

BGMEA seeks land for 'garment villages' in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has urged the government to allocate 2.3 acres of land in different parts of Chattogram to establish compliance-based "garment villages" for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the apparel sector.

The apex trade body made the call at a meeting with the Chattogram district administration at the deputy commissioner's office in the port city yesterday, according to a press release.

BGMEA leaders said SME factories in the region are struggling to meet compliance requirements—particularly in fire safety, environmental protection, and worker welfare—due to financial and infrastructural constraints.

They added that a planned industrial cluster would allow shared access to modern facilities, helping factories

reduce costs, ensure compliance, and remain competitive in the global market, while also supporting export growth.

The association also noted that the number of garment factories in Chattogram has declined from around 700 to about 300, calling it a worrying trend for the country's key commercial hub.

Mohammad Zahedul Islam Mia, deputy commissioner and district magistrate of Chattogram, assured that the proposal would be given priority and that necessary steps would be taken in coordination with relevant ministries to assess feasibility and expedite implementation.

Selim Rahman, first vice-president of BGMEA; Mohammad Rafiq Chowdhury, vice-president; Md M Mohiuddin Chowdhury; Saif Ullah Mansur; and Enamul Aziz Chowdhury, directors, along with officials from the relevant departments, were also present.

Age limits for BSEC, Idra chairmen may be lifted

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday placed two amendment bills in the parliament proposing the removal of age limits for appointing the heads and members of two of the country's key financial regulators.

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2026 seeks to abolish the existing maximum age limit of 65 years for appointing the chairman and commissioners of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).

Also placed the same day, the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026 proposes scrapping the current age cap of 67 years for appointing the chairman and members of the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Idra).

Placing the bills before the House, the finance minister recommended that

they be sent to a special parliamentary committee for scrutiny, with a report to be submitted within one day.

In the statement of objectives and reasons, the minister said the proposed amendment to the securities commission law aims to make it more suitable for present circumstances by allowing the appointment of experienced, skilled and knowledgeable individuals to top positions.

Regarding the amendment to the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority Act, 2010, he noted that the existing provision, which sets the maximum appointment age at 67 years, has limited the opportunity to recruit capable and experienced individuals to leadership roles in the insurance sector.

He argued that removing this restriction is necessary in the public interest to strengthen decision-making in the sector.

Earlier, on April 23, the cabinet approved the draft amendments to both laws.

Apex Footwear profit rises 10% in Q3

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Apex Footwear Ltd, one of the leading footwear manufacturers in Bangladesh, posted a net profit of Tk 1.06 crore for the January-March quarter – up 10 percent year on year – driven by higher net sales revenue.

The company's earnings per share rose to Tk 0.54 in the third quarter of FY2025-26 from Tk 0.49 in the same period a year earlier, according to its financial statements.

However, the net operating cash flow per share fell to Tk 122.92 for the nine months through March 2026 from Tk 140.95 in the corresponding period of FY2024-25.

The company attributed the decline to higher payments to suppliers and employees within its cost of goods sold, as well as increased direct labour costs, utility bills, and income tax payments.

Its net asset value per share rose over the same nine-month period. The rise reflected the net effect of a Tk 26.80 crore decrease in non-current assets, a Tk 41.64 crore fall in current assets, a Tk 62.32 crore reduction in non-current liabilities, and a Tk 11.11 crore drop in current liabilities and provisions.

Shares of Apex Footwear dropped 0.78 percent to Tk 202.70 as of 1:04 pm on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday.

As of 31 March 2026, sponsors and directors held 31.01 percent of Apex's shares, institutions 28.82 percent, and the general public 40.17 percent, according to DSE data.

Bottled soybean oil becomes scarce

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oil from a wholesaler at the printed MRP. I am selling these to my regular customers without any profit just to maintain our relationship."

A wholesaler in the same area, who asked not to be named, said supplies from the company depot are not even close to 20 percent of demand.

He said, "After paying the price in advance, we received only 300 litres of oil last Thursday. Today [Tuesday], we will receive another supply of 300 litres, but now with a condition to purchase an equal amount of bottled water."

At Shaheb Bazar in Rajshahi, shopkeeper Sumon Hossain described the edible oil market situation as "very bad".

"There is almost no supply now. Prices have also increased. We have to buy a two-litre bottle for Tk 388 and sell it for Tk 390. That is only Tk 2 profit on a two-litre bottle," he said.

"On top of that, we have to send our own people to collect the oil from dealers because they do not deliver it. There are transport costs. Retailers are actually facing losses," said Hossain.

IMPORTS PLUNGE

Commerce ministry data show soybean oil imports fell sharply in the January-April period compared with the same period last year.



PHOTO: STAR/FILE

Soybean oil imports dropped from 4.48 lakh tonnes in January-April last year to just 2.61 lakh tonnes this year.

Importers say they cut shipments because domestic prices have not been adjusted in line with international rates. Selling at a loss is unsustainable, they say, despite repeated appeals to the current and previous interim government for a price increase.

World Bank commodities data show soybean oil sold at \$1,154 per tonne in January. The price rose to \$1,282 in February and to \$1,482 in March.

The country's annual demand for edible oil stands at 24 lakh tonnes, around 90 percent of which is met through imports, according to the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission.

Mohammad Dabirul Islam Didar, head of finance and accounts at Bangladesh Edible Oil Limited, which markets Rupchanda brand soybean oil, said the company continues to sell bottled soybean oil at the maximum retail price and does not charge above it.

He said rising import and supply chain costs have put the company under pressure. It has applied to

the Ministry of Commerce for a price adjustment to help maintain supply chain stability.

Didar said it is not possible to sustain operations at a loss. Discussions have taken place over possible VAT adjustments, but no action has been taken.

The Daily Star tried to contact Biswajit Saha, director of corporate and regulatory affairs at City Group, which markets the Teer brand of soybean oil, for comment but received no response.

[The Daily Star Rajshahi Correspondent Shohanur Rahman Rafi contributed to this report]

Export demand-driven

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and exports pharmaceuticals to more than 150 countries, the entry into the US market is still restricted by the intricate, expensive, and time-consuming regulatory processes.

"We are of the opinion that there is potential to improve the coordination between pertinent authorities, expedite the approval process, and simplify procedures," he said.

Also speaking at the event, AmCham President Syed Ershad Ahmed said

in today's shifting global economic environment, the Bangladesh-US partnership remains vital for both growth and resilience.

The partnership plays a strategic role in sustaining export competitiveness, ensuring essential imports, and strengthening broader economic and industrial development, he added.

Bangladesh exported roughly \$9.5 billion in goods to the US in 2025, with the garment sector alone accounting for \$8.2 billion, capturing over 10 percent of the US apparel

market, he said.

During the same period, the country imported about \$2.3 billion from the US, primarily cotton and agricultural products.

Muktadir, meanwhile, stated that US foreign direct investment in Bangladesh rose from \$193 million in fiscal year 2019-20 (FY20) to \$426 million in FY22, before falling sharply to \$89 million in FY24 and partially recovering to \$132 million in FY25.

On a separate matter, he informed that the government may recruit foreign companies for

loading and unloading at the Chattogram port to increase efficiency.

The minister also said the government will launch provisional permission for starting a business. Currently, it takes many months and more than 25 signatures to obtain the permission for entrepreneurs to start a business in Bangladesh.

Once an entrepreneur starts with the provisional permission, they can manage the original permission gradually in one to two months, he added.

BSEC bans three audit firms

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The firm issued an unmodified audit opinion without obtaining sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to support the reported figures.

It, along with its engagement partner, was found jointly and severally responsible for failing to conduct the audit in line with securities laws, resulting in financial statements that did not present a true and fair view of the company's position and performance.

As a result, Ata Khan

& Co was barred from inclusion in the BSEC auditors' panel for three years, while Maqbul Ahmed, a partner of the firm, was barred from the panel for five years.

SHIRAZ KHAN BASAK & CO

Shiraz Khan Basak & Co audited Ring Shine Textiles for the year ended June 30, 2020, with Ramendra Nath Basak serving as the engagement partner, although he was not enlisted in the BSEC auditors' panel.

A BSEC inquiry

committee found material irregularities and anomalies in key financial statement items. The firm issued an unmodified audit opinion without obtaining sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to support the figures in the financial statements.

The audit failed to ensure that the financial report presented a true and fair view in line with International Financial Reporting Standards. The firm and its engagement partner were found to have failed to comply with

securities laws. As a result, Shiraz Khan Basak & Co was made ineligible for inclusion in the BSEC auditors' panel for three years, while Ramendra Nath Basak was barred from the panel for five years.

The Daily Star emailed all the audit firms on Monday, but received no response before the report went to print. It also tried to contact Wasequl H Reagan, a partner of Mahfel Huq & Co, through phone calls and text messages, but he did not respond.

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

Memo No: 46.02.5600.000.07.139.25-1380 Date: 28/04/2026

Invitation for Tender (works)
e-Tender Notice No.32/2025-2026

e-Tender's are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following packages.

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Package No	Name of Works	Tender Method	Tender last selling & Submission Date and Time.
1	1266486 DDIRWSP/Manikganj/Singair/25-26/RD-02	Widening and Strengthening of Binnadangi Zila Road (Basta)-Nowabganj upazila via Hatni Bazar, Manikganj GC & Sollah Road at Ch.0.00-7610.00m under Upazila : Singair, District : Manikganj. (Road ID.356822004)(Salvage Value-1403643.00)	OTM	20-May-2026 15:00 & 21-May-2026 15:00
2	1266487 DDIRWSP/Manikganj/Sadar/25-26/RD-04	Widening and Strengthening of Katigram GC-Rajnagar Hat via Atigram UP Road at Ch.0.00-6000.00m under Upazila : Sadar, District : Manikganj. (Road ID.356463002)(Salvage Value-9,99,209.00)		
3	1266488 DDIRWSP/Manikganj/Saturia/25-26/RD-06	Widening and Strengthening of Daragram GC Nagarpur GC via Savar & Sonka Bazar Road from Ch.7325.00-8609.00 & 8978.00-11516.00m under Upazila : Saturia, District : Manikganj. (Road ID.356702009) (Salvage Value-28,29,197.00)		

These are online Tender's where only e-Tender's will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. 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 branch. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(S.M. Lutfur Rahman)
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Office of the Superintendent of Police
Rajbari

Mamo No. 1303/E Date: 28-04-2026

Tender Notice No. 07/2025-2026 (OTM)

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

Sl No.	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Publication date	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date & time)
1	Repair and renovation works of drain lines and soak-wells around male barrack building and mess at Police Lines, Rajbari.	1266816	28-04-2026 14.00	12-05-2026 16.00	13-05-2026 13.00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System (<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. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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