

Aromatic rice export deadline extended to April 30

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has extended the deadline for exporting aromatic rice until April 30, allowing 21 companies additional time to complete their shipments, as the previous export window expired on November 30, 2025.

A commerce ministry circular regarding the extension was issued yesterday, which also noted that the minimum export price has been set at \$1.60 per kilogramme. At an exchange rate of Tk 123 per dollar, this translates to approximately Tk 196.8 per kg.

Nargis Murshida, joint secretary (Export-1) of the ministry's Export Wing, said the extension was granted following requests from exporters who failed to ship their allocated quantities within the previous deadline.

"This is a continuation of the approval given in June last year," she said.

On May 28, 2025, the ministry permitted 52 companies to export 5,800 tonnes of aromatic rice. Before that, on April 8, 2025, it approved 18,150 tonnes for 133 companies. In total, export approvals in two phases amounted to 23,950 tonnes.

Bangladesh began exporting aromatic rice in the fiscal year 2009-10. Exports were halted in 2022 amid domestic supply concerns. Previously, in October 2013, shipments were also suspended due to sharp price hikes in the local market.



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BGMEA pushes for quick release of Tk 57b in RMG incentives

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has urged the government to expedite the disbursement of Tk 57.0 billion in cash incentives for the ready-made garment (RMG) sector.

The call came during a meeting with Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury at the Secretariat on Wednesday, a delegation member, led by BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan, said on Thursday, reports UNB. BGMEA described the 'fragile state' of the industry, highlighting stalled incentives, working capital shortages, and hurdles to ease of doing business.

Khan said the cash incentives for FY2025-26 remain trapped in audit procedures by lien banks and Bangladesh Bank, leaving many factories in severe liquidity stress.

He urged a shift from the quarterly release system to immediate disbursement upon application.

The Finance Minister acknowledged the demand's validity and pledged to modernize and streamline the process for quicker fund release.

BGMEA Vice President Md. Shihab Uddoja Chowdhury raised concerns over loan rescheduling, noting that while banks reschedule loans to manage non-performing loan ratios, they often fail to provide the working capital necessary to keep factories operational.

He proposed a 'win-win' approach where banks supply working capital alongside rescheduling. The minister expressed support for the idea.

Describing the garment industry as the 'backbone of the economy', Amir Khosru asked BGMEA to submit a detailed list of obstacles and recommendations within a week and assured full policy support for sustainable sector growth.

