

# MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

## Crisis at Ctg port over new mooring terminal

Chattogram Port hit a stalemate after the High Court on January 29 rejected a petition against awarding the New Mooring Container Terminal to UAE-based DP World under a 15-year PPP. Workers and unions began an indefinite strike, citing threats to jobs and national interest, paralysing half the port's container traffic. The port handles over 90 percent of Bangladesh's trade. This work stoppage, continuing into February, backs up vessels. It is threatening RMG exports and essential imports, and creating a critical supply chain bottleneck.



## REMITTANCES SOAR 45% IN JAN

RECORD INFLOW

**\$3.17b**

9-MONTH HIGH  
▲ 45% YoY



### REASONS



RAMADAN & EID



ELECTION



STABLE EXCHANGE RATE

### IMPACT



FX RESERVES  
**\$28.9b** ▲



BB BUYS  
**\$3.93b**  
FROM INTERBANK MARKET

FY26 (JUL-JAN)

TOTAL INFLOWS:

**\$19.44b**

▲ 21.8% YoY

## EXPORTS STEADY AMID ELECTION CAUTION



January exports: **\$4.41b**

▲ **11.22%**  
from December

▼ **0.5%**  
year-on-year

### Trend

- 6<sup>th</sup> straight month of decline
- Cautious orders ahead of election

FY26 (Jul-Jan)

Total exports: **\$28.41b**

▼ 1.93% YoY

Garments:	\$22.98b	▼ 2.43%
Knitwear:	\$12.28b	▼ 3.13%
Woven:	\$10.69b	▼ 1.60%

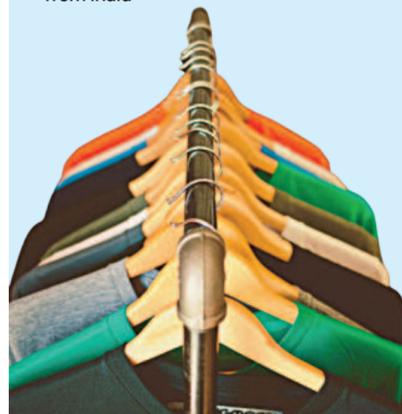
### Outlook

- Order rebound expected after Feb election
- Stronger pickup likely from June

## Apparel makers, spinners at loggerheads over duty-free imports

### BTMA's stand

- 10-30 count duty-free yarn imports from India threaten local mills
- 78% of yarn imports in 2024-25 came from India
- Domestic stock: **Tk 12,500 crore** unsold
- Many mills run at **60%** capacity due to gas shortage
- Only **10-30 count** yarn should be restricted; others open
- High bank interest (around 16%) and financial obligations risking mills



### BGMEA & BKMEA's stand

- Against ending duty-free yarn imports
- Say local yarn is costlier than imports
- Fear higher costs will hurt export competitiveness

## Gold Market Sees Sharp Swings

The price of one bhor of 22-carat gold rose by Tk 32,892 to Tk 2.55 lakh, temporarily peaking at Tk 2.86 lakh on January 29, with 18 price changes and a Tk 15,746 drop in 24 hours.



## Pay Commission Proposes Major Hike

### Salary hike

- Minimum: **Tk 8,250 → Tk 20,000**
- Maximum: **Tk 78,000 → Tk 160,000**
- Increase range: **100-142%**
- 20** new pay scales proposed

### Expenditure impact

- Additional annual cost: **Tk 1.06 lakh cr**
- Current spending: **Tk 1.31 lakh cr** (14 lakh employees + 9 lakh pensioners)

### Pensions & benefits

- Pension < **Tk 20,000** → **nearly doubled**
- Pension **Tk 20,000-40,000** → **+75%**
- Pension > **Tk 40,000** → **+55%**
- Pahela Baishakh allowance: **20% → 50%**
- Tiffin allowance: **Tk 200 → Tk 1,000** (grades 11-20)
- Health insurance & welfare reforms recommended
- Tk 2,000/month** allowance for employees with disabled children



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