



Summary of Business News – 58

Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 14 - 26 May 2024

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p>Insights into new budget placed before PM <u>Inflation control, FDI increase core instructions</u> Draft budget to see internal readjustments as taka depreciates deeply</p>  <p>Curbing inflationary pressures on people, enhancing revenue, discouraging import of luxury items and augment foreign direct investment (FDI) are must-do instructions for finance officials finalising next fiscal budget. They also have to make sure that the election manifesto of the ruling Bangladesh Awami League is reflected in the budget 2024-25, sources said about the directions coming from government high-ups. True to a tradition, Finance Division officials placed the draft budget before the Prime Minister and her aides on Monday for approval and advice deemed fit before the die is cast. At the meeting, top officials of the Prime Minister's Office came up with these suggestions for the finance officials to follow as they are completing budget preparation to place before parliament on June 6, the sources said.</p>	14 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-control-fdi-increase-core-instructions-1715623747?date=14-05-2024)	
02	<p><u>Govt targets Tk 4.8 trillion tax haul in FY25</u> Aims for direct-indirect tax parity</p> <p>The government is likely to set a Tk 4.80-trillion tax-revenue-collection target for the National Board of Revenue in the next fiscal year, according to sources, which will be a 17.07-per-cent increase over the revised target of Tk 4.10 trillion for the current FY. For the first time, the authorities look to achieve an equal share of income tax and VAT collection in FY25, aligning with the government's long-term vision of increasing the proportion of direct taxes within the overall tax revenue. Looking ahead to FY2024-25, both the income tax and VAT wings will have the task of collecting Tk 1.77 trillion in revenue. The customs wing, meanwhile, will have to chase a target of Tk 1.24 trillion.</p>	14 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-targets-tk-48-trillion-tax-haul-in-fy25-1715623908?date=14-05-2024)	

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03	<p><u>Inflation edges down to 9.74pc in April</u></p>  <p>Overall inflation in Bangladesh edged down to 9.74 per cent in April although food-and rural inflation indices showed further rise, latest official statistics show. Rural people faced higher inflationary pressures in recent months as the inflation rate there had risen for straight two months to April, officials said Monday.</p> <p>Despite the slight fall in national inflation on a point-to-point basis, the rate in the rural areas rose by 0.24 percentage points to 9.92 per cent last month, the highest in eight months, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data released on the day showed. The highest inflation in the rural Bangladesh was recorded in August last year (2023) at 9.98 per cent, as BBS count.</p>	14 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-edges-down-to-974pc-in-april-1715623673?date=14-05-2024)	
04	<p><u>দেশের আর্থিক হিসাবে ঘাটতি বেড়ে ৯২৫ কোটি ডলারে উঠেছে</u></p> <p>দেশের আর্থিক হিসাবে ঘাটতি ৯ বিলিয়ন বা ৯০০ কোটি মার্কিন ডলার ছাড়িয়েছে। চলতি ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরের জুলাই-মার্চ প্রান্তিকে ঘাটতির পরিমাণ ৯২৫ কোটি ডলারে উঠেছে। এর আগের ২০২২-২৩ অর্থবছরের একই সময়ে আর্থিক হিসাবে ঘাটতি ছিল ৪০৯ কোটি ডলার। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের এক প্রতিবেদনে এ তথ্য পাওয়া গেছে। বিদেশি বিনিয়োগ কমে যাওয়াসহ কয়েকটি কারণে ঘাটতি বাড়ছে বলে মনে করা হচ্ছে। যেমন, প্রবাসীরা পুঁজিবাজার বা অন্যত্র আগের চেয়ে কম বিনিয়োগ করছেন, উল্টো বিনিয়োগ ভেঙে নিয়ে যাচ্ছেন। আবার যে পরিমাণ পণ্য রপ্তানি হচ্ছে, তার বিপরীতে দেশে আয় আসা কমেছে।</p>	14 May 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/mwggivxtzc)	
05	<p><u>Bangladesh facing major macro-economic challenges</u></p> <p>Dr. Sadiq Ahmed tells MCCI event</p> <p>Depreciation of Taka, persistent higher inflation, and low revenue growth remain major challenges for Bangladesh's economy at present. Besides, a fall in the forex reserves is the country's another macroeconomic concern.</p> <p>These were the views expressed by an eminent economist, Dr. Sadiq Ahmed, during his keynote presentation at a discussion titled 'Stabilizing the Macroeconomy of Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges'. The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) organised the discussion programme at its office in the city's Gulshan area on Tuesday.</p>	15 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-facing-major-macro-economic-challenges-1715708540?date=15-05-2024)	

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06	<p>Taka-dollar trading equations after devaluation <u>Crawling peg offers cushion against forex volatility</u> BB feels so as exchange rate 'almost stable', bankers agree</p> <p>Exchange rates are seen almost stable by the central bank under crawling peg just introduced in Bangladesh and top bankers also say the system is helping heal the forex volatility. They said the weighted average exchange rate remained "almost stable" since the introduction of the new system under a reform recipe that brusquely raised the US dollar value in exchange with the domestic currency.</p> <p>Under crawling-peg exchange, the rate of currency exchange depreciates at a rate roughly equal to the inflation differentials between the country and its trading partners. The idea is to maintain the real exchange rate in the economy. When any country experiences inflation above the rates of its trading partners, holding the exchange rate fixed would imply a steady loss in competitiveness. In order to avoid the widening deficits, many countries follow a crawling-peg exchange-rate policy.</p> <p>The weighted average exchange rate on May 09, the first day of the new system in operation, was Tk 117.49 and at the end of May 14 it stood at Tk 117.45," said a senior central banker.</p>	15 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/crawling-peg-offers-cushion-against-forex-volatility-1715708197?date=15-05-2024)	
07	<p><u>Entrepreneurs spend 6 times more than official fees to obtain licences</u></p> <p>Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh need to spend six times more than the official rates to obtain licences and other permits from government offices to do business, an economist said yesterday. At least 20 licences are required to establish a garment factory in Bangladesh, which eats away at time and money, said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).</p>	15 May 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/entrepreneurs-spend-6-times-more-official-fees-obtain-licences-3610376)	
08	<p><u>Bangladesh targets \$110b export by FY'27</u> Cabinet body endorses upbeat draft export policy</p> <p>Bangladesh sets sights high on US\$110 billion in export earnings by fiscal year 2026-27 in a substantial increase from the current mark, which officials see achievable but economists appear a bit sceptical.</p> <p>The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Wednesday approved the draft Export Policy 2024-2027 with the aim of ramping up the country's earnings from export of goods and services over the next three years from the current target of \$72 billion.</p> <p>So far this fiscal year of 2023-24, this export proceeds have missed the mark, fetching \$47.47 billion during July-April period, official data show. The earning marks only a 3.93-percent annualised growth but having fallen short of the target by 6.87 per cent.</p>	16 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-targets-110b-export-by-fy27-1715794445?date=16-05-2024)	
09	<p><u>আগামী অর্থবছরের জন্য ২ লাখ ৬৫ হাজার কোটি টাকার এডিপি অনুমোদন</u></p> <p>২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরের জন্য ২ লাখ ৬৫ হাজার কোটি টাকার বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি বা এডিপি অনুমোদন করা হয়েছে। আজ বৃহস্পতিবার অনুষ্ঠিত জাতীয় অর্থনৈতিক পরিষদের (এনইসি) সভায় আগামী অর্থবছরে উন্নয়ন কার্যক্রমের জন্য এ বরাদ্দ অনুমোদন করা হয়। আগামী অর্থবছরের এডিপিতে যে অর্থবরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে, তা চলতি ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরের বরাদ্দের চেয়ে মাত্র ২ হাজার কোটি টাকা বেশি। সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তির বলছেন, মূলত অর্থসংকটের কারণেই এবার এডিপিতে বরাদ্দ খুব বেশি বাড়ানো হয়নি।</p>	16 May 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/1b59vtksa2)	

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10	<p>কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের বারবার নীতি পরিবর্তনে ক্ষতি হচ্ছে বললেন ব্যবসায়ীরা</p> <p>কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের বারবার নীতি পরিবর্তনের ফলে ব্যবসায়ীরা ব্যাপক ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হচ্ছেন বলে জানান এফবিসিসিআইয়ের সভাপতি মাহবুবুল আলম। তিনি বলেন, একটি পলিসি নিয়ে ব্যবসায়ীরা কাজ করে। যখন পলিসি বারবার পরিবর্তন হয়, তখন ব্যবসায়ীরা ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হন। এটা গিয়ে অর্থনীতিতে প্রভাব পড়ে। গতকাল দেশের অর্থনীতি নিয়ে গভর্নরের সঙ্গে আলোচনা শেষে এসব জানান তিনি। এসময় উপস্থিত ছিলেন- এফবিসিসিআইর সাবেক সভাপতি জসিম উদ্দিন, বিজিএমইএ সভাপতি এস এম মান্নান কচি, বিটিএমএ সভাপতি মোহাম্মদ আলী খোকন ও ডিসিসির সভাপতি আশরাফ আহমেদ এবং বিকেএমইএর নির্বাহী সভাপতি মোহাম্মদ হাতেমসহ শীর্ষ ব্যবসায়ীরা।</p>	17 May 2024	Sangbad (https://sangbad.net.bd/news/business/2024/119594/)	
11	<p>From med to mild steel, dollar jump fuels a manufacturing nightmare</p> <p>A confluence of factors -- dragging on inflation, a dollar shortage and rising utility prices -- had already punctured the country's manufacturing spirit. The recent record surge in the dollar, jumping Tk 7 in a single day, has only compounded these difficulties for manufacturers who rely heavily on imported raw materials. Faced with rising production costs, manufacturers across various industries -- from steel and cement to ceramics and pharmaceuticals -- are struggling to maintain sales and remain competitive. With sluggish sales for the past two years due to inflation, they are now hesitant to further burden consumers by raising prices. Besides, uncertainty about future business prospects and a deepening dollar crisis fuel their anxieties. Industry insiders said although the dollar crisis has plagued them for a couple of years, the situation has become increasingly dire recently.</p>	19 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/from-med-to-mild-steel-dollar-jump-fuels-a-manufacturing-nightmare-1716051742?date=19-05-2024)	
12	<p>Digitalisation needed to check tax evasion: experts</p> <p>Experts on Sunday said that digitalisation was needed to check tax evasion in the country. They also said that if Bangladesh could not improve its internal resource management, the country would become prone to economic dependence. They said these during a dialogue titled 'Digitalisation of the Taxation System in Bangladesh: The Next Frontier for Higher Resource Mobilisation' organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue in partnership with the European Union in the capital Dhaka on the day.</p>	19 May 2024	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/mis/235570/digitalisation-needed-to-check-tax-evasion-experts)	
13	<p>Ctg port aims for faster, cheaper imports with 6 new jetties</p> <p>The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) is on track to construct six new lighter jetties along the banks of the Karnaphuli River by this year to bolster the efficiency of Bangladesh's primary maritime gateway. CPA officials and businesses said this strategic initiative will enhance the port's cargo handling capacity significantly while slashing costs and saving precious time for importers. Also, the expansion is set to ease the persistent traffic congestion plaguing the port city.</p>	19 May 2024	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/infrastructure/ctg-port-aims-faster-cheaper-imports-6-new-jetties-854846)	
14	<p>Online tax returns can bring \$32b extra revenues annually: CPD</p> <p>Bangladesh can raise an additional \$32.6 billion in revenues annually within the next four years if the electronic filing of tax returns can be ensured, said the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday. This is around 5 percent of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP), said the independent think-tank at a dialogue on the digitalisation of the taxation system. The CPD organised the event in partnership with the European Union (EU) at the Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka.</p>	20 May 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/online-tax-returns-can-bring-32b-extra-revenues-annually-cpd-3613841)	

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15	<p>BB to apply moral suasion to keep lending rate within 14pc Businesses' worry over interest instability prompts the central bank to weigh playing the morality card to peg bank lending rate within 14 per cent, in an exigent paradigm shift. Officials say the Bangladesh Bank (BB) is now considering applying 'moral suasion' on the commercial banks to keep the maximum lending rate within 14 per cent on the money market.</p> <p>Moral suasion mechanism comes into play to prevent any possible act of unusual hike in the lending rate by banks taking the opportunity of the market-oriented interest regime, just pivoted to through the lift of limits. Moral suasion is a type of influencing procedure which is applied by central banks to keep the pressure on commercial banks in order to abide by the monetary policies that are established. In fact, most of the moral suasion involves verbal gestures and signalling through central bank minutes.</p>	20 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-to-apply-moral-suasion-to-keep-lending-rate-within-14pc-1716141351?date=20-05-2024)	
16	<p>Online tax returns can bring \$32b extra revenues annually: CPD Bangladesh can raise an additional \$32.6 billion in revenues annually within the next four years if the electronic filing of tax returns can be ensured, said the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday. This is around 5 percent of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP), said the independent think-tank at a dialogue on the digitalisation of the taxation system. The CPD organised the event in partnership with the European Union (EU) at the Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka.</p>	20 May 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/online-tax-returns-can-bring-32b-extra-revenues-annually-cpd-3613841)	
17	<p>ডিজিটাল লেনদেনে ১৫৭ দেশের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশ ১০২তম, বিশ্বব্যাংকের প্রতিবেদন সম্প্রতি ডিজিটাল অগ্রগতি নিয়ে বিশ্বব্যাংক একটি প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশ করেছে। সেখানে বাংলাদেশের এই চিত্র উঠে এসেছে। বৈশ্বিক বিবেচনায় ডিজিটাল লেনদেনে বাংলাদেশ পেছনের সারিতে থাকলেও দক্ষিণ এশিয়ায় ভারত, পাকিস্তান, নেপাল, ভুটান, আফগানিস্তানের চেয়ে এগিয়ে আছে। তবে পিছিয়ে আছে মালদ্বীপ ও শ্রীলঙ্কার চেয়ে। ব্যাংকের পাশাপাশি বাংলাদেশে ডিজিটাল লেনদেনের বড় একটি অংশ এখন হচ্ছে মোবাইল ফোনে আর্থিক সেবাদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠান বিকাশ, নগদ, রকেট, উপায়সহ আরও কিছু প্রতিষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে।</p> <p>বিশ্বব্যাংক বলছে, বাংলাদেশের ১৫ বছরের বেশি বয়সী জনগোষ্ঠীর ৪৫ শতাংশ ডিজিটাল লেনদেনের সঙ্গে যুক্ত। বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরোর (বিবিএস) সর্বশেষ জনশুমারি অনুসারে, দেশে ১৫ বছরের বেশি বয়সী মানুষ রয়েছে ১১ কোটি ৮৯ লাখ ১৬ হাজার। বিশ্বব্যাংকের হিসাবে, তাদের মধ্যে ৫ লাখ ৩৫ হাজার মানুষ ডিজিটাল লেনদেন করেন। বিশ্বব্যাংকের ডিজিটাল লেনদেনের তালিকায় শীর্ষে থাকা ১০টি দেশের ৯৯ থেকে শতভাগ মানুষই এ ধরনের লেনদেনে যুক্ত। এই তালিকায় শীর্ষে আছে ডেনমার্ক। দেশটির সব মানুষ ডিজিটাল লেনদেনের আওতায় রয়েছে। তালিকায় অন্য ৯টি দেশ হলো অস্ট্রেলিয়া, নেদারল্যান্ডস, নরওয়ে, অস্ট্রিয়া, যুক্তরাজ্য, সুইডেন, আইসল্যান্ড, জার্মানি ও এস্তোনিয়া।</p>	20 May 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/bxh0ng7tit)	
18	<p>Per capita income up to \$2,784 in FY '24 The per capita income of Bangladesh stands at US \$2784 in the current fiscal year, slightly higher than the previous fiscal year. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) released the periodic data on Monday. The end of the current fiscal year is just a few days away, reports UNB. The BBS prepared this projection from an existing trend of the economic situation.</p> <p>BBS says that by the end of FY 2023-24, the provisional GDP growth will stand at 5.82 per cent, which was 5.78 per cent in the previous FY2022-23.</p>	22 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/per-capita-income-up-to-2784-in-fy-24-1716315284?date=22-05-2024)	

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19	<p>Tax return submission <u>Mandatory for booking community centres, licensing med clinics</u></p> <p>Tax-return-submission scope is getting wider with mandatory coverage of booking community centres and licensing medical clinics and diagnostic centres, under government's revenue-boosting measures. People desiring to book community centre for wedding ceremony or other social events would have to submit their tax returns regularly from next fiscal year, officials said.</p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is set to make the proof of submission of tax returns (PSR) mandatory for those booking the centres for such high-cost events. Also, obtaining and renewal of licences for hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centre would require furnishing PSR from FY 2025.</p> <p>The income-tax authority would incorporate the two major untapped sectors into the tax law along with existing 43 services, officials said.</p>	22 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/mandatory-for-booking-community-centres-licensing-med-clinics-1716314980?date=22-05-2024)	
20	<p><u>Productivity and salaries boosted in sectors exposed to AI: study</u></p> <p>Sectors exposed to artificial intelligence (AI) are seeing rising productivity and faster growth in salaries, a PwC study published on Tuesday said, even as the technology provokes job insecurity concerns. Skills which are easily transferable to AI, such as in finance or computer science, have seen "almost fivefold greater labour productivity growth", the global consultancy said. Job offers requiring AI skills are on the rise, at a rate 3.5 times faster than the average, according to the study of more than 500 million job offers in over 15 countries.</p>	22 May 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/productivity-and-salaries-boosted-sectors-exposed-ai-study-3616111)	
21	<p><u>Fixing next growth rate in quandary after current GDP-target failure</u></p> <p>Less-than-expected economic growth in the outgoing fiscal year has thrown finance officials, who are now preparing a contractionary budget, in dilemmas over fixing next GDP-growth target.</p> <p>Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) Monday released provisional data of gross domestic product (GDP) for the fiscal year 2023-24 to be 5.82 per cent in the end, much lesser than the targeted 7.5 per cent in the original budget and also lower than the revised target of 6.5 per cent. The growth rate is close to the forecast made by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at 5.7 per cent and World Bank's projection of 5.6 per cent.</p> <p>The BBS's growth projection has stunned the Finance Division officials who are now almost at the final stage in budget preparation for the next fiscal year.</p>	23 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/fixing-next-growth-rate-in-quandary-after-current-gdp-target-failure-1716401147)	
22	<p><u>Govt likely to announce tax rates in advance</u></p> <p>The government is likely to announce income tax rates for individuals and companies in advance in order to allow them to make better investment and tax plans. Currently, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) announces tax rates for firms and individuals after the end of an income year.</p> <p>For instance, the current income year begins from July 2023 and will end on June 2024. Based on the announced rates, taxpayers file their income and wealth statements and pay taxes on their incomes in the next year, termed as the assessment year. But in the coming year, the NBR may announce tax rates that will not only be applicable for the outgoing income year 2023-24 but also for the next income year 2024-25.</p>	23 May 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-likely-announce-tax-rates-advance-3616366)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks																					
23	<p data-bbox="253 244 1108 276"><u>Investment-GDP ratio remains flat despite public spending increase</u></p> <div data-bbox="253 276 1153 550"> <table border="1" data-bbox="660 295 1142 534"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fiscal Year</th> <th>Private (%)</th> <th>Public (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FY '19</td> <td>25.25</td> <td>6.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FY '20</td> <td>20.24</td> <td>1.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FY '21</td> <td>23.70</td> <td>1.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FY '22</td> <td>24.51</td> <td>1.53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FY '23</td> <td>24.18</td> <td>6.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FY '24</td> <td>23.51</td> <td>1.47</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p data-bbox="253 582 1612 718">Bangladesh's economic growth is becoming susceptible due to long-standing dormant investment, as the private-sector investment remains on a poor trajectory, analysts said on Wednesday. Despite incremental government investments in infrastructure development, the country continues to post lower economic growth. The investment-to-GDP ratio remains stagnant, with private investors yet to be invigorated, they say.</p> <p data-bbox="253 718 1612 853">Economists point to the huge depreciation of local currency Taka, restrictions on import, mismanagement of monetary policy and dormant public development activities as factors affecting investment. They also argue that the failure to achieve quality outcomes from public investment is dampening expectations of higher local and foreign investment in the country.</p> <p data-bbox="253 853 1612 917">Latest BBS data shows that the investment-to-GDP ratio in the current FY 2024 is estimated at 30.98 per cent, which is almost identical to the 30.95 per cent recorded in FY 2023.</p>	Fiscal Year	Private (%)	Public (%)	FY '19	25.25	6.96	FY '20	20.24	1.29	FY '21	23.70	1.32	FY '22	24.51	1.53	FY '23	24.18	6.77	FY '24	23.51	1.47	23 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/investment-gdp-ratio-remains-flat-despite-public-spending-increase-1716401243)	
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24	<p data-bbox="253 930 963 962"><u>NPLs triple to Tk 1.45tn in ten years, create cash crunch</u></p> <p data-bbox="253 962 1612 1125">In ten years' time till last December, the volume of non-performing loans or NPLs more than tripled to Tk1.45 trillion in Bangladesh and exacerbated the cash crunch in banks. If another chunk of banks' liquid asset stuck up as rescheduled loans is added up, the amount of dud money banks are bearing will come to Tk 3.78 trillion, a CPD survey report says. Also, there is Tk 1.78 trillion of unpaid debts against 72,543 cases pending with the loan courts. Altogether, the total amount of default loans will be Tk 5.6 trillion.</p> <p data-bbox="253 1125 1612 1252">Such portrayal of state of the country's banking industry came in a presentation made by Dr Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, at a cutting-edge meet Thursday on the sector situation fraught with numerous problems. The seminar, titled 'What lies ahead for the banking sector of Bangladesh', was held at a hotel in the city that gathered well-conversant persons.</p>	24 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/investment-gdp-ratio-remains-flat-despite-public-spending-increase-1716401243)																						
25	<p data-bbox="253 1268 974 1300"><u>Listed firms may face 2.5% additional corporate tax in FY25</u></p> <p data-bbox="253 1300 1612 1452">Companies listed on the capital market are expected to face an additional 2.5% corporate tax in the next fiscal year unless they adopt cashless transactions - as the government plans to promote a cashless society. Currently, listed companies with more than 10% free float shares in the capital market pay 20% in corporate tax. The government plans to increase this rate to 22.5% in the fiscal 2024-25, finance ministry officials told The Business Standard.</p>	24 May 2024	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/listed-firms-may-face-25-additional-corporate-tax-fy25-859031)																						

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26	<p>Import payments fall with domino effect on economy July-Mar spending squeezes 16pc as govt austerity stance prolongs amid forex crunch</p> <p>Bangladesh's import payments have plummeted amid tight-fisted spending from scarce foreign- exchange reserves, with a notable fall in capital machinery-and raw-material imports by industrial enterprises, according to latest available data.</p> <p>Customs-based imports decreased 15.54 per cent during July-March of the current financial year compared to a 12.37-percent fall during July-March of FY23, according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data. On the other hand, the country's overall import payments fell 16.03 per cent in March 2024 year on year.</p>	25 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/import-payments-fall-with-domino-effect-on-economy-1716571566)	
27	<p>Solar net metering system installed in 55pc commercial buildings</p> <p>A solar net metering system has been installed in 55 per cent of commercial buildings, 28 per cent of residential structures and 16 per cent of industrial facilities, according to a recent study. In the last seven years, only 110 MW of solar power has been added to the net metering system, it says. The study revealed a 55.6-percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from industrial production through the net metering.</p> <p>The study findings were presented at a roundtable workshop to disseminate research finding for "Solar Net Metering in Bangladesh with a Focus on Export Processing Zones (EPZs): Prospects, Challenges and Scaling" at a city auditorium in the capital on Saturday.</p>	26 May 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/solar-net-metering-system-installed-in-55pc-commercial-buildings-1716654609)	
28	<p>Forex position to stabilise in next few months: Moody's</p> <p>US ratings agency Moody's has projected that Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves position will stabilise over the next few months despite repeatedly failing to fulfil the IMF's target and the drastic fall in international currency holdings over the past two years. It will be supported by the recent improvement of the current account balance to modest surpluses partly reflecting ongoing import restrictions, narrowing financial account deficits as business uncertainties gradually ease following the conclusion of the general elections in January, it said.</p> <p>The continued disbursements of concessional financing by international financial institutions will also contribute to the improvement, the ratings agency said in a report. The latter also reflects progress on benchmarks and targets specified by the current \$4.7 billion loan programme of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).</p>	26 May 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/forex-position-stabilise-next-few-months-moodys-3618576)	
29	<p>ঢাকা অঞ্চলেই দেশের ৬০% বিআইএনধারী ব্যবসায় প্রতিষ্ঠান</p> <p>বাংলাদেশে যত ব্যবসায় প্রতিষ্ঠান আছে, তার প্রায় ৬০ শতাংশের অবস্থান ঢাকা অঞ্চলে। রাজধানী ঢাকা ও আশপাশের জেলাতে সব মিলিয়ে প্রায় তিন লাখ প্রতিষ্ঠান রয়েছে। যেসব প্রতিষ্ঠান ব্যবসায় শনাক্তকরণ নম্বর (বিআইএন) নিয়েছে, তাদের বিবেচনায় নিয়ে এই হিসাব করা হয়েছে। জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের (এনবিআর) মূল্য সংযোজন কর (মূসক) বা ভ্যাট বিভাগ সূত্রে এসব তথ্য জানা গেছে।</p>	26 May 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/a8nwvo90un)	