





# HSBC hosts roundtable on cotton ecosystem to strengthen apparel value chain

STAR BUSINESS DESK

HSBC Bangladesh recently hosted a roundtable discussion titled “Cotton Ecosystem: Strengthening Bangladesh’s Apparel Value Chain” at a hotel in Dhaka, bringing together global and local stakeholders to explore ways of enhancing resilience and sustainability in the country’s apparel sector.

The event was moderated by Md Mahub ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh. It gathered representatives from leading cotton suppliers and US cooperatives, global apparel buyers, textile manufacturers, senior officials from the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), logistics partners and trade bodies including the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA). Senior representatives from Cotton Council International (CCI) and six US cotton exporters, Louis Dreyfus Company, Olam Cotton, Cargill Cotton, ECOM USA, Stapcoton and Cotton Growers

Cooperative, also joined the discussion.

Participants exchanged views on navigating cotton trade dynamics and strengthening supply chain resilience. Wayne Bosomean of Cotton Growers Cooperative and Krista Rickman of Cargill Cotton presented insights on the global and US cotton landscape and evolving sourcing trends, according to a press release.

Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of BGMEA, attended as guest of honour. He said strengthening the cotton sourcing ecosystem is vital for the continued growth of Bangladesh’s apparel industry. “BGMEA is working closely with regulators to address challenges and leverage opportunities, including optimising the benefits of the US cotton content provision. My sincere thanks to HSBC for hosting this meaningful and timely dialogue,” he added.

Krista Rickman, senior director of sustainability and brand engagement at Cargill Cotton, said she was encouraged by the engagement from mills, garment manufacturers, financial institutions and government leaders. “Our exchange on global



Speakers pose for a photo after the roundtable discussion on cotton ecosystem to strengthen Bangladesh's apparel value chain.

PHOTO: HSBC

cotton supply and demand highlighted both the challenges of today’s market and the shared opportunities to advance quality, transparency and sustainability across the cotton value chain,” she noted.

Md Mahub ur Rahman of HSBC said cotton lies at the heart of Bangladesh’s \$40 billion apparel industry. “As global

trade dynamics shift, partnership and coordination across the value chain have never been more important.

We are proud to bring together industry leaders, policymakers and global experts to connect and exchange ideas on the challenges and growth opportunities ahead,” he said.



PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Top officials of Prime Bank receive the “Fintech Innovation of the Year-Bank” award from Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur during the closing ceremony of the “5th Bangladesh Fintech Summit” at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka recently.

## Prime Bank wins fintech award for sign language call service

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has received the “Fintech Innovation of the Year-Bank” award for introducing the country’s first sign language call service in the banking sector.

Such services, available in other countries, allow people with hearing or speech impairments to communicate via video calls with certified sign language interpreters using a computer, tablet or smartphone with an internet connection.

Prime Bank said in a media statement that the initiative seeks to make banking more inclusive and accessible

for customers with hearing and speech disabilities.

The award was presented at the “3rd Bangladesh Fintech Award 2025”, held during the closing ceremony of the “5th Bangladesh Fintech Summit” at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon in Dhaka recently.

This year, 26 innovative projects across 12 categories were recognised at the event.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur handed over the award to Prime Bank. Hassan O Rashid, the bank’s CEO, Md Jashim Uddin, CFO, and Shaila Abedin, head of Liability, attended the ceremony.

# UCB to provide 24/7 automated cash management for bKash agents

STAR BUSINESS DESK

United Commercial Bank PLC (UCB) has signed a partnership agreement with bKash, the country’s largest mobile financial service provider, to introduce 24/7 automated cash management services for bKash agents, distributors and partners across Bangladesh.

Through the collaboration, bKash’s network of agents and distributors maintaining accounts with UCB will gain access to real-time, round-the-clock cash management facilities, according to a press release.

Using their UCB accounts, agents, distributors and merchants will be able to add money, transfer funds and generate e-money anytime, enabling faster transactions and advancing the shift toward a cashless economy free from the limitations of traditional banking hours.

The memorandum of understanding was exchanged between Adnan Masud, additional managing director of UCB, and Moinuddin Mohammed Rahgir, chief financial officer of bKash, at a signing ceremony held recently at UCB’s corporate head office.



Adnan Masud, additional managing director of UCB, and Moinuddin Mohammed Rahgir, chief financial officer of bKash, pose with officials of both organisations at a signing ceremony at UCB's corporate head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: UCB

## Commercial Bank of Ceylon partners with DHL Express to advance sustainable shipping

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC Bangladesh Operations has partnered with DHL Express Bangladesh to join the GoGreen Plus carbon-reduced shipping programme, marking a milestone in the bank’s commitment to sustainability and environmentally responsible operations.

The agreement was signed by Najith Meewanage, chief executive officer of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC Bangladesh Operations, and Md Miarul Haque, managing director of DHL Express Bangladesh, according to a press release.

Under the partnership, the bank will offset its Scope 3 emissions, those generated indirectly through logistics and transportation, by integrating carbon-reduced shipping solutions into its document delivery process. The initiative reinforces its dedication to embedding sustainability across operations and contributing to a more climate-conscious banking ecosystem.



PHOTO: COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

Najith Meewanage, chief executive officer of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC Bangladesh Operations, and Md Miarul Haque, managing director of DHL Express Bangladesh, pose for photographs at the signing ceremony in Dhaka recently.

# Syngenta Bangladesh recognised as Innovation Leader of the Year 2025 by FICCI



Syngenta Bangladesh Managing Director Hedayet Ullah and Director (Corporate Affairs and Sustainability) Mohammed Shahidul Islam receive the Innovation Leader of the Year 2025 award from FICCI for the GoGrow initiative.

PHOTO: SYNGENTA BANGLADESH

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Syngenta Bangladesh has been recognised as the Innovation Leader of the Year 2025 by the Foreign Investors’ Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) under its Sustainability and Innovation Awards, which celebrate excellence in environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices among member organisations.

The award honours Syngenta Bangladesh’s flagship sustainability initiative, GoGrow: Enriching the Livelihood of Coastal Belt Farmers, for its contribution to promoting climate-resilient agriculture and strengthening the livelihoods of farming communities in the country’s southern coastal belt, according to a press release.

Implemented in Shyamnagar, Satkhira, the GoGrow initiative addresses challenges faced by smallholder farmers in areas affected by rising salinity and erratic weather. By introducing saline-tolerant crop varieties, rainwater harvesting and regenerative agricultural practices, the project has helped farmers achieve better yields, improve household incomes and rebuild sustainable livelihoods.

## Vietnam’s garment industry

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“Only then can we ensure a stable flow of capital to support growth.”

Trade policy is also a pressing concern. The US imposed a 20 percent reciprocal tax on Vietnamese textile and garment products (down from an initially proposed 40 percent), significantly impacting export dynamics.

While the first nine months of 2025 saw steady demand as customers rushed to place orders ahead of the tax implementation, new orders from the US have since dropped sharply.

With buyers now demanding that Vietnamese producers absorb part of the tariff cost, profit margins are shrinking.

Furthermore, US authorities have

signalled potential tax hikes on products lacking clear origin documentation, in a bid to prevent transit-based origin evasion – a warning to Vietnamese firms re-exporting goods from China.

Additionally, Vietnam currently imports 100 percent of its cotton and up to 95 percent of its synthetic fibres. Chemicals and dyes are also almost entirely imported. This lack of domestic input production remains a major weakness, especially under tightening origin rules and shifting trade policies.

To mitigate risks, industry leaders are calling for increased localisation of raw materials, ensuring traceability and reducing exposure to foreign supply shocks.

## Muhit Rahman joins ONE Bank as managing director

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Seasoned banker Muhit Rahman yesterday joined ONE Bank PLC as its managing director.

Rahman brings with him more than 30 years of experience in corporate, institutional and investment banking, having served in senior leadership positions at Standard Chartered Bank and earlier at American Express Bank, according to a press release.

His career spans corporate and investment banking, financial institutions, financial markets, structured finance, capital markets and strategic balance sheet management.

Prior to joining ONE Bank, Rahman was managing director and head of financial institutions at Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, where he managed key relationships with banks, non-bank financial institutions, the central bank, multilateral agencies, development organisations and public sector entities. He also led the bank’s financial markets business, closed several landmark deals and pioneered new products and solutions in the industry.

Rahman began his career at American Express Bank in 1995 and joined Standard Chartered in 2005. He holds an MBA from the Institute of Business Administration at the University of Dhaka and has undertaken several executive and leadership programmes at global institutions including Cambridge, Oxford, LSE, UC Berkeley, Columbia and INSEAD.



## Dollar ends week lower

REUTERS, New York

The US dollar fell against major currencies including the euro and Swiss franc on Friday as investors sought to balance the Federal Reserve’s hawkish tilt against lingering concerns over the US economy.

US Treasury yields were slightly lower amid the extended government shutdown in Washington. The Labor Department did not release an October jobs report as scheduled on Friday because of the shutdown. Such reports are normally closely watched.

The yield on benchmark US 10-year notes fell 0.2 basis point to 4.091 percent.

Investors were assessing the fallout from data that sounded an alarm bell for the global economic outlook: Chinese exports unexpectedly fell in October, recording their steepest drop since February, after months of frontloading US orders to dodge tariffs.

গাজী ওয়ায়রস লিমিটেড GAZI WIRES LIMITED (AN ENTERPRISE OF BSEC UNDER MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES) 28-BFDC Road, Kalurghat, Chaudgaon, Chattogram-4212 www.gaziwires.gov.bd, email: gaziwiresltd@gmail.com		
: Re-Tender Notice (ICT):		
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Industries
2	Agency	Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation (BSEC),
3	Procuring Entity Name	Managing Director, Gazi Wires Limited (GWL), 28 BFDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh. E-mail: gaziwiresltd@gmail.com
4	Invitation for	1. Procurement 200 M.T Electrolytic Copper Wire, Size: 8.00mm.
5	Invitation Ref. No.	2. Procurement 32 M.T Wire Enamel Insulating Varnish (PVF-22%)
6	Procurement Method	1. GW/PUR/030/OTM (ICT)/2025-2026 (R), Date: 03.11.2025.
7	Budget and Source of Funds	2. GW/PUR/028/OTM (ICT)/2025-2026 (R), Date: 03.11.2025.
8	Tender Publication Date (Both of Items)	Open Tender Method (ICT) (One Stage Two Envelop System) Gazi Wires Limited's Own Fund.
9	Name & Address of the office(s)	Tender Last Selling Date
10	Selling Tender Document	07.12.2025
11	Receiving and Opening of Tender Document	08.12.2025
12	Price of Tender Document (Each)	11.30 AM
13	Eligibility of Tenderer	08.12.2025
14	Brief Description of tender:	11.45AM
15	Tender Package No.	Address
16	Description of tender	1) Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation, BSEC Bhaba, 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
17	Tender Security Amount (USD/Taka)	2) Cash Section, Gazi Wires Limited, 28 BFDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.
18	1. GW/PUR/030/OTM (ICT)/2025-2026 (R), Date: 03.11.2025.	At the office time of Gazi Wires Ltd., 28-BFDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.
19	2. GW/PUR/028/OTM (ICT)/2025-2026 (R), Date: 03.11.2025.	1) BDT. 5,000.00 & 2) 3,000.00
20	Delivery Period/ Shipment Schedule	Mentioned in the Tender Documents.
21	Special instructions	The tender documents may be purchased by the interested tenderers on the submission of a written application to address as mentioned serial 9 (a) & (b) and upon payment non-refundable fee BDT. 5,000.00 & BDT 3,000.00. The method of payment will be in the form of cash in favour of Gazi Wires Limited. No one tender sent by courier or mail. One tender document cannot be used for submission of tender proposal (a) by more than one tender.
22		The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.

GD-2373

Head of Commercial  
For Managing Director  
Hotline: 01713-114336



# Economy might have expanded faster in October: PMI

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

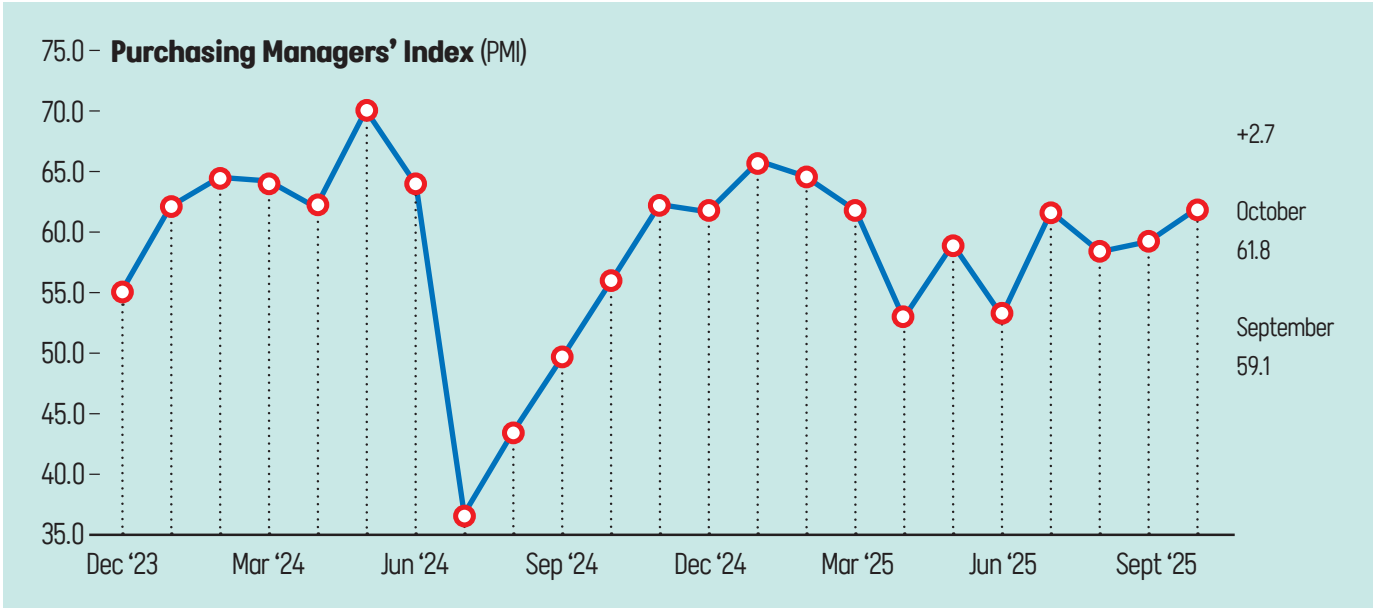
Bangladesh's economy expanded at a quicker pace in October as the country's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose by 2.7 points from the previous month to 61.8, signalling faster expansion across all major sectors.

The PMI is a forward-looking indicator used globally to gauge economic direction. A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 indicates contraction.

The agriculture sector recorded its second consecutive month of expansion, with gains in new business, activity, input costs, and employment. Order backlogs, however, contracted at a faster pace, according to the latest report by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI), and Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB).

"The latest PMI readings indicate that the overall Bangladesh economy continued to expand, primarily driven by favourable crop conditions and expectations of a good harvest in the agricultural sector," said M Masrur Reaz, Chairman and CEO of PEB.

Manufacturing extended its expansion streak to 14 months, supported by growth in new orders, exports, output, input



purchases, finished goods, imports, employment, and supplier deliveries. Input prices also rose, while order backlogs contracted more sharply.

Construction registered its second month of expansion, with stronger readings for new business, activity, employment, and input costs. Order backlogs contracted, but at a slower rate

compared with September.

Services marked their 13th month of expansion, with improvements in new business, activity, employment, and input costs. Order backlogs reverted to expansion after two months of contraction.

Other sectors of the economy also posted faster expansion rates going into

the final quarter of the year, with monthly growth in exports and inflation gradually waning, said M Masrur Reaz.

The MCCI and PEB began publishing the PMI in January last year. Initiated by the UK government, it covers over 500 private sector firms across agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and services.

## Reserves fall to \$26.43b after ACU payment

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves fell to \$26.43 billion yesterday, down from \$28 billion on November 6, according to the International Monetary Fund's calculation method.

The reserves declined after \$1.61 billion in import bills were settled through the Asian Clearing Union (ACU).

Tehran-based organisation ACU facilitates payment settlements among nine member countries: India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Under the ACU mechanism, Bangladesh clears its import bills every two months, leading to a temporary decline in reserves after each payment.

Foreign exchange reserves, which had dropped below \$20 billion in the first half of last year, have been rising in recent months, buoyed by increased inflows of remittances and export earnings.

## Gold gains

REUTERS

Gold prices rose on Friday as the dollar softened and uncertainty around the US government shutdown added to safe-haven demand, while Wall Street indexes were set for sharp weekly declines.

Spot gold was up 0.7 percent at \$4,005.21 per ounce, as of 3:15 p.m. ET (2015 GMT). US gold futures for December delivery gained 0.5 percent to settle at \$4,009.80 per ounce.

## Labour law changes ignite

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"And if the TCC meetings' decisions cannot be finally approved, the current 20 percent or lower threshold of workers is also good for us," he added.

Under the existing law, 20 percent of workers' consent is required to form a union.

During the TCC discussions, factory owners agreed to reduce it to 15 percent under international pressure, while union leaders pushed for 10 percent. The council, comprising 20 representatives each from workers, employers and the government, debated between the two figures.

"If the government adopted a middle point of 10 percent and 15 percent at a 12.5 percent threshold, it could have been better," said Hatem. "And we expected a 12.5 percent workers' threshold from the government. We have given a note of dissent as the TCC decision was bypassed."

He cited the cases of Adamjee Jute Mills and Laxminarayan Jute Mills, which he said were damaged by excessive union activity.

Amirul Haque Amin, president of the National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF), said the threshold could be reduced from 20 percent through consultation, but should not be slashed abruptly.

"It is true that the country needs to update the labour law to make it an international standard, but it is also true that as a sovereign nation, Bangladesh should not

follow what exactly the international communities say," Amin said.

He added that if the 20-worker threshold is adopted, fake unions can mushroom across factories, complicating labour relations further.

Towhidur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Apparels Workers Federation, said large factories might cope, but smaller units would face serious challenges. "Still, there is room for further negotiation for the revision of the amendment if there is something wrong," he added.

Nazma Akter, president of the Sammilito Garment Sramik Federation, said she supported the 50-to-500-worker threshold discussed earlier at the TCC. "The garment sector may be in trouble if the 20 workers' threshold is finally applied," she said, while welcoming other worker-friendly measures in the amendment, such as the formation of a new wage board.

"That 20 workers can form a trade union is super disruptive in an industry that has all factory sizes," said a former BGMEA president who asked not to be named.

At a press conference recently, BGMEA president Mahmud Hasan Khan said exports, foreign investment, and overall economic stability could be at risk if "illogical provisions" were approved. The BGMEA has demanded a review of the amendment.

Supreme Court lawyer Zafrul Hasan Sharif said the proposed threshold could result in an excessive

number of unions.

Even so, the cabinet retains the authority to amend or reject any TCC decisions.

Labour Reform Commission chief Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, who also heads the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), said large garment factories are unlikely to be affected since most do not fall under the 20-worker threshold. Smaller factories, however, may face difficulties. Easing union registration rules does not necessarily mean all factories will allow union activity, although healthy unionism is vital for constructive industrial relations, he added.

Requesting anonymity, a senior official at the Ministry of Labour and Employment said the due process was followed in determining the thresholds. "The TCC decisions have been maintained in the draft of the amendment," he said, dismissing factory owners' claims about the number of workers as inaccurate.

When contacted, Labour and Employment Adviser Brigadier General (Retd) M Sakhawat Hussain said the decision was not final and declined to elaborate further.

## Sammilito Islami Bank

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Earlier, on November 5, the banking regulator took temporary control of the five troubled Shariah-based banks by dissolving their boards as part of the formal merger process.

Prior to dissolving the boards, Governor Mansur met with the chairmen and managing directors of the five banks – First Security Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, and EXIM Bank of Bangladesh – to inform them of the decision.

On the same day, the central bank sent letters to the chairmen of the five banks stating that the lenders had been placed under the resolution process in accordance with Section 15 of the Bank Resolution Ordinance, 2025.

The central bank declared the five banks non-functional, Mansur announced at a press conference following meetings with the banks' top officials.

Each bank was later assigned one temporary administrator along with an assisting team to carry out its responsibilities.

The authorised capital of the new bank will be Tk 40,000 crore (with each share valued at Tk 10, totalling 4,000 crore shares), while the paid-up capital will be Tk 35,000 crore.

Of this, Tk 20,000 crore will be provided by the government as shares, according to a draft notification from the Ministry of Finance. The rest will come from depositors' money through the issuance of shares to them.

Once the new bank is established, depositors will be given priority in reclaiming their funds.

As part of the merger, the central bank has drawn up a detailed roadmap with specific timelines for the repayment process. This will be announced soon via an official gazette, with the repayment schedule taking effect from the date specified. A draft of the gazette has already been prepared.

Savings of up to Tk 2 lakh, considered protected deposits, will require no waiting period and will be paid immediately following the merger.

# Bangladesh to showcase semiconductor strength in Malaysia

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association (BSIA) is set to host a three-day international event titled "BSIA Roadshow 2025" in Penang, Malaysia, from November 11 to 13 this year.

Themed "Introducing Bangladesh as Silicon River," the event aims to position Bangladesh as an emerging player in the global semiconductor ecosystem.

According to a press release, the roadshow will showcase Bangladesh's growing capabilities in chip design, testing, and innovation to Malaysia's advanced semiconductor industry and global tech leaders.

The event follows the success of the National Semiconductor Symposium held during the BEAR Summit (Biotech, Electronics, AI, Robotics) in July this year and marks

BSIA's first international outreach.

Malaysia was selected for the debut roadshow due to its status as Asia's most mature semiconductor packaging and testing hub, hosting global giants such as ASE, Infineon, and Siltronic.

BSIA seeks to learn from Malaysia's industry model while highlighting Bangladesh's strengths in design talent, cost efficiency, and innovation readiness.

The BSIA delegation includes leading Bangladeshi companies such as ULAKSEMI, Neural Semiconductor, Prime Silicon, Siliconova Limited, iTest Bangladesh, and Cactus Materials—spanning specialties from analogue and RF design to AI-driven automation and power devices.

Key guests will include YB En Jagdeep Singh Deo, deputy chief minister of Penang, and Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury,

Bangladesh's high commissioner to Malaysia.

BSIA President MA Jabbar said the initiative aims to bridge Bangladesh's design expertise with Malaysia's manufacturing excellence. "It's about building confidence in Bangladesh as a global innovation partner," he said.

Expected outcomes include joint design and OSAT ventures, the creation of a Bangladesh-Malaysia semiconductor collaboration track, and frameworks for IP sharing, training, and centres of excellence.

"The roadshow symbolises Bangladesh's rise in the global semiconductor landscape," said Prof Muhammad Mustafa Hussain of Purdue University.

"The event connects vision with opportunity, and talent with technology—marking the dawn of the Silicon River era," said Shatil Haque of Credo Semiconductor.

## No more closed-end

FROM PAGE B1

"This type of fund is not available anywhere else in the world," he said.

In late October, the regulator banned its former chairman Prof Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam and LR Global Bangladesh CEO Reaz Islam from all capital market activities over their role in a share price manipulation scheme.

According to the BSEC probe, LR Global invested more than Tk 23 crore from its six closed-end mutual funds to acquire a majority stake in a delisted company. Such scandals, industry insiders say, are not uncommon.

"Our experience with closed-end mutual funds has been poor. Some even extended their tenure by ten years, disappointing investors, and that was part of the manipulation," said Islam.

Besides, he added that the BSEC proposal aligns with international practice.

"Globally, nearly all mutual funds are open-ended, accounting for 99 percent of the total," he said. "In India, the figure stands at around 97 to 98 percent as per the Association of Mutual Funds in India."

Currently, there are 37 closed-end mutual funds listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange, whose terms will expire by 2032.

Shekh Mohammad Rashedul Hasan, managing director and CEO of UCB Asset Management, said open-ended funds offer greater convenience for investors as they can withdraw money whenever they wish.

"In open-ended funds, investors can exit anytime, which keeps asset managers accountable," he said. "In closed-end funds, managers know they will earn management fees regardless of performance, which can

lead to complacency."

He added that the proposed rules are well-structured but may need some adjustments to make implementation smoother.

However, not everyone agrees that closed-end funds should disappear entirely.

Mir Ariful Islam, CEO of Sandhani Asset Management Company, said Bangladesh's underdeveloped capital market still needs a range of investment products.

"The market does not have many instruments. Closed-end funds can still play a role if properly regulated," he said.

He also raised concerns about other provisions in the draft, including a proposed rise in the minimum paid-up capital for asset management companies from Tk 5 crore to Tk 10 crore, to be met within a year.

"Given the sluggish market over the past few years, many firms may struggle to double their capital in such a short time. A five-year window would be more realistic," he said.

The draft also states that shareholders of an asset management company cannot serve as its chief executive officer, a rule some industry leaders say runs counter to global norms.

Ali Imam, founder and CEO of EDGE Asset Management, said the restriction could drive away talent.

"Asset management is a human capital business. Restricting capable shareholders from becoming CEOs goes against international norms," he said. "Even global firms like BlackRock and T. Rowe Price have CEOs who are shareholders."

Imam added that higher capital requirements could also discourage talented professionals with limited funds from entering the sector.

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh					
Ministry of Education					
Education Engineering Department					
Office of the Executive Engineer, Cox's Bazar District.					
e-Mail: ee_cox@eedmoe.gov.bd					
Invitation for Tender(LTM)					
TENDER NOTICE NO: 08/EED/Cox.B/e-TENDER/2025-26				DATE: 09/11/2025	
Sl. No	Lot No & Name of Works	Tender ID	Last Date & Time of Selling Documents	Last Date and Time for Tender Security Submission	Last Date & Time of Submission Documents
01	SHED/7016/2025-26/Lot-04: CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE STORED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT ABUL KASHEM NOOR JAHAN CHOWDHURY HIGH SCHOOL, UKIYA, COX'S BAZAR.(2024-25)	1171344	25-Nov-2025 15:45	25-Nov-2025 16:00	26-Nov-2025 12:00
02	SHED/7016/2025-26/Lot-06: CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE STORED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT TEKNAF MODEL PILOT HIGH SCHOOL, TEKNAF, COX'S BAZAR. (2024-25)	1171345	25-Nov-2025 15:45	25-Nov-2025 16:00	26-Nov-2025 12:00
03	SHED/7016/2025-26/Lot-05: CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE STORED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT ALHAJ ALI ACHIYA HIGH SCHOOL, TEKNAF, COX'S BAZAR.(2024-25)	1171346	25-Nov-2025 15:45	25-Nov-2025 16:00	26-Nov-2025 12:00
04	SHED/7016/2025-26/Lot-07: CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE STORED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT EIDGAH MODEL HIGH SCHOOL, EIDGAHAON, COX'S BAZAR. (2024-25)	1171347	25-Nov-2025 15:45	25-Nov-2025 16:00	26-Nov-2025 12:00
05	SHED/7016/2025-26/Lot-08: CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE STORED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT ABUL KASHEM HIGH SCHOOL, SADAR, COX'S BAZAR. (2024-25)	1171348	25-Nov-2025 15:45	25-Nov-2025 16:00	26-Nov-2025 12:00
06	SHED/7016/2025-26/Lot-09: CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE STORED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT KUTUBJOM OFF-SHORE HIGH SCHOOL, MOHESHKHALI, COX'S BAZAR. (2024-25)	1171349	25-Nov-2025 15:45	25-Nov-2025 16:00	26-Nov-2025 12:00
07	SHED/7016/2025-26/Lot-10: CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE STORED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT A. K. AZAD HIGH SCHOOL, RAMU, COX'S BAZAR. (2024-25)	1171350	25-Nov-2025 15:45	25-Nov-2025 16:00	26-Nov-2025 12:00
08	Non Govt/TMED/7016/2024-25/Lot-05: Vertical Extension 1st Floor of Existing Academic Building In/C. Sanitary, Water Supply & Electrification works at Chakaria Ummehatul Momenin Mohila Dakhil Madrasah, Chakaria, Cox's Bazar.(2018-19)	1173116	25-Nov-2025 15:45	25-Nov-2025 16:00	26-Nov-2025 12:00
09	7016/TMED/2025-26/Lot-01: CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE STORED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 4-STORIED FOUNDATION IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT KALARMARCHARA ADARSHA DHAKHIL MADRASAH, MOHESHKHALI, COX'S BAZAR (2024-25)	1173138	25-Nov-2025 15:45	25-Nov-2025 16:00	26-Nov-2025 12:00
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 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. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following Packages from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches; Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ( <a href="mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd">helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd</a> ).					
Sd/- (Mridu Moy Chakma) Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department Cox's Bazar District.					
GD-2372					



## Govt may allow onion imports if prices don't drop this week

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government will consider permitting onion imports if prices of the widely consumed vegetable do not come down to a desired level within this week, Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin said yesterday.

Retail prices of the essential cooking item have surged 53 percent to Tk 110-Tk 120 per kilogramme (kg) in Dhaka markets yesterday, up from Tk 70-Tk 80 per kg a week ago, according to Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) data.

Briefing journalists at the commerce ministry in Dhaka, the adviser said the latest price hike was "illogical."

He said the country saw a bumper onion harvest this year, and there is no shortage. New onions are expected to arrive in the market within the next two weeks.

The adviser informed that the ministry has received around 2,800 applications for onion imports.

Bashir, however, said the government is cautious on permitting the applications as the market could be flooded with onions even if only 10 percent of the applications are approved, and potentially harming local farmers. "Therefore, we are closely monitoring the situation before making any decision."

Commenting on whether there is a role of alleged hoarding or a market syndicate behind the hike, he said, "I have no information about hoarding or any syndicate. This seems to be a temporary disruption, and I expect the situation to normalise soon."

He suggested that several factors may have contributed to the latest price hike, such as the end of the local harvesting season, sudden heavy rains, and weight loss due to drying during storage.

Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman was also present at the briefing.

## Include workers in climate decisions: trade unions

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

As the world prepares for the upcoming COP30, Bangladeshi labour rights bodies have urged the government to include worker representatives at every stage of climate-related decision-making.

They also called for a clear roadmap to ensure decent work and job security for workers across both the formal and informal sectors. The demands were made at a press briefing at the National Press Club in Dhaka, organised by the National Alliance for Just Transition Bangladesh (NAJTB) yesterday.

The platform of trade unions and labour right advocates called for a worker-centred climate action plan that guarantees decent work, social protection, and inclusion in policymaking.

Bangladesh, one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, is already witnessing the livelihood impacts of floods, cyclones, and heatwaves, but workers' voices remain largely absent from national and global climate policies, reads a statement from NAJTB.

"Workers must have a voice in shaping policies that directly affect their jobs and lives," said Shakil Akhter Chowdhury, general secretary of the Bangladesh Labour Foundation.

The alliance placed 10 key demands, including the inclusion of workers at every stage of climate policymaking, from formulation and implementation to monitoring.

It called for a tripartite 'Just Transition Plan' involving the government, employers, and workers, focusing on job security, reskilling, income protection, and rehabilitation for displaced labourers.

The group also urged that climate finance, including the Loss and Damage Fund, prioritise affected workers through allocations for training, social safety nets, and livelihood support.

Gender equality was another major concern. The NAJTB called for a gender-sensitive budget to support women workers in climate-resilient sectors and to ensure equal pay, safe workplaces, and women's leadership in the green transition.



Farmers have already started harvesting Aman, which accounts for roughly two-fifths of total annual rice production.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

# Govt slashes Aman paddy procurement target

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has drastically cut its Aman paddy procurement target for the current harvesting season, citing an insignificant purchase last year due to a lack of supply from growers.

The food ministry plans to buy 50,000 tonnes of Aman paddy from the current season, which is one-seventh of the 350,000-tonne procurement target it set last year.

However, the targeted amount is 46 percent higher than the actual purchase of 27,000 tonnes, said Md Mahbubur Rahman, director general of the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit, after a meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC) yesterday.

"We have found that the marketable surplus from the Aman harvest is low and farmers mainly consume the staple," he said in response to a query from this correspondent.

Rahman said the government could only procure 24,000 tonnes of paddy from growers in the fiscal year 2023-24.

M Asaduzzaman, former research director at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), said farmers are often reluctant to take their produce to procurement centres

as these are not located close to their homes.

Furthermore, large farmers hold their produce for a longer period to profit during the lean period, he added.

At yesterday's meeting, the FPMC decided to increase the parboiled rice procurement target to 600,000 tonnes, up from the previous year's target of 550,000 tonnes and the actual procurement of 519,000 tonnes.

**The food ministry plans to buy 50,000 tonnes of Aman paddy from the current season, which is one-seventh of the 350,000-tonne procurement target it set last year**

It slashed the sunned rice procurement goal by half to 50,000 tonnes for the current Aman season.

Farmers have already started harvesting Aman, which accounts for roughly two-fifths of total annual rice production. The government estimates the production cost of Aman paddy, excluding profits and transport costs, at Tk 30.03 per kilogramme, up 4 percent year-on-year.

The government also hiked the

procurement prices of both paddy and milled rice, as decided at the meeting of the FPMC, an inter-ministerial committee responsible for monitoring the country's overall food situation and advising on food security policies.

It will pay 3 percent more than last year's price to buy Aman paddy at Tk 34 per kg this season. Accordingly, the government will also buy parboiled rice at a higher price this year.

The food ministry will buy parboiled rice from millers at Tk 50 per kg, which is 6 percent higher than the previous year. It also increased the procurement price of sunned rice to be harvested during the current Aman season.

The procurement will start on November 20 and continue until February 28.

Briefing journalists after the FPMC meeting, Food Adviser Ali Imam Majumdar said, "We will try to achieve the Aman rice procurement target. If we get more supply, we will buy."

He said they considered the farmers' interests when fixing the procurement price.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said the government buys grains from farmers to support them, ensuring that rice traders do not gain an advantage over growers.

## Independence of BB: the next big economic reform

DH CHOUDHURY

In a capitalist economy, an independent central bank isn't just something to argue for—it's essential for a country's growth and economic stability.

The Daily Star recently ran a business story about the concept of making Bangladesh Bank independent. It reminded me of something I learned almost 50 years ago, and I thought it would be worth sharing that experience.

It first came across the idea of central bank independence in 1976, during a small group session at the Deutsche Bundesbank in West Germany, the country's central bank. The key takeaway from that discussion was this: a central bank is not independent from the government, but independent within the government.

The idea of a central bank being "independent within the government" is like how engineers or doctors work. They make professional decisions independently, based on science and rules set by the government. Similarly, a central bank designs monetary policies using economic logic while following the country's overall financial goals. It works freely, but within set policies.

Nearly five decades ago, I learned that in West Germany, the Bundesbank and the Ministry of Finance had distinct roles—the central bank managed monetary policy, while the ministry handled fiscal policy. Both respected each other's mandates of independence while remaining institutionally accountable to the legislature. Despite being a war-torn nation divided by the Berlin Wall, West Germany's remarkable recovery—driven by an independent central bank—stood in sharp contrast to the stagnation of socialist East Germany. The lesson was clear: central bank independence is a necessity for stable and sustainable growth.

At a later date, during my years with an international bank in the City of London, I witnessed how closely the Bank of England, business houses, financial institutions, and the media interact to support one another to make the Bank of England's independence meaningful and sustainable.

"The City of London" does not refer to the entire capital city. It is a small, historic area of about one square mile in the eastern part of London—often called simply "The City." It stands as a symbol of Britain's financial strength, much like Wall Street in New York. Within this square mile sit the Bank of England, the London Stock Exchange, headquarters of major banks, insurance firms, investment companies, and The Financial Times.

In the United Kingdom, the rights and duties of citizens are guided by unwritten Common Law. Similarly, a set of unwritten practices binds the country's business community and media to act responsibly within the bounds of The City. Businesses regularly share genuine data on production, investment, and costs, helping the Bank of England assess real economic trends. This cooperation makes monetary policy more grounded and effective. The media, in turn, explains policy decisions clearly to the public, building trust in the Bank's independence and professionalism.

The Bank of England shows how a central bank can remain independent while being accountable to both Parliament and the public. Its core responsibilities are to maintain price stability and safeguard the financial system. By law, it has full authority over monetary policy, particularly in setting interest rates.

For Bangladesh Bank, the models of the Bundesbank and the Bank of England offer a vital lesson. Real independence cannot be achieved by law alone—it must develop from within the institution and be reinforced by the trust of businesses and the media. When business bodies act responsibly and the media covers monetary issues fairly, public trust in Bangladesh Bank will naturally grow.

The proposed legal reform of the Bangladesh Bank Act is a positive step. But an institution that has lacked autonomy for more than fifty years cannot transform overnight to match its global counterparts. True independence of Bangladesh Bank will come only when legal changes are supported by a new institutional mindset—when central bank officials can make professional decisions freely, much like engineers or doctors applying their expertise in their own fields.

The writer is a former banker

## US holiday sales set to top \$1tn for first time

REUTERS

US holiday sales are expected to surpass \$1 trillion for the first time, the National Retail Federation said on Thursday, though growth is forecast to slow as economic pressures weigh on consumer sentiment.

The holiday season includes major shopping days such as Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Cyber Monday and Christmas, and accounts for a significant portion of major retailers' revenues.

Persistent inflation, the fallout from the Trump administration's tariffs and the federal government shutdown pose risks, as shoppers think twice about buying extravagant gifts.

"American consumers may be cautious in sentiment, yet remain fundamentally strong," NRF CEO Matthew Shay said. NRF chief economist Mark Mathews said lower-income consumers are shifting toward essentials.

"More of the non-essentials that they're cutting out are in the services side of the economy, like recreation, travel, and eating out. They're not doing that, but they're continuing to spend on goods."

The economic stress on spending had led to multiple forecasts of a subdued holiday shopping season this year as well as muted forecasts for the period from companies including Tapestry, Under Armour and Canada Goose on Thursday.

"Consumers are highly promotional right now. They're looking for deals," Mathews told Reuters.

"Most retailers recognize that," he added, saying companies will take a hit to stay competitive in the market.

# Vietnam's garment industry rebounds, but challenges loom

ANN/VIETNAM NEWS

Vietnam's textile and garment industry has shown clear signs of recovery in 2025, bouncing back after a difficult period of stagnation.

However, businesses in the sector continue to face mounting challenges, from high capital and logistics costs to growing pressure to green their operations and navigate shifting trade policies.

According to Vũ Đức Giang, chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS), the industry's export turnover reached US\$34.75 billion in the first nine months of 2025, an increase of 7.7 percent year-on-year. This marks a robust comeback and highlights the resilience of Vietnam's textile exports in the global market.

Despite the gains, the industry remains heavily reliant on imported raw materials, with import turnover totalling \$16 billion, including \$11 billion for fabric alone. This dependency poses significant risks, particularly as global trade dynamics shift.

Vietnam has now climbed to third place globally in textile and garment exports, a major leap from its earlier role as a low-cost processing hub.

Giang said high-value added products were becoming a larger share of exports, signalling the industry's move beyond contract manufacturing to brand-building and innovation.

Vietnamese textile and garment products are now exported to 138 countries, boosted by 16 free trade agreements (FTAs), with that number expected to grow to 22 by 2027.

Emerging markets like the Middle East and Africa offer new growth opportunities, according to Giang. Once overlooked, these regions have become more prominent.

In 2024, exports to Islamic countries

alone reached \$1 billion, and by July 2025, revenue from the Middle East had already hit \$700 million.

Vietnamese firms are also targeting premium segments, offering products with higher design and technological content – a move that supports long-term competitiveness.

One of the biggest hurdles is production costs, which are about 40-45 percent higher in Vietnam compared to Indonesia, Malaysia and Myanmar – despite Vietnamese labour being around 40 percent more productive.

On the upside, the industry is rapidly embracing automation and green technologies, becoming second only to China in regional supply chain modernisation.

However, logistics remain a bottleneck.

According to Đặng Thị Minh Phương, chairwoman of the HCM City Logistics

Association, shipping and warehousing costs have surged. Despite salaries of VND35-40 million (\$1,300-1,500) per month, businesses are struggling to recruit container drivers.

She urged firms to restructure supply chains and invest in logistics technology to improve competitiveness.

Besides that, the shift from traditional processing models to FOB (Free on Board) and DDP (Delivered Duty Paid) purchasing methods has changed the financial landscape.

Giang stressed the need for stronger cooperation between banks and exporters, urging banks to offer tailored credit packages aligned with modern contract terms.

"Banks must understand the nature of today's export contracts and build trust with businesses through transparency," Giang said.

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Workers stitch garments at a factory in Vietnam's Thai Nguyen Province. Value-added products are becoming a larger share of exports, signalling the industry's move beyond contract manufacturing to brand-building and innovation.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE