World Business Watch
GLOBAL BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS
Monday, 2 November 2026
worldbusinesswatch.com

NEWS | MANUFACTURING

Bangladesh, World's no.2 apparel exporter, forms garment wage board after protests shut 43 factories

Bangladesh workers are demanding a Tk30,000 minimum shut dozens of factories. It’s a cost question for the world’s No. 2 apparel exporter and for the global brands that source there.

By **Manasee Kurlekar** | November 1, 2026



Bangladesh’s garment sector, the engine of its export economy, is heading into another wage reset.

On 31 October, garment workers in Ashulia and Mirpur protested over unpaid wages, higher pay and a Tk30,000 minimum monthly basic salary. At least 23 Ashulia factories declared holidays. TBS’s later tally put closures at around 43 across Mirpur, Ashulia and Gazipur.

After three weeks of road blockades and clashes, factories declared holidays on Saturday as workers pressed for a Tk30,000 minimum basic wage and unpaid arrears.

The labour minister says a wage board will be formed today, with exporter bodies BGMEA and BKMEA on board. He also wants salaries paid by the 7th of each month.

Global brands sourcing from Dhaka will watch the final number closely, because it feeds straight into their landed costs.

Read online: https://worldbusinesswatch.com/news/15/350/bangladesh-worlds-no-2-apparel-exporter-forms-garment-wage-board-after-protests-shut-43-factories.html
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