

GLOBAL SOURCING EXPO-2025

Call for collective efforts to promote Bangladesh as sustainable manufacturing hub

Daily Sun Report, Dhaka

Speakers on Tuesday called for concerted efforts to globally promote the upcoming Global Sourcing Expo 2025 in Dhaka and to position Bangladesh as an emerging hub for sustainable and socially compliant manufacturing.

A coordination meet-up with foreign embassies in Bangladesh, trade promotion organisations, joint chambers, and buyers' forums was held in

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Call for collective efforts

From Biz-1

preparation for the event, which is scheduled to take place on 1-3 December 2025 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre (BCFEC) in Purbachal.

The discussion, organised by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) at the Sheraton Hotel in the capital, aimed to strengthen

collaboration and engagement with foreign buyers, trade delegations, and other stakeholders to ensure strong international participation in the expo.

In his opening remarks, Mohammad Hasan Arif, vice-chairman of EPB, outlined the key objectives and structure of the Global Sourcing Expo 2025. He emphasised that the event will serve as a

comprehensive international sourcing platform, showcasing Bangladesh's manufacturing excellence and diversified export capabilities.

Highlighting the potential of the country's export sectors, he noted that eight major industries will feature prominently at the expo – apparel (Bangladesh's prime export sector), leather and

leather goods, jute and jute goods, plastics and kitchenware, furniture and home décor, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, and information technology.

These sectors will present a wide array of high-quality, innovative, and sustainable products aimed at attracting global brands and foreign buyers seeking dependable

sourcing destinations.

The expo is designed to create new business linkages, enhance the global visibility of Bangladeshi products, and foster long-term trade partnerships. EPB is working closely with foreign embassies, chambers, and international trade bodies to facilitate the participation of buyer delegations from major export destinations.

সমকাল

29 OCT 2025

আসিয়ান জোটের সঙ্গে চীনের বাণিজ্য চুক্তি সই

■ সমকাল ডেস্ক

চীনের সঙ্গে দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব এশিয়ার দেশগুলোর জোট আসিয়ান বাণিজ্য বাড়াতে একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ চুক্তি সই করেছে। গতকাল মঙ্গলবার মালয়েশিয়ার রাজধানী কুয়ালালামপুরে ৪৭তম আসিয়ান সম্মেলনের ফাঁকে এ চুক্তিতে সই করা হয়। এ সময় উপস্থিত ছিলেন চীনের প্রধানমন্ত্রী লি চিয়াং ও মালয়েশিয়ার প্রধানমন্ত্রী আনোয়ার ইব্রাহিম।

মার্কিন প্রেসিডেন্ট ডোনাল্ড ট্রাম্পের উচ্চ শুষ্কনীতির প্রেক্ষাপটে এমন পদক্ষেপকে ওয়াশিংটনের প্রতি এক ধরনের কূটনৈতিক ইঙ্গিত হিসেবে দেখছেন বিশ্লেষকরা। চীনের রাষ্ট্র পরিষদের বিবৃতির বরাত দিয়ে আলজাজিরা জানায়, '৩.০ সংস্করণ' নামে পরিচিত এ নতুন চুক্তিটি শুধু বাণিজ্য নয়; বরং অর্থনীতি, প্রযুক্তি, পরিবেশ ও সাংস্কৃতিক সম্পর্কের মতো ক্ষেত্রে সহযোগিতা আরও বিস্তৃত করবে। এটি ২০১০ সালে কার্যকর হওয়া চীন ও আসিয়ানের প্রথম মুক্ত বাণিজ্য চুক্তির ওপর ভিত্তি করে গঠিত হয়েছে।

চীনের সঙ্গে ট্রাম্পের বাণিজ্যযুদ্ধ আসিয়ান দেশগুলোকে চীনের বিকল্প উৎপাদন কেন্দ্র হিসেবে তৈরি করেছে। ফলে চীন ও আসিয়ান দেশগুলোর মধ্যে বাণিজ্য বেড়েছে।

২০২৫ সালের প্রথম ৯ মাসে চীন-আসিয়ান বাণিজ্যের পরিমাণ ৭৮৫ বিলিয়ন ডলারে পৌঁছেছে, যা আগের বছরের একই সময়ের তুলনায় ৯ দশমিক ৬ শতাংশ বেশি। এ বাণিজ্যের বেশির ভাগই সমন্বিত উৎপাদন শৃঙ্খলকে কেন্দ্র করে। তবে ক্রমবর্ধমানভাবে দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব এশিয়ার ভোক্তাদের জন্য চীনের প্রস্তুত পণ্যও এতে যুক্ত হচ্ছে।

লি চিয়াং বলেন, চীন ও আসিয়ানের মধ্যে গভীরতর বাণিজ্যিক সম্পর্কের ফলে 'বিস্তৃত ও উচ্চমানের অর্থনৈতিক সহযোগিতা' গড়ে উঠবে।



29 OCT 2025

Fallouts from cargo-incinerating HSIA fire

Export apparel making affected as samples, ingredients undelivered

JASIM UDDIN HAROON

Export apparel making is affected as samples and ingredients remain stuck in piles of courier-borne goods undelivered since a blaze burnt down Dhaka airport's cargo section, sources say.

An estimated 500 tonnes of courier-related goods remained stranded on the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) premises after the fire tore through the airport's import-cargo village on October 18, extensively damaging storage facilities there.

A large volume of courier shipments that arrived after the blaze has since accumulated inside the airport, compounding logistical bottlenecks and creating mounting operational challenges for service providers.

People familiar with the situation told The Financial Express that the disruption is expected to hit the

Some 500-tonne courier-borne goods pile up since airport cargo village burnt down

Undelivered consignments pile up after resumption of air services for procedural bottlenecks

Consignees, especially RMG makers awaiting samples, vital docs from foreign buyers rue supply disruptions

Infra rebuilding, safety checks, revised operational protocols prerequisites for full delivery resumption: CAAB official

country's export-oriented manufacturing sector, particularly the readymade garment (RMG) industry - a key user of courier services for the delivery of product samples, design materials and critical documents.

Every day, a few cargo aircraft carry around 50 tonnes of courier-borne goods into the country through the HSIA.

However, all such consignments have remained undelivered after resumption of aircraft services, creating severe problems to consignees-especially garment manufacturers awaiting samples and vital documents from buyers abroad. While export-cargo operations have largely remained functional

and non-courier imported goods are being delivered, the courier section remains inaccessible, according to some courier companies' executives.

"We have not been able to access the areas where courier goods have been kept since October 19, leaving around 500 tonnes of shipments stuck so far," says Munim Mahfuz Ryan, Managing Director of Bombino Express Services Ltd.

He also says that courier-service operators have met with the relevant government agencies but no avail of solution yet.

"These shipments are critical for consignees, particularly garment factories that require samples to proceed with clothing production," he notes.

Meanwhile, a Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) official told the FE that efforts were ongoing to normalise services after severe damage to both infrastructure and goods in the fire.

"We hope that within the next couple of days, courier services will be able to handle their goods again," the official said, adding that infrastructure rebuilding, safety checks, and revised operational protocols are necessary before full resumption.

"We also met with all key stakeholders on Monday," he said, wishing anonymity. Following the October 18, 2025 blaze, continuous meetings have been held with senior officials from Bangladesh Customs to

find an urgent solution.

The Customs Commissioner has instructed his team to work round the clock to ease the crisis.

During these discussions, courier operators proposed retrieving all goods within an hour-subject to a temporary revision of standard operating procedures (SOPs) typically followed under normal conditions.

"We approached the CAAB Chairman regarding the use of the previously designated shed for courier operations," said a courier-service official.

"However, he emphasised that safety protocols cannot be compromised as the shed is no longer usable due to fire damage."

Courier shipments typically arrive in consolidated form and must undergo sorting and clearance under Bangladesh Customs procedures.

Despite repeated requests at all meetings with government agencies, including the CAAB Chairman, the issue of issuing individual access passes for courier personnel remains unresolved and the goods remained stuck there, according to courier-service providers.

The AKE air-cargo containers --- just a clone of ship containers---used for transporting courier materials need to be unstuffed and vacated promptly to facilitate further shipments both within Bangladesh and abroad.

jasimharoon@yahoo.com

Govt extends aromatic rice export deadline by one month

FE REPORT

- Aromatic rice production reached 1.02m tonnes in FY'24
- Domestic demand estimated at 0.4m tonnes annually
- Popular varieties are Chinigura, Kalijeera, Kataribhog, Tulshimala
- Major export destinations – UAE, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Canada
- Private firms like Ispahani, Square, Pran export globally



The government has extended the deadline for exporting aromatic rice to international markets by one month, sources said. The Ministry of Commerce (MoC) issued an order on Monday formalising the extension.

Earlier, the ministry had permitted the export of 18,150 tonnes of aromatic rice on April 8, 2025, with a shipment deadline of September 30. However, many exporters could not complete their shipments within the set timeframe. Following requests from traders, the ministry extended the deadline by one month.

In addition, the ministry allowed the export of 5,800 tonnes of aromatic rice in May 2025, with the shipment deadline now set for November 30, 2025.

According to the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRRI), the country's aromatic rice production rose to 1.02 million tonnes in fiscal year 2023-24, up from around 0.58 million tonnes in 2017-18. Domestic demand for aromatic rice currently stands at about 0.4 million tonnes, leaving a significant

surplus available for exports.

Bangladesh's aromatic rice enjoys strong demand in overseas markets, particularly among non-resident Bangladeshis. Major destinations include the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Switzerland, the UK, France, Germany, Finland, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Japan, Lebanon, the Maldives, Nepal, New Zealand, Myanmar, Mauritius, Malaysia, Kuwait, Liberia, and South Africa.

Popular aromatic varieties such as Chinigura, Kalijeera, Kataribhog, Tulshimala, Badshabog, Durbashail, Basmathi (locally Banglamoti), and Nenia are particularly sought after abroad. The export policy allows up to 25 types of aromatic rice to be exported with special approval from the commerce ministry.

Several private firms, including Ispahani, Square, and Pran, export packaged aromatic rice to more than 135 countries each fiscal year, contributing significantly to Bangladesh's rice export earnings.

rezamumnu@gmail.com



China signs expanded ASEAN trade pact

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP): China signed an upgraded free trade agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Tuesday, positioning itself as a counterweight to U.S. protectionism and deepening its economic influence in the region.

Premier Li Qiang told the ASEAN-China summit that closer cooperation with Beijing could help the region weather global economic uncertainties. He took a veiled swipe at Washington, saying that "pursuing confrontation instead of solidarity brings no benefit."

The ASEAN-China Free Trade Area 3.0, signed in Kuala Lumpur, aims to expand trade, investment, and digital cooperation among a market of more than 2 billion people. It updates the original 2002 agreement to include areas such as green energy, e-commerce, and support for small businesses.

Two-way trade between ASEAN and China has grown to nearly \$1 trillion, making them each other's largest trading partners. Li described the nations as "good neighbors and good brothers," saying mutual reliance could counter "unilateralism and protectionism."

However, tensions were visible. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. welcomed the deal but cautioned that "cooperation cannot exist alongside coercion," referring to China's aggressive actions in the South China Sea. He urged Beijing to respect international law and avoid "dangerous harassment" of Philippine vessels.

The summit also reflected ASEAN's balancing act between Beijing and Washington. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, the current ASEAN chair, said the bloc seeks "steady engagement" with all powers.

China and Asean, hit by US tariffs, sign upgraded free trade pact

SUMMIT - MALAYSIA

REUTERS

China and the Asean bloc of Southeast Asian nations signed an upgrade to their free trade agreement on Tuesday, with leaders hailing the deal which spans the digital and green economy, and other new industries.

The 11-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations is China's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade totalling \$771 billion last year, according to Asean statistics.

China is seeking to intensify its engagement with Asean, a region with a collective gross domestic product of \$3.8 trillion, to counter hefty import tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump's administration on countries around the world.

"We must accelerate trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation and

strengthen industrial integration and interdependence," Chinese Premier Li Qiang said at the Asean leaders' meeting on Tuesday.

Beijing has been seeking to position itself as a more open economy, despite criticism from other major powers of its expanding export restrictions on rare earths and other critical minerals.

Improved Market Access

The so-called 3.0 version of the free trade agreement between Asean and China was signed into effect at a summit of the bloc's leaders in Malaysia, which Trump attended on Sunday at the start of a trip through Asia.

Negotiations on the upgraded Asean-China deal began in November 2022 and concluded in May this year, just after Trump's tariff offensive kicked into gear. The first FTA came into force in 2010.

"The upgrade will further reduce trade barriers, strengthen supply chain connectivity, and unlock opportunities in future

growth areas," Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said.

China has previously said the agreement would pave the way for improved market access in sectors such as agriculture, the digital economy and pharmaceuticals between China and Asean.

Both China and Asean are part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world's largest trading bloc, which covers nearly a third of the global population and about 30% of global gross domestic product. Malaysia hosted an RCEP summit in Kuala Lumpur on Monday, the first in five years.

The bloc is seen by some analysts as a potential buffer against tariffs imposed by the United States, though its provisions are considered weaker than some other regional trade deals due to competing interests among its members.

Standing in the way of China taking a leading role in

regional trade cooperation are heightened concerns around Beijing's military ambitions.

On Monday, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr criticised Chinese aggression in the South China Sea, where the two countries have been engaged in a series of confrontations. Beijing's foreign office responded to Marcos' statement by saying the clashes were due to provocation from Manila.

China claims almost the entire resource-rich waterway on its official maps, overlapping with parts of the exclusive economic zones of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Unresolved disputes have festered for years over ownership of multiple islands and features.

"We must strengthen strategic mutual trust," Li said in his Tuesday address. "We must accelerate consultations on the Code of Conduct in the

South China Sea and strive for an early conclusion."

Wong also raised the flashpoint as a key diplomatic issue.

"Inevitably, there will be differences of views around the South China Sea, but all of us agree that peace, stability, safety and freedom of navigation and overflight, are critical in this important waterway."

Trade War Truce

China has been engaged in an escalating trade war with the United States since Trump took office in January and imposed steep tariffs on Chinese goods. Beijing has labelled Trump's tariffs, which have hit most countries, as protectionism, while expanding its controls over the flow of its critical minerals and magnets. China processes more than 90% of the world's rare earths.

