Pacific Jeans to shut oldest CEPZ unit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Pacific Jeans Limited has started shutting down operations at its oldest unit at the Chattogram Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) as it plans to demolish the ageing factory buildings, which have been declared structurally unsafe by the RMG Sustainability Council (RSC).

The company, one of the country's leading garment exporters, on October 31 initiated a phased process of ending the employment of around 5,000 workers at the facility, in accordance with the Bangladesh EPZ Labour Act, 2019, said a statement issued by the company yesterday.

It has promised to construct a modern, environment-friendly, multi-storey industrial facility at the same site, potentially creating around 10,000 jobs.

Rumours spread through social media platforms over the past two days that the renowned group was closing down its factories.

Yesterday's statement clarified that production at other manufacturing units of Pacific Jeans Limited and other factories of Pacific Jeans Group continues as usual, in line with their existing capacities.

The group currently operates nine other factories, including Unit-2 of Pacific Jeans Ltd at the CEPZ, employing around 30,000 workers.

The 34-year-old factory structure, comprising three buildings and being the group's first facility at the CEPZ, was erected in the name of Pacific Jeans Ltd in 1994 and was later named Pacific Jeans Ltd Unit-1.

The structure underwent a special structural safety audit by the RSC, followed by a Detailed Engineering Assessment (DEA), company officials said.

The assessment identified the risk of potential structural failure.

Pacific Jeans Group Managing Director Syed M Tanvir told The Daily Star that the company had taken a difficult but responsible decision to suspend production at the facility, prioritising workers' lives and safety.

He said the company was ensuring payment of the maximum compensation, along with all other legal dues and applicable benefits, to the affected workers under the law.

According to the statement, the affected workers would receive outstanding wages, overtime and other allowances, payment for unused earned leave, notice pay, service benefits and provident fund contributions with profits.

Exports rise 4.4%

FROM PAGE B1

The latest increase partly reflects a return to the sector's historical growth pattern. Higher export earnings do not necessarily mean higher profits, as production costs have risen significantly, he said.

Maintaining competitiveness will be crucial as Bangladesh prepares to graduate from least developed country (LDC) status in three years. Better customs clearance, logistics and access to reliable and affordable energy will be essential to sustain export growth, Asif said.

Riad Mahmud, managing director of Shoeniverse Footwear Ltd, a concern of National Polymer Group, said his company was seeing growing interest from US buyers and receiving more export orders.

Winter shipments were picking up, with buyers placing larger orders than in previous years. Some customers who previously ordered 10 units were now asking for 15, he said.

He also said Indian manufacturers were facing difficulties sourcing raw materials directly from China because of travel restrictions and complications in business interactions. Bangladeshi manufacturers, meanwhile, could import materials more easily, helping them secure additional orders from India.

However, Riad warned that industrial unrest could disrupt this positive trend. Factory shutdowns, production delays and transport problems caused by labour unrest could affect shipments. Even protests near factories could interrupt production at otherwise unaffected industries.

Amid global economic uncertainty, he stressed the need to prevent domestic disruptions that could hurt businesses and people's livelihoods.

Tipu Sultan, chairman of the Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters Association (BFLLFEA), said footwear, rather than leather, was the main driver of recent export growth.

4,000MW

FROM PAGE B1

He also identified solar irrigation and agrivoltaics as opportunities for renewable expansion.

Dipal stressed the need for quality control, including regular inspections, battery replacement facilities and recycling. "Refurbished and low-quality equipment can undermine consumer confidence and damage the growing popularity of solar power," he said.

"Renewable energy is now non-negotiable. We must give it priority," he said, calling for appropriate policies and effective implementation.

Shafiqul Alam, lead analyst for Bangladesh Energy at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), said industrial consumers are likely to drive a large share of the expansion, as solar becomes increasingly attractive to big industries.

He said household rooftop solar will stay out of reach for many families without stronger incentives, such as capital subsidies and bulk procurement. "The economics do not work for low-income households with small electricity bills."

"If someone pays Tk 400-Tk 500 as monthly electricity bills, why would they be interested in paying a monthly instalment of Tk 1,200 or Tk 1,500 for a solar system?" said Shafiqul.

He commented that rural households also tend to use less electricity during the day. That makes battery storage important for meeting evening demand, but it adds to installation costs. As a result, the incentive for selling surplus power to the grid may not be enough to make solar financially attractive in rural areas.

Shafiqul suggested a capital subsidy of 15-20 percent to make household systems more affordable. He also stressed the need for trained technicians to install and maintain them.

He said that expanding rooftop solar without upgrading the grid could cause instability, because solar generation fluctuates. "An inverter may be smart, but if the meter is not smart, the distribution utility cannot properly see what is happening across its network," he said.

Tariq Alam, an energy and infrastructure development consultant, said the target should not be judged by its headline capacity alone, because achieving it requires substantial investment, infrastructure and long-term planning.

"The true test of success is mobilising capital and commissioning projects, not simply signing an MoU for a certain number of megawatts of rooftop solar," he said.

He estimated that installing 4,000MW needs about Tk 25,000 crore, or $2 billion, and more than 20 million square metres of surface area.

Tariq called for a credible strategy and action plan. He said the government should develop a pipeline of 6,000MW of investable projects to reach 4,000MW, as some may face delays or fail to secure financing.

He also called for utility-scale solar projects alongside rooftop installations.

He said commercial and industrial consumers are likely to drive most of the short-term growth because they have stronger financial incentives to invest. Industries, particularly in the garment sector, need reliable energy, cost certainty and lower carbon emissions to stay competitive internationally.

"Foreign investors are more likely to be interested in aggregated projects than isolated installations," he said.

A portfolio of about 100MW, for instance, could attract more interest than a few smaller projects. He suggested bringing multinational companies, local lenders and industry associations together to develop standardised, bankable agreements.

For households, he said, affordable financing, simple procedures and shorter payback periods are essential. "In my experience, the magic number is three years. You have to offer a payback period of three years or less. Otherwise, people start thinking that five years is too long."

He proposed capital subsidies and collateral-free concessional loans for small household systems of 2-4kW. Allocating 1,000MW of the target to households, with an average 3kW system, would require installations in around 350,000 homes, he said.

Tariq also proposed a national digital portal where households can apply for financing, get loan approvals and choose from pre-approved solar service providers.

Mohammed Jabed Emran, chief risk officer of Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), said the government aims to add 4,000MW of solar power within a year through policy incentives, reduced import duties, higher prices for surplus electricity supplied to the grid and easier financing.

"Achieving 4,000MW will certainly be very challenging, but I do not think it is impossible. We are seeing growing awareness and momentum across the country," he said.

Jabed said solar alone cannot meet industry's round-the-clock needs, because systems can supply power directly for only three to four hours a day. Energy storage is therefore essential to hold daytime generation for later use.

The government has so far provided about Tk 1,500 crore in low-interest financing to three institutions, he said. IDCOL and the Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Limited (BIFFL) each received Tk 500 crore, and PKSF received the rest.

IDCOL has financed 298.57MW of solar projects, with another 300MW-350MW approved. It aims to finance a further 1,000MW by next June, split equally between household rooftop systems and industrial and commercial installations, he said.

According to IDCOL research, Bangladesh has about 3.6 crore households, of which 1.63 crore have pucca or semi-pucca homes suitable for rooftop solar. Installing systems averaging 4kW in just 1.25 lakh homes would generate 500MW. Individual systems could range from 2kW to 5kW.

Emran said interest in rooftop solar is growing, particularly outside Dhaka, where people are struggling with load-shedding. But many remain unsure about the quality of equipment and the availability of reliable service providers.

IDCOL is setting specifications and indicative prices for each configuration, and giving demand aggregators guidelines on approved equipment, technical standards and financing, he said.

It is also developing an app, nearing completion, that will let households monitor solar generation, electricity supplied to the grid and earnings from surplus power, Emran said.

Money worries

FROM PAGE B1

Despite growing financial concerns, job satisfaction improved. Some 83 percent of employees said they were satisfied with their jobs, up from 78 percent in 2025.

However, fewer employees were willing to recommend their organisations as good places to work. The share fell to 35 percent from 42 percent over the same period.

The survey also found a strong link between employees' job satisfaction and whether they felt valued by their employers. Among those who believed their organisations cared about them, 92 percent were satisfied with their jobs. The figure dropped to 48 percent among those who felt unsupported.

Employees particularly wanted support during major financial difficulties or unexpected expenses, with 72 percent identifying such situations as times when employer assistance mattered.

They also expected support when dealing with chronic illnesses, mental health problems, caregiving responsibilities and serious medical diagnoses.

Among employers, 85 percent said employee benefits helped build and maintain a positive workplace culture. However, less than half had increased spending on such benefits over the past 12 months.

Employers said their main reasons for investing in employee benefits were to improve staff morale, raise productivity, attract talent and support employees' mental and physical health.

The study also raised concerns about retirement security, particularly among employees aged 40 and above.

The proportion of employees without any retirement plan increased sharply at both local and multinational organisations, suggesting that immediate financial pressures may be taking priority over long-term savings.

AI ADOPTION AT WORKPLACES

The study found that artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming part of employees' daily work, although support from employers has not kept pace.

Around half of the employees surveyed used AI in their daily tasks, with most reporting positive effects on their productivity and wellbeing.

About 46 percent said using AI made them feel less overwhelmed at work, while 40 percent said it gave them more time to focus on meaningful and engaging tasks.

However, only 58 percent of employers said their organisations encouraged or allowed employees to use AI in their daily work.

The findings highlight the need for employers to strengthen financial protection, provide benefits that better reflect employees' needs and offer more support for the use of AI at work.

IPDC to raise

FROM PAGE B1

its ongoing financing requirements and future capital adequacy requirements, said IPDC in a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday, informing investors of its board's decision.

A zero-coupon bond does not pay regular monthly or annual interest. Instead, investors buy the bond at a discount and receive the face value when it matures.

IPDC said the issuance is subject to the approval of Bangladesh Bank, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission and other relevant regulatory authorities.

The fresh capital plan comes as the company reports a solid rise in its quarterly profits, operating cash flows and overall asset value.

IPDC posted a 35 percent year-on-year increase in net profit to Tk 35.4 crore in the first nine months of 2026, supported by higher operating income and disciplined cost management.

Earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk 0.82 in January-September 2026 from Tk 0.61 in the same period of 2025.

In a press release, IPDC said its gross interest income increased 5 percent year-on-year to nearly Tk 750 crore, while interest expenses declined marginally to Tk 561 crore.

Consequently, net interest income grew 27 percent to Tk 188 crore, continuing the recovery from margin compression experienced through much of 2025.

Investment income increased 24 percent year-on-year to Tk 116 crore, supported by treasury portfolio management. Commission and brokerage income rose 13.5 percent to Tk 12 crore.

IPDC said it has made adequate provisions against potential risks.

In the third quarter of 2026, its net profit increased 31 percent year-on-year to roughly Tk 15 crore, reflecting higher earnings driven by credit deployment and expense control.

"Our results reflect stronger operating momentum, disciplined cost management and a deliberate focus on balance-sheet resilience," said IPDC Finance Managing Director Rizwan Dawood Shams.

"In a changing market environment, our priority remains to strengthen the fundamentals of our business while upholding the trust of those who place their confidence in us."

Remittance inflow

FROM PAGE B1

Meanwhile, the rising demand for foreign currency has continued to put pressure on the US dollar in the interbank market. The weighted average exchange rate stood at Tk 124.30 on Sunday, up from Tk 123.99, BB data showed.

Eastern Bank PLC quoted the dollar at Tk 124.48 for spot selling and Tk 123.48 for spot buying on Sunday, compared with Tk 124.35 and Tk 123.35, respectively, a day earlier.

Md Deen Islam, professor of economics at the University of Dhaka, told The Daily Star that slower remittance growth could create further problems for the foreign exchange market amid rising demand for dollars to settle import bills.

"While remittance inflows have been relatively strong compared to the prior year, the current slowdown in their growth could put further downward pressure on the exchange rate. This is especially true given the dependence of Bangladesh on remittance inflows as a major source of foreign exchange."

Deen, who is also research director at Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), said slower remittance growth, rising import payments and external debt could together intensify depreciation pressure on the taka.

"Even though there has been improvement in the foreign exchange reserves, which act as a buffer, the continuous intervention from Bangladesh Bank on the exchange rate can drain the buffer in the long run," he said.

Echoing a similar view, Ashikur Rahman, principal economist at the Policy Research Institute (PRI), warned that the pressure on foreign exchange market could persist if foreign currency receipts failed to keep pace.

He, however, cautioned against interpreting monthly remittance inflows below $3 billion as a sign of weakness, noting that October earnings were still about 12 percent higher than a year earlier.

Ashikur called on the BB to maintain exchange-rate flexibility, use foreign exchange reserves judiciously to manage excessive volatility and avoid premature monetary easing.

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

Memo No. 46.02.3900.000.07.001.26- 4074 Date:- 01-11-26

e-Tender Notice No-08/2026-2027 (LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of works details in table:

Tender ID	Tender Reference No	Name of work	Tender Closing and Tender Opening Date & Time
1351501	LGED/GOBM/JM L/26-27/RW-43	Emergency Maintenance of Dewanganj GC-Sanandabari GC via Taratia Bazar Road. from Ch 7200m - Ch 7270m [DEWANGANJ]Dist:Jamalpur [Road ID: 339152001]	16-Nov-2026 13:00 and 16-Nov-2026 13:00
1351503	LGED/GOBM/JM L/26-27/RW-44	Emergency Maintenance of R&H at Deflapara-Benuarchar GC Road. from Ch 400m - Ch 7500m [ISLAMPUR] Dist:Jamalpur [Road ID: 339292001]	
1351504	LGED/GOBM/JM L/26-27/RW-45	Emergency Maintenance of Goalerchar UP-Napiterchar Bazar Road. from Ch 190m - 210m, Ch 390m - 400m, Ch 2000m - 2010m and Ch 2090m - 2100m [ISLAMPUR] Dist:Jamalpur [Road ID: 339293017]	
1351505	LGED/GOBM/JM L/26-27/RW-46	Emergency Maintenance of Jhagrarchar R&H-Chinarchar bazar Road. from Ch 1000m - Ch 3400m [ISLAMPUR] Dist:Jamalpur [Road ID: 339294043]	
1351506	LGED/GOBM/JM L/26-27/RW-47	Emergency Maintenance of Dewanganj GC-Sanandabari GC via Taratia Bazar Road. from Ch 7300m - Ch 7320m [DEWANGANJ] Dist:Jamalpur [Road ID: 339152001]	
1351507	LGED/GOBM/JM L/26-27/RW-48	Emergency Maintenance of Par Ramrampur UP (Miah bari RHD)-Patharerchar Bazar Road. from Ch 0m - 3680m [DEWANGANJ] Dist:Jamalpur [Road ID: 339153014]	
1351508	LGED/GOBM/JM L/26-27/RW-49	Emergency Maintenance of Par Ramrampur UP to Ramrampur Bazar road. from Ch 900m - Ch 1700m [DEWANGANJ] Dist:Jamalpur [Road ID: 339153007]	
1351509	LGED/GOBM/JM L/26-27/RW-50	Emergency Maintenance of Dangdhara UP-Botola Bazar. from Ch 3000m - Ch 3020m [DEWANGANJ] Dist:Jamalpur [Road ID: 339153011]	
1351510	LGED/GOBM/JM L/26-27/RW-51	Emergency Maintenance Kapashatia Gandi Asram-(H/O Wajad member) Road from Ch 200m - Ch 230m [MELENDAH] Dist:Jamalpur [Road ID: 339614162]	
1351526	LGED/GOBM/JM L/26-27/RW-52	Emergency Maintenance of Jobbergonj GC-Dewanganj via Madarirchar Road from Ch 0m - Ch 5130m [BAKSHIGANJ] Dist:Jamalpur [Road ID: 339072007]	

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 Banks' branches.
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-2641

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
রংপুর মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, রংপুর ।
ফোন- ০২৫৮-৮৮৭৮৩৫০, মোবাইল- ০১৭০১২৪৮১২০,
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স্মারক নং-রমেকহা/রং/গাছ-নিলাম/দরপত্র/হিসাব/২০২৬-২৭/৩৮১৮ তারিখঃ ০১.১১.২০২৬ইং।

"উন্মুক্ত নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, নির্মাণ শাখা'র স্মারক নং-৪৫.০০.০০০০.০০০.১৫৬.৯৫.০০৩৪.২৬-৩৫১, তারিখঃ ০৬/০৮/২০২৬ইং মোতাবেক রংপুর মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালের বার্ণ এন্ড প্লাস্টিক সার্জারী ইউনিট স্থাপন প্রকল্পের মূল ভবন এবং সার্ভিস ভবন নির্মাণের জায়গায় লে-আউটে দন্ডায়মান ২৩টি বিভিন্ন প্রজাতির গাছ নিলামের মাধ্যমে কর্তন বা অপসারণের লক্ষ্যে সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে কেবলমাত্র অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার ও ব্যবসায়ীর নিকট হতে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন,২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা,২০২৫ মোতাবেক সীলগালাকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। আগ্রহী দরপত্রদাতাগণ দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য ১,০০০/-(এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরৎযোগ্য) পরিচালক, রংপুর মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, রংপুর এর অনুকুলে অর্থনৈতিক কোড নং-১৪২২৩২৮ এ ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জমাদান পূর্বক অনলাইন যাচাই করতঃ চালানের মূল কপিসহ নিজস্ব ব্যবসায়িক/প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক লেটার হেড প্যাডে আবেদন পূর্বক নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরের ক্যাশিয়ার মোঃ নাজির আহমেদ এর নিকট জমা দিয়া বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের দিন হইতে ১৫/১১/২৬ ইং তারিখ বেলা-২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) দরপত্র সিডিউল গ্রহন করিতে পারিবেন এবং দরপত্র সিডিউলের বর্ণিত সকল শর্ত পূরণ করিয়া আগামী ১৬/১১/২০২৬ ইং সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত অত্র অফিসের সম্মুখে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে দাখিল করিতে পারিবেন। ঐ দিনই অর্থাৎ ১৬/১১/২০২৬ ইং তারিখে বেলা-১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্র দাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) নিলাম দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ ও মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কর্তৃক দরপত্র বাক্স খোলা, যাচাই-বাছাই করা হইবে। দরপত্রের যাবতীয় তথ্যাদি ও শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে লিপিবদ্ধ রহিয়াছে। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যে কোন সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহনের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

০১/১১/২০২৬

(ব্রিগেডিয়ার জেনারেল আশিকুর রহমান)
পরিচালক
রংপুর মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, রংপুর ।

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