

Bangladesh imports 1.17 lakh tonnes of US wheat so far

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh yesterday received the second consignment of wheat it purchased from the United States under a government-to-government (G2G) contract, according to a press release from the food ministry.

A ship carrying around 61,000 tonnes of wheat from the US has arrived at the outer anchorage of Chattogram Port, just over a week after another vessel with about 57,000 tonnes of US grain reached the country's largest seaport.

Testing of wheat samples has already begun, with arrangements in place for prompt unloading once clearance is granted, the food ministry said.

With the latest shipment, the total arrival of US wheat purchased by the government now stands at more than 1.17 lakh tonnes.

Earlier, the food ministry signed two contracts with a US agency to buy



This ship arrived at the Chattogram port yesterday carrying the second consignment of wheat purchased by Bangladesh from the United States under a government-to-government (G2G) contract.

PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOOD

Big manufacturing economies struggle as US tariffs hit order books

REUTERS, London

The world's big manufacturing economies struggled to fire up in October, business surveys showed on Monday, as weak US demand and President Donald Trump's tariffs hit factory orders.

Euro zone factory activity stagnated as new orders flatlined and headcount fell, its purchasing managers' index (PMI) showed, and its exporting powerhouse Germany showed little sign of recovery with production growth slowing again.

German engineering orders plummeted in September, the VDMA engineering association said earlier on Monday.

France's manufacturing sector remained weak, while Italy's contracted marginally. Spain stood out among the bloc's big four economies as its factories expanded at a faster pace than in September.

"The final release of the euro zone manufacturing PMIs confirmed the sector remains stagnant," said Paolo Grignani at Oxford Economics.

"Details indicate growth is mainly due to solid domestic demand, while new foreign orders continue to send warning signals, with reports of weak demand from France and the US."

In Britain, outside the European Union, factories had their strongest month in a year, but the recovery was driven by a one-off bounce from the restart of production at carmaker Jaguar Land Rover after it was hit by a cyberattack.

While Trump's visit to Asia last week led to some progress in trade negotiations with the region's large manufacturing economies such as China and South Korea, exporters remain cautious about US demand.

Manufacturing activity in China grew at a slower pace last month while it fell in South Korea, with export orders in both countries declining, private-sector PMIs for October showed on Monday.

Friday's official PMI survey

showed China's factory activity fell for the seventh straight month, confirming suspicions that the earlier export rush to get ahead of US tariffs had well and truly ended.

The PMIs suggest that China's economy lost some momentum in October, with slower growth across manufacturing and construction," said Zichun Huang, China economist at Capital Economics. "Some of this weakness may reverse in the near term, but any boost to exports from the latest US-China trade 'deal' is likely to be modest and wider headwinds to growth will persist."

In a meeting in South Korea last week, Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to de-escalate tensions, including through a one-year delay in reciprocal tariffs, but the agreement does little to address a deeper divide between the world's two economic superpowers.

Policymakers in Beijing are looking to see whether China's \$19 trillion economy is on track to hit its official 2025 growth target of around 5 percent without needing to reach for further stimulus.

Trade data for September showed China's exports rising faster than expected, although this was mostly due to growth in new markets as US-bound shipments tumbled 27 percent year on year.

Similarly, Seoul's trade deal with Trump announced last week secured lower US tariffs on Korean goods, but was seen at best as a compromise that prevents Asia's fourth-largest economy from falling behind in global trade.

In stark contrast to its northeast Asian peers, India's factory activity sped up, driven by brisk domestic demand that helped offset the hit to exports.

Elsewhere in Asia, continued manufacturing declines were seen in Malaysia and Taiwan, while Vietnam and Indonesia saw growth in their manufacturing sectors pick up.

Exports fall

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He believes the slowdown is linked to lower production volume because of reduced export orders, a trend he noted is also visible in the garment industry. "Garment orders are also down -- this might be a contributing factor."

However, local exporters are hopeful that the garment shipment may rebound strongly from early next year as the US is set to finalise the tariff rate on India and China over the next two to three months.

"The demand for garment items has softened globally because international retailers and brands are in a wait-and-see mode over possible US tariffs on China and India," said Samad.

"There is total uncertainty over tariff rates. Work orders are stuck. Buyers are making inquiries on work orders but not confirming them yet because they do not know what tariff the US will finally set," he told The Daily Star over phone.

Now, the big garment units are catering work orders that were placed earlier, but small and medium units are facing shortage of work orders, he added.

"The garment export may fall in the next two to three months as the work orders from the buyers are still slow," said Mohammad Hatem, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

The gas supply situation in the industrial units needs to be improved in the meantime, he added.

Regulatory

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provisioning, undertaking legal and regulatory reforms, developing a functional bond market, establishing coordinated oversight, and pursuing data-driven resolution of weak banks.

Meanwhile, AF Nesaruddin, senior partner at Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co, held the central bank partly responsible for the sector's current challenges.

"The Bangladesh Bank allowed banks to keep lower provisions than required through tripartite meetings," he said.

M Masrur Reaz, chairman and CEO of PEB, moderated the session.

Saiful Islam, president of the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh, Abdul Wadud, independent director of Al-Arafah Islami Bank, and Syed Afzal Hasan Uddin, managing partner of Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed & Associates, also spoke at the event.

a total of 4.40 lakh tonnes of wheat to help protect Bangladesh's exports to the US and reduce the trade deficit, which currently favours Bangladesh.

Under the first contract, the ministry agreed to import 2.20 lakh tonnes of wheat at \$302.75 per tonne, including cost, insurance, freight, and port-related charges, referred to as the CIF Liner Out price.

It later signed another deal to import an additional 2.20 lakh tonnes at \$308 per tonne, also on a CIF Liner Out basis, the ministry said earlier.

Of the total 15.22 lakh tonnes of wheat imported during the July-October period of the current fiscal year, the government imported nearly 57,000 tonnes, while the private sector brought in the rest.

In the fiscal year 2024-25, the food ministry imported 4.66 lakh tonnes of the grain for various social protection programmes.

Enamul Haque Khan becomes president of Bajus

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Enamul Haque Khan, owner of Diamond & Divas, has been elected as the president of the Bangladesh Jewellers' Association (Bajus) for a two-year term, covering 2025-2027.

Ranjit Ghosh, owner of Sananda Jewellers Ltd, has been elected senior vice-president.

Nasreen Fatema Awal, chairman of the election board, announced the results at Bajus's central office in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.



Enamul Haque Khan

Bajus finalised its new executive committee through mutual understanding, without requiring votes from general members, continuing its previous practice. In this process, the president, senior vice-president, three vice-presidents, treasurer, and 29 directors were elected unopposed.

Enamul Haque Khan said Bajus has grown into a family of nearly 40,000 members. "We will work to resolve the problems in the jewellery business. We will prioritise the issues and work together," he said.

BB receives 13 applications for digital bank

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communities can participate fully in the digital economy.

Kaan Terzioglu, group chief executive officer of VEON, told The Daily Star, "VEON is a consumer and enterprise services company, with telecom licence. Our target is to be number 1 or number 2 in financial services, entertainment, healthcare, education and IT services including AI and cloud for enterprises in all countries we operate. Bangladesh is no different."

Md Firoz Kabir, chief digital and innovation officer of Akij Resource, said the company is ready to enter digital banking with an initiative

designed to support the Bangladesh Bank's Digital Bank Framework and the national Smart Bangladesh 2030 Vision.

"Users will experience seamless financial services, all without transaction charges," he added.

The central bank approved guidelines for digital banks in 2023. Under the framework, branchless, end-to-end virtual banks are expected to extend financial services to the country's most remote areas.

Sponsors of digital banks must provide a minimum paid-up capital and launch an initial public offering (IPO) within five years of licence issuance. The IPO amount cannot be

less than the sponsors' initial paid-up capital.

Under the guidelines, approval was granted to Nagad Digital Bank and Kori Digital Bank. This, however, was suspended after the fall of the Awami League government in August 2024.

In August this year, the Bangladesh Bank reopened applications from investors interested in establishing digital banks. The original deadline of September 30 was later extended to November 2 following requests from applicants.

The central bank has also raised the minimum paid-up capital requirement for digital banks from Tk 125 crore to Tk 300 crore.

ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT

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Invitation for International Tender

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science & Technology			
2. Agency	Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission			
3. Procuring Entity Name	Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE)			
4. Invitation for	Tender	V	Goods	V
5. Invitation Ref No & date	Lot-01: 39.01.2672.240.07.223.25 dated: 02/11/2025.			
	Lot-02: 39.01.2672.240.07.224.25 dated: 02/11/2025.			
KEY INFORMATION				
6. Procurement Method	ICT	V	Open	V
7. Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget (GOB)			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
8. Tender Package Name	Lot-01: Supply of Fission Mo-99 (Radioisotope) Solution for RPID, INST, AERE, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh, including the return of Empty 'B'(U) Type Returnable Containers. Lot-02: Supply of Bulk Iodine-131 (Radioisotope) Solution for RPID, INST, AERE, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.			
9. Tender Last Selling Date	17/12/2025	V		
10. Tender Closing Date & Time	18/12/2025	V	02.30 PM	V
11. Tender Opening Date & Time	18/12/2025	V	03.00 PM	V
12. - Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Accounts Officer (Cash), Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE), Savar, Dhaka.			
13. - Receiving Tender Document	Tender should be dropped in the box kept at: Procurement Branch, Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE), Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka-1349, Bangladesh.			
14. - Opening Tender Document	Committee Room of the Central Administration Division, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka. If there is any transport disruption or Govt. holidays on the above mentioned dates of the tender, the next normal working day will be considered as valid date of dropping and opening the tender.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
15. Eligibility of Tenderer	While Purchasing tender documents tenderers have to show original documents and attested photocopy with schedule (i) Up-to-date valid Trade License (ii) Up-to date income tax clearance certificate (iii) CCI & E-Registration certificate (iv) VAT Registration certificate (v) Bangladesh Bank permission (vi) Bank solvency Certificate (vii) At least 3 (Three) years' experience of Supplying of relevant goods to different procurement entities should be enclosed with the tender document.			
16. Price of Tender Document (Tk.) (Each Lot)	Tk. 2,000.00 (Two thousand) only (non-refundable)			
17. Identification of Lots.	Lot-01: Supply of Fission Mo-99 (Radioisotope) Solution for RPID, INST, AERE, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh, including the return of Empty 'B'(U) Type Returnable Containers. Lot-02: Supply of Bulk Iodine-131 (Radioisotope) Solution for RPID, INST, AERE, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.			
18. Tender security money	Lot-01: Tk.26,00,000/- (Twenty Six Lac) only and Lot-02: Tk. 6,90,000.00 (Six Lac Ninety Thousand Taka only) of Pay order/Bank draft/ Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.			
19. Completion of work	01 (one) year.			
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
20. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Jahangir Alam			
21. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Administrative Officer (Procurement), AERE, Savar, Dhaka.			
22. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone: 88-02-223375208 E-mail: jahangirbaeccad@gmail.com			
23. The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. The tender process will be governed by public procurement Rules 2025.				

(Md. Jahangir Alam)
Administrative Officer (Procurement)
Phone: 88-02-996689616

N.B: This Information is also available at our Website: www.edcl.gov.bd

Deputy General Manager
Procurement (CC)
For : Managing Director

GD-2316

EDCL invites Two Envelope System International Tender for different size of Filters for Dhaka Plant on C & F © Chittagong by Sea And