Bangladesh can increase duty-free exports to UK

Trade envoy calls for utilising Developing Countries Trading Scheme

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The United Kingdom's visiting trade envoy, Baroness Rosie Winterton of Doncaster, has called on Bangladesh to increase exports to her country utilising the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), which offers duty-free access.

During a meeting with Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury at the Secretariat yesterday, she pointed to scope for increasing exports beyond ready-made garments, including processed foods, seafood, light engineering and leather goods.

She also encouraged Bangladesh to make use of approximately £2 billion in export credit facilities available under UK Export Finance for increased infrastructure and other investments, according to a commerce ministry press statement.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to reactivate the Bangladesh–UK Trade and Investment Dialogue, the statement adds.

The DCTS, which replaced the UK's Generalised Scheme of Preferences, came into force on 19 June 2023. Under the scheme, the UK cuts tariffs, removes conditions and simplifies trading rules for 65 developing countries.

The scheme heavily benefits UK businesses and consumers by reducing the import cost of thousands of products from around the world. Importers enjoy zero percent import tariff on 99.8 percent of products from 47 eligible least developed countries (LDCs), including Bangladesh, under the scheme's Comprehensive Preferences tier.

The UK has confirmed it will maintain duty-free access for Bangladeshi goods under DCTS even after Bangladesh graduates from LDC status.

During the meeting with the UK envoy, Minister Chowdhury said the government has been working to improve the investment climate, cut logistics costs and ease doing business.

He said Bangladesh is pursuing free trade agreements and economic partnership agreements with several countries and intends to deepen trade ties with the UK.

The UK is Bangladesh's third-largest export destination after the United States and Germany.

In the last fiscal year 2024-25, Bangladesh exported $4.62 billion worth of goods to the European country, accounting for 9.57 percent of total exports, according to data from the Bangladesh High Commission in London.

The major exportable items include ready-made garments, frozen food, IT engineering, leather and jute goods, and bicycles, with knitwear and woven garments accounting for 90 percent of total exports.

Airline, travel industries see no immediate relief from ceasefire

REUTERS

US President Donald Trump's two-week ceasefire with Iran is unlikely to provide immediate relief to the global aviation industry as it reels from its worst crisis in years, executives said on Wednesday, even as airline shares rallied after the deal.

Willie Walsh, director general of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), warned it would take months for jet fuel supply to recover even if Iran reopened the Strait of Hormuz, given disruptions to Middle East refining capacity.

Delta Air Lines forecast lower-than-expected profit for the second quarter and said it would cut capacity across the board to make up for the $2 billion in extra fuel costs it expects to book in the second quarter.

Fuel is the second-largest expense for airlines after labour, typically accounting for about 27 percent of operating expenses.

Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz has choked supplies of jet fuel globally, and news of a ceasefire and the possibility of safe passage through the Strait sent airline stocks soaring.

Oil fell below $100 per barrel after Trump said he had agreed to a two-week ceasefire with Iran, subject to the Strait's immediate and safe reopening.

But comments from executives and experts across the industry highlight deepening pain for airlines facing a doubling of jet fuel prices and worries about constrained supplies.

Carriers across the world have been hiking fares, cutting flights, carrying extra fuel from home airports and adding refueling stops as the Middle East conflict squeezes supply.

Walsh told reporters that while he expected crude oil prices to fall, jet fuel costs were likely to remain slightly elevated due to the impact on refineries.

"If it were to reopen and remain open, I think it will still take a period of months to get back to where supply needs to be given the disruption to the refining capacity in the Middle East," Walsh said.

Taka gains as dollar demand softens

FROM PAGE B1

that Bangladesh's external position has not fundamentally weakened, although panic driven demand had unsettled the market.

The country's gross foreign exchange reserves stand at about $34.35 billion, which the central bank described as a strong buffer for external trade payments. Usable reserves were $29.81 billion on April 2, enough to cover more than five months of imports.

The BB report said the central bank has maintained monetary tightening in response to stubbornly high inflation.

"However, inflation remains above the comfort threshold, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income households," it said, adding that the government and the central bank have taken several steps to rein in price pressures.

The BB has withdrawn LC margin requirements for imports of essential commodities, including rice, onions, dates, sugar, pulses and edible oil, it added.

Alongside truck sales by the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), relevant agencies are working to curb hoarding, syndication and other illegal practices to ease supply bottlenecks.

On money and credit markets, the report said the near-term outlook depends on striking a balance between maintaining adequate liquidity, containing inflation and reviving private sector credit growth.

It said that public sector credit is likely to remain the main driver of overall credit expansion in the short term, potentially crowding out private investment and complicating efforts to sustain growth.

"A recovery in private-sector credit will depend on further moderation of lending rates, improved investor confidence, and greater political stability," said the BB.

Dead firms, rising shares

FROM PAGE B1

who bought the shares should have had supporting information.

DBA President Islam also advocated for stronger action. The DSE's responsibility, he said, does not end with labelling companies as non-operational.

He said investor protection is a core duty of the market regulator. If firms have remained dormant for years, the DSE could have suspended trading, summoned management, explored mergers or restructuring and engaged merchant banks to assess options.

AXE FINALLY LOOMS OVER THEM

Abul Kalam, spokesperson of the BSEC, said the regulator has placed the companies under surveillance. If it finds manipulation, insider dealing or regulatory breaches, it will act.

On whether the companies will continue trading despite years of closure, he said listing and delisting are fully in the hands of the stock exchange.

"Stock exchange can delist the companies complying with listing regulations; it is their task," he added.

Mominul Islam, chairman of the DSE, said the exchange has asked the non-operational companies about plans to resume operations. Some have replied, others have not.

"A few cited political disruptions over the past decade as the reason for closure and said they are trying to reopen factories. The DSE will allow them time," he told The Daily Star.

For the rest, the exchange will assess whether operations can realistically resume. If not, it will review assets and liabilities before making a decision. Some companies will be delisted gradually if there is no prospect of revival, he said.

Gold climbs to three-week high

REUTERS

Gold prices climbed to a nearly three-week high on Wednesday as markets reassessed near-term risks after US President Donald Trump agreed to suspend bombings and attacks on Iran for two weeks, easing fears of energy-driven inflation.

Spot gold was up 2.5 percent at $4,819.52 per ounce, as of 0726 GMT. Earlier in the session, bullion rose more than 3 percent to its highest level since March 19. US gold futures for June delivery gained 3.4 percent to $4,845.30.

Trump said Washington had agreed to a two-week pause in attacks and received what he described as a "workable" 10-point proposal from Iran as a basis for negotiations.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Administrator
Satkhira Pourashava: Satkhira
Project Implementation Unit
Climate Resilient Infrastructure Mainstreaming (CRIM) Project
Incorporating Climate Change-Adapted Urban Development Programme (CCAUD)
Satkhira Component. Phase 1
www.satkhiramunicipality.org.bd

e-Tender Notice No. Re-Tender. SAT/CRIMP/02/2025-26
(Open Tendering Method) (OTM)

Memo No. 46.00.8766.010.20.001.01.26-102 Dated:02-04-2026

Country: People's Republic of Bangladesh
Project: Climate Resilient Infrastructure Mainstreaming (CRIM) Project incorporating Climate Change-Adapted Urban Development Programme (CCAUD) Satkhira Component, Phase 1
Date : 02-04-2026
NCB No.: CRIM/SATPOU/SAN-1 Procurement no: 508670

1 The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from KfW toward the cost of the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Mainstreaming (CRIM) Project incorporating Climate Change-Adapted Urban Development Programme (CCAUD) Satkhira Component, Phase 1, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for "(1) Construction of 42 nos. School Latrines (2) Construction of 4 nos, New Public Toilets with water connection: and (3) Rehabilitation of 3 nos existing Public Toilets in Satkhira Pourashava, District Satkhira under Package No. SAN-01."Procurement no: 508670".

2. The Administrator Satkhira Pourashava, District Satkhira ("the Employer") invites bids (e-Tenders) for the following Works ("the Works"): from eligible Bidders "(1) Construction of 42 nos. School Latrines (2) Construction of 4 nos, New Public Toilets with water connection: and (3) Rehabilitation of 3 nos. existing Public Toilets in Satkhira Pourashava, District: Satkhira, under Package No. SAN-01."Procurement no: 508670" as detailed below:

Package No	e-GP Re-Tender ID No	Description	Tender Security BDT	Duration
CRIM/SATPOU/SAN-1 Procurement no: 508670	1247666 (APP ID 214298)	"(1) Construction of 42 nos. School Latrines; (2) Construction of 4 nos, New Public Toilets with water connection; and (3) Rehabilitation of 3 nos. existing Public Toilets in Satkhira Pourashava, District: Satkhira. under Package No. SAN-01."Procurement no: 508670".	Taka 920,000 (Nine Lac Twenty Thousand Taka Only)	18 calendar months

3. National Competitive Bidding (NCB) will be conducted through electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) in compliance with qualification as specified in the KfW Guidelines for the Procurement of Consulting Services, Works, Plant, Goods and Non-Consulting Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries ("KfW Guidelines, January 2021") and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Documents.
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
A) Specific Similar Experience: At least 1 (one) contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/construction technology successfully completed within the last 5 (five) years, with a value of BDT 34,500,000(Thirty-four million five hundred thousand).
B) Average Annual Construction Turnover: The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than BDT 46,000,000(Forty-six million) over the last 5 (Five) years.
C) Liquid Assets or Credit Facilities: The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities of the Bidder shall be BDT 10,200,000(Ten million two-hundred thousand only).
The complete qualification criteria are described in the biding documents.
5. This is an online bidding where only e-Tender (e-bid) will be accepted in the Bangladesh National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To obtain further information and to submit e-Tender for this works package bearing e-tender ID no 1247666, registration in the e-GP portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
6. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the e-GP portal, is TK. 4000.00(Four Thousand) and the tender security amounting Taka 920,000 (Nine Lac Twenty Thousand Taka Only) have to be deposited online through any branch of the banks registered in the e-GP system by 14:00 hours 07/05/2026.
7. An on-line Pre-Tender Meeting will be held on 20-04-2026, 10:00 hours. The zoom meeting link is contained in the Tender Data Sheet ITT Clause no. 11.2. Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/859780295727pwd=emxNL3dSUFNhV1N6bWI2TTZxY05vZz09
Meeting ID: 85978029572
Pass code: crimp Also, Pre-tender meeting will be held through e-GP system from 08-04-2026;10:00 to 20-04-2026;15:00.
8. The deadline for submission of e-Tenders (bids) is on 07-05-2026, 15:00 hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST), and online opening will be done on the same date at 15:00 hours BST.
9. Last selling Date & Time will be 06-05-2026,17:00 PM.
10. Further information and guidelines are available in the e-GP portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). To obtain further information, please contact the official inviting the tender as follows.

Sheikh Moinul Islam Moin)
Administrator
Satkhira Pourashava, Satkhira

GD-771

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Comprehensive Environmental Impact and Damage Assessment
of Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar of Chattogram Division
Department of Environment
E-16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Memo. No: 22.02.0000.020.30.003.26.52 Date: 08/04/2026

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change		
2	Agency	Department of Environment		
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Comprehensive Environmental Impact and Damage Assessment of Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar of Chattogram Division		
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
5	Invitation For	Supply of Office Furniture		
6	Issued Date	08-04-2026		
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM); National Competitive Tender (NCT);		
8	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget		
9	Project/Program Name	Comprehensive Environmental Impact and Damage Assessment of Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar of Chattogram Division		
10	Tender Package No.	GD-02		
11	Tender Package Name	Supply of Office Furniture		
12	Tender Publication Date	09/04/2026		
13	Tender Document Last Selling Date	21/04/2026 (at office time)		
14	Tender Closing Date and Time	22/04/2026 & 10:30 am		
15	Tender Opening Date and Time	22/04/2026 & 11:00am		
16	Name and Address of the Office of Selling the Tender Document	Department of Environment, Room No: 202, 1st Floor, E-16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka		
17	Name and Address of the Office of Receiving & Opening Tender Document.	Office of the Project Director, Comprehensive Environmental Impact and Damage Assessment of Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar of Chattogram Division, Department of Environment 1st Floor, Room-211, E-16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka		
18	Pre-Tender Meeting Place, Date and Time	N/A		
19	Eligibility of Tenderer	As per Tender Documents.		
20	Brief Description of Works	Supply of Office Furniture		
21	Price of Tender Document	TK.1000/- (One Thousand) Only [non-refundable]		
22	Identification of Tender package	Location	Tender security amount (in Taka)	Completion Time
	GD-02	Department of Environment 1st Floor, E-16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka	TK. 32,000/- (Taka Thirty-two Thousand) only	90 days
23	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Samsuzzaman Sarker		
24	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director, Comprehensive Environmental Impact and Damage Assessment of Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar of Chattogram Division		
25	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Department of Environment, E-16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka		
26	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone:88-(02)-223-375062, E-mail: helpdoepd@gmail.com		
The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings				

Md. Samsuzzaman Sarker
Project Director
Department of Environment
E-16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

GD-762