

star BUSINESS



ESG failure may cost Bangladesh 30% of EU exports: Sanem

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

If European countries make ESG standards mandatory and Bangladesh fails to comply, exports to the bloc may immediately drop by around 30 percent, according to the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem).

ESG – short for Environmental, Social and Governance – is a set of standards measuring a business's impact on society, the environment, and how transparent and accountable it is.

"We estimate that exports to the EU would fall by 30 percent due to the economy-wide effects of non-compliance by exporters with EU sustainability measures," said Sanem Programme Director Zubayer Hossen.

In other words, overall exports will fall by around 10 percent to 12 percent, he said.

The EU has enforced strict ESG and sustainability reporting standards through regulations. Germany's supply chain act mandates that companies ensure human rights and environmental due diligence across their entire supply chain, he added.

It is important to strengthen compliance with ESG standards in industries, ensure supply chain transparency, invest in green technology, and enhance capacity, said an expert

Japan, the US, and other markets have also included environmental issues in their trade practices, said Hossen.

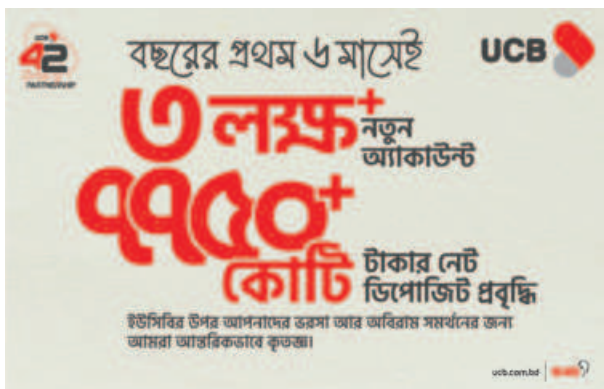
So, it is important to strengthen compliance with ESG standards in industries, ensure supply chain transparency, invest in green technology, and enhance institutional and human capacity, he said.

He was delivering a presentation at the launch of the Sanem Sustainability Centre, a new wing of the research organisation, at Sheraton Dhaka on Tuesday.

Aiming to advance sustainability-focused, evidence-based development in Bangladesh and across South Asia, the centre will focus particularly on emerging priorities of ESG standards to ensure that Sanem's work remains relevant to both national development frameworks and international sustainability benchmarks.

In addition to producing high-quality research, the centre aims to serve as a catalyst for systemic change by engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including government agencies, the private sector, development partners, research organisations, and civil society organisations.

READ MORE ON B3



US to impose 25% tariff on India

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump said on Wednesday the United States will impose a 25 percent tariff on goods imported from India starting on August 1.

He said India, which has the world's fifth largest economy, will also face an unspecified penalty on Aug. 1, but did not elaborate on the amount or what it was for.

"While India is our friend, we have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their Tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the World, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary Trade Barriers of any Country," Trump wrote in a Truth Social post.

"They have always bought a vast majority of their military equipment from Russia, and are Russia's largest buyer of energy,

READ MORE ON B2

Panel formed to address post-LDC subsidy shift

Yunus slams leather sector neglect



Govt actions

- Chief adviser orders urgent meeting to address leather sector crisis
- He stresses reform of outdated policies
- Follow-up LDC transition meeting set within two months
- Reviewed 'Tariff Policy 2023' implementation and trade facilitation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The finance ministry has formed a 16-member committee to identify alternatives to cash subsidies that comply with the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as such facilities will be phased out following Bangladesh's graduation from least developed country (LDC) status.

Among its key priorities are four sectors identified as having high export potential in the post-LDC era: leather and leather goods, jute products, agriculture and agro-processing, and pharmaceuticals, according to a circular issued by the Ministry of Finance on Tuesday.

The committee, chaired by the principal secretary to the chief adviser, includes senior representatives from the ministries of commerce, foreign

affairs and agriculture, as well as the Bangladesh Bank, the National Board of Revenue (NBR), and the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI).

It has been tasked with developing a time-bound action plan to ensure sustained growth and competitiveness without relying on direct financial incentives.

Meanwhile, CA Muhammad Yunus yesterday expressed deep dissatisfaction over what he described as the prolonged neglect of the country's leather industry.

He instructed the relevant ministries to convene a follow-up meeting within the next two months to finalise the course of action for the country's LDC graduation, according to a press statement issued by the CA's press wing.

READ MORE ON B3

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

HSBC will start winding down its retail banking operations in Bangladesh in the second half of this year, with the gradual process expected to take six to eight months.

The decision follows a review of its retail operations in the country and aligns with the global HSBC Group portfolio, HSBC Bangladesh said in a statement yesterday.

"As part of the exit plan, the bank will immediately stop onboarding new retail customers and will work to ensure a smooth transition for existing clients," said the multinational bank.

HSBC's Corporate and Institutional Banking (CIB) operations in Bangladesh will remain unchanged.

"The bank recognises the importance of Bangladesh to its corporate and institutional clients and continues to invest in the CIB business to drive two-way trade and investment flows," HSBC said.

The move is part of HSBC's global strategy, announced in October 2024, to streamline operations and focus on markets offering stronger growth prospects.

In December last year, Reuters, citing the Financial Times, reported that the London-based multinational was reviewing its retail banking operations outside the UK and Hong Kong. This review could lead to substantial downsizing in other countries.

The bank is looking outside its core markets to reduce consumer presence and focus on wealthier "premier" customers, the report said.

In a conference call yesterday, HSBC CEO Georges Elhedery said that the bank started reviews of its retail banking business in Australia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, and will start winding down its Bangladesh retail business in the second half of this year, reports Reuters.

Insiders said the retail banking arm in Bangladesh had been profitable and showing growth. However, the closure forms part of a broader global reassessment. The process of shutting down local retail operations and facilitating customer exits may take six to eight months.

Sectoral focus

- Four key sectors prioritised: leather, jute, agro, and pharmaceuticals
- Committee to develop WTO-compliant, time-bound export roadmap

Govt actions

- Chief adviser orders urgent meeting to address leather sector crisis
- He stresses reform of outdated policies
- Follow-up LDC transition meeting set within two months
- Reviewed 'Tariff Policy 2023' implementation and trade facilitation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

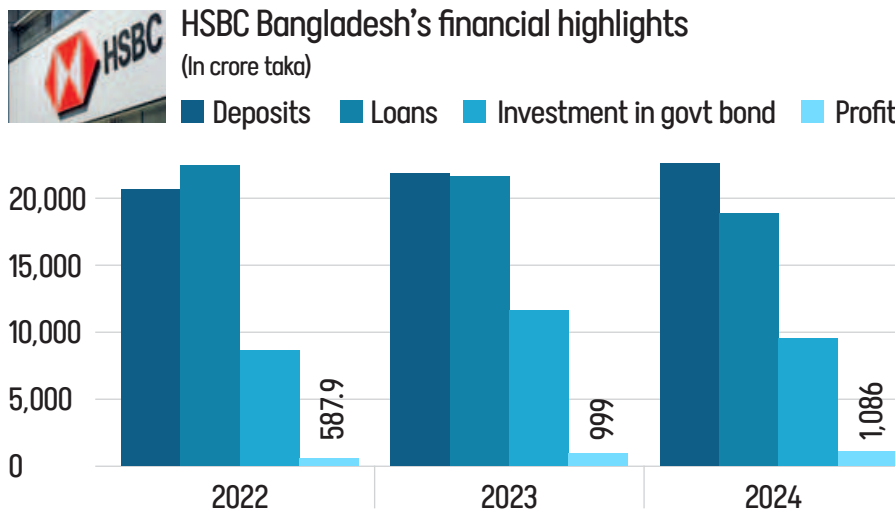
The finance ministry has formed a 16-member committee to identify alternatives to cash subsidies that comply with the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as such facilities will be phased out following Bangladesh's graduation from least developed country (LDC) status.

Among its key priorities are four sectors identified as having high export potential in the post-LDC era: leather and leather goods, jute products, agriculture and agro-processing, and pharmaceuticals, according to a circular issued by the Ministry of Finance on Tuesday.

The committee, chaired by the principal secretary to the chief adviser, includes senior representatives from the ministries of commerce, foreign

READ MORE ON B3

HSBC to wind down retail banking in Bangladesh



SOURCE: HSBC BANGLADESH'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

HSBC Bangladesh recorded a 9 percent year-on-year rise in profit to nearly Tk 1,100 crore in 2024.

Deposits at the foreign bank increased by 3 percent year on year to Tk 22,695 crore in the last financial year. However, loans dropped 18 percent to Tk 18,927 crore in 2024 compared to the previous year, according to its financial statements.

As a result of the retail exit, staff in the division may be affected, according to insiders. However, the bank will give priority to those employees when recruiting for corporate banking and other roles, provided their skills are a match.

Apart from Bangladesh, HSBC is also considering selling its retail bank in Australia, reports the Financial Review.

In February this year, the bank announced it had agreed to sell its retail operations in Bahrain to Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, as part of its ongoing global restructuring, according to Reuters.

Yesterday, HSBC Holdings reported a sharper-than-expected fall in profit, driven by write-downs linked to a Chinese bank and property exposure in Hong Kong, even as it pressed on with its worldwide overhaul.

Its 26 percent slump in pretax profit in the first half showed the challenge ahead for CEO Georges Elhedery, as the Europe's largest bank racked up losses in China, where it has increasingly pinned its plans for growth in recent years after shrinking in Western markets.

The lender's corporate and institutional banking businesses were unaffected by these developments, he said.

The bank posted a profit of \$15.8 billion for the first six months of the year, falling short of brokers' forecasts of \$16.5 billion.

HSBC shares listed in London dropped 4.5 percent, mirroring earlier losses in Hong Kong trading.

HSBC opened its first office in Dhaka in 1996. In Bangladesh, it provides a range of financial services including global payments solutions, trade services, treasury, and custody and clearing.

WHAT CUSTOMERS NEED TO DO

In a notice to customers, HSBC said the wind-down of its retail banking operations in Bangladesh would take place over six to eight months in phases.

While the bank will honour all existing agreements, it has already stopped accepting new applications for accounts, loans, term deposits, debit cards, student files, and investment products such as Sanchayapatra and bonds, according to the notice.

READ MORE ON B3

Eastern Bank PLC.

Your journey starts with ultimate luxury at EBL Skylounge

SKYLOUNGE

16230

The Daily Star

FOR ALL LATEST NEWS FOLLOW US

facebook.com/dailystarnews

twitter.com/dailystarnews

www.thedailystar.net

MAXIMIZE YOUR RETURN WITH DHAKA BANK BOND

Now Anyone Can Access the Stability of Dhaka Bank Bond

12.99% Return

Dhaka Bank Bond Benefits

- Safe Investment
- Maximum Return
- Anyone Can Invest (Corporate or Individual)
- 7 Years Tenure Benefit
- Half-Yearly Income Benefit
- 20% Principal Redemption (From 3rd Year to 7th Year)
- Minimum Subscription Amount BDT 10,00,000.00

Dhaka Bank BOND

Call: 01730 324 376 or 01755 631 721

To learn more please visit <https://dhakabanktd.com/dhaka-bank-bond/> or Please scan below



www.dhakabankplc.com

EXCELLENCE IN BANKING

Keeron completes two years, eyes job placement services

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Keeron, an online skills development platform in Bangladesh, has completed two years of operations since its launch in 2022, having trained more than 60,000 young learners across the country.

The platform started its journey with the aim of equipping the country's youth with skills relevant to the changing job market and has since focused on practical, employer-oriented training rather than traditional lecture-based instruction, according to a press release.

Courses such as Microsoft Excel and Brand Strategy & Planning have been designed to help learners gain confidence in real-world applications.

For example, learners are trained not only on Excel formulas but also on data handling to add immediate value in office settings. Similarly, learners of Brand Strategy & Planning work on actual brand case studies rather than just theories.

To expand beyond screen-based learning, Keeron partnered with universities and youth networks in various districts to host workshops, seminars, mentorship sessions, and networking events, targeting particularly youth outside Dhaka.



In its second year, Keeron reported a rise in its learner base from 30,000 to over 60,000, with course ratings averaging 4.5 out of 5 and an 81 percent satisfaction rate.

Some of the most popular courses on the platform include Everyday English, Microsoft Excel, Brand Strategy & Planning, Emerging Leadership, and Digital Marketing Masterclass; all the courses have designed based on employer needs.

As it enters its third year, Keeron plans to launch job placement services to connect trained learners with potential employers.

"The certificate has no value if it does not get you a job offer," said Md Tajdin Hassan, chief operating officer of the platform, emphasising that upskilling should lead to employment opportunities.

Keeron thanked its learners, industry experts, partner universities, and organisations for supporting its journey.

"This is just the beginning," he said, expressing optimism about the future of Bangladesh's workforce.

"We didn't just want to teach skills; rather, we wanted to build confidence and capability that employers recognise immediately. In the next phase, we are not stopping at learning. Our goal is to connect skills with jobs, and dreams with opportunities," he added.

BRAC Bank promotes Masud Rana to AMD

STAR BUSINESS DESK



BRAC Bank has promoted M Masud Rana to the post of additional managing director (AMD), effective from August 1 this year.

Prior to this promotion, Rana had been serving as deputy managing director and chief financial officer (CFO) concurrently, according to a press release.

He joined BRAC Bank in October 2019 and has since played a pivotal role in shaping the bank's financial strategy, governance, and operational excellence.

Rana began his career at SF Ahmed & Co. He later held senior roles at BEXIMCO Garments & Textile Division, Sanofi-Aventis, Standard Chartered Bangladesh, and Dhaka Bank PLC.

Rana obtained both bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from the University of Dhaka.

Shahjalal Islami Bank launches mobile app 'ShahjalalTouchPay'

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC yesterday launched a mobile app, "ShahjalalTouchPay", aimed at providing fast, secure, and convenient banking services to customers.

AK Azad, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the app as the chief guest at the bank's corporate head office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Azad said, "As part of our commitment to technology-driven modern banking services, this new mobile app has been launched."

"We always strive to ensure our customers can access services easily, securely, and efficiently. This initiative reflects our customer-centric approach."

"I believe this app will add a new dimension to our customers' banking experience," he added. From now on, the bank's customers can download the app on both iOS and Android platforms and carry out banking activities.

Customers will be able to download the app from the Google Play Store or App Store and conduct their banking activities from home or abroad without visiting any branch from August 4.

Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, managing director of the bank, presided over the programme.

Ahmed said, "Our customers' needs are continuously evolving, and we are committed to modernising our services in alignment with global technological advancements. The launch of this new mobile application

is a testament to our ongoing innovation and unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction."

Mohammed Younus and Mohiuddin Ahmed, vice-chairmen of the bank; Akkas Uddin Mollah; Khandaker Shakib Ahmed; Fakir Akhtaruzzaman; Md Moshir Rahman Chamak; Jabun Nahar, directors; and Nasir Uddin Ahmed and Md Reazul Karim, independent directors, attended the event.

Among others, Imtiaz U Ahmed, additional managing director of the bank; MM Saiful Islam, deputy managing director; Md Abul Bashar, company secretary; Md Jafar Sadeq, chief financial officer; and Khandker Bedoura Mahbub, head of the IT division and chief technology officer, were also present.



Husne Ara Shikha, executive director of the Bangladesh Bank, poses for group photographs with participants of the training initiative, titled "Entrepreneur Development Programme", organised by AB Bank PLC, in Cox's Bazar recently.

PHOTO: AB BANK

AB Bank organises entrepreneurship development programme

STAR BUSINESS DESK

AB Bank PLC has recently organised a month-long training initiative, titled "Entrepreneur Development Programme", under the SICIP project of the SME and Special Programmes Department of the Bangladesh Bank in Cox's Bazar.

A total of 25 trained entrepreneurs were awarded certificates upon completion of the programme, while eligible participants received loans under the open credit disbursement scheme, according to a press release issued by AB Bank.

Husne Ara Shikha, executive director of

the Bangladesh Bank, attended the closing ceremony as the chief guest.

Md Nazrul Islam, additional director and programme director of the SME and Special Programmes Department at the Bangladesh Bank, was present as the special guest. ZM Babar Khan, additional managing director of AB Bank PLC, chaired the event.

Iftikhar Enam Awal, head of SME banking at AB Bank; Mohammad Wasim, joint director of the central bank; and Md Fazlul Haque, programme coordinator, along with other senior officials from AB Bank, were also present.



AK Azad, chairman of Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC, inaugurates the bank's mobile application "ShahjalalTouchPay" at a function at its corporate head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAHJALAL ISLAMI BANK

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী-১/ঢাকার কার্যালয়

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, ঢাকা

ইজারা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-৫৪.০১.০০০০.২০৭.২৯.০০১.২৫ তারিখ: ২৯.০৭.২০২৫ খ্রি।

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, নিম্নবর্ণিত গণপৌরসভার মূল্যবোধ সম্পাদনের তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ১ (এক) বছর সময়ের জন্য তল/মস/টোল আদায়ের নিমিত্তে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খাতি ইজারা দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র.সং.	বিবরণ	অবস্থান	দরপত্র দলিল মূল্য (অক্ষরসংখ্যায়)
১।	ঢাকা বিমানবন্দর স্টেশন (পশ্চিম) গণপৌরসভার (১ম প্রাকটিক্যাল সফা)	ঢাকা বিমানবন্দর স্টেশন	৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা
২।	টমি স্টেশন সফা গণপৌরসভার	টমি স্টেশন	৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা
৩।	ময়মনসিংহ স্টেশন সফা গণপৌরসভার	ময়মনসিংহ স্টেশন	৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা
৪।	জামালপুর স্টেশন গণপৌরসভার	জামালপুর স্টেশন	৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা
৫।	ইসলামপুর বাজার স্টেশন গণপৌরসভার	ইসলামপুর বাজার স্টেশন	৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা

(১) ইজারা দরপত্র দলিল ও শর্তাবলী ৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা [প্রতি স্টো] যে কোন সিভিল ব্যাংক হতে 'এ' চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড নং- ১৪২২০২৮ হতে জমা প্রদানপূর্বক চালানের মূল কপি সহ আবেদন সাপেক্ষে প্রধান প্রকৌশলী/পূর্ব/চট্টগ্রাম, বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী-১/ঢাকা ও সহকারী নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী/ময়মনসিংহ ও সহকারী নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী/জামালপুর এর দপ্তর হতে ১৭.০৮.২০২৫ খ্রি তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

(২) উক্ত দরপত্র দলিল সীলদ্বারা ১৮.০৮.২০২৫ খ্রি সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী-১/ঢাকার দপ্তরে স্বাক্ষরিত দরপত্র ব্যতীত সরাসরি প্রদত্ত হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়সীমার মধ্যে দরপত্র দলিল দাখিল করতে বাধ্য হবে। তা কোনক্রমেই গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না এবং ১৮.০৮.২০২৫ খ্রি বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার দর দাখিলের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাতিল করা হবে।

(৩) অংশগ্রহণকারী দরদাতা প্রতিদানকে অর্থ-উপাদেতা ও প্রধান হিসাব কর্মকর্তা/পূর্ব/চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুমতি যে কোন সিভিল ব্যাংক হতে মূল MICR/ভিডি/বিডি/সিডি বা পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে ১ (এক) লক্ষ টাকার অধিক উদ্ধৃত মুদ্রার ক্ষেত্রে ২০% (শতকরা বিশভাগ) এবং ১ (এক) লক্ষ টাকার নিম্নে উদ্ধৃত মুদ্রার ক্ষেত্রে সর্বনিম্ন ২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) টাকা জামানত বা বাতানো হিসাবে দরপত্র দাখিলের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। জামানত বা বাতানো হিসাবে দাখিলকৃত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দরপত্র মুদ্রিত হওয়ার পর অকৃতকার্য দরদাতাগণকে ফেরত দেয়া হবে। দরপত্রের সাথে জামানত/বাতানোর টাকা প্রদান করা না হলে উক্ত দরপত্র দলিল বাতিল হবে।

(৪) কৃতকার্য সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতার মূল্যবোধ সম্পাদনের পূর্বে দরপত্রে উদ্ধৃত মুদ্রার ১৫% মূল্য সংযোজন কর এবং উদ্ধৃত মুদ্রার ১০% উলস কর বাদে টাকা পৃথক-পৃথক 'এ' চালানের মাধ্যমে মধ্যপ্রাচ্য, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে এবং এক্সপ্রেস/এ/পূর্ব/চট্টগ্রাম বরাবর জমা প্রদানপূর্বক সকল চালানের মূল কপি বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী-১/ঢাকার দপ্তরে দাখিল সাপেক্ষে চুক্তির সম্পাদন করা হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে অর্থ জমা প্রদানে বাধ্য হবে জামানত/বাতানোর টাকা বাজেয়াপ্ত করার অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(৫) কৃতকার্য দরদাতার দরপত্রের সাথে জমাকৃত জামানত চুক্তিপত্রের মোদা শেষ হওয়ার পূর্বে কোনক্রমেই ফেরত দেয়া যাবে না এবং চুক্তিপত্রের মোদা স্বাক্ষরিত হওয়ার পর সফটওয়্যার প্রকৌশলী ও এএলএই/এয়ারস এর প্রত্যয়ন সাপেক্ষে ফেরত দেয়া হবে।

(৬) দরদাতা প্রতিদানের ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরের ট্রেড শাইসেল, আয়কর সনদ (২০২৪-২০২৫), ডাট নিবন্ধীকরণ সনদ এবং স্বাক্ষরিত কপি এবং ব্যাংক কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত ব্যাংক সলভেন্সিটি দরপত্র দাখিলের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র দলিল বাতিল করা পণ্য হবে। কোন সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী/মহানগরপালিত প্রতিদান হতে বিগত ৩ (তিন) বছরের মধ্যে ১ (এক) বছর পাবলিক টেন্ডার/গণপৌরসভার পরিচালনার অভিজ্ঞতার সদস্য দরপত্র দাখিলের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

(৭) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র বা সকল দরপত্র দলিল সম্পূর্ণ বা আংশিক বাতিল বা প্রত্যাহার করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

এছাড়া অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী ইজারা দরপত্র দলিলে সন্নিবেশিত থাকবে।

এস(২৫)(২৬)

GD-1690

(মোঃ সিরাজুল হক)
বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী-১
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, ঢাকা।
E-mail: den1da@railway.gov.bd

US to impose 25%

FROM PAGE B1
along with China, at a time when everyone wants Russia to stop the killing in Ukraine — all things not good!"

India's commerce ministry, which is leading the trade negotiations with the United States, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump's decision dashes hopes of a limited trade agreement between the two countries, which had been under negotiation for several months.

The US and Indian trade negotiators had held multiple rounds of discussions to resolve contentious issues, particularly over market access for American agricultural and dairy products.

Despite progress in some areas, Indian officials resisted opening the domestic market to imports of wheat, corn, rice and genetically modified soybeans, citing risks to the livelihood of millions of Indian farmers.

The new tariffs are

expected to impact India's goods exports to the US, estimated at around \$87 billion in 2024, including labour-intensive products such as garments, pharmaceuticals, gems and jeweler, and petrochemicals.

The United States currently has a \$45.7 billion trade deficit with India.

India now joins a growing list of countries facing higher tariffs under Trump's "Liberation Day" trade policy, aimed at reshaping US trade relations by demanding greater reciprocity.

The White House had previously warned India about its high average applied tariffs — nearly 39 percent on agricultural products, with rates climbing to 45 percent on vegetable oils and around 50 percent on apples and corn.

The setback comes despite earlier commitments by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Trump to conclude the first phase of a trade deal by autumn 2025 and expand bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, up from \$191 billion in 2024.

Marico's Q1 profit

FROM PAGE B4

The rise was driven by increased collections from customers and a reduction in payments to suppliers, Marico said in the financial statements.

Its net asset value per share was Tk 105.90 as of June 30, 2025, down from Tk 239.13 at the end of the previous financial year.

The company said the decline was due to the declaration of the final dividend for FY2024-25.

Its board has announced an interim cash dividend of

600 percent, or Tk 60 per share, based on the audited financials for the three-month period ending on June 30, 2025.

As per Dhaka Stock Exchange data as of June 30, 2025, on the shareholding structure of the company, sponsors and directors held 90 percent of the shares.

Of the remaining, institutional investors held 6.08 percent, foreign investors 1.88 percent, and the general public 2.04 percent.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project
Directorate of Technical Education
Plot -F-4/B, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.asset-dte.gov.bd

Memo No: 57.03.0000.000.07.132.23-2494 Date: 30 July, 2025

e-Tender Notice No: 09/2024-25 (Amendment 1)

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Package Description	Tender Document last selling Date and Time (Updated)	Tender Closing Date and Time (Updated)
1129977	G69	Supply of Training Materials for Short-course providing Institutes under Framework contract	10-Aug-2025 17:00	11-Aug-2025 15:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders 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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is mandatory.

The fees for the e-Tender Document Price have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches up to 5:00 PM of one day before the Closing Date.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

30.07.2025
Mir Zahid Hasan
Project Director (Additional Secretary)
ASSET Project
Telephone: 880-02-41024953
E-mail: pd@asset-dte.gov.bd

GD-1691

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Urban Development and City Governance Project (UDCGP)
RDEC Bhaban (8th Level)
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.0000.658.07.011.25.801 Date: 29.07.2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following scheme listed below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of scheme	Tender Notice No.	Tender ID	Last date of selling document online	Last submission
1	UDCGP/GD/07	Procurement of 3 (Three) Nos. Wheel Loader	02/2025-26	1134201	27-Aug-2025 16:00	28-Aug-2025 14:00

This is 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 an e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branch.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from the e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Abdur Rouf
Project Director
Urban Development and City Governance Project (UDCGP)
Phone: +88 02-44826411
Email: pd.udcgcp@lged.gov.bd

GD-1687

Berger Paints' Q1 profit falls 11%

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Berger Paints Bangladesh's profit declined in the April-June quarter this year, which the company attributed to a rise in the cost of sales.

The paint manufacturer's financial year starts in April. It reported a profit of Tk 85.68 crore in the first quarter of its financial year 2025-26, down 11 percent year-on-year.

According to its financial statements, consolidated earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk 18.48 for the April-June quarter of 2025, whereas it was Tk 20.74 for the same period in 2024.

The company attributed the decline in EPS mainly to the devaluation of the local currency, saying it drove up the cost of raw materials and consequently increased the cost of sales.

Its consolidated net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) dropped to Tk 35.32 in the negative in the April-June period of 2025, from Tk 17.81 in the negative in the same period of the preceding year.

Berger said the significant decrease in the NOCFPS was primarily due to a rise in import payments against letters of credit deferred under "Usance Payable at Sight" (UPAS).

A UPAS letter of credit is a financing arrangement where the exporter gets paid upfront, and the importer makes the payment at a later date as specified in the usance terms.

As per data from the Dhaka Stock Exchange as of June 30, 2025, sponsors and directors held 95 percent of the company's shares, while institutions held 4.03 percent, foreign investors 0.20 percent, and the general public 0.77 percent.

Reckitt Benckiser Q2 profit drops slightly to Tk 14cr

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The profits of Reckitt Benckiser (Bangladesh) PLC slightly declined in the April-June quarter of 2025.

The multinational fast-moving consumer goods company reported a profit of Tk 14 crore in the second quarter of 2025, down 1 percent year-on-year, according to its financial statements.

The company's earnings per share stood at Tk 29.71 for the three months this year, compared to Tk 30.12 during the same period in 2024.

The net operating cash flow per share was Tk 98.13 for the January-June period of 2025, a notable turnaround from Tk 18.90 in the negative recorded in the corresponding period last year.

As per the shareholding data of June 30, 2025, obtained from the Dhaka Stock Exchange, sponsors and directors held 82.96 percent of the company's shares.

Of the remaining shares, the government held 3.77 percent, institutions 5.82 percent, foreign investors 1.15 percent, and the general public 6.30 percent.

Marico's Q1 profit rises 13%

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Marico Bangladesh saw an increase in its profit in the April-June quarter, saying it was driven by a rise in revenue and cost efficiency.

The multinational company's financial year starts in April. It posted a profit of Tk 194.56 crore in the first quarter of its financial year 2025-26, marking a 13 percent year-on-year growth.

According to its financial statements, earnings per share stood at Tk 61.77 for the April-June quarter of 2025, up from Tk 54.78 in the same period a year ago.

The company attributed the increase in EPS to a rise in revenue and improvements in cost efficiency.

Its net operating cash flow per share surged to Tk 66.73 during the quarter, whereas it was Tk 3.18 in the April-June quarter of 2024.

READ MORE ON B2



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

As of yesterday morning, some 41,128 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of containers were occupying around 77 percent of the port's total storage capacity for 53,518 TEUs, according to the CPA traffic department.

Ctg port congestion turns acute

Port authority plans vessel cap but shipping agents oppose

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Chattogram port has been experiencing severe berth congestion and high container yard density for weeks, leaving vessels stranded at the outer anchorage for up to 11 days and yard occupancy crossing well above the optimal level.

Shipping agents blame a series of disruptions for the current crisis, including the 10-day Eid-ul-Azha holidays, a nationwide shutdown by revenue officials, weeks of customs

now considering a reduction in that number.

The proposal has met with opposition from shipping agents, who argue that cutting the current number of permitted vessels, 118, by at least 15 would hurt the country's foreign trade.

As of yesterday, 21 vessels were waiting at the outer anchorage, most of them idling between 4 and 11 days. Earlier this year, the average wait was just 1 to 2 days, with no more than 8 vessels waiting at a time.



server disruption, and repeated work abstention by prime mover operators.

They also pointed to operational issues such as frequent breakdowns of gantry cranes, a shortage of trailers, and limited yard space, all of which are reducing vessel productivity and delaying turnaround times.

However, the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) points the finger at a higher number of container vessels allowed to call at the port compared with earlier in the year. The CPA is

As of yesterday morning, some 41,128 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of containers were occupying around 77 percent of the port's total storage capacity of 53,518 TEUs, according to the CPA traffic department.

Of this, 33,966 TEUs were import boxes clogging the yards designated for imports, occupying over 77 percent of their capacity.

This level of yard congestion is extending vessels' stay at jetties and creating long queues at the anchorage.

Berth operators say yard occupancy should be kept below 60 percent for efficient container handling and smooth port operations.

On July 20, the CPA met with leaders of the Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association (BSAA) and decided to cut the number of permitted vessels by at least 15. It asked the association to submit a list of those vessels by July 27 to a six-member committee overseeing the matter.

After the association failed to comply, the CPA sent a letter to the BSAA chairman on Tuesday, requesting that the list be submitted within 24 hours.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior CPA official said 96 vessels were authorised earlier this year, when waiting times were minimal and queues were short.

"But later, more vessels were approved on an ad-hoc basis for various reasons, raising the number to 118," the official said, adding that the increase has worsened the backlog and prolonged anchorage delays.

In a recent letter to the CPA chairman, BSAA Chairman Syed Mohammed Arif called for a one-month observation period before the vessel restriction is imposed.

"An immediate restriction could adversely affect import-export trade, eventually impacting end-users," he mentioned in the letter.

He urged the port authority to arrange pre-stacking facilities at the Chittagong Container Terminal and the New Mooring Container Terminal for export containers, which he believes would improve loading productivity and help avoid delayed or cancelled sailings.

US tariff clock is ticking

AHMED HUMAYUN MURSHED

Sometimes, what you do not do ends up costing more than what you do. Right now, Bangladesh is feeling the weight of that truth.

In April, the Trump administration imposed sharp tariffs on exports from countries with large trade surpluses against the US. Bangladesh was on that list. But hidden behind that announcement was a chance to negotiate: to act smart, fast and boldly.

Vietnam saw that chance and took it. Within days, it cut tariffs on US goods, signalling a willingness to balance trade. The result? Its own tariff was lowered to 20 percent, the best rate secured so far. Bangladesh, in contrast, asked for 90 days, and waited.

Now, with only days left before the new rates take effect, we are at the table late and with weaker cards. Other countries like Indonesia, Cambodia and Tunisia have not received final rates either, but they have been active, meeting allies, opening back channels, using trade platforms. Bangladesh has not shown the same urgency. That must change.

The White House has made it clear: the new tariff regime starts on August 1, 2025. That deadline is locked in. Our time is nearly up.

There is still space for damage control, but only if we act with clarity and speed. We can still adjust trade by importing two to three billion dollars' worth of key US goods, agricultural machinery, aviation tech, medical devices, fertiliser, LNG, ICT equipment. These are not token purchases. They support our own economy.

This should not be a one-off fix. Our strategy must include a regular import commitment aligned with what we export to the US; goods we truly

need for industrial growth, energy efficiency and food security. A balanced flow would strengthen trust and resilience in trade.

Some recent steps deserve credit. The government has ordered 25 US-made aircraft — a strategic move to reduce the trade gap. At the same time, a delegation led by Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin is in Washington, meeting policymakers and private sector leaders.

Though late, this shift towards economic diplomacy is welcome.

Earlier, the government agreed to import 220,000 tonnes of high-protein US wheat, with a five-year deal for up to 700,000 tonnes. But these must be part of a broader, faster and more coordinated push.

This is not just about any industry. It is about ready-made garments and consumer goods — the backbone of our exports. The US is our biggest single-nation garments buyer and our top remittance partner. Losing competitiveness in that market could weaken reserves, choke imports and dent investor confidence.

We need more than government action. Exporters, economists and private sector leaders must guide the strategy. They know the margins, bottlenecks and real stakes.

And while we act at home, we must also act abroad. Bangladeshi-American professionals, US-based lobbyists and diplomats who know Washington, especially under Trump, need to be in the room. These talks will not be won with formal memos. They need speed, business acumen and storytelling.

Bangladesh has a rare edge as most export industries are locally owned. That matters. The US worries about Chinese transshipment. We can prove our goods are genuinely Bangladeshi. That authenticity is a card we must play.

Some talk of pivoting to BRICS or regional markets. But those are not easy options. BRICS markets are protected and bureaucratic. The Gulf has high income, but limited scale. The US remains the most open, high-volume destination.

We have lost time already. Losing what little remains would be unforgivable.

There are still days, perhaps hours, to act. If we move now, with courage and coordination, we may still bring that 35 percent tariff down. Trump plays hardball, but he respects boldness. Let us give him something to respect.

The writer is co-founder and CEO at Accfintax



US second quarter GDP growth to reflect tariff turbulence

AFP, Washington

US economic growth is expected to rebound in the second quarter, analysts said, in a momentary comeback reflecting trade shifts as companies tried to avoid the harshest of President Donald Trump's wide-ranging tariffs.

The world's biggest economy is anticipated to expand at an annual rate of 2.5 percent in the April to June period, according to a consensus forecast by Briefing.com.

This marks a reversal of a 0.5 percent decline, annualized, seen in the first three months of the year.

But cost pressures from tariffs, among other factors, could later bog down investment and consumption — a key driver of the US economy.

"It's very much distorted by the trade flows and inventory," said Nationwide chief economist Kathy Bostjancic, referring to second quarter growth.

At the start of the year, businesses rushed to stock up on products in an effort to avoid Trump's threatened tariff hikes — but this build-up is now

unwinding.

The imports surge ahead of tariff hikes in the first quarter led to the largest drag on GDP growth from net exports on record, analysts at Goldman Sachs said in a recent note.

This means a bounce back is expected once imports cool.

But the acceleration is not sustainable, Bostjancic told AFP.

Trump had raised the idea of across-the-board tariffs targeting trading partners during election campaigning last year, and since returning to the US presidency in January he has rolled out wave after wave of fresh duties.

These included a 10 percent levy on almost all US partners, higher duties on steel, aluminum and auto imports, as well as separate actions against Canada and Mexico over illegal immigration and illicit fentanyl flows.

In April, the Trump administration separately took aim at the world's number two economy, China, as Beijing pushed back on US tariffs.

Both countries ended up imposing tit-for-tat tariffs on each other's

products, reaching triple-digit levels and bringing many trade flows to a halt before Washington and Beijing reached a temporary agreement to

lower duties.

After two days of talks in the Swedish capital of Stockholm this week, negotiators from both



People shop in a supermarket in Manhattan, New York City. The US economy is anticipated to expand at an annual rate of 2.5 percent in the April to June period, according to a consensus forecast by Briefing.com.

PHOTO: REUTERS/FILE