

Apparel Story

অ্যাপারেল স্টোরি

November - December 2025



From Crisis to Competitiveness

RMG'S NEW PLAYBOOK FOR 2026



ENGLISH

BANGLADESH GARMENT MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION (BGMEA)
বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি
• বাংলাদেশ তৈরি •



6/10

DO YOU KNOW
**THE STORY BEHIND
THESE NUMBERS?**

Over the past five decades,
women's employment in Bangladesh
has risen from just
4% ↗ **42.68%**^[1]

Today, over
2 million women
are weaving their own stories,
actively, with the RMG industry

Today
7/10^[2] **daughters are able to read**
articles like this in classrooms, instead of signing
on marriage contracts

6/10 RMG workers are *women.*
These numbers are more than statistics. They tell a powerful story of
women driving progress for their families, strengthening the RMG industry, and
building a better **Bangladesh.**



From the Desk of the President



As we approach the dawn of 2026, this moment invites us to pause, reflect on the year gone by. At the same time, we need to set our priorities and action plans to steer our industry forward. The year 2025 was eventful -- marked by challenges, resilience, and important lessons for Bangladesh's apparel sector. One of the most pressing challenges we faced was the uncertainty surrounding the US tariff issue. As the United States is the single largest destination for Bangladesh's garment exports, the proposed reciprocal tariff increase caused serious concerns in the industry. Through effective and coordinated engagement by the Government of Bangladesh, in close collaboration with the private sector including BGMEA, we were able to reduce the reciprocal tariff from 35 percent to 20 percent. This outcome brought some relief at a critical moment. Yet, the tariff level remains high, and its implications continue to raise serious concerns.

At the same time, we need to focus more on market diversification. Reducing overdependence on traditional markets is no longer an option; it is essential to sustaining growth and resilience in a volatile global market situation.

Equally, we need to pay our serious attention to technological upgradation. The evolution of automation and artificial intelligence is reshaping how global industries operate. To remain competitive and relevant, our apparel sector must transition from traditional production models to more automated, efficient, and cost-effective processes that save time, enhance productivity, and add value. Alongside technology, new global standards related to environmental sustainability and human rights due diligence are becoming more stringent. Preparing for these regulations is also important. It is also crucial that the government continues efforts to streamline business processes, reducing procedural complexity, time, and costs to support industrial growth.

As we step into a new year, let us all work together to confront challenges and seize emerging opportunities. With unity, innovation, and strategic vision, we can build a stronger, more sustainable future for Bangladesh's apparel industry.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year 2026!

Mahmud Hasan Khan
President, BGMEA

EDITORIAL

A new year always arrives with renewed optimism, fresh resolve, and the promise of new beginnings. For Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) industry, 2025 was a year of resilience and endurance in the face of mounting global and domestic challenges.

The export performance of the sector in 2025 tells a story of both strength and strain. Bangladesh's RMG exports stood at USD 38.82 billion, registering a modest growth of 0.89% in 2025. In comparison, 2024 recorded USD 38.48 billion in exports with a healthier growth of 7.23%. While the industry managed to stay on a positive growth trajectory, the sharp slowdown in momentum clearly reflects the pressures weighing the industry.

The global business landscape is changing rapidly. Demand volatility, geopolitical uncertainties, inflationary pressures in key markets, and changing consumer behavior have all contributed to a competitive sourcing environment. At the same time, Bangladesh's RMG sector is approaching a critical transition phase. The upcoming LDC graduation, high tariff rates in the US market, increasing cost of production, and the introduction of new regulatory frameworks such as the EU's due diligence requirements are reshaping the rules of the game.

These challenges are real and significant. Preferential market access will gradually erode after LDC graduation, making price competitiveness more difficult to sustain. Higher utility tariffs are squeezing margins.

Yet, history has shown that the Bangladesh RMG industry grows strongest when it is challenged. To remain competitive in the years ahead, the industry must accelerate its transformation. Embracing technology and automation, investing in digitalization, and adopting Industry 4.0 practices are no longer optional—they are essential. Diversification into high-end and high-value products such as man-made fiber items must gain stronger momentum.

At the same time, skills development — particularly for middle management and technical professionals — will be crucial to improve productivity, quality, and efficiency. Infrastructure development, especially in ports, logistics, and energy, will also play a decisive role in reducing lead times and business costs. In this transformation journey, the role of the government is critically important. Supportive and forward-looking policies will be needed to help the industry navigate the challenges.

The story of Bangladesh's RMG industry has always been a story of partnership—between entrepreneurs, workers, policymakers, buyers, and development partners. If we can continue to work together with a shared vision, courage, and strategic clarity, there is no reason why this sector cannot enter its next phase stronger, and more resilient than ever before.

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The Apparel Story



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From Crisis to Competitiveness: RMG's New Playbook for 2026



Bangladesh's garment industry is emerging from a period of turmoil with a renewed focus on agility and innovation. In the past few years, fashion's global landscape has been rocked by trade upheavals and technological disruption. US tariffs have "redrawn trade maps", forcing brands and suppliers to rapidly adjust sourcing, while consumers reined in spending and sought more value amid economic uncertainty. The swift rise of AI and automation is meanwhile transforming how the industry operates. Against this challenging backdrop, Bangladesh—the world's second-largest apparel exporter is pivoting from crisis management to a proactive playbook of competitiveness.

Official data show that despite global headwinds, Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) exports have held steady. The country

closed the last fiscal year with \$39.35 billion in apparel exports (FY2024–25), an 8.8% rise from the previous year. This growth came even as worldwide demand was subdued by inflation and post-pandemic inventory gluts. In recent months, however, the momentum has slowed which is clearly visible from the figure of July-November 2025 export data. The figures from these months were virtually flat, eking out just 0.09% growth year-on-year. Industry analysts link this stagnation to softer retail sales in the West and cautious ordering by buyers adjusting to an uncertain economy. Heightened volatility has made consumers more value-conscious, especially in the US where confidence in 2025 dipped to its lowest since 2020. Even so, Bangladesh's performance in 2025 underscored a fundamental resilience and an ability to retain market share.

In fact, Bangladesh managed to expand its footprint in key markets while others stumbled.

In the United States, which is Bangladesh RMG's single largest buyer, overall apparel imports in Jan–Aug 2025 inched up only 1.4% from a year prior. Yet Bangladesh's shipments to the US surged by 18.5%, one of the fastest growth rates among major exporters. This outpaced India's 14.6% rise and Vietnam's around 15% gain over the same period. By contrast, China, still being the global leader, saw its apparel exports to America plummet nearly 19%, as brands continued diversifying away from Chinese sourcing. Other emerging players also made inroads (Cambodia's exports jumped 37.9% to the US, albeit from a smaller base), but Bangladesh's double-digit growth in a tepid market speaks to its competitiveness. A similar story played out in Europe. EU import data for Jan–Sep 2025 show Bangladesh's apparel exports to the bloc climbing 16.1% year-on-year a robust performance on par with Vietnam (17.5%) and stronger than India (13.5%). Notably, traditional near-shoring hub Turkey saw its exports to the EU decline by 7% in that period, while Bangladesh and fellow Asian suppliers filled the gap (Cambodia, for example, leapt 26%). These shifts underscore how Bangladesh has not only weathered the recent storm but also capitalized on it, gaining ground as buyers rejig their supply chains. Maintaining this edge is critical as Bangladesh's rivals also up their game. Vietnam, for instance, posted the highest growth among top garment exporters last year, 9.3% in 2024, reaching \$33.9 billion in exports. That expansion, alongside rising exports from countries like India and Cambodia, is gradually narrowing the gap with Bangladesh's no. 2 global ranking. World Trade Organization figures show Bangladesh held a 6.9% share of the \$557 billion global apparel market in 2024 (second only to China's 29.6%). In other words, Bangladesh can no longer rely on past advantages alone. Rising production costs at home, from wage hikes to energy prices are squeezing profit margins, even as global buyers



press for lower prices. Meanwhile, priority lists of apparel buyers have expanded: beyond cost and quality, brands now weigh factors like risk diversification, speed to market, and compliance rigor in deciding where to place orders. This industry reset has compelled Bangladesh's apparel makers to rethink their strategies on multiple fronts.

Bangladesh's RMG sector is responding with a multi-pronged strategy aimed at sustaining growth through 2026 and beyond. Market diversification is high on the agenda. While North America and Europe still account for the lion's share of garment exports, Bangladeshi manufacturers are pushing into new regions to reduce over-reliance on traditional markets. Exports to Japan, South Korea, Australia, and the Gulf countries have been steadily nurtured, recognizing these as promising frontiers for Bangladeshi apparel. This outreach to non-traditional markets is starting to pay off; for example, shipments to Japan and Australia have grown in recent years and is poised to accelerate as firms seek out untapped customer bases across Asia-Pacific and the Middle East.

At the same time, the industry is embracing digital integration and automation to boost efficiency. Global fashion's latest reports, like

“The State of Fashion” published by McKinsey & Company makes clear that automation and AI are shifting from a “nice-to-have” to a “business necessity” amid cost pressures. In Bangladesh, larger, forward-looking suppliers have been investing in advanced machinery, ERP systems, and even AI-driven tools for everything from production planning to quality control. Some factories now use artificial intelligence to optimize fabric cutting and reduce waste, or data analytics to forecast demand more accurately. This digital drive aligns with global trends: brands are turning to technology to speed up design cycles and decision-making, and Bangladeshi producers must keep pace. The workforce is being rewired, with new skill development programs underway to train workers and managers in digital competencies. The goal is clear, higher productivity and agility to offset rising costs and tighter lead times. By doing more with less, manufacturers aim to protect their thin margins and meet buyers' expectations for speed and flexibility.

Another pillar of the playbook is investing in sustainability and compliance as a competitive differentiator. Buyers in 2025 are not only looking for good prices; they increasingly prioritize partners who



can meet stringent environmental and social standards. Bangladesh has taken a leadership role in green manufacturing as part of this shift. The country now boasts 268 LEED-certified green garment factories which is the highest number in the world. These eco-friendly facilities, which range from solar-powered washing plants to water-efficient dyeing units, signal to international clients that Bangladesh is serious about sustainable production. The industry's top brass frequently highlights these credentials in discussions with buyers, noting that Bangladesh is uniquely positioned to deliver on volume and sustainability. Alongside environmental upgrades, compliance with labor standards and transparency in supply chains have been tightened, anticipating new regulations such as the EU's due diligence laws. The message to global retailers is one of partnership: Bangladesh is aligning itself with the fashion industry's future priorities, from lower carbon footprints to ethical sourcing.

Underpinning all these efforts is a recognition that adaptability will define the winners in the next era of

fashion. The Business of Fashion–McKinsey outlook for 2026 emphasizes that brands and suppliers must be agile to thrive in a time when trade, consumer behavior, and technology are in flux. Bangladesh's garment sector is internalizing this lesson. The painful lessons of the pandemic when order cancellations and logistics chaos threatened its lifeblood have fueled a determination to build resilience. Manufacturers are strengthening their supply chain diversification (securing multiple sources for raw materials, for instance) to avoid future disruptions. BGMEA is also lobbying proactively on trade policy fronts, seeking favorable terms in new trade agreements and preparing for the country's LDC graduation challenges. Crucially, the industry is investing in its people: upskilling initiatives and vocational training are equipping a new generation of workers to handle more sophisticated tasks and digital tools.

The result of these combined efforts is a sector turning adversity into opportunity. From a crisis of declining orders and razor-thin margins, Bangladesh's RMG industry is crafting a new narrative centered

on value addition, diversification, and sustainability. There is cautious optimism that these moves will pay off. Indeed, not all fashion executives are downbeat about the future; a quarter of those surveyed see industry conditions improving in 2026, with some "pockets of opportunity" emerging despite the headwinds. Bangladesh aims to be ready to seize those opportunities. Its new playbook for 2026 is about being proactive rather than reactive. By broadening its markets, upgrading technology, improving compliance, and innovating its product mix, the country is striving to stay one step ahead of the shifting demands of global buyers. In a world where the only constant is change, Bangladesh's garment sector is determined to not just survive, but to compete and lead. The coming year will test how well this strategy holds up; but if the past is any indication, Bangladesh has a proven ability to adapt under pressure. Now, with a focused strategy, it is betting on a future where it can turn the trials of recent years into a springboard for sustained success in 2026 and beyond. **A**

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Japan Extends 3-Year GSP Transition Period as Bangladesh Graduates from LDC Status

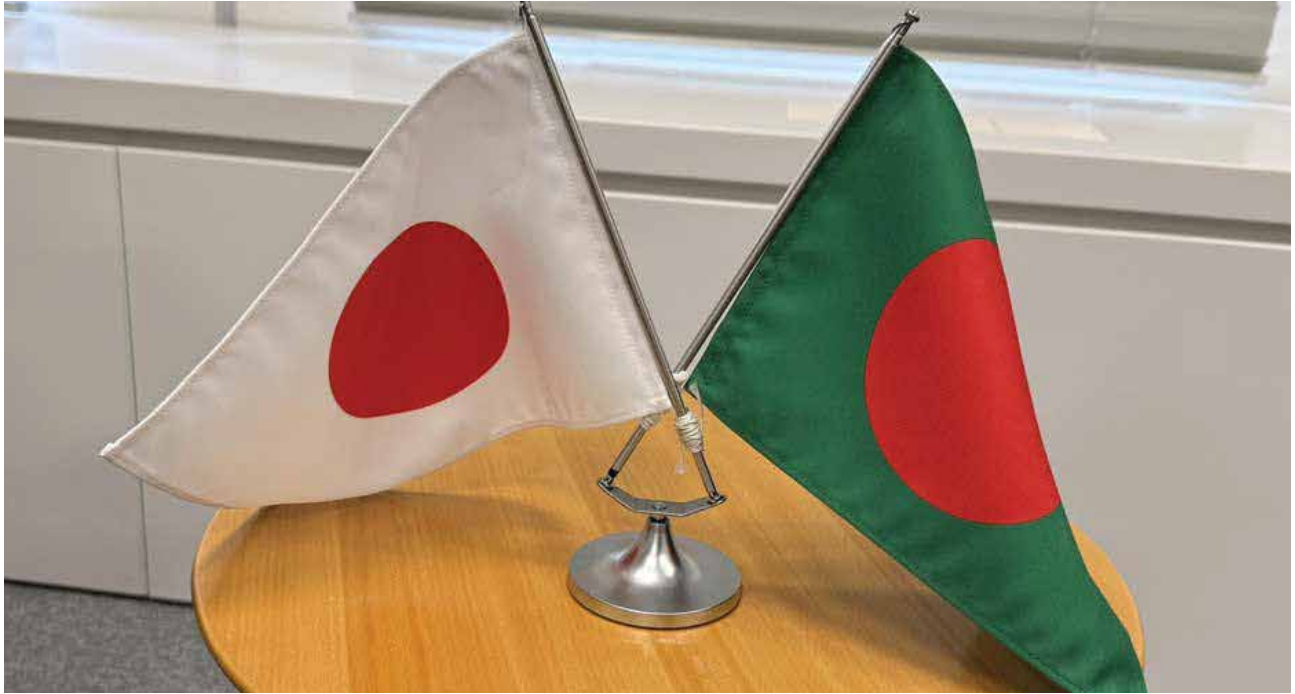


Japan has long been one of Bangladesh's most trusted partners, not only as the largest source of Official Development Assistance but as a country that has consistently supported Bangladesh's development journey with unconditional supports. At this important moment—when Bangladesh stands on the threshold of graduating from LDC status—Japan has once again demonstrated its goodwill by extending a three-year transition period under its GSP scheme, allowing graduating LDC beneficiaries continued preferential market access even after graduation. This single decision provides the much needed breathing space for Bangladesh's exporters, as well as for Japanese importers who were concerned about post-graduation market access.

The WTO notification issued by Japan makes

the intent clear: to ensure developing economies, especially LDCs, can maintain export competitiveness during the sensitive post-graduation period. This means duty-free access to Japan will continue for three years after graduation takes effect, offering manufacturers time to prepare for a more competitive environment. This gesture deserves recognition not only for its economic impact, but for the signal it sends—that Japan intends to remain a long-term partner in Bangladesh's growth story.

Another major development adding fresh energy to the bilateral relationship is the ongoing negotiation of the first-ever Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between Bangladesh and Japan. This is historic; Bangladesh has never before signed a comprehensive bilateral trade agreement with any country. The negotiations have progressed through multiple rounds in Dhaka and Tokyo,



and both sides are now in the final stages of legal review. Once signed, the EPA will ensure continuity of market access beyond LDC graduation and may even improve upon current preferences. The EPA is more than a trade deal; it is a foundation for deeper cooperation in investment, services, technology, supply-chain integration and long-term economic partnership. For Japanese investors seeking stable and predictable environments in South Asia, and for Bangladeshi exporters seeking reliable buyers and diversified markets, this agreement will be transformative.

Japan is the world's second-largest importer of apparel, buying over USD 25 billion annually—yet Bangladesh accounts for barely USD 1 billion of this market. Considering the scale of Japan's demand and its growing interest in diversifying sourcing destinations, Bangladesh's current presence is far below its potential. The preference extension, combined with the future EPA, creates a unique window to reposition Bangladesh as a key sourcing partner for Japan. In recent months, this momentum has been visible through several high-level

GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

NOTIFICATION BY JAPAN

Addendum

The following communication, received on 5 November 2025 is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Japan.

1 PURPOSE OF JAPAN'S GSP

1. The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) applies reduced tariffs on designated imported goods originating from developing countries or territories, with the aim of helping them increase their export income, advance their industrialization and promote their economic development. Japan is properly managing GSP from the viewpoint of contributing to the economic development of developing countries.

2 REFORM OF THE NATIONAL LAW RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY FOR LDC PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

2. Japan reformed its tariff system to allow least developed countries to receive preferential tariff treatment up to three years after they graduate from the least developed countries category. The respective provision is mentioned in the Temporary Tariff Measures Law, Article 8-2, paragraph 3:

Only countries determined as least developed countries (LDCs) in the General Assembly of the United Nations or up to three years after they graduate from the LDC category are eligible for Special preferential treatment for LDCs.

buyer delegations. Teams from the Asian Apparel Production Network and the Japan Textile Importers Association visited Dhaka, met with BGMEA leadership, explored

factories, and expressed renewed confidence in Bangladesh's capabilities. Japanese buyers are increasingly interested in high-value, design-driven apparel from

Japan is a discerning apparel market of around USD 23 billion in 2024 (Source: ITC), yet Bangladesh supplies only 5.5% of Japan’s total apparel imports, which is a clear indication of the vast untapped potential. Recent export trends reflect steady momentum, RMG exports to Japan grew to USD 1.18 billion in FY 2024-25 with a growth of 9.13% compared to FY2023-24. With nearly 3,500 active factories meeting international safety and compliance benchmarks, and SMEs capable of handling smaller, specialized, and high-precision orders, Bangladesh is well-positioned to expand its footprint in Japan.

Bangladesh, and see opportunities for long-term partnerships. At the same time, they highlighted the need for smoother logistics and more efficient customs processes—issues that the government and private sector must jointly address. With Japanese companies steadily expanding their operations in Bangladesh’s special economic zones, the investment climate is becoming more familiar and welcoming to Japanese businesses.

Fortunately, Bangladesh’s apparel industry is already in the midst of a transformation that aligns well with Japanese expectations. The country has become a global leader in green and energy-efficient manufacturing, with the world’s highest number of LEED-certified garment factories. Many producers have embraced decarbonisation modules and programs to lower carbon emissions. Circularity, recycling, traceability, and compliance frameworks are being strengthened to meet the sustainability benchmarks demanded by developed markets. For Japan, where quality, safety, environmental responsibility and supply-chain transparency are not just preferences but prerequisites, Bangladesh’s progress in sustainability is a significant competitive advantage.

For Bangladeshi exporters, this is the moment to reimagine their place in the Japanese market. The opportunity is not just to increase volumes but to upgrade value positioning, i.e. moving from core items to higher-value apparel, from

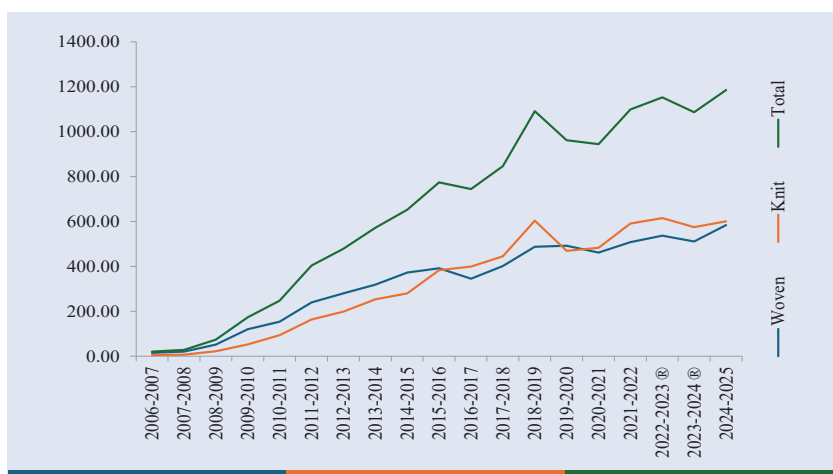
price-driven orders to partnership-driven business. Japan rewards quality, consistency, precision, and reliability - all strengths Bangladesh can cultivate and leverage.

Japan’s duty-free, quota-free market access has been instrumental in helping Bangladesh build an apparel export market now valued at about USD 1.18 billion. Japan is a discerning apparel market of around USD 23 billion in 2024 (Source: ITC), yet Bangladesh supplies only 5.5% of Japan’s total apparel imports, which is a clear indication of the vast untapped potential. Recent export trends reflect steady momentum, RMG exports to Japan grew to USD 1.18 billion in FY 2024-25 with a growth of 9.13% compared to FY2023-24. With nearly 3,500 active factories meeting international safety and compliance

benchmarks, and SMEs capable of handling smaller, specialized, and high-precision orders, Bangladesh is well-positioned to expand its footprint in Japan. With the transition window secured and the EPA approaching, exporters have a rare chance to shaping supply chains, securing long-term partnerships, and benefiting from the growth of Japanese market.

The next few years will test how effectively these advantages are used. But one thing is clear, with Japan standing firmly as a partner and with Bangladesh’s industry rapidly evolving, the pathway to deeper trade and investment ties has never been more promising. With thoughtful preparation, proactive engagement, and continuous improvement, Bangladesh can emerge as a strong and reliable partner in Japan’s supply chain. **A**

Bangladesh’s Apparel Export to Japan, in million US\$





Bangladesh should not only remain a production hub, but evolve into a sustainable production hub with resilient value chains

The friendship and partnership between Bangladesh and Denmark have grown steadily stronger over time, marked by deepening cooperation and mutual trust. Engagement between the two countries is expanding across a broad spectrum, including bilateral trade, investment, and the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

In an exclusive interview with The Apparel Story, **Christian Brix Møller**, Ambassador of Denmark to Bangladesh, shares his insights on the future trajectory of Bangladesh–Denmark cooperation. He discusses opportunities for expanding trade and investment, increasing Bangladesh’s apparel exports to the Danish market, and strengthening knowledge and technology transfer. The Ambassador also offers his perspective on the development of Bangladesh’s apparel industry, with particular emphasis on sustainability and responsible growth.

What areas do you see as potential for further strengthening this partnership between Bangladesh and Denmark?

Bangladesh and Denmark have a strong and forward-looking partnership. In 2022, we signed our Sustainable and Green Strategic Partnership, which is a formal and real commitment to work together on climate, environment, and sustainable growth. Through this agreement, we focus on advancing the circular economy, including the Ready-Made Garments (RMG) sector, accelerating climate adaptation, building sustainable and smart cities and infrastructure, and mobilising green business and financing.

In fact, Bangladesh is Denmark's second-largest development partner globally since 1970. And today, Denmark is Bangladesh's largest export destination globally per capita, and Denmark has some of the biggest investment projects in Bangladesh. I will come back to that. Looking ahead, there is great potential to further strengthen our collaboration as Denmark is a global leader in renewable energy and energy efficiency, green ports, sustainable shipping, water solutions and digitalisation, areas that directly align with Bangladesh's long-term development goals.

My vision is that Bangladesh should not only remain a production hub, but evolve into a sustainable production hub with resilient value chains, where Danish technology, innovation and investments can play a transformative role.

In your view, what strategies could help Bangladesh increase its share in the Danish market?

Bangladesh is already an important sourcing hub for Denmark, particularly in garments. To grow further, the sector should focus on specialisation and value creation. Home and technical textiles hold strong potential, and when combined with Nordic design, they can reach

Bangladesh is already an important sourcing hub for Denmark, particularly in garments. To grow further, the sector should focus on specialisation and value creation. Home and technical textiles hold strong potential, and when combined with Nordic design, they can reach Scandinavian and European consumers in new ways.

Scandinavian and European consumers in new ways.

Danish buyers also expect sustainability, certification and traceability. Exporters who adopt these standards will remain competitive. At the same time, many Danish SMEs prefer smaller, customised orders. Meeting this demand with more flexible solutions could open up new opportunities.

How to attract more Danish brands and negotiate ethical price practice?

Good corporate governance, transparency, and mutual trust and commitment to decent work must guide our cooperation. For example, many Bangladeshi factories have already invested in LEED certification, energy efficiency, and water conservation, and these investments are delivering real efficiency gains.

What matters equally is how this progress is communicated to international partners. By presenting clear sustainability reports and demonstrating measurable impact, Bangladeshi suppliers can strengthen their value proposition and build trust with international partners. Danish companies – as well as consumers – place high importance on innovation, responsibility and transparency in the supply chain. When suppliers can show these qualities clearly, the conversation is

no longer only about price. Instead, it opens the way for fairer agreements, where ethical pricing reflects the real value of sustainable production.

How can Danish and Bangladeshi firms collaborate on innovation and joint investment? How is Denmark providing support to Bangladesh for Just Transition?

Denmark is committed to supporting Bangladesh in its green transition. Together, we just launched a project where we are assessing 500 garment factories to help improve energy efficiency, increase renewable energy use, and strengthen sustainability reporting. This assessment will make the RMG sector more adaptable, and capable of thriving under climate-related challenges. This is not the first time Denmark has supported green solutions in the RMG industry. From 2018 to 2024, Denmark contributed DKK 40 million to the Partnership for Cleaner Textile (PaCT) project in collaboration with IFC of the World Bank, which aimed to reduce freshwater consumption and cut wastewater discharge across more than 300 factories. Building on this initiative, a new project is currently ongoing with IFC. It is the Bangladesh Climate Advisory Partnership – or “BCAP”, running from 2022 to 2028, where Denmark is contributing an additional DKK 37 million. This will contribute to the efficient use of water and energy, among others, and drive decarbonisation in the RMG industry.

Danish companies are already piloting solutions in water, waste, recycling and renewable energy in Bangladesh. These technologies can directly raise efficiency and sustainability across industries. At the same time, Denmark is supporting research collaborations on occupational safety and health, audits, and circular economy in the garment sector through Danida Fellowship Centre. One example is a project by Aalborg University and

Ahsanullah University, which examines how Bangladesh's apparel industry can shift from a linear to a circular model to stay competitive as global buyers demand more sustainable production. Another example that I would like to mention is a project led by the University of Southern Denmark on social audits, which explored how buyer-supplier-auditor practices can go beyond minimum compliance and drive real improvements in the RMG sector. Previously, research projects with BGMEA have shown that LEAN methods can improve productivity and occupational safety and health at the same time. The next step is to ensure these research findings are put into practice. BGMEA and industry partners could play a key role in this regard. As I mentioned earlier, we also support decent work through our Strategic Sector Cooperation programme with DIFE. We help strengthen labour inspectorates, and we work with the ILO to promote international standards. In short, a just transition must include both greener production and stronger labour rights.

How can Denmark advocate for Bangladesh to retain GSP+ or EU preferential trade benefits in the EU after LDC graduation?

Bangladesh is preparing to graduate from the Least Developed Country category. This is a big milestone. It also creates uncertainty about future EU trade preferences. This is a challenge, but also an opportunity to show that Bangladesh can compete on greener and stronger terms. One important element is the amendment of the Bangladesh Labour Act. Here, Denmark, currently being an ILO Governing Body member and the EU member state representative in the 3+5+1 dialogue format on labour reforms in Bangladesh, strongly supports the Interim Government's commitment to aligning the Act with ILO standards. Thereby, Bangladesh, in my assessment, will also take important steps towards fulfilling EU

'Bangladesh is already an important sourcing hub for Denmark, particularly in garments. To grow further, the sector should focus on specialisation and value creation. Home and technical textiles hold strong potential, and when combined with Nordic design, they can reach Scandinavian and European consumers in new ways.'

GSP+ criteria in the future. Access to preferential trade benefits in the EU might be uncertain, but Danish companies are already expressing their trust in Bangladesh's future. MAERSK/APM Terminals is developing the Laldia Container Terminal in Chattogram, a modern and green logistics hub. They have also set up Container Freight Stations for apparel and textile exporters. Denmark is also moving forward with renewable energy projects, including offshore wind. In fact, we are working on Bangladesh's – and perhaps even South Asia's – first offshore wind project of 500 MW in the Bay of Bengal near Cox's Bazar, pending a feasibility study. This will help power Bangladesh's industries with clean and reliable energy. It is a direct investment in competitiveness. And the Danish RMG sector has committed to support this project with USD 100 million. That shows real confidence in Bangladesh' RMG sector. Our vision is bold and uncompromising. We see Bangladesh rising as a sustainable production hub – powered by green energy, with better labour standards in the sector, anchored in green logistics, and strengthened by circular value chains.

How can the Danish Embassy create stronger collaboration between Bangladeshi suppliers and Danish buyers?

At the Danish Embassy, we have created the Sustainable Supply Chain Advisory to connect Bangladeshi suppliers with Danish buyers. While it began with a focus on the apparel and textile industries in 2023, the Sustainable Supply Chain Advisory has since expanded into other sectors through the creation of the Sustainable Business Hub (SBH). This platform allows brands, producers, associations, and policymakers to meet, exchange ideas, and build partnerships. Danish garment companies are already very present in Bangladesh, and they are looking for responsible and innovative partners. My role as Ambassador is to help build those bridges and strengthen this collaboration. And so far, during my first two years in Bangladesh, it has really been a joy, because we have such a strong Danish-Bangladeshi partnership that just keeps growing, with the RMG sector as the main driving force – and with the aim to making it more high-value oriented and sustainable. 

How BGMEA Led Rapid Resumption of Dhaka Airport's Air Cargo Operations



Following the fire incident, BGMEA Board members held a meeting with Commerce Adviser Sk. Bashir Uddin to discuss ways to restart cargo operations immediately.

When a massive fire broke at the import cargo complex of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on October 18, 2025, it sent shockwaves to Bangladesh's industrial sectors, especially the export-oriented ones. The blaze reduced the country's busiest air cargo hub to ashes. An estimated 300 to 500 tons of cargo move daily through the cargo import facility. For the ready-made garment sector, which accounts for the lion's share of air cargo imports, the implications were immediate and huge. With factories dependent on imported raw materials, accessories, and time-sensitive samples, even a few days of disruption risked huge losses in the

RMG sector which is Bangladesh's largest export earner.

Recognizing the urgency, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) wasted no time. The association immediately stepped forward as the lead stakeholder in organizing and coordinating the resumption of operations at the Shajalal International Airport import cargo area. Within hours, BGMEA arranged a digital portal for its members to log details of inbound cargo and goods already stored in the damaged warehouse. This initiative was important in assessing quantities, values, and potential losses, especially for insurance claims and ensuring transparency and documentation.

To drive recovery efforts, BGMEA immediately



BGMEA Director Faisal Samad and Chairman of BGMEA's Standing Committee on Airport Cell, Md. Nisher Khan, participated in an important policy-level meeting chaired by Lutfey Siddiqi, Special Envoy to the Chief Adviser on International A...airs. During the meeting, they placed several key recommendations, including proposals for the modernization of airport cargo handling operations.

formed a dedicated working committee with Director Faisal Samad as the convener and Md. Nisher Khan, Chair of BGMEA's Standing Committee on Airport Cell, as co-convener. They began coordinating with government agencies, airport authorities, customs officials, and private-sector stakeholders. They focused on how operations could resume quickly, safely, and efficiently.

BGMEA Faisal Samad said: "The present Board of BGMEA is firmly committed to safeguarding the interests of the RMG industry and our members. The tragic fire incident did not threaten the RMG sector alone, but also other industrial sectors. The message was clear: business must continue, and the RMG industry simply cannot afford any halt in operations. This is what led us to act promptly and address the crisis collectively."

Under the leadership of BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan, a high-level meeting was held with Commerce Adviser Sk. Bashir Uddin on October 20. In the meeting, it was decided and BGMEA agreed to support the construction of a



BGMEA Board members speak with the media after visiting the fire affected ected Cargo Village Complex of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on 19 October 2025.

temporary shed and security fencing to allow import cargo operations to restart until a permanent facility could be arranged. This decision demonstrates BGMEA's role not just as an industry body, but as a proactive stakeholder in national trade facilitation.

Another crucial meeting was held involving airport authorities, the

customs commissioner, Bangladesh Biman, the Courier Association, C&F agents, and BGMEA. At the request of BGMEA, led again by Faisal Samad along with Nisher Khan, the focus was on improving coordination among all stakeholders. As a result, it was decided that Airport Customs would operate on a 24/7 basis, while all other stakeholders committed to



BGMEA First Vice President Salim Rahman, Director Faisal Samad and Chair of BGMEA's Standing Committee on Airport Cell Md. Nisher Khan held a meeting with Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Air Vice Marshal Md Mostafa Mahmood Siddiq to discuss measure for swift resumption of the airport cargo activities.

facilitating import clearance and delivery within 72 hours. The airport import warehouse reopened on October 20, just 48 hours after the fire.

BGMEA continued to engage in multiple meetings to address existing operational challenges and streamline processes. These efforts resulted in a significant policy-level meeting recently chaired by Lutfey Siddiqi, Special Envoy to the Chief Adviser on International Affairs. Senior officials from the National Board of Revenue (NBR), Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), and private-sector representatives, including BGMEA sat together to explore alternative customs pathways for courier services at the airport. The discussions went beyond immediate recovery. Stakeholders examined how to reduce logjams, upgrade systems under the National Logistics Policy, and modernize airport cargo handling. Among the proposals, one was the introduction of off dock facilities at the airport -- an innovative solution that could significantly speed up imports and



On 30 October 2025, BGMEA's Standing Committee on Airport Cell Md. Nisher Khan and Public Relations and Publicity Committee Chairman Masud Kabir inspected the temporary sheds currently under construction at the cargo village, which was built with the support of BGMEA.

address longstanding inefficiencies.

BGMEA has duly placed its recommendations so that Biman's cargo handling operations are set up in a more organized and efficient manner. With the elected government in the coming days, we are hopeful that, in collaboration with experienced stakeholders, Bangladesh will be able to establish a modern and efficient airport cargo

operation that meets the growing needs of our industries.

The swift resumption of air cargo operations at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport therefore represented more than logistical recovery. It helped to protect export earnings, and reaffirmed Bangladesh's reliability as a sourcing destination. **A**

Reimagining Sustainability for Bangladesh's Apparel Industry

Leading the Transition



Bangladesh's apparel industry has always been defined by its ability to adapt. From the beginning of this industry, resilience is part of our collective

DNA. Today, however, we stand at a far more complex crossroads, one where sustainability is no longer a parallel conversation, but the central pathway to competitiveness, compliance, and long-term growth.

As Vice President of BGMEA, entrusted with overseeing sustainability initiatives, I view this moment not as a challenge to be endured, but as an opportunity to

redefine how our industry positions itself in a rapidly transforming global economy. Sustainability, in my understanding, is a strategic transition, one that must be inclusive, realistic, data-driven, and aligned with both national priorities and international obligations.

Strategic Preparedness

Global regulatory landscapes are evolving at an accelerated pace. The European Union and other major importing regions are introducing frameworks and directives that will reshape how products are designed, manufactured, traced, and reported. Regulations related to carbon



emissions, due diligence, circularity, traceability, and sustainability disclosure are imminent realities now.

Our responsibility at BGMEA is to ensure that Bangladeshi manufacturers are not caught unprepared. This requires moving beyond reactive compliance and instead equipping the industry with the tools, knowledge, and institutional support needed for a smooth and credible transition.

Climate action sits at the heart of this preparedness. Energy optimization, decarbonization, and the gradual shift toward renewable energy, particularly solar are not abstract ambitions. They are practical levers to reduce operational risk, manage future costs, and remain aligned with expectations from the brands and regulatory thresholds. The goal is not abrupt disruption, but steady, well-sequenced progress.

Climate Action Rooted in Industry Reality

Decarbonization in a developing-country manufacturing context cannot be approached with a one-size-fits-all mindset. Factories operate under diverse constraints, energy access, grid limitations, capital availability, and production pressure, especially the SMEs. Recognizing this, BGMEA's approach



has focused on creating pathways that are technically sound, financially viable, and context-sensitive.

Energy optimization is often the first and most impactful step. Improving efficiency reduces emissions while delivering cost benefits. Parallely, renewable energy adoption, especially rooftop solar offers a longer-term solution for reducing dependency on fossil fuels. These efforts are being aligned with emerging national and international decarbonization frameworks, ensuring coherence rather than fragmentation.

Our vision is to help factories transition with clarity, not confusion, supported by data, skills development, and collaborative partnerships.

Circularity as the Next Competitive Criteria

Circularity represents a fundamental shift in how value is created and retained within the apparel supply chain. For Bangladesh, this is not just an environmental imperative but an economic opportunity. Textile waste, material inefficiencies, and resource loss are no longer suitable in a world moving toward extended producer responsibility, eco-design requirements, and digital product passports. BGMEA has therefore prioritized advancing circularity through research, policy engagement, and industry collaboration.

Initiatives such as SWITCH to Circular Economy Value Chains



(SWITCH2CE) and CREATE exemplify this direction. These efforts focus on establishing a business case for the manufacturers, strengthening recycling ecosystems, and aligning industry practices with evolving international policy instruments. Our collaboration with Circle Economy has further deepened capacity building and knowledge transfer, enabling the industry to move from concept to implementation.

Circularity is not a future aspiration; it is gradually becoming a condition for market access. Our task is to ensure that Bangladeshi manufacturers are positioned as credible participants in this transition.

Traceability, Transparency, and the Power of Data

As global buyers and regulators demand greater transparency, traceability is emerging as a new baseline expectation. Knowing where a product comes from, how it was made, and under what conditions is no longer optional.

Digital systems and data governance play a decisive role here. Sustainability data, ESG reporting, and digital disclosure initiatives are helping factories move beyond fragmented reporting toward structured, reliable systems. Data, when used responsibly,

becomes an asset. It allows factories to benchmark performance, attract responsible investment, and respond confidently to regulatory scrutiny. BGMEA's role is to support this shift, from viewing reporting as a burden to recognizing it as a strategic capability.

Social Sustainability and a Just Transition

Sustainability cannot be credible if it overlooks the human dimension. The apparel industry employs four millions of workers, and any transition, particularly one driven by climate and technological change must be just and inclusive.

Health, wellbeing, gender equality, and social protection are not peripheral concerns; they directly influence productivity, retention, and resilience. Programs such as MOTHERS@WORK reflect our commitment to creating workplaces that support women workers through childcare, maternal health, and retention. Similarly, initiatives like the SIMON Project strengthen systems for health, injury, and insurance data, contributing to safer and more secure working environments.

A just transition also means ensuring that sustainability reforms do not disproportionately burden smaller factories or vulnerable workers. This principle guides our engagement with partners, policymakers, and brands.

Building Alliances

One of the greatest risks in the sustainability space is fragmentation, multiple initiatives moving in parallel without alignment. At BGMEA, we are conscious of this risk and have therefore emphasized coordination, sequencing, and partnership.

Sustainability transitions require collective effort. Government agencies, development partners, brands, investors, technology providers, and manufacturers must move together. Our role is to act as a convener and integrator, ensuring that efforts reinforce rather than duplicate one another.


By fostering alliances and maintaining dialogue across stakeholders, we aim to create an ecosystem where progress is cumulative and scalable.

Looking Ahead: From Transition to Leadership

The future of Bangladesh's apparel industry will be defined not only by how we respond to external pressures, but by how confidently we shape our own trajectory. Sustainability offers a pathway to leadership, if approached with vision, discipline, and inclusivity.

My aspiration is to see BGMEA members not merely complying with global standards, but helping set them. To see factories that are energy-smart, circular by design, transparent by default, and socially responsible in practice. And to ensure that this transformation strengthens, not undermines the livelihoods and competitiveness that the industry has built over decades.

The journey ahead will demand patience, investment, and collaboration. But it is a journey worth undertaking. Because sustainability, when rooted in industry reality and guided by shared purpose, is not a constraint, it is our strongest opportunity for progress.

Vidiya Amrit Khan is the Vice President at BGMEA. 

In Memory of a True Friend of Bangladesh

Honouring Winnie Estrup Petersen



Ms. Winnie Estrup Petersen

With heavy hearts and profound respect, we remember the late Winnie Estrup Petersen, a diplomat of remarkable intellect and grace, whose warmth, vision, and commitment left a lasting mark on the Bangladesh–Denmark relationship. Today, as we mourn her passing, we also celebrate her life and the values she so deeply embodied. Ms. Petersen was an extraordinary friend of Bangladesh and its RMG industry, someone whose sincerity and belief in partnership touched everyone she worked with. Her tenure in Bangladesh (September 2018 – September 2024) coincided with one of the most challenging periods in recent history—the COVID-19 pandemic—when supply chains collapsed, trade volumes plummeted, and uncertainty engulfed the global apparel world. At

a time when the industry was struggling to regain its footing, she stood firmly beside Bangladesh. Through her constant engagement, Denmark emerged not as a distant donor, but as a collaborative partner walking shoulder to shoulder with our industry and workers. Her approach was always rooted in respect, dialogue, and the belief that true progress comes only from working together.

Under her patronage, the Embassy of Denmark worked closely with industry leaders to highlight stories of progress in workplace safety, environmental stewardship, and energy-efficient production areas where Bangladesh had made significant strides and which she believed deserved global recognition. She advocated tirelessly with Danish and European stakeholders, encouraging them to view Bangladesh not as a low-cost sourcing destination but as a responsible, ambitious, and



A meeting organised by Winnie Estrup Petersen with BGMEA, Copenhagen Business School, Maersk, Danish Initiative for Ethical Trade, Confederation of Danish Industries in Copenhagen, 2022.

evolving hub capable of delivering quality, safety, ethics, and innovation. Many of her efforts helped shift perceptions, opening doors for renewed confidence in Bangladesh's capabilities. Her engagement with the RMG ecosystem was deep and meaningful. She convened important dialogues involving BGMEA, Maersk, the Danish Initiative for Ethical Trade, the Confederation of Danish Industries, the Global Fashion Agenda and other partners to showcase Bangladesh's strengths as a sustainable sourcing hub, a green trade partner, a leader in logistics advancements, and a country committed to social dialogue. She consistently emphasised that Bangladesh was uniquely positioned to lead the future of circularity and sustainable transformation—an idea she championed passionately. Many of the initiatives she nurtured remain active today, continuing to guide our transition toward greener and more

Under her patronage, the Embassy of Denmark worked closely with industry leaders to highlight stories of progress in workplace safety, environmental stewardship, and energy-efficient production areas where Bangladesh had made significant strides and which she believed deserved global recognition.

ethical production systems. A meeting organised by Winnie Estrup Petersen with BGMEA, Copenhagen Business School, Maersk, Danish Initiative for Ethical Trade, Confederation of Danish Industries in Copenhagen, 2022. Her support extended far beyond textiles. She saw Bangladesh's development as an interconnected journey, contributing to partnerships in agriculture, infrastructure, institutional cooperation, and logistics. Our deepest condolences go out to her family, friends, and colleagues across the world. Bangladesh lost a true friend, someone who believed in our potential and worked tirelessly to amplify our progress. Let us honour her memory by recommitting ourselves to the ideals she championed. In remembering her, we also reaffirm the path she helped illuminate - a path toward a better, more sustainable future built on collaboration and shared purpose. **A**

Impress-Newtex Composite Textiles Ltd: Engineering Excellence



In the bustling industrial landscape of Gorai, Tangail, Impress-Newtex Composite Textiles Ltd. (INCTL) stands as a testament to the evolution of Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) sector. A sister concern of the renowned Impress Group, INCTL has transformed from a manufacturing unit into a vertically integrated powerhouse. With an annual turnover of \$150 million and a daily dyeing capacity of 60 tons, the factory represents the new face of Bangladeshi apparel—defined by scale, sustainability, and smart technology.

Production Prowess & Vertical Integration

Spread across three units with 108 sewing lines, INCTL is built for speed and diversity. The facility boasts a staggering monthly production

capacity of 5 million pieces, ranging from basic T-shirts and polos to complex technical items like hoodies, joggers, and sleepwear.

What sets INCTL apart is its complete vertical control. The factory's ecosystem includes a knitting unit capable of producing 780 tons per month, a dyeing unit with a 2,000-ton capacity featuring Slavos machines from Greece, and a finishing unit handling 1,950 tons monthly. This end-to-end capability allows INCTL to serve global retail giants like H&M, Primark, American Eagle, and Uniqlo with reduced lead times and impeccable quality control.

Innovation at the Core

INCTL has moved beyond traditional manufacturing by embedding digital intelligence into its operations. The factory is a pioneer in adopting Real-Time Quality Software (NCINGA), ensuring precision on the sewing



floor. In the design studio, the team utilizes CLO 3D Virtual Fashion technology, allowing for rapid prototyping and reducing physical sampling waste—a key demand of modern fashion buyers. On the production floor, automation drives efficiency. The facility is equipped with seven automated placement print machines from the USA and Portugal and a state-of-the-art auto-dispensing system in the fabric unit, which eliminates manual chemical handling to ensure worker safety and precise formulations. Furthermore, the adoption of Cold Pad Batch (CPB) dyeing technology allows for salt-free dyeing with a significantly lower liquor ratio, marking a major leap in process innovation.

Commitment to Earth

Sustainability at INCTL is not just a buzzword; it is a measurable investment. The company has invested \$1.73 million to install a massive 3.15 MW rooftop solar power system, drastically reducing its reliance on fossil fuels.

Water stewardship is another pillar of their green strategy. The factory operates a Biological Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) with a capacity of 250 m³/hour, reusing approximately 30% of treated water in 2023. To further close the loop, INCTL collaborates with the Reverse Resources (RR) platform to track and recycle pre-consumer cutting waste, ensuring transparency in its circularity journey. The facility is also deeply engaged in chemical management programs, utilizing the ZDHC Gateway and The BHive for digital chemical tracking, ensuring 100% compliance with ZDHC MRS standards.

People First

Beyond machines and metrics, INCTL prioritizes the well-being of its workforce. The factory implements the HERhealth project to support female hygiene and health, alongside the Amader Kotha helpline to ensure a safe voice for workers. A standout initiative is the Agro Shift Project, which provides workers with

groceries at discounted rates, directly contributing to their economic stability. Additionally, the Sudokho Project focuses on training supervisors and improving the skills of low-performing workers, fostering a culture of continuous professional growth.

Future Outlook

Looking ahead to 2025 and beyond, INCTL is not slowing down. The company has announced a bold new investment plan of \$7.2 million to expand its infrastructure. This includes the installation of a new warehouse, 20 additional sewing lines, and further automation in the cutting section with auto-spreaders and cutters. As Bangladesh transitions into the next phase of industrial growth, Impress-Newtex Composite Textiles Ltd. exemplifies the resilience and vision required to lead. By balancing high-tech production with deep ecological responsibility, INCTL is stitching a sustainable future for the industry. **A**

BGMEA-BFF Join Hands to Promote 'Made in Bangladesh' on Global Stage



BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan and BFF President Tabith Awal along board members from both associations pose for photograph after the landmark MoU signing at BGMEA Auditorium in Dhaka.

W The rhythmic hum of a thousand sewing machines and the thunderous roar of a packed stadium are rarely heard in the same room. But on November 30, 2025, these two worlds – the heartbeat of Bangladesh’s economy and the soul of its sporting passion – fused into one.

In a strategic partnership, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to mutually support each other. The signing ceremony was held at the BGMEA Complex in Uttara. BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan and BFF President Tabith Awal signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

“Sports play a vital role in shaping a nation’s image and strengthening its economy by serving as a powerful platform for nation branding, diplomacy, and economic growth. Through this partnership between BGMEA and BFF, we believe that sports will further elevate Bangladesh’s global standing, reinforcing our national pride and expanding our international presence.”



With this historic agreement, BGMEA has become the first trade body in Bangladesh to forge a strategic alliance with a national sports federation, ushering in a new era of cooperation between industry and sports.

This is more than just an MoU; it is a shared mission. Under this

agreement, BGMEA and BFF will march in lockstep to ignite a new era of footballing talent and amplify the 'Made in Bangladesh' campaign on the global stage.

The MoU aims to contribute to the advancement of Bangladeshi football through joint programs, particularly for garment workers, training initiatives, talent development and welfare-oriented activities.

BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan said, “The world knows Bangladesh today for the strength of its garment sector and our economic achievements. We dream of a day when Bangladesh will also be recognized globally for its excellence in football and sports. This collaboration between industry and sports will elevate Bangladesh’s image to new heights.”

BFF President Tabith Awal said the MoU would create a new path for the garment industry and football to work together for the nation. He sought BGMEA’s continued cooperation in taking football to the grassroots level.

The welcome speech at the event was delivered by BGMEA Director Shah Raeed Chowdhury, whose dedicated efforts led to the signing of the MoU between BGMEA and BFF. In his remarks, Shah Rayeed Chowdhury said: “Sports play a vital role in shaping a nation’s image and strengthening its economy by serving as a powerful platform for nation branding, diplomacy, and economic growth. Through this partnership between BGMEA and BFF, we believe that sports will further elevate Bangladesh’s global standing,

reinforcing our national pride and expanding our international presence.”

Among others, BGMEA Senior Vice President Inamul Haq Khan, Vice President (Finance) Mizanur Rahman, and BFF Vice President Fahad Mohammad Ahmed Karim also addressed the ceremony.

From BGMEA present on the stage included Senior Vice President Inamul Haque Khan (Babulu), Vice President Md. Rezwan Selim, Vice President (Finance) **Mizanur Rahman, Md. Shihab Udduza Chowdhury**, Directors Nafis-ud-Doula, Sheikh Hossain Mohammad Mostafiz, Kazi Mizanur Rahman, Asef Kamal Pasha, **Mohammad Soheli**; Chairman of the BGMEA Sports Committee Md. Sajjad Ali Khan; Chairman of the Press, Publication & Publicity Committee Masud Kabir; and Chairman of the Branding BGMEA Committee Khan Monirul Islam (Shuvo).

From the BFF, Vice President Fahad Mohammad Ahmed Karim and Executive Committee Member Iqbal Hossain were also present.

Among others, BGMEA Senior Vice President, Vice President (Finance) Mizanur Rahman, and BFF Vice President Fahad Mohammad Ahmed Karim also addressed the ceremony.

As the country’s largest export industry and its most beloved sport unite with purpose, the hope is that this collaboration will redefine how industry and sport can work hand in hand to open a world of new possibilities. **A**

BUFT's Role in Shaping Bangladesh's Place in the Global Fashion Transformation

From Factory to Future



The global fashion landscape of 2025 is undergoing a profound transformation, blending creativity with sustainability, technology with tradition, and aesthetics with ethics. Fashion has evolved beyond seasonal trends into a dynamic platform for innovation, responsibility, and identity. As designers and brands worldwide redefine beauty through sustainability, digital integration, and inclusivity, Bangladesh stands at the forefront of this shift, transitioning from a manufacturing hub to a hub of innovation. At the heart of this evolution is the BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology (BUFT), which is preparing its students to not only adapt to but also lead the global fashion industry by aligning academic excellence with current and emerging trends.

BUFT: Cultivating the Next Generation of Fashion Innovators

BUFT, established under the aegis of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), is a beacon of academic and creative excellence in Bangladesh's fashion ecosystem. By offering specialized programs in fashion design, textile engineering, apparel merchandising, and fashion business, BUFT equips students with the skills to navigate and shape the global fashion landscape. Through a forward-thinking curriculum, industry partnerships, and a focus on sustainability and technology, BUFT is ensuring that its graduates are ready to meet the demands of today's trends while anticipating the needs of tomorrow's fashion industry.



Current Global Trends: BUFT's Strategic Alignment

Quiet Luxury and Minimalist Design

The global shift toward “quiet luxury” — characterized by refined, understated elegance, neutral tones, and high-quality, long-lasting fabrics — is reshaping consumer preferences. BUFT integrates this trend into its fashion design programs by emphasizing craftsmanship, fine tailoring, and material selection. Through courses on advanced pattern-making and sustainable design, students learn to create minimalist, high-end garments that align with global demand for timeless elegance. BUFT's partnerships with local manufacturers enable students to translate these skills into production-ready designs, positioning Bangladesh as a source of sophisticated, minimalist apparel.

Gender-Fluid and Inclusive Fashion

The rise of gender-neutral and

inclusive fashion reflects a global celebration of individuality. BUFT's design curriculum embraces this trend by encouraging students to explore fluid silhouettes and inclusive sizing. Through hands-on projects, students create collections that cater to diverse body types and identities, fostering a design philosophy that prioritizes accessibility. BUFT's collaboration with local designers and brands ensures that students' work resonates with both domestic and international markets, preparing them to contribute to Bangladesh's growing inclusive fashion scene.

Tech-Integrated and Functional Apparel

The integration of technology into fashion — from smart fabrics to performance-driven sportswear — is redefining functionality. BUFT's textile engineering and apparel merchandising programs incorporate cutting-edge technologies, teaching students to work with smart textiles and performance materials. The university's focus on research and development (R&D) equips students

to innovate in sportswear, workwear, and athleisure — key export sectors for Bangladesh. By fostering skills in technical design and material science, BUFT prepares students to meet the global demand for functional, tech-integrated apparel.

Sustainability and Circular Fashion

Sustainability is the cornerstone of modern fashion, with consumers demanding transparency and ethical practices. Bangladesh, with over 200 LEED-certified green factories, is a global leader in sustainable apparel production. BUFT integrates sustainability into every facet of its curriculum, from eco-friendly dyeing techniques to circular fashion principles. Students learn to design with biodegradable materials, adopt zero-waste patterns, and incorporate renewable energy solutions in production processes. BUFT's Sustainability Lab and industry collaborations provide hands-on experience, ensuring graduates are well-versed in green manufacturing practices that align with global standards.

Upcoming Trends: BUFT's Vision for the Future

Digital Fashion and the Metaverse

Digital fashion, including virtual clothing, augmented reality (AR) fittings, and NFT-based designs, is transforming consumer engagement. BUFT is preparing students for this digital frontier through courses in 3D design, virtual sampling, and digital storytelling. By leveraging software like CLO 3D and Adobe Substance, students create virtual collections that reduce physical waste while enhancing global competitiveness. BUFT's partnerships with tech-focused fashion brands ensure that students gain practical experience in digital fashion, positioning them to lead Bangladesh's entry into the metaverse.

Heritage Revival with Modern Expression

The global trend of blending traditional craftsmanship with modern aesthetics — a “glocal” approach — is a natural fit for Bangladesh's rich textile heritage. BUFT's programs highlight traditional crafts like jamdani, muslin, and nakshi kantha, teaching students to integrate these into contemporary designs. Through workshops with local artisans and courses on cultural design, BUFT students create collections that celebrate Bangladesh's heritage while appealing to international markets. This approach not only preserves cultural identity but also elevates Bangladesh's global fashion presence.

Biophilic and Nature-Inspired Design

Nature-inspired fashion, with earthy tones and organic materials, is gaining traction worldwide. BUFT's curriculum emphasizes sustainable materials like cotton, jute, and bamboo, which are abundant in Bangladesh. Students explore natural dyeing techniques and biophilic design principles, creating collections that align with global eco-conscious trends. BUFT's Textile Innovation Lab supports experimentation with sustainable

Sustainability is the cornerstone of modern fashion, with consumers demanding transparency and ethical practices. Bangladesh, with over 200 LEED-certified green factories, is a global leader in sustainable apparel production. BUFT integrates sustainability into every facet of its curriculum, from eco-friendly dyeing techniques to circular fashion principles. Students learn to design with biodegradable materials, adopt zero-waste patterns, and incorporate renewable energy solutions in production processes.

fibers, preparing students to lead in nature-inspired fashion.

Modular and Adaptive Clothing

The demand for versatile, adaptive clothing is growing, with modular designs offering customizability and inclusivity. BUFT's apparel merchandising and design programs teach students to create garments with detachable elements and adaptive fits, catering to diverse consumer needs. By integrating these principles into export-focused projects, BUFT ensures that its graduates can innovate in Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) sector, meeting global demand for functional and inclusive fashion.

Trend Forecast: BUFT's Role in Shaping the Future

AI-Driven Design and Predictive Production

Artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing fashion through trend forecasting, automated design, and supply chain optimization. BUFT is at the forefront of this shift, offering courses on AI-driven design tools and predictive analytics. Students learn to use AI for pattern generation, demand forecasting, and waste reduction, preparing them to lead Bangladesh's transition to intelligent manufacturing. BUFT's partnerships with tech-driven manufacturers provide real-world exposure, ensuring graduates are ready to implement AI solutions in the industry.

Regenerative Materials and Biofabrication

The future of sustainable fashion lies in regenerative materials like lab-grown leather and biodegradable fibers. BUFT's Textile Engineering Department is exploring these innovations through research initiatives and industry collaborations. Students experiment with plant-based alternatives and biodegradable textiles, positioning Bangladesh as a potential leader in biofabrication. BUFT's focus on R&D ensures that graduates are equipped to drive sustainable innovation in the global market.

Slow Fashion and Emotional Connection

The “slow fashion” movement prioritizes quality, longevity, and emotional storytelling. BUFT encourages students to design garments that reflect Bangladesh's craftsmanship and cultural narratives. Through projects that emphasize human-centric design, students create collections that resonate emotionally with consumers. BUFT's emphasis on storytelling transforms “Made in Bangladesh” into a symbol of artistry and authenticity, aligning with global demand for meaningful fashion.

Collaboration and Global Responsibility

The future of fashion relies on

collaboration across designers, technologists, and policymakers. BUFT fosters this ecosystem through partnerships with BGMEA, global brands, and research institutions. Initiatives like skill development programs, green transition projects, and digital transformation workshops prepare students to contribute to a collaborative, responsible fashion industry. BUFT's holistic approach ensures that graduates are not just designers or engineers but global citizens driving positive change.

BUFT's Impact: From Manufacturing to Innovation

BUFT is transforming Bangladesh's apparel sector by nurturing

professionals who blend creativity, technology, and sustainability. Through its state-of-the-art facilities, industry-aligned curriculum, and global partnerships, BUFT is moving Bangladesh up the fashion value chain — from a production powerhouse to an innovation-driven hub. By training students to lead in design, digitalization, and sustainable practices, BUFT is ensuring that Bangladesh not only follows global trends but also shapes them.

Conclusion: BUFT and the Age of Conscious Creativity

The fashion world of 2025 is defined by transformation — a fusion of sustainability, inclusivity, and

innovation. BUFT stands as a catalyst in this global narrative, preparing students to lead with vision and conscience. By aligning its programs with current trends like quiet luxury and sustainability, and anticipating future trends like digital fashion and biofabrication, BUFT is shaping a new generation of fashion professionals. As Bangladesh emerges as a global leader in conscious creativity, BUFT's graduates are poised to redefine the industry, proving that the future of fashion is not just about style — it's about impact. **A**



POWERING SUSTAINABLE BANGLADESH



SOLAR IRRIGATION PUMPS

Installed across 5 divisions benefitting 70,000+ farmers



INDUSTRIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR PROJECTS

Financed over 100 MWp capacity



ADVANCING ENERGY EFFICIENCY EMPOWERING BANGLADESH

Driving Bangladesh's green transition achieving 4.26% portfolio growth in five years across key industries transforming energy efficiency and environmental impact



BUILDING FUTURES FUELING GROWTH

Fueling Bangladesh's energy future and strengthening infrastructure financing. IDCOL has expanded its investment wing with IF, IEEF, and PPP, ensuring targeted financial support across key sectors while promoting sustainability and private sector engagement



GRID-TIED SOLAR PROJECTS

Utility-scale projects of Sympa and Intraco saving 119M litres diesel and reducing 0.32M tons of CO₂ emissions



BIOGAS PLANTS

Providing clean energy solution to around 320,000 rural people

IDCOL STANDS READY WITH

- Developing Infrastructure Projects with
- Long-Term Local and Foreign Currency Loan
- Access to Soft Loan and Grants for Renewable Energy Projects
- Providing Long-Term Soft Loan for Energy Efficiency Projects
- Combining Smart Debt and Equity Arrangements
- Delivering Corporate Advisory Services



First Accredited Entity in Bangladesh:

IDCOL has secured USD 250 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) under FP150, the largest approved program for a Direct Access Entity, to enhance energy efficiency in Bangladesh's RMG and Textile sectors.

Information of Upcoming Exhibitions & Programs

December 2025- April 2026

05-26
December 2025



India International Mega Trade Fair (IIMTF)

Location :
Kolkata, India
Apparel and Fashion, Home Textile, Agriculture, Jute Etc.

www.megatradefair.com

13-15
January, 2026



9th Edition Barcelona Textile Expo-2026

Location :
Fira De Barcelona Convention Center, Barcelona, Spain
Apparel, Textile and Fashion Sourcing

www.barcelonatextileexpo.com



13-15
January, 2026



Source Fashion UK

Location :
Olympia London
Hammersmith Rd,
London, UK
Apparel and Fashion Sourcing

www.source-fashion.com

17-19
February, 2026



Sourcing at Magic

Location :
Las Vegas Convention Center,
Las Vegas, USA
Apparel and Fashion Sourcing

www.sourcingatmagic.com

06-07
April, 2026



Design in Bangladesh Week 2026

Location :
United Convention Centre,
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Apparel Sourcing and Fashion runway

www.dibweek.com

15-16
April, 2026



World of Textile

Location :
National Stadium in central Warsaw,
Poland
Apparel and Fashion Sourcing

www.worldoftextiles.webflow.io



Trade Info

Bangladesh's RMG export to world

Value in Million USD

Month	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2025-26 VS 2024-25	2025-26 VS 2023-24
July	3089.10	3178.47	3962.65	24.67%	28.28%
August	3102.44	3325.97	3168.02	-4.75%	2.11%
September	2626.45	3010.10	2839.75	-5.66%	8.12%
October	2684.49	3296.46	3019.94	-8.39%	12.50%
November	2844.04	3306.19	3140.94	-5.00%	10.44%
December	3210.41	3770.51	3234.14	-14.23%	0.74%
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
Total	17556.93	19887.70	19365.44	-2.63%	10.30%

Source: EPB

Knitwear

Value in Million USD

Month	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2025-26 VS 2024-25	2025-26 VS 2023-24
July	1694.41	1729.02	2178.69	26.01%	28.58%
August	1710.90	1891.10	1771.17	-6.34%	3.52%
September	1534.01	1729.50	1630.14	-5.75%	6.27%
October	1490.90	1857.67	1657.80	-10.76%	11.19%
November	1540.49	1738.27	1618.48	-6.89%	5.06%
December	1619.10	1891.81	1631.79	-13.74%	0.78%
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
Total	9589.81	10837.37	10488.07	-3.22%	9.37%

Source: EPB

Wovenwear

Value in Million USD

Month	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2025-26 VS 2024-25	2025-26 VS 2023-24
July	1394.69	1449.45	1783.96	23.08%	27.91%
August	1391.54	1434.87	1396.85	-2.65%	0.38%
September	1092.44	1280.60	1209.61	-5.54%	10.73%
October	1193.59	1438.79	1362.14	-5.33%	14.12%
November	1303.55	1567.92	1522.46	-2.90%	16.79%
December	1591.31	1878.70	1602.35	-14.71%	0.69%
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
Total	7967.12	9050.33	8877.37	-1.91%	11.43%

Source: EPB

Bangladesh's RMG Export to World (July-December FY 2024-25 & 2025-26)

Export Value in Million USD

	Woven			Knit			Total		
	July-Dec 2024-25	July-Dec 2025-26	Growth %	July-Dec 2024-25	July-Dec 2025-26	Growth %	July-Dec 2024-25	July-Dec 2025-26	Growth %
EU Countries									
Austria	11.14	13.93	25.04	28.73	26.08	-9.21	39.87	40.01	0.37
Belgium	102.99	110.90	7.68	191.73	156.64	-18.30	294.71	267.53	-9.22
Bulgaria	0.70	0.97	39.10	0.17	0.78	360.31	0.87	1.75	102.09
Denmark	192.41	176.26	-8.40	364.55	322.01	-11.67	556.97	498.26	-10.54
Finland	4.80	4.88	1.73	11.96	11.34	-5.17	16.76	16.22	-3.19
France	423.11	392.67	-7.20	667.55	579.21	-13.23	1090.66	971.88	-10.89
Germany	901.50	838.31	-7.01	1567.07	1348.96	-13.92	2468.57	2187.27	-11.40
Greece	6.32	7.76	22.75	20.03	21.91	9.40	26.35	29.67	12.60
Italy	283.24	274.17	-3.20	488.77	458.91	-6.11	772.01	733.08	-5.04
Ireland	40.51	37.74	-6.84	84.82	75.58	-10.90	125.33	113.31	-9.59
Netherlands	432.47	443.50	2.55	624.74	633.25	1.36	1057.22	1076.75	1.85
Portugal	18.43	18.86	2.32	36.19	32.90	-9.09	54.62	51.76	-5.24
Romania	34.12	16.15	-52.68	78.74	57.27	-27.27	112.86	73.41	-34.95
Spain	732.08	781.22	6.71	966.70	1022.60	5.78	1698.78	1803.82	6.18
Sweden	137.02	131.40	-4.10	236.34	225.51	-4.58	373.36	356.91	-4.41
Cyprus	0.58	0.20	-65.22	0.64	1.33	108.98	1.22	1.53	25.46
Czech Republic	78.92	75.88	-3.85	86.53	85.87	-0.76	165.44	161.75	-2.23
Estonia	0.04	0.23	510.68	0.39	0.30	-22.39	0.42	0.53	23.94
Hungary	22.61	17.28	-23.58	66.64	69.39	4.14	89.24	86.67	-2.88
Latvia	0.08	0.44	454.60	0.67	0.92	37.80	0.75	1.36	82.15
Lithuania	0.02	0.09	356.76	0.07	0.00	-93.92	0.09	0.09	8.71
Malta	0.19	0.21	9.17	0.20	0.35	75.80	0.39	0.56	42.95
Poland	305.49	326.52	6.89	484.09	537.50	11.03	789.57	864.02	9.43
Slovakia	11.40	8.70	-23.74	34.40	26.75	-22.23	45.80	35.45	-22.60
Slovenia	8.14	12.78	57.01	40.31	62.49	55.04	48.45	75.27	55.37
Croatia	15.19	2.36	-84.43	19.30	5.69	-70.51	34.49	8.06	-76.64
Luxembourg	0.97	0.59	-38.85	1.61	1.32	-18.35	2.58	1.91	-26.06
Sub-Total (EU)	3,764.47	3,694.00	-1.87	6,102.89	5,764.86	-5.54	9,867.37	9,458.85	-4.14
EU % of World	41.59	41.61		56.31	54.97		49.62	48.84	
USA	2494.94	2439.64	-2.22	1347.70	1399.17	3.82	3,842.64	3,838.81	-0.10
% of USA	27.57	27.48		12.44	13.34		19.32	19.82	
U.K.	780.08	792.11	1.54	1385.40	1419.53	2.46	2165.48	2211.64	2.13
% of U.K.	8.62	8.92		12.78	13.53		10.89	11.42	
Canada	332.68	334.35	0.50	308.88	337.12	9.14	641.56	671.47	4.66
% of Canada	3.68	3.77		2.85	3.21		3.23	3.47	
Non-Traditional Markets									
Japan	303.46	305.31	0.61	299.03	292.64	-2.14	602.49	597.95	-0.75
Australia	183.92	161.54	-12.17	246.23	215.11	-12.64	430.15	376.65	-12.44
Russia	52.64	41.79	-20.61	96.26	67.46	-29.93	148.91	109.25	-26.63
India	240.38	202.08	-15.93	135.83	134.87	-0.71	376.21	336.95	-10.44
Korea Rep.	110.19	118.54	7.58	120.45	82.49	-31.51	230.65	201.04	-12.84
China	74.56	110.04	47.60	37.80	35.78	-5.34	112.35	145.82	29.79
UAE	59.85	76.08	27.12	64.40	64.18	-0.34	124.25	140.26	12.89
Mexico	100.35	84.52	-15.77	84.07	65.49	-22.10	184.42	150.01	-18.66
Malaysia	37.01	46.83	26.52	59.93	61.93	3.34	96.94	108.75	12.19
Saudi Arabia	31.43	39.55	25.82	51.51	62.35	21.03	82.95	101.89	22.84
Turkey	102.69	75.15	-26.82	120.27	90.29	-24.92	222.96	165.44	-25.80
South Africa	32.45	34.02	4.85	25.03	27.47	9.73	57.48	61.49	6.97
New Zealand	17.77	13.99	-21.26	33.14	32.17	-2.92	50.90	46.16	-9.32
Chile	42.61	40.48	-5.00	39.98	40.48	1.25	82.59	80.96	-1.97
Brazil	48.19	47.01	-2.43	37.22	47.21	26.86	85.40	94.23	10.33
Other Countries	240.67	220.32	-8.45	241.35	247.48	2.54	482.02	467.80	-2.95
Total (Non-Trad. Markets)	1,678.16	1,617.27	-3.63	1,692.50	1,567.39	-7.39	3,370.66	3,184.66	-5.52
% of Non-Traditional	18.54	18.22		15.62	14.94		16.95	16.45	
GRAND TOTAL	9,050.33	8,877.37	-1.91	10,837.37	10,488.07	-3.22	19,887.70	19,365.43	-2.63

Source: EPB

Bangladesh's Top 30 Apparel Items Export to World

Value in Million USD

HS	Products	July-Dec 2024-25	July-Dec 2025-26	Growth
610910	Cotton knitted T-shirts	3,252.24	3,043.24	-6.43%
620342	M/B cotton woven trousers	2,545.69	2,411.09	-5.29%
611020	Cotton knitted Jerseys & pullovers	1,657.67	1,690.85	2.00%
620462	W/G cotton woven trousers	1,584.35	1,668.32	5.30%
611030	MMF knitted Jerseys & pullovers	1,149.01	1,098.54	-4.39%
620520	M/B cotton woven shirts	752.19	655.71	-12.83%
610462	W/G cotton knitted trousers	600.73	544.85	-9.30%
620343	M/B synthetic woven trousers	543.84	491.44	-9.64%
611120	Cotton knitted Babies' garments	471.55	458.82	-2.70%
610510	M/B cotton knitted shirts	464.22	435.26	-6.24%
610342	M/B cotton knitted trousers	386.45	369.05	-4.50%
620140	M/B woven MMF overcoats	262.07	351.93	34.29%
610711	M/B cotton knitted underpants	340.33	300.89	-11.59%
620240	W/G woven MMF overcoats	214.63	286.55	33.51%
621210	Non cotton woven Brassieres	272.44	263.90	-3.13%
610821	W/G cotton knitted briefs & panties	282.58	262.02	-7.28%
610831	W/G cotton knitted nighties	233.95	245.38	4.88%
610990	Non cotton knitted T-shirts	199.78	226.03	13.14%
620463	W/G synthetic woven trousers	172.07	199.45	15.91%
610463	W/G synthetic knitted trousers	148.81	178.78	20.14%
620333	M/B synthetic woven jackets & blazers	180.60	171.04	-5.30%
620530	M/B MMF woven shirts	162.21	150.33	-7.32%
610721	M/B cotton knitted pyjamas	123.63	148.49	20.11%
620630	W/G cotton woven blouses	135.02	141.85	5.06%
611090	Non cotton knitted Jerseys & pullovers	154.03	127.89	-16.97%
620920	Cotton woven Babies' garments	127.93	125.18	-2.15%
620469	W/G Non-cotton woven Trousers	131.63	119.27	-9.39%
620590	M/B Non-cotton woven Shirts	131.02	116.57	-11.03%
610832	W/G MMF knitted Pyjama & Night Dresse	63.29	100.62	58.97%
610442	Cotton knitted Dresses	129.35	99.75	-22.89%

Source: EPB

Note: M/B= Men's or boys

W/G= Women's or girls

EU Apparel Import Growth

Value Growth: 2025 VS 2024

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Jan-Oct, 2025
World	24.6%	8.4%	13.7%	5.3%	0.2%	18.5%	17.7%	-1.4%	9.2%	-8.7%	8.0%
China	30.6%	12.2%	20.0%	4.4%	9.3%	29.3%	29.1%	-1.0%	1.1%	-5.3%	10.8%
Bangladesh	52.7%	22.2%	17.7%	11.0%	-7.0%	29.0%	15.1%	-2.4%	22.2%	-14.2%	12.6%
Turkey	0.2%	-13.5%	-4.9%	-9.0%	-9.5%	-7.5%	-2.0%	-16.6%	-3.2%	-17.9%	-8.4%
India	37.1%	18.0%	22.0%	12.4%	0.3%	19.1%	13.8%	-0.3%	6.1%	-7.3%	12.0%
Cambodia	63.5%	15.0%	19.9%	26.7%	15.2%	50.2%	38.6%	12.4%	14.1%	-16.2%	19.9%
Vietnam	28.1%	6.6%	19.8%	7.5%	13.1%	32.1%	27.5%	13.7%	14.8%	-8.7%	14.4%
Pakistan	25.3%	34.2%	26.8%	8.8%	2.7%	8.1%	13.2%	5.5%	31.9%	-2.0%	14.7%
Morocco	3.9%	-0.3%	9.9%	8.8%	2.0%	-0.9%	6.7%	2.3%	5.8%	-5.5%	3.2%
Sri Lanka	43.5%	7.3%	-4.5%	1.0%	9.9%	9.5%	48.6%	0.3%	19.0%	3.4%	12.4%
Indonesia	16.1%	5.5%	5.7%	4.3%	-0.4%	20.8%	25.9%	9.0%	5.8%	-12.8%	7.3%

Value Growth: 2025 VS 2023

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Jan-Oct, 2025
World	0.9%	1.7%	5.0%	21.9%	6.1%	3.7%	15.9%	5.8%	29.0%	14.2%	10.2%
China	5.2%	13.9%	21.0%	23.3%	5.9%	5.6%	17.9%	12.4%	35.8%	19.1%	16.2%
Bangladesh	1.9%	1.8%	10.2%	41.1%	12.2%	20.9%	10.0%	2.8%	36.6%	18.6%	14.6%
Turkey	-7.9%	-18.5%	-24.0%	-15.1%	-13.0%	-20.9%	4.7%	-17.1%	-3.3%	-13.3%	-13.1%
India	-7.8%	-4.8%	15.1%	32.9%	20.4%	12.0%	26.3%	1.7%	33.6%	15.4%	13.4%
Cambodia	56.9%	24.4%	29.8%	67.2%	58.4%	52.8%	50.6%	35.6%	59.2%	29.6%	45.3%
Vietnam	8.5%	3.4%	3.1%	27.6%	20.4%	15.7%	29.3%	26.3%	37.9%	15.6%	18.6%
Pakistan	0.9%	22.3%	28.8%	37.5%	32.9%	6.1%	47.2%	22.2%	60.5%	34.6%	28.3%
Morocco	8.1%	5.4%	-4.8%	7.6%	6.3%	-3.0%	48.6%	24.4%	20.4%	11.7%	11.6%
Sri Lanka	9.4%	7.4%	-8.9%	49.8%	10.9%	-9.5%	28.7%	14.6%	19.7%	12.6%	12.5%
Indonesia	-16.9%	-9.2%	-13.4%	18.2%	2.5%	11.1%	17.7%	5.9%	7.3%	-10.7%	0.3%

Value Growth: 2025 VS 2022

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Jan-Oct, 2025
World	5.7%	-2.6%	-2.4%	2.9%	-6.7%	-5.7%	15.4%	-15.6%	-5.6%	-7.7%	-2.8%
China	-1.2%	-5.3%	-7.2%	11.0%	6.0%	7.3%	20.8%	-15.8%	-10.2%	-4.2%	-1.8%
Bangladesh	15.0%	6.0%	10.2%	-0.6%	-21.4%	-10.6%	5.6%	-23.3%	-4.3%	-15.0%	-4.5%
Turkey	-12.1%	-31.3%	-32.5%	-23.2%	-18.4%	-27.4%	-5.8%	-28.5%	-17.9%	-26.6%	-22.7%
India	5.3%	12.4%	10.4%	17.4%	-3.8%	-2.5%	20.6%	-12.9%	2.0%	-6.4%	4.6%
Cambodia	63.1%	33.1%	28.2%	31.8%	21.4%	30.5%	62.4%	18.2%	22.6%	15.6%	31.0%
Vietnam	25.9%	12.9%	8.2%	10.7%	5.8%	7.4%	30.6%	3.6%	-2.7%	-11.2%	7.6%
Pakistan	8.8%	22.5%	15.9%	5.9%	11.8%	-12.9%	42.2%	-12.4%	17.4%	10.1%	9.9%
Morocco	-2.5%	-19.5%	-19.4%	2.9%	1.4%	-14.6%	31.6%	-0.8%	-0.9%	-12.8%	-4.2%
Sri Lanka	2.2%	-13.2%	-6.7%	4.3%	-11.1%	-23.6%	24.3%	-9.2%	-9.4%	-8.6%	-5.4%
Indonesia	-10.5%	-18.3%	-17.0%	-3.5%	-28.3%	-25.5%	-5.8%	-28.5%	-28.4%	-31.0%	-20.4%

Source: Eurostat

U.S. Apparel Import Growth

Value Growth: 2025 VS 2024

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Jan-Oct
World	19.3%	3.3%	10.5%	9.6%	-7.3%	5.1%	-3.1%	-6.0%	-8.4%	-18.5%	-0.6%
China	13.7%	3.3%	-8.4%	-13.2%	-52.4%	-39.9%	-38.4%	-45.6%	-55.6%	-53.3%	-32.4%
Vietnam	19.9%	2.3%	20.2%	23.2%	17.9%	25.3%	12.5%	8.8%	1.8%	-4.7%	11.5%
Bangladesh	45.8%	10.1%	26.7%	37.6%	-8.0%	45.4%	5.0%	7.5%	10.7%	-10.8%	15.1%
Indonesia	40.5%	-0.3%	23.0%	3.2%	2.6%	44.9%	10.9%	11.4%	-0.6%	-13.3%	10.1%
India	33.2%	19.3%	21.1%	9.9%	4.0%	12.2%	15.1%	16.0%	-12.1%	-28.6%	8.6%
Mexico	0.9%	1.2%	4.4%	-4.7%	12.0%	2.0%	0.5%	-6.7%	2.3%	-8.5%	0.2%
Honduras	-26.2%	-16.8%	10.0%	-9.3%	-23.2%	-5.9%	-12.2%	-19.2%	-18.6%	-13.6%	-13.5%
Cambodia	29.8%	-6.4%	24.2%	38.4%	9.0%	59.4%	25.2%	49.2%	28.1%	6.5%	25.5%
Pakistan	17.3%	29.3%	8.3%	25.8%	29.7%	-27.1%	14.8%	23.5%	18.6%	-0.5%	12.3%
Korea	5.9%	17.9%	-11.6%	-9.2%	-13.1%	10.2%	-32.9%	-9.5%	0.3%	3.5%	-5.9%

Value Growth: 2025 VS 2023

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Jan-Oct
World	-0.6%	6.4%	4.0%	7.4%	-13.0%	-1.3%	-0.7%	-6.5%	-0.5%	-2.2%	-0.9%
China	11.3%	7.6%	-11.4%	-27.6%	-57.5%	-44.9%	-35.5%	-43.6%	-54.4%	-50.0%	-33.1%
Vietnam	14.0%	8.1%	24.0%	21.2%	7.5%	18.4%	14.6%	10.6%	18.8%	23.5%	15.9%
Bangladesh	-7.7%	16.4%	8.8%	34.7%	-10.7%	40.8%	-2.1%	7.3%	31.1%	13.0%	11.3%
Indonesia	-8.1%	5.1%	13.4%	16.4%	-17.7%	38.2%	14.5%	8.2%	16.2%	5.6%	8.4%
India	-2.8%	22.5%	22.4%	16.9%	15.9%	5.3%	15.7%	21.9%	3.7%	-8.6%	11.5%
Mexico	-14.0%	-8.1%	-13.7%	-6.5%	-5.0%	-8.6%	-4.5%	-15.1%	-2.9%	-10.5%	-9.0%
Honduras	-9.7%	-23.9%	-9.1%	4.0%	-31.4%	-18.8%	-11.1%	-27.8%	-20.5%	-16.8%	-17.7%
Cambodia	14.7%	45.6%	28.7%	35.0%	16.5%	43.9%	40.7%	41.6%	60.1%	81.2%	41.7%
Pakistan	-11.2%	27.2%	19.3%	33.8%	13.1%	-7.1%	27.4%	22.2%	31.9%	23.9%	17.4%
Korea	-12.8%	19.7%	-25.1%	-21.4%	-25.8%	-25.2%	-31.3%	-10.4%	-20.3%	-23.0%	-19.2%

Value Growth: 2025 VS 2022

Country	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Jan-Oct
World	-4.4%	-14.8%	-29.8%	-24.2%	-35.5%	-25.3%	-18.1%	-30.4%	-23.4%	-23.6%	-23.4%
China	-16.1%	-30.4%	-51.8%	-44.3%	-66.9%	-58.0%	-53.1%	-62.0%	-62.9%	-55.5%	-50.9%
Vietnam	13.7%	-13.5%	-30.9%	-22.6%	-25.5%	-5.4%	-1.6%	-15.6%	-5.9%	-2.0%	-11.7%
Bangladesh	6.4%	2.7%	-29.7%	-7.6%	-32.4%	-20.5%	5.3%	-28.8%	-14.5%	-28.2%	-16.2%
Indonesia	-3.9%	-15.0%	-24.8%	-35.4%	-47.0%	-14.1%	-1.2%	-11.5%	-9.5%	-21.8%	-19.4%
India	6.5%	11.2%	-10.9%	-18.9%	-25.5%	-21.3%	-6.2%	-9.2%	-21.2%	-21.2%	-12.3%
Mexico	-14.6%	-11.6%	-20.5%	-19.7%	-14.0%	-19.3%	-15.1%	-23.8%	-15.8%	-22.7%	-17.9%
Honduras	-28.1%	-26.8%	-29.4%	-31.5%	-41.0%	-38.6%	-36.5%	-46.9%	-44.6%	-33.2%	-36.5%
Cambodia	-0.2%	-18.6%	-20.9%	-19.4%	-22.9%	14.2%	14.2%	25.3%	30.4%	37.6%	5.0%
Pakistan	-14.2%	-20.1%	-25.3%	-16.3%	-31.3%	-33.2%	-6.1%	-1.0%	-4.6%	10.0%	-15.0%
Korea	-11.9%	-19.5%	-37.5%	-22.5%	-40.9%	-29.2%	-22.5%	-34.2%	-25.6%	-29.9%	-28.0%

Source: otexa

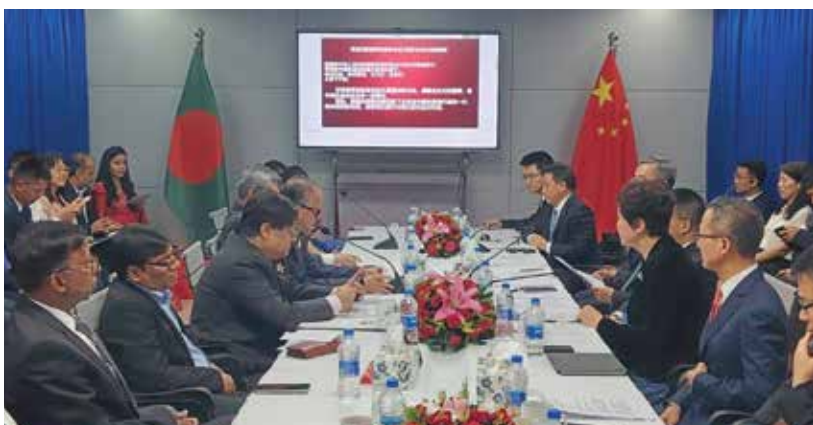
News in Pictures

BGMEA and VisionSpring signed an MoU on December 02, 2025 to provide nationwide eye care screening for garment workers. The program will screen 50,000 workers in one year, providing reading and prescription glasses to those in need at affordable prices, with plans for further expansion. BGMEA leaders and VisionSpring emphasized improved worker health, productivity, and broader access to vision care across the RMG sector.



LPP SA, a leading Polish apparel brand, expressed keen interest in significantly increasing its garment sourcing from Bangladesh. The intent was conveyed by Joanna Sikorska, procurement director of LPP, during a meeting with BGMEA President Mahmud Hassan Khan in Dhaka's Uttara on 2 December 2025. BGMEA Senior Vice President Inamul Haq Khan, Vice President (Finance) Mijanur Rahman, Directors Shah Rayeed Chowdhury, Md. Hasib Uddin, Nafis-Ud-Doula, and Joarder Mohammed Hosne Quamar Alam were present at the meeting.

On 28 November 2025, BGMEA signed an MoU with Lectra to integrate advanced CAD/CAM and digital solutions into training programs for students and industry professionals. The collaboration aims to enhance skill development, boost employability, and advance Bangladesh's RMG sector toward global technological standards. The signing ceremony was attended by BGMEA Senior President Inamul Haq Khan, Vice President of Lectra Pascal Pierra, BGMEA Director Nafis Ud Doula, and Chair of BGMEA Standing Committee on SDP Javed Hossain Bhuiyan.



A seminar titled “The 15th Five-Year Plan and Joint Development of China–Bangladesh” was held on November 17 at the Apan Friendship Exchange Center in Dhaka. Madam Chen Xu, Minister of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, attended the event as the chief guest. Speaking at the seminar, BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan highlighted the strong potential for joint ventures between the two countries in the textile and apparel sectors, particularly in the areas of synthetic and functional textiles.

BGMEA organized a special prayer at its Uttara office for the speedy recovery of Begum Khaleda Zia, former Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson. BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan, senior leaders, directors, and members took part in the prayer.



SICIP–BGMEA On-Campus Recruitment was held at Shanto-Mariam University, implemented by Fakir Fashion Ltd. BGMEA Director Rumana Rashid highlighted the programme’s role in bridging training and employment for skilled human resources. A total of 50 vacancies across Merchandising, Industrial Engineering, and Fashion Design were announced, with written and oral exams conducted for selection.

On 27 November 2025, The Simon Project and BGMEA held a conference on “Improving Worker Health” at the BGMEA Complex. Speaking at the event, BGMEA Vice President Vidiya Amrit Khan emphasized worker health as key to sustainable industry growth and its benefits for female garment workers. The event gathered factories, international brands, and stakeholders, with presentations by The Simon Project Director Javier Chéroles-Blazquez and BGMEA Director Rumana Rashid.



A delegation from the Greener Garments Initiative (GGI) and SOLshare met BGMEA Vice President Vidiya Amrit Khan at BGMEA Complex in Dhaka on 25 November 2025 to explore collaboration on decarbonizing Bangladesh’s RMG sector. The discussion focused on clean energy adoption, energy efficiency, and building climate resilience, especially for SME factories. BGMEA expressed strong commitment to a low-carbon transition and interest in partnering with GGI and SOLshare to advance sustainable industry practices.

On 19 November, a meeting was held in the conference room of the Ministry of Commerce, chaired by the Commerce Secretary, where Bangladesh's strategic position regarding future trade agreements was discussed, with special focus on the proposed EPA with Australia. BGMEA Director Faisal Samad was present at the meeting and highlighted the overall situation of the garment industry and key perspectives on behalf of the apparel sector. The meeting emphasized a coordinated national strategy, stronger backward linkages, and diversified sourcing to expand market access, with follow-up sessions planned.



BGMEA, in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh's Skills for Industry Competitiveness Improvement Program (SICIP) certified 1,175 trainees equipped with advanced, industry-ready skills for the apparel sector. BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan attended the event as chief guest and handed over certificates to the successful trainees. The event was presided over by BGMEA Vice President and member of the SICIP-BGMEA Project Committee Md. Shehab Udduza Chowdhury while BGMEA Director and SICIP-BGMEA Project Committee Member Rumana Rashid attended as special guest. Majumdar Arifur Rahman, Director, BGMEA and Member, SICIP-BGMEA Project Committee, delivered speech at the keynote speaker.

The Bangladesh-German Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BGCCI), led by President Md. Rokonzaman, paid a courtesy call on BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan and Vice President (Finance) Mijanur Rahman on 19 November 2025 at the BGMEA office. During the meeting, they had meaningful discussions about collaboration between BGMEA and BGCCI on shared goals such as supporting industrial development, enhancing industry competitiveness, promoting sustainability and strengthening backward linkages within Bangladesh's manufacturing sector.



On 20 November 2025, leaders of the BGMEA held a meeting with officials of RSGT to discuss ongoing challenges at the Patenga Container Terminal and explore possible improvement measures. During the meeting, BGMEA Senior Vice President Inamul Haq Khan underscored the importance of enhancing the terminal's overall capacity, strengthening management efficiency, rationalizing labor charges, and improving container handling operations. BGMEA Director Kazi Mizanur Rahman was also present at the meeting.

Embassy of the Netherlands in Bangladesh hosted a high-level dinner in honour of H.E. Pascale Grotenhuis, Vice Minister for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands at the residence of Ambassador H. E. Joris van Bommel in Dhaka on November 12. The event brought together very selected representatives from the business community for an in-depth discussion on the current state of the business economy, emerging opportunities and challenges -- including preparations for LDC graduation. BGMEA Vice President Vidiya Amrit Khan was invited to present an overview of Bangladesh's business climate and economic transition.



On 19 November 2025, an important meeting was held between a BGMEA delegation and the Deputy Governor, Executive Director, and relevant officials of Bangladesh Bank. The meeting included detailed discussions on green financing opportunities for SME entrepreneurs, banking-related challenges, and the necessary actions to address them. The delegation was led by BGMEA Vice President Md. Shehab Udduza Chowdhury, and also included BGMEA Director Mohammed Sohel; One-Stop Standing Committee Chairman Mozammel Haque Bhuiyan; Press, Publications and Public Relations Standing Committee Chairman Masud Kabir; SME Standing Committee Chairman Rubayet Ahmed; and SME Standing Committee Member Poritosh Pal.

On 18 November 2025, BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan and industry leaders held an emergency meeting to discuss various challenges affecting the textile and apparel sector. The meeting emphasized urgent government action to prevent mill closures and protect employment and the country's textile exports.



Representatives from BGMEA participated in the STAR Network's Annual Board Meeting held in Humen Town, China on 17 November 2025. At this prestigious global forum, they proudly represented Bangladesh and highlighted the strength, progress, and future vision of the country's ready-made garment industry. Miran Ali, Spokesperson of the Sustainable Terms of Trade Initiative (STTI) and former Vice President of BGMEA, together with Shah Rayeed Chowdhury, Director of BGMEA, and Board Member of the STAR Network, delivered an insightful presentation.



BGMEA held a meeting with the German development organization GIZ on November 12 to discuss ongoing and potential collaborative projects. BGMEA was represented by Vice President Vidiya Amrit Khan and Directors Sheikh Hossain Muhammad Mustafiz, Mohammed Sohel, Fahima Akhter and Rumana Rashid. Representing GIZ were Thomas Rolf, Cluster Coordinator – SED TEC; Stoyanka Stich, Cluster Coordinator - Energy Cluster; Dr. Michael Klode, Project Manager, STILE II; Steffen Siegle, Component Leader, STILE II; Gundolf Klaehn, Project Manager, SCAIP.



The first meeting of the committee formed to review and finalize the Service Level Agreement (SLA) under the Private Participation Renewable Energy-Based Commercial Power Generation/Power Plant Establishment Policy, 2025 was held in Dhaka on November 16. Vidiya Amrit Khan, Vice President of BGMEA, attended the meeting on behalf of the association.

On 16 November 2025, BGMEA Director Shah Rayeed Chowdhury represented Bangladesh at the Global Fashion Conference 2025 in Humen Town, China. He highlighted Bangladesh's achievements in workplace safety, social compliance, and environmental sustainability, reinforcing the "Made in Bangladesh" reputation. The conference, themed "Fashion Transformation: Coexistence in Diversity," brought together global industry leaders to discuss innovation, technology, sustainability, and future fashion trends.



A delegation comprising representatives from the Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP) Programme, Solidaridad Network Asia, QStone Capital, and Kingsley visited BGMEA on November 10. The delegation met with BGMEA Directors Nafis Ud Doula and Mohammed Sohel to explore avenues of collaboration aimed at scaling up the ready-made garment (RMG) industry's capacity in wastewater reuse.

For the first time, BGMEA organized BGMEA Padel Cup on 2-3 December 2025. The tournament aimed to foster camaraderie among apparel industry members. Both beginners and experienced players participated in the tournament with Asif Mahmud Sajeeb Bhuiyan, Adviser of the Interim Government responsible for the Ministry of Youth and Sports, awarding winners at the closing ceremony as chief guest. The two-day tournament received a warm response and was sponsored by United Commercial Bank PLC as title sponsor and bKash Limited as co-sponsor, Dour as kit partner and T Sports as media coverage.



The National Board of Revenue (NBR) organized a “Meet the Business” discussion to gather insights from stakeholders. BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan raised key bond and customs-related issues affecting the garment sector and sought NBR's support to address the issues. BGMEA Senior Vice President Inamul Haq Khan and Vice President Md. Shehab Udduza Chowdhury also participated in the session chaired by NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan on 16 November 2025.

Apparel magazine 'Textile Focus' along with Dongyi Sourcing Limited (DSL) and Eurofins Consumer Product Testing Bangladesh, hosted an inspiring leadership and knowledge-sharing event. The program was held on 15 November at BGMEA Complex, Dhaka. Speaking at the event, BGMEA Vice President (Finance) Mijanur Rahman & CEO of Fashion Power Group, delivered an inspiring account of his personal journey and how he rose to become a successful entrepreneur. Vidiya Amrit Khan, Vice President of BGMEA and Deputy Managing Director of Desh Garments, delivered a touching speech reflecting on her remarkable path as an entrepreneur leading Bangladesh's first 100% export-oriented garment factory.



A delegation from Worldly, led by Chief Marketing Officer Jay Gaines, and Director, Regional Supplier Engagement Ms. Angela Lee met BGMEA Vice President Vidiya Amrit Khan on 19 November 2025 at BGMEA. As the exclusive host of the Higg Index and partner to key sustainability frameworks including ZDHC and Bluesign, Worldly supports businesses with high-resolution primary data on carbon, water, chemistry, labor, and materials. The meeting focused on Worldly's advanced analytics and assessment tools can support Bangladesh's RMG sector in meeting emerging global requirements and strengthening factory-level impact measurement.

A “Workshop with Head of HR” was organized at the BGMEA Complex in Dhaka on 16 November 2025. The workshop brought together senior HR professionals to enhance skilled human resources and industry–academia linkages. BGMEA Directors Majumdar Arifur Rahman and Rumana Rashid spoke at the workshop.



On 11th November 2025, a meeting was held between BGMEA leaders and the Customs Bond Commissionerate, Chattogram, at the BGMEA regional office. Chaired by BGMEA Vice President Mohammad Rafique Chowdhury, the meeting focused on streamlining bond operations, policy improvements, and mutual cooperation for the RMG sector. Key discussions included simplifying FOC-based imports, adding new HS codes, easing audit processes, and facilitating services for SMEs.

On 12 November 2025, BGMEA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bangladesh Business and Disability Network (BBDN) to foster disability inclusion within the ready-made garment (RMG) sector. BGMEA Senior Vice President Inamul Haq Khan along with Directors Fahima Akhter, Rumana Rashid, and Samiha Azim underscored the sector's commitment to equal opportunity.



A delegation from the German-based Hohenstein Group, led by Group CEO Dr. Stefan Droste, met with BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan at the BGMEA Complex in Dhaka 11 November 2025. The meeting focused on enhancing environmental sustainability in the apparel sector.

A delegation from the Japan Textile Importers Association (JTIA) held a meeting with the members of BGMEA Board including President Mahmud Hasan Khan to discuss expanding bilateral trade and investment. During the meeting, Japanese buyers expressed strong interest in importing high-value, fashionable apparel from Bangladesh. President Mahmud Hasan Khan urged the delegation to increase garment sourcing from Bangladesh.



On 10 November 2025, a strategic consultation at UN House, Dhaka, brought together UN-OHRLLS and RMG sector leaders to assess Bangladesh's LDC graduation readiness. Attending the discussion, BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan highlighted rising costs, financial pressures, and policy challenges in the RMG sector. He called for collaborative policy support, stable energy supply, logistics reform, and protection of access to global markets to address the challenges.

On 9 November 2025, a free portable digital X-ray campaign was inaugurated at the BGMEA Health Centre, Uttara, to ensure healthcare services for workers of the garment industry. The campaign is being implemented under the Bangladesh National TB Programme, with funding from BRAC and overall support from icddr. The campaign was inaugurated by BGMEA Senior Vice President Inamul Haq Khan while BGMEA Director Kazi Mizanur Rahman was also present.



A delegation from BGMEA, led by President Mahmud Hasan Khan, met with the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Professor Dr. S.M.A. Faiz in Dhaka on 6 November 2025. They discussed exchanged views on various issues. The delegation included BGMEA Senior Vice President Inamul Haq Khan, Vice President (Finance) Mijanur Rahman, Directors Faisal Samad, A. B. M. Shamsuddin, Chairman of BUFT Affairs Committee at BGMEA Mezbah Uddin Al and former BGMEA directors.

A meeting of the BGMEA Port and Shipping Committee was held at the BGMEA Building conference room on 5 November 2025, chaired by Committee Chairman Hasan Abdullah. The meeting focused on a range of important port and shipping-related issues. BGMEA First Vice President Salim Rahman, Directors Joarder Mohammed Hosne Quamar Alam, Mohammed Sohel, and Md Shaif Ullah were present at the meeting. Key issues discussed included unauthorized charges imposed by freight forwarders, the increase in Chattogram Port charges, collection of store rent, berthing delays of gearless vessels, and delays in the clearance of LCL cargo, among others.



BGMEA signed MoUs with 10 renowned healthcare institutions, including 9 hospitals and 1 diagnostic center. Under these agreements, BGMEA members, officials, employees, and their legal dependents will be eligible to receive high-quality medical and diagnostic services from these institutions at special discounted rates. The MoU signing ceremony was held at the BGMEA Complex in Uttara, Dhaka.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Bangladesh Business Chamber of Canada (BBCC) to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations, enhance business relationships, and create new opportunities for mutual business growth and development. The MoU signing ceremony took place on 6 November 2025 at the BGMEA Complex in Uttara. BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan and BBCC President Alomgir M. Rahman signed on behalf of their respective sides.



A delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) met with BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan at BGMEA Complex in Dhaka on 5 November 2025. BGMEA Senior Vice President Inamul Haq Khan, Vice President Rezwan Selim, Vice President Vidiya Amrit Khan, Directors Faruque Hassan, Nafis-ud-Doula, Majumdar Arifur Rahman and Dr. Rashid Ahamed Hossaini were present at the meeting. The IMF delegation included Senior Economists Qiaoe Chen and Ruifeng Zhang, and Economist Ayah Said.

A delegation from Moody's Investors Service met with BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan at the BGMEA Complex in Dhaka on 5 November 2025. The discussion focused on the current state of Bangladesh's RMG industry, its prospects, challenges, and the roadmap ahead.



A delegation led by BGMEA First Senior Vice President Salim Rahman and Vice President Mohammad Rafique Chowdhury held a courtesy meeting with Chattogram District Commissioner Saiful Islam in Chattogram on 5 November 2025. During the meeting, they had a sincere discussion on various issues aimed at removing obstacles for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Chattogram and enhancing their participation in national exports.

A high-level delegation of U.S. cotton exporters, organized by Cotton USA, met with BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan at the BGMEA Complex in Uttara on 4 November 2025. The discussion focused on enhancing bilateral trade, expanding the use of U.S. cotton, and leveraging newly announced tariff benefits for garment exports from Bangladesh to the United States.



The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Turkish Airlines have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide special benefits for BGMEA members under the Turkish Airlines Corporate Club Premium Program. BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan and Turkish Airlines General Manager İslam Güre signed the MoU on behalf of their respective sides at the BGMEA Complex, Dhaka on 4 November 2025.

German Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr. Rüdiger Lotz paid a courtesy call on BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan at the BGMEA Complex in Dhaka on 4 November 2025. During the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen and enhance bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Germany.



A BGMEA delegation held a meeting with Nowshad Mostofa, Director and Head of the SME Department at Bangladesh Bank in Dhaka on 4 November 2025. The discussion focused on the banking challenges faced by SME entrepreneurs and possible measures to address them. Present at the meeting were BGMEA Director Mohammed Sohel, One Stop Standing Committee Chairman Mozammel Haque Bhuiyan, PR Standing Committee Chairman Mohammad Masud Kabir, SME Standing Committee Chairman Mohammad Rubayet, SME Standing Committee Co-Chairmen Mohammad Mohsin Apu, Mobarak Hossain Bhuiyan, and Paritosh Pal.

On 3 November 2025, BGMEA Vice President Md. Shehab Udduza Chowdhury participated in a meeting chaired by Chief Adviser's Envoy for International Affairs Lutfey Siddiqi, placing different proposals related to FOC, HS Code, EDF to facilitate trade in the RMG sector. The meeting was attended by the Bangladesh Bank Governor, the NBR Chairman, the Commerce Secretary, and presidents and representatives of different trade organizations in Bangladesh.



BGMEA, in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh's SICIP, awarded certificates to 80 graduates at a ceremony held on 23 December 2025 at Mahabub Ali Hall, BGMEA Building, Chattogram. The event was chaired by Enamul Aziz Chowdhury, Director of BGMEA while Reaz Weaz, Chairman of the Standing Committee on NGO Affairs, BGMEA Chattogram, was also present.

BGMEA Vice President Mohammad Rafique Chowdhury and Director Enamul Aziz Chowdhury attended the RTG Handover Ceremony at RSGT, Chattogram on 15 December 2025. Senior officials from Chittagong Port Authority, Customs, and the Bangladesh Navy were also present.



14 December 2025 marked a significant day at BGMEA Chattogram office, as for the very first time, two companies—Seedling Fashion Ltd. (Temporary) and BTL Apparels Ltd. (Permanent)—received their BGMEA membership certificates from Chattogram. Present at the occasion were BGMEA First Vice President Salim Rahman, Vice President Mohammad Rafique Chowdhury, Director Rakibul Alam Chowdhury along with the Chairman of the New Membership Standing Committee Wadud Mohd. Chowdhury.



The SICIP–BGMEA “On-Campus Recruitment 2025” was held on 13 December 2025 at International Standard University (ISU), implemented by Snowtex Group. The program is conducted under BGMEA supervision with financing from the Ministry of Finance and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). BGMEA Director Rumana Rashid, attended the event as chief guest.



Ambassador of Mongolia to India Ganbold Dambajav held a meeting with BGMEA leaders at BGMEA Complex in Dhaka on 12 December 2025. The discussions centered on strengthening bilateral trade relations between the two countries, with particular emphasis on exploring new avenues for investment and economic cooperation. The Mongolian Ambassador was accompanied by Nasrin Fatema Auwal, Honorary Consul General of Bangladesh in Mongolia. BGMEA side was led by First Vice President Salim Rahman, along with Directors Shah Rayeed Chowdhury, Nafis-Ud-Doula, Sumaiya Islam, Kazi Mizanur Rahman, Asef Kamal Pasha, Rumana Rashid, and Samiha Azim.

On 10 December 2025, BGMEA, Olwel BD Limited, and Nuvista Pharma PLC signed a tripartite MoU at the BGMEA Complex, Uttara, to launch a digital hospital pilot project for garment workers and their families. The MoU was signed on behalf of BGMEA by Senior Vice President Inamul Haq Khan; on behalf of Olwel BD Limited by its Chairman Mujahidul Haq Abul Hasanat; and on behalf of Nuvista Pharma PLC by its Managing Director S. M. Rabbur Reza.



A high-level delegation of investors from various industrial sectors of China paid a visit to BGMEA on 11 December 2025. BGMEA side was led by Senior Vice President Inamul Haq Khan, while the Chinese side was headed by Frank Yi, Chairman of global fashion partner BETTEX Inds. Ltd. The meeting was also attended by BGMEA Vice President Md. Shehab Udduza Chowdhury; Directors Faisal Samad, Md. Hasib Uddin, Rumana Rashid, and Mohammed Sohel.

A landmark MoU has been signed between BGMEA and Parkway Hospitals Singapore Private Limited, an internationally renowned Singapore-based healthcare provider. On behalf of BGMEA, Director Shah Rayeed Chowdhury and Director Nafis-Ud-Doula signed the agreement, while Zahid Hasan Khan, Director of IHH Healthcare's Bangladesh office, signed on behalf of Parkway Hospitals Singapore Private Limited on 10 December 2025. Under the agreement, BGMEA members and their family members will be able to access special healthcare facilities at four of Singapore's top hospitals – Mount Elizabeth Hospital Orchard, Mount Elizabeth Hospital Novena, Gleneagles Hospital, and Parkway East Hospital.



On 9 December 2025, as part of its ongoing initiative to ensure enhanced healthcare services for its members, officers, employees, and their families, BGMEA signed MoUs with four more renowned hospitals. The four hospitals with whom the MoUs were newly signed are: Dhaka Imperial Hospital PLC, Ibn Sina Trust, SHIP International Hospital, and York Hospital Ltd. On behalf of BGMEA, the MoUs were signed by First Vice President Salim Rahman. The welcome speech was delivered by BGMEA Director Mohammed Sohel, under whose overall supervision the MoUs with the respective hospitals were signed.

HEALTHY MOTHER, HEALTHY CHILD

Essential Nutrition For Pregnant Garment Workers

Food for Pregnant Mothers:

Eat iron-rich foods, such as fish, meat, liver, local fruits, leafy vegetables, lentils, and nuts every day.

Eat 2 extra nutritious snacks along with your regular three meals a day.

Eat eggs, milk and foods made by milk

Eat Vitamin-C as it helps body to absorb the iron easily. Such as, such as lemon, green chili, raw mango, Olive ect.

Always use iodized salt in cooking.

Drink less tea and coffee, especially after meals.



Because:

Iron deficiency during pregnancy can lead to preterm birth, low birth weight, Intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR), and, in severe cases, an increased risk of newborn death.

Maternal iron deficiency can impair the baby's early cognitive and behavioral development, especially when anemia is moderate to severe.

Other foods and instructions



Avoid fats/oils that solidify, deep-fried foods, excessive sugar and sugary drinks/sugar-rich foods, and extra salt added to your plate.



From the beginning of pregnancy, intake one iron folic acid tablet after dinner every day. From the fourth month of pregnancy intake one calcium tablet after breakfast and lunch



Rest 2 hours after lunch and 8 hours at night.