

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 Mahbub 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, Staplcotn and Cotton Growers

Cooperative, also joined the discussion. Participants exchanged views on navigating cotton trade dynamics and strengthening supply chain resilience. Wayne Boseman 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 Mahbub 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.

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.



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.

PHOTO: COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

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

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.

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.

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.



গাজী ওয়্যারস লিমিটেড

(AN ENTERPRISE OF BSEC UNDER MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES)
28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chandaon, Chattogram-4212
www.gaziwires.gov.bd, email: gaziwiresid@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 BFIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh. E-mail: gaziwiresid@gmail.com
4	Invitation for	1. Procurement 200 M.T. Electrolytic Copper Wire, Size: 8.00mm. 2. Procurement 32 M.T. Wire Enamel Insulating Varnish (PWF-22%)
5	Invitation Ref. No.	1. GW/PUR/030/OTM (ICT)/2025-2026(R), Date: 03.11.2025. 2. GW/PUR/028/OTM (ICT)/2025-2026(R), Date: 03.11.2025.
6	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (ICT): One Stage Two Envelope System
7	Budget and Source of Funds	Gazi Wires Limited's Own Fund.
8	Tender Publication Date (Both of Items)	Tender Last Date Tender Closing Date & Time 07.12.2025 08.12.2025 11.30 AM Tender Opening Date & Time 08.12.2025 11.45 AM
9	Name & Address of the officers Selling Tender Document	1) Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation, BSEC Bhaban, 102-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. 2) Cash Section, Gazi Wires Limited, 28 BFIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.
(a)	Receiving and Opening of Tender Document	At the office time of Gazi Wires Ltd., 28-BFIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.
10	Price of Tender Document (Each)	1) BDT. 5,000.00 & 2) 3,000.00
11	Eligibility of Tenderer	Mentioned in the Tender Documents.
	Brief Description of tender:	
12	Tender Package No.	Description of tender
	1. GW/PUR/030/OTM (ICT)/2025-2026(R), Date: 03/11/2025.	Tender Security Amount (USD/Taka) Procurement 200 M.T. Electrolytic Copper Wire, Size: 8.00mm. USD- 42,785.00 Equivatant TK. 52,539.980
	2. GW/PUR/028/OTM (ICT)/2025-2026(R), Date: 03.11.2025.	Procurement 32 M.T. Wire Enamel Insulating Varnish (PWF-22%) USD- 3,265.00 Equivatant TK. 4,00,942.00
13	Delivery Period/ Shipment Schedule	The tender documents may be purchased by the interest 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. The tender document cannot be used for submission of tender proposal(s) by more than one tender.
14	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.

Head of Commercial
For-Managing Director
Hotline: 01713-114336

GID-2373