

Summary of Business News – 83

Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 07 - 19 July 2025

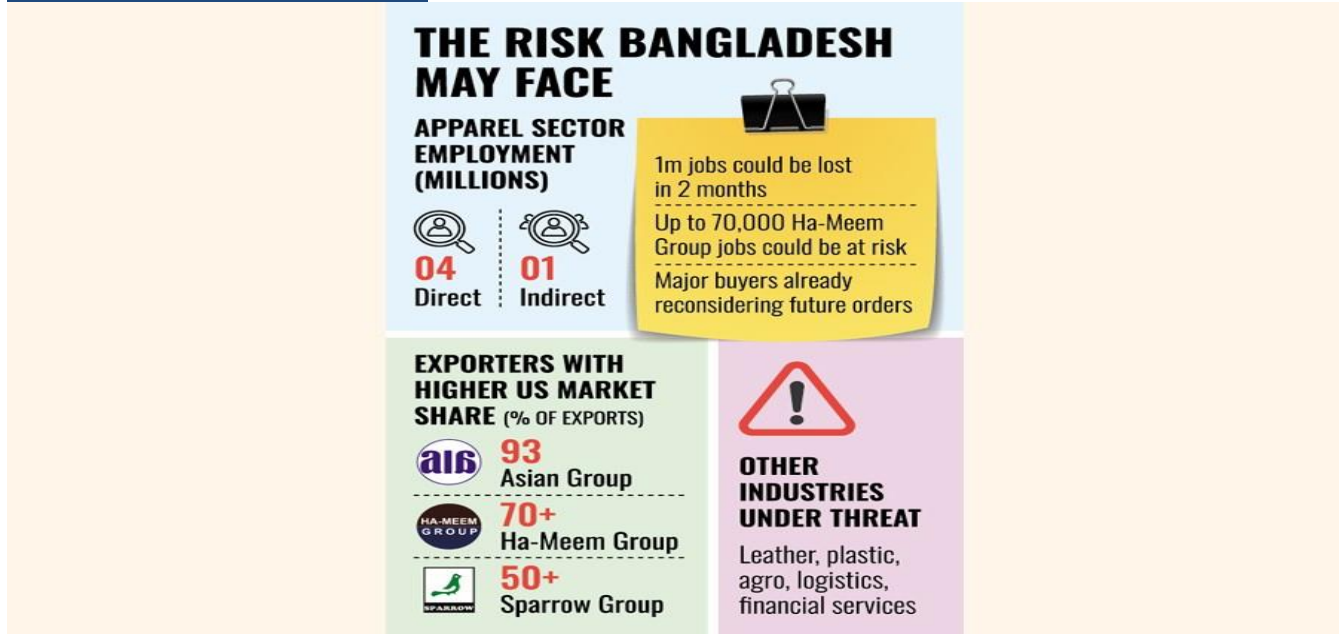
Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p><u>জানুয়ারি-মার্চ প্রান্তিকে জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধি ৪.৮৬%</u></p> <p>অর্থনীতিতে গতি আরও কিছুটা বেড়েছে। বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরোর (বিবিএস) হিসাব বলছে, জানুয়ারি-মার্চ প্রান্তিকে মোট দেশজ উৎপাদনের (জিডিপি) প্রবৃদ্ধি ৪ দশমিক ৮৬ শতাংশ, যা অর্থবছরের আগের দুই প্রান্তিকের চেয়ে বেশি। গত জুলাই-সেপ্টেম্বর এবং অক্টোবর-ডিসেম্বর প্রান্তিকে জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধি হয়েছিল যথাক্রমে ১ দশমিক ৯৬ শতাংশ এবং ৪ দশমিক ৪৮ শতাংশ। আজ সোমবার বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো (বিবিএস) চলতি অর্থবছরের জানুয়ারি-মার্চ ওই তিন মাসের জিডিপির চিত্র প্রকাশ করেছে।</p>	07 July 2025	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/opcjipbd1m)	
02	<p><u>Inflation falls below 9pc barrier in 35 months</u></p> <p>The general inflation eased further and dropped from the 9 per cent mark to 8.48 per cent in June because of falling prices of food items. The rate of inflation in the past month is also the lowest in 35 months, according to the monthly update released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics on Monday.</p> <p>The bureau recorded the previous lowest rate of inflation at 7.48 per cent in July 2022. Since then, the price hike of essentials had been maintaining an upward movement and reached the decade high of 11.66 per cent in July 2024. In May, the overall inflation was 9.05, the lowest in 27 months.</p> <p>The BBS latest update showed that the overall food inflation rate dropped to 7.39 per cent in June from 8.59 per cent in May. The non-food inflation was easing slowly and was at 9.37 per cent in June, compared to 9.42 per cent in May.</p>	08 July 2025	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/269380/inflation-falls-below-9pc-barrier-in-35-months)	
03	<p><u>BD's June PMI falls by 5.8pts</u></p> <p>Such a steep drop indicates 'slowdown' in the country's industrial, business activities</p> <p>Bangladesh's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell sharply by 5.8 points in June 2025, indication a 'notable' slowdown in its industrial and business activities, according to data released on Monday. The index declined to 53.1 in June from 58.9 in May, reflecting the steepest monthly decline in over a year.</p> <p>PMI is a key economic indicator derived from monthly surveys of private sector firms, offering insights into manufacturing and services sector trends. A PMI above 50 indicates expansion while reading its below suggests contraction. On the other hand, a PMI 50 indicates that economy is neither expanding nor contracting. The scale is 0-100. Despite remaining above the neutral 50-point mark, such a sharp drop indicates a weakening momentum in new orders, production, and supplier deliveries.</p>	08 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/bds-june-pmi-falls-by-58pts-1751910241?date=08-07-2025)	

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04	<p><u>BD population hits 175.7m: UNFPA</u> Majority in working-age group Bangladesh's population is estimated at 175.7 million of which half are women, two-thirds (115 million) in the working-age group (aged 15-64), presenting a window of opportunity to harness the demographic dividend, reports UNB. The estimation was made in the annual flagship publication, the State of World Population (SWOP) 2025, of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh Catherine Breen Kamkong officially launched the annual report at a press event held at the UN Building in the city's Gulshan area on Monday.</p>	08 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/bd-population-hits-1757m-unfpa-1751911001?date=08-07-2025)	
05	<p><u>Importers' failure to clear LC payments</u> <u>BB governor asks banks to create forced loans</u> Executives of commercial lenders alerted to money laundering through under-invoicing Governor of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) Dr Ahsan H Mansur has asked commercial banks to create forced loans against importers who have failed to make letter of credit (LC) payment on maturity dates. He gave the instruction at the bankers' meeting held on Tuesday in light of reports that some banks are not complying with the directive to create forced loans to cover LC payments, which may cause the country to lose its reputation overseas, according to meeting insiders. The central bank high-ups also asked the top executives of commercial lenders to be careful so that no exporter can get the opportunity of money laundering through under-invoicing. Seeking anonymity, a central bank official who attended the meeting said a circular issued earlier instructed banks to craft forced loans against importers for failing to fulfil LC payment obligations. But there are a few banks that do not follow the directive and try to clear LC payments in other ways. Thus the country may lose its reputation abroad due to payment delays, he said.</p>	09 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-governor-asks-banks-to-create-forced-loans-1751997280)	
06	<p><u>Bangladesh Bank introduces startup financing rules</u> Banks to fund startups via equity investments only The Bangladesh Bank on Wednesday issued a new master circular on startup financing, allowing banks to support startups through equity investments only from their own startup funds. To facilitate this, the central bank will establish a venture capital company funded by one per cent of the annual net profits of scheduled banks. Under the new framework, a startup, registered in Bangladesh and not older than 12 years, must meet specific innovation criteria to qualify for financing. These include introducing new products, services, or processes using technology or intellectual property to meet domestic or global demand, demonstrating rapid scalability, and having the capacity to reshape or significantly improve existing markets through disruptive innovation. Startups must also be capable of integrating stakeholder feedback to guide future development. Entrepreneurs must be at least 21-year old and free from any loan default records. One of the most significant policy changes is the substantial increase in the loan ceiling for startups. The maximum loan amount has been raised from Tk 1 crore to Tk 8 crore, with eligibility and disbursement tied to the venture's operational maturity.</p>	10 July 2025	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/Banking/269585/bangladesh-bank-introduces-startup-financing-rules)	

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07	<p><u>Govt sets sights high on \$65b export this fiscal</u></p> <p>An ambitious export target of US\$65 billion is proposed for this fiscal year with the government having gauged all the ground realities and global and local economic scenarios, officials say. The uppush export turnover for 2025-26 reflects a 17.22-percent growth over the estimated export earnings of \$55.45 billion in the just-past FY2024-25. According to sources at the Ministry of Commerce, the proposed target includes \$56.5 billion from goods and \$8.5 billion from services. The estimated growth rates are 17 per cent for goods and 18.67 per cent for services. Initially, the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) proposed a target of \$63.5 billion for FY2025-26-with \$55 billion to come from goods and \$8.5 billion from services-with an overall annualised growth of 14.52 per cent. The proposed growth rates in that estimate were 13.91 per cent for goods and 18.67 per cent for services. In FY2024-25, Bangladesh's total export turnover is estimated \$55.45 billion, comprising \$48.28 billion from goods and \$7.16 billion from services, with a modest 8.48-percent overall growth over the previous year.</p>	10 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/fIRST-page/govt-sets-sights-high-on-65b-export-this-fiscal-1752085514)	
08	<p><u>Trump tariffs</u></p> <p><u>Bangladesh faces higher rate despite lower trade gap</u></p> <p>Although Bangladesh is the 52nd largest trading partner of the US and its trade deficit with the latter is much lower than its competitors, the Donald Trump administration has imposed a higher 35 per cent tariff on its products, analysts say. They say the tariff on Bangladesh has likely been imposed on political grounds rather than the reciprocal methodology. The countries which have good relations with the US or better lobbies in the Trump administration would get benefits, while the weak and poor ones like Bangladesh would be affected by the unjustified tariff structures, they add. Analysing the US government's trade data, The Financial Express found that compared to Bangladesh, America's trade deficit with Vietnam was more than 20 times higher and with India 7.5 times greater in 2024. Vietnam is the 10th largest trading partner of the US, while India is the 12th largest.</p>	10 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/LAST-page/bangladesh-faces-higher-rate-despite-lower-trade-gap-1752086165)	
09	<p><u>Export incentives for 43 sectors stay till Dec</u></p> <p><u>Businesses plead for full-year perks</u></p> <p>To further encourage export trade, the government has decided to continue handing out incentives against exports from 43 sectors from July 1 to December 31 in the fiscal year 2025-26. A circular to this effect was issued by Bangladesh Bank (BB) on July 10, 2025. According to the regulatory firman, the rates of export incentives and cash support for shipped goods from July 1 to December 31 will range from 0.30 percent to a maximum of 10 percent, depending on the product category. This facility was available to 43 sectors for the entire previous fiscal year from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.</p>	11 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/fIRST-page/export-incentives-for-43-sectors-stay-till-dec-1752170262?date=11-07-2025)	
10	<p><u>Govt bank borrowing decreases in FY25</u></p> <p>The government's net borrowing from commercial banks decreased in the 2024–25 financial year compared with the previous fiscal year, driven largely by a surge in foreign loan inflows. According to Bangladesh Bank data, borrowing dropped to Tk 72,372 crore in the July-June period in FY25, significantly lower than Tk 94,282 crore in the same period of FY24. The borrowing was lowest in four years. The government had borrowed Tk 1,22,980 crore in FY23 and Tk 72,750 crore in FY22.</p>	11 July 2025	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/269689/govt-bank-borrowing-decreases-in-fy25)	

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11	<p><u>In addition to 35% tariff, US demands 40% local value addition for 'Made in Bangladesh' goods</u></p> <p>In addition to imposing a 35% tariff on Bangladeshi exports, the United States wants a minimum 40% local value addition for ready-made garments to qualify for the "Made in Bangladesh" label, according to commerce ministry sources. RMG industry insiders fear that if the 40% threshold is not relaxed, Bangladesh's woven export sector could face significant setbacks in the US market. For India, the requirement is even higher — 60% value addition. In addition, the US has raised concerns over the rising volume of Chinese investment in Bangladesh and the increasing transfer of ownership of local companies to Chinese entities.</p>	12 July 2025	The Business Standard (TBS) (https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/addition-35-tariff-us-demands-40-local-value-addition-made-bangladesh-goods-1185991)	
12	<p><u>Worried exporters expect fruitful tariff talks</u></p> <p>Businesses said on Saturday that they don't want to lose the US market and are optimistic that the trade talks regarding a 35 per cent tariff will succeed in the end. They also said that the US is the single largest export destination of the country, and a decline in exports to this destination would deal a significant blow to the country's exports. They were responding about the outcome of the second-round negotiation between Bangladesh and the US, which ended on Friday in Washington. According to a social media post of Golam Mortaza, press minister at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington DC, several issues remain unresolved following the second round of trade talks between Bangladesh and the US. However, both parties agreed to continue negotiations to resolve the outstanding issues, the official added.</p>	13 July 2025	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/269880/worried-exporters-expect-fruitful-tariff-talks)	
13	<p><u>Taka gains against dollar after several years</u></p> <p>The local currency has started to strengthen against the US dollar for the first time in several years, as the official exchange rate dropped by Tk 2.20 over the past five days amid a growing inflow of greenbacks. As of today, the inter-bank exchange rate for selling the US dollar stood at Tk 120.1, down from Tk 122.3 on July 9, according to the latest data from the Bangladesh Bank.</p>	14 July 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/taka-gains-against-dollar-after-several-years-3939271)	
14	<p><u>BSTI opens lab to certify halal products</u></p> <p>State-run Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) yesterday opened two laboratories to certify whether products labelled halal meet Islamic dietary laws and ethical standards, and whether helmets meet safety requirements. Adilur Rahman Khan, adviser for the industries and housing and public works ministries, inaugurated the two labs at the BSTI. The government is working to establish a multidimensional and resilient industrial sector, he said. Establishing the halal certification laboratory is a timely and crucial milestone that will help Bangladesh tap into the growing global demand for halal products, he added.</p>	15 July 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsti-opens-lab-certify-halal-products-3939816)	
15	<p><u>Govt reinstates jute export fees</u></p> <p>The government has refrained from hiking fees on the export of raw jute and jute products and instead reinstated previous rates, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Textiles and Jute. Under a gazette notification issued on July 12, exporters will continue to pay Tk 2 per bale (around 180 kilogrammes) of raw jute and 10 paisa on every Tk 100 gained from the export of jute products. A previous order issued on April 7, 2025 sought to raise the export fees. The ministry had proposed raising the fee on raw jute to Tk 7 per bale from Tk 2 per bale, which was fixed in 1995.</p>	16 July 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-reinstates-jute-export-fees-3940526)	

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16	<p>STABILISING FOREX MARKET <u>Central bank buys \$313m in fresh move</u></p> <p>In a renewed effort to stabilise the exchange rate of the US dollar against the Bangladesh Taka (BDT), the central bank stepped into the foreign-exchange market once again on Tuesday, with a buy of US\$313 million through an auction. This marked the Bangladesh Bank's (BB) second intervention in just three days, following its earlier purchase of \$171 million from 18 banks on Sunday.</p> <p>The interventions come amid a consistent decline in the dollar's value against the local currency. The central bank has purchased a total of \$484 million in two separate auctions this week. The purchased greenback is expected to help improve the country's forex-reserve position.</p>	16 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/central-bank-buys-313m-in-fresh-move-1752601766)	
17	<p><u>Govt reinstates jute export fees</u></p> <p>The government has refrained from hiking fees on the export of raw jute and jute products and instead reinstated previous rates, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Textiles and Jute. Under a gazette notification issued on July 12, exporters will continue to pay Tk 2 per bale (around 180 kilogrammes) of raw jute and 10 paisa on every Tk 100 gained from the export of jute products. A previous order issued on April 7, 2025 sought to raise the export fees. The ministry had proposed raising the fee on raw jute to Tk 7 per bale from Tk 2 per bale, which was fixed in 1995.</p>	16 July 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-reinstates-jute-export-fees-3940526)	
18	<p><u>S&P Global retains BD banking sector in high-risk category</u></p> <p>S&P Global Ratings, one of the world's three major credit rating agencies, has retained Bangladesh's banking sector in one of its highest risk categories in its midyear Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment (BICRA). In its latest report released on July 16, the global agency rated Bangladesh's banking system at 9.0 on a scale of 1.0 to 10, where 1.0 denotes the lowest risk and 10 the highest. This places the country's banking industry among the riskiest in Asia and the Pacific region - a position shared with only three other Asia-Pacific economies: Mongolia, Cambodia, and Vietnam.</p> <p>The BICRA framework assesses countries across eight risk factors, including economic risk trends, industry risk trends, economic imbalances, credit risk, institutional framework, competitive dynamics, and system-wide funding.</p>	17 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/sp-global-retains-bd-banking-sector-in-high-risk-category-1752687728)	
19	<p><u>External debt up 6.0pc YoY to \$104.76b in March</u></p> <p>Bangladesh's overall external debt rose by around 6.0 per cent to US\$104.76 billion in March 2025, which was around \$6.0 billion higher from the corresponding period a year ago when the volume was \$98.93 billion, according to the latest data from the Bangladesh Bank. The rise is mainly attributed to the public sector's growing appetite for foreign funds. Since March last year, the outstanding figure of foreign debts enhanced slightly to \$103.41 billion in June and \$104.41 billion in September last year. It dropped a little to \$103.74 billion by the end of December 2024, according to the data.</p> <p>The official data showed that long-term debt stood at \$91.92 billion, while short-term borrowing accounted for \$12.84 billion.</p>	17 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/external-debt-up-60pc-yoy-to-10476b-in-march-1752687868)	

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20	<p><u>NBR misses revenue target for 13th year</u></p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has fallen short of its revenue collection target for the 13th consecutive year, with experts opining that the existing framework for tax collection is inadequate. The tax authority's overall receipts were Tk 370,874 crore in fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25), falling short of its revised target by Tk 92,626 crore. The government initially aimed to collect taxes of Tk 480,000 crore in FY25 but ultimately slashed the target by Tk 18,500 crore.</p>	17 July 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-misses-revenue-target-13th-year-3941321)	
21	<p>IMPENDING US TARIFF SHOCK TO BANGLADESH ECONOMY</p> <p><u>Millions of jobs may face wipeout</u></p>  <p>Bangladesh's export-led economy faces a potential employment crisis as the US prepares to impose a 35-percent countervailing tariff on imports from the country on August 1. Industry leaders warn that the impact will be widespread - threatening not just the readymade garment (RMG) sector but also related industries, such as leather, plastic, agriculture, logistics, and financial services.</p> <p>As the countdown to August 1 begins, stakeholders fear that failing rapid and coordinated government action, Bangladesh could lose its competitive edge on the US market - a loss that could take years to recoup and cost millions of jobs.</p>	18 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/millions-of-jobs-may-face-wipeout-1752775619?date=18-07-2025)	

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22	<p><u>NBR withdraws 2pc AIT on cotton, fibre imports</u></p> <p>The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has finally withdrawn the 2 per cent advance income tax (AIT) on the import of cotton and other textile fibres -- a long-standing demand from the country's spinning and textile millers. According to a gazette notification issued on Thursday (July 17), the exemption applies to raw cotton (carded, uncarded, or combed), synthetic staple fibres, and artificial fibres of various compositions including polyester, acrylic, and nylon.</p> <p>Stakeholders argued that the AIT increased the cost of doing business and disrupted the competitiveness of the export-oriented apparel sector.</p>	18 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-withdraws-2pc-ait-on-cotton-fibre-imports-1752775816?date=18-07-2025)	
23	<p><u>Banks borrow record Tk 1.45t in a month as liquidity dries</u></p> <p>Fund funnelling from the central bank into commercial banks in Bangladesh through repo instrument hits a record high of over Tk 1.45 trillion in June, indicating their severe liquidity crunch. Deposit growth remains slow amid higher non-performing loan (NPL) regime following past misrule in the banking sector while government bank borrowing also ballooned to make up for revenue deficit, bankers and money-market analysts say about the banks' desperate need for liquidity feeding. They say the volume of commercial lenders' borrowing through repo window of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) continues ballooning to meet their local-currency obligations.</p> <p>According to the latest data available with the BB, the country's scheduled banks altogether borrowed Tk 1.45 trillion from the banking regulator under the repo facility in June 2025. Off the amount, around 75 per cent was taken using 14 days' maturity while remaining Tk 275 billion and Tk 91.05 billion came from 7-day maturity and overnight facility.</p> <p>Under the repo-backed liquidity facility from the central bank, the figures of borrowed funds were Tk 1.33 trillion, Tk 940 billion and Tk 838 billion in May, April and March last, the data showed.</p>	19 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-borrow-record-tk-145t-in-a-month-as-liquidity-dries-1752860938)	
24	<p><u>Most cos breach law in making contribution to Labour Welfare Fund</u></p> <p>Despite making profit, most of the companies--both local and foreign ones--operating in Bangladesh have been ignoring their required contribution to the Labour Welfare Fund (LWF), breaching the existing law, sources said. Until date, only 400-450 out of 7218 companies with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms (RJSC) deposited their contribution to the Fund.</p> <p>They said around 95 per cent registered firms/companies do not provide their contribution to the fund operating under the Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation. Only a good number of multinational companies and firms along with some of the large local ones are regularly donating to the fund, they said.</p>	19 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/most-cos-breach-law-in-making-contribution-to-labour-welfare-fund-1752861863)	