



# Bangladesh retains 2nd spot in global apparel exports

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh maintained its position as the world's second-largest apparel exporter in 2024, behind only China, according to World Trade Organization (WTO) data.

The nation exported garments worth \$38.48 billion last year, marking a slight increase of 0.21 percent year-on-year. This export value represented 6.90 percent of the total global market, which stood at \$557.50 billion in 2024. A year earlier, Bangladesh's market share in apparel was 7.38 percent.

IPDC ডিপোজিট | ১৬৫৯৯

The WTO data shows that China remained the largest apparel exporter in 2024, capturing 29.64 percent of the total market. It exported apparel items valued at \$165.24 billion, a 0.30 percent year-on-year increase. However, China's market share declined, as had happened in the case of Bangladesh. Its share in garment exports was 31.64 percent in 2023.

Vietnam registered higher export growth than both China and Bangladesh, even though it was the third-largest garment exporter in 2024. It exported garment items worth \$33.94 billion, an increase of 9.34 percent year-on-year, the data showed. Vietnam's apparel export share rose to 6.09 percent in 2024 from 5.96 percent a year earlier.

Turkey secured the fourth position, followed by India, Cambodia, and Pakistan. Indonesia was the eighth-largest garment exporter, while the US secured the ninth position, according to WTO data.

READ MORE ON B3

# BB to seek new investors for Nagad

Governor says post office lacks capacity to run the MFS provider efficiently

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Ahsan H Mansur said the Directorate of Posts, which owns mobile financial service provider Nagad, does not have the capacity to run it efficiently, making it necessary to bring in new investors.

"The ownership of Nagad still lies with the Directorate of Posts. However, it is not a very functional institution anymore, and it is not really possible for the post office to run Nagad," Mansur told The Daily Star in an interview.

He said a competent institution needs to take over, suggesting the post office might retain a minority stake of 20 to 30 percent.

"The MFS should be handed over quickly to a reputed international private sector institution," he said. "A large telecom company could take it, as they have the necessary technical knowledge. Alternatively, a major financial institution could also take it over."

Discussing irregularities at Nagad, the governor said there is clear evidence that over Tk 1,600 crore, earmarked for social welfare, was embezzled at Nagad.

"Instead of distributing the money to poor and needy people, they transferred the funds to the accounts of fictitious beneficiaries and misappropriated them. This has been proven," he said.

Mansur added that Nagad had also created e-money illegally. "They generated around Tk 630 crore worth of additional e-money, meaning they did not receive the actual funds but still created the money on their system."

"Using this illegally created e-money, they paid salaries, bonuses, travel expenses, and other operational costs," said the BB governor.

**RECOVERY OF LAUNDERED ASSETS MUST CONTINUE**

On efforts to recover laundered assets, Mansur said the interim government is working to freeze those funds through government-to-government arrangements.

"We have had some success in the United Kingdom, and we are working on it in other jurisdictions as well. This is an ongoing process; it's not something that can be resolved easily or in a

## Nagad ownership & future

- Post Office lacks capacity to run Nagad efficiently
- Bangladesh Bank is inviting new investors
- Large telecom or financial institutions may be considered to take over
- The Post Office may retain **20-30%** ownership



## Financial irregularities at Nagad

- Tk **1,600cr** misappropriated from social welfare funds
- Tk **630cr** illegal e-money was created without fiat currency backing
- The illegal e-money was used to pay salaries, bonuses, and expenses

## Asset recovery & int'l cooperation

- Efforts underway to freeze laundered assets through G2G channels
- Progress made in the UK, with ongoing efforts in other countries
- Legal process could take **3-5 years**

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS MONEY LAUNDERING DEPARTMENT

A new BB department is being set up to assist BFIU

Cooperation secured from Dubai FIU; similar talks planned in Singapore

US support is resuming after previous delays due to political transition

short time," he commented.

In June, Britain's serious crime agency froze UK property worth £170 million belonging to Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, the former land minister of the previous Awami League government.

In February, the agency froze £90 million in assets tied to two members of the family of Salman F Rahman, a businessman and former adviser to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The governor said the asset recovery process usually takes three to five years. "The next government will have to carry this process forward," he said.

"The interim government has initiated the process. We might be able to reach the stage of freezing the assets, but once it moves into the legal phase, the entire process becomes more complex. In that stage, the responsibility may fall on the next

government to carry the legal proceedings forward."

The governor said the central bank is setting up a new department focused on tackling money laundering. Its main role will be supporting the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU).

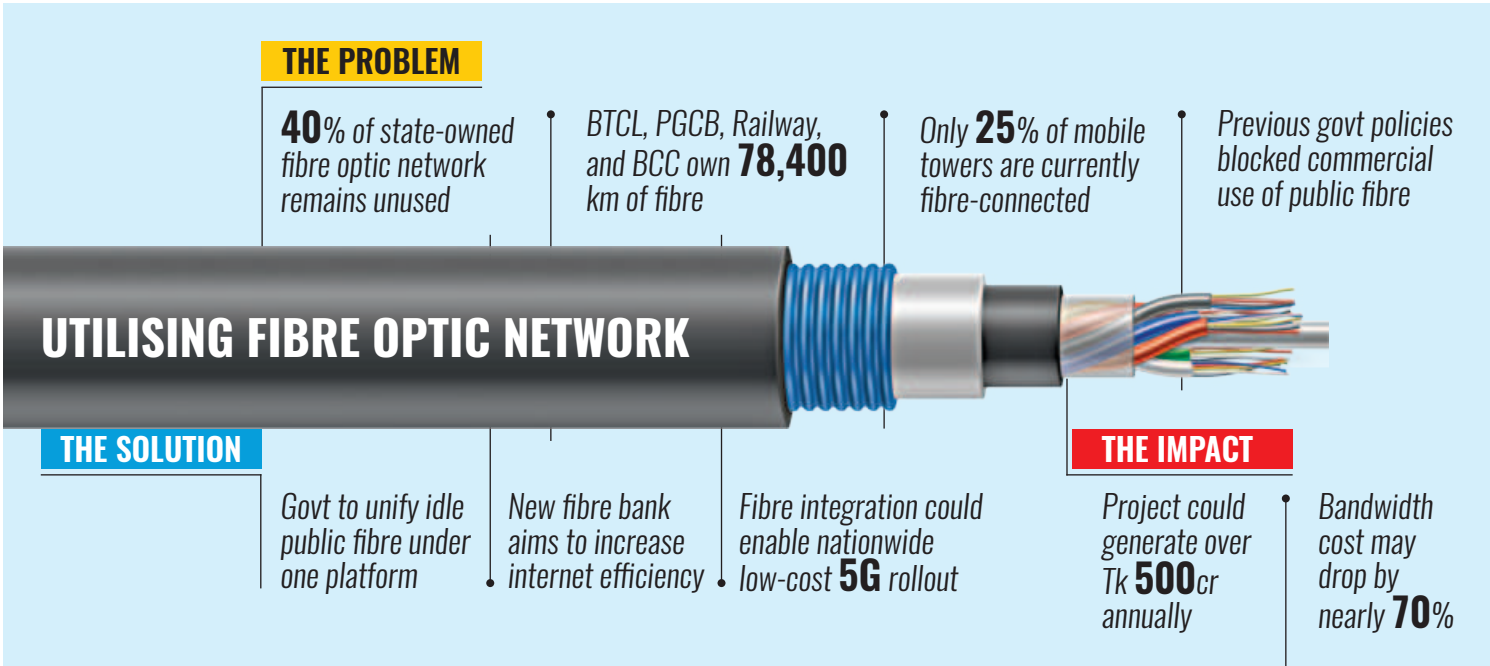
"We went to Dubai, where we met with the Dubai Financial Intelligence Unit. After discussions, they assured us of their support. They explained how we should send them official requests and said they would consider those and stay in touch. From my perspective, their response was quite positive."

Mansur also said the central bank plans to visit Singapore soon for similar talks. "We are working individually with each country, seeking their cooperation, and we are receiving support."

He said the United States offered strong backing in the beginning, but progress slowed following a change in government.

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# Govt plans 'fibre optic bank' to use idle networks



MAHMUDUL HASAN

The government has decided to establish a national "fibre optic bank", which will bring all unused fibre optic resources from state-owned entities under a single platform in a bid to accelerate digital transformation.

The telecom and ICT divisions have officially invited Bangladesh Railway and the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) to join this fibre-sharing consortium, alongside Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL) and Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC).

Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser with executive authority over the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, recently sent a letter to Railways and Power Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, outlining the government's vision for this initiative and urging participation.

**40% OF PUBLIC FIBRE NETWORKS REMAIN UNUSED**

The letter, seen by The Daily Star, states that over the past decade, different government agencies have installed thousands of kilometres of optical fibre—much of which remains underutilised or completely idle.

The letter notes that, in total, BTCL, PGCB, Railway, and BCC own 78,400 kilometres (km) of fibre network. Of this, an estimated 40 percent remains unused.

"We are wasting a vital national asset by leaving large portions of optical fibre unused. It's time we came together and built a centrally managed, transparent, and efficient fibre ecosystem for all," Taiyeb said.

He also said Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has verbally endorsed the plan, enabling the Posts and Telecom Division to formally invite PGCB and Bangladesh Railway to the consortium.

**In his letter to the Ministry of Railways, Taiyeb states that leasing out the idle fibre networks could generate more than Tk 500 crore annually**

"This is not just about connectivity. It's about bringing digital transformation where every union has high-speed access and every public resource is optimally used," he added.

Taiyeb's letter to Adviser Fouzul details that BTCL possesses a fibre network stretching over 39,500 km, 90 percent of which is underground.

BCC, on the other hand, has deployed 27,695 km of fibre under the InfoSarkar-3 project, which aims to expand high-speed internet access to rural areas covering 2,600 unions, with work ongoing for an additional

7,000 km expansion.

Meanwhile, PGCB has around 8,000 km of fibre along the power grid, a large portion of which remains unused. In addition, Bangladesh Railway owns 3,205 km of fibre lines, a significant part of which remains unused.

Bringing fibre from the InfoSarkar-3 project, however, may not turn out to be that smooth, as the government inked a deal in 2023 with Summit Communications and Fibre@Home for maintenance, upgradation, replacement, and operation of the project.

The two private companies receive 90 percent of the revenue under the agreement. The ICT Division has recently sought to amend the deals.

Taiyeb, in the letter, said the lack of interconnectivity among these networks, combined with restrictive policies under the previous government, prevented entities like PGCB and Railway from offering last-mile connectivity to telecom operators—causing massive underutilisation of national assets.

The proposed national fibre bank aims to fix these issues by unifying the fibre networks of all four agencies into a single, centrally coordinated platform.

**MORE REVENUE, FASTER INTERNET**

In his letter to the Ministry of Railways, Taiyeb states that leasing out the idle fibre networks could generate more than Tk 500 crore annually.

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# Reserves slip to \$24.45b

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$2.02 billion after routine payments under the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism on Monday.

Gross reserves stood at \$29.52 billion as of July 7, 2025, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

However, calculated under the IMF's prescribed method, reserves stood at \$24.45 billion.

The ACU is an arrangement for settling payments for intraregional transactions among eight countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Bangladesh clears payments to ACU members every two months.



Reserves have remained under stress over the past two years, hurt by elevated import bills, sluggish export growth, and moderate remittance inflows.

Earlier, the country's foreign exchange reserves had risen above \$31 billion after three multilateral lenders released \$925 million to Bangladesh on June 26. A surge in remittance inflows ahead of Eid-ul-Azha also contributed to the earlier uptick.

# Don't punish us for the misconduct of others

Say business leaders as they call for smarter stock regulation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Top business leaders called on the government not to penalise honest entrepreneurs because of a few bad actors in the stock market.

Speaking at a discussion in Dhaka yesterday, they said that rigid regulations could discourage strong companies from entering the stock market.

At the programme, footwear entrepreneur Syed Nasim Manzur cited the example of initial public offerings (IPOs), where investors are often denied fair pricing, eventually leading to a lack of incentive for quality firms to list.

"There was once a policy that ensured proper stock valuation," said Manzur, managing director of Apex Footwear. "But it was scrapped after some misused it to artificially inflate share prices."

**Rigid regulations could discourage strong companies from entering the stock market, experts say**

As a special guest at the discussion titled "Expansion of the Capital Market: A Framework for Sustainable Economic Growth", he referred to rules that restrict companies from using more than one-third of raised funds to repay loans and questioned the logic of placing such limits.

"If you don't trust a company, then don't let it go public," he said. "But if you do allow it to raise funds, then give it some flexibility."

"Say I raise funds today, and tomorrow there is a flood. My needs will change. If I have no flexibility in how I use the funds, that creates problems," said Manzur at the discussion organised by the Bangladesh Merchant Bankers Association.

He urged policymakers not to let isolated cases of fund misuse dictate regulations for everyone.

"If someone smuggles money out to buy a house in Dubai, you should not punish the whole sector for that," said the Apex Footwear MD. "Don't tie our hands for some bad guys."

Manzur also called for a wider gap in corporate tax rates between listed and non-listed firms. "If the difference remains below 15 percent, the cost of compliance is simply not worth it," he said.

He added that while the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) should monitor whether declared dividends are properly disbursed, it should not dictate how much a company pays out.

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# Bank Asia leads ‘open loan disbursement’ for small clients in Chapainawabganj

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC hosted an event, titled “Open Loan Disbursement” programme in Chapainawabganj on July 3, targeting marginalised or landless farmers, low-income professionals, school banking account holders, and small businessmen within the district.

The initiative forms part of the Bangladesh Bank’s Tk 750 crore revolving refinancing scheme, which aims to enhance access to finance for holders of Tk 10, Tk 50, and Tk 100 accounts, according to a press release.

Held at the Town Club Hall, the programme brought together all scheduled banks operating in the district, with Bank Asia serving as the lead organiser.

Md Habibur Rahman, deputy governor of the Bangladesh Bank, attended the event as the chief guest.

Rup Ratan Pine, executive director of the central bank, and Md Iqbal Mohasin, director of the Financial Inclusion Department, were present as special guests.

ANM Mahfuz, managing director (current charge) of Bank Asia PLC, presided over the proceedings.

A total of Tk 2.75 crore in loans was



**Md Habibur Rahman, deputy governor of the Bangladesh Bank, hands over a cheque of loan to a client at the event, titled “Open Loan Disbursement” programme, organised by Bank Asia PLC as the lead organiser, at the Town Club Hall in Chapainawabganj recently. ANM Mahfuz, managing director (current charge) of Bank Asia PLC, was present.**

PHOTO: BANK ASIA

disbursed to 221 customers during the event. Of the sums, Bank Asia alone distributed Tk 6.9 million in loans to 116 customers.

These loans are anticipated to enable

marginal entrepreneurs to expand their operations and embark on new ventures, thereby fostering financial inclusion and empowering communities at the grassroots level.

Such disbursement initiatives are instrumental in cultivating a culture of financial literacy and inclusion, whilst also strengthening public trust in the formal banking system.

# HSBC named ‘Bangladesh International Trade Finance Bank of the Year’

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) in Bangladesh has been recognised as the “Bangladesh International Trade Finance Bank of the Year” at the Asian Banking & Finance Wholesale Banking Awards 2025.

This achievement stands as a testament to the bank’s continued commitment to supporting Bangladesh’s trade ambitions and delivering best-in-class solutions for its customers, according to a press release.

Ahmad Rabiul Hasan, acting head of global trade solutions at HSBC Bangladesh, received an award from Tushar Agarwal, core member of financial institutions practice at Boston Consulting Group, at the Asian Banking & Finance Wholesale Banking Awards 2025 in Singapore recently.

Through this award, Asian Banking & Finance celebrates outstanding performance, innovation, and leadership in Asia’s financial services sector.

This recognition underscores HSBC’s strong global connectivity, advanced

digital capabilities, and consistent focus on customer needs—empowering businesses in Bangladesh to navigate international trade with greater confidence and efficiency.

Md Mahbub ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, said, “This award reflects the trust of our customers and the dedication of our team. We are grateful to receive this honourable recognition and look forward to building on this success as we continue to support Bangladesh’s economic growth.”

“With its global network and deep local expertise, HSBC is uniquely positioned to help businesses unlock cross-border opportunities. The bank continues to invest in innovative solutions to make banking simpler, safer, and faster,” he added.

Ahmad Rabiul Hasan, acting country head of global trade solutions at the multinational bank, commented, “We’re truly grateful to our customers for their trust and partnership. This award is a testament to our team’s relentless effort and commitment to delivering excellence.”



**Ahmad Rabiul Hasan, acting head of global trade solutions at HSBC Bangladesh, receives the award from Tushar Agarwal, core member of financial institutions practice at Boston Consulting Group, at the Asian Banking & Finance Wholesale Banking Awards 2025 in Singapore recently.**

PHOTO: HSBC

# Citizens Bank celebrates 3rd anniversary



**Chowdhury Mohammed Hanif Shoeb, chairman of Citizens Bank PLC, inaugurates the anniversary celebration alongside directors and senior officials of the bank at its head office in Dhaka recently.**

PHOTO: CITIZENS BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Citizens Bank PLC has recently celebrated the third anniversary of the commencement of its commercial operations.

Chowdhury Mohammed Hanif Shoeb, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the celebration as the chief guest at the bank’s head office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Masuduzzaman, chairman of the executive committee of the bank, along with directors Mukhlesur Rahman, SM Shofiqul Hoq, and AKM Shahidul Haque, attended the event.

Members of the bank’s senior management and managers of different branches across the country were also present on the occasion.

# Emirates, US-Bangla Airlines honoured at ShareTrip-Monitor awards

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Emirates has been voted “Best International Airline”, US-Bangla Airlines “Best Domestic Airline”, and Saudia Cargo “Best Cargo Airline”, based on the preferences of frequent flyers in the ShareTrip-Monitor Airline of the Year 2024 awards.

This year’s online survey garnered responses from over 3,000 frequent travellers.

Airlines were presented with gold, silver and bronze trophies across a record 23 award categories.

Md Fahimul Islam, secretary to the Ministry of Railways, attended the ceremony as the chief guest and presented the awards at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka, according to a press release.

The jury committee conferred a Lifetime Achievement Award upon Taufiq Uddin Ahmed, founder and chairman of Galaxy Bangladesh, in special recognition of his exceptional contributions to the advancement of

Bangladesh’s travel industry.

This year’s edition introduced several new award categories, notably “Most Popular Airline Brands in Bangladesh”, under which 12 airlines were recognised.

The “Best Airport Lounge” category also continued, with MTB Air Lounge receiving Gold, EBL SkyLounge Silver, and City Bank

Amex Lounge Bronze.

The winners were selected under the supervision of an 11-member jury panel comprising distinguished figures from various sectors. The panel thoroughly reviewed and validated the survey results prior to the announcement.

This year marked the 11th edition of the awards.



PHOTO: SHARETRIP

**Md Fahimul Islam, secretary to the Ministry of Railways, poses for group photographs with award recipients in the “ShareTrip-Monitor Airline of the Year 2024” awards at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka recently.**

# Japan chamber to submit EPA proposal to govt

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI) will submit its proposal to the government regarding the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan, based on feedback received from its members.

The EPA/FTA Standing Committee of the chamber reached this decision at a meeting held in Dhaka, following the sixth round of negotiations on the Japan-Bangladesh Economic Partnership Agreement, which took place from 21 to 26 June this year, as part of the ongoing negotiation process, according to a press release.

Tareq Rafi Bhuiyan (Jun), president of JBCCI; Asif A Chowdhury, chairman of the EPA/FTA standing committee; Matiur Rahman, founding president of JBCCI; Maria Howlader, secretary general; Hiroaki Oura, vice-president; Mohammed Soheli, director; and Tahera Ahsan, executive director, spoke at the meeting.

Bangladesh and Japan have agreed to sign the Economic Partnership Agreement by the end of 2025 or early 2026, with the aim of deepening and expanding bilateral trade and investment between the two countries.

The agreement holds particular significance in light of Bangladesh’s forthcoming graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status to Middle-Income Country status, scheduled for November 2026.

This transition will result in the phasing out of several preferential trade and tariff arrangements currently enjoyed by Bangladesh.

JBCCI has remained actively engaged in the negotiation process from the outset and has made consistent efforts to support the initiative in the interest of both nations.

As part of these efforts, JBCCI commissioned the renowned think-tank “Policy Exchange of Bangladesh Limited” to prepare an EPA Study Report, which was formally launched at a ceremony supported by the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh, held at the embassy’s Multipurpose Hall on November 13 last year.

# Oil price eases


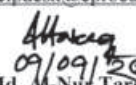
REUTERS, Singapore

Oil prices retreated on Tuesday after rising almost 2 percent in the previous session as investors assessed new developments on US tariffs and a higher-than-expected Opec+ output hike for August.

Brent crude futures dipped 22 cents, or 0.3 percent, at \$69.36 a barrel by 0630 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude fell 27 cents, or 0.4 percent, at \$67.66 a barrel.

US President Donald Trump on Monday began telling trade partners, which included major suppliers South Korea and Japan as well as smaller US exporters like Serbia, Thailand and Tunisia, that sharply higher US tariffs will start August 1, though he later said that deadline was not 100 percent firm.

Trump’s tariffs have prompted uncertainty across the market and concerns they could have a negative effect on the global economy and, consequently, on oil demand.

<div><b>Zila Parishad</b> <b>Brahmanbaria</b> Phone: 02-337740606</div>				
Web: <a href="http://zp.brahmanbaria.gov.bd">http://zp.brahmanbaria.gov.bd</a> , email: <a href="mailto:ceo.zp.brahmanbaria@lgd.gov.bd">ceo.zp.brahmanbaria@lgd.gov.bd</a> , <a href="mailto:zpb.baria@gmail.com">zpb.baria@gmail.com</a>				
Memo No. 46.42.1200.002.01.001.25.65			Date: 07/07/2025	
<b>e-Tender Notice No. 03/2025-2026</b>				
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal ( <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> ) for the Procurement of the below Packages.				
SL. No.	Tender ID Number	Project name	Tender documents last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time
01	1130458	(02) Con. of CC Casting at Sharifpur Up Dakkhin Tarua Abdu Mia House to Chowdhury House (31) Dev. of Abdul Kadir Sha Pathagar under Ashugonj Upzila. (34) Con. of Water Passing Drain at Late Ramuz Ali Master House front to Bot Toli (47) Con. of Drain at Shazadapur Shahi Eidgah Math Road to Kari Shaheb House Via Nazu Mia House under Sarail Upzila. (10) Dev. of Nasirnagar Bhuban Islamia Hussinia Anowarul Ulum Madrasa (33) Dev. of Road at Gokama Nure Madina Madrasa Road under Nasirnagar Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
02	1130459	(25) Dev. of Churia Amena Shufia Hafizia Madrasa and Etimkhana (32) Dev. of Abdur Rahim Smreety Pathagar (35) Dev. of Sinamashi Dakkhinpara Gaucia Jame Moszid under Nabinagar Upzila. (11) Dev. of Office and Wash Block at Gopinathpur Alhaz Sha Alam Degree College (50) Con. and Dev. of Retaining Wall at Bayek Union Shampur Graveyard under Kasba Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
03	1130460	01. Con. of Road Tiles at Sadar Paurasava 1 No. Ward Sharifpur Graveyard Internal Road 02. Con. of Shahid Minar at Scholars School and College 08. Dev. of Habboluccha Eishanagar Graveyard under Sadar Upzila and 03. Dev. of Nabinagar Govt. College Field under Nabinagar Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
04	1130461	04. Con. of Retaining Wall at Araishidha Talshahar Road to Bhabanipur Puraton Jame Moszid 05. Dev. of Ashugonj Up Dakkhinpara Surat Ali Bapari House Moszid Janaja Math 06. Con. of Drain at Ashugonj Char Chartola Up 4 No. Ward Bacchu Mia House to Maholam Mia House 07. Con. of Retaining Wall at Ashugonj Tarua Up Alamin Mia House to Jabber Mia House under Ashugonj Upzila and 09. Dev. of Baropaika Kifayetullah Bhuiyan Jame Moszid under Sarail Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
05	1130462	10. Dev. of Kasba Upzila Kandrio Jame Moszid under Kasba Upzila and 12. Repair of Akhaura Port Moszid Slab and Floor 13. Con. of Retaining Wall at Akhaura Chandpur Anowar Chowdhury House to Kibria Chowdhury House Pond 14. Con. of CC Road from Radhanagar Das Para Shree Shree Durga Mondir Prosha Distribution Place 15. Repair and Painting Upzila Moszid Muzayzin Room. 16. CC Road Casting at Akhaura Dakkhin Up Annandapur Main Road to Graveyard under Akhaura Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
06	1130442	01. Imp. of Road from Evening Bazar to T-Ghar Connecting Road. Ch.00-311m (South Side of Sarail Upzila Parishad) under Sarail Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
07	1130413	01. Con. of Imam Ghar at top of Nasirnagar Upzila Complex Moszid 1st Floor Ojukhana 02. Dev. of Nasirnagar Shishu Kanon School Directed by Upzila Proshasan 03. Dev. of Mosh Shassan at Buriswar Chanpara under Nasirnagar Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
These are an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal ( <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> ) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from help desk ( <a href="mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd">helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd</a> ).				
<div> Md. An-Nur Tareq Assistant Engineer Zila Parishad, Brahmanbaria E-mail: <a href="mailto:pe.zp.bbaria@lgi.gov.bd">pe.zp.bbaria@lgi.gov.bd</a></div>				
GD-1543				

# ACI develops new Boro rice varieties



## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়

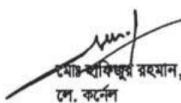
র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭

পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম

### দরপত্র আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বৎসরে (জুলাই/২৫ হতে জুন/২৬ পর্যন্ত) চট্টগ্রামস্থ র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭ এর ব্যবহার্য বিভিন্ন মালামাল সরবরাহ/পরিবহন ভাড়া/পোষাক সেবাই এর নিমিত্তে পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন এবং দেশের কোন আইন দ্বারা অযোগ্য নন এমন ব্যবসার/ প্রস্তুতকারী/ সরবরাহকারী/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিবেশীভাষ্মূলক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে :

১। ম‍্যাপাশয়/বিভাগ	২। ম‍্যাপাশয় (পুশিশ বিভাগ) ।
২। সংস্থা	৩। র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন (র‍্যাব) ।
৩। দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	৪। অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম ।
৪। দরপত্র জামানত (ফেরত যোগ্য)	৫। ক। ৩২১১১০৭-মানবাহন ব্যবহার (হিউটিকিতিক) -১৬,৫০০/- (ষোল হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা । খ। ৩২৫৬১০৩-ব্যবহার্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ ১,৪৪,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ চ‍্যাম্বিশ হাজার) টাকা ।
৫। দরপত্রের বিষয়/কাজের নাম ও সিডিউলের ম‍্যুলা (অফেরত যোগ্য)	৬। ক। ৩২১১১০৭-মানবাহন ব্যবহার (হিউটিকিতিক)-৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা । খ। ৩২৫৬১০৩-ব্যবহার্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ -৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা ।
৬। বরচের উলস ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	৭। ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বৎসরে র‍্যাব এর বিভিন্ন কোডে ব্যজেট প্রাপ্ত সাপেক্ষে ।
৭। দরপত্রের সূত্র নং ও তারিখ	৮। র‍্যাব-৭ দ‍্যারক নং-৭৭৬২/হিসাব/বিজ্ঞপ্তি/র‍্যাব-৭ তারিখ ২৬ মে ২০২৫ ইং ।
৮। সিডিউল বিক্রির তারিখ ও সময়	৯। ১০ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ হতে ১৬ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়) পর্যন্ত ।
৯। দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১০। ২০ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ ১২০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ।
১০। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১১। ২০ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ ১২০০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র দাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) ।
১১। দরপত্র ম‍্যূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	১২। ২৩ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ ১২০০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র দাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) ।
১২। দরপত্র প্রাপ্তি/দাখিলের স্থান	১৩। র‍্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম (হিসাব শাখা) ।
১৩। দরপত্র দাখিলের শর্ত	১৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের শর্তাবলী প্রত্যেকটি সিডিউলে পৃথকভাবে উল্লেখ করা হবে ।
১৪। দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	১৫। পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট ও আকরের কাগজ, ন‍্যাপরিক সনদপত্র, ব্যাংকর প্রত্যয়নপত্র এবং অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র (১ম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা দ্বারা সত্যায়িত) ।
১৫। বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী	১৬। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিতকেই সর্বনিম্ন দরপত্রসহ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা স‍্যরক্ষণ করেন । অনুমোদিত ব‍্যবস্থার আলোকে কার্যদেশ প্রদান করা হবে । এতদসংক্রান্ত কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না ।

  
 মোঃ ফাখরুল করিম  
 স. কর্নেল  
 পরিচালক  
 র‍্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম

## EU to seek trade ‘rebalancing’ with China

AFP, Strasbourg

The EU will seek to rebalance economic ties with China, demanding it eases market access for European firms and loosen export controls on rare earths at a summit this month, the bloc’s chief said Tuesday.

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said overcapacity concerns and China’s support for Russia’s war effort in Ukraine will also be on the table at the talks with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, von der Leyen said Beijing was running the largest trade surplus “in the history of mankind” exporting vast amounts to the EU while making it harder for European companies to do business in China.

“If our partnership is to move forward, we need a genuine rebalancing, fewer market distortions, less overcapacity exported from China, and fair, reciprocal access for European business,” she told lawmakers.

### Beijing has sought to improve relations with the European Union as a counterweight to superpower rival the United States

Beijing has sought to improve relations with the European Union as a counterweight to superpower rival the United States, but deep frictions remain over their economic relationship.

The trade deficit between China and the EU was a yawning \$357 billion in 2024.

Brussels is worried that a manufacturing glut propelled by massive state subsidies could add to it, and result in a flood of cheap Chinese goods undercutting European firms.

“China cannot rely on exports to solve its domestic economic challenges. Overcapacity must be addressed at its source, it cannot simply be offloaded onto global markets,” von der Leyen said.

The commission leader, who will travel to Beijing with European Council President Antonio Costa, said the pair will seek to loosen export restrictions on rare earths – while Brussels also looks at “developing alternative supply resources”.

## SE Asian nations to express ‘concern’ over US tariffs

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Southeast Asian nations will express “concern” over “counterproductive” US tariffs, according to a draft statement shared with AFP on Tuesday, after Donald Trump threatened more than a dozen countries with higher levies.

The president’s trade war will likely be high on the agenda as foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) gather in Kuala Lumpur for talks this week.

“We expressed concern over rising global trade tensions and growing uncertainties in the international economic landscape, particularly the unilateral actions relating to tariffs,” ASEAN foreign ministers said, according to a draft Joint Communiqué.

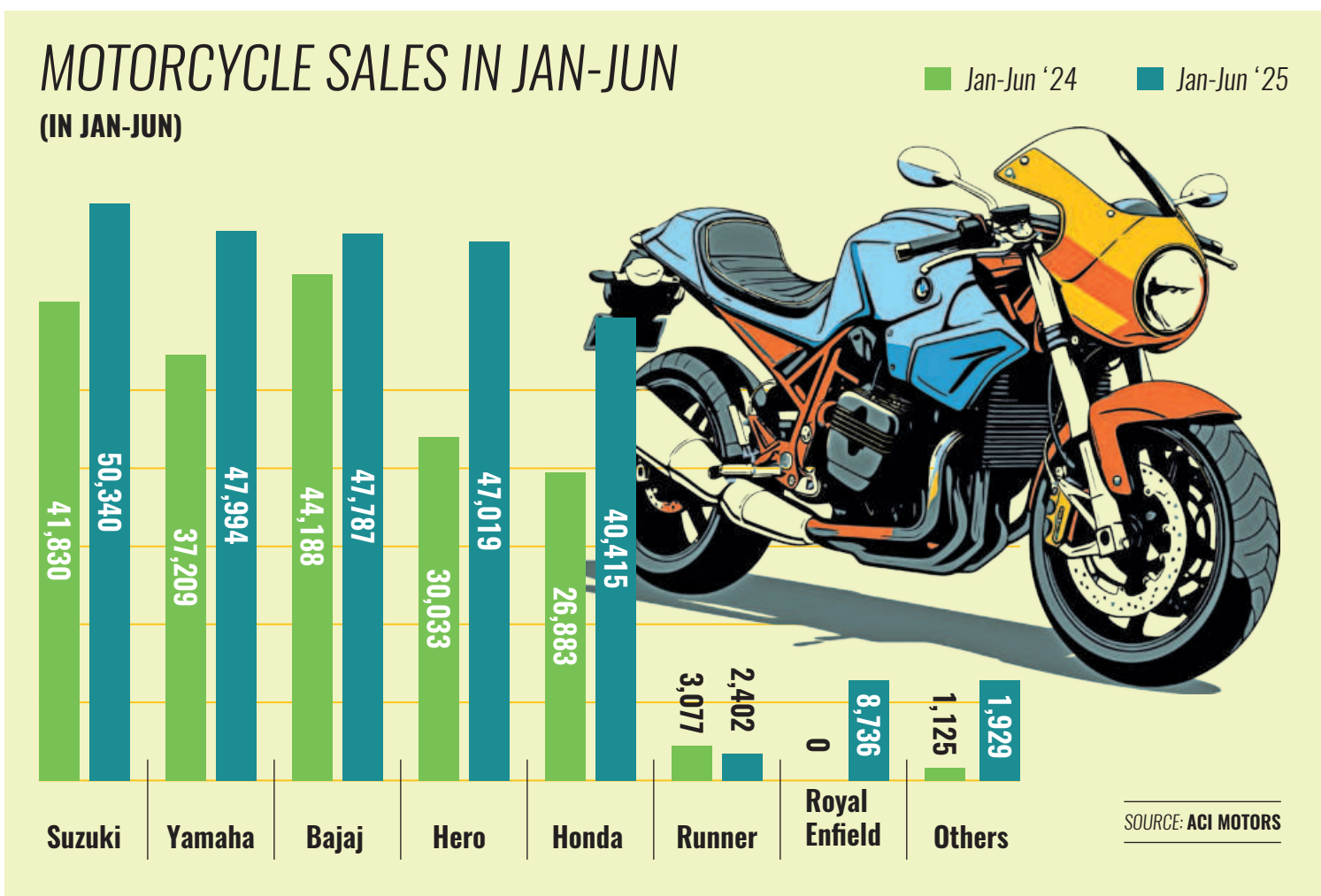
Without directly naming the United States, the ministers said tariffs were “counterproductive and risk exacerbating global economic fragmentation and pose complex challenges to ASEAN’s economic stability and growth”.

Trump sent letters to 14 countries announcing that duties he had suspended in April would snap back – even more steeply – in three weeks.

Among those targeted were top trade partners Japan and South Korea, which each face 25 percent tariffs.

Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar – all members of the ASEAN – face duties ranging from 25 percent to 40 percent if they do not strike a deal with Washington by August 1.

Export-dependent Vietnam, which is also an ASEAN member, is one of only two countries to have reached a tentative agreement that spares it from Trump’s measures.



# Motorcycle demand picks up speed after three-year slump

Sales jump 27% in Jan-Jun driven by pricier, higher cc models

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Motorcycle sales are showing signs of recovery after a slow patch of nearly three years, due mainly to easing consumer prices, lower registration costs, and aggressive marketing by manufacturers.

Local bike companies say their sales rose by about 27 percent in the January-June period this year. Higher-capacity models, priced between Tk 2.2 lakh and Tk 4.5 lakh, saw stronger demand than lower-cc (cubic capacity) bikes.

Industry insiders say budget-friendly motorcycles, which usually cost between Tk 1.2 lakh and Tk 2 lakh, have seen slower sales as many low- and middle-income buyers continue to feel the pinch financially.

In the first six months of 2025, total sales reached 257,632 units, up from 202,330 during the same period last year, according to industry data.

In the domestic market, Indian brand Bajaj and Japanese makers Yamaha and Suzuki remain top choices for buyers.

“Higher capacity motorcycle sales have been strong over the past six months, driven by stable prices and customers’ preference for better riding quality and long distance travel,” said Subrata Ranjan Das, deputy managing director of ACI Motors, which sells Yamaha bikes.

Popular Yamaha models include the R15 series, MT-15 V3, MT-15 V1, FZ S V3, FZ S V4, and FZ-S. These bikes cost around Tk 2.30 lakh to Tk 4.50 lakh.

Motorcycles in Bangladesh are mainly used for short- and medium-distance travel, especially in urban and semi-urban areas. Outside the capital, poor road conditions are prompting buyers to opt for more durable and higher-capacity options.

Das said local road conditions are far from ideal, making bikes with engines over 160cc more practical than smaller ones.

Meanwhile, bikes in the 100cc to 150cc range have seen marginal growth, as high prices and a volatile exchange rate continue to make many buyers cautious.

“Many had been waiting for prices to fall, but now they realise significant drops are unlikely. Demand is gradually returning,” added Das.

While Japanese brands continue to dominate, Indian Bajaj also maintains a strong position. Competition among the top three has intensified in recent years, putting pressure on profit margins, especially in the entry-level segment.

### Higher-capacity models, priced between Tk 2.2 lakh and Tk 4.5 lakh, saw stronger demand than lower-cc (cubic capacity) bikes

Industry sources said fewer new models have been launched this year, partly due to a decline in corporate orders. At the same time, many buyers are placing advance bookings due to limited availability in showrooms.

“The motorcycle market has become highly competitive as profit margins are shrinking,” said Das. “While the high-end segment is performing well, the market for 100cc to 120cc bikes has slowed somewhat.”

Bangladesh’s overall motorcycle market expanded by nearly 20 percent in the past six months, according to Biplob Kumar Roy, chief executive officer of TVS Auto Bangladesh.

“There used to be monthly sales of around 24,025 units. Now it has increased to about

30,320 units. That means there has been nearly 20 percent growth. On a per-month basis, the numbers are rising quite well,” Roy told The Daily Star.

TVS’s popular higher-cc models include the Apache RTR 160 4V Fi, Apache RTR 160 4V, and Apache RTR 160 2V.

Roy said that despite the recent rebound, the lower-end segment continues to face difficulties.

He attributed the recent uptick in sales largely to pent-up demand following a long period of economic uncertainty.

“Many people had postponed buying despite needing a motorcycle. Now they are no longer looking for alternatives. They are making their decisions. You could say there is a certain extent of uncertainty still there,” commented Roy.

As for TVS, the CEO said monthly sales have climbed from around 3,500 to nearly 4,000 units in recent months. “Growth has been quite good.”

Shah Muhammad Ashequr Rahman, chief marketing officer of Bangladesh Honda Private Limited, said Honda’s recent gains reflect its strong focus on customer satisfaction.

Popular higher-end Honda models include the XBlade, SP 160, and Hornet 2.0.

“We prioritise resolving customer issues with urgency,” he said. “Our product launches are strategically aligned with customer expectations, offering competitive pricing and true value for money.”

“We have introduced advanced technologies such as PGM-FI engines, digital meters, improved fuel efficiency, and low running costs. These make our motorcycles smarter and more economical,” he added.

These features, he claimed, have contributed to Honda’s growth in sales.

## US TARIFF SHOCK

# Navigating export vulnerability, strategic response

SELIM RAIHAN

As the initial three-month pause approached its end, the United States started announcing new reciprocal tariff rates, generally in accordance with the initial rates released in April. While the Donald Trump-led administration has offered a small window for countries to strike a better deal before the tariffs come into effect on August 1, the latest development is bound to introduce new uncertainty into global trade and the economy.

For Bangladesh, the readjusted 35 percent tariff rate is certainly a harsh economic blow, especially to the ready-made garment industry. With US tariffs on Bangladeshi imports more than doubling from roughly 15 percent, the sharp and dramatic hike has the potential to erode the price competitiveness of Bangladesh’s garments in its biggest export market.

In 2024 alone, Bangladesh exported around \$8.5 billion to the US. The burden of this tariff hike will fall heavily on garment manufacturers and the millions of workers they employ, a majority of whom are women, raising the risks of slower growth, job losses, and a rise in poverty. These are setbacks with wide-ranging economic and social consequences.

The rationale behind these reciprocal tariffs is weak, and this has added to the concerns. Among the 14 countries targeted in the first round, Bangladesh’s 35 percent rate is among the highest. If the tariff rates on its competitors eventually prove to be lower, Bangladesh would face a serious competitive disadvantage, making supply chain decision-making more difficult and eroding the confidence of buyers and investors.

The broader implications are serious. Increased costs may encourage US buyers to shift orders to countries with lower tariff burdens. The Bangladesh economy, which relies heavily on garments for over 80 percent of its annual export revenues, is especially vulnerable.

It is also disappointing that the Bangladeshi negotiators involved in bilateral tariff discussions with the US have seemingly failed to secure any favourable outcomes. The inability to reach a more balanced bilateral agreement only increases Bangladesh’s vulnerability in a rapidly changing global trade environment and geopolitical shifts.

There is no denying that in an increasingly volatile and unpredictable global trading regime, countries like Bangladesh—characterised by highly concentrated export baskets, uncompetitive domestic business and investment climates, and limited diplomatic leverage—are particularly at risk. In this context, Bangladesh must adopt a strategic mix of responses to safeguard its economic future.

First, export diversification and competitiveness must be prioritised. This involves investing in productivity, upgrading technology, and developing industries beyond garments. Dependence on a narrow range of products and markets, primarily North America and Europe, makes Bangladesh highly susceptible to external shocks. Product and market diversification is no longer optional; it is essential.

Second, it is critical to accelerate negotiations on free trade agreements (FTAs) with key trading partners. Bangladesh must actively pursue FTAs with major developing economies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and leverage South-South cooperation. Preferential access and the removal of trade barriers will help expand export markets and reduce the risk of overdependence.

Third, comprehensive domestic trade reform is urgently needed. This includes simplifying the trade regime by lowering tariffs, reducing non-tariff barriers, and streamlining import-export procedures. These reforms will not only strengthen Bangladesh’s negotiating position in trade talks but also lower input costs, attract foreign investment, and support sectoral diversification.

As international trade rules continue to evolve, Bangladesh must respond promptly, strategically, and in a multifaceted manner. Failure to adapt quickly risks deepening economic vulnerabilities and undermining future prospects.

The write is executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem)

# Trump’s trade war promises no real endgame

one issue.

South Korea shows the cost of failing to satisfy such whims. The country sealed a free trade agreement with the US that came into force in 2012. It did nothing to prevent today’s broadside. Now, Trump’s agenda could slow Korean industrial giants’ efforts to ramp production on American shores: recent cuts to electric vehicle subsidies may ding the likes of battery maker SK On and automaker Hyundai.

Tariff threats against smaller countries are particularly difficult to appease. Look at, say, Laos. Its goods imports from the US amounted to \$40 million, versus \$803 million in goods exports, in 2024. This is infinitesimal in the scheme of the US’s overall \$1.2 trillion goods trade deficit, yet a promised 40 percent tariff on its exports would be extremely material to Laos’s own \$16 billion economy.

Furthermore, what any country gets for

reaching a “deal” is still nebulous beyond lowering rates that have never been imposed. Look at Vietnam, where Trump announced a tentative agreement setting a 20 percent tariff and a levy designed to target products passing through the country from elsewhere. Monday’s announcements for South Korea and Japan, where there is no deal, involve the same “trans-shipment” charge plus a 25 percent baseline rate. According to the White House, Vietnam even dropped its tariffs on US goods to zero.

Meanwhile, new bugbears – like an additional threatened 10 percent duty on the BRICS nations – creep up. Whether the tumult can ever really end is unclear. The best outcome for any country might be the framework sealed with the UK, which softened some trade barriers but little else. It’s a small win now, without relying on Trump not to simply change his mind in the future.

President Donald Trump sent letters to multiple US trading partners on July 7 notifying them of new tariff rates their goods can expect to face starting on August 1. These rates are in most cases close to so-called reciprocal tariffs announced on April 2, which were subsequently paused to allow for the negotiation of trade deals. That pause was initially scheduled to conclude on July 9.



US President Donald Trump speaks to journalists as he signs executive orders in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE