

সমকাল

03 SEP 2025

আগস্টে রপ্তানি আয় ৩ শতাংশ কমেছে

■ সমকাল প্রতিবেদক

অর্থবছরের দ্বিতীয় মাসেই পণ্য রপ্তানি কিছুটা হেঁচট খেল। রপ্তানি কমেছে আগের বছরের একই মাসের চেয়ে ৩ শতাংশের মতো। রপ্তানি আয় কমেছে ১১ কোটি ডলারের কিছু বেশি। গত আগস্ট মাসে রপ্তানির পরিমাণ নেমে এসেছে ৩৯১ কোটি ডলারে, যা আগের বছরের একই মাসে ছিল ৪০৩ কোটি ডলারেরও বেশি।

চলতি ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরের প্রথম মাস গত জুলাইয়ে রপ্তানি বেড়েছিল প্রায় ২৫ শতাংশ। সে অবস্থা থেকে হঠাৎ নেতিবাচক হওয়ার পেছনে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের পাল্টা শুল্কহার নিয়ে অনিশ্চয়তা ও অস্বস্তিকে দায়ী করছেন রপ্তানিকারক উদ্যোক্তারা।

তৈরি পোশাক উৎপাদন ও রপ্তানিকারক উদ্যোক্তাদের সংগঠন বিজিএমইএর সিনিয়র সহসভাপতি এবং অনন্ত গার্মেন্টসের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক এনামুল হক খান সমকালকে বলেন, রপ্তানি কমে যাওয়ার মতো এ মুহূর্তে বড় কোনো কারণ নেই। একমাত্র মার্কিন পাল্টা শুল্ক ইস্যু ছাড়া। আগস্ট মাসের ১ তারিখে ২০ শতাংশ হারে শুল্ক ঘোষণার আগপর্যন্ত বড় একটা উদ্বেগ-অনিশ্চয়তা ছিল। ভারতের শুল্ক কমেতে পারে বলেও একটা অনুমান ছিল। সে কারণে বেশ কিছু রপ্তানি আদেশ স্থগিত রাখে মার্কিন ব্যান্ড-ক্রোতার। এসবের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে আগস্টে রপ্তানি কমেছে। ভারতীয় পণ্যে শুল্ক কমানোর পরিবর্তে বেড়ে যাওয়ার কারণে এখন ভারতে দেওয়া রপ্তানি আদেশ বাংলাদেশে সরিয়ে আনছেন ক্রেতারা। সব মিলিয়ে আগামী মাসগুলোতে রপ্তানি অনেক বাড়বে।

রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরোর (ইপিবি) প্রকাশিত প্রতিবেদনে দেখা যায়, তৈরি পোশাকের রপ্তানি কমেছে ৫ শতাংশের মতো। মূলত পোশাকের রপ্তানি এ হারে কমে যাওয়ার প্রভাবেই গোটা রপ্তানি আয় নেতিবাচক হয়েছে। আগস্টে পোশাক রপ্তানি কমে দাঁড়িয়েছে ৩১৭ কোটি ডলারে, যা আগের বছরের আগস্টে ছিল ৩৩৩ কোটি ডলার।



আগস্টে তৈরি পোশাক রপ্তানি প্রায় ৫ শতাংশ কমেছে

ইপিবি'র তথ্য

সদ্য সমাপ্ত আগস্ট মাসে সার্বিকভাবে রপ্তানি কমেছে ২ দশমিক ৯৩ শতাংশ। সব মিলিয়ে ৩৯২ কোটি ডলারের পণ্য রপ্তানি হয়েছে।

নিজস্ব প্রতিবেদক, ঢাকা

এক মাসের ব্যবধানে আগস্টে আবার তৈরি পোশাক রপ্তানি কমেছে। ফলে দেশের সামগ্রিক পণ্য রপ্তানিতে কিছুটা নেতিবাচক প্রভাব পড়েছে। রপ্তানি কমেছে ২ দশমিক ৯৩ শতাংশ।

গত ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরের প্রথম ১১ মাসে সার্বিকভাবে পণ্য রপ্তানিতে প্রবৃদ্ধি হলেও শেষ মাস অর্থাৎ জুনে তৈরি পোশাক রপ্তানি ৬ শতাংশ কমে যায়। চলতি ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরের প্রথম মাস জুলাইয়ে তৈরি পোশাক রপ্তানিতে আগের অর্থবছরের একই সময়ের তুলনায় সাড়ে ২৪ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি হয়। তবে দ্বিতীয় মাসে আগস্টে আগের অর্থবছরের একই মাসের চেয়ে রপ্তানি পৌনে ৫ শতাংশ কমেছে। এই মাসে রপ্তানি হয়েছে ৩১৭ কোটি ডলারের তৈরি পোশাক।

রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো (ইপিবি) গতকাল মঙ্গলবার পণ্য রপ্তানি-আয়ের হালনাগাদ তথ্য প্রকাশ করেছে। এতে দেখা যায়, বাংলাদেশ থেকে সদ্য সমাপ্ত আগস্ট মাসে সব মিলিয়ে ৩৯২ কোটি ডলারের পণ্য রপ্তানি হয়েছে। এই রপ্তানি গত বছরের আগস্টের তুলনায় ২ দশমিক ৯৩ শতাংশ কম। গত বছরের আগস্টে রপ্তানি হয়েছিল ৪০৩ কোটি ডলারের পণ্য।

চলতি ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরের প্রথম দুই মাসে (জুলাই ও আগস্ট) ৮৬৯ কোটি ডলারের পণ্য রপ্তানি হয়েছে। এই রপ্তানি গত অর্থবছরের একই সময়ের তুলনায় ১০ দশমিক ৬১ শতাংশ বেশি।

ইপিবি'র তথ্যানুযায়ী, চলতি অর্থবছরের প্রথম দুই মাসে তৈরি পোশাক রপ্তানি হয়েছে ৭১৩ কোটি ডলারের। এ ক্ষেত্রে প্রবৃদ্ধি হয়েছে ৯ দশমিক ৬৩ শতাংশ। তবে কেবল আগস্টে রপ্তানি কমেছে ৪ দশমিক ৭৫ শতাংশ।

যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের মতো বড় বাজারে পাল্টা শুষ্ক নিয়ে বাংলাদেশ কিছুটা সুবিধাজনক অবস্থায় রয়েছে। তার পরও গত মাসে বাংলাদেশের তৈরি পোশাক রপ্তানি

■ চলতি ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরের প্রথম দুই মাসে (জুলাই ও আগস্ট) ৮৬৯ কোটি ডলারের পণ্য রপ্তানি হয়েছে।

■ আগস্টে তৈরি পোশাক ছাড়াও চামড়া ও চামড়াজাত পণ্য, প্রক্রিয়াজাত কৃষিপণ্য, চামড়াবিহীন জুতা এবং আসবাবের রপ্তানি কমেছে।

কমেছে। এ নিয়ে রপ্তানিকারকেরা বলছেন, পাল্টা শুষ্ক নিয়ে কয়েক মাস ধরে দর-কষাকষি চলমান ছিল। সে কারণে মার্কিন ক্রয়াদেশ এসেছে কম। তাই গত মাসে রপ্তানি ছিল কম। তবে শুষ্কহার চূড়ান্ত হওয়ায় আগস্ট থেকে ক্রেতা প্রতিষ্ঠান বাড়তি ক্রয়াদেশ দিতে আলোচনা শুরু করেছে। ফলে বাড়তি ক্রয়াদেশ প্রত্যাশা করছেন রপ্তানিকারকেরা।

ইপিবি'র তথ্য বিশ্লেষণ করে দেখা যায়, গত আগস্টে তৈরি পোশাক ছাড়াও চামড়া ও চামড়াজাত পণ্য, প্রক্রিয়াজাত কৃষিপণ্য, চামড়াবিহীন জুতা এবং আসবাবের রপ্তানি কমেছে। তবে হোম টেক্সটাইল, পাট ও পাটজাত পণ্য, হিমায়িত খাদ্য, প্লাস্টিক পণ্য ও প্রকৌশল পণ্যের রপ্তানি বেড়েছে।

চলতি অর্থবছরের প্রথম দুই মাসে তৈরি পোশাকের পর দ্বিতীয় শীর্ষ রপ্তানি পণ্য হলো চামড়া ও চামড়াজাত পণ্য। এই পণ্য রপ্তানি হয় ২৩ কোটি ডলারের, যা গত অর্থবছরের একই সময়ের তুলনায় ১৩ দশমিক ৬৮ শতাংশ বেশি। যদিও গত আগস্টে চামড়া ও চামড়াজাত পণ্যের রপ্তানি কমেছে প্রায় দেড় শতাংশ।

তৃতীয় শীর্ষ রপ্তানি পণ্য হচ্ছে কৃষি প্রক্রিয়াজাত পণ্য। গত জুলাই-আগস্টে রপ্তানি হয়েছে ১৭ কোটি ডলারের কৃষি প্রক্রিয়াজাত পণ্য। এই রপ্তানি গত বছরের একই সময়ের তুলনায় ৩ দশমিক ৯৬ শতাংশ বেশি। যদিও গত আগস্টে কৃষি প্রক্রিয়াজাত পণ্যের রপ্তানি কমেছে ৪ শতাংশ।

হোম টেক্সটাইল এখন চতুর্থ শীর্ষ রপ্তানি পণ্য। চলতি অর্থবছরের প্রথম দুই মাসে ১৪ কোটি ডলারের হোম টেক্সটাইল রপ্তানি হয়েছে। এ ক্ষেত্রে প্রবৃদ্ধি হয়েছে ১২ দশমিক ৬৮ শতাংশ।

দেশের পণ্য রপ্তানির চিত্র

| মাস | ২০২৪-২৫ | ২০২৫-২৬ | প্রবৃদ্ধি (%) |
|-------|---------|---------|---------------|
| জুলাই | ৩৮২ | ৪৭৭ | ২৪.৯০ |
| আগস্ট | ৪০৩ | ৩৯২ | -২.৯৩ |

খাতভিত্তিক রপ্তানি (জুলাই-আগস্ট)

| ২০২৪-২৫ | ২০২৫-২৬ | প্রবৃদ্ধি (%) | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| ৬৫০ | ২০.১২ | ১৬.৮০ | ১২.৩৩ | ১১.০৮ |
| ৭১৩ | ২২.৮৭ | ১৭.৪৬ | ১৩.৯০ | ১১.৮৫ |
| প্রবৃদ্ধি ৯.৩% | ১৩.৬৮% | ৩.৯৬% | ১২.৬৮% | ৬.৯৬% |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| তৈরি পোশাক | চামড়া ও চামড়াজাত পণ্য | কৃষি প্রক্রিয়াজাত পণ্য | হোম টেক্সটাইল | পাট ও পাটজাত পণ্য |
| হিসাব কোটি ডলারে সূত্র: ইপিবি | | | | |

বণিক বাতী

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জুলাই-আগস্টে পণ্য রফতানিতে ১০.৬১% প্রবৃদ্ধি

নিজস্ব প্রতিবেদক ■

চলতি অর্থবছরের প্রথম দুই মাস জুলাই-আগস্টে বিশ্ববাজারে বাংলাদেশের পণ্য রফতানি প্রবৃদ্ধি হয়েছে ১০ দশমিক ৬১ শতাংশ। রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো (ইপিবি) থেকে গতকাল প্রকাশিত হালনাগাদ পরিসংখ্যানে এ চিত্র দেখা গেছে।

মাসিক পরিসংখ্যান প্রতিবেদনের ভিত্তিতে ইপিবি জানিয়েছে, অর্থবছরের শুরুতে রফতানি পারদর্শিতায় দৃঢ়তা দেখাচ্ছে। তবে বিশ্ববাজারে চাহিদার ওঠানামা ও পরিবর্তনশীল বাজার পরিস্থিতি বাংলাদেশের রফতানি খাতের জন্য চ্যালেঞ্জ তৈরি করছে। ইপিবির তথ্য অনুযায়ী, ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরের প্রথম দুই মাসে (জুলাই-আগস্ট) পণ্য রফতানি হয়েছে ৮৬৮ কোটি ৫৫ লাখ ৯০ হাজার ডলারের। গত অর্থবছরের একই সময়ে রফতানি হয় ৭৮৫ কোটি ২৭ লাখ ডলারের পণ্য। এ হিসাবেই অর্থমূল্য বিবেচনায় পণ্য রফতানি বেড়েছে ১০ দশমিক ৬১ শতাংশ।

একক মাসভিত্তিক ইপিবির পরিসংখ্যানে দেখা যায়, গত আগস্টে দেশ থেকে ৩৯১ কোটি ৫০ লাখ ডলারের পণ্য রফতানি হয়েছে। গত বছরের আগস্টের তুলনায় যা ২ দশমিক ৯৩ শতাংশ কম। ২০২৪ সালের আগস্টে ৪০৩ কোটি ৩১ লাখ ৯০ হাজার ডলারের পণ্য রফতানি হয়েছিল।

ইপিবির তথ্যানুযায়ী, চলতি ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরের প্রথম দুই মাস জুলাই-আগস্টে-৭১৩ কোটি ৬ লাখ ৭০ হাজার ডলারের তৈরি পোশাক রফতানি হয়েছে, যা আগের বছরের একই সময়ের চেয়ে ৯ দশমিক ৬৩ শতাংশ বেশি।

অর্থবছরের প্রথম দুই মাসে চামড়া ও চামড়াজাত পণ্য রফতানি হয়েছে ২২ কোটি ৮৭ লাখ ৬০ হাজার ডলারের, যা গত বছরের একই সময়ে ছিল ২০ কোটি ১২ লাখ ৩০ হাজার ডলার। সে হিসাবে প্রবৃদ্ধি ১৩ দশমিক ৬৮ শতাংশ।

জুলাই-আগস্টে কৃষিপণ্য রফতানি হয়েছে ১৭ কোটি

৪৬ লাখ ডলারের, যা বছরের ব্যবধানে বেড়েছে ৩ দশমিক ৯৬ শতাংশ। গত বছরের জুলাই-আগস্টে কৃষিপণ্য রফতানি হয়েছিল ১৬ কোটি ৮০ লাখ ১০ হাজার ডলারের।

অর্থবছরের প্রথম দুই মাসে হোম টেক্সটাইল পণ্য রফতানি হয়েছে ১৩ কোটি ৯০ লাখ ২০ হাজার ডলারের, যা গত অর্থবছরের একই সময়ের চেয়ে ১২ দশমিক ৬৮ শতাংশ বেশি। জুলাই-আগস্টে পাট ও পাটজাত পণ্য রফতানি হয়েছে ১১ কোটি ৮৫ লাখ ৬০ হাজার ডলারের, যা গত অর্থবছরের একই সময়ের চেয়ে ৬ দশমিক ৯৬ শতাংশ বেশি।



Exporters getting competitive with tax waivers, import-duty cuts

TACKLING CASH INCENTIVE PHASE-OUT POST-LDC

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Several non-RMG sectors enjoy cash incentives | Cash incentives will go after graduation | CAO makes 3 proposals to tackle phase-out |
|---|--|---|

PROPOSALS

- ▶ Limited incentives during transition for 6 priority sectors
- ▶ Alternative support mechanisms
 - ▶ Tax rebates, exemptions, reduced import duties, policy incentives

OTHER MEASURES

- ▶ Inter-ministerial committee formed
 - ▶ Committee to work on enhancing export capacity
- ▶ BIDA drafting new FDI incentive policy

Bangladesh prepares transition package with perks as LDC cash incentives set to taper out

YASIR WARDAD

Bangladesh moves forward with new policy measures as guardrails around its export sector as the country is destined to graduate from the least-developed country (LDC) category and thus forfeit marketing privileges.

The swap comes amid a looming phase-out of cash subsidies for export products, which will no longer be permissible under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules once the graduation becomes effective, according to the finance ministry.

Currently, several non-apparel sectors - leather and leather goods, pharmaceuticals, agro-processed products, light engineering, jute and jute goods, and IT/ITES - enjoy varying dollops of cash incentives handed out to support export competitiveness.

But under the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (ASCM), such direct export-linked cash assistance must be withdrawn after graduation.

In line with this requirement, the government has already initiated a gradual reduction in the cash-incentive rates.

"To counter this impact, the Chief Adviser's Office has prepared and sent forward three proposals focusing a transition package that prioritises export diversification and competitiveness,"

says an official at the monitoring cell of the finance division.

The first two proposals suggest continuing limited cash incentives during the transition period for six priority sectors to avoid any sudden shock for exporters.

The third proposal moves away from subsidies and calls for introducing alternative support mechanisms, including tax rebates and exemptions for exporters in priority sectors, reduced import duties on raw materials, machinery, and inputs essential for export production and policy incentives for investors through the creation of specialised zones and industrial clusters.

The official says the idea is to shift gradually from direct cash support to a more sustainable incentive framework.

Such a package of substitutes would help exporters remain competitive in global markets while adhering to WTO obligations.

The government has also decided to strengthen institutional coordination.

An inter-ministerial committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary has been formed to assess in

detail what can be done to enhance export capacity in four promising sectors - leather, jute, agro-processing, and pharmaceuticals.

The committee's first meeting is expected soon, and discussions are likely to be expanded to include light engineering and IT/ITES as well. In parallel, the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) is drafting a new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Incentive Policy.

He says that the government has already informed them that these facilities will end after November 2026.

"We want the government to consider the jute sector as part of agro-processing and provide it with the same kinds of facilities," he adds. Pramanik points out that the jute factories now pay 13-14-percent interest on loans whereas farm loans should not exceed 2.0 per cent as a farm sector.

The sector, he feels, will need tax rebates, electricity subsidies, and measures to boost raw-jute production by supporting farmers.

- inter-ministerial committee formed
- Committee to work on enhancing export capacity
- BIDA drafting new FDI incentive policy

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The Financial Express

03 SEP 2025



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The committee's first meeting is expected soon, and discussions are likely to be expanded to include light engineering and IT/ITES as well. In parallel, the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) is drafting a new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Incentive Policy.

The policy will outline non-cash incentives for investors, particularly in specialised economic zones, which the Finance Division considers crucial to attracting both domestic and foreign investment into emerging industries, the proposals read.

Tax-related proposals, such as rebates and exemptions, will be reviewed and implemented by the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

The NBR would explore sector-specific tax breaks to ensure smooth graduation without disrupting export earnings.

Professor Dr Mohammad Safiqul Islam, chairman of the Department of Economics at Jahangirnagar University, says the transition package is vital as Bangladesh's export base is still heavily dependent on readymade garments, which account for over 82 per cent of earnings.

Without diversification, the economy risks external shocks in the post-LDC era.

By promoting pharmaceuticals, ICT, agro-processing and light engineering alongside traditional sectors, the country should build resilience and expand market access globally, he told The Financial Express.

"While Bangladesh prepares to phase out cash subsidies as per international rules, it should simultaneously work on a comprehensive mix of tax incentives, duty relief, and investment-friendly policies to cushion the transition," the economics professor suggests.

He says if it takes a few more years to cope, the government should delay the graduation in that case.

Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association (BJS) chairman Tapas Pramanik says the sector currently receives 3.0-per cent cash support for yarn, 5.0 per cent for hessian, sacking, fabrics, and 10 per cent for food-grade yarn, food-grade jute bags, and other diversified products.

He says that the government has already informed them that these facilities will end after November 2026.

"We want the government to consider the jute sector as part of agro-processing and provide it with the same kinds of facilities," he adds. Pramanik points out that the jute factories now pay 13-14-per cent interest on loans whereas farm loans should not exceed 2.0 per cent as a farm sector.

The sector, he feels, will need tax rebates, electricity subsidies, and measures to boost raw-jute production by supporting farmers. Meanwhile, the country's top trade organisations have asked the government to request a three- to five-year delay in Bangladesh's graduation from the world's poor-country club (LDCs).

They alert that important sectors like garments and pharmaceuticals could face problems if the transition happens too soon.

According to them, Bangladesh still needs more preparation before moving into the developing-country category.

If the change is made too early, it could hurt exports and raise the cost of foreign borrowing. The comments have come at a press conference titled 'LDC Graduation: Challenges Ahead', organised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh along with 15 major trade bodies and chambers in the country.

Md Mahbubur Rahman, president of ICC Bangladesh, says businesses and trade bodies fully support the graduation. But, he stresses the need for a three-to-five-year extension of the cusp of transition.

Bangladesh is set to graduate in November 2026, as it has already met all three UN requirements--Gross National Income, Human Assets Index, and Economic Vulnerability Index--in two consecutive reviews.

Business leaders have called the achievement a "matter of national pride" but warn that the process must be carefully handled.

Citing examples, Mahbubur Rahman says that the Maldives had delayed its graduation for eight years, and Botswana had taken 20 years. Similarly, Vanuatu, Angola, Myanmar and Bhutan also postponed their transitions.

Bangladesh, he adds, can learn from their experiences to ensure a smoother shift.

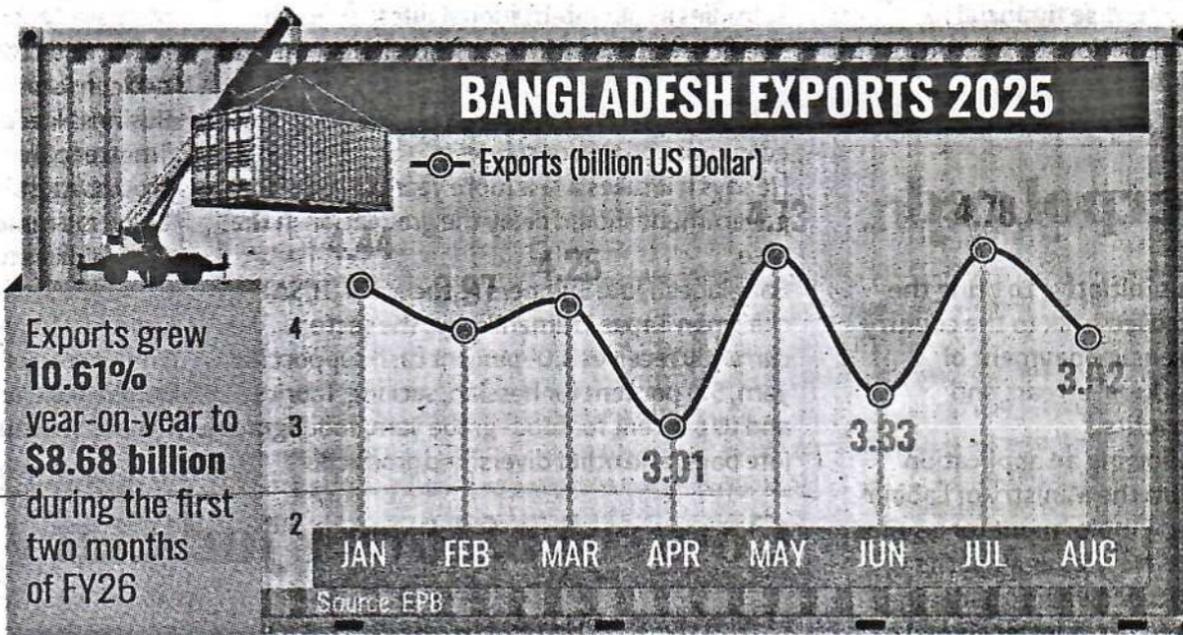
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Export earnings slip 2.93pc in August

Exporters blame EU slowdown, early US shipments for weaker performance

FE REPORT

Bangladesh's merchandise exports fell 2.93 per cent year on year (YoY) to US\$3.91 billion in August 2025, down from \$4.03 billion in August last year, signalling early signs of strain, according to data released Tuesday by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). The monthly decline came despite a strong start to the fiscal year (FY), with exports posting robust double-digit growth of around 25 per cent in July 2025, when earnings reached \$4.77 billion. Overall, exports grew 10.61 per cent year-on-year to \$8.68 billion during the first two months of FY26.



Exports grew 10.61% year-on-year to \$8.68 billion during the first two months of FY26

According to EPB data, readymade garments (RMG) accounted for \$3.16 billion of August's total earnings, down 4.75 per cent compared to August 2024. Within the RMG segment, knitwear exports fell 6.34 per cent to \$1.77 billion, while woven garments decreased 2.65 per cent to \$1.39 billion. Despite the monthly decline, the RMG sector still recorded a 9.63 per cent year-on-year

growth during July-August FY26, earning \$7.13 billion, up from \$6.50 billion in the same period last year. EPB noted that while the strong performance in July reflects resilience, the slowdown in August highlights challenges for Bangladesh's export sector amid fluctuating global demand and evolving market dynamics. Fazlee Shamim Eshan,

executive director of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said the August 2024 comparison may have influenced the apparent decline, as many factories were closed for at least 10 days that year. He added that factory closures in Ashulia during August and September 2025 also contributed to slower earnings last month. "We

had fewer work orders, especially from the European Union." Exporters also cited advanced shipments in July to avoid potential higher US tariffs under the Trump administration, which impacted August's performance. Other sectors showed mixed results. Home textile exports rose 12.68 per cent during July-August to \$139.02 million. Leather and leather products earned \$228.76 million, up 13.68 per cent year-on-year, though leather footwear exports fell 11.18 per cent in August, reflecting pricing and competitiveness challenges in international markets. The agricultural sector saw a 3.96 per cent growth, with vegetable exports surging 58.13 per cent to \$174.67 million during the first two months of the fiscal year. Jute and jute goods exports

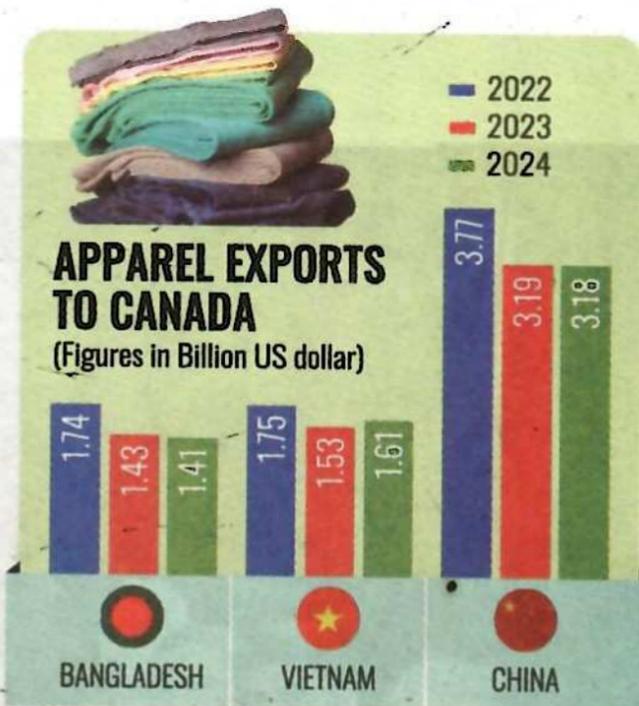


rose 6.96 per cent to \$118.56 million, while frozen and live fish exports jumped 32.45 per cent to \$81.55 million. Pharmaceutical exports also grew strongly, up 26.12 per cent to \$36.46 million.
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Weak demand keeps RMG exports to Canada stagnant

MONIRA MUNNI

Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) exports to Canada remained almost stagnant during the last couple of years, while Vietnam became the second largest apparel supplier to the North American country, surpassing Bangladesh. Data from the International Trade Centre's (ITC) Trade Map shows Bangladesh shipped clothes worth \$1.41 billion to Canada in 2024, which was \$1.43 billion in 2023. Garment exports to Canada reached \$1.74 billion in 2022, when Vietnam surpassed Bangladesh with \$1.75 billion in earnings. Vietnam shipped \$1.61 billion worth of apparel to Canada in 2024 and \$1.53 billion in 2023. China remained the top exporter to Canada, fetching \$3.18 billion in 2024, down from \$3.19 billion in 2023 and \$3.77 billion in 2022. Vietnam became the second largest exporter to Canada in 2022 mainly because of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). The agreement allows Vietnamese goods duty-free access to the Canadian market. Economists and exporters say Canada, where Bangladeshi shipments have the potential to increase, could also face stiff competition, especially in the new US tariff regime. India, Vietnam, and Cambodia will enhance their focus on the Canadian market further, they say. On the other hand, Bangladeshi apparel exports to Canada may suffer a setback as garments currently enjoying duty benefits are likely to face 17-19 per cent duty after graduating from the least developed country (LDC) status in November 2026, they add. Faruque Hassan, former president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), says the Canadian



currency's devaluation against the US dollar made imports costly for the North American country. This resulted in sluggish demand, which made Bangladeshi garment export growth stagnant there, he says. Though Canada is not a big market, Bangladesh has the potential to increase its market share there, Faruque adds. He also says the government should provide policy support and alternative incentives, such as reduced bank interest rates, as well as funds for technology upgradation and machinery purchase, to offset the LDC graduation challenges. SM Khaled, managing director of Snowtex Apparels, says exports to Canada are not increasing due to a number of factors, including the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, and the latest US tariffs.

He says some shipments used to go to the US through Canada, and the process is now facing difficulties due to the US tariffs, while demand from Canada is not increasing either. Shah Rayeed Chowdhury, a BGMEA director, says Bangladesh's reputation as a basic garment item producer and cheap hub is a major barrier to getting into Canada's premium apparel basket. Though Bangladesh produces high value-added items, buyers source those from Cambodia, he says. Rayeed, who exports garments to Canada, stresses the need to change the perception of buyers and grow their confidence by exchanging missions, as well as organising fairs and dialogues. Terming Canada a stable market, he says despite the current tariff issues, Canadian buyers are placing orders in Bangladesh. Dr Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), tells The Financial Express China's exports to Canada are falling, while Bangladesh became the third largest exporter there after Vietnam signed the CPTPP and achieved duty benefits. He says Bangladesh could grab the shifting work orders from China, but this could be challenging mostly due to the new US tariffs. Bangladesh may get a three-year transition period and enjoy duty benefits until 2029 after graduation, he also says. "Bangladesh will come under significant pressure as India, after the high US tariff imposition, will try to increase its exports to Canada and even in the European Union (EU) and the UK. "India has signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK. Bangladesh should keep an eye on the EU, the UK, and Canada," he adds.

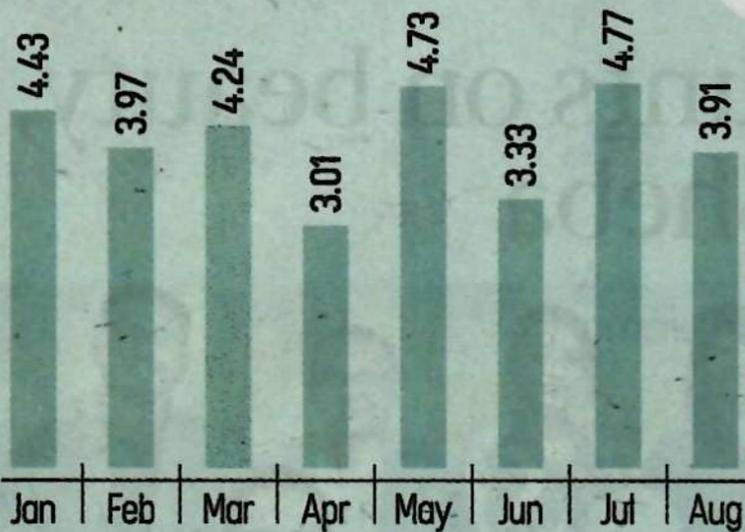
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U 3 SEP 2025

Hit by US tariff uncertainty, exports slip 3% in Aug

Exports over the months
(In billions of \$)



SOURCE: EPB



REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh's export earnings witnessed a slight dip in August as garment shipments to the United States, its largest market, slowed under a new tariff regime introduced by the Trump administration.

According to latest data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), merchandise exports fell by 3 percent year-on-year to \$3.91 billion in August.

The overall picture for the fiscal year's first two months, however, remains stronger. In July-August, total exports rose by 11 percent from a year earlier to \$8.68 billion.

Garments, which account for more than four-fifths of national export earnings, dragged down the performance. Apparel shipments fell by 4.5 percent year-on-year to \$7.13 billion during the two-month period. Within this, knitwear exports dropped 6.34 percent to \$3.94 billion, while woven garments fell 2.65 percent to \$3.18 billion, EPB figures show.

The weakness followed earlier declines. In June, garment exports fell 6.31 percent,

contributing to a 7.55 percent overall drop in shipments that month. By contrast, July brought strong growth, when exports reached a 32-month high with garment exports up 24.7 percent and total exports up 24.9 percent.

The volatility in the apparel sector stems from adjustment to the new US tariff structure. In April, the Trump administration imposed a 37 percent tariff on Bangladeshi garments, later revised to 20 percent after lengthy negotiations.

Exporters said the uncertainty during the negotiation period prompted many American buyers to adopt a wait-and-see approach until early August. The disruption compounded the seasonal slowdown during the long Eid holiday, when factories paused production and shipments.

The US is the single largest export destination for Bangladesh and the local exporters ship more than \$8.2 billion worth of garment to the American markets in a year.

Exporters are hopeful that the garment export will grow to the USA under the favourable duty structure compared with the

competing countries such as India and China, which face a 50 percent and 30 percent, reciprocal tariffs, respectively.

"Exporters had front-loaded shipments earlier at the previous 10 percent baseline tariff, which helped boost July's figures" said Md Shehab Udduza Chowdhury, vice-president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). In August, the uncertainty led to a slowdown.

"However, international retailers and brands, especially from the US, are now returning with a good volume of work orders after the tariff rates were finalised by the Trump administration," he added. "It is expected that garment shipments will rebound soon."

Meanwhile, several other sectors performed better in July-August. Exports of jute and jute goods, cotton products, home textiles, frozen fish, agricultural produce and plastics all grew.

"Particularly, jute and jute goods have made a good recovery, logging nearly a 9 percent increase, breaking a continuous trend of decline.

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Industry insiders attribute the growth to diversified products.

"Jute in particular benefited from growing global demand for natural fibre alternatives to plastic bags. The responses from the international buyers are also positive as they are adopting the natural fibre bag jute products instead of plastic goods," said Md Abul Hossain, chairman of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Association.

Shipment of leather and leather goods and ceramic sectors did not perform well in August.



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Shipment of leather and leather goods and ceramic sectors did not perform well in August.

According to EPB data, leather and leather goods recorded a 1.55 percent year-on-year decline last month. During the July-August period, however, the sector logged over 13 percent growth.

Ceramics, meanwhile, recorded a steep 18.97 percent decline in August. Rubber logged over 58 percent growth to reach \$4.39 million.

The Business Standard

03 SEP 2025

Import ban on Bangladeshi RMG triggers supply crunch in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Leading international clothing retailers in India, including Marks & Spencer, H&M, Zudio, and Lifestyle, are facing supply shortages amid a prolonged restriction on imports of readymade garments from Bangladesh through land ports, The Economic Times reported yesterday.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) of India issued a notification on May 17 banning garment imports from Bangladesh via land routes. Imports are now allowed only through the Kolkata and Nhava Sheva seaports, causing significant disruptions in the supply chain.

The move has led to delays of two to three weeks in merchandise sourcing, especially in lower-price categories. As a result, several Indian retailers such as Lifestyle, Reliance, and Aditya Birla have started shifting part of their production domestically.

"While we have shifted some of our sourcing within the country, there are a few categories that we import from Bangladesh, which have been delayed due to the decision," said Devarajan Iyer, chief executive officer of Lifestyle International. Smaller retailers and grey-market operators, who rely heavily on low-priced products and faster deliveries, are bearing the brunt of the import ban.

"The cost of importing garments from Bangladesh could rise by 3 to 5 percent due to higher transportation costs through seaports. However, the impact will not be immediate as many retailers had secured contracts months in advance," said Rahul Mehta, chief mentor of the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India.



Export earning dips 2.93%

EXPORTS - BANGLADESH

TBS REPORT

Bangladesh's export earnings fell 2.93% year-on-year in August 2025, standing at \$3.92 billion compared to \$4.03 billion in the same month last year, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). The decline comes despite a strong overall performance in the opening months of the fiscal year.

Total export earnings in July-August of the current 2025-26 fiscal year reached \$8.69 billion, up 10.61% from the same period of the previous fiscal year.

The country saw record \$4.77b exports in July, up nearly 25% YoY, hitting an all-time monthly high at \$4.77 billion.

Exporters and experts say US buyers rushed July purchases fearing a tariff hike, boosting July exports but slowing August. Lower demand in key markets also contributed, though exports are expected to rise in the coming months.

Sheikh Mustafiz, director of the

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), told TBS that the 20% US tariff on Bangladesh, which was reduced from 35% through negotiations, took effect in August. However, fearing the initial higher tariff imposed by the Trump administration, many US buyers asked for shipments in July.

This caused goods that would normally have been exported in August to be counted in July, resulting in 25% growth that month, which impacted August, he said.

Mustafiz added that inflation in the US, Canada, and other markets has also lowered consumer demand, contributing to the decline. However, he expects exports to rise in the coming months.

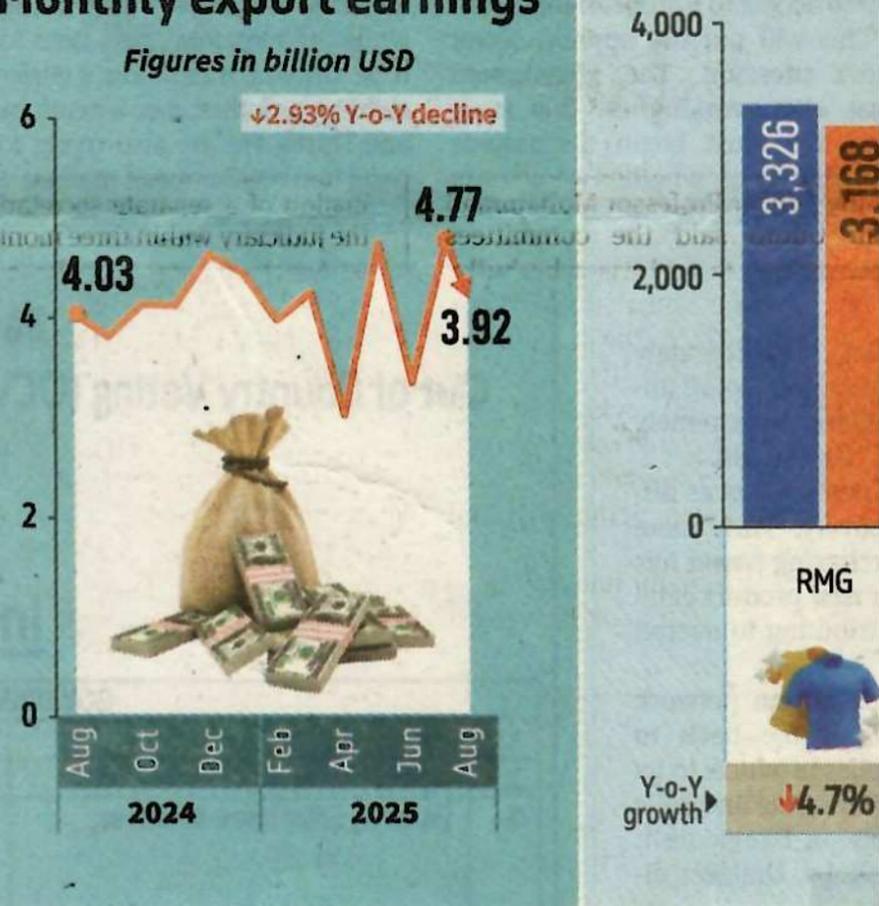
Anwar Hossain, former vice chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), also echoed this view. He said, "Fearing the increased tariff, many US buyers requested shipments early in July, which led to lower exports in August."

Mohammad Hatem, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters

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Monthly export earnings

Figures in billion USD



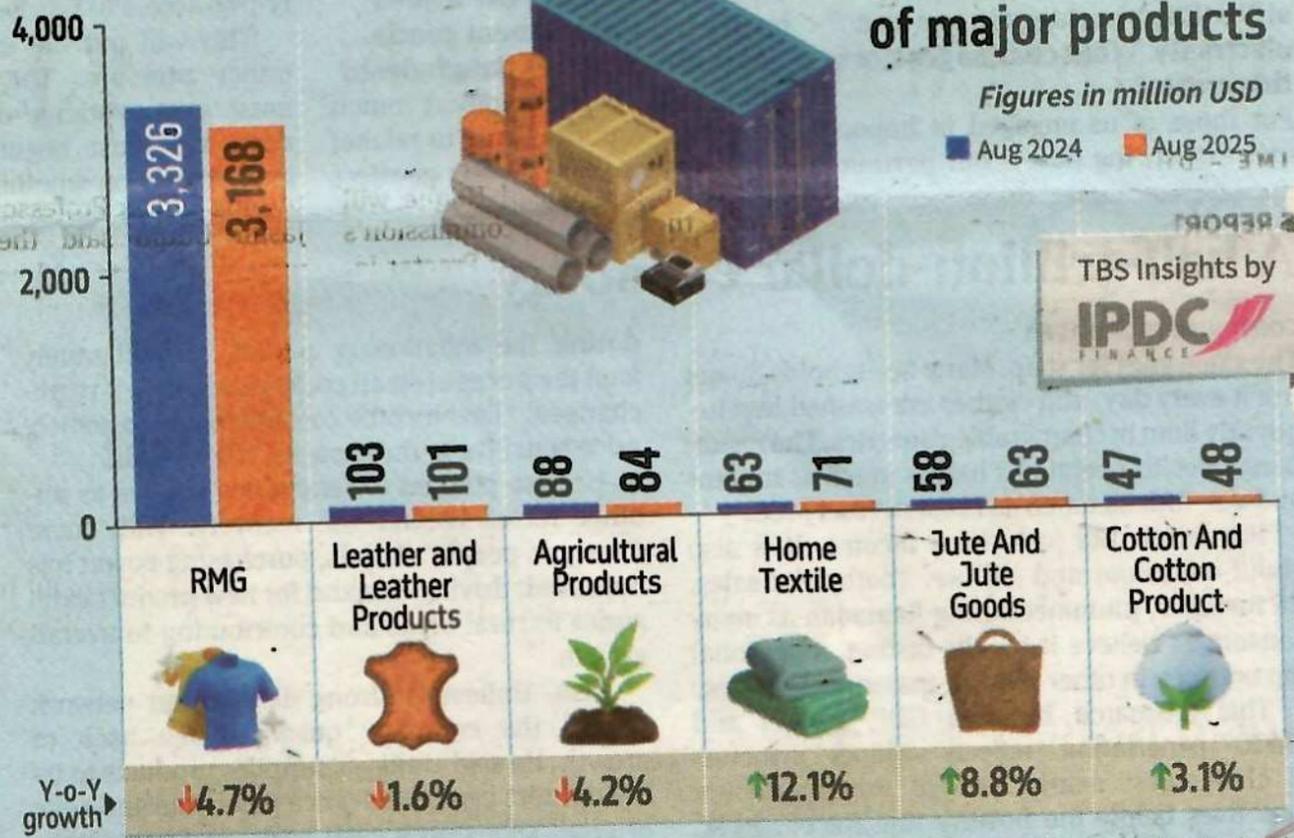
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Exports dip 2.93% in August

Export earnings



Export performance of major products



Source: Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)

Association (BKMEA), made a similar observation.

EPB's statistical analysis confirms this trend. Combined exports for July and August grew by around 11%, which is encouraging. The US, as a single market, is Bangladesh's largest export destination, accounting for about 18% of total exports.

According to EPB data, ready-

made garment exports in August fell nearly 5% compared to the same period last year. Agricultural products declined by 4%, and leather and leather goods fell by 1.55% year-on-year.

On the other hand, some sectors saw growth during the same period: frozen and live fish rose 23%, plastic goods 2%, jute and jute products 9%, and home textiles 12%.

