

# কালবেলা

16 APR 2026

## জাতীয় রপ্তানিতে বেপজার অবদান ১৭ শতাংশ

২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছর

কালবেলা প্রতিবেদক »

বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানি প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষ (বেপজা) প্রতিষ্ঠার শুরু থেকে দেশের বৈদেশিক বিনিয়োগ আকর্ষণ, রপ্তানি আয় বৃদ্ধি এবং কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টির মাধ্যমে অর্থনীতিতে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অবদান রেখে চলেছে।

২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে জাতীয় রপ্তানিতে বেপজার অবদান ছিল ১৭ দশমিক ০৩ শতাংশ। গত ৪৫ বছরে সংস্থাটি প্রায় ৭ দশমিক ২৯ বিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলার বিনিয়োগ আকর্ষণ করেছে এবং ১২৫ বিলিয়ন ডলারের বেশি পণ্য রপ্তানি করেছে।

বেপজার যাত্রার সূচনা রাষ্ট্রপতি জিয়াউর রহমানের এক দূরদর্শী সিদ্ধান্তের মাধ্যমে। সত্তরের দশকের শেষভাগে যুদ্ধ-পরবর্তী বাংলাদেশে বৈদেশিক বিনিয়োগ ছিল খুবই সীমিত, রপ্তানি ছিল নগণ্য, আর কৃষির বাইরে কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগও ছিল অপ্রতুল। এই বাস্তবতায়

রপ্তানিমুখী প্রবৃদ্ধির মাধ্যমে শিল্পায়নের একটি সুপরিষ্কৃত কাঠামোর প্রয়োজনীয়তা অনুভূত হয়। ১৯৮০ সালে 'বেপজা আইন' পাস হয় এবং ১৫ এপ্রিল ১৯৮১ সালে গেজেট নোটিফিকেশনের মাধ্যমে বেপজা আনুষ্ঠানিক যাত্রা শুরু করে। ১৯৮৩ সালে বন্দরনগরী চট্টগ্রামে দেশের প্রথম ইপিজেড স্থাপনের মাধ্যমে শুরু হয় রপ্তানিমুখী উৎপাদনের বাস্তব প্রয়োগ।

বর্তমানে বেপজার অধীন জোনগুলোতে প্রায় ৫ দশমিক ৫ লাখ বাংলাদেশি নাগরিকের কর্মসংস্থান হয়েছে, যার একটি বড় অংশ নারী। কর্মসংস্থানের এই সুযোগ দেশের সামাজিক উন্নয়ন ও নারী ক্ষমতায়নেও গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা রাখছে। বর্তমানে বেপজা দেশের আটটি ইপিজেড-চট্টগ্রাম, ঢাকা, মোংলা, কুমিল্লা, উত্তরা, ঈশ্বরদী, আদমজী ও কর্ণফুলী ইপিজেড এবং চট্টগ্রামের মীরসরাইয়ে অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল পরিচালনা করছে। যশোর এবং পটুয়াখালী ইপিজেড স্থাপনের কাজ দ্রুতগতিতে এগিয়ে চলেছে। আরও ৩৪টি প্রতিষ্ঠান বাস্তবায়নাধীন।



# Middle East conflict disrupting garment production

Says BGMEA president

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The ongoing Middle East conflict is severely disrupting production in the garment sector due to energy shortages, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Mahmud Hasan Khan said yesterday.

He made the statement at a meeting with Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir at the minister's office in Dhaka, where he led a BGMEA business delegation.

Khan said the sector is facing a crisis due to global economic instability, the impact of the Middle East conflict, and severe gas and electricity shortages in the country, according to a BGMEA statement after the meeting.

He also said rising raw material prices and higher production costs have further worsened the situation.

In such a difficult time, strong policy support from the government and a business-friendly environment are essential to stay competitive in the international market, he added.

Khan also spoke about the RMG Sustainability Council (RSC), saying it was formed mainly to address future industry challenges, including monitoring, building, fire, and electrical safety standards.

However, he said that social compliance issues such as wages and trade unions are not within its core responsibility.

Khan added that expanding its role into these areas would create extra administrative and financial burdens on the industry, which is not desirable.

He also stressed that any decision in this regard must be made in line with stakeholders' views and national laws, the statement read.

During the meeting, the BGMEA chief called for an amendment to the current import policy to simplify the import of raw materials on a free of cost (FOC) basis.

He also requested a revision of relevant clauses in the Import Policy Order to remove the requirement for

of the existing 10 percent income tax deduction on cash incentives to boost garment exports.

They also called for normalising trade relations with India and removing barriers to yarn imports and product exports through land ports.

To further speed up garment exports, they proposed amending relevant sections of the Import Policy 2024-2027 and automating the process for determining CIP (Commercially Important Person) status for industry entrepreneurs.

The minister acknowledged the importance of the sector as the country's leading foreign currency earner in the current global context.

He assured that the government would provide necessary policy support to address challenges and

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He also requested a revision of relevant clauses in the Import Policy Order to remove the requirement for bond licences when supplying goods from bonded exporters to non-bonded direct exporters.

BGMEA leaders urged the withdrawal

of the existing 10 percent income tax deduction on cash incentives to boost garment exports.

They also called for normalising trade relations with India and removing barriers to yarn imports and product exports through land ports.

To further speed up garment exports, they proposed amending relevant sections of the Import Policy 2024-2027 and automating the process for determining CIP (Commercially Important Person) status for industry entrepreneurs.

The minister acknowledged the importance of the sector as the country's leading foreign currency earner in the current global context.

He assured that the government would provide necessary policy support to address challenges and maintain Bangladesh's competitiveness in the global market, the statement added.



# Unlocking agro-industrial potential

The government's particular emphasis, as reported in this newspaper's April 14 issue, on boosting agro-industrial sector in the country's northern region is a step in the right direction. Already the north has proved that it is a production hub of various agricultural produce such as vegetables and fruits. If the potential of the diverse clusters of farm produce spread all across the region can be exploited for agro-processing, the move can not only cause value addition but also avoid waste of perishable items. The fact that agro-industries have not received the preference for processing the produce is undeniable. In some cases like that of sugar, ill planning and obsolete machines are responsible for losses and higher prices. If advanced technology is introduced to boost production, overpricing and loss can be avoided. A comprehensive review of the entire gamut of industrial sub-sectors in sync with productive potential is the demand of the time. For example, potato produced in the region usually has a glut with the exception of the year 2024. Farmers growing potato are incurring losses. If there were facilities for processing potato into chips and other foods for export, farmers were not required to lament over supply well beyond demands. Even farmers could be trained to grow better quality potato for export straightway.

Mango is yet another farm produce that should have processing facilities in the growing regions of Chapai Nawabganj and Rajshahi. The same is the case with tomato. Agro-processing is limited and pineapple is yet another candidate for such value additions.

Both public and private investment along with joint ventures can advance the cause of agro-processing not only

***Fresh investment and expansion of industrial base is a prerequisite for creating employment***

in the country's north but also in the south. Now that the south has turned into a great source of water melon, the fruit can well be used for industrial processing on a large scale. To wit, agro-processing in diverse areas can meet the local demands as well as provide a boost to export of the non-traditional agro-products. To do so, however, there is a need for a comprehensive plan based on reports of the agricultural extension officers posted at the grass-roots level. This is how cultivation of certain crops with low demand can be limited while those fit for agro-processing should be allotted larger areas. However, the objective ought to be to strike a balance between and among primary and cash crops. There is no harm if cash crops fetch much higher profits than the staples. However, the international price levels of the staples should be taken into account before replacing those with cash crops. The country's cropping patterns have already changed and the crops that are in high demand and also bring healthy profit may get priority so far as cultivation is concerned. Investors will be interested in investing in sectors that deliver robust enough return. Rice produced in the north of the country is sourced mainly for feeding the nation. The acreage of the staple cannot be abruptly cut. Such a need may not arise if the production of perishable items is raised courtesy of introduction of better seeds and application of advanced technology. Fresh investment and expansion of industrial base is a prerequisite for creating employment. Let it happen in order to absorb a sizeable portion of the unemployed.

