

সমকাল

27 MAR 2026

চীনে রপ্তানির অপেক্ষায় বাংলাদেশের কাঁঠাল

■ সমকাল প্রতিবেদক

আমের পর এবার চীনের বাজারে প্রবেশ করতে যাচ্ছে বাংলাদেশের জাতীয় ফল কাঁঠাল। বাংলাদেশ থেকে তাজা কাঁঠাল রপ্তানির লক্ষ্যে চীনের কাষ্টমস কর্তৃপক্ষ জেনারেল অ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন অব কাষ্টমস অব চায়নার (জিএসসি) পাঠানো খসড়া প্রটোকল পর্যালোচনার কাজ প্রায় শেষ পর্যায়ে নিয়ে এসেছে কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়। ২০২৪ সালে স্বাক্ষরিত আম রপ্তানি প্রটোকলের আদলে তৈরি এই নতুন চুক্তিনামা দ্রুত কার্যকর করার লক্ষ্যে সম্প্রতি আন্তঃমন্ত্রণালয় সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। সব প্রক্রিয়া শেষ হলে খুব শিগগিরই কাঁঠাল রপ্তানি হবে, যা দেশের কৃষিপণ্য রপ্তানিতে এক নতুন দিগন্ত উন্মোচন করবে।

সম্প্রতি কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়ের অতিরিক্ত সচিব ড. মো. মাহমুদুল রহমানের সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠিত এক বিশেষ পর্যালোচনা সভায় খসড়া প্রটোকলের ওপর বিভিন্ন মন্ত্রণালয় ও সংস্থার মতামত পর্যালোচনা করা হয়। সভায় জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড (এনবিআর), বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়, অর্থ বিভাগ ও কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর, কৃষি উন্নয়ন করপোরেশন, কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, কৃষি গবেষণা কাউন্সিলের প্রতিনিধিসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিনিধিরা উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

জানা গেছে, চীন থেকে আসা খসড়া প্রটোকল

প্রটোকল চূড়ান্ত করছে কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়



ইংরেজি ভাষায় চূড়ান্ত করে পুনরায় কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়ে পাঠানো হয়েছে। এরপর এটি আইন ও সংসদবিষয়ক বিভাগে ভেটিংয়ের জন্য পাঠানো হবে। দুই দেশের চূড়ান্ত সম্মতি মিললে চলতি মৌসুমেই চীনের বাজারে কাঁঠাল পাঠানোর পথ উন্মোচিত হতে পারে।

খসড়া প্রটোকল বিশ্লেষণ করে দেখা গেছে, আম রপ্তানির মতোই কাঁঠাল রপ্তানির ক্ষেত্রেও বিভিন্ন শর্ত আরোপ করেছে চীন। বিশেষ করে রপ্তানিযোগ্য সব কাঁঠাল বাগান এবং প্যাকিং হাউসকে অবশ্যই কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয় এবং চীনের কাষ্টমস কর্তৃক যৌথভাবে নিবন্ধিত হতে হবে। বাগানগুলোতে 'গুড

এগ্রিকালচারাল প্র্যাকটিস' এবং সমন্বিত বালাই ব্যবস্থাপনা নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। বিশেষভাবে ব্যাকট্রোসেরা ক্যারাম্বোলা ও বি. আমব্রোসা নামক পোকাকার আক্রমণ থেকে ফলকে সম্পূর্ণ মুক্ত রাখার শর্ত দেওয়া হয়েছে। নিবন্ধিত প্যাকিং হাউসগুলোতে ফল বাছাই, ধোয়া ও প্যাকিংয়ের সময় কারিগরি মান কঠোরভাবে বজায় রাখতে হবে।

প্রটোকলে বলা হয়েছে প্রতিটি বাগ্রে ইংরেজি বা চীনা ভাষায় ফলের নাম, রপ্তানিকারকের দেশ, বাগানের নাম ও নিবন্ধন নম্বর উল্লেখ থাকতে হবে। এ ছাড়া কনটেইনারে লোড করার সময় ফলগুলো পরিষ্কার থাকতে হবে। এরপর তা সরকারিভাবে সিল করতে হবে এবং চীনের বন্দরে না পৌঁছানো পর্যন্ত খোলা যাবে না। বাগানগুলোতে মিথাইল ইউজেনল ব্যবহার করে পোকা দমন এবং আন্তর্জাতিক ফাইটোস্যানিটারি মান নিশ্চিত করার ওপর জোর দেওয়া হয়েছে।

কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয় সূত্র জানায়, আমের প্রটোকল বাস্তবায়নের অভিজ্ঞতা কাজে লাগিয়ে কাঁঠাল রপ্তানির প্রক্রিয়াটি দ্রুত শেষ করার চেষ্টা চলছে। এনবিআরসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্য সংস্থাগুলোর লিখিত মতামত পাওয়ার এক সপ্তাহের মধ্যে পরবর্তী উচ্চ পর্যায়ের সভা হবে। এসব প্রক্রিয়া শেষ হলে অতি দ্রুত দুই দেশের মধ্যে চূড়ান্ত চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরিত হবে।



WTO conference kicks off with push to resist protectionism

Prolonged crisis in Middle East may cut global trade by 0.50 percentage points, says WTO chief

The Daily Star

27 MAR 2026

Trade outlook

- War may cut global trade growth to 1.4% from 1.9%
- Services trade growth also at risk from conflict impacts

Key drivers

- High oil prices are a major driver of trade slowdown
- Tariffs and policy uncertainty are weakening trade momentum

System challenges

- Global trading system facing worst disruption in 80 years
- WTO calls for stronger multilateral cooperation and reforms



REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA, from Yaounde in Cameroon

The 14th WTO Ministerial Conference began yesterday with a call to uphold the multilateral trading system, as rising trade protectionism poses challenges to the free flow of global trade.

At the event, which began in Yaoundé, Cameroon, World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala urged leaders of the 166 member countries to take necessary steps to reform the organisation, established in 1995, so that it can contribute more effectively to the global trading system.

Delivering the inaugural speech at the conference, she informed that prolonged high

oil prices resulting from the Middle East conflict could lower the global trade growth by 0.5 percentage points, from 1.9 percent to 1.4 percent.

Economists are forecasting slower 1.9 percent growth for goods trade, with the impact of frontloading gone, previously postponed tariffs kicking in, and reflecting geopolitics, energy prices, and policy uncertainty.

However, she said, "I am full of hope for what we can achieve here for the WTO of the future -- to use this unique opportunity to lay the foundations for a reformed and reinvigorated institution."

The WTO director-general said it is no secret that the world trading system is experiencing the worst disruptions in the past 80 years.

But these disruptions are a symptom of the wider disruptions shaking the international order created after the Second World War to prevent a repeat of the horrors of the first half of the 20th century, she said.

Okonjo-Iweala said some argue that we are in a rupture, a fundamental break with the past. Others counter that we are in more of a transition, as institutions and practices adjust to a world in which economic and geopolitical power are more widely distributed, and leadership is more diffuse.

She mentioned three important factors that have reshaped the multilateral trading system: first, the multilateral trading system changed the world; second, the world cannot go back; and third, looking to the future while keeping the multilateral trading system in mind.

Because open international trade has raised living standards and created wealth in both rich and poor countries, it has helped lift 1.5 billion people out of extreme poverty in recent decades.

face of disruptions and crises as we speak. Our new trade outlook shows that last year, global goods trade grew by 4.6 percent in volume terms.

"Yes, tariffs and uncertainty had a dampening effect, but these were offset by import frontloading, the AI investment boom, and favourable macroeconomic conditions.

"The huge increase in trade in AI-related products like semiconductors and processors accounted for 42 percent of global trade growth last year. I want to note here that most of these goods were exempt from new tariffs, and that the bulk of global trade in just about everything that goes into a data centre faces low or zero tariffs under the WTO's plurilateral Information Technology Agreement, to which 84 of you are participants," the WTO DG also said.

Global trade was severely disrupted by the fallout from Covid-19, and due to a system of rules and norms that kept trade flowing, economies have shown remarkable resilience through many global crises, more recently the global financial and food crises from 2008 to

The share of global goods trade conducted on most-favoured-nation (MFN) tariff terms has moved up and down in recent months -- it has been a bit volatile, but our latest analysis shows that it still remains around 72 percent -- nearly three-quarters of global goods trade.

WTO rules are still providing global trade with a stable core; however, much uncertainty is swirling around it.

She sought cooperation from WTO member countries to carry out reforms, as in the past thirty years since the Uruguay Round, not much has changed in the organisation's rules and governance.

This was bound to lead to tensions within and between the organisation's core functions.

These "tensions were very much out in the open yesterday in this member-driven organisation, as one headline after another pronounces the organisation's impending demise or irrelevance.

Advocating for a multilateral trading system, Luc Maloigne, Managing Director



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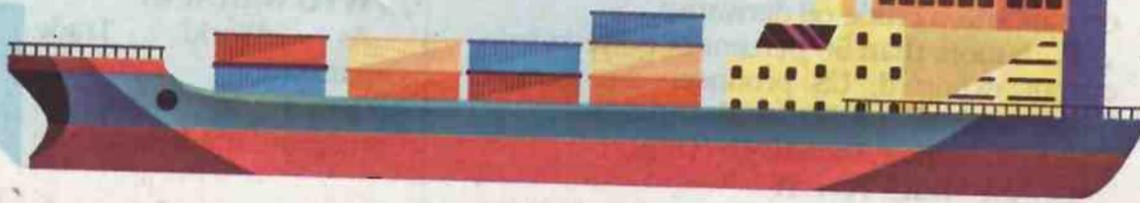
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She mentioned three important factors that have reshaped the multilateral trading system: first, the multilateral trading system changed the world; second, the world cannot go back; and third, looking to the future while keeping the multilateral trading system in mind.

Because open international trade has raised living standards and created wealth in both rich and poor countries, it has helped lift 1.5 billion people out of extreme poverty in recent decades.

However, she said these impacts were uneven: many poor countries, and poor people and regions within rich countries, were left behind.

There were job displacements. Nevertheless, it is indisputable that trade has been a major factor in raising living standards and in the unprecedented progress against poverty.

The volume of global trade today is more than 47 times higher than it was in 1950, while real global GDP has grown 15-fold over the same period.

"Now we are seeing resilience in the

face of disruptions and crises as we speak. Our new trade outlook shows that last year, global goods trade grew by 4.6 percent in volume terms.

"Yes, tariffs and uncertainty had a dampening effect, but these were offset by import frontloading, the AI investment boom, and favourable macroeconomic conditions.

"The huge increase in trade in AI-related products like semiconductors and processors accounted for 42 percent of global trade growth last year. I want to note here that most of these goods were exempt from new tariffs, and that the bulk of global trade in just about everything that goes into a data centre faces low or zero tariffs under the WTO's plurilateral Information Technology Agreement, to which 84 of you are participants," the WTO DG also said.

Global trade was severely disrupted by the fallout from Covid-19, and due to a system of rules and norms that kept trade flowing, economies have shown remarkable resilience through many global crises, more recently the global financial and food crises from 2008 to 2010, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Services trade is set to grow by 4.8 percent, though this too could fall to 4.1 percent if travel and transport are dragged down by the Middle East conflict. But there are also upside scenarios, such as if demand for AI-related products remains strong.

An important factor in trade's resilience is that most economies have chosen to keep trading with each other on normal WTO terms that assure predictability, stability, and a good degree of openness.

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These tensions were very much out in the open yesterday in this member-driven organisation, as one headline after another pronounces the organisation's impending demise or irrelevance.

Advocating for a multilateral trading system, Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana, minister of commerce of Cameroon and chair of the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference, called for strong unity and positivity for the rules-based trading system.

For instance, because of this strong unity and positivity, the adoption of the proposal on reducing fisheries subsidies by member countries was possible.

The multilateral trading system will offer a unique opportunity for member countries, he also said.

The summit will continue until March 29.



BD stresses extended transition periods within WTO

WTO MC14 starts amidst low expectations

ASJADUL KIBRIA

Amidst uncertainties on global trade and economy mainly due to the ongoing war in the Middle East, the 14th ministerial conference (MC14) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) formally started in Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon, on Thursday. Trade ministers and negotiators from 166 member-countries of the organisation are attending the highest-level decision-making body of the WTO to reach a deal on some issues, although they keep their expectations significantly low.

Key issues like reforms of the WTO, incorporating investment-facilitation agreement into the WTO rulebook, seeking a permanent solution on public stockholding (PSH) for food security, reaching an agreement on restricting subsidies to overcapacity in fishing fleets and to overfishing (Fish-2), and deciding the fate of the e-commerce moratorium, are set to dominate the negotiations in the four-day summit.

Besides these, issues of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are also on the table as the group demanded continuation of LDC-specific trade preferences for the graduating LDCs like Bangladesh for a certain period of time.

Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir is leading the Bangladesh delegation at MC14.

The country is set to graduate from the LDC category by November this year, though the government has formally requested a three-year deferment from the UN Committee for Development Policy (UNCDP).

Regarding LDC graduation, the minister said that graduation from the LDC category marks an important milestone in the development journey of a country.

"While this achievement reflects the strength

"Such measures will help graduating LDCs preserve development gains, strengthen productive capacities, and integrate more effectively into the global trading system," he continued.

On WTO reforms, the commerce minister of Bangladesh said the country believes the reform process must be inclusive, transparent, and firmly anchored in the founding principles of the WTO.

"Reform must preserve consensus-based decision-making, ensure meaningful participation of smaller and vulnerable economies, and safeguard the policy space necessary for structural transformation and economic diversification in developing countries," he added.

Bangladesh also stressed the restoration of a fully functioning two-tier dispute settlement system, including the Appellate Body.

KEY ISSUES ON THE AGENDA

- *WTO reforms*
- *Incorporating investment facilitation agreement into WTO rulebook*
- *Seeking permanent solution on public stockholding for food security*
- *Reaching agreement on restricting subsidies to overcapacity in fishing fleets and to overfishing (Fish-2)*
- *Deciding fate of e-commerce moratorium*

and progress of the economy, graduation will also bring considerable adjustment challenges," he added in his ministerial statement submitted to the WTO.

"A large share of our exports currently benefits from LDC-specific preferences and special and differential treatment provisions under WTO rules. The erosion of these benefits will create pressures for our export sectors and broader economy," he continued. Terming smooth and sustainable graduation critically important, he called for extended transition periods and targeted support measures within the WTO framework, including continued access to certain flexibilities and capacity-building support.

organisation's development mandate. Our World Is Not For Sale (OWINFS), a global network of organisations and activists working for reforms of the multilateral trading system to serve people and the planet, issued a statement in this connection on Wednesday.

It cautioned that the reform agenda now on the table would eliminate the WTO's non-discrimination principle and legitimise illegal US bilateral trade deals struck under threat of tariffs.

The global civil society network also warned that the proposed reforms entrench a governance model that allows powerful economies to dictate terms to the rest of the world through club-based plurilateral agreements.

Meanwhile, at the opening session of the MC14 on Thursday, WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said, "We have work-filled and difficult four days ahead of us. It is

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Bangladesh also stressed the restoration of a fully functioning two-tier dispute settlement system, including the Appellate Body.

"The credibility of the rules-based system depends on an independent adjudicating system that safeguards the rights of all Members, even the smallest ones," added the minister's statement issued on Thursday. A large number of civil society organisations, however, have already urged the WTO members to reject a "reform" agenda that would fundamentally undermine the

WTO reforms

▶ **Incorporating investment facilitation agreement into WTO rulebook**

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Meanwhile, at the opening session of the MC14 on Thursday, WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said, "We have work-filled and difficult four days ahead of us. It is now really up to you members to decide whether you want the organisation to continue or you want to pull it apart."

MC14 chair Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana, commerce minister of Cameroon, presided over the opening session.

The four-day event is scheduled to end on Sunday.

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