

Leathertech Bangladesh 2025 begins in Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The 11th edition of Leathertech Bangladesh 2025, the country's international technology trade show for leather, footwear machinery, shoe materials, chemicals, and accessories, kicked off in the capital yesterday.

The event was inaugurated at the Expo Village, located within the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka.

Chowdhury Ashrif Mahmud Bin Harun, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, inaugurated the fair, and said Bangladesh's leather industry now stands on the threshold of realising its full potential.

An exhibition like Leathertech is not merely a showcase; it is a remarkable initiative to propel the sector toward that ultimate potential.

Such events signal that the

leather industry is ready to enter a new chapter, he said.

"I firmly believe that with coordinated efforts between the public and private sectors, Bangladesh's leather industry will advance much further," he added.

Syed Nasim Manzur, president of the Leather Goods and Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (LFMEAB), said the leather industry of Bangladesh is now at a crossroads to accelerate export-oriented manufacturing.

"To move to the next level, policy liberalisation is essential. If we can strengthen the right connections between our country and neighbouring economies, technological development within the leather sector will progress even faster," he said.

The exhibition features a pavilion from the Council



for Leather Exports India, Pakistan Tanners Association, India Footwear Components Manufacturers Association, and Confederation of Indian Footwear Industries, along with a pavilion from the Guangdong Shoe Making Machinery Association of China, according to a press release.

Nearly 200 exhibitors from 8

countries, including Bangladesh, are participating in the largest technology trade show for the leather sector in the country, said Tipu Sultan Bhuiyan, managing director of ASK Trade and Exhibitions Pvt Ltd, which is organising the show with the support of the LFMEAB.

Leathertech Bangladesh began its journey 11 years

ago as a technology platform created to bring manufacturing technologies for footwear, travel goods, and allied products from across the world closer to the doorsteps of end users.

The leather and footwear industry is Bangladesh's second-largest export sector after ready-made garments, contributing to approximately 3 percent of the global leather goods market and meeting nearly 10 percent of global leather demand.

Bangladesh's leather and footwear exports continued their recovery in October of 2025-26 fiscal year, posting a 9.7 percent year-on-year growth, reaching \$591.5 million compared to \$539.4 million last year, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau.

Trade show timings are between 11am to 7pm on all days of the show, and entry is free for business visitors.

Exporters criticise high bank interest

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with occasional interventions to support reserves and imports. On the Export Development Fund, he said the BB supports its revival once reserves can cover six months of imports, even if it exceeds IMF preferences.

Acknowledging concerns over non-performing loans (NPLs), the governor said actual NPLs could be as high as 35 percent.

He also recognised private sector frustration with advance income tax and tax deducted at source, but said reforms to automate refunds and carry forward excess payments are underway.

Ashik Chowdhury, executive chairman of Bida, said investment reforms are beginning to show results through better inter-agency coordination and monthly private sector consultations.

He highlighted progress on the long delayed National Single Window, the operationalisation of the Authorised Economic Operator system, and a digital portal, BanglaBiz, to streamline business services.

To boost foreign investment, he said Bida is piloting cashback incentives for non-resident

Bangladeshis and offering a platform to connect foreign investors with local partners. The number of planned economic zones has been cut from 100 to 10, with a Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in Chattogram awaiting final approval.

"We have completed 24 out of 32 reform goals. Our aim is transparency, not perfection," Chowdhury said.

NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan defended current tax policies but stressed the need for fiscal discipline and reforms.

He emphasised protecting local manufacturers through duty structures.

"Foreign banks earning profits in Bangladesh must be taxed," he said, criticising excessive tax waivers and calling for rationalisation of revenue and spending.

Energy Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan acknowledged a gas supply shortfall of more than 1,000 Million Cubic Feet per Day. Reforms are planned to streamline gas distribution and reduce interference.

Khan advocated shifting from road dependency to river and rail transport, noting that over 90 percent of goods are currently moved by road.

He highlighted progress on a locally developed integrated energy and power sector master plan and proposed refinery partnerships with global firms such as ExxonMobil.

"Wealth must come from production and innovation, not evasion or default," he said.

Lutfe Siddiqi, special assistant to the chief adviser, called for a move away from a "rotting system" towards performance-based governance.

"We may have improved from 1 to 5 percent, but we are still sitting on a 95 percent broken system," he said, urging a redesign of outdated rules of business and ministry structures.

Business leaders who attended the event included former FBCCI president Mir Nasir Hossain, Meghna Group MD Mostafa Kamal, East Coast Group Chairman Azam J Chowdhury, Transcom Group CEO Simeen Rahman, City Bank MD Mashrur Arefin, and Uttara Motors Chairman Matiur Rahman.

Don't clear

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"This is extremely worrying," she added, noting that climate change and pollution are compounding the crisis.

She said the government has been working for a year to address electricity tariff disparities and expects a 20 percent reduction in power tariffs "very soon."

To boost investment and reduce borrowing costs, she said a proposal has been submitted to the Bangladesh Bank to establish a specialised fisheries and livestock bank.

The adviser also called for recognising fisheries and livestock as a fully-fledged, standalone sector instead of treating them as a sub-sector.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur, speaking as a special guest, said financing alone will not solve the sector's challenges.

"Low productivity is the major problem," he said, urging genuine entrepreneurs to step up.

"While competitor countries have advanced in the international market by cultivating vannamei shrimp, we have yet to begin farming it here — and we must identify who is responsible for this."

"Due to such negligence, our foreign earnings from this sector have fallen to \$300 million," he said.

Speakers noted that despite being a top export earner in the 1990s, the shrimp industry has lagged behind regional competitors.

BFFEA President Md Shahjahan Chowdhury chaired the event.

Exports fall for 4th month

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He added that political uncertainty ahead of national elections has made buyers more cautious, reducing their willingness to place new orders in the near term.

Meanwhile, exports of plastic goods experienced a 15.5 percent fall to stand at \$24.5 million compared to nearly \$29 million in November 2024.

RN Paul, managing director of major plastic exporter RFL Group, however said the decline is largely owed to delays in shipment than a persisting issue.

"Our export performance fluctuates month to month. Sometimes we have three to four shipments going out in one month, and sometimes a shipment gets delayed, which was the case last month," Paul explained.

He clarified that the drop does not reflect a loss in demand. "Some of our shipments were delayed in the previous cycle and are now scheduled to go out this month. So, we expect an improvement in the coming weeks."

Paul expressed optimism that export volumes will rebound soon, attributing the temporary decline

to logistical factors rather than weakening market fundamentals.

M Shahadat Hossain Sohel, managing director of Towel Tex Limited, linked the downturn to declining global demand, particularly in major markets like the United States and Canada. "Consumers are prioritising basic necessities and seeking the lowest prices. Luxury and fashion items are not selling."

He said Bangladesh's export sector is facing a significant decline amid worsening global economic conditions.

"In our terry towel exports, the decline is even steeper, around 40 percent," he said.

Sohel further remarked that the impact of global conflicts is now being overtaken by an "economic war."

Among other major sectors, leather and leather products recorded a 5.14 percent growth, reaching \$99 million, up from last year's \$94.15 million; agricultural goods, however, fell 24.68 percent to \$82.78 million from \$109.90 million; chemical products grew 8.35 percent to reach \$30.49 million.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer

Memo No- 46.02.9400.000.14.001.25-3796

e-Tender Notice-30/2025-26 (LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System of Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of under mentioned work FY 2025-26.

Sl No	Tender ID	Package No. & Works	Tender Published Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time	Completion Time
1. 1189042	GDDRIDP/THK/SAD/VRA/186	04.12.2025 14.00	21.12.2025 15.00	22.12.2025 12.30	365 days	
2. 1189045	GDDRIDP/THK/SAD/VRA/185	04.12.2025 14.00	21.12.2025 15.00	22.12.2025 12.30	365 days	
3. 1189046	GDDRIDP/THK/SAD/VRA/187	04.12.2025 14.00	21.12.2025 15.00	22.12.2025 12.30	365 days	
4. 1189048	GDDRIDP/THK/BAL/VRA/189	04.12.2025 14.00	21.12.2025 15.00	22.12.2025 12.30	365 days	
5. 1189049	GDDRIDP/THK/BAL/VRB/235	04.12.2025 14.00	21.12.2025 15.00	22.12.2025 12.30	365 days	

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 (<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 Banks branches up to 21.12.2025 15.00. For further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-2661

ILO ratifications

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"Occupational safety and health standards need to be implemented for all workers across sectors like construction, agriculture, and transport. Ratification alone is not enough; proper implementation is essential."

Bangladesh is the first country in Asia to ratify all 10 fundamental ILO conventions and the first in South Asia to ratify ILO Convention 190. To date, the country has ratified 36 ILO conventions aimed at protecting workers' rights.

"These achievements are the result of years of efforts by the government, working closely with social partners and other stakeholders," said Max Tuñón, ILO country director in Bangladesh.

Progress under the interim government has helped maintain preferential access to the EU market, the largest destination for Bangladeshi exports.

"We warmly welcome

the interim government's

achievements

and

encourage

continued

progress

on

Bangladesh's

National Action Plan on

the

labour

sector.

Key

areas

still

needing

attention

include

amending

the

Export

Processing

Zone

(EPZ)

Labour

Act,

eliminating

child

labour,

and

strengthening

social

dialogue," Miller said.

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, chairman of the Labour Reform Commission, said,

Lutfe Siddiqi, chief advisor's special envoy for international affairs, also spoke at the event.

Dhaka North City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer

Zone-6

House-50, Road-6/c, Sector-12

Dhaka-1230

e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)

Date: 04/12