

# সম্ভাবনা সীমিত, তবু বাণিজ্যিক সম্পর্ক জোরদার করার চেষ্টা

দুই দেশের মধ্যে বাণিজ্য ঘাটতিকে বড় করে দেখছেন ব্যবসায়ীসহ অর্থনীতিবিদরা। পাকিস্তানের কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের বরাত দিয়ে দেশটির পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে বলা আছে, ২০২৩ সালে পাকিস্তান বাংলাদেশে ৬৫০ মিলিয়ন ডলারের বেশি অঙ্কের পণ্য রপ্তানি করেছে। আর এ সময় বাংলাদেশ থেকে তারা আমদানি করেছে ৬৩ মিলিয়ন ডলারের পণ্য



পাকিস্তানের সঙ্গে বাংলাদেশের দ্বিপাক্ষীয় বাণিজ্যের খুব বেশি সম্ভাবনা নেই। তার অন্যতম কারণ বাংলাদেশ ও পাকিস্তানের মধ্যে সরাসরি পরিবহন সংযোগের অভাব। তবে পাকিস্তানের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ দূর হলে হয়তো বাণিজ্য ঘাটতি কমিয়ে আনার সুযোগ তৈরি হবে

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সীমাবদ্ধতা এবং অভিন্ন রপ্তানি কাঠামোর কারণে বাংলাদেশ-পাকিস্তান বাণিজ্য সম্পর্কের সম্ভাবনা সীমিতই থেকে যাচ্ছে বলেও জানান তারা। এ ছাড়া বিনিয়োগ সহযোগিতা ও নির্দিষ্ট কাঁচামাল খাতেই রয়েছে সম্ভাবনার প্রধান কেন্দ্রবিন্দু। বাণিজ্য উপদেষ্টা শেখ বশিরউদ্দীন সম্প্রতি সাংবাদিকদের জানিয়েছেন, বাংলাদেশ প্রতি বছর ৮০ বিলিয়ন ডলার আমদানি করে, যার মধ্যে ১৫ বিলিয়ন ডলারের খাদ্য ও মধ্যবর্তী পণ্য। বাংলাদেশ ও পাকিস্তানের মধ্যে এসব পণ্য বাণিজ্য বাড়ানোর সুযোগ আছে। আর সেটা খতিয়ে দেখার জন্য যৌথ অর্থনৈতিক কমিশন বা জেইসি গঠন করা হচ্ছে।

গত বৃহস্পতিবার বাণিজ্য উপদেষ্টা শেখ বশিরউদ্দীন ও বাণিজ্য সচিব মাহবুবুর রহমানের সঙ্গে পাকিস্তানের বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী জাম কামাল খানের বৈঠকে এ বিষয়ে আলোচনা হয়েছে। বৈঠকে বাংলাদেশের রপ্তানি পণ্য হাইড্রোজেন পারঅক্সাইডের ওপর পাকিস্তানের আরোপিত অ্যান্টি-ডাম্পিং শুল্ক প্রত্যাহারের বিষয়েও আলোচনা হয়। এ বিষয়ে পাকিস্তান ইতিবাচক মনোভাব দেখিয়েছে বলে জানান বাংলাদেশের বাণিজ্য উপদেষ্টা। দুই দেশের মধ্যে বাণিজ্য ব্যবধান কমাতে আগের মতো পাকিস্তানে ১ কোটি কেজি চা শুল্ক ও কোটামুক্ত রপ্তানি এবং আনারসসহ বিভিন্ন ফল রপ্তানির সুযোগ চেয়েছে বাংলাদেশ। সেইসঙ্গে পাকিস্তানের চামড়া ও চিনি শিল্প নিয়েও আলোচনা করার কথা জানান তিনি। কারণ এ দুই শিল্পে পাকিস্তান বেশ এগিয়ে রয়েছে। পাকিস্তানের ব্যবসায়ীদের সংগঠন পাকিস্তান বিজনেস কাউন্সিলের তথ্যানুযায়ী, পাকিস্তান থেকে বাংলাদেশে যেসব পণ্য রপ্তানি হয় তার একটি বড় অংশই হলো সুতা। এ ছাড়া লবণ, সালফার, বিভিন্ন রকম পাথর ও সিমেন্ট, সবজি ও ফল, চামড়া, বিভিন্ন ধরনের যন্ত্রাংশ, রাসায়নিক দ্রব্য, রং জাতীয় পণ্য আসে। আর বাংলাদেশ থেকে যেসব পণ্য পাকিস্তানে যায় তার মধ্যে রয়েছে পাট ও টেক্সটাইল পণ্য, কাগজ, মেডিকেল পণ্য।

জানতে চাইলে বাংলাদেশ নিটওয়ার ম্যানুফ্যাকচারার্স অ্যান্ড এক্সপোর্টার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের (বিকেএমইএ) নির্বাহী সভাপতি ফজলে শামীম এহসান কালবেলাকে বলেন, ‘পাকিস্তানের সঙ্গে বাংলাদেশের দ্বিপাক্ষীয় বাণিজ্যের খুব বেশি সম্ভাবনা নেই। তার অন্যতম কারণ হলো বাংলাদেশ ও পাকিস্তানের মধ্যে সরাসরি পরিবহন সংযোগের অভাব। তবে পাকিস্তানের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ দূর হলে, হয়তো বাণিজ্য ঘাটতি কমিয়ে আনার সুযোগ তৈরি হবে। সেক্ষেত্রে আমরাও ধারণা নিতে পারব আমরা কী ধরনের পণ্য আমদানি বা রপ্তানি করতে পারি।

## বাংলাদেশ-পাকিস্তান

### কালবেলা প্রতিবেদক »

দীর্ঘদিন বাংলাদেশ-পাকিস্তান সম্পর্কে শিথিলতার কারণে বাণিজ্য নিয়ে কোনো ধরনের কার্যকর আলোচনাই হয়নি। বর্তমান অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন সরকার দায়িত্ব নেওয়ার পর আবার বাংলাদেশ-পাকিস্তান সম্পর্ক স্বাভাবিক হতে চলেছে। এরই মধ্যে পাকিস্তানের উপপ্রধানমন্ত্রী ও বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সফর করে গেছেন। এতে বাংলাদেশ-পাকিস্তান দ্বিপাক্ষীয় বাণিজ্যে নতুন নতুন খাত তৈরি হচ্ছে।

তবে দেশের অর্থনীতিবিদসহ সংশ্লিষ্টরা বলছেন, সম্ভাবনা সীমিত, তবু বাংলাদেশ ও পাকিস্তান তাদের বাণিজ্যিক সম্পর্ক জোরদার করার চেষ্টা করছে। তারা আরও বলছেন, এ সম্পর্ক খুব বড় সম্ভাবনাময় নয় এবং দুই দেশের রপ্তানির ধরন কাছাকাছি হওয়ায় একে অন্যর সঙ্গে তীব্র প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতার মুখে পড়তে হতে পারে। বাংলাদেশ ও পাকিস্তানের মধ্যে বাণিজ্য ঘাটতিও একটি বড় সমস্যা। তবে নতুন সম্পর্ক জোরদার হলে দেশটির সঙ্গে বড় বাণিজ্য ঘাটতি কমিয়ে আনার সুযোগ তৈরি হবে বলেও মনে করেন তারা।

এরই মধ্যে জাহাজ শিল্প নিয়ে আগ্রহ প্রকাশ করেছেন পাকিস্তানের বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী। এ ছাড়া দেশের শীর্ষ ব্যবসায়ী সংগঠন এফবিসিসিআইর সঙ্গে আলোচনায় পর্যটন, সংস্কৃতি, জাহাজ নির্মাণ, কনস্ট্রাকশন ও তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি খাতে ব্যবসা সম্প্রসারণের সুযোগ রয়েছে বলে জানিয়েছেন পাকিস্তানের বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী জামাল খান।

বিশ্লেষকরা বলছেন, দীর্ঘ দেড় দশক পর বাংলাদেশ ও পাকিস্তানের মধ্যে বাণিজ্যিক সম্পর্ক কিছুটা পুনরুজ্জীবিত হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা দেখা দিয়েছে। যদিও দুই দেশের মধ্যে বাণিজ্য ঘাটতিকে বড় করে দেখছেন তারা। পাকিস্তানের কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের বরাত দিয়ে দেশটির পররাষ্ট্র

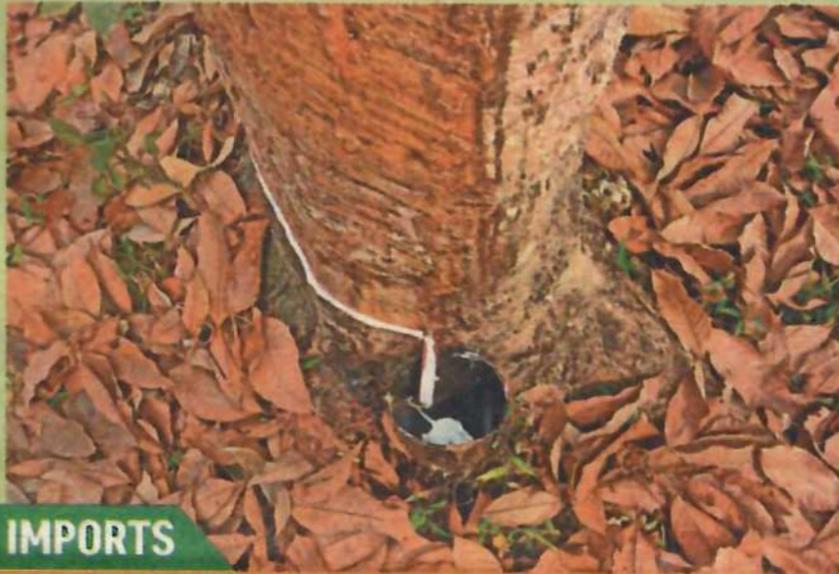
মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে বলা আছে, ২০২৩ সালে পাকিস্তান বাংলাদেশে ৬৫০ মিলিয়ন ডলারের বেশি অঙ্কের পণ্য রপ্তানি করেছে। আর এ সময় বাংলাদেশ থেকে তারা আমদানি করেছে ৬৩ মিলিয়ন ডলারের পণ্য। এ বিষয়ে ব্যবসায়ীদের সংগঠন চিটাগাং চেম্বারের প্রশাসক মুহাম্মদ আনোয়ার পাশা সম্প্রতি একটি অনুষ্ঠানে বলেছেন, দুদেশের মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য বাণিজ্য সম্পর্ক থাকলেও পাকিস্তান থেকে ৭০০ মিলিয়ন ডলারের অধিক আমদানির বিপরীতে বাংলাদেশ থেকে রপ্তানি মাত্র ৫৮ মিলিয়ন ডলার।

জানতে চাইলে বিশ্বব্যাংকের ঢাকা অফিসের সাবেক প্রধান-অর্থনীতিবিদ ড. জাহিদ হোসেন কালবেলাকে বলেন, ‘পাকিস্তানের সঙ্গে বাংলাদেশের দ্বিপাক্ষীয় বাণিজ্য তৈরির সম্ভাবনা খুবই সীমিত।’ কারণ, হিসেবে এ অর্থনীতিবিদ বলেন, বাংলাদেশ ও পাকিস্তানের অর্থনৈতিক কাঠামো প্রায় একই। তবে দীর্ঘদিন পর কূটনৈতিকভাবে দুদেশের সম্পর্কে কিছুটা উষ্ণতা তৈরি হচ্ছে। আর এ সম্পর্ক জোরদার করে দ্বিপাক্ষীয় বাণিজ্য নিয়ে সমঝোতা চুক্তি (এমইউ) করলে বিষয়টি আরও পরিষ্কার হবে।’

অর্থনীতিবিদরা বলছেন, বাংলাদেশ বিশ্বের তৈরি পোশাক রপ্তানিকারক দেশগুলোর অন্যতম। আর পোশাক শিল্পের জন্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কাঁচামাল, তুলা ও সুতার উৎস পাকিস্তান। ফলে পাকিস্তান থেকে এসব কাঁচামাল তুলনামূলকভাবে কম খরচে আনতে পারে বাংলাদেশ। আবার পাকিস্তানের বাজারে বাংলাদেশের তৈরি পোশাকের চাহিদা আছে। এ পারস্পরিক চাহিদা কাজে লাগানো গেলে বাণিজ্যে নতুন দিগন্ত উন্মোচিত হতে পারে। এ ছাড়া পাকিস্তানের সঙ্গে বাণিজ্য সম্পর্কের বড় সুবিধা হলো বাংলাদেশ বর্তমানে পাকিস্তান থেকে টেক্সটাইল, সুতা ইত্যাদি কাঁচামাল আমদানি করছে, যেগুলো আমাদের রপ্তানিমুখী শিল্পের জন্য প্রয়োজন। তবে পরিবহন



# Rubber imports rose 33% last fiscal year



## IMPORTS

Bangladesh imported **6,765** tonnes in FY23

Imports fell **53%** to 3,165 tonnes in FY24

Imports rebounded **33%** to **4,199** tonnes in FY25

Shortages push manufacturers to import from Indonesia, Thailand and other countries

## Local production

- Rubber plantations cover **147,333** acres, producing **70,357** tonnes annually
- Local rubber supply has fallen sharply, forcing more imports

## Industry impact

Production delays and rising costs worry industries

SUKANTA HALDER and JAGARAN CHAKMA

Bangladesh's rubber imports surged by 33 percent year-on-year in the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25), as local industries faced shortages due to supply disruptions from domestic producers.

The country imported 4,199 tonnes of rubber worth Tk 107.54 crore in FY25, compared with 3,165 tonnes a year earlier, according to Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC) data. FY2023-24 had recorded a sharp 53 percent decline in imports, following 6,765 tonnes in FY2022-23.

### PRODUCTION, EXPORT, IMPORT

Rubber is cultivated across 147,333 acres nationwide, producing about 70,357 tonnes annually, show a BTTC report on the "Current Situation and

Export Potential of Bangladesh's Rubber Industry" submitted to the commerce secretary yesterday.

Private operators manage 1,304 gardens, accounting for two-thirds of total output, while 28 state-run gardens, mostly in the greater Chattogram region, produce the rest.

Bangladesh Rubber Board officials said they do not have the latest data on the annual demand for rubber.

Despite the large production base, manufacturers say they have not received any shipments from local suppliers in recent weeks, particularly from state-owned agencies that typically account for about one-third of output. This has forced manufacturers to seek alternatives from abroad, primarily from Indonesia, and Thailand.

"For the past month, they haven't

been able to supply a single tonne of rubber locally," said Md Luthful Bari, chief operating officer of Meghna Rubber Industries Ltd, one of the largest rubber consumers. "The current shortage has created serious disruption in our supply chain."

Shafiqur Rahman, managing director of Rupsha Tyres & Chemicals Limited, alleged that the Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC), which distributes rubber from government plantations, lacks a clear and transparent supply policy.

"We are being forced to import rubber to keep our factory running, which increases costs and deepens dependence on foreign suppliers," he said.

While import is helping bridge

the supply gap, it is also driving up costs and threatening production efficiency.

Rubber is a vital raw material for Bangladesh's tyre, footwear, automotive parts, and household goods industries. Manufacturers caution that prolonged reliance on imports could undermine production efficiency and slow down industrial growth.

According to BTTC, Bangladesh exported rubber worth over \$7.5 million (over Tk 91 crore) as of May 31 in FY25. The figure is extensively higher than the \$2.28 million in FY24 and \$2.30 million in FY23. India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Malaysia are Bangladesh's primary export market for the item

for managing rubber exports in an efficient and sustainable manner.

BFIDC Chairman Nasir Uddin Ahmed could not be reached for comment in this regard.

### CULTIVATION CHALLENGES

The BTTC report identified several structural problems in rubber cultivations, including lack of modern tools, laboratories, and research for skill development.

It also highlighted insufficient incentives for small and marginal farmers, inadequate tariff protection for domestic producers, a 15 percent value-added tax (VAT) at the primary marketing stage, natural disruptions, absence of high-yield rubber varieties, and limited research on intercropping

sheets themselves.

For non-tire rubber products, such as rubber threads, conveyor belts, gaskets, washers, rubber bearings, and other vulcanised items, import duties could be increased if they are produced domestically with high quality.

It also recommended importing high-yield rubber clones through the Bangladesh Rubber Board and distributing them to plantation owners at subsidised rates.

The commission further suggested granting time-bound exemption from the 15 percent VAT on primary rubber products. Additionally, supporting research into intercropping methods to boost land productivity.

The report also noted that most

Bangladesh's rubber imports surged by 33 percent year-on-year in the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25), as local industries faced shortages due to supply disruptions from domestic producers.

The country imported 4,199 tonnes of rubber worth Tk 107.54 crore in FY25, compared with 3,165 tonnes a year earlier, according to Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC) data. FY2023-24 had recorded a sharp 53 percent decline in imports, following 6,765 tonnes in FY2022-23.

**PRODUCTION, EXPORT, IMPORT**

Rubber is cultivated across 147,333 acres nationwide, producing about 70,357 tonnes annually, show a BTTC report on the "Current Situation and

Export Potential of Bangladesh's Rubber Industry" submitted to the commerce secretary yesterday.

Private operators manage 1,304 gardens, accounting for two-thirds of total output, while 28 state-run gardens, mostly in the greater Chattogram region, produce the rest.

Bangladesh Rubber Board officials said they do not have the latest data on the annual demand for rubber.

Despite the large production base, manufacturers say they have not received any shipments from local suppliers in recent weeks, particularly from state-owned agencies that typically account for about one-third of output. This has forced manufacturers to seek alternatives from abroad, primarily from Indonesia, and Thailand.

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Manufacturers say this is hurting the local industry.

"We're not against exports, but there has to be a balance. The domestic industry should come first," said Megha Group's Bari.

He warned that continued export in the face of local scarcity would hurt Bangladesh's competitiveness, especially in price-sensitive markets.

Moreover, Rahman criticised the absence of a strategic framework

for managing rubber exports in an efficient and sustainable manner.

BFIDC Chairman Nasir Uddin Ahmed could not be reached for comment in this regard.

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It also highlighted insufficient incentives for small and marginal farmers, inadequate tariff protection for domestic producers, a 15 percent value-added tax (VAT) at the primary marketing stage, natural disruptions, absence of high-yield rubber varieties, and limited research on intercropping rubber with suitable crops.

#### POLICY SUGGESTIONS

The BTTC recommended several measures to strengthen the sector, including raising import duties on raw rubber from 10 percent to 15 percent.

It suggested that to encourage domestic production and industrial development, import duties on rubber sheets should be structured so that products made from these sheets face higher duties than the

sheets themselves.

For non-tire rubber products, such as rubber threads, conveyor belts, gaskets, washers, rubber bearings, and other vulcanised items, import duties could be increased if they are produced domestically with high quality.

It also recommended importing high-yield rubber clones through the Bangladesh Rubber Board and distributing them to plantation owners at subsidised rates.

The commission further suggested granting time-bound exemption from the 15 percent VAT on primary rubber products. Additionally, supporting research into intercropping methods to boost land productivity.

The report also noted that most of the country's rubber demand is currently met through local production, and increasing protective measures could help Bangladesh achieve self-sufficiency in rubber cultivation.

About 60 percent of domestic demand is still met by local production, while 40 percent comes from imports, according to Mohammad Kamal Uddin, who is the president of the Bangladesh Rubber Garden Owners' Association.



# Ismartu Tech to make DrKumo tablets for US export

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Ismartu Technology BD Limited, the local manufacturer of Chinese brands Iteel, Tecno, and Infinix, has secured regulatory approval to make tablets under the US-based DrKumo brand exclusively for export to the American market.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) recently approved the plan at a commission meeting, allowing Ismartu to assemble the devices under the Original Design Manufacturer (ODM) model.

The approval explicitly states that the tablets will not be sold in Bangladesh, making this the first instance of a local company being permitted to manufacture a foreign-branded device solely for export, according to the BTRC document seen by The Daily Star.

**IPDC ডিজিটাল | ১৬৫১৯**

Md Emdad ul Bari, chairman of BTRC, also confirmed the matter. "We have decided to grant the company approval to manufacture tablets for export as per the guideline," he said.

Under the ODM model, local producers manufacture devices according to a foreign company's design and specifications. The products are branded by the foreign firm and usually exported, enabling cost-effective production and integration into global value chains.

Ismartu applied earlier this year, outlining plans to work with California-based DrKumo, which specialises in digital health solutions, including remote patient monitoring and telemedicine.

According to BTRC documents, DrKumo will supply the technical specifications, while Ismartu will assemble the tablets at its local facilities using printed circuit boards imported from Transsion Holdings, the same supplier for its existing Chinese brand assembly.

DrKumo will ship SIM cards from the US to be installed in

Bangladesh before the devices are packaged and sent back to America for use by its staff and clients.

The BTRC document notes that the move highlights new opportunities for Bangladesh to integrate into international supply chains.

"No company has previously been granted such approval. However, if mobile phones produced in Bangladesh are exported abroad, or if foreign-branded handsets are manufactured locally for export, it will open a new avenue for earning foreign currency while also expanding Bangladesh's footprint in global trade," it states.

incentives. The new deal with DrKumo highlights Bangladesh's potential in international contract manufacturing, a sector previously untapped.

DrKumo's decision to source production from Bangladesh was influenced by the lower cost of manufacturing compared to other markets, as well as the presence of certified local assemblers capable of meeting international quality standards, according to the BTRC document.

BTRC officials confirmed that Ismartu submitted all required documentation, including the draft agreement with DrKumo and

devices, and such production is allowed only on the condition that the entire volume is exported.

Local handset assembly has expanded significantly since 2017, following government policies to encourage investment in electronics manufacturing through tax incentives and reduced duties on raw materials.

Brands such as Samsung, Oppo, Vivo, and Xiaomi already assemble a portion of their devices in Bangladesh to serve local demand.

The latest development comes at a time when Bangladesh's handset manufacturing industry faces mounting hurdles, including sluggish



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Until now, local handset assemblers of global brands like Samsung, Oppo, Vivo, and Xiaomi have primarily catered to domestic demand, supported by government

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BTRC officials confirmed that Ismartu submitted all required documentation, including the draft agreement with DrKumo and technical specifications.

As per the commission's export guidelines, local assemblers must obtain explicit permission before producing any foreign-branded

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The latest development comes at a time when Bangladesh's handset manufacturing industry faces mounting hurdles, including sluggish consumer demand, rising production costs from a weakening taka, and higher duties that erode profits.

Ismartu Technology declined to comment on the matter.

**The Daily Star**

**26 AUG 2025**

## Bangladesh, China partner on semiconductors

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh and China have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand cooperation in the semiconductor sector.

The agreement, signed in Dhaka on Sunday between the Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association (BSIA) and the Hubei Semiconductor Industry Association (HSIA), aims to promote technology exchange, research collaboration, and workforce development.

It includes initiatives such as joint research and development projects, training programmes, certification courses, and investment opportunities to strengthen Bangladesh's semiconductor ecosystem.

The MoU also opens the door for joint events, trade delegations, and academic partnerships.

Highlighting Wuhan's strength in technology and talent, HSIA Vice-President Professor Wei Liu said, "Wuhan is home to hundreds of semiconductor companies and over 60 universities with 1.3 million students."

"Bangladesh has a huge talent pool, which creates opportunities for cooperation in technology exchange, engineer training, and academic collaboration."

He added that HSIA, representing 500 semiconductor firms, plans to bring some of them to Bangladesh to explore joint ventures and technology transfer.

BSIA President MA Jabbar expressed optimism about the collaboration, calling it "a milestone that opens doors for business growth, academic exchange, and technological advancement. This partnership will accelerate Bangladesh's progress in the global semiconductor value chain."



IMPORT OF RAW MATERIALS, EXPORT OF READYMADE GARMENTS

# BGMEA makes unit price declaration mandatory for UD certificates

MONIRA MUNNI

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) -- the apparel apex body -- has tagged new requirements mandating factories to provide the unit price of imported raw materials and readymade garments produced for export to get utilization declaration (UD) certificates aiming to ensure transparency and accurate valuation in the industry. In a circular issued on Sunday, BGMEA instructed its member factories to include the information to receive the UD certificates from the trade body from September 01.

"To sustain the competitiveness of the locally produced exportable garment items in the international market and to maintain the trust of foreign buyers, it is essential to accurately declare the unit price of imported raw materials and the corresponding exportable garments produced in BGMEA member factories," read the circular. Questions have been raised by both global buyers and local regulators, especially by the National Board of Revenue, about transparency and accurate value addition by the industry in the absence of unit price, according to the notice. In this connection, necessary measures have been taken to properly mention the unit

## UNIT PRICE DECLARATION FOR UD CERTIFICATE



**Declaration mandatory from September 1**

Declaration made mandatory for

- Transparency
- Accurate value addition



**UD CERTIFICATE**

BGMEA, BKMEA issue it to member factories

1,700-1,800 BGMEA members get it per month



RMG VALUE ADDITION (%)	
FY21	59.13
FY22	54.38
FY23	58.11
FY24	60.13
FY25	59.01

price through specific fields while applying for UD certificates, it said. A UD certificate is a key customs document authorising the use of duty-free imported raw materials for manufacturing export-oriented garments. It is required for customs clearance, export processes and trade preferences and cash incentives. Both BGMEA and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) issue UD certificates to their members against each work order, detailing exporter, importer and raw material information. According to BGMEA, some 1700 to 1800 member factories receive UD

certificates from the trade body each month against each of their work orders. When asked, BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan said that this was the first time they would collect unit price of garments while providing UD service to its members. "This is mainly to understand the exact level of retention or value addition in the sector," he said, adding that they would regularly collect the data and prepare monthly reports accordingly. Mahmud Hasan, also managing director of Rising Group, said currently they didn't have any specific data on how much value was added to a garment produced in Bangladesh and exported to the global market.

Once such data was available, they would be able to guide the BGMEA members on what kind of products they would need to produce to add more value or fetch high price, he said. "And then, we will recommend our members to focus on value addition instead of volume-based production." Meantime, value addition to Bangladesh's RMG that has fluctuated in recent years has yet to return to the pre-pandemic level, as rising cost of raw-material imports erode export gains. Exporters mainly blame the rise in raw-material imports especially that of yarn and fabric for such subdued returns, while prices of locally made garments have also declined in recent years.

Local RMG items' value addition remained almost static between 60 per cent and 64 per cent since fiscal year (FY) 2012-13 until FY2018-19, according to Bangladesh Bank data. But a data analysis shows a fluctuating trend, with a decline to 56.49 per cent in FY20 while a rise up to 59.13 per cent in FY21. The rate again dipped to 54.38 per cent in FY22 while rose to 58.11 per cent and 60.13 per cent in FY23 and FY24 respectively. In FY25, Bangladesh earned US\$39.34 billion from apparel exports-US\$ 21.15 billion from knitwear and US\$18.18 billion from woven items-while it imported raw

materials worth \$16.12 billion. Thus, the country's net value of RMG exports stood at \$23.21 billion in the last fiscal, showing a 59.01 per cent value addition. It was lower than 64.32 per cent in the pre-pandemic level in FY19. The central bank considered the main head value of the components (raw cotton, synthetic/viscose fibre, synthetic/mixed yarn, cotton yarn, textile fabrics, and accessories for garments) instead of only raw materials imported under back-to-back LCs, according to its latest

FY 2023-24. Besides, 0.62 million tonnes of woven fabrics were imported in the fiscal 2024-25 which was 16.12 per cent higher than the import of 0.54 million tonnes in 2023-24. On the other hand, yarn imports rose 13.35 per cent to 1.24 million tonnes in the fiscal 2024-25 from 1.1 million tonnes in 2023-24, according to data. Bangladesh imported 8.35 million bales of cotton in the last fiscal compared to 7.75 million bales in the previous fiscal, BTMA data showed.

Munni\_fe@yahoo.com



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The central bank considered the main head value of the components (raw cotton, synthetic/viscose fibre, synthetic/mixed yarn, cotton yarn, textile fabrics, and accessories for garments) instead of only raw materials imported under back-to-back LCs, according to its latest quarterly report.

Industry insiders say that Bangladesh is largely dependent on imported raw materials for woven garments while a majority of raw materials for knitted items are sourced from local market. Due to internal issues like gas crisis, and a cut in cash incentive for using local raw materials, import of yarn and fabric have risen in recent times, they say. According to Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), knit fabric imports increased by 32.18 per cent to 0.51 million tonnes in the last fiscal year which was 0.38 million tonnes in

FY 2023-24. Besides, 0.62 million tonnes of woven fabrics were imported in the fiscal 2024-25 which was 16.12 per cent higher than the import of 0.54 million tonnes in 2023-24. On the other hand, yarn imports rose 13.35 per cent to 1.24 million tonnes in the fiscal 2024-25 from 1.1 million tonnes in 2023-24, according to data. Bangladesh imported 8.35 million bales of cotton in the last fiscal compared to 7.75 million bales in the previous fiscal, BTMA data showed.

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The Financial Express

26 AUG 2025

# BD, China assoc's join hands to advance semiconductor industry

Bangladesh and China have taken a significant step toward advancing their cooperation in the semiconductor sector.

To this end, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association (BSIA) and the Hubei Semiconductor Industry Association (HSIA) at an official ceremony held in the city on Monday, reports BSS.

MA Jabbar, president of BSIA and Prof Wei Liu, vice-president of HSIA, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations.

Under this MoU, both associations will work together to promote knowledge sharing and advanced technology exchange, facilitate joint research and development (R&D) initiatives, develop skilled human resources through training and certification programmes, encourage cross-border investment and business partnerships, organise joint events, trade delegations and expos. The partnership aims to accelerate



MA Jabbar, president of BSIA, and Prof Wei Liu, vice-president of HSIA, signed a MoU in the city on Monday.

the growth of Bangladesh's semiconductor ecosystem, strengthen its global competitiveness and open up new opportunities for innovation and collaboration.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Prof Wei Liu, chairman of the

Academic Committee at the School of Integrated Circuits, Wuhan University, and Vice-President of HSIA, highlighted Wuhan's strength in technology and innovation. "Wuhan is known as the Optical Valley of China, home to hundreds of optical communication and

semiconductor companies. With over 60 universities and around 1.3 million students, Wuhan is a hub of innovation and talent," he said. "Bangladesh has a huge pool of talent, which creates opportunities for deep cooperation not only in technology exchange but also in engineer training and academic collaboration. HSIA has 500 semiconductor companies and we plan to bring some of these companies to Bangladesh to explore opportunities for joint ventures, technology transfer, and capacity-building initiatives," he added. MA Jabbar, president of BSIA, expressed his optimism about the collaboration.

He said: "Today's programme marks an important milestone with the signing of this MoU. This partnership opens doors for business growth, academic exchange, and technological advancement between Bangladesh and China. It will accelerate our progress in the global semiconductor value chain."

26 AUG 2025

# Energypac exports power equipment to Nepal

## FE REPORT

Energypac Engineering Ltd, a local power equipment manufacturing company, has successfully exported 63MVA 132/33kV Power Transformers and Auxiliary Substation Equipment to the Nepal Electricity Authority under a contract valued at \$2.4 million.

This marks Energypac's first export since the Covid-19 pandemic, which resumed the company's international business operations.

The leading power engineering company has already commissioned 25 substations for the Nepal Electricity Authority under different electrification projects financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank, a statement said.

To commemorate this export milestone, top officials of Energypac recently paid a courtesy call

to the Ambassador of Nepal at the Embassy of Nepal in Dhaka.

The meeting discussed the existing export-import scenario and explored opportunities to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two neighboring countries through the economy and trade.

As part of a broader month-long engagement campaign, Energypac is also hosting a series of events, including workshops, seminars, and stakeholder visits at its facilities across Dhaka. These events were attended by top officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Export Promotion Bureau, and regional utilities.

"As we aim to recommence our international operations after the Covid-19 pandemic and diversify our export market, this shipment is a turning point. It holds particular significance not

just for Energypac, but for Bangladesh's engineering sector as a whole since it demonstrates the capabilities of local companies to meet the demands of the global market," said Rabiul Alam, CEO of Energypac Engineering Ltd.

"We're proud to take Bangladeshi engineering beyond borders and into critical infrastructure projects across South Asia," he added. Prior to the pandemic, Energypac averaged \$50 million in annual exports and was recognized with multiple National Export Trophies in the Gold category for Electrical and Electronics.

This export aligns with national efforts to diversify the export of light and electrical engineering products and helps Energypac contribute meaningfully to Bangladesh's industrial growth and strengthen regional partnerships.

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26 AUG 2025

## Troubled banks unable to pay over 200 exporters, BGMEA to meet governor today for remedy

EXPORTS - BANGLADESH

REYAD HOSSAIN

One exporter warned that if not resolved, they will present issue to nation

Several troubled banks are now unable to settle back-to-back LC payments and exporters' dues,

even after export proceeds have been received, leaving exporters unable to pay wages and other expenses, and fuelling fears of looting labour unrest.

Exporters said Exim Bank and Social Islami Bank have caused most problems. Exim Bank alone handles exports for 254 garment exporters, a large portion of which have not been paid.

However, the exact amount

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Deputy Governor Md Zakir Hossain Chowdhury on Sunday. The delegation included 11 exporters struggling due to non-payment of export proceeds.

An exporter in the delegation, who exports goods worth about \$50 million through Exim Bank, told TBS on condition of anonymity, that there are 254 exporters who trade through Exim Bank alone, and almost all of them are in trouble.

"Even after the proceeds arrive, the bank is holding the money instead of paying us," he added. "We will meet the governor tomorrow [Tuesday] to seek a solution. If nothing is resolved, we will hold a press conference to present the issue to the nation."

Another major exporter, Hannan Group, which conducts a significant share of its business through Exim Bank, is also facing difficulties. The

company's managing director, ABM Shamsuddin, said they have not received any payment for their exports.

"I submitted all the export documents," he said. "But after the proceeds came in, the bank did not pay back-to-back LC dues or our share of the money."

He alleged, "They [banks] are swallowing all the dollars. Millions of my export dollars are coming into the country, but the bank is withholding them...Where is this money going? First, they cheated customers with deposits, and now they are doing the same with export proceeds."

In export transactions, importers typically open a letter of credit (LC), called a master LC, with a recognised bank in their country, favouring the exporter. Once the goods are delivered, that bank pays the exporter's bank.

In contrast, exporters in Bangladesh often take working capital from

local banks under back-to-back LCs, using the funds to purchase raw materials.

When the export proceeds arrive, the bank deducts the back-to-back LC amount and pays the remaining balance to the exporter. The bank also pays suppliers who provided raw materials on credit through the back-to-back LC.

Currently, however, troubled banks are unable to make these payments.

One affected supplier, Saleudh Zaman Khan, managing director of NZ Textile Mills, said, "For the past nine months, I have not received payment for supplying raw materials under back-to-back LCs through Exim Bank and Islami Bank. In total, about \$1 million of mine is stuck in the banks."

He added, "When I contacted the banks, they said the five troubled banks can't make payments until

after the merger. We are in trouble."

The chairman of the bank, on condition of anonymity, admitted the problem, he claimed, "Around 200 exporters trade through our bank. A number of exporters' payments does not exceed 100%."

He added, "After the merger, we announced that the bank had merged, panic spread. Exporters stopped depositing money, and they rushed to withdraw funds. As a result, we can't make payments. The problem has become worse since last June."

Blaming the government's decision on bank mergers, he said, "The merger was necessary, but it has not been completed yet. It has been dragging on instead of moving forward."

SIBL Vice Chairman said the merger could not be reached until the government



Standard

2025

ANGLADESH

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Exporters said Exim Bank and Social Islami Bank have caused the most problems. Exim Bank alone handles exports for 254 garment exporters, a large portion of whom have not been paid.

However, the exact amount

of export proceeds stuck in these banks could not be confirmed.

According to sources at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), its leaders will meet Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur today to seek a solution.

Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu, president of BGMEA, told The Business Standard, "More than 200 garment exporters are facing prob-

lems because the troubled banks are unable to make payments. Their back-to-back LC dues are not being settled, and exporters are not receiving their proceeds either." He added, "How will factories pay workers' wages without this money? We will seek redress from the Bangladesh Bank."

Sources said a delegation of garment industry owners had already met with

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he claimed, "Around 300 export-  
ers trade through our bank but the  
number of exporters yet to receive  
payments does not exceed 40."

He added; "After it was an-  
nounced that the bank would be  
merged, panic spread. Custom-  
ers stopped depositing, and many  
rushed to withdraw funds. As a re-  
sult, we can't make payments. The  
problem has become severe since  
last June."

Blaming the government's indeci-  
sion on bank mergers, he added, "If  
the merger was necessary, it should  
have been completed within a week  
instead of dragging on."

SIBL Vice Chairman Maksuda Be-  
gum could not be reached for com-  
ment.

