

Bangladesh's share in US apparel market rises to 10.53%

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh expanded its footprint in the United States apparel market to 10.53 percent in 2025, up from 9.26 percent a year earlier, as American buyers shifted orders away from China, according to official data.

US retailers and brands imported garments worth \$77.88 billion from across the world last year, according to the Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA) under the US Department of Commerce.

Of that total, Bangladesh supplied \$8.20 billion, strengthening its position as the third-largest apparel exporter to the US market.

In 2025, Vietnam emerged as the largest garment exporter to the American market, overtaking China. It shipped readymade garment items worth \$16.74 billion, capturing a 21.50 percent market share.

China, which led the market in 2024 with a 20.83 percent share, saw its position weaken abruptly. Its



share fell to 13.66 percent in 2025, with exports totalling \$10.64 billion, according to OTEXA data.

China's decline is largely linked to punishing tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump last year.

The United States is the largest single-nation export market for Bangladeshi apparel items. Bangladesh's performance in the American market marks a steady

recovery and gradual expansion over the past few years. Its market share stood at 9.37 percent in 2023 and 9.74 percent in 2022. The figure dropped to 8.76 percent in 2021 as exports were hit by the severe fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The latest gain signals growing demand for Bangladeshi garments in the US market at a time of shifting sourcing strategies among global brands.

Industry leaders expect further growth if trade conditions remain favourable. The Trump administration has lowered the reciprocal tariff to 10 percent after a US court ruling, a move that could ease cost pressures in the US market.

"The lowering of the tariff will reduce the prices of commodities in the American markets, and the buyers will purchase more commodities such as garment items and ultimately the supply of locally made garments to the American market will grow in future," said Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Gold gains on softer dollar

REUTERS

Gold prices rose on Wednesday, lifted by a softer dollar and heightened safe-haven demand amid uncertainty over US tariffs and rising friction between Washington and Tehran.

Spot gold rose 0.8 percent to \$5,190.99 per ounce, as of 0841 GMT. US gold futures for April delivery were up 0.7 percent at \$5,210.40.

The US dollar index shed 0.1 percent, making greenback-priced bullion cheaper for other currency holders.

"Spot gold is being supported above the \$5,000 level by the softer US dollar, a muddled outlook on US trade policy, and persistent geopolitical tensions," said Han Tan, chief market analyst at Bybit.

"As long as these fundamental drivers remain intact, bullion bulls will be eager for a return towards record highs."

Abrupt ouster of Ahsan H Mansur draws sharp criticism

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"Regardless of his experience, the conflict of interest is obvious. How can Bangladesh Bank remain independent if it is led by an active business figure from a sector it must regulate?" he questioned.

Islam said he had criticised Mansur in the past, particularly for his communication failures. "But to be fair, he also took important steps to address the massive banking irregularities we witnessed under the previous regime." "Bangladesh cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the past. Institutional independence is not optional; it is essential, and it has to start with appointing the right people with the right skills," Islam added.

A managing director of a private commercial bank, on condition of anonymity, said the most

disappointing aspect is that Mansur could have been given a more dignified farewell. "If our foreign business counterparts ask us questions, what answer will we give? This has now become an issue."

Selim Raihan, executive director of South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), framed the episode more starkly: does the government genuinely intend to reform the banking sector?

"A central bank is not merely a policy-making body; it is also the regulator and supervisor of commercial banks," he noted.

A businessperson's instinct may lean toward prioritising market and corporate interests, whereas the primary responsibility of a central bank governor is to control inflation, ensure financial stability and take firm action against weak and

irregular banks, he said.

Raihan added that with the banking sector already burdened by high non-performing loans, governance weaknesses and political influence, transparency, professional independence and regulatory experience should have been key considerations.

Referring to the outgoing governor, he said efforts were made to introduce important reforms, though not all methods were universally accepted.

He alleged that the former governor lacked adequate support from the interim government, which may have made some decisions appear controversial.

Birupaksha Paul, a professor of economics at the State University of New York, said Mansur, as BB governor, was highly qualified, and his

replacement under the new BNP regime was not quite surprising.

He observed that since the amendment of the Bangladesh Bank Order, which is expected to grant BB greater autonomy, was yet to happen, the selection of the governor still hinges on the choice of the finance minister, who wants to have a colleague conducive to carrying out his agendas.

He argued, "The new governor must work as an economist and a strong regulator without any bias toward particular groups or quarters while ensuring broader national interests of employment, growth and low inflation."

"Nothing can be predicted right now about how the new governor will handle the beleaguered banking industry and address the mountains of defaulted loans," he added.

Stabilised economy

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dozen of banks were sinking under heavy non-performing loans, while non-bank financial institutions were refusing to return deposits. Many bank boards were heavily influenced by politically affiliated figures.

Many bank directors reportedly fled the country with huge funds. Mansur responded with forensic audits to determine the real health of the sector and initiated reforms, though deep restructuring remained incomplete.

As long-buried toxic loans surfaced, the volume of non-performing loans (NPL) reached Tk 6.44 lakh crore in September last year from Tk 2.11 lakh crore in June 2024.

As part of his financial mess cleanup agenda, the former governor oversaw the merger of five ailing shariah-based banks, enacted the Bank Resolution Ordinance and the Deposit Insurance

Ordinance. He also pushed for amendments to the Bangladesh Bank Order and the Bank Company Act, though those got stuck at the finance ministry.

While his public warnings on bank weaknesses initially spooked depositors, the measures ultimately strengthened transparency and governance.

Mustafa K. Mujeri, former director general of BIDS and ex-chief economist at the Bangladesh Bank, said, "When Mansur assumed office, it was a challenging time as the whole financial sector was on the edge of a cliff."

"The sector had been looted. Mansur had to spend considerable time uncovering the true state of affairs," he added.

Fahmida Khatun, executive director at local think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), echoed similar views. She said Mansur

inherited a fragile banking sector with many banks burdened by massive non-performing loans. Bangladesh Bank had functioned largely as an implementing agency of the government, and the sector's true health had been disguised.

"He had to run forensic audits to review asset quality and find the real health of the banking sector," she said.

Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow at CPD, said that the outgoing BB governor made serious efforts to reform the banking sector and restore discipline during a critical period for the economy.

"His initiatives included restructuring bank boards, promoting mergers among weak institutions, setting up an asset recovery company for distressed assets and curbing illicit financial outflows, although some changes were not fully endorsed by the interim government."

Rahman described these steps as essential not only for immediate stability but for laying the foundation for long-term governance in the sector.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a former senior banker said Mansur demonstrated "earnest dedication and great sincerity" in his duties.

He described the former BB governor as an accomplished economist who stabilised fragile macroeconomic indicators amid post-Covid pressures, fallout of Russia-Ukraine war, and volatile global commodity prices.

"From a very dire situation, Mansur improved foreign exchange reserves and helped stabilise the taka-US dollar exchange rate," the banker said. He added that Mansur also managed overdue petroleum and gas import liabilities and cleared remittance backlogs for airlines and shipping firms.

"গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।"

"বিশুদ্ধ ও জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার।"

বাংলাদেশ গ্যাস ফিল্ডস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোলিয়ামের একটি কোম্পানী)
Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)

International Tender Notice

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFCL), A Company of Petrobangla
3	Procuring entity	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFCL)
4	Procuring entity code	-----
5	Procuring entity district	Brahmanbaria
6	Invitation Reference No.	Tender Ref. No. BGFCL/GOODS(FP)/238 Dated February 24, 2026
7	Invitation for	Procurement of Spares of Ariel Compressor (Frame: JGF/4)
8	Procurement method	One stage two envelope tendering (International Competitive tendering)
9	Budget & source of fund	Own Fund of BGFCL
10	Tender publication date	February 26, 2026.
11	Tender selling date & time	a) Tender documents will be available between 09:00 hrs & 14:00 hrs (BST) on all working days (Sunday to Thursday) from February 26, 2026 to April 12, 2026. No extension in closing date for selling of tender documents will be allowed. b) Place: BGFCL's Liaison Office at Petrocentre (14th Floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka. c) Price of Tender Document: Tender documents will be sold on payment of USD 50.00 or BDT 6,000.00 (non-refundable)
12	Tender closing date & time	a) Date & time: April 13, 2026 up to 14:15 hrs (BST). b) Place: BGFCL Head Office, Meeting Room at 2nd Floor, Birashar, Brahmanbaria-3400.
13	Tender opening date & time	a) Date & time: April 13, 2026 up to 14:30 hrs (BST) in presence of the Tenderer's representatives, if any. b) Place: BGFCL Head Office, Meeting Room at 2nd Floor, Birashar, Brahmanbaria-3400.
14	Date, time & place for pre-tender meeting	Not applicable.
15	Eligibility of tenderer	Reputed firms, manufacturers and suppliers from all countries except Israel with the following international experience: (a) Tenderer must have overall minimum 05 (five) years experience. (b) If the tenderer is not the manufacturer himself, the tenderer must submit Authorization Letter from the manufacturer or manufacturer's authorized distributor to prove the quoted materials are genuine. (c) Tenderer shall have experience in supplying similar materials to other than the Tenderer's own country. (d) Manufacturer shall have minimum 10 (ten) years experience in manufacturing the offered products. (e) Manufacturer shall have valid ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 certificates as well as tenderer shall have valid ISO 9001 certificate.
16	Description of goods	Spares of Ariel Compressor (Frame: JGF/4)
17	Tender security amount	USD 2,200.00 or BDT 2,70,000.00 In the form of Bank Guarantee only
18	Delivery time	120 days from the date of L/C opening
19	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. M. K. Masuk
20	Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager (Technical Services)
21	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFCL), Head Office, Birashar, Brahmanbaria-3400, Bangladesh, Telephone No. +8801730 093679, E-mail: prbfgcl@gmail.com/dgmp@bgfcl.gov.bd
22	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.	
Special information	i) Tenders must remain valid for 120 (one hundred twenty) days from the date of closing of the tender. ii) The tender security must remain valid for 148 (one hundred forty-eight) days from the date of closing of the tender. iii) In case of any unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, govt. declared holiday, etc. tender will be received and opened on the following working day. iv) Tenders submitted after the deadline for receiving of tenders will be rejected and returned unopened to the tenderer. v) Tender submitted by e-mail will be rejected. Likewise photocopy of e-mailed tenders will also be rejected. vi) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all tenders or annul the tendering process at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected tenderers. vii) This tender will be conducted as per the Public Procurement Act 2006 and the Public Procurement Rule 2025. The aforesaid notice is also available at BPPA website @ www.cptu.gov.bd, Petrobangla website @ www.petrobangla.org.bd and BGFCL website @ www.bgfcl.gov.bd.	

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(3x10⁹)

Engr. M. K. Masuk
General Manager (Technical Services)

GD-397

Shwapno taps

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increased its interest payment burden. To strengthen its position, the company has already received an investment of Tk 640 crore from ACI PLC, its parent company.

Sabbir Hasan Nasir, managing director of ACIL, told the Daily Star that the company is generating operating profit, but high finance costs are keeping net earnings in the red.

He said the equity investment from ACI PLC and the convertible loans from Mitsui & Co will help the company reach net profit soon.

"Especially, their technical know-how and expertise in retail will benefit Shwapno," he added.

ACIL's deal with Mitsui comes as modern retail continues to expand. In October last year, Indonesian retail giant Alfamart partnered with Kazi Farms Group to launch a convenience store chain in Bangladesh.

The statement said

Mitsui, one of Japan's leading multinational companies operating in more than 60 countries, brings not only financial support but also technical expertise, global sourcing strength, and wide cross-industry experience.

ACI Logistics entered the retail sector in 2008 under the brand "Fresh and Near" to support its "Seed to Shelf" vision of connecting farmers directly with consumers. Starting with fresh produce and daily essentials, Shwapno outlets now offer products ranging from apparel and home décor to electronics and more.

The deal was signed at the ACI Centre in the presence of ACI PLC Chairman Anis Ud Dowla, Managing Director Arif Dowla, ACIL Managing Director Sabbir Hasan Nasir, and Kazuhide Nakajo, chief operating officer of the Consumer-Centric Business Development Unit at Mitsui & Co (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd, along with senior representatives from both groups.

Tax return deadline

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said taxpayers are still adjusting to the mandatory online filing system.

"This year, many people are taking time to get used to mandatory e-return submission. Besides, the national election has also had an impact," the official added.

NBR officials said several tax lawyers' associations have sought at least a two-month extension,

citing server and network disruptions as well as limited technical skills among taxpayers.

The revenue authority is also considering a year-round return submission system divided into three categories, said a top official. Under the proposal, early filers would get incentives, on-time filers would pay the regular rate, and late filers would face graded penalties.

Oil hovers near 7-month highs

REUTERS

Oil prices were hovering near seven-month highs on Wednesday as the threat of military conflict between the US and Iran that could disrupt supply continued

to worry investors as talks between the parties are set for Thursday.

Brent futures were up 43 cents, or 0.6 percent, at \$71.20 per barrel at 0400 GMT. WTI futures rose 38 cents, or 0.6 percent, to \$66.01.

Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Nalka, Sirajganj.

e-Tender Notice

Reference No.: 28.18.0000.000.039.07.011.2025-26/791 Date: 23/02/2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of the following goods described below:

Tender Package Description	Tender ID	Tender/Proposal Document Publication date	Tender/Proposal Document last selling/downloading date and time	Last Date and Time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date and Time	Procurement Method
Procurement of Rotary, Turbine Gas Meter with EVC	1220751	25-February-2026	13-April-2026 at 10:00 AM	13-April-2026 at 2:00 PM	13-April-2026 at 3:00 PM	OTM

1) This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
2) To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
3) The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposit online through any registered bank's branches.
4) Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

PGPR-31/2025-2026 (3 x 4")

GD-396

General Manager (Administration)
e-mail: gm.admin@pccgl.org.bd
Contact No.01730357237

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, সিলেট
সংস্থাপন শাখা
www.sylhetdiv.gov.bd

নম্বর ০৪.৪৬.০০০০.০০০.০০৪.১১.০০০২.১৭.১২৬ তারিখ ১৩ ফাল্গুন ১৪০২ বঙ্গাব্দ
২২ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, সিলেট এর নিম্নলিখিত শূন্য পদসমূহের পূরণের নিমিত্তে অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে সরাসরি নিয়োগের মাধ্যমে পূরণের নিমিত্ত সিলেট বিভাগের আওতাধীন সিলেট, সুনামগঞ্জ, হবিগঞ্জ এবং মৌলভীবাজার জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাদের নিকট হতে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তসমূহে অনলাইনে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নম্বর	পদের নাম, গ্রেড ও বেতন স্কেল (মাসিক বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদ সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত ও অন্যান্য বৈশিষ্ট্য
০১	হিসাবরক্ষক গ্রেড-১৪ স্কেল- টাকা ১২০০০-২৪৬৮০	০২ (দুই) টি	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের তত্ত্বি; (খ) ওয়ার্ড প্রেসিডেন্ট, পেস্টম্যান, প্রজেক্টম্যান এবং বেসিক কম্পিউটার ট্রাফলপুটিং এ বক্ষতা; এবং (গ) কম্পিউটার টাইপে সর্বনিম্ন গতি বিনিমিটে বাংলায় ২০টি ও ইংরেজিতে ২০টি শব্দ।
০২	অফিস সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার সূত্রাকর্ষক গ্রেড-১৬ স্কেল- টাকা ১০০০০-২২৪৪০	১১ (এগারো) টি	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চমাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) ওয়ার্ড প্রেসিডেন্ট, পেস্টম্যান, প্রজেক্টম্যান এবং বেসিক কম্পিউটার ট্রাফলপুটিং এ বক্ষতা; এবং (গ) কম্পিউটার টাইপে সর্বনিম্ন গতি বিনিমিটে বাংলায় ২০টি ও ইংরেজিতে ২০টি শব্দ।
০৩	বেকার কিশোর গ্রেড-১৬ স্কেল- টাকা ১০০০০-২২৪৪০	০১ (এক) টি	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) ওয়ার্ড প্রেসিডেন্ট, পেস্টম্যান, প্রজেক্টম্যান এবং বেসিক কম্পিউটার ট্রাফলপুটিং এ বক্ষতা; এবং (গ) কম্পিউটার টাইপে সর্বনিম্ন গতি বিনিমিটে বাংলায় ২০টি ও ইংরেজিতে ২০টি শব্দ।
০৪	পার্শ্বিক গ্রেড-১৬ স্কেল- টাকা ১০০০০-২২৪৪০	০১ (এক) টি	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে জুনিয়র কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং (খ) বিমারটের কার্যকর প্রকৃত বৈধ লাইসেন্সধার হোল্ডার বা, কেব্রলস, ভারী যানবাহন চালানার পাসবইটি হতে হবে।
০৫	অফিস সহায়ক গ্রেড-২০ স্কেল- টাকা ৮২৫০-২০০০০	০৩ (তিন) টি	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে মাধ্যমিক কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ
০৬	অফিসি গ্রেড-২০ স্কেল- টাকা ৮২৫০-২০০০০	০২ (দুই) টি	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে মাধ্যমিক কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ

আবেদন শূন্যতার অনলাইনে <http://divsl.teletalk.com.bd> এই ওয়েবসাইটে ০১ মার্চ ২০২৬ তারিখ রবিবার সকাল ১০:০০টা হতে ০১ মার্চ ২০২৬ তারিখ সন্ধ্যার বিকাল ০৫:০০টা পর্যন্ত দাখিল করা যাবে। অফিসে সরাসরি/ডাকযোগে কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না। সরাসরি/ডাকযোগে প্রেরিত সকল আবেদন বাতিল মর্মে গণ্য হবে। নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংক্রান্ত বিবরণিত তথ্য www.sylhetdiv.gov.bd এবং <http://divsl.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

খান মোঃ মোকাম্মেল-নবী
বিভাগীয় কমিশনার
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