

Economy

IMF maintains 5.5pc growth forecast for Bangladesh

In its flagship World Economic Outlook, the International Monetary Fund maintained that growth would be at best 5.5 percent in 2023 and 6.5 percent next year. This comes after the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank last week made growth forecasts of 5.2 percent and 5.3 percent respectively for this fiscal year, which ends on June 30. The government though is maintaining the growth this fiscal year would be 6.5 percent.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/imf-maintains-55pc-growth-forecast-bangladesh-3294791>

Record 14,800MW electricity generated on Tuesday

The country has generated a record 14,800 megawatts of electricity today at 9pm, reads information from the BPDB. Prior to this, the maximum power generation was 14,782MW, recorded on 16 April last year. At present, the country has 23,482MW grid connected electricity generation capacity.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/record-14800mw-electricity-generated-tuesday-615062>

Women's domestic work to be added to GDP from next FY

The government will include women's household work in its GDP calculation from the next financial year and an action plan in this regard will be prepared very soon, said Planning Minister MA Mannan on Tuesday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/womens-domestic-work-be-added-gdp-next-fy-615054>

Income tax ceiling may rise

The government is going to raise the tax-free-income ceiling for individuals in the forthcoming budget for inflation relief amid higher cost of living, besides few other fiscal revisions including amnesty on 'black money'. Sources concerned said the ceiling might be increased to BDT 330,000 to BDT 350,000 for an individual taxpayer. Currently, the tax threshold for individuals is BDT 0.3 Mn. It means an individual have to pay tax if their income crosses BDT 25,000 per month.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/income-tax-ceiling-may-rise>

More tax on tobacco products in next budget stressed

Imposition of effective tax on tobacco products could increase government's revenue as well as reduce consumption of the harmful products, according to a think tank. In this regard, Unnayan Shamannay suggested increasing minimum prices of different categories of cigarettes and taxes in the next national budget for the fiscal year 2023-24. It recommended increasing minimum retail price of the cheapest (lower) variety of cigarette to BDT 55 from existing BDT 40 per packet (10 sticks) and excise duty on maximum retail price from existing 57% to 65%.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/more-tax-on-tobacco-products-in-next-budget-stressed>

RMG export growth slows to 2.49% in US market

Domestic apparel shipments to the US feel the effects of an economic downswing as export growth slowed down to 2.49% in the first two months of 2023. Bangladesh received USD 1.46 Bn this January-February period from its largest destination. Last January, ready-made garment (RMG) exports witnessed double-digit growth of 15.44% year on year while it recorded over 36% growth in 2022.

The overall US apparel import in the last two months of the current calendar year, however, has declined by 11.86% to USD 13.21 Bn. Apparel exporters attributed economic slowdown, high inflation and interest rate in the USA to this decline in the demand for apparel.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/rmg-export-growth-slows-to-249pc-in-us-market>

Stock-Specific News

City Bank profits drop by 13% in 2022

The City Bank has posted 13.1% lower profits for 2022 compared to the previous year. Its consolidated earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk3.98, down from Tk4.58 in the previous year, according to a price sensitive information disclosure. The top tier private sector bank's board of directors recommended 10% cash and 2% stock dividends for 2022, down from 12.5% cash and 12.5% stock in the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/city-bank-profits-drop-13-2022-614938>