

# বণিক বার্তা

01 JUL 2025

## বিভার নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যানকে বিজিএমইএ সভাপতি পোশাক শিল্পের চ্যালেঞ্জ মোকাবেলায় বিভার সহযোগিতা প্রয়োজন

নিজস্ব প্রতিবেদক ■

বিশ্বব্যাপী ভূরাজনৈতিক অস্থিরতা, যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের পাক্সা শুদ্ধারোপ, ভারতের ট্রাডিশিপমেন্ট বাতিল, উচ্চ ব্যাংক সুদ এবং গ্যাস ও বিন্যুতের ঘন ঘন মূল্যবৃদ্ধি পোশাক শিল্পের জন্য বড় চ্যালেঞ্জ তৈরি করেছে। এসব চ্যালেঞ্জ মোকাবেলা করে এ শিল্পের সম্প্রসারণে বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের (বিডা) সহযোগিতা প্রয়োজন।

বিডা ও বাংলাদেশ অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল কর্তৃপক্ষের (বেজা) নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান চৌধুরী আশিক মাহমুদ বিন হারুনসহ সপ্তে পৌজ্য সাক্ষাৎকালে বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রফতানিকারক সমিতির (বিজিএমইএ) নবনির্বাচিত সভাপতি মাহমুদ হাসান খান এ কথা বলেন। রাজধানীর বিডা কার্যালয়ে গতকাল এ বৈঠক অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। এ সময় বিভার নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান বিজিএমইএর নবনির্বাচিত পরিচালনা পর্ষদকে অভিনন্দন জানান। বৈঠকে বিজিএমইএর সহসভাপতি (অর্থ) মিজানুর রহমান, সহসভাপতি জিদিয়া অমৃত খান, পরিচালক সামিহা আজিম, বিভার নির্বাহী সদস্য ইনভেস্টমেন্ট ইকোসিস্টেম মো. মোখলেসুর রহমান (অতিরিক্ত সচিব) এবং বেজার নির্বাহী সদস্য সালেহ আহমেদ (অতিরিক্ত সচিব) উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

আলোচনাকালে বিজিএমইএ সভাপতি চট্টগ্রামের ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি পোশাক কারখানাগুলোকে একটি নির্দিষ্ট জোনে একত্র করে সমন্বিত গার্মেন্টস শিল্পাঞ্চল গড়ে তোলার প্রস্তাব দেন। তিনি চট্টগ্রামে বিজিএমইএর অনুকূলে প্রতীকী মূল্যে এক খণ্ড জমি বরাদ্দের জন্য বিডা ও বেজার নির্বাহী

চেয়ারম্যানকে অনুরোধ জানান। চৌধুরী আশিক মাহমুদ বিন হারুন বিষয়টি গুরুত্বসহকারে গ্রহণ করে জানান, অনতিবিলম্বে বিজিএমইএ ও বিডা প্রতিনিধিদের নিয়ে একটি কমিটি গঠন করা হবে, যা এক সপ্তাহের মধ্যে একটি কর্মপরিকল্পনা পেশ করবে।

সভায় বিজিএমইএ প্রতিনিধি দল তাদের সাসটেইনেবিলিটি ও সার্কুলারিটি বিষয়ক বিভিন্ন উদ্যোগ তুলে ধরেন। তারা বলেন, পোশাক শিল্পে পরিবেশবান্ধব উৎপাদন নিশ্চিতের জন্য কারখানাগুলোয় সোলার প্যানেল স্থাপনের মাধ্যমে জ্বালানি রূপান্তর উৎসাহিত করার ব্যাপারে পথনকশা গ্রহণন জরুরি।

এ সময় বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ঋণ শ্রেণীকরণ নীতিমালা নিয়েও আলোচনা হয়। বিজিএমইএ নেতারা বর্তমান তিন মাসের গ্রেস পিরিয়ডকে ছয় মাসে উন্নীত করার অনুরোধ জানান। তারা বড় অডিট প্রক্রিয়ার স্বচ্ছতা ও দ্রুততা নিশ্চিত করতে আউটসোর্সিংয়ের মাধ্যমে ২০টি প্রতিষ্ঠানকে মনোনীত করার বিষয়ে বিভার নির্বাহী

চেয়ারম্যানকে অনুরোধ জানান। বিজিএমইএ নেতারা পোশাক শিল্পকে বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীনে না রেখে স্বতন্ত্রভাবে বস্ত্র ও পোশাক মন্ত্রণালয় প্রতিষ্ঠায় উদ্যোগ গ্রহণেরও আহ্বান জানান।



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# Europe, US make encouraging noises on trade deal

TRADE DEAL - EUROPE

BLOOMBERG

With just 8 days to go until President Donald Trump's country-specific tariffs are set to resume, the White House appears poised to fall short of the sweeping global trade reforms it promised to achieve during the three months they were on hold. Agreements with as many as a dozen of the US's largest trading partners are expected to be completed by the 9 July deadline, top Trump advisers have said over the past week.

Meanwhile, European and US sides are making encouraging noises about reaching a trade deal by the deadline, when additional tariffs of 50% would otherwise be imposed on most European exports.

"From the experience of the last few months,

we can clearly see that the US is in on the deal," French Finance Minister Eric Lombard said in an interview with newspaper La Tribune Dimanche. But the result of the negotiations is expected to be unbalanced, with some US duties remaining, including a 10% baseline levy on EU exports.

Some European officials are arguing for retaliation in such a scenario. EU envoys will discuss the state of the negotiations today as talks with the US continue this week, while advancing possible countermeasures in case talks break down.

Although EU and the US close to the trade deal, the EU Commission says tech rules are not included in US trade talks. European Union on Monday pushed back against US criticism of its landmark tech rules that many feared could be included in ongoing trade negotiations with the United States

and subsequently watered down.

Adopted recently, the Digital Markets Act (DMA) seeks to rein in the power of Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta Platforms, Microsoft, China's ByteDance and Booking.com.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) requires big online platforms to do more to tackle illegal and harmful content. Both legislations have come under fire from the US administration which says it unfairly targets US tech companies.

"The legislations will not be changed. The DMA and the DSA are not on the table in the trade negotiations with the US," spokesperson Thomas Regnier told a daily news conference.

He said the EU would not brook any interference from foreign governments on how it enforces its landmark rules which come with hefty fines for violations.

"We are not going to adjust the implementation of our legislation based on the actions of third countries. If we started to do that, then we would have to do it with numerous third countries," Regnier said.

The EU handed out its first fines to Apple and Meta earlier this year, with both risking further daily fines if regulators find that they have yet to comply with the rules in the coming months.

Earlier the bloc said, the European Union is prepared for all eventualities in its trade negotiations with the US, including a breakdown in talks, and is assessing the latest US tariff offer.

The European Commission president said at a press conference in the early hours of Friday that her team is still assessing the latest US tariff offer.

"We are ready for a deal. At the same time we are preparing for the possibility that no satisfactory agreement is reached," she said. "In short, all options remain on the table."



# BD risks losing billions in Chinese RE investments

Says CPD at the Bangladesh-China Renewable Energy Forum

**FE REPORT**

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) has cautioned that Bangladesh could lose billions in Chinese renewable-energy investments unless immediate steps are taken to streamline regulations and stabilise the investment climate. This warning came during the third Bangladesh-China Renewable Energy Forum, held in the capital on Monday. At the event, CPD researchers Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem and Abrar Ahammed Bhuiyan revealed that the current policy landscape is proving increasingly inhospitable to foreign investors, particularly those from China, who have emerged as the largest contributors to foreign direct investment (FDI) in Bangladesh's renewable energy.

The CPD study highlighted a number of systemic challenges, including sluggish bureaucratic procedures, policy inconsistencies, unreliable digital services, and inadequate institutional support—all of which are deterring investment even before projects break ground.

A major blow to investor confidence, the researchers said, was the government's sudden cancellation of 31 solar power initiatives despite having issued Letters of Intent (LoIs).

The affected projects, totalling an estimated 3,300 megawatts and attracting prospective investments of around USD 6 billion, had already seen preliminary commitments of about USD 300 million from Chinese firms for land acquisition and groundwork. With these developments now stalled, investors face significant financial setbacks and a loss of trust in the country's investment reliability.

Representing the Chinese business community, Han Kun, President of the Chinese Enterprises Association in

Current policy landscape is proving increasingly inhospitable to foreign investors

Challenges include sluggish bureaucratic procedures and policy inconsistencies

Sudden cancellation of 31 solar power initiatives a major blow to investor confidence

Recommendations include forming centralised digital platform for all business processes and simplified and unified licensing procedures

Bangladesh, voiced serious concerns about retroactive changes to power tariffs. He cited examples of operational plants—such as those in Patuakhali and Barishal—that received directives to alter the pricing structures agreed upon in signed contracts. "For investors, learning that key terms will be revised after construction is deeply unsettling," Han remarked. "Such unpredictability sends a strong deterrent signal to future financiers."

He further mentioned instances where payments were withheld or arbitrarily reduced—such as a USD 1.45 million deduction from a Chinese-funded project for an alleged delay in performance bond submission, despite no such penalty clause in the original agreement. In another case, over USD 200 million owed to the 1320 MW SSI plant remains unpaid.

CPD's analysis, which evaluated Bangladesh's investor facilitation

framework against the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Global Action Menu, pointed to multiple flaws across different tiers. At the national level, abrupt rule changes and ineffective enforcement of bilateral treaties were cited. At the intermediate level, the report flagged non-transparent procurement procedures and land-related complications. On the ground, cumbersome documentation, inconsistent digital portals, and inadequate multilingual support—particularly in English and Chinese—were found to be hampering investor engagement.

Speakers at the forum also called attention to missed opportunities in sectors such as rooftop solar and merchant power generation. Despite the government's emphasis on expanding clean energy, limitations on rooftop capacity and the absence of a structured framework for merchant power projects are curbing investor interest.

Wang Weiquan of the Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association attributed China's success in attracting renewable investment to policy consistency, fixed tariffs, and guaranteed off-take mechanisms. Bangladesh, he noted, lacks similar enabling conditions.

Md Shahidur Rahman, Bangladesh country head for Jinko Solar, emphasised that in many countries, governments help secure land for solar facilities—something Bangladesh has yet to do effectively. He also warned about the proliferation of low-quality, unauthorised solar panels entering the market, undermining industry standards.

SK Md Ruhul Amin, representing Chint Solar, questioned the rationale behind

the cancelled LoIs, which the government claims were scrapped due to corruption. "We still haven't been informed where exactly the alleged irregularities occurred," he said. "We followed all formal steps, from land purchase to fund transfers, yet we're left without clarity or resolution." Masudur Rahim, CEO of Omera Renewable Energy Ltd, highlighted gaps in the existing tender system—particularly the absence of implementation agreements, lack of payment security, and inconsistent tariff policies, which he said undermine confidence in long-term investment. The CPD urged immediate reforms, including a

centralised digital platform for all business processes, simplified and unified licensing procedures, and the removal of restrictive caps on rooftop installations. The think tank also recommended offering alternative projects or compensation to investors impacted by cancelled agreements, along with the creation of a formal grievance redress mechanism. Dr Moazzem stressed the urgency of establishing a stable and transparent investment regime. "As global momentum for clean energy accelerates, Bangladesh must make itself a more predictable and investor-friendly destination—or risk falling behind in the race for sustainable development."

[bdsmile@gmail.com](mailto:bdsmile@gmail.com)

