সমকাল
01 SEP 2026

এলডিসি উত্তরণে খাতভিত্তিক কর্মকৌশল চান উদ্যোক্তারা

■ সমকাল প্রতিবেদক

এফবিসিসিআইর আলোচনা

এলডিসি থেকে টেকসই ও স্থিতিশীল উত্তরণের জন্য এসএমই, কৃষি, ওষুধসহ অন্যান্য শিল্পের জন্য খাতভিত্তিক সুনির্দিষ্ট কর্মকৌশল গ্রহণের পরামর্শ দিয়েছেন শিল্পোদ্যোক্তারা। তাদের মতে, শুধু কর্মকৌশল গ্রহণ করলেই হবে না, তার সঠিক বাস্তবায়ন এবং নিয়মিত মনিটরিং নিশ্চিত করতে হবে।

গতকাল সোমবার এফবিসিসিআইর উদ্যোগে আয়োজিত এলডিসি থেকে উত্তরণের জন্য সংস্কার কার্যক্রমে বেসরকারি খাতের অংশগ্রহণ ও সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিকল্পে কর্মকৌশল নির্ধারণ-সংক্রান্ত মতবিনিময় সভায় তারা এমন পরামর্শ দেন। এফবিসিসিআই এক সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে এ তথ্য জানায়। রাজধানীর মতিঝিলে সংগঠনের কার্যালয়ে অনুষ্ঠিত সভায় সভাপতিত্ব করেন এফবিসিসিআইর প্রশাসক মো. ফজলুল হক। সভার শুরুতে বাংলাদেশের এলডিসি উত্তরণ বিভিন্ন চ্যালেঞ্জ ও সম্ভাবনার ওপর একটি প্রতিবেদন উপস্থাপন করেন এফবিসিসিআইর মহাসচিব মো. আলমগীর।

প্রতিবেদনে জানানো হয়, এলডিসি উত্তরণের ফলে অন্যতম রপ্তানি বাজার ইউরোপে শুল্কমুক্ত বাজার সুবিধা হারাবে বাংলাদেশ। কড়াকড়ি আসবে ওষুধ শিল্পসহ বিভিন্ন শিল্পের মেধাস্বত্ব বিধিবিধানে। সভার মুক্ত আলোচনায় ঢাকা চেম্বারের সিনিয়র ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট রাজিব এইচ চৌধুরী বলেন, বাংলাদেশের দর কষাকষির সক্ষমতা নেই। এখানে সক্ষমতা বাড়াতে হবে। পাশাপাশি ন্যাশনাল সিঙ্গেল উইন্ডোকে সম্পূর্ণ কার্যকর করতে হবে।

বাংলাদেশ প্লাস্টিক পণ্য প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানিকারক সমিতির সভাপতি শামীম আহমেদ জানান, দেশের প্লাস্টিক শিল্পের বড় অংশই কাপ পণ্য তৈরি করে। এলডিসি উত্তরণের পর ওষুধের মতো এই খাতের জন্যও মেধাস্বত্ব ইস্যু বড় চ্যালেঞ্জ হয়ে দাঁড়াবে। এমন পরিস্থিতিতে প্লাস্টিক, হালকা প্রকৌশলসহ কুটির, ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি শিল্পের সুরক্ষায় সরকারি-বেসরকারি উদ্যোগে দ্রুত অ্যাকশন প্ল্যান গ্রহণের পরামর্শ দিয়েছেন তিনি।

টেকসই এলডিসি উত্তরণের জন্য গৃহীত কর্মকৌশল যেন শুধু ঢাকা কেন্দ্রিক শিল্পের জন্য না হয় সে বিষয়ে এফবিসিসিআইকে সজাগ থাকার পরামর্শ দিয়েছেন পটুয়াখালী উইমেন চেম্বারের সভাপতি ইসমাত জেরিন খান। বাংলাদেশ অ্যাগ্রো কেমিক্যাল ম্যানুফ্যাকচারার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের সভাপতি কে এস এম মোস্তাফিজুর রহমান প্যাটেন্টের আওতাভুক্ত পণ্যের নিবন্ধন সম্পন্ন করতে সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করেন।

বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের বাংলাদেশ রিজিওনাল কানেক্টিভিটি প্রজেক্ট-১ এর বিশেষজ্ঞ মো. মুনির চৌধুরী বলেন, বেসরকারি খাতকে চ্যালেঞ্জগুলো সুনির্দিষ্টভাবে চিহ্নিত করতে হবে। সেগুলো সমাধানের জন্য সরকার ও বেসরকারি খাতের সমন্বয়ে কাউন্সিল গঠন এবং ফলাফলভিত্তিক কর্মকৌশল গ্রহণের পরামর্শ দেন তিনি।

এফবিসিসিআইর প্রশাসক ফজলুল হক বলেন, এলডিসি উত্তরণে তিন বছর বাড়তি সময় সঠিকভাবে ব্যবহার করতে হবে। বেসরকারি খাতের সক্ষমতা বাড়ানো গেলে আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে প্রতিযোগিতা সক্ষমতাও বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

The Financial Express
01 SEP 2026

RMG sector urged to put workers at centre of green, tech transition

FE REPORT

Climate change, automation, artificial intelligence, and digitalisation are transforming Bangladesh's garment industry by both creating opportunities for greater productivity and sustainability, while posing new risks to workers' employment, income, skills, health, and workplace safety.

The readymade garment (RMG) sector must ensure that workers remain at the centre of the country's green and technological transition.

The observations were made on Monday at a seminar titled "Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation for Inclusive Worker-Centric Just Transition in the Bangladesh Apparel Sector" and organised by Awaj Foundation at a hotel in the capital.

It was funded by Laudes Foundation and Foundation for A Just Society.

The event brought together representatives from employers, workers, trade unions, brands, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), the government, International Labour Organisation (ILO), labour rights organisations, and other stakeholders to discuss practical measures for ensuring an inclusive and worker-centred transition in the sector.

Speaking at the seminar, Nazma Akter, general secretary and executive director of Awaj Foundation, stressed the importance of ensuring workers' voices in decisions that affect their jobs, livelihoods, and future.

The keynote paper was presented by Md Shahinur Rahman, consultant for worker rights and resilience.

This was followed by a participatory session titled "Inclusive Just Transition: Case Analysis and Steps to be Taken" and moderated by Munir Uddin Shamim.

Bangladesh had already made significant progress towards greener production, speakers said, adding the next challenge was to move from a "greener garment sector" to a "greener, fairer, and more people-centred garment sector".

Participants discussed how climate-related heat stress and flooding were increasingly affecting workers' health, productivity, attendance, and household income.

They also examined how automation and new digital technologies could change employment patterns, work pressure, working hours, workplace monitoring, and occupational safety.

Speakers emphasised that technological transformation should go hand in hand with reskilling and upskilling opportunities.

Particular attention, they said, should be given to women, older workers, and less-skilled workers, who might face greater difficulties in adapting to changes in the workplace.

Social protection and financial security emerged as another major concern, they said, calling for stronger income support, employment services, redeployment opportunities, and transitional assistance for workers who might lose employment or income because of technological, climate, or economic changes.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of decent work, occupational safety and health, climate-resilient workplaces, and fair and living wages.

Participants stressed that workers and trade unions should have meaningful participation in decisions related to technology adoption, climate adaptation, industrial restructuring, and skills development.

The seminar identified stronger social dialogue at national, sectoral, and factory levels as essential for managing the transition fairly, underscoring that a just transition could not be the responsibility of workers or factory owners alone.

The government, participants said, had a key role in strengthening labour policies, social protection, and skills development, as well as developing a national and sectoral framework for just transition.

Employers needed to invest responsibly and ensure safe working environments, while brands and buyers should promote responsible purchasing practices, realistic delivery timelines, and fair pricing, they said.

Development partners and financial institutions, meanwhile, were urged to provide financing and technical support for the transition.

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The Daily Star
01 SEP 2026

Businesses seek sector-specific plans for LDC graduation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Business leaders have called for sector-specific action plans to help industries prepare for Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category.

They said businesses urgently need to improve productivity, skills, technology, access to finance and trade capacity to remain competitive in global markets.

They also stressed that the plans should be based on reliable data, properly implemented and regularly monitored. Greater private sector participation is also needed in government reform efforts.

The recommendations came at a discussion organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at its Motijheel office yesterday on private sector participation in LDC-related reforms and strengthening business capacity. FBCCI Administrator Md Fazlul Hoque chaired the meeting. FBCCI Secretary General Md Alamgir presented a report on the challenges and opportunities Bangladesh may face after graduating from the LDC category.

The report warned that Bangladesh could lose preferential market access in major export destinations, including duty-free benefits under the European Union's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) and Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme.

The pharmaceutical and other sectors may also face stricter intellectual property requirements, it said.

The report called for greater private sector involvement in designing and implementing reforms to ensure a smooth transition.

TRADE SKILLS, IP RIGHTS KEY CONCERNS

Rajib H Chowdhury, senior vice-president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Bangladesh needs stronger capacity to negotiate trade agreements and deal with emerging market-access challenges.

"We do not have enough negotiation capacity. We need to improve it," he said.

KSM Mostafizur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Agrochemical Manufacturers Association, said intellectual property rights would be a major challenge for several industries after graduation.

The pharmaceutical, agriculture and agro-chemical sectors could be particularly vulnerable, he said.

Shamim Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said much of the domestic plastic industry still relies on copying existing products.

This could make intellectual property rights a major challenge for the sector after graduation, just as they are expected to be for the pharmaceutical industry, he said.

Md Munir Chowdhury, national trade expert of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1 under the Ministry of Commerce, said businesses should clearly identify the challenges facing their respective sectors.

Ismat Zerin Khan, president of the Patuakhali Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the LDC graduation strategy should also cover businesses outside Dhaka.

Fazlul Hoque urged all district chambers and sector-based associations to submit their specific recommendations to the FBCCI in writing. The federation will review the proposals and present them to policymakers, he said.

He said Bangladesh must make effective use of the additional three years to prepare for graduation.

"If we can strengthen the capacity of the private sector, our competitiveness in international markets will also improve," he said, seeking cooperation from district chambers and sector-based associations.

Bangladesh is scheduled to graduate from the UN's LDC category on November 24, 2026. Although the country meets all three graduation criteria, the government has sought a three-year extension until November 2029 to address economic challenges and complete reforms.

Bangladesh to get slight tariff edge over China, Vietnam in US

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh will get a small benefit in garment exports to the US as its effective final tariff rate is slightly lower than those faced by China and Vietnam, two major competitors in the global apparel supply chain.

The US on July 24 imposed a new 10 percent duty on exports from Bangladesh to the American market, citing imports of goods produced with forced labour. With that, the country's effective tariff rate now stands at 25.6 percent.

Meanwhile, China currently faces an effective tariff of 35.6 percent on garment exports to the US, including the 7.5 percent surcharge imposed in 2020, while Vietnam faces a rate of 28.1 percent, understanding the tariff landscape.

The tariff rates were verified by Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), a research organisation based in Dhaka.

While the lower rate compared with China and Vietnam gives Bangladesh a competitive advantage, local garment exporters and economists say the benefit may be limited because the difference is not large and other factors, such as the ongoing energy crisis, are affecting production and shipments.

AK Azad, chairman of Ha-Meem Group, which ships the majority of its garments to the US, said the lower effective tariff rate could benefit Bangladesh, although the domestic energy crisis is affecting production.

Azad said that US retailers are not considering the duty but are instead asking for timely shipment of goods as production at industrial units is being affected.

"The government should resolve the energy crisis soon so that the local exporters can enjoy the benefit of lower rate to the American market," he added.

MA Razzaque, chairman of RAPID, said that US tariff policy remains uncertain as the current US administration changes the rates frequently.

"Moreover, the difference in tariffs on Bangladesh compared with China and Vietnam is not too much. So, Bangladesh may not benefit much from the lower tariff rate compared to its key competitors in the US market," he said.

"Overall, the tariff has been increased, and this is the fact," he said, adding that because of the increase, US buyers would either reduce the price of garments or ask local suppliers to share

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additional 10 percent duty imposed recently

senior vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), is hopeful that Bangladesh will benefit from the lower tariff

He also said the energy crisis has been affecting production significantly.

Mohiuddin Rubel, founder and CEO of Bangladesh Apparel Voice, said buyers look at the total landed cost of

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An effective tariff rate is the overall import duty after taking into account all applicable US tariffs and surcharges on a product.

India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Cambodia face the same 25.6 percent duty as Bangladesh, according to data from the Tariffs Tool, a resource for estimating US import duties and understanding the tariff landscape.

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additional 10 percent duty imposed recently.

Razzaque said China has created some connector destinations such as Vietnam and Mexico through which it can do good business by producing garments and shipping them to the US. Bangladesh has no such connector destinations yet.

"But it is true that numerically, Bangladesh's tariff is lower than China and Vietnam, which matters less now," he said.

However, Inamul Haq Khan, senior vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), is hopeful that Bangladesh will benefit from the lower tariff.

Garment exports from Bangladesh to the US totalled $4.01 billion in the January-June period of this year, down 5.75 percent year-on-year, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau.

Inamul said that although shipments to the American market are gradually rebounding recently, Bangladesh's garment exports to the US might not increase much because of the lower rate.

He also said the energy crisis has been affecting production significantly.

Mohiuddin Rubel, founder and CEO of Bangladesh Apparel Voice, said buyers look at the total landed cost of garments rather than tariffs alone.

"The rate advantage only becomes a lasting one when we manage our capabilities better than competitors," he said.

That means securing adequate energy, ensuring efficient port handling and keeping other costs under control, he added.

"Bangladesh also needed to shift towards non-cotton products and make use of its clean record," he said.