

Summary of Business News – 65


Important Trade and Economic News Published on Various Newspapers during 08 - 22 September 2024


Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><u>NBR sets six-month target to expand tax net, ease burden on taxpayers</u> The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has set a six-month target to significantly broaden its tax base, aiming to reduce the disproportionate burden on existing taxpayers. The official emphasized that while a substantial portion of revenue is currently generated from a relatively small pool of existing taxpayers, a large number of eligible individuals and businesses remain outside the tax net. "We have initiated a drive to bring these untapped taxpayers into the system," he added. Currently, 67 per cent of Bangladesh's revenue comes from indirect taxes, such as customs duties and Value Added Tax (VAT), with the remaining 33 per cent from direct taxes, primarily income tax. The country's tax-to-GDP ratio is just 7.3 per cent, trailing behind neighboring countries like India (12 per cent), Nepal (17.5 per cent), Bhutan (12.3 per cent), and Pakistan (7.5 per cent).</p>	08 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/nbr-sets-six-month-target-to-expand-tax-net-ease-burden-on-taxpayers-1725726841?date=08-09-2024)	
02	<p><u>Inflation eases following crucial August changes</u> Monthly count down at 10.4pc from July's 11.66pc An inexorable inflation has long tormented low-income segment of people but it began easing following the crucial August changes with the rate decreasing over 1.0 percentage point to 10.49 per cent in the month. The little cooling of inflation in August is shown in the monthly updating data released Sunday by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). In the inflation arithmetic, food inflation fell to 11.36 per cent in August -- a significant drop of 2.74 percentage points from the previous month. However, non-food inflation edged up marginally to 9.74 per cent from 9.68 per cent in July.</p>	09 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-eases-following-crucial-august-changes-1725815680)	
03	<p><u>Export target \$57.50b for FY '25</u> Apparel remains cash cow for BD export sector Bangladesh eyes US\$57.50 billion in total export earnings in the current fiscal on the back of 12.44-percent growth in merchandise shipment to \$50.0 billion, largely banking on clothing as before. The current interim government's trade wing unveiled Sunday the export target for the fiscal year of 2024-25, correcting inflated past export-earning figures. The growth projection banks, as usual, on the largest foreign-currency-earning sector -- readymade garments -- as the government eyes RMG earnings growth by nearly 12 per cent. The Export Promotion Bureau has set a target of US\$40.48 billion out of the total \$50 billion in export earnings from the RMG sector with an 11.99-percent growth in the 2024-25 fiscal. Knitwear and woven items have to earn US\$21.7 billion and US\$18.78 billion respectively. The state-owned export promoter also revised its earnings for the last fiscal year with the value downsized to US\$44.47 billion -- a 4.22-percent decline from the earnings in the fiscal 2022-23. It also downgraded the amount to US\$46.43 billion for the fiscal year of 2022-23.</p>	09 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/export-target-5750b-for-fy-25-1725815766)	

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04	<p><u>PMI improves in August: MCCI</u></p> <p>The purchasing managers' index increased in August by 6.6 points, but the economic indicators of August were on the downward trend, according to the latest reading of the PMI index published by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In a focus group discussion with reporters at the organisations office in the capital Dhaka, the MCCI said that the economic indicators were getting better after the interim government was formed following the ousting of the former Awami League-led government by a mass uprising.</p> <p>The August reading of the PMI index for Bangladesh stood at 43.5 points, while the July reading of the index dropped a hefty 27 points from the previous month to record a sharp contraction at 36.9, said the MCCI.</p> <p>Farooq Ahmed, secretary general and chief executive officer of the organisation, said in his keynote presentation that supply situation was severely disrupted due to prolonged agitation and violent situation during July-August. The situation in agriculture, manufacturing, construction and services deteriorated, he added. The MCCI said that due to the ongoing labour unrest in the country, the vandalism and arson of factories in the past three weeks had caused a loss of an estimated Tk 5,000 crore.</p>	09 Sept. 2024	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/trade-commerce/244747/pmi-improves-in-august-mcci)	
05	<p><u>Bangladesh clears \$1.37b ACU payments Reserves below \$20b after payments</u></p> <p>Foreign-exchange reserves fall further as Bangladesh clears due import payments worth to US\$ 1.37 billion through the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), but officials dispel any worry about this. After the clearance of import liabilities, the country's gross forex reserves dropped below \$20-billion mark to \$19.46 billion as on September 08, 2024 in accordance with the BPM6 calculations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).</p> <p>Before the bi-monthly payment, the forex reserves counted \$20.80 billion, as recorded on September 7, according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data. In terms of BB's own calculations, the gross forex reserves, however, dropped to \$24.53 billion on September 08 from \$25.87 billion recorded a day before.</p>	10 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-clears-137b-acu-payments-1725902307?date=10-09-2024)	
06	<p><u>Global lenders to finance banking reforms</u></p> <p>The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank are expected to provide funds to Bangladesh for banking sector reforms, including strengthening and modernising the central bank. The decision came following two separate meetings at the Bangladesh Bank (BB) headquarters on Monday between central bank officials and delegations of the ADB and World Bank. The ADB is likely to disburse \$1.3 billion towards Bangladesh's efforts to reform the banking sector and modernise the BB, central bank officials who attended the meetings told The Daily Star.</p>	11 Sept. 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/global-lenders-finance-banking-reforms-3699841)	
07	<p><u>Taskforce formed to redefine economic strategies</u></p> <p>The interim government has formed a taskforce consisting of prominent economists, researchers, and business leaders who will compile a comprehensive report to redefine economic strategies and mobilise the necessary resources to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.</p> <p>The Planning Division announced the formation of the 12-member committee in a directive on Tuesday night, with renowned economist and former Director General of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dr. AKS Murshid, appointed as its chairman.</p>	12 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/taskforce-formed-to-redefine-economic-strategies-1726075551?date=12-09-2024)	

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08	<p><u>Now FBCCI gets an administrator</u> The interim government yesterday appointed an administrator to the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) as its president had resigned amid a section of businesspeople demanding its board's dissolution in the wake of last month's political changeover. Mahbubul Alam, who became the president of the country's apex trade body in August last year, stepped down on September 9 as pressure was mounting following a mass uprising that ousted the Awami League government on August 5.</p>	12 Sept. 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/now-fbcci-gets-administrator-3700821)	
09	<p><u>Multimodal reforms highlighted at national business dialogue</u> <u>Businesses urge image-rebuilding action as disinformation dents buyer confidence</u> Business leaders Thursday urged the interim government to undertake package reforms in economic field, including action to curb "disinformation" that dents confidence of foreign buyers in Bangladesh's major export destinations. Their call came at 'National Business Dialogue' where Chief Adviser of the post-uprising government Prof Muhammad Yunus assured that this government and the business community would work as a team and that the worker-owner relations would be sweetened. Addressing the head of interim government at the meet, International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh (ICC,B) Director Mir Nasir Hossain, on behalf of the business community, said Bangladesh's image building must be taken care of to uphold buyers' confidence.</p>	13 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/businesses-urge-image-rebuilding-action-as-disinformation-dents-buyer-confidence-1726162346?date=13-09-2024)	
10	<p><u>15-20pc RMG orders lost</u> BB plans Tk 790m loan for top apparel maker to clear wages The council of advisers on Thursday asked the finance ministry to take necessary steps to recover the funds different ministries deposited with various banks. The finance ministry has been asked to request the Bangladesh Bank to sit with the banks to recover the deposits, adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan told a media briefing after the council meeting. Speaking at the briefing, Adviser Asif Mahmud said the government was taking due measures to address the problems of labour unrest and a committee was formed to monitor the situation and resolve the problems of workers. The finance adviser took an initiative to arrange a loan of Tk 790 million for a top RMG owner so that he can manage to pay salaries of the workers of his factories, he mentioned.</p>	13 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/15-20pc-rmg-orders-lost-1726161504?date=13-09-2024)	
11	<p><u>Pvt sector credit growth surprisingly rises in July</u> Flow up 10.13pc to Tk 16.36 trillion Formal credit to the private enterprises increased significantly in July, which money market analysts termed 'very surprising' as overall economic activities were almost halted in that month because of mass uprising that led to the fall of Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, 2024. Seeing the credit rise in the troubled month, they sense twin factors -possible loan-related irregularities by a vested group of people and rising overdue because of non-payment in LCs (letter of credits) might have contributed to the surprising rise in credit flow to the businesses. The flow of credit to the private sector rises in such a way that overshoot the projection of the private sector credit growth by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) under its monetary policy statement (MPS) of 9.80 per cent by December next. According to the BB statistics, the private-sector credit growth increased to 10.13 per cent in July, which was 9.84 per cent in the previous month of June, 2024.</p>	13 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/pvt-sector-credit-growth-surprisingly-rises-in-july-1726162552?date=13-09-2024)	

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12	<p><u>Govt urges China to reduce loan interest, extend repayment period</u></p> <p>The government has requested China to lower the interest rates on existing Chinese loans to 1 percent and extend the repayment period to 30 years. To this end, the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance sent a letter to Beijing early this week, ERD Secretary Shahriar Kader Siddiky confirmed to The Daily Star. Currently, interest rates on Chinese loans range from 2-3 percent with a repayment period of 20 years.</p>	13 Sept. 2024	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-urges-china-reduce-loan-interest-extend-repayment-period-3701951)	
13	<p><u>3 new custom procedure codes on cards to curb export data discrepancy</u></p> <p>The government has decided to create three new custom procedure codes to find out the actual export data, avoiding the risk of multiple entries in the export of the same product, through which sample export, CMT (cut, make and trims) export and local export will be calculated separately. Additionally, to make it easier for the Bangladesh Bank or the respective lien bank to monitor the repatriation of export earnings from abroad, the export number will be considered a mandatory field for the bill of export. In other words, without the inclusion of the export number, the bill of export will not be included in ASYCUDA, a computerised customs management system that covers most foreign trade procedures.</p> <p>Officials familiar with the matter say in many cases, goods listed in the bill of export with assessed-duty paid are not shipped or actually exported for various reasons. As a result, the government will prepare export data based only on shipments that are actually loaded (on board). For this, the export general manifest will need to be automated or done online.</p>	15 Sept. 2024	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/3-new-custom-procedure-codes-cards-curb-export-data-discrepancy-941666)	
14	<p><u>Govt import-LC backpay to be cleared within 5-6 months</u></p> <p>BB governor assures corresponding banks, as forex reserves rise to \$24.30b amid remittance rebound, fresh aid commitments</p> <p>Government liabilities in import-LC backpay can be cleared over next 5-6 months, aided by remittance rebound that raised Bangladesh's latest foreign-exchange reserves to US\$24.30 billion, and fresh aid commitments. Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Ahsan H. Mansur assures and urges the corresponding foreign banks to keep faith in the country's commercial banks as overall macroeconomic situation, reserves of foreign currencies in particular, continues improving because of various prudent policy steps taken under the interim regime. He held out the assurance Tuesday as there has been a buildup of government liabilities on account of LCs (letter of credit) for import of commodities like fertilisers, power and petroleum products in the wake of forex crunch in the past.</p>	18 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-import-lc-backpay-to-be-cleared-within-5-6-months-1726595752?date=18-09-2024)	
15	<p><u>বাংলাদেশের বিদেশি ঋণ আবার ১০০ বিলিয়ন ডলার ছাড়িয়েছে</u></p> <p>বাংলাদেশের বিদেশি ঋণ আবার ১০০ বিলিয়ন বা ১০ হাজার কোটি মার্কিন ডলার ছাড়িয়েছে। এর আগে গত বছরের ডিসেম্বরে প্রথমবারের মতো বিদেশি ঋণের স্থিতি ১০০ বিলিয়ন ডলার ছাড়িয়েছিল। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের সর্বশেষ প্রকাশিত তথ্য অনুসারে, চলতি বছরের জুন মাস (অর্থবছর) শেষে সরকারি ও বেসরকারি খাতে বিদেশি ঋণের স্থিতি ছিল ১০৩ দশমিক ৭৯ বিলিয়ন বা ১০ হাজার ৩৭৯ কোটি ডলার। এই অর্থ বাংলাদেশি মুদ্রায় ১২ লাখ ৪৫ হাজার ৪৮০ কোটি টাকার সমান (প্রতি ডলার ১২০ টাকা ধরে)। কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের তথ্য অনুসারে, গত মার্চ মাসে বিদেশি ঋণের স্থিতি ছিল ৯৯ দশমিক ৩১ বিলিয়ন বা ৯ হাজার ৯৩১ কোটি ডলার। সেই হিসাবে গত তিন মাসের ব্যবধানে বিদেশি ঋণের স্থিতি বেড়েছে ৪৪৮ কোটি ডলার।</p>	18 Sept. 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/0mszf5nab7)	

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16	<p>Skilled human resource rearing dominates planning paradigm shift <u>Current five-year plan as dev blueprint suspended</u></p>  <p>A major policy shift comes in Bangladesh's development paradigm as the interim government suspended the ongoing 8th five-year plan (FYP) to prioritise human-resource development to end reliance on foreign hands. The government is also going to empower the ministries to approve projects ensuring priority needs and checking misuse of funds, Planning Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said Wednesday.</p>	19 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/current-five-year-plan-as-dev-blueprint-suspended-1726683332)	
17	<p>Non-payment of import dues <u>Key global suppliers cease fertiliser shipments to BD</u></p> <p>Major fertiliser suppliers across the world have stopped their shipments to Bangladesh and canceled scheduled consignments due to the non-payment of outstanding import bills in time, according to sources. The government owes the suppliers of China, Saudi Arabia, Canada and Morocco a sum total of \$80 million in bills, including shipping rent, they say. The issue of further freight has also become uncertain due to non-payment of dues against fertiliser imports, reads an agriculture ministry document. Over the past three months, an estimated 0.6-million tonnes of such chemical items have not been imported to Bangladesh.</p> <p>To address the issue, agriculture adviser Lt Gen (retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury last week sought finance adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed's intervention to take measures to pay dues. With the current stocks of triple super phosphate (TSP) and di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), agri ministry hopes, it will be possible to meet the domestic fertiliser demand until November 2024. It predicts a possible acute crisis of the fertilisers from late December 2024.</p>	19 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/key-global-suppliers-cease-fertiliser-shipments-to-bd-1726683450)	

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18	<p><u>India's exports to Bangladesh fell 28% in August</u> India's exports to Bangladesh dropped by 28 percent year-on-year to \$681 million in August, according to a report by The Indian Express. The report cited deadly protests against Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government, which began in July, as a factor that had worsened the forex crisis in Bangladesh. In August last year, India exported goods worth \$943 million to Bangladesh, the report said, citing data from India's commerce and industry ministry.</p>	19 Sept. 2024	The Daily Star https://www.thedaily.com.bd/business/news/indias-exports-bangladesh-fell-28-august-3706436	
19	<p><u>Timeline unveiled for reforms preceding polls</u></p>  <p>A timeline now shows that the six reform commissions will submit their reports by December 31 to pave the way for stakeholder consultations to finalise reforms of the state institutions in the run-up to next elections. The commissions will get down to their tasks on October 1, said Law Adviser of the interim government Prof Asif Nazrul on Thursday while briefing the press about a meeting between Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and the heads of six reform commissions.</p>	20 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/timeline-unveiled-for-reforms-preceding-polls-1726768416?date=20-09-2024	
20	<p><u>HC asks BB to appoint receiver for Beximco cos</u> Bangladesh Bank has been asked by the High Court to appoint a receiver to manage all the companies of Beximco Group and attach all the property of this beleaguered corporate. The court also directed the central bank authorities to recover the money obtained by Salman F Rahman, an adviser to deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, from different banks and bring the siphoned-off funds back from abroad. In the attachment orders passed Thursday the Bangladesh Bank authorities have been asked to submit a compliance report to the court within four weeks about the steps taken by then.</p>	20 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/hc-asks-bb-to-appoint-receiver-for-beximco-cos-1726768498?date=20-09-2024	
21	<p><u>জুলাই-আগস্ট মাসে পণ্য আমদানি কমেছে, ব্যয় বেড়েছে</u> চলতি ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরের শুরুতে পণ্য আমদানি কমেতে শুরু করেছে। অর্থবছরের প্রথম দুই মাসে আগের অর্থবছরের একই সময়ের তুলনায় পণ্য আমদানির পরিমাণ কমে গেছে। আবার জুলাই মাসের তুলনায় আগস্টে আমদানি কম হয়েছে। জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড বা এনবিআরের আমদানির পরিসংখ্যান থেকে এ তথ্য পাওয়া গেছে। চলতি অর্থবছরের প্রথম মাস জুলাইয়ে শিক্ষার্থীদের কোটা সংস্কার আন্দোলন শুরু হয়। একপর্যায়ে তা সরকার পতনের আন্দোলনে রূপ নেয়। গত ৫ আগস্ট দেশের রাজনৈতিক পটপরিবর্তনের পর অনেক আওয়ামী লীগ সমর্থক ব্যবসায়ী গা ঢাকা দেন। এই পটপরিবর্তনের পর ঋণপত্র খোলা হয়েছে কম, যার প্রভাব পড়তে শুরু করেছে আগস্টে।</p>	21 Sept. 2024	Prothom Alo https://www.prothomalo.com/business/bs4n1781sn	

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22	<p>পরিবেশবান্ধব সনদ পেল নতুন তিনটি পোশাক ও সুতা তৈরির কারখানা</p> <p>দেশের আরও দুটি তৈরি পোশাক ও একটি সুতা তৈরির কারখানা পরিবেশবান্ধব সনদ পেয়েছে। কারখানাগুলো হলো— নারায়ণগঞ্জের অনন্ত হুয়াজিং লিমিটেড, গাজীপুরের সেপাল গার্মেন্টস লিমিটেড ও চট্টগ্রামের সীতাকুণ্ডের ইউনিটেক্স স্পিনিং লিমিটেড (দ্বিতীয় ইউনিট)। এতে করে দেশে পরিবেশবান্ধব তৈরি পোশাক ও বস্ত্র কারখানার সংখ্যা বেড়ে ২২৯টিতে দাঁড়িয়েছে। কারখানা তিনটি যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ইউএস গ্রিন বিল্ডিং কাউন্সিল (ইউএসজিবিসি) থেকে পরিবেশবান্ধব সনদ পেয়েছে। এর মধ্যে নারায়ণগঞ্জের অনন্ত হুয়াজিং ৬৩ নম্বর নিয়ে গোল্ড সনদ ও গাজীপুরের সেপাল গার্মেন্টস ৮৫ নম্বর নিয়ে লিড প্লাটিনাম সনদ অর্জন করেছে। এ ছাড়া সীতাকুণ্ডের ইউনিটেক্স স্পিনিং (দ্বিতীয় ইউনিট) ৮৩ নম্বর নিয়ে প্লাটিনাম সনদ পেয়েছে। তৈরি পোশাকশিল্পমালিকদের সংগঠন বিজিএমইএ আজ শনিবার এ তথ্য জানিয়েছে। সংগঠনটি বলেছে, বর্তমানে বিশ্বের শীর্ষস্থানীয় ১০০ পরিবেশবান্ধব কারখানার ৬১টি বাংলাদেশে অবস্থিত।</p>	21 Sept. 2024	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/ap9gibtzu)	
23	<p>Tk 10b of LWF stuck in banks facing liquidity shortage</p> <p>Nearly Tk 10 billion of the Labour Welfare Fund (LWF) remained stuck in the banks facing liquidity shortage, making it difficult for the authorities concerned to spend on labour and tame unrest. The funds deposited with the banks could not be withdrawn and provided to the labourers facing financial challenges to give them some relief. The LWF has not been operated as per the rules in the last 15 years. Labour Secretary AHM Shafiquzzman said this while speaking as chief guest at a mock parliament debate competition, organised by Debate for Democracy (DfD) at FDC premises in the city on Saturday.</p>	22 Sept. 2024	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/tk-10b-of-lwf-stuck-in-banks-facing-liquidity-shortage-1726939081)	