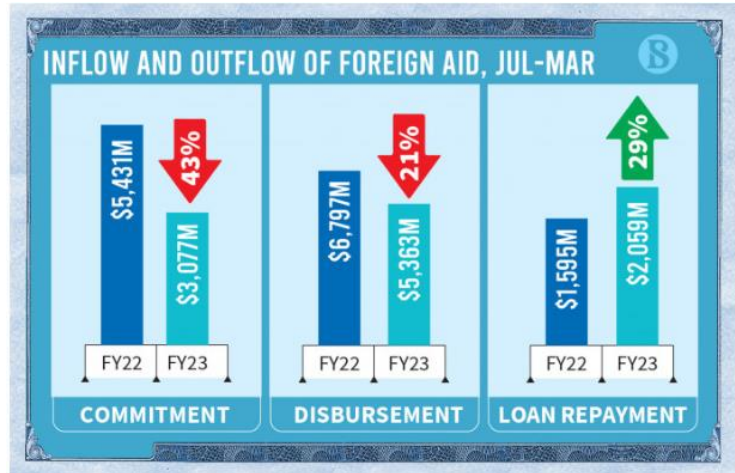


Economy

Foreign aid commitments fall 43%, disbursement 21%

The year-on-year disbursements and commitments of foreign loans from development partners have decreased in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, which may intensify pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves.

According to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of finance ministry data, foreign aid disbursement has decreased to \$5.36 billion in the July-March period of FY23, registering a 21% fall compared to \$6.79 billion in the same period of FY22.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-aid-commitments-fall-43-disbursement-21-627898>

Shipbuilders back to life with BDT 50 Bn orders

The country's shipbuilding industry is witnessing a significant boost as three of its largest companies have secured orders to build around two dozen vessels worth approximately BDT 50 Bn. This surge in orders comes after a year of increased inquiries by buyers, which has expanded the industry's potential for acquiring additional orders. Khulna Shipyard, one of the country's leading shipbuilders, has secured orders valued at around BDT 23 Bn, while Karnaphuli Shipyard has orders worth nearly BDT 20 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/shipbuilders-back-life-tk5000cr-orders-627450>

BB to set policies for market-based interest rates

Bangladesh Bank today said it would roll out a set of policies on the implementation of market-based interest rates and uniform exchange rates and disclosing net and gross reserves following the suggestions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Md Mezbaul Haque, the spokesperson of the central bank, said the policies might be implemented from July this year and the next monetary policy will give a roadmap to this end.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-set-policies-market-based-interest-rates-3313541>

IMF team warns of potential export decline, calls for steps to cut external deficit

The International Monetary Fund's loan review mission has left Dhaka with a happy note at the policy measures taken to meet the June deadline for most of the agreed reforms except for the net foreign exchange reserves threshold, finance officials have said. Citing concerns of a potential decline in the country's export earnings due to growth slowdown and inflation in major markets, the team suggested that Bangladesh needs to take initiatives to reduce balance of payments deficit to reach the agreed target of net reserves of USD 25.32 Bn by September, they said.

According to finance officials, the IMF expressed satisfaction with the policy measures that Bangladesh has taken to meet the conditions with a June deadline. However, the lender has concerns about whether the country can raise its net foreign exchange reserves to USD 24.46 Bn by the June deadline.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-team-warns-potential-export-decline-calls-steps-cut-external-deficit-627930>

Big-budget infrastructure upgrade planned with WB funding

(Govt estimates Tk 20b for the project)

A big-budget project costing Tk 20 billion is framed to upgrade infrastructures of customs and VAT offices to enable them to meet growing demand for trade and transit facilitation, officials say. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has framed the project to strengthen capacity of customs and VAT administration with fund support from the World Bank (WB). The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has sought nearly Tk 16.53 billion worth of fund support from the World Bank for the upgrading to meet growing demand for domestic revenue mobilisation and trade facilitation.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/big-budget-infrastructure-upgrade-planned-with-wb-funding>

IT

IT export to Japan surges

Local software and other information technology-enabled services (ITES) exports to Japan have witnessed a surge in recent times as Bangladeshi companies have established a foothold in the East Asian country. Export of information technology to Japan jumped by over 35% to USD 120 Mn year-on-year in fiscal year 2021-22, according to the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS). In 2016-17, it was at only USD 56 Mn. Japan accounts for about 8% of Bangladesh's total annual IT exports of over USD 1.4 Bn, according to the top trade body for software and ITES industry of Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/it-export-japan-surges-3313856>

Stock-Specific News

Mutual funds association to launch impact fund for businesses in south region

The Association of Asset Management Companies & Funds (AAMCMF) is going to launch an impact fund for financing food security, healthcare, green initiatives and digitalisation of small and micro businesses in Khulna, Gopalganj, and other southern districts of the country. The "Bangladesh Impact Fund - South Region" will have a target size of BDT 2 Bn, and can grow with success, said the association's President Dr Hasan Imam at an event held at Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mutual-funds-association-launch-impact-fund-businesses-south-region-627938>