

Commerce secy urges diversification of exports

FE REPORT

Commerce Secretary Md. Ataur Rahman Khan has called for product and market diversification, exploration of new export destinations, and stronger commercial missions abroad to sustain the country's export earnings.

He made the remarks on Tuesday afternoon during a meeting titled "Export Diversification, Expansion, and Review of Export Earnings for FY 2025-26," held at the commerce ministry in the Secretariat. The Commerce Secretary stated that from now on, the comparative data of export targets and achievements over the last five years, monthly progress, sector-wise earnings, and the performance of foreign missions will be reviewed regularly.

To boost the country's exports, he emphasised the need to identify potential sectors, remove existing barriers, provide necessary incentives, and explore new markets, including halal products.

Mr Khan laid stress on regular review of mission reports, strengthening Business-to-Business (B2B) matchmaking, and assessing the potential for signing new trade agreements.

Additional Secretary Ayesha Akther and EPB Vice Chairman Mohammad Hasan Arif were present at the meeting.

rezamumu@gmail.com



01 JUL 2026

Move to secure support for WTO trade facilitation commitments

FE REPORT

The government has launched a coordinated initiative to assess its technical assistance and capacity-building needs and secure international technical assistance for trade reforms in a major push to integrate into global supply chains and enhance trade competitiveness, officials said.

As part of the initiative, the WTO Wing of the commerce ministry has called an inter-ministerial meeting for July 6 to finalise Bangladesh's data compilation for the World Trade Organization's (WTO) annual trade facilitation survey, according to an official notice.

The high-level meeting, to be chaired by the additional secretary in charge of the WTO Wing, will focus on completing the TFA Access to TACB-TFAF Survey 2026, an annual assessment conducted by the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF).

The initiative evaluates member states to determine exactly what technical assistance and capacity-building resources they require to fulfil international trade mandates, an official

FROM PAGE 8 COL 8
of the commerce ministry said.

The evaluation framework requires all participating government agencies to provide information on the status of TFA implementation, areas requiring international technical assistance, and domestic capacity-building programmes with details of donor agencies and implementing organisations, he added.

rezamumu@gmail.com



01 JUL 2026

Deltaport to invest \$21.6m in BEPZA Economic Zone footwear plant

Deltaport Footwear Limited, a venture backed by Italian and Irish investors, has signed a land lease agreement with the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) to establish a footwear manufacturing plant at the BEPZA Economic Zone in Mirsharai, Chattogram. The company will invest US\$21.6 million to manufacture a wide range of footwear products, which is expected to diversify Bangladesh's export-oriented footwear industry, create jobs and boost foreign exchange earnings, says a BEPZA statement.

The agreement was signed at the BEPZA Complex in Dhaka on Tuesday. Md. Tanvir Hossain, executive director (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA, signed on behalf of the authority, while Junaid Iqbal Umerani, chief executive officer of Deltaport Footwear, signed for the company. BEPZA Executive Chairman Major General Mohammad Moazzem Hossain witnessed the signing ceremony.

Once fully operational, the factory is expected to employ 468 Bangladeshi workers and produce about 3 million pairs of footwear annually, including injected, cemented, casual, formal, ladies' and safety shoes.

The company expects the project to generate annual export earnings of around



Deltaport Footwear Limited has signed a land lease agreement with the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) at the BEPZA Complex in Dhaka on Tuesday. BEPZA Executive Chairman Major General Mohammad Moazzem Hossain witnessed the signing ceremony.

US\$37.5 million, with products destined for Italy, other European countries, the UK, the US and Colombia. Speaking at the ceremony, BEPZA Executive Chairman Major General Mohammad Moazzem Hossain welcomed Deltaport Footwear as a valued investment partner of the BEPZA family. He said, "BEPZA is continuously enhancing its infrastructure, services and investment facilities to provide investors with a more convenient, modern and business-friendly environment. We believe this investment will further strengthen Bangladesh's export competitiveness while creating new employment

opportunities." CEO of Deltaport Footwear Junaid Iqbal Umerani said, "This is our third investment in Bangladesh, and all three projects are located within BEPZA-administered zones. As part of our regional business expansion strategy, we evaluated several potential destinations, including India and Vietnam. However, Bangladesh, particularly BEPZA, offered the most attractive investment destination due to its investment-friendly environment, professional services, reliable infrastructure and our long-standing positive experience." "Since making our first

investment through Eastport Limited at Cumilla EPZ in 2013, our experience of working with BEPZA has further strengthened our confidence. Building on that confidence, we are pleased to expand our investment through this new project." Among others, Abdullah Al Mamun, Member (Engineering); A N M Foyzul Haque, Member (Finance); Samir Biswas, Executive Director (Administration); A.S.M. Anwar Parvez, Executive Director (Public Relations); senior officials of BEPZA along with Uttam Kumar Talukdar, representative of Deltaport Footwear, were present at the signing ceremony.



01 JUL 2026

'Free, fair and reciprocal': Ambassador Christensen outlines US trade vision for Bangladesh

TRADE - BANGLADESH

TBS REPORT

The United States reaffirmed its commitment to "free, fair, and reciprocal" trade with Bangladesh, says US Ambassador in Dhaka Brent T. Christensen, adding that a recently signed trade framework reflected Washington's long-term confidence in the country's economy and business environment.

Speaking in an interview with Jamuna TV ahead of the US' 250th Independence Day celebrations, Christensen said commercial diplomacy remained a central focus of US policy towards Bangladesh and pointed to trade reforms as a key element of expanding bilateral ties.

"President Trump believes trade should be free, fair, and reciprocal," Christensen said, referring to a February message from Donald Trump



BRENT CHRISTENSEN

to Bangladesh's prime minister.

The US is Bangladesh's largest export market for ready-made garments, though Christensen said the trading relationship had been uneven.

"Currently, the US is the largest market for Bangladesh's RMG, but Bangladesh has historically not bought a lot from the US. This is not a sustainable reciprocal relationship," he said.

Christensen said Bangladesh was among the first countries to

sign a reciprocal trade agreement, or ART, which he described as a framework intended to support economic reforms and improve market conditions.

The ambassador said the agreement was designed to improve the investment climate and align Bangladesh more closely with international standards.

Regarding perceptions that the agreement is unfair, the ambassador said

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

many critics haven't read it. "The ART gives a framework to improve a business environment that has historically been hard for foreign investors. It commits Bangladesh to international standards, such as removing unique import and testing requirements that exist nowhere else."

Christensen also emphasised the role of US exports in supporting Bangladesh's economic development, particularly in agriculture and energy.

He said purchasing decisions should focus on "best value", citing US wheat supplies with lower spoil-

age rates and higher protein content than some previous imports.

The ambassador also highlighted recent and existing US business involvement in Bangladesh, including a commitment by Boeing aircraft for fleet expansion and energy investments from Chevron, Excelerate Energy and GE Vernova.

"In energy, Chevron is the largest US investor, providing over 60% of Bangladesh's domestic production," Christensen said, adding that Bangladesh would require substantial long-term investment to meet future energy demand.

While trade was a major focus, Christensen said broader cooperation in health, technology and defence would remain part of the bilateral agenda, adding that he US is encouraging Bangladesh to purchase American military equipment.

He also reiterated US support for Bangladesh over the Rohingya refugee crisis, saying Washington remained committed to diplomatic efforts aimed at creating conditions for their return to Myanmar.

On the recently introduced "Visa Bond" programme, the ambassador said Bangladesh is among more than 75

countries where certain business and tourist visa applicants may be required to post a bond as part of efforts to curb illegal migration and visa overstays.

Speaking about the 250th anniversary of US independence, Christensen said the embassy has launched 50 red, white and blue-themed rickshaws and is marking "America Week" with events in several cities, including Chattogram, Rajshahi and Sylhet.

He added that the embassy has also opened a "Founders Museum" at the EMK Center in Dhaka, with plans to take the exhibition to other venues, including Gulshan Park.



Deltaport to invest \$21.6m in footwear plant at Bepza economic zone



Md Tanvir Hossain, executive director of the Bepza, and Junaid Iqbal Umerani, CEO of Deltaport Footwear Limited, sign a land lease agreement on Tuesday for a \$21.6 million footwear manufacturing plant at the economic zone in Mirsharai, Chattogram. PHOTO: COURTESY

INVESTMENT - BANGLADESH

TBS REPORT

An Italian-Irish investment venture, Deltaport Footwear Limited, is set to invest \$21.6 million to establish a footwear manufacturing plant at the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) Economic Zone in Mirsharai, Chattogram.

Deltaport signed a land lease agreement with Bepza yesterday to set up the factory, which is expected to produce about three million pairs of footwear annually for export markets.

The agreement was signed at the Bepza Complex in Dhaka by Bepza Executive Director (Investment Promotion) Md Tanvir Hossain and Deltaport Footwear Chief Executive Officer Junaid Iqbal Umerani. Bepza Executive Chairman Major Gen-

eral Mohammad Moazzem Hossain was present at the signing.

According to Bepza, the factory will manufacture injected, cemented, casual, formal, ladies' and safety shoes. Once fully operational, it is expected to employ 468 Bangladeshi workers.

The company projects annual export earnings of around \$37.5 million, with products destined for Italy, other European countries, the United Kingdom, the United States and Colombia.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Bepza Executive Chairman Mohammad Moazzem Hossain said the authority was continuing to improve infrastructure, services and investment facilities to provide a more business-friendly environment for investors. He said the investment would help strengthen Bangladesh's export competitive-

ness while creating new employment opportunities.

Deltaport Footwear CEO Junaid Iqbal Umerani said the project marks the company's third investment in Bangladesh, with all three located in Bepza-administered zones.

He said the company had considered several regional destinations, including India and Vietnam, before choosing Bangladesh, citing Bepza's investment-friendly environment, professional services, reliable infrastructure and the company's positive experience operating in the country.

Umerani added that the firm's first investment through Eastport Limited at Cumilla EPZ in 2013 had strengthened its confidence in expanding operations through the new project.

Senior Bepza officials and representatives of Deltaport Footwear attended the signing ceremony.

কালবেলা

01 JUL 2026

রপ্তানি বহুমুখীকরণে নতুন বাজার অনুসন্ধান সরকার

কালবেলা প্রতিবেদক »

দেশের রপ্তানি আয় টেকসইভাবে বাড়াতে পণ্য ও বাজার বহুমুখীকরণ, বিদ্যমান বাজার ধরে রাখা, নতুন বাজার অনুসন্ধান এবং বিদেশে বাণিজ্যিক মিশনের কার্যক্রম আরও জোরদারের আহ্বান জানিয়েছেন বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের সচিব মো. আতাউর রহমান খান। গতকাল মঙ্গলবার বিকেলে সচিবালয়ে বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের সম্মেলন কক্ষে ‘রপ্তানি বহুমুখীকরণ, সম্প্রসারণ ও ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরের রপ্তানি আয় পর্যালোচনা’ শীর্ষক এক সভায় বাণিজ্য সচিব মন্ত্রণালয়ের কর্মকর্তাদের উদ্দেশে এ আহ্বান জানান। তিনি বলেন, রপ্তানি আয় পর্যালোচনার অংশ হিসেবে গত পাঁচ বছরের রপ্তানি লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ও অর্জনের তুলনামূলক চিত্র, মাসভিত্তিক রপ্তানি অগ্রগতি, পণ্য, সেবা ও খাতভিত্তিক রপ্তানি অর্জন এবং বিভিন্ন বিদেশি মিশনের রপ্তানি কার্যক্রম এখন থেকে নিয়মিত পর্যালোচনা করা হবে। রপ্তানি বহুমুখীকরণ ও সম্প্রসারণের লক্ষ্যে সম্ভাবনাময়

খাত চিহ্নিতকরণ, বিদ্যমান প্রতিবন্ধকতা নিরসন, প্রয়োজনীয় প্রণোদনা প্রদান, বিদ্যমান বাজার সংরক্ষণ এবং হালাল পণ্যসহ নতুন বাজার অনুসন্ধানের ওপর গুরুত্ব দেওয়ার কথা উল্লেখ করেন তিনি। পাশাপাশি বাণিজ্য অভিযোগ দ্রুত নিষ্পত্তি, রপ্তানি পরিবহনে বিদ্যমান সমস্যা দূরীকরণ এবং বিদ্যমান বাণিজ্য চুক্তির কার্যকর বাস্তবায়ন নিয়েও সভায় আলোচনা হয়।

বিদেশে বাংলাদেশের বাণিজ্যিক মিশনের কার্যক্রম আরও ফলপ্রসূ করতে মিশনভিত্তিক প্রতিবেদন নিয়মিত পর্যালোচনা, নতুন পণ্য ও বাজার অনুসন্ধান, ব্যবসায়ীদের মধ্যে বিজনেস-টু-বিজনেস ম্যাচমেকিং কার্যক্রম জোরদার, বাণিজ্য অভিযোগ নিষ্পত্তি এবং নতুন বাণিজ্য চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের সম্ভাবনা যাচাইয়ের বিষয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় নির্দেশনা দেন বাণিজ্য সচিব। সভায় বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের অতিরিক্ত সচিব (এফটিএ) আয়েশা আক্তার, রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরোর ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান মোহাম্মদ হাসান আরিফ এবং বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের যুগ্ম সচিবরা উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

