

Summary of Business News – 60

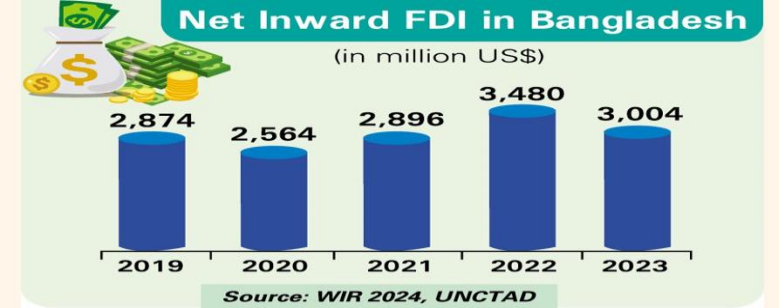
Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 10 – 24 June 2024

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><u>Directors' loan in listed cos made taxable</u> Any loan disbursed to its directors by a company, be it publicly listed or non-listed, will be considered their taxable income under provision of the proposed budget for the fiscal 2024-25. The Finance Bill 2024 provides that if a company has accumulated profit in its balance sheet, its directors have to pay tax at regular rate as 'dividend income' for borrowing from their own company. For example, if a company accumulates profit worth Tk10 million and disburses the same amount as loan to its directors, the entire amount will be considered taxable. In case of a lower amount of accumulated profit, such as Tk 5.0 million, but disbursed loan is Tk 10 million, then taxmen will consider Tk 5.0 million as taxable income. Currently, only private companies' directors are supposed to pay such tax on loan if taken from their own companies. In the Finance Bill 2024, such taxation principle aims to discourage obtaining loan from own companies so that listed companies can issue more dividends to their shareholders.</p>	10 June 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/directors-loan-in-listed-cos-made-taxable-1717958114?date=10-06-2024)	
02	<p><u>Supplementary budget passed with addl Tk 37.82b</u> Banking sector in a mess: Opposition Government spending from the current budget balloons further with another sum of Tk37.82 billion as parliament Monday passed a supplementary budget to meet increased expenditures under different ministries, overruling objections. Finance AH Mahmood Ali placed the supplementary budget for the outgoing fiscal 2023-24 in the House on June 6 along with the new national budget. On Monday, the Finance Minister moved three bills to push the supplementary budget through the House following general discussion on it and on cut motions. In the budget for 2023-24 fiscal the net allocation for 62 ministries and divisions was Tk7.62 trillion. In the supplementary budget, expenditure of 22 ministries and divisions got enhanced while expenditure of 40 ministries and divisions remained either unchanged or reduced.</p>	11 June 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/supplementary-budget-passed-with-addl-tk-3782b-1718043593?date=11-06-2024)	
03	<p><u>আগামী অর্থবছরে প্রবৃদ্ধি হবে ৫.৭%, বিশ্বব্যাংকের পূর্বাভাস</u> আগামী ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশের ৫ দশমিক ৭ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি হতে পারে বলে মনে করছে বিশ্বব্যাংক। এরপর ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশের প্রবৃদ্ধি হতে পারে ৫ দশমিক ৯ শতাংশ। যদিও প্রস্তাবিত ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরের বাজেটে প্রবৃদ্ধির পূর্বাভাস করা হয়েছে ৬ দশমিক ৭৫ শতাংশ। শুধু তা-ই নয়, সরকার মনে করছে, মধ্যমেয়াদে দেশের প্রবৃদ্ধির হার আরও বাড়বে। বিশ্বব্যাংক আরও বলেছে, ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশের প্রবৃদ্ধির হার ৫ দশমিক ৬ শতাংশে নেমে আসবে। তাদের প্রাথমিক হিসাবে, ২০২২-২৩ অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশের প্রবৃদ্ধি হয়েছিল ৫ দশমিক ৮ শতাংশ। সেই হিসাবে চলতি অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশের প্রবৃদ্ধির গতি কমবে। বিশ্বব্যাংকের 'গ্লোবাল ইকোনমিক প্রসপেক্টস' শীর্ষক জুন মাসের প্রতিবেদনে এই পূর্বাভাস দেওয়া হয়েছে। এদিকে বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরোর (বিবিএস) সাময়িক হিসাব অনুযায়ী, ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশের প্রবৃদ্ধি হয়েছে ৫ দশমিক ৮ শতাংশ।</p>	12 June 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/mbe032ae0b)	

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04	<p><u>পরিবেশবান্ধব লিড সনদ পেল আরও দুটি কারখানা</u> দেশের আরও দুটি কারখানা পরিবেশবান্ধব লিড সনদ পেয়েছে। গাজীপুরের কাশিমপুরের কটন ক্লাব লিমিটেড ও ঢাকার ধামরাইয়ের গ্রাফিক্স টেক্সটাইল পরিবেশবান্ধব কারখানার লিড সনদ পেয়েছে। তৈরি পোশাকমালিকদের সংগঠন বিজিএমইএ সূত্রে এই খবর পাওয়া গেছে। দুটি কারখানাই গোল্ড সনদ পেয়েছে। এই ২টি কারখানা নিয়ে দেশের মোট ২২০টি কারখানা পরিবেশবান্ধব সনদ পেল। এর মধ্যে প্লাটিনাম সনদ পেয়েছে ৮৪টি কারখানা, গোল্ড সনদ পেয়েছে ১২২টি কারখানা, সিলভার সনদ পেয়েছে ১০টি কারখানা, সার্টিফায়েড পুরস্কার পেয়েছে ৪টি কারখানা।</p>	12 June 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/lb0ei9iup5)	
05	<p>Post-budget musings <u>Economists call for budget cuts, central bank tightening</u> PRI-MCCI meet suggests a to-do list The government should re-examine its budget to trim the outlay by Tk 500 billion through expenditure-plan adjustments. Administrative costs, subsidies and other government spending could be reduced, while bank borrowing should be limited to less than Tk 900 billion, according to economist Dr Ahsan H Mansur. Dr Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI), strongly urged a reconsideration of these measures before the national budget for FY25 is passed. The budget, which was presented to Parliament last week, outlines Tk 1.375 trillion in bank borrowing. In a presentation titled 'Budget Insights: Challenges and Opportunities' organised by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) and PRI, Dr Mansur also recommended reviewing the possibility of eliminating redundant ministries and agencies, such as the Ministry of Textiles & Jute. He also suggested selectively reducing or eliminating subsidies and renegotiating power purchasing agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs). While advocating for a combination of fiscal and monetary tightening, he urged the central bank for three key measures: not to monetise government debt, not to provide liquidity lifelines to ailing banks and to maintain an overall tighter stance for stable exchange rates. At the programme, MCCI President Kamran T Rahman said some aspects of the budget -- such as not eliminating cash transaction limit to avail corporate tax cuts, offering black money whitening scopes and the minimum tax provisions -- have disappointed businesses. The event was moderated by Habibullah N Karim, vice president of MCCI. Dr Mashiur Rahman, economic affairs adviser to the prime minister, was the chief guest.</p>	13 June 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economists-call-for-budget-cuts-central-bank-tightening-1718217599)	
06	<p><u>\$1.13b project planned to boost logistics at Bangabandhu Shilpa Nagar</u> The Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) is initiating a \$1.127 billion project to enhance logistics facilities, including multimodal connectivity, at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar, the country's largest industrial zone in Chattogram. The project aims to transform it into a climate-resilient smart industrial zone with associated infrastructure and renewable energy facilities, including comprehensive road connectivity, a logistics hub with jetties, utility infrastructure, and an intelligent transportation system, according to Beza officials. The objective is to complete the logistics development by 2030, after which the zone, situated in the Mirsarai-Sitakunda-Sonagazi area of Chattogram and Feni districts, will be fully operational.</p>	13 June 2024	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/113b-project-planned-boost-logistics-bangabandhu-shilpa-nagar-875926)	

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07	<p><u>Remal losses estimated at Tk 70b</u> The government has so far estimated the losses caused by cyclone Remal at Tk 70.0 billion, said State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Md Mohibur Rahman on Wednesday, reports UNB. The overall damage report of the cyclone will be handed over to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday, he said while speaking at dialogue titled, "Government preparedness to tackle natural disasters' held at the secretariat.</p>	13 June 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/remal-losses-estimated-at-tk-70b-1718217260)	
08	<p><u>Deal with Chinese co done for 100MW solar power plant</u> A 100-megawatt new solar-power plant will be built in Madarganj of Jamalpur district under joint venture with a Chinese company at an investment worth US\$170 million. A joint venture (JV) agreement between China's CREC International Renewable Energy Company and Bangladesh's state-owned B-R Powergen Limited (BRPL) was inked Thursday at Biduyt Bhaban in Dhaka to build the power plant by December 2025. The Chinese firm will have 70-percent stake in the JV, while the state-owned BRPL, jointly owned by Bangladesh Power Development Board and the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (REB), will have the rest 30 per cent.</p>	14 June 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/deal-with-chinese-co-done-for-100mw-solar-power-plant-1718302087?date=14-06-2024)	
09	<p><u>Policy drafted with fees on industrial use of water</u> The government is planning to impose prices on industrial use of water, aiming for better management of national resources. The Water Resources Planning Organisation (Warpo) has already developed a draft policy that proposes imposing a shadow price for water considering its marginal damage cost, marginal abatement cost, acidification, eutrophication, and their consequences. The draft policy also mentions that the government would fix separate prices for industrial uses of water and wastewater, in addition to the prices of water for residential and commercial uses.</p>	14 June 2024	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/policy-drafted-fees-industrial-use-water-852301)	
10	<p><u>1.0pc of educated population obtain technical degrees</u> BBS survey shows Less than one per cent of the educated population in Bangladesh has obtained technical degrees, showing the country's one of the major weaknesses in its march towards a middle-income country. According to a latest survey by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), only 0.83 per cent of the educated population in Bangladesh acquired technical education. A total of 92.02 per cent of the literate people have taken general education in the country while 7.15 per cent religious education, the Socio-Economic and Demographic Survey 2023 showed.</p>	16 June 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/10pc-of-educated-population-obtain-technical-degrees-1718470751?date=16-06-2024)	
11	<p><u>GDP output may rise 40% if women's participation in economy widens</u> Bangladesh can increase its economic output by nearly 40 percent by closing the gender gap and increasing women's participation in the economy, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "Sizable gaps in women's economic empowerment undermine growth and exacerbate climate vulnerability in Bangladesh," said the multilateral agency in an article last week. Per capita incomes in Bangladesh have risen seven-fold in the past three decades while poverty has been reduced to a fraction of former levels. "Such progress has been driven in part by greater labour force participation by women, most notably in the garment industry, and has been accompanied by other meaningful improvements in women's empowerment," said the article jointly written by Jayendu De and Genet Zinabou.</p>	16 June 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/gdp-output-may-rise-40-if-womens-participation-economy-widens-3635441)	

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12	<p>বৈশ্বিক চাহিদার ৩ শতাংশ চামড়া উৎপাদন বাংলাদেশে, রপ্তানি মাত্র শূন্য দশমিক ৭ শতাংশ</p> <p>বৈশ্বিক চাহিদার ৩ শতাংশ চামড়া উৎপাদন হওয়া সত্ত্বেও বাংলাদেশের চামড়া ও চামড়াজাত পণ্য রপ্তানি বৈশ্বিক মোট রপ্তানির মাত্র শূন্য দশমিক ৭ শতাংশ। সংকটগুলো দূর করতে পারলে রপ্তানি খাতে এই শিল্পের ঘুর দাঁড়ানো সম্ভব। বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের (বিডা) এক গবেষণা প্রতিবেদনে এসব তথ্য উঠে এসেছে।</p> <p>প্রতি বছর কোরবানির ঈদ সামনে এলেই আলোচনায় উঠে আসে চামড়া শিল্পখাতের সংকটগুলো। সম্প্রতি রপ্তানি আয়ের হিসাবে অবনতি হয়েছে দেশের একসময়ের দ্বিতীয় সর্বোচ্চ রপ্তানির আয়ের খাতটি। এই সংকটের পেছনে কয়েকটি কারণ উঠে এসেছে বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের (বিডা) এক গবেষণা প্রতিবেদনে। এর মধ্যে রয়েছে আমদানি-রপ্তানিতে চামড়া শিল্পের মান নিয়ন্ত্রণকারী বৈশ্বিক সংস্থা ওয়ার্কিং লেদার গ্রুপের (এলডব্লিউজি) সনদ না থাকা।</p>	16 June 2024	The Sangbad (https://print.sangbad.net.bd/2024-06-16/news/business/148532)	
13	<p>ভুটানি বিশেষ অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল হচ্ছে কুড়িগ্রামে মাধবরাম গ্রামে</p> <p>উত্তরের সীমান্তবর্তী কুড়িগ্রাম জেলার সদর উপজেলায় ধরলাপাড়ে কুড়িগ্রাম-সোনাহাট স্থলবন্দর মহাসড়কের মাধবরাম গ্রামে হতে যাচ্ছে ভুটানি বিশেষ অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল। কুড়িগ্রামে ভুটানি অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল দ্রুত বাস্তবায়নের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থানিতে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর বেসরকারি শিল্প ও বিনিয়োগ উপদেষ্টা সালমান এফ রহমানকে অনুরোধ জানিয়েছেন ভুটানের রাজা জিগমে খেসার নামগেল ওয়াংচুক। গতকাল শনিবার রাতে ভুটান সফররত সালমান এফ রহমানের সঙ্গে সৌজন্য সাক্ষাৎ শেষে ভুটানের রাজা এই অনুরোধ জানান। উপদেষ্টার দপ্তর থেকে আজ রোববার পাঠানো এক সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বিষয়টি জানানো হয়।</p>	16 June 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/2cdsyv2rn2)	
14	<p>Smart Bangladesh</p> <p>Govt moves towards 100pc paperless services by 2041</p> <p>The government has announced plans to make all its services completely paperless. This initiative is part of the broader 'Smart Bangladesh by 2041' vision, aiming to leverage frontier technologies to transform governance, reports UNB.</p> <p>According to an official document - recently presented in the parliament, the government aims to achieve cent per cent paperless, simplified, and personalised services. "All government services will be made cent per cent paperless, simplified, and personalised to enable frontier-technology-driven on-demand services," it stated.</p> <p>Key components of this transformation include making all services accessible and interoperable through the Smart Bangladesh Stack, a digital infrastructure framework. Additionally, data-driven, AI-based dashboards will be introduced for all ministries and departments to improve decision-making processes. By 2041, the government aims to significantly improve its standing in the UN e-Government Development Index, targeting a rank below 50. It also seeks to increase the tax-GDP ratio to at least 22 per cent through technological advancements. Another critical goal is to ensure universal and quality healthcare for all citizens, reinforcing the government's commitment to comprehensive social welfare.</p>	20 June 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/govt-moves-towards-100pc-paperless-services-by-2041-1718818268)	
15	<p>যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে পোশাক রপ্তানিতে শীর্ষে ভিয়েতনাম, তিন নম্বরে বাংলাদেশ</p> <p>যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের বাজারে দীর্ঘদিন ধরে শীর্ষস্থানীয় তৈরি পোশাক রপ্তানিকারক দেশ হচ্ছে চীন। পরের অবস্থানে থাকা ভিয়েতনাম কয়েক মাস ধরে চীনের ঘাড়ে নিশ্বাস ফেলছিল। অর্থাৎ চীনের কাছাকাছি রপ্তানি করছিল ভিয়েতনাম। অবশেষে গত এপ্রিল শেষে এই বাজারে চীনকে টপকে শীর্ষস্থানীয় পোশাক রপ্তানিকারক হয়ে গেছে ভিয়েতনাম।</p> <p>অন্যদিকে বাংলাদেশের পোশাক রপ্তানি ধারাবাহিকভাবেই কমছে। দেশটির বাজারে বাংলাদেশের অবস্থান তিন নম্বরে। ইউএস ডিপার্টমেন্ট অব কমার্সের আওতাধীন অফিস অব টেক্সটাইল অ্যান্ড অ্যাপারেলের (অটেক্স) হালনাগাদ পরিসংখ্যান থেকে এসব তথ্য জানা গেছে।</p>	20 June 2024	The Sangbad (https://print.sangbad.net.bd/2024-06-20/news/business/148558)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
16	<p>Phenomenal rise in FDI proposals for BD Greenfield projects Net inward foreign investments decline in 2023 in line with global trend</p>  <p>Though the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Bangladesh declined significantly last year, foreign-investment proposals in greenfield projects posted a record jump during the period under review. World Investment Report (WIR) 2024, released on Thursday afternoon in Geneva by the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), showed that foreign-investment announcement relating to greenfield projects increased by 345 per cent in 2023 compared to 2022. The growth rate is highest in South Asia where Bhutan witnessed a 258.70 per cent jump in greenfield investment projects.</p>	21 June 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/phenomenal-rise-in-fdi-proposals-for-bd-greenfield-projects-1718905522?date=21-06-2024)	
17	<p>Bida identifies 814 vulnerable factories in 2nd phase</p> <p>The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) has identified 814 more factories as risky under a nationwide initiative as the government looks to prevent avoidable fire incidents and other disasters. These factories lack necessary fire safety measures and have vulnerable working conditions. In the first phase, the state-run investment promotion agency named 106 factories in Dhaka, Chattogram, Narayanganj, and Gazipur as risky. The inspection ran between November 2021 and March 2022.</p>	21 June 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bida-identifies-814-vulnerable-factories-2nd-phase-3638001)	
18	<p>NBR sets new rules for firms seeking customs privilege</p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has revised rules, including raising the capital requirements, for businesses to be listed as authorised economic operators (AEO), a status an increasing number of firms are expressing interest in. An AEO can directly deliver cargo from ports to factories or warehouses through a green channel without having to get those through physical checks, thereby cutting time spent at port yards alongside costs and enhancing overall efficiency.</p> <p>Most importantly, if a country has relevant arrangements with other countries, its AEOs can enjoy similar benefits in those countries. A major share of the clearance time, that is around 72 percent to 78 percent, is spent on collecting and submitting import documents and thereby necessitates automation, states a 2022 NBR study on release of goods from ports.</p>	23 June 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/nbr-sets-new-rules-firms-seeking-customs-privilege-3639246)	

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19	<p>BD getting \$400m AIIB budget support Building climate resilience in dev focused in lending package A US\$400-million budget-support credit is forthcoming from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for Bangladesh to help implement critical structural reforms meant for building climate resilience in development activity. Mainstreaming climate-change adaptation and-mitigation actions for a sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth lies at the core of the lending package, officials said about the loan, incidentally coming at a time when the country is in a crying need for foreign exchange. They said the board of directors of the AIIB, the Beijing-headquartered emergent multilateral development bank and international financial institution, is expected to approve the loan programme Thursday.</p>	24 June 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/fIRST-page/bd-getting-400m-aiib-budget-support-1719162353)	
20	<p>All-stakeholder CPD meet recommends remedies Revive regulator, rescind legal indemnity for fair energy pricing Many industries 'shutting down' for costly fuels, funds Revive regulator's tariff-adjustment authority to ensure fair pricing of power and petroleum products for Bangladesh's sustainable growth, an all-stakeholder meet recommends as an industrialist narrates business woes for high energy and fund costs. In this context, the speakers also demanded abolishing the special law in power and energy sector to ensure competitive tariffs from sponsors of both fossil-fuel and renewable-energy- based power plants. The government enacted the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010 with a provision of indemnity fourteen years back and extended over and again with validity until 2026 under the latest extension. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised the dialogue styled 'Power and Energy Sector in the National Budget FY2025: Challenges and Proposed Measures' at a hotel here Sunday.</p>	24 June 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/fIRST-page/revive-regulator-rescind-legal-indemnity-for-fair-energy-pricing-1719162481)	
21	<p>Industrial credit release rises over dollar price hike Industrial loan disbursements increased slightly by 10 per cent in the first half of the 2023-24 financial year compared with those in the same period of FY 2022-23, driven mainly by high dollar rates. Banks and non-bank financial institutions together disbursed industrial loan of Tk 3,09,503 crore in July-December 2023, up from Tk 2,80,934 crore in the same period of FY23, according to the Bangladesh Economic Review. Within the reporting period, industrial term loans amounted to Tk 59,957 crore and working capital loans totalled Tk 2,49,546 crore, up from Tk 48,136 crore and Tk 2,32,798 crore, respectively, in the same period of FY23. Bankers attributed the growth in industrial loans to the sharp rise in the dollar rate, which increased by 11.11 per cent to Tk 110 in December 2023 from Tk 99 in December 2022.</p>	24 June 2024	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/238314/industrial-credit-release-rises-over-dollar-price-hike)	