Apparel exports to EU show signs of recovery

BSS, *Dhaka*

Bangladesh's apparel exports to the European Union (EU) could gain momentum towards the end of this year and in 2027 as the decline in European apparel imports gradually narrows, raising hopes for Bangladesh's exporters.

According to Eurostat data, the EU imported apparel worth €60.29 billion in January-August 2026, down 3.83 percent from €62.69 billion in the same period last year.

Import volume declined 2.57 percent, while the average unit price fell 1.29 percent to €19.65 per kilogramme from €19.91.

Bangladesh's apparel exports to the EU fell 11.67 percent to €11.93 billion during the period from €13.50 billion a year earlier, a decline of around €1.58 billion.

Export volume dropped 4.58 percent, while the average unit price decreased 7.43 percent to €13.76 per kilogramme from €14.87.

However, the August figures showed signs of improvement in overall EU apparel imports. Compared with August 2025, import value rose 0.72 percent, although volume declined 0.57 percent, while the average unit price increased 1.29 percent.

The data indicate that Bangladesh faced a sharper decline in export value than the overall EU import market, with lower unit prices accounting for a substantial part of the fall alongside reduced shipment volumes.

Talking to BSS, former Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) director Mohiuddin Rubel said Europe had faced various economic pressures that had reduced its overall imports from the previous year, but recent trends suggested a gradual recovery.

"Bangladesh has performed better in the European market over the last three months than in the first five months of this year. European imports have also increased gradually," he said.

If the trend continues, Bangladesh could see stronger export growth towards the end of this year and into 2027, he added.

Rubel highlighted the importance of the European market to Bangladesh's garment industry, saying it accounts for nearly 50 percent of the country's apparel exports.

Bangladesh also supplies around 20 percent of the EU's total apparel imports, making the region's demand trends particularly significant for the country's export earnings.

He said Bangladesh must maintain its competitiveness and strictly comply with European rules and regulations to sustain export growth and strengthen its position in the market.

The industry needs to focus on the factors European buyers consider when sourcing garments, particularly compliance requirements, sustainability standards and other regulatory conditions, he said.

Prime Bank partners with Blucheez to offer discounts to priority customers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed an agreement with Blucheez, a lifestyle and fashion brand in Bangladesh, to provide discounts and other lifestyle benefits to the bank's priority banking customers.

Nahreen Quayyum, senior vice-president and acting head of priority banking at the bank, and Md Kamruzzaman, founder of Blucheez, signed the agreement at the bank's corporate office on Gulshan Avenue in Dhaka recently, according to a press release. Under the agreement, Prime Bank's priority banking customers will enjoy discounts at Blucheez, enhancing their shopping experience.

The partnership reflects Prime Bank's continued commitment to expanding its network of lifestyle partners and providing priority banking customers with personalised services and value-added benefits beyond conventional banking, the release added.

Hossain Mohammad Zakaria, head of customer propositions at the bank, and Fazle Rabbi, chief operating officer of Blucheez, along with senior officials from both organisations, were also present at the signing ceremony.



Md Kamruzzaman, founder of Blucheez, and Nahreen Quayyum, senior vice-president and acting head of priority banking at Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the bank's corporate office on Gulshan Avenue in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: **PRIME BANK**

NCC Bank organises training on green banking for women entrepreneurs



Md Habibur Rahman, deputy managing director of NCC Bank PLC, poses for a photograph with participants of a training session held at the bank's Dhanmondi branch in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: **NCC BANK**

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank PLC recently organised a training session at its Dhanmondi branch as part of its nationwide training programme, "Entrepreneurship Development & Green Banking", to promote women's economic empowerment, financial inclusion and sustainable business practices.

Md Habibur Rahman, deputy managing director of the bank, inaugurated the training session as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Speaking at the event, Habibur encouraged women customers to open Parama Accounts and use the bank's dedicated women's banking facilities and services.

He said women entrepreneurs play a vital role in strengthening the national economy, generating employment and promoting inclusive growth.

Access to formal financial services, appropriate financing, digital banking and practical business knowledge is essential for helping them establish, manage and expand sustainable businesses, he added.

Berger Paints unveils Woodkeeper Pro for easier wood coating

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited has launched its new wood coating product, titled "Berger Woodkeeper Pro", at Lakeshore Hotel in Gulshan-2, Dhaka.

The launch marks a key addition to the company's product portfolio, reinforcing Berger's commitment to providing reliable, high-quality and easy-to-use wood coating solutions.

Mushfiqur Rahim, brand endorser of Berger Woodkeeper Pro and a member of the Bangladesh national cricket team, inaugurated the product on Thursday as the special guest, according to a press release.

Speaking at the event, Md Mohsin Habib Chowdhury, chief executive officer and managing director of the company, said, "With this launch, we look forward to expanding our presence in the category and bringing greater value to our customers."

"We remain committed to making quality wood coating solutions more accessible in the years ahead," he added.

Salahuddin Ahmed, chief marketing officer, said, "With Berger Woodkeeper Pro, we want to make quality wood coating a simpler and more convenient experience for consumers and painters. The product combines reliable performance with easy application at a reasonable price."

"We believe it will be a valuable addition to the market and meet the evolving needs of our customers," he added.

The local wood coating market often relies on low-quality gala and shellac polish products, which may fail to deliver long-lasting or consistent results.



PHOTO: **BERGER PAINTS BANGLADESH**

Mushfiqur Rahim, brand endorser of Berger Woodkeeper Pro and a member of the Bangladesh national cricket team, poses for a photograph after inaugurating the new wood coating product, "Berger Woodkeeper Pro", at Lakeshore Hotel in Gulshan-2, Dhaka on Thursday.

Dutch-Bangla Bank holds strategy meeting for Rajshahi, Rangpur

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dutch-Bangla Bank on Friday held a strategy meeting for its Rajshahi and Rangpur regions to plan business activities and improve customer service.

The meeting, titled Strategic Conclave 2026, was held in a hybrid format at a hotel in Bogura, with officials joining both in person and online, according to a press release.

Md Ahteshamul Haque Khan, managing director and CEO of DBBL, attended the meeting as the chief guest.

Speaking at the event, Ahteshamul said the bank had taken various steps to become a trusted financial partner for its customers. He stressed the need for a customer-focused approach to improve service quality.

Branch managers from the two regions presented their business plans and assured the management that they would meet their targets by providing better customer service.

Senior management also shared feedback and gave guidance on improving services and meeting business targets.

Officials from branches and sub-branches, regional heads of Rocket and agent banking, and alternative delivery channel supervisors from the two regions also joined the meeting online.



Officials and senior management of Dutch-Bangla Bank, including Managing Director and CEO Md Ahteshamul Haque Khan, pose for a photo at the bank's Strategic Conclave 2026 for the Rajshahi and Rangpur regions, held at a hotel in Bogura on Friday.

PHOTO: **DBBL**

ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়
অঞ্চল-১ (উত্তরা)

Memo No: 46.10.0000.063.14.116.26 Date: 15/10/2026

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System portal (http:/ www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

SL No.	Tender ID & Ref No.	Name of Works	Last date and Time for Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
1.	ID No- 1349030, Ref No- 46.10.0000.000.058.14.0091.26 Date: 29-09-2026	Development work of Roads with construction of Pipe Drain for Khilkhet Uttarpara Ekushe Road (from Ekushe Bhaban to Bhuya Bari) and bye Lanes which H/N. Ka-221/7/B to Ka-210/3/E of Namapara Boat Ghat Al-Manar School's North-West side and Noyanogor Adorsho Garage Road which H/N. Ka-144 to Ka-178/4 & Moddopara Talertek Road and from Khilkhet Noyanogor H/N. 145/23/5/1 upto Khapara H/N. Ka-89 under Ward No. 17.	08-Nov-2026 14:00	08-Nov-2026 15:00
2.	ID No- 1349031, Ref No- 46.10.0000.000.058.14.0092.26 Date: 29-09-2026	Development work of Roads with construction of Footpath and Drain for the Road No.31 at Sector # 7 and Road No. 12 at Sector 6 in Uttara.	08-Nov-2026 14:00	08-Nov-2026 15:00

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 document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Nuruzzaman Khan)
Executive Engineer
Zone-1 (Uttara)
Dhaka North City Corporation.

GD-2534

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Public Administration
Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy
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Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Research (FY 2027-28)

Ministry /Division	Ministry of Public Administration
Agency	BCS Administration Academy (BCSAA)
Procuring Entity	Director (Research and Publication), BCSAA
Expression of Interest for Selection of	Individual/Group/Organization
EOI Ref: No	**Memo No. 05.02.0000.052.07.0009.26. 670**
Date:	**18 October 2026**
Key Information	A. **Research proposals in English** must be structured as follows: (I) The Title; (II) Abstract; (III) Introduction; (IV) Problem Statement; (V) Research Rationale; (VI) Research Question(s)/Objective(s); (VII) Research Scope; (VIII) Literature Review; (IX) Research Methodology; (X) Chapter outline; (XI) Timeline; (XII) Detailed Budget (including cost break-up); (XIII) Conclusion; (XIV) References. The proposed timeline and budget are required to match the permissible limits detailed below. B. Research proposals must be accompanied with a cover letter addressed to the official inviting this EOI (Please see the row in the bottom). A **separate** title page and curriculum vitae (CV) of the author(s) must be attached with the research proposal. C. Proposed research should be in the fields mentioned below. D. Research proposals **must not exceed 2500 words**, excluding references. The author must provide word count in the title page or in the cover letter (Standard Application Form). E. Incomplete research proposals will not be considered. Research proposals will be reviewed, selected and funded in accordance with the provisions of the Research Policy of BCSAA. F. The shortlisted research proposals are required to be presented by the researcher(s) before final selection. G. The BCSAA authority reserves the right to reject any research proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Permissible Budget and Time Limit	Only one type of original research will be considered for funding under the relevant provisions of the Research Policy of BCSAA. 1. C-type Research: Up to 10,00000.00 (Ten Lac) [Not more than 12 Months]
Submission of Research Proposal	Complete research proposals in **Hard Copies as well as Soft Copy** must be submitted to the office inviting this EOI on or before **18 November 2026** (within office time –4pm). Research proposals submitted after this deadline **shall not** be considered.
Research Fields	Potential research fields include: 01. Development Administration; 02. Competency Development in Civil Service: Training and Performance Appraisal; 03. Frontier Technology and its Application; 04. Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Public Administration; 05. Public Administration: Innovation and Service Simplification; 06. Good Governance; 07. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective; 08. Reforms in Public Administration; 09. Economic Development in Bangladesh; 10. Climate Change and Disaster Management in Bangladesh; 11. Inequality and Poverty Reduction; 12. Skill Development and Remittance; 13. Project Management in Bangladesh: Challenges and Way Forward; 14. Local Government in Bangladesh; 15. Social Vulnerability Issues.
Name and Address of Official Inviting EOI	S. Hossain 26.10.2026 **Mohammad Shahadat Hossain** Director (Research and Publication) BCS Administration Academy Shahbag, Dhaka-1000 Email: researchbcsaa@gmail.com

GD-2528