

Jute Market Report for April 2026

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Bangladesh

Raw Jute: The government has conditionally approved the export of 6,377 mt of raw jute based on an application submitted by the Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA) on 26 February 2026. Under this approval, 18 companies have been granted permission to export, subject to the condition that they must have received advance payments through Telegraphic Transfer (TT) on or before 8 September 2025.

This decision aims to facilitate the fulfillment of prior international trade commitments while maintaining regulatory control over raw jute exports. By limiting eligibility to transactions supported by Advance TT payments received before the specified cutoff date, the government seeks to prevent misuse of the approval for new export contracts and to ensure transparency and discipline in the export process.

New crop: According to local agricultural sources, sowing of Meshta and White Jute has already been completed, while Tossa Jute cultivation is progressing steadily. Around 60 % of the targeted 87,000 hectares of land in Faridpur has been brought under cultivation so far, aided by the government's distribution of improved seed varieties. However, irrigation activities have been severely disrupted due to limited diesel supplies and frequent power outages. Farmers, who depend heavily on irrigation after harvesting onion crops, are now increasingly reliant on timely rainfall to sustain the sowing process.

The fuel shortage is being linked to ongoing global oil market disruptions, partly influenced by geopolitical tensions, including the Iran–Israel conflict. The situation has created uncertainty at the local level, affecting agricultural operations across the district. Despite the challenges, officials from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) remain cautiously optimistic. They say that a few spells of heavy rainfall in the coming weeks could help ease the crisis and support crop growth. Farmers, however, remain concerned that without immediate relief in fuel supply or sufficient rainfall, uneven crop growth and reduced yields may impact overall jute production this season.

Local Demand: Following the extended Eid holiday period, the domestic market for jute yarn and twine remained subdued across both jute yarn and twine spinning mills and integrated composite jute mills during the month under review. Market demand showed limited recovery after the holidays. In addition, it was observed that several mills did not immediately resume full operations and remained closed even after the holiday period.

Local raw jute market situation: During the reporting period, demand for raw jute in the domestic market decreased due to weak local market conditions and reduced consumption, leading to a marginal drop in overall demand.

Local price: Local prices of raw jute consequentially decreased by about USD 60 to 70 per mton during the month under review.



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Raw Jute exports Figure: Because of the export ban on raw jute, export data has not been available since November 2025.

Weather Condition: In early April, Bangladesh experiences hot and humid weather with temperatures often reaching 32–38°C or higher. By late April, rainfall begins due to pre-monsoon storms, bringing temporary relief and signaling the shift toward the monsoon season.

Jute Yarn and Twine: Although export demand from regular importing countries such as Turkey, Europe, and other markets for jute yarns and twines of both higher and lower qualities remained steady during the period, overall demand showed a slight slowdown in the month under review. This was mainly due to the ongoing Iran–Israel conflict, increased freight costs, and buyers' expectations of lower prices.

A similar trend was observed in other international markets, including India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Uzbekistan, the USA, African countries, and countries in the Middle East, where demand remained subdued during the same period.

Local demand for Sacking and Hessian quality jute yarn and twine, primarily for packaging purposes, remained sluggish during the month under review, with limited procurement activity observed in the domestic market.

Export price: As raw jute prices declined slightly during the month, export prices for jute yarns and twines of both higher and lower qualities also moved downward. On average, export prices fell by around USD 70.00-80.00 per mton during the month under review.

Situation of local mills: After the Eid holidays, several jute yarn and twine spinning mills have yet to resume operations. While a few financially stronger mills have restarted production, they are operating below their capacities. Many have reduced output significantly, cutting production from three shifts per day to only one shift.

Jute Goods: Export demand from buyers in Europe, Australia, and the USA for both Hessians and Sackings remained steady during the month under review.

Export demand from other importing countries, including India, South Korea, Indonesia, Iran, China, and Vietnam, also remained at a regular level. Buyers from African countries were primarily active in the Sacking segment.

As usual, India continued as an active buyer for unstitched Binola and B-Twill fabrics.

Local demand for Hessians and Sackings for packaging purposes remained steady throughout the month under review.

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Demand for Jute CBC (carpet backing cloth) remained stable from major importing markets, including Europe, Japan, New Zealand, and USA during the month under review.

During the month under review, export prices developed as follows:

Hessians:	decreased by approx. 1-2 %
Sacking:	decreased by approx. 2 %
CBC:	decreased by approx. 2 %

Miscellaneous (1): The Bangladesh Government is committed for jute sector growth to meet rising global demand. We quote from Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) dd April 26, 2026:

„Minister for Textiles and Jute Khandakar Abdul Muktedir has said the government is committed for development of jute sector to meet growing global demand. In view of this, he said the government has taken initiative for jute product diversification, technological modernization, skills development and export market expansion. The Minister said this while replying to a scripted question from ruling party lawmaker Mohammed Enamul Hoque (Ctg-12) in the parliament with Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, in the chair.

The minister said the perception that jute and jute goods have lost their past glory is not fully consistent with the reality. Global demand for natural and biodegradable fibres like jute has been increasing steadily amid rising emphasis on environmental protection and sustainable development, he said.

Muktadir said jute is gaining renewed importance as an eco-friendly alternative to plastic, creating new opportunities for Bangladesh in international markets as one of the leading jute-producing countries. He said local jute mills are working to meet both domestic and export demand within their existing capacities.

To expand domestic use, Muktedir said the government has been implementing the Mandatory Jute Packaging Act, 2010, which has significantly increased the use of jute packaging for specific commodities, thereby boosting internal demand. “The government is extending policy support to enhance production capacity, ensure quality improvement and promote diversification of jute products,” he said.

“Regular consultations are being held with stakeholders, including the Bangladesh Jute Mills Association and the Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association, to identify challenges and opportunities and to take necessary measures accordingly,” he added. The Minister further said initiatives have been taken to update the Jute Act, 2017 and the National Jute Policy, 2018 in line with evolving global market dynamics and technological advancements, aiming to make the sector more competitive and sustainable.”

Source: Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) dd April 26, 2026

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Miscellaneous (2): The Bangladesh Government plans to lease out six jute mills this year. We quote from The Daily Star dd April 24, 2026:

“The government is set to lease out six state-owned jute mills by December this year in a bid to revive idle industrial units, attract fresh investment, and create employment opportunities.

Each of the six mills is expected to create more than 1,000 jobs, with projected investments ranging from Tk 200 crore to Tk 500 crore per mill, said Khandakar Abdul Muktedir, minister for textiles and jute, while briefing reporters after an emergency stakeholder meeting at his office in Dhaka yesterday. “The meeting was convened to review the current condition of the closed mills, assess investment prospects, and explore ways to expedite investment in the remaining units,” he said.

The minister added that several mills already handed over to private operators have shown encouraging progress, attracting substantial investment and generating employment. “Our plan is to gradually bring all mills under the ministry back into productive use -- some through jute-based operations, others through diversified industrial activities,” said Muktedir, who is also minister for commerce and industries. The initiative will help boost export earnings and support import substitution the minister added.

Shariful Alam, state minister for the same ministry, said the government is working to accelerate the revival process based on field-level assessments. “We are inspecting mills and taking prompt decisions to ensure these industrial assets become economically viable again,” he said.

The mills fall under the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, which shut down operations at 25 mills in 2020. Out of those, 20 mills were selected for leasing. The ministry has already handed over 14 such mills to private investors. Officials said nine of them have resumed production, creating around 9,500 jobs.

Ashik Chowdhury, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, was also present at the meeting, along with senior officials from the Ministry of Textiles and Jute and representatives of investors.”

Source: The Daily Star dd April 24, 2026

Maritime Transport: Tensions in and around the Middle East continue to disrupt maritime trade, with the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz remaining critical chokepoints for global supply chains. While the situation has partially stabilized compared to the previous escalation, carriers are still adjusting sailing schedules, port calls, and network configurations, resulting in ongoing delays, longer transit times, and reduced schedule reliability.

Freight rates remain elevated, although no longer rising as sharply as in previous weeks. Cost pressure persists due to sustained bunker price volatility and the continued application of security-



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related surcharges, including war risk premiums and contingency fees, which are still impacting key trade lanes such as Asia–Europe and transpacific routes.

Container availability is gradually improving, but imbalances remain in certain regions as delayed vessel rotations and previous port omissions continue to affect equipment repositioning. Overall, logistics costs remain above pre-disruption levels, and supply chains continue to face heightened uncertainty, albeit with slightly improved predictability compared to the peak of the crisis.

India

Raw Jute: Market prices quoted by the Jute Balers Association (JBA) end of last month were fixed as follows: TD-4 IRs 17,600 and TD-5 IRs 17,100 per 100 kgs, which reflects yet another sharp jump in raw jute prices and again a new historic peak. The minimum support price for season 2026-27 is IRs 5,925 per 100 kgs.

The Jute Commissioner has instructed all registered dealers to sell their stocks to mills by 5 May 2026. Following this directive, existing inventories are expected to be liquidated by stockists, which should provide a clearer picture of overall availability. However, any remaining stocks held by farmers and farias (local informal traders) may not be captured, as they are not registered dealers.

Local supplies of raw jute to Indian jute mills were ruling around 329,000 bales during the month of March (compared to 349,000 bales in February). At the end of March, raw jute stock with jute mills were 510,000 bales.

Crop 2025/26: In our last report, based on available statistics, the total crop volume was estimated at 6.0 to 6.5 million bales. We are now awaiting the outcome of the Jute Commissioner's directive regarding the liquidation of stocks, which is expected to provide a clearer and more realistic assessment of the actual crop situation.

New Crop: Sowing reports are positive, with seed distribution reportedly up by 20 % to 25 %. Plant height is currently around 3 to 3.5 feet in Assam and 2 to 2.5 feet in North Bengal. In South Bengal, sowing is still ongoing, although sufficient rainfall has yet to materialise. Overall, early indications suggest that the area under cultivation could increase by approximately 30% in the new season.

Weather: Weather conditions across South Asia are increasingly shaped by a developing El Niño pattern, with a 2026 monsoon expected to be 5–7% below the long-term average. A lack of pre-monsoon nor'wester showers has already led to higher temperatures, with heat levels likely to remain elevated in the coming months.

These conditions are expected to weigh on agricultural output by disrupting planting cycles and reducing yields, particularly for rain-dependent crops. As a result, supply chains may face tighter availability of agro-based commodities, including jute.

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Jute Goods: Situation during the month under review presented itself as follows: Prices for Hessians increased and are now at IRs 216,000 per mton at the time when this report was published. Selective mills are asking for a premium of 2 % to the prices quoted by "standard mills".

Price of Sackings also increased and is now at IRs 207,000 per mton. Price from selective mills is the same, as there were no domestic buyers for Sackings except for mandatory government orders during the month under review.

B-Twills: The Indian government ordered around 200,000 bales of B-twill sacks during the month under review, as expected. Order volume for May is expected to be much smaller at 50.000 bales.

As mentioned in previous reports, there is still a backlog of deliveries from mills for orders placed through November, caused by unworkable prices. The total quantity impacted is still not known exactly but estimated to be around 250,000 bales.

CBC: There is no specific news at this time and apparently also no new orders worth mentioning.

Jute goods production of IJMA jute mills and jute mills reporting to IJMA for March 2026 were 67,700 mtons in total of which 1,900 mtons were jute yarns/twines.

Miscellaneous: West Bengal is facing a potential political shift, with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerging as a strong contender for an electoral win. Market participants continue to monitor the situation for potential changes in the political landscape.

Nepal

Jute Industry: Jute mills, which have long symbolised the industrial identity of eastern Nepal, are currently facing a severe crisis. Following a significant decline in imports of raw jute from Bangladesh and India, jute mills in the Sunsari–Morang Industrial Corridor have reduced their production capacity by around 60%. As production has fallen, nearly 3,000 workers employed in the sector have lost their jobs.

At present, four out of ten jute mills in the corridor are in operation, with a combined production capacity of 240 tonnes per day. However, the shortage of raw materials has reduced actual output to around 100 tonnes per day.

Overall, Nepal's jute mills are currently operating at only around 40% of their capacity. Bangladesh has reduced jute supplies since September 2025, while India has halted exports due to domestic shortages.

In addition, political unrest in the run-up to the early March 2026 parliamentary elections also had a negative impact on production in Nepal's jute industry. ■