the footprint

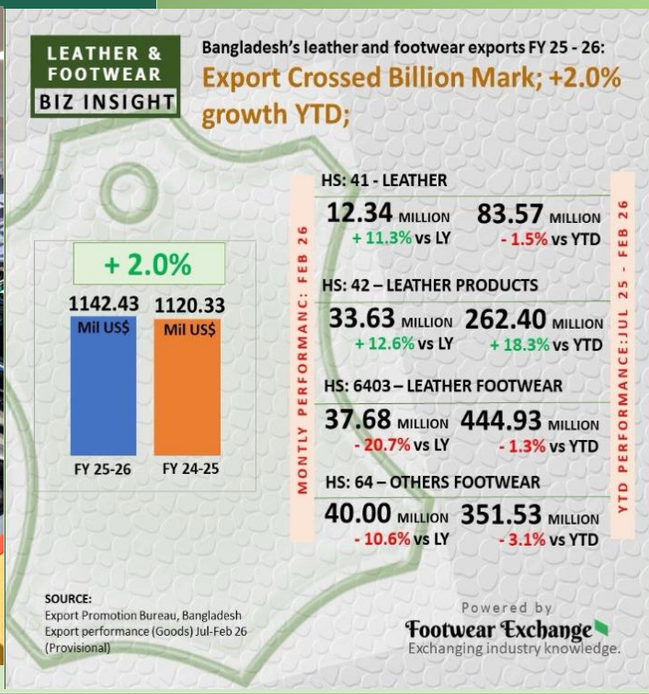
monthly newsletter by **Footwear Exchange**

March 2026
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A platform of people worldwide who make the footwear, leather and allied industry work.







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EDITORS NOTE

Footprint March Unfolds!

As the year progresses, March arrives with renewed energy for Bangladesh's leather and footwear sector. With Eid approaching, the market is witnessing heightened activity as brands and retailers prepare their collections to capture festive demand and strengthen their presence in the competitive retail landscape.

In this March edition of *Footprint*, we explore the dynamics of Eid-centric footwear retail, where several brands are expanding beyond footwear by introducing bags and complementary accessories to offer more complete lifestyle collections during the festive season. Alongside this retail perspective, we present the latest export performance data, providing a snapshot of how Bangladesh's leather and footwear sector is progressing in international markets.

This edition also focuses on the importance of final inspection. In addition, we are pleased to introduce the launch of Leather and Footwear Hive, a new quarterly publication designed to share deeper industry insights, research, and developments across the leather and footwear value chain.

We hope this edition of *Footprint* offers useful insights, keeps you informed about current trends, and continues to connect you with the evolving story of Bangladesh's leather and footwear industry.

Eid-ul-Fitr Retail: Footwear Brands Launch New Bag Lines to Attract Shoppers

Industry observers note that footwear brands are increasingly expanding their accessory segments as part of a broader retail strategy. By offering bags, belts, wallets, and other accessories, brands can increase the total value of customer purchases during peak shopping seasons like Eid-ul-Fitr. As the shopping rush for Eid-ul-Fitr gathers momentum across Bangladesh, leading footwear and lifestyle brands are expanding their bag collections to attract consumers looking for fashionable accessories to complement their festive outfits. From genuine leather handbags and crossbody bags to backpacks and laptop bags, retailers are introducing new arrivals targeting both fashion-conscious consumers and those seeking practical everyday accessories. Retailers say bags have become an increasingly important product category during Eid shopping, as consumers often purchase them together with footwear and apparel.

Bata Introduces Genuine Leather Bag:

International footwear brand Bata has introduced several new bag models ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr under its fashion accessory line, including handbags, crossbody bags and backpacks.

Focusing on a premium appeal, Bata has introduced a new range of ladies' bags crafted from genuine leather for the Eid season. The collection reflects a sophisticated and high-end design approach, targeting consumers who prefer elegant and durable accessories. The premium lineup includes laptop carrying bags, crossbody bags, and exclusive ladies' handbags, all designed with refined finishes and practical compartments. Positioned in the higher price segment, these bags are intended to offer both style and functionality while adding a luxurious touch to festive fashion.

Among the latest designs, the Red Label ladies' bag collection features compact crossbody and tote bags designed for everyday fashion use. The bags are produced using lightweight synthetic materials and include multiple compartments to carry daily essentials.

Retailers say the new designs target young urban consumers looking for fashionable yet practical accessories during Eid gatherings and social outings. Bata's bag prices in Bangladesh generally range between BDT 2,000 and BDT 3,500, depending on the design and collection for synthetic bags. For Ladies bags made by leather is within the price range of 5000 to 10000 BDT.



Apex Expands Moochie and Nino Rossi Bag Collection:

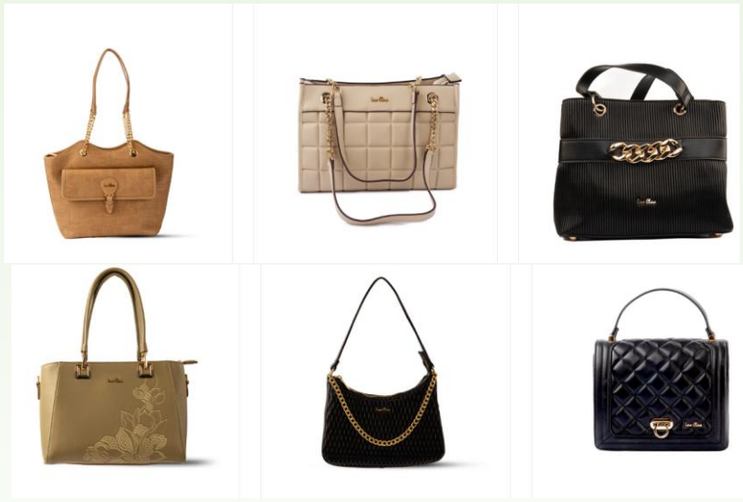
Local footwear giant Apex has also introduced several new bags through its lifestyle brands Moochie and Nino Rossi as part of its Eid retail strategy. The company's new arrivals include crossbody bags, handbags, tote bags and clutches, designed primarily for women shoppers. One of the notable models is the Nino Rossi Women's Bag, which is designed with PU material and multiple compartments for daily use.

Eid-ul-Fitr Retail: Footwear Brands Launch New Bag Lines to Attract Shoppers.



The bag is priced around BDT 2000 –4000, depending on the model. Another popular item in the collection is the Moochie Women's Bag, designed with a structured silhouette and premium leather-style finish. The model is priced around BDT 4,490 in the retail market. According to Apex's online catalogue, the company's women's bag collection includes several styles such as shoulder bags, clutches and crossbody bags, with prices ranging from about BDT 5000 to nearly BDT 7,000 depending on the design and materials. Retailers say Apex's fashion bag collection is particularly popular among young women during Eid because of its trendy designs and color options.

Bay Focuses on Affordable Fashion Bags:



Another Bangladeshi footwear brand, Bay, has also expanded its fashion accessories segment this Eid season. The company's bag lineup includes ladies' handbags, crossbody bags, shoulder bags and backpacks, designed to complement festive outfits and casual wear. Bay positions its bags in the affordable fashion category, targeting students and young professionals. Retailers say Bay bags are typically priced between BDT 1,800 and BDT 4,500, making them accessible to a wide range of consumers

Orion Offers Laptop and Travel Bags

Alongside fashion-focused brands, Orion is offering bags designed mainly for practical use. The company's products include laptop backpacks, office bags and travel backpacks featuring padded compartments and durable fabrics suitable for professional use. Industry observers say such bags are often purchased as Eid gifts for students and office-going professionals, contributing to steady demand during the festive shopping season.

Bags Becoming an Important Eid Accessory

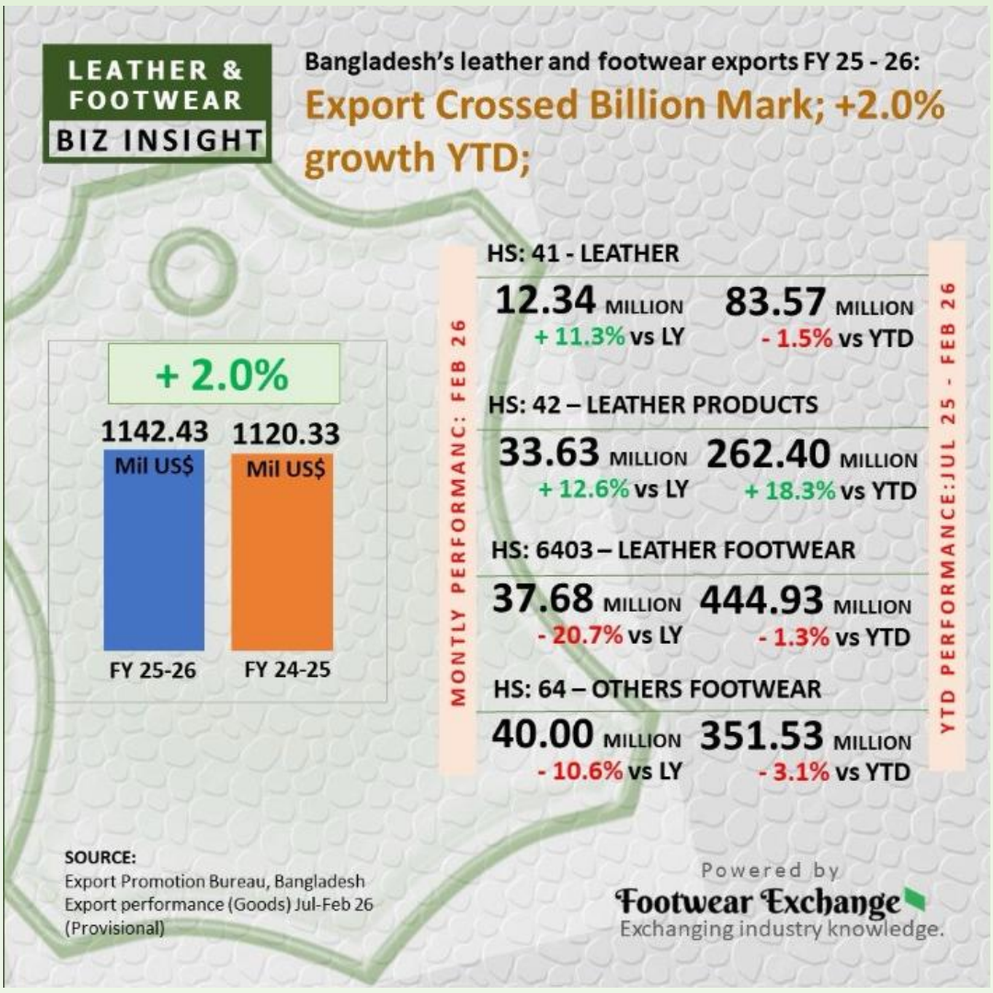
Retailers across Bangladesh say handbags and crossbody bags have become increasingly popular during Eid shopping, particularly among younger consumers. Compact crossbody bags are favored for their convenience during social visits and travel, while fashion handbags are often purchased to match festive outfits. Backpacks and laptop bags also see strong sales as practical gifts during Eid. Industry insiders say footwear brands are expanding their accessory lines to increase the value of each customer purchase. By offering products such as bags, belts and wallets, retailers can attract more customers during Bangladesh's biggest shopping season. With Eid shopping expected to intensify in the final days of Ramadan, brands are hoping their new bag collections will capture the attention of consumers looking for both style and functionality during the festive period.

Bangladesh's Leather & Footwear Exports Cross USD 1.14 Billion Amid Mixed Sector Performance

Bangladesh's leather & footwear exports have crossed the USD 1.14 Billion mark in FY 25–26 (Jul'25–Feb'26), reaching USD 1,142.43 Million, showing +2.0% growth compared to the same period last year (USD 1,120.33 Million).

A modest but encouraging growth — however, category-wise performance shows mixed signals across the sector.

Key Highlights (Jul–Feb FY25–26 YTD):



What this indicates

📌 While overall export growth remains positive, the momentum is largely driven by leather products, whereas footwear categories are experiencing short-term slowdown.

For sustainable growth, the industry will need to strengthen value addition, improve productivity, and diversify export products and markets.

✅ HS 42 – Leather Products continues to drive export growth

➡️ USD 262.40M | +18.3% YTD

Strong international demand for leather goods such as bags, wallets, and accessories is pushing this segment upward.

⚠️ HS 6403 – Leather Footwear facing slight decline

➡️ USD 444.93M | -1.3% YTD

Although still the largest export segment, the category shows a mild contraction, indicating slower order flow.

⚠️ HS 64 – Others Footwear also declining

➡️ USD 351.53M | -3.1% YTD

The segment continues to face pressure in global competitiveness.

⚠️ HS 41 – Raw Leather under pressure

➡️ USD 83.57M | -1.5% YTD

Export performance reflects ongoing challenges in raw leather processing, compliance, and market positioning.

February 2026 Monthly Performance (YoY):

HS 41 Leather: +11.3%

HS 42 Leather Products: +12.6%

HS 6403 Leather Footwear: -20.7%

HS 64 Others Footwear: -10.6%

Source:
Export Promotion Bureau, Bangladesh
Export performance for Leather & Footwear 2025-26 July-Feb (provisional)

Final Inspection: The Last Step to Ensure Footwear Quality

Inspection is generally defined as an organized examination or formal evaluation process. It involves checking, examining, and assessing products to ensure that they meet specific quality standards and requirements. In manufacturing industries, particularly in footwear production, inspection plays a vital role in maintaining product quality and ensuring that customers receive reliable and defect-free products.

Final inspection is conducted at the last stage of production, after all manufacturing processes have been completed. It serves as the final checkpoint before products are delivered to the customer or shipped to the market. The objective of this process is not only to detect defects but also to verify that the product meets the required specifications, quality standards, and functional performance.

By conducting proper final inspection, manufacturers can minimize the risk of defective products reaching customers, reduce potential complaints, and maintain brand reputation.



Types of Inspection

Different types of inspections are carried out to evaluate various aspects of the product. In footwear manufacturing, inspections are commonly categorized into the following types:

Visual Manual Inspection

This inspection focuses on the visual appearance of the product. Inspectors examine elements such as stitching quality, finishing, symmetry, labeling, and overall craftsmanship to identify any visible defects.



Functional Non-Destructive Inspection

In this method, the functionality of the product is tested without damaging it. The aim is to ensure that the product performs properly while maintaining its structure and usability. As an example, back height measuring, Bonding, Inside length check etc.



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Functional Destructive Inspection

This type of inspection involves testing certain components by applying force or stress to evaluate durability and performance limits. Although the tested samples may be damaged during the process, these tests help assess the product's strength and reliability. This Methode is used to check the inside materials, their measurement and includes different physical chemical tests of the shoe.



Methods of Inspection (ABCD)

To ensure a systematic evaluation, inspections are often conducted using the ABCD method, which focuses on four key aspects of product quality.

Appearance: Inspectors check the visual aspects of the product such as stitching, thread finishing, labels, symmetry, and overall design consistency. During production, a tolerance of approximately 2 mm deviation from the approved sample is generally acceptable.

Bonding: Bonding strength between different parts of the product, especially the sole bonding area in footwear, is carefully checked. Inspectors press and examine the bonding area to ensure there are no gaps or weak adhesion.

Comfort: The internal comfort of the product is evaluated by checking the sock lining, counter uniformity, internal finishing, and cementing quality. This ensures the product provides a comfortable experience for the user.

Dimension: Measurements are verified to ensure consistency and accuracy. This includes checking alignment such as sole-to-sole, toe-to-toe, tongue-to-tongue, and back counter positioning, as well as testing lace strength, labels, and printed elements.

Inspection Steps

The final inspection process follows a structured sequence to maintain accuracy and reliability.

Inspection Preparation: Inspectors review product specifications, approved samples, and quality standards before beginning the inspection.

Product Selection: Samples are selected from the production batch according to inspection guidelines.

Conducting the Inspection: The selected products are evaluated using defined inspection methods and criteria.

Sharing the Results: Inspection findings are communicated to the production and quality teams.

Recording the Control: All results are documented for traceability and future quality improvement.

Final inspection is a critical stage in the manufacturing process. It ensures that products meet the required standards before reaching customers. By applying systematic inspection methods and clear evaluation criteria, manufacturers can maintain consistent product quality, reduce defects, and build greater trust with consumers.

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AVAILABLE NOW

LEATHER & FOOTWEAR HIVE Q4

A Quarterly magazine of Footwear Exchange

The Leather and Footwear Hive Q4 2025 Edition is now Published!

We're proud to announce the release of the Q4 2025, Issue 8 edition of Leather & Footwear Hive, continuing our mission to foster knowledge sharing across the global leather and footwear community.

This issue dives deep into “Leather Industry Change Maker Award 2025,Edition 1- An initiative to recognize innovation, sustainability, and leadership across the leather and footwear ecosystem. Through expert insights, real-world case studies, and sector analysis, we aim to inform, inspire, and spark meaningful dialogue among professionals, entrepreneurs, and students alike.

Explore the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities — because we believe that shared knowledge is the foundation of sustainable industry growth



The more we Exchange, The more we gain.

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The Footprint is the monthly newsletter of Footwear Exchange!

It is an online publication in Bangla or/and English that publishes articles each month about leather and footwear—Bangladesh and world matters that we know and feel are important to share with you.

2025 Editions



If you feel that you need to promote your business not only to ~~many people~~ but **many right people of Bangladesh leather and footwear and allied industry**, then it's time for you to advertise your business in our publications.

We ensure that all our publication (digital or printed) and activities **reach maximum number of professionals** who are either related or working with Bangladesh leather, footwear and allied industry.

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