

Policy support needed to boost toy export: DCCI

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Despite its potential to play a vital role in Bangladesh's export diversification, the toy industry is struggling with inadequate policy support, weak infrastructure, and compliance challenges, which stakeholders warn could stall its global ambitions if not urgently addressed.

"Export diversification is vital for Bangladesh, yet our exports remain overly dependent on a few products," said Taskeen Ahmed, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

The global toy export market is currently worth \$103 billion and is projected to reach \$150 billion by 2032. But Bangladesh's share is still only \$77 million, a figure far below its potential, he added.

Ahmed made the remarks at a discussion on the potential of the toy industry at the DCCI office in Dhaka yesterday.

Due to a lack of necessary policy support, high tariffs on raw material imports, the absence of bonded facilities, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient testing facilities, the potential of this sector remains largely untapped, he said.

To utilise the immense potential of this growing sector, he stressed



The global toy export market is currently worth \$103 billion and is projected to reach \$150 billion by 2032.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

the need for greater involvement of the education sector in innovation and enhanced coordination among government agencies.

In his keynote presentation, Shamim Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BPGMEA), stressed the importance of improving infrastructure and ensuring global quality and safety standards.

"Without rigorous testing and

compliance mechanisms, locally manufactured toys often struggle to meet the requirements of markets in Europe and North America, limiting access to high-value destinations," he said.

Ensuring quality control is not just about production; it involves proper certification and monitoring at every stage. Without it, buyers remain cautious, he said.

The industry is also falling behind

in innovation and design development due to a lack of investment in research and development, he said.

Unlike leading global players, Bangladeshi firms have limited capacity to design new products, develop advanced moulds, or introduce features that align with changing consumer preferences, according to Shamim.

He also called for policy support, including duty exemptions on spare parts and components, to help manufacturers upgrade production facilities.

According to export data, Bangladesh's toy exports have grown steadily, rising from \$15.23 million in FY17 to \$77 million in FY23, reaching nearly 88 countries.

Key products include tricycles, scooters, pedal cars, and dolls, with major markets in the US, Europe, Japan and China.

"If the current growth trajectory continues at an annual rate of around 24 percent, Bangladesh's toy exports could reach \$466 million by 2030," said Shamim Ahmed.

Shamim Ahmed sees significant investment opportunities in Bangladesh's toy sector. Greenfield projects, technology transfer, and automation could modernise production and help local manufacturers compete with global hubs, he said.

Ruhul Quddus Khan becomes CEO of Unilever Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Unilever Bangladesh Limited (UBL) has appointed Ruhul Quddus Khan as its chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director, with effect from November 1.

Khan began his journey with the company in 1996 as a trainee under the Unilever Future Leaders' Programme at the Kalurghat factory.

Over his 29 year career, he has held leadership roles in supply chain and research and development in both Bangladesh and India, according to a press release.

In recent years, as supply chain director and later as head of customer experience and logistics, he played a key role in transforming UBL's supply chain into a high-performing, future-fit function with a focus on customer centricity, data analytics, process automation, and digital transformation.

Khan holds a degree in mechanical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology and is regarded as one of the most respected leaders in supply chain and operations in Bangladesh, the release added.

"Ruhul comes into the role with a strong track record of leading transformations, navigating uncertainty, and driving impact for both business and the environment," said Shazia Syed, head of the Pakistan, Turkey, Arabia, and Bangladesh cluster at Unilever.

"His deep knowledge of operations, combined with his passion for people, makes him exceptionally well suited for this role."



Ruhul Quddus Khan

Gold crosses Tk 1.94 lakh per bhoori

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Gold prices have hit another historic high in the local market, reaching Tk 194,858 per bhoori (11.664 grammes).

The new rate, announced by the Bangladesh Jewellers Association (Bajus), will come into effect from today.

As per Bajus, gold price surged by Tk 3,662 per bhoori under the new rates. The association said the adjustment follows a rise in the price of pure gold in the local market.

Gold prices in Bangladesh have been climbing relentlessly, setting new records almost every week. In September alone, the price of 22-carat gold rose by over Tk 16,000 per bhoori.

Industry insiders attribute the surge

primarily to the international bullion market, devaluation of the taka, economic uncertainty and high inflation.

Although Bangladesh does not import gold in significant quantities, domestic prices remain closely tied to international trends.

The country's annual demand for gold is estimated at between 20 and 40 tonnes, with nearly 80 percent of that reportedly met through smuggling.

Meanwhile, gold prices climbed to a fresh record high on Tuesday in the international market, bolstered by increased expectations of further US rate cuts. Spot gold rose 1 percent to \$3,784.01 per ounce, as of 1011 GMT, after hitting a fresh record high of \$3,790.82 earlier in the session.

RMG, textile

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Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank (MTB), said there are multiple factors behind the high NPL ratio in the apparel sector.

He said the industry faced several issues after the Covid-19 pandemic that hit earnings and, in turn, loan repayments.

Citing an example, he said his bank financed a firm that struggled with energy shortages for a year.

"Later, it became nonperforming. Many factories struggle with this. Sometimes, they depend heavily on loans. Although large firms are doing well, relatively small firms sometimes struggle," added Rahman, a former president of the Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB).

The pressure is evident in stock market performance.

Of the 58 textile and garment companies listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), 25 are junk stocks and 17 fall into the B category for low performance.

This means more than 72 percent of listed companies in the sector are struggling to turn a profit.

M Masrur Reaz, chairman and CEO of local

think tank Policy Exchange of Bangladesh, said the apparel industry has endured a difficult period since the pandemic due to sluggish global demand.

He said the textile sector, which is highly dependent on energy, has also suffered from power shortages, forcing many factories to run at only 40 to 50 percent capacity.

"Close to 300 companies have become financially distressed in the last couple of years, and the BGMEA is now working on an exit policy for them," Reaz said.

He added that shipbuilding has been in a tight spot for a decade, hit by the global financial crisis, the Covid-19 and later the Russia-Ukraine war.

For the high NPL ratio in the leather sector, the economist blamed the country's export compliance challenges.

"These data on high NPL ratios across major sectors deserve urgent focus," Reaz said. "If the major export-earning sectors remain in poor health, both export performance and job creation will be affected."

He called on the government to analyse sectoral policies in both global and local contexts to find out why these large

and important industries are suffering.

"An exit policy should be launched for sick companies, while some can be restructured," he said.

Apparel

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According to Ananta Ahmed, managing director of 360 Solution Ltd, green garment factories in Bangladesh can save around 40 percent of water through rainwater harvesting.

"In some cases, advanced technology can enable reductions of up to 90 percent in groundwater consumption for washing and dyeing," noted Ahmed,

also a faculty member of the US Green Building Council, the body that certifies green factories under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) programme.

Bangladesh is now recognised as a global leader in sustainable garment production, boasting 263 LEED-certified factories. Of these, 111 are rated Platinum and 133 Gold, with 68 ranked among the world's top 100 highest-rated LEED factories.

Exports to India via Ctg port soar

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million, up from \$141.4 million a year earlier, according to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Chattogram Customs House.

In the same period, volumes more than doubled to 116,000 tonnes from 60,525 tonnes.

In the first eight months of this year, Bangladesh exported 760,000 tonnes of goods worth \$1.2236 billion to India. In the same period last year, exports reached 854,000 tonnes valued at \$1.1844 billion.

This represents a rise in earnings of \$39.2 million or 3.31 percent, but a fall in volume of 93,000 tonnes or 10.9 percent.

Of this, shipments through Chattogram, Mongla and the country's largest land port, Benapole, totalled \$824 million compared with \$770 million in the same period last year.

In the January-August period this year, exports through all gateways except Chattogram port amounted to 644,000 tonnes worth \$885.4 million, down from 792,000 tonnes worth \$1.04 billion a year earlier.

In other words, exports outside Chattogram fell by \$157.6 million in value and 148,000 tonnes in volume.

Benapole, once the busiest land port for bilateral trade, suffered the steepest losses.

In the first eight months of this year, shipments through Benapole dropped to 201,000 tonnes worth \$486 million, from 281,000 tonnes worth \$623.8 million last year, a 22 percent decline in value and a 29 percent fall in volume.

Mongla port also saw exports collapse. Goods worth \$5.3 million moved to India through Mongla in the first eight months of 2024. But during the same period this year, exports declined to just \$91,000.

CTG PORT CARRYING A HEAVY LOAD

The new trade flow with India has piled pressure on Chattogram port, which already handles about 84 percent of Bangladesh's total international trade.

The port's storage capacity is 53,500 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), and operations remain smooth if container numbers stay below 40,000.

But since March, volumes have consistently exceeded 43,000 TEUs. On August 16, storage reached a record 49,131 TEUs, causing fears of congestion spiralling out of control.

"Increasing reliance on a

single port is not healthy for Bangladesh," said Khairul Alam Suzon, vice-president of the Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association.

"If the government does not accelerate modernisation of secondary ports, Chattogram will become increasingly overstretched, undermining both efficiency and competitiveness," he added.

Suzon said the capacities of Pangaon and Mongla remain far below Chattogram's. Long-term planning is required to develop infrastructure, procure modern equipment and improve facilities at other gateways, especially Kamalapur ICD, Pangaon and Mongla.

Dhaka-based importer Wahiuazzam Chowdhury said many traders had shown interest in using Kamalapur ICD to reduce the pressure on Chattogram. But where it once took four to five days to move goods by train from the port to Kamalapur, it now takes 25 to 30 days due to a shortage of locomotives.

"How can Kamalapur ICD then be considered a viable alternative to Chattogram?" he asked.

Pacific Jeans Managing Director Ahmed said congestion at Chattogram has now become almost structural.

Azhar Uddin Mahmud, a logistics consultant, said the situation could damage Bangladesh's reputation with buyers. "If the largest port continues to operate beyond safe capacity for months, exporters may miss delivery deadlines. That could cost the country hard-earned market trust," he said.

Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman, chairman of the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA), also believes that exclusive reliance on Chattogram poses serious risks.

At a seminar on Saturday, he said, "If any unforeseen disruption occurs here [port], the national economy could collapse, as we have failed to develop an alternative seaport."

At the same event, Shipping Adviser Brigadier General (Retired) M Sakhawat Hussain said the government is working to ease the strain.

"The Bay Terminal being built beside Patenga sea beach will reduce congestion once operational," he said. "We are also taking initiatives to enhance the capacities of Mongla, Pangaon and Payra ports."

Remittance share in GDP

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"Moreover, fluctuations in global oil prices, economic performance in Middle Eastern and Western economies, and exchange rate policies further influenced the volume and growth pattern of remittances during this period," it added.

During the quarter, the highest volume of remittances originated from Saudi Arabia, totaling \$1.49 billion and accounting for 17.48 percent of total inflows. Remittances from Saudi Arabia were followed by \$1.04 billion from the United Arab Emirates, and \$1.003 billion from the United Kingdom.

However, citing data from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment

and Training (BMET) in the April-May period, the BB report said the sharp decline in migration signalled structural vulnerabilities.

"Over-reliance on a few labour markets, like Saudi Arabia, raises policy risks that must be addressed through diversification."

Looking forward, the BB said the April-June quarter of FY25 highlighted the resilience of Bangladesh's remittance sector despite global uncertainties.

"While the upward trajectory of inflows offers immediate relief to external sector stability, strategic policy measures are needed to diversify migration destinations, reduce costs, and sustain growth in remittances without overreliance on fiscal incentives."

It said strengthening skill

development programmes, expanding into non-traditional labour markets, and fostering digital remittance ecosystems will be crucial for ensuring sustainable gains in the years ahead.

BB eases

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The revised limits will allow importers to settle payments more quickly and at lower costs, reducing both time and additional expenses.

The policy update is seen as a part of broader efforts to boost trade efficiency and simplify global transactions in the face of ongoing global economic challenges.

Experts described the move as a timely step in line with the growing demand for flexible trade policies.

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Date: 21/09/2025

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ক্রম.	দরপত্র নম্বর	সুপ্রতিষ্ঠান/স্টেশনারি ব্যবসার নাম ও স্পেসিফিকেশন	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	দরপত্র দলিল সংগ্রহের শেষ তারিখ এবং সময়	দরপত্র বাতিলের শেষ তারিখ এবং সময়
1	এসিটি/জিএম/০১/২৫	ডেভি কার্ডের Blank PIN Mailer: 3 Ply wood free paper with carbonized (self carbon) by CNF ink area. Sprocket Margin with continuous sets & perforation as per the design. CB white paper will be 55 gsm +80gsm +80gsm. Design will be as per bank artwork. Logo color will be as per bank design.	২২.০৯.২০২৫	০৯.১০.২০২৫, বিকেল ৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	০৭.১০.২০২৫, দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সনাক্তকরণের জন্য যত্ন সহকারে পড়ুন। প্রতিটি প্রকল্পের ডিটাইলস (৪৮) মডিফিক বা/এ, ঢাকা হতে দরপত্র শিপিং/ফ্রাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণের অনুরোধ করা যাবে।

(মোঃ হাদী আলমাক সিদ্দিকী)
উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক

GD-2072

GD-2070

মধ্যপাড়া গ্রানাইট মাইনিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)
মধ্যপাড়া, পার্বতীপুর, দিনাজপুর।

মধ্যপাড়া খনি হতে উৎপাদিত ৪০-৬০ মি.মি. আকারের গ্রানাইট পাথর প্রতিযোগিতামূলক কমিশনের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয়ের জন্য কমিশন প্রস্তাব আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১।	প্রস্তাব/দরপত্র নং	: ২৮-১৭.০০০০.০০০.৬৩১.৪৮.০০০৪.২৫
০২।	প্রস্তাব/দরপত্রের বিবরণ	: মধ্যপাড়া গ্রানাইট মাইনিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড খনি এলাকা হতে ৪০-৬০ মি.মি. আকারের পাথর বিক্রয়।
০৩।	৪০-৬০ মি.মি. আকার গ্রানাইট পাথর বিক্রয়ের পরিমাণ	: সর্বনিম্ন ৫০,০০০ মেট্রিক টন হতে সর্বোচ্চ ২,০০,০০০ মেট্রিক টন।
০৪।	৪০-৬০ মি.মি. আকার পাথর মজুদের স্থান	: মধ্যপাড়া খনি এলাকা, পার্বতীপুর, দিনাজপুর।
০৫।	প্রস্তাব/দরদাতার উপযুক্ততা/যোগ্যতা	: পাথর ব্যবসায়ী/পাথর ব্যবহারকারী/সাধারণ ক্ষেত্র।
০৬।	প্রস্তাব/দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	: ক) কোম্পানির প্রধান কার্যালয়: গ্রাম- মধ্যপাড়া, থানা- পার্বতীপুর, জেলা- দিনাজপুর। (ফুলবাড়ী রেল স্টেশন হতে ১৩ কি.মি. উত্তর-পূর্বে) খ) কোম্পানির ঢাকা অফিস: পেট্রোবাংলা, পেট্রোস্টোর (লেভেল ১৩) ৩, কাওরান বাজার, বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা- ১২২৫। গ) পেট্রোবাংলা: হিসাব বিভাগ, পেট্রোবাংলা, পেট্রোস্টোর ৩, কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা- ১২২৫।
০৭।	জামানত/অনেন্ট মানি	: প্রস্তাবকারী/দরদাতাকে প্রস্তাব/দরপত্রের সাথে জামানত হিসেবে ২,৫০,০০০.০০ (দুই লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে (ফেরৎযোগ্য)।
০৮।	প্রস্তাব/দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	: ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরৎযোগ্য)
০৯।	প্রস্তাব/দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়	: ২৪-০৯-২০২৫ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)
১০।	প্রস্তাব/দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	: ১৫-১০-২০২৫ বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকা
১১।	প্রস্তাব/দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৬-১০-২০২৫ বিকাল ২:০০ ঘটিকা
১২।	প্রস্তাব/দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৬-১০-২০২৫ বিকাল ২:২০ ঘটিকা
১৩।	প্রস্তাব/দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার স্থান	: কোম্পানির প্রধান কার্যালয়: গ্রাম- মধ্যপাড়া, থানা- পার্বতীপুর, জেলা- দিনাজপুর।
১৪।	বিশেষ নির্দেশনাবলী	: কোন রকম আর্থিক দায়-দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ ব্যতীকে অত্র কোম্পানি যে কোন প্রস্তাব/দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। প্রস্তাব/দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার দিন অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরের অফিস দিনে তা গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।

(প্রকৌ. মোঃ আব্দুরাউফ আল মামুন)
উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (মার্কেটিং এন্ড সেলস)
মোবাইলঃ ০১৭০০-৩৩২১১৩