More export items vital to post-LDC growth: experts

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladesh needs to diversify its exports to remain competitive after graduating from the least developed country (LDC) category, said Mohammad Hasan Arif, vice-chairman and chief executive of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), yesterday.

The country has recorded export growth in recent times but LDC graduation will bring significant challenges for the sector, he said at the launch of the "Trade for Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth (TRISEG)" project.

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) launched the initiative with the Trade Facilitation Office (TFO) Canada, according to a press release.

Hasan said despite geopolitical uncertainties, Bangladesh earned around $48 billion from exports in 2025. Canada was among the top 10 destinations for Bangladeshi products, with exports reaching $1.5 billion.

He also highlighted the jute and jute goods sector's performance, which recorded 25 percent export growth in the first four months of the current fiscal year.

However, he warned that challenges would increase after LDC graduation, making product diversification crucial to sustaining growth and competitiveness.

Delivering the opening remarks at the event, Taskeen Ahmed, president of DCCI, said export diversification was no longer an option but a necessity as Bangladesh prepared to graduate from the LDC category.

Integrating small businesses, particularly women-led enterprises and underrepresented ventures, into global markets was crucial to building a resilient and sustainable economy, he said.

Taskeen expressed hope that the TRISEG project would strengthen the export capabilities of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through capacity building, specialised business advisory services and direct market-linkage support.

It would also help them explore opportunities in international markets, including Canada, he added.

Speaking as a special guest, Khondoker Md Nazmul Huda Shamim, additional secretary for textiles and jute, said the jute sector had made reasonably satisfactory progress but continued to face challenges, including a lack of product diversification.

Six international trade fairs begin in Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Six international exhibitions covering construction, real estate, power, solar energy, lighting and water management began yesterday at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka.

Forhad Hossain Azad, state minister for water resources, inaugurated the three-day exhibitions, which will continue until November 14.

The fairs will remain open to visitors from 10am to 7pm daily, according to a press release.

Organised by CEMS-Global USA, the events bring together three major exhibition series: the 31st Build Series, the 28th Power Series and the 8th Water Bangladesh International Expo.

The Build Series comprises the 31st Build Bangladesh 2026 International Exhibition and the 25th Real Estate Expo 2026. The former showcases construction materials, machinery, building technologies, interior products, lifts, HVAC systems and sanitary products.

Participating companies include LESSO Bangladesh, KingLong, RR Kabel, Zoomlion, SS Limited, Rahim Steel, AKS and Akij Electronics. Several Sri Lankan companies are also displaying construction materials, technologies and services.



Forhad Hossain Azad, state minister for water resources, inaugurates a three-day international exhibition series at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday. Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS-Global (USA & Asia-Pacific) and CEMS Bangladesh, was present. PHOTO: CEMS BANGLADESH

The Real Estate Expo features projects and services from property companies across the country, offering a platform for entrepreneurs, investors, industry professionals and prospective buyers to explore business opportunities.

The Power Series comprises the 28th Power Bangladesh 2026 International Exhibition, the 23rd Solar Bangladesh International Exhibition 2026 and the 8th Dhaka International Lighting Expo 2026.

Participants include ACI Renewable Energy, Omera, Huawei, Rahimafrooz, Siemens, PDL, Fakir Technologies, UCC Power, Grameen Solar and Orbed Green Energy.

Dutch-Bangla Bank offers loans at 8.99%

DBBL PERSONAL LOAN | স্বপ্নের নিবাস ডাচ্-বাংলা ব্যাংক হোম লোন | DBBL CAR LOAN

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dutch-Bangla Bank has announced a special lending offer, allowing customers to transfer their existing personal and home loans from other financial institutions at an interest rate of 8.99 percent.

Under the offer, customers can also obtain additional loans. The bank is waiving processing fees for both takeover loans and additional loans, according to a press release.

For fresh applicants, the bank is offering personal, home and car loans at an interest rate of 9.50 percent.

The interest rates on all loans disbursed under the offer will remain fixed for the first 12 months.

The offer will run from November 1, 2026, to February 28, 2027.

Customers interested in the offer can visit any Dutch-Bangla Bank branch, sub-branch, Fast Track or agent banking outlet to provide their initial information and begin the application process.

They can also call the bank's helpline at 16216 for further information.

The limited-time initiative aims to ease consumer credit pressures, reduce debt-servicing costs and provide borrowers with access to additional funds, the press release said.



Md Touhidul Alam Khan, managing director and CEO of NRBC Bank PLC, poses for a photograph after inaugurating the new accounts for expatriates at the bank's head office in Dhaka on Wednesday. PHOTO: NRBC BANK

NRBC Bank launches six NRCT accounts for expatriates

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NRBC Bank PLC has launched six types of Non-Resident Convertible Taka Accounts (NRCTAs) to expand savings and investment opportunities for Bangladeshi expatriates.

Of the six accounts, three are designed for customers under conventional banking services: NRCTA Saver, NRCTA Biz and NRCTA FDR.

The remaining three are available under the bank's Shariah-based Islamic banking services: Mudaraba Savings NRCT Account, Mudaraba MTDR NRCT Account and Al-Wadiah NRCTA Account.

Md Touhidul Alam Khan, managing director and CEO of the bank, inaugurated the new accounts at the bank's head office in Dhaka on Wednesday, according to a press release.

Speaking at the event, Touhidul said, "NRCT Accounts will establish a secure and institutional banking relationship between Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) and the country's financial system.

"With the introduction of six new NRCT account products by NRBC Bank, expatriate Bangladeshis will have expanded opportunities to save and invest in Bangladesh.

"In addition to earning Shariah-compliant returns, account holders will be able to repatriate their funds abroad, including both principal and profit, and conveniently operate their accounts through digital banking channels," he added.

Through the bank's authorised dealer (AD) branches and offshore banking unit (OBU), expatriate Bangladeshis will be able to maintain current, savings and term deposit accounts.

These accounts offer a range of benefits, including the flexibility to withdraw or repatriate the entire account balance, along with accrued returns, at any time; market-driven interest or profit rates; and monthly crediting of interest or profit for NRCT account holders.

Architects, architectural projects honoured at DELTA Awards

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladeshi architects, architectural projects and professionals across several categories were honoured at the DELTA Award for Architecture 2026, held at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Under the 'Delta Sustainability and Resilience Award' category, Kobita Kunjo by Jubair Hasan Architects (JHA), Rupgaon by Perceive, and Interim House by Roofliners_Studio of Architecture received awards, with the latter receiving an honourable mention.

In the 'Delta Contextual and Social Impact' category, Meer Manzil by Indigenous, Chawk Bazar Public Spaces & Park by FORM.3 Architects, and ARA's Office in Hazaribagh by Atelier Robin Architects were among the recognised projects.

Stha-Kalpa Office by Stha-Kalpa Architects, Al Falah Jame Mosque by DWm4 Architects, and RAJUK Kancha Bazaar by Tarique Hasan and Associates Ltd also received honourable mentions in the category, according to a press release.

Md Didarul Islam Bhuiyan received the 'Delta Architect of the Year' award, while Raziul Ahsan Khandaker was posthumously honoured with the 'Delta Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contributions to Bangladesh's architectural landscape. A five-member independent jury comprising Saif ul Haque, Prof Md Rafiq Azam, Md Ehsan Khan, Firdous Azim, and Switzerland-based Niklaus Graber evaluated the entries.

In the 'Delta Architectural Scholar Award' category, Adnan Zillur Morshed was recognised for his book Shamsul Wares: An Architecture of Elemental Modernism.

Mahbubur Rahman received recognition for his books "OLD BUT NEW: NEW BUT OLD", while Catherine Daisy Gomes was honoured for her book "Disaster Resilient Modular CORE Shelters of Ethnic Communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Area".



Winners and organisers of the DELTA Award for Architecture 2026, organised by ARCHICONNECT and CEMS-Global, pose for a group photograph at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka on Tuesday. PHOTO: CEMS-GLOBAL

Farmers pay

FROM PAGE B4

FARMERS COUNT LOSSES

Kandu Chandra Barman, 70, of Lalmonirhat Sadar planted 8,400 early-season cauliflower seedlings on two bighas, spending Tk 1.1 lakh. Around 8,000 plants have produced cauliflower.

Each weighs around 700 grammes and costs Tk 13-Tk 14 to produce, but he is selling them for Tk 10-Tk 11. Last year, he received Tk 25-Tk 27, against production costs of Tk 10-Tk 11.

"I started harvesting three weeks ago. Initially, production was low, and I sold each for Tk 50-Tk 55. I thought I would make a good profit this year, but now I am getting less than the production cost," he said.

Nitai Chandra Das, 60, of Rajarhat upazila in Kurigram, cultivated bottle gourds on four bighas, hoping to earn Tk 1.5 lakh from the gourds and their leaves.

Two weeks ago, he sold each for Tk 20-Tk 25. Prices have since fallen to Tk 3-Tk 4, and sometimes he finds no buyer even at that rate. His cultivation costs have risen from Tk 34,000 to Tk 45,000 per bigha in a year, and he estimates his losses at Tk 45,000.

"Last year, wholesalers bought gourds directly from our fields. This year, they show little interest. Even at wholesale markets, they are reluctant to buy," he said.

"If I leave the gourds on the plants, they will rot, but harvesting means paying labourers. We are caught in a no-win situation," he added.

Sahabul Islam, a farmer in Ishwardi upazila of Pabna, said growing radish costs him Tk 25,000 per bigha this season. Last year he sold more than Tk 40,000 worth from one bigha. "This year, I'm not sure I can even make Tk 30,000," he said.

Rafiqul Islam, a farmer in Panchagarh Sadar, also reported losses.

Akbar Ali, a vegetable wholesaler at City Bazar in Rangpur, said the number of wholesalers from Dhaka and elsewhere buying vegetables in the region had fallen by 70–80 percent from previous years. "Most local vegetables are now sold within the Rangpur region, adding to the downward pressure on prices," he said.

FARMERS' LOSS NOT REFLECTED IN RETAIL MARKET

Despite low wholesale prices, consumers continue to pay considerably more at retail markets. Farmers are selling eggplants for Tk 4 a kg, while the same produce retails at Tk 16-Tk 20, Akbar said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Commissioner of Taxes
Taxes Zone-Jashore
Nitol Niloy Arcade, 1027/01, Dhaka Road, Taltola, Jashore
www.taxeszonejashore.gov.bd

Memo No: 08.01.4100.557.001.07.0015.26.1127 **Date:** 12/11/2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Goods)
Tender Notice (OTM)

e-tender is invited in the national e-GP portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following work:

Tender ID	Name of the Work/Package Description	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time
1368592	Procurement of Office equipment (AC, TV, Refrigerator, Air and water purifier, shredder machine etc.)	22-Nov-2026 16:00	23-Nov-2026 16:00
1368742	Procurement of computer equipment (Toner)	22-Nov-2026 16:00	23-Nov-2026 16:00
1368749	Procurement of Cleaning Materials (Tissue, Various Cleaner, Aerosol etc.)	22-Nov-2026 16:00	23-Nov-2026 16:00

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 (https://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 within the above stated time limit. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Md. Abul Kalam Azad)
Deputy Commissioner of Taxes, HQ (Admin)
Email: taxeszonejashore@gmail.com

GD-2754

বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌপরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষ
BANGLADESH INLAND WATER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
www.biwta.gov.bd

বি,আই,ডব্লিউ,টি,এ ভবন
১৪১-১৪৩, মতিঝিল বা/এ
পোস্ট বক্স ৭৬,
ঢাকা-১০০০

BIWTA BHABAN
141-143, MOTIJHEEL C/A
POST BOX 76,
DHAKA-1000

File No.: File No.: 18.11.0000.311.14.163.2026-990 Date: 12-11-2026

Corrigendum-IV

Ref.: Invitation Reference No.: (i) 18.11.0000.311.14:161.2026.660; Dated: 07-Oct-2026
(ii) 18.11.0000.311.14.163.2026.661; Dated: 07-Oct-2026

e-Tenders have been invited in the national e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the (i) Procurement of 05 (five) Nos. 20-inch Cutter Suction Dredgers and Ancillary Vessels with Other Accessories (Package-21 & 22) and (ii) Procurement of 04 (four) Nos. 18-inch Cutter Suction Dredgers and Ancillary Vessels with Other Accessories (Package-23 & 24). Amendments have been made to the tenders that can be found in the websites mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Tender Name	Tender ID	Website
1.	Procurement of 05 (five) Nos. 20-inch Cutter Suction Dredgers and Ancillary Vessels with Other Accessories	1346529	https://www.eprocure.gov.bd
2.	Procurement of 04 (four) Nos. 18-inch Cutter Suction Dredgers and Ancillary Vessels with Other Accessories	1346578	https://biwta.gov.bd

12-11-2026

(Md. Moznu Miah)
Addl. Chief Engineer (Marine)
Dredging Department, BIWTA
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

GD-2751