সমকাল

1 4 MAY 2026

ইলেকট্রনিক্স খাতে বিনিয়োগে আগ্রহী তুরস্কের ব্যবসায়ীরা

সমকাল প্রতিবেদক

বাংলাদেশ সফররত তুরস্কের একটি ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিনিধি দল ইলেকট্রনিক্স এবং হোম অ্যাপ্লায়েন্স খাতে একক ও যৌথ বিনিয়োগের বিষয়ে তাদের দেশের বিনিয়োগকারীদের আগ্রহের কথা জানিয়েছেন। এ উদ্দেশ্যে আগামী নভেম্বরে এই খাতের বিনিয়োগকারীদের একটি দল ঢাকায় আসার পরিকল্পনা করছে। গতকাল বুধবার ঢাকা চেম্বার এক সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে এ তথ্য জানিয়েছে।

এতে বলা হয়, টার্কিশ ইলেকট্রো টেকনোলজি এক্সপোর্টার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের (টিইটি) প্রতিনিধি দলের সঙ্গে ঢাকা চেম্বারের দ্বিপক্ষীয় বাণিজ্য আলোচনা গতকাল ডিসিসিআই গুলশান সেন্টারে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত তুরস্কের রাষ্ট্রদূত রামিস শেন ওই অনুষ্ঠানে যোগদান করেন। তুরস্কের ৭ সদস্যের প্রতিনিধি দলের নেতৃত্ব দেন টিইটির সহসভাপতি বুরাক বাসেগমেজলার।

প্রতিনিধি দলকে স্বাগত জানিয়ে ঢাকা চেম্বারের সভাপতি তাসকীন আহমেদ বলেন, দুই দেশের দীর্ঘদিনের বন্ধুত্বপূর্ণ সম্পর্ক রয়েছে এবং তুরস্কের বাণিজ্য প্রতিনিধি দলের এ ধরনের সফরের মাধ্যমে দ্বিপক্ষীয় বাণিজ্য আগামীতে আরও বাড়বে।

তিনি জানান, ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশ ও তুরস্কের দ্বিপক্ষীয় বাণিজ্যের পরিমাণ ছিল প্রায় ১০৫ কোটি ডলার। এর মধ্যে বাংলাদেশের আমদানি ৪২ কোটি ডলার এবং রপ্তানি করে ৬৩ কোটি ডলারের পণ্য। বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন খাতে ইতোমধ্যে তুরস্কের উদ্যোক্তারা ৭ কোটি ৪৫ লাখ ডলার বিনিয়োগ করেছে।

প্রতিনিধি দলের প্রধান ও টিইটির সহসভাপতি বুরাক বাসেগমেজলা বলেন, ইলেকট্রনিকস যন্ত্রপাতি, হোম অ্যাপ্লায়েন্স, জেনারেটরসহ এ ধরনের পণ্যের বাংলাদেশে বেশ চাহিদা রয়েছে এবং তাঁর দেশের বিনিয়োগকারীরা এখাতে বিনিয়োগে আগ্রহী। চলতি বছরের নভেম্বরে তুরস্কের ইলেকট্রনিক্স খাতের উদ্যোক্তাদের বাংলাদেশ সফরের পরিকল্পনা রয়েছে।

কালবেলা
1 4 MAY 2026

তুরস্কের সঙ্গে বাণিজ্য বাড়াতে যৌথ উদ্যোগের আহ্বান

কালবেলা প্রতিবেদক

বাংলাদেশ ও তুরস্কের মধ্যে দ্বিপক্ষীয় বাণিজ্য ও বিনিয়োগ সম্প্রসারণে সম্ভাবনাময় খাতগুলোতে যৌথ উদ্যোগ বাড়ানোর আহ্বান জানিয়েছে ঢাকা চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি (ডিসিসিআই)।

গতকাল রাজধানীর গুলশানে ডিসিসিআই সেন্টারে তুর্কিশ ইলেকট্রো টেকনোলজি এক্সপোর্টার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের (টিইটি) একটি বাণিজ্য প্রতিনিধিদলের সঙ্গে অনুষ্ঠিত দ্বিপক্ষীয় বৈঠক অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। সাত সদস্যের প্রতিনিধিদলের নেতৃত্ব দেন টিইটির সহসভাপতি বুরাক বাসেগমেজলার। অনুষ্ঠানে বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত তুরস্কের রাষ্ট্রদূত রামিস শেন উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

বৈঠকে ডিসিসিআই সভাপতি তাসকীন আহমেদ বলেন, বাংলাদেশ ও তুরস্কের দীর্ঘদিনের বন্ধুত্বপূর্ণ সম্পর্ক রয়েছে। এ ধরনের সফর দুই দেশের বাণিজ্যিক সম্পর্ক আরও জোরদারে সহায়ক হবে। ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে দুই দেশের দ্বিপক্ষীয় বাণিজ্যের পরিমাণ ছিল প্রায় ১ দশমিক শূন্য ৫ বিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলার। এর মধ্যে বাংলাদেশ থেকে রপ্তানি হয়েছে ৬৩৪ দশমিক ৫৩ মিলিয়ন ডলার এবং আমদানি হয়েছে ৪১৬ দশমিক ৭৬ মিলিয়ন ডলারের পণ্য।

তাসকীন আহমেদ বলেন, বাংলাদেশে তুরস্কের উদ্যোক্তারা এরই মধ্যে প্রায় ৭৪ মিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলার বিনিয়োগ করেছেন। তৈরি পোশাক, চামড়া ও পাদুকা, পাটজাত পণ্য, কৃষিভিত্তিক প্রক্রিয়াজাত পণ্য, ওষুধ শিল্প, লাইট ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি সেবা, সফটওয়্যার ও হোম টেক্সটাইলসহ সম্ভাবনাময় খাতেও যৌথ বিনিয়োগ করতে পারেন।

টিইটির সহসভাপতি বুরাক বাসেগমেজলার বলেন, বাংলাদেশে ইলেকট্রনিক পণ্য, হোম অ্যাপ্লায়েন্স ও জেনারেটরের চাহিদা বাড়ছে। এ খাতে তুরস্কের বিনিয়োগকারীরা একক ও যৌথ বিনিয়োগে আগ্রহী। আগামী নভেম্বরে তুরস্কের ইলেকট্রনিক খাতের উদ্যোক্তাদের একটি প্রতিনিধিদল বাংলাদেশ সফর করবে। ওই সফরে দুই দেশের ব্যবসায়ীদের মধ্যে বিজনেস টু বিজনেস (বিটুবি) বৈঠক হবে, যা বাণিজ্য ও বিনিয়োগ সম্প্রসারণে ভূমিকা।

রাষ্ট্রদূত রামিস শেন বলেন, বাংলাদেশ ও তুরস্কের মধ্যে বাণিজ্য সম্প্রসারণের বড় সুযোগ রয়েছে। এ সম্ভাবনা কাজে লাগাতে দুই দেশের উদ্যোক্তাদের মধ্যে আরও ঘনিষ্ঠ যোগাযোগ প্রয়োজন।

অনুষ্ঠানে ডিসিসিআইর ঊর্ধ্বতন সহসভাপতি রাজিব এইচ চৌধুরী ও সহসভাপতি মো. সালিম সোলায়মান উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

Pharma sector faces post-LDC challenges

Warn experts at a workshop

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Daily Star

14 MAY 2026

Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry could face major challenges after graduation from least developed country (LDC) status due to weak research capacity, reliance on imported raw materials, and the possible loss of patent waivers, which could raise medicine prices, according to experts.

"Recent studies have raised concerns about Bangladesh's pharmaceutical sector ahead of the post-LDC graduation period, particularly its weak research and development capacity," said Syed Abdul Hamid, professor at the Institute of Health Economics at the University of Dhaka.

He made the remarks yesterday while presenting the keynote at a workshop titled "Strengthening pharmaceutical industry competitiveness and innovation for sustainable growth in the context of LDC graduation".

The workshop was jointly organised by the Institute of Health Economics, the health ministry and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka.

Citing a Centre for Policy Dialogue study, he said that "only 3.4 percent of total investment in the sector goes to research and development," adding that many firms are more interested in buying patent rights after the TRIPS waiver expires than investing in innovation.

Hamid warned that "medicine prices, especially for patented drugs, could rise sharply once Bangladesh loses the waiver benefits," as local manufacturers would no longer be able to reverse-engineer patented medicines without licences.

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He also said that demand for advanced medicines for cancer, respiratory illnesses and other complex diseases would further intensify the challenge.

He further noted the sector's heavy dependence on imported active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), stressing the need for stronger research and development, closer industry–academia collaboration, implementation of the API Industrial Park, and regulatory reforms.

Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, finance and planning adviser to the prime minister, said the pharmaceutical industry from high inflation, depreciation of the taka against the US dollar, and a worsening business environment that has slowed production and investment.

"The old model will not work anymore," he warned, calling for an investment-led growth strategy focused on diversification, productivity and competitiveness.

He also criticised what he called years of "regulatory capture" in the pharmaceutical sector, alleging that powerful business interests have distorted competition and weakened institutions.

"The industry must be a price taker not a Organization and Unicef still do not procure medicines from Bangladesh. He said the country must strengthen regulatory standards and the Directorate General of Drug Administration to expand access to global markets.

INVESTMENT, STANDARDS AND GROWTH PROSPECTS

Blaire Ng, investment specialist at the ADB, said Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry still faces "major challenges", particularly in research and development, dependence on imported APIs, and compliance with international manufacturing standards.

She said the key question is how Bangladesh supply chains.

She described the sector as one of Bangladesh's strongest areas for export diversification and industrial upgrading.

"The lesson for Bangladesh is that a crisis can become a critical moment for domestic transformation and stronger research and development capacity," she said.

She added that the ADB is ready to support Bangladesh through policy reforms, infrastructure development, regulatory support, technical assistance and financing for pharmaceutical projects and companies.

He said continued investment will be crucial during and after LDC graduation, helping Bangladesh benefit from opportunities in industry upgrading, innovation, technology transfer, investment expansion, and production of higher-value pharmaceutical products.

"There is strong potential for Bangladesh's pharmaceutical sector to develop further into a competitive regional and global industry, while also contributing to broader economic diversification and resilience," he said.

Sheikh Momena Momi, additional secretary of the WH Wing at the Health

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Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, finance and planning adviser to the prime minister, said the pharmaceutical industry is "at a critical stage" as the country prepares for LDC graduation and works towards becoming a $1 trillion economy by 2034.

He said the wider economy is facing pressure from high inflation, depreciation of the taka against the US dollar, and a worsening business environment that has slowed production and investment.

"The old model will not work anymore," he warned, calling for an investment-led growth strategy focused on diversification, productivity and competitiveness.

He also criticised what he called years of "regulatory capture" in the pharmaceutical sector, alleging that powerful business interests have distorted competition and weakened institutions.

"The industry must be a price taker, not a price maker," he said, stressing the need for an independent regulator and stronger oversight.

Titumir also questioned why global agencies such as the World Health Organization and Unicef still do not procure medicines from Bangladesh. He said the country must strengthen regulatory standards and the Directorate General of Drug Administration to expand access to global markets.

INVESTMENT, STANDARDS AND GROWTH PROSPECTS

Blaire Ng, investment specialist at the ADB, said Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry still faces "major challenges", particularly in research and development, dependence on imported APIs, and compliance with international manufacturing standards.

She said the key question is how Bangladesh can use its existing strengths to ensure sustainable growth after LDC graduation, adding that the country is well-positioned to benefit from global efforts to diversify pharmaceutical supply chains.

She described the sector as one of Bangladesh's strongest areas for export diversification and industrial upgrading.

"The lesson for Bangladesh is that a crisis can become a critical moment for domestic transformation and stronger research and development capacity," she said.

She added that the ADB is ready to support Bangladesh through policy reforms, infrastructure development, regulatory support, technical assistance and financing for pharmaceutical projects and companies.

Akira Matsunaga, officer-in-charge of the ADB, said Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry has strong potential to deepen its integration with regional and global markets.

He said continued investment will be crucial during and after LDC graduation, helping Bangladesh benefit from opportunities in industry upgrading, innovation, technology transfer, investment expansion, and production of higher-value pharmaceutical products.

"There is strong potential for Bangladesh's pharmaceutical sector to develop further into a competitive regional and global industry, while also contributing to broader economic diversification and resilience," he said.

Sheikh Momena Momi, additional secretary of the WH Wing at the Health Services Division, said she hoped the assessment would help identify needed reforms, improve investment readiness, and strengthen the pharmaceutical sector's capacity for innovation.

The Financial Express

14 MAY 2026

Hope amid export slowdown

Amid a declining export trend from July to March 2026, exports increased in April compared to the previous year. Although the overall exports of Bangladesh stood at $39.40 billion, compared to nearly $40.20 billion during July 2024 to April 2025, exports in April were $4 billion, whereas they were $3 billion in April 2025.

This upward trend occurred mainly due to the improvement in the RMG sector, which is the heart of Bangladesh's exports. RMG exports up to April stood at around $32 billion, compared to nearly $33 billion in the same period of the previous fiscal year. Out of this, knitwear contributed around $17 billion, while woven garments accounted for about $15 billion. In April alone, RMG exports were around $3.14 billion, which supported the overall export growth.

If this trend continues, the export deficit may be reduced, and by the end of June, total exports could reach around $50 billion. Despite weak growth and an overall declining trend, maintaining almost a similar level to last year may still be considered a positive outcome for Bangladesh, especially as the global economy and political situation remain unstable due to ongoing conflicts.

Moreover, the utility crisis caused by fuel scarcity may pose a major challenge in the near future, potentially disrupting growth. Therefore, this is the time to maintain stability by emphasising export diversification, including jute, leather, agro-products, pharmaceuticals, and ICT services.

Kawsik Azad Prohoy
A Banker

The Financial Express
14 MAY 2026

Turning textile waste into opportunity

The future of Bangladesh's apparel industry will depend not only on how much it produces, but also on how environmentally responsible and sustainable its production processes are

writes
Atiqul Kabir Tuhin

Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) sector stands at a crossroads. For decades, the industry has been the backbone of the country's export economy, transforming Bangladesh into the world's second-largest apparel exporter and creating employment opportunities for millions. However, the global apparel industry is now undergoing a major transition from a linear to a circular production model. Although Bangladesh has made considerable progress in increasing the number of green factories, the majority of its apparel manufacturers still follow the traditional "make, use and throw away" model. Speaking at a recent seminar, industry leaders warned that without urgent policy support, use of modern technology and infrastructure upgrades to develop advanced recycling capacities, Bangladesh risks losing not only competitiveness in major export markets but also a massive economic opportunity from waste recycling estimated to be worth $8 billion annually.

A circular economy is fundamentally different from the conventional production model. In a circular system, products are designed and manufactured in a way that allows materials to be used, reused, repaired and recycled repeatedly, thereby reducing waste and extending the lifecycle of resources. Rather than allowing products to end up in landfills after a single use, circularity seeks to recover value from materials at every stage of production and consumption. It also emphasises responsible sourcing, reduced water and energy use, minimisation of waste and lower carbon emissions throughout the supply chain.

This transformation is no longer driven solely by environmental concerns; it is increasingly becoming a trade and business imperative. Legislative initiatives in the European Union, including the Green Deal and the Digital Product Passport (DPP), are accelerating the shift towards sustainable and traceable supply chains. These regulations will require apparel exporters to ensure greater transparency regarding sourcing, production methods, recycling practices and environmental impact. Since the European Union remains Bangladesh's largest apparel export destination, these developments carry enormous significance for the country's textile and garment industry. As the world's second-largest garment supplier, Bangladesh's apparel industry waste remains largely underutilised. Currently, most textile waste is collected and traded through informal channels, with only a very small portion recycled domestically. A significant amount of recyclable garment waste is exported to neighbouring countries such as India and Pakistan, where it is processed into recycled yarn before being sold back to Bangladesh at higher prices. This represents not only a loss of valuable foreign exchange and domestic value addition but also a missed industrial opportunity. If textile waste is properly collected, sorted and processed within the country, it could become a valuable raw material for producing recycled fibres, yarns and fabrics, creating a new high-value industrial segment.

Industry leaders have rightly pointed out that formalising the recycling ecosystem would generate multiple benefits. It would reduce health and safety risks associated with unregulated waste handling, create new employment opportunities, status adds further urgency to the issue. As preferential trade benefits gradually decline after graduation, maintaining export competitiveness will require stronger compliance with environmental, labour and sustainability standards. In this context, the transition to a circular economy should not be viewed merely as an environmental obligation, but as a strategy to preserve market access.

Experts also emphasise the importance of upstream circularity, which focuses on reducing waste at its source during design, production and cutting processes. Technology can play a transformative role in this regard. Innovations such as digital design systems, automated cutting technologies, 3D sampling and customised manufacturing platforms can significantly reduce fabric wastage and improve production efficiency. These technologies also enable closer collaboration between manufacturers and global buyers, helping both sides share responsibility for minimising need for virgin resources while simultaneously lowering environmental pressure and carbon emissions.

A coordinated national strategy is therefore urgently needed to accelerate Bangladesh's circular transition. Such a strategy should include fiscal incentives for recycling investments, tax benefits for sustainable manufacturing, easier access to green financing and support for technological upgrading and research. Strong collaboration among the government, BGMEA, development partners, financial institutions and private entrepreneurs will also be essential. Special emphasis should be placed on developing domestic capacity for chemical recycling, improving waste traceability systems and encouraging innovation in eco-friendly materials and sustainable production techniques. The future of Bangladesh's apparel industry will depend not only on how much it produces, but also on how environmentally responsible and responsible and sustainable its production processes are

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economy, transforming Bangladesh into the world's second-largest apparel exporter and creating employment opportunities for millions. However, the global apparel industry is now undergoing a major transition from a linear to a circular production model. Although Bangladesh has made considerable progress in increasing the number of green factories, the majority of its apparel manufacturers still follow the traditional "make, use and throw away" model. Speaking at a recent seminar, industry leaders warned that without urgent policy support, use of modern technology and infrastructure upgrades to develop advanced recycling capacities, Bangladesh risks losing not only competitiveness in major export markets but also a massive economic opportunity from waste recycling estimated to be worth $8 billion annually.

A circular economy is fundamentally different from the conventional production model. In a circular system, products are designed and manufactured in a way that allows materials to be used, reused, repaired and recycled repeatedly, thereby reducing waste and extending the lifecycle of resources. Rather than allowing products to end up in landfills after a single use, circularity seeks to recover value from materials at every stage of production and consumption. It also emphasises responsible sourcing, reduced water and energy use, minimisation of waste and lower carbon emissions throughout the supply chain.

This transformation is no longer driven solely by environmental concerns; it is increasingly becoming a trade and business imperative. Legislative initiatives in the European Union, including the Green Deal and the Digital Product Passport (DPP), are accelerating the shift towards sustainable and traceable supply chains. These regulations will require apparel exporters to ensure greater transparency regarding sourcing, production methods, recycling practices and environmental impact.

Since the European Union remains Bangladesh's largest apparel export destination, these developments carry enormous significance for the country's textile and garment industry.

As the world's second-largest garment supplier, Bangladesh's apparel industry generates a substantial amount of textile waste. However, Bangladesh mainly deals with pre-consumer waste generated during the manufacturing process rather than post-consumer waste collected after products are used by consumers. According to BGMEA, the industry produces nearly 600,000 tonnes of pre-consumer textile waste annually. Yet this enormous volume of waste remains largely underutilised. Currently, most textile waste is collected and traded through informal channels, with only a very small portion recycled domestically. A significant amount of recyclable garment waste is exported to neighbouring countries such as India and Pakistan, where it is processed into recycled yarn before being sold back to Bangladesh at higher prices. This represents not only a loss of valuable foreign exchange and domestic value addition but also a missed industrial opportunity. If textile waste is properly collected, sorted and processed within the country, it could become a valuable raw material for producing recycled fibres, yarns and fabrics, creating a new high-value industrial segment.

Industry leaders have rightly pointed out that formalising the recycling ecosystem would generate multiple benefits. It would reduce health and safety risks associated with unregulated waste handling, create new employment opportunities, strengthen industrial organisation and encourage safer working conditions. More importantly, it would help Bangladesh reduce its dependence on virgin raw materials at a time when global resource constraints and climate concerns are becoming increasingly severe.

Bangladesh's upcoming graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status adds further urgency to the issue. As preferential trade benefits gradually decline after graduation, maintaining export competitiveness will require stronger compliance with environmental, labour and sustainability standards. In this context, the transition to a circular economy should not be viewed merely as an environmental obligation, but as a strategy to preserve market access.

Experts also emphasise the importance of upstream circularity, which focuses on reducing waste at its source during design, production and cutting processes. Technology can play a transformative role in this regard. Innovations such as digital design systems, automated cutting technologies, 3D sampling and customised manufacturing platforms can significantly reduce fabric wastage and improve production efficiency. These technologies also enable closer collaboration between manufacturers and global buyers, helping both sides share responsibility for minimising pre-consumer waste.

However, upstream circularity alone cannot eliminate textile waste entirely. The next crucial step is to embrace the principle of "recycle and recover," whereby textile waste can be converted into fibre, fibre into yarn and fabric, and eventually into new RMG products. Recycling textile waste into new fabrics and apparel products would reduce the need for virgin resources while simultaneously lowering environmental pressure and carbon emissions.

A coordinated national strategy is therefore urgently needed to accelerate Bangladesh's circular transition. Such a strategy should include fiscal incentives for recycling investments, tax benefits for sustainable manufacturing, easier access to green financing and support for technological upgrading and research. Strong collaboration among the government, BGMEA, development partners, financial institutions and private entrepreneurs will also be essential. Special emphasis should be placed on developing domestic capacity for chemical recycling, improving waste traceability systems and encouraging innovation in eco-friendly materials and sustainable production techniques.

The future of Bangladesh's apparel industry will depend not only on how much it produces, but also on how environmentally responsible and sustainable its production processes are. If Bangladesh can successfully transform textile waste into economic value, it will not only protect its position in the global apparel market but also pave the way for a more resilient, resource-efficient and sustainable industrial future.

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INDIA-BANGLADESH TRADE MEET AHEAD

Businesses urge removal of tariff, non-tariff barriers to boost export

Trade gap against Bangladesh remains a concern

JASIM UDDIN

Bangladeshi businesses request that the government take initiative to enhance exports to India through land ports and remove roadblocks to trade with the largest neighbouring economy to bridge a yawning gap.

According to industry insiders, they made the requests in proposals submitted to the Ministry of Commerce ahead of the 16th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group on Trade, scheduled to be held in Delhi in June.

On their part, the Indian government may raise issues regarding the reopening of land ports for yarn exports to Bangladesh and addressing matters related to bilateral agreements signed during the Awami League-led government, according to sources concerned.

These issues came to light after the Ministry of Commerce sent separate letters to trade bodies, government organisations and ministries seeking their proposals, as well as updates on the implementation of decisions taken in the previous round of talks.

According to ministry sources, the Bangladesh government has already requested its Indian counterpart to fix a date in June for the Joint Working Group meeting to be held in Delhi.

Speaking to The Financial Express, Commerce Secretary in charge Abdur Rahim Khan said Bangladesh had proposed two dates in June, in line with diplomatic practice, and India would choose either.

President of BGMEA Mahmud Hasan Khan says the main challenge in Bangladesh-India trade at present lies in problems related to both import and export through land ports.

He also opines that there are complexities involving some of the online procedures previously in place. For example, BTMA has alleged that some firms are making "false declarations" on yarn imports.

To address these issues, all relevant stakeholders, including the government, BGMEA and BTMA, will have to work together.

"India, too, will need to adopt a cooperative stance on the matter. There should not be a situation where imports through land ports are completely halted," he told the FE.

He added that transshipment is also an issue and may receive importance on the meeting agenda.

"We will clearly raise these issues. They may say that the allegations have no basis. There are several other such matters as well," says the association chief of the largest export sector.

Mohammad Hatem, president of BKMEA, says Indian restrictions on export through land ports should be withdrawn to facilitate trade, which overwhelmingly remains in India's favour.

He also mentions that non-tariff barriers remain another

SEE PA

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Govt allows 211 firms to export 36,400 tonnes of aromatic rice

FE REPORT

The government has allowed 211 companies to export 36,400 tonnes of aromatic rice in a move aimed at expanding Bangladesh's footprint in the premium global rice market, sources said.

According to an official notification issued yesterday, the approved firms have been permitted to export the specified volume of aromatic rice under certain conditions.

The export approvals were issued by the commerce ministry following applications from traders and exporters.

Industry insiders said the move is expected to boost foreign exchange earnings and create new opportunities for local rice millers and exporters amid rising international demand for Bangladeshi aromatic rice varieties.

Exporters, however, stressed the need for smooth shipment procedures, adequate supply management and stable domestic prices to ensure the policy benefits both traders and consumers.

Bangladesh has witnessed growing overseas demand for aromatic rice in recent years, particularly in Middle Eastern, European and North American markets, driven largely by expatriate communities and niche consumers seeking premium-quality rice.

Officials said exporters would have to comply with all conditions related to quality standards, shipment schedules and customs regulations while carrying out exports.

However, the move has also sparked concerns over its possible impact on the domestic market, where aromatic rice is already sold at relatively high prices.

Experts warned that a significant rise in exports could put additional pressure on local supply, potentially pushing retail prices higher, especially during festival seasons and peak demand periods. They noted that Bangladesh produces aromatic rice in relatively limited quantities compared to conventional rice varieties. As a result, any sharp increase in overseas shipments without proper stock management could tighten domestic availability.

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ShopUp starts exports of agri produce to KSA, UK

FE REPORT

Bangladeshi business to business (B2B) commerce platform, ShopUp exported agricultural produce to several global markets including Saudi Arabia, the UK, and the UAE, exhibiting its operational prowess.

It has recently completed the exports of 300 tonnes of rice across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom (UK), meeting the quality, compliance, and logistics requirements of both markets.

The ability to serve those markets, home to a large South Asian diaspora and highly quality-conscious consumers, demonstrates ShopUp's growing operational and regulatory readiness across multiple international markets, a statement said.

According to it, ShopUp has also expanded its export to other categories.

It has entered the fresh vegetables and seasonal fruits segment, a category that requires tighter sourcing coordination, faster logistics, and greater supply chain precision compared to dry food staples.

Building on this momentum, ShopUp is actively expanding its export pipeline into additional Bangladeshi food categories, including mustard oil, puffed rice, and other dry food staples as part of its broader effort to strengthen Bangladesh's presence in international food markets.

Marking the development, CEO of ShopUp Bangladesh Ataur Rahim said Bangladesh produces far more than the world currently sees.

ShopUp's goal is not to make occasional export shipments, rather to build the infrastructure that would help Bangladeshi food products reach global markets at large scale.

"Rice and fresh produce are the starting point, but over time we believe Bangladesh can become a much stronger food export player across multiple categories," Mr Rahim said.

has become a key national priority. Bangladesh's Export Policy 2024-2027

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"Rice and fresh produce are the starting point, but over time we believe Bangladesh can become a much stronger food export player across multiple categories," Mr Rahim said.

It also said ShopUp's export expansion comes at a pivotal moment for Bangladesh.

With the ready-made garment (RMG) sector accounting for more than 80 percent of the country's merchandise exports, diversification has become a key national priority.

Bangladesh's Export Policy 2024-2027 identifies agricultural and processed food exports as major growth sectors as the country pursues broader long-term export diversification and growth ambitions.

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Turkish business leaders eye joint investment in BD

FE REPORT

Turkish business leaders have expressed strong interest in making both joint and independent investments in Bangladesh's electronics and electrical equipment sector, citing growing domestic demand and mutual benefits for both countries.

"There is significant demand in Bangladesh for electronic equipment, home appliances, generators and similar products. Investors from Türkiye are interested in making both joint and independent investments in these sectors," said Burak Basegmezlar, Vice President of the Turkish Electro Technology Exporters' Association (TET).

He made the remarks while speaking at a bilateral trade discussion between the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) leaders and a seven-member Turkish business delegation led by him at Gulshan Centre in the capital on Wednesday. Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh Ramis ?en was also present.

Basegmezlar reiterated that Turkish investors are keen to enter Bangladesh's electronics and electrical equipment sector through both standalone and collaborative ventures.

He also announced that a delegation of Turkish entrepreneurs from the electronics and electrical equipment sector is scheduled to visit Bangladesh in November this year.

During the visit, private sector representatives from both countries are expected to take part in bilateral discussions and business-to-business (B2B) sessions aimed at unlocking sectoral potential and expanding trade and investment, he added.

Turkish Ambassador Ramis ?en said there is immense scope for enhancing bilateral trade, stressing that stronger business linkages between entrepreneurs of the two countries would be key to tapping this potential.

He noted that DCCI can play an effective bridging role in boosting private sector cooperation.

Welcoming the delegation, DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed said Bangladesh and Türkiye have long enjoyed friendly relations and expressed optimism that such business engagements would further strengthen bilateral trade.

He said total bilateral trade between the two countries stood at around $1.05 billion in FY2024-25, with Bangladesh's imports from Türkiye amounting to $416.76 million and exports reaching $634.53 million.

Taskeen added that Turkish entrepreneurs have already invested $74.05 million across various sectors in Bangladesh.

He also invited Turkish investors to explore both joint ventures and wholly owned investments in promising sectors including readymade garments, leather and footwear, jute goods, agro-processed products, pharmaceuticals, light engineering, ICT services and software, home textiles and consumer goods.

DCCI Senior Vice President Razeev H Chowdhury and Vice President Md. Salem Sulaiman were present at the meeting.

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a Turkish business delegation at the Gulshan Centre in Dhaka on Wednesday.

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Pharmaceutical sector to face pressure from LDC graduation

INDUSTRY – BANGLADESH

TBS REPORT

Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry may face significant pressure after graduating from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, stakeholders warned yesterday, saying the expiry of patent waiver benefits could increase medicine production costs and prices while weakening export competitiveness.

They said many medicines currently produced under patent waiver facilities may no longer be manufactured without licences from international companies once these benefits end. Experts cautioned that without higher investment in research and development (R&D), Bangladesh could struggle to stay globally competitive, while next-generation medicines for cancer and other complex diseases may become unaffordable for ordinary people.

The concerns were raised at an inception workshop titled "Strengthening Competitiveness and Innovation of the Pharmaceutical Industry for Sustainable Growth in the Context of LDC Graduation," jointly organised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Health Economics Institute at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka.

Keynote presenter, health economist Prof Syed Abdul Hamid, said Bangladesh currently produces many generic medicines without licences from global companies, keeping costs low. "The situation may change after LDC benefits expire," he said.

He added that production of newly patented medicines would require licences, compliance with international standards, and mandatory bioequivalence and biosimilar testing. As most local firms are not fully prepared, tests may need to be conducted abroad, increasing costs. He warned prices of medicines for cancer and other complex disease could rise several times.

Prof Hamid also raised concerns over the pharmaceutical raw materials sector, saying many recommendations of the 2018 API policy remain unimplemented.

Bangladesh API and Intermediaries Manufacturers Association President SM Saifur Rahman sought ADB support as progress regarding API policy implementation remained slow.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prime Minister's Finance Adviser ... Titumir dis-

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Bangladesh API and Intermediaries Manufacturers Association President SM Saifur Rahman sought ADB support as progress regarding API policy implementation remained slow.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prime Minister's Finance Adviser Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir discussed challenges posed by patent expiries, higher compliance costs and mandatory international standards, along with potential medicine price hikes and weakened export competitiveness.