## **Summary of Business News - 86**

## Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 02 - 21 September 2025

SI. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	Post-LDC graduation pressure among structural challenges for economy: Experts  Experts have identified five long-standing structural challenges facing Bangladesh's economy, cautioning that these could undermine the country's growth prospects. The five challenges are post-least developed country (LDC) graduation pressure, lack of diversification, inefficient trade facilitation, low investment, and weak global value-chain participation.  These were disclosed at a roundtable titled "Path to Economic Turnaround: How Business Environment Fares and Priorities" and organised by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Policy Exchange Bangladesh on Monday evening.	02 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/post-ldc-graduation-pressure-among-structural-challenges-for-economy-experts-1756751202?date=02-09-2025)	
02	Remittances up 8.9pc to \$2.42b in August In August last year, remittances stood at \$2.22b Bangladesh received \$2.42 billion in remittances in August 2025, an 8.9-percent increase from \$2.22 billion in August 2024, reflecting a steady growth in migrant workers' contributions. According to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data, cumulative inflows reached over \$4.9 billion during July-August in the fiscal year 26, up from more than \$4.14 billion in the same period last fiscal year an 18.4 per cent increase.  The upward trend offers a cushion for the country's reserves, though sustaining the momentum will depend on exchange rate policies and curbing informal remittance channels, bank insiders and analysts say.	02 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/remittances-up-89pc-to-242b-in-august-1756751325?date=02-09-2025)	
03	All rules come under uniform framework  BB's new master circular to simplify loan, overdraft regulations  Bangladesh Bank on Tuesday issued a new master circular bringing all rules related to loans, overdrafts and guarantees into one framework. The circular has simplified and consolidated the foreign exchange transaction policy.  The central bank said that the instructions remained scattered across various guidelines and circulars have now been consolidated into a new circular with necessary amendments. In this, the provisions related to loans, overdrafts and guarantees have been brought under a uniform framework, and this will be effective for one year from the date of issuance.  The circular said that the provisions include commercial loans, loans against guarantees or collateral given abroad, various types of guarantees for both domestic and foreign parties, repayment guarantees and foreign loans granted by licensed financial institutions.	03 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bbs-new-master-circular-to-simplify-loan-overdraft-regulations-1756837642?date=03-09-2025)	

SI. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
04	Export earnings slip 2.93pc in August Exporters blame EU slowdown, early US shipments for weaker performance Bangladesh's merchandise exports fell 2.93 per cent year on year (YoY) to US\$3.91 billion in August 2025, down from \$4.03 billion in August last year, signalling early signs of strain, according to data released Tuesday by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). The monthly decline came despite a strong start to the fiscal year (FY), with exports posting robust double-digit growth of around 25 per cent in July 2025, when earnings reached \$4.77 billion.  Overall, exports grew 10.61 per cent year-on-year to \$8.68 billion during the first two months of FY26.	03 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/export-earnings-slip-293pc-in-august-1756838006?date=03-09-2025)	
05	INTERIM GOVT'S TASKFORCE PRESCRIBES REMEDIES FOR CRISES  A two-year strategy to cure economic ills underway  A strategic crash programme is being framed to tackle mounting economic vulnerabilities like persistently high inflation, rising unemployment, declining household incomes, growing poverty and weak governance in the financial and institutional sectors. Officials say the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission is to implement the two-year short-term strategy, incorporating recommendations made by a taskforce formed by the interim government to work out a socioeconomic rescue plan.  The strategy will prioritise six key areas: macroeconomic management and poverty reduction, agriculture, social sectors inclusive of health, education and social protection, industry and trade, physical infrastructure covering transport, communications and information technology, and governance reforms.  Following the expiry of the eighth five-year plan last June, the GED initiated the move to ensure policy continuity, drawing on recommendations from the taskforce on 'Re-strategising the Economy and Mobilising Resources for Equitable and Sustainable Development', led by Dr KAS Murshid, former BIDS director-general.  The short-term strategy will also mark the conclusion of a 15-year era of medium-term economic planning in Bangladesh, spanning three consecutive five-year plans that commenced in FY2010-11.	05 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/a-two-year-strategy-to-cure-economic-ills-underway-1757008928?date=05-09-2025)	
06	Corporate governance prime focus in management overhaul  Bureaucrats barred from public banks, FIs' boards  Honest professionals to rule  No top bureaucrat can be chairman or director of public-sector commercial banks and financial institutions under a new rulebook in the making to rectify past misrule that bred massive scams, officials said. The post-uprising Bangladesh government is preparing the guidelines for appointing Chairman and Directors at these institutions as part of its vast reform recipe, including in banking and financial sector.  After the appointment/selection of the directors, their continuity would be based on their annual-performance report, to be reviewed by the Chairman of the board, official sources said. Among the directors a chartered or cost management accountant, a lawyer and a skilled banker must be included, they said.  "A director or chairman would be allowed to continue for maximum two terms," reads the draft guideline, being prepared by the Financial Institutions Division (FID) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF).	06 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bureaucrats-barred-from-public-banks-fis-boards-1757096071?date=06-09-2025)	

SI. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
07	Inflation eases to 8.29pc in Aug  The rate of inflation on a point-to-point basis eased moderately in August but increased slightly on a month-to-month basis. On a point-to-point basis, inflation in August fell to 8.29 per cent from 8.55 per cent in July, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) said Sunday.  Food inflation went up slightly to 7.60 per cent in August from 7.56 per cent in July. Non-food inflation, however, fell to 8.90 per cent in August from 9.38 per cent in July.	08 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-eases-to-829pc-in-aug-1757266764?date=08-09-2025)	
08	Economic expansion slows in Aug Manufacturing, services see weaker growth; agri, construction contract Bangladesh's economic expansion slowed in August as both manufacturing and services sectors reported weaker growth, while agriculture and construction slipped back into contraction, according to the latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).  The PMI - jointly prepared by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Policy Exchange Bangladesh - stood at 58.3 in August, down 3.2 points from July's reading.	08 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/economic-expansion-slows-in-aug-1757265356?date=08-09-2025)	
09	Raw material import  NBR eases customs assessment for export industries  The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has relaxed customs assessment procedures for the export-oriented industries on import of their raw materials. In an order, the NBR instructed the customs officials not to obstruct the imported raw materials under bonded warehouse facility in case of variation in HS code or product description. Exporters hailed the decision to resolve their sufferings at customs point on release of raw materials.	10 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/nbr-eases-customs-assessment-for-export-industries-1757437492?date=10-09-2025)	
10	ডিসেশ্বরের মধ্যে এনবিআরের কার্যক্রম দুই ভাগ হয়ে যাবে আগামী ডিসেশ্বরের মধ্যে 'রাজস্ব নীতি ও রাজস্ব ব্যবস্থাপনা অধ্যাদেশ' বাস্তবায়ন করতে চায় সরকার। বাস্তবায়নের অংশ হিসেবে তিনটি আইন, কিছু বিধি এবং উৎস বিধি ক্লেলস অব বিজনেস) পরিবর্তন করা হচ্ছে। পাশাপাশি গঠন করা হচ্ছে নতুন জনবলকাঠামো। অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অর্থ বিভাগ ও জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড (এনবিআর) সূত্রে এ তথ্য জানা গেছে। অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতায় রয়েছে বর্তমানে চারটি বিভাগ। নতুন অধ্যাদেশ অনুযায়ী বিভাগ করা হবে পাঁচটি। বর্তমানের চার বিভাগ হচ্ছে অর্থ বিভাগ, অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ (আইআরিড), অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগ (ইআরিড) এবং আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান বিভাগ (এফআইডি)।	11 Sept. 2025	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothom alo.com/business/econ omics/mdjn53ztmy)	
11	Dealing with LDC graduation issues urgently Experts, industry want govt to take two-pronged strategy Bangladesh needs to jumpstart negotiation with its major export destinations as readymade garment (RMG) - the largest foreign-currency earner - will forfeit duty-free access to key traditional and non-traditional markets after the country's LDC graduation, experts say.  The experts and also industry leaders suggest that alongside taking preparation for the change, both the government and private sectors have to coordinate to apply for deferment of the graduation from the least- developed country (LDC) status or extension of the post-LDC transition period till 2032.	12 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/experts-industry-want-govt-to-take-two-pronged-strategy-1757609852?date=12-09-2025)	

SI. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
12	Interim govt to execute most recommended reforms  VAT on oceangoing vessel imports withdrawn  CA for quick reform to revamp local govt  The council of advisers of the interim government approved a proposal scrapping the existing 7.5-percent VAT on imports of oceangoing vessels of capacities above 5,000-deadweight tonnage (DWT), aiming to spur seaborne trade.  Chief Adviser's Press Secretary, Shafiqul Alam, disclosed the decision at a press briefing after Thursday's council meeting that also reviewed progress on reforms undertaken following last year's regime change through uprising.	12 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/vat-on-oceangoing-vessel-imports-withdrawn-1757609950?date=12-09-2025)	
13	Bangladesh had 9 lakh unemployed graduates in 2024 Bangladesh had nearly 9 lakh unemployed graduates in 2024, as the unemployment rate among tertiary-level educated individuals rose slightly, according to the final report of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2024 released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) yesterday. The unemployment rate among graduates increased to 13.5 percent in 2024, up from 13.11 percent the previous year — the highest among all education levels.	12 Sept. 2025	The Daily Star (Jobless Graduates In Bangladesh   Bangladesh had 9 lakh unemployed graduates in 2024)	
14	Economic growth without jobs driving poverty reversal: Experts Limited access to health, education, gender inequality worsen poverty Bangladesh is experiencing a troubling reversal in poverty reduction, particularly in the aftermath of Covid-19, as inflationary pressures and political instability continue to weigh on the economy, according to experts. They pointed to economic growth strategies with little emphasis on job creation, inadequate access to health and education, gender inequality, rural-urban disparity, and sluggish investment as the main drivers of this reversal.  The observations came at a webinar titled "What is Driving the Poverty Reversal in Bangladesh?" organised by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) as part of its public policy dialogue series Ajker Agenda. PPRC Executive Chairman Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman moderated the session and presented findings from a recent study.	15 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economic-growthwithout-jobs-driving-poverty-reversal-experts-1757869821)	
15	Further US tariff cut likely on two conditions  USTR team for labour law amendment, righting trade imbalance  A visiting US trade delegation stressed expediting Bangladesh's labour-law amendment and narrowing the bilateral trade gap to pave the way for further reduction in the tariffs on Bangladeshi exports to the American market. At a discussion Monday in Dhaka, the local apparel leaders mentioned that they would play their part in reducing the trade gap through increased use of US cotton. There is opportunity to increase US cotton-import value by US\$1.0 billion within a short time.  The visitors made their observations during their meeting with Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at the US Ambassador's residence in Dhaka. The meeting was led by US Assistant Trade Representative Brendan Lynch, who oversees trade-policy implementation for South and Central Asia. The BGMEA President, Mahmud Hasan Khan, headed the apparel-industry delegation, accompanied by Vice-President Md Rezwan Selim and Directors Faisal Samad and Mohammad Abdus Salam. The US side also included Tracy Ann Jacobson, the Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy.	16 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/further-us-tariff-cut-likely-on-two-conditions-1757955411)	

SI. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
16	Interoperable instant payment system soon to trigger growth  BB governor commits as experts recommend IIPS for Bangladesh's transition to cashless society  A cover-all interoperable instant payment system (IIPS) comes soon as experts Monday suggested its immediate introduction to accelerate Bangladesh's transition towards a cashless society and the central-bank governor agreed. They said digital IIPS infrastructure is crucial to ensuring efficiency, inclusiveness and reducing transaction costs, thus accelerating economic growth.  The recommendations came from a daylong stakeholder consultation on Interoperable Payments in Bangladesh, organised by the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) at a hotel in the capital and supported by the Gates Foundation. Speaking as chief guest, Dr Ahsan H Mansur, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, committed to launching a comprehensive IIPS that covers all segments of the economy-from rickshaw-pullers to small-shop owners-ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital transformation.	16 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/interoperable-instant-payment-system-soon-to-trigger-growth-1757955520)	
17	Decline in BoP deficit heralds new FY Current-account surplus, robust remittances help out Bangladesh saw its balance of payments (BoP) deficit narrow in the opening month of the fiscal year 2025-26 as two props helped partly offset a sharp deterioration in the country's financial account. Last official statistics show a current-account surplus and robust remittance inflows helped out in the July positive turn.  According to Bangladesh Bank data released Monday, the country recorded an overall BoP deficit of US\$545 million in July, down from \$693 million in deficit a year earlier.	16 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/decline-in-bop-deficit-heralds-new-fy-1757955844)	
18	Chittagong port tariffs rise by about 40pc Gazette notification published, new rates come into force The government on Monday published the gazette notification on new tariffs schedule for goods and vessels at Chittagong port raising charges on an average 40 per cent. The port charge has been hiked at the moment when the private inland container depots are also raising their charges in the wake of tariff increase by the Trump administration. The government made the new port charge effective from Monday, September 15, the gazette notification says.  The Chittagong Port Authority officials said the tariff of the port has not been increased since 1986. However, it was found that tariffs for five services saw upward revision last time in May 2008. On July 24 last, the Ministry of Finance gave its approval to a new tariff schedule, which was submitted by the Ministry of Shipping. However, the port users and shipping agents raised objections over the move for raising charges at such higher rates.	16 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/chittagong-port-tariffs-rise-by-about-40pc-1757956461)	
19	BB offers yet another rescheduling facility for troubled businesses  Bangladesh Bank has introduced a special loan-related policy support for firms whose business operations were disrupted prior to the July political transition. According to a circular issued Tuesday (September 16) by the central bank's Banking Regulations and Policy Department, affected businesses will be allowed to reschedule classified loans for up to 10 years, including a maximum grace period of two years.  The policy aims to provide relief to investment-and employment-generating enterprises that have been struggling due to factors beyond their control, including economic slowdown, currency volatility, and utility disruptions.	17 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-offers-yet-another-rescheduling-facility-for-troubled-businesses-1758042693)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
20	বাংলাদেশকে জাতিসংঘের চিঠি, অক্টোবরে জানাতে হবে এলডিসি উত্তরণের প্রস্তুতি স্বল্পোন্নত দেশের (এলডিসি) তালিকা থেকে উত্তরণে প্রস্তুতির অগ্রগতি নিয়ে প্রতিবেদন দিতে বলেছে জাতিসংঘের কমিটি ফর ডেভেলপমেন্ট পলিসি (সিডিপি)। আগামী ৩১ অক্টোবরের মধ্যে এই প্রতিবেদন দেওয়ার সময়সীমাও বেঁধে দেওয়া হয়েছে।গত ২৫ আগস্ট জাতিসংঘের সিডিপির চেয়ার হোসে অ্যান্টোনিও ওকাম্পো বাংলাদেশ সরকারকে এই চিঠি দেন। এ প্রতিবেদনের ওপর ভিত্তি করে আগামী অক্টোবর থেকে ডিসেম্বর মাসের মধ্যে বৈঠক অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। সরকারকে পাঠানো চিঠিতে বাংলাদেশের একজন প্রতিনিধিকে ভার্চ্যয়াল উপায়ে ওই বৈঠকে অংশগ্রহণের আমন্ত্রণ করা হয়েছে। সভার এজেন্ডা, তারিখ ও সম্ভাব্য অংশগ্রহণকারীদের তালিকা যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে বলে ওই চিঠিতে বলা হয়েছে।	17 Sept. 2025	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothom alo.com/business/econ omics/b5bitkpy7z)	
21	Al could give global trade a 40pc boost by 2040, says WTO report  Artificial intelligence (AI) could increase global trade by 40 per cent by the year of 2040, a new World Trade Organisation (WTO) report has said. But without having adequate policies, it could also exacerbate economic divides, the report warned.  Adoption of AI would help lessen trade costs, boost productivity and expand participation in global markets, thus aiding increases in global trade coupled with real income. The development and deployment of AI are also projected to generate a substantial increase in the global GDP, ranging from 12 per cent to 13 per cent across scenarios.  The WTO made these projections and observations in its 'World Trade Report 2025', which was formally released in Geneva on Wednesday morning at a session of the WTO Public Forum 2025.	18 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ai-could-give-global-trade-a-40pc-boost-by-2040-says-wto-report-1758131429)	
22	Govt moves to revise a2i project with steep cost hike  The interim government is moving to extend the Aspire to Innovate (a2i) project by one year, a programme widely recognised as the Awami League government's flagship ICT initiative. Alongside the extension, the ICT Division has sent a proposal to the Planning Commission for the project's second revision, seeking to raise its total cost by Tk 20.5 billion, or about 24 per cent.  Officials say the ICT Division has requested a 34-fold increase in the allocation for purchasing computers and accessories, even though the project has only a year left in its current cycle. Several other expenditure heads have also been proposed to rise by more than 50 per cent, according to discussions at a recent Special Project Evaluation Committee (SPEC) meeting of the Planning Commission.	19 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-moves-to-revise-a2i-project-with-steep-cost-hike-1758219341?date=19-09-2025)	
23	Bangladesh remains one of the less- innovative nations in the world, having been placed in the lower tier of a recent global ranking. The country was ranked 106th out of 139 economies in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, published recently by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).  Bangladesh's position in the index has improved since 2020, when it was ranked 116th. In 2022, it stood at 102nd. The index measures innovation performance based on factors such as human capital, research, infrastructure, market sophistication, and knowledge outputs.	20 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-ranks-106th-on-global-innovation-index-1758305032)	

SI. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
24	বাংলাদেশের আর্থিক খাতে স্বচ্ছতা আনতে ৮টি পরামর্শ দিয়েছে মার্কিন পররাষ্ট্র দপ্তর বাংলাদেশের আর্থিক খাতের স্বচ্ছতা আনতে আটটি পরামর্শ দিয়েছে মার্কিন পররাষ্ট্র দপ্তর। মার্কিন সরকারের পররাষ্ট্র দপ্তর থেকে প্রকাশিত ফিসক্যাল ট্রান্সপারেন্সি রিপোর্ট বা আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতা প্রতিবেদনে এই পরামর্শ দেওয়া হয়েছে। প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়েছে, বাংলাদেশের অন্তর্বর্তী সরকার আগের সরকারের তৈরি বাজেট কাঠামোই মূলত অনুসরণ করছে। আগের সরকারের বাজেট কাঠামো বদলায়নি অন্তর্বর্তী সরকার। তবে সরকার অর্থনৈতিক স্বচ্ছতা বাড়াতে কিছু গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সংস্কারমূলক পদক্ষেপ নিয়েছে। এবার দেখা যাক আর্থিক খাতের স্বচ্ছতা আনতে মার্কিন পররাষ্ট্র দপ্তর কী কী পরামর্শ দিয়েছে। ১. বছরের শেষ হিসাব প্রতিবেদন যৌক্তিক সময়ের মধ্যে প্রকাশ করা। ২. বাজেট নথি আন্তর্জাতিক মান অনুযায়ী প্রস্তুত করা। ৩. নির্বাহী কার্যালয়ের বায় আলাদাভাবে দেখানো। ৪. বাজেটে সরকারের রাজস্ব আয় ও ব্যয়ের পূর্ণাঙ্গ চিত্র প্রকাশ করা। ৫. আন্তর্জাতিক মান অনুযায়ী সর্বোচ্চ নিরীক্ষা কর্তৃপক্ষের স্বাধীনতা নিশ্চিত করা। বাজেটের পূর্ণাঙ্গ তথ্য যেন তারা পায়, সেই ব্যবস্থা করা। ৬. নিরীক্ষা প্রতিবেদন সময়মতো প্রকাশ করা, যেখানে প্রস্তাবনা ও বিস্তারিত তথ্য থাকবে। ৭. প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদ আহরণ–সংক্রান্ত চুক্তির মূল তথ্য প্রকাশ করা। ৮. সরকারি ক্রয়ের তথ্য প্রকাশ করা।	20 Sept. 2025	Prothom Alo (https://www.protho malo.com/business/ec onomics/lamsjlns1x)	
25	Govt defers Ctg port tariff hike for one month  The government deferred the recently announced tariff hike at the Chittagong Port by one month following appeals from the business community, Shipping Adviser Brigadier General (retd) Sakhawat Hossain said on Sunday. Speaking as the chief guest at a workshop titled "Customs and Port Management: Problems, Prospects, and Way Forward", organised by the Economic Relations Division at the port auditorium, the adviser confirmed that the implementation of the revised tariff structure was deferred by a month.  Business leaders at the event, however, urged the government to extend the deferral period to at least six months. They also called for a reduction in certain charges to help exporters stay competitive amid global trade headwinds, including recently imposed higher US tariffs. Participant of the workshop proposed formation of a joint taskforce to address persistent service bottlenecks and urged legal reforms to expedite container auctions and cargo clearance processes.	21 Sept. 2025	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-moves-to-revise-a2i-project-with-steep-cost-hike-1758219341?date=19-09-2025)	