কালবেলা

07 JUN 2026

চামড়ার রপ্তানি বাড়াতে নিশ্চিত করতে হবে পরিবেশগত মান

পিপিআরসির ওয়েবিনারে বক্তারা

কালবেলা প্রতিবেদক ››

ন্যায্যমূল্য না পাওয়ায় প্রতি বছর দেশে ৩০ থেকে ৫০ শতাংশ চামড়া ফেলে দেওয়া হচ্ছে। অথচ ইউরোপ ও আমেরিকায় রপ্তানির জন্য চামড়া পণ্য প্রস্তুতে উচ্চমূল্যে চামড়া আমদানি করতে হচ্ছে। ঈদে চামড়া নষ্ট হওয়া ঠেকাতে এবং ন্যায্য মূল্য পাওয়া নিশ্চিত করতে বিদেশি বড় ক্রেতাদের বেঁধে দেওয়া পরিবেশগত মান নিশ্চিত করার বিকল্প নেই। এ জন্য সরকারকে অগ্রণী ভূমিকা রাখতে হবে।

গতকাল 'বাংলাদেশের চামড়াশিল্পের ভবিষ্যৎ কি ফিকে হয়ে আসছে?' শীর্ষক এক ওয়েবিনারে সম্ভাবনা ও বিদ্যমান সংকট নিয়ে আলোচকরা এসব অভিমত তুলে ধরেন।

বেসরকারি গবেষণা সংস্থা পাওয়ার অ্যান্ড পার্টিসিপেশন রিসার্চ সেন্টারের (পিপিআরসি) ওয়েবিনারটির আয়োজন করে। ওয়েবিনাটি সঞ্চালনা করেন পিপিআরসির নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান ড. হোসেন জিল্লুর রহমান।

বক্তারা আরও বলেন, বাংলাদেশে তৈরি পোশাক খাতের থেকেও বেশি মূল্য সংযোজনের সুযোগ রয়েছে চামড়া খাতে। অথচ এ দিকে সরকার যথেষ্ট গুরুত্ব দিচ্ছে না। এতে অনেক বছর ধরে দেশের চামড়া খাতের রপ্তানি মাত্র এক বিলিয়ন ডলারেই আটকে আছে। ভিয়েতনামে চামড়া হয় না। তারা অন্য দেশ থেকে ২০ বিলিয়ন ডলারের চামড়া আমদানি করে তার থেকে প্রতি বছর ২৪ বিলিয়ন ডলারের চামড়াজাত পণ্য রপ্তানি করে।

বেসরকারি গবেষণা সংস্থা সেন্টার ফর পলিসি ডায়ালগের (সিপিডি) সম্মাননীয় ফেলো অধ্যাপক মুস্তাফিজুর রহমান বলেন, 'তৈরি পোশাক খাতে মূল্য সংযোজন ৫৫ থেকে ৬০ শতাংশ হলেও চামড়া খাতে তা ৯০ শতাংশের বেশি সম্ভব। শুধু এলডব্লিউজি সার্টিফিকেশন ও আন্তর্জাতিক কমপ্লায়েন্সের অভাবে আমরা চামড়ার এত বড় বাজার হারাচ্ছি।'

জেনিস সুজের চেয়ারম্যান নাসির খান বলেন, অতীতে সরকার সাভারে ট্যানারি শিল্প স্থানান্তর করে। কিন্তু ১০ বছরেও সরকার পরিপূর্ণ বর্জ্য পরিশোধন ব্যবস্থা স্থাপন করতে পারেনি। কোনো কোম্পানি নিজস্ব ইটিপি স্থাপন করতে গেলে হাইকোর্টের অনুমতি নিতে হচ্ছে। এটা সরকারের ভুল ব্যবস্থাপনার কারণে হয়েছে। ভিয়েতনামে মাত্র পাঁচটি লাইসেন্স দিয়ে ব্যবসা করা গেলেও বাংলাদেশে ৩০টি লাইসেন্স লাগে এবং প্রতি বছর সেগুলো আবার নবায়ন করতে হয়। এতে উদ্যোক্তাদের হয়রানির শিকার হতে হয়।

বাংলাদেশ ফিনিশড লেদার ও ফুটওয়্যার রপ্তানিকারক সমিতির চেয়ারম্যান টিপু সুলতান বলেন, সাভারে আন্তর্জাতিক মানের পরিবর্তে নিম্নমানের চায়নিজ যন্ত্রপাতি দিয়ে সিইটিপি করায় বিদেশি বড় ক্রেতারা চলে গেছে। ফলে যে চামড়া আগে আড়াই থেকে তিন ডলারে বিক্রি হতো, এখন মাত্র ৪০ থেকে ৫০ সেন্টে নেমে এসেছে। এ কারণে কোরবানির ঈদের পশুর চামড়ার দামও কমেছে।

কোরবানির ঈদের চামড়ার ক্রেতা না পেয়ে নষ্ট হওয়ার জন্য আর্থিক সংকটও আরেকটি কারণ বলে জানান বাংলাদেশ ট্যানার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের সভাপতি শাহীন আহমেদ। তিনি বলেন, ব্যাংক ঋণের পরিমাণ ৪৬০ কোটি টাকা থেকে মাত্র ৬৫ কোটিতে নেমে আসায় ট্যানারি মালিকরা অর্থ সংকটে আছেন। এ অর্থ সংকটের কারণে মাঠপর্যায় থেকে চামড়া সংগ্রহ করা যাচ্ছে না। সে জন্য এবারও ৬০ শতাংশ ছাগলের চামড়া নষ্ট হয়েছে।

পিপিআরসির নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান ড. হোসেন জিল্লুর রহমান বলেন, সাভার চামড়া শিল্প নগরীর বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা সমস্যার সমাধান আগামী এক বছরের মধ্যে এবং আসন্ন কোরবানির ঈদের আগে নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। এ জন্য সরকারকে দ্রুত কার্যকরী পদক্ষেপ নিতে হবে। বুড়িগঙ্গার পর এখন ধলেশ্বরী নদী ধ্বংসের যে পরিস্থিতি তৈরি হয়েছে, সেটিও দ্রুত বন্ধ করতে হবে।

ওয়েবিনারে বাংলাদেশ কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সাবেক উপাচার্য অধ্যাপক আব্দুস সাত্তার মণ্ডল, বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংকের চেয়ারম্যান মো. নুরুল আমিনসহ আরও অনেকে যুক্ত ছিলেন।

The Daily Star

07 JUN 2026

'Mango: more than just a fruit'

Experts urge better harvesting, export practices to unlock mango's true potential at Star Itihas Adda

PHOTO: STAR

Participants at an episode of The Daily Star Itihas Adda, titled "Aam O Aamjonota", held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mango is part of Bengal's history, culture, and daily life, but early harvesting, poor processing, and weak export facilities are preventing Bangladesh from realising the fruit's full value, speakers said yesterday.

They made the remarks at an episode of The Daily Star Itihas Adda titled "Aam O Aamjonota", held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Speaking at the event, writer and mango researcher Mahbub Siddiqi said mango has a long history in this region. Scientists trace its origin to the Indo-Burma region, including Chattogram, Arakan, and parts of Southeast Asia, he added.

He highlighted references to mango in Sanskrit and Pali literature, Buddhist texts, the

RMG exports to non-traditional markets fall 5.95% in Jul-May

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Garment exports to non-traditional markets declined by 5.95 percent year-on-year to $5.68 billion in the July-May period of the outgoing fiscal year, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) compiled by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday.

Bangladesh considers all markets non-traditional except the United States (US), the European Union (EU), Canada and the United Kingdom (UK).

During the period, garment exports to the EU declined by 4.88 percent to $17.36 billion, while exports to the US decreased by 0.04 percent to $7.03 billion.

However, readymade garment (RMG) shipments to Canada grew slightly by 2.27 percent to $1.23 billion during the period, while exports to the UK fell by 0.50 percent to $4.02 billion.

Overall, Bangladesh's RMG exports reached $35.31 billion during the July-May period of fiscal year 2025-26, registering a 3.41 percent year-on-year decline.

Among RMG items, knitwear exports declined by 4.26 percent to $18.78 billion, while woven garment exports fell by 2.42 percent to $16.52 billion, according to EPB data.

The Financial Express
07 JUN 2026

RMG exports under pressure as global demand weakens

MONIRA MUNNI

Shipments fall across EU, US and emerging markets amid wars, and tariff tensions

Locally produced readymade garment exports continued to record negative growth in major destinations, including both traditional markets like the European Union, the US and the UK as well as emerging non-traditional markets this fiscal year amid external headwinds.

Exporters and trade officials said global trade disruptions, tariff tensions and ongoing wars have weakened global demand for clothing across export markets, while internal bottlenecks have eroded competitiveness. As a result, exports have remained on a negative trajectory over the last eleven months.

They observed that some major buyers like H&M is shifting sourcing away from Bangladesh, though not in large volume, indicating that the country is losing ground in cost competitiveness.

Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands and Poland are among the EU's billion-dollar markets for Bangladeshi garments.

Shipments to these countries during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year recorded negative growth ranging from 4.0 per cent to over 12 per cent, with only a few markets posting marginal growth, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data.

Shipments to the Netherlands recorded a 2.13 per cent decline, while Spain and Poland registered declines of 4.0 per cent and 7.98 per cent respectively.

The downturn across 16 nations also resulted in a 4.88 per cent negative growth in exports to the 27-nation bloc of EU.

Bangladesh received US$17.35 billion from garment export to the EU during the July-May period of 2025-26, down from US$18.24 billion in the corresponding period of the last fiscal year(2024-24), EPB data showed.

Out of the $17.35 billion earnings, knitwear accounted for US$ 10.42 billion, down from US$ 11.12 billion, reflecting a 6.26 per cent decline.

Similarly, earnings from woven items during the period also marked a 2.71 per cent fall to US$6.93 billion from US$7.12 billion.

Readymade garment shipments to the US and UK fetched US$7.02 billion and US$4.01 billion respectively, marking declines of 0.04 per cent and 0.50 per cent over the corresponding period of FY 2024-25.

Non-traditional markets also witnessed a 5.95 per cent fall during the eleven months, reflecting persistent global demand weakness and economic uncertainty across key economies, data analysis showed.

Official data show that exports to new destinations, including Japan, Australia, India, South Korea, Mexico, Russia and Turkey, decreased by 10 per cent to 30 per cent year on year.

Earnings from non-traditional markets during the period stood at US$5.68 billion, which was US$ 6.04 billion.

When asked about the trade situation, Khan Monirul Alam, managing director of Fashion.com, said the performance reflected a broader slowdown on the global apparel market.

"Uncertainty and disruptions, including the impact of wars-- Russia-Ukrain and in the Middle East, have dampened demand," he told the FE.

US tariff regime is further worsening the market condition in both America and EU, he noted.

With an elected political government now in power, he said political uncertainty has gradually eased, but the internal issues, including rising cost of production due to energy price hike, labour costs and others, are eroding their competitiveness.

The strategic plans of one of the major buyers like H&M has also hinted at a loss of local competitiveness, he said, adding that the buyer is reportedly shifting to India, possibly due to the neighbouring country's price competitiveness, availability of raw materials and government's support to enhance competitiveness.

Talking to the FE, Mohammad Hatem, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said the rising cost of living due to high inflation forced consumers to prioritise essential needs over clothing purchases.

"And following the weak demand, buyers are also purchasing less," he noted.

Echoing Mr Alam, he, however, noted that the latest price hike in electricity would surely raise the cost of production which has already gone up by 20 per cent due to a number of factors.

The government last time did not raise diesel price to support consumers while the electricity price hike would affect them and manufacturers most, he said, adding the government should incentivise for some more time to help curb inflation.

Despite the overall weakness, Canada showed 2.27 per cent growth to fetch US$1.22 billion during July-May period of fiscal 2025-26, according to the EPB data.

Overall, Bangladesh's total RMG exports fell 3.41per cent year on year to US$35.31 billion in the first eleven months of FY2025-26, compared with US$36.55 billion during the same period last fiscal year.

Munni_fe@yahoo.com

The Financial Express

07 JUN 2026

WTO sees extended LDC transition period as opportunity for BD

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has underscored the importance of utilizing any extended transition period for Least Developed Country (LDC) graduation to strengthen productive capacity, improve competitiveness, diversify exports and prepare for operating under standard WTO rules, reports BSS.

"WTO members have already taken steps to support graduating LDCs in ensuring a smooth and sustainable transition," said WTO Deputy Director-General Xiangchen Zhang while talking to BSS.

He noted that the decision adopted at the WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference provides graduating LDCs with additional time to align with WTO disciplines.

As an example, he said if Bangladesh graduates in 2026 as originally scheduled, it would have until 2029 to complete the alignment process.

"Regardless of the exact timing of graduation, the transition period is an important opportunity for graduating LDCs to further strengthen their productive capacity, enhance competitiveness, and improve the overall investment and business environment," Zhang said.

He added that the period should also be used to prepare for operating under more general WTO rules in a predictable and sustainable manner.

The WTO official observed that Bangladesh has demonstrated strong development dynamism over the years and is well positioned to continue making the necessary adjustments.

Where challenges arise during the transition process, he said, there remains scope for constructive engagement with trading partners to address specific concerns in a cooperative manner.

The Financial Express

07 JUN 2026

Leather sector faces mounting structural challenges

FE REPORT

The leather industry risks losing its long-held competitive edge unless persistent environmental, infrastructural and access to finance challenges are addressed, experts warned at a webinar on Saturday.

They called for urgent reforms to restore confidence and strengthen the sector's export potential.

They also identified slow progress in value addition, limited product diversification, complex licensing procedures, an unfavourable tax regime and a shortage of skilled manpower as key factors hindering the industry's growth.

The observations were made at a webinar titled "Is the Future of Bangladesh's Leather Industry Losing Its Momentum?" organised by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC).

The discussion was moderated by PPRC Executive Chairman Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman.

Among the speakers were Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD); Md Tipu Sultan, Chairman of the Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leathergoods and Footwear Exporters' Association; Md Nurul Amin, Chairman of Bangladesh Krishi Bank; and Shaheen Ahmed, President of the Bangladesh Tanners Association.

In his remarks, Professor Mustafizur Rahman said that while Bangladesh once held strong prospects in the leather industry, that promise was gradually fading.

He highlighted the potential impact of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) on export competitiveness and stressed the need for early preparation to meet emerging environmental standards in global markets.

"Bangladesh must prepare for CBAM, as failure to meet new environmental standards could weaken the competitiveness of our exports," he said.

Md Tipu Sultan drew attention to the continuing infrastructure and environmental compliance shortcomings at the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate.

He noted that the environmental facilities promised as the principal justification for

Weak compliance, inadequate infrastructure and financing constraints are eroding sector's competitiveness: experts

relocating tanneries from Hazaribagh to Hemayetpur had yet to be fully established.

According to him, this failure has undermined the industry's credibility among international buyers, resulted in the loss of customers and created financial pressure not only for tanneries but also for smaller businesses linked to the leather value chain. "Because of this, we have also lost customers. Other small industries that are related to us are also incurring losses alongside us. This has made it increasingly difficult for smaller industry owners to expand their production," he said.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank Chairman Md Nurul Amin called for stronger government involvement in the collection, preservation and proper management of raw hides.

"With the help of the government, we must ensure that hides are not wasted," he said.

He also called for the immediate transfer of management of the Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) from the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) to either the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) or the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), along with the appointment of a competent operator.

Concluding the session, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman urged a more comprehensive approach to the future development of the leather industry.

He noted that the relocation of tanneries from Hazaribagh to Hemayetpur was intended to protect the Buriganga River, yet pollution continues to affect both the Buriganga and the Dhaleshwari rivers.

He cautioned that

Weak compliance, inadequate infrastructure and financing constraints are eroding sector's competitiveness: experts

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He noted that the environmental facilities promised as the principal justification for relocating tanneries from Hazaribagh to Hemayetpur had yet to be fully established. According to him, this failure has undermined the industry's credibility among international buyers, resulted in the loss of customers and created financial pressure not only for tanneries but also for smaller businesses linked to the leather value chain. "Because of this, we have also lost customers. Other small industries that are related to us are also incurring losses alongside us. This has made it increasingly difficult for smaller industry owners to expand their production," he said.

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He noted that the relocation of tanneries from Hazaribagh to Hemayetpur was intended to protect the Buriganga River, yet pollution continues to affect both the Buriganga and the Dhaleshwari rivers.

He cautioned that well-intentioned but one-dimensional interventions do not always produce the desired outcomes.

Dr Rahman stressed that future policy measures must be based on careful planning that simultaneously considers environmental, economic, institutional and industry-related implications.

saif.febd@gmail.com

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07 JUN 2026

Fruit exports hit record $123m in FY26 as demand from expats surges

EXPORT – BANGLADESH

MIZANUR RAHMAN YOUSUF

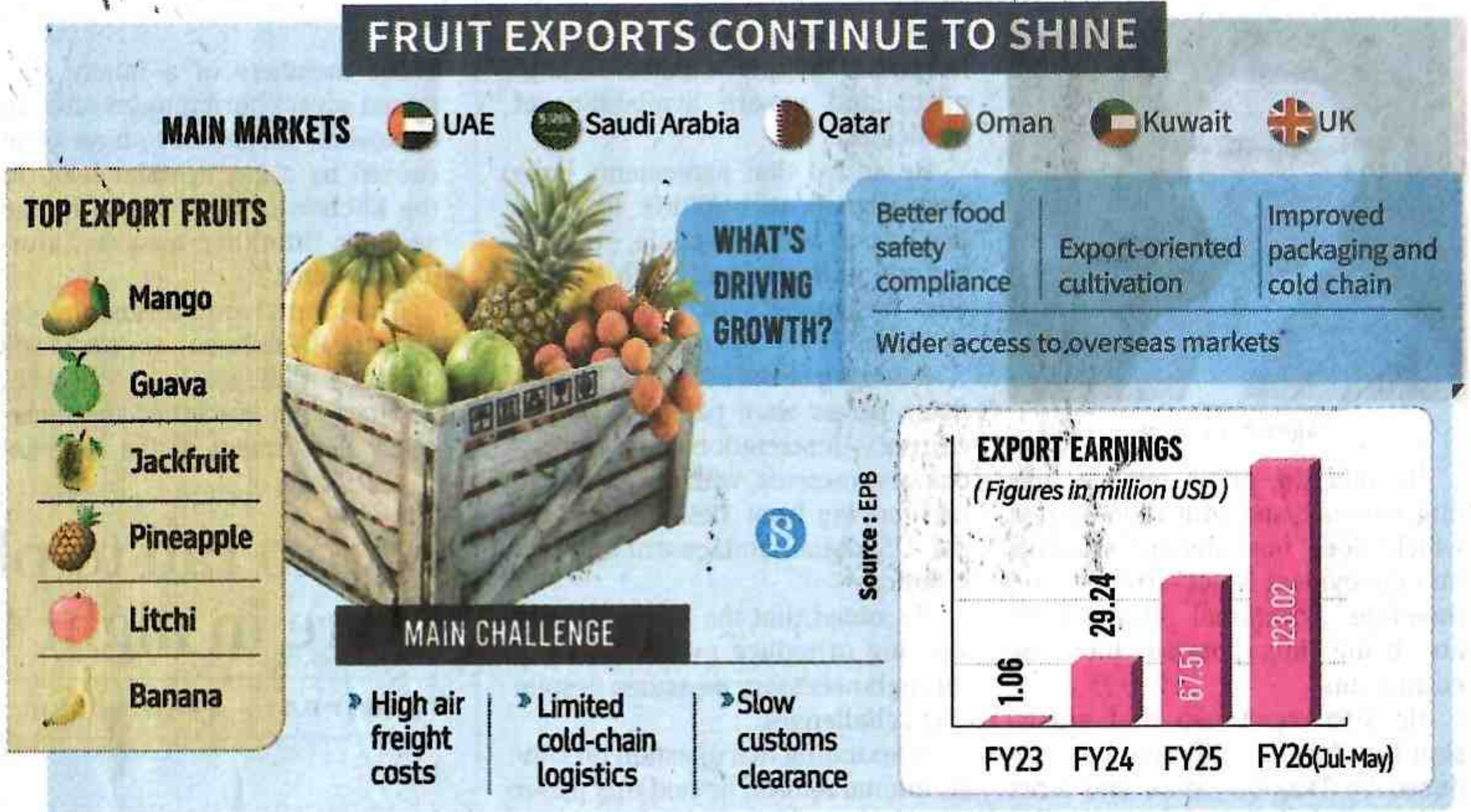
The country's fruit exports have reached a record high in the first 11 months of fiscal year 2025-26, driven by rising demand from expatriate Bangladeshis for mangoes, guavas, jackfruits and other tropical fruits, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data.

The country earned $123.02 million from fruit exports between July and May of FY26, surpassing the total $67.51 million recorded in the whole of FY25. The figure marks an increase of more than 82% and the highest earnings from fruit exports in recent years.

The sector has recorded rapid growth over the past three fiscal years, with earnings of $29.24 million in FY24 and just $1.06 million in FY23.

Abdul Wahed, president of the Chapainawabganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Bangladeshi fruits are currently exported mainly to the Middle East and European countries with large Bangladeshi expatriate populations.

"Most of our exports cater to expatriate communities. We have yet to penetrate the mainstream international fruit market because our compliance standards, packaging and branding are still not at the level required by global buyers," he said.



Industry stakeholders also attributed the growth to improved compliance with international food safety standards, expansion of export-oriented cultivation, and wider access to overseas markets.

EPB data show that exports under the category "other nuts, fresh or dried" accounted for the bulk of earnings, bringing in $122.18 million during the July-May period, compared to $66.05 million in FY25.

Exports of frozen fruits and nuts also rose to $439,821, while fresh fruit shipments contributed to overall growth.

Exporters said mangoes remain the country's main fruit export during the summer season, particularly in markets among expatriate communities in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, the United Kingdom and parts of Europe.

Fresh guavas and jackfruits have also gained popularity due to improved quality and competitive pricing. Demand for pineapples, litchis, bananas and other seasonal fruits has steadily increased.

Bangladeshi fruits are currently exported to destinations including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Malaysia, Singapore, the United Kingdom and several European Union countries.

EPB Director Kumkum Sultana said fruit cultivation in Bangladesh, particularly in the hill districts, has undergone a significant transformation.

"A fruit revolution is taking place in the hill regions. The scale of cultivation of fruits such as dragon fruit, cashew nuts and coffee is impressive," she said.

She added that targeted infrastructure support could further boost exports.

"If packing sheds, post-harvest treatment facilities and other basic infrastructure are expanded, exporters will be able to take greater advantage of international markets," she said.

EPB Vice Chairman Mohammad Hasan Arif said fruit exports generate high economic value as they rely largely on local raw materials.

"Unlike many other sectors, fruit production does not depend heavily on imported inputs," he said, adding that the EPB is SEE PAGE 4 COL 1