

# Full FoC import could backfire, say textile, accessory makers

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Textile millers and garment accessories manufacturers have voiced strong opposition to the government's proposed amendment to the import policy, which would allow full import of raw materials for export-oriented garments under the free-of-charge (FoC) arrangement.

Currently, exporters can import only 50 percent of the raw materials they need under FoC. Under this system, international buyers supply fabrics, accessories, and other inputs, while local manufacturers are paid only for cutting and making the garments.

Although the policy aims to reduce costs and encourage high-end exports, the amendment could undermine Bangladesh's domestic textile and accessories industries, leaders of the sectors conveyed to Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin at a meeting at the ministry on Tuesday.

They warned that the primary textile sector - which has attracted around \$23 billion in

investment and provides yarn, fabrics, dyeing, washing, and finishing services to garment exporters - could face severe disruption due to the amendment.

In a statement issued yesterday, Showkat Aziz Russell, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), said the FoC amendment "will destroy the primary textile sector."

He noted that local mills are already struggling with gas shortages and cannot operate at full capacity.

Allowing full FoC imports would further reduce demand for locally produced raw materials, potentially weakening the entire supply chain that supports Bangladesh's garment industry, he said.

Similarly, in a separate statement, Md Shahriar, president of the Bangladesh Garments Accessories and Packaging Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGAPMEA), expressed concern that the Tk 40,000 crore packaging and accessories sector will be severely affected due to the change.

However, exporters say that FoC is

straightforward, less risky and faster. Without any quota on FoC import, they believe global brands will place more orders in Bangladesh because of the country's skilled workforce and strong manufacturing capacity.

At present, more than 95 percent of garments are exported using usual letters of credit (LCs). FoC has seen limited uptake because of import restrictions and bureaucratic hurdles.

The move is expected to bring an additional \$5 billion in export earnings within the first year of implementation, Md Shehab Udduza Chowdhury, vice-president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), told The Daily Star in early November.

In the second year, he added that the value is expected to cross \$10 billion as factories can get all raw materials under the FoC arrangement.

A few years ago, FoC imports were capped at 33 percent of total raw materials. This was increased to 50 percent later.

# Shrimp sector struggles to keep pace with regional peers despite potential

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Bangladesh's shrimp industry is struggling to compete with regional peers despite its strong potential and deep socio-economic importance, largely due to gaps in policy support, according to paper presented at a seminar yesterday.

For decades, shrimp has been vital to rural livelihoods, nutrition, and export earnings, supporting millions across coastal districts through extensive networks of farmers, hatcheries, processors, and exporters.

"Once a major foreign exchange earner, shrimp helped shape Bangladesh's reputation in the global seafood market. But in recent years, the momentum has stalled," said Bazul Haque Khondker, research director of the Policy Research Institute (PRI) of Bangladesh. Export earnings have dropped sharply, even as global demand remains robust, he added.



Khondker made the remarks at a policy dialogue on "Transforming Policy Support for Reviving Bangladesh's Shrimp Sector" held in Dhaka, jointly organised by PRI and the Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association (BFEEA).

He noted that while competitors like India, Vietnam, and Indonesia have rapidly expanded Vannamei shrimp farming, a higher yielding variety than black tiger shrimp, Bangladesh remains largely absent in Vannamei cultivation except for some pilot projects.

# Mega project costs surge

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year, debt servicing costs rose by 10 percent. In Taka terms, the increase was 13 percent, driven mainly by the weaker currency.

Hussain emphasised increasing revenue collection and reducing public spending to keep borrowing in check.

**METRO PROJECTS HIT BY RISING COSTS**

Cost pressures are not limited to the Rooppur plant. Rather, several metro rail projects in Dhaka also face higher bills.

The cost of Metro Rail Line 6, the country's first metro service, which

now carries several lakh passengers daily on the Uttara to Motiheel route, has fallen slightly to Tk 32,717 crore from Tk 33,472 crore due to lower land acquisition costs under the government funded portion.

However, costs under foreign loans have risen because of the weaker currency. Consultancy fees and repayment liabilities have increased, including an additional Tk 270 crore in foreign loan repayment linked to the depreciation.

The government approved the latest project

costs this week. Two other metro lines, Mass Rapid Transit-1 and Mass Rapid Transit-5, are also set for cost increases.

When the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) funded projects were approved in 2019, they were valued at Tk 95,000 crore. Since then, the Taka has lost more than 40 percent of its value, meaning significant upward revisions.

An MRT-1 official recently informed Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) that the cost of Japan's funding package would rise to

Tk 75,649 crore from Tk 39,450 crore, while the total project was originally estimated at Tk 53,977 crore.

A similar rise is expected for the 20-kilometre MRT-5 line from Hayemaypur to Bhatara through Gabtoli, Mirpur and Gulshan.

The project, split into ten packages, was approved at Tk 41,261 crore. The latest assessment shows Tk 15,527 crore will be needed for just one package, originally priced at Tk 3,968 crore.

Officials said talks are going on between Jica and the government to reduce the overall costs.

# Bangladesh plans PayPal integration

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hinder both vertical and horizontal integration.

On financing, he criticised the limited scope of BSCIC's loan disbursement.

Only Tk 200-250 crore is being distributed. This should have been much higher, he said, pointing to weak distribution channels and inadequate institutional capacity.

Mansur recommended partnering with microfinance institutions or specialised banks so that loans reach the intended SMEs.

The governor also called for a dynamic online marketplace for BSCIC entrepreneurs, proposing a professionally managed e-commerce platform to directly connect producers with buyers, eliminate middlemen, and ensure fair prices.

"It must be updated continuously and operated professionally. We must invest in quality IT personnel and infrastructure," he said.

Mansur further highlighted the need for stronger demand-side development, warning that increasing supply without corresponding market creation would create inefficiencies.

"Entrepreneurs will suffer if they can't sell. Market access must come first," he said.

# Govt updating Pakistan-era

**FROM PAGE B1**

Traders had raised soybean oil prices by Tk 10 per litre above the government-purchased rate meant for sale through the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).

Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin told journalists that the ministry was not informed about the price hike beforehand. "I learned of the increase only half an hour before it was

implemented," he said.

He noted that the government had recently procured around 50 lakh litres of soybean oil, yet the current retail price is Tk 10 higher than what the government paid. "If we can buy through tender at a lower rate, why is the retail market paying so much more?" he asked.

The adviser said the companies' actions had no legal basis and that there was "no logical reason" for

a Tk 10 per litre jump in the retail market. "If there is any logical reason for the price hike, we are happy to discuss," he added, noting that prices had also been raised illogically in the past, but the ministry did not act then.

He promised action after an urgent review with industry stakeholders and warned that the government would take legal measures against the wrongdoers.

# Govt may cut

**FROM PAGE B1**

Taiyeb reassured consumers that any handset already in use and activated before December 16 will not be blocked once NEIR becomes operational.

He added that the government is also preparing to crack down on used foreign handsets being imported as new. Customs has already identified flights from India, Thailand and China for targeted enforcement.

The proposed Telecommunication Ordinance 2025 will further enhance safeguards for IMEI and electronic know-your-customer (eKYC) data.

During a recent inter-agency meeting, officials decided that expatriate Bangladeshis may use personal smartphones

for up to 60 days without registration. Those staying longer will need to register under NEIR.

Those with Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) registration cards can bring one personal handset plus two new devices duty-free; a fourth device will incur duty. Travellers without BMET registration may bring one additional handset tax free.

Currently, Bangladeshi travellers can bring two devices duty-free.

Authorities also urged travellers to carry proof of purchase, noting that smugglers at airports in Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and the Middle East often pressure migrant workers to carry high-value items.

The BTRC and NBR are continuing discussions with the commerce ministry to align taxes on imported and locally assembled devices, with final decisions expected soon.

The inter-agency meeting also stressed consumer safety, warning users not to let others operate SIM cards registered in their name, which are often used for cybercrime, scams, and mobile banking fraud.

Bangladesh will block cloned, stolen, and refurbished phones from entering the market. Importers may legalise devices with valid IMEI numbers brought in before December 16 by paying reduced duty, but cloned and refurbished units will not qualify.

# Mastercard launches 'Safari Spirit' winter campaign

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**

Mastercard has launched its 2025-26 winter spend-and-win campaign, titled "Safari Spirit", offering Bangladeshi Mastercard debit, credit, and prepaid cardholders the chance to win exciting rewards.

Cardholders can participate by making eligible retail transactions from December 1, 2025 to January 31, 2026, according to a press release.

The top prize is a 3-night, 4-day couple's trip to Kenya, including round-trip airfare from Dhaka and a premium safari experience.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
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Memo No. 35.01.7364.456.07.012.25-2283 Date: 03-12-2025

**Amendment/Corrigendum Notice of Tender ID No - 1177729**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following public procurement:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Tender Document last selling/ downloading Date and Time		Tender Closing Date and Time	
			Old value	New Value	Old value	New Value
1.	1177729	Widening & Bituminous overlay with DBS Wearing Course from Ch. 360+257 (Chhiti Bridge) to Ch. 364+467 (BSCIC Training Center) & Ch. 364+750 (Shutkir Moor) to Ch. 373+567 (Rabeyar Moor) including necessary repairs of pavement distresses of Dhaka (Mirpur)-Utholi-Paturia-Natakholia-Kashinathpur-Bogra-Rangpur-Beldanga-Banglabandha National Highway (N 5) under Road Division Nilphamari, as a part of the PMP (Major Roads) program for FY 2025-2026.	08 Dec-2025 17:00	14 Dec-2025 17:00	09 Dec-2025 11:30	15 Dec-2025 11:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders 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 portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branch up to particular date and time specified on the Tender Notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also can be obtained from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)). For more details please contact e-GP help desk contact numbers.

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Md. Arif Zahan)  
Sub-Assistant Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Nilphamari.

(Md. Sultan Mahmud)  
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Executive Engineer(C.C.), RHD  
Road Division, Nilphamari.

GD-2643

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়  
চট্টগ্রাম উত্তর বন বিভাগ  
[www.forestnorth.chittagong.gov.bd](http://www.forestnorth.chittagong.gov.bd)

**বৃক্ষরোপণে জাতীয় পুরস্কার ২০২৫ প্রদানের জন্য আবেদন পত্র আহবান।**

সর্বসাধারণের অংশগ্রহণের জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিভিন্ন ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়িত বৃক্ষরোপণ কর্মকর্তাকে নিম্নে বর্ণিত ০৭ (সাত) টি শ্রেণীভুক্ত করে প্রত্যেক শ্রেণীতে ০৩ (তিন) টি করে পুরস্কার প্রদানের জন্য সরকার সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করছে।

(ক) প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়/উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়/একতমাবী মাদ্রাসা/সিনিয়র মাদ্রাসা/ কলেজ/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
(খ) ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/উপজেলা পরিষদ/জেলা পরিষদ/সৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন/অভিদপ্তর/পরিদপ্তর/ সেক্টর কর্পোরেশন/ প্রতিষ্ঠান/এন জি ও/ক্রব/বেঙ্গালেশী সন্থা  
(গ) ব্যক্তিগত পর্যায়ে বৃক্ষরোপণ  
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(ঙ) ব্যক্তিগত/প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক পর্যায়ে সৃজিত ছাদ বাগান  
(চ) বন বিভাগ কর্তৃক সৃজিত বাগান  
(ছ) বৃক্ষ সম্পর্কিত গবেষণা/সংরক্ষণ/উদ্ভাবন

**আবেদনপত্রের ফর্ম প্রাপ্তি ও দাখিলের স্থান**

(১) বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, চট্টগ্রাম উত্তর বন বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম এর কার্যালয়, বন পাহাড়, নন্দনকানন, চট্টগ্রাম।  
(২) উপজেলা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, (সকল), চট্টগ্রাম জেলা।  
(৩) রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, মীরসরাই রেঞ্জ, মীরসরাই উপজেলা/বারোতালা রেঞ্জ, সীতাকুণ্ড উপজেলা/নারায়নহাট রেঞ্জ, ফটিকছড়ি উপজেলা/হাটহাজারী রেঞ্জ, হাটহাজারী উপজেলা/ইছামতি রেঞ্জ, রাউজান উপজেলা/ রাঙ্গুনিয়া রেঞ্জ, রাঙ্গুনিয়া উপজেলা/পটিয়া রেঞ্জ, পটিয়া ও বোরালহাটী উপজেলা/ পটিয়া এস.এফ.এন.টি.সি. কর্তৃক সৃষ্টি ও আয়োজিত উপজেলা/ দোহাজারী রেঞ্জ, চন্দনাইশ উপজেলা/ পদ্মা রেঞ্জ, লোহাগাড়া উপজেলা/ কানীপুর রেঞ্জ, বংশাবী উপজেলা/ মাদার্সা রেঞ্জ, সাতকানিয়া উপজেলা/ ফনীপ রেঞ্জ, ফনীপ উপজেলা/শহর রেঞ্জ, মহানগর এলাকা, চট্টগ্রাম জেলা।

এতদসকলের অন্যান্য জ্ঞাতব্য বিষয় (প্রয়োজন হলে) বর্ণিত কার্যালয় হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে।

আবেদনপত্র দাখিলের শেষ সময়: ০৪/০২/২০২৬ খ্রি.

(মোঃ সফিকুল ইসলাম)  
বিভাগীয় কর্মকর্তা  
চট্টগ্রাম উত্তর বন বিভাগ  
ও  
সদস্য সচিব  
বৃক্ষরোপণে জাতীয় পুরস্কার প্রদান সংক্রমে মেলা কমিটি, চট্টগ্রাম  
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GD-2648

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Memo No: 35.01.8400.194.00.001.25.1670 Date: 03.12.2025.

**e-GP Tender Notice**

This is to notify for all concerns that e-Tender is invited and published on 03/12/2025 in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following Tenders. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the web site [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Sl.	Tender ID	Tender Reference No.	Name of Work	Date & Time
01.	1177216	e-Gp/DEV/WB/HELP-RHD/PW-03 2025-2026	Construction and Improvement of Tankabati-Baroawlia Road (Z-1013) under Bandarban Road Division during the year 2025-2026 (PW-03)"	Last Selling: 04-Jan-2026 16:00 Closing: 05-Jan-2026 12:30

(Mohammad Mahade Iqbal)  
ID No.: 601956  
Superintending Engineer (C.C.), RHD  
Road Circle, Rangamati.  
&  
Project Director  
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Targeting Host Community under  
Bandarban Road Division.

GD-2650