

Fortnightly Summary

Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 15 March - 09 April 2023

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p>ADB president alerts Bangladesh <u>Mend faults to avert middle-income trap</u> Bangladesh may fall into 'middle-income trap' if it does not fulfill major prerequisites for LDC graduation, Asian Development Bank President Masatsugu Asakawa said Tuesday and listed the dos. Tapping higher domestic and foreign investments, improving supply-side capacity, diversifying export basket and having strong institutions and governance are among the conditions he spelt out for its transition to a higher-middle-income country (HMIC) from the current status. "It also needs to pursue the greener and more resilient economic growth in the future days," Mr Asakawa said while speaking at a discussion on 'Middle Income Trap and Way Forward' in Dhaka. The discussion meeting was organised following the celebration of 50 years of Bangladesh-ADB partnership in the country's development drive. Bangladesh joined the ADB in 1973, and in 1982 became first ADB member to host a field office. The Asian Bank has mobilised around \$50 billion in loans, grants, and technical assistance for the country, including co-financing. Professor David Hume of Manchester University and Prof Yaseu-Sabaka of Japan presented two keynotes at the programme with Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder attending as chief guest. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Tofazzol Hossain, former MCCI President Barrister Nihad Kabir and environment expert Prof Saleemul Huq spoke on the occasion.</p>	15 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/mend-faults-to-avert-middle-income-trap-1678817119</p>	
02	<p><u>BB to float exchange, lending rates by June: Rouf</u> Bangladesh Bank is expected to go for floating exchange and lending rates by June next as part of an effort to reform its financial sector. "Now we're working on introducing the market-based foreign-exchange and lending rates for a better outcome," BB Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder said on Tuesday. The foreign-exchange rates are administered to some extent by the central bank while the lending rates are capped. The governor was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion in Dhaka on "Middle-income trap and way forward", marking the occasion of Bangladesh-ADB 50 years of partnership.</p>	15 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-to-float-exchange-lending-rates-by-june-rouf-1678817283</p>	
03	<p><u>Customs disclosure on money laundering</u> <u>Four companies launder Tk 3.82 billion</u> <u>Export misdealing</u> The customs intelligence has detected the siphoning off Tk 3.82 billion through trade-based money laundering which economists suspect as one reason behind Bangladesh's foreign-exchange crunch. Four export-oriented companies are allegedly found involved in the laundering of funds. Customs intelligence said its team found Sabiha Saiki Fashion (SSF), ASIA Trading Corporation, Emu Trading, and Ilham involved in export-documentation forgery and that their export earnings were not repatriated. Talking to the FE, Director-General of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) Md Fakhru Alam said the intelligence team had detected SSF first and three others thereafter on the basis of further scrutiny.</p>	15 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/four-companies-launder-tk-382-billion-1678817205</p>	

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04	<p><u>Dhaka, Bangkok keen to explore FTA prospects to boost bilateral trade</u></p> <p>Bangladesh and Thailand have agreed to seriously explore the prospects of an FTA (free trade agreement) to further enhance the bilateral trade between the two countries. Bangladesh also apprised the Thai side that a qualitative feasibility study is being undertaken by the Ministry of Commerce in this regard. Bangladesh and Thailand agreed to hold the Joint Trade Committee (JTC) in Dhaka this year at a mutually convenient time to review the whole range of bilateral trade and investment portfolio and increase the volume and diversity of trade to its true potential.</p>	15 March 2023	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dhaka-bangkok-keen-explore-fta-prospects-boost-bilateral-trade-599890)	
05	<p><u>NBR withdraws SD on limestone import on condition</u></p> <p>The National Board of Revenue has withdrawn the supplementary duty on import of limestone, a key raw material of cement, to cut production cost of cement and ensure low-cost infrastructural development in the country. Internal Resource Division issued a Statutory Regulatory Order in this regard on Monday, saying that the withdrawal of total SD on limestone will remain effective until further notice. However, to enjoy the facility, importers must follow a number of conditions, said the SRO.</p> <p>As per the condition, importers must have an updated import registration certificate with VAT compliance certificate. Industrial importers under Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority, Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority and Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority must get recommendation from such authorities.</p> <p>In November 2022, the NBR imposed 30 per cent SD on import of limestone.</p>	15 March 2023	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/196839/nbr-withdraws-sd-on-limestone-import-on-condition)	
06	<p><u>ডলার সংকটে 'কিছুটা স্বস্তি', বলছেন ব্যাংকার ও আমদানিকারকরা</u></p> <p>ডলারের সংকটে আর আগের মতো 'ভুগতে হচ্ছে না' বলে বলছেন আমদানিকারকরা। আর ব্যাংকারা বলছেন তারা এখন আগের চেয়ে 'বেশি' আমদানির চাহিদাপত্র বা এলসির অনুমোদন দিচ্ছেন।</p> <p>কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের তথ্য বলছে, জানুয়ারির চেয়ে মার্চ মাসে দেশের সবগুলো ব্যাংকে ডলারের মজুদ বেড়েছে। এই মজুদ কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের যে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার মজুদ বা রিজার্ভ তার বাইরের হিসাব।</p> <p>গত ৫ জানুয়ারি দেশের সব ব্যাংকের কাছে মোট ডলারের মজুদ ছিল দুই দশমিক পাঁচ বিলিয়ন বা দুইশ' পাঁচ কোটি ডলার। আর ১৩ মার্চে এর পরিমাণ দাঁড়িয়েছে তিন দশমিক পাঁচ বিলিয়ন বা তিনশ' পাঁচ কোটি ডলার। ফলে দুই মাসের ব্যবধানে ব্যাংকগুলোর কাছে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার মজুদ বেড়েছে এক বিলিয়ন বা একশ' কোটি ডলার।</p>	15 March 2023	Sangbad (https://sangbad.net.bd/news/business/90300)	
07	<p><u>BBS survey shows only 35pc users satisfied with its data</u></p> <p>Only one-third or 35 per cent of service-recipients remain satisfied with the existing data produced by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), according to a latest survey. According to the survey, some 38.27 per cent of users said the BBS statistics are outdated. The survey, titled 'The User Satisfaction Survey 2022', conducted by BBS, also reveals that some two-thirds of the users or 65 per cent said they want more statistical data in different domains in addition to the available data.</p> <p>The statistics were unveiled at a function at BBS headquarters in Dhaka on Wednesday.</p>	16 March 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/bbs-survey-shows-only-35pc-users-satisfied-with-its-data-1678903115)	

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08	<p>Loan rescheduling triples in July-Dec Banks regularise Tk 23,319cr NPLs under new facility</p> <p>Banks rescheduled whopping Tk 23,319 crore in non-performing loans in the July-December period of the financial year 2022-23 thanks to the new rescheduling facility introduced by the Bangladesh Bank. The figure is three times higher than the amount rescheduled in the same period of the past financial year 2021-22, according to BB data.</p> <p>The central bank on July 18, 2022 issued the new facility through a circular allowing the country's scheduled banks to regularise their customers' loans on their own responsibility. Previously, the central bank's approval was required to reschedule loans under any special facilities.</p> <p>In July-December of 2021, the amount of rescheduled loans stood at Tk 8,116.68 crore.</p>	16 March 2023	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/196910/loan-rescheduling-triples-in-july-dec)	
09	<p>Anti-export bias hurting diversification Says RAPID research</p> <p>Bangladesh's export basket is not diversifying despite having potentials as high protection for local import-competing sectors has made the local market sales for the industries more lucrative than export shipments, according to an observation made by the Research and Policy Integration for Development, a local think tank.</p> <p>At a stakeholder consultation seminar on 'Expanding and diversifying exports to the UK market' on Thursday, RAPID in a research paper said that with significant tariffs and para-tariffs in place to protect the import-competing local manufacturing sectors, investment's relative profitability was heavily skewed against the export sector.</p> <p>RAPID with support from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office organised that event at BRAC Centre Inn in the capital Dhaka.</p>	17 March 2023	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/197019/anti-export-bias-hurting-diversification)	
10	<p>মোট ঋণের ২৫ শতাংশ দিতে হবে সিএমএসএমই খাতে</p> <p>কুটির, মাইক্রো, ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি (সিএমএসএমই) খাতে কী পরিমাণ অর্থ ঋণ দেওয়া হবে তার লক্ষ্য ঠিক করে দিয়েছে কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংক। ২০২৪ সালের মধ্যে ব্যাংকের মোট ঋণ স্থিতির ২৫ শতাংশ সিএমএসএমই খাতে দিতে হবে। একই সঙ্গে প্রতিবছর এ খাতে ঋণের পরিমাণ ১ শতাংশ করে বাড়াতে নির্দেশনা দেয়া হয়েছে।</p> <p>সম্প্রতি কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের এসএমই অ্যান্ড স্পেশাল প্রোগ্রামস ডিপার্টমেন্ট এ সংক্রান্ত একটি প্রজ্ঞাপন জারি করে দেশের সব তফসিলি ব্যাংক ও আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ও প্রধান নির্বাহীর কাছে পাঠিয়েছে।</p>	17 March 2023	Sangbad (https://sangbad.net.bd/news/business/90431)	
11	<p>Govt walks tightrope in shaping new ADP</p> <p>The government gets tightfisted in framing the annual development programme (ADP) for the next fiscal as a prolonged global economic crisis gives it limited choice in spending, officials said.</p> <p>In an order the Planning Commission (PC) has asked all ministries to avoid taking fresh projects and keeping the ongoing projects on their list in the ADP for the fiscal year 2023-24, they said, evidently as the government had to trim the current recipe for fund constraints.</p>	18 March 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-walks-tightrope-in-shaping-new-adp-1679073669?date=18-03-2023)	

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12	<p><u>Trade transactions in Indian currency under consideration</u> Economists for clear terms as trade gap wide Under active consideration by Bangladesh Bank is a proposal on allowing the Indian currency for the settlement of bills for exports and imports to leapfrog dollar dearth, officials said. It means the commercial banks will be allowed to maintain accounts with their corresponding lenders or branches abroad in the Indian rupee to help local businesses carry out foreign-trade transactions using the currency of the largest economy in South Asia. Seeking anonymity, a BB official said the central bank had already started the process of enlisting the currency for overseas transactions. "I think the final approval may come before the Prime Minister's upcoming visit to India," he said. If the trade between the two countries takes place in rupee and taka instead of the greenback, the forex-market volatility would ease to some extent, the central bank official thinks.</p>	18 March 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-walks-tightrope-in-shaping-new-adp-1679073669?date=18-03-2023	
13	<p><u>ব্যাংক বাঁচাতে রিজার্ভ থেকে অর্থ ধার দিচ্ছে যুক্তরাষ্ট্র</u> যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে তারল্য সংকটে থাকা ব্যাংকগুলোকে ফেডারেল রিজার্ভ থেকে প্রায় ৩০০ বিলিয়ন ধার দেয়া হয়েছে। জরুরি তহবিল হিসেবে গত সপ্তাহে এই পরিমাণ অর্থ দেয়া হয়েছে বলে গত বৃহস্পতিবার দেশটির কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংক জানায়। এপি। এক প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়, ধার হিসেবে দেয়া এই অর্থের প্রায় অর্ধেক ১৪৩ বিলিয়ন ডলার গত সপ্তাহে ব্যর্থ হওয়া দুটি প্রধান ব্যাংক সিলিকন ভ্যালি ও সিগনেচার ব্যাংকের হোল্ডিং কোম্পানির কাছে গেছে, যা আর্থিক বাজারে শঙ্কার সৃষ্টি করেছে। তহবিলের বাকি অর্ধেক অন্য কোন কোন ব্যাংক পেয়েছে তা প্রকাশ করা হয়নি।</p>	18 March 2023	Sangbad https://sangbad.net.bd/news/business/90512	
14	<p><u>Hasina, Modi inaugurate cross-border pipeline</u> Both optimistic energy pipeline to help expand BD economy A 131.57-kilometre cross-border 'Indo-Bangla Friendship Pipeline' was inaugurated on Saturday as part of cooperation in the energy sector between the two neighbouring countries, through which Bangladesh will import petroleum products, especially diesel, from India, reports UNB. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi formally inaugurated the newly-built pipeline. Hasina was connected from her official residence Ganabhaban while Modi was connected from his office in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the inauguration of "India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline" is a milestone achievement in mutual cooperation for the development of the two friendly neighbours.</p>	19 March 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/hasina-modi-inaugurate-cross-border-pipeline-1679157415	
15	<p><u>New inflation measures to replace outmoded index</u> Nearly 300 new commodities in new basket to get real state of inflation Bangladesh is updating the consumer inflation index with lot many goods and services in count, with 2021-22 as new base year, as price rises have upset indices locally and globally. Officials say the updated gauge to measure inflation is likely to be launched next fiscal year, beginning in July, as the existing one uses 2006 fiscal as base year and fails to portray real picture of inflation. The updating with the additional items in basket will result in new weightings for the components of its Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket, people at the national statistics office told the FE Sunday.</p>	20 March 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/new-inflation-measure-to-replace-outmoded-index-1679249089	

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16	<p>Boosting banks' profitability <u>Bank lending cap being lifted</u> BB also decides on calculating forex reserves under IMF formula</p> <p>Bank lending cap is being lifted as Bangladesh Bank finally decides to undo the crisis-time measure, to give a much-coveted profitability raise to bankers, sources said. Bankers were lamenting that inflationary pressure on their earnings was eroding their profit margins for operating within two fixed interest brackets: rates on loans given by banks and on deposits they take from people. Instead of the lending-rate capping at 9.0 per cent, which was imposed in April 2020, the central bank will fix a market-based reference rate under the interest rate-corridor mechanism for the banks to fix the lending rate based on the benchmark rate, the BB sources said. The decision comes from the 58th meeting of the monetary policy committee, held at the BB headquarters Sunday with BB governor Abdur Rouf Talukder presiding, which also decided on calculating forex reserves as per IMF arithmetic. The meeting also made two more important decisions: starting monetary policy-modernisation framework under which the interest rate- policy corridor will be made, and calculation of foreign-exchange reserves in accordance with the sixth edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6). And the decisions will be reflected in the upcoming half-yearly monetary policy statement (MPS) that will be announced in the third week of June 2023, the BB sources said.</p>	20 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bank-lending-cap-being-lifted-1679248882</p>	
17	<p>Overdue EDF loans <u>BB to impose 4.0pc penal interest on banks</u></p> <p>The central bank has decided to impose 4.0 per cent penal interest on the banks' overdue amount of loans - disbursed from the Export Development Fund (EDF). If the loans and interests are not repaid within the deadline, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) can debit the overdue amount from the foreign currency clearing accounts that the authorised dealer (AD) banks maintain with it. In a circular on Sunday, the BB said it has been observed that the EDF loans are not being realised in accordance with its instructions. Under the circumstance, it has been decided that penal interest, or compensation in case of the shariah-based banking, will be imposed by the BB on the ADs at 4.0 per cent per annum above the prevailing interest rate on the overdue amount of the EDF loans for the delayed period. The BB has asked the ADs to submit a debit authority for realising the principal and accrued interest, including penal interest, at the time of application for the EDF loan. A debit authority gives an individual or company permission to take funds directly from someone's bank account. Currently, the EDF size is US\$ 6.0 billion, and the interest rate on the loans disbursed from the fund is 4.5 per cent.</p>	20 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-to-impose-40pc-penal-interest-on-banks-1679249034</p>	
18	<p><u>Exporters to get cash incentive until 2026: Ghosh</u></p> <p>The government will continue extending cash incentive on export receipts until 2026 to help local exporters remain competitive globally after the country's graduation to a developing nation, Senior Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh said today. The subsidy will not be given in cash and the government is now looking for ways on which form it can be extended, he said.</p>	20 March 2023	<p>The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/exporters-get-cash-incentive-until-2026-ghosh-3276156</p>	

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19	<p><u>Only 13.73pc companies submit tax returns</u></p> <p>Only 13.73 per cent of the tax identification number holding companies in the country submitted their tax returns for the assessment year 2021-22 till February 28, according to National Board of Revenue data. Of the 1,67,135 corporate TIN holders, 22,948 submitted their returns in the period and the NBR received Tk 2,374.79 crore in corporate income tax. However, a number of companies applied to the NBR, seeking more time, said NBR officials.</p>	20 March 2023	<p>New Age https://www.newagebd.net/article/197262/only-1373pc-companies-submit-tax-returns</p>	
20	<p><u>Finance minister's budget dialogue</u> <u>Businesses seek fiscal protection</u></p> <p>Bangladesh's trade leaders demanded "logical duty-tax protection" for local industry and investment as the finance minister consulted them Monday on fiscal measures in making the coming budget amid persisting odds. At a virtually held pre-budget meeting with Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, they also sought tax waiver or bond facility to support domestic production and export diversification. The country's apex trade body -- the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) -- placed the pleas in a package of suggestions which include keeping supply and price of essential commodities stable, expansion of tax net by modernising tax policy, and lowering economic inequality by enhancing income and employment generation.</p>	21 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/businesses-seek-fiscal-protection-1679334802</p>	
21	<p>পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ বিধিমালা-২০২৩ <u>জাহাজ ভাঙাসহ ৭২ শিল্প অত্যন্ত ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ চিহ্নিত</u></p> <p>আইন অনুযায়ী টেক্সটাইল কারখানা থেকে নির্গত তরল বর্জ্য সরাসরি নদীতে নিক্ষেপ নিষেধ। তবে আদতে সে আইন মানে না অধিকাংশ কারখানা। বিভিন্ন গবেষণায় বারবারই উঠে এসেছে যে দেশের নদ-নদী দূষণের ক্ষেত্রে বড় দায় টেক্সটাইল শিল্পের অপরিশোধিত তরল বর্জ্যের। তবে এবার টেক্সটাইল খাতের মাধ্যমে নদ-নদীসহ পরিবেশদূষণের বিষয়টি আরো কঠোরভাবে নিয়ন্ত্রণের উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর। সদ্য গেজেটভুক্ত পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ বিধিমালা ২০২৩-এ টেক্সটাইল শিল্পকে অত্যন্ত ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ হিসেবে চিহ্নিত করা হয়েছে। এছাড়া জাহাজ ভাঙা শিল্পকে অত্যন্ত ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ তালিকায় না রাখার সিদ্ধান্ত থেকেও ফিরে এসেছেন নীতিনির্ধারকরা। নতুন বিধিমালায় অত্যন্ত ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ শিল্পের তালিকায় জাহাজ ভাঙাসহ ৭২ ধরনের শিল্প অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয়েছে। পরিবেশ বিশেষজ্ঞরা বলছেন, সংশোধিত বিধিমালা বাস্তবায়ন করা গেলে পরিবেশদূষণ অনেকটাই কমে আসবে।</p> <p>গেজেটভুক্ত পরিবেশ বিধিমালা বিশ্লেষণ করে দেখা গেছে, আগে যেসব কার্যক্রম পরিবেশের জন্য তুলনামূলক কম ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ হিসেবে বিবেচিত ছিল, এখন সেগুলো অত্যন্ত ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ হিসেবে চিহ্নিত করা হয়েছে। পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ বিধিমালা ১৯৯৭ সংশোধন করে প্রণীত হয়েছে নতুন এ বিধিমালা। এতে সবচেয়ে বড় যে পরিবর্তন তা হলো টেক্সটাইল খাত ও অবকাঠামো নির্মাণযন্ত্রকে কমলা-খ থেকে লাল তালিকায় নেয়া হয়েছে। খসড়া বিধিমালায় জাহাজ ভাঙা শিল্পকে লাল তালিকায় না রাখার বিষয়টি নিয়ে পরিবেশবাদীদের ঘোর আপত্তি ও সমালোচনার পর সেটি সংশোধন করে আবার অত্যন্ত ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ হিসেবে চিহ্নিত করা হয়েছে।</p>	21 March 2023	<p>Bonik Barta https://bonikbarta.net/home/news_description/334877/%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C-%E0%A6%AD%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%99%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B9-%E0%A7%AD%E0%A7%A8-%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AA-%E0%A6%8S%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4-%E0%A6%9D%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%81%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%82%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A3-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B9%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A4</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
22	<p>Tag on ADB budget support <u>Electronic transfer of all income taxes mandatory</u> NBR to implement it shortly in compliance</p> <p>Electronic payment of any amount of income taxes into the exchequer is being made mandatory for all taxpayers, as it comes as a compliance issue for a much-needed ADB credit. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is going to complete the electronic tax-payment system by an order soon, official sources said. Payment of taxes through pay orders or any other forms apart from electronic transfer would not be allowed once the tax authority introduced the system, said a senior income-tax official. Currently, taxpayers are required to pay taxes of up to Tk 0.5 million through electronic transfers.</p> <p>The tax official said the income-tax wing had sent a draft Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) to the law ministry for vetting in this regard.</p>	22 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/electronic-transfer-of-all-income-taxes-mandatory-1679424209</p>	
23	<p><u>Bangladesh, Bhutan ink transit protocol</u></p> <p>Bangladesh and Bhutan have signed the much-awaited agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit and Protocol to facilitate trade activities between the two countries. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and Bhutan's Industry, Trade and Labour Minister Karma Dorji signed the deal on behalf of their respective sides at a ceremony in Thimphu, Bhutan, on Wednesday, according to a statement.</p> <p>Addressing the function, Mr Tipu Munshi termed it a landmark agreement and said the agreement would make trade and business between the two countries easier and “take the trade relationship to a new height”. Bangladesh delegation members and representatives of Bhutan delegation were present at the event.</p>	23 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-bhutan-ink-transit-protocol-1679509871</p>	
24	<p>CHECKING NPL, MONEY LAUNDERING <u>BB for issuing large loan amount in phases</u></p> <p>The Bangladesh Bank has suggested that banks should disburse any large loan amounts in phases rather than in a lump sum in order to ensure proper utilisation of the loans and check money laundering. The central bank made the suggestion in its quarterly report on ‘Money and Money Exchange Rate’. The report was released on Tuesday. The BB in its report said that banks must make proper assessments before providing loans and ensure that the loans were utilised properly with a view to reducing the banks’ total classified loans. The amount of defaulted loans in banks soared to Tk 1,20,656 crore at the end of December 2022 from Tk 1,03,273 crore in the same period of 2021, according to the BB data released on Sunday. Non-performing loans amounted Tk 88,734 crore in December 2020.</p> <p>Despite promises from the government and the central bank to reduce defaulted loans, the situation is deteriorating, bankers said. Of the total defaulted loans, Tk 1,06,982 crore or 88 per cent turned into bad loans which the central bank apprehended were not recoverable.</p>	23 March 2023	<p>New Age https://www.newagebd.net/article/197518/bb-for-issuing-large-loan-amount-in-phases</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
25	<p>Payra port will be able host larger vessels from April</p> <p>Bangladesh's third seaport Payra port expects the arrival of larger ships starting in the first week of April, according to a statement from the Shipping Ministry released Wednesday. Initial docking for the ships will take place at a jetty of the nearby Payra Thermal Power Plant. Users can load or unload cargo for transport across the country there.</p>	23 March 2023	<p>Dhaka Tribune (https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2023/03/23/payra-port-will-be-able-host-larger-vessels-from-april)</p>	
26	<p>Facing LDC graduation challenges BD to place action plan to EU</p> <p>Trade team to visit EU states on Mar 26-Apr 02</p> <p>Dhaka is expected to place its detailed action plan before the European Union (EU) on addressing the possible challenges after Bangladesh's graduation from the least-developed country (LDC) in 2026, sources said. It will also seek continued trade preferences under the EU's new Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) beyond 2029 to make the LDC graduation smooth and sustainable.</p> <p>A high-powered trade delegation, headed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) principal secretary, will visit different EU countries, including Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark, from March 26 to April 02, they noted. Senior Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh and the presidents of BGMEA and BUILD, among others, have been included in the delegation.</p>	25 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-to-place-action-plan-to-eu-1679678279)</p>	
27	<p>Tax receipts fall Tk 22,978 crore short of target in July-Feb</p> <p>The government's revenue earnings fell Tk 22,978.48 crore or 10.49 per cent short of the target set for the July to February period of the current financial year 2022-23 amid poor customs revenue collection, according to the NBR. The NBR collected Tk 1,96,037.51 crore as income tax, value-added tax and customs duties against the target of Tk 2,19,015.99 crore which was set for the first eight months of the current financial year.</p> <p>Customs revenue fell by 18.92 per cent or Tk 13,814.93 crore as the government imposed import restrictions due to shortage of dollar currency amid global inflation, said NBR officials. Besides, VAT collection fell by 6.99 per cent or Tk 5,738.53 crore and income tax collection fell by 5.36 per cent or Tk 3,425.02 crore during the July to February period of FY23.</p>	25 March 2023	<p>New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/article/197710/tax-receipts-fall-tk-22978-crore-short-of-target-in-july-feb)</p>	
28	<p>ক্যাশলেস কার্যক্রমের ব্যয়কে সিএসআর খাতে দেখানো যাবে</p> <p>নগদ টাকার ব্যবহার কমাতে 'বাংলা কিউআর' কোডে লেনদেন চালু করেছে কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংক। 'ক্যাশলেস বাংলাদেশ' এর উদ্যোগ বাস্তবায়ন ও জনসাধারণকে বিনামূল্যে এ সেবা দিতে হবে। এসব সেবার ব্যয় সিএসআর খাতে দেখাতে পারবে ব্যাংক ও আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান। গত বৃহস্পতিবার বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের সাসটেইনেবল ফাইন্যান্স ডিপার্টমেন্ট এ সংক্রান্ত একটি নির্দেশনা দিয়েছে।</p> <p>এতে বলা হয়েছে, টেকসই উন্নয়ন লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অনুযায়ী সিএমএসএমই, মাইক্রো-মার্চেন্ট ও স্বল্প আয়ের জনগণকে আর্থিক অন্তর্ভুক্তির আওতায় এনে ছোট-বড় সকল ব্যবসায়ীদের লেনদেন প্রযুক্তিনির্ভর করার মাধ্যমে ২০২৭ সালের মধ্যে দেশের সকল লেনদেনের ৭৫ শতাংশ অনলাইন বা ক্যাশলেস করার নিমিত্ত 'ক্যাশলেস বাংলাদেশ ২০২৩-২০২৭' উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। এরই অংশ হিসেবে 'বাংলা কিউআর' এর মাধ্যমে জনসাধারণকে বিনামূল্যে পরিশোধ সেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে ব্যাংক ও আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের এ সংক্রান্ত ব্যয় সিএসআর খাতে দেখাতে পারবে।</p>	25 March 2023	<p>Sangbad (https://print.sangbad.net.bd/2023-03-25/news/business/131752)</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
29	<p><u>Remodelling tax-waiver regime begins to benefit people</u> IMF prod for raising tax-GDP ratio also in play</p> <p>Bangladesh's revenue authority has begun tightening the tax-exemption regime incorporating provisions to pass on its benefits to the common people, under an overdue fiscal reform. The National Board of Revenue has tagged some new conditions, including free-of-cost services in healthcare centres, and public-welfare measures, with the tax-waiver SROs. A senior tax official says the Statutory Regulatory Orders (SROs) on tax exemption usually consisted of mandatory submission of tax return which has a brief description on income and expenditure of a company. "There was no such provision to compel the beneficiary to pass the benefit to the poor people," he adds. The revenue board has adopted the strategies on offering the tax benefit instead of giving it on a wholesale basis, he said. Such strategies have been implemented on a case-by-case basis to review tax-exemption applications from the private sector, he adds about the reform measures. Recently, for an instance, the government offered tax benefit on import of sugar but its prices at consumer stage increased rather than relieving the commoners with its downward adjustment. Moreover, the official said, the NBR is discouraging zero-tax benefit to the industries in a bid to promote "culture of tax payment". "The industry should start paying a nominal amount of taxes rather than enjoying a full waiver," he says about the fiscal rethink prompted by the fact that such incentives do not reach the consumer in most cases.</p> <p>The government revenue authority has also moved to review the existing tax expenditures or tax exemptions to phase out the benefit eating up around 2.8 per cent of tax GDP. "It's time the tax benefits were cut off from some sectors that achieved hefty growth and developed capacity to contribute to the public exchequer," he said. The IMF has suggested increasing country's tax-GDP ratio by 0.5 per cent each in 2024 and 2025 and 0.7 per cent in 2026.</p>	26 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/remodelling-tax-waiver-regime-begins-to-benefit-people-1679761730?date=26-03-2023</p>	
30	<p><u>Family directorship lowered to three</u> <u>Loan collateral must for directors under toughened insider lending</u> Cabinet okays amended bank law focused on default, NPL prevention</p> <p>Collateral against loan is mandatory for directors also under toughened insider lending as the government updates the bank-company law that also limits family directorship to three. Economists, however, sounded skeptical about outcome of the Bank-Company (Amendment) Act 2023, stressing even-handed enforcement of the law. The cabinet Tuesday approved the draft amended law that holds a set of provisions, including one that bars more than three members of a family from becoming directors of a bank.</p> <p>Besides, the draft act also proposes some strict measures in terms of borrowing by board members from banks as submission of collateral is made mandatory for them, Secretary of the Cabinet Division (Coordination and Reforms) Mahmudul H. Khan told reporters after the day's cabinet meeting chaired by P.M. Sheikh Hasina. Sharing some of the proposed provisions, the secretary said the banks must send the list of willful loan defaulters to Bangladesh Bank (BB) and it can impose ban on overseas travel against them. Stricter measures are also relating to issuance of their trade licence, and company registration under the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission and the Registrar of Joint Stock Company and Firm.</p>	29 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/loan-collateral-must-for-directors-under-toughened-insider-lending-1680024814</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
31	<p><u>BB report reveals mixed macroeconomic health</u> <u>Inflation may soften but uncertainties remain</u></p> <p>A broad-based growth momentum across the economy continued during the first two quarters of this fiscal while banking system on the financial front witnessed contraction for savings squeeze by inflation. This is how the central bank portrays Bangladesh's latest mixed economic performance amidst a rebound from global crises. The Bangladesh Bank quarterly says the economic-growth momentum hinged upon the performance of the agriculture and service-related sectors aided by supportive monetary and government policy measures.</p> <p>Released Monday, the BB report for the second quarter (October-December) of the ongoing fiscal forecasts that the overall growth momentum of Bangladesh economy is expected to continue on the back of prompt policy initiatives of the central bank and the government.</p>	28 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-may-soften-but-uncertainties-remain-1679939475</p>	
32	<p><u>FBCCI wants no advance tax</u></p> <p>The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) requested the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to withdraw advance taxes levied at import levels. The post-production adjustment chain has broken down due to the inability to adjust advance tax and the non-collection of VAT (value-added tax) deducted at source, the country's apex trade body said in a proposal at a pre-budget discussion with the revenue authority on Tuesday.</p>	29 March 2023	<p>Dhaka Tribune https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2023/03/29/fbcci-wants-no-advance-tax</p>	
33	<p><u>Inflation erodes household incomes</u> <u>Poor squeeze daily food intake</u> <u>SANEM survey reveals</u></p> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <p>56pc households cut non-food expenditures</p> <p>Household income almost static but expenditure up 13pc</p> <p>Around 55pc shunned saving opportunities</p> </div> <p>Starvation in Bangladesh's poorer households has increased as inflation erodes people's income, says a latest survey, amid a persisting global crisis and local market waywardness. As such, a vast majority or 90 per cent of them have downgraded their food habits, shows the survey by South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM).</p> <p>According to its findings, nearly 18 per cent of the surveyed households had to starve for the whole day at least once in the last six months, whereas the figure was 9.75 per cent in previous six months.</p> <p>The survey - 'Effects of inflation on the livelihoods of the poorer households in Bangladesh' - was conducted on March 9-18 among 1,600 households across eight divisions, representing equally from urban and rural areas.</p>	30 March 2023	<p>The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/poor-squeeze-daily-food-intake-1680113451</p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
34	<p><u>Unemployment rate drops to 3.6pc: BBS</u> Labour force participation in agri sector rises</p> <p>The country's unemployment rate declined to 3.6 per cent in 2022 from 4.2 per cent five years ago, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) survey. Of Bangladesh's 73.41 million labour force, 2.63 million were unemployed last year, as per the provisional findings of the BBS Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2022 - revealed on Wednesday.</p> <p>Unemployed population was 2.7 million in 2016-17, which was 4.2 per cent of the total 63.5 million labour force.</p>	30 March 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/unemployment-rate-drops-to-36pc-bbs-1680113489	
35	<p>Income tax <u>NBR makes e-payment mandatory</u></p> <p>The government has made electronic payment of income taxes mandatory by scrapping the provision of payment through pay order and manual treasury challan. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Thursday issued a statutory regulatory order (SRO) that took effect from 23 March 2023. The pre-publication gazette has been signed by Income tax member Dr Sams Uddin Ahmed. However, the revenue board will review the SRO if any objection or recommendation is made on this issue by the next 15 days.</p> <p>In the SRO, the NBR has replaced provisions in the Income Tax Ordinance-1984 on 'manner' and 'mode' of tax payment by assesses and tax deducted at source.</p> <p>As per amendments, taxpayers have to pay tax through automated challan (a-challan) or through electronic payment from now on as per specified rules of the NBR. Officials said the NBR has to issue the SRO just two months before the next budget proposal to meet a condition of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) against \$2.0 billion loan.</p>	31 March 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-makes-e-payment-mandatory-1680200391?date=31-03-2023	
36	<p><u>ইইউকে এলডিসি ট্রানজিশন পিরিয়ড ৬ বছর বাড়ানোর আহ্বান</u></p> <p>বাংলাদেশে ইউরোপিয়ান ইউনিয়নের (ইইউ) প্রতিনিধি দলকে বাংলাদেশ এলডিসি ক্যাটাগরি থেকে উত্তোরণের পর ট্রানজিশন পিরিয়ড ছয় বছর বাড়ানোর আহ্বান জানানো হয়েছে। সম্প্রতি বেলজিয়ামের ব্রাসেলসে ইউরোপিয়ান পার্লামেন্ট মেম্বার ম্যাক্সিমিলিয়ান ক্রাহের সঙ্গে সাক্ষাৎ করে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর মুখ্য সচিব মোহাম্মদ তোফাজ্জল হোসেন মিয়র নেতৃত্বে বাংলাদেশের একটি প্রতিনিধিদল। সাক্ষাতে এ আহ্বান জানানো হয়।</p> <p>প্রতিনিধিদলে ছিলেন- তেরি পোশাক মালিক ও রপ্তানিকারক সমিতি (বিজিএমইএ) সভাপতি ফারুক হাসান, বাণিজ্য সচিব তপন কান্তি ঘোষ, বেলজিয়ামে বাংলাদেশের রাষ্ট্রদূত মাহবুব হাসান সালেহ, ডেপুটি হেড অব মিশন প্রীতি রহমান, এমসিসিআই এর সাবেক সভাপতি নিহাদ কবির ও কমার্শিয়াল কাউন্সিলর মো. সাইফুল আজম।</p>	01 April 2023	Sangbad https://sangbad.net.bd/news/business/91583	
37	<p><u>BD-India trade using rupee may start soon</u> All kinds of trials by BB almost finished</p> <p>Bangladesh could soon start trading with India using rupee instead of US dollar, trial for which has been done by Bangladesh Bank recently, reports UNB. The ministry of commerce has placed a written recommendation at the last cabinet meeting regarding the possibility and opportunity of using rupee instead of dollar. Currently Bangladesh exports goods to India worth around \$ 2.0 billion.</p>	02 April 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-india-trade-using-rupee-may-start-soon-1680362531	

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38	<p><u>BD now fastest-growing brand as a nation</u> Bangladesh has become one of the fastest-growing brands as nation with a value estimated at \$508 billion in 2023. In south Asia, it has the second highest brand value with India (\$2924 billion) remaining at the top. The brand value of Bangladesh is more than twice of Pakistan and over ten times of Sri Lanka, according Brand Finance, a global consultancy firm. Bangladesh's brand value increased by 37 per cent in 2023 over that in 2022. With this improved ranking, the country is the 97th Soft Power nation among 121 countries. The Brand Finance has found Bangladesh as one of the finest economies and said the country is one of the finest examples of remarkable economic development and is the World Bank's proclaimed model of poverty reduction.</p>	03 April 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-now-fastest-growing-brand-as-a-nation-1680459787	
39	<p><u>Mar remittances cross \$2.0b</u> After six months, Bangladesh's remittance earnings crossed US\$2-billion mark in March, giving a much-needed impetus to the falling forex reserves. Officials at Bangladesh Bank (BB) and bankers think the expatriate Bangladeshis working abroad normally send more remittance ahead of Eid festivals so that their near and dear ones can celebrate such festivals properly. The latest Bangladesh Bank (BB) data show that in the just-past month, Bangladeshi nationals working abroad sent in foreign currencies worth US\$ 2.02 billion, up by 29.29 per cent compared to the earnings in the previous month of February when the US\$400 billion plus economy received US\$1.56 billion. The expatriates remitted home US\$ 1.86 billion in the corresponding month of March in 2022.</p>	03 April 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/mar-remittances-cross-20b-1680459721	
40	<p><u>Export earnings enter negative growth path</u> March receipts clock \$4.64b, miss both annualized and monthly targets by 2.49pc and 7.50pc Bangladesh's export earnings again entered negative-growth territory after four months as this past March receipt missed both annualized and monthly targets, official count shows. The exports by value recorded a 2.49-per cent decline compared to last fiscal's corresponding period and fell short of the month's set target by 7.50 per cent, mainly as performance of the main earner-readymade garments-slowed amid the prevailing global market tantrums. Shipments fetched Bangladesh US\$4.64 billion in March'23 which was US\$4.76 billion in March'22, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data released Sunday. The single-month earnings earlier in September and October last year had witnessed 6.25-percent and 7.85-percent negative growth respectively, according to the statistics. Also, the overall export-earning growth during the first nine months slowed to 8.07 per cent and stood at US\$41.72 billion against targeted amount of US\$ 42.26 for the period, according to the EPB calculations. The overall export earnings during the July-March of FY2021-22 were \$38.60 billion, at a growth rate of 33.41%.</p>	03 April 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/export-earnings-enter-negative-growth-path-1680459865	
41	<p><u>স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সংস্থাকে সরকার আর মূলধন দেবে না, তবে ঋণ দেবে</u> বিভিন্ন স্বায়ত্তশাসিত ও আধা স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সংস্থা এবং সরকারি কোম্পানিগুলোকে এখন থেকে আর কোনো মূলধন বা ইকুইটি না দিতে সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছে সরকার, তবে এসব প্রতিষ্ঠানকে ঋণ দেওয়া হবে। আগামী ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরের বাজেট তৈরির যখন কাজ চলছে, তখন অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অর্থ বিভাগ সম্প্রতি এ বিষয়ে একটি পরিপত্র জারি করেছে।</p>	03 April 2023	Prothom Alo https://www.prothomalo.com/business/fej6vh194g	

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42	<p><u>Inflation close to double-digit</u> March rates for both food and non-food items peak Bangladesh sees inflation soar amid price spikes as official arithmetic put the rate at 9.33 per cent for March—the highest in seven months—worsening consumer woes. High costs of some food items, especially protein items like chickens, eggs, and beef, spurred up the price indices, sources said. The figures from the Office for Bangladesh’s National Statistical Organisation (NSO) showed inflation—as measured by the consumer-price index—having hit its highest level in August 2022 of this fiscal year, adding to the huge strain on households, especially those in lower-and limited-income brackets. Economists and analysts say limited-income groups of people, like garment workers, day labourers, and others, suffer much as they have to pay through their nose with their earnings being eroded by the higher inflation. However, the NSO or BBS (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics) data showed that both food and non-food items were contributors to the rise in inflation in March. The high-priced non-food items are medical and healthcare products, transport and clothing as well footwear products, while food items are poultry birds, beef, mutton and eggs. On back of this rise, inflation measured by the BBS surpassed annual government target at 7.5 per cent (revised for FY 2023) for eight straight months, peaking to 9.33 per cent this past March. And month-on-month inflation increased by 1.13 per cent in March over February. Food inflation soared to 9.09 per cent while non-food inflation to 9.72 per cent.</p>	05 April 2023	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-close-to-double-digit-1680629421	
43	<p><u>বঙ্গবাজারে আগুন: ৭০০ কোটি টাকা চায় দোকান মালিক সমিতি</u> রাজধানীর বঙ্গবাজারে ভয়াবহ অগ্নিকাণ্ডের ঘটনায় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত ব্যবসায়ীদের জন্য প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার কাছে ৭০০ কোটি টাকা থোক বরাদ্দ চেয়েছে বাংলাদেশ দোকান মালিক সমিতি। মঙ্গলবার এক সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে এ দাবি জানানো হয়েছে। সমিতির সভাপতি মো. হেলাল উদ্দিন ও মহাসচিব মো. জাহিরুল হক স্বাক্ষরিত সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে তিনটি দাবি জানানো হয়। দাবিগুলো হলো, প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কাছ থেকে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত ব্যবসায়ীদের জন্য ৭০০ কোটি টাকা থোক বরাদ্দ, তদন্ত কমিটি গঠন করে ঘটনার সুষ্ঠু তদন্ত এবং ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত ব্যবসায়ীরা যাতে নিজ নিজ দোকান ফিরে পান, সে ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ।</p>	05 April 2023	Prothom Alo https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/p8a205b9vs	
44	<p><u>MCCI ready to stand beside victims of the Bangabazar fire incident</u> The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, is deeply shocked by the fire incident which occurred in Bangabazar on Tuesday. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this tragedy and their families,” reads a press release. On Tuesday, a fire broke out at the Bangabazar market of Dhaka in the early morning. It took six hours to bring the fire under control. As per the Bangladesh Shop Owners' Association President, the fire damaged over 5,000 shops, resulting in a loss of over Tk1,500 crore. As a responsible business organization, MCCI understands the extensive damage that a disaster like this can do to the affected community. “We stand in solidarity with the affected businesses and are ready to do whatever we can to assist their recovery,” the release reads.</p>	05 April 2023	Dhaka Tribune https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2023/04/05/mcci-ready-to-stand-beside-victims-of-the-bangabazar-fire-incident	

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45	<p>বিশ্ব আরও ৫ বছর অর্থনৈতিক মন্দায় ভুগবে : আইএমএফ</p> <p>বিশ্বজুড়েই চলছে অর্থনৈতিক শ্লথগতি, বাড়ছে মূল্যস্ফীতি। বিশ্বের বড় বড় কোম্পানিগুলোতে চলছে কর্মী ছাঁটাই। খুব শীঘ্রই যে এ পরিস্থিতি বদলাচ্ছে না সে পূর্বাভাসই যেন দিলেন আন্তর্জাতিক মুদ্রা তহবিলের (আইএমএফ) ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ক্রিস্টালিনা জর্জিয়েভা। তিনি বলেন, ‘বিশ্ব অর্থনীতির প্রবৃদ্ধি চলতি বছর তিন শতাংশেরও কম হবে। আগামী পাঁচ বছর এই প্রবৃদ্ধি তিন শতাংশের আশপাশেই থাকবে যা ১৯৯০ সালের পর সবচেয়ে কম।’ ইকোনোমিক টাইমস।</p>	08 April 2023	Sangbad (https://sangbad.net.bd/news/business/92101/)	
46	<p>Cutting power costs</p> <p><u>Businesses installing rooftop solar system</u></p> <p>Increased tariff of fossil fuels in Bangladesh is alluring private entrepreneurs to install the renewable rooftop solar system to reduce power generation costs and turn their business entities competitive. According to market insiders, large-scale business houses, especially textile and jute millers and ready-made garment factories, are keen to install rooftop solar projects.</p> <p>Rooftop solar system currently costs Tk 5.5-6.0 per unit (1.0 kilowatt/hour), around 38 per cent less than the grid power costs at above Tk 9.0 per unit. Besides, rooftop solar project owners can sell surplus electricity to the national power grid under the net-metering system.</p>	09 April 2023	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/businesses-installing-rooftop-solar-system-1680971230/)	