

Bangladesh-Malaysia trade set for high-tech boost as exports near \$300m

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladesh's exports to Malaysia have surged more than fivefold over the past decade, climbing from \$56 million to nearly \$300 million, reflecting deepening bilateral trade ties, said Mohd Shuhada Othman, high commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh.

He said the next phase of cooperation would centre on high tech collaboration in the semiconductor industry and stronger engagement in the global Halal economy.

The envoy made the remarks at the Silver Jubilee celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI), held yesterday at the Sheraton Dhaka, according to a press release.

In his address, Othman commended BMCCI for supporting Malaysia's position as the ninth-largest investor in Bangladesh. He also unveiled the chamber's new logo as chief guest at the event.

Shabbir A Khan, president of BMCCI, expressed pride in the chamber's journey since its inception in 2001, describing the Silver Jubilee logo as a symbol of resilience, collaboration and forward-looking momentum for the next 25 years.

He paid tribute to the 12 founding



Mohd Shuhada Othman, high commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh, inaugurates the Silver Jubilee celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI), at the Sheraton Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: BMCCI

members whose foresight laid the foundation of the chamber and acknowledged the contributions of past presidents and members to its steady growth. Looking ahead, Khan reaffirmed BMCCI's commitment to diversifying business engagement and strengthening

the longstanding ties between the two countries.

Over the past 25 years, BMCCI has worked to enhance strategic capabilities among business communities by organising investment forums, trade fairs, business delegation exchanges, seminars

and symposiums between Bangladesh and Malaysia.

Salahuddin Kasem Khan, former president and founding director of the chamber, was also present, alongside senior officials, business leaders and executives from various sectors.

US producer inflation higher than expected

AFP, Washington

US producer prices rose more than analysts expected in January, government data showed Friday, boosted by services costs.

The producer price index (PPI) climbed 0.5 percent on a month-on-month basis, the Department of Labor said, picking up slightly from December's revised figure and above the 0.3 percent that economists expected.

From a year ago, PPI was up 2.9 percent, inching down slightly from December's 3.0 percent.

"Producer prices rose more than expected in January as service-related costs and stronger pricing power push up margins received by wholesalers and retailers," said Nationwide senior economist Ben Ayers.

"But a broad-based push higher from tariffs remains absent," he said.

Besides trade services, prices for transportation and warehousing services also climbed.

This comes as President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs -- imposed since he returned to the White House last year -- continue to filter through the economy.

While they have not caused a widespread consumer inflation surge, firms have flagged higher business costs and difficulties planning due to policy uncertainty.

Prices for goods dropped 0.3 percent month-on-month on a decline in energy costs, the Labor Department said.

This was "the largest decrease since falling 0.7 percent in March 2025," the report added.

But excluding the volatile food and energy sectors, the index for goods advanced 0.7 percent.

Mastercard, Prime Bank launch numberless debit card



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Global digital payments provider Mastercard has partnered with Prime Bank PLC to launch Bangladesh's first numberless debit card through the bank's digital platform, Prime NOW, a move aimed at strengthening security, privacy and customer control in digital transactions.

Tanjil Chowdhury, chairman of Prime Bank PLC, and Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager for Bangladesh at Mastercard, jointly inaugurated the card at a ceremony held yesterday in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Unlike conventional cards, the Prime NOW Mastercard debit card does not display the card number, CVV or expiry date, reducing the risk of skimming and data theft.

All details are securely stored in the Prime NOW app, protected by multi-layer authentication, including optional biometrics, and can be accessed instantly for online transactions.

The card features app-based controls such as QR activation, spending limits and digital reissuance, while a misplaced card carries no usable information.

Chowdhury said, "With the Prime NOW Numberless Card -- a first for Bangladesh -- we are breaking the status quo."

"This isn't just a card; it's a shift towards a digital-first lifestyle."

"We are moving from forced processes to empowered choices. As a storied institution, we are proud to lead the charge into this next era of banking," he added.

Kamal said, "The launch of Prime NOW Mastercard numberless debit card marks a significant milestone in the country's digital payments journey. As consumers look for greater privacy and seamless control, numberless technology offers a safer and more intuitive way to transact."

Cardholders also enjoy year-round benefits at over 10,000 Mastercard partner merchants nationwide and can personalise the card's design and e-commerce settings through the app.

Electro Mart launches Gree 'airy' inverter AC series

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Electro Mart Group has unveiled the new Gree "airy" series air conditioners in the local market, introducing a premium inverter range designed for energy efficiency and extreme weather performance.

The airy series -- available in 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 tonne models -- will be sold through all display centres, retail outlets and partner showrooms of the company nationwide, according to a press release.

Md Nurul Afser, deputy managing director of Electro Mart Group, inaugurated the new series at a ceremony in Dhaka.

He said Gree has earned the trust of customers and is now the leading air conditioner brand in Bangladesh.

The Gree airy series is engineered to operate in temperatures of up to 68 degrees Celsius, supported by "G-Boost" technology.

With high Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) ratings, the model is designed to ensure optimal cooling while reducing electricity consumption.

The unit features dual self-cleaning technology for both indoor and outdoor components, along with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, voice control and "Surfing Louver" technology to deliver indirect and comfortable airflow.

Powered by an AI chip and G-Learning algorithm, the airy series adapts to users' habits to provide personalised cooling while saving up to 20 percent more energy compared to conventional inverter air

conditioners.

It also incorporates a Cold Plasma sterilisation system, which the company says can eliminate up to 93 percent of bacteria and viruses, helping maintain a healthier indoor environment.

Positioned as a top-tier solution for residential and light commercial use, particularly in hot climates, the airy series combines smart technology, energy efficiency and modern design.

Mohammed Nurussafa Babu, deputy managing director of the company; Mohammad Sazzad Un Newaz, director; Mahmudun Nabi Chowdhury, general manager of sales and marketing; and Zulfak Hossain, national sales manager of retail, along with other senior officials, were also present.



PHOTO: ELECTRO MART GROUP

Md Nurul Afser, deputy managing director of Electro Mart Group, inaugurates the new Gree "airy" series air conditioners in Dhaka recently.

Invitation of Tender

901 Central Workshop EME
Dhaka Cantonment

1. For yr 2025-2026 sealed quotations are invited from bonafide reputed and enlisted (Logistic area) firms of Bangladesh Army who all are renewed (2025-2026) of local repair of vehicles as below:

Ser	Tender No. & date	Description of work	Date of selling Tender schedule	Opening date of tender
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
a.	Tender No. Dt 01 February 2025	a. BA No. 088312, 088479 & 088506 Trk 3 Ton Renault TRM-180.11 Necessary Spare Parts/ Equipment (As per schedule). b. BA No. 104024 Tank TPTIR 50 Ton Prime Mover Model: Renault KERAX-350.34T Necessary Spare Parts/Equipment (As per schedule).	According to PPR 2008 rule 61 (4) the schedule will be sold up to 14 days from the date of publication at the newspaper.	Tender will be opened on the 15th day of publication of the newspaper.

2. The terms & conditions with technical specification are available at local purchase office in 901 Central Workshop EME, Dhaka Cantonment during office time. Two percent (2%) earnest money of the total tendered amount have to be deposited in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order along with the tender in favour of Commandant, 901 Central Workshop EME, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka. Interested firm has to purchase tender schedule from LP office of 901 Central Workshop EME, upto 1400 hours in every working day till last date of selling as mentioned in columns 4 (14 days from the date of publication at the newspaper). On the opening date (mentioned in column 5) at 1230 hours tender box will be opened in presence of intending bidders or their representatives (if any).

3. Participating firms must have past experience in doing the similar nature of work and experience certificate to be attached in tender.

4. If any vehicle/instrument shows any malfunction in the current financial year, the supplying firm will be bound to repair it again without demanding any financial support.

5. The package price offered by the firm participating in the tender will be considered as the lowest bidder.

6. Authority possessed all the rights to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

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India logs

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"The relative ranking will also depend on other countries' growth rates and exchange rates as well," he said.

Faced with a dimming economic outlook, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sought to bolster the economy by slashing income and consumption taxes which have helped rebound consumer spending in recent quarters.

New Delhi also managed to secure a trade deal with Washington in early February, which boosted sentiment around the rupee but came just weeks before the US Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs.

The GDP numbers are the first data released under a revised framework that New Delhi said better captures "the realities of a fast-changing economy".

The data overhaul has seen India shift its GDP base year to 2022-23 from 2011-12 and adopt more granular

price deflation to help quell concerns that earlier methods relied too heavily on the wholesale price index.

Growth calculations are now also based on sources of data including India's online tax and vehicle registration databases.

The government said the new data aligns official numbers "more closely with the structure and dynamics of today's economy".

The data revamp also sees New Delhi raising its growth projections for the current financial year that ends in March.

The Indian economy is now projected to grow 7.6 percent for the full fiscal year, up from a forecast of 7.4 percent published last month, a press release from the statistics ministry said.

The latest figures bring Modi closer to his goal of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047 -- a target that most analysts say would require the economy to record about 8 percent growth every year until then.

Invitation of Tender

EMEC&S, Saidpur Cantonment

1. Financial year 2025-2026 sealed quotations are invited from bonafide reputed and enlisted (Rangpur Area) firms of Bangladesh Army who all are renewed (2025-2026) of purchase equipment as below:

Ser	Tender No. & date	Description of work	Date of selling tender schedule	Opening date of tender
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1.	Tender No. 01 dt: 17 February 2026	a. 1x Indoor LED Display Module with Complete Accessories. b. 3x Temperature Control Unit 5 Ton.	According to PPR 2008 rule 61 (4) the schedule will be sold up to 14 days from the date of publication at the newspaper.	Tender will be opened on the 15th day of the publication newspaper.

2. The terms & conditions with technical specification are available at (TSS office) EMEC&S Saidpur Cantonment during office time. Three percent (3%) earnest money of the total tendered amount have to be deposited in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order along with the tender in favour of Commandant, EMEC&S Saidpur Cantonment, Saidpur. Interested firm has to purchase tender schedule from (TSS office) EMEC&S upto 1400 hours in every working day till last date of selling as mentioned in columns d (14 days from the date of publication at the newspaper). On the opening date (mentioned in column e) at 1230 hours tender box will be opened in presence of intending bidders or their representatives (if any).

3. Participating firms must have past experience in doing the similar nature of work and experience certificate to be attached in tender.

4. If the authority decides to purchase the same goods again in the current financial year, the supplying firm will be obliged to supply those at the same price.

5. The package price offered by the firm participation in the tender will be considered as the lowest bidder.

6. Authority preserves all the rights to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

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Commandant
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