Kazi Farms ships 10,440 hatching eggs to Nigeria

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Kazi Farms Limited has exported 10,440 parent hatching eggs to Nigeria in a shipment valued at $18,729, further strengthening Bangladesh's poultry exports to the African market.

This is the first-ever hatching egg export consignment under the present government, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock yesterday.

The exported items are of the Ross 308 broiler breed, the press release said.

Sultan Salauddin Tuku, state minister for fisheries and livestock State, said the government has set a target of exporting high-quality livestock products to international markets after meeting domestic demand.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a function marking the exports to Nigeria, held at the Cargo Village of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

"Our main objective is to export livestock products to international markets after fulfilling local requirements. This export will significantly boost the national economy and accelerate the country's overall development," he said.

Terming the inaugural consignment a historic milestone, the state minister said it opens up new horizons for diversifying Bangladesh's export basket.

"When Bangladesh successfully exports products after satisfying its domestic demand, it reflects our national capability. This is not merely a commercial venture, but a prestigious international recognition of our livestock industry," he added.

He expressed optimism that the volume of such exports would increase further in the future, playing a pivotal role in earning foreign exchange.

Md Shahzaman Khan, director general of the Department of Livestock Services, said the department is working tirelessly under the ministry's guidance to build an internationally compliant livestock sector.

Five-year tax policy to aid entrepreneurs: Titumir

DU CORRESPONDENT

The government, for the first time in Bangladesh, has announced tax rates for five years to provide businesses with greater policy certainty and help create jobs, said Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, the prime minister's adviser on planning and economic affairs.

Businesses need stable tax policies to plan investments, and the announcement of tax rates for five years in advance will be instrumental in this regard, he said yesterday.

Speaking at a discussion titled "Youth in National Budget 2026-27: Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship" at Dhaka University, he said the budget seeks to build a state centred on public welfare and democracy.

To help reduce borrowing costs and encourage entrepreneurship, the government is working to lower lending rates, Titumir said.

"We are ensuring liquidity at a 3 percent rate so that entrepreneurs can get loans at interest rates of 5 to 7 percent," he said.

"Our manifesto clearly states that

Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir

socioeconomic development and sustainable state capability must be achieved," he said.

The PM's adviser said the government has given priority to energy, education, health and social protection in the budget for the next fiscal year.

The government has set a target of generating 20 percent of the country's energy from renewable sources and plans to establish emergency energy reserves, he said.

Titumir said the government aims to increase public investment in education.

He said hospitals established during the tenures of former president Ziaur Rahman and former prime minister Khaleda Zia would be expanded to 101 beds.

Kidney dialysis centres and coronary care units will also be established in every district.

On social protection, he said the government was replacing what he described as a politically biased welfare system with a "lifecycle-based" approach to support citizens at different stages of life, including children, older people, widows and people with disabilities.

At the event, DU Treasurer Prof M Jahangir Alam criticised the budgetary allocation for university research.

He said the University Grants Commission has taken full control of research funding, leaving Dhaka University with no independent research allocation.

"With a 2 percent allocation, can one become a research university?" he said, questioning how the government's vision of building an innovation-driven economy could be achieved without allowing the country's leading university to manage its own research funds.

Govt takes twin-track approach

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Referring to the lengthy process, the commerce minister said, "But at the same time, we should not keep the EU market as a vacuum as it is the largest export destination for Bangladesh."

That is why Bangladesh is pursuing both options at the same time, while giving priority to concluding an FTA as early as possible, Muktadir said.

FTA OR GSP PLUS?

Bangladesh has been negotiating with major trading partners to secure duty-free market access after LDC graduation, either through free trade agreements or preferential trading arrangements such as GSP Plus.

With the EU, discussions are at an early stage. Both sides have been exchanging letters to prepare the ground for formal negotiations, whether for an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), a conventional FTA or a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

Recently, the European Commission replied to a commerce ministry letter sent last October, saying it was carrying out an internal assessment before deciding whether to launch formal negotiations with Bangladesh.

At the same time, Dhaka is continuing its efforts to qualify for GSP Plus, which offers tariff preferences to developing countries that meet a series of international standards on labour rights, human rights, environmental protection and good governance.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior commerce ministry official said Bangladesh has already fulfilled most of the requirements under the 32 international conventions linked to GSP Plus eligibility.

The official said recent labour reforms have strengthened Bangladesh's position.

Parliament amended the labour law last year in line with recommendations from the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Bangladesh has also ratified three ILO conventions covering occupational safety, workplace health and protection from violence and harassment.

"We are continuing negotiations with the EU for both GSP Plus status and FTA signing as we know the importance of the EU markets," the official said.

The ministry is also closely watching the outcome of Bangladesh's request to defer its LDC graduation. The proposal is expected to go before the UN General Assembly in September after a recommendation from the UN Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC).

Officials believe that if Bangladesh's graduation is postponed, the EU grace period could also be extended.

'FTA OFFERS MORE DURABLE SOLUTION'

Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, chairman of the Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), said Bangladesh's progress on labour reforms would support both GSP Plus and FTA negotiations.

However, he said the government should focus more on securing an FTA because it offers a more durable solution for retaining preferential access to the European market.

Razzaque also questioned how much Bangladesh would ultimately gain from GSP Plus.

Under the EU GSP rules for 2024-34, clothing exports from a GSP Plus beneficiary country would lose preferential treatment if they exceed the 6 percent import thresholds.

Bangladesh already accounts for nearly 20 percent of the relevant clothing imports into the EU, well above the threshold.

The EU GSP rules also mention that clothing imports from a GSP Plus beneficiary should not account for more than 37 percent of all GSP-covered clothing imports into the EU. Bangladesh's current share is close to 50 percent, raising questions over how much of its apparel exports would actually qualify for zero-duty treatment even if it secures GSP Plus.

Bangladesh has been a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) since 1995 and currently enjoys duty-free, quota-free access to the EU market under the Everything But Arms (EBA) arrangement, which covers all products except arms and ammunition.

THE TRADE PICTURE

The EU began enhanced engagement with Bangladesh under the EBA arrangement in 2017 to monitor compliance with international conventions on labour rights and human rights.

In 2025, Bangladesh was the EU's 35th largest trading partner, accounting for 0.5 percent of the bloc's total goods trade. For Bangladesh, however, the EU was its largest trading partner, representing 21.5 percent of the country's total exports.

Trade in goods between Bangladesh and the EU reached €23.3 billion in 2025, with the EU running a trade deficit of €19.1 billion.

Textiles dominated Bangladesh's exports, accounting for almost 94 percent of EU imports from the country. EU exports to Bangladesh were led by machinery and appliances, which made up 36 percent of shipments, followed by chemical products at 24 percent.

Trade in services stood at €1.5 billion in 2024, while total trade in goods and services reached €23.8 billion.

Bangladesh is the largest beneficiary of the EU Everything But Arms scheme. In 2024, exports worth €19 billion entered the bloc under the arrangement, with a utilisation rate of 96 percent.

EU's foreign direct investment stock in Bangladesh stood at €2.5 billion in 2024, while Bangladesh's investment stock in the EU totalled €86 million, according to the European Commission.

Faisal Samad, a director of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said exporters are concerned about retaining duty-free access to their largest market after LDC graduation.

"We are also working with the government by giving recommendations for retaining the zero-duty market access to the EU in the post-LDC period," Faisal Samad told The Daily Star over the phone.

"But at the same time, we should keep open all of the avenues of negotiation with the EU so that we do not miss any opportunities," he said.

Why inflation remains

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"The government has increased its borrowings to one of the highest levels, which is inflationary. On the other hand, the central bank's liquidity support to cash-hungry banks is also inflationary. These two channels are thwarting monetary tightening with high policy rates," he said.

The BB has so far provided Tk 75,903 crore in emergency liquidity assistance to banks facing cash shortages as of June 6, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury told parliament last week.

Meanwhile, the government's net borrowing from the banking system surged more than threefold to Tk 1,04,410 crore during July–April of FY26, from Tk 30,405 crore a year earlier.

Birupaksha said high interest rates have also contributed to limited credit growth, while its weakness also stems from institutional failures such as non-inclusive politics, extortion by political thugs, and the poor law and order situation.

"The government failed to stimulate business confidence by adequately supporting the closed or vandalised mills and factories. It's a new type of fiscal-monetary trap that adds fuel to inflation and delivers a damper to private credit growth," he said.

INFLATION IS NOT DEMAND-DRIVEN

Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), has a different reading.

She argues monetary policy has had limited success in achieving its key objectives for several reasons, primarily because inflation has not been driven by demand.

"Supply-side disruptions, exchange rate depreciation, higher import costs, and inefficiencies in domestic markets have all played a major role. Monetary policy, on its own, cannot easily solve this," said Fahmida, also a director on the BB's board.

For private-sector credit, she said high borrowing costs are only a part of the story. Weak investor confidence, energy shortages and policy uncertainty are also responsible.

"That is why we have seen earlier that when companies are reluctant to invest due to the lack of an enabling environment, simply adjusting interest rates is unlikely to generate the desired increase in private credit," she said.

According to her, monetary policy should be supported by prudent fiscal policy and broader structural reforms that improve the investment climate, ease supply constraints, and strengthen market competition. "Without such policy coordination, bringing inflation under control while also stimulating investment and growth will remain a difficult balancing act."

UNFAVOURABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

Deen Islam, professor of economics at Dhaka University, said the latest monetary policies of the BB failed to achieve their objectives not only due to the inadequacy of the policy rate but also owing to unfavourable circumstances.

"It should be noted that the rise in prices was caused mostly by supply-side factors, higher import prices, exchange rate effects, and market rigidity, whereas the banking sector was too weak to transmit policy signals effectively," he said.

At the same time, private credit remained subdued because both banks and borrowers became cautious.

"Therefore, the next monetary policy should not only announce a rate stance; it should explain the transmission strategy: how BB will anchor inflation expectations, restore credit discipline, support productive lending, coordinate with fiscal policy, and rebuild confidence in the banking system," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Improvement of Urban Public Health Preventive Services Project (IUPHPSP)
DPHE Bhaban (level 8), 14 Shaheed Captain Mansur Ali Sarani
Kakrail, Dhaka- 1000.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
For
Selection of a Firm for Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) of the Medical Waste under package no- IUPHPSP-SD 22 (1)
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRM SELECTION)

Memo. No. 46.00.0000.303.012.07.004.26-230 Date: 28-06-2026

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank, toward the cost of the Improvement of Urban Public Health Preventive Services Project (IUPHPSP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
2. The Local Government Division (LGD) is implementing the IUPHPSP to strengthen urban public health preventive services through improved vector management, medical waste management, mitigation of environmental health risks, behavior change communication, and interventions to address non-communicable diseases in selected urban areas of Bangladesh.
The consulting services ("the Services") will support the Project through Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) of the proposed expansion of Medical Waste Treatment Plants (MWTPs) at Matuail under Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and Halishahor under Chattogram City Corporation (CCC). The assignment will cover the proposed Medical Waste Treatment Plant sites at Matuail under DSCC and Halishahor under CCC.
The assignment is expected to be implemented over approximately Three (3) months from the date of contract signing.
The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during normal office hours and website (address: https://www.worldbank.org, https:lgd.gov.bd, https://iuphpsp.lgd.gov.bd, https://www.bppa.gov.bd).
3. The Local Government Division (LGD) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they possess the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the assignment.

The shortlisting criteria are:

a) Minimum ten (10) years of demonstrated experience in environmental and social assessment, environmental impact assessment (EIA), environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA), environmental and social assessment (ESA), environmental management planning, or similar assignments;
b) Proven experience in conducting environmental and social studies for infrastructure, waste management, healthcare, urban development, environmental management, industrial facilities, or similar projects;
c) Demonstrated experience in preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), stakeholder engagement processes, grievance redress mechanisms, occupational health and safety assessments, and environmental compliance monitoring;
d) Experience in environmental and social assessments in accordance with national environmental regulations and international environmental and social safeguard requirements, including the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs), IFC Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines, or similar standards;
e) Experience in obtaining Environmental Clearance Certificates and coordinating with the Department of Environment (DoE) and other relevant regulatory authorities;
f) Experience in assignments financed by the World Bank, ADB, JICA, UN Agencies, or other international development partners shall be considered an advantage;
g) Demonstrated organizational, technical, managerial, and logistical capacity to successfully undertake assignments of similar nature, scale, and complexity.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit the following supporting documents:

- Firm registration/incorporation documents (as applicable);
- Trade License, Tax Identification Number (TIN), BIN/VAT Registration Certificate, or equivalent documents applicable in the Consultant's country of registration;
- Company profile/brochure including organizational structure and available professional resources;
- Details of similar completed assignments during the last ten (10) years, including assignment title, scope, client, contract value, duration, staffing inputs, and funding agency;
- Details of ongoing assignments of similar nature;
- Information on organizational resources, environmental and social assessment capacity, and operational capability;
- Audited financial statements for the last three (3) financial years;
- Joint Venture Agreement or Letter of Intent for Joint Venture (if applicable);
- Any other information demonstrating the Consultant's capability to perform the assignment.

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

4. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, **Paragraphs 3.14, 3.16, 3.17 and 3.18 of the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers,** dated November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
5. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications. Such association may be in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) and/or a Sub-consultancy. In the case of a Joint Venture, all partners shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.
6. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS)** Method using **Open National Market Approach** as set out in the **World Bank Procurement Regulations, November 2020** for IPF Borrowers.
7. Further information may be obtained at the address below during office hours from 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time).
9. Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in written form (one original and one copy) to the address below on **or before 14 July 2026 at 2:00 PM (BST).**
10. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Expressions of Interest without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Abul Khair Mohammad Hafizullah Khan)
Joint Secretary, Local Government Division and Project Director, IUPHPSP

GD-1657