The Financial Express

16 JUL 2026

Raw material import for digital device making enjoys duty incentives

PM informs parliament about fiscal facilities for production

FE REPORT

Fiscal move would create 'unprecedented employment opportunities' across sectors like education, startups, freelancing, SMEs

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has said the government has introduced updated duty incentives on the import of raw materials required for the local manufacturing and assembly of international-standard digital devices.

The prime minister disclosed the information in parliament on Wednesday while responding to a question from Sultana Ahmed, a reserved-seat lawmaker.

The incentives cover the production and assembly of a wide range of technology products, including desktop computers, laptops, all-in-one PCs, notebooks, notepads, tablets, servers, printers, scanners, routers, network devices, monitors, digital watches and mobile phones.

Under the new incentives, import of raw materials used in manufacturing these products will be subject to only an additional 1.0-percent customs duty, while all supplementary duty, regulatory duty and value-added tax (VAT) have been fully waived, he said. For raw materials imported for the assembly of these products, the government has allowed an additional customs duty of 5.0 per cent and waived all supplementary duty, regulatory duty and VAT.

Tarique Rahman hopes that the timely policy measures would accelerate the growth of the country's information and communication technology (ICT) industry and further strengthen the 'Made- in - Bangladesh' brand in global markets.

He also said the incentives would play a significant role in attracting foreign investment into the sector.

Highlighting the broader impact of the initiative, the prime minister said the duty concessions would make a wide range of technology products more affordable on the domestic market.

"The move would create unprecedented employment opportunities for the country's large youth population across sectors such as education, startups, freelancing, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)."

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তথ্য কেন্দ্র ঢাকা। উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো

The Business Standard

16 JUL 2026

Bepza contributes 17.51% to national exports in FY26

TRADE - BANGLADESH

TBS REPORT

Achieves record success in employment generation and new investment proposals

Women workers sew garments at Kaixi Garments Bangladesh. China's Kaixi Group, after investing $60.85 million in Kaixi Lingerie Bangladesh, signed another lease agreement with Bepza last year to invest $40.50 million through Kaixi Garments Bangladesh. PHOTO: COURTESY

The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) contributed 17.51% to the country's total exports in FY2025-26 and recorded its highest-ever new investment proposals and cumulative employment despite a global economic slowdown and a slight decline in national exports.

Bangladesh's exports totalled $48 billion in FY2025-26, of which Bepza-run zones contributed $8.41 billion. In FY2024-25, national exports stood at $48.28 billion, while exports from Bepza zones were $8.22 billion. Although the country's overall exports declined by 0.58% in FY2025-26, exports from Bepza zones grew by 2.2%.

During the fiscal year, 36 companies from China, South Korea, the British Virgin Islands, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Samoa and Bangladesh signed lease agreements with Bepza to establish industries in its zones. The proposed investment of $717.71 million is the highest commitment secured by Bepza in a single fiscal year.

Once fully operational, the enterprises are expected to create 75,744 jobs for Bangladeshi nationals. Most will manufacture diversified products beyond traditional sectors, including bags, luggage, fashion accessories, textiles, electrical and electronic goods, Bluetooth headphones, aircraft amenity kits, drones, footwear, tents, leather goods, light engineering products, camping furniture, agricultural products, processed food and household items.

Bepza said its efficient management and investor services have strengthened confidence among local and foreign investors. Existing investors are also expanding operations. China's Kaixi Group, after investing $60.85 million in Kaixi Lingerie Bangladesh, signed another lease agreement last year to invest $40.50 million through Kaixi Garments Bangladesh.

Excluding working capital, actual investment in Bepza zones during FY2025-26 reached $286.46 million through capital machinery, construction materials and other assets. According to Bangladesh Bank, net FDI inflows to Bepza zones amounted to $221.58 million during July 2025-March 2026, accounting for 19.61% of the country's total FDI net inflows during the period.

Bepza zones created 25,164 new jobs in FY2025-26, raising total employment from 533,527 in June 2025 to a record 558,691 by June 2026.

Of the 451 enterprises currently in commercial operation, 33% are engaged in readymade garments, 18% in garment accessories and 8% in textiles. The remaining 41% manufacture diversified products exported to 129 countries.

Bepza operates eight export processing zones and the Bepza Economic Zone. As of June 2026, cumulative investment stood at $7.37 billion and cumulative exports at $127.42 billion. Of 566 enterprises under Bepza, 451 are in operation and 115 are under implementation.

বাণিজ্য তথ্য কেন্দ্র
ঢাকা।
রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো

LDC exit in 2026 could deepen economic woes: govt report

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh's economy is in crisis due to domestic and external shocks, and graduation from the category of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) this year will worsen the situation due to several risks, according to a government document.

The paper identified the risk of disruptions to oil supplies, higher prices amid the ongoing Middle East conflict, and export losses due to the signing of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) between Bangladesh's competitors and the European Union and the United Kingdom, two key export destinations.

Ongoing investigations by the US Trade Representative (USTR) targeting Bangladesh on overcapacity and the enforcement of policies restricting imports of products made with child and forced labour may result in additional duties on Bangladesh's exports in the US market, its single largest export destination, said the paper.

The government prepared the document ahead of the meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) next week.

A team, led by Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir, is already in New York to persuade other

READ MORE ON B3

The Daily Star

16 JUL 2026

FROM PAGE B1

nations to support Bangladesh's bid to extend its graduation schedule by another three years to allow more time to prepare for competition in the post-LDC period.

Bangladesh, along with Nepal and Lao PDR, is scheduled to graduate from the LDC category in November. However, due to unprecedented political, macroeconomic, environmental and external shocks, Bangladesh and Nepal have requested a three-year extension of their preparatory period until November 2029.

The UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP) had earlier recommended approving Bangladesh's request to defer its graduation from the least-developed country (LDC) category from November 2026 to November 2029. The recommendation now awaits formal ratification by the UN General Assembly.

The finance ministry report said high inflation, falling exports, and rising energy and fertiliser bills amid the war in the Middle East have heightened risks to the Bangladesh economy, which has been

The loss of ISMs after graduation will increase the risk for the country.

Bangladesh's reliance on ISMs has been identified as one of its vulnerabilities during and after graduation by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), it said.

The finance ministry said investor confidence has weakened due to political instability in recent years and will take time to restore.

It said more time is required to conclude FTA negotiations with trading partners to reduce the risks of losing preferential market access.

The report also cited the end of the waiver on compliance with intellectual property rights, along with increased poverty caused by persistent inflation, and warned that the prices of life-saving drugs may rise, putting further strain on public health.

"Given the strong role of ISMs in the Gross Domestic Product and employment, graduation under the current uncertainty could further destabilise the macroeconomy, which will impede a smooth and sustainable graduation," it

including oil, in recent years, the import bill for these items has risen substantially, accounting for over 25 percent of total import payments.

The import bill for oil and fertiliser has increased by 72 percent and 44 percent, respectively, during July-May of fiscal year 2025-26, exerting considerable pressure on foreign exchange reserves.

The finance ministry said current circumstances do not show any evidence that the situation will improve before the present graduation timeline.

The report also mentioned record high non-performing loans in the banking sector and said there was a severe and systemic shortage of funds available for lending and investment.

"Rising international borrowing costs and debt servicing are shrinking fiscal space, limiting public investment in key sectors like infrastructure, health, education and social protection."

Exports have been declining in recent times despite duty-free and quota-free (DFQF) access due to global trade uncertainty and rising

China and the United Kingdom, two key export destinations.

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The finance ministry report said high inflation, falling exports, and rising energy and fertiliser bills amid the war in the Middle East have heightened risks to the Bangladesh economy, which has been experiencing sluggish growth, rising poverty and mounting bad loans.

At this stage, graduation from the LDC category and the resulting loss of export preferences will deepen economic vulnerability.

According to the report, International Support Measures (ISMs), especially in exports and pharmaceuticals, have played a critical role in Bangladesh's economic development.

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"Given the strong role of ISMs in the Gross Domestic Product and employment, graduation under the current uncertainty could further destabilise the macroeconomy, which will impede a smooth and sustainable graduation," it said.

The finance ministry said Bangladesh's economy, which grew by over 6 percent annually in the five years before 2021, has since slowed. Inflation has remained above 8 percent since 2022, while poverty is projected to rise in 2025, pushing more people into extreme poverty.

Due to the significant increase in the prices of essential commodities, including oil, in recent years, the import bill for these items has risen substantially, accounting for over 25 percent of total import payments.

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Exports have been declining in recent times despite duty-free and quota-free (DFQF) access due to global trade uncertainty and rising domestic business costs stemming from higher interest rates and energy prices.

Delays in the repatriation of Rohingya refugees have placed additional pressure on government expenditure.

"The government requires at least two years to stabilise the economy and move towards smooth and sustainable graduation within the next three years."

ঢাকা।

সমকাল

16 JUL 2026

৫৮ বিলিয়ন ডলারের পণ্য রপ্তানির বড় লক্ষ্যমাত্রা

আবু হেনা মুহিব

২০২৬-২৭ অর্থবছর

বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ে ইপিবির প্রস্তাব

সদ্য সমাপ্ত ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরে পণ্য রপ্তানিতে লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অর্জিত হয়নি। ১ শতাংশের মতো কম হয়েছে প্রকৃত রপ্তানি। এ বাস্তবতার মধ্যেই চলতি ২০২৬-২৭ অর্থবছরের জন্য ৫৮ বিলিয়ন ডলার বা ৫ হাজার ৮০০ কোটি ডলারের রপ্তানি লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ধরা হচ্ছে। এটি গত অর্থবছরের প্রকৃত রপ্তানি আয়ের চেয়ে প্রায় ২১ শতাংশ বেশি। গত অর্থবছরে ৪ হাজার ৮০০ কোটি ডলারের পণ্য রপ্তানি হয়েছিল। অন্যান্য বছরের মতো এবারও প্রধান রপ্তানি পণ্য তৈরি পোশাক রপ্তানি থেকে বড় আয়ের প্রত্যাশা করা হচ্ছে।

জানা গেছে, রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো (ইপিবি) বিভিন্ন খাতের উদ্যোক্তা ও বিভিন্ন মন্ত্রণালয়ের সঙ্গে আলোচনা করে চলতি অর্থবছরের রপ্তানি লক্ষ্যমাত্রার খসড়া তৈরি করেছে। গত সপ্তাহে খসড়া লক্ষ্যমাত্রার প্রস্তাব পাঠানো হয়েছে বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ে। আগামী সপ্তাহে বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী আমির খসরু মাহমুদ চৌধুরী পণ্য ও সেবা রপ্তানি লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ঘোষণা করতে পারেন।

সম্প্রতি বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়সহ সংশ্লিষ্ট মন্ত্রণালয়, কৃষি, মৎস্য, চা ও ক্ষুদ্র কুটিরশিল্প পণ্যসংক্রান্ত সরকারি দপ্তর ও রপ্তানিকারক উদ্যোক্তাদের সংগঠনের প্রতিনিধিদের নিয়ে বৈঠক করে ইপিবি। রাজধানীর কারওয়ান বাজারে অনুষ্ঠিত বৈঠকে সরকারি-বেসরকারি খাতের প্রতিনিধিরা পণ্য রপ্তানির লক্ষ্যমাত্রা কত হতে পারে সে বিষয়ে মতামত দেন। সভায় বৈশ্বিক অর্থনীতির পরিস্থিতি, ইউরোপ ও আমেরিকাসহ অন্যান্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বাজারের চাহিদা পর্যালোচনা করা হয়। জাপানের সঙ্গে অর্থনৈতিক অংশীদারি চুক্তিসহ সম্ভাব্য বাণিজ্য চুক্তির প্রভাব নিয়েও আলোচনা হয়। এ সম্পর্কিত তথ্য-উপাত্ত বিশ্লেষণ ও সব পক্ষের মতামতের ভিত্তিতে পণ্যভিত্তিক রপ্তানির লক্ষ্যমাত্রার খসড়া তৈরি করা হয়েছে বলে জানা গেছে।

তৈরি পোশাক রপ্তানিকারক উদ্যোক্তাদের দুই সংগঠন বিজিএমইএ ও বিকেএমইএর কাছ থেকে এ বিষয়ে লিখিত প্রস্তাব চাওয়া হয়েছিল। বিজিএমইএ গত অর্থবছরের রপ্তানি আয়ের ওপর ১০ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি ধরে লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্ধারণের প্রস্তাব করেছে। অন্যদিকে বিকেএমইএর পক্ষ থেকে ৫ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি ধরে লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্ধারণের প্রস্তাব করা হয়। ইপিবির সঙ্গে আলোচনায়ও এ সম্পর্কিত তথ্য-উপাত্ত তুলে ধরে সংগঠন দুটি। তৈরি পোশাক খাতে নতুন অর্থবছর ৪ হাজার ৫৮০ কোটি ডলার রপ্তানি আয়ের লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্ধারণ করার প্রস্তাব রয়েছে ইপিবির খসড়ায়।

বিকেএমইএর সভাপতি মোহাম্মদ হাতেম গতকাল সমকালকে বলেন, সদ্য সমাপ্ত অর্থবছরে যেখানে রপ্তানি লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অর্জিত হয়নি সেখানে এমন কী ঘটে গেল যে, এক লাফে রপ্তানি ২১ শতাংশ বেড়ে যাবে রপ্তানি। বাস্তবতা হচ্ছে, প্রধান বাজার ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়নে (ইইউ) রপ্তানি ধারাবাহিকভাবে কমছে। যুক্তরাষ্ট্রেও গত কয়েক মাস ধরে রপ্তানি পরিস্থিতি ভালো নয়। এই বড় দুই বাজার বাদ দিয়ে বিশ্বের বাকি সব দেশে যদি ১০০ শতাংশ হারেও রপ্তানি বাড়ে তাহলে এত বড় লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অর্জনযোগ্য নয়।

ইপিবির তৈরি খসড়া প্রস্তাব অনুসারে, পোশাকের বাইরে চামড়া, কৃষি, পাট, প্রকৌশল, ওষুধসহ বিভিন্ন খাতের জন্যও উচ্চ লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে।

বাণিজ্য তথ্য কেন্দ্র
ঢাকা।
রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো