

Fortnightly Summary

Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 09 - 22 January 2023

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p>Term, working capital loans <u>Interest rate caps to continue</u> Bangladesh Bank (BB) governor Abdur Rouf Talukder has hinted at the continuation of the interest-rate caps on term and working-capital loans, at least, for the next six months. "This is not the time to change the rate caps. We might review it later", Mr Talukder told the Monetary Policy Consultation Meeting held at a local hotel on Saturday evening. The central bank governor issued the hint when senior economists, bankers and business leaders, who were present at the meeting, expressed opposing views on the interest caps. Economists and bankers wanted the rate caps to go while business leaders suggested its continuation for some more time.</p> <p>The BB governor in his summing-up speech dismissed the allegation of a section of businesses facing problems with opening letters of credit and said the central bank was in no way controlling LC opening. "What we are concerned about is over-invoicing and under-invoicing. We won't tolerate such evil practices," he said. The BB governor said there is no restriction on the opening of LCs for capital-machinery imports either.</p>	09 January 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/interest-rate-caps-to-continue-1673195815?date=09-01-2023	
02	<p><u>Matarbari to act as regional hub in S Asian economy: Experts</u> The government is constructing a deep seaport at Matarbari of Cox's Bazar to help the country handle growing volumes of exports and imports and ease the pressure on the country's principal sea port Chattogram, reports BSS. The government is also constructing Coal-based Power Plant, LNG Terminal and development of highways. Experts concerned expect that Matarbari will become the most important export-import hub in the South-Asian region in future as the region is bustling with a number of mega projects, including Deep-Sea Port. Construction works for the dream deep-sea port project is going on in full swing. With the pandemic is almost retreating, the work is on without any break. The project is likely to be completed by 2026 next.</p>	09 January 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/matarbari-to-act-as-regional-hub-in-s-asian-economy-experts-1673194214?date=09-01-2023	
03	<p><u>DBL Group gets \$52m British loan to set up green factory</u> DBL Group has availed itself of a \$52 million loan from British International Investment, a development finance institution of the UK, for the construction of a manufacturing facility. With the credit facility, the DBL will establish a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)-certified green building for Jinnat Textile Mills, a cotton yarn spinning mill, at DBL Industrial Park in Shreehatta Economic Zone in Sylhet. To this end, DBL Group recently signed an agreement with British International Investment, according a press release of the DBL.</p>	09 January 2023	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/dbl-group-gets-52m-british-loan-set-green-factory-3215991	
04	<p><u>Cabinet clears policy to fix minimum, maximum prices of agro-produce</u> The cabinet on Monday cleared the draft of a policy to fix minimum and maximum rational prices for the agricultural goods, reports UNB. The National Agricultural Marketing Policy, 2023 was cleared to modernise the marketing system and ensure the highest benefits for the farmers through different measures including fixation of minimum and maximum prices.</p> <p>The The approval came from the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office.</p>	10 January 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/cabinet-clears-policy-to-fix-minimum-maximum-prices-of-agro-produce-1673286597?date=10-01-2023	

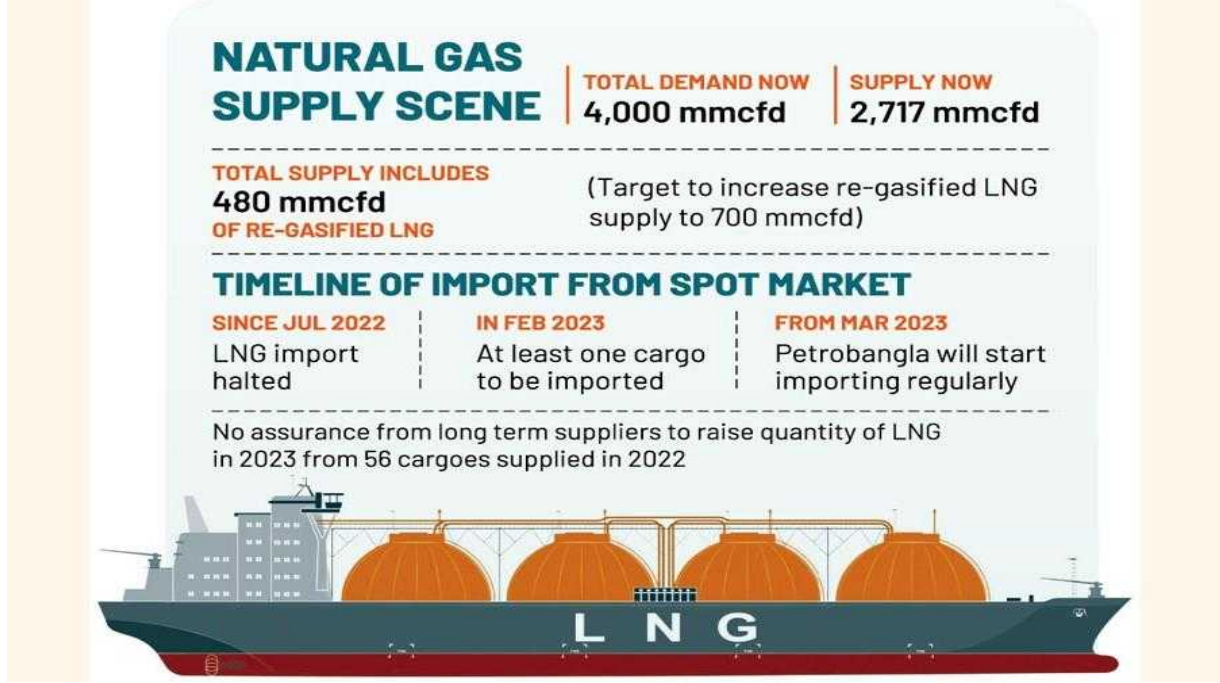
Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
05	<p>Miga offers up to \$1b guarantee to Bangladesh The commerce ministry is awaiting a decision from the central bank and the finance ministry on using \$500 million to \$1 billion of foreign loans to import essential commodities on the back of a guarantee from the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (Miga). The Miga is a member of the World Bank Group and its mandate is to promote cross-border investment in developing countries by providing guarantees (political risk insurance and credit enhancement) to investors and lenders.</p>	11 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/miga-offers-1b-guarantee-bangladesh-3217661)	
06	<p>Taiwanese firm invests \$17m in Bay Economic Zone Makalot Industrial Co Ltd, a Taiwanese readymade garment manufacturer, is going to invest \$17 million to produce sports shoes and apparel items at the Bay Economic Zone. The company has secured registration under the name of Makalot (BD) Ltd to invest in Bangladesh, according to a press release from the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza). Chou Hsin-Peng, chairman of Makalot (BD), and Ziaur Rahman, managing director of Bay Group Ltd, signed an agreement to this end at the office of the Beza in Dhaka yesterday.</p>	11 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/taiwanese-firm-invests-17m-bay-economic-zone-3217636)	
07	<p>Interbank lending rate goes past 9% cap for liquidity crunch Cash-strapped banks are borrowing from cash-rich lenders paying more than 9 per cent in interest rate, which is above a cap set by the central bank, as an unprecedented liquidity crunch has hit the banking sector of Bangladesh.</p>	11 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/interbank-lending-rate-goes-past-9-cap-liquidity-crunch-3217671)	
08	<p>Small businesses to get easy loans The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) teamed up with Bengal Commercial Bank yesterday to extend loan assistance to help cottage, small and medium entrepreneurs run their businesses. FBCCI Secretary General Mohammad Mahfuzul Hoque and Managing Director of the Bengal Commercial Bank Tarik Morshed signed an agreement in this regard at the Dhaka office of the FBCCI, the federation said in a statement.</p>	12 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/small-businesses-get-easy-loans-3218776)	
09	<p>৫ শতাংশ বাড়ানো হলো বিদ্যুতের দাম বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি খাতের নিয়ন্ত্রক সংস্থা বাংলাদেশ এনার্জি রেগুলেটরি কমিশনকে বিইআরসি পাশ কাটিয়ে নির্বাহী আদেশে বাড়ানো হলো বিদ্যুতের দাম। প্রতি ইউনিটে গড়ে দাম বাড়ানো হয়েছে ৫ শতাংশ। গত ১৪ বছরে এ নিয়ে ১১তমবারের মতো গ্রাহক পর্যায়ে বাড়ল বিদ্যুতের দাম। নতুন দাম জানুয়ারি থেকে কার্যকর হবে।</p>	12 January 2023	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/zap4ulnqv)	
10	<p>চূড়ান্ত ঋণ আলোচনা করতে আইএমএফের ডিএমডি ঢাকায় ৪৫০ কোটি মার্কিন ডলারের ঋণ প্রস্তাবের চূড়ান্ত আলোচনা করতে আন্তর্জাতিক মুদ্রা তহবিলের আইএমএফ উপব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক বা ডিএমডি অ্যান্টোইনেত মনসিও সায়েহ আজ শনিবার দুপুরে ঢাকায় এসেছেন। পাঁচ দিনের ঢাকা সফরে তিনি প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা অর্থমন্ত্রী আ হ ম মুস্তফা কামাল বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের গভর্নর আব্দুর রউফ তালুকদারের সঙ্গে বৈঠক করবেন। ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে একটি বক্তৃতাও দেবেন তিনি। মেট্রোরেল ও পদ্মা সেতু দেখার কথা রয়েছে তাঁর।</p>	14 January 2023	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/tuhmyz2y8v)	
11	<p>Bangladesh moves up 14 notches Bangladesh has advanced 14 spots in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2022 in a major stride but it still lags behind some of its innovative peers. The ranking by the United Nations' World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) placed the country at 102nd last year, up from 116th in 2021, among 132 economies.</p>	15 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-moves-14-notches-3221211)	

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12	<p><u>State-of-the-art wash plant installed at PDS's RMG plant in Adamjee EPZ</u> PDS Limited, a global fashion infrastructure company, has installed a state-of-the-art wash plant at Progress Apparels Bangladesh Ltd, one of PDS's manufacturing subsidiaries in Bangladesh. The wash plant, installed in partnership and funding from the Netherlands-based Good Fashion Fund, has the capacity to wash six million garments per annum and Progress Apparels can now manage 90% of the current wash requirement in-house.</p>	15 January 2023	The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/state-art-wash-plant-installed-pdss-rmg-plant-adamjee-epz-568454	
13	<p><u>Bangladesh, Nigeria for expanding mutual trade and investment</u> An eleven-member Nigerian delegation, comprising representatives of its different ministries and departments, and the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, also known as Bida, discussed the ways of further increasing trade and investment between the two friendly countries at a meeting at the latter's office in the capital on Sunday.</p>	15 January 2023	The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladesh-nigeria-expanding-mutual-trade-and-investment-568234	
14	<p><u>Changes in policy, lending and deposit rates in the new monetary policy</u> To contain inflationary and exchange rate pressure by ensuring the necessary flow of funds and making money more expensive for banks, Bangladesh Bank unveiled its new monetary policy with changed policy and lending rates along with the removal of specific deposit rates. Focusing on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) guidelines, the new monetary policy for the second half of FY23 was unveiled on Sunday in the presence of Bangladesh Bank Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder.</p>	15 January 2023	Dhaka Tribune https://www.dhaka.tribune.com/banks/2023/01/15/bb-raises-repo-rate-in-h2fy23	
15	<p><u>Pran-RFL to invest \$22.5m in four sectors</u> Pran-RFL Group is going to invest in four new sectors -- \$10 million in automobile parts, \$3 million in stainless steel and aluminium pipe, \$2.5 million in electric bike and \$7 million in tableware. These are a part of its target to complete investing \$200 million by this year.</p>	16 January 2023	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/pran-rfl-invest-225m-four-sectors-3222071	
16	<p><u>Leading global MNC Azelis set to invest big in food, pharma raw materials in Bangladesh</u> Azelis one of the world's leading multinational companies supplying raw materials for the pharmaceutical, food, and agriculture sectors, and chemicals for textiles, personal care, and life science products is going to begin its operations in Bangladesh with a huge investment, sources said.</p>	16 January 2023	The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/leading-global-mnc-azelis-set-invest-big-food-pharma-raw-materials-bangladesh-568658	
17	<p><u>৩০ জানুয়ারি আইএমএফের পর্ষদে উঠছে বাংলাদেশের ঋণ প্রস্তাব</u> ৩০ জানুয়ারি বাংলাদেশের ঋণ আবেদন আন্তর্জাতিক মুদ্রা তহবিলের আইএমএফ নির্বাহী পর্ষদের সভায় অনুমোদিত হতে পারে। বাংলাদেশ সফররত আইএমএফের উপব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ডিএমডি অ্যান্টোনেত মনসিও সায়েহ এক প্রেস বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে এ তথ্য জানিয়েছেন। এর আগে গত বছরের ৯ নভেম্বর আইএমএফ বাংলাদেশকে ৪৫০ কোটি ডলার ঋণ দেওয়ার বিষয়ে সম্মতি জানায়। তবে সেটি ছিল কর্মকর্তা পর্যায়ের ঐকমত্য। তখন অর্থমন্ত্রী আ হ ম মুস্তফা কামাল জানিয়েছিলেন আইএমএফ তিন মাসের মধ্যে এ ঋণের আনুষ্ঠানিকতা চূড়ান্ত করবে। সাত কিস্তিতে এই ঋণ দেবে তারা। প্রথম কিস্তির ঋণ দেওয়া হবে এ বছরের ফেব্রুয়ারিতে। আর সর্বশেষ কিস্তির ঋণ পাওয়া যাবে ২০২৬ সালের ডিসেম্বরে। আইএমএফের ঋণের সুদহার হবে বাজারদর অনুযায়ী তাতে গড় সুদহার হবে ২ দশমিক ২ শতাংশ।</p>	16 January 2023	Prothom Alo https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/q5vs1nxw0o	

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18	<p><u>Bangladesh, Rwanda sign air service agreement</u></p> <p>Bangladesh and Rwanda have signed air services agreement to facilitate movement of people and goods between the two countries by direct air route. Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi Mustafizur Rahman and Rwanda High Commissioner based in Indian capital signed the documents last Thursday, a foreign ministry press release said here yesterday.</p>	16 January 2023	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/aviation/bangladesh-rwanda-sign-air-service-agreement-569046)	
19	<p><u>CEPA negotiations likely to start in two months</u></p> <p>Bangladesh and India are expected to start negotiations on the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) within the next two months, officials said. They said Dhaka is set to commence negotiations on inking the deal with its second-largest trade partner to increase trade and investment although New Delhi is taking time for preparation in this connection. To this effect, the ministry of commerce (MoC) has already formed two committees - an advisory committee (AC), headed by minister Tipu Munshi, and an 11-member Trade Negotiation Committee (TNC).</p>	17 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/last-page/cepa-negotiations-likely-to-start-in-two-months-1673892464)	
20	<p><u>Bangladesh to be first in Asia to receive loan from IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Fund</u></p> <p>Bangladesh is going to be the first country in Asia to receive a loan from International Monetary Fund's Resilience and Sustainability Fund. The first country in the world to receive this IMF loan was Barbados, followed by Costa Rica and Rwanda. After that, there are five more countries on the list to receive loans from the RSF. Bangladesh is at the top of the list. The IMF board approved the fund on April 13, 2022, and it became effective on May 1, 2022. The fund was created for low and middle-income countries that are at risk due to climate change.</p>	17 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-be-first-asia-receive-loan-imfs-resilience-and-sustainability-fund-3223506)	
21	<p><u>Matarbari deep-sea port to open in 2026</u></p> <p>State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday hoped for a part of the Chattogram port's Bay Terminal to become operational from early 2026 while the Matarbari deep-sea port either from the middle or end of that year. He also hoped for the Chattogram port's Patenga Container Terminal to be operational very soon as around 97 per cent of its construction was complete. He was addressing as chief guest a ceremony marking the first time a Chattogram port jetty has been able to accommodate a 200-metre vessel with a 10-metre draught.</p>	17 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/matarbari-deep-sea-port-open-2026-3223071)	
22	<p><u>বিদ্যুতের পর বাড়ল গ্যাসের দাম</u></p> <p>বিদ্যুতের পর এবার এল গ্যাসের দাম বাড়ানোর ঘোষণা। একই মাসে দুটোই হয়েছে সরকারের নির্বাহী আদেশে। এবার শিল্প বিদ্যুৎ ও বাণিজ্যিক খাতে গ্যাসের দাম বাড়ানো হয়েছে। তবে পরিবহন খাতে ব্যবহৃত সিএনজি ও বাসায় ব্যবহৃত গ্যাসের দাম বাড়ায়নি সরকার। নতুন দাম ফেব্রুয়ারি থেকে কার্যকর হবে। গ্যাসের দাম বাড়িয়ে আজ বুধবার প্রজ্ঞাপন জারি করেছে জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ বিভাগ। এতে দেখা যায় বৃহৎ শিল্পে প্রতি ইউনিট গ্যাসের দাম ১১ টাকা ৯৮ পয়সা থেকে বাড়িয়ে ৩০ টাকা করা হয়েছে। অর্থাৎ দাম বেড়েছে প্রায় তিন গুণ।</p>	18 January 2023	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/ay3n12594o)	

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23	<p><u>Fresh move to make BBIN MVA effective</u> Bangladesh has taken an initiative to give a fresh impetus to operationalise the subregional motor vehicle agreement (MVA) at an expected level to facilitate free flow of people and goods among the participating countries, officials said.</p>	18 January 2023	<p>The Financial Express (https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/fresh-move-to-make-bbin-mva-effective-1674010619)</p>	
24	<p><u>BD-Türkiye Business Forum launched</u> Bangladesh-Türkiye Business Forum (BTBF) was formally launched on Tuesday to facilitate and increase bilateral trade and investment between the countries. Salman F Rahman, Private Industry and Investment Adviser to the Prime Minister, was present as the chief guest in the launching ceremony held in the city. BTBF is led by managing director of Mohammadi Group and former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Dr Rubana Huq and Salahuddin Kasem Khan of AK Khan Group of Companies as co-chairperson.</p>	19 January 2023	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-tuerkiye-business-forum-launched-1674058247?date=19-01-2023)</p>	
25	<p><u>Bangladesh retains 2nd place in RMG export to EU</u> Apparel shipments to the European Union (EU) grew 41.76 per cent year-on-year to hit \$19.40 billion in the January-October period of 2022, according to data from Eurostat, the statistics department of the EU. With this, Bangladesh retained its position as the second largest garment supplier for the EU after China, which holds a 29.39 per cent share of the trade bloc's total apparel imports from 27 countries.</p>	19 January 2023	<p>The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-retains-2nd-place-rmg-export-eu-3224956)</p>	
26	<p><u>Balance of payments deficit to go thru the roof this fiscal year</u> Bangladesh's balance of payments (BoP) deficit would widen massively in the current fiscal year than the central bank had earlier projected owing to escalated imports, lower remittances and export receipts, and higher accumulation of debts. In June when the Bangladesh Bank unveiled the monetary policy statement for the entire fiscal year of 2022-23, it was projected that the deficit would stand at \$150 million. But on Sunday the BB said the BoP deficit would be \$5.08 billion in FY23, according to the MPS for January-June.</p>	19 January 2023	<p>The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/balance-payments-deficit-go-thru-the-roof-fiscal-year-3224946)</p>	
27	<p><u>No visible step from BB to ease importers' woes</u> The Bangladesh Bank is yet to take any visible measure in line with a commerce ministry directive aimed at asking banks to earmark a portion of their foreign currency holdings to open letters of credit to import essentials ahead of Ramadan. On January 5, the commerce ministry sent a letter to the central bank to facilitate the imports of edible oil, refined sugar, lentil, onion, gram and dates in its bid to ensure their supply and contain prices during the fasting month when demand surges.</p>	19 January 2023	<p>The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/no-visible-step-bb-ease-importers-woes-3224961)</p>	
28	<p><u>Gas tariff hike: Industries demand continuous supply, other benefits</u> Industries of the country have urged the government to provide cash incentives and reduce various taxes so that they can recoup losses from the recently announced hikes in gas tariffs. They also recommended fixing system loss issues, stopping illegal gas line connections, as well as meter-reading-related theft. The government on January 18 hiked gas prices by up to 179% to adjust subsidies and reduce the fiscal deficit. The new rates will be effective from February 1.</p>	20 January 2023	<p>Dhaka Tribune (https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2023/01/20/gas-tariff-hike-industries-demand-continuous-supply-other-benefits)</p>	

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29	<p><u>Hyundai begins SUV production in new BD unit</u> <u>Fair Technology sets up the plant in Gazipur</u></p> <p>South Korean automobile giant Hyundai has begun SUV production in its new factory in Bangladesh. Fair Technology, local partner of the multinational, established the factory at Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City in Kaliakoir, Gazipur. Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun formally inaugurated the plant at a ceremony held on the factory premises on Thursday.</p> <p>The factory is now manufacturing Hyundai's Creta SUV model. Later, it will gradually produce other brands of Hyundai SUVs and sedans. Every Creta SUV is manufactured by importing more than 1,000 parts and multiple layers of painting in its own paint shop.</p> <p>The factory is now operating one shift daily at the beginning. It will be able to produce 3,000 Creta SUVs annually. The number will gradually reach 10,000 vehicles every year. The company sources have said it would reveal the SUV price within this week. Fair Technology has already established sales and service centres in Dhaka and Chattogram, and is expanding the facility to other cities.</p>	20 January 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/hyundai-begins-suv-production-in-new-bd-unit-1674151838?date=20-01-2023)</p>	
30	<p><u>Half the industrial paints contain high lead</u> <u>Human health, environment at risk</u></p> <p>Half the paints in Bangladesh used for industrial purpose contains a high range of lead, a toxic metal that adversely affects both human health and the environment. Meanwhile, most of the household decorative paints still contain lead above the permissible level of 90 parts per million (ppm), a study revealed on Thursday.</p> <p>The Environmental and Social Development Organisation (ESDO) conducted the study styled 'Lead in Paints: A significant Pathway of Lead Exposure in Bangladesh'.</p> <p>A total of 63 samples of yellow, red and golden-yellow colours from 39 brands were examined under the study. Sample paints were purchased from Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet and Bogura.</p>	20 January 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/half-the-industrial-paints-contain-high-lead-1674151278?date=20-01-2023)</p>	
31	<p><u>Govt to run HSIA third terminal thru' PPP</u> <u>TCB to buy 11m litres of soybean oil, 8k tonnes of lentil</u></p> <p>The government has decided to operate and maintain the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA), expected to be opened this year for passengers, through public-private partnership (PPP) initiative.</p> <p>A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal, gave the decision on Thursday, following which the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) can go for signing PPP contract with a private sector firm. The CAAB is now building the HSIA third terminal under a Tk 213.98-billion development project.</p>	20 January 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-to-run-hsia-third-terminal-thru-ppp-1674152343?date=20-01-2023)</p>	
32	<p><u>Bangladesh wants MIGA-backed loans at 4% max</u></p> <p>Bangladesh plans to pay a maximum of 4 per cent in the interest rate and commissions against the loans to be guaranteed by the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), said officials of the commerce ministry yesterday. The MIGA has sought 6 per cent in the interest rate and commissions. The MIGA itself will not provide any loans to Bangladesh. Rather, it will manage the fund from international financial institutions to provide the amount to Bangladesh, he said.</p>	20 January 2023	<p>The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-wants-miga-backed-loans-4-max-3225781)</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks										
33	<p>Ensuring fuel supply after price hike Spot LNG import resumes soon</p>  <p>NATURAL GAS SUPPLY SCENE</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>TOTAL DEMAND NOW</td> <td>SUPPLY NOW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4,000 mmcf</td> <td>2,717 mmcf</td> </tr> </table> <p>TOTAL SUPPLY INCLUDES 480 mmcf OF RE-GASIFIED LNG (Target to increase re-gasified LNG supply to 700 mmcf)</p> <p>TIMELINE OF IMPORT FROM SPOT MARKET</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>SINCE JUL 2022</td> <td>IN FEB 2023</td> <td>FROM MAR 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LNG import halted</td> <td>At least one cargo to be imported</td> <td>Petrobangla will start importing regularly</td> </tr> </table> <p>No assurance from long term suppliers to raise quantity of LNG in 2023 from 56 cargoes supplied in 2022</p> <p>After a seven-month pause, the government is all set to resume importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) from global spot market anytime soon with the fund crunch cushioned by the latest gas-tariff hike.</p>	TOTAL DEMAND NOW	SUPPLY NOW	4,000 mmcf	2,717 mmcf	SINCE JUL 2022	IN FEB 2023	FROM MAR 2023	LNG import halted	At least one cargo to be imported	Petrobangla will start importing regularly	20 January 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/spot-lng-import-resumes-soon-1674151729?date=20-01-2023</p>	
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34	<p>Padma Bridge project Cost set to rise 8.88pc, work to take one more year</p> <p>The government is set to revise the Padma Multipurpose Bridge (PMB) project with both cost escalation and time extension. Officials said the third revised development project proposal (DPP) would seek a cost hike by 8.88 per cent to Tk 328.75 billion and time extension by one more year. The DPP is likely to be placed at the pre-ECNEC meeting next week.</p> <p>Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) has already sent the proposal to the Bridge Division for placing it in the next PEC meeting under the Planning Commission.</p> <p>Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader signed the revised DPP. It was earlier sent back by the Planning Commission in November last year, said an official.</p>	20 January 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/cost-set-to-rise-888pc-work-to-take-one-more-year-1674151889?date=20-01-2023</p>											

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
35	<p><u>Bangladesh to present investment potential, successes to foreigners</u></p> <p>A three-day "Bangladesh Business Summit-2023" is scheduled to begin on March 11 to share business environment improvements, investment successes and good practices and gain insights of global investors' priorities for the development of policies. The summit will be organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the country's independence. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the summit.</p>	20 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-present-investment-potential-successes-foreigners-3225691)	
36	<p><u>Bangladesh wants MIGA-backed loans at 4% max</u></p> <p>Bangladesh plans to pay a maximum of 4 per cent in the interest rate and commissions against the loans to be guaranteed by the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), said officials of the commerce ministry yesterday. The MIGA has sought 6 per cent in the interest rate and commissions. The MIGA itself will not provide any loans to Bangladesh. Rather, it will manage the fund from international financial institutions to provide the amount to Bangladesh, he said.</p>	20 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-wants-miga-backed-loans-4-max-3225781)	
37	<p><u>Food inflation high in BD, South Asia: WB</u> <u>Healthy food less affordable in region</u></p> <p>Food inflation remains high in Bangladesh along with many other countries in South Asia, making healthy food less affordable across the region, according to the World Bank (WB). "The high incidence of climatological shocks, depletion of foreign-currency reserves, and depreciation of local currencies keep food inflation high in South Asia," said the global lender in its latest Food Security Update.</p> <p>In December 2022, year-on-year consumer price inflation for food prices was 7.9 per cent in Bangladesh, 7.4 per cent in Nepal, 35.5 per cent in Pakistan, and 64.4 per cent in Sri Lanka, it revealed. The WB also said domestic food price inflation remains high around the world.</p> <p>Information between September 2022 and December 2022 shows high inflation in almost all low-income and middle-income countries, according to the WB newsletter. About 94.1 per cent of low-income countries, 92.9 per cent of lower-middle-income countries, and 89 per cent of upper-middle-income countries saw inflation at the level of above 5.0 per cent, with many experiencing double-digit inflation.</p>	21 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/food-inflation-high-in-bd-south-asia-wb-1674237048)	
38	<p><u>‘Dhaka inflation was 11.08% last year, highest since 2011’</u></p> <p>The Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) finds the average annual inflation in 2022 in Dhaka megacity was 11.08 per cent, a record high since 2011 with the middle-income group suffering most, said Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) said today. Both food and non-food prices stood at double digit, affecting consumers, the CAB said based on a study.</p>	21 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dhaka-inflation-was-1108-last-year-highest-2011-3226761)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
39	<p>Power cut hits Khulna after production halted at Rampal plant over coal crisis Khulna division has been experiencing acute load shedding even in the winter due to suspension of power production at Rampal Power Plant amid shortage of coal caused by the dollar crisis. The production came to a halt on 14 January, only after 27 days the coal-fired plant in Bagerhat started electricity generation by adding 660MW of electricity to the national grid produced from its first unit.</p>	21 January 2023	<p>The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/power-cut-hits-khulna-after-production-halted-rampal-plant-over-coal-crisis-571658</p>	
40	<p>Assessing real poverty line Take multidimensional measurement approach Say economists Speakers at a discussion on Saturday emphasised on taking a multidimensional poverty measurement approach instead of income-based poverty measures to assess the real poverty line of Bangladesh. Although the poverty rate declined to nearly 21 per cent in the last 20 years from 40 per cent in the 1990s, the number of poor people (around 35 million) is still higher than it was three decades ago. Economists, academics and researchers were speaking at the event on launching "Bangladesh Poverty Watch Report 2022" in the city, presided over by Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) Chairman Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad. The report was jointly prepared by the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) and the Center for Inclusive Development Dialogue (CIDD), aimed at ensuring that grassroots voices of 'left behind' and extremely poor population groups are heard. The report has found multidimensional poverty in Bangladesh. It pointed out five key factors - discrimination, geography, shocks and fragility, socio-economic status and governance - behind deprivation in Bangladesh.</p>	22 January 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/take-multidimensional-measurement-approach-1674319853</p>	