

CHAMBER NEWS

ISSUE 02 ■ FEBRUARY 2018

**Bangladesh Economy to Stay Strong in the Medium Term:
World Bank GEP Report, January 2018**



METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, DHAKA



ক্যালরিবিহীন জিরোক্যাল দিয়ে এখন পছন্দের মিষ্টি খাবার খান সাধ মিটিয়ে, নিশ্চিন্তে



- ডায়াবেটিক রোগীদের জন্য চিনির সেরা বিকল্প জিরোক্যাল
- গর্ভবতী মহিলা, শিশু ও বয়োবৃদ্ধ-সহ সবার জন্য নিরাপদ
- একটি স্যাশে বা একটি ট্যাবলেট এক চা-চামচ চিনির সমান মিষ্টি

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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



VALUES

- Fairness
- Integrity
- Respect
- Equal Opportunity



CORE COMPETENCIES - ORGANISATION

- Research based Policy Advocacy
- Networking
- Business Intelligence



CORE COMPETENCIES – PEOPLE

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

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CONTENTS

Chamber News / Issue 02/ February 2018

EDITORIAL

03



Western Marine Shipyard Limited



The 'forever battery' charges your devices wirelessly from across the room



Tetra countertop dishwasher

12 CORPORATE NEWS

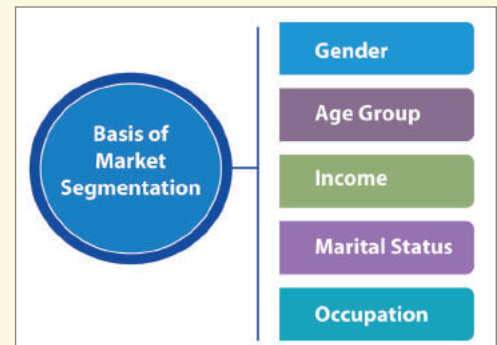
15 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

17 NEW PRODUCTS

ARTICLE

05

Market segmentation: basis and its need



COUNTRY PROFILE SINGAPORE

18



MEMBER PROFILE aamra technologies limited

20



MEMBER NEWS Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Limited

21



EDITORIAL

According to the latest installment of the Global Economic Prospects, a regular annual report of the World Bank group, published this year in January, global economic growth reached 3 percent in 2017, its strongest rate since 2011. It was indeed a notable recovery from a post-crisis low of 2.4 percent in 2016. The substantial improvement reflected an investment-led pickup in advanced economies and growth acceleration in the emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs).

The report forecasts global growth to edge up to 3.1 percent in 2018 as the cyclical upturn in advanced economies continues, albeit at a slightly more moderate pace, and EMDE growth rises to 4.5 percent resulting from a continued recovery in both commodity exporters and commodity importers, which will more than offset a slight moderation in advanced economies.

Growth in low-income countries (LICs) is projected to rise to 5.4 percent in 2018, as commodity prices firm up. Non-resource intensive LICs in Sub-Saharan Africa are expected to continue to expand at a solid pace, supported by infrastructure investment and exports. However, growth is projected to moderate in countries adjusting to high public debt, large external imbalances, and rising fiscal deficits.

According to the report, although risks to the global outlook continue to be tilted



to the downside, they are now more balanced because of the stronger-than-expected growth in the largest advanced economies and EMDEs – reflecting, for instance, a more pronounced investment-led recovery in the United States and the Euro Area, or a faster rebound in large commodity exporters. With rebounding investment and trade, the global growth is expected to remain sustained in the next couple of years.

Nonetheless, important downside risks still remain. A sudden increase in borrowing costs, triggered by a reassessment of the pace of advanced economy monetary policy normalization or rising concerns about elevated asset valuations, could lead to financial stress and disrupt capital flows to EMDEs. A rise in protectionism and global tension could derail the recovery in trade and undo gains from past liberalization efforts.

Over the longer term, a more pronounced slowdown in potential output in both advanced economies and EMDEs would

make the global economy more vulnerable to shocks and worsen prospects for gains in living standards and poverty reduction. Structural reforms will be essential to stem a further decline in potential growth in EMDEs.

About the reasons why the 2014-16 oil price collapse failed to raise growth in oil-importing countries, the report observes that the short-term benefits of falling oil prices to global growth were muted by the low responsiveness of activity in key oil-importing emerging markets, ongoing economic rebalancing in China, the dampening impact of a sharp contraction in energy investment and a rapid appreciation of the U.S. dollar on growth in the United States.

Drawing on lessons from recent developments in various geographical regions, the report predicts that growth in most EMDE regions with large numbers of commodity exporters will recover in 2017, with the notable exception of Middle East and North Africa mostly due to oil

production cuts. The report also provides comparable data and information on individual countries across the globe. Those pertaining to the South Asian region and its constituent countries should, however, be more relevant to the World Bank report on global economic prospects and hence instructive for Bangladesh policymakers.

Growth in **South Asia** decelerated to 6.5 percent in 2017, marginally below the June 2017 forecasts, mainly due to temporary disruptions from adverse weather conditions across the region, and, in India, businesses' adjustment to the newly introduced Goods and Services Tax (GST). Growth in the region is expected to pick up to 6.9 percent in 2018 and stabilize around 7.2 percent, on average, in 2019-20, as consumption remains strong, exports recover, and investment revives with ongoing policy reforms and infrastructure improvements.

Main downside risks to the outlook for the South Asian region include fiscal slippages relating to upcoming elections and weak tax revenues (e.g., Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan), a setback in implementation of reforms to improve corporate and financial sector balance sheets (e.g., Bangladesh, India), an abrupt rise in global financial market volatility, and disruptions due to natural disasters.

Bangladesh's GDP growth in FY2016/17 (July-June) was 7.2 percent, exceeding the government's previous target, owing to robust private consumption, strong public investment, and higher-than-expected outturns in manufacturing and services sectors.

For the current fiscal year (2017-18), government has set a higher target of 7.4 percent GDP growth in line with the country's Seventh Five Year Plan, which aims to attain average real GDP growth of 7.4 percent per year over the plan period (FY2015-16 through 2019-20). The World Bank in its January 2018

Growth in South Asia



Growth in South Asia decelerated to 6.5 percent in 2017, marginally below the June 2017 forecasts, mainly due to temporary disruptions from adverse weather conditions across the region, and, in India, businesses' adjustment to the newly introduced Goods and Services Tax (GST). Growth in the region is expected to pick up to 6.9 percent in 2018 and stabilize around 7.2 percent, on average, in 2019-20, as consumption remains strong, exports recover, and investment revives with ongoing policy reforms and infrastructure improvements.

GEP report has, however, projected Bangladesh's GDP to grow in 2017-18 at a lower rate of 6.4 percent.

The same World Bank report (January 2018 GEP) predicts that Bangladesh economy will grow at an annual average rate of 6.7 percent over the next couple of years (FY2018-2020), benefiting from improvement in investments, remittances, strong domestic demand, and exports. Low interest rates and improved infrastructure are expected to lift investment. Remittances are expected to rebound as growth firms up in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and support private consumption.

World Bank's prediction of 6.7 percent growth for Bangladesh, as against the government-set target of 7.4 percent, has been challenged by distinguished researchers and think tanks of the country.

They question the growth figures of export, remittance and crop production as export earnings and remittance flow dropped while floods damaged crops last year.

Bangladesh's growth can be hindered by challenges stemming from banking sector issues, lack of infrastructure and slow structural reforms. The major downside risks to the outlook for Bangladesh also include fiscal slippages and a setback in implementation of reforms to improve corporate and financial sector balance sheets. Corporate debt overhangs and high levels of non-performing loans (NPLs) are among the long-standing concerns in the country. Balance sheet weakness for corporate and financial sectors weighs on private investment in the country. Slippages relating to upcoming elections and weak tax revenues could derail fiscal consolidation efforts.

Surprisingly, the recent floods did not dent the growth figures so much, but there could be no guarantee that the country would remain immune from natural disasters at all times in the future. Hence, the earlier Bangladesh puts countermeasures to address such issues, the better for the country.

There is also the issue of falling remittances to address. Remittance figures fell to a record six-year low to \$13.53 billion during 2017. The main reason behind this is the use of shady channels for money transfers used by expatriate Bangladeshis. Fiscal consolidations and growth slowdowns have been major factors behind the fall in remittance from the Middle Eastern countries, and this can very well affect the investment patterns in the country.

ARTICLE

MARKET SEGMENTATION: BASIS AND ITS NEED

Market segmentation is a marketing concept which divides the complete market set up into smaller subsets comprising of consumers with a similar taste, demand and preference. A market segment is a small unit within a large market comprising of like-minded individuals. One market segment is totally distinct from the other segment.

A market segment comprises of individuals who think on the same lines and have similar interests. The individuals from the same segment respond in a similar way to the fluctuations in the market.

Basis of Market Segmentation

Gender:

The marketers divide the market into smaller segments based on gender. Both men and women have different interests and preferences, and thus the need for segmentation. Organizations need to have different marketing strategies for men which would obviously not work in case of females. A woman would not purchase a product meant for males and vice versa. The segmentation of the market as per the gender is important in many industries like cosmetics, footwear, jewellery and apparel industries.

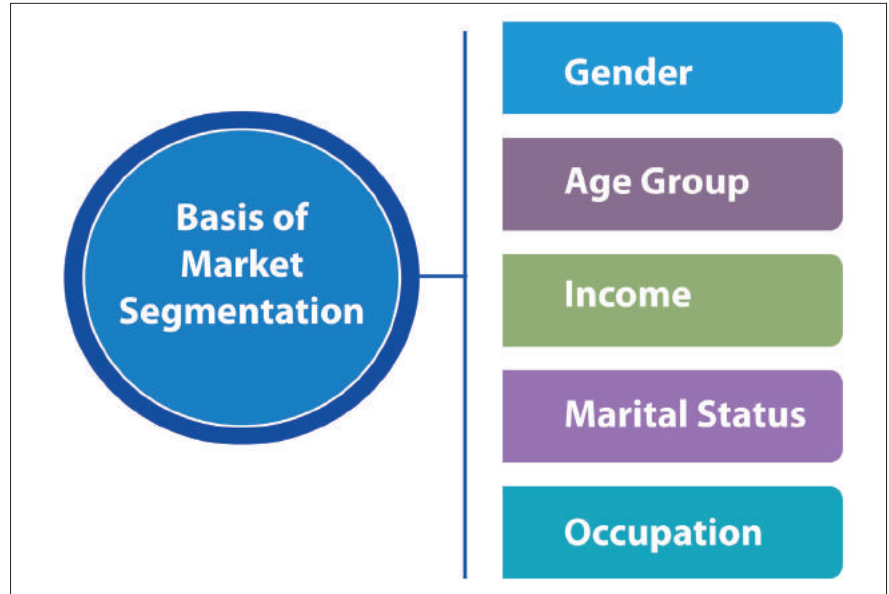
Age Group:

Division on the basis of age group of the target audience is also one of the ways of market segmentation. The products and marketing strategies for teenagers would obviously be different than kids.

Age group (0 - 10 years) - Toys, Nappies, Baby Food, Prams

Age Group (10 - 20 years) - Toys, Apparels, Books, School Bags

Age group (20 years and above)
- Cosmetics, Anti-Ageing Products, Magazines, apparels and so on



Income:

Marketers divide the consumers into small segments as per their income. Individuals are classified into segments according to their monthly earnings. The three categories are: high income group; mid income group; low income group. Stores catering to the higher income group would have different range of products and strategies as compared to stores which target the lower income group. Pantaloon, Carrefour, Shopper's Stop target the high income group as compared to Vishal Retail, Reliance Retail or Big Bazaar who cater to the individuals belonging to the lower income segment.

Marital Status:

Market segmentation can also be as per the marital status of the individuals. Travel agencies would not have similar holiday packages for bachelors and married couples.

Occupation:

Office goers would have different needs as compared to school / college students. A beach house shirt or a funky T Shirt would have no takers in a Zodiac Store as it caters specifically to the professionals.

NEED FOR MARKET SEGMENTATION

- Market Segmentation helps the marketers to devise appropriate marketing strategies and promotional schemes according to the tastes of the individuals of a particular market segment. A male model would look out of place in an advertisement promoting female products. The marketers must be able to relate their products to the target segments.
- Market segmentation helps the marketers to understand the needs of the target audience and adopt specific marketing plans accordingly. Organizations can adopt a more focused approach as a result of market segmentation.
- Market segmentation also gives the customers a clear view of what to buy and what not to buy. A Rado or Omega watch would have no takers amongst the lower income group as they cater to the premium segment. College students seldom go to a Zodiac or Van Heusen store as the merchandise offered by these stores are meant mostly for the professionals. Individuals from the lower income group never use a Blackberry. In

simpler words, the segmentation process goes a long way in influencing the buying decision of the consumers. An individual with low income would obviously prefer a Nano or Alto instead of Mercedes or BMW.

- Market segmentation helps the organizations to target the right product to the right customers at the right time. Geographical segmentation classifies consumers according to their locations. A grocery store in colder states of the country would stock coffee all through the year as compared to places which have defined winter and summer seasons.
- Segmentation helps the organizations to know and understand their customers better. Organizations can now reach a wider audience and promote their products more effectively. It helps the organizations to concentrate their hard work on the target audience and get suitable results.

STEPS IN MARKET SEGMENTATION

Identify the target market

The first and foremost step is to identify the target market. The marketers must be very clear about who should be included in a common segment. Make sure the individuals have something in common. A male and a female can't be included in one segment as they have different needs and expectations.

Burberry stocks separate merchandise for both men and women. The management is very clear on the target market and has separate strategies for product promotion amongst both the segments.

A Garnier men's deodorant would obviously not sell if the company uses a female model to create awareness.

Segmentation helps the organizations decide on the marketing strategies and promotional schemes.

Maruti Suzuki has adopted a focused approach and wisely created segments within a large market to promote their cars.



Lower Income Group - Maruti 800, Alto

Middle Income Group - Wagon R, Swift, Swift Dzire, Ritz

High Income Group - Maruti Suzuki Kizashi, Suzuki Grand Vitara

Suzuki Grand Vitara would obviously have no takers amongst the lower income group.

The target market for Rado, Omega or Tag Heuer is the premium segment as compared to Maxima or a Sonata watch.

Identify expectations of Target Audience

Once the target market is decided, it is essential to find out the needs of the target audience. The product must meet the expectations of the individuals. The marketer must interact with the target audience to know more about their interests and demands.

Kellogg's K special was launched specifically for the individuals who wanted to cut down on their calorie intake.

Marketing professionals or individuals exposed to sun's rays for a long duration

need something which would protect their skin from the harmful effects of sun rays. Keeping this in mind, many organizations came up with the concept of sunscreen lotions and creams with a sun protection factor especially for men.

Create Subgroups

The organizations should ensure their target market is well defined. Create subgroups within groups for effective results.

Cosmetics for females now come in various categories.

- Creams and Lotions for girls between 20-25 years would focus more on fairness.
- Creams and lotions for girls between 25 to 35 years promise to reduce the signs of ageing.

Review the needs of the target audience

It is essential for the marketer to review the needs and preferences of individuals belonging to each segment and sub-segment. The consumers of a particular segment must respond to similar fluctuations in the market and similar marketing strategies.

Name your market Segment

Give an appropriate name to each segment. It makes implementation of strategies easier. A kids section can have various segments namely new born, infants, toddlers and so on.

Marketing Strategies

Devise relevant strategies to promote brands amongst each segment. Remember you can't afford to have same strategies for all the segments. Make sure there is a connect between the product and the target audience. Advertisements promoting female toiletries can't afford to have a male model, else the purpose gets nullified. A model promoting a sunscreen lotion has to be shown roaming or working in sun for the desired impact.

Review the behavior

Review the behavior of the target audience frequently. It is not necessary individuals would have the same requirement (demand) all through the year. Demands vary, perceptions change and interests differ. A detailed study of the target audience is essential.

Size of the Target Market

It is essential to know the target market size. Collect necessary data for the same. It helps in sales planning and forecasting.

MARKETING MIX

Marketing Mix - A mixture of several ideas and plans followed by a marketing representative to promote a particular product or brand is called marketing mix. Several concepts and ideas combined together to formulate final strategies helpful in making a brand popular amongst the masses form marketing mix.

Elements of Marketing Mix

The elements of marketing mix are often called the four P's of marketing.

Product

Goods manufactured by organizations for the end-users are called products. Products can be of two types - Tangible

Products and Intangible Products (Services). An individual can see, touch and feel tangible products as compared to intangible products. A product in a market place is something which a seller sells to the buyers in exchange of money.

Price

The money which a buyer pays for a product is called as price of the product. The price of a product is indirectly proportional to its availability in the market. Lesser its availability, more would be its price and vice versa. Retail stores which stock unique products (not available at any other store) quote a higher price from the buyers.

Place

Place refers to the location where the products are available and can be sold or purchased. Buyers can purchase products either from physical markets or from virtual markets. In a physical market, buyers and sellers can physically meet and interact with each other whereas in a virtual market buyers and sellers meet through internet.

Promotion

Promotion refers to the various strategies and ideas implemented by the marketers to make the end - users aware of their brand. Promotion includes various techniques employed to promote and make a brand popular amongst the masses.

Promotion can be through any of the following ways:

Advertising

Print media, Television, radio are effective ways to entice customers and make them aware of the brand's existence. Billboards, hoardings, banners installed intelligently at strategic locations like heavy traffic areas, crossings, railway stations, bus stands attract the passing individuals towards a particular brand. Taglines also increase the recall value of the brand amongst the customers.

Word of mouth

One satisfied customer brings ten more customers along with him whereas one dissatisfied customer takes away ten more customers. That's the importance of word of mouth. Positive word of mouth goes a long way in promoting brands amongst the customers.

Lately three more P's have been added to the marketing mix. They are as follows:

People - The individuals involved in the sale and purchase of products or services come under people.

Process - Process includes the various mechanisms and procedures which help the product to finally reach its target market

Physical Evidence - With the help of physical evidence, a marketer tries to communicate the USP's and benefits of a product to the end users

Elements of Marketing Mix

- Product
- Price
- Place
- Promotion
- People
- Process
- Physical Evidence

Four C's of Marketing Mix

Now a days, organizations treat their customers like kings. In the current scenario, the four C's has thus replaced the four P's of marketing making it a more customer oriented model. Koichi Shimizu in the year 1973 proposed a four C's classification.

Commodity - (Replaces Products)

Cost - (Replaces Price) involves manufacturing cost, buying cost and selling cost

Channel - The various channels which help the product reach the target market.

Communication - (Replaces Promotion)

Robert F. Lauterborn gave a modernized version of the four C's model in the year 1993. According to him the four C's of marketing are:

- **Consumer**
- **Cost**
- **Convenience**
- **Communication**

TARGET MARKETING

Target Marketing refers to a concept in marketing which helps the marketers to divide the market into small units comprising of like minded people. Such segmentation helps the marketers to design specific strategies and techniques to promote a product amongst its target market.

A target market refers to a group of individuals who are inclined towards similar products and respond to similar marketing techniques and promotional schemes.

Kellogg's K Special mainly targets individuals who want to cut down on their calorie intake. The target market in such a case would be individuals who are obese. The strategies designed to promote K Special would not be the same in case of any other brand say Complian or Boost which majorly cater to teenagers and kids to help them in their overall development. The target market for Kellogg's K Special would absolutely be different from Boost or Complian.

Jordan, a college student went to a nearby retail store to purchase a shirt for himself. The retailer tried hard to sell a nice formal shirt to him, but somehow could not convince Jordan. Jordan left the store sad and empty handed.



Where do you think is the problem?

The problem is neither with Jordan nor the shirt. The retailer in this case failed to understand that Jordan, being a college student, was not the target audience for the formal shirt. No amount of convincing helped as the retailer was targeting the wrong audience. The target market for a formal shirt would be office goers or professionals. Funky T shirts, casual shirts would have worked better for Jordan.

The target market for Zodiac Clothing Company Limited or Louis Philippe would be the office goers whereas the target market for Levi's would be the school and college kids.

The target market for Cat Moss or Giny and Jony would be kids.

In simpler words, target market consists of like-minded individuals for whom an organization can afford to have similar strategies, promotional schemes and advertisements to entice them and prompt them to purchase the product. Once a company decides on its target audience, it implements various promotional strategies to make a brand popular amongst them.

Basis of Target Marketing

- **Age**
- **Gender**
- **Interests**
- **Geographic location**
- **Need**
- **Occupation**

Why target marketing? (Need of Target Marketing)

Organizations can use similar kind of strategies to promote their products within a target market.

They can adopt a more focussed approach in case of target marketing. They know their customers well and thus can reach out to their target audience in the most effective way.

How to create Target Market

The organization must first decide who all individuals would fit into a particular segment. A male and a female can't be kept in the same segment. The first and the foremost step is to decide on the target market.

The next step is to identify need and preference of the target market. It is essential to find out what the target market expects from the product.

Once the target market is decided, organizations can decide on the various strategies helpful to promote their product.

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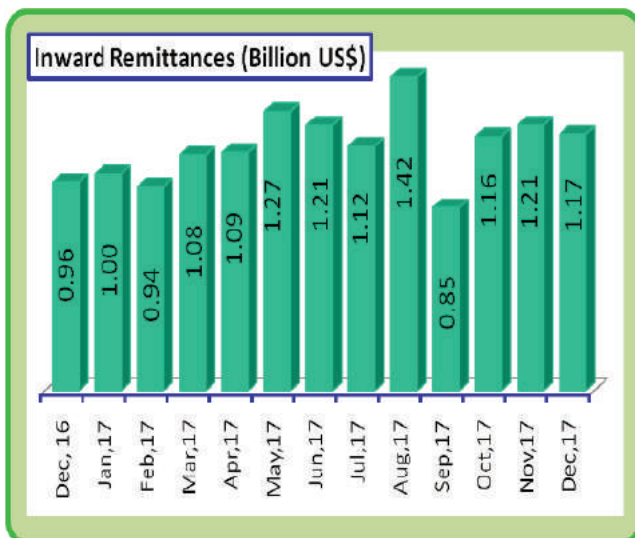
NATIONAL NEWS

GAS EXTRACTION FROM BHOLA FIELD BEGINS

Gas extraction from the new gas field, Bhola North-1, began on Saturday afternoon on an experimental basis. This is the 2nd gas field in the district and 27th in the country. The gas extraction began with lighting a fire through DST-1 in Majhirhat village under Bhola Sadar upazila when top officials of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex), including its managing director Md Nowshad Islam, were present. Around 20-25 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of gas will be produced from the well, the Bapex chief said.

REMITTANCE INFLOW REACHED US\$ 6.94 BILLION DURING JULY-DECEMBER 2017-18

The inward remittances received from Bangladeshi nationals working abroad reached US\$ 6.94 billion during July-December 2017-18, according to Bangladesh Bank. The remittance rose by \$0.77 billion or 12.48 percent from \$6.17 billion received during July-December 2016-17. During July-December 2017-18, \$1202.33 million remittance were received from Saudi Arabia, \$1138.36 million from the United Arab Emirates, \$962.36 million from U.S.A., \$527.20 million from Kuwait, \$498.79 million from U.K., \$504.63 million from Malaysia, \$450.99 million from Oman, \$341.75 million from Italy, \$338.17 million from Qatar, \$251.07 million from Bahrain, \$145.93 million from Singapore and \$574.14 million from other countries.



Source: Bangladesh Bank

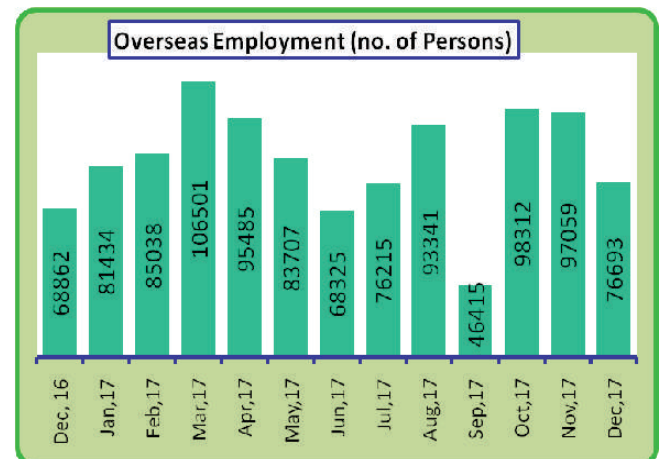
GOVERNMENT SIGNS 200 MW POWER PURCHASE DEALS

State-run Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) recently inked deals to purchase around 200 megawatt (MW) of electricity for 15 years from a furnace oil-fired power plant of Dosh Energy Chandpur Power Company Ltd. The plant, to be

located in Chandpur, is expected to be commissioned by May 9 this year. The BPDB would purchase electricity from the power plant at a levelised tariff rate of 10.65 US Cents.

OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT JUMPS 26.82%

A total of 488035 Bangladeshis got foreign jobs during July-December 2017-18 compared to 384836 during July-December 2016-17, showing a rise of 103199 employees or 26.82 percent, according to the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET). During July-December 2017-18, a total of 249035 documented workers went to Saudi Arabia, 85164 to Malaysia, 38437 to Oman, 30163 to Qatar, 23967 to Kuwait, 20617 to Singapore, 9747 to Jordan, 4122 to Brunei, 3599 to Mauritius, 3366 to Lebanon, 2848 to Bahrain, 1741 to United Arab Emirates, 1092 to South Korea and 14137 to other countries.



Source: BMET

\$245 MILLION WB LOAN TO MODERNIZE SAFETY-NET SYSTEM

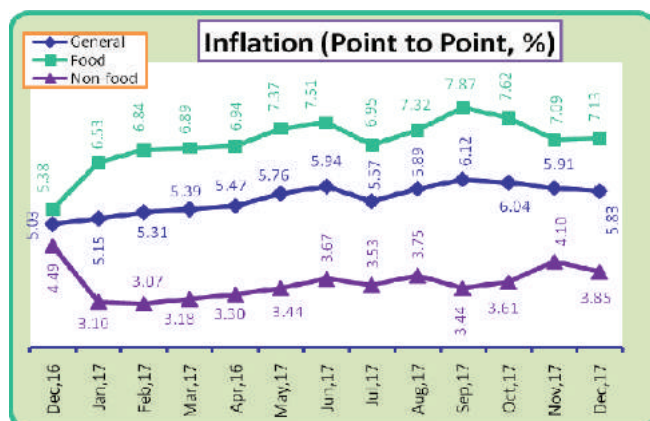
Under an agreement signed recently, the World Bank (WB) will provide US\$245 million worth of loans to modernize the money disbursement system under the social safety-net programs of Bangladesh. The additional loan to the Safety Net Systems for the Poorest Project is expected to help improve beneficiary targeting, information management and benefit payment of five large safety-net programs. With this additional financing, the WB's support to the project now stands at \$745 million. The Department of Disaster Management implements the programs collectively, reaching over 9.0 million poor and vulnerable households. The \$245 million credit, from the International Development Association (IDA), the WB's concessional lending arm, will carry an interest rate of 0.75 per cent and is repayable in 38 years, including a 6-year grace period.

TAX RECEIPTS FROM DSE UP 61% IN JULY-DECEMBER 2017

The government's revenue earnings from the Dhaka bourse marked a 61 per cent rise year-on-year in the first six months of the current fiscal year (FY) on the back of rising trade volumes. The government bagged tax worth Tk 1,427 million in July-December period of FY 2017-18 as against Tk 886 million in the same period in the previous fiscal year. The government earned the amount on TREC (trading right entitlement certificate) holders' commission and share sales by sponsor-directors and placement holders. The DSE, on behalf of the government, collects tax as TREC holders' commission and sponsor-directors and placement holders' shares sales at the rate of 0.05 per cent and 5.0 per cent respectively and deposits the amount to the government exchequer.

INFLATION RISES TO 5.83% IN DECEMBER 2017

The country's general inflation on point-to-point basis (as per the base year 2005-06 =100) rose by 0.80 percentage points to 5.83 percent in December 2017 from 5.03 percent in December 2016, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). The food inflation increased by 1.75 percentage points to 7.13 percent in December 2017 compared to 5.38 percent in December 2016. The non-food inflation fell by 0.64 percentage points to 3.85 percent in December 2017 compared to 4.49 percent in December 2016.



Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

BSEC EXTENDS TIMEFRAME

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) recently extended the timeframe till December 31, 2018 for keeping provision against unrealized losses in portfolios of merchant banks, stock dealers and their clients. The existing deadline of keeping provision against unrealized losses ended on December 31, 2017. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has extended the deadline of keeping provision following the plea of merchant banks and stock dealers. The market situation has also been taken into

account while taking the decision of extending the deadline of keeping provision. The merchant banks and stock dealers will have to inform the regulator about the progress of keeping provision by submitting update reports in every quarter. The market intermediary institutions, which are yet to complete the job of keeping provision as per the directive of December 28, 2016, will have to complete the job of keeping provision by the stipulated timeframe, the securities regulator said.

DEMAND FOR CHEAP SMARTPHONES LIFTS CELLPHONE IMPORTS IN 2017

Cellphone imports climbed by 17.6 per cent in 2017, as the country's 'price sensitive' market continues to be driven by demands for feature phones and low-priced smartphones. Around 35 million mobile handsets were imported in the country last year, the total sales value of which was around Tk. 100 billion, according to the data from the Mobile Importers Association. This is a consistent jump from the previous year of 2016 when the handset import increased by around 18 per cent from the previous year. Despite the rising demand, the share of smartphones in Bangladesh's handset market is still relatively low at around 23 per cent.

145.114 MILLION ACTIVE MOBILE PHONE USERS

The number of active mobile phone users in the country reached 145.114 million at the end of December, 2017, according to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). Of the mobile operators, Grameenphone had 65.327 million subscribers, while Robi had 42.908 million, Banglalink had 32.384 million and Teletalk 4.494 million at the end of month.

(Figures in million)

Operators	Subscribers in November, 2017	Subscribers in December, 2017	Increase(+)
Grameenphone	64.959	65.327	+0.368
Robi	41.397	42.908	+1.511
Banglalink	32.330	32.384	+0.054
Teletalk	4.419	4.494	+0.075
Total	143.106	145.114	+2.008

Source: BTRC

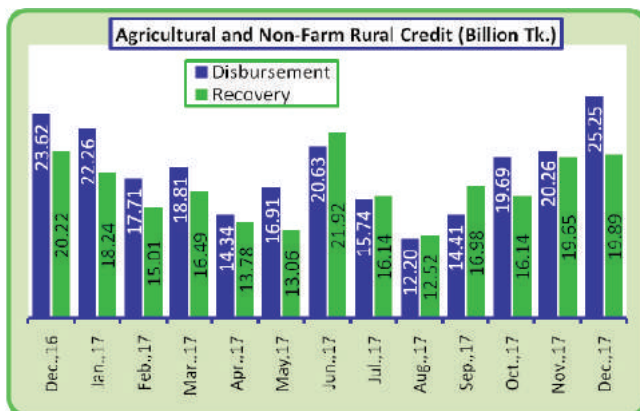
BB RELAXES RECEIVING CASH INCENTIVES FOR RMG EXPORTS TO NEW MARKETS

Bangladesh Bank (BB) recently issued a circular easing the provision for getting new market exploration assistance for the readymade garment exporters by allowing them to repatriate their export earnings from any country. According to the BB FE

circular 02/2018, exporters would get cash incentive against RMG exports to new markets whether the exporter repatriates earnings from the country to which goods were exported or from any other country. It provided that the importer who placed orders and the payer of export proceeds must have business relations between them. Earlier, RMG exporters had faced problem in receiving cash incentive against their exports to new markets as the section (D) of the FE Circular 22/2011 stipulated that for getting the incentive, the repatriation of export earnings should be from the country to which the products have been exported.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT DISBURSEMENT RISES BY 8.29%

Agricultural credit (including non-farm rural credit) disbursed by banks during July-December 2017-18 amounted to a provisional Tk. 107.56 billion as compared to Tk. 99.33 billion during July-December 2016-17, showing a rise of Tk. 8.23 billion or 8.29 percent. The credit disbursement achieved 52.73 percent of total target (Tk.204.00 billion) set for 2017-18. Agricultural credit disbursed by banks in December 2017 increased by Tk. 1.63 billion or 6.90 percent to Tk. 25.25 billion from Tk. 23.62 billion in December 2016. Meanwhile, total recovery of agricultural loan during July-December 2017-18 rose by Tk. 11.41 billion or 12.69 percent to Tk. 101.32 billion from Tk. 89.91 billion during July-December 2016-17. But agricultural credit recovery by banks in December 2017 fell by Tk. 0.33 billion or 1.63 percent to Tk. 19.89 billion from Tk. 20.22 billion in December 2016.



Source: Bangladesh Bank

US\$60 MILLION (OFID LOAN AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The government signed two loan agreements with the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) for US\$60 million aiming to implement two projects, titled 'Construction of Paira Bridge (Lebukhali Bridge) on Barisal-Patuakhali Road' and the 'South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Road Connectivity Project'. The amount coming from the OFID will be channeled into a \$30 million loan as additional funding for the construction of Lebukhali Bridge over the Paira River and \$30 million to be used to meet an extra cost of SASEC Road

Connectivity Project. Roads and Highway Department (RHD) under the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridge is implementing the 'Construction of Paira Bridge (Lebukhali Bridge) on Barisal-Patuakhali Road' project to establish an uninterrupted direct road link between Dhaka and the country's southern region and to ensure a smooth movement for tourists to one of the most important tourist centres- Kuakata of Patuakhali.

INTERNET USERS IN THE COUNTRY REACHED 80.483 MILLION



The number of internet users in the country reached 80.483 million at the end of December, 2017, thanks to mobile technology driving internet penetration. More than 93 percent of users (75.050 million) use internet through mobile network and the remaining (5.433 million) use ISP, PSTN and WiMax internet, according to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

NEW MONETARY POLICY FOR SECOND HALF ANNOUNCED



The Bangladesh Bank recently unveiled cautious and growth-supportive monetary policy for the second half (January-June 2018) of current fiscal year (FY) 2017-18 aiming at curbing inflation through discouraging credit flow to the less productive sectors. The new policy has set private sector credit growth target at 18.1 per cent against a previous target (first half of FY2017-18) of 16.2 per cent. Repo and reverse-repo policy interest rates will, for the time being, have left unchanged at 6.75 per cent and 4.75 per cent, respectively. The new policy emphasizes continuation of the current policy to attain the targeted GDP growth at 7.4 per cent by ensuring 'quality credit' to encourage investments in productive sectors.

GERMANY TO GIVE 337.2 MILLION EURO FOR ENERGY, CLIMATE PROJECTS

Germany will provide 337.20 million euro to Bangladesh for implementing projects in different sectors, including energy and climate change. In this regard, the two countries signed three bilateral agreements on Technical Cooperation-2016, Financial Cooperation-2016 and Financial Cooperation 2016 (Saidabad-III). Under the Technical Cooperation-2016, a total amount of 31 million euro will be provided. Under the Financial Cooperation-2016, an amount of 216.20 million Euro will be provided as loan and contribution to IDCOL (2 projects for renewable energy); Modernisation of energy distribution-smart grid, phase 1; Climate change-adapted urban development programme, phase II, and financial contribution to attendant measures. Besides, an amount of 90 million euro will be provided as loan to the climate change-adapted drinking, water resources management Dhaka (Saidabad Water Treatment Plant Project, phase III).

CORPORATE NEWS



Western Marine Shipyard Limited witnessed 76 per cent growth in earnings per share (EPS) for October-December, 2017 against the same period of the previous year. According to information of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), the EPS of Western Marine Shipyard stood at above Tk 0.74 for October-December 2017 against Tk 0.42 for October-December 2016. The EPS was Tk 1.32 for July-December, 2017 against Tk 0.82 for July-December, 2016. The company reported net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk 2.74 for July-December, 2017 against Tk 2.95 for July-December, 2016. The NAV per share (With Assets Revaluation) was Tk 31.63 as on December 31, 2017 and Tk 34.24 as on June 30, 2017. NAV per share (without assets revaluation) was Tk 27.52 as on December 31, 2017 and Tk 29.61 as on June 30, 2017.



The board of directors of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) recently approved the issuance of 2nd non-convertible, subordinated bond worth Tk 5.0 billion. The bank is going to issue the bond for increasing the Tier 2 capital to meet the capital requirement under Basel III and to strengthen the regulatory capital base of the bank. The tenure of the bond will be 7 years. However, the bond issue also subject to the approval of Bangladesh Bank and the Bangladesh Securities & Exchange Commission (BSEC). The bank's paid-up capital is Tk 2.0 billion and authorized capital is Tk 4.0 billion while total number of securities is 200 million. The government owns 87 per cent stake in the bank while institutional investors own 4.27 per cent, foreign 0.13 per cent and the general public 8.60 per cent as on November 30, 2017.



The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) recently approved the Initial Public Offering (IPO) proposal of Advent Pharma Limited to raise Tk 200 million from public. Using the fixed-price method, Advent Pharma will float 20 million ordinary shares of Tk 10 each to raise the said amount. The company will use the IPO fund for constructing building, buying machinery etc. The company reported its net asset value (NAV) of Tk 12.45 per share, without revaluation, according to financial statement for the year ended on June 30, 2017.



The Bangladesh Bank (BB) recently approved the proposal of transferring 99.99 per cent shares of Meghna Energy Limited to Heidelberg Cement Bangladesh Limited for a total consideration of above Tk 910.75 million, according to Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). The BB's approval came as part of completing the acquisition of 99.99 per cent share of Meghna Energy Limited by Heidelberg Cement Bangladesh Limited, a listed company. Heidelberg Cement has acquired the Meghna Energy Limited to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply for production of the company that will save electricity cost significantly.



Paramount Textile Limited (PTL) recently decided to form a new consortium consisting of Paramount Textile Limited and Acron Infrastructure Services, which will establish a 200MW HSD-fired engine-based power plant on Build, Own and Operate (BOO) basis at Baghabari in Sirajgonj under Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) upon getting permission from the authority concerned. Paramount Textile Limited will act as the lead member and contribute about 50 per cent of the paid-up share capital in the total equity of the consortium. The remaining 50 per cent will be contributed by Acron infrastructure Services as the operating member. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 1.29 billion and authorized capital is Tk 2.0 billion while total number of securities is 129.05 million.



The board of directors of RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited recently recommended 10 per cent cash and 10 per cent stock dividend for the year ended on December 31, 2017. The company also reported consolidated earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 2.88, consolidated net asset value (NAV) per share of Tk 18.25 and consolidated net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk 5.19 for the year ended on December 31, 2017 against Tk 2.59 (restated), Tk 18.14 and Tk 3.11 (restated) respectively for the same period of the previous year. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 3.53 billion and authorized capital is Tk 6.0 billion, while the total number of securities is 353.69 million. The sponsor-directors own 72.05 per cent stake in company, while institutional investors own 14.78 per cent, foreign 0.05 per cent and the general public 13.12 per cent as on December 28, 2017.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PAKISTAN

Remittances sent home by overseas Pakistanis amounted to US\$9744.75 million in the first six months (July-December 2017) of current 2017-18 fiscal year compared to US\$9505.11 million in the same period of 2016-17 fiscal year, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said. In December 2017, the inflows remittances amounted to US\$1723.57 million, compared to US\$1585.37 million in December 2016.

countries	December 2016(US\$ million)	December 2017(US\$ million)
Saudi Arabia	475.75	431.97
UAE	339.95	396.74
USA	182.19	234.76
UK	181.85	223.30
Kuwait	63.41	65.56
Oman	67.53	57.38
Bahrain	37.03	35.41
Qatar	35.66	30.41
Others	202.00	248.04
Total	1585.37	1723.57

Source: State Bank of Pakistan

INDIA

India recently cleared a proposal to allow foreign investors to own up to a 49 percent stake in state-run carrier Air India, paving the way for global airlines to bid for the loss-making flagship carrier. It brings Air India, which previously had to be fully locally owned, in line with the country's other local airlines in which foreign investment is allowed. India allows 100 percent foreign investment in its other local airlines, but caps foreign airlines' stake at 49 percent. In Air India, it will now allow a maximum of 49 percent foreign ownership including that by airlines. But substantial ownership and effective control of Air India must remain with an Indian national, the government said in a statement.

MALAYSIA

Malaysia could see rising demand for palm oil from key overseas buyers in the coming weeks following its decision to suspend export taxes on crude palm oil for three months. The move is expected to make Malaysian palm oil more competitive, especially in price sensitive markets such as India and China. The suspension, which is open to all companies with crude palm oil export licenses, will be scrapped before the end of the three-month period if crude palm oil stocks fall to 1.6 million tonnes. Palm oil inventories in Malaysia, the second-biggest producer after Indonesia, had already risen to near two-year highs by the end of November, 2017 squeezing benchmark prices to a 16-month low in mid-December.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia's has shortlisted bids by Acwa Power and a consortium led by Marubeni to develop the 300MW Sakaka photovoltaic (PV) project in the northern Al Jouf region, the kingdom's first ever solar power project as it looks to develop alternative sources of energy and free up oil for export. The Renewable Energy Project Development Office (Repdo), established last year to oversee the country's renewable program, chose the bids submitted by the local developer and Japanese engineering firm over the bids for a solar project submitted by a consortium led by Abu Dhabi clean energy firm Masdar and its French partner EDF.

MYANMAR

Bilateral trade between Myanmar and South Korea reached US\$ 510 million as of November 2017 in present fiscal year 2017-2018, the official Global New Light of Myanmar reported. The country's exports to South Korea totaled over \$189 million while its import value was \$321

million during the period. The country mostly exported agricultural products, including cashew nuts, mangoes, rice, beans and pulses to South Korea. Cosmetics, food products, electronics equipment, mobile devices and other goods from South Korea are mainly imported into the country. Bilateral trade between the two nations was US\$866 million in last FY 2016-2017.

SOUTH KOREA

Soaring global demand for memory chips and petrochemicals helped South Korea's exports surge 8.9 per cent in December, 2017 lifting its 2017 shipments to the highest on record in value terms. Exports for the year as a whole jumped \$573.9 billion or 15.8 per cent, making last year the best since relevant data began to be compiled in 1956. Shipments of memory chips jumped by 57.4 percent while that of petrochemical goods by 31.7 per cent. Six of the nation's major export products, including semiconductors, petrochemical products, computers posted double-digit expansion from a year earlier.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines' trade deficit rose to its highest level on record in November 2017 because of slower export growth. The country's trade deficit widened to \$3.78 billion, the largest on record, from \$2.84 billion in October, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. The value of exports rose by only 1.6 per cent year on year in November, to \$4.96 billion from \$4.89 billion in November 2016.

TURKEY

The Turkish government recently unveiled the route of its planned new canal for Istanbul, a hugely ambitious 45 kilometer (28 mile) project designed to be its answer to the famed artificial shipping lanes in Panama or Egypt's Suez canal. It will create attractive new living areas and take pressure off the

Bosphorus Strait that splits the European and Asian sides of the city and is one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. The canal would begin in the Istanbul district of Kucukcekmece on the Sea of Marmara, where there is already an inland lake. It will then head north towards the Sazlidere reservoir before emerging into the Black Sea just north of Durusu.

KUWAIT

Expatriates in Kuwait whose applications for residency had been rejected or whose residency permits had expired should either rectify their status or leave the country between January 29 and February 22, 2018, Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior said. All expatriates not having residence permits or expired residence should leave the country during the stipulated time period through official exit channels. The amnesty is expected to benefit about 130,000 violators of residency laws, according to Kuwait Times.

VIETNAM

The Vietnamese government raised 4.18 trillion dong (\$184 million) through the sale of a 20 percent stake in state-owned Petrovietnam Oil Corp (PVOIL) in an initial public offering (IPO), the company said. The proceeds exceeded the government's target of raising at least \$122 million from the sale, which is part of a plan to privatise hundreds of state-owned enterprises to boost their performances and ease budget pressure. Demand at IPO of PVOIL, Vietnam's sole crude oil exporter, exceeded supply by 2.3 times, with foreign investors buying a 6.62 percent stake in the company, the firm said in a statement.

CHINA

The State Council in China has decided to ease regulations for enterprises investing in free trade zones (FTZs) and open more business areas for foreign capital. According to the decisions endorsed by Premier, China will allow wholly foreign-

owned entertainment venues to provide services in FTZs and permit foreign investors to invest in Internet access businesses. The country will remove the restriction that at least 70 percent of equipment in foreign-funded urban-rail traffic projects should be made in China. Wholly foreign-owned companies were allowed to open gas stations and to design, produce and repair aircraft with a maximum takeoff weight of 6 tons. Investment proportions limitations on helicopters with a takeoff weight of at least 3 tons were also lifted. Foreign investors were also allowed to be controlling shareholders in International shipping agencies. The total 16 policy changes will apply to all FTZs in China, though among them, nine items were already applied in FTZs in Shanghai, Guangdong, Tianjin and Fujian.

USA

The US trade deficit increased more than expected in November 2017 as imports of goods surged to a record high amid strong domestic demand. The US Commerce Department said that the trade gap widened by 3.2 percent to \$50.5 billion, the highest level since January 2012 and followed an upwardly revised \$48.9 billion shortfall in October. Imports of goods jumped to a record high of \$204.0 billion in November driven by robust consumer demand. Capital goods imports were the highest on record. Imports of consumer goods rose to their highest level since March 2015. The country's import bill was also pushed up by imports of industrial supplies and materials, which were the highest since January 2015. Meanwhile, The US exports of goods increased by 2.3 percent to \$200.2 billion in November, the highest on record. There were strong increases in exports of industrial supplies, petroleum and capital goods.

UK

UK's economy unexpectedly picked up speed in the fourth quarter of 2017,

showing that the prospect of Brexit was still weighing on the economy, but not as heavily as once feared by investors. Gross domestic product (GDP) grew at its fastest pace of 2017, rising by 0.5 percent from the third quarter. In 2017 as a whole, growth was 1.8 percent compared with 1.9 percent in 2016. UK's economy grew more weakly than other big rich nations for much of last year as the impact of the 2016 Brexit vote pushed up inflation and many businesses turned cautious ahead of Brexit. However, UK has been helped by the recovery in the world economy last year which is expected to carry on in 2018.

GERMANY

Germany's current account surplus was the world's largest in 2017, the Munich-based Ifo economic institute said. The German current account surplus -- which measures the flow of goods, services and investments -- was the world's largest for the second year running in 2017 at \$287 billion, followed by Japan with \$203 billion. China slipped to third place with a surplus of \$135 billion, less than half Germany's. In the first 11 months of last year, Germany's trade surplus in goods was 249 billion euros (\$304.85 billion) as exports continued to outstrip imports.

BRAZIL

Brazil's 2017 inflation rate topped analysts' expectations but missed the official target range for the first time. The benchmark IPCA index rose 2.95 percent last year, the lowest annual rate since 1998 and below the government's target of 4.5 percent, plus or minus 1.5 percentage points, statistics agency IBGE said. That figure is a far cry from the rates seen early in 2016, when inflation reached 13-year highs, even as Latin America's largest economy slipped into its deepest recession in decades. Despite faster-than-expected GDP growth in 2017, double-digit unemployment rates and idle capacity among companies kept a lid on price hikes.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

THE 'FOREVER BATTERY' CHARGES YOUR DEVICES WIRELESSLY FROM ACROSS THE ROOM

Wireless transmission of electricity has been a dream of engineers for a long time. Today, in a world full of smartphones, laptops, and other devices which need frequent charging, that dream remains alive. "Wireless" charging systems, like Qi, do exist, but they still require users to set a device on a charging mat, eliminating the need for cables but not the need to set your phone down. A company called Ossia hopes to change the industry with what it proclaims to be a true wireless charging system. The Cota Forever Battery from Ossia can be recharged wirelessly through the air. The AA batteries are outfitted with RF receivers which allow them to be recharged via a transmitter that sends a precise, concentrated RF signal to the unit. Although the technology is not particularly new, the AA batteries would provide an easy way to bring wireless charging technology into familiar devices.



THE ROBOMART DELIVERS PRODUCE TO THE DOOR

Shopping for fresh produce online has always been a bit of a gamble, since you're not actually selecting the fruits and veggies yourself. But Robomart aims to change that by bringing online produce shopping to your front door. Robomart is a self-driving, nearly full autonomous grocery store on wheels. Although more grocery stores are offering food delivery services, many customers prefer to choose their own produce. To help open up the delivery market, the self-driving Robomart would carry a selection of fresh produce to the customer when summoned by a smartphone app. The customer would then be able to select their vegetables and fruits using a proprietary checkout-free 'grab and go' technology.



HALIO TINTING WINDOWS

Smart homes, once a fantastical element of sci-fi stories, are quickly becoming the new normal, as ever more "smart" appliances hit the market. The Halio smart-tinting windows by Kinestral let users choose how much light they'd like to enter the room. Designed with office buildings in mind, the window's technology relies on a pair of chemicals coated on a plate of glass and separated by a conductive layer. A voltage applied to the material will cause the ions to switch sides, altering the amount of light allowed through the glass in the process. For ease of use, the Helio will communicate with Alexa and other digital assistants, and can block either 70 percent of light or up to 99.9 percent in the case of the Helio Black.



LIGHT-BASED SPEED BREEDING GROWS CROPS FASTER

Our planet is expected to host an extra two billion people by 2050, but the amount of arable land we've got to work with won't be changing all that much. How exactly we're going to feed all these hungry mouths is a problem scientists are looking at from every angle, including creating heat-resistant cows, vertical farms and lab-grown hamburgers. A light-based "speed breeding" technology created by NASA is being applied in greenhouse crops on Earth. Built upon NASA's research in growing food during space missions, the system relies on continuous LEDs that emit light in the far-red spectrum. By growing the crops in specially modified glasshouses, the team was able to produce six generations of wheat, chickpea, and barley as compared to a maximum of three generations in a standard glasshouse.



RESCUE APP NEEDS NO CELL SERVICE

Due to the hyper-connected world we live in, there are very few times that we're not contactable. One of the occasions we may not be, though, is when we potentially need it the most: If we're ever in a life-threatening scenario, such as being lost in the wilderness where there is no cellular coverage. That's where researchers from Spain's Universidad de Alicante (UA) want to help. They developed a smart receiving device and an associated app that is capable of transmitting a person's GPS coordinates and an SOS message — even if they don't have cellular signal to send it. The system relies on a smartphone's ability to emit detectable mobile phone signals even when the phone is out of range of mobile coverage. A special app created by the team emits a WiFi signal that functions as a distress beacon that can be picked up by a small receiving device from a distance of 1.8 miles. The receiving device can be easily carried by rescue teams, and costs a fraction of current professional devices.



D8 REAR-ENGINE AIRCRAFT REDUCES NOISE AND FUEL USE

The D8 aircraft design concept moves the engines to the back to reduce drag, noise and emissions. The D8 boasts several elements designed to improve efficiency. Its wider "double-bubble" fuselage requires smaller wings to carry its weight, while the integrated rear engines reduce the amount of thrust needed. This allows the aircraft to fly with smaller engines, further reducing weight and fuel requirements. According to the researchers, the D8's design requires 37 percent less fuel while also offering a 50 percent reduction in noise and an 87 percent reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions during landing and take-off cycles.



NEW PRODUCTS

TETRA COUNTERTOP DISHWASHER



Tetra dishwasher from Heatworks is most likely a godsend for those who live in tiny apartments and would love a dishwasher. Tetra is an internet-connected countertop dishwasher that doesn't require plumbing to operate — just a standard electrical outlet. To use the dishwasher, you load it with water manually so you always know how much you're using. Though the device is quite compact, it's still able to fit two full place settings including bowls, cups, and plates, or 10 plates or 12 pint glasses. Each load takes about 10 minutes, and there's an internal detergent reservoir that lasts dozens of cycles. Since the temperature can be precisely controlled, the Tetra can also safely wash plastic, sanitize baby items, and even cook shellfish.

FITT360 CAMCORDER



Imagine if you could snap 360-degree photos and videos without holding a camera. That's the promise of the FITT360, a 360-degree camcorder you can wear around your neck. It's one of the first products from a Samsung spin-off called LinkFlow and was made as part of Samsung's C-Labs, the company's creative labs program. The idea behind a wearable camcorder is to capture the world around you in an unobtrusive way. There are three cameras on the wearable neckband -- one near the front, one on the side and another

near the rear. Each camera is capable of capturing the world in 180-degrees. All you have to do is press a button, and it'll start recording, allowing for a hands-free capture experience as well.

THE SMARTSLEEP HEADBAND



Most sleep trackers simply monitor your night and give you a breakdown of your activity, but a new headband from Philips will use sound to alter your sleep for the better. The Philips SmartSleeps uses built-in sensors attached to the forehead in order to detect brain activity, which then shares data with the connected mobile app to determine whether you're in deep sleep. If you are, the headband's speakers begin filtering in soft tones in a repeating pattern, something Philips indicates will help bring you a solid night of sleep. According to the company, 70% of people who had sleep problems and tried the SmartSleep for two weeks noted feeling less tired.

EMBER CERAMIC MUG



Savor your drink at the perfect temperature with the Ember Ceramic Mug. The Mug pairs with a companion app to allow the user to choose and set their ideal drinking temperature, from 120 to 145 degrees, automatically remembering the preference and activating when the hot beverage is poured in. The mug keeps 10

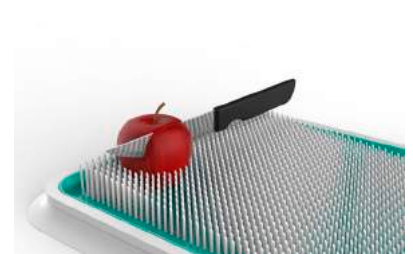
ounces of coffee at whatever temperature you want, for as long as you want. The mug is recharged via a charging pad, and the sleek, modern design is ideal for use at home in or in the office.

THE EASYLOG



BIOCORP, a company based in France, won European clearance to introduce its EASYLOG device for easy monitoring of insulin pen injector usage. It fits on most common pen injectors where it will monitor and record the dosage, concentration, time and date. The data is transmitted to a paired smartphone, allowing the patient to track their injections as well as receive reminders or warnings of a possible accidental double-dose. The readings are also transferred to an online portal for doctors and caretakers to be able to analyze as necessary.

JEZ ONE-HANDED CUTTING BOARD



The novel Jez vacuum plastic spread board holds food items steady for cutting. The handy cutting board features an array of spikes that will spear and secure the food to its surface. The spikes slip through holes in a smooth, removable board, which can be lifted from the base to easily slide the chopped food onto a plate or into a bowl. Though there are similar spiked cutting boards on the market, the Jez's unique multi-spike design allows it to hold a wide array of food types.

COUNTRY PROFILE



Singapore

	Area 719.2 sq km
	Population 5.88 million
	Capital : Singapore
	GDP (official exchange rate) \$305.8 billion (2016 estimate) GDP per capita(PPP) \$89,400 (2016 estimate)
	Contribution to GDP
	Services 74%
	Industry 26%
	Agriculture 0%

Singapore is a republic comprising 63 islands, including the main island, widely known as Singapore Island but also as Pulau Ujong off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. Singapore Island is separated from Malaysia on the north by the narrow Johore Strait and is linked by road and rail to the Malaysian city of Johor Baharu. Founded as a trading post of the British East India Company in 1819, Singapore, during the last three decades of the 20th century, largely outperformed the world economy in economic growth. Because of its phenomenal economic growth, Singapore became known as one of Asia's "Four Tigers," along with Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan. The economy depends heavily on exports, particularly in consumer electronics, information technology products, pharmaceuticals, and on a growing financial services sector. The Singapore economy is known as one of the freest, least corrupt, most innovative, most competitive and most business friendly in the world. It attracts a lot of foreign direct investments because of its location, skilled work force, corruption free environment, low tax rates and advanced infrastructures. There are more than 7000 multinational corporations from different countries in Singapore.

Industry

Industry has grown rapidly since the 1960s, and Singapore now produces a diversity of goods. Singapore's largest companies are in the telecoms, banking, transportation and manufacturing sectors, many of which started as state-run enterprises, and have since been listed on the Singapore Exchange, including Singapore Telecommunications (Singtel), Singapore Technologies Engineering, Keppel Corporation, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), Development Bank of Singapore (DBS), United Overseas Bank (UOB). The nation's best known global brands include Singapore Airlines, Changi Airport and Port of Singapore, all

three are amongst the most-awarded in their respective industry sectors.

Information and communications

Information and communications technology (ICT) is one of the pillars of Singapore's economic success. However, Singapore's mass communications networks, including television and phone networks, have long been operated by the government. Singapore has the world's highest smartphone penetration rates-- 85% of the population respectively in 2014. Internet is provided by state owned Singtel and partially state owned Starhub and M1 Limited plus some other business internet service providers (ISPs) that offer residential service plans of speeds up to 2 Gbit/s as of Spring 2015.

Tourism

Tourism forms a large part of the economy, with over 15 million tourists visiting the city-state in 2014. Singapore also promotes itself as a medical tourism hub: about 200,000 foreigners seek medical care there each year. It is also an education hub, with more than 80,000 international students in 2006.

Transportation

Roads: Singapore has a road system covering 3,356 kilometers, which includes 161 kilometers of expressways. Since Singapore is a small island with a high population density, the number of private cars on the road is restricted so as to curb pollution and congestion. Singaporean residents also travel by

bicycles, bus, taxis and train (MRT or LRT). Two companies run the public bus and train transport system – SBS Transit and SMRT Corporation. There are six taxi companies, who together put out over 27,000 taxis on the road.

Seaports: The Port of Singapore, managed by port operators PSA International and Jurong Port, was the world's second-busiest port in 2005 in terms of shipping tonnage handled, at 1.15 billion gross tons, and in terms of containerized traffic, at 23.2 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). It is also the world's second-busiest, behind Shanghai, in terms of cargo tonnage with 423 million tons handled.

Airports: Singapore is an aviation hub for Southeast Asia and a stopover on the Kangaroo Route between Sydney and London. There are eight airports in the country, and Singapore Changi Airport hosts a network of over 100 airlines connecting Singapore to some 300 cities in about 70 countries and territories worldwide. The national airlines are Singapore Airlines, SilkAir and Scoot.

FOREIGN TRADE

Export: \$361.6 billion (2016)

Export commodities: machinery and equipment (including electronics and telecommunications), pharmaceuticals and other chemicals, refined petroleum products, foodstuffs and beverages

Export destinations: China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, USA, Japan, South Korea

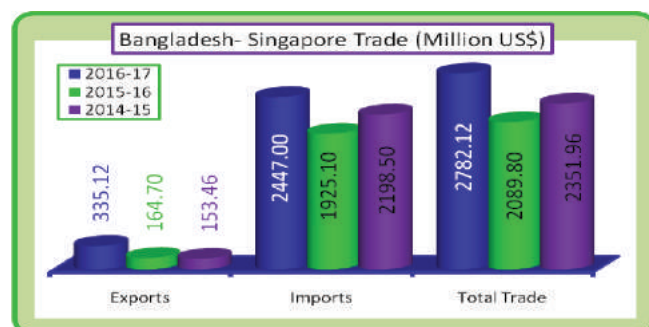
Imports: : \$278.8 billion (2016)

Import commodities: machinery and equipment, mineral fuels, chemicals, foodstuffs, consumer goods

Major import sources: China, Malaysia, USA, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia

BANGLADESH-SINGAPORE TRADE

Two-way trade between the countries has shown a mixed trend in recent years. Total trade amounted to US\$2782.12 million in 2016-17 compared to 2089.80 million in 2015-16 and \$2351.96 million in 2014-15, showing a rise of 33.13% in 2016-17 but a fall of 11.15% in 2015-16.



Exports to Singapore

Bangladesh's exports to Singapore have shown a rising trend in recent years. Exports amounted to US\$335.12 million in 2016-17 compared to \$164.70 million in 2015-16 and \$153.46 million in 2014-15, showing a rise of 103.47% in 2016-17 and 7.32% in 2015-16. Singapore accounted for 0.97% of Bangladesh total exports in 2016-17.

(US\$ million)

Major export items	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Engineering equipment	104.32	31.15	6.23
Knitwear	37.13	38.92	37.49
Woven garments	35.33	38.89	50.95
Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc	25.32	5.18	0.19
Cereal, flour, starch, milk preparations and products	8.90	9.20	17.84
Electrical, electronic equipment	5.78	9.75	14.08
Edible vegetables	2.79	4.10	2.73
Home textile	1.79	2.31	3.19
Tubes, pipes and hollow profiles of cast iron	1.29	2.13	0.24
Others	112.47	23.07	20.52
Total	335.12	164.70	153.46

Source: Export Promotion Bureau

Imports from Singapore

Bangladesh's imports from Singapore have shown a mixed trend in recent years. Imports amounted to US\$2447.00 million in 2016-17 compared to \$1925.10 million in 2015-16 and \$2198.50 million in 2014-15, showing a rise of 27.11% in 2016-17 but a fall of 12.44% in 2015-16. Singapore shared for 6.10% of Bangladesh total imports in 2016-17.

(US\$ million)

Major import items	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Mineral fuel	1549.50	1106.80	1513.60
Machinery and mechanical appliances	221.60	189.70	164.40
Electrical machinery and equipment	86.00	65.90	53.20
Plastic and articles thereof	77.50	64.60	61.20
Iron and steel	76.70	61.90	68.40
Ships, boats and floating structures	37.30	65.90	12.60
Organic chemicals	33.90	37.80	35.20
Animal or vegetable waxes	28.80	22.80	17.10
Paper and paper board	19.00	19.90	18.80
Others	316.70	289.80	254.00
Total	2447.00	1925.10	2198.50

Source: Bangladesh Bank

MEMBER PROFILE



Syed Faruque Ahmed
Chairman

aamra technologies limited

aamra technologies limited (ATL) is a pioneering technology company that has been dedicated towards providing the banking market with the most advanced and revolutionary hardware, software and connectivity solutions for close to three decades.

Previously known as Texas Electronics Limited, aamra technologies limited was initiated on December 31, 2007. As of February 03, 2010, ATL has been incorporated in Bangladesh as a Public Limited Company with the Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms.

Vision

Excellence and innovation... unlimited...through the Power of "WE"

Mission Statement

To empower our customers, employees, partners and communities by providing the finest products, services and practices.

Services

- E-Banking
- International Internet Gateway
- Professional Services
- Servers, Storage and Networking



aamra is a local conglomerate of 13 successful concerns focused towards participating in the modernization of Bangladesh by providing technology driven solutions. aamra recognizes that Bangladeshi companies need modern, technology-driven systems, to be effective and competitive. aamra's business was founded on providing customized and integrated technology-based solutions that enable our customers to maximize their business potential. The company served over 3 decades of time for enterprise sales, support & distribution in various aspects of business like ICT & Telecom, Textile & Apparels, Professional Development, Lifestyle and Food & Beverage.

Awards & Accolades

- ASOCIO Award in the category 'Most Outstanding ICT Company' in ICT Summit 2017, Teipei, Taiwan
- Microsoft Award for 'Digital Transformation in Bangladesh' and "Award to Cloud Solution
- Provider for top revenue and top number of active seats" at Microsoft SEA NM Partners Summit 2017, Thailand
- Microsoft 'Country Partner of the Year' by Microsoft in USA, 2017
- 'Best Employer Brand in Bangladesh-aamra companies' by World HRD Congress and CHRO Asia, 2017
- Top 50 Best Employer Brand of Asia-aamra companies by Employer Brand Association (EBA) and CHRO, 2017
- 'Best Global CSR Practices- aamra companies' by CHRO Asia, 2017
- 'Partner of the Year, SAARC' Award from Polycorn in 2017
- "Valued Partner Award 2016" from VeriFone
- The first 'ICT Business Person of the Year- Syed Farhad Ahmed' by the Daily Star in 2016
- Excellence in HR Leadership Award by Best Brand Awards, Malaysia in 2016

Company Information

Company Name	aamra technologies limited
Registered Office	F.R. Tower (9th Floor), 32 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani C/A, Dhaka - 1213
Status	Public Limited Company
Date/Place of Incorporation	March 14, 1990, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Board of Directors	Mr. Syed Faruque Ahmed – Chairman Mr. Syed Farhad Ahmed – Managing Director Ms. Syeda Munia Ahmed – Director Ms. Fahmida Ahmed – Director
Member of	Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services Bangladesh Computer Samity American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies Bangladesh Indenting Agents Association Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dhaka Wireless Internet Broadband Association

MEMBERS NEWS

ESKAYEF PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED

Novo Nordisk, the world's biggest insulin maker, recently teamed up with local Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Limited to set up a state-of-the-art manufacturing plant. In this regard, Ms. Simeen Hossain, managing director and chief executive of Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Limited and Mr. Anand Shetty, managing director of Novo Nordisk Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on behalf of the two companies. The MOU entails transfer of Novo Nordisk's proprietary state-of-the-art technology to produce human and modern insulin in cartridges to Bangladesh. The production facility, which will be set up at a cost of Tk 3 billion, is expected to be complete in three years. The Danish pharmaceutical company in partnership with Eskayef has been manufacturing human insulin vials in Bangladesh since 2012, but pen-filled modern insulin products are still imported from Denmark. Among others, Mr. Zahid Malik, state minister for health, Mikael Hemniti Winther, Danish ambassador to Bangladesh, Sebnem Avsar Tuna, corporate vice-president for Novo Nordisk Oceania and Southeast Asia, Mr. Latifur Rahman, chairman and CEO of Transcom Group, and Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, director general of the Directorate General of Drug Administration were present.



BERGER PAINTS BANGLADESH LIMITED

Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited recently tied up with UK-based construction solutions provider Fosroc International to set up a joint venture company that would produce construction chemicals. Ms. Rupali Chowdhury, managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited and Mr. Ian Watt, group CEO and director of Fosroc, signed the deal on behalf of their respective organizations at Le Méridien Dhaka. Each party will hold equal stakes in the entity, Berger Fosroc Ltd, which will be built at an estimated cost of Tk 600 million. Berger Fosroc Ltd will provide solutions to all sectors of the construction industry, specializing in solutions for building construction, industrial facilities, power plants and all types of transportation and civil infrastructure. The new company will create employment for over 100 people. Mr. Amir Hossain Amu, industries minister, attended the signing ceremony as the chief guest. Ms. Alison Blake, British High commissioner, Dr James Muir Hay, chairman of JMH Group, Gerald K Adams, chairman of Berger Paints, Fitriani Hay, chairman of Fosroc International, and other board members of the companies were present.



SQUARE PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED

Square Pharmaceuticals Kenya EPZ Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Bangladesh, started the construction work of its state-of-the-art pharmaceutical manufacturing plant through a grand ceremony in Nairobi, Kenya. Mr. Tapan Chowdhury, the Managing Director of Square Pharmaceuticals, Mr. Eric S. Chowdhury and Ms. Anika Chowdhury, the Management Coordinators of Square Pharmaceuticals, the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives of Bangladesh, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Kenya and other dignitaries from Kenya EPZ, World Bank, IFC, Standard Chartered Bank joined together to celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony.



ROBI AXIATA LIMITED

Robi Axiata Limited recently introduced Robi-servicebots, intelligent humanoids or service robots powered by a robust cloud-based artificial intelligence platform. The servicebots were unveiled at a ceremony held at the Experience Centre of Robi Corporate Office. Robi's Managing Director and CEO, Mr. Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, Chief Corporate and People Officer, Mr. Matiul Islam Nowshad, Chief Digital Services Officer, Shihab Ahmad and Head of Information Technology, Mr. Asif Naimur Rashid were present on the occasion. At Robi-servicebot's core is an innovative tri-polar private cloud architecture that delivers smart, personalized service in any environment, while being capable of engaging with users over natural interactions.



The Private Cloud System allows for advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) calculations along with user management, communications support, remote hardware control, data storage and more. Based on Robi's innovative "Robotics-as-a-Service" model, the Robi-servicebots are designed for deployment at Robi's designated sales and service centers that need to deliver high-quality services to customers and users without the need for human interactions. These humanoids are perfectly suited and capable of ushering in a new era of service excellence for the technology service providers, fintech, retail, healthcare, hospitality and other services sectors. The Private Cloud System, which is downloadable on the App Store and Google Play, allows users to take direct control of Robi-servicebots using their personal mobile devices, guiding the robots using manual controls or using Robi-servicebots' built-in audio-visual features and HD cameras.

AB BANK LIMITED

AB Bank Limited recently signed a medical services agreement with Bangladesh Eye Hospital Limited. Under the agreement, all debit and credit card holders of AB Bank Limited will enjoy special discounts and privileges from the hospital. The President and Managing Director of AB Bank Limited Mr. Moshir Rahman Chowdhury and the Chairman of Bangladesh Eye Hospital Limited Mr. Mahbubur Rahman Chowdhury signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. The Managing Director of Bangladesh Eye Hospital Limited Dr Niaz Abdur-Rahman and the Deputy Managing Director of AB Bank Ltd Ms. Shamshia I Mutasim along with other high officials attended the signing ceremony.



SOUTHEAST BANK LIMITED

Southeast Bank Limited and Daffodil International University signed an agreement on January 01, 2018. Under the agreement, students of the university may pay their tuition fees at 132 branches of the bank. Mr. Syed Faisal Omar, Senior Executive Vice President and Head of International Division, Southeast Bank and Mr. Hamidul Haque Khan, Treasurer, Daffodil International University signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Among others, Professor Dr. S.M. Mahbub Ul Haque Majumder, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Daffodil International University, Mr. Abdul Quaium Chowdhury, Executive Vice President and Head of Southeast Bank Dhanmondi branch and many other senior officials of both of the organizations were present.



NESTLÉ BANGLADESH LIMITED

Nestlé Bangladesh Limited signed an agreement with the HSBC, Dhaka to offer “Buyer Approved Invoice Finance” (BAIF) for Nestlé’s suppliers on the 8th of January, 2018. This is an innovative supply chain financing proposition for Bangladesh that provides efficient and cost-effective working capital solution for Nestlé and our business partners. This agreement helps our vendors to get competitive financing, leveraging the strength of their partnership with Nestlé, strengthens our relationship with business partners and is expected to further improve our working capital position. Mr. Stéphane Nordé, Managing Director, Nestlé Bangladesh Ltd and Mr. Francois de Maricourt, Chief Executive Officer, HSBC Bangladesh signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.



STANDARD BANK LTD

The ‘Annual Business Conference 2018’ of Standard Bank Ltd took place on 27 January 2018 at Moulvibazar’s Grand Sultan Tea Resort & Golf. Chairman of the Bank Mr. Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed was present at the conference as the chief Guest. The bank’s Managing Director and CEO Mamun-Ur-Rashid and Vice Chairman Mohammed Abdul Aziz attended the ceremony as special guests. Directors of the board and branch managers from all over the country were present at the Conference.



IDLC FINANCE LIMITED

IDLC Finance Limited was awarded the top position among the non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) for the “ICMAB Best Corporate Awards-2016” for an outstanding performance in corporate governance. Finance Minister AMA Muhith handed over the award to Mr. Arif Khan, CEO & Managing Director of IDLC, at a program held in the capital. The Chairman of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), Mr. M. Khairul Hossain and the Chairman of Financial Reporting Council (FRC) Mr. C. Q. K. Mustaq Ahmed were present as special guests at the event.



IPDC FINANCE LIMITED

IPDC Finance Limited recently distributed blankets and nebulizers among underprivileged people in Rajarhat, Kurigram in association with Terre des Hommes (TDH), an international children’s rights charitable humanitarian umbrella organization under the aegis of the International Federation of Terre des Hommes (TDHIF). Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, Branch Manager of IPDC Finance Limited, Bogra Branch; Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam, DDFP, Family Planning Department, Kurigram; Md. Tazul Islam, Chairman, Bidyananda Union Parishad, Razarhat Upazila, Kurigram and Mr. Nitya Kumar Kundu, Project Officer-Health & Nutrition, Tdh Foundation were present at the ceremony.



CHAMBER EVENTS



The newly elected office-bearers of the Chamber led by its President Ms. Nihad Kabir met Mr. AMA Muhith, MP, the Finance Minister at his office on January 15, 2018.

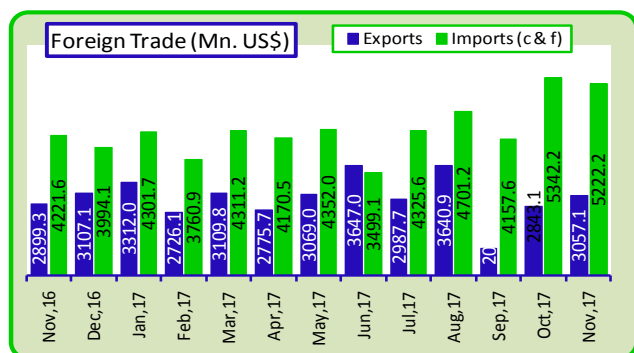


The newly elected office-bearers of the Chamber led by its President Ms. Nihad Kabir met Mr. Tofail Ahmed, MP, the Commerce Minister at his office on January 21, 2018.

REVIEW

Foreign trade

The country's foreign trade amounted to US\$42576.55 million during July-December 2017. The overall trade deficit widened by 14.94 percent during July-December 2017, due to higher import payments. The deficit rose to \$6744.51 million during July-December 2017 from \$5867.77 million in the same period of the previous fiscal (See Table-1).



Export Earnings

During July-December 2017, total export earnings (EPB) amounted to US\$17916.02 million compared to \$16721.05 million earned during July-December 2016, showing a rise of \$1194.97 million or 7.15 percent. However, against the target of \$17875.00 million set for the period, export earnings rose by \$41.02 million or 0.23 percent. Compared to the same period of previous fiscal year, export earnings increased from knitwear, woven garments, jute goods, footwear, home textiles, frozen food, cotton yarn & waste, pharmaceuticals, bicycle, tobacco, terry towel, ceramic products and fruits (See Table-2).

Table-2: Export earnings of the following major commodities increased during July-December 2017

Commodities	Export earnings ¹ (In Mn. US\$)			Annual absolute change (In Mn.US\$)		Annual percentage Change (%)		Share in total export (%)	
	July-Dec. 2015	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017
Knitwear	6432.05	6813.58	7595.27	381.53	781.69	5.93	11.47	40.75	42.39
Woven garments	6703.53	6896.12	7177.52	192.59	281.40	2.87	4.08	41.24	40.06
Jute goods	348.78	369.33	491.29	20.55	121.96	5.89	33.02	2.21	2.74
Footwear	368.93	403.65	437.58	34.72	33.93	9.41	8.41	2.41	2.44
Home textiles	348.43	352.57	407.73	4.14	55.16	1.19	15.65	2.11	2.28
Frozen food	285.76	291.56	312.46	5.80	20.90	2.03	7.17	1.74	1.74
Cotton yarn & waste	51.51	50.97	64.74	-0.54	13.77	-1.05	27.02	0.30	0.36
Pharmaceuticals	43.09	45.10	50.36	2.01	5.26	4.66	11.66	0.27	0.28
Bicycle	42.50	37.22	40.87	-5.28	3.65	-12.42	9.81	0.22	0.23
Tobacco	39.36	31.71	40.66	-7.65	8.95	-19.44	28.22	0.19	0.23
Terry towel	25.51	20.49	21.14	-5.02	0.65	-19.68	3.17	0.12	0.12
Ceramic products	20.10	19.65	19.68	-0.45	0.03	-2.24	0.15	0.12	0.11
Fruits	17.10	0.35	2.16	-16.75	1.81	-97.95	517.14	0.00	0.01

Note: 1= Export Earnings (EPB), Source: Export Promotion Bureau

However, earnings decreased from leather & leather products, raw jute, man made filaments & staple fibers, plastic products, vegetables, electric products, petroleum byproducts and engineering equipments (See Table-3).

Table-1: Balance of Trade

	July-Dec. 2015	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017
(In million US\$)			
Trade balance	-4219.92	-5867.77	-6744.51
Total exports ¹	16083.90	16721.05	17916.02
Total imports*	20303.82	22588.82	24660.53
(Annual change in million US\$)			
Trade balance	457.35	-1647.85	-876.74
Total exports	1169.69	637.15	1194.97
Total imports	712.34	2285.00	2071.71
(Annual percentage change)			
Trade balance	9.78	-39.05	-14.94
Total exports	7.84	3.96	7.15
Total imports	3.64	11.25	9.17

Note: * = LC Settlement, 1= Exports (EPB)

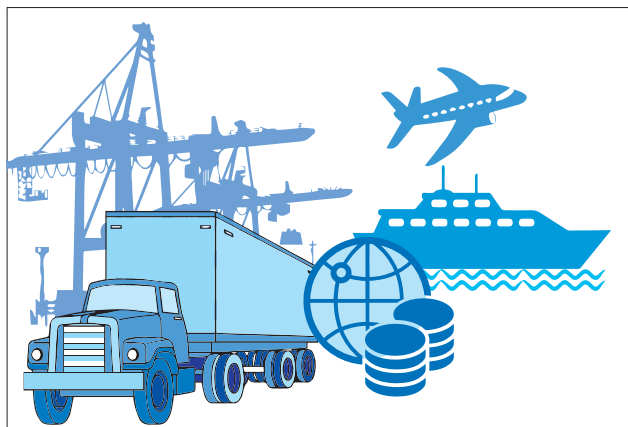
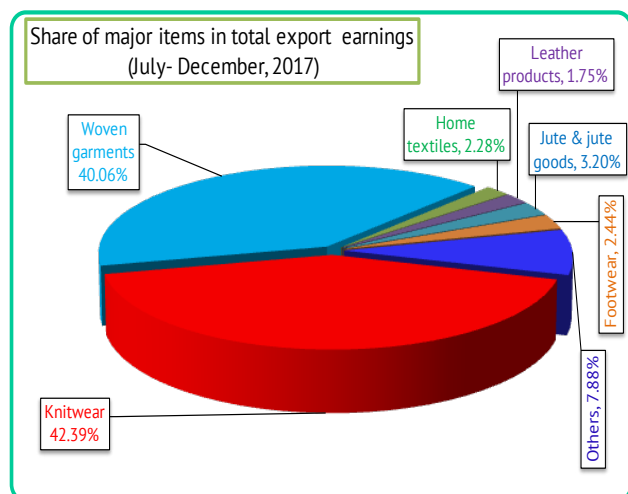
Table-3: Export earnings of the following major commodities declined during July-December 2017

Commodities	Export earnings ¹ (In Mn. US\$)			Annual absolute change (In Mn.US\$)		Annual percentage Change (%)		Share in total export (%)	
	July-Dec. 2015	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017
Leather & Leather products	308.88	344.49	312.75	35.61	-31.74	11.53	-9.21	2.06	1.75
Raw Jute	74.96	103.24	82.77	28.28	-20.47	37.73	-19.83	0.62	0.46
Man made filaments & staple fibers	52.47	49.85	46.85	-2.62	-3.00	-4.99	-6.02	0.30	0.26
Plastic Products	44.34	64.33	46.63	19.99	-17.70	45.08	-27.51	0.38	0.26
Vegetables	32.95	41.21	38.33	8.26	-2.88	25.07	-6.99	0.25	0.21
Electric products	32.78	31.81	29.41	-0.97	-2.40	-2.96	-7.54	0.19	0.16
Petroleum byproducts	127.59	108.77	22.27	-18.82	-86.50	-14.75	-79.53	0.65	0.12
Engineering equipments	130.90	85.50	17.98	-45.40	-67.52	-34.68	-78.97	0.51	0.10

Note: 1= Export Earnings (EPB), Source: Export Promotion Bureau

Export Shares

The share of knitwear and woven garments in total exports was 82.45 percent during July-December 2017 compared to 81.99 percent during July-December 2016 (See table 2).



Import payments

During July-December 2017, total import payments (LC settlement) rose by US\$2071.71 million or 9.17 percent to \$24660.53 million compared to \$22588.82 million during July-December 2016.

The industrial raw materials topped the list in the review period with import amounting to \$8681.79 million, sharing 35.21 percent of total import, followed by capital machinery \$2533.17 million (10.27 percent), food grains (Rice & wheat) \$1532.29 million (6.21 percent) and petroleum & petroleum products \$1391.20 million (5.64 percent) (See table 4).

During the period under review, imports of industrial raw materials increased by 7.95 percent, food grains (Rice & wheat) by 163.49 percent and petroleum & petroleum products by 20.21 percent. However imports of capital machinery declined by 11.66 percent (See Table 4).

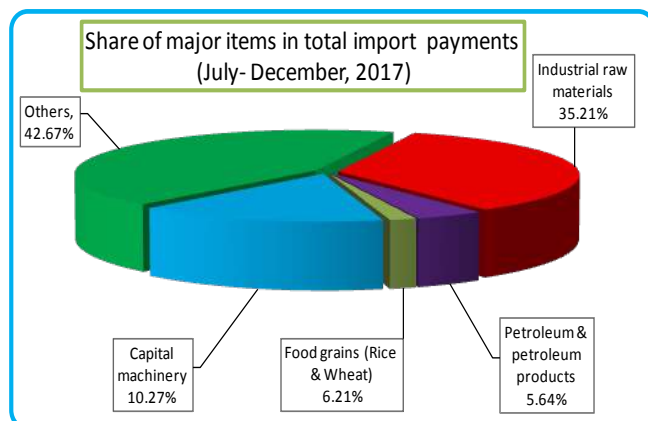


Table-4: Import Payments of major commodities during July-December 2017

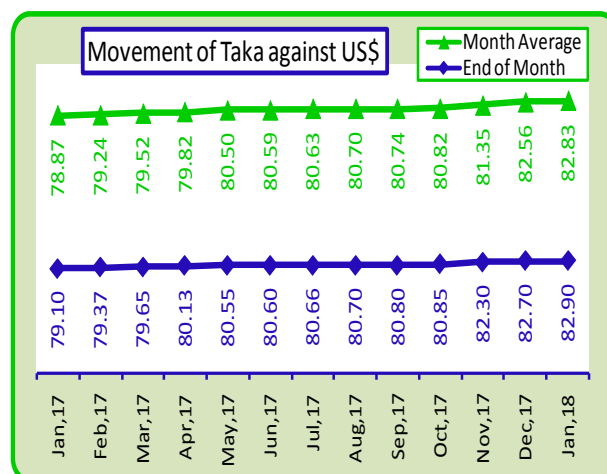
Commodities	Import payments* (In Mn. US\$)			Annual absolute change (In Mn.US\$)		Annual percentage Change (%)		Share in total import (%)	
	July-Dec. 2015	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017	July-Dec. 2016	July-Dec. 2017
Industrial raw materials	7665.38	8042.38	8681.79	377.00	639.41	4.92	7.95	35.60	35.21
Capital machinery	1687.73	2867.67	2533.17	1179.94	-334.50	69.91	-11.66	12.70	10.27
Food grains (Rice & Wheat)	625.18	581.53	1532.29	-43.65	950.76	-6.98	163.49	2.57	6.21
Petroleum & petroleum products	1439.88	1157.28	1391.20	-282.60	233.92	-19.63	20.21	5.12	5.64
Others	8885.65	9939.96	10522.08	1054.31	582.12	11.87	5.86	44.00	42.67
Total	20303.82	22588.82	24660.53	2285.00	2071.71	11.25	9.17	100.00	100.00

Note: * = LC Settlement, Source: Bangladesh Bank



Exchange rate movements

Taka depreciated against US\$ by 4.80 percent to Tk. 82.90 on 31 January 2018 from its level of Tk. 79.10 at the end of January 2017. Meanwhile, Taka also depreciated by 5.02 percent to Tk. 82.83 on averages in January 2018 from its average level of Tk. 78.87 in January 2017.



Source: Bangladesh Bank

Stock market



The broad index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) fell by 3.28% to 6039.76 on 31 January 2018 from 6244.52 at the end of December 2017. The market capitalization decreased by 1.04% during the month to Tk. 4185.13 billion from Tk. 4228.95 billion at the end of December 2017. On 31 January 2018, total turnover in the DSE was 123.83 million in volume and Tk. 4722.77 million in value.



The all share index of the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) fell by 2.99% to 18691.23 on 31 January 2018 from 19268.04 at the end of December 2017. The market capitalization also fell by 0.99% to Tk. 3493.68 billion from Tk. 3528.91 billion at the end of December 2017. Total turnover was 17.54 million in volume and Tk. 434.43 million in value in the CSE on 31 January 2018.

STATISTICS

MAJOR ECONOMIC INDICATORS-BANGLADESH

Indicators	Period	31 Jan., 2018	28 Dec., 2017	30 Nov., 2017	31 Jan., 2017	FY 2016-17 ^P	FY 2015-16	FY 2014-15
Foreign exchange reserve (in million US\$)		32693.68(3.06)	33225.85 (-0.01)	32596.68(4.08)	31724.17	33406.60(10.8)	30137.60 (20.4)	25025.20(16.1)
		Jan, 2018	Dec, 2017	Nov, 2017	Jan., 2017	FY 2016-17 ^P	FY 2015-16	FY 2014-15
Exchange rate (Tk./US\$) (average)		82.83	82.56	81.35	78.87	79.12	78.40	77.80
		Dec., 2017	July-Dec., 2017	Dec., 2016	July-Dec., 2016	FY2016-17 ^P	FY2015-16	FY2014-15
Wage earners' remittances (in million US\$)		1167.18 (21.7)	6935.72(12.5)	958.73 (-26.9)	6166.85 (-17.6)	12769.45 (-14.5)	14931.14 (-2.5)	
Overseas employment (no. of persons)		76693(11.4)	488035 (26.8)	68862(5.7)	384836(23.5)	905326(32.3)	684537 (48.2)	
		Nov., 2017	July-Nov., 2017	Nov., 2016	July-Nov., 2016	FY2016-17 ^P	FY2015-16	FY2014-15
Imports (C&F) (in million US\$)		5222.20(23.7)	23748.80(25.6)	4221.60(15.2)	18615.70(9.5)	47005.20(9.0)	43122.50 (5.9)	
Imports(f.o.b) (in million US\$)		4832.00 (23.7)	21973.00 (27.6)	3905.00 (15.2)	17224.00(9.5)	4349.00 (9.0)	39901.00 (5.9)	
		Dec., 2017	July-Dec., 2017	Dec., 2016	July-Dec., 2016	FY2016-17 ^P	FY2015-16	FY2014-15
Exports (EPB) (in million US\$)		3353.11 (8.4)	17916.02 (7.2)	3092.60 (-3.2)	16721.05 (4.4)	34655.09 (1.2)	34257.18 (9.8)	
		Nov., 2017	July-Nov., 2017	Nov., 2016	July-Nov., 2016	FY2016-17 ^P	FY2015-16	FY2014-15
Tax revenue (NBR) (Tk. in billion)		163.88 (16.7)	753.09 (17.9)	140.46(12.2)	638.62(16.4)	1850.03(18.9)	1555.19 (14.6)	
Investment in national savings certificates (Tk. in billion)		Dec., 2017	July-Dec., 2017	Dec., 2016	July-Dec., 2016	FY2016-17 ^P	FY2015-16	FY2014-15
A) Net sale		26.51	238.24	31.54	234.74	524.17	336.89	
B) Total outstanding		2150.60	2150.60	1622.92	1622.92	1912.36	1388.19	
		Nov., 2017	July-Nov., 2017	Nov., 2016	July-Nov., 2016	FY2016-17 ^P	FY2015-16	FY2014-15
Net foreign aid (in million US\$)		178.16(32.1)	1272.01 (120.9)	102.34(-12.1)	575.81(4.7)	2636.91 (2.1)	2582.77 (17.5)	
		July-Nov., 2017	July-Nov. 2016		FY2016-17 ^P	FY2015-16 ^P	FY2014-15	
Current account balance (in million US\$)		-4432.00	-683.00		-1480.00	4262.00	3492.00	
Rate of inflation on the basis of consumer Price index for national (base:2005-06=100)		Dec.,2017	Nov.,2017	Oct.,2017	Sep.,2017	Dec., 2016	FY2016-17 ^P	FY2015-16
A) Twelve month average basis		5.70	5.64	5.59	5.55	5.52	5.44	5.92
B) Point to point basis		5.83	5.91	6.04	6.12	5.03	5.94	5.53
Reserve money and credit developments (Tk. in billion)		Dec., 2017 ^P	Nov., 2017 ^P	Dec., 2016		FY2015-16 ^P	FY2014-15	FY2013-14
A) Reserve money (RM)		2169.84 (13.3)	2090.19 (11.8)	1914.98		447.19(30.1)	186.07(14.3)	173.86(15.5)
B) Broad money (M2)		10560.09 (16.7)	10160.76 (10.8)	9540.54		1294.10(16.4)	869.90(12.4)	970.18(16.1)
Total domestic credit		9525.35 (14.5)	8906.70 (14.5)	8320.38		984.85(14.0)	636.20(9.9)	661.69(11.6)
A) Net credit to the govt. Sector		872.66 (-11.5)	973.34 (-14.8)	986.39		39.62(3.6)	-72.72(-6.2)	74.05(6.7)
B)Credit to the other public sector		182.47 (11.4)	172.80 (15.2)	163.80		-6.19(-3.7)	39.33(30.9)	32.82(34.7)
C) Credit to the private sector		8470.22 (18.1)	7760.57 (19.1)	7170.20		951.41 (16.6)	669.59 (13.2)	554.85 (12.3)
Interest rate development		Nov., 17	Oct., 17	Sep., 17	Aug., 17	Nov., 16	FY2015-16 ^P	FY2014-15
Lending rate (weighted average)		9.30	9.31	9.45	9.46	10.03	10.39	11.67
Deposit rate (weighted average)		4.90	4.89	4.90	4.93	5.33	5.54	6.80
Agricultural credit (Tk. in billion)		Nov., 2017	July-Nov., 2017	Oct., 2016		July-Nov., 2016	FY2016-17 ^P	FY2015-16
A) Disbursements		20.26 (-11.8)	82.31 (8.7)	22.98		75.71	209.99(19.0)	176.46(10.4)
B) Recovery		19.65(6.7)	81.43(16.8)	18.42		69.69	188.41(10.5)	170.56(10.7)
Industrial term loan (Tk. in billion)		Jul-Sep. 2017-18 ^P	Apr-Jun. 2016-17 ^P		Jul-Sep. 2016-17		FY2015-16 ^P	FY2014-15 ^P
A) Disbursements		157.66(20.9)	137.52(-17.9)		130.45		655.39(9.6)	597.83 (41.3)
B) Recovery		155.14(24.9)	114.45(-10.4)		124.23		482.25 (1.4)	475.41 (13.8)
ADP (Tk. in billion)		FY 2017-18	FY 2016-17		FY 2015-16		FY 2014-15	FY 2013-14
Allocation (except self-financed)		1640.85	1233.46		1009.97		860.00	739.84
		Jul-Dec., 2017-18	Jul-Dec, 2016-17		Jul-Dec., 2015-16		Jul-Dec., 2014-15	Jul-Dec., 2013-14
Expenditure (% of ADP allocation)		443.31 (27.02%)	335.54 (27.20%)		237.77 (24%)		237.95 (28%)	188.25 (25%)
Overall share price index (month end)		31 Jan., 2018 [@]	27 Dec., 2017 [@]	31 Jan., 2017 [@]	29 June., 2017 [@]		30 Jun., 2016	30 June, 2015 [@]
Dhaka stock exchange		6039.78	6186.46	5468.34	5656.04		4507.58	4531.98
Chittagong stock exchange		18691.22	19122.94	16973.97	17516.71		13802.58	13916.75
Investment (in million US\$)		Nov., 2017	July-Nov., 2017	Nov., 2016	July-Nov., 2016	FY2016-17 ^P	FY2015-16	FY2014-15
Foreign direct investment (FDI)		143.00	859.00	219.00		845.00	1706.00	1285.00
Industrial production indices (base:2005-06=100)		Sep., 2017 ^P	Aug., 2017 ^P	Jul., 2017 ^P	Jun., 2017 ^P	Sep., 2016	FY2015-16 ^P	FY2014-15
Manufacturing		270.65	373.95	333.17	327.62	249.86	267.88	236.11
Mining (includes gas production)		175.56	193.18	193.37	177.93	176.69	185.57	159.89
Electricity		283.04	303.03	288.89	273.59	257.87	219.29	209.32
Base: 2005-06=100		2016-17 ^P	2015-16 ^P	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
GDP growth rate (in percent)		7.24	7.11	6.55	6.06	6.01	6.52	6.46

Note: P= Provisional, Figures in brackets indicate percentage changes over the year, @=DSE Broad Index, *= Base 1995-96

Source: Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Export Promotion Bureau

EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF BANGLADESH

(Million US \$)

Products	Export for 2016-17	Proposed Export Target of 2017-18	Strategic Target for July-Dec. 2017	Export Performance for July-Dec. 2017	% of Performance Over Target	Change Export Performance for July-Dec. 2016	% of Performance Over July-Dec. 2016-17
All products (A+B)	34655.92	37500.00	17875.00	17916.02	0.23	16721.05	7.15
A. Primary Commodities	1079.62	1111.00	529.58	622.82	17.61	550.53	13.13
(1) Frozen & Live Fish	526.45	535.00	255.02	312.46	22.52	291.56	7.17
a) Live Fish	8.05	8.00	3.81	1.71	-55.12	1.14	50.00
b) Frozen Fish	44.04	45.00	21.45	27.91	30.12	21.81	27.97
c) Shrimps	446.04	450.00	214.50	271.01	26.34	256.93	5.48
d) Crabs	18.28	19.00	9.06	6.43	-29.03	6.95	-7.48
e) Others	10.04	13.00	6.20	5.40	-12.90	4.73	14.16
(2) Agricultural Products	553.17	576.00	274.56	310.36	13.04	258.97	19.84
a) Tea	4.47	5.00	2.38	1.74	-26.89	1.37	27.01
b) Vegetables	81.03	80.00	38.13	38.33	0.52	41.21	-6.99
c) Tobacco	46.62	45.92	21.89	40.66	85.75	31.71	28.22
d) Cut Flower & Foliage	0.08	0.08	0.04	0.01	-75.00	0.02	-50.00
e) Fruits	2.69	2.00	0.95	2.16	127.37	0.35	517.14
f) Spices	34.95	40.00	19.07	20.75	8.81	14.85	39.73
g) Dry Food	109.61	125.00	59.58	80.41	34.96	43.09	86.61
h) Others	273.72	278.00	132.51	126.30	-4.69	126.37	-0.06
(3) B. Manufactured Commodities	33576.30	36389.00	17345.42	17293.20	-0.30	16170.52	6.94
(1) Cement, Salt, Stone Etc	10.79	11.50	5.48	6.16	12.41	3.72	65.59
(2) Ores, Slag and Ash	5.70	6.00	2.86	1.41	-50.70	2.90	-51.38
(3) Petroleum bi Products	243.77	250.00	119.17	22.27	-81.31	108.77	-79.53
(4) Chemical Products	139.99	157.00	74.84	68.54	-8.42	66.84	2.54
a) Pharmaceuticals	89.17	100.00	47.67	50.36	5.64	45.10	11.66
b) Chemical Fertilizer	5.58	7.00	3.34	0	0	5.62	0
c) Cosmetics	0.71	0.90	0.43	0.18	-58.14	0.39	-53.85
d) Others	44.53	49.10	23.40	18.00	-23.08	15.73	14.43
(5) Plastic Products	116.95	148.00	70.55	46.63	-33.91	64.33	-27.51
a) PVC Bags	29.91	32.00	15.25	14.75	-3.28	14.32	3.00
b) Plastic Waste	30.65	41.00	19.54	9.04	-53.74	14.54	-37.83
c) Others	56.39	75.00	35.75	22.84	-36.11	35.47	-35.61
(6) Rubber	28.46	35.00	16.68	10.77	-35.43	9.72	10.80
(7) Leather & Leather Products	1234	1380.00	657.80	620.27	-5.71	627.86	-1.21
a) Leather	232.61	240.00	114.40	97.53	-14.75	135.16	-27.84
b) Leather Products	464.43	540.00	257.40	215.22	-16.39	209.33	2.81
c) Leather Footwear	536.96	600.00	286.00	307.52	7.52	283.37	8.52
(8) Wood & Wood Products	5.77	6.80	3.24	2.08	-35.80	2.52	-17.46
(9) Handicrafts	14.48	16.00	7.63	7.85	2.88	7.26	8.13
(10) Pulp	0	0.01	0.00	0	0		0
(11) Paper & Paper Products	56.87	60.00	28.60	36.79	28.64	26.18	40.53
(12) Printed Materials	0.92	0.90	0.43	0.29	-32.56	0.43	-32.56
(13) Silk	0.01	0.01	0.00	0	0	0.01	0

(Million US \$)

(Million US \$)

Products	Export for 2016-17	Proposed Export Target of 2017-18	Strategic Target for July-Dec. 2017	Export Performance for July-Dec., 2017	% of Performance Over Target	Change Export s. Export Target	Export Performance for July-Dec., 2016	% of Performance July -Dec., 2017-18 Over July-Dec. 2016-17
(14) Wool & Woollen Products	0.32	0.40	0.19	0.01	-94.74		0.18	-94.44
(15) Cotton & Cotton Product (Yarn, Waste, Fabrics etc)	109.49	123.00	58.63	64.74	10.42		50.97	27.02
(16) Jute & Jute goods	962.42	1055.00	502.88	574.06	14.15		472.57	21.48
a) Raw Jute	167.84	175.00	83.42	82.77	-0.78		103.24	-19.83
b) Jute Yarn & Twine	607.88	680.00	324.13	360.30	11.16		270.28	33.31
c) Jute Sacks & Bags	127.53	140.00	66.73	81.95	22.81		77.16	6.21
d) Others	59.17	60.00	28.60	49.04	71.47		21.89	124.03
(17) Man Made Filaments & Staple Fibres	100.02	103.00	49.10	46.85	-4.58		49.85	-6.02
(18) Carpet (Jute & Others -57)	17.5	18.00	8.58	8.01	-6.64		8.05	-0.50
(19) Specialized Textiles	106.14	110.00	52.43	48.35	-7.78		48.27	0.17
a) Terry Towel	44.3	46.00	21.93	21.14	-3.60		20.49	3.17
b) Special Woven Fabric	15.99	16.00	7.63	7.91	3.67		8.18	-3.30
c) Knitted Fabrics	37.96	40.00	19.07	16.05	-15.84		16.64	-3.55
d) Other	7.89	8.00	3.81	3.25	-14.70		2.96	9.80
(20) RMG(Chapter 61&62)	28149.8	30160.00	14376.27	14772.79	2.76		13709.70	7.75
(a) Knitwear	13757.3	15100.00	7197.67	7595.27	5.52		6813.58	11.47
(b) Woven Garments	14392.6	15060.00	7178.60	7177.52	-0.02		6896.12	4.08
(21) Home Textile	799.14	880.00	419.47	407.73	-2.80		352.57	15.65
a) Bed, Kitchen toilet lines	471.41	515.00	245.48	278.92	13.62		233.28	19.56
b) Other	327.73	365.00	173.98	128.81	-25.96		119.29	7.98
(22) Other Footwear (Excluding 6403)	240.88	270.00	128.70	130.06	1.06		120.28	8.13
(23) Headgear/Cap	187.1	224.10	106.82	95.76	-10.35		89.86	6.57
(24) Umbrella Waking Sticks	0.04	0.04	0.02	0	0		0.03	0
(25) Wigs & Human Hair)	19.57	22.44	10.70	10.95	2.34		7.85	39.49
(26) Building Materials	0.59	0.80	0.38	0.62	63.16		0.32	93.75
(27) Ceramic Products	39.14	43.00	20.50	19.68	-4.00		19.65	0.15
(28) Glass & Glass ware	2.12	3.00	1.43	0.80	-44.06		0.90	-11.11
(29) Engineering Products	688.84	876.00	417.56	159.41	-61.82		236.29	-32.54
a) Iron Steel	58.83	70.00	33.37	19.54	-41.44		18.87	3.55
b) Copper Wire	36.09	45.00	21.45	22.41	4.48		12.83	74.67
c) Stainless Steel ware	7.82	8.00	3.81	1.80	-52.76		4.24	-57.55
d) Engineering Equipment	271.09	380.00	181.13	17.98	-90.07		85.50	-78.97
e) Electric Products	68.94	78.00	37.18	29.41	-20.90		31.81	-7.54
f) Bicycle	82.46	85.00	40.52	40.87	0.86		37.22	9.81
g) Others	163.61	210.00	100.10	27.40	-72.63		45.82	-40.20
(30) Ships, boats & floating structures	65.61	130.00	61.97	30.35	-51.02		5.45	456.88
(31) Other mfd Products	229.81	299.00	142.52	99.97	-29.86		77.19	29.51
a) Optical, Photographic, Medical Instruments etc	127.09	180.00	85.80	42.57	-50.38		36.33	17.18
b) Furniture	52.53	61.00	29.08	23.99	-17.50		18.86	27.20
c) Golf Shaft	13.5	16.00	7.63	6.56	-14.02		7.42	-11.59
d) Others	36.69	42.00	20.02	26.85	34.12		14.58	84.16

Source: Export Promotion Bureau

VALUE OF LETTERS OF CREDIT OPENED FOR IMPORT

(Million US\$)

Sectors / Commodities	Fresh LCs opening		Settlement of LCs		Outstanding LCs	
	July-Nov. 2017-18	July-Nov. 2016-17	July-Nov. 2017-18	July-Nov. 2016-17	July-Nov. 2017-18	July-Nov. 2016-17
A. Consumer goods	4147.24	2458.40	3228.02	1965.83	2842.01	2002.73
Rice and wheat	2197.30	615.19	1235.17	477.74	1256.61	399.34
Sugar and salt	513.51	380.89	506.62	253.07	519.41	510.60
Milk food	124.47	108.85	120.96	83.67	99.98	88.67
Edible oil (refined)	388.95	355.49	403.41	327.84	331.35	345.93
All kinds of fruits	138.75	126.47	108.29	89.04	65.78	49.67
Pulses	102.51	242.53	172.50	163.37	101.48	193.94
Onion	128.58	86.90	108.88	82.28	42.80	32.75
Spices	67.89	69.38	69.72	68.27	25.57	25.40
Second-hand clothings	1.66	0.15	1.63	1.56	0.45	43.24
Drugs and medicines (finished)	36.01	40.07	34.85	29.76	26.83	24.93
Others	447.61	432.49	465.99	389.23	2842.01	288.25
B. Intermediate goods	1934.00	1581.66	1584.10	1408.67	1891.17	1764.54
Coal	162.90	85.71	112.43	69.05	80.17	64.96
Cement	6.20	5.40	8.37	6.78	10.50	8.96
Clinker & limestone	272.30	230.40	270.89	238.23	247.54	194.27
B.P. Sheet	149.37	120.87	115.35	115.87	126.50	175.50
Tin plate	5.25	4.38	7.27	2.96	6.06	5.17
Scrap Vessels	371.33	267.41	283.00	299.06	389.70	367.82
Iron and steel scrap	384.97	295.27	274.82	238.46	456.18	355.40
Non-ferrous metal	82.66	102.43	74.55	96.19	110.47	100.42
Paper and paper board	224.50	162.31	152.46	128.56	202.76	148.50
Other	274.52	307.48	284.97	213.52	1891.17	343.53
C. Industrial raw materials	7763.70	6597.10	7262.35	6727.87	6714.68	5551.43
Edible oil & oil seeds	467.58	413.80	477.43	409.11	431.98	589.39
Textile fabrics (B/B & others)	3170.73	2863.59	2735.58	2730.31	2530.93	2003.80
Pharmaceutical raw materials	283.49	259.09	245.58	228.87	195.75	137.80
Raw cotton	969.13	776.32	1031.08	972.41	1028.78	816.14
Cotton yarn	609.67	465.21	595.68	502.23	551.60	376.19
Copra	2.36	1.55	2.01	2.24	4.75	2.37
Synthetic fibre & yarn	342.02	282.68	339.03	281.15	278.44	241.27
Chemicals & chem. products	1918.71	1534.86	1835.96	1601.55	6714.68	1384.47
D. Capital machinery	2627.14	1892.64	2120.16	2498.74	6526.80	5199.21
Textile machinery	428.42	241.74	376.48	268.39	784.89	576.89
Leather/tannery	4.60	5.60	3.67	14.48	11.17	33.11
Jute industry	4.74	0.60	6.70	11.40	15.46	4.24
Garment Industry	325.54	317.43	293.04	303.85	795.63	606.18
Pharmaceutical industry	63.44	73.99	46.27	45.64	88.31	90.72
Packing industry	5.05	4.92	8.15	7.38	6.17	12.24
Other industry	1795.36	1248.37	1385.86	1847.61	4825.17	3875.84
E. Machinery for misc. industry	2822.76	2056.06	2058.20	2001.75	2588.74	1765.69
Other machineries	408.96	336.58	349.59	316.98	343.24	312.14
Marine diesel engine	8.58	5.23	8.86	9.43	44.07	46.07
Computer & its accessories	169.47	146.55	172.44	159.71	126.43	90.84
Motor vehicle & motorcyclwe parts	69.96	55.57	56.21	40.26	51.67	36.06
Bicycle parts	43.15	32.51	30.64	23.30	39.84	25.24
Other Iron and steel products	207.52	225.92	192.95	220.11	205.07	201.43
Motor vehicles	589.46	443.27	437.00	375.97	462.87	230.64
Other electronics components	191.36	87.53	127.88	61.94	154.74	92.97
Tractors & power tiller	46.10	39.08	40.24	35.54	31.40	21.81
Others	1088.19	683.83	642.40	758.51	1129.78	708.49
F. Petroleum & petroleum products	1401.42	1050.96	1120.64	1014.17	681.31	560.77
Crude	344.22	163.32	178.04	82.00	202.59	187.75
Refined	1057.20	887.65	942.60	932.17	478.72	373.02
G. Others	15054.81	3056.71	3218.63	3406.32	15157.10	3305.23
Total	35751.08	18693.54	20592.10	19023.34	36401.80	20149.61

Source: Bangladesh Bank

QUANTUM INDEX OF PRODUCTION OF SELECTED INDUSTRIAL ITEMS**(Base Year 2005-06=100)**

Name of items	Unit	No. of reporting industries (selected)	2015-16	2016-17	Sep. 2016	Aug. 2017 (P)	Sep. 2017 (P)
Fish & sea food	Mt.	180 & *	51739	49441	4720	6909	4462
Processing & preserving of fruits and Vegetables	"000" Littre	3	77095	120396	9795	10296	10310
Hyd. vegetable oil	Mt.	2	728260	657966	49362	76230	74594
Grain milling	Mt.	8	278952	322781	25233	35752	39204
Rice milling	Mt.	6	22216	18731	1135	1972	1979
Sugar	Mt.	16	58181	59984	0	0	0
Black & blending tea	Mt.	116	71129	81645	12716	10648	9784
Edible salt	Mt.	8	92262	89355	7222	7818	7821
Animal feeds	Mt.	3	453299	517237	41610	47133	47250
Spirits & alcohol	"000" Littre	1	4207	4675	370	285	591
Soft drinks	'000' Doz Bottle	4	67201	74699	6667	9084	6026
Mineral water	"000" Littre	4	205579	136104	9667	12203	13163
Cigarettes	Mill. No	1	22274	17573	1388	1143	1241
Biddies	Mill. No	5	82968	96371	6268	8262	8264
Preparation & spinning of textile fibers	Mt.	20	160645	161615	12313	12350	14280
Weaving of textiles	"000" Metre	15	47444	47060	3898	3408	3210
Dyeing, bleaching & finishing	"000" Metre	19	57362	70678	5782	7546	7547
Jute textile	Mt.	95	388277	449920	19891	32779	22572
Wearing apparel	Million Tk.	*	1132032	1138549	70096	116150	59888
Knitwear	Million Tk.	*	1027873	1088251	72752	129550	70893
Tanning & finishing leather:	"000" Sq.M.	175 & *	22305	18065	1816	1656	1109
Leather footwear	"000" Pair	4	12355	20520	1675	1740	1745
Particle board/ plywood	"000" Sq.M.	2	9818	10584	872	907	910
Pulp, paper & newsprint	Mt.	3	165210	167659	13958	13998	14001
Articles made of paper	Mt.	2	38576	39116	3247	3282	3285
Printing of books and periodicals	"000" No.	10	166392	167592	13957	14000	14005
Petroleum refining	Mt.	1	1191612	2536116	232342	108011	113932
Compressed liquidified gas	Cylinder(12.5kg0	2	1324386	1247433	119683	153029	117391
Fertilizer	Mt.	7	1010446	1220890	63072	71392	99485
Perfumes and cosmetics	"000" Tk.	3	2021040	2767033	319676	321858	242842
Soaps & detergents	Mt.	3	144426	148975	13683	14827	12387
Matches	"000" Gross	2	19506	22827	1835	2047	2035
Pharmaceuticals/Allopathic drugs and medicine	"000" Tk.	20	86795811	116455728	8737982	15348891	9622015
Unani and Ayur bedic medicine	"000" Tk.	3	521003	605335	40325	46558	42950
Rubber footwear/ other rubber products	Dozen Pair	8	402997	266594	23984	16865	16868
P.V.C products/plastic products	Mt.	3	40501	44571	3740	3987	4120
Glass sheet	"000" Sq.ft	3	13002	13855	1144	1229	1229
Tiles	"000" Sq.ft.	5	187933	221181	17200	19385	19750
Ceramic	"000" Dozen	2	13158	16643	1320	1468	1475
Cement	Mt.	8	8754649	12775967	704214	1241803	869824
Bricks	"000" No.	4	147379	162011	12978	12795	12950

Name of Items	Unit	No. of reporting industries (selected)	2015-16	2016-17	Sep. 2016	Aug. 2017 (P)	Sep. 2017 (P)
Re-rolling mills	Mt.	31	407535	363534	29912	31670	31675
Structural metal products	"000" Mt.	5	10775	12918	972	1146	1052
Other fabricated metal products	Dozen	8	410924	571252	36289	59926	61891
Television	No.	3	556285	587305	43936	35690	28116
Electric motors, generators, transformers / electrical apparatus	No.	2	395531	487517	41200	36502	36906
Wires & cables(ELEC.)	Mt.	3	32684	43900	3514	3570	3577
Electrical appliances / Domestic appliances	No.	9	309325	429544	31475	41051	41665
Agriculture & forestry machinery	No.	2	87798	92069	7588	8120	8204
Machinery for textile , apparel and leather production	"000" No.	9	7326	10242	825	1068	1131
Machinery equipment NEC	Mt.	10	298258	560009	35227	61260	62084
Assemble of motor vehicles	No.	2	1363	2300	253	66	136
Ship and boat building	Mt.	3	338850	306910	22407	24844	27103
Motor cycle	No.	3	83662	89712	7452	7825	7760
Metal furniture	No.	2	3980	3840	300	320	340
Wooden furniture	No.	5	88550	90077	7743	11785	7533
Plastic furniture	No.	2	926261	1260210	102716	109174	109327
Natural Gas	MCuM	8	27497	27445	2164	2380	2172
Electricity	MKWH	1	49866	55346	4887	5743	5364

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Note: n.a.=not available, p= provisional, r= revised, M.Cu.M.= million cubic meter. Mt = metric ton. MKWH = million kilowatt per hour, No.=Number, Sq.M.=Square Metre, Sq.ft.=Square Feet, Tk.= Taka, * = EPB

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 Expense	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment	VII. Misc. Goods & Services
2012-13	181.73	193.24	166.97	179.66	155.61	195.33	159.66	159.34	157.23	182.54
2013-14	195.08	209.79	176.23	194.77	163.47	206.14	164.06	167.20	164.38	193.75
2014-15	207.58	223.80	186.79	208.50	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
Dec.,16	231.53	249.29	208.76	243.49	190.87	236.54	206.83	211.61	172.91	219.53
Jan.,17	234.34	251.86	211.88	243.72	196.92	237.24	206.90	212.14	182.20	219.22
Feb.,17	234.40	251.93	211.92	243.73	196.93	237.29	207.00	212.19	182.29	219.25
Mar.,17	235.29	253.32	212.18	243.87	197.51	237.41	207.03	212.27	182.40	219.31
Apr.,17	235.58	253.60	212.48	245.09	197.55	237.81	207.13	212.51	182.42	219.40
May, 17	232.83	248.94	212.18	244.93	197.61	237.09	207.14	212.58	182.45	216.84
Jun.,17	233.86	250.35	212.72	246.27	198.27	237.67	207.24	212.80	182.47	216.88
Jul.,17	236.61	254.20	214.05	246.77	199.50	241.75	207.58	215.24	182.62	217.15
Aug,17	239.92	259.60	214.68	247.67	199.10	244.00	207.67	216.38	182.81	219.51
Sep,17	244.36	267.38	214.84	247.78	199.16	244.12	207.84	216.44	182.87	220.48
Oct,17	245.86	269.73	215.26	248.03	199.21	247.01	207.92	216.59	182.97	220.61
Nov,17	244.85	267.10	216.33	249.62	199.41	249.66	208.32	217.68	183.07	223.89
Dec,17	245.03	267.06	216.79	249.92	199.98	250.06	208.83	217.89	183.69	224.44

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 Expense	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment	VII. 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
Dec.,16	230.73	243.12	211.02	253.46	185.23	230.16	219.54	193.75	189.90	229.42
Jan.,17	233.71	246.41	213.51	253.60	190.08	230.88	219.56	193.82	199.76	228.79
Feb.,17	233.75	246.46	213.54	253.59	190.09	230.93	219.70	193.84	199.81	228.82
Mar.,17	234.56	247.72	213.62	253.78	190.13	231.04	219.72	193.90	199.97	228.89
Apr.,17	234.73	247.80	213.94	255.09	190.16	231.46	219.74	194.00	200.00	228.93
May, 17	231.86	243.38	213.52	254.91	190.25	230.97	219.75	194.06	200.02	224.58
Jun.,17	232.58	244.29	213.95	256.40	190.37	231.68	219.80	194.33	200.03	224.58
Jul.,17	235.53	248.32	215.20	256.87	191.78	236.72	219.99	194.75	200.19	224.84
Aug,17	238.97	253.36	216.08	257.42	191.97	239.91	220.04	195.95	200.28	227.02
Sep,17	243.70	260.54	216.28	257.48	191.99	240.04	220.23	196.01	200.31	228.71
Oct, 17	245.48	263.46	216.88	257.76	192.07	243.96	220.25	196.18	200.46	228.84
Nov,17	244.12	260.63	218.15	259.36	192.25	246.75	220.56	197.05	200.56	234.28
Dec,17	244.20	260.34	218.50	259.57	192.65	247.19	220.67	197.18	201.58	234.49

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 Expense	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment	VII. 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	191.73	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
Dec.,16	233.01	264.36	205.75	224.55	197.39	247.75	185.07	231.29	154.57	207.32
Jan.,17	235.51	265.16	209.71	224.95	204.83	248.41	185.24	232.33	163.25	207.40
Feb.,17	235.59	265.28	209.77	225.00	204.85	248.49	185.27	232.42	163.38	207.44
Mar.,17	236.64	266.97	210.26	225.07	206.06	248.61	185.32	232.52	163.43	207.49
Apr.,17	237.15	267.75	210.53	226.10	206.11	248.97	185.55	232.92	163.46	207.64
May, 17	234.63	262.49	210.40	225.96	206.12	247.85	185.57	232.99	163.49	207.29
Jun.,17	236.24	265.16	211.08	227.03	207.41	248.20	185.74	233.15	163.52	207.37
Jul.,17	238.59	268.56	212.52	227.59	208.43	250.59	186.33	237.82	163.67	207.67
Aug,17	241.66	274.82	212.81	229.17	207.36	251.20	186.51	238.89	163.96	210.23
Sep,17	245.56	283.09	212.92	229.34	207.46	251.28	186.64	238.97	164.05	210.33
Oct, 17	246.56	285.03	213.09	229.55	207.47	252.38	186.83	239.08	164.10	210.45
Nov,17	246.21	283.37	213.89	231.14	207.69	254.77	187.36	240.41	164.18	211.06
Dec,17	246.57	283.44	214.50	231.61	208.47	255.11	188.58	240.71	164.38	212.03

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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

Sector	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Oct., 17	Nov., 17	Dec., 17
General	118.82	124.69	132.81	141.46	148.68	149.89	150.59
Percentage change (Point to Point)	5.50	4.94	6.52	6.50	6.36	6.42	6.59
Percentage change (over previous month)					0.89	0.81	0.47
1. Agriculture	118.44	124.51	132.48	141.22	148.52	149.74	150.33
Percentage change (Point to Point)	5.68	5.12	6.41	6.59	6.47	6.37	6.61
Percentage change(over previous month)					0.94	0.82	0.39
i) Agriculture	118.40	124.46	132.44	141.19	148.47	149.69	150.28
Percentage change (Point to Point)	5.64	5.12	6.42	6.60	6.46	6.36	6.60
Percentage change(over previous month)					0.94	0.82	0.39
ii) Fish	120.81	126.85	134.59	143.19	151.00	152.11	152.87
Percentage change (Point to Point)	7.97	5.00	6.12	6.37	6.98	6.89	6.65
Percentage change(over previous month)					0.71	0.74	0.50
2. Industry	119.07	124.38	132.02	140.27	147.46	148.51	149.33
Percentage change (Point to Point)	4.97	4.47	6.16	6.24	6.30	6.55	6.62
Percentage change(over previous month)					0.78	0.71	0.55
i) Construction	119.93	124.84	129.97	137.43	143.74	144.48	145.25
Percentage change (Point to Point)	4.56	4.09	4.18	5.37	5.75	5.86	5.91
Percentage change(over previous month)					0.64	0.52	0.53
ii) Production	121.86	127.28	136.18	146.01	155.02	156.67	157.62
Percentage change (Point to Point)	9.27	4.44	7.70	7.22	7.34	7.86	8.00
Percentage change(over previous month)					1.05	1.06	0.61
3. Service	120.16	126.15	136.03	145.01	151.99	153.50	154.42
Percentage change (Point to Point)	5.75	4.98	7.86	6.60	5.91	5.78	6.41
Percentage change(over previous month)					0.89	0.99	0.60

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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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 certificate of origin, and through conducting economic research and sector surveys, offering trade and investment facilitation services, legal services, information management and dissemination, and with 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. MCCI has a long history of joint collaboration and corporate understanding. It interacts regularly with major international trade bodies and many private sector organizations located all over the world.