

Economy:

Early starts govt search for external funds

Early starts the government's search for budget-support credits for the current fiscal year with preference for external funds to avert further domestic push to inflation, officials said. Requests for funding the budget deficit have already been dispatched to some bilateral and multilateral development, they said Friday. The donors approached include the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the World Bank and Japan. Early starts the government's search for budget-support credits for the current fiscal year with preference for external funds to avert further domestic push to inflation, officials said. Meanwhile, three key donors -- ADB, AIIB and Japan -- under a common initiative had already provided \$400 million, \$400 million and \$209 million respectively in the immediate-past financial year (FY23).



<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/early-starts-govt-search-for-external-funds>

Bangladesh loses \$361m tax a year: report

Bangladesh is losing \$361 million worth of tax annually owing to the shifting of profits by multinational companies, especially into tax havens abroad, according to a report by the Tax Justice Network (TJN). In addition, the country is losing \$26 million a year due to global tax evasion committed by private individuals, said the TJN in its State of Tax Justice 2023 released on July 25. The amount of tax loss is 0.1 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), said the network of individuals and organisations working for a fairer tax system

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-loses-361m-tax-year-report-3380476>

Bangladesh goes great guns to strike FTAs

Bangladesh attains a good going towards striking free-trade agreements (FTAs) with some countries having significant bilateral trade, as the nation braces for post-graduation loss of market-access preferences, officials said. Among the countries having close trade ties with Bangladesh and approached for free-trade deals are Asian neighbours like Japan, India, and China. The work is advancing as the country is poised to lose tariff facilities in many wealthier countries when Bangladesh sees off the world's poor-nation club in 2026.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-goes-great-guns-to-strike-ftas>

Bank, NBFI, and Insurance Sector:

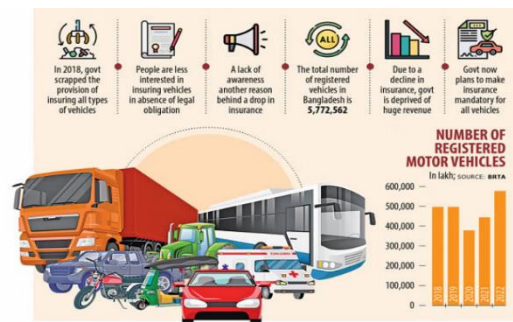
Chairmen of banks can be directors in subsidiaries abroad

Bangladesh Bank has relaxed the rules for the chairmen of banks to hold directorship in subsidiaries abroad, according to a notice issued yesterday. The central bank in May last year barred chairmen and board members of banks from holding the positions of directors in the boards or governing bodies of the subsidiaries or foundations established by the banks. In its circular, the BB said chairmen of boards of banks would be able to become directors at the board of the subsidiaries such as exchange houses, money transfer operators or finance companies abroad.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/chairmen-banks-can-be-directors-subsidiaries-abroad-3380461>

Vehicle insurance business going thru tough times

The vehicle insurance business in Bangladesh is passing hard times as people are not interested in insuring automobiles in the absence of legal obligation as well as a lack of trust in insurers and promotional activities. In the past, insurance was mandatory for all types of vehicles such as motorcycles, cars, buses and trucks. The government abolished the system in 2018, taking a toll on the insurance business.



<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/vehicle-insurance-business-going-thru-tough-times-3380486>

Fuel & Power Sector:

BD to settle hundreds of millions in power bills before national elections

Bangladesh is set to clear its outstanding payments to LNG suppliers, international oil companies (IOCs), and power plant owners by paying approximately \$960 million per month starting from July. The decision was made following a directive from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ahead of the scheduled elections in the country next year, reports wionews.com. Each week, \$160 million will be allocated to the Power Division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR) to settle debts with power plant owners, while \$80 million will go to the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) for payments to LNG suppliers and IOCs.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bd-to-settle-hundreds-of-millions-in-power-bills-before-national-elections>

Stock-Specific:

BSEC asks First Finance to reconstitute its board

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has ordered the board of directors of First Finance Limited to reconstitute its board by appointing five independent directors nominated by the regulator. The regulatory order came this week in the backdrop of the company's failure to reconstitute the board within 45 working days of its placement in the 'Z' category. Despite being traded under the 'Z' category since May 2, 2016, the company with negative equity did not reconstitute its board.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bsec-asks-first-finance-to-reconstitute-its-board>

EBL Asset Management Limited (EBL AML)