


Fortnightly Summary

Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 24 Jan. 2022 – 13 Feb. 2022

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><u>Credit guarantee scheme for marginal groups rolled out</u></p> <p>The Bangladesh Bank introduced on Sunday a new credit-guarantee facility to speed up loan disbursement to landless farmers, low-income professionals, school banking account holders and small traders. The SME & Special Programmes Department of the BB issued a circular on the "Financial Services Credit Guarantee Scheme" going by example of the existing Credit Guarantee Unit (CGU), reports UNB. The marginal people can take a loan of Tk 25000 to Tk 500 thousand (5 lakh) in a single name while Tk 2.0 million (20 lakh) can be borrowed by a 5-member group under the new credit guarantee scheme. Earlier, the central bank formed a fund of Tk 5.0 billion (500 crore) from its own source for providing the credit guarantee to accelerate loan disbursement in the informal sector. As the loan disbursement in this sector was not satisfactory, the central bank introduced the 'Financial Services Credit Guarantee Scheme' against the loans for marginal people to make the rural economy vibrant.</p> <p>The BB stated that the adverse effects of the second wave of Covid-19 were hampering the recovery of the economy. In this context, the existing refinancing scheme for marginal / landless farmers, low-income professionals and small traders was introduced. No security deposit is required in case of lending to marginal / landless farmers, low income professionals, school banking account holders and small traders with accounts of Tk10/50/100, the circular said.</p>	24 January 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/credit-guarantee-scheme-for-marginal-groups-rolled-out-1642960138)	
02	<p><u>Govt seeks greater coordination to brand Bangladesh abroad</u> <u>Momen for 'open, inclusive, fact-based' programmes</u></p> <p>The government seeks to expedite its efforts to brand Bangladesh abroad by highlighting its areas of strength and make the country a more attractive destination for trade and investment through stronger teamwork within the government keeping in mind the challenges ahead, reports UNB. An inter-ministerial meeting of the committee on 'Branding Bangladesh Abroad' was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday highlighting the preparation, planning, implementation and monitoring of possible challenges of Bangladesh in the context of graduation from the list of LDC. Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen, Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman F Rahman and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, were present, among others.</p> <p>Dr Momen emphasised the identification of the areas of strength that Bangladesh has both as a nation and as a sovereign state and asked for stronger coordination among the stakeholders for projecting them abroad. He also highlighted the need for an "open, inclusive and fact-based programmes" for projecting a correct and aspirational image of the country.</p> <p>It was decided at the meeting that a common branding platform would be set up upon which all government and non-government organisations of the country could find complementary support systems for branding Bangladesh from their respective fields.</p>	24 January 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/govt-seeks-greater-coordination-to-brand-bangladesh-abroad-1642955387)	

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03	<p><u>Rising fuel, fertiliser prices fuelling farm spending</u> Govt subsidy to support agriculture may go up notably</p>  <p>FARM SUBSIDY SPENDING (In billion taka)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>FY'19</td> <td>76.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FY'20</td> <td>71.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FY'21</td> <td>77.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FY'22</td> <td>95.0 (allocation)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Highest ever farm subsidy was Tk 120 billion in FY'13</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>GLOBAL PRICE PER TONNE</th> <th>FERTILISER</th> <th>JAN 2021</th> <th>JAN 2022</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Urea</td> <td>280</td> <td>900</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>DAP</td> <td>430</td> <td>750</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>TSP</td> <td>340</td> <td>700</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(In US Dollar)</p> <p>SOURCE: MOA, MOF, INDEX MUNDI</p> <p>Soaring fuel and fertiliser prices are set to fuel government spending in farm subsidy to support agriculture, which acts as economic saviour amid the pandemic, officials say. Although the government has earmarked Tk 95 billion as agricultural subsidy for the current financial year, FY'22, they say, the volume could overshoot the target amid the global as well as local price rises. "Costs for subsidy might more than doubly this FY over that of last FY as different fertiliser prices increased by 80-230 per cent in a year, of which urea witnessed maximum surge," says an official at the agriculture ministry. He says in the FY'21, the government spent above Tk 77 billion on fertiliser subsidy, electricity rebate and other incentives for farmers against an allocation of Tk 90 billion. According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Bangladesh has a demand for 6.0 million tonnes of fertilisers annually-urea accounting for nearly 2.8 million tonnes. The country locally produces nearly 1.1 million tonnes of urea while Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) imports 1.4 to 1.7 million tonnes annually to meet the local demand.</p>	FY'19	76.9	FY'20	71.8	FY'21	77.0	FY'22	95.0 (allocation)	GLOBAL PRICE PER TONNE	FERTILISER	JAN 2021	JAN 2022		Urea	280	900		DAP	430	750		TSP	340	700	24 January 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/rising-fuel-fertiliser-prices-fuelling-farm-spending-1642960205)	
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04	<p>শর্ত পূরণ করতে পারলে সব ব্যবসায়ীই প্রণোদনা পাবেন : অর্থমন্ত্রী</p> <p>করোনাভাইরাস মহামারীতে ব্যবসায়িক ক্ষতি কাটিয়ে উঠতে সরকারের আর্থিক প্রণোদনার সুবিধা সবাই পাবে বলে জানিয়েছেন অর্থমন্ত্রী আ হ ম মুস্তফা কামাল। অর্থনৈতিক ও ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত মন্ত্রিসভা কমিটির বৈঠক শেষে গতকাল ভার্চুয়াল সংবাদ সম্মেলনে সাংবাদিকদের প্রশ্নের জবাবে তিনি এ কথা বলেন। সম্প্রতি এফবিসিসিআইয়ের এক সভায় মাঠ পর্যায়ের ব্যবসায়ীরা সবাই প্রণোদনা পায়নি বলে অভিযোগ তুলেছেন। এ বিষয়ে দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা হলে অর্থমন্ত্রী বলেন, ‘আমরা যেসব প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজ দিয়েছি যোগ্য সব ব্যবসায়ী তা পাবেন। যেসব শর্ত দেয়া হয়েছে সেগুলো পূরণ করতে পারলে অবশ্যই তাদের প্রণোদনা দেয়া হবে। আমি মনে করি এটা নিয়ে যে ভুল বোঝাবুঝি হয়েছে তার নিরসন হবে।’</p> <p>প্রণোদনা পাওয়ার যোগ্যতা থাকা সত্ত্বেও কেউ যদি এ সুবিধা না পান তাহলে অবশ্যই ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হবে বলে জানান অর্থমন্ত্রী।</p>	24 January 2022	The Sangbad (https://print.sangbad.net.bd/2022-01-24/news/business/111589)																									

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05	<p><u>বিদেশী ব্যবসায়ীদের নিয়ে যৌথ বাণিজ্য সংগঠন তৈরি হচ্ছে</u></p> <p>বিদেশী ব্যবসায়ীদের নিয়ে দেশে যৌথ বাণিজ্য সংগঠন তৈরির সুযোগ রেখে নতুন 'বাণিজ্য সংগঠন আইন' করার প্রস্তাব সংসদে উঠেছে। গতকাল বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী টিপু মুনশি বাণিজ্য সংগঠন বিল-২০২২ সংসদে তোলেন। পরে বিলটি ৩০ দিনের মধ্যে পরীক্ষা করে সংসদে প্রতিবেদন দেয়ার জন্য বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয় সম্পর্কিত সংসদীয় স্থায়ী কমিটিতে পাঠানো হয়। ১৯৬১ সালের 'ট্রেড অর্গানাইজেশন অর্ডিন্যান্স' বাতিল করে বাংলায় নতুন করে আইন করতে বিলটি তোলা হয়েছে। বিলে বলা হয়েছে, প্রতিটি জেলায় নারী উদ্যোক্তাদের জন্য আলাদা চেম্বার গঠনের সুযোগ থাকবে। বিলে বাণিজ্য সংগঠনে নারী উদ্যোক্তাদের লাইসেন্সের মাধ্যমে সদস্য হওয়ার আইনি ভিত্তির বিধান রাখা হয়েছে।</p> <p>বাংলাদেশের সঙ্গে কূটনৈতিক বা বাণিজ্যিক সম্পর্ক রয়েছে এমন কোনো দেশ বা অঞ্চলে ব্যবসা, শিল্প বা বাণিজ্য ও সেবা খাতে প্রতিনিধিত্ব করার জন্য যৌথ চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি এবং একাধিক যৌথ চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রির সমন্বয়ে গঠিত চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি জোটের বিধান রাখা হয়েছে।</p> <p>বিলে বলা হয়েছে, অন্য দেশ থেকে বাংলাদেশে এসে বিদেশী ব্যবসায়ীরা একটি যৌথ চেম্বার করতে পারবে। তবে এক্ষেত্রে স্বরাষ্ট্র ও পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের মতামত নিতে হবে। বাণিজ্য সংগঠন ছাড়া কোনো সংগঠন বা কোম্পানি 'ফেডারেশন', 'চেম্বার', 'কাউন্সিল', 'গ্রুপ', 'অ্যাসোসিয়েশন' শব্দ ব্যবহার করতে পারবে না।</p> <p>বিলে বলা হয়েছে, কোনো ব্যক্তি ট্রেড লাইসেন্সে উল্লেখ করা ব্যবসার শ্রেণী ছাড়া অন্য কোনো শ্রেণীর সংগঠনের সদস্য হতে পারবে না। ট্রেড লাইসেন্সে উল্লেখ করা জেলা বা মেট্রোপলিটন চেম্বার ছাড়া অন্য কোনো চেম্বারের সদস্য হতে পারবে না। বাণিজ্য সংগঠনকে সরকারের কাছ থেকে সনদ ও নিবন্ধন নেয়ার কথা বিলে বলা হয়েছে।</p>	24 January 2022	<p>Bonik Barta (https://bonikbarta.net/home/news-description/287738/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%80-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%AF%E0%A7%8C%E0%A6%AS-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A3%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%A0%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%88%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%88)</p>	
06	<p><u>Commerce to coordinate transit, multimodal connectivity matters</u> <u>Experts suggest well-thought-out deals as turfs extend far off</u></p> <p>It's now commerce ministry's job to coordinate connectivity and transit affairs in line with the allocation of business, a government meeting decides as many trans-border communications deals are being dealt with. Officials say the decision comes as different ministries and divisions indulge in completion of transit-or connectivity-related various bilateral and multilateral deals and memorandum of understanding in scattered ways. The Ministry of Commerce (MoC) thinks that these activities need proper coordination to make the most of these pacts involving trade and commerce and transportation.</p> <p>Senior Secretary of the commerce ministry Tapan Kanti Ghosh chaired the inter-ministerial meeting which discussed that the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN), Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM), South Asian Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Regional Integration, Asian Highways, Silk Road, and One-Belt, One-Road arrangements are some of the initiatives where other ministries and divisions have signed various documents. But the 'Allocation of Business among different ministries and divisions (schedule 1 of the Rules of Business 1996, revised in April 2017)' titled 'Transit Trade through Bangladesh' has allocated the authority of completion of commercial transit-related activities to the ministry of commerce.</p>	25 January 2022	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/commerce-to-coordinate-transit-multimodal-connectivity-matters-1643045997)</p>	

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07	<p><u>Development work of eight hi-tech parks begins in Feb</u> The development work of hi-tech parks in Bangladesh's eight districts is expected to begin next month (February). Besides lending for the project, India has extended its support to establish specialised labs in the IT parks of Bangladesh and develop human resources in the information communication technology (ICT) sector. This was discussed at a views exchange meeting between Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami and the State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak at the conference room of the BHTPA in the city's Agargaon area on Monday. Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) Managing Director Bikarna Kumar Ghosh and officials of the ICT division, BHTPA and Indian High Commission in Dhaka were present at the meeting, a BHTPA statement said.</p> <p>According to data available with the BHTPA, the IT parks will be established under 'District Level Hi-Tech Park Installation (12 Districts)' project in Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Keraniganj in Dhaka, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman University of Science and Technology in Gopalganj, Comilla Sadar South, Chittagong port, Cox's Bazar, Rangpur, Singra in Natore, Companiganj in Sylhet, Barishal and Khulna.</p>	25 January 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/development-work-of-eight-hi-tech-parks-begins-in-feb-1643046253)	
08	<p><u>\$1.58b FDI in the offing for shipbuilding</u> The government looks to set up a shipbuilding facility in partnership with foreign investors at the Payra seaport in Patuakhali with an investment of \$1.58 billion to cut import dependence for vessels and market ships globally. State-run Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) under the industries ministry will provide land to Gentium Solutions, a Singapore and Australia-based company and Damen Shipyards Group, a Dutch company, to construct the shipyard, which will make merchant and passenger ships.</p>	25 January 2022	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/158b-fdi-the-offing-shipbuilding-2946696)	
09	<p><u>BTMA seeks 100% duty exemption for all types of fibres</u> The Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) has sought 100% import duty exemption for any types of fibres as the global demand for diversified clothes has been on the rise. Key demands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty-free import facility for more than 20 types of fibres • Continuing the 15% corporate tax rate facility until 2026 • Reducing duties on textile instruments import to 1% • Cutting VAT on locally produced yarn to Tk3 per kg • Increasing govt-set wastage rates in yarn production 	25 January 2022	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/btma-seeks-100-duty-exemption-all-types-fibres-362374)	
10	<p><u>File complaints if harassed: NBR chair</u> National Board of Revenue chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem on Tuesday urged businesses to submit complaints relating to any harassment while getting services to his office. He said that the NBR would take action against such allegations. Businesses must submit specific complaints over harassment that they face in tax offices, he said. Muneem, also senior secretary of the Internal Resource Division, said, 'Most of the businesses fail to submit related documents properly, which is required for getting customs clearance.'</p> <p>At a press conference held at the seminar room of the revenue board on preparations for the celebration of the International Customs Day 2022, he made the comments.</p>	26 January 2022	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/160970/file-complaints-if-harassed-nbr-chair)	

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11	<p><u>TI global corruption index Country gets low score again</u> <u>Position only better than Afghanistan among 8 SA countries</u></p> <p>Bangladesh has improved its position by one notch -- from 148th to 147th -- in global corruption ratings though its score remained unchanged for the fourth consecutive year, according to the anti-corruption body Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), which cites the reasons why. The country received a score of 26 in the corruption perception index (CPI) 2021 out of 100, and got outshone by most Asian nations, the TIB revealed at a virtual press conference Tuesday. Among the eight South Asian countries, Bangladesh stands second-lowest both in score and rank - better than only the war-torn Afghanistan which scored 16 and ranked 174th from top. Bangladesh's ranking is the 3rd-lowest among 31 Asia-Pacific countries, better than only Cambodia followed jointly by Afghanistan and North Korea, according to the index prepared by the Berlin-based watchdog.</p> <p>The score of Bangladesh at 26 is a figure much lower than the global average of 43. The score is same as in 2020, 2019, and 2018. Madagascar and Mozambique share the same score and the same position in the index. Counting from the top, Bangladesh ranked 147th, one position lower than in 2020, and from the bottom, it stood 13th, one position higher than in 2020.</p> <p>"The performance is 'disappointing'," Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, told the press. He says there is no improvement in score and stands one-step lower in ranking from the top. The Transparency International index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public-sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople, uses a scale of 0-100 where 0 means highly corrupt and 100 is clean.</p>	26 January 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/country-gets-low-score-again-1643132700)	
12	<p><u>Companies can invest 25pc of asset offshore</u> <u>Govt issues guidelines on equity investment abroad</u></p> <p>The government issued guidelines permitting Bangladeshi entrepreneurs to make offshore equity investment to the tune of 25 per cent of net asset of a company -- to instant welcome from businesses. Seven core conditions are tied to the investment in foreign countries -- an option big businesses of Bangladesh have long sought. The financial institutions division of the ministry of finance has published a gazette notification on the 'Capital Account Transactions (Overseas Equity Investment) Guidelines 2022' detailing how to spread their wings beyond borders. "Interested overseas investors will have to take prior permission from the government through central bank channel," says one provision of the guidelines. They will be allowed to make equity investment abroad up to 20 per cent of their average annual income from exports during the last five years or 25 per cent of net asset mentioned in the last audited financial report.</p> <p>The government since 2013 has given permission to eight companies to invest abroad. The firms are DBL Group, Mobil Jamuna, ACI Healthcare, Square Pharma, Incepta Pharmaceuticals, BSRM Steel, Spectrum Engineering, and Akij Group.</p> <p>Also, Ha-Meem Group, Nitol-Niloy Group, Summit Group, Meghna Group and Pran-RFL Group have expressed interest in making equity investment abroad.</p>	27 January 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/companies-can-invest-25pc-of-asset-offshore-1643220825)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
13	<p><u>CPD findings on business cost hike, price spike Graft, greenhorn bureaucracy, credit crunch to blame</u></p> <p>Pervasive corruption, weak and inefficient bureaucracy, and lack of access to credit especially for minnows are mainly to blame for business-cost hike and resultant price spikes, a CPD survey shows. As per the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) survey findings, published in Dhaka on Wednesday, micro,- small and-cottage industries are the ones that face far acute credit crunch and business-cost escalation. Some 68 per cent of the respondents complained that high level of corruption is major problematic factor while around 67 per cent said inefficient bureaucracy is the challenging factor for carrying out business.</p> <p>However, the businesses in the country will take three years to recover from the effects of the pandemic, according to 45 per cent of the 73 private companies' high officials who were surveyed during April-July period in 2021. Some 42-per cent respondents said the country's economy is still under pressure while 63 per cent of the traders supposed that the distribution of incentive packages was "disproportionate" for the SMEs during the peak of the pandemic last year.</p> <p>The think-tank took executive opinion of 73 high officials of private companies located in Dhaka, Chattogram, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Faridpur during the survey period.</p>	27 January 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/graft-greenhorn-bureaucracy-credit-crunch-to-blame-1643220919)	
14	<p><u>H1 FY2022 Foreign aid commitment plunges 83 per cent</u></p> <p>The foreign aid commitment plunged by 83 per cent in the first half (H1) of the current fiscal year (FY) 2021-22, officials said on Wednesday. Foreign development partners had confirmed US\$4.399 billion worth of assistance, \$1.99 billion lower than H1 last FY2021, for Bangladesh, Economic Relations Division (ERD) data showed. "Since there were some big loans signed in H1 last FY2021, the commitment during that period was impressive. In the same period this FY2022, the deal on big loans was limited resulting in lower commitment," said a senior ERD official. Out of the \$4.399 billion worth of total commitment, the government signed \$4.30 billion worth of loans and \$99.7 million grants deals with the development partners including the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan during the H1 of the current fiscal, the ERD data showed.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the government had received an impressive amount of \$4.17 billion worth of aid during July-December period of the current FY2022, 39 per cent higher than that in the last FY2021. On the other hand, the development partners disbursed \$4.02 billion worth of loans and \$148.83 million in grants during July-December period of the current FY2022. In the H1 last fiscal, the multi-lateral and bilateral development partners disbursed \$3.00 billion worth of medium- to long-term (MLT) loans and grants, ERD data showed.</p>	27 January 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/ast-page/foreign-aid-commitment-plunges-83-per-cent-1643221326)	
15	<p><u>Faster, cheaper export to Europe from Feb</u></p> <p>Bangladesh's export to Europe is going to have a much less lead time and cost from February as a direct freight service is starting from Chattogram port to Europe – the country's biggest apparel export destination. The first ship on the route, carrying export goods, will leave Chattogram for the Port of Ravenna in Italy in the first week next month.</p>	27 January 2022	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/faster-cheaper-export-europe-feb-363289)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
16	<p><u>BD businesses can avail credit from ESG Fund</u> Bangladeshi businesses can avail credit from \$250 million worth of ESG First Fund, a finance initiative to promote environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices among the businesses in Asia and Africa. Aavishkaar Capital of India in partnership with KfW, a German state-owned investment and development bank, has introduced the fund recently. "Bangladesh is one of the core targeted countries to mobilise the fund," said Nazmul Karim, Bangladesh Country Manager for Aavishkaar Capital. Exporters, especially the medium-sized ones, who have strong commitment to ESG practices can avail the fund, added Mr Karim. According to the statement issued by the Aavishkaar Capital, the ESG First Fund will seek to provide transformational capital which can be invested across the capital structure, helping businesses improve their ESG standards. Aavishkaar Capital (Aavishkaar), an Aavishkaar Group company, has already invested in a few Bangladeshi companies, including B2B e-commerce platform Sindabad and Fintech firm Cloudwell.</p>	27 January 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-businesses-can-avail-credit-from-esg-fund-1643216491)	
17	<p><u>বাংলাদেশের চিংড়ির কদর বেড়েছে ইউরোপ-আমেরিকায়</u> করোনার মধ্যে আমেরিকা, কানাডা ও ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়নে (ইইউ) বাংলাদেশি চিংড়ির কদর বেড়েছে। সেই সঙ্গে বেড়েছে এ দেশের চিংড়ির দামও। আর তাতেই ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়নভুক্ত দেশ ও আমেরিকায় চিংড়ি রপ্তানিকারক বাংলাদেশি প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলোর আয় বেড়েছে কয়েক গুণ। রপ্তানিকারকেরা বলছেন, মূলত বাগদা চিংড়ির ভৌগোলিক নির্দেশক (জিওগ্রাফিক্যাল ইন্ডিকেশন) বা জিআই সনদ এ চাহিদা বাড়িয়ে দিয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ থেকে আমেরিকা, কানাডা ও ইইউতে চিংড়ি রপ্তানিকারক ও শেয়ারবাজারে তালিকাভুক্ত দুই কোম্পানির আয় থেকে এ তথ্য পাওয়া গেছে।</p>	27 January 2022	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%F0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%82%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A7%9C%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%89%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9E)	
18	<p><u>Pre-budget parley</u> <u>NBR seeks fiscal proposals from businesses</u> The National Board of Revenue (NBR) invites proposals from businesses to prepare the national budget for fiscal year 2022-23 in a participatory manner. Chambers, trade bodies and other business associations need to submit their budget proposals in written form through the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) by February 05. A press release, signed by Syed A Momen, public relations officer of the NBR, has made the call. The soft copy (NikoshBAN) of the proposals has to be sent to the customs wing first secretary and chief budget coordinator, Dr Md Neyamul Islam, through this email address 'budgetnbr@gmail.com'. According to the NBR schedule, the pre-budget meetings will take place from February 06 to March 20. The NBR will sit with major chambers, advocacy groups and other stakeholders to consider their opinions on the preparation of the budget.</p>	28 January 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/nbr-seeks-fiscal-proposals-from-businesses-1643307316)	
19	<p><u>External debt repayment rises 16pc</u> Bangladesh's external debt repayment has increased gradually in recent times aided by an inflow of a huge amount of foreign loans from multilateral and bilateral partners in the forms of project aid and budget support. The servicing of foreign debt including interest and principal amount saw an increase of around 16 per cent in the first six months of the current fiscal year.</p>	28 January 2022	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/external-debt-repayment-rises-16pc-2949086)	

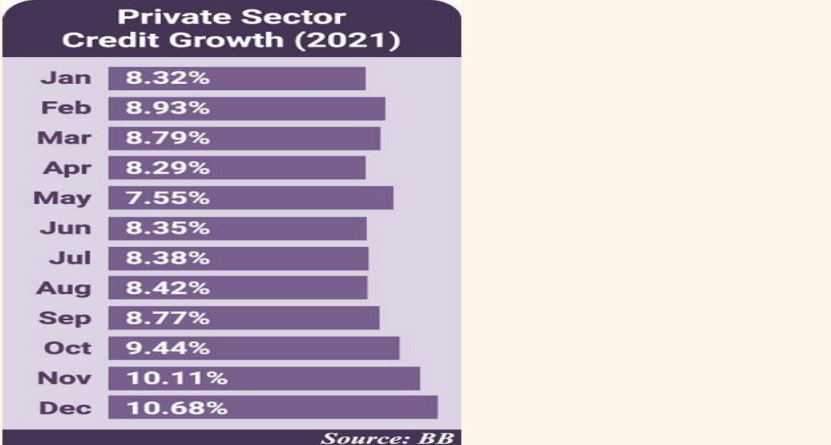
Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
20	<p><u>All exports to pass thru port scanning</u> All exports from Bangladesh will now pass through port scanning in compliance with international shipment security standards and so the process of installing scanners at all gates of Chattogram seaport begins. Officials say the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) will soon start shipment of all outbound containers by checking with the scanning machines. They say the move has been made to meet the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) compliance. Presently, no export containers are scanned with machine in the country's prime seaport. But all import containers are scanned before exit from the port area.</p> <p>The Chattogram port-considered country's commercial lifeline so far-- annually handles over 1.52 million TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) of export containers and more than 1.68 million TEUs of import containers. Sources said the port authority last week asked some seven inland container-depot owners to shift their offices located outside the Chattogram Port Access Road (CPAR) gate so that a scanner machine can be set up there to scan outbound boxes.</p>	29 January 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/all-exports-to-pass-thru-port-scanning-1643391677)	
21	<p><u>Omicron setbacks cast fresh shadows</u> <u>Debt buildup weighs on economy</u> Bangladesh's external-debt stock ratcheted up by over \$10.0 billion in a year to US\$67.75 billion in 2020, and as much might have been added up in 2021. The nearly 19-per cent debt buildup for Bangladesh in 2020--the year entirely overshadowed by the disruptive coronavirus pandemic-is evident from "International Debt Statistics of 2022", a flagship publication of the World Bank, released recently.</p> <p>External-debt stock on a nation comprises public-and publicly-guaranteed long-term external debts, private non-guaranteed long-term external debts, use of IMF credits, and short-term external debts, including interest arrears on long-term ones.</p> <p>The report also shows that the repayment of the principal by private sector remained much lower in the year under review over a year earlier. The private sector non-guaranteed debt repayment was \$1.5 billion, down by more than 54 per cent year on year.</p> <p>Economists view that the rising trend in the external-debt buildup is a matter of concern, especially because of the lingering coronavirus pandemic as the country's private sector has been in troubles amid resurgence in infection with the highly contagious new covid-19 variant ---Omicron. They hint that in 2021 more \$10 billion external debt might have been added up to the stocks as there were more multilateral and bilateral debts. Bangladesh received both budgetary and covid-related supports from overseas lenders in 2021.</p>	30 January 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/debt-buildup-weighs-on-economy-1643475961)	
22	<p><u>Power tariff hike to hit apparel</u> Any power tariff hike will have a serious impact on the garment industry as it will scuttle its recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and erode competitiveness, said Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). He shared the concerns as the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) seeks to increase the bulk electricity tariffs by around 66 per cent. The state-run agency has submitted its proposal to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission recently.</p>	30 January 2022	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/power-tariff-hike-hit-apparel-2950196)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
23	<p><u>Businesses lose \$1.75b in three months due to gas crisis: BTMA</u></p> <p>Leaders of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association on Saturday claimed that the sector faced production loss worth \$1.75 billion in the last three months due to a supply shortage of gas. Opposing the proposal by state-owned distribution companies for a 116-per cent hike in gas price, the BTMA said that any increase in gas price would erode the competitiveness of the sector as the overhead production cost of yarns would double from the existing 25 cents. 'In 2019, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission increased the price of gas by 65.67 per cent for captive power generation with a promise that it would add 26 per cent of liquefied natural gas to the national grid and ensure uninterrupted supply to the industry,' BTMA president Mohammad Ali Khokon said. The BTMA organised the press conference on the shortage of gas supply to the factories at the Hotel Sonargaon in the capital, Dhaka. He said that without fulfilling the pledge that had been made in mass hearing during the previous price hike of gas, the BERC must not initiate any move for further increase in price of gas. The export-oriented textile mills have been facing acute shortage of gas for the last three months and the sector incurred production loss worth \$1.75 billion in the period, Khokon said.</p> <p>The BTMA president said that a good number of spinning, weaving, dyeing and printing mills located in Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Savar, Ashulia, Manikganj, Narsingdi and Chattogram could not run with a full capacity due to the shortage of gas. Under the circumstances, if the price of gas is increased by 103-116 per cent, the electricity cost would increase by Tk 20.47 to Tk 23 to produce a kilogram of yarns, he said.</p>	30 January 2022	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/61280/businesses-lose-175b-in-three-months-due-to-gas-crisis-btma)	
24	<p><u>সংগঠিত ব্যবসায়ী গোষ্ঠীগুলোই প্রণোদনা ঋণ বেশি পেয়েছে</u></p> <p>দেশে তথ্য-উপাত্তের অভাবে সমন্বিত নীতি প্রণয়ন করা হচ্ছে না। একান্তই অনুমান-নির্ভরতা ও অ্যাডহক ভিত্তিতে প্রণীত হচ্ছে নীতি। ঠিক এ কারণে কোভিড-১৯-এর প্রভাব মোকাবিলায় যে ২৮টি প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজ ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে, সেগুলো থেকে সবচেয়ে সুবিধা বেশি পেয়েছে সংগঠিত ব্যবসায়ী গোষ্ঠীগুলো। আর অনানুষ্ঠানিক খাতের অনেক জায়গায় নীতি-সহায়তা পৌঁছায়নি। এর অন্যতম কারণ, প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক দুর্বলতা। এ পরিস্থিতিতে এখন বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরোসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্য প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলোর সক্ষমতা বাড়ানো দরকার। গতকাল শনিবার এশিয়া ফাউন্ডেশন, রিসার্চ অ্যান্ড পলিসি ইন্সটিটিউশন ফর ডেভেলপমেন্ট (র্যাপিড) এবং ইকোনমিক রিপোর্টার্স ফোরামের (ইআরএফ) যৌথভাবে আয়োজিত 'কোভিড-১৯ প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজ: প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক সক্ষমতা, স্বচ্ছতা ও জবাবদিহি' শীর্ষক এক সেমিনারে এসব বক্তব্য উঠে আসে।</p>	30 January 2022	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%A0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A4-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%80-%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%B7%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A0%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%B9%E0%A6%87-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A3%E0%A7%B9%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%8B%E0%A6%A3-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%87%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%8D)	
25	<p><u>৩,১০৬ উদ্যোক্তা পেয়েছেন ৩০০ কোটি টাকার ঋণ</u></p> <p>ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি শিল্পের ৩ হাজার ১০৬ জন উদ্যোক্তা এখন পর্যন্ত সরকারের প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজের আওতায় ৩০০ কোটি টাকার ঋণ পেয়েছেন। এসএমই ফাউন্ডেশন বিভিন্ন ব্যাংক ও আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে এ টাকা বিতরণ করেছে। করোনার ক্ষতি কাটিয়ে উঠতে ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি শিল্পের উদ্যোক্তাদের মাঝে প্রণোদনার এই অর্থ বিতরণ করছে এসএমই ফাউন্ডেশন। এসএমই ফাউন্ডেশন এক সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বিষয়টি জানিয়েছে।</p>	30 January 2022	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/%E0%A7%A8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%A0%E0%A6%9B%E0%A6%8D%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%80-%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%B7%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A0%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%B9%E0%A6%87-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A3%E0%A7%B9%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%8B%E0%A6%A3-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%87%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%8D)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
26	<p>পরিবেশবান্ধব কারখানা স্থাপনে সহায়তা চান ব্যবসায়ীরা</p> <p>দেশের বস্ত্র ও তৈরি পোশাক খাতে ইতিমধ্যে দেড় শতাধিক পরিবেশবান্ধব কারখানায় উৎপাদন রয়েছে। তবে সরকারের সুস্পষ্ট নীতিমালা না থাকায় উদ্যোক্তারা কারখানা স্থাপনে বিভিন্ন সমস্যায় পড়েন। তাই সরকারের কাছে নীতিমালাসহ ঋণ সহায়তা চেয়েছেন এই খাতের ব্যবসায়ীরা। আজ রোববার রাজধানীর ব্র্যাক ইন সেন্টারে বাংলাদেশের বস্ত্র ও তৈরি পোশাক খাতে পরিবেশবান্ধব শিল্পায়ন নিয়ে এক সংলাপে এসব দাবি জানান বস্ত্র ও তৈরি পোশাক খাতের ব্যবসায়ীরা। গবেষণা সংস্থা সেন্টার ফর পলিসি ডায়ালগ (সিপিডি) ও বাংলাদেশে অবস্থিত সুইডিশ দূতাবাস এই সংলাপের আয়োজন করে।</p>	30 January 2022	<p>Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%96%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE) </p>	
27	<p>Property market rebounds on buy binge</p> <p>Sloth in capital flight, repatriation of money by expats amid corona, black money provide push</p> <p>Bangladesh's land property-transfer market rebounds strongly even amid corona curbs with several financial factors, including a pause in capital flight, pushing up sales, officials say. They find a spurt in sales volume of land and apartments across the country after the coronavirus-induced lockdowns were over. Such a rise in land and apartment transfers comes as a boon for government exchequer, too, as a major portion of its non-NBR tax-revenue target of Tk 160 billion for the financial year 2021-2022 will come from this area.</p> <p>The way the collection is mounting the revenue target set for the land registration in the ongoing fiscal is likely to be met ahead of the deadline. Usually, the government earns revenue amounting to around Tk 100 billion on average in a fiscal from 13 areas related to the property trade. The areas are registration of transfer deeds, including fees, certified copies of documents, stamp fees, tax at source, renewal fees, land-handover fees and some other fees. But in the financial year (FY) 2020-2021, estimated revenue of around Tk 123 billion was earned from land-property transfers, according to the statistics with the state-run Directorate of Registration. They earned revenue through handing over 3.47 million deeds that accounted for 82 per cent of government's previous fiscal's non-NBR tax-revenue target at Tk 150 billion. Of the revenue, Tk 93.39 billion came from registration purposes while the remaining Tk 29.53 billion came in the form of local-government tax. In the previous fiscal year, 2019-2020, the revenue figure was Tk 78.48 billion earned through handover of 2.55 million deeds across the country.</p> <p>Normally, the country sees sales of around 3.0 million deeds per annum, but the pandemic that appeared here in March 2020 badly affected trade in land property like other sectors, according to the officials engaged in the sales and transfers.</p>	31 January 2022	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/property-market-rebounds-on-buy-binge-1643565118) </p>	
28	<p>Freelancers to get 4pc incentive for software export</p> <p>There is good news for about six lakh freelancers in the country as they now will get a 4 per cent incentive against export of software or IT-enabled services. Freelancers who work at 55 marketplaces and have been selected by the ICT ministry will get the incentive, according to a Bangladesh Bank circular issued yesterday.</p>	31 January 2022	<p>The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/freelancers-get-4pc-incentive-software-export-2950991) </p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
29	<p><u>Lending rate rise widens interest spread</u></p> <p>Interest spread widens further as the banks raise their lending rates, riding on higher credit demand, with deposit returns for the savers held in check, bankers say. The weighted average spread between the lending and deposit rates offered by the scheduled banks rose to 3.19 per cent in December 2021 from 3.16 per cent a month before. It was 3.14 per cent in October. "Effective yield has increased slightly through recovery and rescheduling of loans in December," Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Managing Director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Mutual Trust Bank Limited, told the FE Sunday while explaining the gap.</p> <p>The weighted average interest rate on lending rose to 7.18 per cent in December 2021 from 7.15 per cent in the previous month while such rate on deposits remained unchanged at 3.99 per cent, according to the latest statistics of Bangladesh Bank (BB). The interest rates on lending increased slightly during the period under review following a rebound in demand for credits, particularly from the private sector, in recent months, according to the senior bankers.</p> <p>Bangladesh's credit demand, they say, has maintained an upturn in recent months following gradual reopening of economic activities - both at domestic and global levels - after more than one year of shattering Covid-19 assault. The growth in the private-sector-credit flow rose to 10.11 per cent in November 2021 on a year-on-year basis from 9.44 per cent a month before. It was 7.55 per cent in May 2021.</p>	31 January 2022	<p>The Financial Express</p> <p>https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/lending-rate-rise-widens-interest-spread-1643565306</p>	
30	<p><u>Sluggish progress in ADP execution</u></p> <p><u>Govt plans 20pc cuts in foreign funds</u></p> <p>Sluggish project-implementation progress under different ministries makes the government mull over slashing foreign aid by 20 per cent in the revised development budget, officials say. The Economic Relations Division (ERD) has already revised downward the project aid (PA) outlay to Tk 702.50 billion from Tk 880.24 billion and sent it to the Planning Commission (PC) for finalising the Revised ADP (RADP) for the current fiscal year, 2021-22.</p> <p>According to the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), government ministries and divisions executed 24 per cent of the total Tk 2.37 trillion worth of ADP during the first half (July-December) of the current FY2022. Despite massive pandemic onslaught on the economy in the last FY2021, the ministries and agencies also implemented 24 per cent of their ADP, similar to that in the H1 of the current fiscal. Before the pandemic, in FY2018, in FY2019 and FY2020, the government agencies had performed better than the present and past two fiscal years with some 27 per cent or more H1 execution rate.</p> <p>IMED data show that the public agencies spent 22 per cent from their Tk880.24 billion PA outlay in the current ADP during the July-December period. However, they spent more than 25 per cent of the Tk1.37 trillion government allocations in the current ADP.</p>	01 February 2022	<p>The Financial Express</p> <p>https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-plans-20pc-cuts-in-foreign-funds-1643652840</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
31	<p><u>Expensive energy substitution for gas crunch</u> <u>Diesel likely to fuel all dual-fuel power plants</u> <u>Saved gas to feed into fuel-hungry industries</u></p> <p>The current gas-fired dual-fuel power plants are likely to be run by diesel in an expensive energy substitution for gas crunch principally for exploration dilemmas, officials indicate. To make do with the limited output, the gas saved from power- production sector will be supplied to industries many of which now rue gas-supply shortages. "We are considering running the dual-fuel power plants by diesel again to tackle the ongoing natural gas crisis," says State Minister for the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR) Nasrul Hamid. The gas to be saved from supply cuts to power plants might be supplied to industries as businessmen are demanding increased supply of natural gas to run their industries, he told the FE Monday. A high-powered committee constituted by the MPEMR also echoes the similar view.</p> <p>The decision will help the government mitigate the natural gas crisis on ad-hoc basis but, at the same time, increase the cost of producing electricity significantly, says energy-expert Prof M Tamim. He, however, opines that the government does not have any way out in sight as it did not carry out necessary oil-and gas-exploration activities in the past to increase the country's overall gas supply.</p> <p>Sources said the government in late April 2019 had turned the then diesel-fired dual-fuel power plants into gas-fired ones as the overall supply of natural gas increased with the start of operation of the country's second floating, storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU) and re-gasification of liquefied natural gas (LNG) subsequently.</p> <p>Three dual-fuel power plants having the total electricity- generation capacity of around 680 megawatts-- Meghnaghat 305MW combined-cycle power plant (CCPP), Shikalbaha 225MW CCPP and Shikalbaha 150MW peaking gas turbine--are running on re-gasified LNG (R-LNG) now. All these three dual-fuel power plants will run on diesel instead of natural gas in line with latest government strategy shift. Around 100 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of additional natural gas could be supplied to industries as an outcome of the substitution performce.</p> <p>Country's overall natural gas output is hovering around 2,745 mmcf which is far outstripped by an overall demand for around 4,000 mmcf. A couple of dozen gas-fired power plants are now shut as the state-run Petrobangla could supply around 730mmcf natural gas to power plants against their 2,252mmcf demand. Gas-fired power plants having the generation capacity of around 5,220MW are now shut mostly due to gas crisis. Most of the furnace oil-and diesel-fired power plants are already in operation now.</p>	01 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/diesel-likely-to-fuel-all-dual-fuel-power-plants-1643652628)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
32	<p><u>Credit uptake by businesses balloons</u> With economic rebound on, Dec borrowings grow 10.68pc</p>  <p>Credit flow into Bangladesh's private sector picks up in December as demand for loans, particularly for trade financing, grows for running businesses on a full scale to offset corona fallout. The credit flow rose to 10.68 per cent-the highest in more than two years-in December 2021 on a year-on-year basis, from 10.11 per cent a month before, according to the central bank's latest statistics.</p> <p>The similar quantum of growth was back in August 2019-before the SARS-CoV2 virus in a pandemic dimension invaded and upended the planet. It was 0.32-percentage points lower than the Bangladesh Bank (BB) target of 11 per cent for the first half (H1) of fiscal year (FY) 2021-22.</p>	01 February 2022	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/credit-uptake-by-businesses-balloons-1643652778	
33	<p><u>Dhaka trade fair bags \$16m in export orders</u></p> <p>Participating companies of the 26th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) bagged export orders worth about \$16 million at the month-long event that ended yesterday. In terms of completed sales, goods worth some Tk 40 crore were sold at the annual trade fair, which was held at its new venue in Dhaka's Purbachal, according to a statement from the commerce ministry.</p>	01 February 2022	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/dhaka-trade-fair-bags-16m-export-orders-2951736	
34	<p><u>Dollar prances on mkt bit down</u> <u>Jan remittance rises to support reserves</u></p> <p>Remittance inflow rose further in January to relieve strain on Bangladesh's reserves, primarily as the government raised cash incentives for remitters, officials say. The money sent home by Bangladeshis working abroad amounted to \$1.70 billion in January 2022, up by \$ 73.79 million from the previous month's level (\$ 1.63 billion).</p> <p>The official figures also show that the inward flow of remittance dropped by nearly 20 per cent to \$11.94 billion during the July-January of FY2021-22, from \$14.91 billion in the same period of the previous fiscal.</p>	02 February 2022	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/jan-remittance-rises-to-support-reserves-1643737658	


Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
35	<p><u>Excessive import pushes trade gap to \$15b</u> Bangladesh's bilateral trade deficit with the rest of the world crossed US\$15 billion in the first half of the current fiscal year (FY22). Statistics released by the central bank showed that gap in trade in goods stood at \$15.61 billion in July-December period of 2021 against \$6.87 billion in the same period of 2020. Big jump in import of goods widened the gap with export which also increased significantly during the period under review. The update table of the balance of payments (BoP) showed that import payments, in terms of free on board (f.o.b), stood at \$38.98 billion in the first half of the current fiscal year. Thus, import registered around 54.50 per cent growth over the same period of the last fiscal year when the value of payments was recorded at \$25.23 billion. Export receipts registered 27.25 per cent growth reaching at \$23.36 billion in the first six months of the current fiscal year against \$18.36 billion in the past fiscal year (FY21). The yawning trade gap also enhanced the current account deficit which reached at \$8.18 billion in the first half of FY22. Current account balance was recorded a surplus of \$3.51 billion in the same period of FY21, according to the central bank statistics.</p>	02 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/excessive-import-pushes-trade-gap-to-15b-1643770533)	
36	<p><u>Foreign investors withdraw Tk 23cr from DSE in Jan</u> The net foreign investment on the Dhaka Stock Exchange was negative in January as the overseas investors withdrew Tk 23.09 crore from the stock market. The net foreign investment dipped to Tk 60.35 crore negative in January after Tk 39.53 crore positive in December 2021. In January, the overseas investors sold shares worth Tk 177.27 crore against their purchase of shares worth Tk 154.18 crore. The overseas investors purchased shares worth Tk 194.19 crore against their sales of shares worth Tk 154.66 crore in December in the past year. The net sales of foreign investors on the DSE continued increasing as the overseas investors withdrew Tk 2,648 crore in 2021 after pulling Tk 2,606 crore out of the market in the previous year. The net foreign investment in the DSE has been negative for the last four consecutive years due to volatility on the country's financial market, interest rate ceiling on banks' loan, floor price restrictions and better trend on the developed markets.</p>	02 February 2022	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/161576/foreign-investors-withdraw-tk-23cr-from-dse-in-jan)	
37	<p><u>Govt launches digital platform for risk-informed development</u> A web-based platform kicked off on Wednesday to integrate disaster risk information into government's development planning, budgeting, policies and programmes. The platform under the Planning Commission has been launched with the assistance of the National Resilience Programme (NRP) and technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and financed by the government of Bangladesh, FCDO of the government of UK and SIDA of the government of Sweden. Digital Risk Information Platform (DRIP) will provide data and information for disaster and climate risk and vulnerability assessment and potential climate change adaptation options as well as disaster risk mitigation measures to address identified risks and vulnerabilities caused by the projects and in the project implementation areas.</p>	03 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/govt-launches-digital-platform-for-risk-informed-development-1643826079)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
38	<p><u>UBINs for e-com firms from Feb 06</u></p> <p>The government is going to introduce unique business identification numbers (UBINs) in favour of e-commerce platforms from February 06 (Sunday), a senior official said. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman F Rahman, and State Minister for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Zunaid Ahmed Palak are expected to be present at the UBIN online registration app launching function at the Ministry of Commerce. Besides, senior officials of the ministry, representatives from other ministries and state agencies concerned, the Bangladesh Bank, FBCCI, and e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB), among others, will also remain present. Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme has developed the app, said the official.</p> <p>UBINs would be issued in favour of e-commerce firms through the software for bringing discipline in the country's e-commerce business. Apart from the e-commerce platforms, all other related business entities would also be brought under the process gradually, he added. The move has been taken following various scandals by e-commerce platforms like evaly, e-orange, Dhamaka Shopping, and Sirajganj Shop, etc.</p> <p>The government authorities concerned are also working to introduce a central logistic tracking platform, and central complaint management system, to be developed by the ICT Division, for the country's e-commerce businesses.</p>	03 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ubins-for-e-com-firms-from-feb-06-1643826622)	
39	<p><u>Japanese SEZ in Narayanganj to be operational from 2025</u></p> <p>The creation of a Japanese special economic zone (SEZ) at Araihasar in Narayanganj, slated to begin by 2025, will see the final fruition of billions of dollars in Japanese investment, not to mention employment of thousands of skilled and semi-skilled workers. Though the duration of the project ranges between March 1, 2019 and June 30, 2023, the tenure of the project may be extended by two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Japanese entrepreneurs are expecting to invest several billion US dollars in different projects of the SEZ, sources in Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (Beza) said.</p>	03 February 2022	Dhaka Tribune (https://www.dhakatribune.com/economy/2022/02/03/japanese-sez-in-narayanganj-to-be-operational-from-2025)	
40	<p><u>দ্বিতীয় সর্বোচ্চ পণ্য রপ্তানি আয়</u></p> <p>প্রবাসী আয়ের পর পণ্য রপ্তানি আয়েও নতুন বছরে সুখবর মিলল। বছরের প্রথম মাস জানুয়ারিতে রপ্তানি হয়েছে ৪৮৫ কোটি মার্কিন ডলারের বা ৪১ হাজার ৭১০ কোটি টাকার পণ্য, যা গত বছরের জানুয়ারির চেয়ে ৪১ দশমিক ১৩ শতাংশ বেশি। এক মাসে এটি দ্বিতীয় সর্বোচ্চ রপ্তানি। এর আগে গত ডিসেম্বরে দেশের ইতিহাসে সর্বোচ্চ ৪৯০ কোটি ডলার পণ্য রপ্তানি হয়েছিল। রপ্তানি আয়ের এই হালনাগাদ পরিসংখ্যান গতকাল বুধবার রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো (ইপিবি) প্রকাশ করে। এতে দেখা যায়, সামগ্রিকভাবে চলতি ২০২১-২২ অর্থবছরের জুলাই থেকে জানুয়ারি পর্যন্ত ৭ মাসে ২ হাজার ৯৫৪ কোটি ৮৯ লাখ ডলারের পণ্য রপ্তানি হয়েছে, যা দেশি মুদ্রায় আড়াই লাখ কোটি টাকার কিছুটা বেশি। এই আয় গত বছরের একই সময়ের তুলনায় ৩০ দশমিক ৩৪ শতাংশ বেশি। একই সঙ্গে তা আলোচ্য সময়ের লক্ষ্যমাত্রার চেয়েও ১৬ শতাংশ বৃদ্ধি।</p>	03 February 2022	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%80%E0%A7%9E-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9A-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%A3%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF-%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%86%E0%A7%9F)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
41	<p>Backbone to steel, light-engineering industries <u>BD shipbreakers grow to global prominence</u></p> <p>Bangladesh annually imports the highest number of scrap ships to provide vital backward linkage to booming steel and re-rolling industries, thus holding top global position. Such ranking as leading scrapped-vessel breaker comes from a global coalition, as the country imported last year for dismantling 254 ships, in a 76- per cent year-on-year rise. However, rights groups lament both human and environmental hazards associated with shipbreaking globally. Owners in Bangladesh say safeguards have been in place and accidents are on the wane.</p> <p>During the January-December period of 2020 -- the year under corona onslaught -- the country brought 144 scrapped ships, down from 236 imported in 2019, according to the data released by NGO Ship-breaking Platform (NSP). It reveals that last year, the shipbreaking industry handled 16,014,464 tonnes of metal around the world. About 8,036,554 tonnes were dismantled on the shore in Chattogram in the past year.</p> <p>The NSP is a global coalition of organisations working to reverse the environmental harm and human rights abuses caused by current shipbreaking practices and to ensure the safe and environmentally-sound dismantling of end-of-life ships worldwide.</p> <p>According to the NSP, at least 14 workers lost their lives last year while breaking apart vessels on the beach of Chattogram, Bangladesh, and another 34 were severely injured.</p> <p>There are 160 yards in the country while 70-80 are in operation, he said, adding that the shipbreaking industry creates direct and indirect employment for about 0.1 million workers. According to industry-insiders, shipbreaking plays an important role in the national economy by supplying raw materials for local steel and light-engineering industries.</p>	04 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-shipbreakers-grow-to-global-prominence-1643911131)	
42	<p>বিদেশে বিনিয়োগের অনুমতি পেল ৪ কোম্পানি</p> <p>পাঁচ দেশে বিনিয়োগের অনুমতি পাচ্ছে চার কোম্পানি। প্রতিষ্ঠান চারটি হচ্ছে- বিএসআরএম, স্কায়ার ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস, রেনেটা এবং কলম্বিয়া গার্মেন্টস। এই চার কোম্পানি নতুন করে এক কোটি ৩৫ লাখ ডলার বিদেশে বিনিয়োগের অনুমতি পেয়েছে।</p> <p>গত বুধবার বিদেশে বাংলাদেশি প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিনিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত পর্যালোচনা কমিটির বৈঠকে এই অনুমতি দেয়া হয়েছে বলে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের মুখপাত্র ও নির্বাহী পরিচালক জানিয়েছেন। বৈঠকে বিডি ভেঞ্চারের আবেদন নাকচ করা হয়েছে। আর মেঘনা গ্রুপের প্রতিষ্ঠান সোনারগাঁ সিড ক্রাশিংয়ের আবেদন আরও পর্যালোচনার কথা বলা হয়েছে। বাংলাদেশি অনেক প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিদেশে বিনিয়োগের আগ্রহ থাকলেও এতোদিন কোন নীতিমালা ছিল না।</p> <p>বিদেশে বিনিয়োগ বিষয়ে গত সপ্তাহে নতুন বিধিমালা জারি করে সরকার। অবশ্য অনেক আগে থেকে রপ্তানিকারক কয়েকটি প্রতিষ্ঠানকে কেস টু কেস ভিত্তিতে অনুমতি দিয়ে আসছে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নেতৃত্বে সরকারের বিভিন্ন সংস্থার সমন্বয়ে গঠিত কমিটি এ পর্যন্ত মোট ১৭টি প্রতিষ্ঠানকে দেশের বাইরে বিনিয়োগের অনুমতি দিয়েছে। এর মধ্যে মোবিল যমুনা ২০১৯ সালে মায়ানমারের বিনিয়োগ ফেরত এনেছে।</p> <p>গত বুধবারের বৈঠকটি ছিল ওই কমিটির শেষ বৈঠক। এখন কেউ বিদেশে বিনিয়োগ করতে চাইলে নতুন বিধিমালার আলোকে আবেদন করতে হবে।</p>	04 February 2022	The Sangbad (https://print.sangbad.net.bd/2022-02-04/news/business/112333)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
43	<p><u>Dhaka air-cargo hustle eases</u> <u>Airfreight rates fall, scanners at loose ends</u></p> <p>The hustle and bustle of Dhaka air-cargo shipment now eases with demand for faster transport tumbling over 50 per cent as winter peak is now well over. As such, airfreight rates from Bangladesh to various destinations also fall significantly in the interlude between winter and summer trading seasons, stakeholders say. Nowadays, some 250 to 300 tonnes of cargoes are airlifted a day against 700 to 800 tonnes a few months back as demand for quick shipment is now dulled.</p> <p>Officials say exporters have already sent goods for winter season while for summer they have enough time on hand. The summer-season goods are now being transported by ships, thus the pressure for air shipment of goods is now losing steam.</p> <p>The Explosive Detection Scanner (EDS) machines remain closed for a significant period of the day these days due to the lower cargo flow, they add. The airfreight rates have lessened to US\$4.5 per kilogram to Europe from \$6 a few months before. To the United States, the rate is now \$9 per kg against \$14 and to the Middle East, \$1.60 from \$2.40 in the past. With lower flow of cargoes, many airlines also have cut their capacity nowadays. Many freighters operate flights to the tune of 50 per cent compared to the loads few months back.</p>	05 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dhaka-air-cargo-hustle-eases-1643998935)	
44	<p>NSW IMPLEMENTATION <u>NBR seeks applications from vendors</u></p> <p>The National Board of Revenue has requested the local vendors to submit the tender applications for implementing the National Single Window project to be introduced to strengthen the capacity of the customs authorities by March 14, said officials. The NSW project was launched in 2019 to expedite export and import trade, transit goods movement and checking duty evasion. NSW project director and the NBR value-added tax policy member Zakia Sultana said the project might be completed by the scheduled timeframe 2024. The project is a joint venture project collaborating with several authorities so the implementation of the project also depends on the capacity of all of the relevant authorities, she said.</p> <p>Once the NSW system is implemented, it will enhance trade operations by eliminating paperwork and reducing time through maintaining up-to-date information, she added.</p>	05 February 2022	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/161855/nbr-seeks-applications-from-vendors)	
45	<p><u>আমদানিতেও সুখবর, এক মাসে সর্বোচ্চ</u></p> <p>শুধু রপ্তানি নয়, আমদানির পালেও হাওয়া লেগেছে। রেকর্ডের পর রেকর্ড গড়ে চলেছে বাংলাদেশ। এতে অর্থনীতি গতি ফিরে পেয়েছে বলে মনে করছেন অর্থনীতিবিদ ও ব্যবসায়ী নেতারা। গত ডিসেম্বর মাসে ৮৪৩ কোটি ৬৭ লাখ ডলারের বিভিন্ন ধরনের পণ্য আমদানি করেছে বাংলাদেশ যা ২০২০ সালের ডিসেম্বরের চেয়ে ৫৬ দশমিক ৫৭ শতাংশ বেশি।</p> <p>বাংলাদেশের ইতিহাসে এর আগে কখনই এক মাসে পণ্য আমদানিতে এতো বেশি অর্থ ব্যয় হয়নি। এর আগে নভেম্বর মাসে ৭৮৫ কোটি ৪৬ লাখ (৭.৮৫ বিলিয়ন) ডলারের পণ্য আমদানি হয়েছিল যা ছিল এক মাসের হিসাবে এতদিন সর্বোচ্চ।</p> <p>বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তথ্যে দেখা যায়, চলতি ২০২১-২২ অর্থবছরের জুলাই-ডিসেম্বর সময়ে ৪ হাজার ২১২ কোটি ২৫ লাখ (৪২.১২ বিলিয়ন) ডলারের পণ্য আমদানি করেছেন বাংলাদেশের ব্যবসায়ী-উদ্যোক্তারা। এই অঙ্ক গত অর্থবছরের একই সময়ের চেয়ে ৫৪ দশমিক ৫০ শতাংশ বেশি।</p>	05 February 2022	The Sangbad (https://print.sangbad.net.bd/2022-02-05/news/business/112398)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
46	<p><u>Govt focuses on digital, vocational education</u></p> <p>The government has prioritised vocational and digital education at secondary and higher levels in a mid-term plan that seeks to create jobs and skilled manpower, according to an official document, reports UNB. The plan (FY2021-22 to FY2023-24) envisages using science and technology education as a key strategy for development and poverty alleviation. Apart from expanding vocational education the plan seeks to develop necessary infrastructure for digital education. It also underscores the need for increasing the financial opportunities for teachers and encouraging activities related to creative talent exploration.</p> <p>To this end, according to an official document, following the 8th Five Year Plan, SDGs 2030 and Vision 2041, appropriate activities and projects are being taken by ensuring quality higher education in all fields, encouraging students to do research, ensuring information technology- based education, expansion of science- based education, encouraging women in higher education, reducing the dropout rate, etc. as set under the National Education Policy 2010.</p> <p>The objectives are to improve the overall quality of education, eliminating inequalities in education, improving quality and expanding education. The document said that the government is currently implementing the 'Secondary Education Development Programme'.</p> <p>During the Covid- 19 transition, online classes at secondary and higher secondary levels and teaching on important subjects on television under the title of 'My school in my house' have been introduced. The Technical and Madrasa Education Division has placed emphasis on job-oriented technical and vocational education to facilitate the development of skilled human resources. For example, projects for making computer or technical education compulsory, organising skill competitions, setting up technical schools and colleges in 329 upazilas along with the existing 100 technical schools and colleges, setting up women's polytechnics in four divisional cities, and setting up four engineering universities in four divisions are ongoing.</p>	06 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/govt-focuses-on-digital-vocational-education-1644080563)	
47	<p><u>Bangladeshi firm to set up backward linkage industry in Ishwardi EPZ</u></p> <p>Adnan Fibre Ltd, a Bangladeshi company, is going to establish a backward linkage industry in Ishwardi Export Processing Zone (IEPZ). They will invest \$20.66 million to produce 25,000 tonnes of polyester staple (PSF) fibre per annum. The company will produce PSF from the PET flakes, which will be collected locally and the factory will create employment opportunities for 514 Bangladeshi nationals, the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) said in a statement today.</p>	06 February 2022	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshi-firm-set-backward-linkage-industry-ishwardi-epz-2955691)	
48	<p><u>Ctg-Italy direct shipping to slash cost by 40pc</u></p> <p>A new container shipping service directly connecting the Chattogram port to one in Italy will reduce costs by almost 40 per cent, opening a new horizon for Bangladesh's foreign trade, said BGMEA President Faruque Hassan yesterday. Goods will be able to reach Europe in just 16 days whereas it, currently, takes 40 days to 45 days or more for the use of transshipment ports, he said. Hassan was addressing a view-exchange meeting between delegates of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and officials of the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) on the latter's premises marking the service's launch.</p>	07 February 2022	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ctg-italy-direct-shipping-slash-cost-40pc-2956131)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
49	<p><u>Ctg metro rail South Korean survey team arrives</u></p> <p>The Road Transport and Highways Division would soon start conducting a study on introducing metro rail in the port city of Chattogram and prepare a master transport plan for the city with the assistance from South Korea. A South Korean survey team has already arrived in Dhaka and is scheduled to visit the port city during February 8-12 to hold talks with the stakeholders concerned.</p> <p>Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader disclosed the plan after a meeting with South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Jang Keun at Bangladesh Secretariat on Sunday. Representatives from the Korean embassy in Dhaka, Korea International Co-operation Agency (KOICA) and visiting team were present at the meeting.</p> <p>The minister said that a project has been taken at a cost of Tk 770 million, including a Korean grant of Tk 510 million, to carry out the work, which is expected to be completed in a year.</p>	07 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/south-korean-survey-team-arrives-1644173729?date=07-02-2022)	
50	<p><u>Nihad Kabir joins BUILD as chairperson</u></p>  <p>Nihad Kabir</p> <p>Nihad Kabir, Barrister-at-Law, Senior Advocate, former President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) has taken over as the Chairperson of the Trustee Board of Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) for the year 2022-23, said a statement. She succeeds Abul Kasem Khan, former President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), who was the Chairperson of BUILD for 2020-21.</p> <p>Nihad Kabir is a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. She is a Senior Partner of Syed Ishtiaq Ahmad and Associates, one of the country's most prominent law firms. Aside from her role as an independent director on the board of Square Textiles Limited, Kabir also serves as a director of the Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL). Kabir has been a member of the National Pay and Services Commission and the National Education Policy Committee, Government of Bangladesh. She was also the Chairperson of BUILD for 2017.</p> <p>Abul Kasem Khan, former Chairperson, BUILD, will continue as a nominated Trustee Board Member from DCCI, while Syed Mohammad Tanvir, Director, CCCI is a nominated Trustee Board Member from CCCI for the years 2022-2023.</p> <p>In addition to the new trustees, the Trustee Board for 2022 includes Md. Saiful Islam, President of MCCI; Rizwan Rahman, President of DCCI; Mahbulul Alam, President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI); Farooq Ahmed, Secretary General of MCCI; Afsarul Arifeen, Secretary General of DCCI; and Engr. Mohd. Faruque, Secretary of CCCI. Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO of BUILD, is in the Trustee Board as the Member Secretary.</p>	08 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/s-tock-corporate/nihad-kabir-joins-build-as-chairperson-1644254426?date=08-02-2022)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
51	<p>মাথাপিছু আয় এখন ২ হাজার ৫৯১ ডলার</p> <p>মাথাপিছু আয়ে একের পর এক সুসংবাদ আসছে। গত নভেম্বরেই মাথাপিছু আয় আড়াই হাজার ডলার ছাড়িয়ে যাওয়ার সুখবর দিয়েছিল বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরোর (বিবিএস)। তখন সংস্থাটি বলেছিল, দেশের মাথাপিছু আয় ২ হাজার ৫৫৪ ডলার। তবে সাময়িক সেই হিসাবকে পেছনে ফেলে বিদায়ী ২০২০-২১ অর্থবছরের চূড়ান্ত হিসাব অনুযায়ী, মাথাপিছু আয় দাঁড়িয়েছে ২ হাজার ৫৯১ ডলার। দেশীয় মুদ্রায় যা কিনা ২ লাখ ১৯ হাজার ৭৩৮ টাকা। জাতীয় অর্থনৈতিক নির্বাহী পরিষদের (একনেক) সভা শেষে আজ মঙ্গলবার আয়োজিত এক সংবাদ সম্মেলনে এসব তথ্য জানান পরিকল্পনামন্ত্রী এম এ মান্নান। এ সময় আরও উপস্থিত ছিলেন পরিকল্পনা প্রতিমন্ত্রী শামসুল আলম।</p>	08 February 2022	<p>Prothom Alo</p> <p>(https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%81-%E0%A6%86%E0%A7%9F-%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%96%E0%A6%AB-%E0%A7%AB-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A7%AB%E0%A7%AF%E0%A7%A7-%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0)</p>	
52	<p>GDP makes quantum leap in corona year</p> <p>Govt statisticians finally calculate FY21 growth to an impressive 6.94pc, belying donors' arithmetic</p> <p>Bangladesh's economic growth in the last fiscal marks a quantum leap by 1.51 percentage points to an impressive 6.94 per cent in final official calculations, despite pandemic devastations. In the provisional estimation made by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in November showed the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant price had grown 5.43 per cent. The public statistical body Tuesday finally unveiled the country's actual economic growth to 6.94 per cent for the fiscal year (FY) 2020-21, more than double the figure in the previous FY2020. The massive fallout from the Covid-19 smashed the country's impressive growth trajectory in the previous FY2020 as the GDP growth reached rock bottom at 3.45 per cent. Before the coronavirus attack in late FY2019, Bangladesh had attained one of the world-highest GDP growth rates at 8.15 per cent.</p>	09 February 2022	<p>The Financial Express</p> <p>(https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/gdp-makes-quantum-leap-in-corona-year-1644342731?date=09-02-2022)</p>	
53	<p>Pre-budget parleys</p> <p>Lower effective corporate tax rates: MCCI</p> <p>Rate cut elusive for high disallowed expenses, TDS</p> <p>An elite chamber urges the government to restructure Bangladesh's corporate income tax as businesses are denied benefits of rate cuts through excessive "disallowance of expense" and "tax deducted at source". In a pre-budget meet Wednesday with the revenue board, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) said the payable tax on corporate income ultimately stands tall and pleaded for redesigning the taxation suiting regional standards to enable the businesses to play neck and neck with competitors, especially in open-market trade after Bangladesh's LDC graduation.</p> <p>The chamber leaders argue that setting the corporate tax rates and overall tax structures matching with regional competitor countries is imperative for a sustainable graduation from the trade preference-endowed LDC status. "The effective corporate tax rates in the country are still higher than in neighbouring India and Vietnam despite reduction in the tax by 5 per cent during last two years," the MCCI said during the new budget-preparatory discussion on the National Board of Revenue (NBR) premises in Dhaka.</p> <p>The discussion was organised by the government's revenue authority in lockstep with other stakeholders and policymakers ahead of framing the budget for the financial year 2022-23. NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem presided. Addressing the event MCCI President Saiful Islam said the government should bring down effective corporate tax as the higher effective tax rates are affecting both domestic and foreign investment.</p>	10 February 2022	<p>The Financial Express</p> <p>(https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/lower-effective-corporate-tax-rates-mcci-164431795)</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
54	<p><u>EU to make \$21m climate-smart investment in Bangladesh, South Asia</u></p> <p>The European Union (EU) has allocated a fund of \$21.5 million to help accelerate climate-smart and inclusive infrastructure investments in Bangladesh and five other South Asian countries. The five other countries are India, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. These six South Asian nations are set to benefit from the \$ 21.5 million (EUR 18 million) funding from the EU, which will help to accelerate climate-smart, inclusive infrastructure investments in their regions, IFC said in a press release today.</p>	10 February 2022	<p>The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/investments/news/eu-make-21m-climate-smart-investment-bangladesh-south-asia-2958816</p>	
55	<p><u>High prospect of striking huge gas jackpot</u></p> <p>Bangladesh may see a change of fortune with prospective huge gas strike in and around offshore Bhola island while the country reels from fuel crunch and expensive LNG import. In the meantime, state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd (BAPEX) has already discovered two gas fields in Shahbazpur and Bhola North areas that have cumulative recoverable reserves of around 1.5 -2.0 trillion cubic feet (Tcf). But further upscale reserve growth in Bhola is possible if additional appraisal wells and exploratory wells are drilled in the bay island located in the country's southern part. A number of international oil companies (IOCs), including US's UNOCAL and Russian GAZPROM, are learnt to be upbeat about hitting the jackpot in Bhola hydrocarbon turfs. Energy experts also see Bhola as a prospective gas 'trough' after Sylhet 'trough' and seek extensive exploration programmes there to delineate new reserves.</p> <p>Sylhet trough is already well-explored with the discovery of a total of eight gas fields, including the largest natural gas-producing Bibiyana field, and their accumulative output is around 1,488 million cubic feet per day (mmcf), or around 64.58 per cent of the country's total gas output of around 2,304 mmcf from local gas fields, as on February 10, 2022, according to Petrobangla statistics. Currently, Bhola's gas is 'stranded' within the island with a couple of power plants, including one three-year rental, generating around 260 megawatts of electricity in total. Shahbazpur gas field is supplying 64mmcf gas, while Bhola North has yet to initiate supply. Shahbazpur's gas is more than enough to meet the demand of the two power plants and some local gas-guzzling industries inside the island, said sources.</p> <p>"The government should carry out extensive natural gas exploration in Bhola and its adjoining areas," says energy-expert Prof Dr Badrul Imam of Geology Department of Dhaka University. Bhola gas trough, which encompasses Hatiya, Char Fashion and some adjoining areas, holds huge gas-reserve prospect, he adds. "The BAPEX should carry out the exploration programmes of its own in Bhola," the geologist says.</p>	11 February 2022	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/high-prospect-of-striking-huge-gas-jackpot-1644517693?date=11-02-2022</p>	
56	<p><u>Extend bonded warehouse benefit to non-garment firms: BUILD</u></p> <p>Non-garment exporters should be allowed to import raw materials duty-free under the bonded warehouse privilege as it would help diversify the country's export basket, the Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) said yesterday. The public-private dialogue platform also suggested the government give a common bonded warehouse benefit for firms that cannot export all of their products. The organisation placed the proposal to the National Board of Revenue (NBR), requesting the revenue authority to include the recommendations in its tax measures for the fiscal year of 2022-23, at a discussion organised by the NBR.</p>	11 February 2022	<p>The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/extend-bonded-warehouse-benefit-non-garment-firms-build-2959411</p>	

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57	<p>উচ্চ করপোরেট কর বৈদেশিক বিনিয়োগে বড় বাধা : বিডা বাংলাদেশে উচ্চ করহারের কারণে অনেক বিদেশি বিনিয়োগকারী বিনিয়োগ সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়া থেকে বিরত থাকেন বলে মনে করে বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (বিডা)। গতকাল রাজধানীর সেগুন বাগিচায় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের সম্মেলন কক্ষে ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থবছরের প্রাক-বাজেট আলোচনায় অংশ নেয় বিডা।</p> <p>আলোচনায় সভাপতিত্ব করেন এনবিআর চেয়ারম্যান আবু হেনা মো. রহমাতুল মুনিম। এতে অন্যদের মধ্যে বক্তব্য রাখেন এনবিআর কাষ্টমস সদস্য (শুল্কনীতি) মাসুদ সাদিক, সদস্য (ভ্যাটনীতি) জাকিয়া সুলতানা ও সদস্য (আয়করনীতি) সামস উদ্দিন আহমেদ। বিডার আন্তর্জাতিক বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন বিভাগের মহাপরিচালক শাহ মোহাম্মদ মাহবুব বলেন, ‘নতুন বিনিয়োগ প্রস্তাব বাস্তবায়নে করপোরেট করহার একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়। বিদেশি বিনিয়োগকারীরা বাংলাদেশে বিনিয়োগের আগে সবসময় পার্শ্ববর্তী এবং প্রতিযোগী দেশগুলোর করপোরেট করহার বিবেচনা করে সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়ে থাকেন। বাংলাদেশে উচ্চতর করহারের কারণে অনেক আগ্রহী বিনিয়োগকারীও বিনিয়োগ সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করা থেকে বিরত থাকেন। তাই নতুন বিদেশি বিনিয়োগ উৎসাহিত করার উদ্দেশ্যে এই হার কমানো প্রয়োজন।’ এ বিষয়ে তিনি আরও বলেন, বিশ্বের অন্য দেশে করপোরেট কর হার ২১ থেকে ২৪ শতাংশের মধ্যে। কিন্তু আমাদের দেশে নন-লিসটেড কোম্পানির কর হার সাড়ে ৩২ শতাংশ, মোট ৪০ শতাংশের উপরে পড়ে যায়। এ করহার কমানো দরকার।’</p>	11 February 2022	The Sangbad (https://print.sangbad.net.bd/2022-02-11/news/business/112795)	
58	<p>Investment-GDP ratio falls as pvt investors pause Bangladesh keeps posting higher economic growth with the falling investment-to-GDP ratio despite incremental government investments in infrastructure development as private investors seemingly pause, analysts say. An FE analysis finds that a splurge of public investment, particularly in megaprojects on the infrastructure front, couldn't pull up private investment over the years, to the effect of the ratio maintaining a steep downturn over the last three years.</p> <p>Economists feel that failure in attaining quality output from the public investment makes the expectation of higher local and foreign investments in the country fade out. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) showed that although the gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the last fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 rebounded with doubling the rate than in the previous fiscal, the investment-GDP ratio still stayed on the lower trajectory. The economy expanded at a 6.94-per cent rate in the last FY2021, in the final reckonings, recovering from a massive fall to 3.45 per cent, shattered due to the Covid-19 impact, in the previous FY2020.</p> <p>BBS's latest estimation showed that the investment-GDP ratio in the last FY2021 was 31.02 per cent, 0.29 percentage points lower than the previous FY2020 and 1.19 percentage points down than in the FY2019. The FE analysis finds out that the public-sector and-private-sector investments have behaved just opposite over the years, resulting in a lower trend in overall investment, a sine qua non for Bangladesh at this juncture of its socioeconomic transition.</p> <p>The FE observation has found the public investment in proportion to GDP on the rise, year on year, since FY2016. The investment-GDP ratio on government part for developing infrastructure and social services was 6.96 per cent in FY2019 which rose to 7.29 in FY2020 and to 7.32 in FY2021. On the other hand, the private investment-to-GDP ratio was steering an opposite course of fall over the last three-year period. The private investment-GDP ratio was 25.25 in FY2019 which fell headlong to 22.24 in the following corona-troubled FY2020 and 23.70 in FY2021.</p>	12 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/investment-gdp-ratio-falls-as-pvt-investors-pause-1644601636)	

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59	<p><u>Abusing bond facility</u> <u>Customs set indicators to detect malpractices</u></p> <p>The customs authority has put in place a set of indicators to help detect abuse of duty-free facilities under the bonded warehouse scheme. While setting the indicators, the authority has taken into consideration a few risk factors that it has identified lately. The customs also has prepared lists of export-oriented companies that have a strong propensity for duty evasion, officials said. The names of 23 export-oriented companies, operating outside the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and under the special bond circle, and 11 companies under the general bond circle have been sent to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) recently. Categorising those as the 'risky industry', the Dhaka Customs Bond Commissionerate sent a comprehensive report for taking preventive measures on the basis of the detailed database.</p>	13 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/customs-set-indicators-to-detect-malpractices-1644685435)	
60	<p><u>Companies Act needs amendment</u> <u>Says commerce secretary</u></p> <p>Commerce Ministry's Senior Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh has said that the country's Companies Act needs to be amended and modernised in line with the global perspective for sustainable financial growth, reports BSS. "The Companies Act has been amended in 1994, which needs to be more up-to-date in the perspective to adopt so many changes in the global economy and trading system," he said. The commerce secretary came up with such remarks while addressing as the chief guest in the opening session at journalists workshop titled "Investigative Journalism on Company Reporting", held at the ERF Auditorium in the capital on Saturday.</p> <p>In order to develop the skills of economic reporters, the programme was jointly organized by the Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) and the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF). The four-part workshop was chaired by ERF President Sharmeen Rinvy. Barrister Nihad Kabir, chairperson BUILD (Business Initiative Leading Development) and former president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (MCCI), Shahidul Islam, former president of CFA Society Bangladesh, Shafiqul Alam, bureau chief of Agency France Press (AFP), Hasibur Rahman, executive director of MRDI, among others, spoke in the function. ERF General Secretary SM Rashedul Islam moderated the programme.</p> <p>Barrister Nihad Kabir said, "There are complications in several cases in company law. Many people get into trouble when they go to liquidate a company. That is why many are not going to end the legal process" In response to a question, Nihad Kabir said there is no option to produce a complete new Companies Act, it should be a consequence of previous Companies Act as well as World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international rules and regulations. She said the problems that have arisen with the passage of time need to be rectified in the new amendment of the Companies Act.</p>	13 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/companies-act-needs-amendment-1644681784)	
61	<p><u>Customs stations can now give permission for temporary import</u></p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has updated its rules on temporary importation of machinery, parts and equipment such that public and private agencies can implement projects that require using foreign items. As per the latest rules, agencies will no longer need to apply to the NBR for permission to import items temporarily. From now on, firms will have to apply to the commissioner of respective customs station, according to the rules regarding temporary importation issued by the end of January this year.</p>	13 February 2022	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/tax-customes/news/customs-stations-can-now-give-permission-temporary-import-2960506)	