বণিক বার্তা
30 JUL 2026

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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Export Promotion Bureau
Bangladesh

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তারিখ: ১৩ শ্রাবণ ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ
২৮ জুলাই ২০২৬ খ্রি.

জাতীয় রপ্তানি ট্রফি ২০২৫-২০২৬ প্রাপক নির্বাচনের জন্য অনলাইনে আবেদন আহবান

২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরের 'জাতীয় রপ্তানি ট্রফি' প্রাপক নির্বাচনের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশে নিবন্ধিত দেশি/বিদেশি পণ্য ও সেবা রপ্তানিকারক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে শুধুমাত্র অনলাইনে আবেদন আহবান করা হচ্ছে।

০২। জাতীয় রপ্তানি ট্রফি নীতিমালা-২০২৫ অনুসারে পণ্য ও সেবা খাতসমূহ ২৯টি খাতে বিভক্ত। ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে খাতওয়ারী ন্যুনতম রপ্তানি আয় (মিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলার) নিম্নরূপ:

ক্র:নং	পণ্য ও সেবা খাত	ন্যূনতম আয়	ক্র:নং	পণ্য ও সেবা খাত	ন্যূনতম আয়
(১)	তৈরি পোশাক (ওভেন)	৭০	(১৬)	সিরামিক পণ্য	৪
(২)	তৈরি পোশাক (নিটওয়্যার)	৭০	(১৭)	লাইট ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	৫
(৩)	সকল ধরণের সুতা (ডেনিম ব্যতীত)	৩০	(১৮)	ইলেকট্রিক ও ইলেকট্রনিক্স পণ্য	৮
(৪)	টেক্সটাইল ফেব্রিক্স	১৫	(১৯)	ফার্মাসিউটিক্যাল পণ্য	৫
(৫)	ডেনিম ফেব্রিক্স ও ডেনিম তৈরি পোশাক	২০	(২০)	কম্পিউটার সার্ভিসেস	২
(৬)	হোম ও স্পেশালাইজড টেক্সটাইল	৫৫	(২১)	প্রিন্টিং ও প্যাকেজিং পণ্য	৮
(৭)	হিমায়িত খাদ্য	১০	(২২)	গার্মেন্টস এক্সেসরিজ পণ্য	৮
(৮)	পাটজাত দ্রব্য	১০	(২৩)	অপ্রচলিত পণ্য (কাঁকড়া, কুচিয়া, গরুর নাড়ি ভুরি, মাছের আঁশ, চুল ইত্যাদি)	১
(৯)	চামড়া (ক্রাস্ট/ফিনিশড)	১০	(২৪)	নারী উদ্যোক্তা রপ্তানিকারক (ব্যক্তি: লিমিটেড কোম্পানি ব্যতীত)	১
(১০)	চামড়াজাত পণ্য	২	(২৫)	আসবাবপত্র	৩
(১১)	ফুটওয়্যার (সকল)	৪	(২৬)	ট্যুরিজম এন্ড হসপিটালিটি	৫
(১২)	কৃষিজ পণ্য (তামাক ব্যতীত)	১	(২৭)	বেসিক কেমিক্যালস	২০
(১৩)	এগ্রোপ্রসেসিং পণ্য (তামাকজাত পণ্য ব্যতীত)	২	(২৮)	ম্যান-মেইড ফিলামেন্টস এবং স্ট্যাপল ফাইবার	২৫
(১৪)	হস্তশিল্পজাত পণ্য	০.৫	(২৯)	কাগজ এবং কাগজের পণ্য	২০
(১৫)	প্লাস্টিক ও মেলামাইন পণ্য	৩			

০৩। রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরোর সকল কার্যালয়, ব্যুরোর ওয়েবসাইট (www.epb.gov.bd), সকল চেম্বার/এসোসিয়েশন, বেজা ও বেপজা কার্যালয় হতেও জাতীয় রপ্তানি ট্রফি ২০২৫-২০২৬ -এর আবেদনের তথ্য সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।
অনলাইনে আবেদনের লিংক: **http://services.mincom.gov.bd/portal/home** এর মাধ্যমে প্রবেশ অথবা সরাসরি **http://43.229.15.128/portal/export-trophy।**

আগামী ০১ আগস্ট হতে ৩১ আগস্ট ২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত শুধুমাত্র অনলাইনে আবেদন দাখিল করা যাবে।

০৪। **আবেদনের সাথে যেসব ডকুমেন্টস সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করতে হবে:** (ক) ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরের কর্পোরেট ট্যাক্স পরিশোধের স্বপক্ষে সংশ্লিষ্ট আয়কর অফিস-এর প্রত্যয়নপত্র; (খ) ঋণ খেলাপী নয়-মর্মে প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব লেটার হেড প্যাডে ঘোষণাপত্র; (গ) পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের হালনাগাদ সনদের কপি (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে); (ঘ) সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংক এর লেটারহেড প্যাডে প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম, রপ্তানিকৃত পণ্যের নাম ও এফওবি মূল্যে প্রত্যাবাসিত মূল্য (মিলিয়ন মা. ডলারে) প্রদানপূর্বক ২০২৪-২০২৫ এবং ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরের এক পাতার প্রসিড রিয়ালাইজেশন সার্টিফিকেট (PRC)-এর মূল ফর্দ; (ঙ) প্রচ্ছন্ন ও আংশিক প্রচ্ছন্ন রপ্তানিকারক প্রতিষ্ঠানকে এক পাতার মূল পিআরসি-এর সাথে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নির্ধারিত নতুন ছক অনুযায়ী ই-পিআরসি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে; (চ) কলকারখানা ও প্রতিষ্ঠান পরিদর্শন অধিদপ্তর হতে কারখানার কমপ্লায়্যান্স সনদ এবং (ছ) অনলাইন আবেদন ফরম-এর শর্তানুযায়ী প্রদেয় অন্যান্য তথ্য/ডকুমেন্টস।

০৫। আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান একাধিক পণ্য ও সেবা রপ্তানি করলে সেক্ষেত্রে পণ্য ও সেবা খাতওয়ারী (HS code) পৃথক আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে। অর্থাৎ এক খাতের রপ্তানিকারক কর্তৃক অন্য কোন খাতের সাথে একত্রে রপ্তানি আয় প্রদর্শন করা হলে আবেদন বাতিলযোগ্য হবে।

০৬। দাখিলকৃত পিআরসি বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের অনলাইন এক্সপোর্ট মনিটরিং সিস্টেমের (OEMS) তথ্যভান্ডারের সাথে যাচাই করা হবে। **True Single Source** হিসেবে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের OEMS তথ্য ভান্ডারে রক্ষিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের রপ্তানি আয়কে চূড়ান্ত ও সঠিক হিসেবে বিবেচনা করা হবে।

০৭। ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরের জাতীয় রপ্তানি ট্রফির জন্য অনলাইনে আবেদন উপরে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী প্রতিপালনপূর্বক আগামী ৩১ আগষ্ট ২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ-এর মধ্যে দাখিল করতে হবে। অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

০৮। অনলাইন পদ্ধতিতে বিলম্বে আবেদন দাখিল/গ্রহণের কোন সুযোগ থাকবে না। বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো'র পণ্য বিভাগ-এ যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

K. Sultana
২৮/৭/২০২৬

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(৮*X৪)

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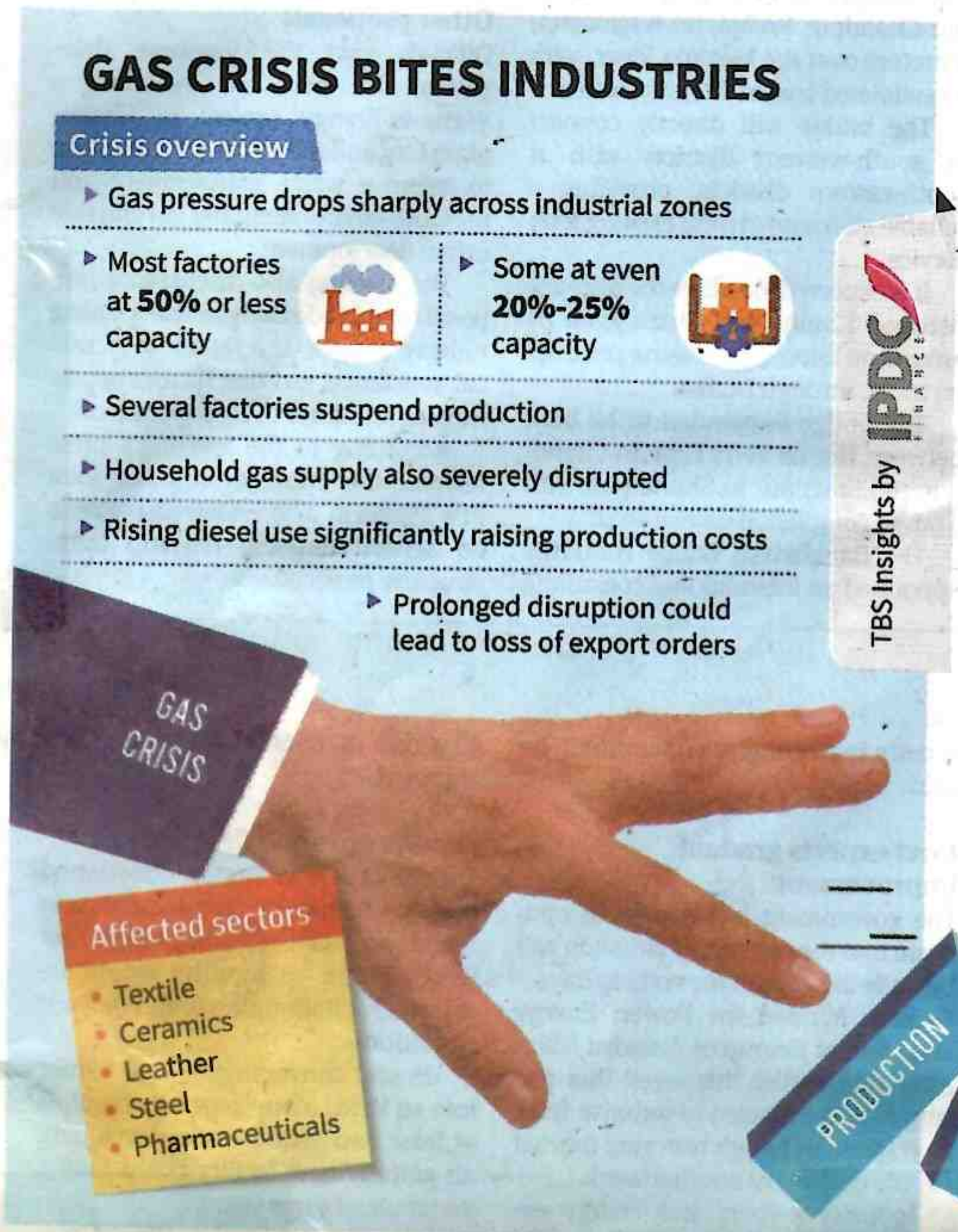
Gas crunch cripples industries, threatens export orders



ENERGY – BANGLADESH

TBS REPORT

Factory owners are paying a premium of Tk10 per litre for diesel to keep their generators running, a costly measure that reflects how Bangladesh's energy crisis has deepened from a gas shortage into a full-blown power supply crisis.

The extra fuel cost is only part of the pain. Frequent power outages, coupled with years of low gas pressure, are disrupting production at factories across the country's major industrial belts, forcing manufacturers to spend more just to meet export deadlines.

"We have been suffering from the gas crisis for years. Now we are not getting electricity either. We are buying diesel from filling stations by paying Tk10 extra per litre just to keep our generators running," an entrepreneur who owns export-oriented garment and textile factories in Ashulia told The Business Standard.

"I can't run my factories anymore. Please save us!" he said.

A spinning mill in Araihazar, Narayanganj, with 3 lakh spindles has almost ceased operations because of the gas shortage. The owner, who requested anonymity, said the factory's daily gas bill under normal circumstances was around Tk20 lakh, but it is now spending about Tk90 lakh a day on diesel.

Their frustration is no longer an isolated case. It has become the new reality for manufacturers in Ashulia, Gazipur, Savar, Narayanganj and other industrial hubs, where unreliable gas and electricity supplies are forcing factories to operate far below capacity and driving up production costs. Only a handful of factories, mainly in the Sylhet region where gas supply remains comparatively stable, have largely escaped the crisis.

Industry leaders say the worsening energy shortage is eroding Bangladesh's competitiveness at a time when exporters are already struggling with weak global demand, rising costs, and growing competition from rival manufacturing countries.

The Bangladesh I SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Gas crunch cripples industries, threatens export orders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Textile Mills Association raised the issue during a meeting with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday, seeking immediate intervention. According to the association, the prime minister assured industry leaders that the government would take steps to address the crisis, with another meeting scheduled next week.

Business leaders also said the PM had told entrepreneurs at a meeting last week that resolving the broader energy crisis could take about one year.

Production levels across major gas-reliant industries have plummeted to 20%-50% of capacity, down from around 70% a month ago, with several units shutting down entirely. The crisis has been compounded by severe electricity load-shedding of 10 to 14 hours daily in industrial zones powered by the Rural Electrification Board.

The widespread disruption has raised fears among factory owners over their ability to pay workers' wages, clear utility bills, and service bank loans.

Orders shifting feared

Foreign buyers are closely monitoring the supply crunch, inquiring whether local suppliers can meet delivery deadlines. Industry leaders report that some international buyers have already begun scaling back orders or shifting them away from Bangladesh.

Showkat Aziz Russell, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, confirmed that orders are shifting, warning that retrieving lost clients in the near future will prove challenging.

A senior official from the association noted that at least one European buyer has explicitly cited the gas crisis when transferring a portion of its order volume.

Industry leaders warn that Bangladesh could risk losing up to half its export orders if normal gas supply is not restored swiftly.

Textile mills bear the brunt

The textile sector, one of the country's largest gas consumers with investments estimated at \$23 billion, has been among the hardest hit.

Mohammad Mosharaf Hossain, managing director of Mosharaf Composite Textile Mills Limited, said lower gas pressure meant the factory was managing to operate at only around 60% capacity despite relying on alternative energy sources.

"If this situation continues, I do not know how we will pay workers' wages, bank loan instalments and gas and electricity bills from next month," he said.

Mosharaf said the company had so far been using funds from other businesses within the group to meet operating expenses, but questioned how long that could continue.

Even after combining electricity supplied by the Rural Electrification Board with solar power and diesel generation, the mill is operating at only about 20% of capacity, said the spinning mill owner in Araihazar.

He said the factory is losing around Tk1.5 crore a day because of the gas shortage and warned that prolonged disruption could force the sale of personal assets to keep paying workers and meeting other obligations.

Khorshed Alam, chairman of Little Star Spinning Mills Limited in Ashulia, Savar, said his factory is receiving only 0.5 to 1.5 PSI of gas despite having an approved pressure of 10 PSI.

Even after supplementing production with uninterrupted power supply systems, electricity and solar power, the factory is operating at only about 25% of capacity.

"We are worried about how we will pay workers' wages. Ultimately, it may not be possible to keep the factory running," he said.

Other industries under pressure

The crisis has spread well beyond the textile sector. According to the Bangladesh Ceramic Manufacturers and Exporters Association, 25 of its 70 member factories have already suspended production because of inadequate gas supply.

Moynul Islam, chairman of Monno Ceramic Industries Limited and president of the association, said the industry had reached a critical stage. "We are now in a state of uncertainty."

The leather sector is facing similar difficulties. Mohammad Imam Hossain, managing director of ABS Tannery and an executive member of the Bangladesh Tanners Association, said his factory's monthly production capacity of 7-8 lakh square feet had fallen to well below 1.5 lakh square feet despite arranging gas from external sources.

He said export orders were being delayed, while rising overhead costs and shipment disruptions were making it increasingly difficult to pay wages and repay bank loans.

Mizanur Rahman, general secretary of the Bangladesh Tanners Association, said many tanneries were receiving only 10% to 20% of their required gas supply, while some were receiving none at all.

"If the situation persists, paying workers' wages and servicing bank loans will become extremely difficult," he said.

The steel industry is also under strain. According to industry representatives, Bangladesh has around 40 automated steel mills, most of which rely on captive power generation. Large factories using high-pressure gas lines have experienced production disruptions of 30% to 40%, while many smaller plants connected to lower-pressure lines have been left with almost no gas supply.

Sumon Chowdhury, general secretary of the Bangladesh Steel Manufacturers' Association, said steel production machinery must operate continuously and requires more than two hours to restart after a shutdown.

He said many factories were now forced to suspend production for about 12 hours each day and warned that a further two weeks of disruption could force numerous mills to close.

The pharmaceutical industry is also feeling the impact. Sector insiders said most of the country's nearly 300 pharmaceutical factories depend on gas-fired captive power generation and have been forced to halt production for between five and seven hours a day.

Zakir Hossain, secretary of the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries, said the sector had been experiencing gas shortages since 2022.

He said captive power plants generally require gas pressure above 10 PSI to operate efficiently, but pressure had remained well below that level in recent days. At the same time, increased load shedding outside Dhaka was disrupting production for around six hours a day.

"The biggest challenge is API production, where machinery must remain in continuous operation," he said.

Govt expects gradual improvement

The government has expressed optimism that the gas supply situation will begin to improve in the coming days.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Anindya Islam Amit said earlier this week that gas supply was expected to improve from next week, although restoring normal supply could take another week.

Industry owners and energy experts, however, believe a lasting solution remains some way off.

They argue that the proposed floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) will take much longer to become operational than official estimates suggest, leaving industries vulnerable to prolonged supply shortages unless alternative gas sources are secured.

The current crisis has been aggravated by the shutdown of the floating LNG terminal operated by Excelerate Energy, with industry representatives saying there is no immediate remedy until the terminal resumes operations.

To strengthen future energy security, the government plans to install Bangladesh's third FSRU and develop a land-based LNG terminal at Matarbari in Cox's Bazar.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase on Tuesday approved a proposal to establish a new FSRU in Kutubjom, Moheshkhali, under a government-to-government arrangement with China National Energy Engineering and Construction Co.

According to the Energy Division, the terminal is expected to be complet-

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Khorshed Alam, chairman of Little Star Spinning Mills Limited in Ashulia, Savar, said his factory is receiving only 0.5 to 1.5 PSI of gas despite having an approved pressure of 10 PSI.

Even after supplementing production with uninterrupted power supply systems, electricity and solar power, the factory is operating at only about 25% of capacity.

"We are worried about how we will pay workers' wages. Ultimately, it may not be possible to keep the factory running," he said.

Other industries under pressure

The crisis has spread well beyond the textile sector. According to the Bangladesh Ceramic Manufacturers and Exporters Association, 25 of its 70 member factories have already suspended production because of inadequate gas supply.

Moynul Islam, chairman of Monno Ceramic Industries Limited and president of the association, said the industry had reached a critical stage. "We are now in a state of uncertainty."

The leather sector is facing similar difficulties. Mohammad Imam Hossain, managing director of ABS Tannery and an executive member of the Bangladesh Tanners Association, said his factory's monthly production capacity of 7-8 lakh square feet had fallen to well below 1.5 lakh square feet despite arranging gas from external sources.

He said export orders were being delayed, while rising overhead costs and shipment disruptions were making it increasingly difficult to pay wages and repay bank loans.

Mizanur Rahman, general secretary of the Bangladesh Tanners Association, said many tanneries were receiving only 10% to 20% of their required gas supply, while some were receiving none at all.

"If the situation persists, paying workers' wages and servicing bank loans will become extremely difficult," he said.

The steel industry is also under strain. According to industry representatives, Bangladesh has around 40 automated steel mills, most of which rely on captive power generation. Large factories using high-pressure gas lines have experienced production disruptions of 30% to 40%, while many smaller plants connected to lower-pressure lines have been left with almost no gas supply.

Sumon Chowdhury, general secretary of the Bangladesh Steel Manufacturers' Association, said steel production machinery must operate continuously and requires more than two hours to restart after a shutdown.

He said many factories were now forced to suspend production for about 12 hours each day and warned that a further two weeks of disruption could force numerous mills to close.

The pharmaceutical industry is also feeling the impact. Sector insiders said most of the country's nearly 300 pharmaceutical factories depend on gas-fired captive power generation and have been forced to halt production for between five and seven hours a day.

Zakir Hossain, secretary of the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries, said the sector had been experiencing gas shortages since 2022.

He said captive power plants generally require gas pressure above 10 PSI to operate efficiently, but pressure had remained well below that level in recent days. At the same time, increased load shedding outside Dhaka was disrupting production for around six hours a day.

"The biggest challenge is API production, where machinery must remain in continuous operation," he said.

Govt expects gradual improvement

The government has expressed optimism that the gas supply situation will begin to improve in the coming days.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Anindya Islam Amit said earlier this week that gas supply was expected to improve from next week, although restoring normal supply could take another week.

Industry owners and energy experts, however, believe a lasting solution remains some way off.

They argue that the proposed floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) will take much longer to become operational than official estimates suggest, leaving industries vulnerable to prolonged supply shortages unless alternative gas sources are secured.

The current crisis has been aggravated by the shutdown of the floating LNG terminal operated by Excelerate Energy, with industry representatives saying there is no immediate remedy until the terminal resumes operations.

To strengthen future energy security, the government plans to install Bangladesh's third FSRU and develop a land-based LNG terminal at Matarbari in Cox's Bazar.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase on Tuesday approved a proposal to establish a new FSRU in Kutubjom, Moheshkhali, under a government-to-government arrangement with China National Energy Engineering and Construction Co.

According to the Energy Division, the terminal is expected to be completed within 18 months of receiving final approval.

Experts question timeline

Energy expert M Tamim questioned the government's implementation schedule, saying completing an FSRU within 18 months would be extremely challenging under current conditions.

He said converting an LNG carrier into an FSRU alone generally requires at least two years, while developing an entirely new facility could take a minimum of three years.

According to Tamim, the government's target would only be achievable if the Chinese contractor already had LNG storage facilities and other critical components ready for immediate installation.

Apparel exporters seek temporary relief

As the crisis intensifies, the country's two leading apparel trade bodies have sought temporary measures to keep export production running.

In separate letters sent on Tuesday, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association urged the government to allow export-oriented factories to procure compressed natural gas in cylinders from CNG filling stations until normal pipeline supply resumes.

The request followed a directive from Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company prohibiting CNG filling stations from selling gas into open cylinders or gas cascade cylinders that are not mounted on authorised vehicles, citing safety concerns and legal restrictions.

The Daily Star
30 JUL 2026

Local garment industry must build its own brands

MOHIUDDIN RUBEL

For more than four decades, Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) sector has been the backbone of the national economy. It employs millions, drives exports and has advanced women's empowerment. Yet, although Bangladesh is one of the world's largest apparel exporters, producing for global giants, its own brands remain largely invisible. The factories and workers creating high-end labels rarely see Bangladeshi brand names on the tags.

The issue is not capability but mindset and strategy. Bangladesh excels in manufacturing but lags in brand building. Shifting from volume-driven production to value-added growth makes developing local brands essential -- elevating the country from a low-cost supplier to a recognised fashion origin.

Competitive labour costs, large-scale capacity and strong compliance have made Bangladesh a go-to base for global fast-fashion and mid-range brands. But this success has locked the industry into the lower end of the value chain -- cutting, making and trimming -- while the higher margins from design, branding and retail are captured overseas. The next phase requires repositioning Bangladesh from a "manufacturing hub" to a "fashion origin", where local entrepreneurs deliberately invest in brand identity, original design and direct consumer access at home and abroad -- so the country is known not just for how much it produces, but for the fashion it creates.

Strong Bangladeshi brands deliver multiple benefits: higher value addition, risk diversification, national image, skills upgrading and a stronger value chain. A basic T-shirt sold to an international buyer yields minimal local profit; a Bangladeshi brand that designs, markets and retails captures a far larger share of the retail price, maximising earnings from existing capacity and boosting export values. As global demand fluctuates and sourcing shifts, manufacturers often accept thin margins just to keep production lines running. Local brands, by contrast, build a regional consumer base that cushions external shocks and reduces dependence on a few major buyers. A respected "Made in Bangladesh" label, attached to genuinely Bangladeshi brands, can place the country alongside "Made in Italy" or "Made in Korea" as a mark of modernity, creativity and responsibility -- while branding deepens design, marketing and supply-chain capability.

The obstacles are real. Brand building demands capabilities beyond manufacturing -- consumer insight, market research, creative design, digital marketing and retail management -- yet many factory owners still prioritise production efficiency over strategy. Finance is hard to secure: banks prefer tangible assets such as machinery to the slower, less predictable returns of brand development. And the industry's volume-focused culture is often unwilling to tolerate the small initial scale and long gestation period that successful branding requires.

Several shifts are essential. Policy incentives must move from rewarding sheer volume to promoting value addition -- supporting design education, branding and direct-to-consumer exports. The industry mindset must evolve, invisible. The factories and workers creating high-end labels rarely see Bangladeshi brand names on the tags.

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Several shifts are essential. Policy incentives must move from rewarding sheer volume to promoting value addition -- supporting design education, branding and direct-to-consumer exports. The industry mindset must evolve, with the government and business associations actively mentoring and showcasing emerging brands, and valuing innovation and identity alongside scale. Entrepreneurs should systematically use e-commerce and social media to reach the diaspora and regional consumers at low cost. And all of this must rest on investment in accessible research and market data, enabling informed decisions on product development, pricing and positioning.

Bangladesh's RMG story is one of resilience and scale; the next phase must emphasise identity and ownership. Local brands will complement manufacturing strengths, turning suppliers into proud partners. A rising generation of entrepreneurs seeks higher value and a stronger image. By supporting them, the industry can retain talent, diversify jobs and secure a competitive edge. Soon, global shoppers may actively seek out Bangladeshi brands -- reshaping perceptions and strengthening the economy.

The writer is founder and CEO of Bangladesh Apparel Voice. He can be reached at mohiuddinrubel@gmail.com

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30 JUL 2026

Textile millers seek PM's help on gas crisis

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

With mill production reportedly nearly halved over the past week, textile millers yesterday pressed Prime Minister Tarique Rahman for a solution to the gas crisis.

They raised the demand at a meeting with the premier at his office in Dhaka as the nearly $25 billion worth primary textile sector is experiencing multifaceted challenges primarily for gas crisis, safety in the business and cheap import of yarn from other countries.

After the meeting, Showkat Aziz Russell, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), said they also discussed the troubled banking sector and high bank interest rates.

The prime minister has assured them that the government is working to install two more floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) to ease the shortage, Showkat said.

Showkat Aziz Russell, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, said they also discussed the troubled banking sector and high bank interest rates

The BTMA president announced that the association will hold a follow-up meeting with the prime minister within the next few weeks, this time bringing in leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

A committee was earlier formed at the prime minister's office to work on the sector's development in consultation with stakeholders.

Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktadir, Finance and Planning Adviser to the Prime Minister Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, Bangladesh Bank Governor Md Mostakur Rahman, and Acting NBR Chairman Ahsan Habib were present at the meeting.

GARMENT MAKERS PRESS THEIR OWN CASE

Earlier on Monday, the BGMEA and BKMEA demanded an uninterrupted supply of gas from CNG filling stations, after garment factories running on CNG to keep production going reported repeated supply disruptions.

Leaders of the two trade bodies separately wrote to Energy Secretary Mohammad Saiful Islam and the Petrobangla Chairman Md Abdul Mannan with their demands, BKMEA President Mohammad Hatem told The Daily Star.

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Many factory owners have been buying CNG from nearby filling stations to keep their units running, he said, but disruptions there have made even that workaround unreliable.

Hatem said he had written to BKMEA members advising them to buy CNG from filling stations in the meantime.

Meanwhile, following a meeting with the BKMEA president on Monday, Secretary Saiful directed Titas Gas authorities to allow garment factories to keep collecting gas from CNG filling stations.

The directive came after Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company instructed CNG filling stations to stop selling natural gas into open cylinders or gas cascade cylinders not mounted on authorised vehicles, citing safety concerns and violations of the Gas Act 2010 and Gas Distribution Rules 2026.

Farhan Noor, secretary general of the Bangladesh CNG Filling Station and Conversion Workshop Owners Association, said he had received two letters from the BGMEA and BKMEA requesting CNG sales to garment factories.

Station owners are supplying them given the circumstances, he said -- even though selling gas by the lorry-load is not technically permitted. The energy secretary and Petrobangla chairman could not be reached over phone despite several attempts.

The Financial Express

30 JUL 2026

Export Promotion Bureau Bangladesh

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)
TCB Building

1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka

www.epb.gov.bd

Memo No: 26.02.0000.00.019.51.0002.26/672 (2) Date: 28 July 2026

Inviting Applications (Online) for the Selection of Awardees for National Export Trophy 2025-2026

Export Promotion Bureau invites applications (online) from exporting companies (local & foreign) registered in Bangladesh for the selection of awardees of **National Export Trophy** for financial year 2025-2026.

02. **According to the National Export Trophy Policy-2025, the product and service sectors are divided into 29 categories/sectors. Sector-wise Minimum export earnings for the fiscal year 2025-2026 (million US dollars) are as follows:**

Sl. No.	Product and Service sector	Minimum earnings	Sl. No.	Product and Service sector	Minimum earnings
(1)	Readymade Garments (Woven)	70	(16)	Ceramic products	4
(2)	Readymade garments (Knitwear)	70	(17)	Light Engineering	5
(3)	All types of yarn (other than denim)	30	(18)	Electric and Electronics Products	8
(4)	Textile Fabrics	15	(19)	Pharmaceutical products	5
(5)	Denim fabrics and garments made of denim	20	(20)	Computer Services	2
(6)	Home and Specialized Textiles	55	(21)	Printing and Packaging	8
(7)	Frozen food	10	(22)	Garment accessories products	8
(8)	Jute products	10	(23)	Non-traditional products (Crabs, Eel, Cow guts & bladder, Fish scales, Hair etc.)	1
(9)	Leather (crust/finished)	10	(24)	Women Entrepreneur Exporter (Individual: excluding Limited Company)	1
(10)	Leather products	2	(25)	Furniture	3
(11)	Footwear (all)	4	(26)	Tourism & Hospitality	5
(12)	Agricultural products (excluding tobacco)	1	(27)	Basic Chemicals	20
(13)	Agro processing products (other than tobacco products)	2	(28)	Man-made Filaments and Staple Fibers	25
(14)	Handicrafts	0.5	(29)	Paper and Paper Products	20
(15)	Plastic & Melamine products	3			

03. Information on National Export Trophy 2025-2026 can also be collected from all offices of EPB & its website (www.epb.gov.bd), Chambers/Associations, BEZA and BEPZA offices. **Online Application Link: http://services.mincom.gov.bd/portal/home** or directly **http://43.229.15.128/portal/export-trophy.**

Application can only be submitted online from August 1 to August 31 2026.

04. **The following certificates/documents must be attached with application:**

(a) Certificate from the relevant Income Tax Office in support of payment of **corporate tax** for the fiscal year 2024-2025, (b) Declaration in company's letter head pad confirming that it is not default in loan; (c) Up-to-date Certificate from the Department of Environment (If Applicable); (d) Original copy of one-page Proceeds Realization Certificate (PRC) for the fiscal years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, stating the name of the organization, name of the exported product and repatriated value (in million US dollars) at FOB price on the letterhead of the concerned bank; (e) The Deemed/Partially Deemed exporting companies must be submitted one-page original PRC copy & along with E-PRC to the as per the format prescribed by Bangladesh Bank; (f) Compliance Certificate issued by the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments; (g) Other information/documents as per the requirement of the online application form.

05. A business entity exporting more than one product or service has to submit application separately according to the category (HS Code) of product/service. That is, the applicant cannot show export earnings of one sector to another sector or together in the same sector. Such applications will be treated as invalid.

06. The information and data will be verified with the data as provided by the Online Export Monitoring System (OEMS) of Bangladesh Bank. As a True Single Source, the data showing in OEMS will be considered authentic and final.

07. Application for National Export Trophy for 2025-2026 must be submitted in compliance with the above terms and conditions and as laid down in the prescribed Application Form on **31 August 2026.**

08. National Export Trophy Application **for FY 2025-2026 must be submitted on online system. Hard copy of application will not be accepted**. The last date of submission of application is **31 August 2026**. For more information, please contact the undersigned during office hours.

K. Sultana
28/7/2026

(Kumkum Sultana)
Director
Commodities Division
E-mail: dir-commodity@epb.gov.bd

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The Financial Express
30 JUL 2026

Aromatic rice price hits all-time high of Tk 230 a kg

YASIR WARDAD

Fresh export approvals, domestic supply crunch blamed as key reasons

Prices of locally grown aromatic rice have surged to an all-time high of Tk 220-230 per kg at the retail level, causing extra burden on consumers.

Traders and market analysts attributed the sharp price hike to persistent export of fragrant rice coupled with its supply shortage in the local market.

The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) recorded a 50-percent rise in the prices of aromatic rice over the past four months, while market sources said the retail price of the same shot up by Tk 65-80 per kg during the period.

Local varieties of aromatic l rice, including Chinigura and Kalijeera, are currently selling at Tk 190-230 per kg in the market.

Branded packaged aromatic rice is being sold at around Tk 190 per kg, up from Tk 170 two weeks ago and Tk 150-160 four months earlier.

Loose Chinigura variety of rice is now retailing at Tk 220-230 per kg compared to Tk180-190 a couple of weeks ago and Tk 135-140 per kg in February.

Alif Islam, a grocer at Buddhijibir Dhal in Mohammadpur area, said the prices of aromatic rice began rising in February after the government announced that private-sector would be allowed to export the same.

He said the interim government permitted its exports just ahead of the holy month of Ramadan, triggering a steady rise in domestic prices of the item.

The interim government first lifted a nearly two-year export ban in April 2025, allowing 133 companies to export 25,000 tonnes of aromatic rice.

In February 2026, the Ministry of Commerce again allowed its exports.

In May this year, the ministry authorised 211 companies to export 36,520 tonnes of aromatic rice until December 31, subject to nine conditions.

Sazzad Ali, a rice trader at Mohammadpur Krishi Market, said some large companies dominate both the domestic and export markets for aromatic rice.

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He estimated that seven to eight companies now control 60-70 per cent of the aromatic rice market.

"They are the major exporters as well as the leading players in the domestic market," he said, adding that there is currently a shortage of aromatic rice in the market.

When asked, Mohammad Ishakul Hossain, president of the Bangladesh Rice Exporters Association, said about 2,000-2100 tonnes of shipment could be made in the last one month.

He said it is a tiny amount compared to the production of above 1.0 million tonnes.

He said big millers have a stockpile and they are using the export announcement as a way to make huge profits. Shamsul Alam, a miller at Nilphamari, said auto rice millers can hardly store aromatic rice.

He said only a small number of automated mill owners do businesses of aromatic rice throughout the year.

Allowing export of aromatic incentivised the market, he added.

Anowar Hossain Babul, proprietor of Olima Traders in Nilphamari, said half of the aromatic rice is being turned into finer 'parboiled rice' at the beginning of the season. Rising consumption of aromatic rice has also resulted in a supply shortage for the produce.

Agricultural economist Prof Golam Hafeez Kennedy said the country experienced crop losses during the Boro season, while Aus output also declined to some extent.

He said global aromatic rice prices have been rising steadily in recent months also. "This is not an ideal time for Bangladesh to export such a large volume of rice," he said.

Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan, Secretary of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), said it is unfair for local consumers.

"The problem lies in oligopoly. A few dominant business groups continue to control both the domestic and export markets," he said.

He urged the government to immediately suspend aromatic rice exports to safeguard the country's food security.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Bangladesh produces more than 40 million tonnes of rice annually, of which aromatic rice accounts for around 1.2-1.5 million tonnes.

The country's annual demand for aromatic rice is 0.7-0.8 million tonnes.

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30 JUL 2026

Garment factory owners seek uninterrupted CNG supply

FE REPORT

Factories rely on CNG as a backup fuel amid worsening pipeline gas shortages

Ready-made garment (RMG) exporters have urged the government to ensure uninterrupted access to compressed natural gas (CNG) from filling stations, as the fuel has become essential for factories struggling with severe pipeline gas shortages.

"We have requested the government to ensure an uninterrupted CNG supply so that production and exports are not disrupted," BKMEA President Mohammad Hatem told The Financial Express on Wednesday.

He said factories were facing severe gas shortages, while many had managed to continue operations by using CNG collected from nearby filling stations.

Mr Hatem was speaking a couple of days after a meeting on Monday between leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) and Energy and Mineral Resources Division Secretary Mohammad Saiful Islam.

He said the secretary had instructed the Managing Director of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd. to urgently withdraw a recent circular that had been interpreted as restricting garment factories from procuring CNG from filling stations.

He also assured the industry that RMG factories would be allowed to continue purchasing CNG from filling stations without interruption.

Apparel industry leaders told the meeting that many factories had been relying on CNG collected from nearby filling stations to keep production running amid the ongoing gas crisis.

The exporters' appeal came after Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd. instructed CNG filling stations to stop supplying natural gas into unauthorised open cylinders and cascade cylinders transported by covered vans and trucks.

On July 26, Titas issued a letter to the owners and managing directors of 21 CNG filling stations in the Tangail and Gazipur regions, directing them to immediately halt the practice.

The state-owned gas distributor warned that any station violating the directive would face suspension of gas supply and other legal action.

According to Titas, CNG is authorised solely as a fuel for motor vehicles. However, inspections found that some filling stations had been supplying gas into open or

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cascade cylinders carried by covered vans and trucks instead of dispensing it directly into vehicles.

The company said the practice violates the Bangladesh Gas Act, 2010, and the Gas Marketing Rules, 2026, while also posing significant safety risks.

Titas has formed a joint monitoring team to conduct regular inspections of CNG filling stations and directed operators to comply with regulations to ensure safe and uninterrupted services.

In a Facebook post after the meeting, Mr Hatem said the government had responded positively to the industry's concerns, recognising the need to maintain industrial production during the ongoing energy crisis.

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