




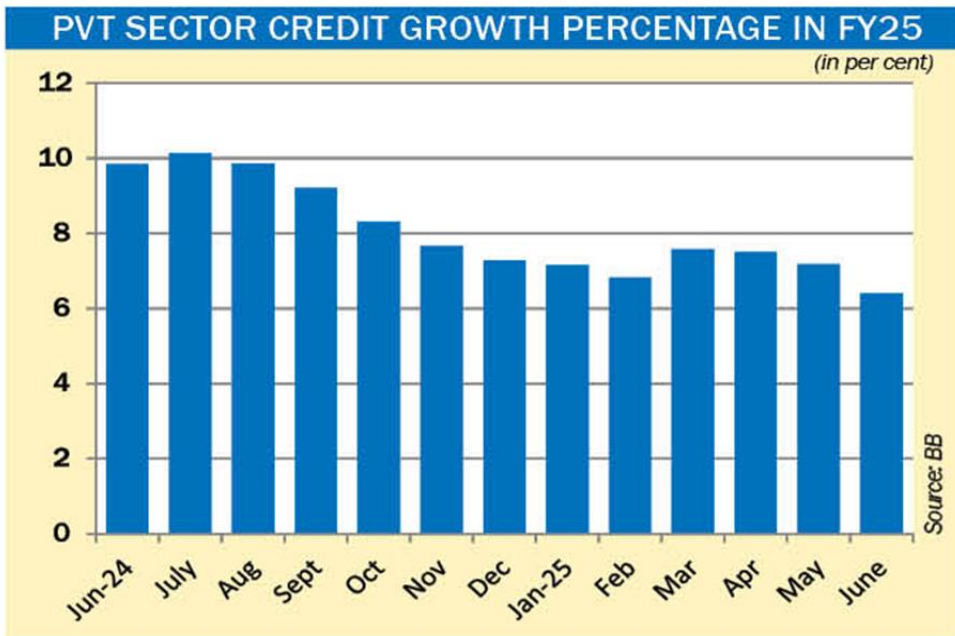


Summary of Business News – 84


Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 20 July – 10 August 2025

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	<p>EXPORTERS FEAR FRESH BLOW TO INDUSTRY, TRADE <u>Outbound container-handling charges set to surge 81pc</u></p> <p>Container-depot owners have announced a steep hike in charges of outbound goods-laden box handling up to 81 per cent which exporters term a fresh blow amid troubling reciprocal- tariff tussle with the United States. Bangladesh Inland Container Depots Association (BICDA) has also declared the charge hike in case of handling empty cargo boxes and some other services they provide. A circular issued by the BICDA says the hiked charges will be effective from September-in what comes as a double bind with a 35-percent additional US tariff on Bangladeshi exports possibly taking effect on August 01.</p> <p>Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the top user of the off-docks, says the move to raise charges will create a big pressure on the export-oriented industry.</p> <p>The BICDA in its circular has said the investment cost of the Inland Container Depots (ICDs) has increased "so significantly" that capacity expansion of depots "has become very difficult".</p>	21 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/outbound-container-handling-charges-set-to-surge-81pc-1753034291)	
02	<p><u>BD among top eight countries with largest unbanked population</u> Reveals World Bank report</p> <div>  650m+ adults remain unbanked globally </div> <div>  53% live in 8 countries, including BD </div> <div>  BD's account ownership rate 50% </div> <div>  78% account holders use digital payments </div> <div>  Shows high reliance on basic phones </div> <p>More than half of the world's adults without financial accounts live in eight countries, including Bangladesh, according to the latest Global Findex 2025 report published by the World Bank (WB).</p> <p>The report reveals that over 650 million adults, or 53 per cent of the global population without financial accounts, are concentrated in eight large economies -- Bangladesh, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan. These countries either have large populations, relatively low levels of financial inclusion, or both.</p>	22 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-among-top-eight-countries-with-largest-unbanked-population-1753120467?date=22-07-2025)	


Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
03	<p><u>MoU signed for US wheat import amid tariff threats</u></p> <p>Bangladesh on Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding with the United States to import 7 lakh tonnes of wheat annually for the next five years amid the threat of facing 35 per cent US tariff on its exports from the next month. The US is pressing Bangladesh to reduce the trade gap, which is in favour of Bangladesh, by importing more US products to get a favourable tariff deal.</p> <p>Dhaka is negotiating with Washington for reducing the tariff rate to a tolerable level to safeguard its exports to the US market. Bangladesh is waiting for the third round of tariff talks with the US as the previous two rounds failed to resolve key issues, including the tariff rate.</p>	22 July 2025	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/commodities/270693/mou-signed-for-us-wheat-import-amid-tariff-threats)	
04	<p><u>Trade-based money laundering drains \$16b a year for laxity</u></p> <p>Bangladesh loses US\$16 billion annually through trade-based money laundering alone for policy leniency and lax regulation of trading operations, reveals an official outfit's study and prescribes preventives.</p> <p>Despite having strong policy frameworks to help combat trade-based money laundering (TBML), the country remains significantly exposed to illicit financial outflows due to their inadequate enforcement and systemic challenges, says the study report published Tuesday by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM).</p> <p>The report, titled 'Enforcement Status of the Standards to Prevent Trade-Based Money Laundering', which was presented at a roundtable at the BIBM office, says approximately 75 per cent of domestic money- laundering cases involve trade channels.</p>	23 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/trade-based-money-laundering-drains-16b-a-year-for-laxity-1753204598)	
05	<p><u>Dev spending hits rock-bottom low at Tk 1.53t</u></p> <p>Development spending in Bangladesh hit rock bottom in the past fiscal year as agencies under the post-uprising government trailed far behind even the pared-down Tk 2.26-trillion Annual Development Programme. Latest official statistics show the ADP-implementation rate in the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 recorded a 20-year low, raising concerns about the country's economic development and job generation.</p> <p>The government ministries and agencies spent only Tk 1.53 trillion or 67.85 per cent of the Tk 2.26-trillion revised ADP outlay, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) data showed. The execution rate was 13-percentage-point lower than the 80.63 per cent in the previous FY2024, according to the official data.</p>	24 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dev-spending-hits-rock-bottom-low-at-tk-153t-1753291639)	
06	<p><u>Economists for urgent reforms amid ongoing economic woes</u></p> <p>PRI MMI warns of fiscal risks, inflation</p> <p>Despite recent signs of macroeconomic stabilisation, economy faces deep-rooted fiscal-and financial-sector challenges, economists warned on Thursday. Speaking at an event in the capital, they listed challenges like subdued growth, persistent high rate of inflation, elevated fiscal risks, and a vulnerable banking sector and called for urgent reforms to stabilise the economy. They recommended expanding the direct tax base, improving implementation of Annual Development Programme (ADP), phasing out export subsidies, reducing non-performing loans, and restoring the autonomy of Bangladesh Bank.</p> <p>Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) organised the event at its office to release the Monthly Macroeconomic Insights (MMI), developed by Centre for Macroeconomic Analysis (CMEA).</p>	25 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economists-for-urgent-reforms-amid-ongoing-economic-woes-1753377024?date=25-07-2025)	

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07	<p><u>Govt debt surges to Tk 20t</u></p> <p>The country's total debt consisting of domestic and external surged by approximately 18 per cent to nearly Tk 20 trillion over the past one year ending in March 2025, according to a report of the Finance Division. The total domestic debt as of March 2025 stood at Tk 11.58 trillion while external debt at Tk 8.42 trillion, the report said. In the meantime, the debt-to-GDP ratio rose to over 36 per cent, an increase of 2.22 percentage points from March 2024. Although the debt level is not too high but the country's poor resource mobilisation might pose a threat for debt servicing.</p>	25 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/latest-page/govt-debt-surges-to-tk-20t-1753378232?date=25-07-2025)	
08	<p><u>Pvt sector credit growth hits 22-year low</u></p>  <p>Private sector credit growth in Bangladesh fell to record 6.40 per cent in June 2025, the lowest in 22 years, reflecting deepening stress in the country's economy. The Bangladesh Bank data, available from 2003 onward, shows that the growth rate had never dropped to this level before. In February 2003, the rate was around 12 per cent. Economists said the continuous decline in credit growth highlights a worsening crisis in both the banking sector and the broader business environment. They pointed to ongoing political instability, disruptions in law and order, and growing uncertainty following the fall of the Awami League government in August 2024 as key reasons behind the slump.</p>	25 July 2025	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/271064/pvt-sector-credit-growth-hits-22-year-low)	

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09	<p><u>Economic outlook of BD stable: S&P</u></p> <p>Sets credit rating at B+/B on recent improvements in forex reserves</p> <p>S&P Global Ratings affirmed Bangladesh's credit rating at B+/B on recent improvements in the country's official foreign-exchange reserves. It also said Bangladesh's outlook is stable, which reflects the real growth rate per capita will remain very strong compared to that of the country's peers. "We affirmed our long-term sovereign credit ratings on Bangladesh at B+ and our short-term ratings at B. The outlook is stable," said the global credit rating agency on Friday.</p> <p>It also said the macroeconomic policies enacted over the past 18 months, such as transitioning to a more flexible exchange rate regime, allowing the local currency to depreciate, and tightening the monetary policy, are helping build foreign exchange liquidity. But it warned that the country faces heightened trade risk from relatively high US tariffs.</p>	26 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economic-outlook-of-bd-stable-sp-1753462466?date=26-07-2025)	
10	<p>Last-ditch bid to leapfrog Trump tariff wall</p> <p><u>BD orders 25 Boeing airplanes as tradeoff</u></p> <p>Bangladesh orders the purchase of 25 Boeing airplanes from the United States in a tradeoff package to secure a fairer tariff deal as the US administration imposed prohibitive duties on its exports. Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman Monday apprised reporters at his secretariat office about the big-deal purchase order, and also about last-ditch negotiation mission to Washington.</p> <p>He said a high-powered delegation is expected to leave Dhaka for the USA this (Monday) afternoon to resume the third round of negotiations with the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to avert the jacked-up additional tariff slapped on products exported to the US market from Bangladesh.</p>	28 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-orders-25-boeing-airplanes-as-tradeoff-1753636199)	
11	<p><u>বিদেশি ঋণ শোধে রেকর্ড, এক বছরে ৪০৯ কোটি ডলার দিল বাংলাদেশ</u></p> <p>বিদেশি ঋণ পরিশোধ প্রথমবারের মতো ৪০০ কোটি ডলার ছাড়িয়ে গেছে। বিদায়ী অর্থবছরের (২০২৪-২৫) বিদেশি ঋণের সুদ ও আসলসহ মিলিয়ে প্রায় ৪০৯ কোটি ডলার শোধ করেছে বাংলাদেশ। এটি এযাবৎকালের রেকর্ড। এর আগে কখনো এত ঋণ শোধ করা হয়নি। আগের অর্থবছরে ৩৩৭ কোটি ডলার ঋণ পরিশোধ করা হয়েছিল।</p> <p>অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগের (ইআরডি) বিদেশি ঋণের প্রতিশ্রুতি, ছাড় ও সুদাসলের হালনাগাদ চিত্রে এ তথ্য পাওয়া গেছে। সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তির বলাছেন, বিদেশি ঋণের দায় ক্রমাগত বেড়ে যাচ্ছে, যা অর্থনীতিতে নতুন চ্যালেঞ্জ সৃষ্টি করছে।</p> <p>অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগ (ইআরডি) সূত্রে জানা গেছে, গত জুলাই-জুন সময়ে ৪০৮ কোটি ৬৯ লাখ ডলারের সমপরিমাণ অর্থ বিদেশি ঋণের সুদ ও আসল পরিশোধ করেছে বাংলাদেশ। এর মানে, প্রতি মাসে গড়ে ৩৪ কোটি ডলারের বেশি ঋণ পরিশোধ করতে হয়েছে।</p>	28 July 2025	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/lii5e9fetf)	

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12	<p><u>NBR incurs record revenue shortfall in FY25</u> The National Board of Revenue faced a record revenue collection shortfall of Tk 92,625 crore in the recently concluded financial year 2024-25. NBR officials and economists said that the shortfall was mainly due to disruptions in business and trade in the first two months of FY25 due to the July uprising, followed by internal protests of the NBR officials in the last two months, especially in June of the financial year. According to provisional data, the NBR collected Tk 3,70,874 crore, which was about 3.08 per cent lower than Tk 3,82,678 crore in FY24. The revised target for revenue collection was Tk 463,500 crore in FY25, indicating a remaining gap of Tk 92,625 crore. In FY25, the NBR collected more than Tk 1,00,198 crore from customs, Tk 1,41,586 crore from VAT, and Tk 1,29,090 crore from income tax, said the provisional data.</p>	29 July 2025	New Age (https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/271446/nbr-incurs-record-revenue-shortfall-in-fy25)	
13	<p><u>Foreign loan disbursement tied to project readiness</u> ERD imposes seven pre-conditions to curb delays, cost overruns The government from now on will not allow the disbursement of any foreign funds to implementing agencies without prior project approvals and the appointment of project directors and necessary staff. In addition, agencies must complete the required land acquisition before obtaining confirmation of external loans (project aid) and assistance, according to a circular issued by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) dated July 27. These are among seven pre-conditions imposed by the ERD for confirming loans or signing agreements with any development partners (DPs) of Bangladesh. The conditions aim to address the ongoing issues of unusual execution delays, as well as cost and time overruns.</p>	30 July 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/foreign-loan-disbursement-tied-to-project-readiness-1753810603)	
14	<p><u>BB unveils half-yearly MPS</u> <u>Policy rate remains unchanged at 10pc to help check prices</u> Cost of funds remains as high as before thru H1/FY26 Bangladesh's tightfisted monetary-policy stance to continue with 10-percent policy rate until inflation drops below 7.0 per cent, the central bank announced Thursday. During the rollout of the half-yearly monetary policy for the current fiscal year, Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Ahsan H. Mansur said the 'tight' monetary-policy stance would continue unless the inflation is tamed down this bottom line by the end of December next.</p>  <p>The infographic 'BB MONETARY POLICY JUL-DEC 2025' provides a detailed overview of the central bank's stance. It features two bar charts for credit growth targets: Private Sector Credit Growth Target (%) and Public Sector Credit Growth Target (%). The Private Sector targets are 9.8% for Jan-Jun 2025 and 7.2% for Jul-Dec 2025. The Public Sector targets are 17.5% for Jan-Jun 2025 and 20.4% for Jul-Dec 2025. A central text box states that BB aims to bring inflation below 7 percent, targets 5.5% GDP growth, keeps the SLF rate at 11.5pc and SDF rate at 8.0, and that the central bank will intervene in 15 to 20 troubled banks. It also mentions a 'Right decision under current macroeconomic context' by Dr Zahid Hussain. On the right, a quote from Governor Ahsan H. Mansur states that interest rates could see adjustments downwards contingent on economic indicators.</p> <p>In instant reaction, leading trade bodies in the country noted with concern that continued contractionary monetary policy would continue to dampen private investment and hurt business confidence as cost of funds remains as high as before.</p>	01 August 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/policy-rate-remains-unchanged-at-10pc-to-help-check-prices-1753981997?date=01-08-2025)	

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15	DEAL FINALLY LEVELS TRADING FIELD FOR BD EXPORTS <u>US bends steep tariffs to 20pc for Bangladesh</u> Bangladesh finally clinches a deal leveling the trading field amongst the competitors on the US market as the United States cut tariffs on Bangladeshi exports to 20 per cent from the threatened 35 per cent. Sources said the decision on the concessional deal was made Thursday (July 31) local time on extensive tradeoffs conceded by Bangladesh in the form of augmented imports from the USA.	02 August 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/us-bends-steep-tariffs-to-20pc-for-bangladesh-1754071111?date=02-08-2025)	
16	<u>BD RMG to face 36.5pc tariff in US market: BGMEA</u> Bangladeshi-made readymade garment exports to the USA will face tariff at a rate of 36.5 per cent which includes 20 per cent reciprocal and existing 16.5 per cent tariff. The local RMG exports to its largest destination would get conditional duty exemption if the apparel is produced using at least 20 per cent American raw materials. Clarifying the tariff issues, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Mahmud Hasan Khan at a press conference on Saturday also urged the interim government to continue its negotiations with the United States. Some countries were still in talks with the Trump administration on trade or security deals that may result in even lower reciprocal tariffs for them, he added.	03 August 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-rmg-to-face-365pc-tariff-in-us-market-bgmea-1754154848)	
17	<u>Shippers face Aug 7 deadline to enjoy tariff exemptions</u> The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has set a strict deadline for shipments to qualify for exemption from new tariffs imposed on imports, including those from Bangladesh. According to a notification from US CBP, goods already en route on their final transport before 12:01am Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on August 7, 2025, and entered or withdrawn from warehouse before 12:01am EDT on October 5, will avoid the higher duties. This narrow exemption window triggered a surge in shipments as exporters rushed to beat the deadline. This exemption triggered a scramble among Bangladeshi exporters to the US, buyers, and logistics firms, many of whom accelerated shipments from late July into early August to ensure eligibility. Apparel exporters in Bangladesh, heavily reliant on the US market, were among those rushing to meet the cut-off.	03 August 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/shippers-face-aug-7-deadline-to-enjoy-tariff-exemptions-1754154810)	
18	<u>July remittance soars to \$2.48b</u> Bangladesh received a record-breaking remittance inflow of US\$2.48 billion in July, the first month of the 2025-26 fiscal year, marking a robust 29.48 per cent year-on-year growth, reports UNB. This notable rise comes in sharp contrast to the same period last year, when remittance stood at \$1.91 billion. In July 2024, remittance inflows had dropped significantly due to calls on social media urging expatriates to halt money transfers in protest against political unrest. Following subsequent political changes, the remittance trend has, however, steadily gained a big momentum. Bangladesh Bank officials attribute this upward trajectory to several proactive government measures, including the 2.5 percent cash incentive on remittances, stronger regulatory measures against informal channels like the hundi system and overall improvements in the formal banking infrastructure. These efforts are not only encouraging expatriates to use legal channels but are also contributing to a healthier foreign exchange reserve.	04 August 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/july-remittance-soars-to-248b-1754244257)	

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19	<p>Upbeat start of new FY with 25pc export growth <u>July shipments fetch Bangladesh \$4.77b</u></p>  <p>Bangladesh boasts an upbeat beginning of the fiscal year with merchandise exports recording a double-digit growth of about 25 per cent to US\$ 4.77 billion in July, overwhelmingly banking on apparel as before. The country had earned US\$3.81 billion in July 2024, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data released Monday.</p>	05 August 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/upbeat-start-of-new-fy-with-25pc-export-growth-1754331192?date=05-08-2025)	
20	<p><u>Bangladesh fourth most lead-impacted country</u> Experts tell an icddr,b discussion in city</p> <p>Experts at a discussion in the city on Wednesday called for taking urgent steps to shut operation of the lead-leaking industrial sites that cause harm to children in Dhaka. icddr,b organised the discussion titled "Fighting Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh - Progress Made, Challenges Ahead" to highlight the widespread and preventable burden of lead exposure in Bangladesh and explore opportunities for urgent intervention.</p> <p>Dr Sarah Salway, senior director, Health Systems and Population Studies Division (HSPSD), underscored how lead exposure remains a major but overlooked public health threat in Bangladesh, particularly for children living near polluting industrial units. Lead, a toxic heavy metal, has been silently harming the health of millions, especially young children and pregnant women.</p> <p>According to UNICEF, Bangladesh is now the 4th most lead-impacted country globally, with 36 million children suffering from elevated blood lead levels.</p>	07 August 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/bangladesh-fourth-most-lead-impacted-country-1754505713?date=07-08-2025)	
21	<p><u>Sirajganj Industrial Park ready to welcome investors</u></p> <p>After more than a decade of delays, extensions and revisions, Sirajganj Industrial Park, situated some 120 kilometres northwest of capital Dhaka, is at last ready to welcome investors. Plot allocations officially began last week, with 72 entrepreneurs receiving letters of allotment. The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), which is running the industrial park, now hope to attract between \$300 million and \$500 million in foreign direct investment, mostly from China. This would be the largest of such inflow into any BSCIC estate to date.</p>	07 August 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/sirajganj-industrial-park-ready-welcome-investors-3957336)	

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22	<p><u>Inflation up again after brief relief on farm bounty</u> July rate up at 8.55pc, despite govt bid to tame market Inflation takes an upturn again, after a brief relief on bounteous agricultural harvests, with July rate climbing to 8.55 per cent by official count released Thursday. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data show the point-to-point inflation rate in July 0.07- percentage-point higher over the previous month of June. And this upturn breaks a breather lasting previous three consecutive months, as, reports show, kitchen market takes in some heat from price rises of numerous farm produce. In June, the inflation rate was recorded at 8.48 per cent, as per the BBS data. In the corresponding period in July 2024, the BBS calculated the inflation at 11.89 per cent -- the highest in recent times. According to the BBS, food inflation increased to 7.56 per cent last month from 7.39 per cent in June. The current interim government targets to tame the average inflation within 6.5 per cent during this fiscal year (2025-26).</p>	08 August 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-up-again-after-brief-relief-on-farm-bounty-1754591045?date=08-08-2025)							
23	<p><u>Bangladesh's PMI rises 8.4pt on economic expansion</u> Growth in services, manufacturing sectors provide pulls Bangladesh saw its Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) soar 8.4 points to hit 61.5 in July over the previous month -- indication that overall economy posted expansion. The PMI was recorded at 53.1 in June last. Such rise in the PMI reading was attributed to a faster expansion for the indices of manufacturing and services sectors, a slower expansion rate for the agriculture sector, and a reversion of the construction sector to an expansion reading. The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka and Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB) released the July PMI report Thursday.</p>	08 August 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladeshs-pmi-rises-84pt-on-economic-expansion-1754591243?date=08-08-2025)							
24	<p><u>BB allows loan rescheduling for 250 firms up to 15 years</u> Down payments start at 1% with grace periods reaching 3 years</p> <div><div>Highlights</div><table><tr><td>A 5-member panel was formed in January to assess loan applications</td><td>Around 1,250 companies have applied for support</td><td>Panel prioritises firms affected by factors beyond their control</td></tr><tr><td>Borrowers will get 5-15yrs to repay, with a down payment of just 1-5%</td><td>Banks are facing trouble as many applicants have stopped repaying their loans</td><td>Defaulted loans hit a record Tk 4.20 lakh cr in Mar 2025</td></tr></table></div> <p>The central bank has approved a mega loan rescheduling facility for some 250 companies, including some of the country's biggest corporate defaulters, in an attempt to boost business activity amid slowing economic growth.</p>	A 5-member panel was formed in January to assess loan applications	Around 1,250 companies have applied for support	Panel prioritises firms affected by factors beyond their control	Borrowers will get 5-15yrs to repay, with a down payment of just 1-5%	Banks are facing trouble as many applicants have stopped repaying their loans	Defaulted loans hit a record Tk 4.20 lakh cr in Mar 2025	10 August 2025	The Daily Star (https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-allows-loan-rescheduling-250-firms-15-years-3959231)	
A 5-member panel was formed in January to assess loan applications	Around 1,250 companies have applied for support	Panel prioritises firms affected by factors beyond their control								
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