

20 items generated 37% of Ctg customs revenue in FY25

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, *Chattogram*

Chattogram Custom House's revenue collection jumped nearly 13 percent year-on-year to Tk 77,685 crore in the just-concluded fiscal year, and over one-third of the total was generated by only 20 out of the 4,800 imported products.

Around 37 percent, or Tk 28,767 crore, of the total came mostly from diesel, furnace oil, cement clinker, palm oil, crude oil, apples, hot-rolled steel, oranges, broken stone, sugar, milk powder, polypropylene, motorcycle parts, scrap, betel nuts, dates, polyvinyl chloride, and liquefied natural gas.

Some 9.39 crore tonnes of goods worth Tk 5,01,572 crore were

imported through Chattogram port in FY25, up from 9.12 crore tonnes worth Tk 4,62,136 crore in the previous year, according to newly released customs data.

Customs officials gave credit to the recovery of outstanding dues from government organisations, fast clearance of pending consignments from the port, faster completion of auction procedures, stricter monitoring, and an overall increase in import volume.

"Every year, nearly one-third of our revenue comes from 20 to 25 major import items, and this year was no exception," Mohammad Saidul Islam, deputy commissioner of Chattogram Customs, told The Daily Star.

"We intensified intelligence surveillance across all types of products, which helped curb irregularities and enhance revenue collection," he said.

Among individual items, diesel generated the highest revenue of Tk 5,766 crore, followed by furnace oil at Tk 3,111 crore, cement clinker at Tk 3,089 crore, palm oil at Tk 1,849 crore, and crude oil at Tk 1,760 crore.

As per the data, about Tk 1,272 crore was collected from apples, Tk 1,110 crore from hot-rolled steel, Tk 1,070 crore from oranges, Tk 1,024 crore from crude oil, Tk 987 crore from crushed stone, Tk 808 crore from motorcycle parts, Tk 783 crore from scrap, Tk 728 crore from betel nuts, and Tk 545 crore from dates.

US, Bangladesh

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In the draft tariff agreement, Bangladesh has agreed to many of the USA's proposals to ensure smooth trade.

The private sector's initiative to hire a lobbying firm in the US did not progress much due to time constraints, said one of the persons involved in the initiative, requesting anonymity.

On July 23, Zaidi Sattar, chairman of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI), said he would support every effort taken by the private sector of Bangladesh to hire a lobbying firm.

If the Bangladeshi initiators succeed in hiring the lobbying firm, the PRI will share information related to Bangladesh's economy and trade issues, he said.

A frustrated initiator, also requesting anonymity, said there are doubts over whether it will be possible

to hire a lobbying firm now.

Even if one is hired in the US, it may not bring any positive outcome, the person added.

Still, a group of Bangladeshi businesspeople is trying to appoint a lobbyist in the US, the single largest export destination for Bangladesh, where local garment makers shipped apparel worth \$8.2 billion last year.

The garment sector may face challenges if the 35 percent tariff rate comes into effect for Bangladesh, businesses said.

According to data from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), 1,322 garment factories in Bangladesh are directly involved in exporting garments to the US.

These production units may fail to secure work orders as before due to

the high tariff, the data suggest.

Bangladesh has not hired any lobbying firm as they have little role in the negotiation process, the commerce adviser told journalists at his office in Dhaka yesterday.

"We need major structural changes, where lobbyists cannot contribute," he added.

The commerce ministry has already convened an inter-ministerial meeting to decide on the necessary reforms to facilitate the tariff talks.

Some exporters, particularly in the garment sector, had earlier pushed for hiring lobbyists in the US.

An inter ministerial meeting held on July 20 at the commerce ministry decided to significantly reduce the import duty on American goods so that the Trump administration offers Bangladesh reduced tariff rates.

Private education sector's contribution

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acceptance and encouragement of women pursuing careers in healthcare, says the report.

This could also be due to the fact that women are better equipped to handle the emotional demands of medical service, it states.

The BBS had undertaken a comprehensive nationwide survey on private educational institutions in 2007 with financial and technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank to address data deficiencies regarding the sector.

It has been over 15 years since the last survey was conducted on private educational institutions.

In the meantime, the education landscape has evolved, prompting the government to run the survey.

There were 98,980 private educational institutions in the country as of 2023, while the number of coaching centres was 6,587.

A total of 23,637 private educational institutions were being operated under individual ownership, while 10,862 were being run under partnerships.

Meanwhile, the majority, or 49,618 private educational institutions,

were being overseen by a board of directors or managing committee.

There were 5,782 institutions under the governance of trustee boards or foundations.

The education sector in the country contributed around 3 percent of the nation's GDP in 2023.

The BBS data show that the share of labour in the gross value added was 38.9 percent in 2022, and it decreased to 37.8 percent in 2023.

The decreasing trend in the share of labour contributing to the GDP indicates that the portion of economic benefits being allocated to workers has reduced.

Instead, a larger share of these gains is flowing towards the owners of the institutions.

This shift suggests an imbalance in the distribution of wealth, where the benefits of economic growth are increasingly favouring those who own the resources over those contributing with their efforts.

As a result, income inequality may increase, potentially leading to decreased consumer spending and a slowdown in economic growth, it notes.

Non-apparel

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The PRI chief also warned that a large section of the population still hovers just above the poverty line despite a steady decline in poverty over the years, leaving them highly vulnerable to economic shocks.

"A 10 percent drop in income could push an additional 10 percent of people into poverty," he said, adding that the national poverty rate is projected to rise to 22.9 percent in 2025, up from 18.7 percent in 2022.

Furthermore, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty—those earning less than \$2.15 a day—is expected to nearly double to 9.3 percent.

During the keynote presentation at the event, Ashikur Rahman, principal economist at the PRI, revealed that in June 2025, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) collected Tk 487.7 billion, a 24 percent increase from the previous month, but a 16.3 percent drop year-on-year.

Bangladesh has failed to reach its revenue collection target for the 13th consecutive year, he stated.

Though reforms are underway at the NBR, Rahman said, "Real reform is inherently disruptive. It challenges entrenched interests, creates winners and losers, and inevitably sparks protests—signs that the status quo is being

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Date: 24/07/2025

e-Tender Notice-04/2025-26 (LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System of Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of undermentioned work FY 2025-26.

SI No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Tender published date & time	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time	Completion time
1.	1133164	RDRIP-2/W-VRB-421	24/07/2025 14:00	11/08/2025 15:00	12/08/2025 12:30	270 days
2.	1133165	RDRIP-2/W-VRB-422	24/07/2025 14:00	11/08/2025 15:00	12/08/2025 12:30	270 days
3.	1133166	RDRIP-2/W-VRB-423	24/07/2025 14:00	11/08/2025 15:00	12/08/2025 12:30	270 days
4.	1133167	RDRIP-2/W-VRB-424	24/07/2025 14:00	11/08/2025 15:00	12/08/2025 12:30	270 days
5.	1133168	RDRIP-2/W-VRB-425	24/07/2025 14:00	11/08/2025 15:00	12/08/2025 12:30	270 days
6.	1133169	RDRIP-2/W-VRB-434	24/07/2025 14:00	11/08/2025 15:00	12/08/2025 12:30	270 days
7.	1133170	RDRIP-2/W-VRB-435	24/07/2025 14:00	11/08/2025 15:00	12/08/2025 12:30	270 days
8.	1133171	RDRIP-2/W-VRB-436	24/07/2025 14:00	11/08/2025 15:00	12/08/2025 12:30	270 days
9.	1133172	RDRIP-2/W-VRB-438	24/07/2025 14:00	11/08/2025 15:00	12/08/2025 12:30	270 days
10.	1133173	RDRIP-2/W-VRB-488	24/07/2025 14:00	11/08/2025 15:00	12/08/2025 12:30	270 days

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The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 11/08/2025, 15:00. For further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


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BRAC Bank discloses 100% of its carbon emissions across all scopes

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

emissions from purchased electricity, the figure stood at 16,671 tCO₂.

Scope 3 emissions, which encompass indirect impacts across the value chain, amounted to 1,459,167 tCO₂.

Of this, 1,423,479 tCO₂ came from Category 15 financed activities—emissions generated by the businesses and sectors the bank supports. These alone represent over 96 percent of BRAC Bank's total reported carbon footprint.

The remaining Scope 3 emissions, totaling 35,687 tCO₂, were linked to business travel, waste, procurement, and employee commuting.

In the report, the bank said it had completed a full-scale carbon accounting exercise.

It considers the release of the report a significant step toward

environmental transparency in the financial sector.

"This positions BRAC Bank as a national frontrunner in South Asia among financial institutions voluntarily reporting Category 15 emissions under Scope 3, as defined by the GHG Protocol," the bank said in the statement.

The GHG Protocol is considered the most complex and material aspect of a bank's climate impact, with quantification based on the globally recognized Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) standard.

Additionally, 18,112 tonnes of emissions were avoided through the bank's clean energy investments and solar infrastructure, leading to a net climate impact of 1,459,356 tCO₂ for 2024.

Vietnam's 2025 GDP growth forecast raised to 7%

ANN/VIETNAM NEWS

The Asean+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) has revised upward its 2025 growth forecast for Vietnam's economy to 7 percent from the 6.5 percent projected in April, according to its latest quarterly update released on Wednesday.

This makes Vietnam the fastest-growing economy among the Asean+3 group, which includes the ten Asean countries along with China, Japan and South Korea.

Speaking at a press briefing the same day, AMRO Chief Economist Dong He explained that the revision reflects Vietnam's much stronger than expected performance in the first half of 2025.

Vietnam's GDP grew by 7.52 percent in the first six months of the year, continuing the strong momentum seen in 2024, when the country recorded a growth rate of 7.09 percent.

Despite ongoing global tariff tensions and subdued external demand, Vietnam has maintained macro-economic stability and reaffirmed its position as one of Southeast Asia's most dynamic and resilient economies.

However, Dong He warned that rising tariffs from the US could pose downside risks to the country's outlook.

He noted that Vietnam and Cambodia are among the most exposed to US tariffs, as the US remains the largest export market for both economies. While Cambodia's exports are heavily focused on garments, footwear and travel goods, Vietnam has a more diversified export portfolio. Still, shipments to the

US account for around 30 percent of Vietnam's total exports.

Given this high exposure, Dong He said Vietnam could face spillover effects, where weaker external demand may affect domestic consumption and investment. Nonetheless, he highlighted that Vietnam retains policy space to cushion any potential economic shocks.

"Looking beyond the short term, I believe it's even more crucial for Vietnam to deepen its integration with regional economies. This includes attracting more foreign direct investment (FDI) and upgrading its product structure," he said.

He also pointed to the Government's ongoing reform efforts—particularly those aimed at improving the investment climate and upgrading infrastructure—as key steps towards enhancing the country's long-term growth potential.

For 2026, AMRO also revised Vietnam's growth forecast upward to 6.5 percent, from 6.2 percent previously. Inflation is projected to moderate to 3.4 percent in 2025 and 3 percent in 2026.

In contrast to Vietnam's upward trajectory, the broader Asean+3 region is expected to grow at a slower pace—3.8 percent in 2025 and 3.6 percent in 2026—due to rising external uncertainties and the continued impact of US protectionist measures. These figures are both down from AMRO's April forecasts.

If tariffs continue to rise, AMRO warned that global trade flows could be significantly disrupted. Other downside risks include tighter financial conditions and volatile commodity prices, driven by geopolitical tensions.