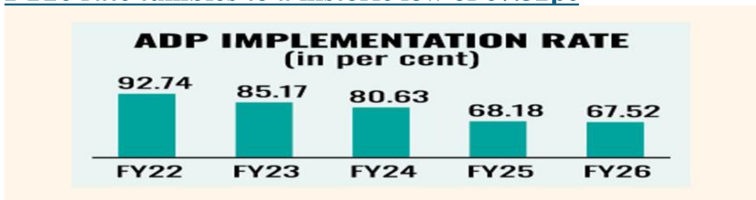
Summary of Business News – 106

Important Trade and Economic News Published in Various Newspapers during 21 July – 09 August 2026

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
01	**Sweeping energy reforms to cut subsidies, infuse efficiency** **Power distribution, petroleum import going private** **Minister unveils plan with PM's nod** Power distribution and petroleum import are set to be privatised under sweeping reforms in Bangladesh's hard-up energy sector as the new government aims to cut subsidies and bring efficiency in the vital field. Officials say the revamping plan comes as the sector has suffered from years of weak planning and growing dependence on imported fuels. Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmood disclosed the plans while addressing a policy conclave titled 'Energy Security & Transformation of Bangladesh' organised by Bonik Barta at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon in Dhaka on Wednesday. The minister said the government received the prime minister's approval in principle to move ahead privatising electricity-distribution companies. He invited local entrepreneurs to submit proposals, saying that private operators would improve accountability, strengthen bill collection and reduce government's financial burden. Referring to India, he said electricity distribution in cities like Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi was successfully managed by private companies, adding that Bangladeshi firms should also be capable of performing the same role.	23 July 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/power-distribution-petroleum-import-going-private-1784743906)	
02	**BB eases forex rules for freelancers** **Simplified payments aim to boost digital services exports** Bangladesh Bank (BB) has relaxed foreign-exchange regulations for freelancers and individual service exporters, simplifying payment procedures and expanding access to digital financial services to support the country's fast-growing digital export sector. Freelancers will now be allowed to receive export payments based on electronic evidence - such as platform statements, emails and other digital communications - removing the need for conventional export documentation and making the process more compatible with digital trade, according to a notification issued by the central bank on Wednesday.	23 July 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-eases-forex-rules-for-freelancers-1784744729)	
03	**Bangladesh getting 3yr time extension for LDC graduation** **ECOSOC to recommend preparatory period up to Nov 2029** Bangladesh is set to get three-year extension for graduation from the least-developed country (LDC) status as the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is going to recommend the much-needed breather, officials say. Nepal is another South Asian nation likely to get the time extension for graduation alongside Bangladesh. Highly placed sources have said both the countries are going to receive three more years up to November 2029 for the transition as well taking preparation for the graduation to a developing nation. The recommendation will now be forwarded to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for final ratification during its upcoming high-level session this September, they said. The decision was made during an ECOSOC session in New York on July 21, a Ministry of Finance (MoF) official said.	24 July 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-getting-3yr-time-extension-for-ldc-graduation-1784829378?date=24-07-2026)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
04	ON-SITE TAX INSPECTION SCARE **Business leaders urge NBR to postpone invasive action** **Revenue board says notice served under income tax law** Top business leaders urge government's revenue authority to immediately suspend or withdraw its recent directive on conducting on-site inspections of business premises and verifying documents under the income-tax law. In a joint letter sent to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman on July 22, the presidents of eight leading business organisations vented deep concern over the NBR's July 19 notice as it created "fear and panic" across the country's production and services sectors. The signatory trade bodies are the International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICC Bangladesh), Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), Bangladesh Ceramic Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BCMEA), and Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI).	24 July 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/business-leaders-urge-nbr-to-postpone-invasive-action-1784829609?date=24-07-2026)	
05	**BB tightens EDF lending rules** **Stricter eligibility aims to strengthen exporter credit discipline** Bangladesh Bank has tightened the eligibility criteria for Export Development Fund (EDF) loans, barring exporters with overdue export proceeds or converted EDF liabilities from accessing the foreign-currency lending facility unless they regularise their position. Exporters that fail to repatriate export proceeds within the prescribed timeframe, or whose EDF liabilities have been converted into funded facilities, will no longer qualify for EDF financing, according to the circular issued by Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Thursday. However, such exporters may regain eligibility once the overdue export proceeds have been repatriated or an exemption has been granted by the Discount Committee, the circular said.	24 July 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-tightens-edf-lending-rules-1784830601?date=24-07-2026)	
06	NEW TRUMP TARIFF WALL **Bangladesh gets edge over competitors in US labour tariff on 60 countries** **BD faces 10pc while biggies like China, Vietnam, Thailand charged 12.5pc punitive duty** Bangladesh appears set to retain a competitive advantage on the lucrative US apparel market after Washington imposed new labour-related tariff on imports from 60 economies, placing the country on the lowest rung while subjecting several of its biggest rivals to steeper duties. The measures, announced by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on July 23 under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, came after an investigation into whether countries had failed to prevent the production and export of goods made wholly or partly with forced labour. Effective from 12.01am Washington time on July 24, the tariffs range from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent and replace the temporary 10 per cent global tariff previously imposed under Section 122 of the same law. Bangladesh will now face an additional 10-percent tariff on all exports entering the United States, on top of the existing Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) duties. While the measure raises the cost of Bangladeshi exports, the lower rate preserves the country's competitive position relative to many of its principal competitors. China, Vietnam and Thailand -- among the world's largest apparel exporters -- have each been subjected to the maximum tariff of 12.5 per cent, widening further Bangladesh's cost advantage in one of its most important export markets.	25 July 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-gets-edge-over-competitors-in-us-labour-tariff-on-60-countries-1784916685?date=25-07-2026)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
07	**Hunt heightens for revenues** **NBR seeks 5yr pharma output data to verify VAT compliance** **Drug admin appears to be in a quandary over requisitioned time-wise statistics from its ledger** Government's revenue authority has moved to scrutinise production data of pharmaceuticals under an effort to crosscheck actual outputs with value-added tax (VAT) returns submitted by the companies and strengthen revenue compliance. The Large Taxpayers Unit (LTU) under the VAT wing of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has written to the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) for furnishing detailed production information of pharmaceutical products to verify whether VAT declarations are consistent with actual manufacturing output. Under the drive, meant for a larger end of enhancing government revenues to finance what is dubbed an ambitious national budget, the LTU has sought last five years' item-wise production data of 17 leading pharmaceutical companies. According to VAT officials, pharmaceuticals manufacturers are required under existing regulations to submit periodic production reports to the drug regulator. The revenue authority now wants to use those records to compare production volumes with VAT returns filed by the companies to find possible discrepancies.	26 July 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-seeks-5yr-pharma-output-data-to-verify-vat-compliance-1785000019?date=26-07-2026)	
08	**Country needs addl $421b to attain SDGs by FY'30** **Resources need to come from both domestic and external sources: Govt assessment** Bangladesh will require an estimated US$421 billion in additional financing over the next five years to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to a latest government assessment. The assessment was unveiled on Sunday at the National Validation Workshop on the Development Finance Assessment (DFA) and SDG Financing in Dhaka, organised by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Bangladesh. The workshop reviewed the findings of the DFA-a global framework designed to align financing policies, institutions and financial flows with national development priorities-and discussed Bangladesh's updated SDG Financing Strategy, according to a press statement.	27 July 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/country-needs-addl-421b-to-attain-sdgs-by-fy30-1785089513)	
09	**UNINSPIRING TRADE OUTLOOK FOR FY27** **BD sets downbeat annual export target at $63.4b** **Target bit lower than FY26 mark, but little higher than actual earnings** Bangladesh's export-earning target for the current financial year is set downbeat at US$63.4 billion compared to the last fiscal's original fixation, reflective of not-so-inspiring world trade situation. However, the 2026-27 target marks a 15-percent growth over the actual export receipts in the last fiscal year. Of the total, the earnings target from merchandise export has been set at $55.2 billion, up 15 per cent from the past actual earnings of $48 billion. On the other hand, an $8.2 billion worth of export target has been fixed for the services sector this fiscal, which is also 15-percent higher than that of the achieved earnings of $7 billion in FY '26. Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir made the announcement at a press conference at his secretariat office on Sunday, on a note of optimism that the target can be achieved by the yearend.	27 July 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-sets-downbeat-annual-export-target-at-634b-1785089753)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
10	**NBR revenue shortfall over Tk 92,000cr** The National Board of Revenue further faced a revenue collection shortfall of Tk 92,610 crore in the recently concluded financial year 2025-26. The target for the FY26 was Tk 503,000 crore, while the revenue authority collected Tk 410,390 core, meaning the collection was about 18.4 per cent lower than the targe, according to NBR officials. Meanwhile, despite missing of the target, the revenue collection witnessed a 10.65 per cent year-on-year growth to Tk 410,390 crore in FY26, which was Tk 370,874 crore in FY25. NBR officials and economists said that the shortfall was mainly due to disruptions in tax collections due to the aftermaths, transfer or suspension, of the NBR officials unrests, election and other issues. The tax administration has been missing its targets over the past decade, although the shortfall became more pronounced in the past two financial years.	**27 July 2026**	**New Age** (https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/307853/nbr-revenue-shortfall-over-tk-92000cr)	
11	**বাংলাদেশের ঋণমানের পূর্বাভাস ‘স্থিতিশীল’ থেকে ‘নেতিবাচক’ করল এসঅ্যান্ডপি** বাংলাদেশের দীর্ঘমেয়াদি সার্বভৌম ঋণমানের পূর্বাভাস স্থিতিশীল থেকে নেতিবাচক করেছে আন্তর্জাতিক ঋণমান নির্ধারণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান এসঅ্যান্ডপি গ্লোবাল। তবে দেশের দীর্ঘমেয়াদি ঋণমান ‘বি প্লাস’ এবং স্বল্পমেয়াদি ঋণমান ‘বি’ বহাল রাখা হয়েছে। সোমবার প্রকাশিত প্রতিবেদনে সংস্থাটি বলেছে, ব্যাংক খাতের দীর্ঘস্থায়ী দুর্বলতা, মধ্যপ্রাচ্যের যুদ্ধজনিত অনিশ্চয়তা, জ্বালানিবাজারের অস্থিরতা ও বৈদেশিক খাতের ঝুঁকির কারণে আগামী ১২ থেকে ১৮ মাসে বাংলাদেশের অর্থনৈতিক পুনরুদ্ধারের গতি আরও কমে যেতে পারে। এসব কারণে পূর্বাভাস ‘নেতিবাচক’ করা হয়েছে। এসঅ্যান্ডপির মতে, আগামী তিন বছরে বাংলাদেশের অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি গড়ে সাড়ে ৪ শতাংশের কাছাকাছি থাকতে পারে। দুর্বল ব্যাংক খাত, জ্বালানিবাজারের অনিশ্চয়তা ও তৈরি পোশাক রপ্তানির অনিশ্চিত পরিস্থিতির কারণে প্রবৃদ্ধির গতি সীমিত থাকবে।	**28 July 2026**	**Prothom Alo** (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/economics/xl52n4xdl0)	
12	**Transition-time depressed dev works diminish ADP execution** **FY26 rate tumbles to a historic low of 67.52pc**  Depressed development works in the transition time are among reasons that diminished Bangladesh's Annual Development Programme (ADP)-implementation rate to a historic low of 67.52 per cent in the past fiscal year, latest official data showed. Officials think a dismal failure in the vital education sector in implementing the ADP dragged down the development-fund-spending rate in 2025-26. Government ministries and agencies spent Tk 1.41 trillion worth of funds, 67.52 per cent of total Tk 2.089-trillion ADP outlays, in the just-concluded FY2026, according to data released Thursday by the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED). In the previous year, FY2025, the ADP-implementation rate was a bit higher at 68.18 per cent, the IMED data showed.	**31 July 2026**	**The Financial Express** (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/transition-time-depressed-dev-works-diminish-adp-execution-1785436186?date=31-07-2026)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
13	**Policy rate cut feared to fuel inflation further** **Economists air prognosis as other economic indicators not showing supportive signs** Regulatory policy rate cut is feared to fuel inflation further as economists say other economic indicators are not showing supportive signs. After months of cries from business circles for easing the policy rate, the central bank finally lowered the policy rate by 50 basis points to 9.50 per cent to spur private investment in the country passing through prolonged economic sluggishness. But the key policy decision of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) raised too many questions from various quarters over its rationality as the US$500-billion economy is still passing through a spell of higher inflation while the pressure of "imported inflation" seems to be expanding due to worsening crisis in the Middle East. Apart from that, other indicators like growth of reserve money (RM) or high-powered money keeps ballooning alarmingly. On the other hand, the ongoing energy crisis in the industrial hubs is turning severe and it ultimately emerges as the prime constrain to industrial production.	01 August 2026	**The Financial Express** (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/policy-rate-cut-feared-to-fuel-inflation-further-1785521493?date=01-08-2026)	
14	**BB to unveil monetary policy on quarterly basis** Bangladesh Bank (BB) has decided to issue its Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) on a quarterly basis, replacing the current six-month cycle, in an effort to make monetary policy more responsive to rapidly changing domestic and global economic conditions. The central bank is expected to implement the new system from September. Officials said the move is intended to make the MPS more realistic, timely, and inclusive, as macroeconomic developments have become increasingly volatile. Bangladesh Bank had introduced an annual MPS during the tenure of former Governor Fazle Kabir. The frequency was later revised to a half-yearly schedule under former Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had also recommended more than a year ago that Bangladesh Bank adopt a quarterly MPS framework to improve policy responsiveness and strengthen monetary management.	02 August 2026	**The Financial Express** (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-to-unveil-monetary-policy-on-quarterly-basis-1785605812)	
15	**Govt, businesses eye 'Vietnam model' to diversify exports** The government and private-sector leaders have agreed to adopt the "Vietnam model" as a benchmark to diversify Bangladesh's export basket and accelerate outward trade growth, outlining a series of policy interventions aimed at eliminating longstanding bottlenecks to trade and investment. The decision emerged from a high-level, four-hour interactive meeting between Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and top private-sector entrepreneurs at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in Tejgaon on Saturday. Organised by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), the meeting focused on export diversification, trade facilitation, and how to tackle the ongoing industrial power crunch. Speaking at the session, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman expressed optimism that joint efforts between the public and private sectors could transform the national economy within the next four to five years.	02 August 2026	**The Financial Express** (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-businesses-eye-vietnam-model-to-diversify-exports-1785605857)	
16	**National action plan for safe, orderly migration launched** **Recipe supported by IOM, EU among others** Bangladesh unveiled Sunday a five-year National Action Plan for strengthening safe, orderly and regular migration, reaffirming its commitment to protect expatriate workers. The National Action Plan (2026-2030), developed to implement the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), was launched in Dhaka by the government in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The initiative is jointly led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment through the Bangladesh Migration Compact Taskforce (BMCT), with technical support from the IOM, against the backdrop of myriad problems involving migration across the world.	03 August 2026	**The Financial Express** (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/national-action-plan-for-safe-orderly-migration-launched-1785693125)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
17	**VAT COMMISSIONERATE OVERHAUL** **NBR allows dual BIN use until Nov 30** The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has allowed businesses to use both their old and newly reassigned Business Identification Numbers (BINs) for customs-related activities until November 30, 2026, aiming to ensure uninterrupted import and export operations following the restructuring of VAT commissionerates. As part of an administrative reform to expand the tax net, improve revenue collection, and enhance taxpayer services, the NBR has reorganised the jurisdictions of the existing VAT commissionerates and created new ones. Under the restructuring, the BINs of many businesses have been transferred to new VAT jurisdictions.	04 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/nbr-allows-dual-bin-use-until-nov-30-1785780081?date=04-08-2026)	
18	**Exports slip 0.9pc in July as RMG shipments fall** **RMG exports declined by 1.92pc to $3.88b** Bangladesh started the new fiscal year with a negative trend as merchandise exports recorded 0.90 per cent decline in July 2026, mainly due to weak performance by the largest foreign currency earner-readymade garment. The country earned US$4.72 billion from exports in July compared to US$4.77 billion in the same month a year earlier, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data released on Monday. Of the total export earnings, the RMG fetched US$3.88 billion, marking a 1.92 per cent negative growth. Within the sector, knitwear exports declined by 0.90 per cent to US$2.15 billion, while woven garment exports fell by 3.16 per cent to US$1.72 billion. In contrast, home textiles registered a 14.37 per cent growth to $77.86 million.	04 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/exports-slip-09pc-in-july-as-rmg-shipments-fall-1785775093?date=04-08-2026)	
19	**পোশাকশ্রমিকদের মজুরি বাড়াতে শ্রমমন্ত্রীকে চিঠি দিয়েছে আইবিসি** রপ্তানিমুখী তৈরি পোশাকশ্রমিকদের মজুরি পুনর্নির্ধারণে ন্যূনতম মজুরি বোর্ড গঠন করতে শ্রমমন্ত্রীকে অনুরোধ জানিয়েছেন শ্রমিক সংগঠনের আন্তর্জাতিক জোট ইন্ডাস্ট্রি অল বাংলাদেশের (কাউন্সিল) নেতারা। তাঁরা বলেছেন, শ্রম আইন অনুযায়ী আগামী ডিসেম্বরের মধ্যে নতুন মজুরিকাঠামো করতে হবে। তবে এখনো মজুরি বোর্ড গঠনের কোনো দৃশ্যমান উদ্যোগ নেই। আইবিসির সভাপতি কুতুব উদ্দিন আহমেদ ও সাধারণ সম্পাদক বাবুল আখতার তৈরি পোশাকশ্রমিকদের ন্যূনতম মজুরি পুনর্নির্ধারণের দাবিতে আজ শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থানমন্ত্রী আরিফুল হক চৌধুরীকে একটি লিখিত আবেদন দিয়েছেন। বর্তমানে আইবিসির অধীনে ১৬টি শ্রমিক ফেডারেশন রয়েছে। আগে তৈরি পোশাকসহ অন্যান্য খাতের শ্রমিকদের মজুরি পুনর্নির্ধারণে পাঁচ বছর অন্তর মজুরি বোর্ড গঠিত হতো। চলতি বছর সংশোধিত শ্রম আইনে এই সময়সীমা পাঁচ বছর থেকে কমিয়ে তিন বছর পুনর্নির্ধারণ করা হয়।	04 August 2026	Prothom Alo (https://www.prothomalo.com/business/industry/3xxom6eq74)	
20	**Private credit growth hits historic low** Private-sector credit growth has fallen to a record low, underscoring the fragile state of the country's economic recovery despite a series of regulatory measures by the central bank. Bankers and economists attribute the sharp slowdown to mounting bad loans, persistent energy shortages, high borrowing costs and a deteriorating business climate that has dampened investment appetite. According to the central bank, private-sector credit growth fell to 4.47 per cent by the end of June, the lowest level in Bangladesh's history. The previous record low was 4.72 per cent, registered in March 2026. In value terms, total outstanding loans to the private sector stood at Tk 18.26 trillion at the end of June, up 4.47 per cent from Tk 17.48 trillion a year earlier. June's credit growth was also well below the Bangladesh Bank's projection of 5.50 per cent outlined in its latest monetary policy statement released on 30 June 2026. In fact, private-sector credit growth has remained in single digits since August 2024, reflecting prolonged weakness in the country's US$500-billion economy, which is largely driven by the private sector.	05 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/private-credit-growth-hits-historic-low-1785867454?date=05-08-2026)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
21	**FY26 foreign aid commitment drops 37pc** Bangladesh's overall external assistance confirmation dropped by 37 per cent in the 2025-26 fiscal year, with India not committing even a single penny, officials say. The lowest-ever aid confirmation by two major development partners - the World Bank and Japan - also affected overall confirmation, they say. According to the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the development partners made a combined aid commitment of $5.24 billion in the last fiscal year, 37 per cent down from $8.32 billion in FY25. The ERD official says not only aid commitment dropped in FY26, but foreign assistance disbursement also decreased. According to the ERD data, all development partners released $8.07 billion worth of loans and grants in FY26, $494.29 million down from $8.56 billion in FY25. Of the disbursed aid, the World Bank provided the largest amount of $2.07 billion, ADB $1.91 billion, Russia $1.047 billion, Japan $795.32 million, AIIB $693.13 million, and China $532.88 million. Meanwhile, Bangladesh had to repay the record highest $4.494 billion against its outstanding debts to the bilateral and multilateral lenders in FY26, the ERD data shows. Of the amount, the government had to repay $1.54 billion in interest and $2.953 billion in principal.	06 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/fy26-foreign-aid-commitment-drops-37pc-1785953857)	
22	**Apparel bodies recommend 370 factories for govt stimulus** Three textile and apparel trade bodies have recommended 370 closed and struggling factories to the Bangladesh Bank for loans under the government's Tk 60,000 crore stimulus package. The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) submitted 140 garment factories, the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) recommended 130 textile, spinning, weaving, dyeing, finishing and printing mills, while the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) put forward 100 factories. Presidents of the trade bodies confirmed the development to The Daily Star.	06 August 2026	The Daily Star (Apparel bodies recommend 370 factories for govt stimulus | The Daily Star)	
23	**BB takes 18-month action plan to tackle soaring NPLs** Around 36 percent of the total loans disbursed in the country's banking sector are currently non-performing, posing a major risk to the financial sector, Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Md Mostaqur Rahman said on Thursday, reports UNB. To tackle the crisis, the central bank has adopted an 18-month special action plan aimed at reducing non-performing loans (NPLs) and stabilising the banking sector, he said while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on Bangla QR Code at Dhaka University. The central bank chief stated that around 2 crore depositors were affected due to various irregularities during the tenure of the previous government.	07 August 2026	The Financial Express (https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bb-takes-18-month-action-plan-to-tackle-soaring-npls-1786039605?date=07-08-2026)	

Sl. No.	News / Events	Date	Source	Remarks
24	**Averting post-graduation tariff walls** **Expert panel to guide FTA deal with EU** **17-member advisory panel to oversee, guide actions leading to agreement signing** A17-member advisory panel formed by the government will oversee and guide overall activities leading to the signing of a proposed free- trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU) for a win-win deal. Sources say the high-level committee comprises top bureaucrats, trade bodies, and economic think-tanks. According to trade analysts, the convergence of duty-facility losses by Bangladesh stemming from the upcoming least-developed country (LDC) graduation with the competitive asymmetry created by India and Vietnam's newly weaponised FTAs is a matter of concern that has sparked urgent calls for a radical re-engineering of the country's economic diplomacy and product mix. Meantime, the commerce ministry on July 26 issued an official notification appointing the commerce minister as the chairperson of the panel, with the Head of FTA Wing of the ministry serving as member-secretary. From government and regulators, the committee includes secretaries of the Ministry of Commerce, Finance Division, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), alongside the chairmen of the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC) and the National Board of Revenue (NBR). Private-sector representations include presidents of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) and the chairperson of EuroCham Bangladesh. From economic think-tanks is the executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), chairmen of Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), Policy Exchange Bangladesh, and Policy Research Institute (PRI), alongside the CEO of Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI).	09 August 2026	**The Financial Express** (**https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/expert-panel-to-guide-fta-deal-with-eu-1786209860**)	
25	**Fuel privatisation to ensure smooth supply** **Says govt authority to dispel doubts over new energy policy** A just-approved draft energy policy is aimed at ensuring uninterrupted and safe fuel-oil supply across Bangladesh, a government body says and dispels doubts over the move to involve private corporates in the trade. The Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) issued a statement Saturday to dispel a rising confusion surrounding the proposed "Policy on Import, Storage, Transportation, Distribution, and Marketing of Refined Fuel at the Private Level 2026". "Its core objectives include strengthening national energy security, maintaining a continuous supply system, and creating a transparent, competitive framework," stated the EMRD under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR). "The policy aims to utilise private-sector infrastructure and investment capacity alongside the existing government system during emergencies or crises, in national interest," it clarified.	09 August 2026	**The Financial Express** (**https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/fuel-privatisation-to-ensure-smooth-supply-1786209951**)	