

## Mongla port sets record in container handling

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Dhaka: Mongla Port, the country's second-largest seaport, has set a new record in container handling during the first seven months of the 2025-26 fiscal year, marking a significant rise in maritime trade activity, said media reports.

According to officials of the Mongla Port Authority, the port handled 21,651 TEU containers between July 2025 and January 2026, surpassing the total 21,456 TEUs handled in the entire 2024-25 fiscal year. The latest figure represents a 79.19 percent increase compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year.

Senior Deputy Manager of the port authority Md. Makruzzaman said a total of 515 foreign commercial ships arrived at the port during the seven-month period. Among them were 31 foreign commercial container vessels. During this time, the port also facilitated the import of 6,404 reconditioned vehicles.

Cargo handling during the period stood at 8,266,000 metric tons (MT), reflecting a 25.03 percent increase over the corresponding period last year.

Makruzzaman said that with four and a half months remaining in the current fiscal year, the port has already exceeded last year's container handling volume, expressing optimism that overall performance will improve further by the end of the fiscal year.

To enhance operational capacity and facilitate port users, the authority has announced three new operational anchor berths at the Hiron Point area.

Trial operations have already been successfully completed at these berths with 16 commercial ships of 9.00-meter draft. The new facilities will now allow the handling of commercial vessels up to 200 meters in length and 9.00 meters in draft.

The port currently handles the import of essential commodities such as food grains, cement raw materials, clinker, fertilizer, automobiles, machinery, rice, wheat, coal, oil, stone, corn, oilseeds, and LPG. Export items include white fish, shrimp, jute and jute products, frozen food, crab, clay tiles, silk fabrics, and other general cargo.

Officials expressed hope that increased ship arrivals and expanded port capacity will further boost import and export activities, contributing significantly to the country's economic growth.

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