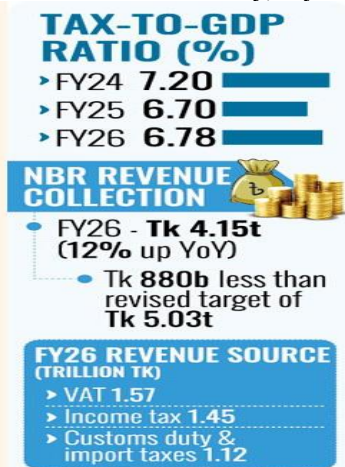


Summary of Business News – 107

Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 10 - 23 August 2026

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<u>Private-sector economic activity picks up faster</u> Strong manufacturing rebound, agriculture and services' growth main pivots Bangladesh's private-sector economic activity showed signs of a faster pickup as per July indicator as a sharp rebound in manufacturing and continued growth in agriculture and services provided strong pivots. Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is the gauge for tracking pace of expansion, and the latest count shows the headline PMI rose 4.9 points from June to hit 57.8 in the past month, signalling a stronger pace of economic expansion. Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka, and Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB) jointly revealed the index on Sunday. A PMI above 50 means the economy is on the expansion while below 50 contraction.	10 August 2026	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/private-sector-economic-activity-picks-up-faster-1786299396?date=10-08-2026	
02	<u>Tax-GDP ratio edges up despite weak economic activity</u> NBR running at its traditional pace, reform needed immediately, says CPD director  The infographic displays the following data: TAX-TO-GDP RATIO (%) - FY24: 7.20 - FY25: 6.70 - FY26: 6.78 NBR REVENUE COLLECTION - FY26 - Tk 4.15t (12% up YoY) - Tk 880b less than revised target of Tk 5.03t FY26 REVENUE SOURCE (TRILLION TK) - VAT: 1.57 - Income tax: 1.45 - Customs duty & import taxes: 1.12 Bangladesh managed to stem the downturn in its tax-to-GDP ratio last fiscal year with the proportion having edged up by 0.08-percentage point notwithstanding sluggish investment and economic activity, and waning purchasing power of both individuals and businesses. As per the provisional revenue-mobilisation data from the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the tax-to-GDP ratio stood at 6.78 per cent in FY2025-26, compared to 6.70 per cent a year earlier. However, the ratio slipped last year from 7.20 per cent in FY24.	11 August 2026	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tax-gdp-ratio-edges-up-despite-weak-economic-activity-1786384680?date=11-08-2026	

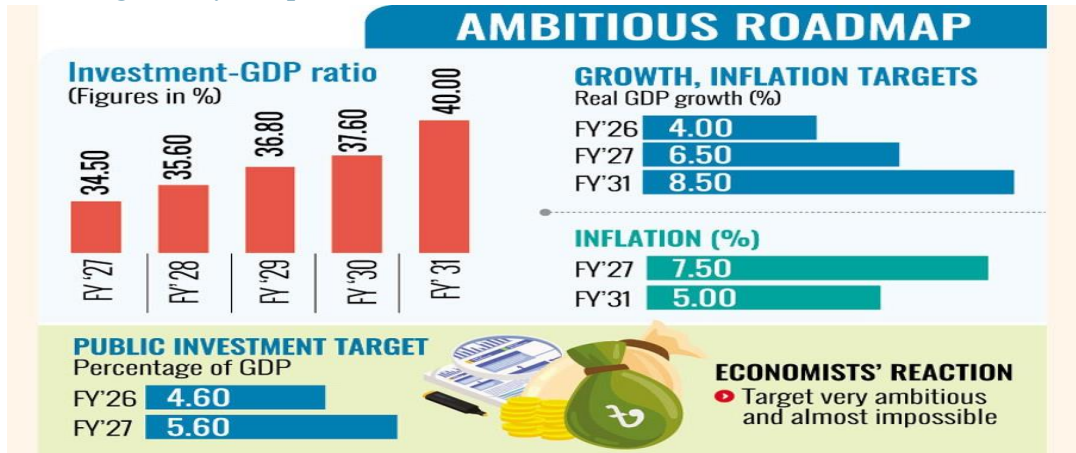
Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
03	<u>Taskforce formed on deregulation and business facilitation</u> National Steering Committee on Creative Economy formed The government has formed a National Taskforce on Deregulation and Business Facilitation to streamline business-related services, remove unnecessary regulatory hurdles and accelerate investment. The Cabinet Division issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday, reports BSS. The taskforce will be headed by the Minister for the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning. The Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change; Minister for Industries and Commerce; Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Adviser to the Ministries of Finance and Planning; Adviser to the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology and the Ministry of Science and Technology will serve as members. The Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Investment and Capital Market Affairs, Cabinet Secretary, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Secretary of the Finance Division, Secretary of the Ministry of Shipping, Secretary of the Internal Resources Division and Chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), and Chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) are also members of the taskforce. The Registrar of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC), presidents of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) will also serve as members. Business Operations Additional Secretary (Macroeconomics and TDM) of the Finance Division will act as member-secretary. According to the gazette, the taskforce will approve sector-specific reform roadmaps on deregulation and business facilitation and review their implementation progress.	11 August 2026	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/taskforce-formed-on-deregulation-and-business-facilitation-1786385709?date=11-08-2026)	
04	<u>Exporters seek share of \$100b US tariff refunds</u> At the height of the 2025 reciprocal tariff hikes, many US apparel buyers pressured Bangladeshi garment exporters to share the burden, forcing suppliers to cut prices or offer discounts to keep orders flowing. Many exporters agreed, effectively absorbing part of the tariff burden to protect their business with major US buyers. Now, the equation has changed. Following the US Supreme Court's February ruling declaring the tariffs illegal, major US buyers have begun receiving refunds for the duties they paid. The Trump administration has so far issued around \$100 billion in tariff refunds out of the \$166 billion it had collected under the reciprocal tariff regime. This has left Bangladeshi exporters asking: if buyers are getting their tariff money back, what happens to the suppliers who helped bear the cost? Exporters say they are now seeking a share of the refunds or, at the very least, some form of compensation through their continued business relationships with US buyers.	11 August 2026	The Business Standard (TBS) (Exporters seek share of \$100b US tariff refunds The Business Standard)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
05	<u>A little letup in inflation as July rate down marginally</u> Inflation rate falls to 8.32pc as both food, non-food prices rise at slower pace Intractable inflation in Bangladesh shows signs of easing a little as the July rate cooled down to 8.32 per cent by official count, on somewhat consumer product-supply improvements. According to latest BBS data, the headline inflation in the country eased by 0.23-percentage points to 8.32 per cent last month as both food and non-food prices rose at a slower pace. The rate was the lowest since August 2025, when inflation stood at 8.29 per cent. Despite the downturn, inflation remained 0.82-percentage points above the government's annual target of 7.5 per cent, signifying the continuing pressure on household purchasing power. Food inflation eased to 8.29 per cent in July, while non-food inflation declined to 9.28 per cent, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics or BBS. Inflation also moderated in both rural and urban areas.	12 August 2026	The Financial Express https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/a-little-letup-in-inflation-as-july-rate-down-marginally-1786470586?date=12-08-2026)	
06	<u>২০৩৮ সাল পর্যন্ত যুক্তরাষ্ট্র থেকে ১১৭ কার্গো এলএনজি কিনবে সরকার</u> দেশের গ্যাসের চাহিদা মেটাতে দীর্ঘ মেয়াদে যুক্তরাষ্ট্র থেকে ১১৭ কার্গো তরলীকৃত প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস (এলএনজি) কেনার উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে সরকার। ২০২৬ থেকে ২০৩৮ সাল পর্যন্ত বিভিন্ন মেয়াদে এসব এলএনজি কিনতে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের গানভর ইউএসএ এলএলসির সঙ্গে চুক্তির প্রস্তাব অনুমোদন করা হয়েছে। এ ছাড়া ২০২৬ সালের জন্য হংকংয়ের বোনইউ শিপিং কোম্পানি, মালয়েশিয়ার পেট্রোনাস এলএনজি, চীনের চায়না রানজে হোল্ডিংস গ্রুপ এবং যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ডারাব ইনকরপোরেটেড থেকে মোট ৮ কার্গো এলএনজি কেনার প্রস্তাব অনুমোদন করা হয়েছে। সরকারি ক্রয়সংক্রান্ত মন্ত্রিসভা কমিটির আজ বুধবারের সভায় এসব প্রস্তাব অনুমোদন করা হয়।	12 August 2026	Prothom Alo অর্থমন্ত্রী আমির খসরু মাহমুদ চৌধুরীর সভাপতিত্বে সরকারি ক্রয়সংক্রান্ত মন্ত্রিসভা কমিটির সভাটি অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। এর আগে অর্থনৈতিক বিষয়সংক্রান্ত মন্ত্রিসভা কমিটির সভায় এসব প্রস্তাবের নীতিগত অনুমোদন দেওয়া হয়।। প্রথম আলো	
07	<u>Bangladesh proposes signing FTA with New Zealand</u> Bangladesh has proposed New Zealand for signing a free trade agreement (FTA) to boost bilateral trade and investment. Commerce Secretary Md Ataur Rahman Khan made the proposal at a meeting with representatives of New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries at Wellington in New Zealand on August 12. The secretary is now leading a delegation on a tour to Australia and New Zealand to find out opportunities to increase bilateral trade. The secretary also sought New Zealand's support for its possible accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and emphasized the importance of extending the transition period by an additional three years to facilitate a smoother graduation of Bangladesh from the least developed country category.	13 August 2026	The Daily Star (Bangladesh proposes signing FTA with New Zealand The Daily Star)	
08	<u>P2P payments coming to Bangla QR, BB asks all to ready apps by 31 Oct</u> In a bid to reduce cash reliance and drive digital payment adoption, Bangladesh Bank has instructed financial institutions to enable person-to-person (P2P) transfers via Bangla QR. Banks, mobile financial service (MFS) providers, payment service providers (PSPs), and payment system operators (PSOs) must integrate the feature into their mobile applications by 31 October, readying the service for a rollout on 1 November. According to a central bank directive issued on 6 August, institutions must allow users to generate personal QR codes for P2P transfers and scan or upload codes shared by others.	13 August 2026	The Business Standard (TBS) (P2P payments coming to Bangla QR, BB asks all to ready apps by 31 Oct The Business Standard)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
09	<u>Govt plans single VAT rate for small firms, says finance minister</u> The government is preparing to bring small businesses under a single VAT rate as part of efforts to widen the tax net, Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said on Sunday. He also warned that Bangladesh's energy crisis could take at least two years to resolve. He said the government was preparing a database for introducing the system and that it could be rolled out at any time. The minister made the remarks at a seminar organised by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) at a local hotel, where business leaders raised concerns over policy, taxation, energy and investment.	17 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-plans-single-vat-rate-for-small-firms-says-finance-minister-1786904749?date=17-08-2026)	
10	<u>PMI becomes a vital tool for tracking BD's real-time economic activity</u> The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is becoming an important tool for tracking Bangladesh's real-time economic activity, providing an early indication of whether the economy is expanding or contracting before official data are available. The observation came at a discussion titled "The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for Bangladesh", organised by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) and Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB) at the chamber on Sunday. Speakers at a discussion session stressed the need for greater understanding and wider use of the index among businesses, policymakers, academics and researchers. They also highlighted the importance of incorporating PMI into university teaching and research to promote evidence-based analysis of the economy and support better fiscal, monetary and investment decisions.	17 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-to-adopt-apr-mar-financial-year-from-2028-29-1786989438?date=18-08-2026)	
11	<u>Govt forms labour forum to formulate policy recommendations</u> The forum must meet quarterly to act as an advisory body on labour relations, strategies and laws The government has formed a high-level 'National Social Dialogue Forum' (NSDF) aiming to foster industrial relations, strengthen tripartite dialogue, and formulate policy recommendations for the country's labour sector. The forum brings together government officials, business owners, labour leaders and independent experts, officials said. The Ministry of Labour and Employment issued a gazette notification on August 13 regarding the formation of the forum under Section 348(Kha) of the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act, 2026. Headed by a government-appointed chairperson, supported by three vice-chairpersons representing government, employers, and workers, the forum will be comprised of seven representatives each from the government, employer organisations and worker unions. The government will appoint the chairperson and decide the appointment requirements. The forum also includes three non-governmental members-one expert, one academia representative and one renowned economist, they noted. According to the gazette, the forum must meet quarterly with primary task to act as an advisory body for the government, the National Tripartite Consultative Council (NTCC), and other tripartite entities on labour relation, strategies and laws. Key responsibilities include hosting inclusive, evidence-based dialogues across national, sectoral, and enterprise levels, resolving industrial disputes through enhanced mutual trust and tracking the implementation of forum recommendations to ensure transparency. Additionally, the forum will assist the ministry in organising an 'Annual Bangladesh Labour Conference' coordinating with the International Labour Conference.	18 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/govt-forms-labour-forum-to-formulate-policy-recommendations-1786984422?date=18-08-2026)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
12	<u>Bangladesh to adopt Apr-Mar financial year from 2028-29</u> Bangladesh will shift its financial year from the current July-June cycle to April-March from fiscal 2028-29. The 2027-28 fiscal year will instead run for nine months, from July to March, during transition before the new cycle begins, reports bdnews24.com. The decision came at a cabinet meeting on Monday at the Secretariat, the Cabinet Division said. Bangladesh follows July-June financial year at the moment, meaning infrastructure works often continue through the July-August monsoon. This can delay projects, affect quality and cause widespread public hardship, a statement said. An April-March cycle would allow infrastructure development to be completed before the monsoon, it added. A committee involving the Cabinet Division, Bangladesh Bank, National Board of Revenue, Legislative, and Finance divisions and other relevant stakeholders will determine the next steps.	18 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-to-adopt-apr-mar-financial-year-from-2028-29-1786989438?date=18-08-2026)	
13	<u>Economic zones planned on land of 3 closed state-owned mills</u> The government has taken an initiative to establish economic zones on the land of the closed Latif Bawany Jute Mills Limited and Karim Jute Mills Limited in Demra, Dhaka, and Kushtia Sugar Mills Limited. The move aims to put long-unused industrial assets back into productive use, attract domestic and foreign investment, establish new industries and create jobs, according to officials of the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza). The decision was taken at a meeting of Beza's governing board in August. Under the plan, the land of the three state-owned enterprises will be transferred to Beza to facilitate the establishment of economic zones and expand investment activities.	18 August 2026	The Business Standard (TBS) (Economic zones planned on land of 3 closed state-owned mills The Business Standard)	
14	<u>Changing economic dynamics</u> <u>Four key macroeconomic indicators being rebased</u> CPI, PPI, WRI, IIP being redefined suiting changing realities Preparation is afoot to rebase four key macroeconomic indicators for better reflecting changes in the structure of Bangladesh's economy with upgraded quality of official data, officials say. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics or BBS has planned to rebase the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Producer Price Index (PPI), Wage Rate Index (WRI) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) under its Statistical Capacity Enhancement and Modernisation Project. People familiar with the matter have said the economy has diversified significantly in recent years, with new products, industries and services making larger contributions to economic activity. They said that updating the indicators would make them more representative and accurate.	19 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/four-key-macroeconomic-indicators-being-rebased-1787075586?date=19-08-2026)	
15	<u>Bida, Beza, PPPA merge as Invest Bangladesh takes effect</u> The Invest Bangladesh Authority, formed by merging the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida), Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) and Public-Private Partnership Authority (PPPA), formally began operations today (20 August). The government issued a gazette notification bringing the Invest Bangladesh Act, 2026, into force. The notification, signed by Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister ABM Abdus Sattar by order of the president, said the government had brought the Act into effect using powers granted under Section 1(2).	20 August 2026	The Business Standard (TBS) (Bida, Beza, PPPA merge as Invest Bangladesh takes effect The Business Standard)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
16	<u>Govt unveils new 5-yr reform and dev strategic framework</u> ECNEC approves 10 projects involving Tk 93.33b Moving decisively away from traditional, rigid bureaucratic planning models, the Bangladesh government on Wednesday launched a dynamic economic blueprint designed to guide the nation 'from fragility to prosperity'. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman formally unveiled the covers of the "Five-Year Strategic Framework for Reform and Development (July 2026 to June 2031)" alongside its complementary Strategic Action Matrix. Besides, the government endorsed 10 development projects at a combined cost of Tk 93.33 billion at a meeting on Wednesday in Dhaka, Junayed Saki, State Minister for Planning, told journalists. At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) at the Planning Commission, the framework, prepared by the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission, was approved along with the 10 projects, he added. The Five-Year Strategic Framework serves as a flexible "living document" that will undergo rigorous annual reviews under the Prime Minister's direct leadership to guarantee execution and timely policy adjustments, said GED member Dr Monzur Hossain said.	20 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/govt-unveils-new-5-yr-reform-and-dev-strategic-framework-1787163019?date=20-08-2026)	
17	<u>আগামী ৫ বছরে মাথাপিছু আয় ৪৫০০ ডলার ও প্রবৃদ্ধি সাড়ে ৮ শতাংশ, সংস্কার অগ্রাধিকার</u> আগামী পাঁচ বছরে দেশের মানুষের গড় মাথাপিছু আয় সাড়ে চার হাজার ডলারে উন্নীত করতে চায় সরকার। ২০৩০-৩১ অর্থবছরের মাথাপিছু আয়ের লক্ষ্য ঠিক করা হয়েছে ৪ হাজার ৫৯১ ডলার। পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়ের সাধারণ অর্থনীতি বিভাগের (জিইডি) ট্রান্সফর্মিং ইকোনমি ফ্রম ফ্রেজাইলিটি টু প্রস্পারিটি শীর্ষক প্রতিবেদনে মাথাপিছু আয়ের এ লক্ষ্য আছে। বিদ্যায়ী অর্থবছরে মাথাপিছু গড় আয় ২ হাজার ৯৫৮ ডলার। জিইডির ওই প্রতিবেদনে আগামী পাঁচ বছরে সরকার যেসব খাতে সংস্কার ও উন্নয়ন করতে চায়, সেই পরিকল্পনা আছে। গতকাল বুধবার এই প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশ করা হয়। ২০২৬-২৭ থেকে ২০৩০-৩১ অর্থবছরের জন্য এই পরিকল্পনা করা হয়।	20 August 2026	Prothom Alo (আগামী ৫ বছরে মাথাপিছু আয় ৪৫০০ ডলার ও প্রবৃদ্ধি সাড়ে ৮ শতাংশ, সংস্কার অগ্রাধিকার প্রথম আলো)	
18	<u>British mission's letter to commerce ministry</u> <u>BD to retain duty-free mkt access to UK after LDC exit</u> For 92pc of its goods, no need for negotiating separate trade agreement with UK Bangladeshi exporters will continue to enjoy preferential access to the UK market after Bangladesh graduates from the least- developed-country status, the United Kingdom has assured. Economists say the UK's decision provides Bangladesh with valuable policy space and greater certainty on the cusp of transition from the world's poor-country club. A letter from the British mission in Bangladesh says 92 per cent of goods will continue to qualify for duty-free access without the need for Bangladesh to negotiate a separate trade agreement with the UK. The letter, dated August 19, from James Goldman, Deputy High Commissioner and Development Director at the British High Commission in Dhaka, was sent to Md Ataur Rahman Khan, Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce. Bangladesh currently enjoys tariff-free access for 99.8 per cent of goods exported to the UK under the UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS).	21 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/bd-to-retain-duty-free-mkt-access-to-uk-after-ldc-exit-1787248491?date=21-08-2026)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
19	<u>BB opens door to professional mediators for loan disputes</u> Bangladesh Bank (BB) has opened the door for private professional institutions to mediate disputes over defaulted loans, seeking to speed up loan recovery and reduce the growing number of cases pending before the courts. The central bank on Thursday issued guidelines establishing a formal framework for selecting and regulating institutions that will mediate default-loan disputes involving banks and finance companies. The guidelines took effect immediately. The BB had earlier issued instructions allowing disputes over defaulted loans and related cases to be settled through ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution). The latest guidelines go a step further by establishing specific eligibility, capacity and suitability criteria for institutions seeking to operate as professional mediators. Under the new framework, an institution registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, the Partnership Act, 1932, or the Companies Act, 1994, must have at least three years of business or professional experience to qualify.	21 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/bb-opens-door-to-professional-mediators-for-loan-disputes-1787249535?date=21-08-2026)	
20	<u>Govt targets lofty 34.5pc investment-GDP ratio for FY27</u>  Bangladesh wants to expand its investment-to-GDP ratio by 6.57 percentage points within a year as it has set the aspiration in the newly approved five-year development strategy and framework, analysts say. Economists have termed this "over-ambitious", saying the target is almost impossible to achieve. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman formally unveiled the cover of the "Five-Year Strategic Framework for Reform and Development-FYSFRD (July 2026 to June 2031)" alongside its complementary Strategic Action Matrix on Wednesday. Several economic targets, including the investment-to-GDP ratio increase goal, were set there. Moving decisively away from traditional and rigid bureaucratic planning models, the General Economics Division (GED) under the Planning Commission prepared the dynamic economic blueprint, designed to guide the nation "from fragility to prosperity".	22 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-targets-lofty-345pc-investment-gdp-ratio-for-fy27-1787335823)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
21	<u>Producers now liable for plastic waste management</u> Bangladesh has made producers, brand owners and importers responsible for managing plastic waste generated by their products and packaging, introducing mandatory collection and recycling targets under a new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework. The Extended Producer Responsibility Guideline for Plastic Waste Management, 2026, guideline was issued through a gazette notification by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on August 13, took effect immediately. Under the guideline, obligated businesses will have to finance and organise the end-of-life management of their plastic products, including collection, sorting, recycling, recovery and environmentally sound disposal. They must also take measures to reduce plastic use and promote reusable alternatives. The framework covers plastic waste generated both before products reach consumers and after they are used, creating new compliance and financial obligations for businesses serving the domestic market. It applies to large, medium and small enterprises, importers, manufacturers, brand owners, online platforms, supermarkets, retail chains and recycling businesses dealing with obligated plastic products.	22 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/producers-now-liable-for-plastic-waste-management-1787331747)	
22	<u>Play by international standards in trade, business</u> <u>Outmoded company reg, operation law being upgraded for fair business</u> Plugging conduits for money laundering, terror financing among cardinal goals of amending Companies Act Sweeping amendments to the Companies Act 1994 are drafted for easing business operations, ensuring money-laundering prevention, digitising company records, strengthening corporate governance and empowering the regulator with autonomous powers. The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) is proposed to be empowered to tackle money laundering, a nefarious practice that has hollowed up Bangladesh's financial sector, among other functions governing the business world. The proposed Third Amendment Act 2026 includes provisions for digital registration and record-keeping, beneficial ownership disclosure, information sharing with law-enforcement agencies, mandatory company secretaries for large companies and tougher penalties for violations. The draft has been prepared based on recommendations from different agencies and institutions, including Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), and directions contained in a High Court order in a related writ petition, officials said.	23 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/outmoded-company-reg-operation-law-being-upgraded-for-fair-business-1787418475)	
23	<u>FTA talks with EU likely within a month: Commerce secretary</u> Bangladesh is hoping to begin formal negotiations for a free trade deal with the European Union within a month, Commerce Secretary Md Aatur Rahman Khan said yesterday. “We are preparing our position paper now to begin the negotiation with the EU,” Aatur told The Daily Star over phone. He added, “The technical committee formed to negotiate with the EU is scheduled to hold a meeting to fix Bangladesh’s position on trade in goods and services, rules of origin and intellectual property rights, soon.” The EU is also preparing its position paper to facilitate the start of the negotiation, Aatur said.	23 August 2026	The Daily Star (FTA talks with EU likely within a month: Commerce secretary The Daily Star)	