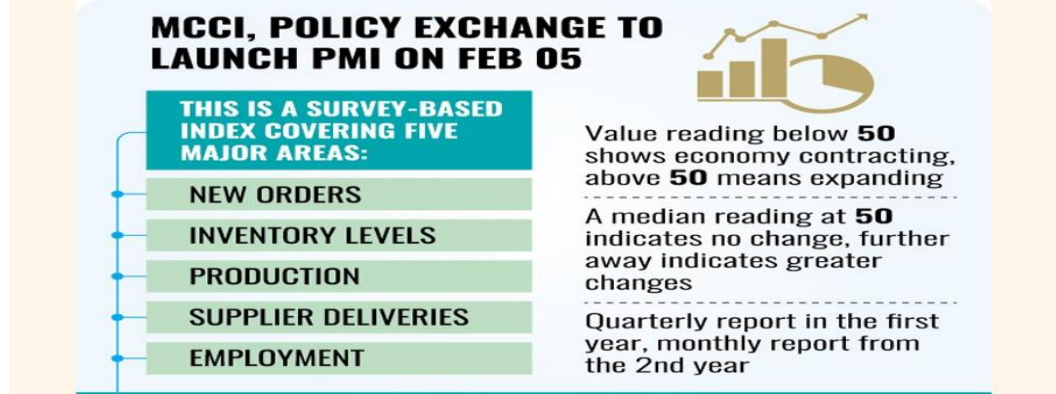


## Summary of Business News – 52

### Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 29 Jan. – 11 Feb. 2024

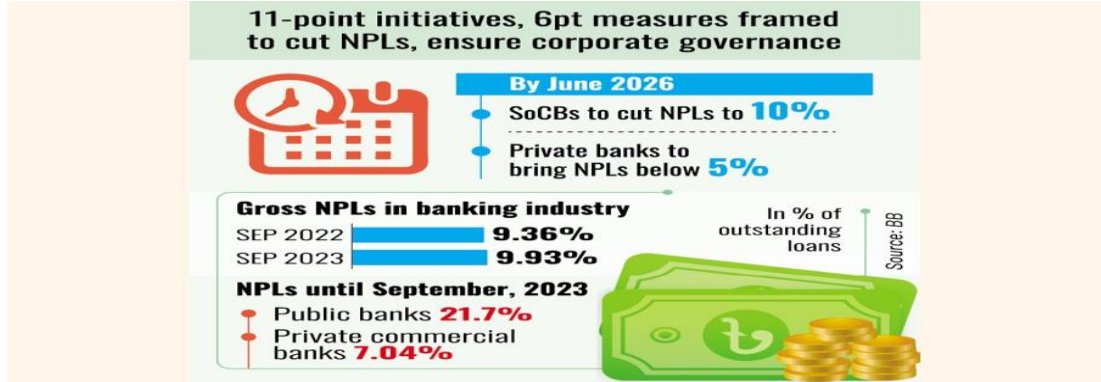
Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><b>New economic matrix coming</b>  <b><u>Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) alerts policymakers, businesses about how to act accurately</u></b></p>  <p>An all-encompassing matrix that measures economic situations and scenarios ahead and thus alerts policymakers, businesses and other stakeholders about how to act accordingly is going to be introduced in Bangladesh. The Purchasing Managers' Index or PMI, a measure of business activity across an economy, is set to be launched in the country early February, organisers said. Such PMI, available both in Europe and the United States, indicates the prevailing direction of the economic trends mainly in manufacturing and service sectors. The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current and future business conditions and scenarios to company decision-makers, analysts, and investors. Such indicator is also important for the business journalists for preparing news articles in the proper context. The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka, and the Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB), with support from the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), have taken the initiative of introducing the purchasing managers' index for Bangladesh. It's a leading economic indicator which helps understand the economic health of a country.</p>	29 January 2024	<p><b>The Financial Express</b>  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/new-economic-matrix-coming-1706464752?date=29-01-2024">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/new-economic-matrix-coming-1706464752?date=29-01-2024</a></p>	
02	<p><b><u>QatarEnergy, Excelerate sign 15-year deal to supply LNG to Bangladesh</u></b></p> <p>QatarEnergy and Excelerate Energy (Excelerate) have signed an agreement to supply liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Bangladesh. As per the deal, Excelerate will purchase up to one million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LNG from QatarEnergy to be delivered to floating storage and regasification units in Bangladesh for 15 years starting in January 2026, according to a press release.</p>	29 January 2024	<p><b>The Daily Star</b>  <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/qatarenergy-excelerate-sign-15-year-deal-supply-lng-bangladesh-3531181">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/qatarenergy-excelerate-sign-15-year-deal-supply-lng-bangladesh-3531181</a></p>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
03	<p><b>Two gigantic MRT-line projects ahead</b>  <b><u>Hunt for \$6.0b foreign loans launched</u></b>  <b>Funding request sent to financiers like Japan, ADB, Korea</b></p> <p>A search for pulling US\$6.0 billion in loans from foreign lenders gets going as the government now bids for implementing two gigantic MRT-line projects to upgrade Dhaka's still-troublesome traffic system, officials said. The two more metro lines will require Tk 892.36 billion, equivalent to \$8.11 billion, worth of total investment where nearly \$6.08 billion is envisaged as foreign loans, they said Monday.</p> <p>Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) will require Tk608.36 billion for the MRT line-2 works and Tk284 billion for the MRT line-4 execution. The state-owned company has sent Preliminary Development Project Proposal (PDPP) to the Planning Commission (PC) and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) for seeking out the foreign funds, said a PC official.</p>	30 January 2024	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/hunt-for-60b-foreign-loans-launched-1706551172?date=30-01-2024">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/hunt-for-60b-foreign-loans-launched-1706551172?date=30-01-2024</a></p>	
04	<p><b>43 export items</b>  <b><u>BB slashes incentive rates for six months</u></b></p> <p>The central bank on Tuesday announced fresh cash incentives for 43 export items for the next six months ending on June 30 by reducing the stimulus rates. Earlier in August 2023, the Bangladesh Bank announced cash incentives applicable to 43 exportables for the entire fiscal year from 01 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. But it revised the rates in the middle of the fiscal year considering the WTO rules which are applicable when a country graduates from its LDC status.</p> <p>When contacted, a BB official said they revised downward incentives as Bangladesh would have to withdraw the facility from 2026 at a time when it would graduate from the club of LDCs. On average, the government previously used to provide incentives between 1.0 per cent and 20 per cent. Now, it has revised downward between 0.5 and 15 per cent.</p>	31 January 2024	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-slashes-incentive-rates-for-six-months-1706637606?date=31-01-2024">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-slashes-incentive-rates-for-six-months-1706637606?date=31-01-2024</a></p>	
05	<p><b><u>ADP loses gear, lowest execution in 11 yrs</u></b>  <b>H1FY'24 implementation rate 22.48pc</b></p> <p>Development-programme implementation in Bangladesh retards as the ADP performance so far in the current fiscal is rated worst in 14 years for government agencies failing to cross the Covid-period mark. Available official data Tuesday showed such retrogress pace of execution of the Annual Development Programme (ADP). The Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) showed the government ministries and agencies implemented 22.48 per cent of the total ADP in July-December period-the lowest in 14 years.</p> <p>During the first half (H1) of the fiscal year (FY)2023-24, the government agencies had spent Tk 618.39 billion or 22.48 per cent of the total Tk 2.74-trillion ADP outlay, IMED data showed. The execution rate in the same period last FY2023 was even 1.05-percentage-point higher to 23.53 per cent than the current 22.48 per cent.</p>	31 January 2024	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/adp-loses-gear-lowest-execution-in-11-yrs-1706637898?date=31-01-2024">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/adp-loses-gear-lowest-execution-in-11-yrs-1706637898?date=31-01-2024</a></p>	

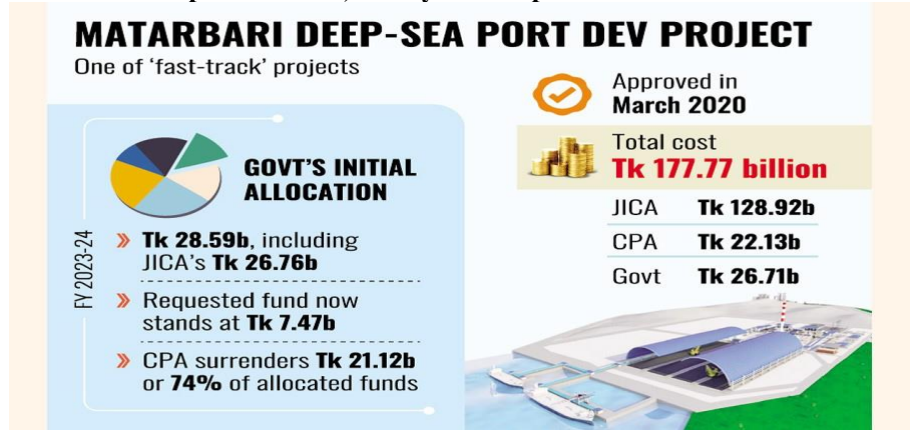
Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
06	<p><b><u>Apparel buyers yet to raise prices despite promise after wage hike</u></b></p> <p>Some 79.1 percent of the apparel factory owners said international buyers are yet to increase prices of Bangladeshi goods, which they earlier promised to do after the new garment wage comes into effect in December last year, a survey found.</p> <p>In 2023, the cost in customs and bonds increased 47.85 percent year-on-year because of delays and other procedural issues, according to the survey. Moreover, around 27.5 percent of the installed production capacity remained unutilised last year due to lower number of work orders following high inflationary pressure on the western consumers, stemming from the fallouts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war, it said. But the international retailers did not raise the rates after the implementation of the new garment wage with a 56 percent rise, according to the survey.</p>	31 January 2024	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/apparel-buyers-yet-raise-prices-despite-promise-after-wage-hike-3532391">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/apparel-buyers-yet-raise-prices-despite-promise-after-wage-hike-3532391</a> )	
07	<p><b><u>Bail-in on anvil for banks in crunch</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Dollar-Taka swap likely solace for forex-strapped banks</u></b></p> <p><b>Ease in import LC opening among benefits</b></p> <p>A dollar-taka currency swap between Bangladesh's central bank and commercial banks is envisaged as a bail-in for mitigating volatility on the forex market, sources say. Such an arrangement will help the foreign currency-starved banks get the greenback from the Bangladesh Bank (BB) in exchange for the local currency, two senior officials of the BB, familiar with the matter, told the FE Wednesday.</p> <p>On the other hand, commercial banks that have adequate dollars in vault but need local currency can also sign exchange deal with the BB. The financial market is now facing both types of problems-some banks have adequate foreign exchange but lack local currency, and vice-versa.</p>	01 February 2024	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dollar-taka-swap-likely-solace-for-forex-strapped-banks-1706723506">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dollar-taka-swap-likely-solace-for-forex-strapped-banks-1706723506</a> )	
08	<p><b><u>BB asks banks to prepare for harsh reforms</u></b></p> <p>The Bangladesh Bank (BB) is going to bring reforms to the banking sector after getting the go-ahead from the new government, and the banking regulator asked senior executives to prepare for those reforms at a meeting yesterday. Weak banks will be subject to mergers and acquisitions, a move that chief executives were asked to discuss among themselves.</p> <p>The central bank's instructions came during a bankers' meeting held at the BB headquarters in Dhaka. Bangladesh Bank Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder presided over the meeting, which was attended by chief executives of commercial banks.</p>	01 February 2024	The Daily Star ( <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-asks-banks-prepare-harsh-reforms-3533216">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-asks-banks-prepare-harsh-reforms-3533216</a> )	
09	<p><b><u>Banks' lending rate hits 12.38pc</u></b></p> <p>The lending rate ceiling in banks reached nearly 12.38 per cent on Wednesday from 10.7 per cent in October. The interest rate increased after the central bank on January 17 raised the policy rate by 25 basis points to 8 per cent from 7.25 per cent in an effort to address mounting inflationary pressures in the country.</p>	01 February 2024	New Age ( <a href="https://www.newagebd.net/article/224259/banks-lending-rate-hits-1238pc">https://www.newagebd.net/article/224259/banks-lending-rate-hits-1238pc</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
10	<p><b><u>Bangladeshi company to invest \$2.5m in BEPZA EZ</u></b></p> <p>Bangladeshi company CartonCraft Limited is going to invest \$2.51 million to set up a packaging and accessories manufacturing industry in the BEPZA Economic Zone (BEPZA EZ). Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) signed an agreement with the company to this effect at BEPZA Complex, Dhaka today (1 February). Ali Reza Mazid, member (investment promotion) of BEPZA and Syed Mohammad Hasan, managing director of CartonCraft Limited, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.</p>	01 February 2024	The Business Standard (TBS) ( <a href="https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshi-company-invest-25m-bepza-ez-785534">https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshi-company-invest-25m-bepza-ez-785534</a> )	
11	<p><b><u>মূল্যস্ফীতি কমাতে আরও ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের সুপারিশ করল আইএমএফ</u></b></p> <p>আন্তর্জাতিক মুদ্রা তহবিলের (আইএমএফ) ঋণের লক্ষ্য ও শর্ত বাস্তবায়নের পথেই রয়েছে বাংলাদেশ। মুদ্রানীতি সংকোচনমূলক করা হয়েছে। ফলে কমে আসছে সার্বিক মূল্যস্ফীতি। তবে মূল্যস্ফীতি আরও কমাতে নানা ব্যবস্থা নিতে হবে। যত দ্রুত মূল্যস্ফীতি কমিয়ে আনা যাবে, বাংলাদেশের জন্য তা ততই ভালো হবে। সংস্থাটির এশিয়া ও প্যাসিফিক বিভাগের পরিচালক কৃষ্ণা শ্রীনিবাসন গতকাল বুধবার আঞ্চলিক অর্থনৈতিক আউটলুক প্রকাশনা উপলক্ষে আয়োজিত এক সংবাদ ব্রিফিংয়ে এসব কথা বলেন। জাপানের টোকিও থেকে বাংলাদেশ সময় সকাল আটটায় অনলাইনে এ ব্রিফিং অনুষ্ঠিত হয়।</p>	01 February 2024	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/a51j9d0som">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/a51j9d0som</a> )	
12	<p><b><u>Remittance surges significantly yet reserves recede below \$20b</u></b></p> <p><b>Forex receipts from expats rise to \$2.1b in January, totaling \$12.0b in 7 months</b></p> <p>Remittance marks a significant rebound as Bangladesh received US\$2.1 billion in January and total \$12.9 billion in seven months of the current fiscal, but to no respite for the country's forex reserves. The country's foreign-exchange reserves had fallen further by over US\$ 2.0 billion in the past one month, according to latest official data. Officials and market analysts say the continuous feeding of the greenback to the forex-hungry banks to meet their overseas payment obligations from the central bank-managed reserves results in the depletion of the country's entire stock of foreign currencies.</p> <p>According to the statistics with Bangladesh Bank (BB), Bangladeshi people doing overseas jobs sent home US\$2.10 billion in the just-past month of January-rated the highest since June last when the monthly volume of remittance was recorded \$2.20 billion. Compared to December's count of \$1.90 billion in 2023, the country saw an increase of more than \$112 million in January.</p>	02 February 2024	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/remittance-surges-significantly-yet-reserves-recede-below-20b-1706806714?date=02-02-2024">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/remittance-surges-significantly-yet-reserves-recede-below-20b-1706806714?date=02-02-2024</a> )	
13	<p><b><u>Bangladesh govt seeks \$8.9b NDB loans for 5 key connectivity projects</u></b></p> <p>The government has sought loans from the China and Russia-led New Development Bank (NDB), formerly BRICS Development Bank, to finance the construction of five bridges at an estimated cost of around \$8.87 billion, according to the Bridges Division. These projects include a bridge to connect Barishal and Bhola with a projected cost of Tk17,500 crore (\$1.615 billion), as per the final report of a feasibility study, and the second Padma Bridge in Paturia-Goalanda with an estimated cost of around Tk31,200 crore (\$2.8 billion).</p> <p>The proposed bridge over the Kalabor and Tetulia rivers aims to establish direct road connectivity between mainland Barishal and Bhola. The other three Bridges Division projects for which loan proposals have been sent to the NDB are a bridge on the Bakerganj-Bauphal road over the Karkhana River, one on the Bhola-Lakshmipur road over the Meghna River, and either a tunnel or a bridge over the Maheshkhali channel in Cox's Bazar.</p>	03 February 2024	The Business Standard (TBS) ( <a href="https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-govt-seeks-89b-ndb-loans-5-key-connectivity-projects-786242">https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-govt-seeks-89b-ndb-loans-5-key-connectivity-projects-786242</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
14	<p><b><u>Non-cotton garment export flourishing fast</u></b>  <b>Bangladesh ranks second-largest supplier to Europe</b></p> <p>Export of apparel made from non-cotton fabrics, including man-made fibre (MMF), from Bangladesh is flourishing fast with the country ranking second-largest supplier to the European market, government findings showed. Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) export share from the MMF, wool-and silk-based fibre, and blended products grew to 29.2 per cent of its total export volume in 2022, according to the study. The remaining 70.8 per cent of the country's total exportable apparel products is made from cotton as the traditional raw material-mostly import-dependent.</p> <p>The country's export share from the non-cotton apparel was 23 per cent three years back, garment industry-insiders said.</p>	03 February 2024	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/non-cotton-garment-export-flourishing-fast-1706893882?date=03-02-2024">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/non-cotton-garment-export-flourishing-fast-1706893882?date=03-02-2024</a></p>	
15	<p><b><u>Govt permits potato import again</u></b></p> <p>The government has once again allowed import of potatoes to regain control over the volatile market. Over the past three days, more than 60 importers were granted permission by the agriculture ministry to bring in 94,000 tonnes of potatoes. Under the move, a total of 25 tonnes of potato arrived in Bangladesh through Dinajpur's Hili land port from India on Saturday afternoon. As a result, the price of potatoes came down by Tk 10-15 per kg in retail markets in the district.</p> <p>However, the retail market still saw potato prices range from Tk 50-60 per kg, higher by 110 per cent than a year ago, as reported by the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).</p>	04 February 2024	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-permits-potato-import-again-1706980450?date=04-02-2024">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-permits-potato-import-again-1706980450?date=04-02-2024</a></p>	
16	<p><b><u>Export rebounds with \$5.72b earning in Jan</u></b>  <b>Monthly earning marks new high</b></p> <p>Merchandise exports fetched Bangladesh US\$5.72 billion in January in a record-high monthly turnover, which officials say augurs well in time of forex dearth. The external-trade growth in the first month of the year 2024 was 11.45 per cent year on year, with apparel shipments overwhelmingly dominating the invoice as usual. Export receipts amounted to US\$5.13 billion in January 2023, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data published Sunday.</p> <p>Out of the total January'24 earnings, readymade garment (RMG) fetched US\$4.97 billion on a 12.45-percent growth, after three consecutive months of negative growth since October 2023. Apparel sector singly earned US\$4.42 billion in January 2023. Knitwear subsector of the main export industry, which generated \$2.69 billion, grew by 17.32 per cent last month while earnings from woven garments also increased by 7.16 per cent to \$2.30 billion.</p>	05 February 2024	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/export-rebounds-with-572b-earning-in-jan-1707069056">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/export-rebounds-with-572b-earning-in-jan-1707069056</a></p>	


Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
17	<p><b>Delivering on govt financial reform pledges</b>  <b>Crash course drawn to bring NPLs below 8.0pc</b>  <b>BB roadmap gives banks until June 2026 for compliance</b></p>  <p>A crash course is drawn for downsizing burdensome classified loans below 8.0 per cent within June-2026 timeline for the banks to comply with, as per government's financial-reform pledges. Under the time-bound and target-oriented roadmap on getting to grips with the ballooning non-performing loans (NPL), the central bank plans to reduce the idle assets of the state-owned commercial banks to 10 per cent and private banks below 5.0 per cent within the next two and a half years. The average ratio of gross NPLs in the banking industry was 9.93 per cent at the end of September 2023, up from 9.36 per cent in September 2022, according to Bangladesh Bank statistics. The volume of NPL in the public banks was recorded 21.7 per cent of their outstanding loans while it was 7.04 per cent in the private commercial banks until September 2023. Illustrating key features of the roadmap, approved in Sunday's 432nd board meeting of the central bank.</p>	05 February 2024	The Financial Express <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/crash-course-drawn-to-bring-npls-below-80pc-1707068964">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/crash-course-drawn-to-bring-npls-below-80pc-1707068964</a>	
18	<p><b>EU wants to invest more in Bangladesh</b></p> <p>The European Union (EU) is very keen to increase investment in Bangladesh as the south Asian nation has huge potential for the European investors, EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley said today. Bangladesh has an important relationship with the EU, as the country annually exports over 24 billion euros worth of goods to the European Union, Whiteley said. The EU head of delegation made the comments after a courtesy call on Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali at the minister's secretariat office in Dhaka.</p>	05 February 2024	The Daily Star <a href="https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/eu-wants-invest-more-bangladesh-3536856">https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/eu-wants-invest-more-bangladesh-3536856</a>	
19	<p><b>92% of registered companies did not file tax returns: NBR</b></p> <p>The number of ((Tax Identification Number) TIN holders in the country is increasing, but the return submission has not increased proportionately, said the National Board of Revenue (NBR). According to NBR, at the end of the deadline for returns submission for fiscal year 2023-24, only 24,381 companies/institutions submitted returns, which is 8.45% of the total institutions. It means more than 92% of the companies did not pay tax returns.</p>	06 February 2024	The Business Standard (TBS) <a href="https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/92-registered-companies-did-not-file-tax-returns-nbr-788238">https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/92-registered-companies-did-not-file-tax-returns-nbr-788238</a>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
20	<p><b><u>PMI launched to gauge BD's economic health</u></b>  Purchasing managers' index (PMI) has been launched for Bangladesh with intent to gauge economic health of the country and help businesses take informed decisions.  The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka in partnership with the Policy Exchange of Bangladesh made the initiative supported by the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The index was officially launched at MCCI's Gulshan office on Monday.  PMI is a leading economic indicator, which helps understand the economic health of a country, as it provides insights into key economic sectors and captures early trends. The PMI data index is compiled from monthly surveys of private sector enterprises.</p>	06 February 2024	The Financial Express <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/pmi-launched-to-gauge-bds-economic-health-1707155775">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/pmi-launched-to-gauge-bds-economic-health-1707155775</a>	
21	<p><b><u>Consumer corporate plans spreading its wings</u></b>  <b><u>Deshbandhu Group for Tk 100b fresh investment</u></b>  <b>Hopes to generate 15,000 new jobs in several ventures</b>  Already a household name, Deshbandhu Group is all set for investing Tk 100 billion in several fresh ventures avowedly to boost the nation's economy and generate employment, officials said. The industrial units the corporate is undertaking happen to be import-substitution ones for local consumption and also export-boosters. Company officials say the new investments will be across sectors like PSF and PET Industries, Steel Mills, Consumer Goods, Electric Vehicles Assembly Plant, Eco Brix Industry, Western Footwear and a Lithium Ion Battery Plant. The group anticipates creating approximately 15,000 new jobs, thereby increasing its total workforce from around 25,000 to 40,000.  Apart from its Deshbandhu Sugar Mill, one of the leading sugar suppliers in Bangladesh, the company has also started building a new European-standard sugar mill with 1500-tonne daily capacity with a Tk 15.0 billion worth of investment.</p>	06 February 2024	The Financial Express <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/deshbandhu-group-for-tk-100b-fresh-investment-1707155526">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/deshbandhu-group-for-tk-100b-fresh-investment-1707155526</a>	
22	<p><b><u>Bangladesh advances further in logistics competence</u></b>  Bangladesh has demonstrated further progress in the logistics sector, advancing two positions to claim 33rd place among the 50 most promising emerging logistics markets worldwide, according to the 2024 Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index. This positive development is attributed to the country's performance in domestic logistics opportunities, digital readiness, and business fundamentals. The gain follows a four-position improvement achieved in the previous year's index, where Bangladesh reached the 35th position.</p>	06 February 2024	The Business Standard (TBS) <a href="https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-advances-further-logistics-competence-788506">https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-advances-further-logistics-competence-788506</a>	
23	<p><b><u>করপোর্টেট করের শর্ত তুলে নেওয়ার দাবি মেট্রো চেম্বারের</u></b>  আগামী ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে করপোর্টেট করহারের ক্ষেত্রে আরোপিত শর্ত তুলে নেওয়ার প্রস্তাব দিয়েছে দেশের ব্যবসায়ীদের প্রাচীন সংগঠন মেট্রোপলিটন চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি বা মেট্রো চেম্বার। সংগঠনটি বলছে, বিগত অর্থবছরে কিছু শর্ত সাপেক্ষে প্রায় সব ক্ষেত্রে করপোর্টেট করহার আড়াই শতাংশ পর্যন্ত কমানো হয়েছে। কিন্তু শর্তের কারণে কোনো কোম্পানি হ্রাসকৃত এ করহারের সুবিধা পাচ্ছে না। তাই বাস্তবতা বিবেচনায় করহারের ক্ষেত্রে অর্থ আইন, ২০২৩-এর শর্তাবলি বাতিল করা দরকার।  গতকাল বুধবার জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের (এনবিআর) সঙ্গে বাজেট আলোচনায় অংশ নিয়ে সংগঠনটির নেতারা এ প্রস্তাব করেন। মেট্রো চেম্বারের সভাপতি কামরান টি রহমানের নেতৃত্বে সংগঠনটির একটি প্রতিনিধিদল এ আলোচনায় অংশ নেয়। সভায় সভাপতিত্ব করেন এনবিআর চেয়ারম্যান আবু হেনা মো. রহমাতুল মুনিম।</p>	07 February 2024	Prothom Alo <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/gv55dwybeq">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/gv55dwybeq</a>	


Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
24	<p><b>সিঙ্গাপুর থেকে ৩ কার্গো এলএনজি কেনা হচ্ছে</b></p> <p>সিঙ্গাপুরভিত্তিক এম এস গানভোর এবং ভিটল এশিয়া নামের দুই প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে তিন কার্গো তরলীকৃত প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস (এলএনজি) আমদানি করা হচ্ছে। এতে ব্যয় হবে ১ হাজার ২৭৪ কোটি ১২ লাখ টাকা। এক কার্গোতে এলএনজি থাকে ৩৩ লাখ ৬০ হাজার মিলিয়ন মেট্রিক ব্রিটিশ থার্মাল ইউনিট (এমএমবিটিইউ)।</p> <p>আজ বুধবার সচিবালয়ে অর্থমন্ত্রী আবুল হাসান মাহমুদ আলীর সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠিত সরকারি ক্রয়সংক্রান্ত মন্ত্রিসভা কমিটির বৈঠকে এই এলএনজি আমদানির প্রস্তাব অনুমোদিত হয়। বৈঠক শেষে মন্ত্রিপরিষদ বিভাগের অতিরিক্ত সচিব সাঈদ মাহবুব খান সাংবাদিকদের এ তথ্য জানান।</p>	07 February 2024	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/5rymppls9t">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/5rymppls9t</a> )	
25	<p><b><u>Matarbari port dev on backburner following fund surrender</u></b> CPA returns 74pc allocations, mainly from Japanese loan</p>  <p>Matarbari deep-sea port construction seems to be put on the backburner through surrender of 74 per cent of allocated funds, mainly from a Japanese loan, for trailing project deadlines, officials said. Such delay in the deep-sea port development -- a key "fast-track" project financed and supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) -- could prove to be a disservice to Bangladesh's trade and business, insiders think. Several officials point to a curious move by the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA)--the executing agency--in seeking a reduction in its funding request by Tk 21.12 billion to Tk 7.47 billion in the current fiscal year's (FY2023-24) revised development budget. The ADP is due for revision soon. Of the original allocation of Tk 28.59 billion, the port authority made the largest cut of Tk 20.43 billion from JICA's confirmed loans for the deep-sea port in the Bay of Bengal. As per the port authority's request, the government initially allocated Tk 28.59 billion, of which Tk 26.76 billion was earmarked to come from JICA's committed credits. However, midway through FY24, the project-implementation agency abruptly surrendered the lion's share of the confirmed Japanese loans following a possible failure in utilising the money effectively for slow work progress, according to one official.</p>	08 February 2024	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/matarbari-port-dev-on-backburner-following-fund-surrender-1707327702?date=08-02-2024">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/matarbari-port-dev-on-backburner-following-fund-surrender-1707327702?date=08-02-2024</a> )	



Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
26	<p><b><u>Tangail sari recognised as GI of Bangladesh, gazette today</u></b></p> <p>Tangail sari has been recognised as a Geographical Indication (GI) product of Bangladesh and a gazette notification in this regard will be published today (Thursday), reports UNB. Zakia Sultana, senior secretary of the Ministry of Industries, confirmed this to UNB on Wednesday. She said the Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT) under the Industries Ministry recognised Tangail Saree as a GI product of Bangladesh. Earlier on Tuesday, the district administration applied to get the GI rights of the Tangail Saree, a long-held tradition of Bangladesh. Tangail Deputy Commissioner Kaisaru Islam made this application to the DPDT.</p>	08 February 2024	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/matarbari-port-dev-on-backburner-following-fund-surrender-1707327702?date=08-02-2024">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/matarbari-port-dev-on-backburner-following-fund-surrender-1707327702?date=08-02-2024</a> )	
27	<p><b><u>বাংলাদেশে এক লাখের বেশি বিদেশি, ভিসা কঠিন করার উদ্যোগ</u></b></p> <p>কাজ করার অনুমতি না নিয়ে কোনো ধরনের বাধা ছাড়াই বাংলাদেশে অবস্থান করতে পারছেন অনেক বিদেশি নাগরিক। আইনি দুর্বলতা ও বাংলাদেশে বসবাসকারী বিদেশি নাগরিকদের সমন্বিত কোনো তথ্যভান্ডার না থাকায় বিনা বাধায় তাঁরা এ দেশে বসবাসের সুযোগ পাচ্ছেন। তাঁদের অনেকে বাংলাদেশে থেকে আয়রোজগার করলেও ঠিকমতো করও দেন না। সংশ্লিষ্টরা বলছেন, বিদেশি নাগরিকদের একটি বড় অংশ বাংলাদেশে অবস্থান করছেন ভিসার মেয়াদ শেষ হয়ে যাওয়ার পরও। কারণ, ধরা পড়লে জরিমানার অঙ্ক খুবই কম, মাত্র ৩০ হাজার টাকা। আবার অনেকে ভিসার শ্রেণি পরিবর্তন করেও বেশি দিন অবস্থানের সুযোগ নিচ্ছেন।</p> <p>রাজধানীর আগারগাঁওয়ে গতকাল মঙ্গলবার বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের (বিডা) সম্মেলনকক্ষে অনুষ্ঠিত ‘কর্মানুমতি ছাড়া বাংলাদেশে অবস্থানরত বিদেশি নাগরিকদের বিষয়ে করণীয় নির্ধারণ’ শীর্ষক বৈঠকে এসব প্রসঙ্গ উঠে এসেছে। এ কারণে অবৈধভাবে বাংলাদেশে বসবাসকারী বিদেশি নাগরিকদের বিরুদ্ধে দৈনিক ভিত্তিতে জরিমানা আরোপের পাশাপাশি এ বিষয়ে কেন্দ্রীয় তথ্যভান্ডার তৈরির সিদ্ধান্ত নেওয়া হয়েছে এ বৈঠকে। সেই সঙ্গে অবৈধভাবে বসবাসকারী বিদেশিদের যাঁরা চাকরি দেবেন, হোটেল বা বাসাভাড়া দেবেন, তাঁদেরও জরিমানার আওতায় আনার সিদ্ধান্তও হয়।</p> <p>প্রধানমন্ত্রীর মুখ্য সচিব মো. তোফাজ্জল হোসেন মিয়ান সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠিত বৈঠকে বিডার নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান লোকমান হোসেন মিয়াসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট মন্ত্রণালয় ও বিভাগের সচিব এবং শীর্ষ পর্যায়ের কর্মকর্তারা উপস্থিত ছিলেন।</p>	08 February 2024	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/uvgeauh0b6">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/uvgeauh0b6</a> )	
28	<p><b><u>Over 10m income taxpayers in country now</u></b></p> <p>The number of registered income taxpayers just crossed the 10-million mark on Thursday in Bangladesh for the first time, raising hopes about the strengthening of the direct tax base within a short time.</p> <p>According to data of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the figure of Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN) holders reached 9.72 million in the individual taxpayer category while the number for companies stood at 49,869, firms 77,103 and others 15,413. The number of total TIN holders was 1.6 million in 2013. Of them, individual taxpayers were 1.01 million, companies 33,672, firms 11,473 and others 7,295.</p> <p>A senior official of NBR said the relentless efforts of taxmen, submission of proofs of tax return filing and allowing new taxpayers to submit tax returns until June 30, 2024 contributed to the sharp growth.</p>	09 February 2024	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/over-10m-income-taxpayers-in-country-now-1707414077">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/over-10m-income-taxpayers-in-country-now-1707414077</a> )	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks																		
29	<p><b><u>Income inequality, inflation increase poorest households</u></b>  <b><u>Taxation inequity also accentuates wealth gaps to make poor poorer</u></b></p> <p>Gaping income-expenditure mismatch amid higher inflationary pressures, coupled with taxation inequity, is increasing fast the number of poorest households (HHs) both in rural and urban areas of Bangladesh, analysts say and the Gini coefficient substantiates.</p> <p>Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)'s latest survey has shown the poorest households in rural areas increased to 29.4 per cent in 2022 from 29.29 per cent in 2021. The ratio of the rise of the poor is faster in city-corporation areas, recording higher by 1.1 percentage points to 4.1 per cent in 2022 from 3.0 per cent in the previous calendar year of 2021, the BBS's Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics survey report showed. However, the poorest HHs in the municipalities and other urban areas fell to 11.2 per cent in 2022 from 11.31 per cent in 2021, as mapped out by the government's statistical agency in the survey of socioeconomic status of families.</p> <p>On the other side of the scale, the BBS survey has found the country's 13.7 per cent of the HHs richest ones. In the rural areas, the richest HHs account for only 7.1 per cent, while 48.7 per cent of the households belong to the richest quintile in the city-corporation areas and 26.6 per cent to municipalities and other urban areas.</p> <p>The survey findings are shown based on wealth quintile, considered one of the key parameters to gauge socioeconomic condition of households.</p>	09 February 2024	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/income-inequality-inflation-increase-poorest-households-1707413775">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/income-inequality-inflation-increase-poorest-households-1707413775</a></p>																			
30	<p><b>Ramadan relief</b>  <b><u>Govt slashes taxes on essentials, eyes special imports from India</u></b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Previous Tax</th> <th>Reduced Tax</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rice (Import tax)</td> <td>62.50 per cent</td> <td>15.25 per cent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sugar (Import duty)</td> <td>Tk 1500 per tonne</td> <td>Tk 1000 per tonne</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edible oil (Import duty)</td> <td>15 per cent</td> <td>10 per cent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edible oil (VAT)</td> <td>15 per cent</td> <td>Exempt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dates (Import duty)</td> <td>25 per cent</td> <td>15 per cent</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>  <p>The government has launched a two-pronged attack on rising prices ahead of Ramadan, cutting taxes on essential commodities and importing them in bulk under special arrangements to blunt the pinching inflation. The move intends to ensure affordability for people during the holy month when demand for key items such as rice, sugar, edible oil and pulses typically spikes.</p> <p>The measures announced Thursday include tax cuts on both imports and local production of these essentials.</p>	Item	Previous Tax	Reduced Tax	Rice (Import tax)	62.50 per cent	15.25 per cent	Sugar (Import duty)	Tk 1500 per tonne	Tk 1000 per tonne	Edible oil (Import duty)	15 per cent	10 per cent	Edible oil (VAT)	15 per cent	Exempt	Dates (Import duty)	25 per cent	15 per cent	09 February 2024	<p>The Financial Express  <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-slashes-taxes-on-essentials-eyes-special-imports-from-india-1707413850">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-slashes-taxes-on-essentials-eyes-special-imports-from-india-1707413850</a></p>	
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31	<p><b><u>Over 10m income taxpayers in country now</u></b>  The number of registered income taxpayers just crossed the 10-million mark on Thursday in Bangladesh for the first time, raising hopes about the strengthening of the direct tax base within a short time.  According to data of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the figure of Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN) holders reached 9.72 million in the individual taxpayer category while the number for companies stood at 49,869, firms 77,103 and others 15,413. The number of total TIN holders was 1.6 million in 2013. Of them, individual taxpayers were 1.01 million, companies 33,672, firms 11,473 and others 7,295.  A senior official of NBR said the relentless efforts of taxmen, submission of proofs of tax return filing and allowing new taxpayers to submit tax returns until June 30, 2024 contributed to the sharp growth.</p>	09 February 2024	The Financial Express <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/over-10m-income-taxpayers-in-country-now-1707414077">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/over-10m-income-taxpayers-in-country-now-1707414077</a>	
32	<p><b><u>Execution of fast-track projects trails tracks</u></b>  <b>Implementers refund allocated funds for failing work schedules</b>  Execution of "fast-track" and megaprojects trails the tracks and implementers are surrendering much of available funds, allocated in the current budget, having missed timelines for works, officials said. Delays in fund utilisation from their budgetary allocations prompted the authorities to forgo some Tk 50 billion from their total Tk 277.95-billion funds earmarked for 10 megaprojects, mostly fast-track ones, implementing agencies say.  The implementing agencies for MRT-6, MRT-1, MRT-5 (north), Karnaphuli Tunnel, Padma Railway link, Dhaka airport 3rd terminal, Bangabandhu railway bridge, Dhaka-Ashulia elevated expressway, Matarbari port development, and Dohazari-Cox's Bazar railway couldn't complete their allocated works so far in the current fiscal year (FY) 2023-24. Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), Civil Aviation Authority, Chittagong Port Authority and Bangladesh Railway recently requested the Planning Commission and Economic Relations Division (ERD) for cutting down their allocations both from government's internal resources and project aid provided from foreign development partners.  In the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the FY2024, the government, as per demand of the implementing agencies, allocated huge funds to facilitate country's infrastructure development and thus attract more private investments. However, the project implementers in the middle of this fiscal proposed to give back their earmarked outlays for almost all the "fast-track" and megaprojects.</p>	10 February 2024	The Financial Express <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/execution-of-fast-track-projects-trails-tracks-1707499902">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/execution-of-fast-track-projects-trails-tracks-1707499902</a>	
33	<p><b><u>BFIU suspends 5005 MFS agents for illicit transactions</u></b>  Financial intelligence has booked at least 5005 MFS agents for involvement in illicit financial transactions through hundi, gaming and betting, forex trading, and crypto deals amid surge in decentralised finance, sources said. In recent years, the rise of digital technology has led to the proliferation of various illicit financial activities, posing a significant challenge to economies around the world. Bangladesh, recognising the urgency of dealing with this phenomenon, has taken tough steps to combat these trans-border threats to mainstream finance.  At the forefront of this battle, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) scaled up its drive during the fiscal year 2022-23 and suspended these agents engaged in mobile financial services. As part of the fight, BFIU took stringent actions against 5,766 MFS agents and 9 MFS distributors during the FY23, and the combat continued amid a spurt in financial misdealing. Their details have been forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for further action, as part of the agency's commitment to holding financial wrongdoers to account, officials concerned said.</p>	10 February 2024	The Financial Express <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bfiu-suspends-5005-mfs-agents-for-illicit-transactions-1707500141">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bfiu-suspends-5005-mfs-agents-for-illicit-transactions-1707500141</a>	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks																								
34	<p><b>Garment exports to US market plummet by 25pc in 2023</b></p>  <p><b>2023 FASHION FADE</b></p> <p><b>GLOBAL CAUSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High inflation &amp; rising interest rates</li> <li>Excess inventory in US retail stores</li> </ul> <p><b>LOCAL ISSUES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inconsistent power &amp; energy supply</li> <li>US dollar shortage for raw materials</li> </ul> <p>RMG export to US market (In billion US\$)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Export (billion US\$)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2013</td><td>4.94</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>4.83</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>5.40</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>5.30</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>5.06</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>5.40</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>5.92</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>5.22</td></tr> <tr><td>2021</td><td>7.13</td></tr> <tr><td>2022</td><td>9.72</td></tr> <tr><td>2023</td><td>7.28</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Bangladesh's apparel exports to the United States -- its biggest export market -- plunged by more than 25 per cent in 2023, as a global economic slowdown combined with local production hurdles squeezed the industry.</p>	Year	Export (billion US\$)	2013	4.94	2014	4.83	2015	5.40	2016	5.30	2017	5.06	2018	5.40	2019	5.92	2020	5.22	2021	7.13	2022	9.72	2023	7.28	10 February 2024	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/garment-exports-to-us-market-plummet-by-25pc-in-2023-1707499973">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/garment-exports-to-us-market-plummet-by-25pc-in-2023-1707499973</a> )	
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35	<p><b>3 more LNG terminals to be set up</b></p> <p>CHATTOGRAM, Feb 10: The government has a plan to establish three additional liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals alongside the existing two for re-gasifying imported gas. Two of these will be situated in Moheshkhali and Matarbari in Cox's Bazar, while the third will be at Payra, with two being floating and one land-based. The capacity of the existing Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRU) will be expanded from 500mmcft to 630mmcft per day. The total re-gasification capacity of the proposed LNG terminals is set to reach 2,000mmcft per day. The initial two FSRUs, one from Summit Group and the other from Excelerate Energy, are expected to commence operations in 2026 and 2028, respectively.</p> <p>For the floating terminals, Excelerate Energy will set up one in Payra, while Summit Group will establish another in Moheshkhali. The land-based terminal, with a production capacity of 1,000mmcft, will be situated in Matarbari. The FSRU in Cox's Bazar is anticipated to supply a minimum of 600 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) of gas, extendable to 800 mmmcfd. This facility will be approximately five kilometers off Moheshkhali island in the deep seas of the Bay of Bengal.</p>	11 February 2024	The Financial Express ( <a href="https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/3-more-lng-terminals-to-be-set-up-1707584959">https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/3-more-lng-terminals-to-be-set-up-1707584959</a> )																									
36	<p><b>টাকা-ডলার অদলবদলের নীতিমালা হচ্ছে, কারা সুবিধা পাবে</b></p> <p>এই দুটি মুদ্রার অদলবদল তথা সোয়াপ-পদ্ধতি শুরু হলে তাতে দেশে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার রিজার্ভ বাড়বে। দেশে প্রায় দুই বছর আগে শুরু হওয়া ডলার-সংকট এখনো কাটেনি। তবে নানা উদ্যোগের মাধ্যমে আমদানি খরচ কমানো গেছে। এরপরও দেশের বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার রিজার্ভ তথা মজুত কমে প্রায় অর্ধেক নেমেছে। ডলার কিনতে গিয়ে টাকার সংকটেও পড়েছে দেশের অনেক ব্যাংক। এমন পরিস্থিতিতে ডলার-টাকা অদলবদল (সোয়াপ) পদ্ধতি চালুর ঘোষণা দিয়েছে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক। বেসরকারি খাতের প্রাইম ব্যাংক কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকে ডলার জমা রেখে টাকা নেওয়ার প্রস্তাব দেওয়ার পর এই সিদ্ধান্ত এসেছে। তবে এই পদ্ধতি কীভাবে কাজ করবে, সেটিই এখন বড় প্রশ্ন। কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংক এ বিষয়ে নীতিমালা তৈরি করার কাজ করছে, যা শিগগিরই চালু হতে পারে বলে জানা গেছে।</p>	11 February 2024	Prothom Alo ( <a href="https://www.prothomalo.com/business/bank/zgbdwoooig">https://www.prothomalo.com/business/bank/zgbdwoooig</a> )																									