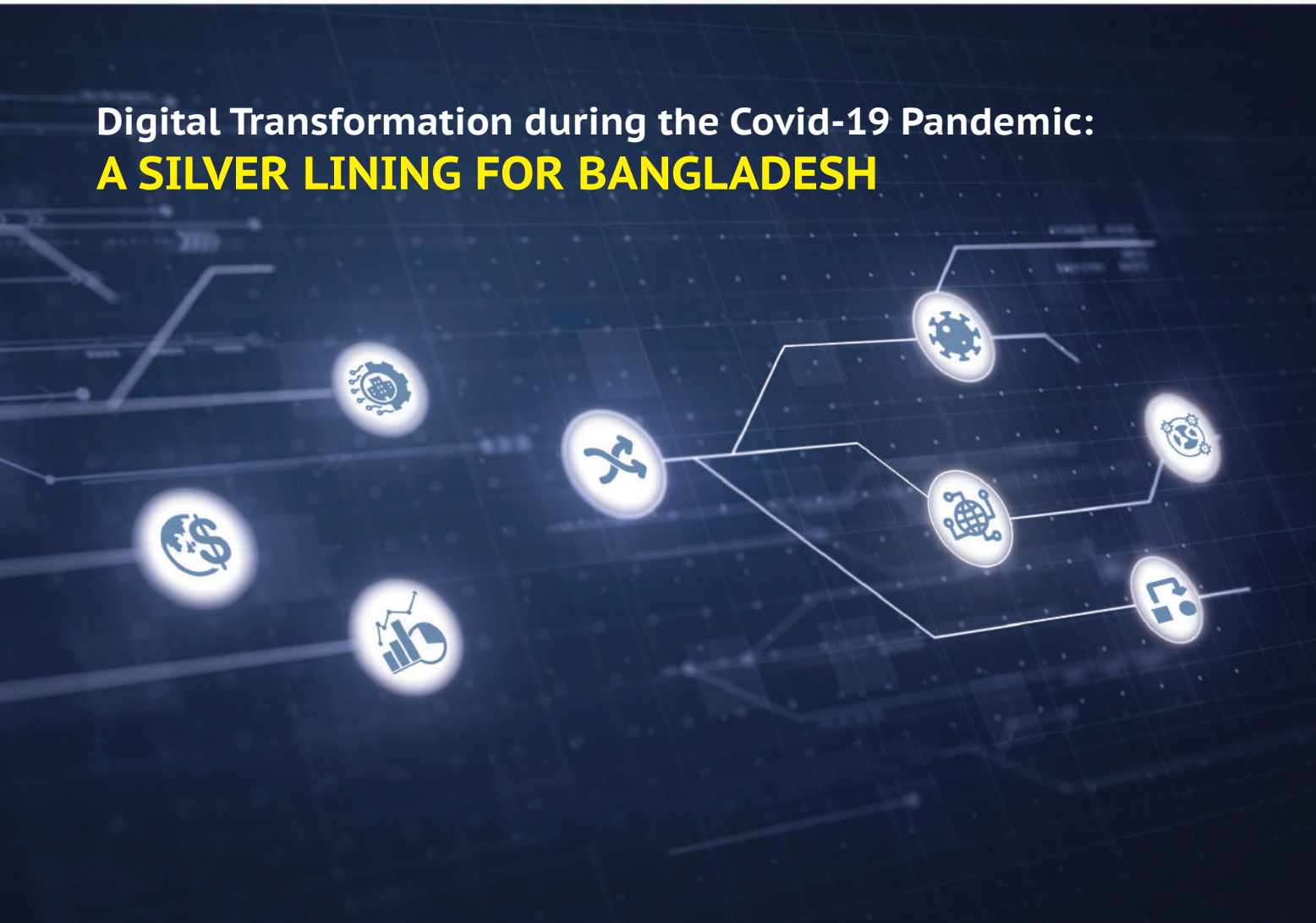


CHAMBER NEWS

ISSUE 12 ■ DECEMBER 2020

Digital Transformation during the Covid-19 Pandemic: **A SILVER LINING FOR BANGLADESH**



METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, DHAKA

খুশকির বিড়ম্বনা? আর না

খুশকি থেকে দ্রুত মুক্তি পেতে হলে ব্যবহার করুন
বিশেষজ্ঞদের পরামর্শের শ্যাম্পু **সিলেক্ট প্লাস**



পণ্যটি কিনতে
স্ক্যান করুন

স্কয়ার ট্যালেন্টেজ লিমিটেড

খুশকি সংক্রান্ত জটিলতা বা প্রশ্ন থাকলে
আপনার চিকিৎসকের পরামর্শ নিন।



VISION

- Be the leading voice serving responsible business



MISSION

- Become the leading Chamber for providing research and analysis related to business in Bangladesh
- Attract quality membership, representative of a cross section of business
- Effectively respond to changing business environment
- Collaborate with local and international institutions
- Engage and communicate regularly with our stakeholders
- Promote best practices that benefit business and society



VALUES

- Fairness
- Integrity
- Respect
- Equal Opportunity



CORE COMPETENCIES - ORGANIZATION

- Research based Policy Advocacy
- Networking
- Business Intelligence



CORE COMPETENCIES – PEOPLE

- Professional
- Innovative
- Adaptable
- Team Player
- Proactive
- Communication & Interpersonal Skills

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EDITORIAL

Digital Transformation during the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Silver Lining for Bangladesh

COVID-19 has been the year's biggest global challenge. The pandemic has triggered an economic shock, resulting in a sharp decline in production, trade, and investment across the whole world. Currently, many countries are experiencing its second wave. It is evident that the crisis is far from over; we must therefore brace ourselves for continued fight against Covid-19 during 2021 as well.

Amid the general setback, a notable development, however, did emerge: the extensive use of digital technology in all facets of life. Bangladesh has seen mass level stakeholders' participation in digital platforms. "Work from Home" has become common and widely accepted by employers, employees, and all concerned during this Covid-19 period. Minimized or no business travelling is saving time, money, and resources. In the education sector, classes from primary to higher levels are being arranged through digital means and learning management systems (LMS). In the health sector, doctors' appointments and consultations have become popular through virtual means. Digital technology is helping freelancing, outsourcing, and local and overseas employment enhancement through skills development.

One of the most astounding developments that have come out of the increased use of digital technologies is how the public can easily avoid crowded banks for paying utility bills. Thanks to Mobile Financial System (MFS) providers, now anyone can do so from the palm of her/his hands. Groceries and other shopping have also taken the online route, resulting in fewer people going out to gather their much-needed items, thus allowing physical distancing during the pandemic. In fact, the E-commerce business has doubled from 15 percent to 30-35 percent during this pandemic and is growing at a very high rate. 'Going Digital' has largely been a success.

What helped the pursuit of digital technologies was the government's preparedness through Digital Bangladesh initiative followed by the automation drive by private sector enterprises like banks, MFS providers, and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) process automation drive by corporates over the last decade. Undoubtedly, mass level acceptance and the use of virtual digital communication technologies such as Zoom, MS Team, and Google Meet are revolutionary developments in the country. Many government actions, including those conducted via the Prime Minister's Office, are also being carried out via digital means. International conferences such as the UN General Assembly, bilateral,



and multilateral conferences are now taking place virtually. Finally, even the country's legal system started operations through virtual court on a limited scale, something which was unconceivable even a few months back.

Among the corporates, stakeholders' transactions including supplier's payments, sales collections from customers, employee's salary payments, tax payments, and utility bill payments are now being arranged through virtual banking transactions or MFS providers. The government's target of ensuring bank account for every citizen by 2024 has been facilitated through increased use of cards, MFSs, Real-Time Gross Settlements (RTGS), Bangladesh Electronic Funds Transfer Network (BEFTN), digital banking, and agent banking during the lockdown. However, the scale of digital payment system is much lower than its real potential due to lack of confidence, convenience, and high costs.

The adoption of digital technology in all spheres of life has significantly increased in Bangladesh over the last few months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In fact, the country saw a surge of around 40 percent internet usage during this period. Regardless of age, sex, income, and location, people are now more accepting of digitalization. The main goal of digitalization is to eradicate poverty, establish good governance, and ensure social security through quality education, health care, and law enforcement for all citizens. Through its actions, the government has succeeded in instilling the public's belief in digital technology. It would, however, need to continue scaling up the use of digital technology to greater levels and ensure its sustainability. Only then will we be able to embrace its full benefits.

ARTICLE

THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE BRANDS 2020

By Marty Swant

When it comes to brand value, it's hard to topple Big Tech. On Forbes' 2020 list of the 100 most valuable brands, the top five are the same as last year: Apple, Google, Microsoft, Amazon, and Facebook. And while the first four have maintained or increased their pace of growth, Facebook has fallen. In fact, the social network's brand value declined by 21% between fiscal-year 2018 and fiscal-year 2019.

Several brands had notable shifts in the annual rankings, which examines financial data from the previous fiscal year. Visa rose from 25th to 18th, Adidas went from 61st to 51th, and Netflix jumped from 38th to 26th. Some luxury brands also saw significant changes, with Chanel going from 79th to 52nd and Cartier from 64th to 56th.

This year's list includes several newcomers: Nintendo, Hennessy, Burger King, and AXA are in the top 100. Meanwhile, some of the companies with the biggest losses were legacy tech companies like GE, HP Inc., and IBM, which saw total values decrease by 14%, 12%, and 10% respectively. Phillips, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and Kellogg's were knocked off this year's rankings entirely.

"There's a stickiness to brand value that's pretty astounding when we think about it," said Christie Nordhielm, a marketing professor at Georgetown University. "So at the same time that tech and the new brands are taking off, there is a stickiness to brand—both specific brands and corporate brands. And that ladders up to brand valuations, and sometimes that stickiness gives the false sense of security that can go badly. Just like everything we're experiencing now, there is a lag effect."

Notably higher this year was Walmart. The retailer's brand value increased 12% year-over-year to \$29.5 billion while jumping in the ranks from 26th to 19th. "Walmart has been putting a lot of effort into modernizing their delivery and trying to compete," Nordhielm said. "They're up against Amazon, and that's a tough competitor, but Walmart is not a shrinking violet. They're not going to go down quietly. In a sense, Amazon is helping Walmart and forcing them to raise their game."

There were also some big drops, especially in the auto sector. While Mercedes-Benz fell from 17th to 23rd and BMW dropped from 21st to 27th, Nissan has been knocked off the list entirely—falling from 81st just a year prior. Other declines in rankings included Wells Fargo (42th to 69th) and KFC (86th to 96th).

Brand value often falls because companies have a hard time defending brand positioning, according to Tim Calkins, a marketing professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. As a result, companies can struggle with competition, leading to declines that reflect the pressure put on them.

"HP (Inc.) is a brand that's really struggled to define itself," Calkins said. "The best brands are really well defined. And when you have a brand that loses its distinctive meaning it is almost always going to struggle in the market and then the valuations."

Older brands with newer competitors also saw losses in value and ranking. For example, Gillette continues to face mounting pressure from startups like Harry's—which was acquired last year for \$1.4 billion by Edgewell Personal Care, parent company of Schick—and

Dollar Shave Club, which Unilever bought in 2016 for \$1 billion.

Next year's top 100 could look different than this year's as the fallout from the Covid-19 crisis and economic downturn continue to affect both the largest and smallest companies around the world. But as for now, companies with big gains in 2019 like Amazon, Netflix, and PayPal also seem on track to be big winners during the pandemic when it comes to trends in e-commerce, streaming, and shifts in payments.

"People have long said brands are going to fade away and aren't so important now with the internet," Calkins said. "You don't need to rely on the brand and just read reviews. But what you see is brands remain incredibly important and incredibly strong. They create value in different ways now, but there is no doubt when you look at these companies that brands have real value for these companies."

Methodology

After assessing a universe of 200 global brands with a significant presence in the U.S., our first step in valuing each was to determine revenue and earnings before interest and taxes. We then averaged earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) over the past three fiscal years (2017 through 2019) and subtracted from earnings a charge of 8% of the brand's capital employed, figuring the average brand should be able to earn at least 8% on this capital.

Forbes also applied the corporate tax rate in the parent company's home country to the net earnings figure and then allocated a percentage of those earnings to the brand based on the role it plays in its industry. To this net brand earnings number, we applied the average price-to-earnings multiple

over the past three years to arrive at the final brand value. For privately held outfits, we applied earnings multiples for comparable public companies.

Brands by The Numbers

Total Value: The top 100 most valuable brands in total were worth \$2.54 trillion, up from \$2.33 trillion last year.

Countries: Companies based in the U.S. made up more than 50 of the top 100. Other most represented countries included Japan (6), Germany (10), France (9), and Switzerland (5).

Industries: The tech sector was the most common in the rankings with 20 companies, followed by 14 in financial services, 11 in auto, and 8 in retail.

Following are the top 15 brands.



Apple, Inc. with a brand value of \$241.2 billion engages in the design, manufacture, and sale of smartphones, personal computers, tablets, wearables and accessories, and other variety of related services. It operates through the following geographical segments: Americas, Europe, Greater China, Japan, and Rest of Asia Pacific. Its products and services include iPhone, Mac, iPad, AirPods, Apple TV, Apple Watch, Beats products, Apple Care, iCloud, digital content stores, streaming, and licensing services. The company was founded by Steven Paul Jobs, Ronald Gerald Wayne, and Stephen G. Wozniak on April 1, 1976 and is headquartered in Cupertino, CA.



Google, Inc. with a brand value of \$207.5 billion focuses on improving the ways people connect with information. It provides variety of services and tools for advertisers of all sizes, from simple text ads to display and mobile advertising and to publishers, whether small or large. The company primarily focuses on the areas which include search, advertising, operating systems, platforms, enterprise and hardware products. The search area consists of a vast index of websites and other online content which is made available through its search engine to anyone with an Internet connection. The advertising area includes AdWords, AdSense, Google Display, Google Mobile programs and Google Local. The operating systems and platform area is comprised of Android, Google Chrome OS and Google Chrome, Google TV and Google Books. Google's enterprise products area provides familiar, easy-to-use Google technology for business settings. The company was founded by Sergey Brin & Lawrence E. Page on September 4, 1998 and is headquartered in Mountain View, CA.



Microsoft Corp. with brand value of \$162.9 billion engages in the development and support of software, services, devices, and solutions. It operates through the following business segments: Productivity and Business Processes; Intelligent Cloud; and More Personal Computing. The Productivity and Business Processes segment comprises products and services in the portfolio of productivity, communication, and information services of the company spanning a variety of devices and platform. The Intelligent Cloud segment refers

to the public, private, and hybrid serve products and cloud services of the company which can power modern business. The More Personal Computing segment encompasses products and services geared towards the interests of end users, developers, and IT professionals across all devices. The company was founded by Paul Gardner Allen and William Henry Gates III in 1975 and is headquartered in Redmond, WA.



Amazon.com, Inc. engages in the provision of online retail shopping services. It operates through the following business segments: North America, International, and Amazon Web Services (AWS). The North America segment includes retail sales of consumer products and subscriptions through North America-focused websites such as www.amazon.com and www.amazon.ca. The International segment offers retail sales of consumer products and subscriptions through internationally-focused websites. The Amazon Web Services segment involves in the global sales of compute, storage, database, and AWS service offerings for start-ups, enterprises, government agencies, and academic institutions. The company with brand value of \$135.4 billion was founded by Jeffrey P. Bezos in July 1994 and is headquartered in Seattle, WA.



Facebook, Inc. with a brand value of \$70.3 billion operates as a social networking company worldwide. The company engages in the development

of social media applications for people to connect through mobile devices, personal computers, and other surfaces. It enables users to share opinions, ideas, photos, videos, and other activities online. The firm's products include Facebook, Instagram, Messenger, WhatsApp, and Oculus. The company was founded by Mark Elliot Zuckerberg, Dustin Moskovitz, Chris R. Hughes, Andrew McCollum, and Eduardo P. Saverin on February 4, 2004 and is headquartered in Menlo Park, CA.



The Coca-Cola Co. with a brand value of \$64.4 billion is the nonalcoholic beverage company, which engages in the manufacture, market, and sale of non-alcoholic beverages which include sparkling soft drinks, water, enhanced water and sports drinks, juice, dairy and plant-based beverages, tea and coffee and energy drinks. Its brands include Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Coca-Cola Zero, Fanta, Sprite, Minute Maid, Georgia, Powerade, Del Valle, Schweppes, Aquarius, Minute Maid Pulpy, Dasani, Simply, Glaceau Vitaminwater, Bonaqua, Gold Peak, Fuze Tea, Glaceau Smartwater, and Ice Dew. The company was founded by Asa Griggs Candler in 1886 and is headquartered in Atlanta, GA.



The Walt Disney Co. with a brand value of \$61.3 billion is a diversified international family entertainment and media enterprise. It was founded by Walter Elias Disney on October 16,

1923 and is headquartered in Burbank, CA. It operates through the following segments: Media Networks, Parks, Experiences and Products, Studio Entertainment and Direct-to-Consumer and International (DTCI).

The Media Networks segment includes cable and broadcast television networks, television production and distribution operations, domestic television stations, radio networks and stations.

The Parks, Experiences and Products segment owns and operates the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida; the Disneyland Resort in California; Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa in Hawaii; the Disney Vacation Club; the Disney Cruise Line; and Adventures by Disney.

The Studio Entertainment segment produces and acquires live-action and animated motion pictures, direct-to-video content, musical recordings and live stage plays.

The DTCI segment licenses the company's trade names, characters and visual and literary properties to various manufacturers, game developers, publishers and retailers throughout the world.



Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. with a brand value of \$50.4 billion engages in the manufacturing and selling of electronics and computer peripherals. The company operates through following business divisions: Consumer Electronics, Information Technology & Mobile Communications and Device Solutions. The Consumer Electronics business division provides cable television, monitor, printer, air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines and medical devices.

The Information Technology & Mobile Communications business division offers handheld products, communication systems, computers and digital cameras. The Device Solutions business division comprises of memory, system large scale integrated circuit and light emitting diode. The company was founded on January 13, 1969 and is headquartered in Suwon, South Korea.



Louis Vuitton with a brand value of \$47.2 billion is the world's most valuable luxury brand and is a division of LVMH. Its products include leather goods, handbags, trunks, shoes, watches, jewelry and accessories. Most of these are adorned with the LV monogram. It is one of the most profitable brands in the world with profit margins north of 30%. Louis Vuitton launched its first perfume in 70 years during 2016, and LVMH built a state-of-the-art fragrance factory to develop the perfumes. Actress Emma Stone was the star of Louis Vuitton's first fragrance film. The brand added men's fragrances last year. Maison Louis Vuitton launched a new Paris flagship store in 2017, and the brand celebrates its 165th anniversary this year. Actresses Léa Seydoux and Alicia Vikander continue to serve as brand ambassadors for Louis Vuitton.



McDonald's Corp. with a brand value of \$46.1 billion engages in the operation and franchising of restaurants. It operates through the following segments: U.S.; International Operated Markets; and International Developmental Licensed Markets and

Corporate. The U.S. segment focuses its operations in the United States. The International Operated Markets segment comprises operations and franchising of restaurant in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, and the U.K. The International Developmental Licensed Markets and Corporate segment consists developmental licensee and affiliate markets in the McDonald's system. The firm's products include Big Mac, Quarter Pounder with Cheese, Filet-O-Fish, several chicken sandwiches, Chicken McNuggets, wraps, McDonald's Fries, salads, oatmeal, shakes, McFlurry desserts, sundaes, soft serve cones, pies, soft drinks, coffee, McCafé beverages, and other beverages. The company was founded by Raymond Albert Kroc on April 15, 1955 and is headquartered in Oak Brook, IL



Toyota Motor Corp. with a brand value of \$41.5 billion engages in the manufacture and sale of motor vehicles and parts. It operates through the following segments: Automotive, Financial Services, and All Other. The Automotive segment designs, manufactures, assembles and sells passenger cars, minivans, trucks, and related vehicle parts and accessories. It is also involved in the development of intelligent transport systems. The Financial Services segment offers purchase or lease financing to Toyota vehicle dealers and customers. It also provides retail leasing through lease contracts purchase by dealers. The All Others segment deals with the design and manufacture and sale of housing, telecommunications and other businesses. The company was founded by Kiichiro Toyoda on August 28, 1937 and is headquartered in Toyota, Japan.



Intel Corp. engages in the design, manufacture, and sale of computer products and technologies. It delivers computer, networking, data storage, and communications platforms. The firm operates through the following segments: Client Computing Group (CCG), Data Center Group (DCG), Internet of Things Group (IOTG), Non-Volatile Memory Solutions Group (NSG), Programmable Solutions (PSG), and All Other. The company with a brand value of \$39.5 billion was founded by Robert Norton Noyce and Gordon Earle Moore on July 18, 1968 and is headquartered in Santa Clara, CA.



NIKE, Inc. with a brand value of \$39.1 billion engages in the design, development, marketing, and sale of athletic footwear, apparel, accessories, equipment, and services. It operates through the following segments: North America; Europe, Middle East & Africa; Greater China; Asia Pacific & Latin America; Global Brand Divisions; Converse; and Corporate. The North America; Europe, Middle East & Africa; Greater China; and Asia Pacific & Latin America segments refers to the design, development, marketing, and selling of athletic footwear, apparel, and equipment. The Global Brand Divisions represents NIKE Brand licensing businesses. The Converse segment designs, markets, licenses, and sells casual sneakers, apparel, and accessories. The Corporate segment consists of unallocated general and administrative expenses. The company was founded by William Jay Bowerman and Philip H. Knight in 1964 and is headquartered in Beaverton, OR.



AT&T, Inc. is a holding company, which engages in the provision of telecommunications media and technology service. It operates through the following segments: Communications, WarnerMedia, Latin America and Xandr. The Communications segment provides services to businesses and consumers located in the U.S., or in U.S. territories, and businesses globally. The WarnerMedia segment develops, produces and distributes feature films, television, gaming and other content over various physical and digital formats. The Latin America segment provides entertainment and wireless services outside of the U.S. The Xandar segment provides advertising services. The company with a brand value of \$37.3 billion was founded in 1983 and is headquartered in Dallas, TX.



Cisco Systems, Inc. with a brand value of \$36 billion engages in the design, manufacture, and sale of Internet Protocol based networking products and services related to the communications and information technology industry. The firm operates through the following geographical segments: the Americas, EMEA, and APJC. Its product comprises of the following categories: Switches, Routers, Wireless, Network Management Interfaces and Modules, Optical Networking, Access Points, Outdoor and Industrial Access Points, Next-Generation Firewalls, Advanced Malware Protection, VPN Security Clients, Email, and Web Security.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com>

MEMBERS NEWS

ROBI AXIATA LIMITED

Standard Chartered Bank and Robi Axiata Limited introduced a co-branded credit card with a view to providing innovative services to enterprise business customers. Standard Chartered also signed an agreement in this regard to bolster its ongoing collaboration on smart analytics, data science, and other areas of digital technologies. Mr. Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, Robi's managing director and Mr. Naser Ezaz Bijoy, Standard Chartered's chief executive officer, signed the agreement on behalf of respective sides at Robi head office. Both the noted corporate leaders expressed their keen interest to jointly explore innovative digital solutions to serve their customers better. Robi's Chief Enterprise Business Officer Mr. Md. Adil Hossain Noble, Vice President, Enterprise Business, Mr. Fahmidul Hasan, General Manager, Mr. Nafiz Ahmed Sayed, and Key Account Manager, Ms. Taskina Islam were present on the occasion. Standard Chartered's Head of Retail Banking, Mr. Sabbir Ahmed, Head of Cards, Mr. Sohail Alim, and Head of Unsecured Products, Mr. Tawfique Imam were also present at the signing ceremony.



LANKABANGLA FINANCE LIMITED

A corporate agreement was signed between LankaBangla Finance Limited and Nagad, the digital financial arm of the Bangladesh Post Office recently. Under the agreement, customers of LankaBangla Finance Limited will be able to enjoy convenient payment facility for their credit card bill payment, monthly deposit and loan installment payment through Nagad from anywhere across Bangladesh at any time without any hassle. Mr. Khwaja Shahriar, Managing Director and CEO of LankaBangla Finance Limited and Mr. Mohammad Aminul Haque, Director, CEO (Acting) and CFO of Nagad signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Senior officials of both the companies were also present in the occasion. With this corporate agreement both LankaBangla Finance Limited and Nagad can bring change and add value to the lifestyle of customers.



APEX FOOTWEAR LIMITED

Apex Footwear Limited announced the launch of its athletic footwear production capability in collaboration with Decathlon, the leading French sports goods retailer on 16 November 2020. The two partners had been working together on the project called CarpeDiem for nearly a year. The unit is the first footwear production facility in Bangladesh to utilize an IoT-based production solution. Apex Chairman Mr. Syed Manzur Elahi said, "this marks a significant step in our pursuit of quality and process excellence as our team has utilized the latest technologies and performance-based production process, that Decathlon also institutionalized globally". Apex has started production of sports shoes for global sports footwear brands and retailers and is looking to reach 70% efficiency within 12 months.



MUTUAL TRUST BANK LIMITED

Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) recently signed an agreement with United Development Initiatives (UDDIPAN) at an event held at MTB Centre in the capital. Under the agreement, MTB, with a view to enabling customers to enjoy digitized cash management service, will provide UDDIPAN with



the fully automated payment and collection solutions. MTB, apart from the agreement, recently increased credit facilities amounting to Tk 1,000 million for UDDIPAN. Mr. Bidyut Kumar Basu, Executive Director & CEO, UDDIPAN and Mr. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Managing Director & CEO, MTB signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Mr. Syed Rafiqul Haq, Additional Managing Director & Chief Business Officer, Mr. Tarek Reaz Khan, Deputy Managing Director, Mr. Md. Bakhteyar Hossain, Head of Transaction Banking, Mr. Kamrul Hasan Khan, Head of Wholesale Banking Division (WBD) Gulshan, Mr. Azam Khan, Head of Communications Department of MTB along with other senior officials from both the organizations were also present at the event.

BRAC BANK LIMITED

BRAC Bank Limited recently received the Global SME Finance Awards in the Silver Category of SME Bank of the Year - Asia. This is the second consecutive year that BRAC Bank has been awarded with this accolade. IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, and the SME Finance Forum jointly organized the 2020 Global SME Finance Awards ceremony on a virtual platform. Commenting on the win, Mr. Selim RF Hussain, Managing Director and CEO of the bank, said: "Our SME team has delivered yet again, and this award is an acknowledgment of their tireless efforts and strive for excellence. With its network of 456 SME unit offices, BRAC Bank's focus has always been on SMEs and it will remain there for a long time. The bank takes financing solutions to the doorsteps of the SME entrepreneurs in both rural and semi-urban Bangladesh."



EASTERN BANK LIMITED

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) awarded Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) the '2020 Leading SME Trade Bank' for its contribution in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Bangladesh. Expressing his satisfaction at the achievement, Mr. Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director and chief executive of EBL, said, "This award reflects how effectively and efficiently EBL has been supporting the businesses of the country by using its global correspondent banking and DFI relationship. It ensures a win-win outcome for the partners including customers engaged, Development Financial Institutions, global correspondent banks and EBL." ADB Relationship Manager Can Sutken said, "EBL is a valued partner of the Asian Development Bank and we are pleased to recognize its outstanding contribution in supporting small-and medium-sized enterprises in Bangladesh."



CORPORATE NEWS



Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd is going to invest Tk 914.8 million on Jenson & Nicholson (Bangladesh) Ltd for the establishment of latter's second unit at Savar. The project is expected to be completed in 2022. Jenson & Nicholson (Bangladesh) is the wholly owned subsidiary of Berger Paints Bangladesh. It is the pioneer metal can manufacture company which has been involved in the metal container's business in Bangladesh since 1990. The paid-up capital of Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd is 463.78 million, authorized capital is Tk 1.0 billion and the total number of securities is more than 46.37 million. Sponsor-directors owned 95 percent stake in the company while institutional investors owned 2.67 percent, foreign investors 0.95 percent and the general public 1.38 percent as on 30 September 2020.



Regent Textile Mills recommended 1.0 percent cash dividend for general shareholders excluding sponsors/directors and 1.0 percent stock dividend for all shareholders for the year ended on 30 June 2020. The company also reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 0.31 in the negative, net asset value (NAV) per share of Tk 28.46 and net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk 0.62 for the year ended on 30 June 2020 against Tk 0.93 (restated), Tk. 30.21 and Tk. 0.97 (restated) respectively for the same period of the previous year. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 1.27 billion and authorized capital is Tk 1.50 billion while the total number of securities is 127.33 million. The sponsor-directors owned 54.55 percent stake in the company, while the institutional investors owned 5.78 percent and the general public 39.67 percent on 31 October 2020.



The board of directors of Fortune Shoes Limited recommended 5.0 percent cash (excluding sponsors & directors) and 5.0 percent stock dividend for all the shareholders for the year ended on 30 June 2020. The company also reported EPS of

Tk. 0.80, NAV per share of Tk. 13.63 and NOCFPS of Tk. 0.42 for the year ended on 30 June 2020 against Tk. 1.48, Tk. 15.28 and Tk. 1.12 respectively for the same period of the previous year. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 1.47 billion and authorized capital is Tk 1.50 billion while total number of securities is 147.42 million. The sponsor-directors owned 30.93 percent stake in the company, while the institutional investors owned 16.64 percent and the general public 52.43 percent on 31 October 2020.



OLYMPIC INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Olympic Industries Ltd reported that its net profit had jumped 8.02 percent to Tk 2.02 billion for the year ended on 30 June 2020 compared to the previous year. The board of directors of the company recommended a 52 percent cash dividend for the year ended on 30 June 2020. The company also decided to import new types of machinery at an estimated cost of Tk 420 million to produce new premium varieties of Cracker and Hard Dough Biscuits to meet the growing demand. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 1.99 billion and authorized capital is Tk 2.0 billion while total number of securities is 199.93 million. The sponsor-directors owned 27.73 percent stake in the company, while the institutional investors owned 16.97 percent, foreign investors 39.73 percent, and the general public 15.57 percent as on 30 September 2020.



The board of directors of recently listed Associated Oxygen Limited recommended 2.0 percent cash dividend to public shareholders other than sponsors-directors and 8.0 percent stock dividend to all the shareholders for the year ended on 30 June 2020. The company reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk. 1.87, net asset value (NAV) per share of Tk. 19.25 and net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk. 2.66 for the year ended on June 30, 2020 as against Tk. 1.51, Tk. 17.37 and Tk. 2.37 respectively for the same period of the previous year. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 950 million and authorized capital is Tk 1.10 billion, while the total number of securities is 95 million. The sponsor-directors owned 30.66 percent stake in the company, while the institutional investors owned 28.70 percent, and the general public 40.65 percent on 22 October 2020.



Renata Limited recommended 130 percent cash and 10 percent stock dividend for the year ended on 30 June 2020. For the year ended on 30 June 2020, the company reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 45.29, which was 6.84 percent higher than the EPS of the previous year. It also reported consolidated NAV per share of Tk. 245.65 and consolidated NOCFPS of Tk. 52.89 for the year ended on 30 June 2020 against Tk. 209.91 and Tk. 47.76 respectively for the same period of the previous year. Renata, presently an 'A' category company of the pharmaceuticals sector, was listed on the stock exchange in 1979.



The Board of Directors of Esquire Knit Composite Limited, a business unit of the Esquire Group, recommended a 15 percent cash dividend for the year ended on 30 June 2020. The company also reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 1.97, net asset value (NAV) per share (with revaluation reserve) of Tk 50.61, NAV per share (without revaluation reserve) of Tk 35.88 and net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk 2.13 for the year ended on 30 June 2020. The company's paid-up capital is 1.34 billion whereas the authorized capital is Tk 2.0 billion and the total number of securities is more than 134.89 million. Sponsor-directors owned 46.95 percent stake in the company while institutional investors owned 40.67 percent and the general public 12.38 percent on 30 September 2020.



The board of directors of Express Insurance Ltd declared a 5.0 percent interim cash dividend based on nine months' un-audited financial statements that ended on 30 September 2020. The non-life insurer's nine months un-audited earnings per share (EPS) was Tk 0.84 for January-September 2020 against Tk 0.71 for January-September 2019. The net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) was Tk. 2.37 for January-September 2020 against Tk. 0.76 for January-September 2019. The net asset value (NAV) per share was Tk. 15.53 as on 30 September 2020 and Tk. 18.04 as on 31 December 2019. The company's paid-up capital is 651.97 million, authorized capital is Tk 750 million and the total number of securities is more than 65.19 million. Sponsor-directors owned 60 percent stake in the company while institutional investors owned 14.50 percent and the general public 25.50 percent on 30 September. 2020.



Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) recently approved the initial public offering (IPO) proposal of Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd. The construction and engineering company intends to raise Tk 125 crore from public for expanding its business. The company will issue 20.7 million shares at Tk54-Tk60 each. Earlier on 13 August, BSEC allowed the company, which was founded in 1968, to conduct its book-building among eligible institutional investors. The cut-off price of shares was set at Tk60. Institutional investors will be offered 50 percent of the shares at the cut-off price. The remaining 50 percent will be offered to other investors, including general investors and non-resident Bangladeshis.



IFAD Autos Limited, the sole distributor of Indian commercial vehicle giant Ashok Leyland, saw its profits soar 37.6 percent between July and September 2020 to Tk 172.4 crore as the reopening of the economy from June led to a sharp recovery in sales. During the period, the company -- which imports buses, covered vans, trucks, minivans, tippers, tractors and other heavy-duty commercial vehicles from India -- logged in sales of Tk 187.8 crore, up 4.4 percent year-on-year. IFAD Autos, which was listed in 2015, recommended a total of 11 per cent dividend -- 9 per cent cash and 2 per cent stock -- for the year ended on 30 June. In the previous year, it gave 10 percent cash dividend.



Brac, the world's biggest non-development organization, is set to purchase 25 million shares of Brac Bank Limited, where it already holds a 44 percent stake. The development comes after Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) in a commission meeting gave the nod to the purchase after Brac complied with the BSEC (Prohibition of Insider Trading Rules), 1995, and BSEC Substantial Share Acquisition, Takeover and Control) Rules 2018. Brac is expected to buy the bank's shares by November 30 through the stock exchange. Brac Bank was founded on July 4, 2001 to reach the large number of unbanked people which were not covered by traditional bank. The main concept of the bank was to facilitate financing for small and medium enterprises.



Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSRC) recently approved an initial public offering (IPO) proposal of NRB Commercial Bank to raise a capital worth Tk 1.2 billion issuing 120 million ordinary shares of Tk 10 each. The subscription of the bank's IPO will begin in February 2021. The bank will utilize the IPO proceeds to purchase government securities, invest in the secondary market and bear the IPO expenses. Asian Tiger Capital Partners Investment Limited and AFC Capital Limited are the issue managers of the bank. NRBC Bank was incorporated on 20 February 2013 as a public limited company. It has 75 branches, 42 sub-branches, and 583 agent banking partners all over the country.



The board of directors of Aman Feed Limited recommended 10 percent cash and 2.5 percent stock dividend for the year ended on 30 June 2020. The company also reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 2.71, net asset value (NAV) per share of Tk. 34.80 and net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk. 1.46 for the year ended on 30 June 2020 against Tk. 3.75, Tk. 32.54 and Tk. 4.94 respectively for the same period of the previous year. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 1.27 billion and authorized capital is Tk 1.50 billion while the total number of securities is 127.77 million. The sponsor-directors owned 63.26 percent stake in the company, while the institutional investors owned 12.51 percent, foreign investors 0.01 percent, and the general public 24.22 percent on 31 October 2020.



The board of directors of Bangladesh Finance and Investment Company Limited recently decided to issue 'BD Finance 1st Zero Coupon Bond' worth Tk 2.0 billion for expansion of business and diversification of funding sources. The nature of the bond is non-convertible, fully redeemable and unsecured zero-coupon bond. The tenure of the bond is three years and the discount rate will be 7.0 percent to 7.50 percent per annum. Bond units worth Tk 1.0 million each will be offered to eligible investors through private placement. However, the bond issue is subject to the approval of the concerned regulatory authorities. The City Bank Capital Resources and Sandhani Life Insurance Company are the mandated lead arranger and trustee of the bond respectively. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 1.67 billion and authorized capital is Tk 2.0 billion while the total number of securities is 167.52 million.



International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, is making a fresh investment of \$25 million in the Bank Asia Limited in an effort to provide liquidity to businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh and help preserve jobs. The IFC's loan to Bank Asia Limited will provide critical working capital to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and corporate clients to continue their operations. The financing package is part of IFC's \$8 billion global COVID-19 fast-track financing facility, aimed at helping companies stay afloat during the ongoing public health crisis.



The board of directors of GQ Ball Pen Industries recommended 5.0 percent cash dividend for the general shareholders excluding sponsors/directors for the year ended on 30 June 2020. The company also reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 7.64 in the negative, net asset value (NAV) per share of Tk 134.21 and net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk 2.79 in the negative for the year ended on 30 June 2020. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 89.28 million and authorized capital is Tk 500 million while the total number of securities is 8.92 million. The sponsor-directors owned 41.88 percent stake in the company, while the institutional investors owned 1.47 percent, foreign investors 0.05 percent and the general public 56.60 percent on 31 October 2020.



The board of directors of Golden Son Ltd recommended a 2.5 percent cash dividend for general shareholders, excluding sponsors/directors for the year ended on 30 June 2020. The company has also reported consolidated earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 1.05 in the negative, consolidated net asset value (NAV) per share of Tk 20.03 and consolidated net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk 0.10 for the year ended on June 30, 2020. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 1.71 billion and authorized capital is Tk 5.0 billion while the total number of securities is 171.72 million. The sponsor-directors own 38.98 per cent stake in the company, while the institutional investors own 18.91 percent and the general public 42.11 percent as on October 31, 2020. Incorporated in 2013, Golden Son Ltd (G.S.L) is a Taiwan-Bangladesh joint venture company. The engineering sector company is also producing baby items and teen products and garments accessories, fan and related accessories, aerosol products like body spray, gas, air freshener, perfume etc.

NATIONAL NEWS

BEPZA INKS \$12 MILLION INVESTMENT DEAL WITH GERMAN COMPANY



German company M/S. UBF Bridal Limited is going to establish a high-end bridal wear manufacturing plant with an investment of US\$ 11.87 million in Adamjee EPZ. The company to this effect signed an agreement with Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA). Mentionable, M/s. UBF Bridal Limited is relocating its factory from Poland to Bangladesh. Other than bridal wear, the company will produce 27 different types of bridal items. They will produce 600,000 pieces of products annually to be exported to different countries including Europe. This factory will create employment opportunity for 113 local people.

NUMBER OF INTERNET BANKING CUSTOMERS TOPS 3 MILLION TILL SEPTEMBER

The number of internet banking users surpassed 3 million at the end of September 2020 as people found fintech-based transactions more convenient compared with physical visits to bank branches following the COVID-19 outbreak. Utility bill and credit card bill payments, intra-bank and interbank fund transfers, transaction statements, fund transfers to mobile financial service accounts and account opening are among the services which can be accessed through internet banking. The BB data also showed that the volume of transactions through internet banking stood at Tk 70.06 billion in September whereas the amount was Tk 53.64 billion in the previous month.

BB WIDENS THE SCOPE FOR REMITTING INCOME OUTWARD BY BUSINESSES



Bangladesh Bank widened the scope for businesses to remit earnings outward, within 1 percent of sales revenue, as training and consultancy fees. The central bank issued a circular in this regard recently. Under the revised policy, legitimate current payments like audit fee, certification fee, commissioning fee, testing fee and valuation fee, among others, will be remittable under the 1-percent limit. The new facilities will be applicable to industrial enterprises operating in domestic processing areas of special zones which have sales in taka, the circular noted. The circular, however, restricts payments which require permission from competent authorities, including Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, for remittances of royalty, technical knowledge or technical assistance and franchise fees.

LISTED COMPANIES CAN NOW DISBURSE INTERIM CASH DIVIDEND



Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has allowed the listed companies to recommend and distribute interim cash dividend from retained earnings subject to fulfilment of other rules and requirements. BSEC said this in a clarification of its previous directive regarding dividend disbursement. Previously, the listed companies could not recommend and disburse the interim dividend from retained earnings.

GOVT NET BANK BORROWING DROPS IN FOUR MONTHS

The government's borrowing from the country's scheduled banks dropped further in October, bringing down the government's net borrowing to Tk 945 crore in the July-October period of the current fiscal year of 2020-2021. The government's net borrowing from the banking system dropped mainly due to an increase in sales of national savings certificates. In the banking sector, the weighted average deposit rate dropped to an all-time low at 4.79 percent in August, prompting people diverting their funds to other investment tools including NSCs where yield rate is around 12 percent.

EPZ INVESTORS ALLOWED TO REUSE IMPORT CONTAINERS FOR EXPORT



The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has allowed the reuse of import containers for export by investors in export processing zones to reduce time and cost of export. The NBR's Customs Department issued the standard operating procedures for container reuse for EPZ companies on November 5. Before the reuse benefit was given, shipping agents or freight forwarders used to bring the empty containers back to the ports or container freight stations or other designated depots located mainly in Chattogram. EPZ investors would then bring the empty containers to the EPZs to load the export goods and send them to the ports for shipment. The whole process would require additional time and incur extra cost to complete the export procedures.

EPB REDUCES REX FEE FOR RMG EXPORT TO EU



Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) recently reduced the rate of service charges for verification of documents under the REX to Tk 250 from Tk 375 against each consignment of goods to be exported to the EU. As per instructions from the EU, the government introduced a registered exporter system for the country's exporters for shipment of goods to the European Union in July 2019 by giving registration numbers to 10 exporters. Under the system, Bangladeshi exporters would self-certify the country of origin to avail the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) facility on the EU market.

STIMULUS FOR FOREIGN COS HIKED TO TK 7,000 CRORE

The Bangladesh Bank enhanced the size of the stimulus package meant for large industries and service sectors as working capital loan to Tk 7,000 crore in an attempt to support foreign companies operating in Bangladesh to tackle the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak. The enhanced Tk 7,000-crore stimulus would be provided as working capital loans to companies located at the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and the Bangladesh High-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA). The interest rate on the loan would be 9 percent and the government would bear half the interest as subsidy.

TRAVEL TAX COLLECTION FALLS BY 89% IN JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020



Travel tax collection declined drastically by Tk 304 crore or 89 percent in the first quarter of the current fiscal year 2020-2021 due to very limited overseas travel amid border restrictions imposed by most countries around the globe over the COVID-19 outbreak. Travel tax collection by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) stood at only Tk 36 crore in the July-September period of FY21 compared with Tk 340 crore collected in the same period of FY20, according to the NBR data.

168.069 MILLION ACTIVE CELL PHONE USERS

The number of active cell phone users in the country reached 168.069 million at the end of October 2020, according to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). Of the mobile operators, Grameenphone had 78.121 million subscribers, while Robi had 50.413 million, Banglalink had 34.917 million and Teletalk 4.618 million at the end of month.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia will ease foreign workers' contractual restrictions, including the freedom to change jobs, the kingdom's deputy minister for human resources said. The plans, which will take effect in March 2021, include foreign workers' right to leave the country without employers' permission. The Ministry of Human Resource and Social Development said the reforms will allow foreign workers the right to change jobs by transferring their sponsorship from one employer to another, leave and re-enter the country and secure final exit visas without the consent of their employer, which had long been required. The new so-called "Labour Relation Initiative" will affect approximately 10 million foreign workers in the kingdom, about a third of Saudi Arabia's total population.

PAKISTAN

During July-October of FY21, remittances sent home by Pakistanis living abroad increased to \$9.4 billion, recording a growth of 26.5 percent over the same period last year, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). In October 2020, remittances amounted to \$2.3 billion, increasing by 14.1 percent compared to October 2019. Remittances remained above \$2.0 billion for the fifth consecutive month in October 2020. A large part of y/y increase in October 2020 was sourced from Saudi Arabia (30 percent), United States (16 percent) and United Kingdom (14.6 percent).

JAPAN

Japan's economy exited recession in the third quarter, growing a better-than-expected 5.0 percent, following a record contraction. A rise in domestic demand as well as exports helped drive the quarter-on-quarter growth, after the coronavirus pandemic and a consumption tax hike slammed the

economy into reverse earlier in the year. The positive figures come after three quarters of contraction in the world's third-largest economy, with revised data showing the economy shrank 8.2 percent in Q2, more than the previously estimated 7.9 percent. That was the worst figure for Japan since comparable data became available in 1980, exceeding even the brutal impact of the 2008 global financial crisis.

INDONESIA

Indonesia's virus-hit economy contracted in the third quarter, plunging it into its first recession since the country was mired in the Asian financial crisis more than 20 years ago. Activity in Southeast Asia's biggest economy slumped 3.49 percent on-year in July-September, with tourism, construction and trade among the hardest-hit sectors. The data marked the second consecutive quarter of contraction after a 5.3 percent decline in April-June quarter. Indonesia last suffered a recession in 1999 during a regional currency crisis that helped force the resignation of long-term dictator Suharto less than a year earlier.

VIETNAM

Vietnam reaped over US\$2.6 billion from exporting nearly 5.3 million tons of rice in the first 10 months of this year, up 8.2 percent in value and down 4.0 percent in volume year on year, according to the country's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. In October, Vietnam shipped 300,000 tons abroad, gaining 161 million U.S. dollars, down 33.2 percent and 22.5 percent, respectively. The country's major export markets included China, Malaysia and the Philippines. Meanwhile, Vietnam's total textile and garment export value in the first 10 months of this year declined 9.3 percent year on year to nearly US\$24.8 billion, according to the General Statistics Office. Its largest export markets included China, Japan,

the European Union, South Korea and the United States. In October alone, Vietnam's textile and garment exports fell 3.2 percent year on year to \$2.6 billion. Vietnam will gain an estimate of \$32 billion from exporting garments and textiles this year, compared to the target of \$40 billion.

SRI LANKA

In Sri Lanka, the factory built by the Rigid Tyre Corporation is expected to produce Passenger Car Radials for export and generate 3,000 direct and indirect jobs, state-owned Daily News reported. The first phase of the factory was completed with an investment of \$100 million, while the second phase will be completed in March 2022.

MALAYSIA

Malaysia's economy decreased at a slower pace of 2.7 percent in the third quarter from the double-digit decline of 17.1 percent in the second quarter of 2020, said Bank Negara Malaysia, the central bank. The improvement largely reflected the reopening of economy from the coronavirus (Covid-19) containment measures and better external demand conditions. The improvements in growth were seen across most economic sectors, particularly in the manufacturing sector, which turned positive following strong electrical and electronic (E&E) production activity. According to the Malaysian Statistics Department, the manufacturing sector grew 3.3 percent compared to a decline of 18.3 percent in the previous quarter, supported by electrical, electronic and optical, vegetable and animal oils and fats, and food processing products.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines' total external trade in goods declined 9.2 percent in September from a year earlier to US\$14.14 billion, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said. This was lower than its previous

month's annual drop of 17.9 percent and higher than the 3.5 percent drop in September 2019, the PSA said in a statement. Of the total external trade in September 2020, 56.0 percent were imported goods, and the rest exported goods. The balance of trade in goods in September 2020 amounted to -\$1.71 billion, representing a trade deficit with an annual decline of 49.9 percent. By major trading partners, exports to China comprised the highest export value amounting to \$1.22 billion, or a share of 19.6 percent to the total exports during the month. China was also the country's biggest supplier of imported goods valued at \$2.01 billion, or 25.3 percent of the total imports in September 2020.

IRAN

The value of bilateral trade between Iran and the European countries reached US\$8.8 billion from March 20 to October 21, spokesperson for Iran's Customs Office announced. During the period, over 15.9 million tonnes of commodities were exchanged between the two sides. Iran exported 5.6 million tonnes of goods to the European countries in the 7-month period, worth \$2.066 billion.

CHINA

China will impose temporary anti-dumping measures on wine imported from Australia from November 28, the Ministry of Commerce said. The duties come three months after China started an anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigation into Australian wine, and follow a raft of other measures barring imports from coal to copper to barley this year. China is the top market for Australian wine exports and is also Australia's largest trading partner, with two-way trade worth 235 billion Australian dollars (US\$170 billion) last year.

THAILAND

Thailand is expected to produce some 4.9 million tonnes of natural rubber throughout this year, said Rubber Authority of Thailand (RAOT) Governor. Of the total natural rubber production projected, some 4.18 million tonnes are bound for export to world markets including China and Britain. An estimated US\$11.2 billion in value of rubber export is expected throughout this year.

AUSTRALIA

Australian economy created a total of 178,800 jobs in October 2020 as employers put on more people in both full-and part-time roles amid easing of coronavirus lockdown in Victoria state. Full-time jobs increased by 97,000 and part-time jobs lifted by 81,800. However, Australia's unemployment rate edged higher in October 2020 as more people looked for work. The Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percent from 6.9 percent in September to 7 percent in October on a seasonally adjusted basis. The underemployment rate – people who want more hours – dropped from 11.4 percent to 10.4 percent.

NEW ZEALAND

The number of unemployed people in New Zealand rose by a record of 37,000 to reach 151,000 in the September 2020 quarter, as the impact of COVID-19 hit the labor market, New Zealand's statistics department Stats NZ said. In the quarter, there were 37,000 more unemployed people, an increase of 32.5 percent since the June 2020 quarter. The 37,000 rise is the largest quarterly rise in unemployment since the series began in 1986, statistics showed.

CANADA

The Canadian government unveiled a new financial program worth billions of Canadian dollars to boost the country's economy amid the coronavirus

(Covid-19) pandemic. The program titled "Supporting Canadians and Fighting COVID-19," the 237-page fiscal update offers a revised look at Canada's economy and the impact of the ongoing Covid-19 recession on the country's economic outlook. Details of the stimulus program of 70 billion to 100 billion Canadian dollars (US\$54 billion to US\$77 billion) will be budgeted over the next three fiscal years starting from April 1, 2021. The country's national deficit is projected to hit at least 381.6 billion Canadian dollars (US\$293.9 billion) for this fiscal year, up from the forecast of 343.2 billion Canadian dollars (US\$264.3 billion) in July.

USA

Hit with a collapse of demand, US airlines will end the year with the lowest number of workers since at least 1987, 90,000 fewer than when Covid-19 hit, industry federation Airlines for America said. It said that the number of full-time equivalent positions would drop to 370,000 at the end of December 2020 from 460,000 in March, a drop of nearly 20 percent. As coronavirus cases explode, approaching the worst days of the pandemic, authorities have stepped up restrictions. The number of passengers carried in the United States recently remained 65 percent lower than the same period last year, the organization said. Airlines initially cut staff through early retirement and voluntary furloughs.

MEXICO

Mexico's economy grew at the fastest pace in at least three decades in the third quarter, as a surge in manufacturing to meet U.S. demand helped claw back a portion of the output lost since last year. Gross domestic product rose 12.1% from the previous quarter, according to the national statistics institute. The expansion, the best in data going back to 1990, was slightly higher than the 12% growth both estimated by economists.

NEW PRODUCTS

SOLAR-POWERED SCOOTER



The Rolo, a four-wheeled personal mobility vehicle, is the modern solution to commuting. With a solar panel that powers the unit, this 100% electric-powered scooter also has a base on which the user stands, which is actually a treadmill. By walking on it, this also charges the device's batteries. The four-wheeled transporter makes use of advanced RP LIDAR navigation cameras to steer its way through the streets. The Rolo is envisioned to be a future public transport vehicle. It can be called on-demand anywhere via an app.

COVID-19 ERADICATOR?



With the current pandemic, the use of masks is crucial to keep the disease from spreading. People have been opting for reusable masks in order to reduce the costs that single-use masks bear. However, it is important to regularly wash these masks to avoid the accumulation of pathogens. This conceptual O° Clean face mask sanitizer is designed to prevent bacteria from

accumulating by cleaning your face mask using ultraviolet light. The device has space for your mask, big enough for any flat surgical or cloth mask. By placing the mask in the compact size device, it eradicates all of the germs, bacteria and viruses that may be trapped in the mask. It also contains a built-in dryer that allows the mask to remain moisture-free. This cleans the mask and makes it good as new!

WAVE TO PAY



Amazon is constantly improving their service in order to make customers' experience as convenient as possible. The company debuted Amazon One, which links a user's palm print to their credit card data. This allows customers to have checkout-free transactions, making their Amazon experience as quick and efficient as possible. In light of the current pandemic, this new device could launch the beginning of touchless payment methods at every point of entry in the world.

COMFORT-CHAIR



Made from environmentally-friendly lightweight materials, the Moveo wheelchair focuses on comfort and easy maneuverability, designed specifically for people with spinal cord injuries. The wheelchair makes use of textiles that regulate body temperature, and has a gear reduction mechanism to reduce the force required to move the wheelchair. It is also designed with an oval-shaped pushing surface, made from rubber-like material for an easy grip - even if your hands are wet.

ROTATING HAND DRYER



While we have some high-tech versions that dry our hands in 10 seconds and have UV lights to kill bacteria, have you ever thought if they are actually accessible to everyone who may want to dry their hands? What about someone on a wheelchair in a bathroom at the mall or the movie theatre – can they reach the hand dryer? This inclusively designed hand dryer is here to answer that question with a strong 'Yes!' Accurately named U Dryer aka Universal Dryer, this design focuses on making the product usable for every type of person who walks into the washroom. Along with the aesthetic facelift, the U Dryer comes with a simple rotational feature which makes it accessible to adults, children, elderly folk and even those who use a wheelchair. It also features a UV light which allows 360-degree hand sterilization.

COUNTRY PROFILE

Thailand



Area

513,120 sq km

Population

68.97 million

Capital

Bangkok

GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$1.236 trillion (2017 estimate)

GDP per capita (PPP)

\$17,900 (2017 estimate)

GDP official exchange rate

\$455.4 billion (2017 estimate)

GDP real growth (2017)

4.26%

Gross national saving

34.1% of GDP (2017 estimate)

Taxes and other revenues

15.2 % of GDP (2017 estimate)

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

0.7 % (2017 estimate)

Current account balance

\$51.08 billion (2017 estimate)

Foreign exchange and gold reserves

\$202.6 billion (31 December 2017)

Source: The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency

Thailand, a country in Southeast Asia, is bordered on the west and northwest by Myanmar, on the northeast and east by Laos and Cambodia, and on the south by the Gulf of Thailand, peninsular Malaysia, and the Andaman Sea. A newly industrialized economy, Thailand, is regarded as one of the fast-growing economies in Asia. With a relatively well-developed infrastructure, a free-enterprise economy, generally pro-investment policies, Thailand achieved steady growth. It is highly dependent on international trade, with exports--- mostly electronics, agricultural commodities, automobiles and parts, and processed foods-- accounting for about two thirds of its gross domestic product (GDP). Thailand's economic fundamentals are sound, with low inflation, low unemployment, and reasonable public and external debt levels. Tourism and government spending-- mostly on infrastructure and short-term stimulus measures -- have helped to boost the economy, and The Bank of Thailand has been supportive, with several interest rate reductions.



Agriculture

Rice, corn, tapioca, manioc, palm oil, coconuts, pineapple, sugarcane, rubber, fish and fish products are main agricultural products.



Mining

The country has deposits of natural resources such as gypsum, lead, natural gas, tin, iron ore, zinc, tungsten, and rock salt.



Industry

textiles and garments, agricultural processing, beverages, tobacco, cement, light manufacturing such as jewelry and electric appliances, computers and parts, integrated circuits, furniture, plastics, automobiles and automotive parts are some of the major industries.



Energy

Ninety percent of Thai electrical generating capacity is conventional thermal. Oil-fired plants have been replaced by natural gas, which in 2018 generated 65% of Thailand's electricity. Coal-fired plants produce an additional 20%, with the remainder from biomass, hydro, and biogas.

As of 31 May 2018 the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) produces 37% of Thailand's electricity; independent power producers, 35%; small power producers, 19%; and electricity imports, 9%.



Foreign Trade

Export: \$235.1 billion (2017 estimate)

Imports: \$203.2 billion (2017 estimate)

Export commodities: Automobiles and parts, computer and parts, jewelry and precious stones, refined fuels, electronic integrated circuits, chemical products, rice, fish products, rubber products, sugar, cassava, poultry, machinery and parts, iron and steel and their products.

Major export destinations: China, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Australia, Malaysia

Import commodities: Machinery and parts, crude oil, electrical machinery and parts, chemicals, iron and steel and product, electronic integrated circuit, automobile's parts, jewelry, computers and parts, electrical household appliances, wheat, soybean, cotton, dairy products

Major import sources: China, Japan, USA, Malaysia



Tourism

Thailand's attractions include Bangkok shopping malls, diving sites, sandy beaches, hundreds of tropical islands, nightlife, archaeological sites, museums, hill tribes, flora and bird life, palaces, Buddhist temples and several World Heritage sites.



Transportation

Road:

Thailand has 390,000 km of highways. It has 462,133 roads and many multi-lane highways.

Rail:

Thailand's railway system, established a century ago, consists of 4,507 km of track, which links Bangkok to the northern city of Chiang Mai as well as to the country's western, northeastern, and southern extremities.

Airport:

As of 2012, Thailand had 103 airports with 63 paved runways. Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport is the busiest airport in the country. Other major airports include Don Mueang International Airport, Chiang Mai International Airport, Surat Thani International Airport etc.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

RECORD YOUR DREAMS

Pretty soon not even your dreams may be private anymore. Some Japanese scientists have learned how to interpret what you're dreaming about by measuring your brain activity while you sleep. This data can then be plugged into an algorithm that reconstructs your dream so that it can be played back for you when you're awake. In other words, scientists have invented a sort of dream-reading machine. The remarkable breakthrough makes use of a fairly straightforward idea: that when we visualize certain types of objects in our minds, our brains generate consistent neural patterns that can then be correlated with what is being visualized. For instance, when you imagine a chair, your brain fires in a pattern that occurs whenever a chair is visualized. An algorithm can then be used to tie the data from a brain scan to the appropriate correlated images. And voilà! Your dream can be reconstructed. Although scientists only get the dream right about 60% for now, it is still an extraordinary and innovative discovery for science.



USING NOISE TO FIGHT NOISE

Sick of noise from construction work, speeding trains and car alarms flooding in through the open window of your tiny apartment in a crowded metropolis? Scientists believe they have found a way for city dwellers to let in fresh air while reducing the urban cacophony—and it is a bit like popping massive, noise-cancelling headphones onto your flat. Under the system devised in Singapore, by placing 24 small speakers on the metal grille of an open window, you are able to block out noise. How so? Well, when noise is detected, the speakers generate a specific sound which counteracts with it. This creates an “acoustic shield”, which neutralizes the sound coming from outside and cancels out all noise. This may very well be the invention that will change your life.



CATALYZING OUR FUEL

The main problem with our Navy today is refueling. Other than nuclear-powered ships such as aircraft carriers and submarines, the fleet must travel with fuel tankers. So what if the Navy could produce their own fuel on their own ships? A “molybdenum carbide” catalyst partnered with potassium has allowed researchers at Rochester University to develop a method to transform seawater into fuel for ships. This catalyst accelerates current methods of extracting carbon dioxide from seawater and turning it into hydrocarbons that can be used as fuel. By using this new development, ships can perpetually stay at sea. Refueling can sometimes prove difficult, dangerous even, in rough waters. Producing their own fuel could be the new cost-effective, fuel efficient future.



INDOOR GARDENING

Those of us who live in apartment complexes might feel discouraged from starting home garden projects – they're messy and time-consuming, not to mention that a lot of space is usually a prerequisite. That's why SOLE was created. SOLE, a home gardening system, poses first as a small coffee table only to reveal a hidden, self-maintained, miniature garden for city dwellers who want to fill their homes up with some natural greens, but not the fuss that typically comes with them. This coffee table was designed to take up as little space as possible. It maintains the perfect climate, temperature and nutrients for the plants to grow. It also has a lighting system that enhances plant growth by imitating the effect of the sunlight.

To add to the overall convenience, the whole system can be maintained and modified by using an app.



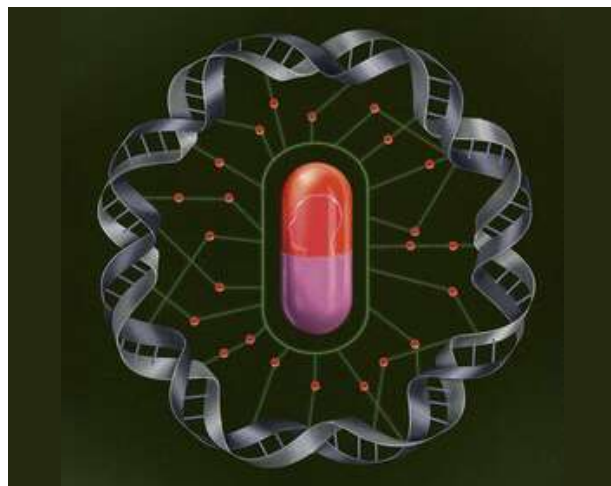
FRIDGE TO GO

Refrigerators are essential for reducing food contamination and waste especially when temperatures change, affecting the durability of food. Unfortunately, many people in developing countries don't have access to this basic home appliance. Sprout Studios and Draper have designed a mobile thermoelectric refrigerator, a cost-efficient and low-energy device that aims to aid with refrigeration. This is especially important for countries like India, the world's largest milk producer. However, this milk can easily get contaminated with airborne diseases due to lack of refrigeration during the storage and transportation stages. Therefore, this device helps prevent those issues. The refrigerator works based on thermoelectric technology. The system can cool using minimal power, running from off-grid power sources. It even comes with a multifunctional handle design which facilitates the transportation of the device by hand while walking. It can also be attached to a bike or a motorcycle which facilitates the overall transit of the device.



DNA FIX

In this day and age, millions of drugs and treatments have been designed in order to treat different illnesses. However, there are some fatal diseases that are "too rare to care about". Due to this rarity, these diseases, often due to unique genetic mutations, are not researched about, leaving their victims in the worst of conditions. Thankfully, novel drugs are being tested in order to fix these DNA mistakes. One case of this would be when a specific drug was created for Mila Makovec, a little girl suffering from a rare genetic disease. Although this drug didn't fix her mutation, it has stabilized her condition such as reducing her seizures and allowing her to walk again. The effectiveness of this pill is due to the fact that it can be tailored to take the form of gene replacement, gene editing, or antisense. These molecules can erase or fix these unique genetic mistakes.



REVIEW

Export Earnings

Export earnings (merchandise) in the first quarter of the current financial year (July-September of FY21) exceeded the target (US\$9.66 billion) set for the period by 2.48 percent, according to the provisional data of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). Export earnings in the review period increased by 2.58 percent to US\$9.90 billion from US\$9.65 billion in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal year (Table 1). Gradual reopening of western markets and placing of new orders coupled with revival of majority of the previously suspended or cancelled ready-made garment (RMG) work-orders contributed to the turnaround.

Table 1: Monthly Trends in Exports (Goods)

| Month | Exports (million US\$) | | Change (%) |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | FY21 ^P | FY20 ^R | |
| July | 3911 | 3888 | 0.59 |
| August | 2967 | 2844 | 4.32 |
| September | 3019 | 2916 | 3.53 |
| Total of July – Sept. | 9897 | 9648 | 2.58 |

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised

Sources: EPB

The single-month export earnings in September 2020 (US\$3.02 billion) increased by 1.75 percent from the immediate previous month (August); and grew year-on-year by 3.53 percent from US\$2.92 billion, also surpassing the strategic target (US\$2.85 billion) by 5.96 percent. The export recovery started in June 2020 and continued in September also.

According to EPB data, the overall export growth in July-September of FY21 was largely driven by the readymade garments (RMG) sector, which alone fetched US\$8.13 billion, or 82.12 percent of total exports, although these registered year-on-year a nominal growth of 0.85 percent. The sector's earnings also exceeded the strategic target (US\$7.96 billion) by 2.14 percent.

The country's major export products during July-September of FY21 that showed positive growth, year-on-year, included agricultural products (+3.40%), frozen and live fish (+5.11%), jute & jute goods (+39.26%), knitwear (+7.04%), home textile (+40.74%), handicrafts (+51.23%), carpet (+51.30%), other footwear (+23.73%), man-made filaments & staple fibers (+18.63%), chemical products (+15.18%), engineering products (+19.43%), and other manufactured products (+9.80%). However, export earnings showed negative growth in a number of products, such as, cotton & cotton products (-6.70%), rubber (-9.47%), headgear/cap (-14.24%), paper & paper products (-36.43%), woven garments (-5.78%),

leather & leather products (-11.49%), specialized textiles (-11.13%), ceramic products (-15.03%), plastic products (-16.95%), and petroleum bi-products (-33.69%).

Among the countries, the highest export earnings came from the United States (US). Export earnings from US rose by 8.43 percent to US\$1.80 billion in July-September of FY21 from US\$1.66 billion in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year (Table 2). Exports to Germany, the second largest export destination, grew by 3.54 percent, year-on-year, to US\$1.53 billion from US\$1.48 billion. While export earnings from UK, the third largest destination for Bangladesh, registered a negative growth of 4.43 percent year-on-year to US\$1.02 billion in July-September of FY21 from US\$1.07 billion.

Table 2: Country-wise (Top Twelve) Comparative Export during July-September of FY21 & FY20

(Value in million US\$)

| Sl. # | Country | Export Earning during | | Growth (%) |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | | July-September of FY21 | July-September of FY20 | |
| 01 | United States | 1801.75 | 1661.69 | 8.43 |
| 02 | Germany | 1534.58 | 1482.06 | 3.54 |
| 03 | UK | 1024.03 | 1071.54 | -4.43 |
| 04 | Spain | 636.26 | 658.80 | -3.42 |
| 05 | France | 480.22 | 441.83 | 8.69 |
| 06 | Italy | 359.28 | 341.67 | 5.15 |
| 07 | Poland | 345.72 | 296.25 | 16.70 |
| 08 | Netherlands | 332.97 | 328.49 | 1.36 |
| 09 | Japan | 304.81 | 336.10 | -9.31 |
| 10 | Canada | 303.18 | 283.80 | 6.83 |
| 11 | India | 296.07 | 350.76 | -15.59 |
| 12 | Australia | 223.71 | 204.64 | 9.32 |
| Other Country | | 2254.26 | 2190.36 | 2.92 |
| Total Export | | 9896.84 | 9647.99 | 2.58 |

Sources: EPB

During July-September of FY21, among the other top twelve countries, year-on-year, exports to France grew by 8.69 percent, that to Italy by 5.15 percent, Poland by 16.70 percent, the Netherlands by 1.36 percent, Canada by 6.83 percent, Australia by 9.32 percent. However, exports to Japan registered a negative growth of 9.31 percent, that to India registered a negative growth of 15.59, and that to Spain registered a negative growth of 3.42 percent.

Import Payments (C&F)

Import payments (C&F) during the first three months in the current fiscal year (July-September of FY21) stood at US\$12.69 billion, which is 11.43 percent lower than import payments during the corresponding months of FY20 mainly due to global economic slowdown and coronavirus outbreak

in different countries of the world (Table 3). In the last three months i.e., July, August and September 2020, imports decreased year-on-year by 19.42 percent, 6.56 percent and 7.01 percent, respectively, because of the ongoing economic slowdown to tackle the spread of the coronavirus.

Table 3: Monthly Trends in Custom based Imports

| Month | Imports (million US\$) | | Change (%) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | FY21 ^P | FY20 ^R | |
| July | 4228 | 5247 | (-) 19.42 |
| August | 3806 | 4073 | (-) 6.56 |
| September | 4653 | 5004 | (-) 7.01 |
| Total of July - September | 12687 | 14324 | (-) 11.43 |

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised

Source: BB

Inflows of Remittance

The inflow of remittances in the quarter under review (Q1 of FY21) grew by 48.54 percent to US\$6.71 billion from US\$4.52 billion in Q1 of FY20 despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The government incentive and the latest policy support provided by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) contributed to achieve the new record of inward remittances (Table 4).

In the last month of the quarter (September 2020), year-on-year, remittances registered a growth of 45.63 percent to US\$2.15 billion from US\$1.48 billion. The inflow of remittances in September increased by 9.14 percent from the previous month, as expatriate Bangladeshis sent US\$1.97 billion in August 2020. Remittances increased due to BB's latest policy support that helped boost the inflow in the recent months. Under the latest policy support, the expatriate Bangladeshis will get 2.0 percent incentives without showing any document against remittance receipts up to US\$5,000 or Tk.500,000. Earlier, the ceiling was Tk.150,000. Besides, those sending more than Tk.500,000 will have two months to submit the documents instead of 15 days earlier. The expatriate Bangladeshis who already sent money home will also get the facilities. These will remain effective until 31 December 2020.

Table 4: Monthly Trends in Remittances

| Month | Imports (million US\$) | | Change (%) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | FY21 ^P | FY20 ^R | |
| July | 2598 | 1598 | 62.58 |
| August | 1965 | 1445 | 35.99 |
| September | 2151 | 1477 | 45.63 |
| Total of July - September | 6714 | 4520 | 48.54 |

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised

Source: BB

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

In the first three months of the current fiscal year (July-September of FY21), the net foreign direct investment (FDI) decreased by 60.0 percent to US\$68 million from US\$170 million in the corresponding three months of FY20, according to the BB's latest balance of payments data. On the other hand, the gross inflow of FDI during the period under review also decreased by 24.69 percent to US\$540 million from US\$717 million in the corresponding three months of FY20. FDI inflow in Bangladesh is low compared to that in many countries at similar level of development.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserve has already crossed US\$39 billion-mark, for the first time in its history, following lower import payment obligations and higher growth of inward remittance. Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the reserve rose to US\$39.31 billion (with ACU liability of US\$0.67 billion) as of end September 2020, which was US\$39.04 billion (with ACU liability of US\$1.08 billion) as of end August 2020 (Table 5).

Table 5: Monthly Trends in Foreign Exchange Reserves

| Month | Foreign Exchange Reserve (million US\$) | |
|-----------|---|-------------------|
| | FY21 ^P | FY20 ^R |
| July | 37288 | 32093 |
| August | 39040 | 32776 |
| September | 39314 | 31832 |

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised

Source: BB

Considering the average of the previous 12 months' import bills, BB estimated that the current foreign exchange reserve (less ACU liability) is sufficient to pay import bills for 8.67 months. According to the Experts, the reserve would support the foreign investors to gain confidence while considering Bangladesh as an investment destination.

Exchange Rate

Between end-June of 2020 and end-September of 2020, the value of Taka appreciated by 0.11 percent in terms of US dollar. On the inter-bank market, the US dollar was quoted at Tk.84.9000 at the end of June 2020 and Tk.84.8087 at the end of September 2020 (Table 6).

Table 6: Monthly Exchange Rate

| Month | FY21P (Taka per US\$) | | FY20R (Taka per US\$) | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | Month Average | End Month | Month Average | End Month |
| June | - | - | 84.9183 | 84.9000 |
| July | 84.8120 | 84.8000 | 84.4996 | 84.5000 |
| August | 84.8390 | 84.8053 | 84.5000 | 84.5000 |
| September | 84.8025 | 84.8087 | 84.5000 | 84.5000 |

Note: i) P=Provisional; R=Revised; NA=Not Available

ii) Exchange rate represents the mid-value of buying and selling rates

Source: BB

Price Situation

The general point to point inflation rate increased by 0.29 percentage points to 5.97 percent in September 2020 from

5.68 percent in the immediate past month of August 2020 mainly due to the coronavirus outbreak-induced price hike of essential food items. Higher rice prices and supply chain disruption due to flood and rainfall were the major reasons behind rise in inflation in September. A year ago, in September 2019, the inflation rate was lower at 5.54 percent (Table 7).

Food price inflation increased by 0.42 percentage points to 6.50 percent in September 2020 from 6.08 percent in August due to the prices of some food items, including rice, eggs, chicken, vegetables, pulses and spices soared in the month. Year-on-year, food inflation also rose significantly by 1.20 percentage points from 5.30 percent.

Table 7: Monthly Trends in Inflation (Base: 2005-06=100)

| Period | Point to Point-All (National) | | | Point to Point-Rural | | | Point to Point-Urban | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------|----------|----------------------|------|----------|----------------------|------|----------|
| | General | Food | Non-food | General | Food | Non-food | General | Food | Non-food |
| FY21P | | | | | | | | | |
| July | 5.53 | 5.70 | 5.28 | 5.43 | 5.67 | 4.98 | 5.72 | 5.76 | 5.68 |
| August | 5.68 | 6.08 | 5.05 | 5.60 | 6.09 | 4.70 | 5.81 | 6.06 | 5.51 |
| September | 5.97 | 6.50 | 5.12 | 5.96 | 6.61 | 4.71 | 5.98 | 6.26 | 5.65 |
| FY20R | | | | | | | | | |
| July | 5.62 | 5.42 | 5.94 | 5.49 | 5.60 | 5.27 | 5.88 | 5.03 | 6.84 |
| August | 5.49 | 5.27 | 5.82 | 5.34 | 5.38 | 5.25 | 5.75 | 5.02 | 6.60 |
| September | 5.54 | 5.30 | 5.92 | 5.41 | 5.40 | 5.42 | 5.80 | 5.10 | 6.61 |

Notes: i) P=Provisional, R=Revised; ii) Food includes food, beverages and tobacco

Source: BBS

On the other hand, non-food price inflation increased slightly by 0.07 percentage points to 5.12 percent in September 2020 from 5.05 per cent in the previous month. Year-on-year, non-food price inflation, however, decreased by 0.80 percentage points from 5.92 percent.

A comparison of point to point inflation data for rural and urban areas in September of FY21 shows that the general and non-food price inflation rate was lower in rural areas than in urban areas while food inflation rate was lower in urban area than in rural area (Table 7).

Capital Market

The capital market passed yet another gloomy period under the quarter under review. Stocks extended the losing streak for the second consecutive session on 30 September 2020, the last working day of the quarter, as risk-averse investors continued their profit booking sell-offs on quick-gaining

shares. DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), went down by 19.08 points or 0.38 percent to settle at 4,963. Two other indices also ended lower. The DS30 index, comprising blue chips, lost 9.14 points to finish at 1,695 and the DSE Shariah Index shed 5.14 points to close at 1,120. Turnover stood at Tk.9.14 billion, which was 7.25 percent higher than the previous session's turnover of Tk.8.53 billion.

On the other hand, the Chittagong Stock Exchange also ended lower with its All Shares Price Index (CASPI)-losing 94 points to close at 14,167 while the Selective Categories Index - CSCX shedding 52 points to close at 8,507. Of the issues traded, 174 declined, 79 advanced and 28 remained unchanged on the CSE. The port city bourse traded 17.17 million shares and mutual fund units with turnover value of Tk.600 million.

STATISTICS

EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF BANGLADESH

(Million US \$)

| Products | Export for 2019-20 | Proposed Export Target of 2020-21 | Strategic Target for July-Sep. 2020-21 | Export Performance for July-Sep. 2020-21 | Export Performance for July-Sep. 2019-20 | % Change of export Performance Over Export Target | % Change of export performance July-Sep. 2020-21 Over July-Sep. 2019-20 |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| All products (A+B) | 33674.09 | 41000.00 | 12796.00 | 12844.64 | 12721.22 | 0.38 | 0.97 |
| A. Primary Commodities | 1318.21 | 1644.00 | 513.09 | 550.57 | 539.34 | 7.3 | 2.08 |
| (1) Frozen & Live Fish | 456.15 | 574.00 | 179.14 | 191.75 | 181.84 | 7.04 | 5.45 |
| a) Live Fish | 11.43 | 13.00 | 4.06 | 2.65 | 5.33 | -34.73 | -50.28 |
| b) Frozen Fish | 75.29 | 100.00 | 31.21 | 43.88 | 21.17 | 40.60 | 107.27 |
| c) Shrimps | 332.65 | 415.00 | 129.52 | 135.92 | 139.98 | 4.94 | -2.90 |
| d) Crabs | 24.85 | 32.00 | 9.99 | 6.75 | 12.90 | -32.43 | -47.67 |
| e) Others | 11.93 | 14.00 | 4.37 | 2.55 | 2.46 | -41.65 | 3.66 |
| (2) Agricultural Products | 862.06 | 1070.00 | 333.94 | 358.82 | 357.5 | 7.45 | 0.37 |
| a) Tea | 3.12 | 4.00 | 1.25 | 1.45 | 1.26 | 16.00 | 15.08 |
| b) Vegetables | 164.00 | 230.00 | 71.78 | 37.22 | 105.26 | -48.15 | -64.64 |
| c) Tobacco | 80.36 | 115.00 | 35.89 | 29.14 | 39.46 | -18.81 | -26.15 |
| d) Cut Flower & Foliage | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| e) Fruits | 0.49 | 0.75 | 0.23 | 0.14 | 0.47 | -39.13 | -70.21 |
| f) Spices | 33.28 | 40.22 | 12.55 | 15.29 | 11.27 | 21.83 | 35.67 |
| g) Dry Food | 193.71 | 225.00 | 70.22 | 106.40 | 59.22 | 51.52 | 79.67 |
| h) Others | 387.07 | 455.00 | 142.00 | 169.15 | 140.55 | 19.12 | 20.35 |
| B. Manufactured Commodities | 32355.88 | 39356.00 | 12282.91 | 12294.07 | 12181.88 | 0.09 | 0.92 |
| (1) Cement, Salt, Stone Etc | 9.14 | 10.00 | 3.12 | 2.2 | 3.18 | -29.49 | -30.82 |
| (2) Ores, Slag and Ash | 15.22 | 25.00 | 7.8 | 7.31 | 5.46 | -6.28 | 33.88 |
| (3) Petroleum bi Products | 23.48 | 50.00 | 15.6 | 6.75 | 9.07 | -56.73 | -25.58 |
| (4) Chemical Products | 198.86 | 245.00 | 76.46 | 82.24 | 70.54 | 7.56 | 16.59 |
| a) Pharmaceuticals | 135.79 | 170.00 | 53.06 | 56.14 | 46.85 | 5.80 | 19.83 |
| b) Chemical Fertilizer | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| c) Cosmetics | 0.43 | 0.50 | 0.16 | 0.10 | 0.12 | -37.50 | -16.67 |
| d) Others | 62.64 | 74.50 | 23.25 | 26.00 | 23.57 | 11.83 | 10.31 |
| (5) Plastic Products | 100.52 | 123.00 | 38.39 | 35.68 | 41.02 | -7.06 | -13.02 |
| a) PVC Bags | 19.45 | 23.00 | 7.18 | 7.39 | 7.74 | 2.92 | -4.52 |
| b) Plastic Waste | 5.80 | 6.00 | 1.87 | 3.41 | 1.50 | 82.35 | 127.33 |
| c) Others | 75.27 | 94.00 | 29.34 | 24.88 | 31.78 | -15.20 | -21.71 |
| (6) Rubber | 26.22 | 34.00 | 10.61 | 10.03 | 9.5 | -5.47 | 5.58 |
| (7) Leather & Leather Products | 797.6 | 920.00 | 287.13 | 283.2 | 316.9 | -1.37 | -10.63 |
| (a) Leather | 98.31 | 115.00 | 35.89 | 33.33 | 42.73 | -7.13 | -22.00 |
| (b) Leather Products | 220.55 | 265.00 | 82.71 | 66.25 | 84.19 | -19.90 | -21.31 |
| (c) Leather Footwear | 478.75 | 540.00 | 168.53 | 183.62 | 189.98 | 8.95 | -3.35 |
| (8) Wood & Wood Products | 3.33 | 3.50 | 1.09 | 0.26 | 0.61 | -76.15 | -57.38 |
| (9) Handicrafts | 20.52 | 28.00 | 8.74 | 10.84 | 7.34 | 24.03 | 47.68 |
| (10) Pulp | 00 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (11) Paper & Paper Products | 77.97 | 94.30 | 29.43 | 22.29 | 32.94 | -24.26 | -32.33 |
| (12) Printed Materials | 0.70 | 0.80 | 0.25 | 0.31 | 0.24 | 24 | 29.17 |
| (13) Silk | 0.12 | 0.20 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.06 | -50 | -50 |
| (14) Wool & Woollen Products | 0.10 | 0.15 | 0.05 | 0 | 0.01 | -100 | -100 |
| (15) Cotton & Cotton Product (Yarn, Waste, Fabrics etc) | 133.56 | 160.54 | 50.1 | 46.24 | 53.36 | -7.7 | -13.34 |

| Products | Export for 2019-20 | Proposed Export Target of 2020-21 | Strategic Target for July-Sep. 2020-21 | Export Performance for July-Sep. 2020-21 | Export Performance for July-Sep. 2019-20 | % Change of export Performance Over Export Target | % Change of export performance July-Sep. 2020-21 Over July-Sep. 2019-20 |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| (16) Jute & Jute goods | 882.35 | 1167.00 | 364.22 | 438.78 | 314.49 | 20.47 | 39.52 |
| a) Raw Jute | 129.89 | 180.00 | 56.18 | 59.35 | 51.54 | 5.64 | 15.15 |
| b) Jute Yarn & Twine | 564.26 | 750.00 | 234.07 | 288.38 | 192.68 | 23.20 | 49.67 |
| c) Jute Sacks & Bags | 106.54 | 145.00 | 45.25 | 62.71 | 37.87 | 38.59 | 65.59 |
| d) Others | 81.66 | 92.00 | 28.71 | 28.34 | 32.40 | -1.29 | -12.53 |
| (17) Man Made Filaments & Staple Fibers | 108.52 | 135.00 | 42.13 | 41.54 | 41.24 | -1.4 | 0.73 |
| (18) Carpet (Jute & Others) | 21.13 | 30.00 | 9.36 | 11.28 | 7.52 | 20.51 | 50 |
| (19) Specialized Textiles | 116.04 | 143.00 | 44.63 | 40.99 | 41.91 | -8.16 | -2.2 |
| a) Terry Towel | 36.73 | 43.00 | 13.42 | 12.76 | 13.47 | -4.92 | -5.27 |
| b) Special Woven Fabric | 18.37 | 24.00 | 7.49 | 7.43 | 6.38 | -0.80 | 16.46 |
| c) Knitted Fabrics | 54.93 | 68.00 | 21.22 | 18.60 | 19.92 | -12.35 | -6.63 |
| d) Other | 6.01 | 8.00 | 2.50 | 2.20 | 2.14 | -12.00 | 2.80 |
| (20) RMG | 27949.19 | 33785.00 | 10544.22 | 10450.1 | 10577.38 | -0.89 | -1.2 |
| (a) Knitwear | 13,908.00 | 16700.00 | 5,212.03 | 5,801.88 | 5,538.35 | 11.32 | 4.76 |
| (b) Woven Garments | 14,041.19 | 17085.00 | 5,332.19 | 4,648.22 | 5,039.03 | -12.83 | -7.76 |
| (21) Home Textile | 758.91 | 960.00 | 299.61 | 354.25 | 239.59 | 18.24 | 47.86 |
| a) Bed, Kitchen toilet lines | 406.40 | 500.00 | 156.05 | 180.41 | 158.79 | 15.61 | 13.62 |
| b) Other | 352.51 | 460.00 | 143.56 | 173.84 | 80.80 | 21.09 | 115.15 |
| (22) Other Footwear | 277.13 | 380.00 | 118.6 | 127.92 | 104.24 | 7.86 | 22.72 |
| (23) Headgear/Cap | 191.17 | 230.00 | 71.78 | 60.64 | 69.55 | -15.52 | -12.81 |
| (24) Umbrella Waking Sticks | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (25) Wigs & Human Hair | 32.5 | 40.00 | 12.48 | 12.24 | 8.95 | -1.92 | 36.76 |
| (26) Building Materials | 1.24 | 1.50 | 0.47 | 0.36 | 0.68 | -23.4 | -47.06 |
| (27) Ceramic Products | 27.97 | 35.00 | 10.92 | 11 | 13.04 | 0.73 | -15.64 |
| (28) Glass & Glass ware | 3.50 | 5.00 | 1.56 | 1.99 | 0.98 | 27.56 | 103.06 |
| (29) Engineering Products | 292.92 | 362.00 | 112.98 | 140.1 | 118.97 | 24 | 17.76 |
| a) Iron Steel | 55.95 | 65.00 | 20.29 | 23.67 | 21.63 | 16.66 | 9.43 |
| b) Copper Wire | 24.77 | 30.00 | 9.36 | 9.70 | 10.76 | 3.63 | -9.85 |
| c) Stainless Steel ware | 4.00 | 5.00 | 1.56 | 0.82 | 1.66 | -47.44 | -50.60 |
| d) Engineering Equipment | 66.47 | 95.00 | 29.65 | 36.24 | 28.18 | 22.23 | 28.60 |
| e) Electric Products | 39.39 | 45.00 | 14.04 | 22.16 | 17.13 | 57.83 | 29.36 |
| f) Bicycle | 82.84 | 100.00 | 31.21 | 40.16 | 30.17 | 28.68 | 33.11 |
| g) Others | 19.50 | 22.00 | 6.87 | 7.35 | 9.44 | 6.99 | -22.14 |
| (30) Ships, boats & floating structures | 11.32 | 18.00 | 5.62 | 0.05 | 0.17 | -99.11 | -70.59 |
| (31) Other mfd Products | 274.63 | 370.00 | 115.48 | 95.46 | 92.94 | -17.34 | 2.71 |
| a) Optical, Photographic, Medical Instruments etc. | 90.63 | 110.00 | 34.33 | 28.01 | 31.61 | -18.41 | -11.39 |
| b) Furniture | 76.41 | 100.00 | 31.21 | 21.81 | 22.98 | -30.12 | -5.09 |
| c) Golf Shaft | 13.92 | 20.00 | 6.24 | 5.64 | 5.46 | -9.62 | 3.30 |
| d) Others | 93.67 | 140.00 | 43.70 | 40.00 | 32.89 | -8.47 | 21.62 |

Source: Export Promotion Bureau

VALUE OF LETTERS OF CREDIT OPENED FOR IMPORT

(In Million US\$)

| Sl No. | Commodity | Value of import L/Cs opened during July,2020 - August, 2020 | Import L/Cs outstanding as on 31st August, 2020 | Value of import L/Cs opened during July,2020 - September, 2020 | Import L/Cs outstanding as on 30th September, 2020 |
|--------|---|---|---|--|--|
| 1 | Rice | 0.8100 | 0.7100 | 1.22 | 0.71 |
| 2 | Wheat | 243.16 | 139.23 | 381.76 | 139.23 |
| 3 | Sugar | 49.26 | 48.40 | 109.86 | 48.40 |
| 4 | Onion | 33.42 | 17.03 | 100.23 | 17.03 |
| 5 | Fresh Fruits & Dry Fruits | 70.38 | 42.70 | 124.44 | 42.70 |
| 6 | Pulses (all sorts) | 20.62 | 15.77 | 34.45 | 15.77 |
| 7 | Milk Food | 42.23 | 31.96 | 66.93 | 31.96 |
| 8 | Edible Oil | 129.86 | 81.86 | 285.35 | 81.86 |
| | a) Crude | 37.93 | 14.09 | 71.81 | 14.09 |
| | b) Refined | 91.93 | 67.78 | 213.54 | 67.78 |
| 9 | Drugs & Medicine | 22.09 | 18.10 | 30.66 | 18.10 |
| 10 | Oil Seeds/Rape Seeds | 53.66 | 39.73 | 75.42 | 39.73 |
| 11 | Raw Cotton & Synthetic Fibre | 333.18 | 200.70 | 547.87 | 200.70 |
| 12 | Yarn (Cotton, Synthetic, Mixed) | 311.91 | 207.86 | 489.39 | 207.86 |
| 13 | Textile Fabrics & Accessories for Garments | 1,252.65 | 718.29 | 2,015.86 | 718.29 |
| 14 | Pharmaceutical Raw Materials | 160.23 | 97.99 | 231.48 | 97.99 |
| 15 | Chemical & Chemical Products | 356.76 | 231.25 | 631.44 | 231.25 |
| | a) Fertilizer | 115.72 | 68.51 | 259.16 | 68.51 |
| | b) Others | 241.05 | 162.74 | 372.28 | 162.74 |
| 16 | P.O.L. | 233.19 | 23.66 | 329.40 | 23.66 |
| 17 | Coal and Coke | 20.79 | 11.69 | 32.22 | 11.69 |
| 18 | Cement | 24.01 | 17.11 | 40.96 | 17.11 |
| 19 | Clinker and Limestone | 131.25 | 85.38 | 226.68 | 85.38 |
| 20 | C.I.Sheets, B.P. Sheets, G.P. Sheet & Tin Plate | 26.05 | 18.10 | 38.88 | 18.10 |
| 21 | Scrap Vessels | 46.01 | 22.50 | 65.16 | 22.50 |
| 22 | Paper & Paper Board | 45.95 | 31.79 | 75.36 | 31.79 |
| 23 | Intermediate Goods | 611.50 | 371.28 | 1,040.55 | 371.28 |
| 24 | Capital Machinery | 745.28 | 424.72 | 1,195.19 | 424.72 |
| 25 | Misc.Industrial Machinery | 571.82 | 396.73 | 898.66 | 396.73 |
| 26 | Others | 2,419.71 | 10,568.38 | 4.00 | 10.00 |
| | TOTAL: | 7,955.79 | 13,862.92 | 13.00 | 13.00 |

Source: Bangladesh Bank

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (BOP)

(In million US\$)

| Items | 2019-20 ^R July-Sep | 2020-21 ^{RP} July-Aug | 2020-21 ^P July-Sep | % Changes 4 over 2 |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Trade balance | -3840 | -698 | -2039 | |
| Export f.o.b. (including EPZ) | 9417 | 6734 | 9697 | 2.97 |
| Of which: Readymade garments | 8058 | 5713 | 8126 | 0.84 |
| Import f.o.b (including EPZ) | 13257 | 7432 | 11736 | -11.47 |
| Services | -876 | -211 | -585 | |
| Credit | 1664 | 990 | 1508 | -9.38 |
| Debit | 2540 | 1201 | 2093 | -17.60 |
| Primary income | -620 | -376 | -667 | |
| Credit | 80 | 34 | 48 | -40.00 |
| Debit | 700 | 410 | 715 | 2.14 |
| Of which: Official interest payments | 283 | 156 | 270 | |
| Secondary income | 4621 | 4631 | 6825 | |
| Official transfers | 2 | 1 | 9 | |
| Private transfers | 4619 | 4630 | 6816 | 47.56 |
| Of which: Workers' remittances inflows | 4519 | 4562 | 6713 | 48.55 |
| Remittances excl. investments | 4457 | 4517 | 6643 | |
| Current Account Balance | -715 | 3346 | 3534 | |
| Capital account | 28 | 17 | 43 | |
| Capital transfers | 28 | 17 | 43 | |
| Financial account | 931 | -1338 | -799 | |
| Foreign direct investment (gross inflows) | 717 | 360 | 540 | -24.69 |
| Of which: Net FDI flows | 170 | 45 | 68 | -60.00 |
| Assets | -5 | 0 | -1 | |
| Liabilities | 165 | 45 | 68 | |
| Portfolio investment (net) | 36 | -94 | -154 | |
| Of which: Investment by NRBs | 62 | 45 | 70 | 12.90 |
| Other investment (net) | 725 | -1289 | -713 | |
| Medium and long-term (MLT) loans | 901 | 510 | 1385 | 53.72 |
| MLT amortization payments | 343 | 199 | 376 | 9.62 |
| Other long-term loans (net) | 131 | -33 | -20 | |
| Other short-term loans (net) | 53 | 33 | -11 | |
| Trade credit (net) | 470 | -861 | -571 | |
| DMBs and NBDCs (net) | -487 | -739 | -1120 | |
| Assets | 224 | 357 | 417 | |
| Liabilities | -263 | -382 | -703 | |
| Errors and omissions | -448 | 445 | 320 | |
| Overall Balance | -204 | 2470 | 3098 | |
| Reserve Assets | 204 | -2470 | -3098 | |
| Bangladesh Bank (net) | 204 | -2470 | -3098 | |
| Assets | -760 | 2803 | 3014 | |
| Liabilities | -556 | 333 | -84 | |
| Memorandum Items: | | | | |
| Gross reserves (before valuation adjustments) | 31957 | 38840 | 39051 | |
| Valuation adjustment during the period | -125 | 200 | 263 | |
| Gross reserves (after valuation adjustments) | 31832 | 39040 | 39314 | |
| In months of imports of goods and services | 6.9 | 7.8 | 7.9 | |

* Note: Exports and Imports both are compiled on the basis of shipment data

* Disinvestment, repayments of loans & loss have been deducted as per BPM6 and it includes in financial account calculation instead of gross FDI R: Revised, P: Provisional, RP: Revised but still Provisional

Source: Bangladesh Bank

PRODUCTION OF SELECTED INDUSTRIAL ITEMS (BASE YEAR 2005-06=100)

| Description of items of industry | Unit | No .of reporting industries (selected) | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | Jul-19 | Jun-20 | July-20 (p) |
|---|------------------|--|-----------|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| 10 Manufacture of Food Products | | | | | | | |
| Fish & sea food | M.Ton | 180 & * | 45377 | 48402 | 4262 | 3182 | 4148 |
| Processing & Preserving of fruits and vegetables | "000" Littrre | 3 | 124571 | 126302 | 10585 | 9071 | 6522 |
| Hyd. Vegetable oil | M.Ton | 2 | 1001358 | 1151562 | 62271 | 96273 | 103725 |
| Grain milling | M.Ton | 8 | 408516 | 435439 | 49925 | 31635 | 27542 |
| Rice milling | M.Ton | 6 | 25133 | 27400 | 3773 | 3159 | 3418 |
| Sugar | M.Ton | 16 | 68603 | 65302 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Black & Blending Tea | M.Ton | 116 | 78122 | 90684 | 11104 | 8670 | 7586 |
| Edible salt | M.Ton | 8 | 94016 | 94113 | 7794 | 7625 | 7598 |
| Animal feeds | M.Ton | 3 | 602669 | 692900 | 60834 | 51348 | 73924 |
| 11 Manufacture of beverages | | | | | | | |
| Spirits & Alcohol | "000" Littrre | 1 | 5298 | 4998 | 391 | 468 | 213 |
| Soft Drinks | `000' Doz Bottle | 4 | 64166 | 72602 | 7061 | 5589 | 9307 |
| Mineral Water | "000" Littrre | 4 | 156338 | 180350 | 18520 | 10543 | 20376 |
| 12 Manufacture of tobacco products | | | | | | | |
| Cigarettes | Mill. No | 1 | 15660 | 15279 | 1320 | 1340 | 1245 |
| Biddies | Mill. No | 5 | 123711 | 100095 | 8940 | 11243 | 7789 |
| 13 Manufacture of textile | | | | | | | |
| Preparation & Spinning of Textile fibers | M.Ton | 20 | 167660 | 180642 | 15576 | 20557 | 20573 |
| Weaving of Textiles | "000" Metre | 15 | 42447 | 43403 | 3112 | 1953 | 3014 |
| Dyeing, bleaching & finishing | "000" Metre | 19 | 90837 | 91096 | 11674 | 7650 | 8500 |
| Jute Textile | M.Ton | 95 | 406938 | 361966 | 24193 | 23041 | 29000 |
| 14 Mfg. of wearing apparel | | | | | | | |
| Wearing Apparel | Million Tk. | * | 1268118 | 1449060 | 136702 | 91315 | 126762 |
| Knitwear | Million Tk. | * | 1247285 | 1419019 | 140541 | 98928 | 148441 |
| 15 Manufacture of leather and related products | | | | | | | |
| 1511 Tanning & Finishing Leather: | "000" Sq Metre | 175 & * | 15386 | 34066 | 1388 | 673 | 1147 |
| Leather Footwear | "000" Pair | 4 | 21235 | 21988 | 1886 | 1601 | 6105 |
| 16 Manufacture of wood and products of wood and cork | | | | | | | |
| Particle board/ plywood | "000" Sq Metre | 2 | 11048 | 11598 | 1005 | 1070 | 1020 |
| Manufacture of Paper and paper products | | | | 0 | | | |
| Pulp, Paper & newsprint | M.Ton | 3 | 168177 | 168719 | 18655 | 23185 | 18763 |
| Articles made of paper | M.Ton | 2 | 39613 | 40271 | 3388 | 3618 | 3794 |
| 19 Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products | | | | | | | |
| Petroleum refining | M.Ton | 1 | 1572683 | 1369914 | 108840 | 75905 | 52838 |
| 20 Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products | | | | | | | |
| Compressed liquidities gas | Cylinder | | | | | | |
| (12.5 Kg.) | 2 | 1346440 | 2199956 | 102574 | 45916 | 72936 | |
| Fertilizer | M.Ton | 7 | 859353 | 920753.5 | 11482 | 21529 | 84470 |
| Perfumes and cosmetics | "000" Tk. | 3 | 4519197 | 8078863 | 803290 | 1444430 | 1649195 |
| Soaps & detergents | M.Ton | 3 | 176781 | 175315 | 16403 | 19035 | 25185 |
| Matches | "000" Gross | 2 | 26493 | 34653 | 3295 | 4106 | 4182 |
| 21 Manufacture of Pharmaceuticals and medicinal chemical | | | | | | | |
| Pharmaceuticals/Allopathic drugs and medicine | "000" Tk. | 20 | 148382039 | 188300445.6 | 17951734 | 22217703 | 22546044 |
| Unani and Ayur Bedic Medicine | "000" Tk. | 3 | 631160 | 807514 | 76585 | 85531 | 84848 |
| 22 Manufacture of rubber and plastic products | | | | | | | |
| Rubber footwear/ other rubber products | Dozen Pair | 8 | 202999 | 264803 | 38734 | 25052 | 49887 |
| P.V.C products/plastic products | M.ton | 3 | 51618 | 55613 | 4738 | 2160 | 4488 |

| Description of items of industry | Unit | No.of reporting industries (selected) | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | Jul-19 | Jun-20 | July-20 (p) |
|---|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| 23 Non-Metallic mineral Prod | | | | | | | |
| Glass Sheet | "000" Sq ft. | 3 | 17285 | 17782 | 1650 | 1710 | 1410 |
| Tiles | "000" Sq ft | 5 | 245180 | 295674 | 27440 | 26920 | 16289 |
| Ceramic | "000" Dz | 2 | 20621 | 29723 | 3156 | 2965 | 3014 |
| Cement | M.Ton | 8 | 14689780 | 16860929.5 | 1487550 | 1455318 | 1671198 |
| Bricks | "000" No. | 4 | 161441 | 184472 | 15838 | 18953 | 18916 |
| 24 Manufacture of basic metals | | | | | | | |
| Re-rolling mills | M.Ton | 31 | 394245 | 401298 | 35508 | 26205 | 26350 |
| 25 Manufacture of fabricated metal products except machinery | | | | | | | |
| Structural metal products | "000" M.ton | 5 | 13524 | 14870 | 1222 | 850 | 2175 |
| Other Fabricated metal products | Dozen | 8 | 778567 | 836588 | 76509 | 80792 | 81342 |
| 26 Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products | | | | | | | |
| communication equipment's (TV, Telephone) Television | No. | 3 | 428384 | 590268 | 83274 | 51726 | 79425 |
| 27 Manufacture of electrical equipment | | | | | | | |
| Electric Motors, Generators, transformers / | No. | 2 | 495625 | 581009 | 51782 | 16730 | 22111 |
| Electrical apparatus 2732 Wires & Cables(ELEC.) | M.ton | 3 | 49155 | 50750 | 4413 | 145 | 6851 |
| Electrical appliances / Domestic appliances | No. | 9 | 499676 | 524938 | 45542 | 49954 | 43316 |
| 28 Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c | | | | | | | |
| Agriculture & Forestry machinery | No. | 2 | 98194 | 100663 | 8576 | 8852 | 8810 |
| Machinery for Textile , apparel and leather production | No. | 9 | 14211 | 17296 | 1635 | 1752 | 1599 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Machinery equipment NEC | No. | 10 | 800442 | 924902 | 93763 | 84941 | 98350 |
| 29 Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers | | | | | | | |
| Assemble of Motor vehicles | No. | 2 | 1309 | 2524 | 107 | 51 | 34 |
| 30 Manufacture of other transport equipment | | | | | | | |
| Ship and boat building | M.Ton | 3 | 339327 | 341009 | 36432 | 28586 | 30355 |
| Motor cycle | No. | 3 | 94692 | 96037 | 8027 | 4103 | 7413 |
| 31 Manufacture of furniture | | | | | | | |
| Metal furniture | No. | 2 | 3900 | 4010 | 355 | 386 | 230 |
| Wooden furniture | No. | 5 | 146722 | 150173 | 11810 | 6400 | 11330 |
| Plastic furniture | No. | 2 | 1322301 | 1453505 | 125537 | 128599 | 125815 |
| Natural Gas | MMCM | 8 | 27613 | 27196 | 2250 | 2320 | 2611 |
| Electricity | MKWH | 1 | 61615 | 67752 | 7063 | 6613 | 7204 |

Note: n.a.=not available. p= provisional, r= revised, M.cu.m.= million cubic meter. Mt = metric ton. MkwH = million kilowatt per hour,

Tk.= Taka, * = EPB

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: NATIONAL (BASE: 2005-06=100)

| Period | General Index | Index by expenditure group | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | 1. Food & Beverage | 2. Non-Food | I. Clothing & Footwear | II. Fuel & Lighting | III. Household Equipment | IV. Medical Care & Health Expenses | V. Transport & Communication | VI. Recreation, Entertainment, | VIII. Mise. Goods & Services |
| 2012-13 | 181.73 | 193.24 | 166.97 | 179.66 | 155.61 | 195.33 | 159.66 | 159.34 | 157.23 | 182.54 |
| 2013-14 | 195.08 | 209.79 | 176.23 | 194.77 | 163.47 | 206.14 | 164.06 | 167.20 | 164.38 | 193.75 |
| 2014-15 | 207.58 | 223.80 | 186.79 | 204.50 | 171.80 | 214.45 | 180.77 | 181.78 | 168.02 | 204.21 |
| 2015-16 | 219.86 | 234.77 | 200.66 | 233.38 | 182.74 | 227.39 | 199.94 | 201.34 | 171.01 | 211.61 |
| 2016-17 | 231.82 | 248.90 | 209.92 | 243.56 | 194.01 | 235.85 | 206.70 | 210.78 | 177.56 | 217.51 |
| 2017-18 | 245.22 | 266.64 | 217.76 | 255.24 | 200.25 | 249.68 | 209.28 | 218.80 | 183.65 | 223.81 |
| 2018-19 | 258.65 | 281.33 | 229.58 | 277.64 | 206.98 | 265.25 | 215.31 | 235.23 | 186.72 | 239.87 |
| 2019-20 | 273.26 | 296.86 | 243.00 | 290.00 | 220.70 | 282.67 | 230.07 | 248.48 | 190.13 | 259.27 |
| 2020 | | | | | | | | | | |
| March | 276.83 | 300.74 | 246.17 | 291.44 | 225.93 | 286.51 | 233.28 | 249.97 | 190.92 | 263.15 |
| April | 278.39 | 303.39 | 246.34 | 291.49 | 226.04 | 285.79 | 233.70 | 250.22 | 190.96 | 263.41 |
| May | 273.53 | 294.08 | 247.17 | 291.72 | 226.30 | 285.80 | 239.36 | 252.04 | 190.96 | 263.66 |
| June | 276.12 | 297.95 | 248.13 | 291.98 | 227.07 | 286.78 | 240.16 | 253.34 | 190.96 | 267.19 |
| July | 278.27 | 300.75 | 249.46 | 292.20 | 227.57 | 288.73 | 240.64 | 257.25 | 190.98 | 271.37 |
| August | 282.11 | 307.20 | 249.95 | 292.29 | 227.60 | 291.54 | 240.81 | 257.59 | 191.01 | 272.54 |
| September | 288.12 | 316.11 | 252.24 | 292.42 | 227.99 | 293.11 | 246.45 | 263.02 | 191.79 | 280.87 |
| October | 290.91 | 320.94 | 252.40 | 292.57 | 228.09 | 293.35 | 246.54 | 263.41 | 191.81 | 281.05 |

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: RURAL (BASE: 2005-06=100)

| Period | General Index | Index by expenditure group | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | 1. Food & Beverage | 2. Non-Food | I. Clothing & Footwear | II. Fuel & Lighting | III. Household Equipment | IV. Medical Care & Health Expenses | V. Transport & Communication | VI. Recreation, Entertainment, | VIII. Mise. Goods & Services |
| 2012-13 | 183.90 | 192.14 | 170.79 | 184.54 | 157.40 | 186.40 | 164.63 | 160.98 | 174.07 | 187.05 |
| 2013-14 | 196.90 | 207.72 | 179.69 | 200.61 | 164.05 | 197.62 | 168.87 | 166.01 | 179.72 | 199.74 |
| 2014-15 | 209.10 | 221.02 | 190.13 | 214.07 | 171.34 | 209.29 | 187.18 | 174.09 | 183.84 | 212.34 |
| 2015-16 | 220.10 | 230.31 | 203.86 | 242.26 | 179.19 | 222.11 | 211.04 | 188.69 | 187.84 | 221.12 |
| 2016-17 | 231.02 | 243.08 | 211.83 | 253.51 | 187.45 | 229.57 | 219.35 | 193.71 | 194.81 | 226.47 |
| 2017-18 | 244.17 | 259.86 | 219.21 | 263.96 | 192.89 | 246.23 | 221.15 | 197.24 | 201.31 | 233.72 |
| 2018-19 | 256.74 | 273.55 | 230.01 | 282.76 | 198.99 | 261.30 | 225.86 | 207.51 | 205.05 | 253.71 |
| 2019-20 | 271.20 | 289.08 | 242.74 | 292.21 | 212.44 | 277.56 | 242.40 | 217.05 | 208.93 | 275.65 |
| 2020 | | | | | | | | | | |
| March | 275.39 | 294.01 | 245.75 | 293.36 | 217.18 | 278.80 | 246.74 | 218.34 | 210.07 | 281.64 |
| April | 277.16 | 296.83 | 245.86 | 293.38 | 217.37 | 279.00 | 246.77 | 218.35 | 210.07 | 281.85 |
| May | 271.39 | 286.89 | 246.74 | 293.69 | 217.63 | 279.01 | 254.99 | 218.41 | 210.07 | 282.01 |
| June | 273.01 | 289.00 | 247.56 | 293.81 | 219.01 | 279.14 | 255.24 | 219.35 | 210.07 | 284.53 |
| July | 275.13 | 291.87 | 248.49 | 293.85 | 219.94 | 279.53 | 255.57 | 221.62 | 210.08 | 287.79 |
| August | 279.26 | 298.38 | 248.84 | 293.94 | 219.95 | 281.05 | 255.76 | 221.84 | 210.11 | 288.95 |
| September | 285.77 | 307.48 | 251.22 | 294.09 | 220.65 | 282.13 | 263.51 | 226.89 | 211.33 | 296.06 |
| October | 289.30 | 313.16 | 251.34 | 294.26 | 220.80 | 282.28 | 263.52 | 226.98 | 211.36 | 296.19 |

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: URBAN (BASE: 2005-06=100)

| Period | General Index | Index by expenditure group | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | 1. Food & Beverage | 2. Non-Food | I. Clothing & Footwear | II. Fuel & Lighting | III. Household Equipment | IV. Medical Care & Health Expenses | V. Transport & Communication | VI. Recreation, Entertainment, | VIII. Mise. Goods & Services |
| 2012-13 | 177.71 | 195.91 | 161.88 | 170.39 | 153.55 | 211.03 | 151.15 | 157.53 | 139.06 | 176.96 |
| 2013-14 | 199.73 | 214.85 | 171.61 | 183.66 | 162.80 | 221.11 | 155.82 | 168.52 | 147.83 | 186.37 |
| 2014-15 | 204.76 | 230.56 | 182.32 | 197.93 | 172.33 | 223.53 | 169.80 | 190.26 | 150.95 | 194.16 |
| 2015-16 | 219.31 | 245.66 | 196.39 | 216.50 | 186.86 | 236.67 | 180.93 | 215.50 | 152.84 | 199.87 |
| 2016-17 | 233.29 | 263.09 | 207.38 | 224.66 | 201.60 | 246.87 | 185.05 | 229.59 | 158.93 | 206.45 |
| 2017-18 | 247.17 | 283.19 | 215.83 | 238.67 | 208.77 | 255.74 | 188.96 | 242.55 | 164.59 | 211.57 |
| 2018-19 | 262.17 | 300.30 | 229.00 | 267.92 | 216.22 | 272.20 | 197.25 | 265.77 | 166.95 | 222.78 |
| 2019-20 | 277.06 | 315.83 | 243.34 | 285.82 | 230.27 | 291.66 | 208.97 | 283.12 | 169.81 | 239.06 |
| 2020 | | | | | | | | | | |
| March | 279.49 | 317.16 | 246.72 | 287.79 | 236.05 | 297.33 | 210.25 | 284.82 | 170.26 | 240.32 |
| April | 280.66 | 319.39 | 246.98 | 287.91 | 236.09 | 297.72 | 211.35 | 285.35 | 170.33 | 240.64 |
| May | 277.47 | 311.63 | 247.75 | 287.96 | 236.33 | 297.74 | 212.61 | 289.09 | 170.34 | 241.02 |
| June | 281.87 | 319.81 | 248.87 | 288.49 | 236.42 | 300.22 | 214.34 | 290.80 | 170.34 | 245.79 |
| July | 284.09 | 322.42 | 250.75 | 289.06 | 236.42 | 304.91 | 215.08 | 296.51 | 170.37 | 251.09 |
| August | 287.38 | 328.71 | 251.42 | 289.15 | 236.46 | 309.98 | 215.22 | 296.98 | 170.39 | 252.27 |
| September | 292.47 | 337.17 | 253.60 | 289.24 | 236.49 | 312.42 | 217.24 | 302.84 | 170.70 | 262.11 |
| October | 293.88 | 339.94 | 253.81 | 289.37 | 236.53 | 312.80 | 217.47 | 303.54 | 170.72 | 262.36 |

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

WAGE RATE INDEX BY SECTORS: BANGLADESH (BASE: 2010-11=100)

| Sector | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | July'20 | August'20 | September'20 | October'20 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| General | 141.46 | 150.59 | 160.23 | 174.78 | 175.28 | 176.70 | 178.08 |
| percentage change (Point to Point) | 6.50 | 6.46 | 6.40 | 5.82 | 5.91 | 5.95 | 6.03 |
| percentage change (over previous month) | | | | 0.27 | 0.29 | 0.81 | 0.78 |
| 1. Agriculture | 141.22 | 150.27 | 159.92 | 174.87 | 175.20 | 176.73 | 178.28 |
| percentage change (over previous month) | 6.59 | 6.41 | 6.42 | 6.15 | 6.16 | 6.23 | 6.24 |
| percentage change (over previous month) | | | | 0.27 | 0.19 | 0.87 | 0.88 |
| i) Agriculture | 141.19 | 150.23 | 159.91 | 174.92 | 175.25 | 176.76 | 178.32 |
| percentage change (Point to Point) | 6.60 | 6.40 | 6.44 | 6.17 | 6.19 | 6.24 | 6.25 |
| percentage change (over previous month) | | | | 0.27 | 0.19 | 0.86 | 0.89 |
| ii) Fish | 143.19 | 152.63 | 160.59 | 172.44 | 172.80 | 175.21 | 176.20 |
| percentage change (Point to Point) | 6.37 | 6.61 | 5.22 | 4.87 | 4.78 | 5.73 | 5.76 |
| percentage change (over previous month) | | | | 0.4 | 0.21 | 1.40 | 0.56 |
| 2. Industry | 140.27 | 149.45 | 158.74 | 172.14 | 172.83 | 173.95 | 175.10 |
| percentage change (Point to Point) | 6.24 | 6.55 | 6.22 | 5.18 | 5.25 | 5.26 | 5.51 |
| percentage change (over previous month) | | | | 0.27 | 0.40 | 0.65 | 0.66 |
| i) Construction | 137.43 | 145.32 | 152.86 | 163.18 | 163.67 | 164.79 | 165.61 |
| percentage change (Point to Point) | 5.37 | 5.75 | 5.19 | 4.12 | 4.15 | 4.37 | 4.53 |
| percentage change (over previous month) | | | | 0.15 | 0.30 | 0.69 | 0.50 |
| ii) Production | 146.01 | 157.81 | 170.66 | 190.31 | 191.42 | 192.52 | 194.34 |
| percentage change (Point to Point) | 7.22 | 8.08 | 8.14 | 7.09 | 7.20 | 6.84 | 7.25 |
| percentage change (over previous month) | | | | 0.47 | 0.59 | 0.57 | 0.95 |
| 3. Service | 145.01 | 154.44 | 164.78 | 179.72 | 180.70 | 182.17 | 183.20 |
| percentage change (Point to Point) | 6.60 | 6.51 | 6.69 | 5.52 | 6.02 | 6.04 | 6.05 |
| percentage change (over previous month) | | | | 0.24 | 0.55 | 0.81 | 0.56 |

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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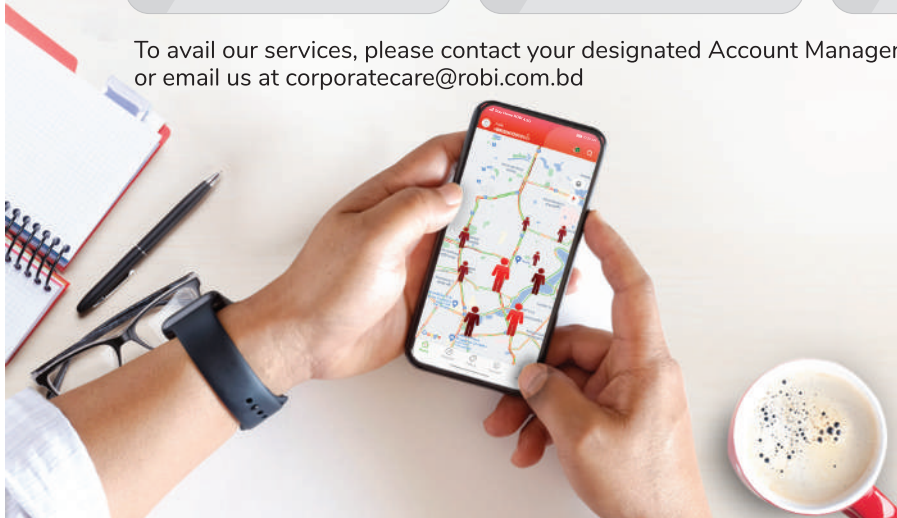
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A Brief Profile of MCCI, Dhaka

Founded in 1904, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) is the oldest and the pre-eminent trade organization of Bangladesh. Its membership roll encompasses leading commercial and large industrial organizations of the country, including public sector corporations and local as well as multinational companies. Presently, almost all major enterprises of the manufacturing and service sector are among its members. The Chamber provides a wide range of professional services to its members.

The Chamber's services, developed over a long period, are comprehensive and cover specialized areas such as taxation, import-export, tariff and non-tariff measures, investment, WTO matters and other national and international economic and commercial concerns. The Chamber maintains a secretariat manned by professional staff. It offers secretarial services to the Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF), the lone national level organization of employers in the country dealing with industrial relations, occupational safety and health, workplace cooperation, skills development, labor law and other labor-related issues.

The Chamber's policy recommendations and inputs related to ongoing reforms have gained wide acceptance amongst government and policy makers. MCCI has earned recognition at home and abroad by offering services such as issuing certificates of origin, and, through conducting economic research and sector surveys, offering trade and investment facilitation services, legal services, information management and dissemination, and publications related to trade and commerce.

The Chamber is represented in many Advisory Councils as well as Committees formed by various ministries of the government of Bangladesh. MCCI also maintains effective working relations with development partners, e.g., the World Bank Group, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Asia Foundation, etc. MCCI has a long history of joint collaboration. It interacts regularly with major international trade bodies and many private sector organizations located all over the world.