star Electronics Limited second, and Mir Telecom Limited, third.</p> <p>In the handicraft industries category, Classical Handmade Products BD secured first position, followed by Ayojon which placed second, and Sonargoan Nakshi Katha Mohila Unnoyon Organization was third.</p> <p>For cottage industries, Cumilla Arts and Crafts gained the first place, while Rongmela Nari Kollayan Sangstha (RKNS) was second, and Agroz third.</p>	29 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/23-entities-get-bangabandhu-industrial-awards-1635449202?date=29-10-2021)	
12	<p><u>Dhaka awaits major facelift to mass transport</u> Dhaka's maiden metro-rail service, which is expected to roll late next year or a little later, would bring about a massive change in the city's age-old mass- transportation systems. Those wishing to take a train travel on the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) lines are considering it to be very convenient for them-be it in terms of saving time or money. But, private transport operators think that it is likely to be not too welcoming for them as they will very likely lose passengers and income. Transport experts, however, believe that it would be a win-win situation for both passengers and existing service providers while the current traffic situation-seen by many as unseemly for a capital city-will improve a lot as an added advantage of the MRT.</p> <p>The Financial Express found this picture in an investigation conducted through a news survey among the commuters and holding talks with relevant stakeholders like transport-service providers, transport experts and senior officials.</p> <p>Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), the state-owned MRT builder and operator, is working to set up total six MRTs on the city's different corridors by 2030 and has already announced the launch of the first 11.7-kilometre MRT 6 from Uttara Diabari to Agargaon at the end of December 2022. The entire MRT 6 up to Kamalapur is expected to be completed by 2023.</p>	29 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dhaka-awaits-major-facelift-to-mass-transport-1635448445?date=29-10-2021)	

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13	<p>Post-LDC graduation economic odds and boons Many BD industries can shine thru replication of RMG model</p> <p>Bangladesh can enable many of its potential industries to compete to grab huge trade on global market through replicating successful RMG model, businesspeople said at an investment-promotion meet Thursday. The replication will help the fast-growing economy overcome many of the post-LDC (least developed countries) graduation challenges through creating many decent jobs, expanding export basket and attracting potential overseas investors here, according to them. They also laid emphasis on capacity building at the negotiating stage along with tariff-rationalisation initiative at a level that will encourage both local and foreign investors. At the same time, they suggested paying more attention to research, innovation and human capital where the country lags behind many of its competitors.</p> <p>The suggestions and observations came at a webinar on 'LDC Graduation of Bangladesh: Transformation and Preparedness' jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) on the 3rd day of Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit. DCCI President Rizwan Rahman chaired the session.</p> <p>Speaking at the event, country's noted businessman and chairman of Apex Group, Syed Manzur Elahi, said many of them have long been talking about export diversification, but it is not happening in reality. He said the country needs industries to create more jobs that will help alleviate poverty. Citing an example of Vietnam in the leather footwear industry, he said Bangladesh and Vietnam stepped into this sector at the same time but Vietnam is now exporting footwear worth of around US\$17 billion whereas Bangladesh is stuck around US\$1.0 billion. "I think the facilities that the RMG sector is now enjoying should be extended to other industries. It (leather and footwear) can be a fantastic export-diversification area," he said. He said there should be separate economic zone for leather and footwear sector because it is a highly labour-intensive sector that has a huge scope of technology adaptation.</p>	29 October 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/many-bd-industries-can-shine-thru-replication-of-rmg-model-1635449073?date=29-10-2021)</p>	
14	<p>BPC readying proposal for ministry's seal Now govt plans oil price hike Oil-price hike to follow back-to-back proposed raise in natural gas rates</p> <p>The government now mulls over a hike in the prices of petroleum products on grounds of surging oil prices on the international market, officials say. Consumer rights groups protest such move at a time when living is getting costlier constantly for price rises of almost all necessities, while the government sides cites recurring losses incurred in local marketing of the imported fuels.</p> <p>The state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) is readying a proposal to submit to energy and mineral resources division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources for the hike, a senior BPC official told the FE. Furthermore, the BPC demands authority to adjust petroleum prices once a month considering the price movements of oils on the global market, he said. The state corporation is currently incurring loss worth around Tk 200-210 million every day due to surge of oil prices globally, said sources. Besides, the corporation argues that a hike in oil prices is required to check smuggling of oil products to neighbouring India where diesel price is around Tk 118 per litre compared to Tk 65 in Bangladesh. The proposal on oil-price hike follows a back-to-back raise proposal being prepared by state-run Petrobangla for natural gas.</p> <p>The state-owned corporation currently imports around 5.0 million tonnes of diesel, 1.30 million tonnes of crude oil, 400,000 tonnes of furnace oil and 50,000 tonnes of octane annually. The BPC alone procures around 90 per cent of the country's oil requirement, with the rest by the private sector that imports mainly furnace oil to run their power plants.</p>	29 October 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/now-govt-plans-oil-price-hike-1635449151?date=29-10-2021)</p>	

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15	<p><u>BB relaxes stimulus rules for low-income groups</u> Bangladesh Bank yesterday relaxed rules over its Tk 3,000 crore stimulus package dedicated for low-income professionals, marginal farmers and micro-enterprises. The latest initiative will encourage banks to disburse loans from the fund in a way such that the groups will subsequently be able to avail the finance efficiently, said a central bank official.</p> <p>As per the new rules, banks will avail the fund from the central bank at a 0.5 per cent interest rate in contrast to the previous 1 per cent. The MFIs will get the fund at 3 per cent interest rate against the previous 3.50 per cent, according to a BB notice.</p>	29 October 2021	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bb-relaxes-stimulus-rules-low-income-groups-2209096)	
16	<p><u>NBR doubling down on sub-contracting factories</u> The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is contemplating on taking a strong stance on sub-contracting ready-made garments (RMG) factories and the way they operate. The sub-contracting factories must acquire a bond license from now on from the Customs Bond Commissionerate before they can take orders to produce export-oriented products. The manufacturers that are sub-contracting their orders, must have the bond license as well.</p> <p>According to sources, the NBR has already prepared a draft-regulation and an order-notification in this regard is likely in coming weeks. The new regulation will also make it compulsory for the factories to secure permission when changing VAT Commissionerate area for the production of export-oriented products.</p>	29 October 2021	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/nbr-doubling-down-sub-contracting-factories-322663)	
17	<p><u>Buyers' near-sourcing strategy worries RMG exporters</u> Global buyers' pandemic-induced strategy shift to import apparel from nearest countries worries Bangladeshi exporters as they consider the 'near-shoring' stance a future threat for the industry. Industry leaders opine that Bangladesh can't fully grab the recent opportunity mainly because of near-shoring which buyers are opting for due to long lead-time the country incurs in shipping goods as well as global high freight charges. The pandemic has shed a light on the vulnerability of global supply chains and there is a lack of preparedness by the offshore outsourcing industry, they said, adding that long lead-time and high freight charges have pushed many of the global buyers to develop their sourcing from nearby though it adds additional costs to them.</p> <p>A recent International Labour Organization (ILO) brief also hinted near-shoring as the re-emergence of garment production closer to major markets in Europe and North America. Quoting evidence, the brief also said that European Union buyers and the European Commission are looking to facilitate greater near-shoring through reductions in garment-related trade duties in countries like Bulgaria, Egypt, Morocco and Turkey, all of which already supply European brands. However, near-shoring prospects could be overstated because such a trend may ultimately be limited by manufacturing-capacity constraints in many of these countries, it also observed.</p>	30 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/buyers-near-sourcing-strategy-worries-rmg-exporters-1635530985)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
18	<p>MoC-DCCI webinar 'BD should focus on tapping Asia-Pacific trade benefits' Experts suggest policy reforms, competitive tax regime, product diversification</p> <p>Bangladesh needs to pay serious attention to tapping untapped trade benefits available in the Asia-Pacific region - where the future of global economic growth lies, businesspeople and trade experts opined in a webinar on Friday. To capture a share of the trade and economic activities in the highly-growing region that now accounts for 35 per cent of the global GDP (gross domestic product), they suggested the government to opt for policy reforms, process simplification, competitive tax and tariff regime, and product diversification.</p> <p>They said these in the webinar - 'Asia & Pacific and Bangladesh: Harnessing Economic Potentials' - jointly hosted by the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) and the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) on the fourth day of Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit 2021. DCCI President Rizwan Rahman, in his presentation on the occasion, said the bilateral trade of Bangladesh and the Asia-Pacific region stood at around US\$36 billion. "The region is the third largest export destination of Bangladesh. But the country does not have any PTA (preferential trade arrangement) or FTA (free trade agreement) with the Asia-Pacific countries." He also suggested that the rules of origin need to be relaxed by the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) for export growth from the least developed countries (LDCs). Besides, more bilateral and multilateral agreements are needed to tap the untapped markets of the Asian countries.</p> <p>Syed Nasim Manzur, Managing Director of Apex Footwear Ltd, said the Asia-Pacific economies would lead the world economy in near future. Citing an example of leather sector, he noted that Bangladesh is located in between two strong economies - India and China, and the countries account for 31 per cent of the global footwear consumption. Of the top 10 markets in global footwear industry, six are from Asia. In terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) projects, top six countries are from the region, he opined. "So, we need to look into the region for trade as well as for FDI." Mr Manzur also stressed the need for linking Bangladesh's economy with the regional blocks, and strengthening trade relations to a new stature. He focused on low-cost financing, capacity building of service sector, people to people connectivity among the Asian countries, and easing intra-region access. He further emphasised time-bound and strategic implementation of policies, simplification of rules and regulations, and improvement of airport and airlines, as these are linked with building a positive image (of the country).</p> <p>Barrister Nihad Kabir, President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI), said dispute resolution process, taxation regime, tax compliance issues, improved business climate, tariff and non-tariff structures, trade facilitation, simplification of procedures, infrastructure development, supporting service industry, connectivity, and person to person connection are some of the major issues of the foreign investors. "These are the areas that need to be addressed as quickly as possible," she mentioned.</p>	30 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-should-focus-on-tapping-asia-pacific-trade-benefits-1635530599)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
19	<p><u>A better tomorrow csr awards: Cheers for CSR champions</u></p> <p>Three banks, three companies and five individuals were crowned with the inaugural "A Better Tomorrow CSR Awards" by The Daily Star and the CSR Window Bangladesh in recognition of their extraordinary accomplishments and efforts to create better lives.</p> <p>The organizations which received the awards are Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, Prime Bank Limited, Standard Chartered Bangladesh, BSRM Group of Companies, Banglalink Digital Communications Limited, and Nestlé Bangladesh Ltd. The individuals who received the awards are Amiya Prapan Chakraborty Arka, founder of Dhrobotara Youth Development Foundation, Ahmed Imtiaz Jami, founder of Obhizatrik Foundation, Esrat Karim Eve, founder of Amal Foundation, Tawhida Shiropa, founder and CEO of Moner Bondhu, and Ratul Dev, who founder of GenLab.</p>	30 October 2021	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/csr-champions-honoured-2209386)	
20	<p><u>কার্গো ভিলেজ হবে চট্টগ্রাম-সিলেটে</u></p> <p>গত মাসে ভয়াবহ পণ্যজট তৈরি হয়েছিল ঢাকার হজরত শাহজালাল আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দরের কার্গো ভিলেজে। করোনার সংক্রমণ কিছুটা কমে আসায় পোশাক ও কৃষিজাত পণ্য রপ্তানি বেড়ে যায়, পাশাপাশি কার্গো ভিলেজের চারটি স্ক্যানার মেশিন নষ্ট হয়ে যাওয়ায় এ পণ্যজট তৈরি হয়। পরে জট সামলাতে রপ্তানিকারকদের চাপের মুখে দুটি মেশিন চালু করে বেসামরিক বিমান চলাচল কর্তৃপক্ষ (বেবিচক)। তাই ভবিষ্যতে এ ধরনের পণ্যজট কমাতে ঢাকার পাশাপাশি চট্টগ্রাম ও সিলেট বিমানবন্দর দিয়ে রপ্তানিসুবিধা চালু করা হচ্ছে। এ জন্য দুই বিমানবন্দরে কার্গো ভিলেজ তৈরির সিদ্ধান্ত নেওয়া হয়েছে। বেসামরিক বিমান পরিবহন ও পর্যটন মন্ত্রণালয়ের তথ্য অনুযায়ী, শাহজালাল বিমানবন্দরে কার্গো ভিলেজের পণ্যজট সমস্যা সমাধানে সাত সদস্যের একটি কমিটি গঠন করা হয়েছিল। পর্যটন মন্ত্রণালয়ের একজন যুগ্ম সচিবকে প্রধান করে গঠন করা ওই কমিটিতে সরকারি-বেসরকারি প্রতিনিধিরাও ছিলেন। ওই কমিটির প্রতিবেদনে ঢাকার পাশাপাশি চট্টগ্রামের শাহ আমানত বিমানবন্দর ও সিলেটের ওসমানী আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দরে রপ্তানির জন্য আলাদা কার্গো ভিলেজ তৈরির প্রস্তাব করা হয়।</p>	30 October 2021	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8B-%E0%A6%AD%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9C-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%9F%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9F%E0%A7%87)	
21	<p><u>NBR launches EU-backed hotline for taxpayers</u></p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has launched an instant service to assist income taxpayers file online returns and clarify their income tax-related confusions. Tax officials are responding through a hotline number for the first time to meet taxpayers' queries, officials said. The European Union (EU) has provided grant for system support, security and trouble-shooting of the instant response system, managed by Synesis IT Limited.</p> <p>The NBR's Income Tax Wing has deployed its officials to respond to taxpayers immediately and answer their queries over phone. Some eight teams of 40 tax officials have been assigned to respond immediately to the taxpayers across the country. Officials said the hotline, opened on October 10 with the pilot e-return filing system, is receiving nearly 100 queries daily from taxpayers. A senior tax official said there are service centres that require physical visit of taxpayers. Besides, all types of tax-related services are provided through the hotline. Taxmen are offering the services during office hour every day, he also said.</p> <p>The hotline number 09612717171 has started getting increased repose of taxpayers, as the deadline for submission of individual tax returns, November 30, is approaching. Last year, the NBR received 2.4 million tax returns from individual taxpayers. Currently, the number of electronic taxpayers' identification number (TIN) holders is nearly 6.5 million.</p>	31 October 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/nbr-launches-eu-backed-hotline-for-taxpayers-1635614067)	


Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
22	<p>Target to generate 4,100MW by 2030 Bangladesh has set an ambitious goal of generating more than 4,100 megawatts of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030 as the county looks to cut greenhouse gas emissions significantly. Solar power will account for half of the energy, at 2,277 MW, followed by hydropower 1,000 MW and wind 597 MW. The country outlined the plan in its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ahead of COP26, which kicks off in Glasgow today.</p>	31 October 2021	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/target-generate-4100mw-2030-2210291)	
23	<p>বাংলাদেশ ও আফ্রিকার মধ্যকার বাণিজ্য শীর্ষক ওয়েবিনার আফ্রিকার আন্তঃবাণিজ্য ১৩৩ বিলিয়ন ডলার বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানি করে মাত্র ১.০২ শতাংশ গত বছর আফ্রিকা মহাদেশের দেশসমূহের আন্তঃবাণিজ্য ১৩৩ বিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলারের হলেও বাংলাদেশ তার মোট রপ্তানির মাত্র ১.০২ শতাংশ আফ্রিকায় রপ্তানি করে। সেখানে বাংলাদেশের ওষুধ, টেক্সটাইল, কৃষিজাত পণ্য, পাটপণ্য ও পাদুকাসহ অন্য পণ্যের প্রচুর চাহিদা রয়েছে। আর বাংলাদেশ এসব পণ্য রপ্তানি করে থাকে। তারপরও সেসব দেশের বাজার ধরতে পারছে না। এমতাবস্থায় এলডিসি হতে বাংলাদেশের উত্তরণ পরবর্তী সময়ে বাণিজ্য আরও বৃদ্ধিকল্পে আফ্রিকার বাজারে পণ্য রপ্তানির পাশাপাশি সেখানে বিনিয়োগ সম্প্রসারণে বাংলাদেশি উদ্যোক্তাদের আহ্বান জানিয়েছেন, 'বাংলাদেশ ও আফ্রিকার মধ্যকার বাণিজ্য এবং বিনিয়োগ সহযোগিতা' শীর্ষক ওয়েবিনারের বক্তারা। বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয় এবং ঢাকা চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি (ডিসিসিআই) যৌথভাবে আয়োজিত 'বাংলাদেশ ট্রেড অ্যান্ড ইনভেস্টমেন্ট সামিট ২০২১' শীর্ষক সপ্তাহব্যাপী আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য সম্মেলনের ৫ম দিন গতকাল 'বাংলাদেশ ও আফ্রিকার মধ্যকার বাণিজ্য এবং বিনিয়োগ সহযোগিতা' শীর্ষক ওয়েবিনার অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রী এমএ মান্নান প্রধান অতিথি এবং রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো (ইপিবি)-এর ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান ও প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা এএইচএম আহসান বিশেষ অতিথি হিসেবে যোগদান করেন।</p>	31 October 2021	The Sangbad http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-10-31/news/business/105836)	
24	<p>Alternative sources of infrastructure funding in focus Speakers at a virtual discussion on Sunday stressed the need for a long term, vibrant, innovative and structured infrastructure finance for the private sector investment. They suggested creating alternative sources of financing other than banks for infrastructure development. A developed and mature bond market can be a sustainable solution for the private sector finance, they observed, adding that Bangladeshi bonds should be raised on the international market. They were speaking at a webinar on 'Bridging the infrastructure gap through credit solutions in Bangladesh' - jointly organised by the Ministry of Commerce and the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) under the Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit 2021. Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest, Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman F Rahman said that the government's main job was to play the role of a facilitator to ensure that the private sector acts properly. The present government has opened up almost all the sectors like power, airlines, televisions, mobile, banking, insurance, universities to be operated by the private sector, he said. For long-term sustainable infrastructure financing, he said, "We need to think of more strategies to go to the next level." Infrastructure financing has improved in Bangladesh, observed the PM's adviser, adding, "But what we need is to create a vibrant structured bond market in our country." Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman and CEO of PRAN-RFL Group, said Bangladesh was growing and it needed alternative financing and funding for infrastructure development and for the private sector. Bangladesh also needs to improve its sovereign credit rating, he said, adding, "We need to raise bonds on the international market."</p>	01 November 2021	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/alternative-sources-of-infrastructure-funding-in-focus-1635705681)	


Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
25	<p><u>Law on the anvil to refund excess tax</u> Individual taxpayers will get refund of their money paid in excess of their due tax directly into their bank accounts under a new income-tax law in the making to replace outmoded ones. Chairman of the National Board of Revenue Abu Hena Md. Rahmatul Muneem disclosed the fiscal measure Sunday, saying that the draft Income Tax Law 2022 will be placed before the cabinet by December next.</p> <p>Domestic transfer pricing, amortisation of pre-commencement expenditures of a business, Earning Striping Rules (ESR) provision with de-minimis threshold are new provisions of the law, meant for enhancing tax potential. In a press briefing over the draft of the law being made replacing the decades-old Income Tax Ordinance 1984, he said they would also hold stakeholder consultations before placing it with the cabinet. He said the Income Tax Ordinance 1984 was directly adopted after bringing a little change in the century-old Income Tax Act 1922. Over the decades, he said, the pattern of business, calculation of the accounting, the method of measuring income and revenue management has seen a sea change. "We also found many ambiguities in the old ordinance. So, we saw there are areas that need changes or update under the current circumstances," he told reporters. The draft has been prepared in Bangla to make the law very simple and flexible to everyone. "It will be a taxpayer-friendly one with updated provisions for global business practices."</p> <p>The latest development with the revenue board comes in line with a verdict given by the Supreme Court nullifying the ordinance along with 166 other laws framed during the military regimes.</p>	01 November 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/law-on-the-anvil-to-refund-excess-tax-1635705778)	
26	<p><u>Trade summit yields \$1.16b in intended investment</u> <u>26 new products appear as potential export items</u> A trade summit meet Bangladesh just hosted yielded investment interests worth US\$1.16 billion in various sectors of the country from investors, besides spotting potential exports, sponsors said. The second-major outcome of the weeklong Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit 2021 is that 26 products have been identified as potential exports from the country that is expected to help in much-needed export diversification to widen its slim export basket. Under the focus are sectors like infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, baby bottle, umbrella, agro-and food-processing, and IT.</p> <p>At the investment summit, jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), 20 companies from 13 countries showed their interest in undertaking joint ventures for putting in their money. DCCI president Rizwan Rahman Monday shared the outcomes of the summit wherein 552 local and foreign companies from 38 countries participated in 369 B2B (business-to-business) sessions. "The potential investment-interest size in the summit was US\$1.16 billion. Of the interest, one Chinese company has expressed its interest to invest US\$ 1.0 billion in railway infrastructure," he said. They found huge demand for export of 26 Bangladeshi products to 14 countries while 5 countries showed their interest in direct investment in Bangladesh. Power, energy, renewable energy, dairy products, FMCG, RMG, leather, automobile and jute are some of the sectors that have foreign investment opportunities, the business leader told the media.</p> <p>To net expected outcomes in the area of trade and investment, he underscored the need for improving ease-of-doing-business ambience, policy reforms, technology adaptation, skills development, fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, strong economic diplomacy and signing FTA or PTA with potential trading partners.</p>	02 November 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/trade-summit-yields-116b-in-intended-investment-1635794043)	


Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
27	<p><u>Remittance flow drops to \$1.65b in Oct</u> The flow of inward remittances dropped further in October after money transfers through informal channels such as hundi resurfaced after a lull caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The money sent home by Bangladeshis working abroad amounted to \$1.65 billion in October 2021, down by \$79 million from the previous month's level, according to the central bank's latest statistics. In September last, the remittances stood at \$1.73 billion. It was \$2.10 billion in October 2020.</p> <p>The flow of inward remittances dropped by nearly 20 per cent to \$7.05 billion during the July-October period of the current fiscal year (FY), 2021-22 from \$ 8.81 billion in the same period of the previous fiscal, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) data showed. "Higher gap between formal banking channel exchange rate of the US dollar against the local currency and kerb market has encouraged illegal hundi activities in recent months," a senior official of a leading private commercial bank told the FE on Monday.</p>	02 November 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/remittance-flow-drops-to-165b-in-oct-1635794233)	
28	<p><u>30 industrial units selected for 'Green Factory Award'</u> <u>PM to hand over the awards virtually on Dec 08</u> The government has selected 30 industrial units from six sectors, including readymade garments, to reward them for their contribution in ensuring a decent workplace and safeguarding environment. The labour and employment ministry, for the first time, has introduced the 'Green Factory Award' in the country's industrial sector, commemorating the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, according to a statement. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to award the units virtually on December 08.</p> <p>Among the 30 factories, some 15 are from the readymade garment industry, three each from food and beverage, plastic and pharmaceuticals, four from tea and the rest two from leather sectors. The units have been selected in line with the standards set by the rules in this regard, including mandatory, environmental, institutional and innovative ones, it added.</p> <p>The RMG units are: Remi Holdings Ltd, Tarasima Apparels Ltd, Plummy Fashions Ltd, Mithela Textile Industries Ltd, Vintage Denim Studio Ltd, AR Jeans Producer Ltd, Karooni Knit Composite Ltd, Designer Fashion Ltd, Kenpark Bangladesh Apparel (Pvt) Ltd (Kenpark Unit-2), Green Textile Ltd (Unit-3), Four H Dying and Printing Ltd, Wisdom Attires Ltd, Mahmuda Attires Ltd, Snowtex Outwear Ltd and Oeko-Tex Ltd.</p> <p>Apex Footwear Ltd and Edison Footwear limited have been selected from the leather and leather goods sector.</p> <p>Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd from the pharmaceutical sector and Banga Building Materials Ltd, Allplust Bangladesh Ltd and Durable Plastic ltd will be awarded from the plastic sector.</p> <p>Habiganj Agro Ltd, Akij Food and Beverage Ltd and IFAD Multi Products Ltd have been selected from the food and beverage sector.</p> <p>The four tea sector industries are: Gazipur Tea Garden, Laskarpur Tea Garden, Jagchora Tea Factory and Neptune Tea Garden.</p>	02 November 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/30-industrial-units-selected-for-green-factory-award-1635791573)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
29	<p><u>International Investment Summit to be held on 28-29 Nov</u> With the theme of 'Shonar Bangla (Golden Bengal): A Land of Limitless Investment Opportunities' International Investment Summit is going to be held between 28-29 November online. The Summit is being organised by Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), the country's apex investment promotion agency. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) of World Bank Group is the lead supporting agency for the Summit.</p>	02 November 2021	<p>The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/international-investment-summit-to-be-held-28-29-nov-324052</p>	
30	<p><u>বড় ঋণে বেশি ঝুঁকছে ইসলামি ব্যাংকগুলো, ঝুঁকিও বেড়েছে</u> করোনাভাইরাস মহামারি সত্ত্বেও ২০২১ সালে প্রচলিত ব্যাংকগুলোর তুলনায় দেশের ইসলামি ধারার ব্যাংকগুলোর সম্পদের গুণগত মান উন্নত হয়েছে। তবে প্রচলিত ধারার ব্যাংকগুলোর তুলনায় ইসলামি ধারার ব্যাংকগুলোর সম্পদের ঝুঁকি বেশি বেড়েছে। কারণ, সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে ইসলামি ধারার ব্যাংকগুলো দ্রুত বিনিয়োগ বা ঋণ বাড়িয়েছে। ২০২১ সালের আগস্টে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত সর্বশেষ আর্থিক স্থিতিশীলতা প্রতিবেদন পর্যালোচনা করে ক্রেডিট রেটিং এজেন্সি মুডিস এ তথ্য প্রকাশ করেছে। সোমবার প্রকাশিত মুডিসের এক প্রতিবেদনে এ তথ্য উঠে এসেছে। এতে বলা হয়েছে, ২০২১ সালের মার্চ পর্যন্ত ইসলামি ধারার ব্যাংকগুলোর মোট ঋণের ৭৫ শতাংশই গেছে করপোরেট ঋণে, যা পাঁচ বছর আগেও ছিল ৫২ শতাংশ। অন্যদিকে প্রচলিত ব্যাংকগুলো এ ঋণ ৭৫ শতাংশ থেকে কমিয়ে ৭১ শতাংশে এনেছে। গত পাঁচ বছরে করপোরেট খাতে দ্রুত অর্থায়ন বাড়ানোর কারণে ইসলামি ধারার ব্যাংকগুলো সমসাময়িক প্রচলিত ব্যাংকগুলোর তুলনায় বেশি ঝুঁকিতে রয়েছে।</p>	02 November 2021	<p>Prothom Alo https://www.prothomalo.com/business/bank-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%9C-%E0%A6%8B%E0%A6%A3%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%9D%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%81%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%8B%E0%A6%B2-%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%B2-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8B-%E0%A6%9D%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%81%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%93-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A7%9C%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87</p>	
31	<p><u>Oct'21 exports register record 60.37pc growth</u> Robust RMG shipment rebound provides props Bangladesh booked the highest-ever single-month export growth of 60.37 per cent, year on year, in October with overall US\$4.72-billion income as apparel shipments rebounded from pandemic recession. Sources in business circles say as 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 \$2.94 billion in total from merchandise shipments in October last year, according to the provisional data released Tuesday by the EPB. This past October earnings also overshot the target set for the month by 36.47 per cent. In October '21, out of the \$4.72 billion, the country fetched \$3.56 billion from RMG exports. Besides, the overall merchandise exports during the first four months of the current fiscal year, 2021-22, also marked a growth of 22.62 per cent to \$15.74 billion. The July-October earning in 2020-21 fiscal year-which fell into full flash of the pandemic - was US\$12.84 billion. The overall export earnings also surpassed the set target by 13.33 per cent. Out of the total \$15.74 billion worth of export income during the July-October period, the RMG sector fetched \$12.62 billion, recording a 20.78-per cent growth compared to the corresponding period of last fiscal. The country earned \$10.45 billion from apparel exports in the corresponding period of FY'21. The sector's earnings also exceeded the set target by 12.41 per cent. A breakdown of the clothing-sector performance shows that knitwear subsector of RMG earned \$7.21 billion from exports, registering a growth of 24.27 per cent. Earnings from export of woven garments amounted to \$5.41 billion in the last four months, up by 16.41 per cent.</p>	03 November 2021	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/oct21-exports-register-record-6037pc-growth-1635877598</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
32	<p><u>BD likely to ink PTA deal with Sri Lanka by March next year</u> <u>Product list yet to be prepared for tariff waiver</u></p> <p>Dhaka wants to conclude preferential trade agreement (PTA) with Colombo on March 4th next, now that Bangladesh begins to arm itself with trading tools for its graduation into competitive-market regime. The specific date tentatively set well before completion of the deal-making process is preferred as it commemorates the island nation's recognition of Bangladesh after the 1971 war of independence.</p> <p>Though the officials set the target in the work plan, they are sceptical whether the requisite negotiations will complete by then. The second meeting of the PTA negotiation committee was held in Dhaka Tuesday where the text of agreement, rules of origin, and modalities of tariff concession were discussed. And also a work plan is prepared stating which activities will be conducted next, said Noor Md Mahbubul Haq, additional secretary of FTA Wing of the ministry of commerce, who led the host side.</p> <p>On the other hand, Bangladesh Tariff Commission (BTC) has been asked to prepare a list of products on which Dhaka wishes tariff waiver. The list is under preparation and no stakeholder consultation on this held so far, he added.</p> <p>Bangladesh signed bilateral PTA with Bhutan in December last year, first of its kind since the country's independence back in 1971. However, the country is a member of several multilateral trade blocs.</p> <p>The two multilateral Free Trade Agreements Bangla-desh has signed so far are: South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement and BIMSTEC FTA (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Free Trade Agreement).</p> <p>On the other hand, three multilateral PTA deals which Bangladesh is a party to are: Asia- Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), TPS-OIC (Trade Preferential Scheme among the member-states of the OIC), and D-8 PTA (Developing-8 PTA).</p>	03 November 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-likely-to-ink-pta-deal-with-sri-lanka-by-march-next-year-1635877720)	
33	<p><u>City Bank arranges Tk 742cr for power plant</u></p> <p>City Bank has arranged a Tk 742 crore syndicated loan with Bank Asia and Eastern Bank for a heavy fuel oil-based power plant being run by Manikganj Power Generations Ltd. The financing will help the power plant operate smoothly, said a City Bank official. The plant, located at Shingair of Manikganj, has a production capacity of 162 megawatts (MW) and is owned by Doreen Group.</p>	03 November 2021	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/city-bank-arranges-tk-742cr-power-plant-2220916)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
34	<p data-bbox="250 242 757 274"><u>Niloufer Manzur Memorial Scholarship</u></p>  <p data-bbox="250 1236 1612 1401">Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman receives a cheque for Tk1.32 million at a function marking introduction of Niloufer Manzur Memorial Scholarship on the campus on Monday. Mutual Trust Bank Foundation introduced the scholarship for underprivileged and meritorious students of Business Studies Faculty of the university</p>	03 November 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/niloufer-manzur-memorial-scholarship-1635876249)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
35	<p data-bbox="255 245 987 272"><u>Apex wins award for excellence in retail, digital marketing</u></p>  <p data-bbox="255 927 1615 1439">Apex Footwear Ltd has recently been honoured with the "Best Retailer - Footwear" and "Best Loyalty Campaign" at the inaugural Bangladesh Retail Awards 2021 along with Excellence & Leadership in Digital Marketing for "Best Execution of Performance Campaign" at the Golden Star Award held in Bangalore, India, said a statement. Recognized as the Best Retailer in Footwear, Apex strives to provide a world-class retail shopping experience in Bangladesh, with a professional but friendly salesforce working tirelessly to provide customers with a memorable encounter. As part of the constant innovation to enrich the customer journey with value-added services, Apex introduced a range of premium and personalized facilities in stores for a wholesome retail experience. For the "Best Loyalty Campaign", Apex created the Summer Voucher Fest loyalty campaign for Apex Rewards Members, designed to offer members customized offers based on their previous purchase and engagement behavior. The campaign was topped with an iPhone 12 giveaway for the top three members with maximum purchase value. The goal of the campaign was to increase revenue from active users, get the dormant Rewards members back to Apex stores, and increase overall engagement with the loyalty base. For "Best Execution of Performance Campaigns" Apex created a digital transformation strategy amidst the pandemic to increase our customer base and increase digital awareness with more customer-centric marketing across all channels.</p>	03 November 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/apex-wins-award-for-excellence-in-retail-digital-marketing-1635873568)	


Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
36	<p data-bbox="253 244 1305 276"><u>StanChart Bangladesh executes country's first sustainable trade finance transaction</u></p>  <p data-bbox="253 499 1601 627">Standard Chartered Bangladesh has executed country's first sustainable trade finance transaction locally. The bank provided sustainable trade finance support to Square Textiles, a subsidiary of Square Group, in supplying yarn made from sustainably sourced cotton to their local buyer Echotex Ltd under a Letter of Credit transaction, said a statement.</p> <p data-bbox="253 675 1615 834">Square Textiles Ltd is a manufacturer of sustainable yarn, produced from cotton that was sourced from sustainable cotton producers who are also members of the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI). BCI, which is the largest cotton sustainability programme in the world, was formed to register and recognize members within the textile and clothing industry who contribute towards and actively promote soil health, water stewardship, emissions reduction as well as social factors like decent work and diversity.</p> <p data-bbox="253 850 1615 978">Standard Chartered Bank's Sustainable Trade Finance framework enables identification of sustainable activities in the physical supply chain or manufacturing process and enables capital to be directed towards these to encourage and enable such activities. One of the pillars in that framework is about financing sustainable goods which carry certifications from certain approved bodies, like the BCI.</p> <p data-bbox="253 994 1615 1074">Echotex Ltd is a 100% export oriented ready-made garments company. They are also members of BCI, producing apparels from fabric made with sustainable yarn, and selling to global buyers who also want to sell goods produced under sustainable practices.</p>	03 November 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/stanchart-bangladesh-executes-countrys-first-sustainable-trade-finance-transaction-1635873623)	
37	<p data-bbox="253 1090 813 1121"><u>Deposit interest rates rise as spread squeezes</u></p> <p data-bbox="253 1129 1048 1153"><u>Average spread between lending, deposit rates down to 3.16pc in Sept</u></p> <p data-bbox="253 1161 1615 1297">Depositors are to gain as the interest-rate spread narrowed slightly as banks increased deposit rates after nearly two years by keeping lending rates unchanged, bankers says. Adjustments are taking place well within the government-set 9-6-per cent bracket in banking operations, determined amid lending rates climbing high and thus making funds costlier while the deposit rates dropping into negative domain if calculated against inflation.</p> <p data-bbox="253 1305 1615 1425">The weighted average spread between the lending and deposit rates offered by the scheduled banks came down to 3.16 per cent in September 2021 from 3.19 per cent a month ago, according to the central bank's latest statistics. The weighted average interest rate on deposits rose to 4.08 per cent in September from 4.04 per cent in the previous month while such rate on lending remained unchanged at 7.24 per cent.</p>	04 November 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/deposit-interest-rates-rise-as-spread-squeezes-1635968772)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
38	<p>কেরোসিন ও ডিজেলের দাম বাড়ল লিটারে ১৫ টাকা</p> <p>আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে দাম বাড়ছে জ্বালানি পণ্যের। সব বাজার আদর্শেই ব্যারেলপ্রতি ৮০ ডলার ছাড়িয়েছে অপরিশোধিত জ্বালানি তেলের মূল্য। এ প্রেক্ষাপটে দেশের বাজারেও দাম বেড়েছে ডিজেল ও কেরোসিনের। বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়ের পক্ষ থেকে গতকালই এ-সংক্রান্ত একটি ঘোষণা দেয়া হয়েছে।</p> <p>নতুন ঘোষণায় দেশের বাজারে প্রতি লিটার ডিজেল ও কেরোসিনের মূল্য ধরা হয়েছে ৮০ টাকা করে। প্রায় পাঁচ বছরেরও বেশি সময় ধরে অপরিবর্তিত ছিল জ্বালানি পণ্য দুটির মূল্য। ২০১৬c সালের এক ঘোষণায় জ্বালানি পণ্য দুটির দাম কমিয়ে লিটারপ্রতি ৬৫ টাকা করে নির্ধারণ করেছিল সরকার। সে হিসাবে দেশে কেরোসিন ও ডিজেলের দাম বেড়েছে লিটারে ১৫ টাকা করে।</p> <p>জ্বালানি পণ্য দুটির মূল্যবৃদ্ধি দেশের পরিবহন ও কৃষি খাতে নেতিবাচক প্রভাব ফেলবে বলে আশঙ্কা করছেন সংশ্লিষ্টরা। তারা বলছেন, এ মূল্যবৃদ্ধির ফলে একদিকে পরিবহন খাতে ভাড়া বাড়বে, অন্যদিকে উৎপাদন ব্যয় বাড়তে যাচ্ছে কৃষি খাতে। একই সঙ্গে ভোক্তা ব্যয় বৃদ্ধিসহ সার্বিকভাবে গোটা অর্থনীতিতেই এর বহুমুখী চাপ অনুভূত হতে যাচ্ছে।</p>	04 November 2021	<p>Bonik Barta (https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_description/279243/%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%93-%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%B2-%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87-%E0%A7%A7%E0%A7%AB-%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE)</p>	
39	<p>Threat of new corona-infection waves 'real' <u>New poor rise to 32.4m amid 2nd wave</u></p> <p>Despite initial steady recovery from income shocks, the countrywide second corona lockdown in April 2021 reversed the progress with an increase in the number of "new poor" to 32.4 million, reveals a survey. Meanwhile, a threat of newer corona-infection waves remain "real", the survey report warns, as different countries across the globe are again experiencing fresh rounds of infections during the winter and local medics suggest people to go by the set emergency-time health rules.</p> <p>The proportion of new poor in Bangladesh under the disruptive impact of the pandemic had decreased to 14.75 per cent until March 2021 from 21.24 per cent in June 2020. But it resurged to 19.54 per cent in August 2021 after the second round of lockdown amid resurgence in the viral infections, the survey shows. The findings were published Thursday at a press conference held to disseminate findings of the survey titled 'PPRC-BIGD Rapid Response Research Phase IV Part 2: Trends in Covid Impact on Livelihood, Coping, and Recovery'.</p> <p>The study was jointly conducted by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD).</p>	05 November 2021	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/new-poor-rise-to-324m-amid-2nd-wave-1636052570)</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
40	<p><u>Per-capita income in BD rises to \$2,554</u> Shows BBS data</p> <p>Per capita income in Bangladesh has risen by \$327 in the fiscal 2020-21 to \$2,554, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), reports bdnews24.com. In terms of the Bangladesh currency, the per capita income is now Tk219,644 (\$1 = Tk 86). In calculating the average per-person income, the statistical agency of Bangladesh took fiscal 2015-16 as the baseline, the first change in a decade. Previously, on May 17, Planning Minister MA Mannan had announced that the preliminary per capita income was \$2,227 based on fiscal 2005-06. In fiscal 2019-2020, the per capita income was calculated at \$2,024. That means the average income of Bangladeshis has increased by about Tk28,000 in a year, according to the new baseline.</p> <p>Similarly, gross domestic product -- the total monetary or market value of all finished goods and services produced within the country -- has expanded to \$409 billion. The size of the economy for the previous fiscal year was \$328.8 billion.</p> <p>"Every 10 years, according to our regulations, the BBS changes the base year used to calculate economic indicators," said Ziauddin Ahmed of the BBS GDP Wing. "Accordingly, the base year was changed from 2005-06 to 2015-16."</p>	05 November 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/per-capita-income-in-bd-rises-to-2554-1636052065)	
41	<p><u>রাষ্ট্রপতির শিল্প উন্নয়ন পুরস্কার পেল ১৯ শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান</u></p> <p>দেশে বেসরকারি খাতে শিল্প স্থাপন, কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টি ও অর্থনীতিতে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অবদানের স্বীকৃতিস্বরূপ এবং উদ্যোক্তাদের উদ্বুদ্ধ, আকৃষ্ট ও উৎসাহিত করার লক্ষ্যে ছয় ক্যাটাগরিতে ১৯টি শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানকে দেয়া হল রাষ্ট্রপতির শিল্প উন্নয়ন পুরস্কার-২০১৯। গতকাল ওসমানী স্মৃতি মিলনায়তনে শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয় আয়োজিত রাষ্ট্রপতির শিল্প উন্নয়ন পুরস্কার ২০১৯ অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে ভার্চুয়ালি অংশ নেন রাষ্ট্রপতি মো. আবদুল হামিদ। রাষ্ট্রপতির পক্ষে বিশেষ অতিথি হিসেবে পরিকল্পনামন্ত্রী এম এ মান্নান বিজয়ী প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলোর কর্ণধার ও প্রতিনিধিদের হাতে পুরস্কার তুলে দেন।</p> <p>ছয় ক্যাটাগরির মধ্যে বৃহৎ শিল্পে ৪টি, মাঝারি শিল্পে ৪টি, ক্ষুদ্র শিল্পে ৩টি, মাইক্রো শিল্পে ৩টি, কুটির শিল্পে ২টি এবং হাইটেক শিল্পে ৩টি পুরস্কার দেয়া হয়েছে। ১টি করে ক্রেস্ট এবং সম্মাননাপত্র দিয়ে প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলোকে পুরস্কৃত করা হয়। পুরস্কার প্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলো হলো-</p> <p>বৃহৎ শিল্প ক্যাটাগরিতে যৌথভাবে ১ম হয়েছে বিআরবি কেবল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড এবং ব্রিটিশ আমেরিকান টোব্যাকো বাংলাদেশ কোম্পানি লিমিটেড, ২য় হয়েছে মীর সিরামিক লিমিটেড এবং ৩য় হয়েছে জাবের অ্যান্ড জোবায়ের ফেব্রিক্স লিমিটেড।</p> <p>মাঝারি শিল্প ক্যাটাগরিতে ১ম হয়েছে বেঙ্গল পলিমার ওয়্যারস লিমিটেড, ২য় হয়েছে নোমান টেরি টাওয়ার মিলস লিমিটেড, ৩য় হয়েছে যৌথভাবে অকো-টেক্স লিমিটেড এবং ক্রীমসন রোসেলা সি ফুড লিমিটেড।</p> <p>ক্ষুদ্র শিল্প ক্যাটাগরিতে ১ম হয়েছে প্রমি অ্যাগ্রো ফুডস লিমিটেড, ২য় হয়েছে মাধবদী ডাইং ফিনিশিং মিলস লিমিটেড এবং ৩য় হয়েছে এপিএস হোল্ডিং লিমিটেড।</p> <p>মাইক্রো শিল্প ক্যাটাগরিতে ১ম হয়েছে মাসকো ডেইরি এন্টারপ্রাইজ, ২য় হয়েছে খান বেকেলাইট প্রোডাক্টস এবং ৩য় হয়েছে র?্যাভেন অ্যাগ্রো কেমিক্যালস লিমিটেড।</p> <p>কুটির শিল্প ক্যাটাগরিতে ১ম হয়েছে কোর-দি জুট ওয়ার্কস এবং ২য় হয়েছে সামসুনাহার টেক্সটাইল মিলস।</p> <p>হাইটেক শিল্প ক্যাটাগরিতে ১ম হয়েছে ওয়ালটন হাই-টেক ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড, ২য় হয়েছে ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজি কনসালট্যান্টস লিমিটেড এবং ৩য় হয়েছে সামিট কমিউনিকেশনস লিমিটেড।</p>	05 November 2021	The Sangbad (http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-11-05/news/business/106180)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
42	<p><u>Industrial input import surges sharply in July-Sept</u></p> <p>Import of industrial inputs increased sharply year-on-year in the first quarter of the current fiscal year 2021-2022 amid restoration of business and economic activities in the country's major export destinations due to massive vaccination drives in those areas. The latest Bangladesh Bank data showed that the import of intermediate goods and industrial raw materials grew by 72 per cent and 49 per cent respectively as businesses set enhanced production targets followed by an order surge.</p> <p>Apart from the resumption of economic activities in the country's export destinations, the Bangladesh government also relaxed the strict movement restrictions amid a gradual decline in Covid infections. The relaxation in the strict restrictions from August 11 allowed the businesses to expedite their production as well as to reload their industrial inputs to cope with the additional orders placed by the buyers, said businesses. The country's import spending had been very low since the Covid outbreak in March 2020 as the businesses were uncertain on how long it would take for normalcy to be restored across the globe and to bring the Covid pandemic under control.</p> <p>The latest BB data showed that the country's overall settlement of letters of credit increased by 47 per cent or \$5.46 billion year-on-year in July-September of FY22. In the first quarter of FY22, settlement of LCs increased to \$17.05 billion against the settlement of \$11.58 billion in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year when panic over the Covid outbreak was very intense. Import of intermediate goods rose by \$634 million to \$1.52 billion in July-September of FY22 from \$883 million in the corresponding period of FY21. Besides, the settlement of LCs for the import of industrial raw materials rose by \$2.13 billion to \$6.47 billion in the first quarter of FY22 against \$4.34 billion in the same quarter of FY21. The import of petroleum, another major indication of industrial activities, also grew sharply by 60 per cent or \$526 million year-on-year in the first quarter of the current fiscal year. The country's import settlement for the fuel rose to \$1.4 billion in the July-September period of the current fiscal year against \$879 million in the same period of the previous fiscal year. Even though existing businesses accelerated their production by enhancing import of industrial inputs rapidly, the growth of capital machinery import was a paltry 19 per cent. A high import of capital machinery is indicative of the businesses' bullish investment sentiment whereas a low import of capital machinery indicates the opposite or low confidence, economists said. Import of consumer goods, which also tumbled after the Covid outbreak, saw moderate growth due to the relaxation of the strict restrictions. Import of such items grew by 37 per cent to \$2 billion in the July-September period of FY22 from \$1.46 billion in the corresponding period of FY21. Due to the surge in import payments coupled with a drastic fall in remittance earnings, the exchange rate of dollar has increased significantly in the last several months.</p>	06 November 2021	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/153794/industrial-input-import-surges-sharply-in-july-sept)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
43	<p><u>Farm mechanisation awaits investment boom</u></p> <p>With the government focusing on mechanising farm work and subsidising farmers in equipment purchase, local entrepreneurs are gearing up to manufacture heavy agricultural machinery. The Tk3,020 crore farm mechanisation project will provide 52,000 agro equipment to farmers within 2025 at subsidised rates. The market is worth at least Tk.30,000 crore according to business sources. Farmers may get up to 50% subsidies – 70% in the haor region – on the prices of machinery, such as combine harvesters, reapers, transplanners, etc under the five-year agricultural mechanisation project that started in fiscal 2020-21. This mega project is expected to create a strong market for agricultural machinery in the country. Encouraged by this huge potential, some companies are readying big investments in the sector, according to industry insiders.</p>	06 November 2021	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/farm-mechanisation-awaits-investment-boom-326182)	
44	<p><u>লাফিয়ে বাড়ছে ডলারের দাম, মান কমছে টাকার</u></p> <p>দেশে পণ্য আমদানির চাপ বাড়ার সঙ্গে ডলারের চাহিদাও বাড়ছে। বাড়তি চাহিদার কারণে লাফিয়ে লাফিয়ে বাড়ছে দাম। ডলারের দাম বাড়তে থাকায় এর বিপরীতে মান হারাচ্ছে টাকা।</p> <p>সর্বশেষ আন্তঃব্যাংক মুদ্রাবাজারে গত বৃহস্পতিবার প্রতি ডলারের মূল্য আরও ১০ পয়সা বেড়ে ৮৫ টাকা ৮০ পয়সায় দাঁড়িয়েছে। তবে খোলাবাজারে ও নগদ মূল্যে ডলার আরও বেশি দামে বিক্রি হচ্ছে। গত দু-তিনদিন একটু দাম কমলেও আবারও তা দুই টাকা বেড়ে ৯০ টাকায় কেনা-বেচা হচ্ছে খোলাবাজারে।</p> <p>চলতি বছরের আগস্টের শুরু থেকে বাড়তে থাকে ডলারের দাম, যা এখন পর্যন্ত অব্যাহত আছে। অন্যদিকে ডলারের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে প্রায় সব বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার দাম বেড়েছে খোলাবাজারে। যদিও ব্যাংকগুলোতে এসব মুদ্রা দু-তিনদিন ধরে স্থিতিশীল রয়েছে।</p> <p>টাকার বিপরীতে ডলারের দাম বৃদ্ধির জন্য একাধিক কারণ বলছেন সংশ্লিষ্টরা। কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের কয়েকজন দায়িত্বশীল কর্মকর্তা জানান, গত দুই থেকে আড়াই বছর ধরে ডলারের দাম স্থিতিশীল ছিল, যা গত আগস্ট মাসের শুরুতেও প্রতি এক ডলারের দাম ছিল ৮৪ টাকা ৮০ পয়সা। তবে ৫ আগস্টের পর থেকেই হঠাৎ ডলারের দাম বাড়তে শুরু করে। আগস্টের প্রথম সপ্তাহ থেকে এখন পর্যন্ত আড়াই মাসের ব্যবধানে ডলারের বিপরীতে ৮৫ পয়সা দর হারিয়েছে টাকা।</p> <p>তাদের মতে, ‘বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার সরবরাহ বেশি থাকাকালীন বেশি ডলার কিনেছে কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংক। পর্যাপ্ত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা মজুত রয়েছে। বাজার স্থিতিশীল রাখতে ব্যাংকগুলোর চাহিদার বিপরীতে ডলার বিক্রি করা হচ্ছে। বর্তমানে সরবরাহ কমে যাওয়ায় বাজারের চাহিদা অনুযায়ী ডলার বিক্রি করছে কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংক। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক চলতি অর্থবছরে (২০২১-২২) জুলাই থেকে সেপ্টেম্বর পর্যন্ত বাজারে ৭৯ কোটি ডলার বিক্রি করেছে।</p> <p>ব্যাংক কর্মকর্তারা বলছেন, প্রায় দেড় বছর বৈশ্বিক মহামারী করোনা পরিস্থিতিতে সব কিছু স্থবির হয়ে পড়েছিল। করোনার পরে পরিস্থিতি বদলাতে থাকে, সব কিছু স্বাভাবিক হওয়ায় দেশে আমদানি চাপ বেড়েছে। এর পাশাপাশি করোনার টিকা আমদানির বিপরীতে অর্থ পরিশোধ করতে হচ্ছে।</p> <p>তারা আরও বলছেন, টিকা আমদানির দায় পরিশোধে বাড়তি ডলারের প্রয়োজন হচ্ছে। তাছাড়া গত তিন মাস ধারাবাহিকভাবে কমছে প্রবাসী আয় বা রেমিট্যান্স। রপ্তানি আয়ও কমেছে। এসব কারণে বাজারে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার চাহিদার তুলনায় সরবরাহে ঘাটতি দেখা দিয়েছে। এতে ডলারের দাম বেড়েছে, কমেছে টাকার মান।</p>	06 November 2021	The Sangbad (http://print.sangbad.net.bd/2021-11-06/news/business/106290)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
45	<p><u>Strike hits external trade</u> An indefinite transport strike stalls shipping services and disrupts Bangladesh's external trade at a time when export and import both began to see pickup after a long slump following the coronavirus pandemic. Exporters, mainly the apparel makers who are keen to bank on the country's weakening currency and bumper Christmas orders, have been booking shipping. But a blow came all on a sudden for a wildcat transport strike in a brusque reaction to a fuel-price hike. They say the two-way trade is in trouble for lack of covered vans and trucks to deliver their goods to depots in Chattogram. And those who already booked the goods onto the containers at the depots are not finding lorries to deliver the cargoes to the port because of the ongoing strike that began Friday following the price hike of fuels by BPC, a state monopoly on petroleum import and marketing, on grounds of global price rises.</p>  <p>Around 5000 trucks that transport imported goods from the seaport every day have been at halt over the past two days, people having direct knowledge of the matter told the FE. On the other hand, shipping executives say, this will push up chartering cost by US\$20,000 a day. However, they will adjust the escalated cost with the freights and it's people who will ultimately pay for.</p>	07 November 2021	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/strike-hits-external-trade-1636219880)	
46	<p><u>84 large cos dodge Tk 5,067cr in VAT in 6 fiscal years: NBR</u> The revenue board recovers Tk 480 crore Eighty-four companies under the large taxpayer unit (value-added tax) of the National Board of Revenue evaded VAT worth about Tk 5,067 crore from the financial year of 2015-16 to 2020-21, making it difficult for the revenue board to achieve its tax collection target, according to an LTU report submitted to the NBR on October 23. The VAT evading companies include banks, multinational companies, cigarette manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies, hotels, ceramics makers, cement companies, mobile operators, gas companies and beverage companies. Of the amount evaded, the tax authorities managed to recover Tk 480 crore in the period. Of the remaining amount, cases involving Tk 3,448.13 crore in VAT are pending with the High Court, cases involving Tk 705.94 crore are pending with the LTU (VAT) appellate tribunal and Tk 432 crore could be recovered as the companies concerned shut down their business. Through conducting audits, the LTU (VAT) detected the revenue evasion of the entities over the years. According to the VAT wing of the NBR, 110 large taxpayers are now under the LTU jurisdiction.</p>	07 November 2021	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/articlelist/293/Business)	