Garment sector must go green to retain global markets

Dutch vice-minister says during factory visit

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's garment industry must invest in cleaner production and transparency to remain competitive in global markets as the country prepares to graduate from least developed country (LDC) status, Steven Collet, vice-minister for international cooperation of the Netherlands, said on Monday.

"Bangladesh's garment industry is an important part of global value chains, and its future depends on factories that combine competitiveness with responsibility," he said during a visit to TEAM Group's outerwear manufacturing facility, 4A Yarn Dyeing Ltd, in Dhaka.

A seven-member Dutch delegation visited the factory to explore cooperation in sustainable apparel manufacturing and trade amid changing global trade rules and emerging sustainability requirements.

Afroza Shahin, managing director of TEAM Group, and Abdullah Hil Nakib, deputy managing director, welcomed the delegation.

Discussions with TEAM Group's senior management covered Bangladesh's LDC graduation, a proposed Bangladesh-European Union free trade agreement, decarbonisation, responsible sourcing, supply chain traceability and compliance with emerging EU sustainability regulations.

The two sides also explored collaboration with Dutch apparel brands and development partners in clean energy, circularity, digital product passports and workforce development.

Steven praised the factory's investment in clean energy and transparency, saying the Netherlands looked forward to continuing its partnership with Bangladesh to promote a sustainable and inclusive textile sector.

"It was inspiring to see how 4A Yarn Dyeing is investing in clean energy and transparency," he said.

"Bangladesh's garment industry is an important part of global value chains, and its future depends on factories that combine competitiveness with responsibility," Steven Collet said.

Afroza said sustainability investments were essential to maintaining the apparel industry's competitiveness.

"The Netherlands has long been a partner in our industry's journey towards safer, fairer and greener production," she said. "Changing trade rules and the energy crisis both point in the same direction: the factories investing in sustainability today are the ones that will keep their markets tomorrow."

She said TEAM Group looked forward to strengthening its partnership with the Netherlands.

The delegation observed the factory's rooftop solar power plant, rainwater harvesting system, fair price shop and childcare facilities.

Pubali Bank launches global debit card for offshore clients

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC has launched Bangladesh's first offshore banking debit card, "Pubali Bank Mastercard Offshore Banking World Debit Card" in collaboration with Mastercard, the global digital payment service provider.

The card offers eligible non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) and foreign nationals a convenient way to manage offshore banking assets while enjoying travel and lifestyle benefits. It provides access to banking services in approved foreign currencies, helping customers meet cross-border financial needs.

Mohammad Ali, managing director of the bank, and Zakia Sultana, country manager for Bangladesh at Mastercard, jointly inaugurated the card at a ceremony in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

At the launch ceremony, Ali said, "We are committed to strengthening our Offshore Banking Division with solutions that meet the evolving needs of NRBs and international customers.

The Pubali Bank Mastercard Offshore Banking World Debit Card combines foreign-currency flexibility, convenient payments and travel benefits to make offshore banking more seamless and accessible."



Zakia Sultana, country manager for Bangladesh at Mastercard, and Mohammad Ali, managing director of Pubali Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after inaugurating the country's first offshore banking debit card, "Pubali Bank Mastercard Offshore Banking World Debit Card," at a ceremony in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

Zakia said, "Powering the launch of Bangladesh's first offshore banking debit card reflects our commitment to enabling more connected, secure and convenient financial experiences for different consumer segments."

"Through this collaboration, we are bringing together Mastercard's global network, innovation capabilities and trusted payment infrastructure to help cardholders access and manage their finances with greater ease and flexibility, wherever life takes them," she added.

Available exclusively to customers of the bank's offshore banking unit, the World Mastercard debit card can be linked to offshore savings and current accounts held in US dollars and other approved foreign currencies. It supports e-commerce purchases, point-of-sale (POS) transactions and other international payments.

Midland Bank launches Bangla QR service



Midland Bank Managing Director Imtiaz U Ahmed, along with bank officials, cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the bank's Bangla QR service at a retail merchant outlet. PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK PLC

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Midland Bank PLC (MDB) recently launched Bangla QR services at selected retail merchant locations across the country.

The initiative is part of the bank's ongoing commitment to promoting digital payments and fostering a cashless Bangladesh, Midland Bank said in a press statement issued recently.

Imtiaz U Ahmed, managing director of Midland Bank, officially inaugurated the Bangla QR service, joined by senior officials of the bank.

Bangla QR enables customers to make convenient payments by scanning a merchant's QR code using compatible mobile banking applications and digital payment platforms.

This service is designed to simplify everyday transactions, making them faster and more convenient, while simultaneously reducing reliance on cash.

Speaking at the launch, Imtiaz said, "The introduction of Bangla QR marks another significant step in Midland Bank's digital transformation journey. Through this service, we aim to encourage both customers and merchants to embrace secure and convenient digital payments, thereby contributing to Bangladesh's transition towards a cashless economy."

Through this initiative, Midland Bank seeks to integrate more retail merchants into the digital payment ecosystem and encourage broader adoption of QR-based transactions nationwide, according to the press statement.

Bank Asia partners with Rancon Motor Bikes for motorcycle loans

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Rancon Motor Bikes Limited, a manufacturer, assembler and distributor of Suzuki motorcycles and scooters in Bangladesh, to offer convenient and attractive loan facilities to prospective motorcycle buyers.

Md Sabbir Hossain, additional managing director and chief operating officer of the bank, and Imran Zaman Khan, divisional director of the manufacturing company, signed the MoU recently at Bank Asia Tower in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka, according to a press release.



Imran Zaman Khan, divisional director of Rancon Motor Bikes Limited, and Md Sabbir Hossain, additional managing director and chief operating officer of Bank Asia PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding at Bank Asia Tower in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka recently. PHOTO: BANK ASIA

Under the partnership, customers of Rancon Motor Bikes Limited will be able to avail themselves of Bank Asia's two-wheeler loan facilities at competitive interest rates.

The collaboration will also include joint marketing initiatives, customer engagement programmes and promotional activities to raise customer awareness and improve access to financing.

The partnership is expected to simplify access to two-wheeler financing, enabling customers to fulfil their aspirations of owning quality motorcycles through convenient financing solutions, the release added.

Furthermore, the collaboration aims to strengthen the institutional relationship between the two organisations while contributing to the growth of Bangladesh's motorcycle industry and financial services sector.

Akij Board, Akij Door hold business conference in Malaysia

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Akij Board and Akij Door -- two leading brands of the AkijBashir Group -- hosted the "Evolve Beyond Business Conference 2026" with Robin Resources, a sister concern of the AkijBashir Group, at Berjaya Times Square Hotel in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The event brought together 800 participants, including 400 business associates, dealers and business representatives from Akij Board and Akij Door, along with 400 employees and dealers of Robin Resources, creating an atmosphere of unity, pride and celebration. Sk Bashir Uddin, managing director of AkijBashir Group, inaugurated the conference as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In his speech, he said, "Akij Board has always believed in innovation. Recently, we introduced Synchro Melamine Board, Ultimatt Board, Deep Embossed Board and Matching Digital Edge Band."

"Soon, we will introduce furniture components and densified wood to meet the diverse needs of our customers," he added.

The company launched four innovative products on the occasion: Synchro Melamine Board, Deep Embossed Board, Ultimatt Board and Digital Edge Band.

All the products are designed to complement a wide range of colours.



Sk Bashir Uddin, managing director of AkijBashir Group, poses for a group photograph with participants of the "Evolve Beyond Business Conference 2026" at Berjaya Times Square Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday. PHOTO: AKIJBASHIR GROUP

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department, Sunamganj.
www.eedmoe.gov.bd

Tender Notice No: e-Tender-06/6821/SHED/FUR/XEN/EED/SUN/2026-2027 Date: 13/10/2026

Invitation for e-Tender (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal ((http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of Works mention below under Education Engineering Department, Sunamganj District.

Sl No	Tender/proposal package No.	Tender ID	Name of Works/ Package description	Last date & Time of Selling Documents	Last date & Time of Submission Documents	Tender/ Proposal Opening Date and Time
01	WD_6821_SHED_SUN_2024-25_01	1353785	Manufacturing & Supply of Furniture (FY 2024-25) For Academic Cum Residential Building at Bangladesh Female Academy , Derai, Sunamganj. (RMS ID NO 1047189).	25-Oct-2026 Time 15:00	26-Oct-2026 Time 11:00	26-Oct-2026 Time 12:00

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 (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e- Tender Documents of Said Package from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches up to 25/10/2026 Time:15:00.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@epocure.gov.bd).

13.10.2026
(Md.Kamruzzaman)
Executive Engineer (C.C.)
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Sunamganj.

GD-2506

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Memo No.35.01.5900.447.04.008.26-2581 Date: 13/10/2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in The National e-Gp system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by the Executive Engineer, RHD, Munshiganj Road Division, Munshiganj for the procurement of

SL No	Tender ID & Package No	e-Tender Description	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	1351180, 04-Dev/e-GP/Mundiv/ 2026-2027.	Widening, Reconstruction, Surfacing, Rigid Pavement, Underpass Construction, Protective work and Road Safety work at Ch. 05+000 Km to 08+000 Km Munshiganj (Hatimara)-Kunder Bazar-Sreenagar (Sonbari) Road (Z-8004) of Munshiganj Road Sub-division under Munshiganj Road Division during the year 2026-2027 (WP-05).	15-11-2026 16:00	16-11-2026 12:00	16-11-2026 12:00

1. The above tender is online Tender. Where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-Gp portal and no Offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-Gp system portal (http:/www.eprocure.gov.bd).
2. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National E-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks Branch.
3. Further information and guidelines are available in the National E-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-2504