

USDA trims Bangladesh's cotton import outlook for third time

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has further lowered Bangladesh's cotton import forecast for the ongoing marketing year (MY) 2025-26, citing reduced use in mills.

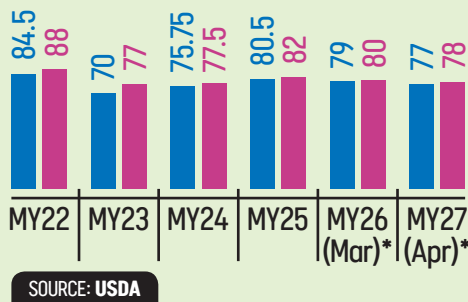
Bangladesh is now projected to import 77 lakh bales this MY— 2.5 percent lower than the 79 lakh bales the USDA forecast in March, and the third downward revision since January, when it had projected 80 lakh bales.

"USDA has again lowered Bangladesh's cotton import forecast, most recently on April 6, as energy shortages, weaker garment export orders, higher yarn imports, and financial and logistics constraints have cut spinning activity more than expected," said Md Mohiuddin Rubel, a former director of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

The revision comes as Bangladesh's readymade garment exports fell 5.5 percent year-on-year in July-March of the MY. Knitwear, the main user of cotton yarn, fell 6.4 percent.

Rubel said the sector remains under pressure from macroeconomic stress, an energy crisis, and subdued global apparel demand, with international buyers pushing down unit prices and eroding margins.

BANGLADESH'S COTTON IMPORTS AND DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION
In lakh bales; *forecast MY = marketing year (Aug-Jul)



SOURCE: USDA



Gas pressure in key industrial zones often falls below 2 PSI, leaving many mills running below capacity and importing cotton only against confirmed orders. Concerns over losing trade preferences after graduating from the least developed country status have added to the caution.

The USDA, in two separate reports on cotton published in the second week of this month, did not bring up the decline in exports. However, it said use of the fibre in mills is likely to be 78 lakh bales, down 2.5 percent from its March forecast.

Global consumption of cotton was forecast to rise by nearly 600,000 bales to 11.91 crore bales due to increased demand in China and India.

According to the USDA, world cotton trade for MY26 is forecast to rise 3 percent from a year ago, mainly due to considerable increases in cotton imports by India and China.

"Lower imports for Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Vietnam more than offset higher imports for China and India," it said in a monthly report published last week.

In its latest outlook on cotton and wool released on April 13, the USDA said global cotton imports in 2025-26 are led by Vietnam and Bangladesh, accounting for a combined 35 percent of the total.

China's 2025-26 cotton imports are expected to rise more than 15 percent to 60 lakh bales, helping support its textile and apparel exports to the world market. India's cotton imports are forecast to expand 38 percent to 42 lakh bales in MY26 as back-to-back smaller-than-usual crops have led to higher imports, it added.

IMF chief warns of 'tough times' if oil prices stay high

AFP, Washington

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva warned Wednesday of difficult times ahead for the global economy if war in the Middle East is unresolved and oil prices stay high, adding that inflation risks could seep into food prices.

"We must brace for tough times ahead" if the conflict persists, she told reporters at a press briefing during the International Monetary Fund and World Bank's spring meetings in Washington.

The gathering brings government and financial leaders to the US capital this week, with policymakers looking to limit economic fallout from the war.

US-Israeli strikes launched against Iran on February 28 sparked Tehran's retaliation, virtually closing the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route for oil and fertilizers.

Energy prices have since surged, squeezing countries — especially vulnerable economies and those dependent on oil imports from the region.

"We are concerned about risks for inflation moving into food prices should the delivery of fertilizers at a reasonable price (not be) restarted soon," Georgieva said.

But as countries move to limit price shocks on their citizens, Georgieva urged central banks to "wait and see" before adjusting interest rates if they can do so.

She said this was particularly the case where the public has a "well anchored" expectation of inflation being kept under control.

"If we are to move faster out of the war, it may not be necessary to take action," she said.

NCC Bank signs deals with SME Foundation to expand financing

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank PLC recently signed two agreements with SME Foundation to expand access to finance for cottage, micro, small, and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) in Bangladesh.

M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of NCC Bank PLC, and Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, managing director of SME Foundation, signed the agreements at a ceremony held in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Khandaker Abdul Muktadir, minister for industries, commerce, textiles and jute, attended the programme as the chief guest.

The agreements cover the Credit Wholesaling Programme under the government's revolving fund and a participation agreement under the Food Value Chain Improvement Project (FVCIP).

Nurun Nahar, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, and Nasreen Fatema Awal, president of the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh, attended the programme as special guests.

Md Obaidur Rahman, secretary of the Ministry of Industries and



PHOTO: NCC BANK

Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, managing director of SME Foundation, and M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of NCC Bank PLC, pose for a photograph during the signing of two agreements in Dhaka recently.

chairperson of SME Foundation, presided over the event.

Under the government's revolving fund, established with a corpus of Tk 300 crore, SME Foundation has been implementing the Credit Wholesaling Programme to accelerate SME sector development and improve access to finance for

priority entrepreneur groups. NCC Bank will disburse the allocated funds as loans to eligible CMSME entrepreneurs across the country.

In addition, under the FVCIP — funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) — NCC Bank has joined as a participating financial institution (PFI).

Rural areas lag behind

FROM PAGE B1

Rehan Asif Asad, adviser to the prime minister for telecom and ICT, told The Daily Star that no country can achieve technological progress without strong connectivity, describing it as the foundation of economic growth.

He pointed to global research linking faster, more reliable networks with higher GDP growth.

He also highlighted Bangladesh's weak fibre penetration compared with peer countries and inconsistent internet speeds even in Dhaka, stressing the need for region-specific solutions after reviewing the telecom landscape.

GENDER GAP IN DIGITAL ACCESS

The survey also found a gender gap in internet use and device ownership. The smallest gap is in basic mobile phone use, at 3.2 percentage points, with 90 percent of males compared

to 86.8 percent of females.

The widest gap is in smartphone ownership, at 9.5 percentage points, with 50.1 percent of males versus 40.6 percent of females.

Internet use shows a 6.4 percentage point gap, with 56.6 percent of males compared to 50.2 percent of females.

AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS BARRIERS

Affordability remains a major barrier to internet use, with 43.6 percent of respondents citing high subscription costs and 46.4 percent pointing to expensive equipment. These challenges affect rural populations more due to lower incomes and weaker digital infrastructure.

While mobile phone use is high at 88.4 percent, only 64.4 percent own a personal handset, showing widespread shared use. At the household level, 98.9 percent have a mobile phone, and 72.7 percent have a smartphone.

RMG exports brace for a gathering storm

FROM PAGE B1

He also expressed concern that recurring two-to-three-hour power cuts could lead to greater reliance on costly air freight.

BGMEA Director Faisal Samad said the association is in contact with buyers, urging them to take into account the exceptional circumstances created by the global oil crisis. Since April 13, member factories have been able to access diesel on a priority basis through a special card facility.

"Even so, overall productivity has declined because of insufficient fuel supplies," he said.

BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan said buyers also want factories to keep running as this is a global crisis.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Assistant Director Office
Fire Service and Civil Defence
Agrabad, Chittagong

Memorandum No. 58.03.2015.010.09.009.23-928 Date: 16/04/2026

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods under revenue budget. Details are given below:

Sl No.	Description of the goods & package	Tender Id No.	Tender closing date & time	Tender security submission date & time
1	58.03.0000.014.36.001.23.4048 dated 07/04/26 Procurement of Lentil/Masur Dal (High Quality Dashi Small grain) for the months of Janu/26 to Marc/26 for Chattogram Fire Service and Civil Defence, Agrabad, Chittagong, Divisional Ration in financial year 2025-2026	1259718	30-Apr-2026 12.00.00	30-Apr-2026 11.00.00
2	58.03.0000.014.36.001.23.4048 dated 07/04/26 Procurement of edible Soyabean Oil (enriched in Vitamin-A) for the months of Janu/26 to Marc/26 for Chattogram Fire Service and Civil Defence, Agrabad, Chittagong, Divisional Ration in financial year 2025-2026	1259740	30-Apr-2026 12.00.00	30-Apr-2026 11.00.00

- 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 (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for the downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to selling 30-April-2026.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-844

Md. Anwar Hossain (BIM)
Assistant Director
Fire Service & Civil Defence
Agrabad, Chittagong

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Satkhira
www.lged.gov.bd

Reference No. 46.02.8700.001.99.001.23-1319 Date: 16.04.2026

e-Tender Notice No. 47/2025-26

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Tender ID & Schemes.

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No. & name of works	Tender closing date & time
1	1251841 [OTM]	SDRIDP/TALA/VR-18 Part-1: Improvement of Mohandi Bazar- Gonali via H/O Kollan Babu Road at Ch: 00-660m (Road ID-287905162) under Tala Upazila Dist: Satkhira (Effective Length 660m) Part-2: Improvement of Bharuipara GPS More-BC Road via H/O Sankar Master Road at Ch: 00-750m under Tala Upazila Dist: Satkhira (Road ID-287905173) (Effective Length 750m) Part-3: Improvement of Mohindi Bazar to Katbunia Road at Ch: 1780-3730m (Road ID-287905104) under Tala Upazila Dist: Satkhira (Effective Length 1950m) Part-4: Improvement of Machiara Rishipara More-Rypur H/O Golok Monir via Rypur GPS road at Ch: 100-2500m (Road ID-287905212) under Tala Upazila Dist Satkhira (Effective Length=2400m) (Total Effective Length 5760m) Salvage Material cost Tk. 25,54,692.00	12-May-2026 12:30
2	1251842 [OTM]	SORIDP/TALA/VR-19 Part-1: Improvement of Sahapur (H/O Dr. Zakir) Khadhatala- Kaopur Mission Road at Ch: 00-1000m under Tala Upazila Dist: Satkhira (Road ID-287905169) (Effective Length=1000m) Part-2: Improvement of Khalishkhali Puddarpara- Mangalanandakti BC Road at Ch: 00-470m under Tala Upazila Dist: Satkhira (Road ID-287905333) (Effective Length=470m) Part-3: Improvement of Shalika College- Dalua GC road at Ch: 3000-5335m (Road ID-287904073) (Effective Length=2336m) Part-4: Improvement of Boirdanga More- Monglabondokati Road at Ch: 1200-2150m (Road ID-287904099) under Tala Upazila Dist: Satkhira (Effective Length=950m) (Total Effective Length=4756m) Salvage Material cost Tk. 25,54,511.00	12-May-2026 12:30
3	1251843 [OTM]	SDRIOP/KALI/VR-20 Improvement of Kaunia Mondir- Younus Ministry House Road by BC at Ch: 00-2000m (Road ID-287475084) under Kaliganj Upazila Dist: Satkhira (Effective Length 2000m) (Total Length=2000m) Salvage Material cost Tk. 7,45,913.00	12-May-2026 12:30
4	1251845 [OTM]	SDRIDP/TALA/VR-23 Part-1: Improvement of Pachpara-Alipur Road in Ch: 760-3600m (Road ID-287904028) (Effective Length=2840m) Part-2: Improvement of Dhalbaria R&H and Terechi Razar Road at Ch: 1515-2450m (Road ID: 287904040) (Effective Length=935m) Part-3: Improvement of Patch Para H/O Khaleque Chairman and H/O Alomgir Professor Road at Ch: 00-1000m (Road ID: 287905275) (Effective Length 1000m) (Total Effective Length=4775m) Salvage Material Cost Tk. 23,26,144.00, under Tala Upazila, Dist: Satkhira.	12-May-2026 12:30
5	1248187 [OTM]	SDRIDP/Sham/WR-16 (1) Improvement of Hawalbhangi-South Atulia Road at Ch: 900-1775m (Road ID-287864032) by BC under Shyamnagar Upazila, Satkhira (2) Improvement of Biralaxmi M/Madrasa-Hapa WAPDA Road at Ch: 600-1600m (Road ID-287864060) by BC under Shyamnagar Upazila, Satkhira (3) Improvement of Hawalvangi Bazar- Dunar Gora-H/O Malek Road at Ch: 00-1000m (Road ID-287864186) by BC under Shyamnagar Upazila, Satkhira (4) Improvement of Henchi Bangabandhu High School-Talbari by BC under Shyamnagar Upazila, Satkhira GPS Road at Ch: 00-1000m (Road ID-287865342) by BC	12-May-2026 12:30

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 bank's branches.

16.04.26
A. S. M. Tarikul Hassan Khan
Executive Engineer
LGED, Satkhira
E-mail: xen.satkhira@lged.gov.bd

GD-848

Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশ্রদ্ধী হোন এবং সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Reference No.: 28.16.9100.000.035.69.003.26 Dated: 15April, 2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl No.	Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of the Work	Tender Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
01.	Tender ID: 1257632 Package No: e-GP-BCS-TSD-001 Date of Publishing : 15/04/2026	Modification Work of Regulating Run (2nd Stage) at Shahjalal Fertilizer Company Ltd. CMS, Fenchuganj, Sylhet.	Last Selling: 29/04/2026, 14:00 Closing date & time: 29/04/2026, 15:30 Opening date & time: 29/04/2026, 15:30

The interested persons/firms may visit the website <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the details of the tender.

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 portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal/e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(ENGR. MOHAMMAD SARWAR JAHAN MAHMUD)
General Manager (Operation Division)
Tel: + 8802997700621
E-mail: gm.op@jalalabadgas.org.bd

GD-843