


Fortnightly Summary

Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 27 Feb. – 09 March 2022

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><u>BD eyes Saudi investments</u> Bangladesh expects huge investments from oil-rich Saudi Arabia, with Riyadh deciding to send a 29-member delegation to Dhaka soon for exploring opportunities in public-private partnership (PPP) projects, reports UNB. Saudi Arabia finds Bangladesh as a top priority country and is interested in a long-term strategic plan where they will contribute to the economic growth of the country, the Public-Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) of Bangladesh has said in a press release. Officials of the Saudi Ministry of Investment will come to Dhaka with 29 investors soon and explore investment opportunities in PPP projects. The Ministry of Shipping in Bangladesh presented three PPP models -- Chattogram Port Authority, Container Terminal-2 of Payra Port Authority, and Container Terminal-2 of Payra Port Authority.</p>	27 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/bd-eyes-saudi-investments-1645892294)	
02	<p>INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS <u>Proper strategy needed to face LDC graduation challenges</u> Experts and businesses have said that the government should formulate on time a strategy on intellectual property rights for facing the graduation challenges and tapping the potentials of Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country to a developing one. They expressed their missed reaction over the advantages and disadvantages of losing the facility of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights after the graduation of the country. The government has recently taken a move to formulate a strategy on the IPR mainly to identify the possible challenges and their way out after the LDC graduation.</p>	27 February 2022	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/163809/proper-strategy-needed-to-face-ldc-graduation-challenges)	
03	<p><u>Jan imports near \$6.5b</u> <u>Textiles, essentials major contributors</u> The country's single-month import payments reached nearly US\$6.50 billion in January 2022, following higher purchase of textile items from the global market to supply buyers' orders properly. The settlement of letters of credit (LCs), generally known as actual import, in terms of value, rose by nearly 7.0 per cent to \$6.41 billion in January - from nearly \$6.0 billion in the previous month, according to the central bank's latest statistics. It was \$5.54 billion in November 2021. On the other hand, opening of LCs, generally known as import orders, increased by 11.18 per cent to \$6.86 billion in January - from \$6.17 billion a month before. It was \$6.06 billion in November 2021. Besides, high prices of essential commodities, including petroleum products, in the global market have also pushed up the country's import payments during the period under review, according to the central banker. Meanwhile, imports of textile products under back-to-back LC settlement increased nearly 8.0 per cent to \$818.42 million in January from \$758.33 million a month before, the BB data showed.</p>	28 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/jan-imports-near-65b-1645986792)	

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04	<p><u>War bans weigh on BD gas drilling</u> <u>Gazprom work may slow over Ukraine blitz</u></p> <p>Western sanctions against Russia over the Ukraine war bites Bangladesh further as the much-needed gas drilling in hydrocarbon-rich Bhola by Russia's Gazprom is destined to be delayed. The western nations' decision imposing a harsh set of sanctions to punish Russia, including blocking some banks from the SWIFT international payments system and restrictions on the Russian central bank's international reserves, might impact execution of the project on drilling of three onshore gas wells, say sources.</p> <p>And the delayed drilling in Bhola might intensify the country's mounting natural gas crisis as the island is treated as a 'confirmed' location of adding new natural gas output after drilling, says a senior Petrobangla official. It might ramp up the growing dependency on the import of expensive liquefied natural gas (LNG) to meet domestic demand.</p>	28 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/war-bans-weigh-on-bd-gas-drilling-1645986846)	
05	<p><u>Evaluation of EBA eligibility status</u> <u>EU appraisal mission to review labour standards</u></p> <p>A European Union (EU) mission prepares to review the progresses so far Bangladesh has made on human rights and labour standards, officials say, as an eligibility test for trade facility. The team will especially review the implementing status of the National Action Plan on labour standards reflected in the core international conventions enumerated in the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Regulation.</p> <p>The EU-one of Bangladesh's biggest trading partners and markets as a bloc--is sending the reappraisal mission as a follow-up to the enhanced engagement's monitoring mission in the framework of the Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme on trade accessibility. Led by Jordi Curell Gotor, director for international affairs in the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) of the EU, will visit Bangladesh middle of March. Others on the five-member delegation include Benedikt Bünker, policy officer of the DG EMPL of the EU, Ivo Schutte, deputy head of division, Asia and the Pacific Regional Affairs and South Asia of the European External Action Service, and Alessandro Tonoli, policy officer, the Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission.</p> <p>The EU team will hold talks with the officials of the ministry of labour and employment and also the ministry of commerce to get the updates, sources say.</p>	28 February 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/eu-appraisal-mission-to-review-labour-standards-1645987123)	
06	<p><u>Cargo vehicle terminal construction begins at Benapole port</u></p> <p>The construction of the cargo vehicles terminal at the Benapole Port has begun as the government looks to improve the capacity of the largest land port in South Asia. The terminal will allow the port to handle an increasing flow of goods of international trade, particularly between Bangladesh and India. The Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA) took a Tk 290 crore project in July 2019 to establish the terminal to reduce congestion and facilitate a faster and seamless flow of goods between the two countries. The project was designed to start from July 2019 as per Development Project Proforma but administrative approval came in January 2020.</p>	28 February 2022	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/ports-and-shipping/news/cargo-vehicle-terminal-construction-begins-benapole-port-2972101)	

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09	<p>Economic shocks loom from inside, outside <u>Agriculture, industry may face climatic calamities</u> IPCC report comes as bellwether for BD to brace itself for extreme heat-humidity risks</p> <p>Agriculture and industry both may bear the brunt as climate change could compel Bangladesh to endure extreme heat and humidity, and sea-level rise, a latest IPCC (the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report predicts. It says climate change will hit international supply chains, markets, finance, and trade, reducing the availability of goods in Bangladesh, and increasing their price, as well as damaging markets for Bangladeshi exports. Economic shocks caused by climate change, including reduced agricultural yields, damage to critical infrastructure, and commodity price rises, could lead to financial instability in the country. Unremitting sea-level rise could force millions from their homes, says the UN climate panel in its global forecast that quantifies tentative economic cost this deltaic nation could count for little contribution of its own to the global climate change.</p> <p>The report projects a loss of 2.0 per cent to 9.0 per cent of annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by middle and end of the century owing to climate change, caused by excessive Greenhouse gas emissions mostly from highly industrialised countries. About 1.0 to 2.0 million people of south Bangladesh are at a risk of displacement by mid-century and declining rice production by 12 per cent to 17 per cent and wheat production by 12 per cent to 61 per cent. According to the report, parts of the country would lose 31 per cent to 40 per cent of agricultural output this century to sea-level rise alone because of current state of emissions. And a third of the country's power plants may need to be relocated over the next decade to avoid flooding from sea-level rise.</p> <p>As result of climate calamities and increasing demand for water, about 25 per cent of people in Bangladesh will live with water scarcity by 2050, compared with about 10 per cent now. Both the Ganges and Brahmaputra river basins will also see increased flooding as a result.</p>	01 March 2022	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/agriculture-industry-may-face-climatic-calamities-1646071726	
10	<p><u>Pvt credits grow as trade demand rises</u> Economic reopening, commodity cost hike main reasons</p>  <p>Credit flow into Bangladesh's private sector increases further as demand for loans, particularly for trade financing, grows for settling import payments. The reopening of the country's overall business activities has helped push up the credit growth, officials say about the January upturn.</p> <p>According to the central bank's latest statistics, the credit flow rose to 11.07 per cent in January 2022 on a year-on-year basis, from 10.68 per cent a month before. It was 3.73-percentage points lower than the Bangladesh Bank (BB) target of 14.80 per cent for the second half (H2) of fiscal year (FY) 2021-22.</p>	01 March 2022	The Financial Express https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/private-credits-grow-as-trade-demand-rises-bb-stats-suggest-1646102008	

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11	<p><u>Business with Russia</u> <u>BB working on alternatives to SWIFT</u> Dhaka's trade with Moscow may face some hiccups if Russian banks are kicked out of the SWIFT system, reports UNB. The Belgium-based Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) provides services related to the execution of financial transactions and payments between banks worldwide. Finance ministry is considering approving a proposal of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) using the 'currency swap' system with Russia to avert losses. Experts and ministry officials say Bangladesh will not be affected widely as export trade with Russia is not so big and several alternative systems are being used in different countries. Meanwhile, the West imposed sanctions and banned some banks of Russia from using the SWIFT system to derail Russia's trade and economic system in protest of the invasion of Ukraine. As part of this, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States have agreed to exclude Russia from SWIFT. If executed, experts say, Russia's transactions with many countries in the world will be problematic. Bangladesh will not be left out of the problem. SWIFT is used for financial transactions from country to country. If Bangladesh cannot use this network to pay Russia for traded items, it will be difficult to carry on trading. According to them, investment will also be hampered.</p>	02 March 2022	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-working-on-alternatives-to-swift-1646154195	
12	<p><u>Remittance drops 12pc in February</u> Bangladesh saw remittance inflow drop nearly 12 per cent in February mainly as working days of the expatriates in different countries squeezed, officials say. Bangladeshi nationals working abroad sent nearly US\$1.50 billion in February last, according to the central bank latest statistics. The amount was \$208.44 million lower than the remittance earning-a main source of the country's foreign-exchange reserves--in the previous month. In January 2022, the inflow of remittance was \$1.70 billion. However, the inward flow of remittance dropped by nearly 16 per cent or \$284.50 million, year on year, as expatriates sent \$1.78 billion in the same period of 2021. The official figures also show that the inward flow of remittance dropped more than 19 per cent to \$13.44 billion during the July-February period of the current fiscal year (FY), 2021-22, from \$ 16.69 billion in the same period of the previous fiscal. Market-insiders, however, say the inflow of remittance decreased as money transfers through informal channels such as 'hundi' might have resumed because of higher import payments along with the ease of pandemic restrictions.</p>	02 March 2022	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/remittance-drops-12pc-in-february-1646154546	
13	<p><u>Unused for trade, vulnerable to smuggling</u> <u>Customs close 126 border stations</u> Government's revenue authority has officially shut down 126 customs borders, which account for 70 per cent of its trans-border road, rail and water routes to India and Myanmar. Officials say the National Board of Revenue (NBR) closed the Land Customs Stations (LCS) after finding those lying inoperative for last twenty years. From now on, 57 border points would be allowed as entry and exit routes for import-export trade cross land and water borders. Of the LCSs, seven road, rail and river customs stations have been allocated for different large projects or industries. The customs wing of the board has recently issued a gazette with the fresh list of LCS and allowable import-export goods to be traded through those passages with the neighbouring countries. The new list took effect on February 24, 2022.</p>	02 March 2022	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/customs-close-126-border-stations-1646154834	

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14	<p><u>BIDA seeks reforms in 24 sectors</u></p> <p>The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority has laid emphasis on reforms in 24 sectors to ensure high standard business environment for the investors in the country. The investment development authority revealed this at a 'Post Event Workshop' on Monday night at a hotel in the city, said a press release issued on Tuesday. The authority organised the workshop for highlighting the implementation of the investment announcements and the recommendations for the development of an investment-friendly environment made at the International Investment Summit 2021 held in November in the past year. Based on the recommendations from investors at the international investment summit, BIDA will send the proposals to the Prime Minister's Office.</p>	02 March 2022	<p>New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/164146/bida-seeks-reforms-in-24-sectors)</p>	
15	<p>জয়েন্ট ওয়ার্কিং গ্রুপের সভা <u>বাংলাদেশী পণ্যের শুদ্ধমুক্ত সুবিধা অব্যাহত রাখবে অস্ট্রেলিয়া</u></p> <p>স্বল্পোন্নত দেশ থেকে উন্নয়নশীল দেশে উত্তরণের পরও বাংলাদেশকে শুদ্ধমুক্ত ও কোটামুক্ত সুবিধা দেয়ার প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়েছে অস্ট্রেলিয়া। অস্ট্রেলিয়ার রাজধানী ক্যানবেরায় অনুষ্ঠিত বাংলাদেশ-অস্ট্রেলিয়ার মধ্যে জয়েন্ট ওয়ার্কিং গ্রুপের প্রথম সভায় এ প্রতিশ্রুতি দেয়া হয়। গতকাল এক সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে এ তথ্য জানায় পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়। পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয় জানায়, দুই দেশের মধ্যে বাণিজ্য ও বিনিয়োগ বৃদ্ধিসহ সার্বিক সম্পর্কোন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে গত বছর ১৫ সেপ্টেম্বর সই হওয়া ট্রেড অ্যান্ড ইনভেস্টমেন্ট ফ্রেমওয়ার্ক অ্যারেঞ্জমেন্টের (টিফা) আওতায় এই জয়েন্ট ওয়ার্কিং গ্রুপ গঠন করা হয়। গত ২২ ফেব্রুয়ারি অনুষ্ঠিত প্রথম সভায় বাংলাদেশ ও অস্ট্রেলিয়ার মধ্যে বাণিজ্য বৃদ্ধি এবং এক্ষেত্রে পারস্পারিক সহযোগিতা, পণ্য ও সেবাসংক্রান্ত বাণিজ্য, বিনিয়োগ বৃদ্ধি, জ্বালানি ও প্রতিরক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে সহযোগিতাসহ বিভিন্ন বিষয়ে ফলপ্রসূ আলোচনা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। এছাড়া দুই দেশের বাণিজ্য ও বিনিয়োগের সম্ভাবনা এবং অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্কের ক্ষেত্রে গতিশীলতা আনার লক্ষ্যে সমীক্ষা করার বিষয়ে অস্ট্রেলিয়া আগ্রহ প্রকাশ করেছে।</p>	02 March 2022	<p>Bonik Barta (https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_description/291985?EP%AC%EP%AC%BE%EP%A6%82%EP%A6%B2%EP%A6%BE%EP%A6%80%EP%A6%A%EP%A6%A3%EP%A7%8D%EP%A6%A7%87%EP%A6%BE%EP%A6%B6%EP%A7%81%EP%A6%B2%EP%A7%8D%EP%A6%95%EP%A6%AE%EP%A7%81%EP%A6%95%EP%A7%8D%EP%A6%A4%EP%A6%B8%EP%A7%81%EP%A6%AC%EP%AC%EP%A6%BE%EP%A6%BE%EP%A6%BE%EP%A6%BE%EP%A6%B9%EP%A6%A4%EP%A6%B0%EP%A6%BE%EP%A6%96%EP%A6%AC%EP%A7%87%EP%A6%85%EP%A6%B8%EP%A7%8D%EP%A6%9F%EP%A7%8D%EP%A6%B0%EP%A7%87%EP%A6%B2%EP%A6%BE%EP%A7%9F%EP%A6%BE)</p>	
16	<p><u>Bangladesh economy</u> <u>BB fears fallout from war, global price spike</u> <u>Economic review also mentions growth-limiting headwinds</u></p> <p>Global commodity-price spirals amid unfolding geopolitical conflicts -- the Russia-Ukraine war at a peak -- may exert inflationary pressures on Bangladesh market. Such concern is aired in the Bangladesh central bank's latest monetary policy-review outcome issued Wednesday, which also forecasts some economic growth-limiting factors of the present paradigms. Driven by the non-food component, the headline CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation exhibited an upturn in H1FY22, reaching 6.05 percent (point to point) in December 2021, due mainly to the pass-through of elevated global commodity prices in the face of supply shocks, higher shipping cost, and the knock-on effect of a recent upward adjustment in fuel (diesel and kerosene) prices on the domestic market. It says otherwise the falling rate of Covid-19 infections, ongoing extended vaccination programme, the continuation of growth-supportive fiscal and monetary measures, along with solid growth in imports and exports, are expected to help strengthen economic recovery, that is, GDP growth of 7.2 per cent, a target set for FY22. The BB feels that the import surge on top of the recent moderation in the growth of the inward remittance may create an unfavourable position in the balance of payments.</p>	03 March 2022	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-fears-fallout-from-war-global-price-spike-1646240217)</p>	

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17	<p><u>Revenue up 15.75pc in seven months</u> Collection of tax revenue, largely import-stage revenue, grew by 15.75 per cent in the first seven months of the current fiscal year. Customs revenue grew by 22.45 per cent until January of fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 due to a volatile market of essential commodities and petroleum products. A significant part of income tax also comes as import-stage revenue. The revenue authorities are now receiving higher taxes as value of import products, mainly revenue-generating ones, went up significantly.</p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) collected Tk 1.53-trillion tax during the July-January period, up by Tk 208.21 billion than that of the same period last year. Income tax payers paid Tk 467.67-billion taxes, up by 14.30 per cent compared to that of the corresponding period last year. VAT collection grew by 12.68 per cent with Tk 579.42 billion during the period in question. Customs wing collected Tk 487.27-billion taxes. However, three of the wings missed their respective targets for the period. Revenue collection targets for VAT, customs and income tax were Tk 1.28 trillion, Tk 960 billion and Tk 1.06 trillion respectively for the July-January period.</p>	03 March 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/revenue-up-1575pc-in-seven-months-1646240359)	
18	<p><u>ADP downsized with cuts in foreign funds</u> The government downsized the annual development budget to Tk 2.07 trillion with cuts in foreign assistance by Tk 175 billion, as foreign-aided projects lost gear into lax execution. On Wednesday, the National Economic Council (NEC) approved the Tk 2.07-trillion revised annual development programme (RADP) for the current fiscal year with an overall cut in the outlay by 7.89 per cent. The original ADP size for FY 2021-22 was Tk 2.25 trillion.</p> <p>Planning Secretary Pradip Ranjan Chakraborty said the NEC cut the project assistance (PA) but not the available outlay from the government internal resources for the newly approved RADP. "The PA has been trimmed down by Tk 177.74 billion to Tk 702.50 billion in the revised development budget," he says. However, the Tk 1.37-trillion outlay from government's internal resources has been unchanged in the newly approved RADP, Mr Chakraborty adds.</p>	03 March 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/adp-downsized-with-cuts-in-foreign-funds-1646240551)	
19	<p><u>Robust apparel shipment provides push</u> <u>Eight-month merchandise export marks 30pc growth</u> <u>Economic rebound fares fine so far in FY22</u> A resilient rebound in apparel trade buoyed the country's merchandise shipments as Bangladesh recorded over 30-per cent annualized export growth in the current financial year's first eight months. Exports fetched Bangladesh \$33.84 billion during the July-February period of FY'22, against \$25.86 billion in the corresponding period of last fiscal, according to provisional data available with the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). The overall export earnings also surpassed the set target for the period by 16.5 per cent.</p> <p>Besides, single-month export earnings in February also sustained the growth at 34.54 per cent to \$4.29 billion. February is the sixth consecutive month since last September that the country's single-month export earnings rose above the four-billion mark. The February 2022 earnings also exceeded the target set for the month by 18.80 per cent.</p> <p>Of the total \$33.84 billion worth of export income during the July-February period, readymade garment (RMG) sector made the most fetching \$27.49 billion, showing a 30.73-per cent growth over last fiscal's mark. A breakdown of the clothing-sector performance shows that knitwear subsector of RMG earned \$15.06 billion from exports, registering a growth of 32.87 per cent. Earnings from export of woven garments amounted to \$12.42 billion in the past eight months, up 28.23 per cent.</p>	03 March 2022	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/eight-month-merchandise-export-marks-30pc-growth-1646240853?date=03-03-2022)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
20	<p><u>পূর্বাচলে বিনিয়োগ করবে দক্ষিণ কোরিয়া</u></p> <p>ঢাকার পূর্বাচলে নতুন শহরে সাড়ে সাত হাজার কোটি টাকা বিনিয়োগ করবে দক্ষিণ কোরিয়া। বৈদ্যুতিক লাইন মাটির নিচ দিয়ে নেওয়ার পাশাপাশি বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণে এ টাকা বিনিয়োগ করবে। গতকাল বুধবার দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ার রাজধানী সিউলে বাংলাদেশ-কোরিয়া যৌথ পিপিপি প্ল্যাটফর্ম সভায় এ প্রকল্পে বিনিয়োগে সম্মত হয় দেশটি। বাংলাদেশের সরকারি-বেসরকারি অংশীদারত্ব কর্তৃপক্ষ (পিপিপি), কোরিয়া ওভারসিজ ইনফ্রাস্ট্রাকচার অ্যান্ড আরবান ডেভেলপমেন্ট করপোরেশন (কেআইএনডি) এবং রিপাবলিক অব কোরিয়া যৌথভাবে এই সভার আয়োজন করে।</p>	03 March 2022	<p>Prothom Alo</p> <p>https://www.prothomalo.com/business/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%82%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%CE%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%97-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B7%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A3-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%BE</p>	
21	<p><u>LPG price hiked again</u></p> <p><u>Pvt cos to charge 12.17pc higher in March</u></p> <p>Bangladesh's energy regulator again raised the retail prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), by 12.17 per cent for March trading, avowedly to adjust to soaring oil prices on the international market. The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) announced Thursday the raise in retail rates of the fuel, which sees its consumer market expand to villages where this gas is replacing firewood and helping prevent deforestation. Now, the price of 12kg cooking fuel goes up to Tk 1,391 in March trading from Tk 1,240 set for February, BERC chairman Md Abdul Jalil said in announcing the new tariff virtually.</p> <p>"The commission adjusted the LPG prices considering the Saudi Aramco contract price (CP) of March 2022 as the benchmark for fixing LPG prices on the domestic market. It also considered fluctuations of foreign currency and change in the value- added tax (VAT) amount to fix the domestic LPG rate," it is stated in the announcement. The Saudi Aramco CP price of propane is US\$895 per tonne and butane \$920 per tonne for March trading. The BERC has considered the propane and butane mixture at the ratio of 35:65 to get the average price at \$911.25 per tonne. Uptrend in global oil prices due to the current war between Russia and Ukraine ramped up the Saudi Aramco CP price of propane and butane from February's US\$775 per tonne and \$775 per tonne respectively.</p> <p>The BERC fixes the LPG prices for private operators within the first week of every month. "The new prices will have immediate effect from March 3, 2022," said the BERC chairman.</p>	04 March 2022	<p>The Financial Express</p> <p>https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/lpg-price-hiked-again-1646327561?date=04-03-2022</p>	
22	<p><u>IMF suggests Bangladesh monitor inflation, normalise monetary policy</u></p> <p>The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says Bangladesh needs to closely monitor inflation developments and stand ready to normalise monetary policy, while it concluded the Article IV consultation with Bangladesh. The IMF has projected the headline consumer price index (CPI) inflation at 5.9% in FY22, driven by higher international commodity prices.</p> <p>The Washington-based organisation, which basically works to foster global monetary cooperation, remarks that Bangladesh has made substantial progress in its first 50 years of independence. Since 2010, per capita real GDP growth, averaging 5% annually, has resulted in a steady decline in poverty, with increasing access to education and healthcare, IMF said in its annual talks with Bangladesh.</p>	04 March 2022	<p>The Business Standard (TBS)</p> <p>https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-executive-board-concludes-2021-article-iv-consultation-bangladesh-379747</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
23	<p>রূপপুরের অর্থ লেনদেনে মানা রাশিয়ার কয়েকটি ব্যাংকের ওপর পশ্চিমাদের নিষেধাজ্ঞার মুখে বাংলাদেশের রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র প্রকল্পে অর্থ লেনদেন নিয়ে অনিশ্চয়তা তৈরি হয়েছে। রাশিয়ার যে ব্যাংকের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের সোনালী ব্যাংক এই প্রকল্পের অর্থ লেনদেন করে, সেই রুশ ব্যাংকটি তাদের সঙ্গে আপাতত লেনদেন থেকে বিরত থাকতে বলেছে বাংলাদেশকে। কারণ রাশিয়ার ওই ব্যাংক বৈশ্বিক অর্থ লেনদেনের মাধ্যম সুইফটের নিষেধাজ্ঞার মধ্যে পড়েছে। রাশিয়ার ব্যাংকটির নাম ব্যাংক ফর ডেভেলপমেন্ট অ্যান্ড ফরেন ইকোনমিক অ্যাফেয়ার্স (ভিইবি)। তারা কয়েক দিন আগে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংককে সুইফট ব্যবস্থার মাধ্যমে একটি বার্তা পাঠায়। ওই বার্তায় লেনদেন না করার জন্য বলা হয়। ব্যাংকটি এ-ও বলেছে, বাংলাদেশ যদি রূপপুর প্রকল্পের অর্থ বিলম্বে পাঠায়, তাহলেও কোনো বিলম্ব ফি দিতে হবে না।</p>	04 March 2022	<p>Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%82%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5-%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE)</p>	
24	<p>Bangladesh, India to finalise study on CEPA, open border haats soon Bangladesh and India have decided to finalise at the earliest the joint study on India-Bangladesh Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), reopen border haats closed due to Covid-19 pandemic and reached a consensus over the use of returning empty railway wagons and containers by Bangladesh for exports to its western neighbour. The two countries also decided to implement the 24x7 Petrapole-Benapole operationalisation of the Integrated Check Post (ICP). An official statement released today by the Indian Commerce Ministry said the meeting held in New Delhi yesterday had extensive discussions on a range of issues including development of railway infrastructure, port infrastructure multi-modal regional connectivity, harmonization of standards and mutual recognition agreement.</p>	05 March 2022	<p>The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-india-finalise-study-cepa-open-border-haats-soon-2976096)</p>	
25	<p>নারী-পুরুষ সমতায় বাংলাদেশ পিছিয়ে গত ৫০ বছরে বাংলাদেশ দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন, নারী শিক্ষা, শ্রমশক্তিতে নারীর অংশগ্রহণে অনেক এগিয়ে গেলেও নারী-পুরুষ সমতা নিশ্চিত করতে যেসব সংস্কার প্রয়োজন, সেসব সংস্কার বাস্তবায়নে পিছিয়ে আছে। সে জন্য বিশ্বব্যাংকের 'উইমেন, বিজনেস অ্যান্ড দ্য ল ২০২২' শীর্ষক প্রতিবেদন অনুসারে, নারী-পুরুষ সমতার ক্ষেত্রে বিশ্বের ১৯০টি দেশের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশের অবস্থান ১৭৪। চলাচলের স্বাধীনতা, কর্মক্ষেত্র, বেতন, বিবাহ, অভিভাবকত্ব, উদ্যোক্তা, সম্পদ ও পেনশন—এই আটটি সূচকের ওপর ৩৫টি প্রশ্নের ভিত্তিতে এই স্কের নির্ণয় করা হয়েছে। তালিকায় বাংলাদেশের অবস্থান ১৭৪তম; স্কের ১০০-এর মধ্যে অর্ধেকের কম, ৪৯ দশমিক ৪। ২০২১ সালেও বাংলাদেশের স্কের একই ছিল। ১৯৭১ সালে মুক্তিযুদ্ধের সময় এই স্কের ছিল ৩৫। সেই হিসাবে স্বাধীনতার ৫০ বছর পরেও আর্থিক সুযোগের সমতায় বাংলাদেশের নারীদের অবস্থানে খুব বেশি পরিবর্তন আসেনি।</p>	05 March 2022	<p>Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B7-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9B%E0%A6%BE%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87)</p>	
26	<p>Dhaka seeks removal of ADD on jute products Commerce secys hold meeting at New Delhi Bangladesh on Friday iterated its demand for the removal of anti-dumping duty imposed by New Delhi on Bangladesh's jute products in 2017. At the Bangladesh-India commerce secretary level meeting held at New Delhi, Bangladesh also asked to keep Bangladesh out of the purview of the Indian Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) Rules, 2020. The Bangladeshi team also demanded continued duty-free market access facility for Bangladeshi products even after the graduation of the country from least developed to developing nation in 2026, commerce ministry officials said. At the meeting, Bangladesh once again demanded removal of non-tariff barriers and halting the implementation of new Indian customs rules, CAROTAR, for Bangladesh as the guidelines were found problematic to enhance trade and business between the two countries.</p>	06 March 2022	<p>New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/164543/dhaka-seeks-removal-of-add-on-jute-products)</p>	

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27	<p>পণ্য যাচ্ছে না, টাকাও আটকা সুইজারল্যান্ডভিত্তিক বিশ্বের শীর্ষস্থানীয় জাহাজ পরিচালনাকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান মেডিটেরিয়ান শিপিং কোম্পানি (এমএসসি) ১ মার্চ থেকে রাশিয়ায় পণ্য পরিবহন বন্ধ ঘোষণা করে। এরপর একই পদক্ষেপ নেয় ডেনমার্কভিত্তিক মার্সক, জার্মানিভিত্তিক হ্যাপাগ লয়েড এবং সিঙ্গাপুর-জাপানভিত্তিক ওয়ান লাইন। অন্য শিপিং কোম্পানিগুলো এখনো নিষেধাজ্ঞা দেয়নি। তবে তারা এখন পণ্যের বুকিং নিতে চাইছে না। এই জাহাজ পরিচালনাকারী কোম্পানিগুলো রাশিয়ায় পণ্য পরিবহনে অনীহা দেখানোয় বিপাকে পড়েছেন বাংলাদেশের রপ্তানিকারকেরা। কারও কারও পণ্য চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরে রয়েছে। কারও কারও পণ্য কারখানায় তৈরি হচ্ছে। এসব পণ্য তাঁরা কীভাবে পাঠাবেন, তা নিয়ে অনিশ্চয়তা তৈরি হয়েছে।</p>	06 March 2022	<p>Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%A3%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF-%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%93-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE)</p>	
28	<p>Global food prices soar to record high in Feb: UN Led by a surge in vegetable oils and dairy products, global food prices hit a record high in February, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says. The UN agency's food price index, which tracks the most globally traded food commodities, averaged 140.7 points last month - nearly four per cent up from January, reports UNB. This is also 24.1 per cent over the level a year earlier and 3.1 points higher than in February 2011. As the Food Price Index measures average prices over the month, the February reading only partly incorporates market effects stemming from the conflict in Ukraine. The forecast does not assume potential impacts from the conflict in Ukraine, and FAO is closely monitoring the developments and will assess impacts in due course. However, the head of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) highlighted how the crisis in Ukraine could impact global food security.</p>	07 March 2022	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/ttrade-market/global-food-prices-soar-to-record-high-in-feb-un-1646583899)</p>	
29	<p>ঘুরে দাঁড়াচ্ছে আমদানি বাণিজ্য, রেকর্ড পরিমাণ এলসি করোনার কারণে দীর্ঘদিন অর্থনীতিতে স্থবিরতা বিরাজ করছিল। এখন মোটামুটি স্বাভাবিক হতে শুরু করেছে। এতে দেশের আমদানি-রপ্তানি বাণিজ্যও ঘুরে দাঁড়াচ্ছে। তাই দেশে পণ্য আমদানির ঋণপত্র বা এলসি খোলার হিড়িক পড়েছে। চলতি অর্থবছরের প্রথম সাত মাসে (জুলাই-জানুয়ারি) ৫ হাজার ২৩৬ কোটি ডলারের এলসি খুলেছেন ব্যবসায়ীরা। এই পরিমাণ এলসি গত অর্থবছরের একই সময়ের চেয়ে ৪৯ দশমিক শূন্য ৭ শতাংশ বেশি। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের পরিসংখ্যানে দেখা যায়, এই অঙ্ক চলতি অর্থবছরের জাতীয় বাজেটের চার ভাগের তিন ভাগ বা ৭৫ শতাংশ। ২০২১-২২ অর্থবছরের বাজেটের আকার হচ্ছে ৬ লাখ ৩ হাজার ৬৮১ কোটি টাকা। বাংলাদেশের ইতিহাসে এর আগে কখনোই পণ্য আমদানির জন্য এলসি খুলতে এমন উত্থান দেখা যায়নি। গত ২০২০-২১ অর্থবছরের এই সাত মাসে ৩৫ দশমিক ১২ বিলিয়ন ডলারের এলসি খোলা হয়েছিল।</p>	07 March 2022	<p>The Sangbad (https://print.sangbad.net.bd/2022-03-07/news/business/114205)</p>	
30	<p>Stocks post record fall in two yrs Panic selloffs, amid global tensions, trigger freefall Bangladesh stocks Monday suffered the highest single-day loss in almost two years as 'panic-driven' investors scrambled to sell off their shares to pocket the cash, in what seems a current global syndrome. Amid a near-freefall in share prices on the day, DSEX, the broad index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), lost 182.12 points -- rated highest single-day fall since March 16, 2020. Previously, the DSEX had shed 181 points on April 4, 2021 and 196 points on March 16, 2020, in the wake of timid trading under shadows of the Covid-19 pandemic. Following the recent price correction, the DSEX had lost a total of 492.16 points since the Ukraine-Russia war crisis emerged on February 24, and the index settled at 6456.51 on Monday.</p>	08 March 2022	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/stocks-post-record-fall-in-two-yrs-1646673795)</p>	

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31	<p><u>FBCCI for 15pc VAT waiver on edible oil import</u> The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday demanded that the government withdraw a 15 per cent VAT on edible oil import to rein in skyrocketing prices. The FBCCI also suggested that the government enable bonded warehouse facility on the import of the widely consumed cooking oil, albeit for domestic consumption, to prevent unscrupulous businesspeople from manipulating prices. The request for the VAT withdrawal came from FBCCI President Md Jashim Uddin at a discussion organised by the federation on the current market situation of edible oil.</p>	08 March 2022	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fbcci-15pc-vat-waiver-edible-oil-import-2977946)	
32	<p><u>India seeks free trade agreement with Bangladesh</u> India is looking to advance a comprehensive free trade agreement with Bangladesh, said India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday (7 March). Speaking at the inaugural session of the India-Bangladesh Stakeholders meet, Piyush Goyal listed an uninterrupted supply chain, a joint production of defense equipment, and pharmaceuticals as four focus areas for strengthening the bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and India, reports the Live Mint. The Indian minister also pressed for the need to explore potential areas of investment, which included textiles, jute products, leather, footwear, APIs for pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, digital health, education services, agribusiness, electronics and renewable energy.</p>	08 March 2022	The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/world/south-asia/india-seeks-free-trade-agreement-bangladesh-381439)	
33	<p><u>Bangladesh hugely loses out in foreign trade</u> <u>Huge trade gap entails record current-account deficit</u> Bangladesh's overall trade deficit crossed US\$18-billion mark in the first seven months of the current fiscal year, burning a gaping hole in the country's current-account coffer. Deficits in both the accounts go widening as higher import payments far outstrip export earnings and remittance also slows, official data show, thus putting pressure on the economy. And the higher trade deficit along with lower inflow of remittances pushed up the country's current-account deficit to an "all-time high" at \$10.06 billion during the period under review, officials say. The trade gap with the rest of the world increased over 82 per cent or \$8.43 billion to \$18.69 billion during the July-January period of FY 2021-22, from \$10.27 billion in the same period of FY'21, according to the central bank's latest statistics. During the period, import expenses ballooned more than 46 per cent while export earnings recorded a 29.23-per cent growth. Besides, higher prices of essential commodities, including fuel oils, on the global market also pushed up the country's import payments during the period, according to the officials. Meanwhile, the country's current-account deficit also exceeded \$10-billion mark during the period under review following higher import payments alongside lower inflow of remittances. The current-account deficit rose to \$10.06 billion during the July-January period of FY'22 from \$8.18 billion a month ago. It was \$1.56 billion surplus in same period of FY'21. Inward remittances dropped by nearly 20 per cent to \$11.94 billion in the first seven months of FY'22 from \$14.91 billion in the same period of FY'21, the BB data show. The financial account's surplus rose to \$8.16 billion during the July-January period of FY'22 from \$4.46 billion in the same period of the last fiscal year. Actually, the soaring deficits in trade as well as the current account reflect the growing imbalance on the external front, thus creating mounting pressure on the country's overall balance of payments (BoP). The BB data show that the BoP posted a negative balance of \$2.05 billion in the first seven months of FY'22 against a positive balance of \$6.41 billion in the same period of FY'21.</p>	09 March 2022	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/huge-trade-gap-entails-record-current-account-deficit-1646757947)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
34	<p>PLUNGE IN SHARE PRICES BSEC sets circuit-breaker lower limit at 2pc for all cos</p> <p>The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday restricted share prices of each company from falling beyond 2 per cent to check free fall on the market. The BSEC issued a directive in this regard on Tuesday with an effect from today.</p> <p>Share prices of no company can fall below 2 per cent of the closing price of the previous session while it can rise by the maximum 5 to 10 per cent set in the previously issued rules, according to Tuesday's directive. The directive also said that the upper limit would remain unchanged adding that the directive was for a short period of time. BSEC officials said that the regulator would lift the restrictions once the market got back its momentum.</p> <p>The regulator made the decision after the market had faced the steepest fall over Russia-Ukraine conflict. The market started to fall sharply after Russia began war on Ukraine on February 24.</p>	09 March 2022	New Age https://www.newagebd.net/article/164840/bsec-sets-circuit-breaker-lower-limit-at-2pc-for-all-cos	
35	<p>Bangladesh, India and Nepal finalise MoU to boost trade, connectivity</p> <p>South Asian neighbours Bangladesh, India, and Nepal have finalised a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for implementing the long-awaited Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA). The BBIN connectivity project is aimed to boost regional trade and connectivity, reports Hindustan Times. This initiative was conceived after the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) failed to agree on a regional motor vehicles agreement during a summit in Nepal in 2014.</p>	09 March 2022	The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/world/south-asia/bangladesh-india-and-nepal-finalise-mou-boost-trade-connectivity-382003	
36	<p>Bangladesh, UAE sign 4 MoUs to strengthen bilateral ties</p> <p>Bangladesh and United Arab Emirates (UAE) have signed four Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to boost cooperation between the two countries. The four instruments that have been signed are: MoU on Cooperation in Higher Education and Scientific Research between Bangladesh and UAE, MoU for cooperation between Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), MoU for cooperation between the foreign services academies of the two countries, and MoU on cooperation between Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) and Dubai International Chamber.</p>	09 March 2022	The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladesh-uae-sign-4-mous-strengthen-bilateral-ties-382012	
37	<p>সরকারের ঋণ এখন জিডিপির ৪২.৫%</p> <p>দ্রুত বাড়ছে দেশের জিডিপির আকার। তার চেয়েও দ্রুতগতিতে বড় হচ্ছে সরকারের ঋণ। দেশে ২০১৭-১৮ অর্থবছরেও জিডিপির অনুপাতে সরকারের ঋণ ছিল ৩৪ দশমিক ৬ শতাংশ। মাত্র তিন বছরের ব্যবধানে গত অর্থবছরে (২০২০-২১) এ অনুপাত উন্নীত হয়েছে ৪১ দশমিক ৪ শতাংশে। চলতি অর্থবছরে তা আরো বেড়ে সাড়ে ৪২ শতাংশে দাঁড়াতে পারে বলে ধারণা করছে আন্তর্জাতিক মুদ্রা তহবিল (আইএমএফ)। সংস্থাটির পূর্বাভাস বলছে, আগামী অর্থবছরে (২০২২-২৩) তা আরো বেড়ে দাঁড়াবে ৪২ দশমিক ৭ শতাংশে।</p> <p>তবে সরকারের ঘাটতি বাজেটের দ্রুত প্রবৃদ্ধির বিষয়টিতে ইঙ্গিত করে বিশেষজ্ঞরা বলছেন, আগামী অর্থবছরে জিডিপির অনুপাতে সরকারের ঋণের হার আইএমএফের পূর্বাভাসকে ছাড়িয়ে যেতে পারে। এরই মধ্যে ব্যয় নির্বাহে অভ্যন্তরীণ উৎস থেকে ঋণ গ্রহণের প্রবণতা বাড়িয়েছে সরকার। আর কভিডসহ নানা কারণে বিদেশী উৎস থেকেও সরকারের ঋণ গ্রহণের হার বেড়েছে। এ অবস্থায় ২০২২-২৩ অর্থবছর শেষে জিডিপি ও সরকারের ঋণের অনুপাত ৪৫ শতাংশে গিয়ে ঠেকতে পারে।</p> <p>রাজস্ব আদায়ে ব্যর্থতাই সরকারের ঋণ-জিডিপি অনুপাত বড় হওয়ার প্রধানতম কারণ বলে মনে করছেন বিশেষজ্ঞরা। তারা বলছেন, রাজস্ব আহরণে ব্যর্থতার কারণে সরকারের ঘাটতি বাজেটের আকার প্রতিনিয়ত বাড়ছে।</p>	09 March 2022	Bonik Barta https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_description/292731/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%8B%E0%A6%A3-%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%96%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A7%AA%E0%A7%A8.%E0%A7%AB	