

star BUSINESS



NBFI crisis locks up depositors' savings

Nine non-banks set for liquidation owe Tk 15,370cr to savers

MD MEHEDI HASAN

With high blood pressure and diabetes, Khalil Ahmed Khan needs regular medical visits and drugs. A Tk 23 lakh fixed deposit receipt was meant to cover those costs. Instead, the 64-year-old now faces despair.

Khan's deposit at Aviva Finance Ltd matured on January 21 this year, yet he has received only Tk 8.98 lakh.

He said he went to the managing director of Aviva Finance to demand the rest. Months later, he still has no repayment and no idea when it might come.

"But I need the amount urgently to pay my dues and other treatment costs this month," Khan told The Daily Star.

Like the elderly citizen, thousands of non-bank depositors are in a similar situation, knocking on doors to recover their savings.

After Bangladesh Bank announced plans to liquidate nine troubled non-bank

BY THE NUMBERS (Until Dec 2024)

35 Total NBFIs	Tk 25,089cr Total bad loans
Tk 75,451cr Their loans	20 Distressed NBFIs
Tk 48,966cr Deposits	9 NBFIs likely to face liquidation

Key points



No clear guideline yet on how depositors will get back their money



NBFI sector facing an image crisis due to scams and irregularities



BB accused of neglecting the sector compared to banks

NBFIs to be liquidated

FAS Finance, BIFC, Premier Leasing, Fareast Finance, GSP Finance, Prime Finance, Aviva Finance, People's Leasing, International Leasing

financial institutions (NBFIs), uncertainty has deepened. Many say they are paying the price for years of wrongdoing

they did not commit.

The institutions are FAS Finance, Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company, Premier Leasing, Fareast Finance, GSP Finance, Prime Finance, Aviva Finance, People's Leasing and International Leasing.

Several Aviva depositors expressed their ordeals to The Daily Star. But they said they were too frightened to speak publicly, fearing it could ruin any chance of getting their money back.

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US flags fiscal transparency gaps in Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh suffers from a lack of transparency in government revenue and expenditures, the US Department of State said in a report released on September 19.

In its 2025 Fiscal Transparency Report, the US State Department said Bangladesh was among 69 countries that did not meet the minimum requirements for fiscal transparency in 2025.

In South Asia, Pakistan and the Maldives also failed to meet the minimum requirements for fiscal transparency, according to the report, which reviewed 139 countries.

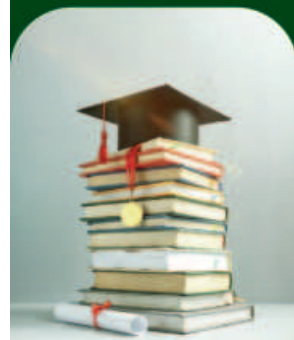
The US report said 71 governments met the minimum fiscal transparency requirements.

It suggested Bangladesh make its end-of-year report publicly available within a reasonable period. The country could also prepare budget documents according to internationally accepted principles, said the Fiscal Transparency Report, which reviews whether foreign governments meet minimum fiscal transparency standards.

The US Department of State said a non-political interim government replaced the administration previously responsible for budget creation.

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Jailed Nassa chair okays property sales to pay workers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government will sell the properties of Nassa Group Chairman Nazrul Islam Mazumder to pay the company's workers, after the embattled businessman signed a draft power of attorney from jail.

Mazumder signed the document just a day before a deadline set by Labour and Employment Adviser M Sakhawat Hussain was due to expire. The ministry confirmed the development in a statement yesterday.

The assets to be sold include plot-6 on Road-7 in Gulshan, five bighas of land and a seven-storey building in Ashulia, 10 bighas

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Ctg port's higher tariffs put on hold for a month



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has deferred the rollout of Chattogram port's new tariff structure by one month after business leaders pressed for a year-long postponement and a phased increase.

Speaking at a seminar at the port's conference room yesterday, Shipping Adviser Brig Gen (Retd) M Sakhawat Hussain said the revised rates, due to take effect on September 15, would remain suspended for now.

The decision follows widespread criticism from exporters and importers, who said higher charges will push up the cost of foreign trade and erode the country's competitiveness as it prepares to graduate from least developed country status next year.

In the first comprehensive revision in nearly 40 years, the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) last week raised service charges by an average of 41 percent through a gazette notification.

Container handling fees were among the steepest increases, with loading and unloading charges rising by almost \$25 per container.

CPA collects fixed tariffs for services provided from the moment a ship enters Bangladeshi waters.

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Tariff hurdles stall Bangladesh's export growth in Malaysia

JAGARAN CHAKMA,
from Kuala Lumpur

Despite strong diplomatic and economic ties, Bangladeshi exporters continue to face steep tariff and non-tariff barriers in the Malaysian market, constraining trade growth and widening the bilateral imbalance.

While regional competitors such as India and Pakistan enjoy duty-free or reduced-tariff access under bilateral agreements, Bangladeshi products are subject to import duties of up to 30 percent.

Government officials and industry insiders say this puts key sectors, including processed food, agro-processing, and consumer goods, at a distinct disadvantage, where price competitiveness is crucial.

For instance, Bangladeshi plastic and electronics goods face up

to a 30 percent tariff, juice and confectionery items face up to 20 percent, and biscuits 8 percent.

"There's enormous potential, but without tariff relief and streamlined regulations, it's difficult for Bangladesh to compete," said

standardisation."

Speaking to The Daily Star in Kuala Lumpur, Monica, along with Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Director General Baby Rani Karmakar and top business executives, stressed the urgency of addressing barriers to unlock Bangladesh's export prospects in Malaysia.

EPB data show that the trade deficit between the countries stands at over \$2 billion, in favour of Malaysia. While Bangladesh exports only \$200-250 million, it imports over \$2.5 billion from the Southeast Asian country.

Bangladesh's exports largely consist of readymade garments, knitwear, and a few basic food items. In contrast, Malaysia exports a diverse mix of electronics, consumer goods, fertilisers, and machinery to Bangladesh.

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