The Daily Star

19 JUN 2026

Bangladesh remains key sourcing market: H&M

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Swedish retail giant H&M has said Bangladesh remains "a very important sourcing market", amid media reports suggesting it may reduce purchases from the country.

H&M is currently the largest garment buyer in Bangladesh, sourcing apparel from nearly 300 local factories worth about $5 billion a year.

When The Daily Star asked H&M's media relations department whether the retailer has reduced, or plans to reduce, sourcing from Bangladesh, the company did not respond directly.

Instead, H&M said, "We cannot share production volumes or the share of orders per market, as this is commercially sensitive information.

"What we can share is that we have been sourcing from Bangladesh since the early 1980s, establishing relationships with strong manufacturing partners and building long-term partnerships through our local presence and on-the-ground teams. Bangladesh continues to be a very important sourcing market for us."

On its website, H&M said it works with over 554 commercial product suppliers who manufacture products for its brands in more than 969 tier 1 factories across Europe, Asia, and North America. China and Bangladesh are its largest clothing production markets.

H&M has not made any official statement about reducing its sourcing from Bangladesh, said Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

"However, decisions to increase or reduce work orders are part of a company's sourcing strategy and planning," he added.

Mohammad Hatem, president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said he held an informal meeting with H&M officials in Dhaka, where they said that work orders in Bangladesh were lower this year compared to last year.

However, he said the officials did not specify the extent of the decline.

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However, he said the officials did not specify the extent of the decline.

"This is also true that, due to the volatile global situation, overall demand in the apparel supply chain has fallen,

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Bangladesh remains key

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and this may be a major reason for lower order volumes from major retailers and brands like H&M this year," Hatem said.

He also said that during the meeting, H&M officials referred to India's free trade agreement with the European Union and Bangladesh's expected loss of preferential market access to the EU and other major markets after it graduates from least developed country (LDC) status to a developing nation in November this year.

Hatem added that India is offering several incentives to its textile and garment sector, including support for land, factory setup, bank loans, and worker benefits, to make it more competitive in the global apparel trade.

The BGMEA also held an emergency board meeting on Monday and identified several reasons behind the fall in garment exports over the past year, including global economic volatility, US reciprocal tariffs, the energy crisis, high bank interest rates, poor port operations and issues linked to LDC graduation.

Over the past year, weak global demand has slowed garment orders worldwide, as Western retailers and brands continue to hold unsold inventory, affecting sourcing decisions, said Mahmud Hasan Khan.

Apart from falling demand, US reciprocal tariffs have also hurt exports, as buyers remained uncertain about the final tariff rate after repeated changes in US President Trump's tariff policy, he added.

The US-Israel war on Iran also disrupted shipments from Bangladesh, leading to rerouting of goods, higher airfreight costs, longer lead times and fewer buyer visits due to the disruption.

Different studies suggest Bangladesh could lose up to $17.5 billion in exports, particularly garments, annually due to LDC graduation, as around 73 percent of the country's exports are LDC-related.

The Daily Star

19 JUN 2026

India seeks to continue anti-dumping duties on Bangladesh's jute products

SOHEL PARVEZ

Indian authorities are expected to recommend the continuation of anti-dumping duties on Bangladesh's jute products despite a decline in overall shipments in recent years, raising concerns among local millers.

The development comes as India's Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) released the findings of its mid-term review of anti-dumping duties on jute goods exported from Bangladesh and Nepal.

The Indian authority released its findings on Wednesday, suggesting that Bangladeshi exporters continued to dump jute products, causing injury to the domestic industry.

The neighbouring country imposed anti-dumping duties, ranging from $19 to $352 per tonne, on jute yarn/twine, hessian fabric and jute sacking bags from Bangladesh and Nepal. It later expanded the scope of the duties to include jute sacking cloth from Bangladesh, leading to a slump in overall shipments of jute goods to India.

India was one of the largest export markets for Bangladesh's jute and jute goods, and the punitive measure affected shipments from the country.

The DGTR initiated a mid-term review in June 2025 following an appeal by the Indian Jute Mills Association and the AP Mesta Twine Mills Association to examine the need to enhance anti-dumping duties on jute products exported from Bangladesh and Nepal.

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India seeks to continue

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It sought responses from 54 millers in Bangladesh and 36 in Nepal. Some 38 jute mills responded from Bangladesh and five from Nepal.

The DGTR sampled responses from 10 Bangladeshi producers for detailed examination and concluded that three local exporters dumped jute goods in India by selling the products at prices lower than those in their domestic market.

The Indian authority said that while demand in India declined by 20 percent during the investigation period, imports from Bangladesh and Nepal fell by only 13 percent, indicating that foreign producers were gaining market share at the expense of Indian mills.

The DGTR report said Indian producers had reportedly been forced to reduce their prices to compete with low-priced imports, leading to negligible returns on capital.

It found varying dumping margins -- the difference between the normal value of a product and its export price -- among Bangladeshi millers, ranging from 5 percent to 55 percent.

For Nepalese producers, it found dumping margins ranging from 20 percent to 30 percent and suggested that interested parties submit their comments on the findings by June 24, 2026.

According to the DGTR report, Bangladesh's jute goods exports to India fell by 18 percent year on year to 1.17 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, down from 1.43 lakh tonnes in the previous year.

Mostafa Abid Khan, a former member of the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission, said the mid-term review suggested that the Indian authorities were likely to recommend higher anti-dumping duties on jute goods from Bangladesh despite a decline in Bangladeshi exports during the 2024-25 investigation period.

The matter warranted careful consideration by the Indian government, he added.

WHAT DOES THE LOCAL INDUSTRY SAY?

Tapash Pramanik, chairman of the Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association (BJSA), denied allegations of dumping by local jute millers in the Indian market.

"We have informed them (Indian authorities) on many occasions. They do not pay heed," he said.

Referring to the Indian industry's argument regarding high export subsidies, he said the export incentives received by local millers were modest. Jute yarn exporters get 3 percent, while hessian exporters get 5 percent.

"Overall, our cost of production is higher than that of our counterparts in India," added the chief of the BJSA, which represents the largest export earners in the jute industry.

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Pramanik said India enjoys a huge trade surplus with Bangladesh and could have overlooked the issue to reduce the bilateral trade imbalance.

"Our exports of jute products to India have dropped significantly since the imposition of anti-dumping duty in 2017. We can export jute products only through one port, and it is Mumbai," he said.

Last year, India restricted imports of a range of jute products and woven fabrics from Bangladesh via land ports, allowing them only through the Nhava Sheva Port in Mumbai.

"This will be a disaster. Any new measure will hit exports further," Pramanik said, terming the move 'one-sided, coercive and discriminatory'.

The Business Standard

19 JUN 2026

Tariff shield for resin, polyester fibre producers sparks cost fears for plastics, textile makers

BUSINESS – BANGLADESH

REYAD HOSSAIN

The government has proposed higher import duties on several raw materials in the FY2026 budget to protect domestic manufacturers, but businesses that rely on those materials say the move will increase production costs and ultimately raise consumer prices.

Under the proposed finance bill, import duties on PVC resin and PET resin have been doubled from 5% to 10%, while the duty on polyester staple fibre has been raised from 1% to 5%.

PVC resin is a versatile, cost-effective white powder used to manufacture plastics and rubbers; PET resin is a clear, lightweight, and recyclable thermoplastic polymer used to manufacture food and beverage containers, consumer packaging, and synthetic fibers.

- Import duty rise on PVC, PET resins proposed from **5% to 10%**
- Duty on polyester staple fibre also proposed from **1% to 5%**
- Higher duties to increase production costs for downstream industries
- Local producers can meet only **30%** of PVC, PET resin demand
- Local resin already costlier than imports
- Yarn production costs to rise for those who import these raw materials
- This will reduce Bangladesh's competitiveness globally, they say

Both are key inputs for pipes, water tanks, packaging materials, healthcare products, electronics, automobiles, beverage bottles and pharmaceutical packaging.

Industry stakeholders argue that local producers cannot meet domestic demand and often charge higher prices than imported alternatives.

According to plastic sector entrepreneurs, the country's annual demand for PVC resin is about 500,000 tonnes and for PET resin around 850,000 tonnes. Local production capacity stands at roughly 150,000 tonnes and 100,000 tonnes respectively, leaving around 70% of demand dependent on imports.

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Tariff shield for resin, polyester fibre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Plastic manufacturers say the duty increase will directly raise their costs.

Riad Mahmud, managing director of National Polymer Group, said local resin is already more expensive than imports and domestic producers can supply only 27% of market demand.

"We will now have to import at a higher cost, which will increase product prices and reduce demand," he told The Business Standard.

Riad also warned that the policy could create monopolistic market conditions by favouring a handful of large producers.

Concerns in textile sector

The increase in polyester staple fibre duty has also raised concerns among textile manufacturers.

Bangladesh earns about 25% of its garment export revenue from man-made fibre (MMF)-based products, while such fibre apparel accounts for nearly 70% of the global apparel market. This potential has attracted major investments from companies, including Square Textiles, Noman Group, Ha-Meem Group, Cumilla Spinning and NZ Group.

Industry insiders say local polyester staple fibre producers can meet only 10%-15% of demand and their products are more expensive than imports.

Textile mill owners warn that the duty hike will increase the cost of producing yarn, blended yarn and fabrics for nearly 40 man-made fi-

বণিক বার্তা
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মোংলায় বিনিয়োগে আগ্রহী চীন

—বিডার নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান

নিজস্ব প্রতিবেদক ■

বাংলাদেশে অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল নির্মাণ ও মোংলা বন্দর উন্নয়নে চীন বিনিয়োগ করতে আগ্রহী বলে জানিয়েছেন বাংলাদেশ বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের (বিডা) নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান চৌধুরী আশিক মাহমুদ বিন হারুন। গতকাল বিডার মাল্টিপারপাস হলে এক কর্মশালায় তিনি এ কথা বলেন।

বিডার নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান বলেন, 'কূটনৈতিক দৃষ্টিকোণ থেকে চীন বাংলাদেশের অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অংশীদার। তাই সামগ্রিকভাবে চীন সফর বাংলাদেশের জন্য খুবই গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। গত পাঁচ বছরে আমরা ধারাবাহিকভাবে দেখেছি যে বাংলাদেশের অন্যতম বড় বিনিয়োগ উৎস হচ্ছে চীন। সেই কারণেই আমরা চীনা অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল দ্রুত এগিয়ে নেয়ার জন্য কাজ করছি এবং এরই মধ্যে একটি ভালো অবস্থানে পৌঁছেছি।'

নতুন সরকার যেহেতু পাঁচ বছর দায়িত্বে থাকবে এবং সাধারণভাবে সরকারের প্রথম দুই বছর বিনিয়োগের জন্য সবচেয়ে আদর্শ সময় হিসেবে বিবেচিত হয়। তাই এ সময়টাকে কাজে লাগানোই মূল উদ্দেশ্য বলে জানান তিনি।

চৌধুরী আশিক মাহমুদ বিন হারুন আরো উল্লেখ করেন, দেশের সামগ্রিক অর্থনীতিকে এগিয়ে নিতে বড় বড় অবকাঠামো বিনিয়োগ প্রয়োজন। সেই সম্ভাবনাগুলোই আমরা চীনা সরকারের সামনে তুলে ধরছি—কোন কোন খাতে তারা বিনিয়োগ করতে পারে এবং কেন এখনই বাংলাদেশে বিনিয়োগের সবচেয়ে উপযুক্ত সময়।

বিদেশী বিনিয়োগের পাশাপাশি বিডা, বেজা ও বেপজার মতো সরকারের বিনিয়োগ উন্নয়ন সংস্থাগুলো দেশীয় বিনিয়োগকেও বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দিচ্ছে বলে জানান চৌধুরী আশিক। কর্মশালায় আরো ছিলেন বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের অতিরিক্ত পরিচালক (পরিসংখ্যান বিভাগ) নূরজাহান আখতার, বিডার নির্বাহী সদস্য ও সচিব হুমায়ূন কবির ও মহাপরিচালক মুজিবুল-উল-ফেরদৌস।

প্রথম আলো

19 JUN 2026

বাংলাদেশের পাটপণ্যে ভারতের অ্যান্টি-ডাম্পিং শুল্ক থাকছে

পর্যালোচনা প্রতিবেদন

নিজস্ব প্রতিবেদক, *ঢাকা*

বাংলাদেশ ও নেপাল থেকে ভারতে রপ্তানি হওয়া পাটপণ্যের ওপর আরোপিত অ্যান্টি-ডাম্পিং শুল্ক আপাতত প্রত্যাহারের পক্ষে নয় ভারত। দেশটি এক পর্যালোচনা প্রতিবেদনে বলেছে, এই শুল্ক বহাল রাখা বা প্রয়োজন হলে সংশোধন করা হবে।

সম্প্রতি বাংলাদেশ ও নেপাল থেকে ভারতে রপ্তানি হওয়া পাটপণ্যের ওপর আরোপিত অ্যান্টি-ডাম্পিং শুল্কের মধ্যবর্তী পর্যালোচনা করেছে ভারতের ডিরেক্টরেট জেনারেল অব ট্রেড রেমেডিজ (ডিজিটিআর)। প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়েছে, বাংলাদেশ ও নেপাল থেকে পাটপণ্য রপ্তানিতে এখনো ডাম্পিং অব্যাহত আছে। স্বাভাবিক মূল্যের তুলনায় কম দামে এসব পণ্য ভারতে বিক্রি হচ্ছে। ফলে দেশটির অভ্যন্তরীণ শিল্পের ওপর চাপ তৈরি হচ্ছে। এতে বলা হয়, ভারতীয় উৎপাদকদের বাজার অংশীদারত্ব কমেছে, অন্যদিকে বাংলাদেশ ও নেপাল থেকে আমদানির অংশ বেড়েছে। এতে উন্মুক্ত বাজারে ভারতীয় উৎপাদকেরা আরও কঠিন প্রতিযোগিতার মুখে পড়েছেন।

ডিজিটিআরের পর্যবেক্ষণ অনুযায়ী, অ্যান্টি-ডাম্পিং শুল্ক তুলে দিলে বাংলাদেশ ও নেপাল থেকে কম দামে আরও বেশি পাটপণ্য ভারতে প্রবেশ করতে পারে। এতে ভারতীয় উৎপাদকেরা দাম কমাতে বাধ্য হবেন। অর্থাৎ তাঁরা আরও বেশি আর্থিক ক্ষতির মুখে পড়তে পারেন।

বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী খন্দকার আব্দুল মুক্তাদির গতকাল মুঠোফোনে প্রথম আলোকে বলেন, 'প্রতিবেদনটি সম্পর্কে আমি এখনো অবহিত নই। তবে আমরা আশা করি না যে দ্বিপক্ষীয় বাণিজ্য ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হয়—এমন কোনো পদক্ষেপ ভারত সরকার নেবে। ভারত যদি এমন কোনো সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েই থাকে আমরা তাদের অনুরোধ করব, তারা যেন সেই সিদ্ধান্ত থেকে পিছিয়ে আসে।'

এ প্রসঙ্গে বাংলাদেশ জুট স্পিনার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশন (বিজেএসএ) সভাপতি তাপস প্রামাণিক প্রথম আলোকে বলেন, বিষয়টি দুর্ভাগ্যজনক। সেই ২০১৭ সাল থেকে ভারত বাংলাদেশের পাট পণ্যে অ্যান্টি-ডাম্পিং শুল্ক আরোপ করে রেখেছে।