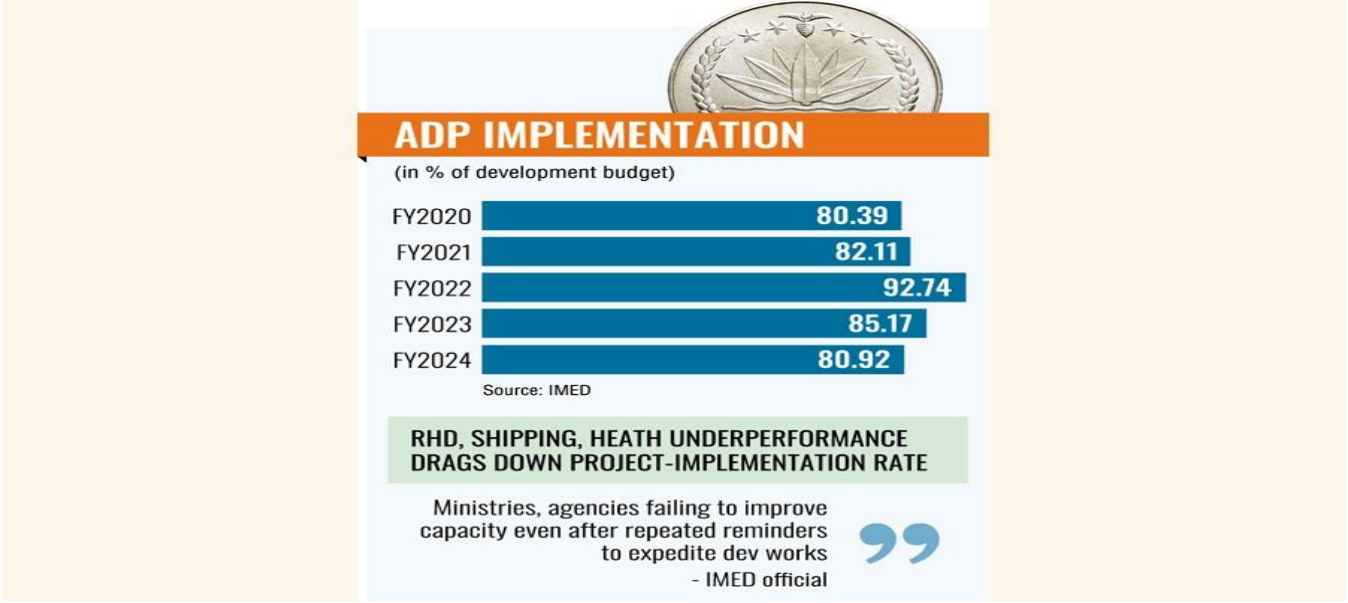




Summary of Business News – 63

Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 11 - 24 August 2024

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><u>Businesses hit by drought of cash supply</u> Businesses in Bangladesh, especially those that mostly deal with cash transactions, yesterday said they are contending with a liquidity crunch as the country's central bank has placed a limit on daily cash withdrawals from banks. On Saturday, banks were told to disallow daily cash withdrawals of more than Tk 2 lakh per account. The banking regulator had limited daily cash withdrawals to Tk 1 lakh per account from last Thursday before deciding to raise the ceiling. The central bank took the decision due to security concerns as police are yet to return to work fully after attacks on around 450 police stations following the uprising that led to the fall of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.</p>	12 August 2024	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/businesses-hit-drought-cash-supply-3675111)	
02	<p><u>Inflation rockets 13yr high in July</u> Commoners suffer as food costlier by 14.10pc amid price spirals Inflation rocketed 13-year high to 11.66 per cent in July as food cost soared by a steep 14.10 per cent, the toghest month especially for the commoners, the last official disclosure showed. In a single month, the food inflation on a point-to-point basis surged by 3.68 percentage points to 14.10 per cent from 10.42 per cent in June, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data unveiled Monday. The highest inflation was recorded in FY2011-12 when the 12-month moving average was 10.92 per cent, the national statistical body showed. Middle and lower-middle class and poor people in Bangladesh have faced hardship over more than a year now as the point-to-point inflation was not coming down below 9.0-percent club. Yet, their livelihood was affected at a higher level in the last month of July when the prices of food-and non-food items were abnormally high. According to BBS, the point-to-point inflation at the national level in July climbed 1.94 percentage points to 11.66 per cent from 9.72 per cent in June. The rate of food inflation this time rose higher to 14.10 per cent from 10.42 per cent in June this year. The non-food inflation also climbed to 9.68 per cent in July from 9.15 per cent in June, the national statistical body showed.</p>	13 August 2024	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/rejuvenating-sluggish-economy-prime-priority-1723225596)	
03	<p><u>Interim government to release accurate inflation and GDP data: Finance adviser</u> The interim government has announced that it will release accurate figures on inflation and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) moving forward. This commitment was made by Salehuddin Ahmed, the Finance and Planning Adviser, during a press briefing at the Planning Ministry this morning (13 August). Ahmed emphasised that controlling inflation will be the top priority of the interim administration.</p>	13 August 2024	The Business Standard (TBS) https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/interim-government-release-accurate-inflation-and-gdp-data-economic-adviser-915481)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
04	<p>১৫ বছরে ব্যাংক খাতে লোপাট ৯২.২৬১ কোটি টাকা : সিপিডি</p> <p>গত ১৫ বছরে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের গভর্নরসহ প্রশাসনিক দায়িত্বপ্রাপ্তরা বিশেষ গোষ্ঠীকে সুবিধা দেয়ার জন্য অনেক নিয়মের ব্যত্যয় ঘটিয়েছেন। যার ফলে একটি বিশেষ গোষ্ঠীকে হাজার হাজার কোটি টাকা ঋণ দেয়া হয়েছে। এর সঙ্গে জড়িতদের শাস্তির দাবি জানিয়েছে সেন্টার ফর পলিসি ডায়ালগ (সিপিডি)।</p> <p>২০০৮ থেকে ২০২৩ সাল পর্যন্ত গত ১৫ বছরে দেশের ব্যাংকখাতে বড় বড় অন্তত ২৪টি আর্থিক কেলেঙ্কারির ঘটনা ঘটেছে। এর মাধ্যমে লোপাট হয়েছে ৯২ হাজার ২৬১ কোটি টাকা। এ অর্থ গত অর্থবছরের বাজেটের ১২ শতাংশ। অন্যদিকে এসময়ে খেলাপি ঋণ বেড়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে এক লাখ ৮২ হাজার ২৯৫ কোটি টাকা।</p>	13 August 2024	Sangbad (https://sangbad.net.bd/news/business/2024/123639/)	
05	<p>ADP execution at 4-year low in FY24</p>  <p>Underperformance by several vital sectors dragged to a four-year low the utilisation rate of development budget in the past fiscal year, sources said, attributing the slowdown to incompetence. The Annual Development Programme (ADP) implementation in the fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 was lowest in four years to 80.92 per cent of the even pared-down budget, officials said Tuesday, as a reckoning began under the interim administration. Even after a downward revision of the ADP in March, in view of a slow going, government ministries and agencies during the July 2023-June 2024 period utilised hardly 80.92 per cent of the Tk 2.54-trillion revised outlay--4.25-percentage-point lower than the level in the previous FY2023, official data showed. In the previous fiscal, the ADP-execution rate was recorded 85.17 per cent.</p>	14 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/adp-execution-at-4-year-low-in-fy24-1723572430)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
06	<p>Ahsan H. Mansur next BB governor</p>  <p>The government is set to appoint Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur, a former senior official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as the next governor of the central bank, sources confirmed. In this regard, the maximum age limit of 67 for the position of Bangladesh Bank governor will be abolished, they added. Presently, Mr. Mansur is over 72 years old.</p>	14 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ahsan-h-mansur-next-bb-governor-1723572843)	
07	<p>\$600m loans from EDF turn sour</p> <p>Loans amounting to nearly \$600 million, or Tk 7,000 crore, disbursed from the Export Development Fund (EDF), which was formed based on the country's foreign exchange reserves, have been defaulted, according to a Bangladesh Bank (BB) document. Firms based in Dhaka defaulted on most of the amount, accounting for \$558.7 million. Besides, Chattogram-based companies did not return \$29.7 million, the BB data showed.</p>	14 August 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/600m-loans-edf-turn-sour-3676731)	
08	<p>Volatile political situation</p> <p>Bangladesh's banking sector risks elevate</p> <p>Says S&P Global Ratings</p> <p>S&P Global Ratings on Wednesday said the political situation in Bangladesh has exacerbated the banking industry's frailties, including weak liquidity, thin capital buffers, and ailing asset quality. "We see risk of policy inaction and a potential slowdown in financial reforms," said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Shinoy Varghese.</p> <p>At Bangladesh Bank, the departure of the governor and some senior officials could delay some of the ongoing structural reforms. For example, the central bank is due to implement prompt corrective actions in March 2025. This would have forced many banks to focus on capital adequacy, stressed assets, and weak corporate governance.</p>	15 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladeshs-banking-sector-risks-elevate-1723658095)	
09	<p>Interim govt appoints Abdur Rahman Khan NBR chairman</p>  <p>Md Abdur Rahman Khan</p> <p>The government on Wednesday cancelled contractual appointment of National Board of Revenue chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem. Meanwhile, secretary of the Financial Institutions Division Md Abdur Rahman Khan has been appointed as the new chairman of the NBR.</p>	15 August 2024	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/Miscellany/242566/interim-govt-appoints-abdur-rahman-khan-nbr-chairman)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
10	<p><u>Govt expects \$1.3b budget support from dev partners in FY25</u></p> <p>The newly formed interim government expects to secure at least \$1.3 billion in budgetary support from various development partners during the current financial year to address the ongoing economic crisis. Officials said several multilateral and bilateral development partners have given initial assurances.</p> <p>The Finance Division and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) are actively working to secure these funds. A senior ERD official said talks are ongoing for \$500 million from the World Bank, \$400 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), \$200 million from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), \$100 million from South Korea, and another \$100 million from the Opec Fund for International Development (OFID).</p>	15 August 2024	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-expects-13b-budget-support-dev-partners-fy25-917791)	
11	<p><u>পরিবেশবান্ধব সনদ পেল আরও দুই পোশাক কারখানা</u></p> <p>দেশের আরও দুটি রপ্তানিমুখী তৈরি পোশাক কারখানা পরিবেশবান্ধব সনদ পেয়েছে। কারখানাগুলো হলো আশুলিয়ার সাদাতিয়া সোয়েটার্স ও গাজীপুরের এক্সিকিউটিভ গ্রিনটেক্স লিমিটেড। এতে করে দেশে পরিবেশবান্ধব তৈরি পোশাক ও বস্ত্র কারখানার সংখ্যা বেড়ে ২২৬-এ দাঁড়িয়েছে। পোশাক কারখানা দুইটি যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ইউএস গ্রিন বিল্ডিং কাউন্সিল (ইউএসজিবিসি) থেকে পরিবেশবান্ধব সনদ পেয়েছে। এর মধ্যে আশুলিয়ার সাদাতিয়া সোয়েটার্স ৯১ নম্বর নিয়ে লিড প্লাটিনাম সনদ পেয়েছে। অন্যদিকে গাজীপুরের এক্সিকিউটিভ গ্রিনটেক্স ৬৯ নম্বর নিয়ে লিড গোল্ড সনদ অর্জন করেছে। তৈরি পোশাকশিল্পমালিকদের সংগঠন বিজিএমইএর পরিচালক মহিউদ্দিন রুবেল আজ শুক্রবার বিষয়টি নিশ্চিত করেন। তিনি জানান, বর্তমানে বিশ্বের শীর্ষস্থানীয় ১০০ পরিবেশবান্ধব কারখানার ৬০টি বাংলাদেশে।</p>	16 August 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/qvk7rzttha)	
12	<p><u>Political volatility and trade backlog</u></p> <p><u>Exports get costlier for airfreight hike</u></p> <p>Severe carrier-capacity crunch has further pushed up airfreight rates for cargo transport from Dhaka to Bangladesh's main export destinations, disrupting air shipments, stakeholders say. According to them, last month's political upheaval, which led to the formation of a new government, has seriously disrupted shipment of goods, including farm perishables, both by sea and air, resulting in cargo stockpile in seaports and airports.</p> <p>As such, they have said, severe pressure on air shipment for increased volume of goods has been created, which also caused airfreight spiral. According to freight forwarders, no freighters regularly carry goods from Bangladesh so air shipment mainly depends on cargo hold of passenger planes.</p>	17 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/exports-get-costlier-for-airfreight-hike-1723830257)	
13	<p><u>তৈরি পোশাকের ১৫-২০ শতাংশ ক্রয়াদেশ অন্যত্র চলে যাওয়ার শঙ্কা</u></p> <p>ড. মুহাম্মদ ইউনূসের নেতৃত্বে অন্তর্বর্তী সরকার দায়িত্ব নেওয়ার পর গত সপ্তাহে রপ্তানিমুখী তৈরি পোশাক কারখানাগুলো পুরোদমে উৎপাদনে ফিরেছে। পণ্য আমদানি-রপ্তানিও স্বাভাবিক হচ্ছে। বিদেশি ক্রেতা প্রতিনিধিরা পুনরায় নতুন ক্রয়াদেশ দেওয়ার প্রক্রিয়া নিয়েও আলোচনা শুরু করেছে। স্থগিত থাকা ক্রয়াদেশও কমবেশি আসছে। ব্যবসায় গতি ফিরতে শুরু করায় তৈরি পোশাকশিল্পের উদ্যোক্তাদের মধ্যে কিছুটা স্বস্তি ফিরেছে। তবে তাঁরা বলছেন, ছাত্র আন্দোলনকে কেন্দ্র করে সহিংসতা ও পরবর্তী ঘটনার প্রভাবে আগামী মৌসুমের ১৫-২০ শতাংশ ক্রয়াদেশ ভারত, শ্রীলঙ্কাসহ অন্য দেশে চলে যাওয়ার শঙ্কা রয়েছে। পরিস্থিতি সামাল দিতে দ্রুত সময়ের মধ্যে আইনশৃঙ্খলা পরিস্থিতির উন্নতি করে ক্রেতাদের বার্তা দেওয়া দরকার। এ ছাড়া বন্দরের গতিশীলতা বৃদ্ধি ও ব্যাংকের অভ্যন্তরীণ অস্থিরতা মোকাবিলায় কার্যকর উদ্যোগ নিতে হবে।</p>	17 August 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/zdam9rssi0)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
14	<p><u>Major bilateral financiers tight-fisted on dev funding</u></p> <p>Foreign development funding seemed falling as three major financiers made no aid commitment in the last fiscal under the past government, leaving their-aided projects in slow lane. Officials said Saturday China, India and Russia didn't make any aid commitment in the fiscal year (FY) 2023-24, although they are involved with some megaprojects in Bangladesh. However, the traditional multilateral development partners have continued their financial support to Bangladesh government, official statistics showed.</p> <p>Analysts say hard terms and conditions set by the bilateral lenders and slow progress of some of the ongoing projects have impacted funding from them.</p>	18 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/major-bilateral-financiers-tight-fisted-on-dev-funding-1723914569)	
15	<p><u>কালো টাকা সাদা করার সুযোগ গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়: নতুন এনবিআর চেয়ারম্যান</u></p> <p>কালোটাকা সাদা করার সুযোগ দেওয়ার বিষয়টি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয় বলে মন্তব্য করেছেন জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের (এনবিআর) নতুন চেয়ারম্যান আবদুর রহমান খান। তিনি বলেন, এই ধরনের সুযোগ দুর্নীতির বিস্তার ঘটায় এবং সৎ করদাতাদের মনোবল ভেঙে দেয়। আজ রোববার আগারগাঁওয়ের এনবিআর কার্যালয়ে যোগদান করে সংস্থাটির চেয়ারম্যান আবদুর রহমান খান সাংবাদিকদের এসব কথা বলেন। তবে এটি তাঁর ব্যক্তিগত মতামত বলেও জানান তিনি। আবদুর রহমান খান আরও বলেন, একজন সৎ করদাতা দীর্ঘদিন ধরে নিয়মিত কর দিয়ে আসেন। আরেকজন বছরের পর বছর কর ফাঁকি দেন। কালোটাকা সাদা করার সুযোগ নিয়ে পরে কম হারে কর দেন। এটি ঠিক নয়। যদিও অতীতে বহুবার এমন হয়েছে।</p>	18 August 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/3rofztqwlo)	
16	<p><u>Govt to form banking commission soon</u></p> <p>The interim government will soon form a banking commission, a longstanding demand from economists, to bring about reforms aimed at salvaging the financial sector, which has been suffering from high default loans and weak governance. Besides, a paper on the overall situation of the financial sector and a roadmap for the reforms will be published within the first 100 days of the interim government's tenure, according to a statement from the chief adviser's office yesterday. The disclosure came following a meeting between the interim government's Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and recently appointed Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Ahsan H Mansur.</p>	19 August 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-form-banking-commission-soon-3680836)	
17	<p><u>Maqsood gets top job at BSEC</u></p> <p>The interim government has appointed Khondoker Rashed Maqsood as the chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) for four years, according to a notice issued by the finance ministry yesterday. His appointment comes a day after M Masrur Reaz, an economist, declined to join the BSEC as its chief. The government had appointed Reaz on August 13.</p>	19 August 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/maqsood-gets-top-job-bsec-3680826)	
18	<p><u>জাপানের কাছে বাজেট সহায়তা চেয়েছে সরকার: অর্থ উপদেষ্টা</u></p> <p>জাপানের কাছে বাজেট সহায়তা চেয়েছে বাংলাদেশ। আজ সোমবার জাপানি রাষ্ট্রদূত ইওয়ামা কিমিনোরির সঙ্গে সাক্ষাতের সময় অর্থ ও বাণিজ্য উপদেষ্টা সালেহউদ্দিন আহমেদ দেশটির কাছে বাজেট সহায়তা চান। সচিবালয়ে জাপানের রাষ্ট্রদূতের সঙ্গে বৈঠকের পর অর্থ উপদেষ্টা বলেন, জাপান বাংলাদেশের উন্নয়নের বড় অংশীদার। তারা এত দিন মূলত প্রকল্প সহায়তা দিয়েছে। এবার তাদের কাছে বাজেট সহায়তা চাওয়া হয়েছে। জাপান এ বিষয়ে ইতিবাচক মনোভাব দেখিয়েছে বলে জানিয়েছে তিনি। বৈঠকের পর সাংবাদিকদের সঙ্গে আলাপকালে এসব কথা বলেন অর্থ ও বাণিজ্য উপদেষ্টা সালেহউদ্দিন আহমেদ।</p>	19 August 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/thh187o7r1)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
19	<p>Offenders must face action, not institutions <u>No more liquidity feeding to problem banks</u> BB governor tells businesses, says bailout process to be different now</p> <p>Bangladesh Bank will no more extend liquidity support to weak and troubled banks by printing money rather the process of rescuing them now will be different, says Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur. He makes it clear that the central bank wouldn't opt for any desperate remedy like shutting down banks or printing money to feed them to keep alive. Action will be taken against the irregularities, but it will be against the persons involved in the irregularities and not against their institutions, as there are many employment issues involved with every organisation.</p> <p>The governor made the observations to journalists at the central bank headquarters after his meeting with business leaders, including the chief of the apex chamber-the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).</p>	21 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/no-more-liquidity-feeding-to-problem-banks-1724176338?date=21-08-2024)	
20	<p><u>Exchange, interest rates to be market-driven</u> Regulator tells bankers</p> <p>Bankers are assured that the money market will function freely based on demand and supply, sans too many interventions like in the past. New Bangladesh Bank (BB) governor Dr Ahsan H. Mansur gave the assurance Monday to top executives of a group of leading commercial banks, now that banking and financial sector passes through changes under the interim government.</p> <p>Instead of applying too many interventions that the previous regime of the central bank led by immediate-past governor Abdur Rouf Talukder often exercised bypassing the market dynamics, the new governor told the bankers, exchange and interest rates would be determined by the market.</p>	21 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/exchange-interest-rates-to-be-market-driven-1724176382?date=21-08-2024)	
21	<p><u>Whitepaper on state of economy to be published</u> Dr Debapriya to head panel</p> <p>A "whitepaper" unveiling the state of economy in six priority areas, including public finance, inflation, and food management, will be published following a decision of the interim government's advisory council. To be published in next ninety days, the whitepaper will portray an overall picture of the country's economy and reflect on government's strategic actions on economic matters, implementation of SDGs, and transition from the least-developed country (LDC) status.</p> <p>Eminent economist and public-policy analyst Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, who is also a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), will head the committee assigned to prepare the whitepaper, according to the press wing at the Chief Adviser's office. The committee will conduct necessary consultations and exchange of views with the stakeholders concerned to prepare the authoritative document on Bangladesh's latest-available economic situation and the dos for a remedy.</p>	22 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/whitepaper-on-state-of-economy-to-be-published-1724262977)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
22	<p><u>Islami Bank board to be dissolved</u> Reconstitution in a couple of days, says BB governor Bangladesh Bank (BB) has decided to dissolve the board of directors of the Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, and reconstitute it within a couple of days. "The board will be dissolved and independent directors will be appointed within two days," Governor Dr Ahsan H. Mansur told a press briefing at the BB headquarters on Tuesday. He explained the central bank's measures in response to protests demanding reconstituting of the board of the country's largest unconventional bank, largely controlled by the controversial S. Alam Group. "All shares of S Alam Group in the bank will now come under the government's control," Dr Mansur said, adding that the group will get back its shares upon repayment of the bank loans. If the loans are not repaid, the group's liabilities will be adjusted by selling the government-held shares, he elaborated.</p>	22 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/islami-bank-board-to-be-dissolved-1724262860)	
23	<p><u>Five tycoons fall under crackdown on tax delinquents</u> Salman Rahman, Nazrul Mazumder, Aziz Khan, Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, Obaidul Karim in the lineup Five bigwigs initially fall under a crackdown on tax delinquents as the NBR Central Intelligence Cell Thursday sent letters to all financial institutions for furnishing their bank-account information and other financials. In the lineup are Salman F Rahman of Beximco group, Nazrul Islam Mazumder of Nassa group, Aziz Khan of Summit Group, Ahmed Akbar Sobhan of Basundhara Group and Obaidul Karim of Orion group. People associated with those individuals would also be brought under CIC's scanner, officials said.</p>	23 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/five-tycoons-fall-under-crackdown-on-tax-delinquents-1724350990?date=23-08-2024)	
24	<p><u>Nagad's digital banking licence suspended</u> It faces a fresh review process: BB Governor Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Thursday suspended the digital banking licence it earlier awarded to Nagad Limited until the company passes a fresh review of the licencing procedure. The development comes a day after the central bank appointed an administrator and his associates to maintain the company's existing regular activities - mobile financial services (MFS).</p>	23 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nagads-digital-banking-licence-suspended-1724351078?date=23-08-2024)	
25	<p><u>BB resets Islami Bank board</u> The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has formed a new board for Islami Bank, the country's largest private banking network, following the ouster of the controversial S Alam Group from the bank's control. On Thursday, the central bank dissolved the previous board of Islami Bank PLC and reconstituted it by appointing the former managing director of Rupali Bank PLC Md Obayed Ullah Al Masud as the chairman of the new board. The central bank has already issued instructions stating that the banking regulator reconstituted the board to protect the depositors and the largest unconventional bank in the country as a whole. Other independent directors of the five-member body are former BB executive director Muhammad Khurshid Wahab, former deputy managing director of Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC Md Abdul Jalil, ex-professor of Dhaka University's Department of Finance Dr M Masud Rahman and chartered accountant Md Abdul Salam.</p>	23 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-resets-islami-bank-board-1724351025?date=23-08-2024)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
26	<p>FBCCI urges army to beef up security The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has sought cooperation from the army to prevent extortion and strengthen security around industries and business establishments. The apex trade body also demanded a business-friendly environment in the country, according to a press release of the chamber. A delegation made the demands during a courtesy call on army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman at the Army Headquarters in Dhaka. FBCCI President Mahbubul Alam thanked Bangladesh Army for conducting various activities and patrolling industrial areas to ensure safety.</p>	23 August 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fbcci-urges-army-beef-security-3684341)	
27	<p>After political turmoil come flood disruptions Dhaka-Ctg highway, railway trade haulage hit hard Situation 'critical' amid cargo-delivery squeeze for route flooding After political turmoil and preventive curfew halting production and trade now comes flood havoc disrupting cargo haulage on Dhaka-Chittagong highway and railway, businesses lament. Floodwaters have crippled the movement of covered vans carrying export goods from Dhaka and imports from the other direction on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway since Thursday. And the suspension of railway service between Chattogram Port and Kamalapur ICD amid flood onslaughts further disrupted import and delivery operations, people familiar with the developments said. Floodwaters coupled with heavy monsoon rains have inundated many sections of the highway, mainly in the worst-hit Feni district, causing traffic snarls-up and leaving hundreds of covered vans stranded, mostly loaded with goods destined for the seaport for export. Bangladesh Railway authority also suspended the Dhaka-Chattogram rail service, further aggravating the situation, officials confirmed. The Dhaka-Chittagong highway and railway are vital lifelines for Bangladesh's trade, as the Chittagong port handles more than 90 per cent of the country's imports and exports. The current disruptions are likely to delay shipment, affecting supply chains and potentially leading to financial losses for the exporters and the importers.</p>	24 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dhaka-ctg-highway-railway-trade-haulage-hit-hard-1724435408)	
28	<p>Pruning development spending priorities Unessential, politically motivated projects being listed for axing Planning Commission acting on interim govt plans Unessential and "politically motivated" projects are being listed for axing to suit the interim government's development-priority pruning to avoid waste of public money, sources said. The Planning Commission (PC) has got down to making a list of such projects under the current annual development programme (ADP) adopted by the past government. Officials have said the current interim government would scrap those less- important projects and retain national-priority ones in order to check "waste of public funds".</p>	24 August 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/unessential-politically-motivated-projects-being-listed-for-axing-1724435469)	