

কালবেলা

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শুল্কমুক্ত কাঁচামাল আমদানির সুযোগ

আংশিক রপ্তানিমুখী শিল্প

কালবেলা প্রতিবেদক »

আংশিক রপ্তানিমুখী শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলোর জন্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ এক নীতি সহায়তা ঘোষণা করেছে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড (এনবিআর)। এখন থেকে বন্ড লাইসেন্স না থাকলেও নির্ধারিত শর্ত মেনে ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টির বিপরীতে শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধায় কাঁচামাল আমদানি করতে পারবে এসব প্রতিষ্ঠান। গতকাল সোমবার এ-সংক্রান্ত একটি প্রজ্ঞাপন চলতি মাসের ২৫ তারিখে জারি করে এনবিআর। বিষয়টি

সোমবার গণমাধ্যমকে নিশ্চিত করে এনবিআরের জনসংযোগ দপ্তর।

প্রজ্ঞাপনে বলা হয়, অনেক রপ্তানিমুখী শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান বিভিন্ন কারণে বন্ডেড ওয়ারহাউস লাইসেন্স নিতে সক্ষম হয় না। এসব প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সহায়তা দিতেই এ নীতিগত সুবিধা চালু করা হয়েছে। এখন থেকে এসব প্রতিষ্ঠান আমদানিকৃত কাঁচামালের ওপর নির্ধারিত শুল্ক ও কর পরিশোধের পরিবর্তে একই মূল্যের একটি ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি জমা দিয়ে শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধা নিতে পারবে। জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড আশা করছে, এ সিদ্ধান্তের ফলে রপ্তানিকারক শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলো তাদের উৎপাদন সক্ষমতা পূর্ণমাত্রায় কাজে লাগাতে পারবে। এতে রপ্তানিযোগ্য পণ্যের

বৈচিত্র্য বাড়বে এবং দেশের সামগ্রিক রপ্তানি বাণিজ্যে গতি আসবে।

সংশ্লিষ্টরা বলছেন, এটি বিশেষত ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি রপ্তানিকারক প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য বড় ধরনের স্বস্তির বার্তা। কারণ, বন্ড লাইসেন্স প্রাপ্তি ও ব্যবস্থাপনা অনেক সময় জটিল এবং ব্যয়বহুল হয়ে ওঠে, যা এ সুবিধার মাধ্যমে অনেকটাই লাঘব হবে। এনবিআর জানায়, শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধা নেওয়ার ক্ষেত্রে আমদানিকারক প্রতিষ্ঠানকে আমদানিকৃত কাঁচামালের ওপর কাস্টমস কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত শুল্ক ও করের সমপরিমাণ একটি বৈধ ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি দিতে হবে। এ প্রক্রিয়ায় বন্ড ব্যবস্থাপনার অন্যান্য শর্তাবলিও প্রযোজ্য থাকবে।



বণিক বার্তা

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এনবিআরের নির্দেশনা শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধায় কাঁচামাল আমদানির সুযোগ বাড়ল

নিজস্ব প্রতিবেদক ■

রফতানি বাণিজ্য সম্প্রসারণের লক্ষ্যে আংশিক রফতানিকারক প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলোকে ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টির বিপরীতে শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধায় কাঁচামাল আমদানির সুযোগ প্রদানের নির্দেশনা দেয়া হয়েছে। জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের (এনবিআর) জনসংযোগ কর্মকর্তা মো. আল-আমিন শেখ স্বাক্ষরিত এক বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে গতকাল এ তথ্য জানানো হয়। ফলে বিদ্যমান বন্ড ব্যবস্থাপনার শর্ত মেনে যেসব রফতানিমুখী শিল্পপ্রতিষ্ঠানের পক্ষে বন্ডেড ওয়্যারহাউজ লাইসেন্স নেয়া সম্ভব হয়ে ওঠে না, তাদের জন্য শুল্ক-কর পরিশোধ না করে কাঁচামাল বা পণ্য আমদানির সুযোগ তৈরি হলো।

বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বলা হয়, শুল্কমুক্ত এ সুবিধা পেতে আমদানিকারক কোম্পানিকে আমদানীকৃত পণ্যের ওপর কাস্টমস কর্তৃপক্ষ নিরূপিত 'শুল্ক করাতির সমপরিমাণ ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি' জমা দিতে হবে। এতদিন কেবল বন্ডেড ওয়্যারহাউজ লাইসেন্সপ্রাপ্ত শতভাগ রফতানিমুখী শিল্প-কারখানা এ ধরনের সুবিধা পেত। নতুন নিয়মে শতভাগ রফতানিমুখী হওয়ার শর্ত না থাকায়, শুধু রফতানি করলেই এ সুবিধা পাওয়া যাবে।



সমকাল

30 SEP 2025

থাকতে হবে ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি
বন্ড লাইসেন্স ছাড়া
শুল্কমুক্ত কাঁচামাল
আমদানির সুযোগ

■ সমকাল প্রতিবেদক

রপ্তানি বাণিজ্য সম্প্রসারণের লক্ষ্যে ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টির বিপরীতে আংশিক রপ্তানিকারক শিল্পপ্রতিষ্ঠানকে শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধায় কাঁচামাল আমদানির সুবিধা দিয়েছে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড-এনবিআর। এনবিআর সম্প্রতি এ বিষয়ে একটি প্রজ্ঞাপন জারি করেছে বলে গতকাল সোমবার সংস্থার জনসংযোগ বিভাগ এক সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে জানিয়েছে।

এতে বলা হয়, বিদ্যমান বন্ড ব্যবস্থাপনার শর্তাদি মেনে যেসব রপ্তানিমুখী শিল্পপ্রতিষ্ঠানের পক্ষে বন্ডেড ওয়ারহাউস লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ সম্ভবপর হয়ে ওঠে না, তাদের জন্য শুল্ক-করাদি পরিশোধ না করে কাঁচামাল/পণ্য আমদানি করার সুবিধা দেওয়া হয়েছে। শুল্কমুক্ত এ সুবিধা গ্রহণের জন্য আমদানিকারক প্রতিষ্ঠানকে আমদানি করা পণ্যের ওপর কাস্টম কর্তৃপক্ষ নিরূপিত শুল্ক-করের সমপরিমাণ ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি জমা দিতে হবে।

এনবিআর মনে করে, বন্ড লাইসেন্স না থাকা সত্ত্বেও শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধায় পণ্য আমদানির সুযোগ দেওয়ার ফলে রপ্তানিকারক প্রতিষ্ঠানের উৎপাদন সক্ষমতার সর্বোচ্চ ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করার মাধ্যমে রপ্তানিযোগ্য পণ্যের বৈচিত্র্য বৃদ্ধি পাবে এবং দেশের রপ্তানি বাণিজ্য সম্প্রসারিত হবে।



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Multiple barriers hinder CMSME exports, businesses seek govt support

BUSINESS - BANGLADESH

TBS REPORT

Despite their export potential, the country's Cottage, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (CMSMEs) face multiple challenges, including limited access to finance and markets, skills gaps, complex regulations, and a lack of technology adoption, all of which hinder their export growth.

To develop the CMSME sector and get access to the international market, businesses at a focus group discussion in the capital yesterday urged the government to formulate proper and timely policies, and suggested that businesses obtain local and international licenses, capacity development, technology adoption and diversification.

They said effective branding, proper marketing strategies and compliance are essential for boosting exports of CMSMEs.

The discussion on "Branding and Marketing Challenges for CMSMEs: Unlocking Export Potential" was organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

Speaking as the chief guest, Md Obaidur Rahman, secretary at the industries | SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



SMEs need strong marketing, branding: experts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Despite contributing about 28 percent to Bangladesh's GDP, the potential of cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) remains constrained by limited finance, poor infrastructure, weak policy support, restricted market access, and slow adoption of technology, industry leaders said yesterday.

Speaking at a seminar on branding and marketing challenges for the sector at the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, its president Taskeen Ahmed said nearly 90 percent of Bangladesh's industrial sector consists of CMSMEs. The sector employs about 1.18 crore people.

However, he noted that the additional tariffs imposed recently by the United States on Bangladeshi exports, particularly on readymade garments, pose a significant risk for the sector as they will lead to higher production and export costs.

To stay competitive, local entrepreneurs must embrace innovation, improve efficiency, and move away from outdated practices, he said. "We need to embrace technology at a faster pace and leave old-school traditional thinking and mindset, as we want to have more development for our country."

Stating that complex import export rules, high costs, and weak global competitiveness also hold back the sector,



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Stating that complex import-export rules, high costs, and weak global competitiveness also hold back the sector, Ahmed urged stronger support through certification, compliance, training, and incentives for sustainable technology adoption.

He stressed improving product quality and branding, expanding exports with government support, developing clusters and a CMSME database, attracting foreign investment, and supporting startups.

Also speaking at the event, Industries Secretary Md Obaidur Rahman said the absence of strong national brands has prevented Bangladesh from achieving its export potential.

The government will revise the SME and industry policies to include new and emerging business sectors, he added.

He emphasised improving product quality, branding, and IPR protection, adding that the Ministry of Industries is working to boost GI product exports.



To stay competitive, small businesses must embrace innovation, improve efficiency, and move away from outdated practices, say experts.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

Md Saiful Islam, chairman of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation, said the agency is supporting entrepreneurs through industrial parks, low-cost finance, and training, while working to exempt holding taxes in its parks.

He urged expanding Bangladeshi products on global e-commerce platforms, improving packaging and labeling, and increasing international certifications to boost exports.

Mohammad Hasan Arif, vice-chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), said consumer preferences are key to branding, stressing stronger public-private coordination.

In order to expand the presence of Bangladeshi products in the global market, he said, "First, we need to change

the mindset of our local consumers."

He said the EPB will set up an Export Ecosystem Platform and a CMSME Help Desk, where representatives from relevant government agencies will be designated as focal points.

The agency will also organise training to upskill workers and facilitate Bangladeshi participation in international fairs, including one in Brazil next year, he added.

Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, director (current charge) of the SME & Special Programmes Department at Bangladesh Bank, pointed to the importance of product logos, consumer-focused design, and promotions.

He noted that entrepreneurs can now access Tk 5 lakh collateral-free loans, with

12 percent of SME loans already disbursed without collateral by December last year.

Shamim Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association, highlighted the necessity of designing products by considering the tastes, culture, and environment of people in specific geographical regions.

Md Shafat Kadir, founder and CEO of Hat Bakso, said although reciprocal tariffs recently imposed by the United States have increased product costs, effective branding and marketing can open new export opportunities.

He stressed the need for standardised, attractive packaging, along with proper branding models and effective marketing to boost global competitiveness.



NBR expands duty-free import benefits to diversify exports

Manufacturers see huge opportunity

The Daily Star
30 SEP 2025

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In a move to facilitate export diversification, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has opened the door for partial exporters in eight sectors to import raw materials duty-free against a bank guarantee.

In a notification last week, the revenue authority said the facility would cover processed foods, light engineering, furniture, electronics, plastic products and leather goods.

Yesterday, the revenue board said that many exporters cannot avail a bonded warehouse licence under existing rules, which limits their ability to import duty-free raw materials for export production.

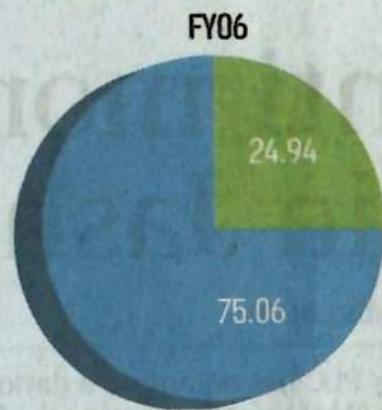
They can now bring in raw materials without paying import duties upfront by providing a bank guarantee equal to the customs duty assessed on the products.

The refund of duties after export, which previously frustrated businesses with long delays, will no longer be required.

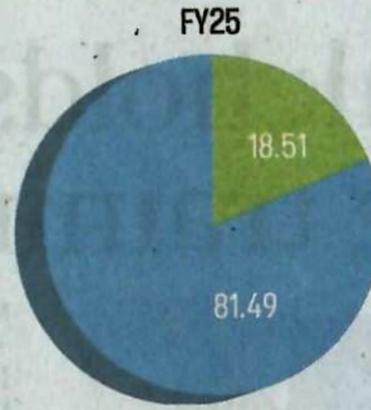
The change comes as ready-made garments have been dominating the country's export basket for more than three decades, according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Since fiscal year 2013-14, garments have

Share of exports by sectors



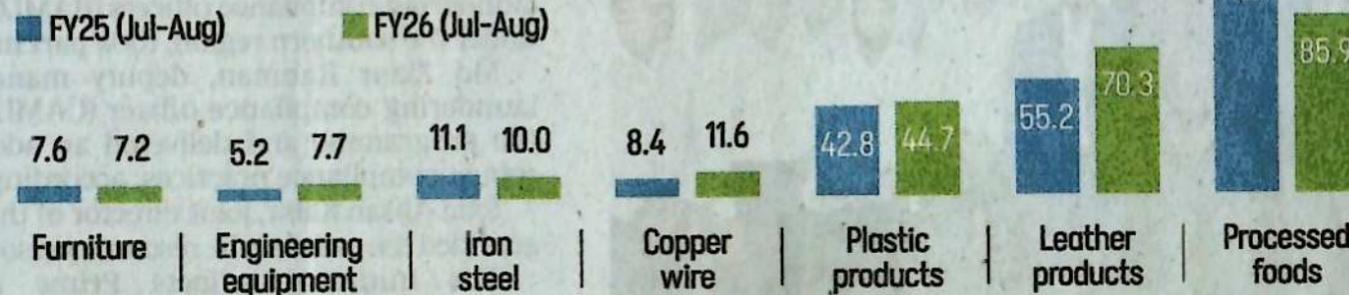
Share of exports by sectors



Sectors to get the benefit

- Furniture
- Electronics
- Food processing
- Light engineering
- Steel products
- Plastic products
- Leather goods
- Readymade garments

Receipts of partial exporters In million \$



SOURCES: EPB & BGMEA

accounted for more than 80 percent of export earnings, even though the government launched a Tk 941 crore project in 2017 to improve competitiveness in leather, footwear, light engineering and plastics.

The project cost has since risen to Tk 1,264 crore, according to documents from the planning ministry.

Exporters outside the garment sector had been pressing for easier rules, including access to bonded



Until now, businesses selling part of their production at home had to pay full import duty on raw materials, then claim a refund from the Duty Exemption and Drawback Office after exporting the finished goods.

"Now they will be able to bring raw materials against export orders by giving a bank guarantee equivalent to the total amount of import tariffs applicable to the raw materials. Once export proceeds come, they will be able to get their bank guarantee back," said a senior NBR official.

"We expect a big impact. It will be a starting step to come out of the dependency on garment exports," said Mohammad Naziur Rahman Miah, first secretary for customs, export and bond at the NBR.

The notification says that manufacturers will have to hold export orders or contracts with foreign buyers, such as letters of credit (LCs), and ensure at least 30 percent value addition to qualify.

Partial exporters will also require permission from the Chief Controller Office of Imports and Exports as industrial consumers and must comply with value-added tax (VAT) rules.

Selim H Rahman, chairman and managing director of Hatil Furniture, welcomed the decision, calling it "a long-standing demand" from industry players.

"This opens a new door for many Bangladeshi manufacturers, those who primarily sell locally but can contribute to exports if given the right support. Even small contributions, when aggregated, can lead to a large export basket," he said.

High tariffs on imported raw materials had left Bangladeshi products struggling to compete internationally despite adding value, added Rahman.

He added, "That was our biggest challenge, and the government has now eased rules. This is a big opportunity for us to approach new buyers, explore new markets, and

build a stronger export footprint."

Abdur Razzak, president of the Bangladesh Engineering Industry Owners Association, urged the authorities to ensure the policy delivers results. "What we need now is action, not promises."

Ferdous Ara Begum, chief executive officer of Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD), said many small and medium-sized enterprises export partially but could not access bonded warehouse benefits under previous regulations.

She said the facility had been limited to 100 percent export-oriented industries, leaving out many small entrepreneurs who also serve the domestic market.

"These enterprises often import raw materials commercially, which puts them at a competitive disadvantage," Ferdous said.

She added that although the import policy allowed partial exporters to benefit under certain conditions, such as obtaining a utilisation declaration from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), a value addition certificate from the customs commission, and providing a 100 percent bank guarantee, implementation had remained inconsistent.



Dormant industry can drive country's export diversification

Animation industry holds \$3.0 billion export earnings potential

Entrepreneurs seek policy perks to make it happen

MIR MOSTAFIZUR RAHAMAN

Bangladesh's animation industry, still a niche player on the global stage, holds the potential to fetch as much as US\$3.0 billion in annual export if given the right policy support, industry-insiders claim.

For more than a decade, Bangladeshi animators have quietly been producing high-quality works for global entertainment giants. Yet, despite their brains, the sector has struggled to emerge as a standalone export earner, hampered by weak infrastructure, regulatory constraints and limited government backing.

The timing for expansion could not be more urgent. Globally, the animation market is booming nowadays. Analysts expect it to reach \$550bn by 2030, propelled by the rise of streaming platforms, video games and demand for visual content. Industry advocates believe Bangladesh has a window of opportunity to capture a share of this growth cake in the fastest-growing knowledge economy of digital era.

"With the right steps and policies, Bangladesh can turn animation into another significant export-oriented sector," says M Mahabubur Rahaman, managing director of Brave Horse Ventures, which has partnered Malaysia's Vav Productions. "This sector could fetch \$10bn in the near future if it gets proper support."

At present, around 20,000 people are employed in animation studios across Bangladesh. With nearly 28 per cent of the country's population under 30,

UNLOCKING BD'S ANIMATION EXPORT POTENTIAL

MAIN HURDLES

Weak infrastructure
Regulatory constraints
Limited govt backing



- 20,000 employed in studios across Bangladesh
- Global market projected to reach \$550b by 2030
- India, China dominate global outsourcing market



With proper support, sector may fetch \$10b

- M Mahabubur Rahaman, MD of Brave Horse Ventures

No current plans to build infrastructure

- Addl secy at ICT Division

supporters argue the industry could provide badly needed employment and diversify an economy still dominated by the decades-old garment trade. But the hurdles are considerable. Animators complain of high production costs, particularly the lack of shared rendering houses - the powerful computer hubs essential for animation. Studio owners also face restrictions while hiring foreign experts, a necessity in an industry where international collaboration is often critical. "At present, paying foreign employees is extremely complicated," says economist Dr Abdur Razzak. "In many countries, entrepreneurs can pay foreign staff directly thanks to convertible capital accounts. In Bangladesh, that is difficult because of the risk of misuse and the fragility of foreign reserves." The lack of a supportive regulatory

framework has meant investment has lagged. Brave Horse's joint venture with a Malaysian production house remains the exception rather than the rule. "With the right system, Bangladesh could attract far more foreign investment," Mahabubur told The Financial Express. So far, the government response has been muted. An additional secretary at the ICT Division acknowledges that "there are no current plans" to

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to increase their

brains, the sector has struggled to emerge as a standalone export earner, hampered by weak infrastructure, regulatory constraints and limited government backing.

The timing for expansion could not be more urgent. Globally, the animation market is booming nowadays. Analysts expect it to reach \$550bn by 2030, propelled by the rise of streaming platforms, video games and demand for visual content. Industry advocates believe Bangladesh has a window of opportunity to capture a share of this growth cake in the fastest-growing knowledge economy of digital era.

"With the right steps and policies, Bangladesh can turn animation into another significant export-oriented sector," says M Mahabubur Rahaman, managing director of Brave Horse Ventures, which has partnered Malaysia's Vav Productions. "This sector could fetch \$10bn in the near future if it gets proper support."

At present, around 20,000 people are employed in animation studios across Bangladesh. With nearly 28 per cent of the country's population under 30,

supporters argue the industry could provide badly needed employment and diversify an economy still dominated by the decades-old garment trade. But the hurdles are considerable. Animators complain of high production costs, particularly the lack of shared rendering houses - the powerful computer hubs essential for animation. Studio owners also face restrictions while hiring foreign experts, a necessity in an industry where international collaboration is often critical.

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build infrastructure for the industry. Projects may be taken up after the next government is in place, he says.

To industry advocates' mind, this hesitation risks squandering a generational opportunity. "The growth of this sector is being held back by a lack of resources," says IT expert Sohael Reza. "We need infrastructure, advanced tools, training facilities and fewer policy constraints. Otherwise, Bangladesh risks being left behind."

Regional rivals India and China already dominate the global animation-outsourcing market, leveraging scale, policy support and investment. Bangladeshi studios, by contrast, remain underfunded, despite being able to offer animation at lower prices than many

competitors.

Still, there are signs of optimism. The rise of digital platforms has given Bangladeshi animators new avenues to showcase their work. "This is a golden opportunity," says Mahabubur.

"We have thousands of young animators ready to work. But without support, they will end up working for overseas companies instead of building our own industry."

Youth unemployment remains high: around two-thirds of graduates are unable to find work each year. Advocates argue that animation, if nurtured, could absorb part of this workforce while showcasing Bangladesh's creative capacity.

The sector is not entirely new to the game. Bangladesh's first animation courses were introduced in the 1980s, and

the UNICEF-backed Meena cartoon series, launched in 1993, became a cultural landmark across South Asia. But since then, progress has been slow and fragmented. Industry leaders say the lesson is clear. "It's not just about producing content," says Dreamer Donkey CEO Mosiur Rahman Choudhury, "It's about building an ecosystem for innovation and collaboration.

If government, private studios and investors can work together, Bangladesh can carve out a niche on the global animation market." For now, the sector remains stuck between promise and policy inertia. With global demand surging, the question is whether Bangladesh will seize the moment - or once again watch from the sidelines as others lead the way.

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Partial exporters can import raw materials duty- free against bank guarantee

Industry people hail it as 'a
milestone' for exporters

DOULOT AKTER MALA

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has allowed partial export-oriented industrial enterprises to import raw materials duty-free against bank guarantee under a move to help expand the country's export trade.

To this effect, the revenue authorities issued a notification on Monday.

Enterprises that cannot obtain bonded -- warehouse licences, despite fulfilling the conditions of the existing bond -- management system, are permitted to import raw materials/products without paying customs duties and taxes.

To avail such duty-waiver facility, the importing enterprise will require to submit a bank guarantee equivalent to the amount of customs duties and taxes assessed by the customs authority on the imported goods. By allowing the duty-free import of goods even without having a bond licence, the NBR expects that export-oriented enterprises would be able to maximise their production capacity and diversify exportable products, thus helping expand the country's export trade.

Chairman of Pran-RFL Group Ahsan Khan terms it 'a milestone' for local exporters who are supplying goods both for local market and abroad.

"I can compare it with that day, years ago, when the government introduced a bonded --

