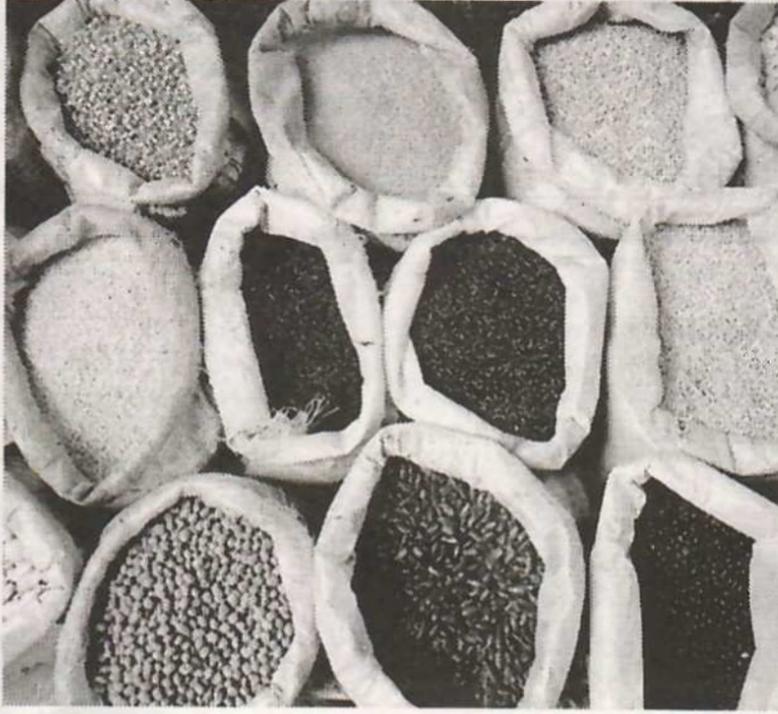


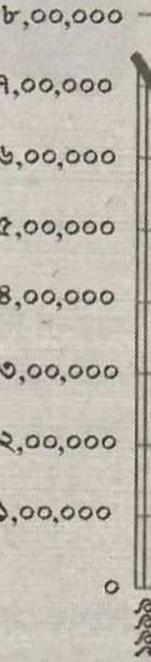
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খাদ্যশস্য উৎপাদনে কানাডা



কানাডা বিশ্বের অন্যতম প্রধান খাদ্যশস্য উৎপাদনকারী দেশ। দেশটির বিশাল কৃষিজমি ও অনুকূল আবহাওয়ায় গম, যব, ক্যানোলা ও ডালজাতীয় ফসল ভালো হয়। আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে কানাডার গম ও ক্যানোলা সবচেয়ে বেশি রফতানি হয়, যা বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা আয়ের বড় উৎস। সাম্প্রতিক বছরগুলোয় জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন, খরা ও তাপমাত্রা বৃদ্ধির কারণে ফসল উৎপাদনে কিছু প্রতিবন্ধকতা দেখা দিলেও উন্নত প্রযুক্তি এবং কৃষি গবেষণার ফলে উৎপাদন তুলনামূলকভাবে স্থিতিশীল রয়েছে। গত বছর দেশটিতে খাদ্যশস্য উৎপাদন বেড়েছে আগের বছরের তুলনায় ২৮ দশমিক ৪৩ শতাংশ।



উৎপাদন (টন)

সাল	উৎপাদন (টন)	বৃদ্ধির হার (%)
১৯৯০	৬,৯৮,০০০	-৩.০৬%
১৯৯১	৬,২১,০০০	-১১.০৩%
১৯৯২	৬,০৭,০০০	-২.২৫%
১৯৯৩	৭,৪৩,০০০	২২.৪১%
১৯৯৪	৬,৭২,০০০	-৯.৫৬%
১৯৯৫	৬,৯৩,০০০	৩.১৩%
১৯৯৬	৬,১৭,০০০	-১০.৯৭%

সাল	উৎপাদন (টন)	বৃদ্ধির হার (%)
১৯৯৭	৬,৫৭,০০০	৬.৪৮%
১৯৯৮	৬,২৫,০০০	-৪.৮৭%
১৯৯৯	৫,৮৯,০০০	-৫.৭৬%
২০০০	৫,২৫,০০০	-১০.৮৭%
২০০১	৪,৭৮,০০০	-৮.৯৫%
২০০২	৩,৮৫,০০০	-১৯.৪৬%
২০০৩	৪,৪৯,০০০	১৬.৬২%

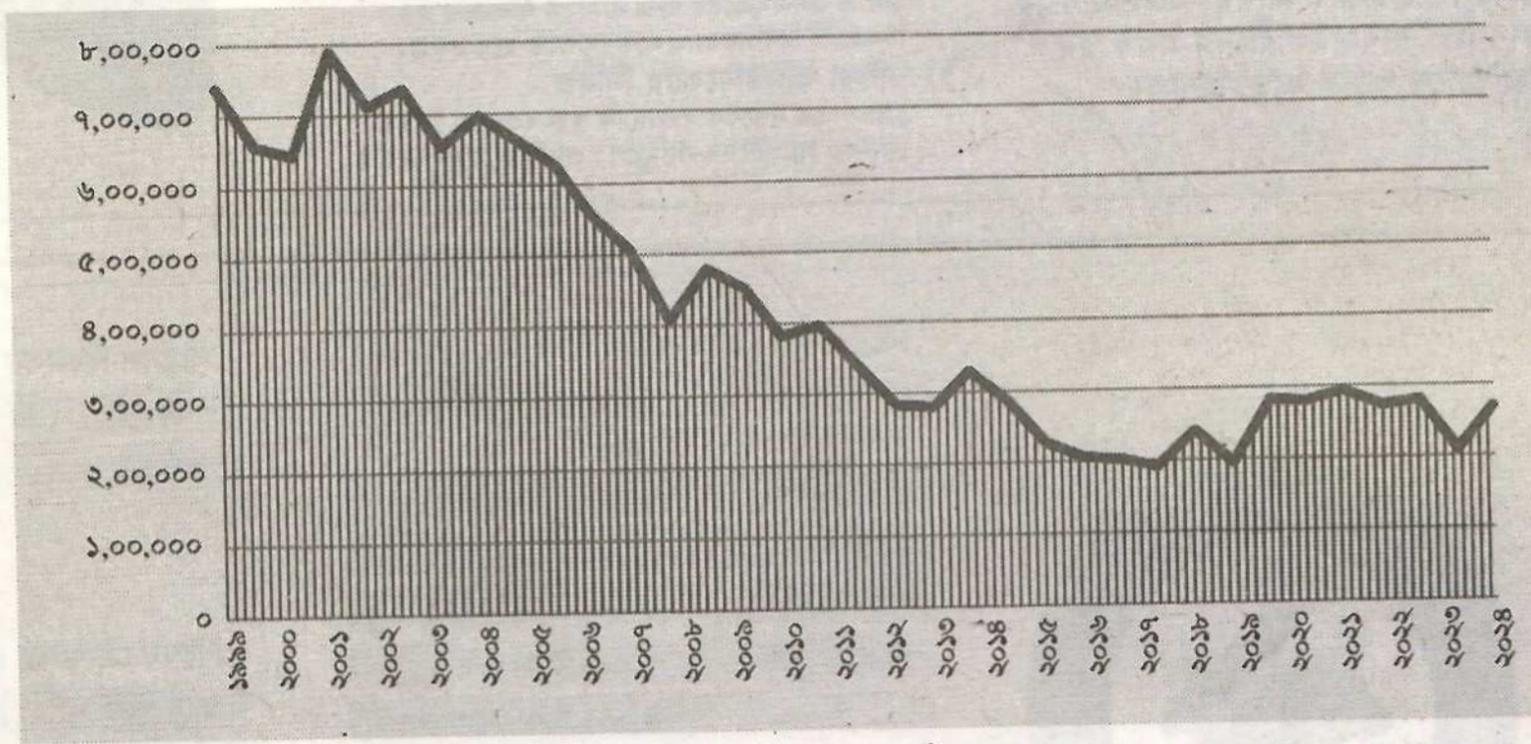
সাল	উৎপাদন (টন)	বৃদ্ধির হার (%)
২০০৪	৪,২৩,০০০	-৫.৭৯%
২০০৫	৩,৬০,০০০	-১৪.৮৯%
২০০৬	৩,৭৩,০০০	৩.৬১%
২০০৭	৩,১৯,০০০	-১৪.৪৮%
২০০৮	২,৬৮,০০০	-১৫.৯৯%
২০০৯	২,৬৩,০০০	-১.৮৭%
২০১০	৩,১০,০০০	১৭.৮৭%

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খাদ্যশস্য উৎপাদনে কানাডা

ন্যূনতম প্রধান খাদ্যশস্য
দেশটির বিশাল
আবহাওয়ায় গম,
ডালজাতীয় ফসল
ঈর্ষাতিক বাজারে
ক্যানোলা সবচেয়ে
মুদ্রা
সাম্প্রতিক বছরগুলোয়
খরা ও তাপমাত্রা
উৎপাদনে কিছু
উন্নত প্রযুক্তি
উৎপাদন
স্থিতিশীল রয়েছে।
খাদ্যশস্য উৎপাদন
বছরের তুলনায় ২৮



সাল	উৎপাদন (টন)	বৃদ্ধির হার (%)
২০০৮	৪,২৩,০০০	-৫.৭৯%
২০০৯	৩,৬০,০০০	-১৪.৮৯%
২০১০	৩,৭৩,০০০	৩.৬১%
২০১১	৩,১৯,০০০	-১৪.৪৮%
২০১২	২,৬৮,০০০	-১৫.৯৯%
২০১৩	২,৬৩,০০০	-১.৮৭%
২০১৪	৩,১০,০০০	১৭.৮৭%

সাল	উৎপাদন (টন)	বৃদ্ধির হার (%)
২০১১	২,৭১,০০০	-১২.৫৮%
২০১২	২,১২,০০০	-২১.৭৭%
২০১৩	১,৯২,০০০	-৯.৪৩%
২০১৪	১,৮৯,০০০	-১.৫৬%
২০১৫	১,৮০,০০০	-৪.৭৬%
২০১৬	২,২৮,০০০	২৬.৬৭%
২০১৭	১,৮২,০০০	-২০.১৮%

সাল	উৎপাদন (টন)	বৃদ্ধির হার (%)
২০১৮	২,৬৬,০০০	৪৬.১৫%
২০১৯	২,৬৪,০০০	-০.৭৫%
২০২০	২,৭৬,০০০	৪.৫৫%
২০২১	২,৫৮,০০০	-৬.৫২%
২০২২	২,৬৩,০০০	১.৯৪%
২০২৩	১,৯৭,০০০	-২৫.১০%
২০২৪	২,৫৩,০০০	২৮.৪৩%

সূত্র : ইনডেক্স মুন্ডি



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আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে সপ্তাহজুড়ে জ্বালানি তেলের মূল্য বেড়েছে ২ শতাংশের বেশি

বণিক বার্তা ডেস্ক ■

রাশিয়া-ইউক্রেন যুদ্ধবিরতি আলোচনা নিয়ে বাজারে এখনো অনিশ্চয়তা বিরাজ করছে। এর প্রভাবে আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে গত সপ্তাহজুড়ে জ্বালানি তেলের দাম বেড়েছে ২ শতাংশের বেশি।

বার্তা সংস্থা রয়টার্স জানিয়েছে, অপরিশোধিত জ্বালানি তেলের আন্তর্জাতিক বাজার আদর্শ ব্রেন্ট ও মার্কিন বাজার আদর্শ ওয়েস্ট টেক্সাস ইন্টারমিডিয়েটের (ডব্লিউটিআই) সাপ্তাহিক দরবৃদ্ধির হার ছিল যথাক্রমে ২ দশমিক ৯ ও ১ দশমিক ৪ শতাংশ।

এছাড়া গত শুক্রবার ব্রেন্টের দাম ৬ সেন্ট বা দশমিক শূন্য ৯ শতাংশ বেড়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে ব্যারেলপ্রতি ৬৭ ডলার ৭৩ সেন্টে। একই দিনে ডব্লিউটিআইয়ের মূল্য স্থির হয়েছে ৬৩ ডলার ৬৬ সেন্টে, যা আগের দিনের তুলনায় ১৪ সেন্ট বা দশমিক ২২ শতাংশ বেশি।

সুইজারল্যান্ডভিত্তিক ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক পরিষেবা প্রতিষ্ঠান ইউবিএসের কমোডিটি অ্যানালিস্ট জিওভানি স্ত্রানোভো বলেন, 'বাজারের বিনিয়োগকারীরা মার্কিন প্রেসিডেন্ট ডোনাল্ড ট্রাম্পের পরবর্তী পদক্ষেপের জন্য অপেক্ষা করছেন। তবে সামনের দিনগুলোয় আলোচনায় উল্লেখযোগ্য অগ্রগতি হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা কম।'

এদিকে গত সপ্তাহজুড়ে রাশিয়া ও ইউক্রেনের যুদ্ধ চলমান ছিল। রাশিয়া ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়ন (ইইউ) সীমান্তঘেঁষা এলাকায় বিমান হামলা চালায়। পাল্টা আক্রমণে ইউক্রেন রাশিয়ার একটি জ্বালানি তেল পরিশোধনাগার ও দুর্গজবা পাইপলাইনের একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ পাম্পিং স্টেশন ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত করেছে। এতে অন্তত পাঁচদিন হাগেরি ও স্লোভাকিয়ায় রাশিয়ার জ্বালানি তেল সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকার আশঙ্কা তৈরি হয়েছে।

বিশ্লেষকদের মতে, যুদ্ধবিরতি অনিশ্চিত হয়ে পড়লে রাশিয়ার বিরুদ্ধে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের আরো কঠোর নিষেধাজ্ঞার ঝুঁকি বাড়বে।

শুক্রবার এস্টোনিয়া ঘোষণা করেছে, ইউক্রেনে শান্তিরক্ষী বাহিনী পাঠাতে তারা প্রস্তুত। অন্যদিকে পুতিন শর্ত দিয়েছেন, ইউক্রেনকে দনবাস অঞ্চল ও ন্যাটোতে



যোগদানের আকাঙ্ক্ষা পরিত্যাগ করতে হবে। তবে ট্রাম্প জানিয়েছেন, যুদ্ধের সমাপ্তি নিয়ে যেকোনো সমঝোতায় তিনি ইউক্রেনের সার্বভৌমত্ব রক্ষা করবেন। খাতসংশ্লিষ্টরা জানিয়েছেন, জ্বালানি তেলের দামে উর্ধ্বগতির আরেকটি কারণ যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে প্রত্যাশার চেয়ে বেশি মজুদ হ্রাস। যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের এনার্জি ইনফরমেশন অ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন (ইআইএ) জানিয়েছে, ১৫ আগস্ট শেষ হওয়া সপ্তাহে দেশটিতে জ্বালানি তেলের মজুদ কমেছে ৬০ লাখ ব্যারেল। এর আগে ১৮ লাখ ব্যারেল হ্রাসের পূর্বাভাস দিয়েছিলেন বাজারসংশ্লিষ্টরা।

এদিকে জ্বালানি তেল ও প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের রিগের সংখ্যা টানা চার সপ্তাহের মতো কমেছে। চলতি সপ্তাহে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে সক্রিয় রিগের সংখ্যা কমে দাঁড়িয়েছে ৫৩৮-এ, যা জুলাইয়ের পর সর্বনিম্ন।



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পাকিস্তানের বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রীর সঙ্গে এফবিসিসিআইয়ের বৈঠক বাংলাদেশ-পাকিস্তান বাণিজ্য সম্পর্ক উন্নয়নে জোর

নিজস্ব প্রতিবেদক ■

বাংলাদেশের সঙ্গে বিদ্যমান বাণিজ্য সংকট কাটিয়ে অর্থনৈতিক সহযোগিতা বৃদ্ধির প্রত্যাশা ব্যক্ত করেছেন পাকিস্তানের বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী জাম কামাল খান। তার মতে, প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপ ও পারস্পরিক সহযোগিতার মাধ্যমে দুই দেশের দ্বিপাক্ষীয় বাণিজ্য বহু গুণে বাড়ানো সম্ভব।

রাজধানীর মতিঝিলে এফবিসিসিআই কার্যালয়ে গতকাল এক বৈঠকে তিনি এ কথা বলেন। বৈঠকে সভাপতিত্ব করেন এফবিসিসিআইয়ের প্রশাসক মো. হাফিজুর রহমান।

বৈঠকে পাকিস্তানের বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী জাম কামাল খান বলেন, 'বাংলাদেশ ও পাকিস্তানের মধ্যে ইতিবাচক সম্পর্কের ভিত্তি তৈরি হয়েছে, যা ব্যবসায়ীদের মধ্যেও আগ্রহ বাড়িয়েছে। পর্যটন, সংস্কৃতি, জাহাজ নির্মাণ, কনস্ট্রাকশন ও তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি খাতে সহযোগিতার মাধ্যমে বাণিজ্য সম্প্রসারণের সুযোগ রয়েছে।'

তিনি জানান, পাকিস্তান থেকে খাতভিত্তিক ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিনিধি দল নিয়মিতভাবে বাংলাদেশ সফরে আসবে, যাতে সম্ভাবনাময় খাতগুলো চিহ্নিত করা যায়।

চট্টগ্রাম সফরের অভিজ্ঞতা তুলে ধরে জাম কামাল খান বলেন, 'বাংলাদেশের জাহাজ নির্মাণ শিল্প পাকিস্তানের জন্য আকর্ষণীয় হতে পারে। এছাড়া নির্মাণ সামগ্রী আমদানির ক্ষেত্রেও সহযোগিতার সুযোগ রয়েছে।' দ্বিপাক্ষীয় বাণিজ্যের পাশাপাশি আফ্রিকা ও মধ্য এশিয়ার বাজার ধরতে ত্রিপাক্ষীয় বাণিজ্য উদ্যোগে বাংলাদেশ-পাকিস্তান একসঙ্গে কাজ করতে পারে বলেও তিনি মত দেন।

সভাপতির বক্তব্যে এফবিসিসিআইয়ের প্রশাসক মো. হাফিজুর রহমান বলেন, 'দুই দেশের মধ্যে বাণিজ্য ঘাটতি থাকলেও ধীরে ধীরে সহযোগিতা বাড়ছে। ভবিষ্যতে বাণিজ্য, বিনিয়োগ ও প্রযুক্তি খাতে নতুন সম্ভাবনা তৈরি হবে।'

বৈঠকে এফবিসিসিআইয়ের মহাসচিব মো. আলমগীর, বাংলাদেশ সিএনজি মেশিনারিজ ইম্পোর্টারস অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের সভাপতি জাকির হোসেন নয়ন, এফবিসিসিআইয়ের সাবেক পরিচালক খন্দকার রুহুল আমিন, ব্যবসায়ী নেতা নিয়াজ আলী চিশতীসহ অন্যরা বক্তব্য দেন।

সভায় আরো উপস্থিত ছিলেন এফবিসিসিআইয়ের সাবেক পরিচালক গিয়াসউদ্দিন চৌধুরী খোকন, আবুল হোসেন, আবু হোসেন ভূঁইয়া (রানু), আন্তর্জাতিক উইং প্রধান মো. জাফর ইকবাল, সেফটি কাউন্সিলের উপদেষ্টা ব্রিগেডিয়ার জেনারেল (অব.) আবু নাঈম মো. শহীদউল্লাহ এবং ঢাকায় পাকিস্তান হাইকমিশনের ট্রেড অ্যান্ড ইনভেস্টমেন্ট অ্যাটাশে জেইন আজিজ।

Chinese shoemaker to invest \$10m in Bepza EZ

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Chinese company Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes (BD) Co Ltd will invest \$10.20 million to set up a footwear manufacturing factory in Bepza Economic Zone (Bepza EZ) in Chattogram.

The company plans to produce 2.10 million pairs of sandals, flats, high heels, pumps, booties, boots, and sports shoes annually, creating employment opportunities for 1,939 people, according to a press release.

Md Ashraful Kabir, member for investment promotion of Bepza, and Ye Yary, chairman of Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes (BD) Co Ltd, signed an agreement in this regard at the Bepza Complex in the capital yesterday.

Major General Abul Kalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, executive chairman of Bepza, attended the event and thanked Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes for choosing Bepza EZ as its investment destination, reaffirming Bepza's commitment to providing a secure and supportive environment for investors.

Rahman urged the company to make the best use of land, noting the need for efficient factory designs that allow future vertical expansion.

He further emphasised incorporating environment-friendly features, including rooftop solar panels and rainwater harvesting facilities, within the factory premises.

The Daily Star

25 AUG 2025



The business community called on the government to seek a three to five-year deferment of the November 2026 deadline.

They pointed to examples such as the Maldives, which deferred graduation by eight years, and Botswana, which took 20 years. Other countries, including Vanuatu, Nepal, Myanmar and Bhutan, also delayed their graduations.

the need for export diversification into pharmaceuticals, IT, leather, agro-processing and light engineering.

"The economy is heavily affected by external debt stress, financial strain, declining inflow of foreign direct investment, global trade tensions, climate pressures, electricity and gas constraints, logistics bottlenecks, devaluation of the local currency and the

He emphasised that before graduation, Bangladesh must defend market access through trade diplomacy, strengthen competitiveness with technology and skills, and move decisively from planning to execution.

The ICCB chief also said that financial sector reform, ease of doing business, and reliable

the Bepza Complex in the capital yesterday.

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They pointed to examples such as the Maldives, which deferred graduation by eight years, and Botswana, which took 20 years. Other countries, including Vanuatu, Nepal, Myanmar and Bhutan, also delayed their graduations.

Rahman added that Bangladesh needs more time to negotiate trade deals with the European Union, the United Kingdom, Asean and Gulf countries to cushion the blow of higher tariffs, especially from the US market.

He also stressed

the need for export diversification into pharmaceuticals, IT, leather, agro-processing and light engineering.

"The economy is heavily affected by external debt stress, financial strain, declining inflow of foreign direct investment, global trade tensions, climate pressures, electricity and gas constraints, logistics bottlenecks, devaluation of the local currency, and the economic pressures after the July 2024 uprising," he said.

"So, Bangladesh needs to improve these areas before graduation. Let this be clear that graduation is certain, but success is not guaranteed. It depends on how urgently and collectively we act."

He emphasised that before graduation, Bangladesh must defend market access through trade diplomacy, strengthen competitiveness with technology and skills, and move decisively from planning to execution.

The ICCB chief also said that financial sector reform, ease of doing business, and reliable energy supply through exploration, renewables and regional power trade were listed as priorities.

Upgrading ports, customs and transport networks to reduce costs, managing inflation, building reserves and restructuring external debt will also be essential, Rahman added.

BUSINESS BODIES' JOINT APPEAL TO GOVT

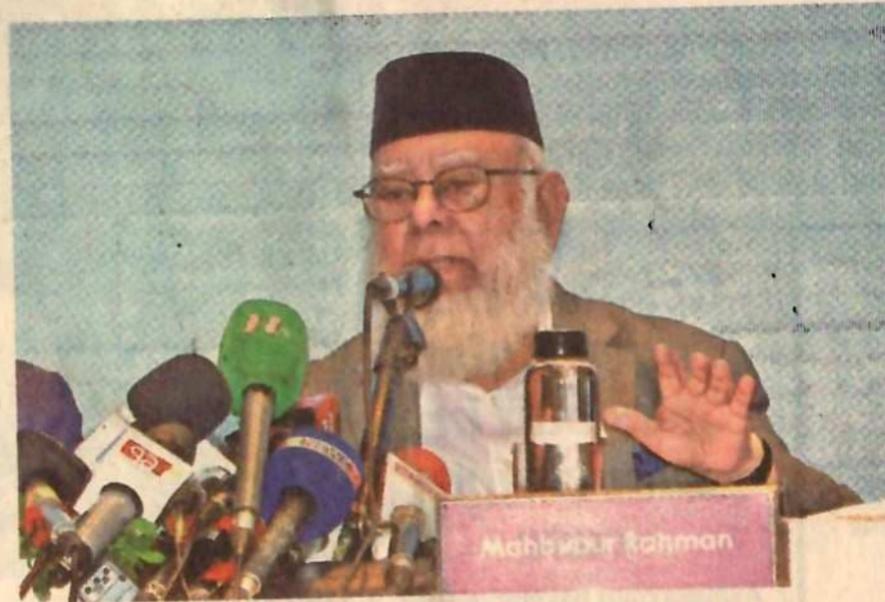
Extend LDC-graduation timeline by 5-6 yrs

It's bad time, businesses unprepared, they say

FE REPORT

Leading business chambers and trade associations urged the government to seek a five- to six-year extension of the timeline for Bangladesh's LDC graduation, emphasising that additional time is crucial to cushioning the economy against the shocks to follow the withdrawal of preferential trade benefits and concessional financing.

At a joint press briefing held Sunday at InterContinental Dhaka, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman read out a statement stressing that while graduation from the least-developed country (LDC) category represents a significant national milestone, a hasty transition could undermine industrial competitiveness, destabilise the financial system, and expose vulnerable sectors, notably



International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman speaking at a joint press briefing organised by the ICC Bangladesh in association with the major chambers of the country at a city hotel on Sunday. —FE photo

garment and pharmaceutical, to new steep costs. The briefing was organised by the ICC Bangladesh in association with the major chambers of the

country. The business community argues that securing an extension would provide Bangladesh with the necessary space to finalise critical

trade agreements with the European Union (EU), the UK, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and Gulf countries to offset tariff shocks, diversify exports beyond garments, attract quality foreign investment, and upgrade energy and logistics infrastructure.

"It would also create scope for strengthening governance, addressing financial fragility, and building resilience to climate risks," the statement reads. Rahman underscores that graduation is inevitable, but its successful management would determine the country's long-term trajectory of advances.

"Graduation is certain. Success is not guaranteed. It depends on how urgently and collectively we act," he told the media. Bangladesh is scheduled to graduate from the world's poor-country club on November 24,

2026, on having met the three graduation criteria - Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, Human Assets Index (HAI), and Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI) - for two consecutive triennial reviews since 2018.

The major chambers include the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Metropolitan

diplomacy to defend market access, alongside reforms in the financial sector, including tighter oversight and the creation of a dedicated asset-management company for toxic loans. Investment in technology, skills development, and infrastructure is described as essential to raise overall competitiveness.

Energy security is highlighted as a key priority, and the business leaders called for a diversified and reliable energy

steep price rises. For instance, the price of cancer medicine Imatinib, currently available domestically at \$30-40 a month, could rise to \$2,000-3,000, while that of HIV anti-retrovirals may increase from \$100-150 to over \$10,000 annually - posing a severe

threat to public health as well as export competitiveness. The readymade garment sector, which contributes more than 80 per cent of Bangladesh's export earnings, is likely to be hit by stricter rules of origin, higher compliance costs, and the loss of duty-free market access.

Business leaders have stressed that reducing overdependence on garments has become an urgent necessity. Wider economic pressures: The appeal for an extension came against the backdrop of mounting economic pressures.

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ICC Bangladesh in association with the major chambers of the

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The major chambers include the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), Foreign Investors' Chamber Of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI), Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC), Bangladesh Insurance Association (BIA), Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association (BSIA), and Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB).

The way forward: To transform graduation into an opportunity rather than a setback, business leaders urge the government to move from planning to immediate execution.

They proposed a roadmap to prepare for the transition, recommending a strategy rooted in smart trade

diplomacy to defend market access, alongside reforms in the financial sector, including tighter oversight and the creation of a dedicated asset-management company for toxic loans.

Investment in technology, skills development, and infrastructure is described as essential to raise overall competitiveness.

Energy security is highlighted as a key priority, and the business leaders called for a diversified and reliable energy mix combining exploration, renewables, and regional power trade to ease persistent shortages and rising costs.

The modernisation of ports, customs, and transport networks is identified as critical to reducing logistics costs, which remain considerably higher than international standards. In addition, stabilising the exchange rate, managing debt prudently, and restoring investor confidence have been cited as prerequisites for a smooth transition.

Risks on the horizons: The joint statement forewarns that without an extension, Bangladesh could face tariffs of up to 12 per cent in key markets, such as the EU and the UK, potentially leading to an export decline of 6 to 14 per cent, unless the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) or free-trade agreements were secured.

The loss of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) special provisions would also bring tighter patent-enforcement under Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), exposing the pharmaceutical industry to

steep price rises. For instance, the price of cancer medicine Imatinib, currently available domestically at \$30-40 a month, could rise to \$2,000-3,000, while that of HIV anti-retrovirals may increase from \$100-150 to over \$10,000 annually – posing a severe

threat to public health as well as export competitiveness. The readymade garment sector, which contributes more than 80 per cent of Bangladesh's export earnings, is likely to be hit by stricter rules of origin, higher compliance costs, and the loss of duty-free market access.

Business leaders have stressed that reducing overdependence on garments has become an urgent necessity. Wider economic pressures: The appeal for an extension came against the backdrop of mounting economic pressures.



~~The Business Standard~~

The Financial Express

25 AUG 2025

Chinese shoe co to invest \$10.20m in Bangladesh

Chinese entity Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes (BD) Company Limited will invest US\$10.20 million in the BEPZA Economic Zone (BEPZA EZ) to establish a modern footwear manufacturing facility, reports UNB. In this connection, an agreement was signed between Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and the Chinese entity Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes (BD) Company Limited at the BEPZA Complex in Dhaka on Sunday, paving the way for the factory to start operations soon, according to a press release. The deal was signed by Md Ashraful Kabir, member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA, and Ye Yary, chairman of Dunion Taiyang Sheng



Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) signed an agreement with Chinese entity Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes (BD) Company Limited at the BEPZA Complex in Dhaka on Sunday. The agreement was signed by Md Ashraful Kabir, member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA, and Ye Yary, chairman of Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes (BD) Co Ltd, in presence of Major General Abul Kalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, executive chairman of BEPZA.

Shoes (BD) Co Ltd, in presence of Major General Abul Kalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman,

executive chairman of BEPZA. Under the investment plan, the company will produce

around 2.10 million pairs of sandals, flats, high heels, pumps, booties, boots, and

sports shoes annually, creating employment opportunities for 1,939 Bangladeshi nationals. Welcoming the new investment, the BEPZA executive chairman thanked the company for choosing BEPZA EZ as its investment hub. He reiterated BEPZA's commitment to providing a secure and business-friendly environment for foreign investors and urged the firm to utilize land efficiently with designs that allow for vertical expansion in the future. He also encouraged the company to adopt eco-friendly initiatives, such as installing rooftop solar panels and rainwater harvesting systems, to align with sustainable industrial practices.

US tariffs behind surge in global arabica prices

Says Brazil exporters group

SAO PAULO, Aug 24 (Reuters): The global arabica coffee market has surged in August with prices gaining more than 30 per cent on the ICE exchange, driven mainly by steep tariff hikes from the United States, the head of Brazil's coffee exporters council, Cecafe, said on Friday.

The 50 per cent tariff imposed on Brazilian coffee by the Trump administration since August 6 has made exports to the US unviable and disrupted markets, Cecafe president Marcio Ferreira said in an interview. "In meetings I had with the American side, I made it clear that the tariff hike created an environment of uncertainty and drove coffee prices up globally - and there may be no ceiling," Ferreira said. "The market can't read where the price peak is," he added. Arabica coffee futures on ICE, traded in New York, were quoted around \$3.74 per pound on Friday, up from



about \$2.80 at the end of July. Crop performance in Brazil, the world's largest producer and exporter of coffee, will not help anytime soon, Ferreira said. The 2025 arabica crop collection, nearing completion, has yielded about 10 per cent less than expected, he said, adding that frosts this month are likely to reduce next year's output. As a result of the tariffs, importers are turning to other origins like Central America and Colombia, but

are facing higher premiums compared with ICE futures contracts, Ferreira said. "This uncertainty and insecurity attracts funds to buy on the exchange, and it's natural for funds to enter on the buying side - the market becomes favorable from a speculative standpoint," he said. However, Brazilian coffee is currently seeing "a substantial increase" in European and Asian demand, which is "well above expectations," Ferreira added.



Businesses demand LDC graduation delayed by 3-5 years over trade risks

ECONOMY - DHAKA

TBS REPORT

They warn premature transition could hurt exports, raise borrowing costs, strain key industries

Bangladesh's leading business bodies have urged a three to five years of delay in the country's planned graduation from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) status, warning that a premature transition could hurt exports, raise borrowing costs, and strain key industries.

"Our entrepreneurs and business chambers strongly support graduation. However, we stress the need for a 3-5 year extension [for the gradua-

tion]," said Md Mahbubur Rahman, president of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh, at a joint press briefing yesterday.

While business organisations previously made separate appeals to postpone graduation, this is the first time 16 leading bodies jointly made the demand at the briefing titled "LDC Graduation: Challenges Ahead" held in Dhaka.

They urged the government to secure trade deals with the European Union, the United Kingdom, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), and Gulf countries to offset US tariff shocks, while promoting export diversification in pharma, IT, leather, agro-processing, and light engineering.

They also called for investment in human capital for Industry 4.0 - automation, AI, and advanced manufacturing - attracting quality FDI that brings technology and sustainability rather than just cheap capital, and strengthening

To defer or not to defer: The LDC graduation conundrum

DEVELOPMENT - BANGLADESH

ABUL KASHEM

During the United Nations Committee for Development Policy's (UNCDP) assessment of Bangladesh's economic vulnerabilities in October-November, the government will have the opportunity to request a deferral of the country's LDC (Least Developed Country) graduation in 2026.

Experts warn that if the government does not apply for an extension at that time, it may be very difficult to do so later. The government, however, says the deferral can be requested anytime.

Bangladesh

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

governance and climate resilience to maintain competitiveness in a turbulent global economy.

Bangladesh is scheduled to graduate in November 2026 after meeting all three UN criteria - Gross National Income, Human Assets Index, and Economic Vulnerability Index -



IMPACT ON RMG

- » RMG will face tougher competition
- » Duty-free access will end
- » Production costs will rise
- » Compliance will tighten

devaluation, and climate pressures.

They also pointed to economic strain following the July 2024 uprising.

The taka has weakened about 45% since 2021, increasing import costs and inflation. Net FDI fell 13% in 2024 to \$1.27 billion, far below Vietnam's \$38 billion. Distressed loans reached Tk7.56 trillion, reflecting financial sector stress, they said. Financial sector fragility

tions, economic headwinds, and climate vulnerabilities.

Dhaka Chamber echoes call

Meanwhile, the same demand was echoed at an event organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) on the same day. At the event, Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy

uation from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) status, warning that a premature transition could hurt exports, raise borrowing costs, and strain key industries.

“Our entrepreneurs and business chambers strongly support graduation. However, we stress the need for a 3-5 year extension [for the gradua-

tion, while promoting export diversification in pharma, IT, leather, agro-processing, and light engineering.

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Bangladesh

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

governance and climate resilience to maintain competitiveness in a turbulent global economy.

Bangladesh is scheduled to graduate in November 2026 after meeting all three UN criteria – Gross National Income, Human Assets Index, and Economic Vulnerability Index – through two consecutive reviews.

Business leaders described the milestone as a “matter of national pride” but cautioned that the transition must be carefully managed.

Participants at the briefing included representatives from the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), and Foreign Investors’ Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Trade risks, end of concessional finance

Mahbubur Rahman warned that the loss of preferential trade terms could hit exports hard. “EU, UK, and other key export destinations may impose tariffs of up to 12%, risking a 6-14% drop in exports unless Bangladesh secures GSP+ or free trade agreements.”

The RMG industry, which accounts for more than 81% of Bangladesh’s export earnings, would be particularly exposed due to stricter Rules of Origin requirements, higher compliance



IMPACT ON RMG

- » RMG will face tougher competition
- » Duty-free access will end
- » Production costs will rise
- » Compliance will tighten



COUNTRIES THAT DELAYED GRADUATION

- » Nepal by 5-yrs
- » Maldives by 8 years
- » Vanuatu by 20 years
- » Myanmar's graduation deferred until 2027

costs, and rising competition, he said.

After LDC graduation, Bangladeshi products will face tariffs of up to 18% in Canada and 12.8% in Japan, which are currently duty free, he said, warning the shift will affect financing and multilateral trade privileges.

“Concessional loans will be replaced by market-based borrowing, raising debt-servicing pressures. Bangladesh will also lose access to World Bank IDA soft loan facilities,” Rahman said. Other losses include special WTO benefits, export subsidies, and relaxed TRIPS patent rules.

Pharma industry at risk

The pharmaceutical sector, supplying 98% of domestic demand and exporting to over 150 countries, currently relies on the TRIPS waiver that allows

generic production of patented medicines until 2033. Without an extension, the industry could lose competitiveness, raising drug prices sharply, Mahbubur Rahman said.

“Blockbuster medicines for cancer and viral infections could skyrocket in cost,” he said. Monthly treatment with the cancer drug Imatinib could rise from \$30-\$40 to \$2,000-\$3,000, while HIV antiretrovirals could jump from \$100-\$150 annually to \$10,000-\$12,000. Biotech drugs such as Trastuzumab could increase more than tenfold.

Current economic challenges

Business leaders highlighted electricity and gas shortages, global trade tensions, declining foreign investment, external debt stress, rising distressed loans, logistics bottlenecks, currency

devaluation, and climate pressures.

They also pointed to economic strain following the July 2024 uprising.

The taka has weakened about 45% since 2021, increasing import costs and inflation. Net FDI fell 13% in 2024 to \$1.27 billion, far below Vietnam’s \$38 billion. Distressed-loans reached Tk7.56 trillion, reflecting financial sector stress, they said. Financial sector fragility could restrict credit, stifle growth, and undermine investor confidence.

ICC Bangladesh president said power cuts, gas shortages, and rising energy costs are disrupting industrial production, while congested roads, customs delays, and port bottlenecks push logistics costs to about 16% of GDP, well above the global average.

“High logistics costs erode trade competitiveness and slow industrial operations,” he added.

7 countries delayed graduation

At the briefing, business lobbies noted that seven countries – the Maldives, Vanuatu, Samoa, Equatorial Guinea, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Myanmar, and Timor-Leste – delayed graduation despite meeting criteria.

These examples show countries often seek more time to prepare for post-LDC challenges, especially when facing political or external shocks or lacking infrastructure, they said.

Naser Ezaz Bijoy, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank and former FICCI president, urged an extension citing global supply chain reconfiguration (such as US tariffs), political transi-

tions, economic headwinds, and climate vulnerabilities.

Dhaka Chamber echoes call

Meanwhile, the same demand was echoed at an event organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) on the same day. At the event, Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said a delay request can be made, but UN approval is uncertain.

“Bangladesh meets graduation indicators, so preparations for post-graduation challenges cannot be set aside. Neglecting them could complicate the situation,” he warned.

Monzur Hossain, member of the General Economics Division of the Planning Commission and chief guest at the event, said the government still plans to proceed with graduation and will hold a high-level stakeholder conference next month.

