

CHAMBER NEWS

ISSUE 09 ■ September 2021



**BANGLADESH PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY:
Capability and Challenges of Manufacturing Covid-19 Vaccines**



METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, DHAKA



ডিসইনফেক্ট্যান্ট স্প্রে



আপনার জীবন জীবাণুমুক্ত রাখতে

সেপনিল ডিসইনফেক্ট্যান্ট স্প্রে-ই যথেষ্ট

ব্যবহার করুন, নিশ্চিত্তে থাকুন।



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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



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- Equal Opportunity



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EDITORIAL

Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Industry: Capability and Challenges of Manufacturing Covid-19 Vaccines



The Bangladesh pharmaceuticals market is a growing one. It is predicted to hit the \$6 billion mark by 2025 as per Research and Markets, an Irish market insight and analysis firm. Local companies make up more than 90 percent of the market, while category-wise, generic drugs make up 75 percent of it. At present, Bangladesh exports pharmaceutical products to 144 countries but plans to increase it further.

Inarguably, such world-class pharmaceutical manufacturing capability could come in handy if Covid-19 vaccines could be produced locally. Producing vaccines, however, is no easy feat. Vaccine research involves huge investment, so not many companies can pursue it. The few companies that have their Covid-19 vaccines approved cannot produce sufficiently to cover the world population. Even after vaccines are produced, bulk buying and hoarding by the major nations can create inequality in its distribution. At every stage, stumbling blocks are ready to set everything back.

To prevent the spread of the virus, as of 1 September 2021, around 18.67 million and 8.2 million people in Bangladesh have received their first and second shots of Covid-19 vaccines, respectively. For reaching the Government's goal of inoculating 130 million people by 2022, 260 million doses will be required. Judging by this volume, it is understandable that some vaccines will have to be produced locally to reach the goal as imports alone would not be able to cover it all. Under these circumstances, the country can successfully exploit its pharmaceutical industry's capabilities to meet a part of its vaccine demand.

In pursuit of local Covid-19 vaccine production, Bangladesh has witnessed a few developments. First, under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed recently, Incepta Pharmaceuticals, the renowned local manufacturer, will soon start producing Sinopharm's vaccine. Second, Globe Biotech Limited, the lone Bangladeshi Covid-19 vaccine producer has just finished the animal trial and is now

awaiting approval of human trials. Third, an agreement was reported to have been signed a few months back for the co-production of Sputnik V, the Russian vaccine. Fourth, clinical trial in Bangladesh is pending of what could be a revolutionary nasal vaccine developed by Holding AB, a Swedish research organization.

Good as this may sound, the path to production is not an easy one. There are several challenges of locally producing Covid-19 vaccines in Bangladesh. First, there is the problem of capacity. Only a few large drug manufacturers can claim to have the infrastructure for producing Coronavirus vaccines. Besides, most will have to enhance their infrastructures for mass production. Second, the claimed infrastructure also needs to be checked by experts, as this will be a completely new thing for local producers. Third, the Government must ensure that vaccines produced by the private sector are not selling at a premium price unaffordable by the masses. That would defeat the purpose of producing vaccines locally. Fourth, quality control will be a major issue for such a sensitive matter. The Government should, ideally, invest and enhance and modernize the capacity of the Institute of Public Health (IPH) or Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), the state-owned drug manufacturer, for manufacturing Covid-19 vaccines. That way, the authorities would be in a better position to check and approve the locally produced vaccines.

In the long term, Bangladesh should target obtaining complete vaccine manufacturing rights from one or more world class vaccine investors. It would help in solving the problems of quantity and affordability. In case of the nasal vaccine awaiting clinical trial, locally producing a completely new vaccine for the world will be our acid test. Though we must never underestimate our abilities, overconfidence in those could jeopardize everything. Quantity must be coupled with quality. Bangladesh looks poised to gain if it combines import and local production while pursuing Covid-19 vaccines for the mass. It must not let this chance slip away.

ARTICLE

THE CONSUMER DEMAND RECOVERY AND LASTING EFFECTS OF COVID-19

By Jaana Remes, James Manyika, Sven Smit, Sajal Kohli, Victor Fabius, Sundiatu Dixon-Fyle, and Anton Nakaliuzhnyi



Consumer spending, a major source of economic activity, collapsed as the first wave of the pandemic swept across countries in early 2020. All of a sudden, consumers were forced to change behavior, companies to transform business models, and governments to adjust regulations. And just as the coronavirus has affected regions and individuals in vastly different ways, the economic impact has also been very uneven. Employees able to work from home have maintained jobs and income, accumulating more savings while forced to cut back on spending from lock downs, travel restrictions, and health fears; others lost jobs and income or closed down businesses and have struggled to pay the bills.

While there is reason to be optimistic for a robust recovery in consumer spending once the COVID-19 virus is controlled due to pent-up demand and a significant accumulation of savings, the pandemic, like other crises, will leave lasting marks.

Understanding what that means for consumer behavior and the recovery in consumer spending—a critical factor for the global economic recovery—is the focus of this report.

In our analysis, we examine consumer spending in China, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. We divide consumers into nine segments based on age and income to determine the size and shape of the consumer demand recovery. Then, drawing on in-depth analysis of six case studies from sectors that cover almost three quarters of consumer spending and encompass a broad spectrum of consumer life, we determine how the mix of consumer demand is likely to evolve and which pandemic-induced behavioral changes are likely to “stick.”

The exceptional nature of the shock provides reasons to be optimistic for the recovery

Unlike previous recessions, this one involves no consumer debt overhang, bursting asset price bubbles, or long-term business cycle fluctuations. The sudden and deep drop in consumer spending across China, the United States, and Western Europe, ranging from 11 to 26 percent in the initial months of the pandemic, resulted mainly from cutbacks to in-person services, especially travel, entertainment, and dining.

These categories have been growing over the long term, and consumer surveys indicate a likely strong demand rebound after the pandemic. The massive ten- to 20-percentage-point spike in the savings rate across the United States and Western Europe (amounting to a doubling of annual savings in the United States in 2020) left many households in a strong position to spend.

That means an effective vaccine rollout to bring the pandemic to an end could restore consumer demand to pre-pandemic levels, fueled by rising consumer confidence, pent-up demand, and accumulated savings. China's robust consumer spending recovery after gaining control of the COVID-19 virus is another reason for optimism for most countries.

But the recovery is likely to be uneven, especially in the United States

Assuming the pandemic is brought under control, we expect a strong recovery in the United States but an unequal one with variations among income and age segments (Exhibit 3). While many higher income households emerge largely unscathed financially, low income households have lost jobs or face income uncertainty, particularly from changes in the labor market caused by digitization and automation.

As a result, the polarization of consumption between higher and lower income cohorts may increase.

We expect spending by mid- and high-income cohorts to bounce back to pre-COVID-19 levels between 2021 and 2022, while spending by low income cohorts could drop below pre-COVID levels once stimulus measures expire. (For more details, see sidebar “Our macro methodology”). Consumption is expected to shift toward older and richer segments, because of both a growing share of the population over 65 and a slower post-pandemic recovery for low-income cohorts. However, we emphasize, this is highly dependent on how quickly health risks recede with vaccinations and whether governments provide further economic support.

We expect a slower but more balanced recovery in Europe, with less pronounced inequality than in the United States. As short-time work programs have helped to protect employment (although with shorter working hours), there is a higher chance for employees to maintain their jobs and avoid a drop in disposable income in 2021. However, there is uncertainty over what might happen to jobs once government support is withdrawn. Still, we expect the stronger safety net (including more stable employment contracts and more expansive labor protection) as well as mechanisms to protect low-income segments to support the recovery of discretionary consumption.

On the other end, high-income consumers did not experience as large an increase in savings as in the United States and the consumption drop was more severe in Europe. As a result, high income households may not accelerate their spending as quickly as in the United States, in line with past recoveries including the one following the great recession. Because of increased economic uncertainty, savings rates are expected to remain slightly elevated after the pandemic, a pattern observed after past downturns.

But there are country variations: Germany, with initially the most effective COVID-19 response (both health and economic) and a strong labor

market in both the service and industrial sectors, may recover first, followed by France and the United Kingdom. However, the United Kingdom may have an opportunity to reopen sooner and recover faster, helped by its vaccination campaign, which in early 2021 was the fastest in Europe.

Once the virus is brought under control and reopening is under way, we expect three factors to determine the strength and sustainability of the consumer demand recovery: the willingness to spend by high-income households, income constraints on low-income cohorts, and what happens to savings. What mid- and high-income households do with their accumulated savings (over \$1.6 trillion more savings in the United States in 2020 and about \$400 billion in Western Europe) after the pandemic—consume, hold, invest, or repay debt—will have an impact on the consumption recovery. The investments made in real estate or other long-term assets do not have a large direct multiplier effect and may take years to add to aggregate consumption.

The pandemic will leave lasting marks on consumer behavior

Long-standing consumer habits—more money spent on services, greater digital adoption, and more time and money spent out of the home—have been interrupted, accelerated, or reversed during the pandemic. To determine whether these pandemic-induced behaviors are likely to stick, we examined six consumption shifts that cover a broad range of consumer life and are drawn from sectors that cover almost three quarters of consumer spending.

These include an acceleration of e-grocery shopping, a sharp decline in live entertainment, the emergence of home nesting (that is, spending on items such as home gyms, backyards and gardens, and gaming equipment), a decrease in leisure air travel, a switch to remote learning, and an increase in virtual healthcare visits.

Based on our case study findings, we developed a “stickiness test” that identifies factors that determine whether a behavior will persist (For more details about our methodology, see sidebar “Our stickiness test”). Focusing on the period 2020 to 2024, we determined whether each of our case study behaviors would stick in our sample of major economies.

We found that e-grocery shopping, virtual healthcare visits, and home nesting were likely to stick while remote learning, declining leisure air travel, and decreasing live entertainment would likely revert closer to pre-pandemic patterns.

Two consistent patterns stood out across our case studies. First, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digital adoption, especially in grocery shopping and healthcare, and this is expected to continue. Second, the pandemic and lockdowns reversed the long-standing trend of declining money and time spent at home, leading to “home nesting.” We expect this behavior to stick as some portion of high-income households will prefer to work from home to some degree after the pandemic and low-income households retain low-cost at-home alternatives such as digital entertainment. At the same time, we expect many other behaviors that the pandemic interrupted—leisure air travel, in-person education, and in-person dining—to resume with the recovery, although potentially with modifications from the experience of the pandemic.

We found that an important precondition for stickiness is adequate infrastructure, typically defined as basic physical and organizational structures and facilities, such as buildings, roads, and power supplies, needed for the operation of an enterprise or society. How adequate infrastructure is can affect consumer, industry, and government response in determining the stickiness of behaviors.

*In the case of consumers, reliable internet access played a role in

determining whether consumers had a good or bad experience with remote learning and ultimately whether they are willing to try it again.

*In the case of industry, it could apply to supply chains and the network of third party relationships. For example, in e-grocery, those companies with established delivery capabilities and relationships were able to respond to the new environment quickly and effectively, determining the choices consumers had.

*In the case of government, infrastructure policy can enable and support consumption. For example, comprehensive digital infrastructure is key for access to virtual healthcare.

There are other behavioral changes that we did not cover in our case studies: sustainability is one; an increased focus on health is another. (See sidebar “Sustainability” for more on this topic.) We think tracking the stickiness factors—consumer behavior as well as company offerings and government role—could help predict the nature of long-term behavioral changes we should expect. On both accounts, however, the likelihood of consumers actually supporting these choices will critically depend on the product choices and pricing that companies offer, as well as the regulatory incentives for both companies and individuals to shift toward more sustainable or healthy goods, services, and behaviors.

Company and government actions matter at least as much in determining what consumer behavior will stick

From innovative new consumer products and services like restaurant in a box to virtual fitness and gym classes, companies have shaped consumer behavior during the pandemic and will continue to do so.

For example, China, the United Kingdom, the United States, and, to a degree, France, had grocery players with an established, albeit low-penetration,

online presence that were relatively well prepared for the explosion of e-grocery. These countries also had higher e-commerce penetration and had strong delivery networks. Together, this enabled grocers to rapidly offer a variety of options, be it BOPIS (buy online, pick up in store) versus delivery or third party versus grocer-hosted, at the same time integrating with payment platforms that provided more reliable, timely, and tailored services.

The pandemic upended the competitive landscape across many industries. In particular, changing consumption patterns have led to shifts in market share and opened the possibility of new entrants. Many companies have been forced to accelerate investment in e-commerce and expand their capabilities such as in regards to customer delivery. The ramifications of these shifts will be felt for some time and continue to shape consumer choices long after the pandemic is over.

In other examples, wider adoption of work from home has reduced demand for business air travel, with some estimates indicating a 20 percent or more drop could be permanent, and that will have an impact on the routes and flights available for leisure travelers. In entertainment, where box office revenue globally in 2020 was only 20 to 35 percent that of 2019, we expect a lasting drop in demand for movie theaters, due to the high likelihood of permanent theater closures and the shift to digital channels by movie studios.

As in past crises, government regulations can have a significant impact on the strength and shape of the consumer demand recovery. For example, in the near term, both individual fears about the coronavirus and government travel policies, such as vaccine passports or mandatory quarantines, will determine how fast the demand for air travel will recover.

Government incentives and funding also help shape consumer behaviors. For example, in France, the government introduced a program in 2020 known as “MaPrimeRenov’,” which offered up to €20,000 per household for essential renovations, encouraging home nesting.

Companies and governments will face challenges from an uneven consumer demand recovery and lasting effects of the pandemic

Accounting for the unequal economic impact and the full range of “stickiness” factors can lead to quite different outcomes between markets and product categories, and companies and governments that can anticipate the challenges and opportunities may well be able to shape the recovery path rather than simply waiting to see the outcome.

To prepare, companies could determine how a segmented rate of recovery, varying degrees of stickiness of consumer behaviors introduced during COVID-19, and emerging innovations, changes in business models, and a reshaped competitive landscape will affect their product and service offerings.

Governments will face many challenges—in particular, finding the right balance of macroeconomic policies to support the consumer demand recovery, adjusting regulations in consumer markets to keep up with ongoing changes, and addressing lasting marks from the pandemic, especially on inequality.

At the local government level in both the United States and Western Europe, pandemic shifts to increased time spent at home and increased reliance on e-commerce, among others, will have implications for cities, states, and regions, especially around the viability of commercial districts, the provision of public services like public transportation, and rising poverty and homelessness.

CHAMBER EVENTS



Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) in collaboration with Prerona Foundation and MGM Consulting Limited organized a two-day training program on Managerial Communication Competencies (MCC) on September 11 & 12, 2021. Dr. Melita Mehjabeen, Associate Professor, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University; Mr. Zayed Akhtar, CEO and MD, Unilever Bangladesh; Mr. Khaled Mahmud Associate Professor, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University; Ms. Zara Jabeen Mahbub, Country Director & CEO Apex DMIT Ltd. and Director, BACCO; and Dr. Nazneen Akhter, Founder & MD, VAALO avant-garde Ltd. facilitated and conducted various sessions during this two-day training program. In total, 41 participants from various organizations attended the training program.



Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) in collaboration with Prerona Foundation and MGM Consulting Limited organized a two-day training program on Managerial Communication Competencies (MCC) on September 18 & 19, 2021. Dr. Melita Mehjabeen, Associate Professor, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University; Mr. Rahel Ahmed, CEO, Nagad; Mr. Khaled Mahmud Associate Professor, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University; Ms. Zara Jabeen Mahbub, Country Director & CEO Apex DMIT Ltd. and Director, BACCO; and Dr. Nazneen Akhter, Founder & MD, VAALO avant-garde Ltd. facilitated and conducted various sessions during this two-day training program. In total, 42 participants from various organizations attended the training program.

MEMBERS NEWS

GRAMEENPHONE



Grameenphone recently provided donations to "Dakche Abar Desh", a Covid-19 response initiative by BRAC to support over 30,000 families. In addition, Grameenphone employees stepped forward in solidarity with this cause and contributed individually from their monthly salary on top of GP's contribution.

The initiative is a part of a series of Grameenphone's "COVID-19 Response", which plans to tackle the grave impact of the pandemic and help societies, primarily to aid the deeply impacted segment due to lockdown. It may be mentioned that following a press conference on July 16, Grameenphone announced to team up with BRAC, and so far, 33,333 families have received financial aid through mobile financial services. Grameenphone and BRAC together responded to this crisis last year by providing financial support for over 100,000 families.

MUTUAL TRUST BANK LIMITED



Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BRAC at a ceremony held at the bank's Corporate Head Office. Under the MoU, MTB will support the massively Covid-19 affected people of the infected border districts of Rajshahi and Chapainawabaganj under BRAC's 'Community Fort' project. The project has been working across 35 districts reaching 77 million people with masks, healthcare support and vaccination assistance. The MoU was signed by Mr. Tushar Bhowmik, Chief Financial Officer, BRAC and Mr. Syed Rafiqul Haq, Additional Managing Director & Chief Business Officer, MTB in the presence of Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Managing Director & CEO, MTB.

INCEPTA PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED



Incepta Pharmaceuticals Limited handed over a cheque of Tk 45.90 million from its profit to Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation Fund under the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the welfare of institutional and non-institutional labors of the country. On behalf of the company, the cheque was handed over by Mr Zahidul Alam, Head of Admin and Mr Enayet Hossain, Senior Manager, Human Resource of INCEPTA Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Begum Jebunnesa Karim, Director General (Additional Secretary), Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation Fund received the cheque on behalf of the Foundation.

STANDARD CHARTERED BANGLADESH



Standard Chartered Bangladesh recently inked an agreement with LankaBangla Securities to provide an end-to-end solution automating the latter's collections from investors and subsequent reconciliation process. Each investor will get a unique virtual account to make payments, be it online, over the counter or through cash recycler machines or cheques. The digitalized collections are automatically fed into Enterprise Resource Planning system of LankaBangla Securities though its accounts held with Standard Chartered Bangladesh, enabling receiving prompt notifications, reducing operational risk and increasing data security.

MARICO BANGLADESH LIMITED



Marico Bangladesh Limited recently deposited Tk 22.0 million to the Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation Fund under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The cheque was handed over to State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufian by the representatives of the Workers Profit Participation Trust Fund including Chief Financial Officer and Chairman of the fund Mr. Elias Ahmed. Begum Jebunnesa Karim, Director General (Additional Secretary), Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation Fund was present at the event.

BRAC BANK LIMITED



BRAC Bank employees once again contributed an amount of Tk.1.65 crore from their monthly pay to 'Dakchhe Abar Desh', a Covid response initiative by BRAC. The fund will provide more than 11,000 families with necessary food and other needs for at least two weeks. "I am delighted that our employees can be an active and valuable part of our values-based banking agenda. It is for the second time in two years of the pandemic, our people have come forward to support the underprivileged on top of their endowments", said Mr. M. Masud Rana, Deputy Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer of the bank. Last year, the employees of the bank had contributed 1.73 crore taka to BRAC's 'COVID-19: Emergency food assistance' fund.

ROBI AXIATA LIMITED



In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic situation, Robi Axiata Limited is offering one lakh taka life insurance coverage to customers on purchase of two specific bundle packs. Customers recharging 324 taka or 104 taka will automatically receive the insurance coverage as well as the benefits from Robi's digital health platform, Health Plus. Customers can avail 525 voice minutes and 512 MB data by recharging 324 taka with 30 days validity. By recharging 104 taka, customers can enjoy 170 voice minutes with 7 days validity. Life insurance amount for both the packs is one lakh taka. Validity of life insurance for 324 taka and 104-taka packs are six months and one month respectively. The age limit of the customer for insurance coverage is between 18 to 60 years.

EASTERN BANK LTD



Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL) provided two freezer vans to Al-Markazul Islami and Anjuman Mufidul Islam to help facilitate burial of dead bodies during the Covid-19 pandemic as part of its special 4.1 crore COVID-19 CSR program. Mr. Mir Nasir Hossain, Director of EBL, handed over the keys of vans to Executive Director of Anjuman Mufidul Islam Md. Mahfuzur Rahman and Hamza Shahidul Islam, Acting Chairman of Al- Markazul Islami at EBL head office recently. Mr. Ali Reza Iftekhar, Managing Director & CEO of EBL, Mr. Enamul Hasan Khan, Secretary General; Md. Sarwar Hossain, Council Member of Al-Markazul Islami and Md. Motiar Rahman, DIG (Retd), Deputy Director (Service); Nazmul Shadath, Deputy Director (Accounts and Finance) of Anjuman Mufidul Islam and other senior officials of EBL were present at the ceremony. Earlier, EBL donated a freezer van to Anjuman Mufidul Islam's Chattogram office.

BANK ASIA LIMITED



Bank Asia Limited donated Tk. 5.0 million to Sena Kalyan Sangstha (SKS) for the welfare of the people affected by Covid 19. Mr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Deputy Managing Director of the bank handed over the donation cheque to Major General Mohammed Saidul Islam, ndc, psc, Chairman of Sena Kalyan Sangstha on 26 August 2021 at SKS Tower. Mr. Tanfiz Hossain Chowdhury, SEVP of the bank along with others high officials from both the organizations were also present.

CORPORATE NEWS



Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited posted an impressive 594 percent increase in its first quarter (April-June, 2021) profit compared to the same quarter of the last year due to higher revenue and reduction of the corporate tax rate. The company reported consolidated revenue of Tk 5.25 billion for the first quarter ended on 30 June 2021 against Tk 2.08 billion in the same period of the previous year. The multinational company also reported a net income of Tk 746.21 million in April-June, 2021 quarter which was Tk 107.58 million in the same quarter a year earlier. The company said its consolidated earnings per share (EPS) increased to Tk 16.09 for April-June, 2021, up by a whopping 594 percent from Tk 2.32 for April-June 2020.



LankaBangla Finance Limited posted an impressive 2900 percent increase in its second-quarter (April-June 2021) earnings compared to the same period last year, thanks to a bullish capital market and relaxed provisioning norms. The company said its consolidated earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk 0.30 for April-June 2021, up from Tk 0.01 in the corresponding period. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 5.38 billion and authorized capital is Tk 10 billion, while the total number of securities is 538.83 million. The sponsor-directors owned 33.56 percent stake in the company, while institutional investors owned 18.79 percent, foreign investors 0.80 percent and the general public 46.85 percent as of 31 July 2021.



The board of directors of Walton Hi-Tech Industries recommended 250 percent cash dividend for general public shareholders and 170 percent cash dividend for directors and sponsors for the year ended on 30 June 2021. The electronics company also reported EPS of Tk 54.21, NAV per share of Tk. 311.59 (with revaluation), Tk. 208.16 (without revaluation) and NOCFPS of Tk. 31.96 for the year ended on 30 June 2021 against Tk. 24.21, Tk. 264.48 (with revaluation), Tk. 159.94 (without revaluation) and Tk. 16.81 respectively for the same period of the previous year. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 3.02 billion and authorized capital is Tk 6.0 billion while the total number of securities is 302.92 million. The sponsor-

directors owned 99.03 percent stake in the company, while the institutional investors 0.37 percent, foreign investors 0.10 percent and the general public 0.50 percent as of 30 June 2021.



Rupali Bank Limited posted nearly 67 percent increase in its earnings per share (EPS) in the second quarter that ended in June 2021 against the same quarter last year. The state-run bank's consolidated EPS stood at Tk 0.25 for April-June 2021, up from Tk 0.15 for April-June 2020. The bank's consolidated EPS for six months until June 30, 2021 also rose to Tk 0.43 against Tk 0.37 for January-June 2020. The consolidated NOCFPS was Tk 13.01 for January-June 2021 against Tk 74.54 for January-June 2020. As of 30 June 2021, the bank's net asset value (NAV) per share stood at Tk 46.49 against Tk 44.10 as of 31 December 2020. The government owned 90.19 percent stake in the bank, while institutional investors owned 4.81 percent and the general public 5.0 percent as of 31 July 2021.



IFAD Autos decided to invest Tk 800 million to acquire 40 percent shares of the IFAD Multi Products Ltd, one of the sister concerns of IFAD Group, having a common management. However, the said amount of investment is subject to approval by the shareholders/members in the forthcoming general meeting of the IFAD Autos. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 2.52 billion and authorized capital is Tk 3.0 billion, while the total number of securities is 252.95 million. The sponsor-directors owned 54.87 percent stake in the company, while institutional investors owned 26 percent, foreign investors 0.83 percent and the general public 18.30 percent as of 31 July 2021.



The board of directors of Rupali Life Insurance Company recommended 13 percent cash and 2.0 percent stock dividend for the year ended on 31 December 2020. It may be mentioned that the life insurer disbursed 12 percent cash and 2.0 percent stock dividend for the year ended on 31 December 2019. In 2018, it had provided a 12 percent cash dividend. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 294.26 million and authorized capital is Tk 1.0 billion, while the total number of securities is 29.42 million. The sponsor-directors owned 32.07 percent stake in the company, while institutional investors owned 9.51 percent and the general public 58.42 percent as of 31 July 2021.

LABEL MAKERS LIMITED

Label Makers Limited is going to establish a garments accessories plant in Dhaka EPZ with an investment of US\$1.14 million. The company will produce annually a total of 1.6 billion pieces of label, hang tag, elastic, paper packaging, seal cord, loop, self-adhesive sticker, poly bag, biodegradable poly bag, pet film image and heat transfer label. It will create employment opportunities for 285 people.



The board of directors of recently listed Desh General Insurance Company recommended a 10 percent cash dividend for the year ended on 31 December 2020. The non-life insurer also reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 1.51, net asset value (NAV) per share of Tk 11.93 and net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk 2.08 for the year ended on 31 December 2020, against Tk 1.36, Tk 11.62 and Tk 1.52 respectively for the same period of the previous year. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 400 million and authorized capital is Tk 1.0 billion, while the total number of securities is 40 million. The sponsor-directors owned 60 percent stake in the company, while institutional investors owned 4.35 percent and the general public 35.65 percent as of 31 July 2021.



BRAC Bank Limited decided to issue non-convertible bonds worth up to Tk 6.0 billion to raise funds for providing affordable housing finance to lower and middle-income groups of the country. The bond will be a non-convertible, redeemable, unsecured, fixed coupon-bearing bond which will be raised through private placement. The bank also reported its consolidated earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 0.96 for April-June, 2021, up by a whopping 357 percent, from Tk 0.21 in the corresponding period. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 13.92 billion and authorized capital is Tk 20 billion, while the total number of securities is 1.39 billion. The sponsor-directors owned 46.24 percent stake, while institutional investors owned 10.84 percent, foreign investors 37.40 percent and the general public 5.52 percent as of 31 July 2021.



Tamijuddin Textile Mills Limited recently decided to invest an estimated amount of Tk 500 million in balancing, modernization, rehabilitation and expansion (BMRE). Most of the machinery will be added or replaced gradually with state-of-the-art spinning production equipment from China, Japan and European countries. The textile maker expects that after

execution of the BMRE a significant value addition will come in terms of company's profitability, yarn quality, production capacity and efficiency.



Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) recently approved the IPO (initial public offering) proposal of Union Bank Ltd., a fourth-generation private commercial bank, which will raise a capital worth Tk 4.28 billion. As per the BSEC approval, Union Bank will issue 428 million ordinary shares of Tk 10 each under the fixed-price method. The company will utilize the IPO funds worth Tk 4.28 billion for purchasing government securities, investing in stock market, and financing in SME and other projects. Prime Bank Investment and BRAC EPL Investments are the issue managers of Union Bank.

Bata

Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Limited returned to profit in the second quarter (April-June 2021) against the same quarter last year thanks to a boost in sales. The company also reported its earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 1.15 for the quarter against a loss of Tk 53.74 per share recorded in the same period last year. As of 30 June 2021, the company's net asset value per share stood at Tk 265.50 against Tk 267.64 as of 31 December 2020. The company reported that during April-June, 2021, the company's revenue increased by 426 percent compared to the same period of the last year due to increased sales and clearance of aged merchandise by offering a bulk discount to the customers.



The board of directors of IFIC Bank Limited decided to issue Tk 5.0 billion subordinated bond to raise Tier-2 capital of the bank. The bank decided to issue the non-convertible subordinated bond to help the bank to meet its Basel III requirements. However, the issuing of bonds is subject to the approval of the regulatory authorities — Bangladesh Bank (BB) and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC). The bank's paid-up capital is Tk 17 billion, authorized capital is Tk 40 billion and the total number of securities is 1.70 billion. The sponsor-directors own 4.11 per cent stake in the bank, while the government owns 32.75 per cent, institutions own 25.85 per cent, foreign investors 0.72 per cent and the general public 36.57 per cent as of July 31, 2021.



The board of the directors of newly listed South Bangla Agriculture & Commerce Bank (SBAC) recommended 4.0 percent cash and 4.0 percent stock dividend for the year ended on 31 December 2020. The private commercial bank, which raised Tk 1.0 billion under the fixed price method, made share trading debut on 11 August 2021. The board of the bank also decided to form two companies – SBAC Bank Capital Management and SBAC Bank Asset Management. As per the decision, the board decided to form a merchant banking company named SBAC Bank Capital Management with a paid-up capital of 400 million and authorized capital of Tk 500 million, subject to the approval of regulatory authorities. The board also decided to form an asset management company -- SBAC Asset Management with a paid-up capital of 400 million and authorized capital of Tk 500 million, subject to the approval of regulatory authorities. The bank's paid-up capital is Tk 7.84 billion, authorized capital is Tk 10 billion and the total number of securities is 784.64 million.



Eastern Housing Limited, a leading real state listed firm, posted 27.57 percent profit growth in the FY21 compared to same period last year amid ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The company posted net profit after tax of Tk 37.15 crore for the fiscal year 2010-21, which was Tk 29.12 crore for the previous year. Meanwhile, the board of directors of Eastern Housing decided to pay a 15 percent cash dividend to the shareholders after reviewing the financial statements for the financial year ended on June 30, 2021. The company's earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk 3.98 for the FY21 against Tk 3.12 for the previous fiscal year. Its net asset value (NAV) per share was Tk 70.33 and net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) was Tk 11.29 as of 30 June 2021.



Dhaka Bank posted a 161 percent increase in its second quarter (April-June 2021) earnings compared to the same quarter of

the previous year, thanks to rising operating income. The bank said its consolidated earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk 0.47 for April-June 2021, up by a whopping 161 percent, from Tk 0.18 in the corresponding period. The bank's consolidated EPS for six months until 30 June 2021 also increased to Tk 1.10 against Tk 0.79 for the same period of the previous year. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 9.49 billion, authorized capital is Tk 10 billion and the total number of securities is 949.62 million. The sponsor-directors owned 41.12 stakes in the bank while the institutional investors owned 13.56 percent and the general public 45.32 percent as of 31 July 2021.



The US-Bangla Airlines is going to start operating flights to Maldivian capital of Male, one of the popular South Asian tourist destinations, from the third week of November next. It will operate 164-seat Boeing 737-800 aircraft from Dhaka to Male. Currently, the company operates international flights to Dubai, Muscat, Doha, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Chennai and Guangzhou while its flights to Kolkata and Bangkok have been temporarily suspended due to travel bans amid the pandemic. As part of its future plans, the US-Bangla Airlines will to launch flights to Colombo, Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam soon. Besides, the US-Bangla currently operates flights to all domestic routes from Dhaka. The carrier is also going to start operation of flights from Jashore to Chattogram and Cox's Bazar and from Saidpur to Chattogram.



Beximco LPG Unit – 1 Ltd, recently entered into an agreement with Jamuna Oil Company Ltd. (a subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation) enabling Beximco LPG to setup LPG Pumps and commence sales of Autogas through the registered filling stations of Jamuna Oil Ltd. As per the agreement, Jamuna Oil and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation will receive a royalty of Taka 0.50 per liter of LPG that is sold by Beximco LPG through their established AutoLPG pumps. Currently, Jamuna Oil has a network of 750 filling stations while Beximco LPG was granted 500 franchise licenses for AutoLPG stations and 25 licenses for Conversion Workshops by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources earlier in 2016.

NATIONAL NEWS

LOAN REPAYMENT POLICY FURTHER RELAXED



The central bank further extended the policy relaxation regarding loan repayment to the scheduled banks by their borrowers to help recover the country's pandemic-hit economy. Under the relaxation, the borrowers would get a fresh chance to remain unclassified, if they repay minimum 25 percent the total outstanding amount of loans for the whole calendar year within 31 December, according to a notification issued by the Bangladesh Bank (BB). In that case, the remaining 75 percent of the outstanding loans from January 2021 to December 2021 would be payable within one year from the date of expiry of the loans, it added. The central bank would issue a separate directive, relating to maintaining provisioning against such loans, by the end of this year. All borrowers are eligible to avail such loan repayment facility, if they repay one-fourth of their total outstanding loans within the stipulated timeframe, the officials explained.

TK 2.0 BILLION FROM STIMULUS PACKAGE RELEASED FOR SMEs

The Finance Division released another Tk 2.0 billion from the stimulus package for the SME Foundation for distribution after its successful disbursement from the package among Covid-hit entrepreneurs earlier. According to an office order issued recently, the amount was released for the Foundation to disburse among more entrepreneurs under the cottage, micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (CMSME) sector.

Earlier, the Finance Division released Tk 1.0 billion for the SME Foundation as part of the government's target of disbursement of Tk 3.0 billion through it. According to the SME Foundation, some 14 SME entrepreneurs from rural and urban areas received the money from the stimulus package in the first phase.

BANKS ASKED TO RAISE CORE CAPITAL RATIO

The central bank recently asked banks to raise their core capital ratio to 3.25 percent in 2023 after they failed to put in place enough shareholders' equity and reserves in line with international standards to absorb unexpected shocks. In 2014, the Bangladesh Bank issued the guidelines on risk-based capital adequacy for banks in line with the Basel III Accord, the primary banking regulation that sets the minimum tier 1 capital ratio requirement for financial institutions. The BB ordered banks to maintain at least 3 per cent tier 1 capital, also known as the leverage ratio, by 2015 to strike a balance between capital and assets.

TK 5 BILLION CREDIT SCHEME FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE

The Bangladesh Bank launched a Tk 5.0-billion re-financing scheme to help mitigate adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the marginal/landless farmers, low-income groups, school banking account-holders and small businesses. The central bank, in a press release, said that Tk 10, Tk 50 and Tk 100 account-holders are entitled to get money from the special fund. The main purpose of the special fund is to revitalize economic activities of these people, affected from the second wave of the virus outbreak, through continuation of their formal credit access. Under the scheme, the scheduled banks are allowed to disburse collateral-free loan of maximum Tk 0.5 million to a client. In terms of group funding, the regulator set a loan limit of maximum Tk 2.0 million for a group having two to five members. The rate of interest under the scheme will be 1.0 percent for the banks, while the beneficiaries will get loans at the rate of maximum 7.0 percent from the banks.

23 BANKS PUMP TK 143.6 BILLION INTO STOCKS

Some 23 listed banks, out of 32, made a consolidated investment worth Tk 143.63 billion in the country's stock market as of 31 July last. According to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), the banks made investments ranging from Tk 2.67 billion to Tk 10.95 billion. Al-Arafa Islami Bank made a consolidated investment worth Tk 10.95 billion, which is 48.99 percent of the bank's consolidated capital, according to the BSEC. The City Bank made a consolidated investment of around Tk 11.09 billion, which is 42.46 percent of the company's consolidated capital. The consolidated investment of BRAC Bank stood at Tk 10.07 billion, which is 23.49 percent of the consolidated capital while United Commercial Bank made a consolidated investment of Tk 10.48 billion, which is 31.86 percent of the company's consolidated capital.

INVESTMENT ABROAD NEEDS 'BSEC NOD'

Local businesses willing to make equity investment abroad will have to take consent from Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) too, if the deals are conducted in the form of 'capital issue'.

NO DIRECT PAYMENT INTO E-COMMERCE ACCOUNTS

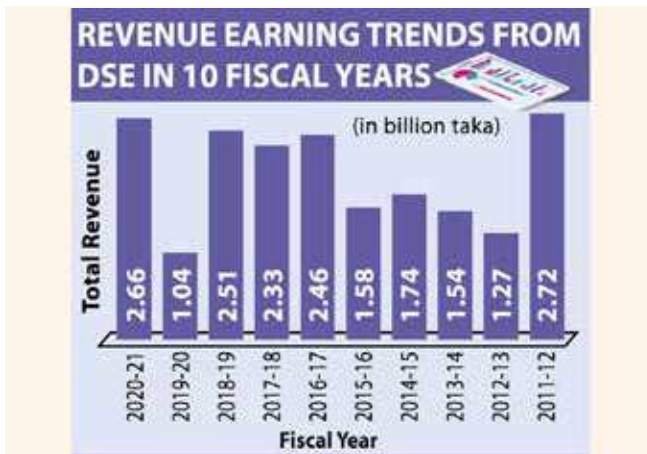


The Ministry of Commerce in a letter requested the Bangladesh Bank to give necessary instructions to banks not to allow the deposit of any payment from customers directly into bank accounts of e-commerce companies. In the letter sent to central bank governor, the ministry said some e-commerce platforms are instructing customers to deposit money directly into their bank accounts against product orders by bypassing the central bank's escrow service. In this way, customers will likely be deceived again.

SALES OF SAVINGS TOOLS TRIPLE IN FY20

Department of National Savings (DNS) disclosed that the net sales of national savings certificates stood at Tk 419.59 billion in the FY20 against a target of Tk 200.00 billion. The net sales of the instruments were nearly three times higher in the last FY than Tk 144.28 billion of the previous FY.

TAX RECEIPTS FROM DSE JUMP 54%



The government's revenue earnings from the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) rose 54 percent year-on-year in the first month (July) of the current fiscal year (2021-22) on the back of rising trading volume. The government bagged revenue worth Tk 289 million in the first month of the FY 2021-22, which was Tk 188 million in the same month in the FY 2020-21, registering an increase of 54 percent. Of the total earnings in July 2021, Tk 233 million came from the TREC (trading right entitlement certificate) holders' commission, popularly known as brokerage commission, while Tk 56 million came from the share sales by sponsor-directors and placement holders. It may be mentioned that the government's revenue earnings from the DSE registered a 10 year high of Tk 2.66 billion in the FY 2020-21 as the DSE turnover recorded a decade high in few sessions in the last fiscal year.

BANGLADESH JOINS NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK AS ITS MEMBER

The New Development Bank (NDB) – established by BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in 2015 – has admitted Bangladesh as a new member. NDB's Board of Governors authorized the Bank to conduct formal negotiations with prospective members in late 2020. After a round of successful negotiations, NDB is increasing its global outreach with the announcement of Bangladesh, UAE and Uruguay as the first countries admitted into the Bank.

Bangladesh will have in NDB a new platform to foster cooperation in infrastructure and sustainable development with BRICS and upcoming new members. Membership to NDB becomes effective once the admitted country completes its domestic processes and deposits the instrument of accession.

Since its establishment six years ago, NDB has approved about 80 projects in all of its member countries, totaling a portfolio of US\$ 30 billion. Projects in areas such as transport, water and sanitation, clean energy, digital infrastructure, social infrastructure and urban development are within the scope of the Bank.

28TH GAS FIELD DISCOVERED AT ZAKIGANJ



The government recently announced the discovery of the country's 28th gas field in Zakiganj -- in the gas-rich Sylhet region. The field, discovered by State-run Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (BAPEX), has a possible reserve of 68 billion cubic feet (bcf) of gas worth around Tk 12.76 billion (about \$148 million).

NBR REVENUE RECEIPTS UP 21%

The tax revenue collection recorded an impressive 21 percent growth in the fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 over that of the previous FY. Greater mobilization of corporate and withholding tax made the feat possible on the part of the National Board of Revenue (NBR). However, the collection fell short of the target by Tk.411.18 billion, set for the last FY. The NBR collected Tk2.61 trillion in tax revenue in FY 2020-21 against the revised target of Tk 3.01 trillion.

ADB CLEARS \$1.78 BILLION IN LOANS TO IMPROVE TRANSPORT, TRADE



The Asian Development Bank recently approved a \$1.78 billion multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) to improve mobility, road safety, and regional trade along the Dhaka–Sylhet trade corridor in Bangladesh. The Dhaka–Sylhet corridor, once completed, will support a new trade route that connects Chattogram port with India's northeastern states through the three land ports of Akhaura, Sheola, and Tamabil, and from there to Bhutan and Myanmar.

The corridor is also the centerpiece of the Bangladesh government's planned Northeast Bangladesh Economic Corridor, which aims to promote key industries in the area, such as energy generation and production of construction materials, and to better integrate them with the rest of the economy in the country.

BANGLADESH RANKED 119TH AMONG 193 COUNTRIES IN THE UN EGD I 2020

Bangladesh ranked 119th among 193 countries in the UN E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2020. In South Asia,

Sri Lanka ranked 85th in the latest report while India 100th, Bhutan 103rd, Nepal 132nd, Myanmar 146th and Pakistan 153rd.

UNIFORM TARIFF FOR BROADBAND INTERNET



The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) fixed the tariffs for broadband internet all through the value chain to implement a uniform rate for internet use across the country. BTRC set the prices for transmission, bandwidth and services availed by internet service providers (ISPs) from the Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network (NTTN) and the International Internet Gateway (IIG) operators. ISPs welcomed the move as fixing the rates for the bulk purchase of bandwidth and transmission services will enable them to comply with the government-fixed rate for broadband internet.

BB ASKS BANKS TO SUBMIT PIF STATEMENTS QUARTERLY

Bangladesh Bank (BB) instructed all the scheduled banks to submit their post import financing (PIF) statement to its Department of Off-Site Supervision (DOS) every quarter. The banks have also been asked to send a copy of the statement to the Task-force Cell of its Banking Regulation and Policy Department (BRPD), according to a notification issued by the Bangladesh Bank (BB). However, the first statement will have to be submitted to the central bank by the end of October this calendar year, it added.

11 BANKS ASKED TO SUBMIT PLANS FOR OVERCOMING CAPITAL SHORTFALL

The Bangladesh Bank has asked 11 banks, which have suffered capital shortfalls in the first half of 2021, to submit their respective plans for mitigating their capital shortfalls. The central bank issued letters to the banks asking them to explain what steps they had already been taken or would take to mitigate their shortfalls. The banks are: Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Agrani Bank, ICB Islamic Bank, BASIC Bank, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, Bangladesh Commerce Bank, Rupali Bank, Padma Bank and AB Bank.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INDIA



India attracted foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows of \$22.53 billion during the first three months of the fiscal year starting on 1 April 2021, about 90 percent higher than the April-June period last year, Indian government said. India's automobile industry accounted for 27 percent of the total FDI equity inflow, emerging as the brightest sector in Asia's third-largest economy, followed by computer software and hardware and the services sectors which accounted for 17 percent and 11 percent of the inflows respectively, the trade ministry said in a statement. Indian Prime Minister's administration has cut corporate tax rates to woo manufacturers and revive private investment, introduced new farm laws and passed labor reforms aimed at making hiring and firing workers easier.

SRI LANKA



Sri Lanka declared an economic emergency empowering the authorities to seize stocks of staple foods and set their prices, to contain soaring inflation after a steep devaluation of its currency due to a foreign exchange crisis. The president of the country declared an emergency under the public security

ordinance to maintain the supply of food items such as sugar and rice at fair prices. Sri Lanka's Department of Census and Statistics said the increase in the foreign exchange rate was one of the reasons behind rising prices of many essential items over the last 12 months. Sri Lanka, a net importer of food and other commodities, is witnessing a surge in Covid-19 cases and deaths which has hit tourism, one of its main foreign currency earners.

CHINA



China's exports unexpectedly grew at a faster pace in August 2021 thanks to solid global demand. Shipments from the world's biggest exporter in August rose 25.6 percent year-on-year, picking up speed from a 19.3 percent gain in July, customs data showed, pointing to some resilience in China's industrial sector. The Asian giant staged an impressive recovery from a coronavirus-battered slump, but economic momentum has weakened recently due to the Delta variant-driven COVID-19 outbreaks, high raw material prices, slowing factory activity, tighter measures to tame hot property prices and a campaign to reduce carbon emissions.

SINGAPORE



Singapore's manufacturing output grew 16.3 percent year on year in July 2021 compared to the revised 28 percent increase in the previous month, the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) said. Excluding biomedical manufacturing, the output grew 5.8 percent year on year this July, compared to the 25.1 percent growth in June, the EDB announced. As for the performance of different clusters, the electronics cluster's output expanded 1.5 percent year on year in July, while the biomedical manufacturing cluster saw its output jump 86.6 percent, the chemicals cluster's output declined 5.6 percent, the precision engineering cluster's output grew 20.3 percent, the transport engineering cluster's output increased 33.1 percent, and the general manufacturing cluster's output rose 11 percent.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



The United Arab Emirates plans to launch 50 new economic initiatives to boost the country's competitiveness and attract 550 billion dirhams (\$150 billion) in foreign direct investment in the next nine years, government officials said. The Gulf state launched several measures over the past year to attract investment. Among the projects, the UAE and the Emirates Development Bank will invest 5 billion dirhams in industrial technology and technology-heavy sectors, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology said during a media briefing.

ITALY



Nearly 340,000 new jobs were created in Italy in the second quarter (Q2) of this year, up 1.5 percent from the first quarter, data released by the National Statistics Institute (ISTAT) showed. The main driver of growth was the increase of temporary workers, which grew by more than 225,000, or an increase of 8.3 percent compared to the first quarter, according to the ISTAT. The number of "inactive" workers aged 15 to 64 -- those who were able to work but no longer seeking employment -- also dropped by 2.4 percent in Q2, the equivalent of more than 335,000 workers. Though the overall employment situation was improving, ISTAT data showed the number of employed residents was still 678,000 fewer in Q2 in Italy compared to the second quarter of 2019, before the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

GERMANY



Germany's trade surplus widened in July 2021 as exports continued to grow while imports fell amid widespread supply-chain strains that are leading to shortages in raw materials and components. Germany's trade surplus—the balance of exports and imports of goods—stood at 17.9 billion euros (\$21.15 billion) in calendar and seasonally adjusted terms

in July, data from the country's statistics office Destatis showed. Exports rose 0.5% in July compared with the previous month in adjusted terms, Imports decreased 3.6% on month. Demand from the European Union for German goods was up 17.7%, compared with the same month a year ago, while that from other countries climbed 6.8%, the data showed.

USA



US job openings raced to a new record high in July 2021 while layoffs rose moderately. Job openings, a measure of labor demand, jumped 749,000 to 10.9 million on the last day of July, the highest level since the series began in December 2000. It was the fifth straight month that job openings, which have been increasing since January, hit a record high. Job openings rose in the Northeast, South, Midwest and West regions. The Labor Department's monthly Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, or JOLTS report, also showed a steady increase in the number of workers voluntarily quitting their jobs, a sign of confidence in the labor market.

CANADA



Canada posted a narrower trade surplus in July than in the previous month, as imports rose at a faster pace than exports, Statistics Canada data showed. In July, Canada's merchandise imports rose 4.2% to \$53.0 billion, and exports increased 0.6% to \$53.7 billion. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade surplus narrowed from \$2.6 billion in June to \$778 million in July. Motor vehicles and parts (+21.1%) accounted for more than two-thirds of the increase in total imports in July, a month that is normally marked by temporary closures in North American automotive assembly plants for summer holidays. Imports of electronic and electrical equipment and parts (+8.5%) also contributed to the increase in July.

NEW PRODUCTS

WAFFLE TOWEL



Your towel is a major part of your shower experience, so you can't just go picking any old option off the shelf. While your daily bathing routine might not feel luxurious, the best waffle towels can change that. Compared to terry cloth towels, waffle towels have a larger surface area thanks to their honeycomb design. While they certainly look beautiful, their construction makes them super functional, too. Waffle towels trap moisture better and dry quicker than other types of towels. They're also much more lightweight and breathable, so they'll stay fresher longer. If you're over ultra plush cotton towels that seem to stay damp for hours, waffle towels will be your new best friend.

THIS CAST IRON SKILLET IS LIGHTWEIGHT & RUSTPROOF



This isn't your grandmother's cast iron pan. As the cast iron renaissance continues, cookware constructed from this stuff just keeps getting better. Vermicular's 10.2" Frying Pan is a case in point. Designed by Japanese cookware artisans, the enamel-coated rustproof cast iron pan is lightweight, requires no "seasoning", and enhances liquid evaporation. A glass lid locks in flavor and stands upright on its cool-touch cast iron handle.

PINKTOP X INDARE PORTABLE FRIDGE TO KEEP YOUR BEAUTY PRODUCTS



PINKTOP has collaborated with inDare Design Studio to design a portable fridge to keep your beauty products. It's a revolutionary way to make sure your skin care products and cosmetics fresh longer and less prone to expiring prematurely. The elegant and minimalist design of this portable fridge represents your modern lifestyle trend. inDare Design Studio utilizes fridge technology such as "smart constant temperature 10°+, 360° circulatory system and sleep silence mode". This product incorporates technology into the world of fashion and beauty, it enhances your self-confidence wherever you are.

BLUNT METRO WIND-RESISTANT UMBRELLA



If you travel often, having an umbrella that can protect you from a wide range of weather is going to be ideal. The Blunt Metro Umbrella is built for traveling, thanks to its UV protection, rip-resistant canopy, and the ability to keep 55mph winds at bay without turning inside out—while looking good, too. The Blunt Metro Umbrella combines style and performance beautifully. Underneath its six-point design is strength that can withstand 55mph winds without buckling under the pressure. The fabric itself is pongee, which is fitted over 6 tough fiberglass ribs. The pongee fabric is also quick to dry, while also being rip-resistant. It has to take several years of damage to break the Blunt Metro Umbrella. Aside from standing its ground against wind, the umbrella also has UV protection,

PORTABLE SAMSUNG OVEN



Designs like these are born when people are incredibly hungry and then go “Aha! I wish I could just heat my food here while waiting for the bus!” Boom! Samsung Cuisine is a conceptual all-in-one portable oven made keeping the Samsung design language in mind. It allows you to heat up your food anywhere anytime. Think of it as a lunch bag and a microwave having a high-tech kitchen appliance! Samsung Cuisine features the built-in inductive heating technology of Samsung that can go up to 300-degree F and it will heat up anything you put in the oven. This portable appliance is perfect for any trip including camping, hiking, or picnic!

It not only warms your food anywhere, anytime but can also cook it on the go.

THE ENSEMBLE



The Ensemble is a multifunctional ironing board that transforms into a mirror when not in use so you'll never have to hide your ironing board again. The days of shoving ironing boards into our coat closets and sliding them between laundry room shelves are finally past us. The designers at Off Garage merged the ironing board with the mirror because they naturally go hand in hand. We iron our clothes, we wear them, and we use the mirror to tune up the finished look. It makes sense for both items to be in the same room, better yet, to be the same piece of furniture.

CHÁ



Inspired and derived from Chinese tea culture, Chá is a travel tea flask that brings the ritual of brewing tea at home back into making tea on the go. Making your first cup of tea in the morning feels like a ritual. Like clockwork, the water boils, the flavor of tea leaves seep into your cup, and the tea is ready to be enjoyed while you curl up next to a window and read. Having tea on the go is a little different. When we make tea in stainless steel, thermal bottles, we can't see how strong we're making it and our tea-making rituals are always cut short. Topped with a transparent lid, Chá allows each user to witness the seeping process while brewing tea to ensure their desired tea strength is achieved. With a handy rubber strap, users can even brew their tea with the bottle strapped to their backpack. The brewing process of Chá is just like filling a water bottle, but the lid of Chá features a compartment where users can place tea bags near a built-in infuser and transparent section that reveals the strength of each brew.

A SMART YOGA MAT



Unlike the ordinary stretching mats, Solelp features a smart mat, camera-laden bar, interactive handles and a mobile app that gives users a connected environment to perform and enjoy stretching for a better body posture. Living in the pandemic, we have all understood the importance of staying fit and healthy. Staying healthy is not just about building muscles, eating a healthy diet, or achieving aerobic fitness. You must think about your body posture and flexibility (which is taking a backseat as we continue to work from home). This is where stretching comes in!

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NEW MEDICAL GLUE – INSPIRED BY BARNACLES – STOPS BLEEDING IN SECONDS



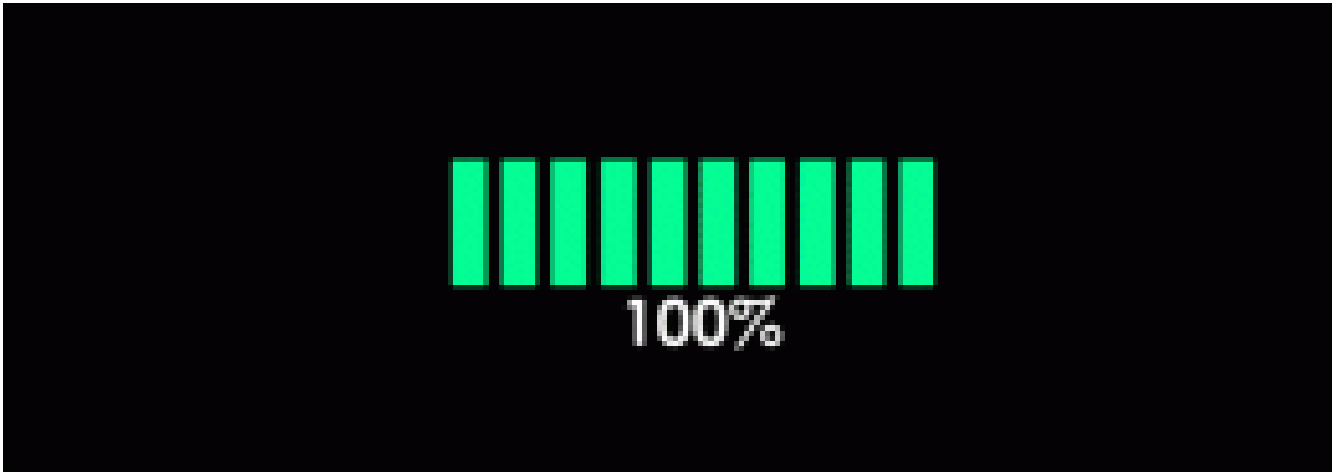
Inspired by the sticky substance that barnacles use to cling to rocks and other surfaces, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) engineers have designed a strong, biocompatible glue that can seal injured tissues and stop bleeding. The new paste can adhere to surfaces even when they are covered with blood, and form a tight seal within about 15 seconds of application. The researchers suggest that such a glue could offer a much more effective way to treat traumatic injuries and help to control bleeding during surgery. Tissue and organ-related hemorrhages can be life threatening, and are challenging to treat, owing to the highly time-sensitive and often complex nature of the injury. In fact, uncontrolled hemorrhages are one of the major causes of mortality in the world, accounting for more than two million deaths annually. Among members of the military, blood loss is the leading cause of death following a traumatic injury, and among the general population, it is the second leading cause of death following a traumatic injury.

COVID-19: SNEEZE CAM REVEALS BEST FABRIC COMBOS FOR CLOTH MASKS



During the COVID-19 pandemic, cloth face masks became a way to help protect yourself and others from the virus. And for some people, they became a fashion statement, with many fabric choices available. But just how effective are they, especially in containing a sneeze? Face masks help reduce disease spread by blocking tiny, virus-laden droplets expelled through the nose and mouth when a person speaks, coughs or sneezes. Shovon Bhattacharjee, Raina MacIntyre, and colleagues at the University of New South Wales wanted to see how well masks made of various fabrics and layers blocked respiratory droplets from the sneezes of a healthy adult. The researchers made simple face masks with 17 commonly available fabrics. Each mask had one, two, or three layers of the same or different fabrics. A healthy 30-year-old volunteer donned each mask, tickled the inside of his nose with tissue paper on a cotton swab, and then readjusted the mask just before the onset of a sneeze. The researchers captured high-speed videos of the sneezes and computed the intensity of droplets in the images in a region 2 cm from his mouth. With each fabric layer, the droplet-blocking capability improved by more than 20-fold. Interestingly, all of the three-layer cloth combinations the researchers tested were more effective than a three-layer surgical mask. The best masks for blocking droplets contained a hydrophilic inner layer of cotton or linen, an absorbent middle layer of a cotton/polyester blend, and a hydrophobic outer layer of polyester or nylon.

NEW IMAGING TECHNIQUE SHOWS HOW SMARTPHONE BATTERIES COULD CHARGE IN MINUTES



Researchers have developed a simple lab-based technique that allows them to look inside lithium-ion batteries and follow lithium ions moving in real time as the batteries charge and discharge, something which has not been possible until now. Using the low-cost technique, the researchers identified the speed-limiting processes which, if addressed, could enable the batteries in most smartphones and laptops to charge in as little as five minutes. The researchers, from the University of Cambridge, say their technique will not only help improve existing battery materials, but could accelerate the development of next-generation batteries, one of the biggest technological hurdles to be overcome in the transition to a fossil fuel-free world. While lithium-ion batteries have undeniable advantages, such as relatively high energy densities and long lifetimes in comparison with other batteries and means of energy storage, they can also overheat or even explode, and are relatively expensive to produce. Additionally, their energy density is nowhere near that of petrol. So far, this makes them unsuitable for widespread use in two major clean technologies: electric cars and grid-scale storage for solar power.

MIT'S NIMBUS SOLAR CAR WINS 2021 AMERICAN SOLAR CHALLENGE











After three years of hard work, the MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Team took first place at the 2021 American Solar Challenge (ASC) on August 7 in the Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) category. During the five-day race, their solar car, Nimbus — designed and built entirely by students — beat eight other SOVs from schools across the country, traversing 1,109 miles and maintaining an average speed of 38.4 miles per hour. Held every two years, the ASC has traditionally been a timed event. This year, however, the race was based on the total distance traveled. Each team followed the same prescribed route, from Independence, Missouri, to Las Vegas, New Mexico. But teams could drive additional miles within each of the three stages — if their battery had enough juice to continue. Nimbus surpassed the closest runner-up, the University of Kentucky, by over 100 miles.

COUNTRY PROFILE

Netherlands



	Area 41,543 sq km
	Population 17.337 million (July 2021 estimated)
	Capital Amsterdam
	Real GDP (purchasing power parity) \$986.847 billion (2019 estimated)
	Real GDP per capita \$56,935 (2019 estimated)
	GDP official exchange rate \$907.042 billion (2019 estimated)
	Gross national saving 31.2% of GDP (2019 estimated)
	Taxes and other revenues 43.4% (of GDP) (2017 estimated)
	Inflation rate (consumer prices) 2.6% (2019 estimated)
	Current account balance \$90.207 billion (2019 estimated)
	Foreign exchange and gold reserves \$38.44 billion (31 December 2017 estimated)

Source: The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency

The Netherlands, also known unofficially as Holland, is a constitutional monarchy of northwestern Europe. A geographically small low-lying country, Netherlands has about 25% of its area located below sea level. The country, one of the most densely populated in the world, is heavily urbanized, with about 90 percent of the population living in urban areas. The Netherlands economy is noted for stable industrial relations, moderate unemployment and inflation, a sizable current account surplus, and an important role as a European transportation hub. It is the sixth-largest economy in the European Union. The country continues to be one of the leading European nations for attracting foreign direct investment and is one of the five largest investors in the United States.



Agriculture

A highly mechanized agricultural sector employs only 2% of the labor force but provides large surpluses for food-processing and underpins the country's status as the world's second largest agricultural exporter.

Crops: cereals, roots and tubers such as potatoes and sugar beets, vegetables, fruits and flowers



Natural gas

Beginning in the 1950s, the Netherlands discovered huge natural gas resources. The Groningen gas field, one of the largest natural gas fields in the world, is situated near Slochteren. It is operated by government-owned Gasunie and output is jointly exploited by the government, Royal Dutch Shell, and Exxon Mobil.



Tourism

In 2017 the Netherlands was visited by 17 million foreign tourists (with more than 5 million coming from Germany), making it the 20th most visited country in the world. Top tourist attractions in the Netherlands are: Amsterdam, Zaanse Schans, Volendam, Giethoorn, Efteling, Keukenhof, Kinderdijk



Foreign Trade

Export: \$857.574 billion (2019 est.) **Import:** \$755.65 billion (2019 est.)

Major export commodities: refined petroleum, packaged medicines, broadcasting equipment, photography equipment, computers

Major export destinations: Germany, Belgium, United Kingdom, France, United States

Major Import commodities: refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment, computers, cars

Major import sources: Germany, China, Belgium, United States, Russia, United Kingdom



Industry

Major industries include agro industries, metal and engineering products, electrical machinery and equipment, chemicals, petroleum refining, construction, microelectronics, and fishing.



Transportation

Roads:

Because the Dutch economy is internationally oriented, good transportation facilities have long been essential to its prosperity. With a total road network of 139,295 km, which includes 2,758 km of expressways, the Netherlands has one of the densest road networks in the world; much denser than Germany and France, but still not as dense as Belgium. Around half of all trips in the Netherlands are made by car, 25% by bicycle, 20% walking, and 5% by public transport

Railway:

Just like in many other European countries, the Dutch rail network of 3,013 km is also rather dense. The network is mostly focused on passenger rail services and connects virtually all major towns and cities. Trains are frequent, with one or two trains per hour on lesser lines, two to four trains per hour on average, and up to eight trains an hour on the busiest lines.

Ports:

Rotterdam is one of the world's leading seaports. The port's main activities are petrochemical industries and general cargo handling and transshipment. From Rotterdam goods are transported by ship, river barge, train or road.

Airports:

The busiest international airport of The Netherlands is Schiphol, near Amsterdam, and smaller airports serve Groningen, Maastricht, Rotterdam, and other cities. Domestic air travel is of little importance. Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) is the country's leading air carrier



Netherlands KLM

REVIEW

Export Earnings



According to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data, export earnings (merchandise) year on year fell by 11.19 percent to US\$3.47 billion in July 2021 mainly because of decline in exports of major goods including readymade garment (RMG). Bangladesh fetched US\$3.91 billion in July 2020. The overall earnings also fell short of the strategic target by 6.85 percent.

Out of total US\$3.47 billion export earnings in July 2021, the RMG sector fetched US\$2.88 billion recording an 11.02 percent decline compared to US\$3.24 billion earned in the corresponding month in 2020. The sector's earnings also fell short of the target by 4.17 percent set for July 2021.

Earnings from knitwear items stood at US\$1.65 billion in July 2021, registering a negative growth of 5.25 percent. Bangladesh fetched US\$1.75 billion from knitwear exports in July 2020. Woven garments fetched US\$1.22 billion in July 2021, also down by 17.79 percent. The woven items earnings were US\$1.49 billion in July 2020, according to EPB data.

Meanwhile, home textile exports also recorded 1.76 percent negative growth to US\$92.36 million during the first month of the current fiscal year. The jute sector that demonstrated positive growth throughout the last fiscal, recorded 41.29 percent fall in July 2021 with earnings of US\$60.77 million, down from US\$103.51 million. Earnings from agricultural products that included vegetables, fruits and dry food also witnessed a negative growth of 2.88 percent. The sector earnings stood at US\$98.15 million in July 2021. Earnings from vegetables alone, however, grew by 137.69 percent to US\$15.45 million during the month.

Bangladesh fetched US\$90.52 million from leather and leather goods exports in July 2021, registering a meagre 0.64 percent growth compared to that of July 2020. Exports of frozen and live fish fell by 13.43 percent to US\$3.80 million in the first month of the current fiscal.

The government set a target of US\$43.50 billion goods export earnings in the current fiscal year (FY22).

Import Payments (C&F)

Import payments (C&F) during FY21 remarkably increased by US\$10,810.00 million or 19.73 percent and stood at US\$65,594.70 million against US\$54,784.70 million during FY20. Custom based import in June of FY21 increased by 44.95 percent and stood at 6,969.00 compared to the same month of the previous fiscal year (US\$4,807.90).

According to the BB data, the settlement of import Letters of Credit (LCs) increased by 7.52 percent to US\$57,256.40 million during FY21 compared to US\$53,253.71 million in the previous fiscal year. This increase was driven by consumer goods (+18.73%), machinery for miscellaneous industries (+11.25%), industrial raw material (+11.01%) and intermediate goods (3.91%). The opening of fresh import LCs also increased by 19.50 percent to US\$67,037.42 million in the just concluded fiscal year from US\$56,099.89 million in the previous fiscal year. This increase was mainly due to rise in opening of import LCs of consumer goods (+25.19%), machinery for miscellaneous industries (+22.43%), industrial raw material (+21.13%), intermediate goods (+20.59%) and capital machinery (+15.50%).

Inflows of Remittance

Inflows of remittances during July of FY22 decreased significantly by US\$726.72 million or 27.97 percent and stood at US\$1,871.49 million against US\$2,598.21 million received during July of FY21. In July 2021 remittance declined significantly due to the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic situation. During this period, many Bangladeshi migrants lost their jobs; some migrants were laid off by their companies. Besides, many others who returned home couldn't go back due to suspended international flights as a part of country-wide lockdown and unmet vaccine requirements.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)



The net foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first month of the current fiscal year (July of FY22) increased by 19.74 percent to US\$91 million from US\$76 million in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal year (July of FY21), according to the BB's

balance of payments data. On the other hand, the gross inflow of FDI during the period under review also increased by 12.74 percent to US\$292 million from US\$259 million in July of FY21.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Bangladesh Bank's gross foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$45,842.20 million (with ACU liability of US\$690.28 million) as of end July 2021, which was US\$37,288.20 million (with ACU liability of US\$559.48 million) as of end July 2020 and US\$46,391.44 million (with ACU liability of US\$1,550.40 million) as of end of June 2021. The foreign exchange reserves (less ACU liability) in July, 2021 is sufficient to pay import liability of 8.26 months; considering the average of the previous 12 months (August, 2020-July, 2021) import payments.

Exchange Rate



Bangladesh Taka marginally appreciated by 0.0035 percent against the US dollar at the end of July 2021 as compared to the level of end June 2021. As per the latest available data, the US dollar was quoted at Tk.84.8054 at the end of June 2021 and Tk.84.8024 at the end of July 2021.

Price Situation



The twelve-month average general inflation dropped to 5.54 percent in July 2021 as compared to 5.56 percent in June 2021, which was 0.24 percentage point higher than the target of 5.30 percent for FY22.

The point-to-point food inflation and non food inflation decreased significantly to 5.08 percent and 5.80 percent respectively in July 2021 from 5.45 percent and 5.94 percent in June 2021. As a result, the point-to-point general inflation was pushed down to 5.36 percent in July 2021 from 5.64 percent in June 2021

Capital Market



Stocks in both Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchanges performed well on 2 August 2021. The daily trade turnover on Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) hit two months high on that day as investors put fresh funds on stocks riding on new hope after the central bank unveiled expansionary monetary policy.

Turnover, a crucial indicator of the market, climbed to Tk.21.88 billion on the country's premier bourse, in a further rise by 44 percent over previous day's mark of Tk.15.21 billion. It happens to be the biggest single-day transaction since 10 June 2021, when the turnover recorded of Tk.26.69 billion. Along with high turnover, the prime index of the DSE went up by 56.31 points or 0.87 percent to settle at 6,481, the highest since its inception more than eight years back in 2013. The blue chip index DS30, also rose 16.22 points to settle at an all-time high at 2,344, highest since its inception on 27 January 2013. The DSE Shariah Index also rose 11.10 points to close at 1,412.

Market insiders said that stocks remained bullish amid growing investors' confidence driven by various market supportive reforms, lower returns from the money market coupled with earnings surprises of some listed firms despite the pandemic. The institutional investors preferred buying stocks as they hope that the index will rise further as money flow in the banking sector may increase as the central bank unveiled expansionary monetary policy.

On the other hand, the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) also ended sharply higher with its All Shares Price Index (CASPI)-soaring 223 points to finish at 18,858 while the Selective Categories Index - CSCX-- rising 128 points to close at 11,318. Of the issues traded, 231 advanced, 69 declined and 23 issues remained unchanged on the CSE. The port city bourse traded 33.42 million shares and mutual fund units with turnover value of Tk.730 million.

STATISTICS

EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF BANGLADESH

(Million US \$)

Products	Export for 2020-21	Proposed Export Target of 2021-22	Strategic Target for July 2021	Export Performance for July-2021	Export Performance for July-2020	% Change of export Performance Over Strategic Target	% Change of export performance July 2021 Over July 2020
1	2.	3	4	5	6	7	8
All products (A+B)	38758.31	43500.00	3729.00	3473.43	3910.92	-6.85	-11.19
A. Primary Commodities	1505.51	1617.20	138.63	134.95	143.58	-2.65	-6.01
(1) Frozen & Live Fish	477.37	508.00	43.55	36.80	42.52	-15.48	-13.43
a) Live Fish	6.32	6.70	0.57	1.28	1.36	124.56	-5.88
b) Frozen Fish	115.57	141.80	12.16	3.95	5.82	-67.43	-31.96
c) Shrimps	328.84	330.00	28.29	30.03	31.73	6.15	-5.36
d) Crabs	12.38	13.50	1.16	0.92	3.21	-20.69	-71.34
e) Others	14.26	16.00	1.37	0.62	0.40	-54.74	55.00
(2) Agricultural Products	1028.14	1109.20	95.09	98.15	101.06	3.22	-2.88
a) Tea	3.56	4.00	0.34	0.12	0.68	-64.71	-82.35
b) Vegetables	118.73	120.00	10.29	15.45	6.50	50.15	137.69
c) Tobacco	86.20	94.00	8.06	8.27	9.69	2.61	-14.65
d) Cut Flower & Foliage	0.09	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.03	-100.00	-100.00
e) Fruits	0.58	0.60	0.05	0.25	0.01	400.00	2,400.00
f) Spices	43.29	50.50	4.33	1.38	3.96	-68.13	-65.15
g) Dry Food	283.38	340.00	29.15	15.43	30.78	-47.07	-49.87
h) Others	492.31	500.00	42.86	57.25	49.41	33.57	15.87
B. Manufactured Commodities	37252.8	41882.80	3590.37	3338.48	3767.34	-7.02	-11.38
(1) Cement, Salt, Stone Etc	7.26	8.00	0.69	0.37	0.53	-46.38	-30.19
(2) Ores, Slag and Ash	29.28	35.85	3.07	2.95	1.44	-3.91	104.86
(3) Petroleum bi Products	23.33	25.70	2.2	0.34	1.18	-84.55	-71.19
(4) Chemical Products	280.58	302.85	25.96	30.98	22.98	19.34	34.81
a) Pharmaceuticals	169.02	180.00	15.43	18.35	17.01	18.92	7.88
b) Chemical Fertilizer	5.84	6.50	0.56	0.00	0.00	-100.00	0.00
c) Cosmetics	0.46	0.50	0.04	0.03	0.03	-25.00	0.00
d) Others	105.26	115.85	9.93	12.60	5.94	26.89	112.12
(5) Plastic Products	115.28	127.00	10.89	10.13	9.88	-6.98	2.53
a) PVC Bags	23.28	26.50	2.27	1.48	1.81	-34.80	-18.23
b) Plastic Waste	13.71	15.50	1.33	1.20	1.01	-9.77	18.81
c) Others	78.29	85.00	7.29	7.45	7.06	2.19	5.52
(6) Rubber	34.24	40.50	3.47	1.82	2.46	-47.55	-26.02
(7) Leather & Leather Products	941.67	1031.00	88.38	90.52	89.94	2.42	0.64
(a) Leather	119.14	130.50	11.19	11.07	8.22	-0.98	34.79
(b) Leather Products	252.65	280.50	24.05	25.20	22.05	4.82	14.33
(c) Leather Footwear	569.88	620.00	53.15	54.22	59.67	2.03	-9.12
(8) Wood & Wood Products	4.26	5.41	0.46	0.03	0.03	-93.48	0
(9) Handicrafts	33.97	39.00	3.34	2.66	2.94	-20.36	-9.52
(10) Pulp	0.03	0.04	0	0	0	0	0
(11) Paper & Paper Products	71.44	73.00	6.26	4.36	6.07	-30.35	-28.17
(12) Printed Materials	0.94	1.14	0.1	0.22	0.02	120	1000
(13) Silk	0.57	1.00	0.09	0.05	0.03	-44.44	66.67
(14) Wool & Woolen Products	0.26	0.35	0.03	0.05	0	66.67	0
(15) Cotton & Cotton Product (Yarn, Waste, Fabrics etc)	154.29	175.00	15	12.28	10.92	-18.13	12.45

(Million US \$)

Products	Export for 2020-21	Proposed Export Target of 2021-22	Strategic Target for July 2021	Export Performance for July-2021	Export Performance for July-2020	% Change of export Performance Over Strategic Target	% Change of export performance July 2021 Over July 2020
1	2.	3	4	5	6	7	8
(16) Jute & Jute goods	1161.48	1420.00	121.73	60.77	103.51	-50.08	-41.29
a) Raw Jute	138.15	150.00	12.86	8.00	10.37	-37.79	-22.85
b) Jute Yarn & Twine	799.04	1,000.00	85.72	39.06	72.98	-54.43	-46.48
c) Jute Sacks & Bags	138.66	180.00	15.43	8.25	12.19	-46.53	-32.32
d) Others	85.63	100.00	8.57	5.46	7.97	-36.29	-31.49
(17) Man Made Filaments & Staple Fibres	119.43	130.00	11.14	8.67	12.85	-22.17	-32.53
(18) Carpet (Jute & Others)	33.54	45.00	3.86	2.46	3.43	-36.27	-28.28
(19) Specialized Textiles	130.9	150.00	12.86	11.86	9.48	-7.78	25.11
a) Terry Towel	34.77	38.00	3.26	4.87	3.05	49.39	59.67
b) Special Woven Fabric	22.53	24.00	2.06	1.42	1.79	-31.07	-20.67
c) Knitted Fabrics	64.77	78.00	6.69	4.94	3.97	-26.16	24.43
d) Other	8.83	10.00	0.86	0.63	0.67	-26.74	-5.97
(20) RMG	31456.73	35144.00	3012.69	2887.21	3244.94	-4.17	-11.02
(a) Knitwear	16,960.03	19,515.00	1,672.91	1,658.45	1,750.28	-0.86	-5.25
(b) Woven Garments	14,496.70	15,629.00	1,339.78	1,228.77	1,494.66	-8.29	-17.79
(21) Home Textile	1132.03	1370.00	117.44	92.36	94.01	-21.36	-1.76
a) Bed, Kitchen toilet lines	521.33	620.00	53.15	42.96	47.37	-19.17	-9.31
b) Other	610.70	750.00	64.29	49.40	46.64	-23.16	5.92
(22) Other Footwear	344.46	400.00	34.29	27.38	48.52	-20.15	-43.57
(23) Headgear/Cap	226.38	250.00	21.43	22.34	17.87	4.25	25.01
(24) Umbrella Waking Sticks	0.02	0.01	0	0.01	0	0	0
(25) Wigs & Human Hair	57.13	64.00	5.49	5.31	3.06	-3.28	73.53
(26) Building Materials	0.88	1.00	0.09	0	0.13	-100	-100
(27) Ceramic Products	31.11	35.00	3	3.31	3.07	10.33	7.82
(28) Glass & Glass ware	7.94	10.00	0.86	0.81	0.29	-5.81	179.31
(29) Engineering Products	529	644.75	55.27	33.03	56.08	-40.24	-41.1
a) Iron Steel	128.86	160.00	13.72	6.03	6.85	-56.05	-11.97
b) Copper Wire	55.24	65.00	5.57	3.81	2.31	-31.60	64.94
c) Stainless Steel ware	3.03	3.50	0.30	0.31	0.14	3.33	121.43
d) Engineering Equipment	96.31	115.00	9.86	4.11	25.96	-58.32	-84.17
e) Electric Products	67.48	86.25	7.39	3.44	9.36	-53.45	-63.25
f) Bicycle	130.89	155.00	13.29	12.17	9.46	-8.43	28.65
g) Others	47.19	60.00	5.14	3.16	2.00	-38.52	58.00
(30) Ships, boats & floating structures	0.2	0.20	0.02	0.01	0	-50	0
(31) Other mfd Products	324.18	353.00	30.26	26.19	21.7	-13.45	20.69
a) Optical, Photographic, Medical Instruments etc	89.27	92.00	7.89	6.98	6.93	-11.53	0.72
b) Furniture	79.47	90.00	7.72	6.09	6.45	-21.11	-5.58
c) Golf Shaft	14.30	16.00	1.37	2.51	1.04	83.21	141.35
d) Others	141.14	155.00	13.28	10.61	7.28	-20.11	45.74

Source: Export Promotion Bureau

FRESH OPENING AND SETTLEMENT OF IMPORT LCS

(USD in million)

Items	FY21			FY20		
	Fresh opening of import LCS	Outstanding LCs at the end period	Settlement of import LCS	Fresh opening of import LCS	Outstanding LCs at the end period	Settlement of import LCS
A. Consumer goods	7812.68	1750.50	6806.99	6240.86	785.13	5733.37
Rice and wheat	2441.14	791.95	1808.34	1485.84	116.98	1492.14
Sugar and salt	672.27	106.10	748.00	790.44	100.10	684.19
Milk food	361.92	121.11	317.79	361.54	67.26	331.24
Edible oil (refined)	971.94	131.03	927.44	985.59	160.93	827.26
All kinds of fruits	534.79	86.45	480.05	385.64	54.96	345.06
Pulses	307.20	60.35	262.74	295.54	31.72	280.14
Onion	188.39	36.54	159.75	182.63	30.88	135.92
Spices	371.33	41.98	391.01	373.21	29.76	333.09
Second hand clothings	3.50	0.69	2.30	2.33	0.38	3.65
Drugs and medicines(finished)	144.82	30.64	142.09	133.19	15.52	112.79
Others	1815.38	343.65	1567.48	1244.91	176.63	1187.90
B. Intermediate goods	6143.81	1250.49	5314.96	5094.63	656.33	5114.74
Coal	317.90	19.14	306.29	401.87	16.88	382.04
Cement	184.14	64.48	165.18	209.79	29.24	176.29
Clinker & limestone	1140.03	241.32	991.47	857.67	121.57	855.68
B. P. sheet	111.19	22.42	123.07	144.63	13.52	156.10
Tin plate	8.33	2.62	8.99	14.91	3.06	10.10
Scrap Vessels	1046.88	68.42	1005.33	710.95	37.69	737.20
Iron and steel scrap	1724.09	451.76	1374.15	1391.63	272.33	1461.41
Non-ferrous metal	247.11	60.11	182.74	217.34	21.54	202.03
Paper and paper board	323.58	84.17	293.24	354.66	47.78	360.72
Others	1040.54	236.04	864.50	791.20	92.72	773.17
C. Industrial raw materials	24419.38	7171.10	20225.99	20159.66	3792.63	18219.49
Edible oil (Crude)	453.42	26.77	504.16	305.89	18.44	288.96
Seeds	670.23	130.91	606.27	525.53	13.72	468.97
Textile fabrics (B/B & others)	9112.40	2742.71	7808.42	8521.75	1195.84	8034.32
Pharmaceutical raw materials	1112.05	240.92	1067.64	1001.61	107.05	869.26
Raw cotton	3149.62	779.03	2580.95	2169.06	366.77	2157.42
Cotton yarn	2238.89	942.51	1592.45	1728.27	500.11	1425.86
Copra	511.27	134.39	404.03	288.18	80.19	256.02
Synthetic fibre & yarn	1125.23	382.96	877.33	939.55	202.50	844.63
Chemicals & chem. products	6046.25	1790.91	4784.74	4679.81	1308.02	3874.04
D. Capital machinery	5702.59	3247.75	3741.76	4937.17	1916.10	4270.96
Textile machinery	222.06	121.28	177.24	192.43	39.37	190.02
Leather / tannery	15.09	4.14	24.05	21.33	2.62	56.95
Jute industry	21.78	9.08	13.90	14.62	1.55	11.52
Garment industry	489.16	247.44	432.06	449.23	119.93	533.54
Pharmaceutical industry	189.95	118.42	125.14	123.88	19.75	116.75
Packing industry	14.00	5.05	13.04	18.12	2.56	15.32
Other industry	4750.55	2742.33	2956.34	4117.56	1730.32	3346.85
E. Machinery for misc. inds.	3719.52	902.42	3302.26	3038.14	629.04	2968.30
Other machineries	147.12	37.43	142.45	144.39	17.99	132.89
Marine diesel engine	16.20	13.92	12.71	8.21	0.14	8.70
Computer & its accessories	427.46	134.58	345.98	348.74	89.38	375.69
Motor vehicle & motorcycle parts	265.54	39.84	240.42	147.73	16.14	202.93
Bicycle parts	135.42	28.48	116.35	86.00	10.03	91.29
Other iron and steel products	239.19	60.78	225.72	188.46	35.40	174.42
Motor vehicles	643.23	103.62	607.02	524.77	66.49	535.31
Other electronics components	151.39	33.73	132.90	121.04	20.71	158.43
Tractors & power tiller	57.51	12.46	58.05	56.82	6.50	50.79
Others	1636.47	437.59	1420.66	1411.99	366.25	1237.86
F. Petroleum & petro.prodts.	4407.92	337.93	4289.64	4790.60	500.76	4522.28
Crude	755.03	39.75	725.91	550.99	124.52	436.22
Refined	3652.88	298.18	3563.73	4239.61	376.24	4086.06
G. Others	14831.53	12007.21	13574.80	11838.83	11222.30	12424.57
Commercial sector	4223.75	1254.20	3438.74	3205.03	694.56	3273.40
Industrial sector	10607.78	10753.00	10136.05	8633.80	10527.74	9151.17
Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant	---	7981.10	1158.26	---	9139.36	660.04
Total	67037.42	26667.40	57256.40	56099.89	19502.28	53253.71
of which back to back	8999.27	3121.73	7505.77	7894.98	1335.39	7473.83

Source: Foreign Exchange Operations Department(FEOD), Bangladesh Bank

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (BOP)

(In million US\$)

Items	2020-21 ^R July	2021-22 ^P July	% Changes 3 over 2
Trade balance	-85	-1336	
Export f.o.b. (including EPZ)	3826	3421	-10.59
Of which: Readymade garments	3245	2887	-11.03
Import f.o.b (including EPZ)	3911	4757	21.63
Services	-169	-18	
Credit	508	703	38.39
Of which: Government Services	192	212	10.42
Debit	677	721	6.50
Primary income	-232	-210	
Credit	14	19	35.71
Debit	246	229	-6.91
Of which: Official interest payments	76	89	17.11
Secondary income	2621	1900	
Official transfers	1	1	
Private transfers	2620	1899	-27.52
Of which: Workers' remittances inflows	2598	1872	-27.94
Current Account Balance	2135	336	
Capital account	17	11	
Capital transfers	17	11	-35.29
Financial account	-682	83	
Foreign direct investment (gross inflows)	259	292	12.74
Of which : Net FDI flows	76	91	19.74
Portfolio investment (net)	-37	-16	
Of which: Investment by NRBs	26	17	-34.62
Other investment (net)	-721	8	
Net Aid Flows	98	179	
Medium and long-term (MLT) loans	215	317	47.44
MLT amortization payments	117	138	17.95
Other long-term loans (net)	-94	-2	
Other short-term loans (net)	51	57	
Trade credit (net)	-931	-498	
DMBs and NBDCs (net)	155	272	
Assets	463	94	
Liabilities	618	366	
Errors and omissions	-343	-114	
Overall Balance	1127	316	
Reserve Assets	-1127	-316	
Bangladesh Bank (net)	-1127	-316	
Assets	942	-544	
Liabilities	-185	-860	
Gross reserves (before valuation adjustments)	36979	45847	
Valuation Adjustment During the Period	309	-5	
Gross reserves (after valuation adjustments)	37288	45842	
In months of imports of goods and services (prospective)	6.8	7.6	
In months of imports of goods (cif) (prospective)	7.3	8.1	

* 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)	2018-19	2019-20	Apr-20	Mar-21 (P)	April-21 (p)
Manufacture of Food Products							
Fish & sea food	M.Ton	180 & *	48402	42724	757	2197	2328
Processing & Preserving of fruits and vegetables	"000" Litre	3	126302	123517	10676	51135	58333
Hyd. Vegetable oil	M.Ton	2	1151562	1005502	78058	90373	100141
Grain milling	M.Ton	8	435439	614006	45640	26261	16162
Rice milling	M.Ton	6	27400	42689	3108	3335	3339
Sugar	M.Ton	16	65302	81768	3330	5797	671
Black & Blending Tea	M.Ton	116	90684	89930	2365	1681	3932
Edible salt	M.Ton	8	94113	88272	5308	8620	8645
Animal feeds	M.Ton	3	692900	704880	53199	66596	70846
Manufacture of beverages							
Spirits & Alcohol	"000" Litre	1	4998	5159	515	277	306
Soft Drinks	"000" Doz Bottle	4	72602	59222	3090	13373	13272
Mineral Water	"000" Litre	4	180350	156784	6979	30562	22991
Manufacture of tobacco products							
Cigarettes	Mill. No	1	15279	16186	1345	1295	1300
Biddies	Mill. No	5	100095	96246	4221	8075	8100
Manufacture of textile							
Preparation & Spinning of Textile fibers	M.Ton	20	180642	223314	20401	22780	22788
Weaving of Textiles	"000" Metre	15	43403	42283	3098	3126	3017
Dyeing, bleaching & finishing	"000" Metre	19	91096	129650	4968	12155	12025
Jute Textile	M.Ton	95	361966	379585	35860	24611	23530
Mfg. of wearing apparel							
Wearing Apparel	Million Tk.	*	1449060	1188830	16527	96883	99660
Knitwear	Million Tk.	*	1419019	1177323	16690	111295	113784
Manufacture of leather and related products							
1511 Tanning & Finishing Leather:	"000" Sq Metre	175 & *	34066	13075	231	1377	1788
Leather Footwear	"000" Pair	4	21988	28538	1931	4635	5948
Manufacture of wood and products of wood and cork							
Particle board/ plywood	"000" Sq Metre	2	11598	12258	1015	1368	1193
Manufacture of Paper and paper products							
Pulp, Paper & newsprint	M.Ton	3	168719	241050	22911	18125	20618
Articles made of paper	M.Ton	2	40271	41000	3401	2704	2788
Printing and reproduction of recorded media							
Printing of Books and periodicals	"000" No.	10	171207	142464	8377	13291	13384
Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products							
Petroleum refining	M.Ton	1	1369914	1078570	110150	119507	119602
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products							
Compressed liquidities gas	Cylinder (12.5 Kg.)	2	2199956	1160550	117211	73209	85895
Fertilizer	M.Ton	7	920753.5	976157	74102	106633	117564
Perfumes and cosmetics	"000" Tk.	3	8078863	10942940	201073	1160763	1002732
Soaps & detergents	M.Ton	3	175315	176084	2399	13456	12816
Matches	"000" Gross	2	34653	36644	3095	3675	3680
Manufacture of Pharmaceuticals and medicinal chemical							
Pharmaceuticals/Allopathic drugs and medicine	"000" Tk.	20	188300446	251533893.4	21485578	25091773	24308910

Description of items of industry	Unit	No .of reporting industries (selected)	2018-19	2019-20	Apr-20	Mar-21 (P)	April-21 (p)
Unani and Ayur Bedic Medicine	"000" Tk.	3	807514	712467	94559	88377	43011
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products							
Rubber footwear/ other rubber products	Dozen Pair	8	264803	536631	45494	50350	53678
P.V.C products/plastic products	M.ton	3	55613	54410	4793	4310	4316
Non-Metallic mineral Prod							
Glass Sheet	"000" Sq ft.	3	17782	20364	1835	1764	1858
Tiles	"000" Sq ft	5	295674	279741	25538	18793	18615
Ceramic	"000" Dz	2	29723	36480	2549	3093	3150
Cement	M.Ton	8	16860929	17951285	1176287	2373155	2137408
Bricks	"000" No.	4	184472	218294	18891	19742	19830
Manufacture of basic metals							
Re-rolling mills	M.Ton	31	401298	335640	9695	32035	32015
Manufacture of fabricated metal products except machinery							
Structural metal products	"000" M.ton	5	14870	14161	1248	2402	2072
Other Fabricated metal products	Dozen	8	836588	970756	87545	83404	86424
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products							
communication equipment's (TV, Telephone) Television	No.	3	590268	665938	2020	65616	54121
Manufacture of electrical equipment							
Electric Motors, Generators, transformers/	No.	2	581009	614681	55857	32590	31051
Electrical apparatus 2732 Wires & Cables (ELEC.)	M.ton	3	50750	52426	4572	6627	6662
Electrical appliances / Domestic appliances	No.	9	524938	532528	44874	43304	44353
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c							
Agriculture & Forestry machinery	No.	2	100663	105041	8902	8910	8917
Machinery for Textile , apparel and leather production	No.	9	17296	20236	1536	1811	1828
Machinery equipment NEC	No.	10	924902	1154859	106571	99911	99917
Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers							
Assemble of Motor vehicles	No.	2	2524	1214	0	85	86
Manufacture of other transport equipment							
Ship and boat building	M.Ton	3	341009	578562	50244	30822	30827
Motor cycle	No.	3	96037	86393	8279	19224	19086
Manufacture of furniture							
Metal furniture	No.	2	4010	4497	375	396	357
Wooden furniture	No.	5	150173	92457	312	18818	18819
Plastic furniture	No.	2	1453505	1527531	128042	103014	103980
Natural Gas	MMCM	8	27196	24998	1434	1657	1672
Electricity	MKWH	1	67752	69634	4961	6976	7583

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; F = Final

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. Misc. Goods & Services
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
2020-21	288.44	313.86	255.85	298.14	228.29	298.15	247.86	271.45	193.61	288.53
2021										
January	290.03	315.81	256.97	301.15	229.98	297.45	249.01	269.58	194.13	291.53
February	290.30	315.35	258.18	302.12	229.35	299.53	250.79	272.60	195.12	296.15
December	287.41	313.59	253.85	293.08	228.84	295.74	247.29	266.32	192.16	285.38
January	290.03	315.81	256.97	301.15	229.98	297.45	249.01	269.58	194.13	291.53
February	290.30	315.35	258.18	302.12	229.35	299.53	250.79	272.60	195.12	296.15
March	291.96	317.32	259.44	303.73	229.50	302.63	251.13	274.68	195.89	299.06
April	293.88	320.28	260.02	304.23	229.44	305.00	251.50	276.02	195.95	299.67
May	287.92	308.41	261.65	305.17	225.90	306.46	251.53	294.86	195.99	299.99
June	291.70	314.19	262.87	306.00	226.63	308.95	251.90	297.31	196.54	301.82
July	293.19	316.02	263.93	307.11	227.12	310.07	252.47	300.58	197.00	302.72

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. Misc. 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
2020-21	286.37	306.40	254.51	298.86	220.23	286.65	264.04	234.11	214.52	305.80
2021										
January	288.33	308.97	255.50	301.58	222.39	284.59	264.64	231.64	215.34	308.59
February	288.70	308.85	256.63	302.42	221.07	286.32	266.91	234.66	217.17	314.18
December	285.25	305.88	252.43	294.65	221.97	283.68	263.89	227.70	211.78	299.99
January	288.33	308.97	255.50	301.58	222.39	284.59	264.64	231.64	215.34	308.59
February	288.70	308.85	256.63	302.42	221.07	286.32	266.91	234.66	217.17	314.18
March	290.68	311.14	258.12	303.14	221.19	290.59	267.27	236.73	218.62	318.88
April	292.85	314.27	258.77	303.82	220.74	293.87	267.78	237.86	218.67	319.94
May	285.71	301.94	259.90	304.76	215.65	295.17	267.79	257.41	218.69	320.49
June	288.95	306.47	261.07	305.46	216.70	297.57	268.29	258.73	219.52	322.27
July	290.34	308.10	262.08	306.64	217.46	298.65	269.03	260.86	220.08	322.84

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. Misc. 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
2020-21	292.27	332.08	257.64	296.78	237.63	318.36	220.17	312.59	171.05	267.20
2021										
January	293.16	332.50	258.94	300.32	238.75	320.07	222.26	311.40	171.25	270.46
February	293.25	331.20	260.24	301.55	238.95	322.76	223.22	314.40	171.32	273.90
December	291.41	332.42	255.74	290.11	236.80	316.95	218.88	308.89	170.98	267.36
January	293.16	332.50	258.94	300.32	238.75	320.07	222.26	311.40	171.25	270.46
February	293.25	331.20	260.24	301.55	238.95	322.76	223.22	314.40	171.32	273.90
March	294.32	332.39	261.21	304.84	239.11	323.80	223.51	316.50	171.37	274.58
April	295.78	334.96	261.70	305.00	239.51	324.57	223.65	318.07	171.44	274.65
May	292.00	324.20	264.00	305.95	237.77	326.30	223.69	336.12	171.50	274.69
June	296.79	333.04	265.26	307.02	238.13	328.95	223.85	339.82	171.74	276.58
July	298.47	335.34	266.40	308.02	238.31	330.15	224.12	344.35	172.10	277.88

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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

Sector	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	May'21	June '21	July '21
General	160.23	170.39	180.83	184.68	184.72	184.78
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.40	6.35	6.12	6.41	5.97	5.72
percentage change (over previous month)				0.12	0.02	0.03
1. Agriculture	159.92	170.28	181.16	185.11	185.05	185.03
percentage change (over previous month)	6.42	6.48	6.39	6.69	6.11	5.81
percentage change (over previous month)				0.09	-0.03	-0.01
i) Agriculture	159.91	170.32	181.23	185.21	185.15	185.13
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.44	6.51	6.41	6.71	6.13	5.84
percentage change (over previous month)				0.09	-0.03	-0.01
ii) Fish	160.59	168.58	177.84	180.23	180.21	180.17
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.22	4.97	5.49	5.45	4.92	4.48
percentage change (over previous month)				0.00	-0.01	-0.02
2. Industry	158.74	168.24	177.52	181.11	181.28	181.42
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.22	5.99	5.51	5.79	5.59	5.39
percentage change (over previous month)				0.19	0.10	0.07
i) Construction	152.86	160.17	167.24	169.83	169.96	170.07
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.19	4.77	4.42	4.53	4.31	4.22
percentage change (over previous month)				0.13	0.08	0.06
ii) Production	170.66	184.65	198.37	203.99	204.24	204.44
percentage change (Point to Point)	8.14	8.21	7.43	7.97	7.83	7.42
percentage change (over previous month)				0.29	0.13	0.09
3. Service	164.78	175.33	185.99	189.87	190.16	190.42
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.69	6.41	6.07	6.30	6.06	5.96
percentage change (over previous month)				0.17	0.15	0.14

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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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.