


Fortnightly Summary


Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 23 Jan. – 12 Feb. 2023


Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><u>WB lists dos for Bangladesh's uplift</u> Assures help onto higher dev trajectory Bangladesh needs higher and sustainable levels of infrastructure investment, digitization, human capital particularly in education, health and social protection to reach the next high of development after graduation, the World Bank suggests. While reassuring their development assistance Sunday, World Bank managing director Axel van Trotsenburg also stressed vibrant private sector, export diversification and deepening and diversifying its financial sector. "Bangladesh has made tremendous strides, transforming from one of the world's poorest countries at independence in 1971 to a lower-middle-income country in 2015," he said, reassuring the World Bank's unflinching support to Bangladesh in its development drive. Bangladesh is now on its way to becoming an upper-middle-income country and its economy has made a strong recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The country made achievements in many areas, he said, highlighting three areas as most striking: empowering women and girls, investing in people, and moving decisively on climate adaptation and resilience.</p>	23 January 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/wb-lists-dos-for-bangladeshs-uplift-1674408768	
02	<p><u>Advance tax on domestic grain procurement goes</u> Incentive given under food-security contingency plan amid price rises The revenue board has withdrawn the 2.0-percent advance tax on government procurement of domestic food-grains under food-security contingency plan, as prices stay steep and global supply chains also remain volatile. As per order of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) the waiver will be valid until June 30, 2023. The incentive has been offered following a proposal of the Ministry of Food for waiving the taxes on procurement of grains from domestic food stock. The ministry sought the tax benefit on payment of bills to the rice millers at the government-fixed price.</p>	23 January 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/advance-tax-on-domestic-grain-procurement-goes-1674409112	
03	<p><u>Economy under stress: BB report</u> Bangladesh's economy is under pressure due to a rise in inflation and a decline in export in the wake of geopolitical tension and supply chain disruption, said the Bangladesh Bank in a report. The central bank published 'Financial Stability Assessment Report' for the period July-September, 2022 on Sunday where BB governor Abdur Rouf Talukder and deputy governor Abu Farah Md Nasser made the observation. Rouf said that the emergence of Russia-Ukraine was in early 2022 as well as associated geopolitical tension had created a cloudy environment in the global macro financial landscape. It led to a severe stress on external sector of emerging market and developing economies, including Bangladesh, largely due to a rise in energy price and supply chain disruptions. During the quarter review, average inflation registered a rise with minor decline in foreign exchange reserve and depreciation of local currency against the US dollar, he said. The governor also said that the BB had taken several initiatives to alleviate the external sector stress, which would not be enough without the highest level of cooperation of banks. The Bangladesh Bank has taken some measures, including restricting imports of luxurious and non-essential goods, raising exports, facilitating remittance inflows, and easing forex transactions.</p>	23 January 2023	New Age https://www.newagebd.net/article/192395/economy-under-stress-bb-report	

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04	<p><u>Bangladesh loses billions to transfer pricing tricks</u> Bangladesh could tap huge legitimate revenues lost to transfer mispricing by building capacity of taxmen to prevent such intra-company trade tricks also deemed linked to capital flight, according to findings. A report on the findings says economic environment of Bangladesh is favourable for exploitation of transfer-pricing opportunity amid increased volumes of international trade, presence of multinational companies (MNCs) and absence of proper monitoring of the transactions. Titled 'Combating Transfer Mispricing: New Avenue for Bangladesh Customs', the report has been prepared by Customs Audit, Modernization and International Tax Wing and jointly articulated by Mohammad Fyzur Rahman, commissioner of Chattogram Customs House (CCH), and Nipun Chakma, Assistant Commissioner. The customs wing has recommended for the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to utilize both of its wings, like in many advanced and modern revenue administrations, as it is high time step was taken for proper capacity building. Both the wings would be able to detect, track and deter transfer mispricing with a view to collecting proper revenue from the MNCs as well as combating trade-based money laundering which is closely associated with transfer pricing, the report says.</p>	24 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-loses-billions-to-transfer-pricing-tricks-1674494793)	
05	<p><u>79.35pc companies never submit returns to RJSC</u> Legal amendment for obligatory return submission soon: Registrar Some 162,682 or 79.35 per cent of companies never submitted their returns to the Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) after start-up registration. Of the total 205,000 registered companies, 42,318 are submitting their returns regularly or irregularly, according to RJSC data. According to the state entity, a company after its formation needs to submit returns including balance sheet (profit and loss account), directors' position and shares and auditor consent to the primary regulator. Meanwhile, 4,298 companies got registration from the RJSC in the first half of the ongoing fiscal year. Of the total registered ones, 3,650 public limited companies and 201,816 private limited companies. People familiar with the development told the FE that the companies are not legally bound to submit their returns. Due to legal loopholes, they are not submitting their returns in time and even majority of them are never paying heed to this optional provision, according to them.</p>	24 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/7935pc-companies-never-submit-returns-to-risc-1674494912)	
06	<p><u>Gas discovered in Bhola North-2 well</u> Russian Gazprom has discovered an extended gas zone in Bhola North-2 well under the already-discovered Bhola North gas field, BAPEx Managing Director Mohammad Ali told the FE on Monday. He said the new gas zone was found at a depth of around 3,428 meter from the surface. Some 20 million cubic feet per day (mmcf/d) of gas could be produced from the well, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources the same day. But the gas would remain untapped due to a lack of sufficient clients in Bhola island, said sources. The government, however, has moved to utilise Bhola gas by laying down Bhola-Barisal pipeline, they added.</p>	24 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/gas-discovered-in-bhola-north-2-well-1674494951)	

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07	<p><u>Draft Income Tax Act gets Cabinet nod</u></p> <p>The cabinet approved the draft of the Income Tax Act-2023 in principle, which, among other things, curbs the discretionary powers of the income-tax officer, reports UNB. The approval came from the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office, said Cabinet Secretary Mahbub Hossain while speaking at a press briefing held at the Secretariat.</p> <p>Explaining the salient points in the draft, the cabinet secretary said income tax officers cannot fix income tax as per his/her wish and income tax will be determined according to the formula prescribed by law.</p> <p>Actually, the existing Act in English has been converted into Bangla and simplified with some additions. Besides, some complex and ambiguous languages were scrapped. Besides, the discretionary power of the income tax officer has been limited in the act. "There are 348 sections in the act and the business persons can easily submit their income tax returns," he said.</p> <p>A mathematical formula has been introduced in the act to assist the tax payers to determine their tax and as per the result of it, the tax payers can pay their taxes, he added. Through the act, it will help the tax payers to submit their income tax returns online.</p>	24 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/draft-income-tax-act-gets-cabinet-nod-1674495050)	
08	<p><u>GlobalData's latest report</u></p> <p><u>Reliance on coal power growing</u></p> <p><u>Lack of grid, policies bar renewable energy dev</u></p> <p>Bangladesh is becoming dependent on coal-based power, as various challenges still remain for development of renewable energy, including inadequate grid infrastructure and lack of robust policies, said a latest report of GlobalData. The report - 'Bangladesh Power Market Size, Trends, Regulations, Competitive Landscape and Forecast, 2022-2035' - reveals that the share of coal-based power in the country's total generation is estimated to reach 12.6 per cent in 2032.</p> <p>Bangladesh is lagging behind in development of renewable energy sources. Its total renewable installed capacity was 537 MW in 2021, accounting for only 2.5 per cent of the country's capacity mix. Among renewables, solar PV accounted for 98.6 per cent of the capacity, with onshore wind, bio-power, and small hydro plants accounting for rest of the share, the report noted.</p>	25 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/reliance-on-coal-power-growing-1674580892?date=25-01-2023)	
09	<p><u>Default loans of top 20 defaulter cos at Tk 166b</u></p> <p><u>List placed in JS</u></p> <p>The volume of default loans with top 20 defaulter companies stood at nearly Tk 166 billion as of December 2022, accounting for 86 per cent of their total debts amounting to Tk 192.84 billion, Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal told Parliament on Tuesday.</p> <p>Placing a list of top defaulters before the Jatiya Sangsad (JS), the minister also mentioned that the total number of defaulters in the country was 786,065.</p>	25 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/default-loans-of-top-20-defaulter-cos-at-tk-166b-1674580828?date=25-01-2023)	


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10	<p>Parliament passes bill BD introducing universal pension Livelihood protection for citizens aimed at</p>  <p>The infographic details the 'UNIVERSAL PENSION SCHEME' under the 'National Pension Authority'. It lists a '15-MAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS' to guide the authority, including the Finance Minister as Board chairman and an Executive chairman. Members include the BB governor, finance secretary, NBR chairman, FID secretary, and Bangladesh Employers' Federation president. Eligibility criteria state that citizens aged 18-50 are eligible for subscription, while those aged 50 and above are eligible if they have contributed for at least 10 years. It notes that the government's contribution is not defined and that NRBs are also eligible. A benefit example shows clients aged 60 receiving Tk 34,000 monthly after a Tk 500 deposit from age 18 to 50.</p> <p>Bangladesh is introducing universal pension to expand economic protection for the citizens, although the option is now voluntary, as parliament passed the bill Tuesday to this effect. Under provision of the much-hyped Universal Pension Management Bill 2023, National Pension Authority will be constituted. The Authority consists of four members and one executive chairman.</p>	25 January 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-introducing-universal-pension-1674580778?date=25-01-2023)	
11	<p>DCCI for major reforms to arbitration, bankruptcy, company acts The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) has called for substantial reforms to the Arbitration Act 2001, the Bankruptcy Act 1997 and the Companies Act 1994 in order to attract investments from both local and foreign investors. The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) has called for substantial reforms to the Arbitration Act 2001, the Bankruptcy Act 1997 and the Companies Act 1994 in order to attract investments from both local and foreign investors.</p>	25 January 2023	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dcci-major-reforms-arbitration-bankruptcy-company-acts-3230261)	

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12	<p><u>BB governor assures business team LC unease to ease shortly</u></p>  <p>MoC searches dollar for Ramadan imports, may seek MIGA fund</p> <p>Ministry seeks some greenback from reserves</p> <p>Ships with 0.13m-tonne edible oil reported stranded for payment problem</p> <p>Current letter of credit (LC) hardship may ease within next couple of months, despite three major challenges facing the economy externally, Bangladesh Bank governor Abdur Rouf Talukder Tuesday told a business team. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) has urged the central bank to facilitate private import of six essentials - edible oils, refined sugar, lentils, onions, chickpea, and dates - with necessary forex release in order to ensure smooth supply during the upcoming holy month of Ramadan. The BB governor made the assurance in a meeting with visiting Board of Directors of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) at the BB headquarters, a DCCI press release stated.</p>	25 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/lc-unease-to-ease-shortly-1674580947?date=25-01-2023)	
13	<p><u>Bangladesh-S Korea trade hits \$3b mark</u></p> <p>The volume of bilateral trade between Bangladesh and South Korea crossed the \$3 billion mark for the first time in the year 2022. According to the South Korea International Trade Association (SKITA), the bilateral trade volume between the two countries reached \$3.035 billion in 2022, which was 38.71% up from the previous year's \$2.188 billion.</p>	25 January 2023	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-s-korea-bilateral-trade-reach-record-high-crossing-3-billion-2022-573682)	

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14	<p>H1 ADP execution lowest in six years IMED discouraging extension of projects' tenures, costs</p>  <p>Implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the first half (H1) of the current fiscal year (FY) stood at 23.53 per cent, the lowest in the last six years, officials said on Wednesday. The rate was 24.06 per cent in the July-December period of FY2021-22. In the H1 of FY2017, the execution rate was lowest at 23.24 per cent. Officials at the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) said the government ministries and agencies could not improve their capacities even during the recovery process from the Covid-19 pandemic when the projects suffered serious setbacks.</p>	26 January 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/h1-adp-execution-lowest-in-six-years-1674668923?date=26-01-2023</p>	
15	<p>MCCI draws up to-do economic index Hard access to finance, policy puzzle listed among barriers Chambers, investors seek feel-good economic environment, minister lists progresses</p> <p>Difficulty in getting access to finance and land, policy unpredictability and taxes emerge as most business-hurting areas in Bangladesh, chambers and investors said Thursday while unveiling an index suggesting a feel-good economic environment. Bangladesh Business Climate Index (BBX) 2022, the country's lone homegrown index, has been prepared by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka, and the Policy Exchange, Bangladesh, a private think-tank. It was launched at the chamber's Motijheel office.</p> <p>The second edition of the BBX, which is developed to assess the business atmosphere here, was made with surveyed 518 qualified responses in July-September period 2022 on 10 major pillars or categories. The pillars are: starting a business, access to land, availability of regulatory information, infrastructure, labour, dispute resolution, trade facilitation, paying taxes, technology adoption, and access to finance.</p> <p>The country's aggregate composite BBX score in 2022 is 61.95 points out of 100, which is marginally higher than previous edition's 61.01 points. The latest score falls under category of an 'Improving Business Climate: Progress Made but Significant Efforts Required'.</p>	27 January 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/hard-access-to-finance-policy-puzzle-listed-among-barriers-1674754807</p>	

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16	<p><u>Law envisages 40-bigha limit on non-farm land use</u></p> <p>The government for the first time made a provision of keeping a 40-bigha ceiling for non-agricultural land use under the 'Land Ownership and Uses Act' keeping in mind the scarcity of land in the country, said Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury on Thursday. He said the draft Land Ownership and Uses Act which will be sent to the Cabinet next week is aimed at protecting agricultural land, providing a maximum limit for non-agricultural land, food security, and reducing the harmful effects of climate change.</p> <p>While addressing the Deputy Commissioners during the working session on the Land Ministry as the chief guest, the Land Minister also said the Land Crime Prevention and Redress Act' which was also drafted considering illegal land occupation as a criminal offence and providing appropriate penalties and fines was sent to the Cabinet Division for next action.</p>	27 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/law-envisages-40-bigha-limit-on-non-farm-land-use-1674755236?date=27-01-2023)	
17	<p><u>UN cuts Bangladesh's growth forecast</u></p> <p>The United Nations (UN) has trimmed its forecast on Bangladesh's economic growth to 6 per cent for 2023 from its previous projection of 6.4 per cent as the country's economic situation has significantly deteriorated due to high food and energy prices, monetary tightening and fiscal vulnerabilities. The UN also projected deceleration of global economic growth from an estimated 3 per cent in 2022 to only 1.9 per cent this year, marking one of the lowest growth rates in recent decades.</p>	27 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/un-cuts-bangladeshs-growth-forecast-3231696)	
18	<p><u>Fully automate company registration: BUILD urges govt</u></p> <p>The Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) yesterday demanded the government make the company registration process fully automated, said a press release. The organisation made the call during a meeting with Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi at his secretariat office. The BUILD also urged the government to relax the existing high paid-up capital requirement for establishing one-person companies (OPCs).</p>	27 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fully-automate-company-registration-3231661)	
19	<p><u>Govt imports mulled to forestall Ramadan market manipulation</u></p> <p>South America source of oil, sugar buy on G2G deals</p> <p>Direct government buy of edible oils and sugar from overseas sources is under consideration to secure timely and affordable supply of the essentials, sources said, especially to avert any crisis. Government authorities have already started search for potential markets, especially South American countries like Brazil and Argentina, to import the two essential items under government-to- government (G2G) mechanism ahead of the month of Ramadan when market perennially gets overheated. The move may create contact arrangement for the country's small private importers with the exporters of such items in the two nations.</p> <p>As planned, the 10 million cardholders and lower-income families under the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) are to benefit from the government intervention, in the wake of both domestic and global market volatility.</p>	28 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-imports-mulled-to-forestall-ramadan-market-manipulation-1674837308?date=28-01-2023)	

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20	<p><u>BD-India jt trade group meet likely in March</u> The meeting of the joint working group on trade between Bangladesh and India is likely to be held in March next. The upcoming meeting is expected to discuss continuation of duty-free market access even after LDC graduation, withdrawal of anti-dumping duty on jute goods, tariff and non- tariff barriers and trade facilitation. Besides, Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and annual essential food quota for Bangladesh are likely to be tabled in the meeting.</p>	29 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-india-jt-trade-group-meet-likely-in-march-1674923632)	
21	<p><u>BPDB staring at 80pc jump in annual losses after gas price hike</u> The financial loss of the state-owned Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) is likely to cross Tk 54,000 crore in the current fiscal after the hike in the [rice of gas increased their input cost. In 2021-22 its losses were Tk 29,915 crore. "We have to count Tk 10,000 crore extra cost to pay the gas bills following the new gas price enhancement," a top official of the BPDB told UNB. He said the new cost of gas purchase was already communicated to the Power Division which had already raised the issue at a high level meeting at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) seeking further instruction. The government on January 18 raised the retail gas prices for public, private and captive power plants and also for industries and commercial users with effect from February 1.</p>	29 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bpdb-staring-at-80pc-jump-in-annual-losses-after-gas-price-hike-1674924223)	
22	<p><u>Draft digital commerce act draws mixed reactions</u> A draft of the new digital commerce law has drawn mixed reactions from industry people and customers alike as some believe a legal framework is necessary to prevent fraud while others opined that it would lead to increased bureaucracy in the emerging sector. The law comes amid widespread scams centring the e-commerce sector in 2021 as some fraudulent platforms embezzled thousands of crores of taka from customers and merchants. The commerce ministry has already sent the draft "Digital Commerce Act 2023," to different stakeholders and formed a committee to review it.</p>	29 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/draft-digital-commerce-act-draws-mixed-reactions-3233206)	
23	<p><u>Bangladesh's forex reserves fall to \$32.29b</u> Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves dropped to \$32.29 billion on January 26 due to a high import payment obligation against a low dollar supply. The reserves had come down to \$33.83 billion on December 28, 2022 from record \$48.6 billion in August 2021. On January 5, the Bangladesh Bank made a payment of \$1.12 billion to the Asian Clearing Union for the months of November and December.</p>	29 January 2023	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/192944/bangladeshs-forex-reserves-fall-to-3229b)	
24	<p><u>Business environment grim in 2022: Study</u> Bangladesh's business environment deteriorated or stagnated in 2022 compared to that of the previous year, largely because of corruption in the processes of doing business, according to findings of a latest study. It also pointed out inadequate infrastructure, limited access to finance and inefficient bureaucracy as the emerging factors hindering the businesses. The Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD) conducted the study titled 'Bangladesh Business Environment 2022' and revealed the findings at a media briefing at the CPD premises on Sunday.</p>	30 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/business-environment-grim-in-2022-study-1675014678)	

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25	<p>Prognosis on forex dearth and fallout <u>Dollar caps could create deeper economic crisis</u> Economists alert, suggest deregulation of exchange rate Capping exchange rates is largely contributing to the current dollar crisis facing Bangladesh which could snowball into a much bigger economic crisis unless addressed immediately. Such is a latest prognosis made Sunday by economists and financial experts in the wake import LC constraints and consumer price spirals stemming from the country's falling foreign-exchange reserves amid a global crunch. To justify their proposition for deregulation of the dollar-taka exchange rate noted economist Dr Ahsan H. Mansur cited India's stance as an example. The neighbouring country didn't face any major economic problem mainly because of continuous adjustment to the exchange rate, he told a meet in Dhaka. "But we did nothing significant, causing the dollar crisis. The impact of dollar crisis is so serious that Bangladesh never faced in many decades. Such crisis could turn snowball into a much bigger economic crisis in coming days if the problem is not addressed immediately," said Dr Mansur, Executive Director Policy Research Institute (PRI), while speaking as chief discussant at the discussion on the country's macroeconomic health and its Domino effect on life and business. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) organised the roundtable discussion on the Monetary Policy 2022-2023 at the ICAB Council Hall in the city.</p>	30 January 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dollar-caps-could-create-deeper-economic-crisis-1675014434	
26	<p><u>Foreign aid flow falling when forex much coveted</u> FY23H1 commitment more than halves, release also drops</p>  <p>Foreign-aid inflow has been on a slide as Bangladesh received 10-percent lower assistance in the first half (H1) of the current fiscal year, officials said, when it is needed to recharge reserves. Aid commitment more than halved while release also dropped deeply during the first six months of the fiscal year (FY) 2022-23, official statistics show. Governmental austerity measure and tight monetary policy induced by global economic crisis affected the foreign-assistance flow both from within and without. As such, the country received US\$396 million less funds in the July-December period, they said Sunday. At the same time, the amount of aid commitment during FY23H1 compared to the same period of last FY2022 showed yet lower trend.</p>	30 January 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/foreign-aid-flow-falling-when-forex-much-coveted-1675014723	

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27	<p>JS passes bill on adjusting power prices sans hearing The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Bill 2023 has been passed in the parliament paving the way for the government to adjust the prices of gas and electricity without a public hearing, reports BSS. State Minister for Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid Sunday moved the Bill in the House which was unanimously passed by voice votes with Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair. Placing the bill, the state minister said the proposed law will be enacted by amending the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Act 2003.</p>	30 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/js-passes-bill-on-adjusting-power-prices-sans-hearing-1675014751)	
28	<p>2 more RMG factories get green certification Two more garment factories in Bangladesh have received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) for their green initiatives in apparel manufacturing. JL Fashions Ltd at Baniarchala in Gazipur and JKL Admin & Daycare Bldg at Mawna of Sreepur in the same district received the platinum-rated certification from the USGBC, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) said yesterday.</p>	30 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/2-more-rmg-factories-get-green-certification-3234311)	
29	<p>Japan to assist Bangladesh in six economic areas Japan has stepped up its efforts to cooperate with Bangladesh in six economic areas, including garment industry, automobile sector, clean energy, circular economy and ICT sector, as the issue was discussed in a meeting between commerce minister Tipu Munshi and Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh Iwama Kiminori on Sunday. Proposed Free Trade Agreement or Economic Partnership Agreement was also discussed at the meeting held at commerce ministry in the city. Earlier, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan proposed to cooperate with Bangladesh in six areas to strengthen bilateral trade and investment between the two countries.</p>	30 January 2023	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/193041/japan-to-assist-bangladesh-in-six-economic-areas)	
30	<p>Dollar price to go up in revision process BB to raise its exchange rate to Tk 101 under gradual relaxing of control Amid persistent persuading by economists for allowing market-determined exchange rates, the central bank of Bangladesh is set to raise its dollar price by 1.0 per cent to Tk 101. The revised rate takes effect from the first week of February, people familiar with the matter told the FE about the development coming in the wake of dollar crisis with its cascading impact on the economy. The Bangladesh Bank (BB) is making its dollar costlier as the central bank has planned to raise its exchange rate to market-equilibrium level within next few months. Currently it sells the US dollar at Tk 100 each, much lower than the market rates. The BB move, evidently, comes in line with the suggestions from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team that visited Dhaka recently to reach a uniform rate of dollar on the market.</p>	31 January 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dollar-price-to-go-up-in-revision-process-1675095463)	
31	<p>Bangladesh's forex reserves to hit 4-year low in FY23: IMF Bangladesh's gross foreign exchange is likely to stand at \$30 billion at the end of 2022-23 fiscal year, lowest in four years, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The amount is equal to meeting 3.5 months' imports of Bangladesh, said the multilateral lender in a statement released on January 30 after its executive board approved loan equivalent to \$4.7 billion for Bangladesh.</p>	31 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshs-forex-reserves-hit-4-year-low-fy23-imf-3235476)	

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32	<p><u>Businesses suffer for C&F agents' 7-hour strike</u></p> <p>Import-export activities at all customs stations across Bangladesh, including Chattogram port, were suspended for about seven hours yesterday as clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents observed a strike from 9:00am to 4:00pm to drive home their eight-point demand. C&F agents had gathered at the main gate of the customs house in Chattogram port, as well as those in other parts of the country, to demand the amendment of laws related to licencing and the HS (harmonised system) code. In addition, they urged authorities to not hold C&F agents liable for mistakes made by importers.</p>	31 January 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/businesses-suffer-cf-agents-7-hour-strike-3234886)	
33	<p><u>IMF approves \$4.7 billion loan for Bangladesh</u></p> <p>The International Monetary Fund has extended \$4.7 billion in loans for Bangladesh which has been facing a shortage of dollar. IMF executive board, in a meeting on January 30, took the decision for providing \$3.3 billion under the Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility, and \$1.4 Billion under and the Resilience and Sustainability Facility, according to a statement issued by the IMF on the day.</p> <p>The approval will help the country to receive about US\$476 million under the 42-month long loan programme immediately, added the statement. The rest of the loan will be disbursed in six tranches in a gap of every six months.</p>	31 January 2023	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/193168/imf-approves-47-billion-loan-for-bangladesh)	
34	<p><u>Govt hikes power price again in less than three weeks</u></p> <p>The government in less than three weeks has once again increased the electricity price and said that the executive decision will be effective from February 1. The executive order on Monday said that the government had increased the average retail electricity price by 5 per cent and the bulk electricity price by 8 per cent.</p> <p>The retail electricity price has been readjusted under the authority vested in Section 34 (ka) of the Bangladesh Energy regulatory Act, 2003, a gazette notification published in in this connection said. The section of the BERC ACT was amended in December 2022 enabling the government to change electricity prices by executive order, bypassing the BERC. This is the 12th time the government has hiked power price since assuming power in 2009.</p>	31 January 2023	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/193170/govt-hikes-power-price-again-in-less-than-three-weeks)	
35	<p><u>অ</u></p> <p>আগামী ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরের বাজেট প্রণয়নের জন্য আয়কর, মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) ও আমদানি শুল্ক সংক্রান্ত বিভিন্ন প্রস্তাব চেয়েছে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড (এনবিআর)। প্রতি বছরের মতো এবারও ব্যবসায়ীদের শীর্ষ সংগঠন এফবিসিসিআইসহ দেশের শীর্ষ চেম্বার ও অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের কাছে সম্প্রতি লিখিতভাবে এ প্রস্তাব চাওয়া হয়। বাজেট প্রস্তাবনা লিখিত আকারে ৭ ফেব্রুয়ারির মধ্যে ফেডারেশন অব বাংলাদেশ চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজের (এফবিসিসিআই) কাছে জমা দিতে বলা হয়েছে। একই সঙ্গে একটি সফটকপি ই-মেইলে (হনৎনঁফমবঃ২০২৩@মসধরষ.পডস) পাঠাতে বলেছে এনবিআর। এছাড়া সব পর্যায়ের করদাতা, পেশাজীবী সংগঠন, গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান ও দেশের বুদ্ধিজীবী মহলের কাছেও প্রস্তাবনা চেয়েছে সংস্থাটি। সরকারের রাজস্ব আহরণের পাশাপাশি জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড ফিসক্যাল পলিসি বা আর্থিক নীতি প্রণয়ন করে থাকে।</p>	31 January 2023	Sangbad (https://print.sangbad.net.bd/2023-01-31/news/business/128915)	

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36	<p>TI's Corruption Perception Index <u>BD slips one notch after four years</u></p> <p>Bangladesh's corruption situation deteriorated in 2022 than that of the previous year, according to Transparency International (TI). Its position in the global corruption perception index (CPI), prepared by the Berlin-based watchdog, slipped one step to become 12th most corrupt country in the world in 2022 from that of 2021. The country scored 25 out of 100 to be placed at 147th position among 180 countries, according to the TI report released at a press conference in the capital on Tuesday. It scored 26 in 2021 but remained at the same position from the top. However, the position was 146th in 2020. Bangladesh's score in 2022 was one point lower than 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018. The CPI is prepared mainly in the public sector. Among the eight South Asian countries, Bangladesh remains the second lowest in both score and rank - better than only Afghanistan, which scored 24, an increase of 8 points and ranked 150th from the top compared to 174th in 2021.</p>	01 February 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-slips-one-notch-after-four-years-1675183528)	
37	<p><u>BD economy to start improving from next FY</u> Says IMF's WEO</p> <p>The International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised Bangladesh's economic growth projection further down to 5.5 per cent for the current fiscal year (FY 2022-23), but expected it to start rebounding from the next FY. In its World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update 2023 report, released on Tuesday, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth was revised from the earlier projection of 6.0 per cent in its report published in October last year. "Bangladesh's robust economic recovery from the pandemic has been interrupted by Russia's war in Ukraine, leading to a sharp widening of Bangladesh's current account deficit, depreciation of the taka and a decline in foreign exchange reserves," the IMF said in a statement. Despite the war in Ukraine has severely affected the economy, the growth will bounce back in FY '24 and continue for next three FYs up to FY '27, according to the report. The growth rate would reach 6.5 per cent in FY '24, 7.1 per cent in FY '25, 7.3 per cent in FY '26 and 7.4 per cent in FY '27.</p>	01 February 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-economy-to-start-improving-from-next-fy-1675183699)	
38	<p>মাসব্যাপী আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলায় প্রায় ৩০ দশমিক ৩৮ মিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলারের (৩০০ কোটি টাকা) রপ্তানি আদেশ পাওয়া গেছে। এছাড়া মেলায় প্রায় ১০০ কোটি টাকার পণ্য বিক্রয় হয়েছে। গতকাল পূর্বাচলের বঙ্গবন্ধু বাংলাদেশ-চায়না ফ্রেন্ডশিপ এক্সিবিশন সেন্টারে ২৭তম বাণিজ্য মেলার সমাপনী অনুষ্ঠানে এ তথ্য জানানো হয়েছে। মেলায় আনুমানিক প্রায় ১০০ কোটি টাকার পণ্য বিক্রয় হয়েছে।</p>	01 February 2023	Sangbad (https://print.sangbad.net.bd/2023-02-01/news/business/128976)	
39	<p><u>BB raises interest rate for loans from EDF</u></p> <p>The Bangladesh Bank has raised the interest rate on loans made from its Export Development Fund by 50 percentage points. 'It has been decided that interest rate on EDF loans to ADs will be charged by Bangladesh Bank at 3 per cent pa, while ADs will charge interest to manufacturer-exporters at 4.50 per cent pa, for disbursements until further instructions,' as per a BB circular issued on Wednesday. Other relevant instructions on EDF shall remain unchanged.</p>	02 February 2023	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/193278/bb-raises-interest-rate-for-loans-from-edf)	

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40	<p><u>Govt okays one cargo LNG import</u> TCB to buy 11 million litres of soybean oil The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase on Wednesday approved import of 3.36 million MMBTU liquefied natural gas (LNG) - mainly to meet the industrial sector's fuel demand. The LNG will be bought from spot market, eight months after the government last bought gas from spot market in May 2022. France-based TotalEnergies will supply the LNG cargo at a cost of US\$19-\$19.5 per MMBTU, according to officials, who attended the purchase committee meeting, chaired by Agriculture Minister Mohammad Abdur Razzaque.</p>	02 February 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-okays-one-cargo-lng-import-1675268796)	
41	<p><u>Import restrictions come to rescue</u> Current-account deficit narrows Crunch-induced import restrictions come to the rescue as Bangladesh's current-account deficit (CAD) decreased over 36 per cent in six months to December from corresponding period a year before. Bangladesh Bank's latest data show the improvement in the country's monetary position, attributing the turnaround to the central bank's measures to restrict imports. The account deficit at the end of December was US\$5.27 billion. It was \$8.3 billion in December 2021. The trade balance also narrowed to \$12.3 billion during the period under review. It was \$15.7 billion during the July-December period of 2021-2022, according to the official data. During the period, overall imports fell by more than 2.0 per cent to \$ 38.13 billion, while export grew over 11 per cent, with garment shipments accounting for 15.56-percent rise. Economists find the central bank's belt-tightening measures containing imports as main reason behind the narrowing down of the CAD in the balance of payments (BoP) in external dealings.</p>	02 February 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/current-account-deficit-narrows-1675268911)	
42	<p><u>Fresh impetus to contactless payment</u> Bangladesh Bank yesterday widened the scope for contactless payments in order to further boost touch-and-go transactions and push the country towards a cashless economy. From now on, contactless payments of up to Tk 5,000 per transaction can be done using debit and prepaid cards apart from credit cards, the central bank said.</p>	02 February 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fresh-impetus-contactless-payment-3236811)	
43	<p><u>Remittance inflow rises to \$1.96b in Jan</u> Remittance inflow increased to nearly \$2 billion in January from \$1.69 billion in the previous month amid various initiatives taken by the government and the Bangladesh Bank to raise the inflow amid a dollar crisis in the country's financial market. According to Bangladesh Bank data, expatriates sent \$1.96 billion in January while they sent \$1.69 billion in December 2022. The inflow of remittance has increased for the third months. After hitting \$2.09 billion in July 2022, remittance had begun to fall sharply to reach \$1.52 billion in October and is yet to touch \$2-billion mark again.</p>	02 February 2023	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/193279/remittance-inflow-rises-to-196b-in-jan)	

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44	<p>অ বিদেশি প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সেবা দিয়ে পাওয়া বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা বা ডলার দেশে আনার প্রক্রিয়া সহজ করলো কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংক। এখন থেকে সেবার বিনিময়ে পাওয়া আয় আনতে কাগজের ফরম পূরণ (ফরম-সি নামে পরিচিত) করতে হবে না। ইলেকট্রনিক উপায়ে অনলাইনে ঘোষণা দিয়ে আনা যাবে। তবে প্রবাসীদের আয় বা রেমিট্যান্স পাঠানোর জন্য এসব ফরম পূরণ বা ঘোষণা দিতে হয় না। গতকাল বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা নীতি বিভাগ থেকে এ সংক্রান্ত প্রজ্ঞাপন জারি করা হয়েছে।</p>	02 February 2023	Sangbad (https://print.sangbad.net.bd/2023-02-02/news/business/129038)	
45	<p>Another milestone Says PM as she launches work on underground metro rail Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday launched the construction of the country's first-ever underground metro rail, hailing it as another milestone in Bangladesh's journey towards progress under her leadership, reports UNB. The premier was addressing a civic rally arranged at Purbachal on the outskirts of Dhaka city to mark the historic inauguration of construction work of Mass Rapid Transit Line-1 (MRT-1), the country's first-ever underground metro project. She opened the construction work of the 31.241-km MRT Line-1, unveiling its inaugural plaque there in Rupganj under Narayanganj. The MRT Line-1 having both underground and elevated facilities will be constructed at an estimated cost of Tk 525.61 billion by 2026.</p>	03 February 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/another-milestone-1675356795?date=03-02-2023)	
46	<p>Jan exports witness 5.89pc growth despite all odds The export earnings grew by 5.89 per cent to US\$ 5.13 billion year-on-year in January this year defying all odds, including the global economic slowdown. The country received \$4.85 billion from merchandise shipments in January last year, according to official data released on Thursday. The earnings rose on the back of a hefty growth of apparel shipments thanks to the biggest export industry that kept its wheels rolling amid the global slowdown fuelled by rising inflation and the Russia-Ukraine war, industry people said. In January 2023, the country fetched \$4.42 billion from RMG exports, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data. The overall earnings, however, fell 2.10 per cent short of the target set for the last month.</p>	03 February 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/jan-exports-witness-589pc-growth-despite-all-odds-1675357165)	
47	<p>Transporting growing trade cargos Govt to buy six ships from Korea Total cost \$319m to be paid in 5 instalments Bangladesh is going to purchase six oceangoing cargo vessels from South Korea on a government-to-government-protocol basis, in a major move to boost its shipping capacity. To be built and supplied by Daesun Shipbuilding & Engineers Ltd, the ships will cost US\$53 million each. The total price is \$319 million to be paid in five instalments. Of the cost, 20 per cent will have to be paid during the contract signing. According to the proposal, two of the ships will be delivered to Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) by 2025, and the rest four by 2026. According to competent sources, the ship purchase will be done with concessional loan from the Korean government.</p>	04 February 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-to-buy-six-ships-from-korea-1675442317)	

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48	<p><u>Now gas dev funds being taxed</u> Now the revenue board is bent on collecting value-added tax from three funds developed with VAT proceeds from subscriber bills for use in the country's energy security. VAT at a rate of 15 per cent would be applicable to Gas Development Fund (GDF), Energy Security Fund (ESF) and Energy Research Fund (ERF), says a letter from the board's VAT wing seeking the accumulated tax collected from subscribers and used for building up the three funds instead of depositing with the exchequer. Currently, Petrobangla collects VAT with the gas tariffs which go for constituting those funds, revenue officials pointed out. However, the VAT is not deposited with the public exchequer as the energy regulator claims the funds are VAT-exempted as it is a contribution of consumers to those funds. In a review, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) found the consumers having paid VAT with the gas tariffs.</p>	04 February 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/now-gas-dev-funds-being-taxed-1675441460	
49	<p><u>Realignments of global trade regime 'Dhaka needs to join' bilateral, regional pacts, South-South cooperation</u> Bangladesh should emphasize joining in bilateral and regional agreements and South-South cooperation amid ongoing realignments of the old global trade regime in the context of Russia-Ukraine war, two veteran economists have suggested. They said continuous weaponisation of global trade cooperation by the West is pushing the rest of the world to create a new world order where the growth centre is in Asia. Speaking in a session styled 'Rowing against Tide' at SANEM annual conference in Dhaka on Saturday Professor Rehman Sobhan and Professor Wahid Uddin Mahmud said in this new scenario economic diplomacy should take front seat to reap the best fruit. The South Asian Network on Economic Modelling organised the sixth Sanem Annual Economists' Conference (SAEC) 2023 at the Brac Centre Inn in Dhaka.</p>	05 February 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dhaka-needs-to-join-bilateral-regional-pacts-south-south-cooperation-1675528903	
50	<p><u>Abandoned Sangu infrastructure Eight years on, facilities still left to rust away</u> The platform and reservoir of Sangu, the country's maiden offshore natural gas field, have been remaining idle for over the past eight years despite having a potential for utilising the facilities as the gateway for importing LNG, said officials. Inaction on the part of the government on its utilisation is also leaving the gas receiving and supplying facilities worth millions of dollars at risk of getting damaged permanently. A number of international firms, however, had proposed to utilise the platform as a natural storage and a gateway to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) or compressed natural gas (CNG) to help mitigate the country's mounting energy crisis. But the government is yet to take any decision over the use of Sangu reservoir and its platform either by any state-run entities or by private entrepreneurs.</p>	05 February 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/eight-years-on-facilities-still-left-to-rust-away-1675529088	
51	<p><u>ADB intends to give \$2.5b for MRT-5's southern route</u> The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has showed its intention to mobilise \$3.5 billion along with a co-financier for the implementation of the southern route of the Dhaka Mass Rapid Development Project's MRT Line-5, officials said. It was assured at a meeting on "Co-financing issue of Dhaka Mass Rapid Transport Development Project (MRT Line-5)" held at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) last month. The 17.40km line from Gabtoli to Dasherbandi via Shyamoli, Russel Square, Karwan Bazar, Hatirjheel and Aftabnagar will have both underground and elevated sections.</p>	05 February 2023	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/adb-intends-give-25b-mrt-5s-southern-route-3239161	

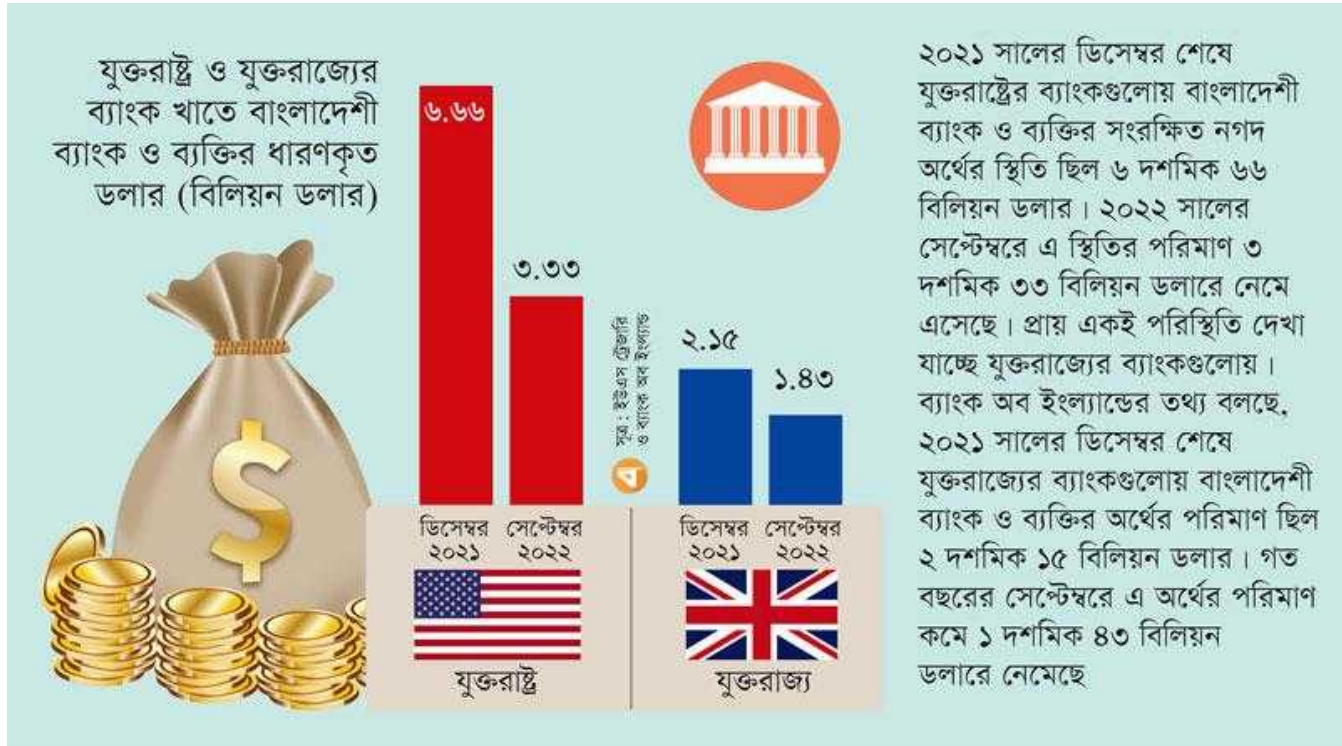
Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
52	<p><u>Mattress money swells in July-December period</u> A big chunk of money has been tucked under mattresses or hoarded in private strongroom recently as many believe scam 'rumours', besides bites of inflation, are driving away depositors from the banking system. In economic jargons, currency outside the banking system is defined as legal tender in the hands of members of the public, which has ballooned in volume in Bangladesh in recent months, as figured out from the currencies in circulation. The volume is reported to have more than doubled in percentage to 27.27 per cent, amounting to nearly Tk 2.7 trillion till the end of last December. Usually, it remains within a growth bracket of 12 to 13%, as can be seen in June 2022 over its corresponding period a year earlier. It is found 12.85% between June 2021 and June 2022.</p>	06 February 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/mattress-money-swells-in-july-december-period-1675614848	
53	<p><u>Half of GDP remains exempt from VAT</u> Around half of Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) remains out value-added tax (VAT) purview in the form of exemption, an analysis show, narrowing scope of revenue receipt. In a keynote presentation at a meet held Sunday on the occasion of a two-day revenue conference, VAT Commissioner Syed M Mushfequr Rahman said VAT is exempted on agriculture, livestock, fisheries, education, health, public administration, defence and social-safety net that contribute 14.6 per cent to the country's GDP. The tax-GDP ratio is one of world's lowest in Bangladesh, which is below 10 per cent. Mr Rahman named 15 major sectors that enjoy exemption worth Tk 19 trillion. He said there is a need for conducting intensive research on the economics of tax waiver.</p>	06 February 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/half-of-gdp-remains-exempt-from-vat-1675615037	
54	<p><u>Data regulation may force foreign cos to quit BD</u> Expressing concern over the proposed Digital Protection Act (DPA), the USA and the UK at a discussion on Sunday cautioned Bangladesh not to regulate the country's digital space. Any attempt in this regard would not only discourage their companies from investing here, but also force many existing ones to leave the country, the meeting was told. The US Embassy in Dhaka organised the discussion on "Online Freedom, Data Protection and Business Investment in Bangladesh". US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas, UK High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Dickson, International Labour Organization (ILO) Country Director Tuomo Poutiainen, Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman and Rubaba Dowla of Oracle Bangladesh also spoke on the occasion. "We hear apprehension from the businesses that the proposed new laws and regulations in the digital space will make it more difficult for them to do business here," the US envoy said.</p>	06 February 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/data-regulation-may-force-foreign-cos-to-quit-bd-1675615414	
55	<p><u>GDP growth in FY22 reaches 7.10pc, per capita income \$2,793</u> The Gross Domestic Product growth rate in Bangladesh in the last fiscal year (FY22) reached a healthy 7.10 per cent braving the shocks from the Covid pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The GDP growth rate in the country in FY21 was 6.94 per cent up from 3.45 per cent notched in FY20. The GDP growth rate in the country in FY19 was a healthy 7.88 per cent. According to the latest data of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) issued today, the per capita income in the country in the last fiscal year (FY22) totaled \$2,793 up from \$2,591 recorded in FY21. The per capita income in FY20 was \$2,326 up from \$2,209 in FY19. Planning Minister MA Mannan today said that the latest GDP growth figures of Bangladesh was very good as he termed it as 'outstanding' considering the current global condition.</p>	06 February 2023	New Age https://www.newagebd.net/article/193654/gdp-growth-in-fy22-reaches-710pc-per-capita-income-2793	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
56	<p><u>Exporters of services to get ERQ facility</u></p> <p>The Bangladesh Bank on Sunday asked banks to provide exporters' retention quota account services to service exporters to enable them carry out remittance transactions from the accounts. The central bank issued a circular in this regard on Sunday.</p> <p>The central bank took the initiative to facilitate ICT companies, freelancers and other cross-border service providers to bring their income in foreign currency to the country. 'In addition to traditional banking channels, authorised dealers can provide facilities to repatriate inward remittances against ICT and other services channelled through online payment gateway service providers, payment service aggregators, payment facilitators, digital wallets, and other legitimate payment systems,' it said. 'Licensed mobile financial service providers are also allowed to fetch inward remittances against ICT services,' the circular said.</p>	06 February 2023	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/193653/exporters-of-services-to-get-erq-facility)	
57	<p>_____ %</p> <p>চলতি বছরের জানুয়ারি মাসেও দেশে মূল্যস্ফীতি কমেছে। নতুন বছরের প্রথম মাসে দেশে সার্বিক মূল্যস্ফীতি কমে দাঁড়িয়েছে দশমিক শতাংশে। এ নিয়ে টানা ছয় মাস দেশে মূল্যস্ফীতি কমেছে। আজ সোমবার বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো বা বিবিএস সর্বশেষ মূল্যস্ফীতির তথ্য প্রকাশ করেছে। বিবিএসের তথ্য থেকে মূল্যস্ফীতি কমাতে এ তথ্য পাওয়া গেছে। বিবিএসের হিসাবে, মূল্যস্ফীতি কমলেও খাদ্যবহির্ভূত মূল্যস্ফীতি এখনো প্রায় দুই অঙ্কের কাছাকাছি রয়েছে। সর্বশেষ জানুয়ারি মাসে এ হার ছিল দশমিক _____ শতাংশ। আর খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতি ছিল দশমিক _____ শতাংশ।</p>	06 February 2023	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/4nr2iuxd98)	
58	<p>Thoughts on tidying tax affairs</p> <p><u>Reconstitute NBR as an autonomous body</u></p> <p>Businesses plead, want policy, admin wings bifurcated for clean run</p> <p>Policy analysis of tax expenditures is imperative to narrow the "trust deficit" between taxmen and taxpayers, an expert said Monday while businesses pleaded for reconstitution of the revenue board. The two suggestions came at a meet for tidying tax affairs as tax exemption and evasion as well as incapacity to tap potential taxes in relation to small tax-GDP ratio in Bangladesh came in for critical appraisal.</p> <p>Speaking at the seminar on Income Tax at the Revenue Conference, Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury said the trust deficit still persistent in the country could be minimized through producing evidences by checking all transactions. He said the National Board of Revenue (NBR) would have to strengthen digital infrastructure to interlink with multiple information sources, data mining etc.</p> <p>The NBR organized the seminar on the occasion of two-day Revenue Conference at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka. Business leaders demanded separation of tax-policy and- collection wings and expansion of tax net to boost revenues, instead of increasing tax burden on the existing taxpayers.</p>	07 February 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/reconstitute-nbr-as-an-autonomous-body-1675705983)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
59	<p>Raising tax-GDP ratio to 9.5pc <u>Revenue needs to increase by Tk 2.34t in three FYs</u> PRI presents dos on loan package deal Increasing revenue collection by Tk2.34 trillion in next three fiscals is necessary to raise Bangladesh's tax-GDP ratio to 9.5 per cent as prescribed in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan package. And the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is required to earn an additional Tk 650 billion in fiscal year 2023-24 to comply with the IMF suggestions, said Policy Research Institute (PRI) on Monday. The think-tank made the projection at a press briefing titled 'Implications of IMF Loan Conditions on Domestic Revenue Mobilization' at its office in Dhaka. However, PRI said, the NBR would not be able to achieve IMF's key condition to increase in revenue mobilisation from current 7.8 per cent to 9.5 per cent by fiscal year 2026 if they do not carry out a drastic reform in the tax administration.</p>	07 February 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/revenue-needs-to-increase-by-tk-234t-in-three-fys-1675706157	
60	<p><u>CMSMEs' loan terms relaxed</u> BB defers audit report submission provision until Jan 01, 2025 Considering the global economic situation, Bangladesh Bank (BB) has relaxed the lending terms to help increase fund flow to the CMSMEs and bring dynamism in the country's economic development. The central bank has exempted the banks from collecting and attaching in the loan files the audited financial statements and statutory audit reports prepared for the stakeholders for two years, according to a circular issued on Monday, with immediate effect. The documentation provision was supposed to be applicable from January 1, 2023 for the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) sub-sector that are considered public interest entities under the Financial Reporting Act.</p>	07 February 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/cmsmes-loan-terms-relaxed-1675706300	
61	<p><u>'More China-funded mega projects coming to Bangladesh'</u> Bangladesh will see more China-funded mega projects in near future, Newly-appointed Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen said today. "Many China-funded mega projects will be completed this year, including Bangabandhu tunnel in Chattogram. We are discussing to implement more mega projects in Bangladesh soon." China wants to be a part of the development of Bangladesh, especially economic development, he said. The ambassador made the comments while talking to reporters after a meeting with Planning Minister MA Mannan at the Planning Commission in Dhaka. The envoy also said the Chinese government will host a business summit next month in Dhaka to bring more investment for Bangladesh.</p>	07 February 2023	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/more-china-funded-mega-projects-coming-bangladesh-3241711	
62	<p><u>Bangladesh now home to half of top green factories worldwide</u> Bangladesh became home to half of the top 100 green industrial units worldwide after KDS IDR Limited, a garment factory in Kalurghat, received platinum certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) programme on February 1. Platinum certification is the highest category in the ranking system while gold is the second highest and silver is the third. There is also a fourth category for industrial units that just meet the minimum requirements.</p>	07 February 2023	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-now-home-half-top-green-factories-worldwide-3241006	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
63	<p><u>Bangladesh improves in logistics strength</u> Bangladesh has climbed up four notches to rank 35th among the 50 most promising emerging logistics markets in the world, thanks to the country's performance in both domestic and international logistics opportunities, according to the 2023 Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index. However, Bangladesh has scored the lowest yet again among four emerging South Asian economies in the 14th annual edition of the index unveiled by Agility – a Kuwait-based global logistics company – on Tuesday.</p>	07 February 2023	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/bangladesh-improves-logistics-strength-581646)	
64	<p><u>Tax collection growth declining</u> Tax collection growth slowed drastically in the first half of the current fiscal year due to falling customs tariff and direct taxes amid declining imports and reduced profits of firms, limiting the government's scope to spend on development activities. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) clocked 11 per cent year-on-year growth in tax receipts, which amounted to Tk 145,431 crore in the July-December period of fiscal 2022-23. During the same period a year prior, the tax authority recorded 17 per cent growth in revenue receipts.</p>	08 February 2023	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tax-collection-growth-declining-3241931)	
65	<p><u>Indian data centre major Yotta to invest Tk2,000cr in Bangladesh</u> Yotta Data Services – the data centre and cloud services arm of the Mumbai-based conglomerate Hiranandani Group – has announced plans to invest over Tk2,000 crore to set up a modern data centre facility in Bangladesh. The investment will arrive in four to six years, according to the announcement. Yotta, the operator of Asia's largest certified Tier-IV data centre, would build its data centre park at the Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City in Kaliakair, Gazipur to house two hyperscale data centre buildings, featuring 4,800 racks and 28.8MW IT power capacity, according to a statement by the company.</p>	08 February 2023	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/indian-data-centre-major-yotta-invest-tk2000cr-bangladesh-582166)	
66	<p><u>WMA, overdraft ceilings raised over 33pc</u> <u>Government opts for higher emergency borrowing</u> Can take Tk 160b daily from banking system Under a contingency measure, the government opts for higher emergency borrowing with two debt instruments that can yield Tk 160 billion daily in need. To this effect, the government is set to raise the ceilings of two emergency borrowing instruments -- ways and means advance (WMA) and overdraft -- by over 33 per cent. The move evokes critical appreciation as economists say it gives an indication at further ballooning of the ratio of public borrowing from the banking system. The existing daily borrowing limit by the government under the two emergency borrowing windows is Tk 60 billion each but the Ministry of Finance has asked the central bank to revise the ceiling upward by 33.33 per cent to Tk 80 billion each, according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) sources. With the latest decision, the government, now, can borrow Tk 160 billion daily from the banking system if and when necessary. Both WMA and overdraft are temporary advances given by the central bank to the government to tide over any mismatch between receipts and payments. The development comes at a time when the volume of public borrowing from the banking system continues mounting. Taking the growing trend in consideration, the credit-growth target for the public sector has been adjusted upwards to 37.7 per cent from 36 per cent in the latest monetary policy for January-June 2023 period.</p>	09 February 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/government-opts-for-higher-emergency-borrowing-1675878953?date=09-02-2023)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
67	<p>পাটের আবাদ ও উৎপাদন বাড়াতে আট কোটি ১০ লাখ টাকার প্রণোদনা দেয়া হচ্ছে। সারা দেশের চার লাখ ক্ষুদ্র, প্রান্তিক ও মাঝারি কৃষক এ প্রণোদনার আওতায় বিনা মূল্যে পাটবীজ পাচ্ছেন। বৃহস্পতিবার (৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি) কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয় থেকে পাঠানো এক সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে এ তথ্য জানানো হয়। প্রণোদনার আওতায় একজন কৃষক এক বিঘা জমিতে চাষের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় এক কেজি পাটবীজ বিনামূল্যে পাচ্ছেন।</p> <p>মন্ত্রণালয় বলছে, কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়ের নিয়মিত বাজেট কৃষি পুনর্বাসন সহায়তা খাত থেকে এ প্রণোদনা প্রদান করা হচ্ছে। মাঠ পর্যায়ে এসব প্রণোদনা বিতরণ কার্যক্রম শীঘ্রই শুরু হবে বলে সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে জানানো হয়।</p>	09 February 2023	Sangbad (https://sangbad.net.bd/news/business/87567)	
68	<p><u>Policy making on offshore investment faces dilemma</u> Capital Account Transaction (Overseas Equity Investment) Rules 2022 have similar provisions</p> <p>A latest policy preparation facilitating Bangladeshis making offshore investment in foreign countries gets into a dilemma as some officials mentioned that an already-existing law on 'Capital Account Transaction' holds identical provisions. Sources said different state agencies, including finance ministry and Bangladesh Bank (BB), were not in favour of making the new policy on this issue. They believe that there is no need to prepare a separate policy on the matter under Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) as there is a law styled 'Capital Account Transaction (Overseas Equity Investment) Rules 2022' in the country.</p> <p>An inter-ministerial committee formed by the PMO has prepared the draft of the policy titled 'Bangladeshis Foreign Investment Abroad 2021.' The draft was already submitted to the PMO on September 29, 2021. However, it finds similarity in the objectives and contents between the existing and proposed policies. In this circumstance, the sources said, the PMO instructed the Financial Institutions Division and the central bank (Bangladesh Bank) to take next course of action.</p>	11 February 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/policy-making-on-offshore-investment-faces-dilemma-1676049737)	
69	<p>বর্তমান বৈশ্বিক অর্থনৈতিক অস্থিরতা থেকে দেশের অর্থনীতিকে শক্তিশালী রাখতে অভ্যন্তরীণ সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিতে জোর দিতে হবে। ২০২৬ সালে স্বল্পোন্নত দেশের তালিকা থেকে উত্তরণের পর অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি ধরে রাখতে রপ্তানীর সম্প্রসারণ, পণ্যের বৈচিত্র্যায়ন, নতুন বাজারের সন্ধান, দ্বীপক্ষীয় ও বহুপক্ষীয় বাণিজ্য চুক্তি, কৃত্রিম তন্তুর পোশাকের উৎপাদন ও রপ্তানী বৃদ্ধি প্রভৃতিতে গুরুত্ব আরোপ করতে হবে।</p> <p>বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানি প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষ (বেপজা) কর্তৃক আয়োজিত 'সম-সাময়িক বৈশ্বিক অর্থনৈতিক চিত্র : বাংলাদেশের ইপিজেডের শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের জন্য চ্যালেঞ্জ ও উত্তরণের উপায়' শীর্ষক একটি সেমিনারে বক্তারা এই মন্তব্য করেন। করোনা পরবর্তী বৈশ্বিক পরিস্থিতি এবং রাশিয়া-ইউক্রেন যুদ্ধের প্রেক্ষাপটে বর্তমানে যে অর্থনৈতিক চ্যালেঞ্জসমূহ তৈরি হয়েছে তা বিশ্লেষণপূর্বক উত্তরণের সম্ভাব্য উপায় এবং অর্থনৈতিক অনিশ্চয়তার ফলে সৃষ্ট সুযোগকে কীভাবে কাজে লাগানো যায় তার উপায় খুঁজতে বেপজা গত বৃহস্পতিবার এই সেমিনারের আয়োজন করে।</p>	11 February 2023	Sangbad (https://print.sangbad.net.bd/2023-02-11/news/business/129511)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks									
70	<p align="center">- অ</p> <p>ভারতীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান বাজাজের সহযোগিতায় দেশে এলপিজি ও সিএনজিচালিত তিন চাকার অটোরিকশা তৈরি ও বাজারজাত শুরু করেছে রানার অটোমোবাইলস। রানার-বাজাজ ব্র্যান্ডের এই বাহনটি উৎপাদনে স্থানীয় মূল্য সংযোজনের হার অন্তত শতাংশ হবে বলে মনে করছে উৎপাদক প্রতিষ্ঠান রানার।ভালুকায় রানার অটোমোবাইলসের কারখানায় আজ শনিবার থ্রি-হুইলার প্ল্যান্টের উদ্বোধন করেন প্রধানমন্ত্রীর বেসরকারি শিল্প ও বিনিয়োগবিষয়ক উপদেষ্টা সালমান এফ রহমান। এর মাধ্যমে দেশীয় কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রথমবারের মতো দেশে থ্রি-হুইলার অটোরিকশা তৈরির পরে তা বাজারে নিয়ে এল।</p>	11 February 2023	Sangbad (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/o0xm3xj692)										
71	<p>ডলার সংকট</p>  <p>যুক্তরাষ্ট্র ও যুক্তরাজ্যের ব্যাংক খাতে বাংলাদেশী ব্যাংক ও ব্যক্তির ধারণকৃত ডলার (বিলিয়ন ডলার)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>দেশ</th> <th>ডিসেম্বর ২০২১</th> <th>সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২২</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>যুক্তরাষ্ট্র</td> <td>৬.৬৬</td> <td>৩.৩৩</td> </tr> <tr> <td>যুক্তরাজ্য</td> <td>২.১৫</td> <td>১.৪৩</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>সূত্র: ইউএস ট্রেজারি ও ব্যাংক অব ইংল্যান্ড</p> <p>২০২১ সালের ডিসেম্বর শেষে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ব্যাংকগুলোয় বাংলাদেশী ব্যাংক ও ব্যক্তির সংরক্ষিত নগদ অর্থের স্থিতি ছিল ৬ দশমিক ৬৬ বিলিয়ন ডলার। ২০২২ সালের সেপ্টেম্বরে এ স্থিতির পরিমাণ ৩ দশমিক ৩৩ বিলিয়ন ডলারে নেমে এসেছে। প্রায় একই পরিস্থিতি দেখা যাচ্ছে যুক্তরাজ্যের ব্যাংকগুলোয়। ব্যাংক অব ইংল্যান্ডের তথ্য বলছে, ২০২১ সালের ডিসেম্বর শেষে যুক্তরাজ্যের ব্যাংকগুলোয় বাংলাদেশী ব্যাংক ও ব্যক্তির অর্থের পরিমাণ ছিল ২ দশমিক ১৫ বিলিয়ন ডলার। গত বছরের সেপ্টেম্বরে এ অর্থের পরিমাণ কমে ১ দশমিক ৪৩ বিলিয়ন ডলারে নেমেছে</p>	দেশ	ডিসেম্বর ২০২১	সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২২	যুক্তরাষ্ট্র	৬.৬৬	৩.৩৩	যুক্তরাজ্য	২.১৫	১.৪৩	11 February 2023	Bonik Barta (https://bonikbarta.net/home/news-description/330332/%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%A7%80-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%80-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%A1%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%A3-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87)	
দেশ	ডিসেম্বর ২০২১	সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২২											
যুক্তরাষ্ট্র	৬.৬৬	৩.৩৩											
যুক্তরাজ্য	২.১৫	১.৪৩											
	<p>বৈদেশিক বাণিজ্য সম্পাদনের ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশের বড় দুটি কেন্দ্র হলো যুক্তরাষ্ট্র ও যুক্তরাজ্য। আমদানি দায় পরিশোধ ও রফতানি আয় গ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে দেশ দুটির ব্যাংকগুলো মাধ্যম হিসেবে ব্যবহৃত হয়। এজন্য যুক্তরাষ্ট্র ও যুক্তরাজ্যের বিভিন্ন ব্যাংকে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা রাখে বাংলাদেশী ব্যাংকগুলো। প্রাপ্ত তথ্য বলছে, গত এক বছরে বাংলাদেশী ব্যাংকগুলোর বিদেশী বা 'নস্ট্রো' হিসাবে ডলারের পরিমাণ প্রায় অর্ধেকে নেমে এসেছে।</p>												

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
72	<p><u>Foreign investment in govt bonds falters</u> Taka depreciation, return repatriation problem for dollar dearth discourage investors Bangladesh fails to attract foreign investment in treasury bonds as it has stagnated into a zero sum since 2019, according to official count, mainly for two principal financial factors besides the pandemic. A Bangladesh Bank (BB) publication, released Thursday, said there had been no non-resident investment in Bangladesh in the government treasury bonds since 2019. Both non-resident Bangladeshis and foreigners can invest in the government securities. Till the end of December 2018, foreign investors had made a net investment of only Tk 230 million, before hitting rock bottom. Bangladesh has different five-tenure bonds, starting from two-year to 20-year maturity terms. The government borrows with the tools to make up for its fund deficit from the banking system.</p>	12 February 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/foreign-investment-in-govt-bonds-falters-1676132430	
73	<p><u>BD to purchase 8 LNG cargoes from spot mkt</u> Bangladesh will import eight LNG cargoes from international spot market until June 2023 to feed the country's energy starved consumers, especially the export-oriented industries and power plants, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid told the FE on Saturday. The minister, however, did not say anything in detail about month-wise LNG cargo imports from the spot market. State-run Petrobangla will have to count around Tk 68 billion to import these LNG cargoes from spot market considering the current market price.</p>	12 February 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-to-purchase-8-lng-cargoes-from-spot-mkt-1676132602	