

বণিক বার্তা

29 AUG 2025

তুলা আমদানিতে শুল্কছাড়ের সময়সীমা বাড়িয়েছে ভারত

বণিক বার্তা ডেস্ক ■

মার্কিন শুল্ক বড় ধরনের চাপের মুখে পড়েছে ভারতের তৈরি পোশাক খাত। দেশটির পোশাক শিল্পের সহায়তায় আমদানীকৃত তুলার ওপর শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধার মেয়াদ আরো তিন মাস বাড়িয়েছে ভারত। নতুন সিদ্ধান্ত অনুযায়ী, চলতি বছরের ৩১ ডিসেম্বর পর্যন্ত এ সুবিধা বহাল থাকবে। খবর রয়টার্স।

বিশ্বের দ্বিতীয় বৃহত্তম তুলা উৎপাদনকারী দেশ ভারত। গত জুনে তুলা আমদানিতে ১১ শতাংশ শুল্ক প্রত্যাহার করে সেপ্টেম্বর পর্যন্ত শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধা দেয়া হয়েছিল দেশটিতে।

যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে ভারতীয় পোশাক ও গহনা আমদানিতে ৫০ শতাংশ শুল্ক কার্যকর হয়েছে গত বুধবার। ডোনাল্ড ট্রাম্পের এ সিদ্ধান্তে ভারতীয় রফতানি খাত, বিশেষ করে পোশাক শিল্প বড় ধরনের চাপের মুখে পড়েছে। ২০২৪ সালে ভারত থেকে প্রায় ২ হাজার ২০০ কোটি ডলারের পোশাক ও গহনা আমদানি করেছিল যুক্তরাষ্ট্র। বর্তমানে দেশটির পোশাক বাজারে ভারতের হিস্যা ৫ দশমিক ৮ শতাংশ।

ভারতের কটন অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের সভাপতি অতুল গণাত্রা বলেন, 'শুল্কমুক্ত সুবিধা অব্যাহত থাকায় এ বছর তুলা আমদানি রেকর্ড ৪২ লাখ বেল ছাড়তে পারে। আগামী বছরের প্রথম প্রান্তিকেও আমদানি উর্ধ্বমুখী ধারা বজায় রাখবে।'



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Leather sector eyes US export boost after higher tariffs on India, China

EXPORT - BANGLADESH

RAFIQUL ISLAM

Bangladesh's leather goods and footwear sector, which has been growing steadily, is seeing fresh opportunity in the US market as tariff changes favour the country over competitors such as China and India, exporters say.

While Bangladesh, through negotiations, managed to reduce US retaliatory

tariffs on its goods to 20%, both India and China still face higher tariffs – around 50% and 30%, respectively.

According to leather industry insiders, this tariff advantage has already started generating additional orders for Bangladeshi companies.

They, however, warn that weaknesses in infrastructure, utilities, and investment environment may limit the country's ability to capitalise on the opportunity.

According to data from the Export Pro-

motion Bureau, Bangladesh earned \$1.7 billion from leather and footwear exports in the fiscal 2024-25, a 14.45% increase from the previous year.

The US market accounted for \$397.5 million, or about 20-25% of total exports in the sector. Exports to the US rose by 42% in FY25 compared with the previous year.

Mohammed Nazmul Hassan, MD of Leatherex Footwear Industries and senior VP of the Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers and

Exporters Association of Bangladesh, said the new tariff policy has created scope as foreign businesses will shift to Bangladesh, which will create investment.

"But, government policy support is needed. The entrepreneurs in the country's leather industry have the capacity to meet additional demand if they receive it," he told TBS.

Exports to the US had previously fluctuated. According to the association, shipments rose sharply by 64% in FY21 and 49% in FY22, but fell in the following two years by 22% and 20%.

Nazmul Hassan pointed out several barriers to attracting long-term foreign investment, including unreliable utilities.

"Uninterrupted supply of gas and electricity is a major challenge here. Sometimes electricity is available, sometimes not. There is also no adequate supply of gas. As a result, all industrial sectors in the country are suffering from a utility problem," he said.

He also highlighted communication challenges. "When a foreign entrepreneur visits Bangladesh for investment purposes, they lose interest after experiencing traffic jams and poor road conditions. After their visit, they either stop communicating or inform us that they will not invest. The overall situation must be improved to increase long-term investment."

Other exporters also noted similar concerns, saying foreign investors are reluctant to commit in the current environment.

A senior official of a leading shoe manufacturer said that unless the country improves its investment capacity, opportunities may shift to competitor countries despite the tariff advantage.

Still, some exporters are already seeing gains.

Hasanuzzaman, managing director of Bling Leather Products Ltd, said, "The US tariff policy has brought both advantages and disadvantages for Bangladesh's footwear industry. Bling

Leather Products Ltd has already received some orders diverted from China, and more are in the pipeline."

He also cautioned that timely delivery remains critical. "To take full advantage of the US tariff policy, government service agencies, especially Customs, need to be more sincere. Otherwise, we might get orders, but if we cannot deliver them on time due to various complications, we will incur huge losses."

Officials from at least five other companies that export directly to the US also told TBS that they expect an increase in demand due to the tariff changes.

Akij Footwear Ltd, which exports women's shoes, said the US accounted for about 60% of its Tk100 crore turnover last year.

A company official, requesting anonymity, said, "Some of our previous orders from US buyers had been on hold, but they have now been delivered. We are also receiving new orders."



Indian textile exporters eye Bangladesh to bypass US tariffs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangladesh is among six countries that a section of Indian textile exporters is considering for shifting their final stage of manufacturing to avoid the hefty tariff imposed by the United States on imports from India.

The other countries through which Indian exporters, particularly small and medium enterprises, are mulling to route their exports are Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Egypt, Indonesia and Jordan.

The development comes as Indian exports began to face as high as 50 percent tariff in the American market from Wednesday after US President Donald Trump slapped a 25 percent punitive tariff due to India's purchases of Russian oil on the goods from the South Asian country.

The tariff has been added to Trump's prior 25 percent tariff on many imports from India,

Asia's second biggest economy after China.

It takes total duties as high as 50 percent for goods as varied as garments, gems and jewellery, footwear, sporting goods, furniture and chemicals among the highest imposed by the US and roughly on par with Brazil and China, Reuters reports earlier.

The escalated tariff threatens India's textile exporters and jobs.

Following the tariffs, some US buyers are demanding additional discounts ranging from 5 percent to 20 percent, said Mukesh Kansal, chairman of CTA Apparels Pvt Ltd in Noida, near Delhi.

Apparel exported from India is sold at three-to-six times the cost in US stores, and even a 10 percent increase in retail price is sufficient to absorb the tariff impact, Kansal was quoted as saying by the Financial Express.

However, with regard to Bangladesh, logistics issues remain after port and transit restrictions were placed by both countries.

As a result, some fabrics that Indian exporters source from China and elsewhere can be sent directly to Bangladesh for processing and re-export, according to industry insiders.

Sanjay Shukla, team leader at Triburg Consulting, which specialises in sourcing garments, said his firm provides services for the apparel, accessories and home products industries with vendors located in India, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

Some of the garment processing can be done by units set up by Indian companies in the countries mentioned, while in other cases the facilities of partners can be used, Shukla added.

Countries like Bangladesh, which face much lower tariffs than India, can emerge as alternative routes for Indian garment exports.

Bangladesh faces a 20 percent tariff, Indonesia 19 percent, and Sri Lanka 30 percent.



Bangladesh to boost grain imports in 2025-26: USDA

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh is expected to import larger volumes of rice and wheat in the marketing year (MY) 2025-26 owing to rising domestic rice prices, according to a report by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Private importers are also likely to bring in increased quantities of maize to meet the growing demand from the poultry, cattle, and aquaculture feed sectors, the agency said in its Grain and Feed Update on Bangladesh released on August 27.

The USDA forecasts that rice imports by both the public and private sectors may rise 8 percent year-on-year to 12 lakh tonnes in MY26, which begins in May.

"Domestic rice prices have reached an all-time high," the USDA noted, adding that the government is stepping up imports to ease market prices.

In mid-July, the government announced plans to purchase 400,000 tonnes of rice through international tenders for public granaries. On August 10, the food ministry authorised 242 firms to import 500,000 tonnes in order to increase supply and curb price hikes of the staple grain.

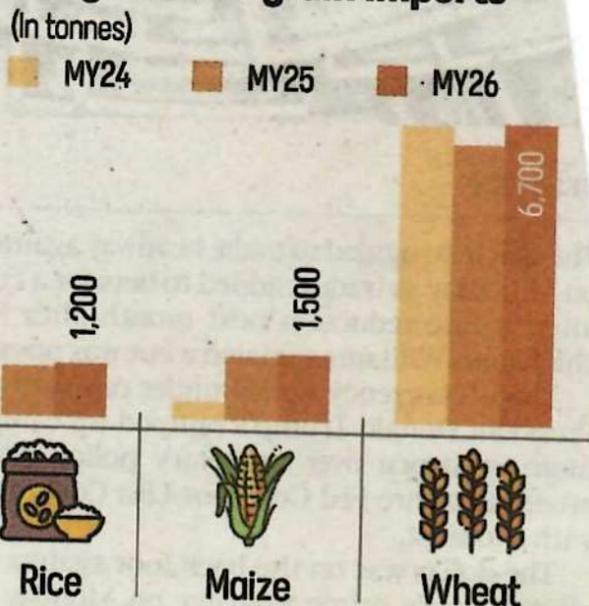
The USDA report, citing its sources, said Bangladesh imported around 200,000 tonnes of rice in the first three months of MY26 since May. Prices of all rice varieties in Bangladesh have continued to climb, reaching the highest levels ever recorded in July 2025.

The average retail price of coarse rice in July 2025 stood at Tk 57.5 per kilogramme, up 12.3 percent from the same period the previous year, the report said, citing market data from the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).

That same month, the average retail price



Bangladesh's grain imports (In tonnes)



SOURCE: USDA

of high-quality non-aromatic (fine) rice was 12.7 percent higher year-on-year at Tk 80 per kilogramme.

"The price increase is primarily due to higher paddy production and milling costs, overall inflation, and inefficiencies in the supply chain. Like many other agricultural commodities, the rice supply chain involves multiple market actors, ultimately driving up costs for consumers," the report said.

The USDA projected a 2 percent year-on-year increase in rice production to 3.75 lakh tonnes in MY26, supported by favourable weather. It estimated that farmers harvested 2.05 crore tonnes of rice during the Boro season, the country's principal crop.

Yields and overall Boro production were robust as there were no droughts, heatwaves, cyclones, significant pest damage, or other natural disasters, the USDA observed. The

agency also forecast an expansion of acreage under the current Aman season, the rain-fed crop, with higher yields in MY26.

For wheat, the USDA projected that imports by both public and private sectors may rise to 67 lakh tonnes in MY26, which starts in July, up 7.5 percent year-on-year from its MY25 estimate.

Lower international prices and stable supply are likely to underpin higher wheat imports, the second staple after rice.

"In Bangladesh, wheat is used to some extent as an alternative to rice. Therefore, demand for wheat flour is likely to continue rising while rice prices remain high," the USDA noted.

Regarding maize, the agency forecast imports to increase 6 percent year-on-year to 15 lakh tonnes in MY26, driven by feed

Regarding maize, the agency forecast imports to increase 6 percent year-on-year to 15 lakh tonnes in MY26, driven by feed mill demand. It also said there are strong opportunities for US maize sales to Bangladesh during this and the following marketing year.

"Bangladesh usually imports corn from Brazil,

Argentina, and India due to price and logistical advantages," the report said, adding that buyers had shown strong interest in sourcing US maize this year owing to competitive pricing.

The report added that key importers found US maize prices attractive but wanted direct engagement with US exporters.



Bhola EZ expected to woo \$1.0b investments

FE REPORT

The proposed 'Bhola Eco-Development Economic Zone' recently received a pre-qualification licence from the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), paving the way for new prospects for

industrial growth in the country's southern region.

The economic zone (EZ), designed to be an eco-friendly, labour-intensive, and agro-based industrial area, is expected to attract investments worth \$1.0 billion and create direct and indirect employment for nearly 100,000 people.

To be developed on 102.46 acres of land in Bhola Sadar upazila, the EZ will accommodate fish processing, meat processing, dairy production, and agro-based manufacturing plants in 40 plots, according to a statement issued by BEZA on Tuesday.

The EZ will gradually expand to 158 acres in the future.

BEZA Executive Member (Planning & Development) Major General (Retd.) Md. Nazrul Islam said the EZ in Bhola is set to become the first economic zone in the Barishal division, with China's Liz Fashion Industries Limited as its developer.

"The zone will play a vital role in fostering industries based on fisheries and agricultural resources," he was quoted as saying by the statement. "Alongside revitalising the economy of the southern region, it will also emerge as an attractive destination for both local and foreign investors," he added.

Managing Director of the EZ, Zhuang Lifeng, said that they were working to develop an eco-friendly and circular economic zone.

He noted that Chinese investors had already shown strong interest in investing there. The company expects to leverage Bhola's gas and agricultural resources to attract significant foreign investment.

Liz Fashion Industry Limited, a China-based company, has already made substantial investments in Bangladesh in garments, textiles, and other sectors.

To be first EZ in Barishal div getting BEZA licence

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Eco-friendly jute bags to hit market Sunday

FE REPORT

Eco-friendly jute-made bags or Sonali bags will hit the market on Sunday next. According to the Ministry of Textiles and Jute, prices of the jute bags have been fixed between Tk 35 and Tk75 each.

An official at the ministry said that the marketing of the jute bags will be launched on Sunday next at Karwan Bazar in the capital.

Commerce, textiles and jute adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin and environment, forest and climate change adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan are expected to be present at the launching ceremony.

The official said that the 'Sonali Bag' looks like the traditional polythene bags,

but it is environmentally-friendly and durable. He also said that the government was trying to produce jute bags as a real alternative to polythene bag by processing minimal subtle jute cellulose.

He added that after certain period of use, this jute bag will mingle with the soil, saving the environment from pollution.

He said that this newly-developed jute bag could be used for multiple times.

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US importers shifting from tax-laden India, China to Bangladesh

JASIM UDDIN

Bangladeshi exporters are receiving increased inquiries from American buyers, retailers, and traders as the steep US tariff hike for India and China is making the sourcing from there much costlier.

Industry-insiders say Bangladesh's companies are now securing some non-traditional export orders that US firms previously imported from India, such as hardware items, construction materials, PVC pipes, and PP woven bags, in addition to the country's largest export item—apparel. Since last Wednesday, Indian exports to the US market have been subject to tariffs of up to 50 per cent. Such an elevated rate is on account of an additional 25 per-cent duty imposed on Indian goods as a penalty for its purchases of Russian oil, on top of an earlier 25 per cent levy already imposed by the Trump administration.

As a result, total tariffs on Indian products such as ready-made garments (RMG), gems and jewellery, footwear, sporting goods, furniture and chemicals have now come to as high as 50 per cent—among the highest imposed by the United States, comparable to those faced by Brazil and China.

To counter the impact of US tariffs, the Indian government is planning to roll out dedicated outreach programmes in 40 countries, including Germany, France, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland, Canada, Mexico, Russia, Belgium, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates,

BD exporters now securing some non-traditional export orders that US firms previously imported from India, traders say

Businesses for move on bilateral trade deals for other markets thru faster negotiations

Entrepreneurs seek bonded-warehouse facilities for non-traditional products planned for export to US

Australia, the United Kingdom, Japan and South Korea, to boost textile exports in the wake of the US tariff tempest.

Talking to The Financial Express, Kazal Arifen, AGM of Export Sales at Meghna Bulk Bag Industries Ltd, a concern of Meghna Group of Industries, said the company has done business on the US market for the past few years. "Order flow has been increasing due to the tariff hikes on India and China, but for now, it is mostly at the inquiry stage—it takes time to mature."

They, however, have concern about uneven

competition in other potential markets in the shifting trade paradigm. "Our business is currently EU-centric. Since Indian exporters are now shifting their focus to the EU as their US market is at risk, it will create additional pressure on our largest market," he says. Referring to the Indian government's initiatives, he said, "Their government has introduced several measures to protect their industries, including incentives to enhance competitiveness. We also need similar policy support from our government

to compete with Indian exporters in international markets. At the same time, the government should move quickly to strike bilateral trade deals through faster negotiations. "Otherwise, after LDC graduation, Bangladeshi exports might face a sudden decline."

“ For upcoming spring season, we already have 10pc more orders, and for summer, up to 15pc in additional orders

- Shovon Islam
Managing Director
of Sparrow Group
of Industries



The Financial Express

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Echoing Kazal Arifen's views, Akij Pipes Ltd COO Engr. Paritosh Mitra says after the US tariff hike, they received an order that is currently under negotiation. "However, buyers are also concerned about the 20-percent duty on imports from Bangladesh, and some have requested us to share part of that cost."

He further mentions that if the company were granted partial bonded-warehouse facilities for exports, it would help them offer more competitive prices on the global market.

Talking to The Financial Express, Md Saiful Islam, proprietor of Foresight Business Solutions, a trading firm, said, "We are receiving a large volume of orders from the US market across different categories of items—ranging from RMG to hardware products."

They are also exporting some light-engineering products to the US market. But the raw materials import duty is high in Bangladesh. "If the government allows us to get the duty drawback that will be helpful to offering a competitive price," he said.

If the government allocates bond facility for small enterprises of light engineering, which are fully export-oriented, that will be helpful to exploring the US market. "We are planning to establish a manufacturing facility for full US market," he says about their business-expansion plan to cash in on the new tariff regime.

The trading house is also on negotiations with the local ceramic tiles manufactures for sourcing tiles for the US market.

Apparel exporters are also receiving large volumes of inquiries from US buyers following the tariff hikes on imports from China and India. Most factories are currently operating at full capacity.

However, they also fear that Chinese and Indian manufacturers may now shift their focus to the EU market to offset their losses in the US, which could create additional pressure on Bangladeshi exporters.

Talking with the FE, Shovon Islam, Managing Director of Sparrow Group of Industries, said their discussions were underway with several US buyers trying to shift orders away from India.

In addition, talks are also ongoing with an American company to move orders from Vietnam for next summer. The reason, he explains, is that the buyer is relocating higher-value apparel orders from China to Vietnam, while shifting medium-priced apparel orders

from Vietnam to Bangladesh.

"For the upcoming spring season, we already have 10-percent more orders, and for summer, up to 15 per cent in additional orders," says Mr Islam.

"To meet this demand, we have sought buyers' approval to extend overtime from two to three hours. However, to sustain the business shifting from India and China, we will also need support from the government."

"We will also need support from the government – on monetary policy and additional support such as uninterrupted energy supply, and cooperation from customs" he added.

Echoing Shovon Islam's views, Abdullah Hil Nakib, Deputy Managing Director at The Team Group, says business inquiries have increased, but buyers are offering low prices in view of the tariff hikes.

He further explains that some buyers are asking manufacturers to share the cost of the tariff increase, which is not feasible. He also notes with concern that the tariff hike could trigger inflation in the US, potentially affecting apparel demand in the coming season.

Abdullah Hil Nakib feels that demand is likely to normalise within six months, as US consumers adjust to the tariff changes. One of the largest apparel exporters DBL Group's Vice Chairman MA Rahim said that the 50 percent tariffs on Indian exports to the USA came into effect just two days ago, and it might take some time for business with certain reputed buyers to adjust. "At least a month will be needed," he added.

He also noted that the Indian government immediately reacted by exploring alternative market options such as China, North America, Japan, and South Korea.

"If they focus on EU markets, it may put pressure on Bangladesh's exports," he said, adding that EU buyers are very concerned about product quality. "This will give an advantage to Bangladeshi exporters, as our apparel quality remains better than that of India."

According to the latest data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Bangladesh's total exports to the United States came to \$8.69 billion during the past July-June period -- a notable increase from \$7.60 billion a year earlier.

The US market accounted for over 18 per cent of Bangladesh's total export earnings of \$48.28 billion in FY25.

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