



60% of all loans DISTRESSED

Amount stands at Tk 10.91 lakh crore

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Distressed loans in the banking sector soared 44.3 percent year-on-year to a record Tk 10,91,848 crore in 2025, reflecting the sector's deepening fragility.

Loans that are at a high risk of default, or where the borrower is already experiencing serious repayment difficulties, are termed distressed loans. These are calculated by combining defaulted loans, written-off loans, unclassified rescheduled loans, and loans under stay order.

As of December last year, distressed loans accounted for about 60 percent of total outstanding loans of Tk 18,20,915 crore.

"This means that nearly two-thirds of all loans are no longer performing normally," said Mustafa K Mujeri, executive director of the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development and a former chief economist of Bangladesh Bank.

Such a situation severely weakens the banking system and raises serious concerns about its ability to function effectively, he said.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Encroachers venture deep into the Turag river with a brick kiln beyond boundary pillars in the Shamlashi area on the outskirts of Dhaka. A tall chimney and thousands of unbaked bricks stacked in rows on the grabbed land lay bare a lack of enforcement of laws to conserve vital waterways around the capital. The photo was taken recently.

MURDER OF 7YR-OLD Locals attack police to snatch, beat up suspects in Lalmonirhat

STAR REPORT

Angry locals yesterday attacked a police team in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila while attempting to snatch two rape-murder suspects from custody and beat them up, leaving several officers injured.

The incident occurred around an hour after police recovered the body of a seven-year-old child from a maize

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

China zone across the tunnel gets green light

Ecneec clears Tk 4,189cr Chinese Economic, Industrial Zone in Anwara

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MOHAMMAD SUMAN

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved a Tk 4,189 crore project to build supporting infrastructure for the Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone (CEIZ) in Chattogram's Anwara.

Policymakers hope the CEIZ will become one of Bangladesh's largest foreign investment hubs, with project documents showing the zone is expected to attract at least \$500 million in foreign direct investment and create more than 100,000 direct and indirect jobs once fully operational.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Criticise, don't sensationalise Tarique says at discussion with BNP-beat journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique yesterday urged journalists to criticise constructively while avoiding sensationalism.

He said, "Mistakes can happen. If I make any mistake, you tell me. But if you present the mistake in a way that increases newspaper sales, or for any other purpose, then perhaps that will harm both sides at some point."

"There is no reason for any enmity with you. Why should there be any?"

Tarique was speaking at a programme organised by the PMO Press Wing for an exchange of views with journalists covering the BNP beat at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

'Returned home in instant protest'

Says PM's Adviser Zahed after harassment at Delhi airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman yesterday said he decided to return from Delhi airport in an immediate protest against the treatment he received at the hands of Indian immigration authorities.

"I did not go there as an individual, but as a representative of the government. Therefore, what happened to me required an instant protest. That is why I decided to return," he told the weekly press briefing at the Secretariat.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Iran midfielder Mohammad Mohebbi celebrates scoring his team's second goal during their World Cup Group G match against New Zealand at Los Angeles Stadium in Inglewood yesterday. Elijah Wood twice gave New Zealand the lead but goals from Ramin Rezaeian and Mohebbi ensured team Melli walked out with a share of the spoils from their first match in the tournament.

PHOTO: REUTERS

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

Iran fight back in tense opener amid turmoil

AFP, Los Angeles

Iran twice came from behind to salvage a 2-2 draw against New Zealand in their opening World Cup match yesterday, but the result was only one part of a turbulent day for a team whose entire campaign has been overshadowed by war, political tensions and a series of logistical obstacles.

Team Melli arrived at the tournament under extraordinary circumstances following months of military conflict between Iran and the United States, with a peace agreement only announced on Sunday. Their preparations had already been disrupted by delayed and rejected US visas for some members of their delegation and a last-minute decision to move their training base from Tucson, Arizona, to Tijuana in Mexico.

The difficulties continued after the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Cape Verde withstand Spanish inquisition

SHABAB CHOWDHURY

It was as if the Spanish Armada had descended upon the Atalanta Stadium, where former champions Spain faced Cape Verde in yesterday's Group H opener in what had been billed as one of the biggest mismatches of the tournament.

But the small African island nation -- the second-smallest country by land area and the third-smallest by population ever to qualify for a World Cup -- refused to bend to the Spanish inquisition, producing one of the most memorable performances of the tournament in a goalless draw.

Spain kept asking questions, but largely the same ones, and Cape Verde would not budge.

With 65 places separating the two sides in world rankings and, on the back of Germany's 7-1 thrashing of fellow debutants Curaçao a day earlier, many expected Spain to impose themselves in similar fashion, especially after their dominant triumph at the 2024 Euros.

Instead, Spain endured bags full of frustration, brooding stares and exasperated sighs as they struggled to unlock the Blue Sharks.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



citytouch WILL BE TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the security, reliability, and overall experience of Citytouch, all Citytouch services will remain temporarily unavailable from 19 June 2026 Friday 12:00 AM until 21 June 2026 Sunday 11:00 PM.

All other banking services of City Bank will remain available and operate as usual during this period.

We sincerely apologize for the temporary inconvenience.

For urgent assistance, please call 16234.