

Hong Kong-China firms to invest \$70.66m in Bepza EZ

STAR BUSINESS DESK

DJ Copper Co Ltd and GRX Technology (BD) Co Ltd, two companies owned by Hong Kong-China investors, will invest a combined \$70.66 million to establish industrial factories at the Bepza economic zone in Mirsharai of Chatogram.

Under the agreement, DJ Copper will invest \$50.66 million to manufacture a range of light engineering and copper-based products, including copper wire, copper sheets, copper hardware, cable lines, zipper teeth, brass wire, and electronic accessories such as switch plates and button logos.

The company plans to construct its own factory building on 21,600 square metres of

allotted land, generating employment for 535 workers, reads a Bepza press statement.

GRX Technology will invest \$20 million to produce garment accessories, including zippers, YG sliders, zinc alloy sliders, buttons, snap buttons, logos, and belt buckles. Its factory will be built on 14,400 square metres of land, creating 570 jobs.

The agreements were signed yesterday at the Bepza Complex in Dhaka by Md Ashraful Kabir, member (investment promotion) of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza); Zhang Na, managing director of GRX Technology (BD) Co Ltd, and Zhang Junfeng, managing director of DJ Copper Co Ltd.

Maj Gen Mohammad Moazzem Hossain,

Bepza's executive chairman, attended the ceremony as chief guest. He thanked the investors for selecting Bangladesh, particularly Bepza EZ, as their preferred investment destination, noting the zone's strong global reputation for providing a secure, business-friendly, and efficient investment environment.

He added that foreign investors, especially from China, continue to demonstrate high confidence in Bepza, reflecting the longstanding bilateral relationship and the authority's consistent service standards.

He also urged the companies to begin construction promptly, taking advantage of the current dry season, and assured them of Bepza's full cooperation and support in all investment-related matters.

Stocks edge

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Top-performing sectors included NBFIs, jute, and cement, while telecommunications and miscellaneous sectors declined, according to UCB Stock Brokerage Limited.

According to BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage, most large-cap sectors posted gains, led by NBFIs with a 1.71 percent rise, followed by engineering (1.61 percent), banking (1 percent), fuel and power (0.99 percent), food and allied (0.70 percent), and telecommunications (0.63 percent).

Pharmaceuticals was the only sector to post a loss, declining 0.63 percent.

At the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), stocks also advanced. The CASPI, the main index, gained 41.70 points, or 0.31 percent, closing at 13,368.53.

Businesses file Tk 600cr insurance claims

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WHAT INSURERS ARE SAYING

Khaled Mamun, chief executive officer of Reliance Insurance PLC, said companies across food, ready-made garments, chemicals, cement, pharmaceuticals, and power have filed claims following the fire.

He said more than 113 entities have submitted documents so far, with claims reaching around Tk 40 crore.

The CEO added that the figures are preliminary, as surveyors will determine actual losses.

Brigadier General (Retd) Md Shafiqe Shamim, managing director of Sena Insurance PLC, said claim intimations began on the day of the fire.

Twelve companies have filed 32 policies amounting to Tk 10 crore, and Tk 21 lakh has already been settled.

He said roughly 70 percent of claims come from the RMG sector, five percent from pharmaceuticals, and about 20 percent from machinery linked to shipbuilding.

Surveyors initially could not enter the fire-ravaged complex. But once they confirmed the damage, claims were processed swiftly.

SM Mahbubul Karim, chief executive officer of Nitol Insurance Company Limited, said six insurers have submitted preliminary information.

According to him, businesses across commodities, ready-made garments,

and power have filed insurance claims, though a full assessment is needed before insurers can present a clear picture.

Syed Sehab Ullah Al-Manjur, chief executive officer of Pragati Insurance Limited, said the company has received claims from several sectors, including RMG and pharmaceuticals.

He said more than 12 entities have filed primary intimations, with losses reaching around Tk 25 crore. Five clients have already submitted supporting documents, and each case is being reviewed to determine the scale of damage.

Ahmed Saifuddin Chowdhury, managing director of Bangladesh General Insurance Company PLC, said the firm has received claims from several sectors, including paints and pharmaceuticals.

Chowdhury said they have received 74 claims over the airport fire so far. Of these, some 34 claims amounting to Tk 16 crore are payable.

Saifunnahar Sumi,

spokesperson of the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Idra), said insurers have begun submitting loss information as instructed by the regulator, although data from a few companies is still pending.

She said she could not provide further details at this stage.

Prof Md Shahidul Islam Zahid, chairman of the Department of Banking and Insurance at Dhaka University, said the initial round of insurance claims at least provides a sense of the scale of losses caused by the fire.

He added that the assessment and settlement process should not take long. "Goods were burned, but the documentation for cargoes arriving or being exported is not. They must be online or kept somewhere secure."

According to him, assessment involves a surveyor or assessor and an actuary -- an insurance risk analyst -- in other countries.

In Bangladesh, however, Prof Zahid said there are only two or three full-time actuaries.

Visa, Mastercard may need

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"We should examine what practices exist in other countries," he said. "While imposing these obligations, we must ensure we do not lose our business partners, because many are already leaving the country."

According to central bank officials, once these card schemes are incorporated locally, they would have to open local bank accounts, report earnings from transactions inside Bangladesh and pay corporate tax as required by national law.

Bangladesh's card payment market has grown

substantially in recent years, with millions of debit and credit cards linked to international networks. Banks use these platforms to settle domestic and cross-border transactions, generating notable fee income for the card schemes.

As of August, Bangladesh Bank data show 4.49 crore debit cards, 30.08 lakh credit cards and 99.94 lakh prepaid cards in circulation. Visa and Mastercard remain the most widely used networks for cross-border payments, followed by American Express, UnionPay, Diners and JCB.

Non-digital payments, by contrast, surged in both number and value. Their transaction volume rose by 31.4 percent, from 34.62 crore in December 2023 to 45.49 crore in December 2024, while their share of total transaction value increased from 71 percent to 72 percent.

The data suggest that while digital channels are widely used for small, frequent payments, high-value transactions continue to rely on cash, cheques, and over-the-counter methods.

Despite these shifts, several digital platforms recorded strong growth. Internet Banking Fund Transfer (IBFT) emerged as the dominant mode under the National Payment Switch Bangladesh (NPSB), accounting for 80 percent of the system's transaction value, states the BB report.

The report also highlights regulatory milestones in 2024, including the enactment of the Payment and Settlement System Act,

2024, which provides a stronger legal foundation for the payment ecosystem, and the launch of TakaPay, the country's first domestic card scheme.

The report emphasises that strategic interventions are needed to counter the resurgence of traditional payments and cash dependency.

Encouraging the migration of large value institutional and government transactions to digital platforms will be critical for Bangladesh to achieve its vision of a less cash economy, it adds.

Meanwhile, the Bangla QR system, widely used in universities, hospitals, and digital cattle markets, recorded strong growth, with transaction volume rising by 104 percent and transaction value by 69 percent.

Overall, Bangladesh's payment ecosystem in 2024 witnessed significant regulatory, infrastructural, and supervisory developments aimed at fostering a secure, efficient, and inclusive digital financial system.

BB to stop selling savings certificates, prize bonds

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) will discontinue five services, including the sale of national savings certificates and prize bonds, as part of a move to limit public access and refocus on its core regulatory duties.

Other services the central bank will discontinue include the exchange of damaged notes, acceptance of treasury challans, and provision of change against challans.

The central bank has informed the finance ministry of its decision and plans to issue a public notice soon.

The directive is expected to take effect from November 30, after which people will have to access these services through commercial banks.

For decades, people have availed these services at the central bank's Motijheel

office and its branches across the country. They will now be handled entirely by commercial banks. Arief Hossain Khan, executive director and spokesperson for the BB, told reporters that these services are not part of the central bank's core functions.

However, he said the exchange of burnt notes will continue at the BB due to certain regulatory requirements.

Some services, such as coin exchange, sale of commemorative coins, settlement of disputes over mutilated notes, and transactions with banks, will remain available at the 16 counters of the Motijheel headquarters of the central bank.

Officials said BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur recently decided to refocus the bank's core functions and regulate public access to services that could be provided elsewhere.

Expansion beyond border

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Shawkat Haider, executive director of Beximco Pharmaceuticals, pointed to a past joint venture in Malaysia, where Beximco partnered with a local company and shared technology.

She said the company has begun submitting loss information as instructed by the regulator, although data from a few companies is still pending.

She said she could not provide further details at this stage.

Prof Md Shahidul Islam Zahid, chairman of the Department of Banking and Insurance at Dhaka University, said the initial round of insurance claims at least provides a sense of the scale of losses caused by the fire.

He added that the assessment and settlement process should not take long. "Goods were burned, but the documentation for cargoes arriving or being exported is not. They must be online or kept somewhere secure."

According to him, assessment involves a surveyor or assessor and an actuary -- an insurance risk analyst -- in other countries.

In Bangladesh, however, Prof Zahid said there are only two or three full-time actuaries.

These moves generate employment and elevate Bangladesh's profile in the global generics market," he said.

M Masrur Reaz, chairman and CEO of Policy Exchange of Bangladesh, said facilitating outward investment with proper checks and strategic alignment can help Bangladeshi firms scale globally, tap into global value chains, and build international branding positioning the country as a strong trade and investment partner.

As Bangladesh continues its journey toward graduating from the least developed country status, a coherent outward investment policy may soon become a cornerstone of its economic diplomacy and private sector expansion, he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
District Primary Education Office
Faridpur
www.dpe.faridpur.gov.bd

Memo no. DPEO/Faridpur/e-GP/GPS/1694 Date: 12 November 2025.

Invitation for Tender (OTM)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of furniture as stated below.

Tender ID & method	Description of procurement	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing/opening date & time
1171735 OTM	Furniture supply of 169 pair high-low benches, 133 nos table, 114 nos chair and 16 nos Rakes for selected 36 nos Govt primary schools of Charbhadra, Faridpur Sadar, Modhukhali, Sadarpur, Boalmari, Bhanga, Nagarkanda, Alifdanga and Saltha upazila of Faridpur district under Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP 4).	29-December-2025, 17:00	30-December-2025, 14:00

These are online tenders where only e-Tender shall be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal. No offline or hard copies shall be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the portal. The Procurement Entity (PE) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.


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