

CHAMBER NEWS

ISSUE 01 ■ January 2022

Private Sector Investment Trend Time to Turn the Tables



METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, DHAKA



সুরক্ষার পাওয়ার
আপনার হাতে

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করুন



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করুন

স্বাস্থ্য ট্যালেন্টস লিমিটেড কেয়ার জোনের ডাক্তারদের সার্বক্ষণিক
পরামর্শ পেতে ডায়াল করুন টোল ফ্রি নম্বরে **০৮০০০৮৮৮০০০**

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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 - ORGANIZATION

- Research based Policy Advocacy
- Networking
- Business Intelligence



CORE COMPETENCIES – PEOPLE

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

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EDITORIAL

Private Sector Investment Trend: Time to Turn the Tables



Investment helps job creation and it is a major stimulant to the economy. However, both public and private investments need to be considered separately. Normally, public investments take up the major limelight. Yet, private investments are also important if the country wants to become a top global investing ground. The government can only do so much single-handedly. Hence the need for both public and private investment.

Bangladesh has seen a low private investment to GDP ratio for the last decade, when it remained between 21 and 23%. The current state of infrastructure and regulatory framework cannot increase it to any higher levels. During FY21, the ratio of private sector investment to GDP fell to 21.25% from 22.06% of FY20. Since FY08, this has been the lowest rate. The foreign direct investment (FDI) landscape does not help much. It accounts for a meagre 1% of the GDP. BBS data states that Bangladesh's overall investment-GDP ratio fell to 29.92% in FY21 from 30.47% in FY20. This is the lowest in five years.

Low private sector investment will stand in the way of Bangladesh's progress. As a nation on the cusp of LDC graduation, Bangladesh certainly needs new jobs, which calls for investment. Without this, it would be very difficult to attain the targets. The question is how we should go about it. Will public investments or private investments lead it, or will we see a surge in FDIs—there could be so many combinations.

Over the last two years, the global Covid-19 outbreak and subsequent enforcement of lockdowns have created serious disruptions in local and international trade. Airlines and hotel and tourism almost completely shut down because of the pandemic. Disruption happened in the industry sector too, while the distribution of agricultural goods faced difficulty. Because of this economic disruption and social distancing practices, there now exists an inconsistency between demand and supply across the globe. Investors' confidence in maintaining an expansionary capital investment dropped. This resulted in lower private sector investment over the last two years. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

(MSMEs) suffered from such a cash crisis that many ultimately had to discontinue their businesses. Thousands of informal businesses in many sectors could not avail of stimulus packages. All these resulted in lower GDP achievement.

All this pushed many people to fall below the poverty line creating pressure on the economy. In addition, the middle-income group people reduced their consumptions. Although the government has undertaken expansionary policy to boost economic activities and continued with implementing mega-projects, low investment in the private sector has reduced the economic momentum which was created during the pre-pandemic period.

In this pandemic, world economies are struggling to regain business momentum. Simple, achievable country targets are looking more and more daunting with time. To provide the right impetus, we need our private investment to flourish. For that, the ease of doing business landscape requires thorough consideration. Improvements in it could catapult us back into our previous or even better position in the international trade arena. Building and maintaining infrastructures will be vital for Bangladesh. We would also have to remove corruption, bottlenecks in business processes, and any form of slow decision-making. Simultaneously, we must ensure good governance, pursue improved human capital levels, and reform investment-promotion related policies.

After a prolong declining trend, the private sector investment has gone up in the recent quarter. The trend will hopefully continue in the coming quarter and reach previous levels. This will ensure the utilization of huge idle money in the banking sector and also attract FDI in the economy. With enhanced consumption, the private sector can generate more employment and instill momentum in the economic cycle. Our timely action can make a big difference in boosting the economy. We must leave no stone unturned to capitalize on this positive trend in private investment and make it a lasting one.

ARTICLE

THE OMICRON VARIANT: HOW COMPANIES SHOULD RESPOND

by Jeff Levin-Scherz and Patricia Toro



The emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 has dimmed hopes that the pandemic will soon fade away and once again has employers pondering how they can fulfill their difficult obligations to keep their workforce safe and to meet their business needs.

The good news is that as the virus has evolved, employers have honed their strategies to keep infections in check. By continuing to be creative, flexible, and adaptive in their approaches, they can contain the threat now and handle other outbreaks if other variants arise — a significant possibility given the low levels of vaccinations in many parts of the world, including some areas of the United States. Here are some broad measures they can apply.

Encourage Vaccination

Vaccination remains the best way to prevent serious illness, hospitalization, or death from Covid-19, and those who are vaccinated are six times less likely to be infected, 12 times less likely to be hospitalized, and 14 times less likely to die of Covid-19.

In a survey of 543 U.S. employers conducted in November, we found that more than half (57%) plan to require Covid-19 vaccines for employees if

the Occupational Health and Safety Administration's (OSHA) Emergency Temporary Standard and the federal contractor executive order are upheld in the courts. Only 25% of employers would have vaccine mandates if these two rules are overturned.

It doesn't appear that Covid vaccination mandates are having a large impact on recruitment or retention: Only about 13% of respondents said the mandates led to employee resignations, while the same proportion (13%) reported mandates helped with employee recruitment or retention.

Providing easy access to vaccinations is key to increasing their adoption among those who are not highly motivated. Employers should continue to promote vaccination through flexible scheduling and paid time off, and they should consider joining those companies that are now conducting work site vaccinations.

Consider Local Transmission Rates in Return-to-the-Office Decisions

Twenty-seven percent of the companies responding to our November survey reported that all employees whose jobs can be performed remotely had already returned to the workplace, and 56%

reported that some of these employees had returned.

We expect that many companies will now pause returning remote employees to the workplace until more is known about the transmissibility and severity of the Omicron variant and its ability to evade the immunity provided by vaccines and previous infections.

The risk of workplace Covid-19 transmission is highly correlated with the community infection rate. Businesses can feel comfortable about having their remote workers return to their facilities in communities where the current weekly infection rate is low (less than 10 per 100,000). However, there are many communities with weekly infection rates that exceed 50 per 100,000 where the likelihood that an employee will bring Covid-19 into the workplace is very high. Companies can reduce this risk by delaying employees' return or by keeping down the number of employees in the workplace through hybrid work and staggered schedules.

The immunocompromised — including those undergoing cancer treatment, taking immunosuppressive drugs, or who have had organ transplants — should consider continuing to work remotely until the rates of infection decline substantially.

Reduce Exposure through Social Distancing

Flexible schedules and remote work have helped create adequate social distancing. Moreover, employers are transitioning remote employees back to the workplace gradually or on a staggered basis to increase safety as they adopt new ways of working. Employers can use behavioral economics techniques to "nudge" employees to maintain social distancing at the workplace. If the capacity of a conference room should be two people, be sure there are only two chairs in it!

Improve Ventilation

Ventilation in a building impacts transmission, and increasing the amount of air that's exchanged indoors decreases the likelihood of infection in the workplace. Improving ventilation doesn't always require expensive renovations; many workplaces can add more air exchanges and improve the filtration systems on existing air-handling systems, and some can open windows. However, employers can skip ultraviolet lights, given that there is little evidence that ultraviolet treatment of indoor air prevents Covid-19 transmission.

Decide When to Recommend or Require Masks

Masks provide protection against both being infected with Covid-19 and infecting others. Our November survey found that 90% of employers required indoor masks; most (58%) required masks regardless of vaccination status, and most (70%) reported mask mandates at all locations. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing masks when indoors with others, whether vaccinated or not, if community transmission is high or substantial. In the workplace, some employers restrict unvaccinated employees from entering certain areas where mask-wearing is difficult such as cafeterias or gyms.

Some healthy vaccinated employees may choose to wear masks indoors during any local outbreaks. Employers can avoid complaints under the Americans with Disabilities Act about masking requirements by abiding by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's guidelines.

Encourage Testing

Eighty-four percent of the employer respondents to our survey said they plan to offer regular testing, including some employers that have not implemented a vaccine mandate and do not plan to do so. Of the employers that plan to offer testing, 80% intend to do

it at least weekly. Twenty-five percent of employers expected that employees would pay for the cost of testing where state law allows.

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Be Cautious about Reinstating Travel

Most companies curtailed or eliminated business travel earlier in the pandemic, and many were reinstating travel when we learned of the Omicron variant. The variant could increase risk of travel, and rapidly changing international rules increase the risk of quarantine or travel disruption.

More contagious variants mean that leaders should err on the side of caution in allowing employees to travel to places where risks of Covid-19 infection are high and instead should ask them to conduct business meetings by video conference. Recognizing the cost and time savings and environmental benefits of reduced travel, leaders are likely to continue to hold down their travel and expense budgets for the foreseeable future.

Communicate Exposures

Many workplaces will experience Covid-19 cases over the coming months. Employers should communicate honestly about exposures in given facilities, while respecting the medical privacy of employees who have reported that they have Covid-19. Vaccinated employees who are exposed to Covid-19 should not be required to quarantine if asymptomatic.

Support Mental Health Care

Attending to employee mental health needs will be even more important in the coming months. Rates of depression

and anxiety have surged during the pandemic, and the drug overdose death toll in the United States exceeded 100,000 from April 2020 till April 2021, a record annual level. Many are mourning the deaths of friends and loved ones.

Employers can continue offering access to virtual and digital mental health care, although they should take into account the fact that scientific evidence of the effectiveness of many digital mental health apps is still limited.

Stay Current on the Effectiveness of Interventions

Last, we recommend that businesses keep up to date on which interventions to limit the spread of Covid-19 are effective and which ones have limited value. For example, we found that most businesses have eliminated temperature screenings, which had proved to be ineffective in decreasing workplace transmission.

We also now know that normal cleaning is adequate to protect against Covid-19 infections in most instances, and disinfection can be reserved for high-touch, high-traffic surfaces and workplaces with a known Covid-19 case. Employers can create more bandwidth for effective pandemic or business initiatives by eliminating those which minimally increase safety.

Clinical recommendations are being updated frequently, too. Changes in booster, mask, travel and quarantine guidelines are posted here by the CDC.

Covid-19 has been a humanitarian tragedy and has upended business plans across the globe. Unfortunately, the pandemic is not going to end imminently. Consequently, employers and their workers must continue to remain nimble. As the local situation dictates, employers must remain vigilant and implement existing and new processes that are proven to keep employees, customers, and communities safe while meeting their organizations' needs.

Source: <https://hbr.org>

CHAMBER EVENTS



116TH AND 117TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The 116th and 117th Annual General Meetings (AGMs) of the Chamber were held on 15 December 2021 at MCCI Gulshan office. The two AGMs were held on the same date since, owing to COVID-19 situation, the 116th AGM could not be held in 2020. In the 116th AGM, Ms. Nihad Kabir, Senior Partner, Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed & Associates, Mr. Anis A. Khan, Director, W & W Grains Corporation, and Mr. Md. Saiful Islam, Managing Director, Picard Bangladesh Limited, were elected as the President, Senior Vice-President, and Vice-President respectively for the year 2021. In the 117th AGM, Mr. Md. Saiful Islam, Managing Director, Picard Bangladesh Limited, Mr. Kamran T. Rahman, Managing Director, Pubali Jute Mills Limited, and Mr. Habibullah N. Karim, Managing Director and CEO, Technohaven Company Limited, were elected as the President, Senior Vice-President, and Vice-President respectively for the year 2022. Representatives from the Chamber member organizations joined the meeting.



LUNCH IN HONOR OF MR. MANI SHANKAR AIYAR

The Chamber hosted a lunch in honor of Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha, India, at its Gulshan office on 22 December 2021. Ms. Nihad Kabir, President, MCCI; Mr. Syed Nasim Manzur, Director and former President, MCCI; Ambassador Farooq Sobhan; Mr. Abul Kasem Khan, Chairperson, Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD); Mr. Asif Ibrahim, Chairman, Chittagong Stock Exchange, Professor Shahab Enam Khan; and Mr. Faiz Sobhan, Senior Research Director, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute joined the lunch event.



THE CHAMBER APPLAUDS ITS MEMBERS UPON RECEIVING THE BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIB INDUSTRIAL AWARD-2020

The Chamber congratulated its members Square Pharmaceuticals Limited and Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Limited upon receiving the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Industrial Award-2020 in different categories from the Ministry of Industries. Square Pharmaceuticals Limited secured first place in the large industries category while Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Limited secured second place in the medium-scale industries category. The Chamber sincerely applauded Square Pharmaceuticals Limited and Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Limited for this glorious achievement.

MEMBERS NEWS

ESKAYEF PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED



Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Limited received emergency use authorization for a novel oral antiviral medicine for the treatment of Covid-19 -- world's 1st generic version of Nirmatrelvir tablets co-packaged with Ritonavir tablets -- with the brand name "Paxovir". The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued an emergency use authorisation (EUA) for Nirmatrelvir tablets and Ritonavir tablets, co-packaged for oral use for the treatment of mild-to-moderate Covid-19 in adults and paediatric patients over 12 years of age. Eskayef is manufacturing Paxovir from its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, which is approved by UKMHRA, TGA Australia and EU GMP. After completing all development procedures, Eskayef has received emergency use authorisation from the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) of Bangladesh. Simeen Rahman, Managing Director and CEO of Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Limited, said, "When the entire world is waiting for an oral anti-Covid medicine with higher success rate, we are pleased to launch Paxovir as the world's first generic Nirmatrelvir and Ritonavir combination for the people of Bangladesh and across the world."

STANDARD CHARTERED BANGLADESH



Standard Chartered Bangladesh and Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh (WEAB) announced a partnership to jointly facilitate access to financial services for women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Ms. Salma Masud, President, WEAB and Mr. Sabbir Ahmed, Head, Consumer, Private and Business Banking, Standard Chartered Bangladesh to mark the collaboration. Under the partnership, WEAB and Standard Chartered will collaborate to ensure WEAB members get better access to finance. The partnership will also extend to knowledge exchange on financial services, consultation support and organizing training sessions for women entrepreneurs. Mr Sabbir Ahmed, Head, Consumer, Private and Business Banking, Standard Chartered Bangladesh said, "We are proud to partner with WEAB for improving access to finance for women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh." He added, "WEABs experience and network with women entrepreneurs will significantly complement Standard Chartered's global strategy for increasing participation in Women Entrepreneur financing".

BERGER PAINTS BANGLADESH LTD



Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd signed an MoU with Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) to conduct "Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture (BAEA)" at IAB Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city recently. Under this MoU both the organizations will work together to acknowledge the merits of architects of the country for their best creations, said a statement. Rupali Chowdhury, Managing Director, Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd and Ar Mubasshar Hussain, President IAB, signed the MoU on-behalf of their respective organisations. Mohsin Habib Chowdhury, Senior General Manager-Sales & Marketing; Ar. Khan Md Mustapha Khalid, Vice President-National IAB; Ar. Ishtiaque Zahir, Vice President-International IAB, Ar. Kazi Golam Nasir, Chair-Award Committee, Ar. Sajid Bin Doza, Assistant General Secretary-IAB, Shabbir Ahmed, Head of Project, Prolinks and Experience Zone, Berger, Tariqul Islam, Head-Prolinks, Berger along with other respective members of IAB and officials from Berger Paints were present at the ceremony.

BAT BANGLADESH



The Large Taxpayers Unit- VAT of National Board of Revenue (NBR) honored BAT Bangladesh as the highest taxpayer for the Fiscal Year 2020-21. BAT Bangladesh received this prestigious award at a ceremony held at Dhaka Regency Hotel in the capital. Commissioner of LTU-VAT Ms. Wahida Rahman Chowdhury handed over the awards to the highest taxpaying companies. The accolade was received by Mr. Shehzad Munim, Managing Director and Mr. Sheikh Shabab Ahmed, Head of External Affairs of BAT Bangladesh from Commissioner of LTU-VAT Ms. Wahida Rahman Chowdhury. In Fiscal year 2020-21, BAT Bangladesh deposited around Tk 250 billion to the national exchequer as Value Added Tax (VAT) and supplementary duty (SD). While receiving the award, Mr. Shehzad Munim, Managing Director of BAT Bangladesh said, "The LTU-VAT has gone through a massive change in the last 2 years. A remarkable working relationship has developed between taxpayers and the LTU which is a positive sign for the country. Under the leadership of current Commissioner, the institution is proving itself to be a solution giver to the taxpayers. A healthy relationship between taxpayers and tax collectors will only take the country forward which is what we are witnessing now."

BRAC BANK LIMITED



BRAC Bank Limited recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) under ICT Ministry to provide preferential financial services to IT, IT-enabled services (ITES) companies and business process outsourcing (BPO) service entities at Hi-Tech Parks across the country. The partnership will allow IT, ITES and BPO services operating in the Hi-Tech Parks to avail collateral free credit under the umbrella of BRAC Bank SME Banking. It will be a big boost for the country's fastest growing sector as they prepare for next step of expansion against the backdrop of the government's vision of Digital Bangladesh. Syed Abdul Momen, Deputy Managing Director & Head of SME Banking, BRAC Bank, and Bikarna Kumar Ghosh, Managing Director, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, signed the agreement at BHTPA's Head Office on December 29, 2021. Nakib Zaman, Regional Head of Distribution Network, BRAC Bank, and A. N. M. Shafiqul Islam, Director, BHTPA, were also present at the event.

MUTUAL TRUST BANK LIMITED



Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB), in recognition of the bank's contribution towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Bangladesh, has recently been awarded the AmCham CSR Excellence Award by American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh. With a view to supporting combined efforts in achieving SDGs, MTB puts its supports and efforts for the society, country and its people mainly in Education, Health, Disaster Management and Sports & Culture sectors apart from other sectors. The achievement will motivate to make MTB's CSR activities more dynamic and meaningful.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COMPANY



Agricultural Marketing Company, a concern of PRAN-RFL Group, received an Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) Best Corporate Award-2020. Mr. Choudhury Atiur Rasul, Director for Accounts at PRAN-RFL Group, received a crest from Commerce Minister Mr. Tipu Munshi at a city hotel. Mr. Shibli Rubayat UI Islam, Chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, Mr. Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of Standard Bank and, Mr. AKM Delwar Hussain, President of the South Asian Federation of Accountants, were also present.

HSBC BANGLADESH



The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) Bangladesh has been recognized as the best Cash Management Bank at the Corporate Treasurer Awards 2021. HSBC Bangladesh has a wide range of liquidity management products across payables, receivables, clearing and foreign currency, liquidity, liability, and investments. This year the bank launched Cash Flow Forecasting tool to help clients build a more accurate picture of their future finances and manage liquidity. Besides, to support the digital banking requirements of the clients, HSBC Bangladesh has already launched smart digital propositions like Enhanced Virtual Account, Direct Debit, eVAT, eDuty etc. Commenting on the country wins, Md. Mahub ur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer, HSBC Bangladesh said, "We are happy to receive the Corporate Treasurer Award and for us this is yet another international recognition in cash management area this year. Cash management will remain an important area for corporates in Bangladesh as they continue to optimize liquidity deployment. This award is the reflection of the confidence they place in our products and services and will inspire us to do even better in future".

CORPORATE NEWS



The board of directors of United Commercial Bank (UCB) decided to issue 'UCB 5th Subordinated Bond' worth Tk 10 billion to strengthen its capital base. The bank will issue the bond as part of Tier-II regulatory capital, subject to approval of the regulatory authorities --- Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC). The bond will be unsecured, non-convertible, and redeemable with tenure of seven years. The bank's paid-up capital is Tk 12.78 billion and authorized capital is Tk 15 billion, while the total number of securities is 1.27 billion. The sponsor-directors owned 36.68 percent stake in the bank while the government owned 0.81 percent, institutional investors owned 20.60 percent, foreign investors 0.85 percent and the general public 41.06 percent as on 31 October 2021.



Navana Pharmaceuticals Ltd, one of the leading drug makers in the country, held a road show for raising Tk 750 million from the capital market through IPO under the book-building method. The company will expand its business with the initial public offerings proceeds. EBL Investments Ltd, UCB Investment Ltd and Asian Tiger Capital Partners Investment Ltd are working as issue managers, while AFC Capital Ltd is working as the registrar for Navana Pharma's IPO process. Navana Pharmaceuticals operates its business under two divisions: veterinary and human health divisions. The company exports to 15 countries and has around 3,000 employees.



Standard Chartered Bank recently arranged the first Green Zero-Coupon Bond in Bangladesh for Sajida Foundation. The total face value of the bond is Tk 1,000 million. The proceeds of the bond will finance lending to different environmentally friendly and energy-efficient initiatives of the micro-credit and SME clients of Sajida Foundation. Sajida Foundation will use the proceeds to finance the expansion of their microcredit and SME lending portfolio, through investing in new and existing projects with environmental benefits. Issuing this security will provide Sajida Foundation with an alternative source of funds, compared to a conventional term loan. Standard Chartered was the mandated lead arranger for the transaction.



Saif Powertec Limited, the infrastructure-support service company, decided to invest Tk 548 crore in energy and ICT-related projects. The company will invest Tk 473 crore in its Oil and Gas Operation unit and Tk 75 crore in 88 Innovations Engineering Ltd. The energy unit is expected to generate Tk 516 crore in revenue and Tk 86 crore in net profit per year and its ICT unit to generate Tk 100 crore in revenue and Tk 24 crore in net profit per year. Market capitalization of the company stood at Tk1,589 crore as of 13 December 2021 and its paid-up capital is Tk 358 crore. The company has Tk 111 crore in surplus reserve.



Wata Chemicals witnessed a 51.44 percent decrease in its net profit for July-September 2021, compared to the same quarter of the previous year due to the second wave of pandemic and increased cost of goods sold. The company said its earnings per share (EPS) dropped to Tk 1.01 for July-September 2021, falling by 51.44 percent, from Tk 2.08 in the corresponding period. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 148.23 million and authorized capital is Tk 150 million, while the total number of securities is 14.82 million. The sponsor-directors owned 36.41 percent stake in the company, while institutional investors owned 37.19 percent and the general public 26.40 percent as of 31 October 2021.



Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) allowed Meghna Bank to issue subordinated bond worth Tk 5.0 billion. As per the BSEC approval, Meghna Bank will raise capital worth Tk 5.0 billion through non-convertible, fully redeemable and coupon bearing subordinated bond to strengthen Tier-II capital base. Of the amount, Tk 2.0 billion will be collected by issuing units of the bond through private placements.



Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) allowed Southeast Bank to issue subordinated bond worth Tk 5.0 billion. As per the BSEC approval, to strengthen the Tier-II capital base, Southeast Bank will raise Tk 5.0 billion through non-convertible and floating rate subordinated bond. The whole amount will be collected by issuing the bond through private placements.



The central bank has allowed the listed company Bangladesh Finance to open Islami shariah-based wing in six branches, including the principal one. As per the regulatory approval, the company will open Islami shariah-based wing in its Principal Branch, Bangshal Branch, Uttara Branch, Gazipur Branch, Chattogram Branch and Jashore Branch. Bangladesh Finance, presently an 'A' category company, was listed with the stock exchanges in 2007. The company's sponsor-directors held 30.08 percent shares, institutes 17.24 percent, and general shareholders 51.88 percent as on 30 November 2021.



Golden Harvest Agro Industries, which is engaged in the frozen food and ice cream business, has decided to extend time to utilize unused rights share issue fund until January 21, 2023. Now, the company will apply to Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) for regulatory approval of the time extension, said the company. The company has wanted to extend time to utilize unused rights share issue proceeds until January 21, 2023 (one year from existing time) as a special resolution, according to the filing. In December 2019, Golden Harvest Agro Industries raised a capital worth Tk 899.32 million by issuing 89.93 million rights shares to expand existing production and distribution channels and repay bank loans.



Padma Bank Limited officially launched Automated Chalan (A-Invoice) system service at its Gulshan Corporate Branch. Padma Bank Limited has taken such initiative to deposit various government fees while staying at home through A-Chalan even using Padma Wallet and Padma i-backing app very soon. Under the service, treasury invoices can be deposited at any branch of Padma Bank Limited including Gulshan Branch. Besides, passport fees, company income tax, personal income tax, VAT on imported goods, customs duty, land development tax, VAT on domestic goods and services, excise duty and all kinds of government service can also be deposited.



Nagad, the mobile financial service (MFS) provider, on boarded 33.5 million new customers in 2021. From 1 January to 22 December this year, Nagad had around 94 thousand daily subscribers. According to the latest figures, Nagad has 58.0 million registered customers. Besides, the mobile financial service operator distributed government allowances, including the allowances of the social safety net programs. Meanwhile, Nagad came up with an exciting offer for its customers to save money while they travel. From now on, Nagad users can avail 30 percent instant cashback if they make any payment on the Ride-Sharing platform OBHAI.



NOVOAIR, a private airline of Bangladesh, celebrated the 9th anniversary of its operation through different programs. NOVOAIR's inaugural flight took off on January 9, 2013, from Dhaka to Chattogram. The airline has 7 ATR 72-500 model aircraft in its fleet, and its network covers Dhaka and Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Jashore, Sylhet, Saidpur, Rajshahi, Barishal for domestic and Kolkata for international destinations.



Robi Axiata Limited recently completed a major network upgradation project that significantly improved network experience in both indoor and outdoor areas. In order to ensure much improved indoor coverage, Robi deployed maximum number of L900 sites in the country. The company also deployed significant number of L2100 4G sites to ensure smooth outdoor experience for customers. While the network upgradation project spanned across the country, special focus was given in widening the 4.5G network coverage network in Sylhet and Mymensingh divisions.



Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC signed a partnership agreement with Danby Appliances, a renowned compact appliance brand in North America, for expanding its global market in the region. With this signing, Walton will lead Bangladesh to enter the USA region for the first time ever in the electronics segment. The partnership will establish Walton brand products in USA and Canada.

NATIONAL NEWS

TK 5.0 BILLION STIMULUS FOR PANDEMIC-HIT PEOPLE WHO RETURNED TO VILLAGES



Bangladesh Bank decided to roll out a stimulus package of Tk 5.0 billion to support people who migrated back to their villages because of the ongoing economic hardship. A good number of urban people who lost their jobs at the height of the coronavirus pandemic are now leading a hard life with no employment in villages. This will put an adverse impact on the rural economy, which is why the BB has decided to bring the people under the stimulus package titled Refinance Scheme for "Ghore Fera" (homecoming).

The central bank has selected eight sectors as eligible for receiving loans under the scheme. These sectors are local businesses with small capital; purchase of small vehicles in the transport sector; light engineering; fisheries and livestock; setting up service centers for information technology; cultivation of vegetables and fruits; purchase of agriculture equipment; and building and repairing houses. Under the scheme, borrowers are allowed to get loans without collateral. Borrowers who will avail up to Tk 0.20 million will be allowed to repay the loan in 24 months, which includes a grace period of three months.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK TO LEND €250 MILLION TO STRENGTHEN HEALTHCARE



Aimed at strengthening the healthcare system and purchasing Covid-19 vaccines, the government signed a €250 million (Tk2,426.44 crores) finance contract with the European Investment Bank (EIB). The concessional loan deal, inked on 29 December, will also be used in expanding social security in the health sector. Fatima Yasmin, secretary at the Economic Relations Division of the ministry, and Edvardas Bumsteinas, head of the Asia and Pacific Division, and Imanol Lecue Gurtubay, legal counsel, signed the agreement on behalf of the Bangladesh government and EIB respectively.

\$745 MILLION WORLD BANK LOANS FOR REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

The World Bank (WB) pledged to provide a \$745 million loan for the implementation of the Bangladesh Bhutan India Nepal (BBIN) Regional Transport and Trade Facilitation Program (Phase 1), which aims to boost connectivity among the countries. The pledge was officially notified by a letter the WB recently sent to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the finance ministry.

Meanwhile, the World Bank (WB) approved a \$500 million fund to help Bangladesh expand and modernize the electricity distribution mechanism and support the sustainable transformation of its electricity system. The credit comes from the WB's International Development Association (IDA) with a 30-year term, including a five-year grace period. Besides, the program also includes a \$15 million grant from the Clean Technology Fund,

GOVERNMENT TO BUILD 660MW POWER PLANT IN MIRSARAI

The government is going to build a 660-megawatt gas or liquefied natural gas-based power plant in Mirsarai of Chattogram. The cabinet committee on purchase recently approved the plant, which will be implemented by the Bangladesh Power Development Board. A consortium of Confidence Power Holdings Ltd, GE Capital US Holding Inc, Confidence Power Ltd, and Electropac Industries Ltd will implement the project.

NBR EASES BONDED WAREHOUSE RULES TO BOOST EXPORTS

With many export-oriented firms facing losses for cancellation of export orders by buyers or other factors and sit with stock of raw materials, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) recently relaxed rules regarding holding period of raw materials imported duty-free by firms under bonded warehouse license. Additional time will be granted for export-oriented factories with bonded warehouse license if the quality of raw materials remains good and the firms' get buyers abroad.

SOUTH KOREA TO PROVIDE \$100 MILLION OF EDCF LOAN



Bangladesh and South Korea recently signed a loan agreement to provide US\$100 million in concessional loan from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) to help economic recovery of Bangladesh hit by the Covid pandemic. The new concessional loan will be used to implement several projects aimed at advancing the public finance management system and improving small and medium-sized businesses struggling from the repercussions of the pandemic. The loan interest rate is 0.05 percent per annum and the maturity period is 40 years including a grace period of 15 years. South Korea already provided US\$ 50 million of EDCF loan as budgetary support in December 2020 to help Bangladesh's efforts for fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. It is the second provision of this type of concessional loan.

\$27.21 MILLION JAPANESE GRANTS FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS



The Japanese government will provide a total of \$27.21 million for two development projects in Bangladesh. The Government of Japan will provide an amount of \$4.21 million for a project titled "The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)" as a grant for the year 2021 and \$23 million for another project titled "The Project for the Improvement of Governance and Management Research and Training Facilities". Exchange of notes and grant agreements in this regard were signed by the Governments of Bangladesh and Japan.

BB EASES LOAN CLASSIFICATION RULES

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) eased its loan classification policy for all borrowers following demand from the country's top trade bodies. As per new decisions, a borrower will not be considered defaulters if they pay 15 percent of the total instalment of loans payable in 2021 instead of the previous 25 percent. The decision came following a meeting between the central bank high-ups and the leaders of the trade bodies led by the President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

FOREIGNERS WORKING IN BANGLADESH NOW ALLOWED TO REMIT FULL EARNINGS

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) allowed all foreign nationals working in Bangladesh to remit their entire net earnings abroad, subject to tax assessments. A BB circular issued in this regard said that the foreigners residing in Bangladesh and having income in Bangladesh would be able to remit 80 percent of their net income after tax every month. The foreign nationals will be allowed to remit the rest 20 percent of their net income at the end of the financial year upon completion of income tax assessments, supported by certificates issued by tax authorities. Earlier, the foreign nationals were allowed to remit 75 percent of their net income on a monthly basis.

GENERAL PROVISIONING LIMIT FOR BANKS RAISED

All the scheduled banks will have to keep additional 2.0 percent special general provisioning instead of 1.0 percent earlier against loans, which have enjoyed latest policy support of the central bank. The banks are allowed to transfer interest earnings from such loans in their income accounts, according to a notification issued by the Bangladesh Bank (BB). Under the latest policy relaxation, the banks are barred from treating any loan as substandard if the borrowers paid 25 percent of the dues for the months of January to December of the year 2021, even if the payment is made on the last working day of the calendar year under consideration.

JV TO INVEST \$100 MILLION IN HI-TECH PARK

Bangladesh Cards Ltd, a joint venture between Japanese, Australian and Bangladeshi investors, is going to invest \$100 million in a local hi-tech park to manufacture high-end technology products, including smart cards and specialised security items, to cater to the growing domestic and international markets. Seven acres of land were recently allotted for the project at the Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City in Kaliakair, Gazipur, where a five lakh square feet manufacturing hub will be set up. The company aims to construct the factory

in line with US Green Building Council guidelines to gain green building certification.

120MW SOLAR POWER PLANTS APPROVED

South Korean, Norwegian, and French companies will build two new solar power plants in Bangladesh from which the government will be able to purchase electricity at a slightly low cost. The cabinet committee on public purchase recently approved two contracts for producing a total of 120 megawatts (MW) of electricity in Pabna and Mymensingh districts at a cost of Tk 8.12 per unit.

CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS HIT RECORD HIGH IN OCTOBER

Credit card-based transactions reached a record high of Tk 1,964.3 crore in October 2021 amid a growing dependency of a section of people on such cards amid Covid-induced economic shocks. A Bangladesh Bank data showed that the transactions through credit cards rose to Tk 1,964.3 crore in October 2021, highest after Tk 1,934.9 crore in transactions in June 2021. The transactions in October were 41.21 percent or Tk 583.1 crore higher than the Tk 1,381.2 crore in transactions in the same month in 2020. During January-October of the current year, transactions through credit cards increased by 51 percent to Tk 17,014.8 crore from Tk 11,250.9 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year.

\$21.17 BILLION INVESTMENT PROPOSALS SINCE COVID OUTBREAK

Bangladesh received investment proposals totaling \$21.17 billion since the coronavirus pandemic struck the world nearly two years ago. The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) received proposals involving \$14.77 billion, the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) \$5 billion, the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) \$1.35 billion, and the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority \$5.5 billion. The four investment promotion agencies received the proposals between January 2020 and 20 December 2021. The figures were disclosed at the Dubai Expo 2020.

MOU SIGNED WITH THAI PORT TO BOOST MARITIME CONNECTIVITY



PORT Authority of Thailand (Ranong Port) and Chittagong Port Authority of Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate trade by enhancing maritime connectivity between the two countries. The MoU is part of the greater vision of Bangladesh to enhance connectivity with its neighbors including those in the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) region. The MoU would encourage the business communities from both sides to further explore trade and investment opportunities. Besides, both the port authorities would be benefited through the exchange of information and cooperation in port management, operations, information technology, communication, port connectivity, coastal shipping, port-related industry and investment promotion.

INCENTIVE ON REMITTANCE RAISED TO 2.5%

As the remittance inflow started dwindling after a sharp rise in the previous fiscal year, the government raised the rate of cash incentive on inward remittance to 2.5 percent from 2.0 percent with effect from 1 January 2022. The government first introduced the cash incentive in 2019 to encourage the expatriates to send remittances through the banking channel, which helped raise the inflow.

HUGE SEAWEED, GAS HYDRATE RESERVES FOUND



Bangladesh has spotted huge presence of gas hydrate and seaweed for commercial use within its maritime boundary, as the potential of the blue economy remains untapped. The findings are made through a two-year survey conducted by the maritime affairs unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The UK and the Netherlands supported the survey conducted to detect marine-genetic resources in the Bay of Bengal. Briefing the media on the findings of the survey, Foreign Minister said the survey found 220 species of seaweed, 347 species of fish, 52 species of shrimp, 5 species of lobster, 498 species of shell and 61 species of seagrass. Among the seaweed species several have huge potential for industrial and commercial use. The survey found five types of commercial use of the seaweeds found in the Bay.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PAKISTAN



The remittances sent home by overseas Pakistanis fell 6.6% month-on-month to \$2.4 billion in November 2021 from \$2.52 billion in October owing to the lifting of travel restrictions and some revival of the Hundi/ Hawala system, according to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Remittances received by the country had been on an uptrend since the Covid-19 outbreak across the globe last year due to widespread layoffs of Pakistanis in different countries, which forced them to relocate to Pakistan. Now, the job cuts have largely stopped because the world is on the path of recovery, hence, remittances are falling. According to the SBP, Pakistan received the largest amount of remittances (\$590 million) from Saudi Arabia in November 2021, followed by \$452.5 million from United Arab Emirates (UAE), \$305.8 million from UK, and \$237.8 million from the USA.

INDIA



India's unemployment rate reached a four-month high of 7.91% in December 2021 as compared to 7% and 7.75 per cent in November and October 2021, data from

the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) showed. The unemployment rate hit its highest rate since 8.3% in August, the CMIE data shows. The urban unemployment rate rose from 8.21 percent in November 2021 to 9.3 percent in December 2021, while rural unemployment also rose from 6.44 percent to 7.28 percent. The rise in unemployment has been attributed to muted economic activity and consumer sentiment, which has been dented due to the rise of Covid-19 cases after the emergence of Omicron variant across the world.

SRI LANKA



Sri Lanka's food prices rose by a record 22.1 percent in December 2021, as the country struggles to finance urgent imports to tackle an acute shortage of essentials. The census and statistics department said food inflation hit an all-time high in December on a year-on-year basis since the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) was launched in 2013. The price increases in December compared to a figure of 17.5 percent in November, the previous record, the department said. It added that overall inflation was also at a record 12.01 percent in December, the highest since the CCPI index was launched. The country's tourism-dependent economy has been hammered by the pandemic and the government was forced to impose a broad import ban to shore up foreign exchange reserves. Supermarkets have for months been rationing milk powder, sugar, lentils and other essentials as commercial banks ran out of dollars to pay for imports.

NEW ZEALAND



New Zealand will ban the sale of tobacco to its next generation, in a bid to eventually phase out smoking. Anyone born after 2008 will not be able to buy cigarettes or tobacco products in their lifetime, under a law expected to be enacted next year. The move is part of a sweeping crackdown on smoking announced by New Zealand's health ministry recently. New Zealand is determined to achieve a national goal of reducing its national smoking rate to 5% by 2025, with the aim of eventually eliminating it altogether. At the moment, 13% of New Zealand's adults smoke, with the rate much higher among the indigenous Maori population, where it soars to almost a third. Maori also suffer a higher rate of disease and death.

AFGHANISTAN



Afghanistan's national currency, the afghani, has dropped further recently amid economic woes, causing grave concern among the Afghan people. The afghani was traded at 112.60 for one US dollar on 13 December 2021, according to figures provided by Da Afghanistan Bank, the country's national bank. On 12 December, the exchange rate was

106.12 while the rate was 103.66 on 11 December, a continued shocking devaluation. After the Taliban's takeover in mid-August, the Afghan economy has suffered from the U.S. freezing of over US\$9.0 billion in assets belonging to the Afghan central bank, and a halt in funds by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The rapid devaluation of the afghani has caused a skyrocketing rise in essential items prices.

UAE



The United Arab Emirates said that it would transition to a four and half-day working week starting in 2022, with the full weekend falling on Saturday and Sunday in a move aimed at better aligning its economy with global markets. The oil-producing Gulf state, the region's commercial, trade and tourism hub, currently has a Friday-Saturday weekend. As of January 1, 2022, the new weekend would start on Friday afternoon. The UAE in 2020 took measures to make its economy more attractive to foreign investment and talent at a time of growing economic rivalry with neighboring Saudi Arabia.

GERMANY



A record number of German companies said they were experiencing supply issues, as bottlenecks which have hampered industry for months tightened once again in December. Almost 82 percent of businesses surveyed by the Ifo institute reported problems sourcing raw materials or components — the highest proportion recorded by the Munich-based think tank. In November 2021, 74.4 percent said they were facing shortages, after the situation had eased slightly in October. Manufacturers of electrical equipment were the worst-affected by shortages in the latest survey, with 93.8 percent reporting difficulties amid an acute lack of semiconductors. The scarcity of chips, a key component in both conventional and electric vehicles, has also hit the automotive sector hard, with 92.9 percent affected by the crisis.

USA



The US government plans to end purchases of gas-powered vehicles by 2035 in a move to lower emissions and promote electric cars under an executive order signed by President Joe Biden recently. The US government owns more than 650,000 vehicles and purchases about 50,000 annually. Total federal government operations will reduce emissions by 65% by 2030 under the plan. The government will seek to consume electricity only from carbon-free and non-polluting sources on a net annual basis by 2030 and have net-zero emissions by 2050. The order noted the U.S. government is "the single largest land owner, energy consumer

and employer in the nation" and can transform "how we build, buy and manage electricity, vehicles, buildings and other operations to be clean and sustainable.

CANADA



Canada's tight labor market is forcing many companies to offer regular Covid-19 testing over vaccine mandates, while others are reversing previously announced inoculation requirements even as omicron variant cases rise. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government adopted one of the strictest inoculation policies in the world for civil servants and has already put more than 1,000 workers on unpaid leave, with thousands more at risk. Airlines, police forces, school boards and even Canada's Big Five banks have also pledged strict mandatory vaccine policies. But following through has proven less straightforward, especially as employers grapple with staffing shortages and workers demand exemptions. Job vacancies in Canada have doubled so far this year, official data shows, and vaccine mandates can make filling those jobs harder, potentially putting upward pressure on wages. That could fuel inflation, already running at a near two-decade high. There are pitfalls to employing the unvaccinated. Companies run a higher risk of Covid-19 outbreaks and many vaccinated employees are uncomfortable working with those who have not had the jab, said industry groups and marketing experts.

NEW PRODUCTS

AIR SPA



You know that age-old trend of drying yourself with a towel after a shower? Boring, no? And pretty time-consuming too, if you ask me. I mean it's 2022, we definitely need a cooler way of drying ourselves. I guess BDCI Design thought the same because they designed 'Air Spa'...a body dryer! Yes, you read that right. The South Korean design consultancy created a dryer for your body, and defines it as a "refreshing bathroom experience". The tall vertical appliance blows out air to dry your body after you take a shower. Air Spa also protects your body from external temperature and humidity and maintains your body temperature. So, you know those few minutes after a shower when you're feeling super cold before you wipe yourself down with a towel? Well, Air Spa completely eliminates those dreadful few minutes. It also eliminates the tedious task of adding your towel to the laundry and washing it.

A BIODEGRADABLE RAZOR



Disposable razors are made of plastic and contribute heavily to waste and pollution. In fact, as per the report Award Catalogue 2020 of BEYOND PLASTIC, about 5,000 billion disposable razors are used per year globally – can you imagine that many razors in front of you for a second? Oquari is a biodegradable razor which comes with interchangeable heads that aim to provide a sustainable alternative that can help reduce the burden on the environment. The razor is made with PBS Bionelle as well as stainless steel blades as part of a regenerative approach and it degrades in aquatic environments.

A SMART SHOWER



Did you know that around 2.5 gallons of water are wasted at home while taking a shower? Designer Natasha Jadhav created a 'Smart Shower', which is truly smart, interactive, and not to mention aesthetically pleasing too! The Smart shower shuts off when you are not standing under it. It also lets you know the temperature of the water with a blue light. To start the shower, you need to simply rotate the intuitive center panel of the console. You can rotate it on either side to tactfully control the volume of the water.

THE SAFE LEVER DOOR OPENER



The Safe Lever Door Opener is a hands-free door opener designed for commercial settings like restaurants, doctor's offices, and workplaces. Doors have been a touchy subject for many throughout the pandemic—no one wants to touch a germ-ridden door handle. That's why the Safe Lever Door Opener was created. While various, innovative door-opening solutions have come out in recent years, like hands-free foot-door openers, they don't work for every door type. The Safe Lever Door Opener comes with a bolstered area where users can place their forearms to unhinge the door's lock and open the door.

FLO BLADELESS FAN



The Flo desk fan is not only useful for cooling the user down during the hot summer months but can also be used when temperatures cool off. Dual in function, the Flo desk fan is a cooling and heating device, ideal for climates with varying seasons like North America. It works with a temperature regulator dial, which is found at the back of the Flo fan. This allows users to switch between the fan's heating and cooling functionalities easily. Unlike its bladed counterparts, the Flo desk fan's facade is flush due to a filtering screen. In addition to its versatile usages, the Flo fan boasts an air-purifying filter designed to guarantee clean air is blown out of the device.

THE REENCLE



Food waste is a burgeoning problem in USA, with roughly 30-40% of the food supply being thrown in the trash (that's about 1 pound per person per day, amounting to over 200 billion tonnes in America alone). Hoping to put that waste into good use so it doesn't end up in a landfill creating tonnes of CO₂ and Methane as it decomposes, the Reencle is an at-home solution that helps efficiently break down food in a way that turns it into a rich compost that benefits the planet instead of harming it. Microorganisms inside the Reencle's inner chamber break the food down in roughly 24 hours, creating a compost that can be used in gardens, backyards, indoor planters, or even be disposed of, so it doesn't harm the environment.

STRIX



The Strix is an emergency flashlight. Its functions are concealed as a simplistic desk lamp, allowing users easy access to the tool in case of a crisis such as a blackout or an evacuation. It uses integrated sensors to provide building occupants with the safest evacuation route during emergency situations. Strix is ideal for high-rise offices, public buildings, and condominiums. These places are most susceptible to mass evacuations. Hanyoung Lee designed the Strix desk lamp to provide users with a means to evacuate buildings safely. The transforming flashlight device boasts LED light indicators to guide the user to the best way out. By removing the minimalist shade on the desk lamp, Strix transforms into an emergency device.

LAPOD



Let's be real – we spend a lot of time in the day figuring out the most comfortable work-from-home position because the bed is where we start slouching into a nap and the desk is too upright. Whether you're a digital nomad or a remote worker, LAPOD allows you to easily and comfortably work from anywhere. The lap desk holds all accessories such as chargers, cables, portable drives, without adding clutter to your couch or side tables. No more balancing your laptop on your knee, battery indicator flashing, juggling charger, and plug while searching your bag for your earbuds to take that incoming video call!

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WEARABLE GLUCOSE MONITORING DEVICE



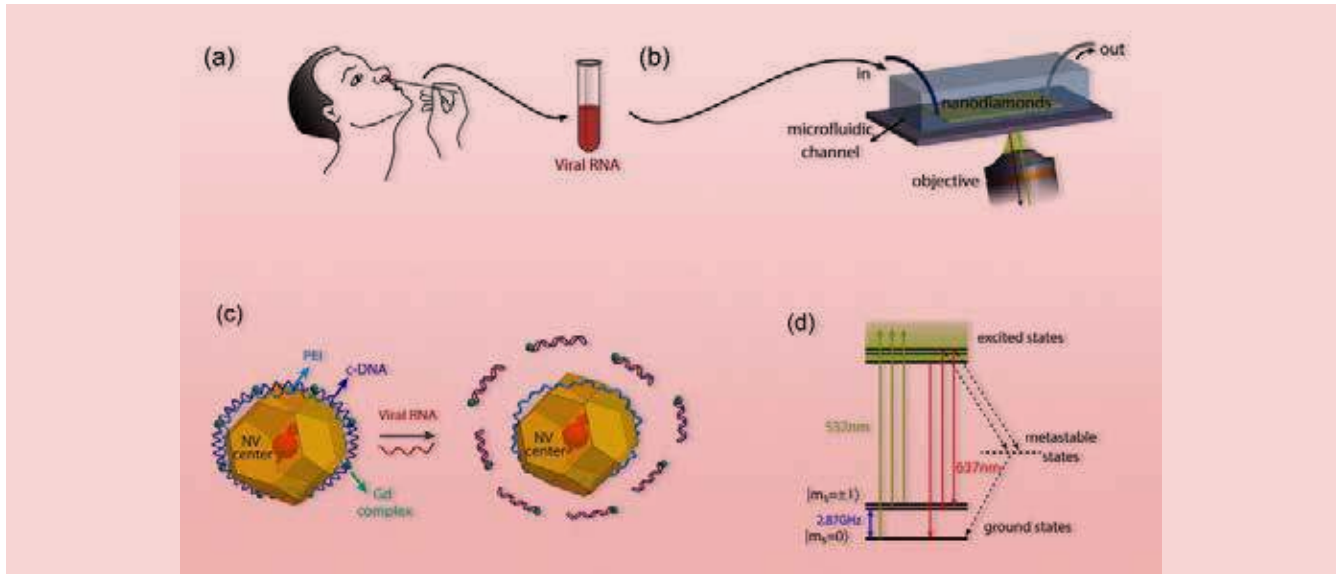
When you have diabetes, either Type 1 diabetes or Type 2 diabetes, keeping your blood sugar in check is a huge priority. No one loves sticking their fingers all day, fumbling with a test strip and testing with traditional blood glucose monitors, which is why a continuous glucose monitor can be more convenient than other monitoring devices. Now, with a new wearable device created by Penn State researchers, less intrusive glucose monitoring could become the norm. Led by Huanyu “Larry” Cheng, Dorothy Quiggle Career Development Professor in Penn State’s Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics, the researchers published the details of the noninvasive, low-cost sensor that can detect glucose in sweat.

ENHANCED NERVE TRANSMISSION SEEN IN OLDER ADULTS WHO REMAINED ACTIVE



When elderly people stay active, their brains have more of a class of proteins that enhances the connections between neurons to maintain healthy cognition, a UC San Francisco study has found. This protective impact was found even in people whose brains at autopsy were riddled with toxic proteins associated with Alzheimer’s and other neurodegenerative diseases. The beneficial effects of physical activity on cognition have been shown in mice but have been much harder to demonstrate in people. Casaletto, a neuropsychologist and member of the Weill Institute for Neurosciences, worked with William Honer, MD, a professor of psychiatry at the University of British Columbia and senior author of the study, to leverage data from the Memory and Aging Project at Rush University in Chicago. Honer and Casaletto found that elderly people who remained active had higher levels of proteins that facilitate the exchange of information between neurons. This result dovetailed with Honer’s earlier finding that people who had more of these proteins in their brains when they died were better able to maintain their cognition late in life. To their surprise, Honer said, the researchers found that the effects ranged beyond the hippocampus, the brain’s seat of memory, to encompass other brain regions associated with cognitive function.

QUANTUM COVID SENSOR MAY OFFER FASTER, CHEAPER, AND MORE ACCURATE DETECTION



A novel approach to testing for the presence of the virus that causes Covid-19 may lead to tests that are faster, less expensive, and potentially less prone to erroneous results than existing detection methods. Though the work, based on quantum effects, is still theoretical, these detectors could potentially be adapted to detect virtually any virus, the researchers say. Existing tests for the SARS-CoV-2 virus include rapid tests that detect specific viral proteins, and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests that take several hours to process. Neither of these tests can quantify the amount of virus present with high accuracy. Even the gold-standard PCR tests might have false-negative rates of more than 25 percent. In contrast, the new analysis shows the new test could have false negative rates below 1 percent. The test could also be sensitive enough to detect just a few hundred strands of the viral RNA, within just a second.

ALL-SEASON SMART-ROOF COATING ENABLES YEAR-ROUND ENERGY SAVINGS



Scientists have developed an all-season smart-roof coating that keeps homes warm during the winter and cool during the summer without consuming natural gas or electricity. Research findings reported in the journal *Science* point to a groundbreaking technology that outperforms commercial cool-roof systems in energy savings. Today's cool roof systems, such as reflective coatings, membranes, shingles, or tiles, have light-colored or darker "cool-colored" surfaces that cool homes by reflecting sunlight. These systems also emit some of the absorbed solar heat as thermal-infrared radiation; in this natural process known as radiative cooling, thermal-infrared light is radiated away from the surface. The problem with many cool-roof systems currently on the market is that they continue to radiate heat in the winter, which drives up heating costs.

COUNTRY PROFILE

Sweden



	Area 450,295 sq km
	Population 10,261,767 (July 2021 estimate)
	Capital Stockholm
	Real GDP (purchasing power parity) \$524.75 billion (2020 estimate)
	Real GDP per capita \$50,700 (2020 estimate)
	GDP official exchange rate \$531.35 billion (2019 estimate)
	Real GDP growth rate 1.29% (2019 estimate)
	Taxes and other revenues 50.6% of GDP (2017 estimate)
	Inflation rate (consumer prices) 1.7% (2019 estimate)
	Current account balance \$22.339 billion (2019 estimate)
	Foreign exchange and gold reserves \$62.22 billion (31 December 2017 estimate)
	Public debt 40.8% of GDP (2017 estimate)

Source: The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency

Sweden, a constitutional monarchy in northern Europe occupying the eastern portion of the Scandinavian Peninsula, is the fifth largest country in Europe. It consists of thousands of coastal islands and inland lakes, along with vast boreal forests and glaciated mountains. Southern Sweden is predominantly agricultural, with increasing forest coverage northward. Around 65% of the country's total land area is covered with forests. It is an export-oriented mixed economy whose citizens experience a high standard of living. Timber, hydropower and iron ore constitute the resource base of an economy with a heavy emphasis on foreign trade. Sweden enjoys a current account surplus of about 5% of GDP, which is one of the highest margins in Europe. In the short and medium term, Sweden's economic challenges include providing affordable housing and successfully integrating migrants into the labor market.



Agriculture

Wheat, sugar beet, rapeseed and other oil plants are common in southern Sweden, while barley and oat grown mostly for animal feed are produced in further north.



Industry

Major industries include iron and steel, precision equipment (bearings, radio and telephone parts, armaments), wood pulp and paper products, processed foods, motor vehicles. Some major registered Swedish companies are: Volvo, Ericsson, Skanska, Hennes & Mauritz, Telia, Electrolux, Atlas Copco, Sandvik, SEB, Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget, Scania.



Energy

Electricity - installed generating capacity: 40.29 million kW (2016) • Electricity from fossil fuels (such as coal, petroleum products, and natural gas): 5% of total installed capacity (2016), Electricity from nuclear fuels: 22% of total installed capacity (2017) Electricity from hydroelectric plants: 42% of total installed capacity (2017) Electricity from other renewable sources other than hydroelectric (wind, waves, solar, and geothermal): 32% of total installed capacity (2017)



Foreign Trade

Export: \$240.08 billion (2020 estimate)

Imports: \$217.68 billion (2020 estimate)

Major export commodities: cars and vehicle parts, packaged medicines, refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment, lumber (2019)

Major export destinations: Germany, Norway, United States, Denmark, Finland, United Kingdom, Netherlands, China (2019)

Major Import commodities: cars and vehicle parts, crude petroleum, refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment, computers (2019)

Major import sources: Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, China, Finland, Belgium, Poland (2019)



Tourism

According to the CIA World Factbook, Sweden was the 21st most visited country in the world, with 7,627,000 arrivals in 2006. Tourism in Sweden brought in 264 billion Swedish krona in 2011, 98.8 billion of which was foreign visitor expenditure in Sweden. Besides, 7.1% of Swedish household income is spent on domestic tourism. One tourist route is via train from southern to northern Sweden, viewing historical, natural and cultural attractions.



Transportation

Roads:

Sweden has 573,134 km of road including 2,050 km of expressways. Motorways run through Sweden and over the Øresund Bridge to Denmark. New motorways are still under construction and a new motorway from Uppsala to Gävle was finished in October 2007.

Railway:

The major operator of passenger trains is the stateowned SJ AB. Other operators include Tågkompaniet, Snälltåget, Pågatågen. The country has a total of 14,127 km of railway. The Stockholm metro is the only underground system in Sweden and serves the city of Stockholm via 100 stations.



Airports

The largest airports include Stockholm–Arlanda Airport, 40 km north of Stockholm, Göteborg Landvetter Airport, and Stockholm–Skavsta Airport.



Seaports

Brofjorden, Goteborg, Helsingborg, Karlshamn, Lulea, Malmo, Stockholm, Trelleborg, Visby

REVIEW

Export Earnings

Export earnings (merchandise) in the first half of the current financial year (July-December of FY22) increased significantly by 28.41 percent to US\$24.70 billion from US\$19.23 billion in the corresponding half of the previous fiscal year (Table 1), thanks to the highest ever single month export earnings of US\$4.91 billion in the last month (December 2021) of the review period. Export earnings in December 2021 grew year-on-year by 48.28 percent to US\$4.91 billion from US\$3.31 billion riding on the readymade garment (RMG) amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The December earnings also surpassed the target (US\$3.91 billion) set for the month by 25.58 percent, according to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) latest data.

Table 1: Monthly Trends in Exports (Goods)

Month	Exports (million US\$)		Change (%)
	Q1 of FY22 ^P	Q1 of FY21 ^R	
July	3473	3911	-11.20
August	3383	2967	+14.02
September	4165	3019	+37.96
October	4728	2948	+60.38
November	4041	3079	+31.24
December	4908	3310	+48.28
Total of July-December	24698	19234	+28.41

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised
Sources: Export Promotion Bureau

Overall export earnings in July-December of FY22 also surpassed the strategic target (US\$21.38 billion) by 15.53 percent. Out of total US\$24.70 billion export earnings during July-December of FY22, RMG sector fetched US\$19.90 billion compared to US\$15.55 billion, registering year-on-year a 27.97 percent growth. The sector's earnings also exceeded the strategic target (US\$17.28 billion) by 15.16 percent. A breakdown of the clothing sector performance shows that knitwear subsector earned US\$11.16 billion from exports in the six months, registering a growth of 30.91 percent, while earnings from export of woven garments amounted to US\$8.74 billion, up by 24.50 percent.

Import Payments (C&F)

According to the latest available data from the Bangladesh Bank, total value of custom based import during July-November of FY22 remarkably increased by 53.98 percent to US\$33.69 billion against US\$21.88 billion during July-November of FY21 (Table 2). A gradual decline in the COVID-19 infection cases and the subsequent relaxation of restriction has encouraged the businesses to rescue imports. Besides, custom based import in November alone of FY22 increased sharply by 63.03 percent to US\$7.86 billion as compared to US\$4.82 billion of the same month of the previous fiscal year caused by higher purchase of fuel oils to meet a growing domestic demand amid expanding activity after the pandemic slowdown.

Table 2: Monthly Trends in Imports (C&F)

Month	Imports (million US\$)		Change (%)
	Q1 of FY22 ^P	Q1 of FY21 ^R	
July	5141	4228	+21.59
August	6587	3806	+73.07
September	6992	4653	+50.27
October	7111	4376	+62.50
November	7855	4818	+63.03
Total of July-November	33686	21881	+53.95

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised
Sources: Bangladesh Bank

The settlement of import Letters of Credit (LCs) during July-November of FY22 increased by 53.74 percent and stood at US\$30.32 billion. This increase was driven by petroleum & petroleum products (+101.44%), intermediate goods (69.91%), consumer goods (+48.55%), industrial raw material (+48.20%), and capital machinery (+30.38%).

On the other hand, fresh opening of import LCs during July-November of FY22 also increased by 53.23 percent and stood at US\$35.43 billion. This increase was mainly due to rise in opening of import LCs of petroleum & petroleum products (+93.95%), consumer goods (+55.81%), industrial raw material (+54.85%), intermediate goods (+52.10%), and capital machinery (+21.02%).

Inflows of Remittance

The inflow of remittances in July-December of FY22 decreased substantially by 20.91 percent to US\$10.24 billion from US\$12.95 billion in the corresponding six months of the previous fiscal year (Table 3). This decline in remittances is a reflection of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic situation when many Bangladeshi migrants lost their jobs, some migrants were laid off by their companies; besides, many others who returned home couldn't go back due to suspended international flights as a part of countrywide lockdown and unmet vaccination requirements.

Table 3: Monthly Trends in Remittances

Month	Remittances (million US\$)		Change (%)
	FY22 ^P	FY21 ^R	
July	1871	2598	- 27.98
August	1810	1964	- 7.84
September	1727	2151	- 19.71
October	1647	2102	- 21.65
November	1554	2079	- 25.25
December	1629	2051	- 20.58
Total of July-December	10238	12945	- 20.91

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised
Source: Bangladesh Bank

In the last month of the review period (December 2021), year-on-year, remittances dropped by 20.58 percent to US\$1.63 billion from US\$2.05 billion. December's remittances, however, increased month-on-month by 5.16 percent from US\$1.55 billion (November 2021). According to experts, higher gap in exchange rate of the US dollar against the local currency between formal banking channel and kerb market has encouraged illegal 'hundi' activities in recent months.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

The net foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first five months of the current fiscal year (July-November of FY22) increased by 5.23 percent to US\$664 million from US\$631 million in the corresponding five months of the previous fiscal year (FY21), according to the BB's balance of payments data. On the other hand, the gross inflow of FDI during the period under review also increased year-on-year by 2.03 percent to US\$1511 million from US\$1481 million.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Bangladesh Bank's gross foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$46.07 billion as of end December 2021, compared to US\$44.88 billion as of end November 2021 (Table 4). According to some experts, the reserve would support the foreign investors to gain confidence while considering Bangladesh as an investment destination.

Table 4: Monthly Trends in Foreign Exchange Reserves

Month	Foreign Exchange Reserve (million US\$)	
	FY22 ^P	FY21 ^R
July	45842	37288
August	48060	39040
September	46200	39314
October	46459	41006
November	44881	41269
December	46073	43167

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised
Source: Bangladesh Bank

Exchange Rate

The Bangladesh Taka (BDT) keeps depreciating significantly against the US dollar as higher demand for the greenback for settling import-payment obligations outweighs forex inflow, experts say. Between end-June of FY21 and end-December of FY22, the value of Taka depreciated by 1.16 percent in terms of US dollar. On the inter-bank market, the US dollar was quoted at Tk.84.8054 at the end of June 2021 and Tk.85.8000 at the end of December 2021 (Table 5).

Table 5: Monthly Exchange Rate

Month	FY22 ^P (Taka per US\$)		FY21 ^R (Taka per US\$)	
	Month Average	End Month	Month Average	End Month
June	-	-	84.8148	84.8054
July	84.8037	84.8024	84.8120	84.8000
August	84.9523	85.2000	84.8390	84.8053
September	85.2587	85.5000	84.8025	84.8087
October	85.6121	85.6500	84.8023	84.8000
November	85.7750	85.8000	84.8005	84.8000
December	85.7750	85.8000	84.8001	84.8011

Note: i) P=Provisional; R=Revised
ii) Exchange rate represents the mid-value of buying and selling rates
Source: Bangladesh Bank

Price Situation



The point-to-point inflation over the last few months increased as per the latest Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data. The general point to point inflation rate rose by 0.07 percentage points to 6.05 percent in December 2021 from 5.98 percent in the immediate past month (November 2021) and the inflation in November also increased by 0.28 percentage points from October 2021 (Table 6). The inflation increased mainly due to prices of both, food and non-food, items went up. A year ago, in December 2020, the inflation rate was lower at 5.29 per cent (Table 6).

Both food and non-food inflation rates increased in December 2021 compared to the previous month (November). Food inflation increased slightly by 0.03 percentage point to 5.46 percent in December 2021 from 5.43 percent in November 2021. Year-on-year, food inflation was lower at 5.29 percent in December 2020.

On the other hand, non-food price inflation increased by 0.13 percentage points to 7.00 percent in December 2021 from 6.87 percent in the previous month. Year-on-year, non-food price inflation was also lower at 5.21 percent.

Table 6: Monthly Trends in Inflation (Base: 2005-06=100)

(Per cent)

Period	Point to Point-All (National)			Point to Point-Rural			Point to Point-Urban		
	General	Food	Non-food	General	Food	Non-food	General	Food	Non-food
FY22^P									
July	5.36	5.08	5.80	5.53	5.56	5.47	5.06	4.01	6.24
August	5.54	5.16	6.13	5.71	5.67	5.79	5.22	4.02	6.59
September	5.59	5.21	6.19	5.77	5.74	5.84	5.25	4.03	6.65
October	5.70	5.22	6.48	5.81	5.62	6.17	5.50	4.31	6.89
November	5.98	5.43	6.87	6.20	5.90	6.78	5.59	4.37	6.99
December	6.05	5.46	7.00	6.27	5.93	6.94	5.66	4.41	7.07
FY21^R									
July	5.53	5.70	5.28	5.43	5.67	4.98	5.72	5.76	5.68
August	5.68	6.08	5.05	5.60	6.09	4.70	5.81	6.06	5.51
September	5.97	6.50	5.12	5.96	6.61	4.71	5.98	6.26	5.65
October	6.44	7.34	5.00	6.67	7.73	4.62	6.03	6.48	5.51
November	5.52	5.73	5.19	5.55	6.01	4.65	5.47	5.11	5.90
December	5.29	5.34	5.21	5.28	5.60	4.67	5.31	4.77	5.93

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

According to the BBS data, the rate of general point-to-point inflation both in rural and urban areas increased too in December 2021 from the previous month (November).

Capital Market

At the end of December 2021, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) posted a decade-high daily turnover value along with a rise in market capitalization to GDP (Gross Domestic Product) ratio. The daily turnover, an important gauge, stood at Tk.14.75 billion on an average in 2021, up by 127 per cent year-on-year. The DSE witnessed the second highest-ever turnover worth above Tk.3.54 trillion, posted in 240 trading sessions - executed in the outgoing year. The DSE market capitalization to GDP ratio stood at 18.01 percent, while the market P/E (price earnings) stood at 17.58 at the end of 2021.

A consistent rally enabled the DSE broad index - DSEX - to stay above 6,700 points, as buoyancy added strength to the equity indices despite worries over virus-infused shocks to the country's economy in the first half of the year. The DSEX closed the year at 6,756, surging 1,354 points or 25 percent year-on-year, on 30 December, the last trading day of 2021. In 2020, the DSEX posted a 21 percent return. Strong participation of investors, consolidation of stock prices, comparably high corporate earnings, and low interest rate on bank deposits were the pivotal reasons behind the decent year for the capital market.

Major sectors posted hefty returns in the outgoing year, and the heavyweight banking sector saw the highest return with gain by 15 percent. It was followed by pharmaceutical sector with 14.9 percent, telecommunication 14.4 percent, engineering 11.8 percent, power 9.5 percent, and food 9.30 percent. Many stocks with poor dividend payment records and the hyped-up insurance stocks soared this year too. But their contribution to the index was insignificant, according to market experts.

The market was bullish amid the investors' growing confidence - driven by the regulator's various market supportive measures, which lured the investors to park fresh funds on stocks. The regulatory initiatives to restore governance in the market and other reforms, including removal of floor price, and re-listing of OTC companies, positively impacted the market. Introduction of SME board, corporate restructuring, development initiatives for Sukuk and bond market, new initial public offering (IPO) allotment rules, and change of circuit breaker for IPOs contributed towards building a vibrant capital market.

The year 2021 was also one the best periods for the bond and IPO markets. Corporate borrowers shifted their eyes to the bond market from the traditional bank loans for their funding needs. In 2021, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) allowed 23 institutions to raise Tk.125.73 billion through bonds and Sukuk. The fund raised through initial public offerings (IPOs) also hit a decade-high in the outgoing year since 2011, as 19 companies raised an aggregate amount of fund over Tk.21.80 billion in 2021. Of those companies, 14 raised Tk.12.30 billion through IPOs, four banks Tk.2.0 billion through perpetual bonds, and the remaining one Tk.7.50 billion through Sukuk.

On the other hand, the CSE All Share Price Index (CASPI) of the port-city bourse also registered about 26 percent positive return year-on-year, to finish the year at 19,666. The Selective Categories Index of the bourse - CSCX - also posted a 25.6 per cent growth to settle the year at 11,813.

STATISTICS

EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF BANGLADESH

(Million US \$)

Products	Export for 2020-21	Proposed Export Target of 2021-22	Strategic Target for July-Dec. 2021-22	Export Performance for July-Dec. 2021-22	Export Performance for July-Dec. 2020-21	% Change of export Performance Over Strategic Target	% Change of export performance July-Dec. 2021-22 Over July-Dec. 2020-21
1	2.	3	4	5	6	7	8
All products (A+B)	38758.31	43500.00	21384.00	24698.55	19233.45	15.5	28.41
A. Primary Commodities	1505.51	1617.20	794.99	993.06	804.54	24.91	23.43
(1) Frozen & Live Fish	477.37	508.00	249.73	339.02	279.72	35.75	21.2
a) Live Fish	6.32	6.70	3.29	4.41	3.23	34.04	36.53
b) Frozen Fish	115.57	141.80	69.71	53.05	66.33	-23.90	-20.02
c) Shrimps	328.84	330.00	162.22	268.95	194.56	65.79	38.23
d) Crabs	12.38	13.50	6.64	6.70	8.86	0.90	-24.38
e) Others	14.26	16.00	7.87	5.91	6.74	-24.90	-12.31
(2) Agricultural Products	1028.14	1109.20	545.27	654.04	524.82	19.95	24.62
a) Tea	3.56	4.00	1.97	1.04	2.25	-47.21	-53.78
b) Vegetables	118.73	120.00	58.99	46.27	48.61	-21.56	-4.81
c) Tobacco	86.20	94.00	46.21	72.14	52.62	56.11	37.10
d) Cut Flower & Foliage	0.09	0.10	0.05	0.03	0.06	-40.00	-50.00
e) Fruits	0.58	5.6	2.75	3.95	0.21	43.64	1,780.95
f) Spices	43.29	50.50	24.83	15.83	24.31	-36.25	-34.88
g) Dry Food	283.38	340.00	167.14	112.67	155.35	-32.59	-27.47
h) Others	492.31	495	243.34	402.11	241.41	65.25	66.57
B. Manufactured Commodities	37252.8	41882.80	20589.01	23705.49	18428.92	15.14	28.63
(1) Cement, Salt, Stone Etc	7.26	8.00	3.93	3.91	3.79	-0.51	3.17
(2) Ores, Slag and Ash	29.28	35.85	17.62	20.39	10.64	15.72	91.64
(3) Petroleum bi Products	23.33	25.70	12.63	12.27	10.37	-2.85	18.32
(4) Chemical Products	280.58	302.85	148.88	200.67	127.97	34.79	56.81
a) Pharmaceuticals	169.02	180.00	88.49	105.50	86.33	19.22	22.21
b) Chemical Fertilizer	5.84	6.50	3.20	0.00	0.00	-100.00	0.00
c) Cosmetics	0.46	0.50	0.25	0.41	0.14	64.00	192.86
d) Others	105.26	115.85	56.95	94.76	41.50	66.39	128.34
(5) Plastic Products	115.28	127.00	62.43	71.06	52.97	13.82	34.15
a) PVC Bags	23.28	26.50	13.03	12.14	11.01	-6.83	10.26
b) Plastic Waste	13.71	15.50	7.62	8.08	6.40	6.04	26.25
c) Others	78.29	85.00	41.78	50.84	35.56	21.69	42.97
(6) Rubber	34.24	40.50	19.91	24.53	15.92	23.2	54.08
(7) Leather & Leather Products	941.67	1031.00	506.83	563.96	446.13	11.27	26.41
a) Leather	119.14	130.50	64.15	69.87	54.69	8.92	27.76
b) Leather Products	252.65	280.50	137.89	150.13	112.75	8.88	33.15
c) Leather Footwear	569.88	620.00	304.78	343.96	278.69	12.86	23.42
(8) Wood & Wood Products	4.26	5.41	2.66	1.29	1.18	-51.5	9.32
(9) Handicrafts	33.97	39.00	19.17	21.37	16.58	11.48	28.89
(10) Pulp	0.03	0.04	0.02	0	0	-100	0
(11) Paper & Paper Products	71.44	73.00	35.89	42.57	33.92	18.61	25.5
(12) Printed Materials	0.94	1.14	0.56	0.61	0.54	8.93	12.96
(13) Silk	0.57	1.00	0.49	0.53	0.04	8.16	1225
(14) Wool & Woolen Products	0.26	0.35	0.17	0.14	0	-17.65	0
(15) Cotton & Cotton Product (Yarn, Waste, Fabrics etc)	154.29	175.00	86.03	102.48	73.54	19.12	39.35

(Million US \$)

Products	Export for 2020-21	Proposed Export Target of 2021-22	Strategic Target for July-Dec. 2021-22	Export Performance for July-Dec. 2021-22	Export Performance for July-Dec. 2020-21	% Change of export Performance Over Strategic Target	% Change of export performance July-Dec. 2021-22 Over July-Dec. 2020-21
1	2.	3	4	5	6	7	8
(16) Jute & Jute goods	1161.48	1420.00	698.05	590.05	668.11	-15.47	-11.68
a) Raw Jute	138.15	150.00	73.74	119.79	84.93	62.45	41.05
b) Jute Yarn & Twine	799.04	1,000.00	491.59	357.48	449.27	-27.28	-20.43
c) Jute Sacks & Bags	138.66	180.00	88.49	65.55	91.87	-25.92	-28.65
d) Others	85.63	100.00	49.16	47.23	42.04	-3.93	12.35
(17) Man Made Filaments & Staple Fibres	119.43	130.00	63.91	126.17	61.9	97.42	103.83
(18) Carpet (Jute & Others)	33.54	45.00	22.12	18.93	18.38	-14.42	2.99
(19) Specialized Textiles	130.9	150.00	73.74	193.33	62.77	162.18	208
a) Terry Towel	34.77	38.00	18.68	24.45	19.00	30.89	28.68
b) Special Woven Fabric	22.53	24.00	11.80	15.07	10.95	27.71	37.63
c) Knitted Fabrics	64.77	78.00	38.34	146.44	29.60	281.95	394.73
d) Other	8.83	10.00	4.92	7.37	3.22	49.80	128.88
(20) RMG	31456.73	35144.00	17276.31	19900.7	15545.57	15.19	28.02
(a) Knitwear	16,960.03	19,515.00	9,593.30	11,161.63	8,526.17	16.35	30.91
(b) Woven Garments	14,496.70	15,629.00	7,683.00	8,739.07	7,019.39	13.75	24.50
(21) Home Textile	1132.03	1370.00	673.47	715.95	547.48	6.31	30.77
a) Bed, Kitchen toilet lines	521.33	620.00	304.78	302.48	264.50	-0.75	14.36
b) Other	610.70	750.00	368.69	413.47	282.98	12.15	46.11
(22) Other Footwear	344.46	400.00	196.63	212.83	171.45	8.24	24.14
(23) Headgear/Cap	226.38	250.00	122.9	163.8	100.81	33.28	62.48
(24) Umbrella Waking Sticks	0.02	0.01	0	0.11	0	0	0
(25) Wigs & Human Hair	57.13	64.00	31.46	46.02	22.45	46.28	104.99
(26) Building Materials	0.88	1.00	0.49	0.23	0.47	-53.06	-51.06
(27) Ceramic Products	31.11	35.00	17.21	20.12	15.09	16.91	33.33
(28) Glass & Glass ware	7.94	10.00	4.92	9.81	4.64	99.39	111.42
(29) Engineering Products	529	644.75	316.95	444.32	264.62	40.19	67.91
a) Iron Steel	128.86	160.00	78.65	81.51	50.80	3.64	60.45
b) Copper Wire	55.24	65.00	31.95	33.25	19.54	4.07	70.16
c) Stainless Steel ware	3.03	3.50	1.72	2.49	1.57	44.77	58.60
d) Engineering Equipment	96.31	115.00	56.53	175.94	63.19	211.23	178.43
e) Electric Products	67.48	86.25	42.40	43.44	37.05	2.45	17.25
f) Bicycle	130.89	155.00	76.20	79.85	64.78	4.79	23.26
g) Others	47.19	60.00	29.50	27.84	27.69	-5.63	0.54
(30) Ships, boats & floating structures	0.2	0.20	0.1	0.13	0.07	30	85.71
(31) Other mfd Products	324.18	353.00	173.53	197.2	151.52	13.64	30.15
a) Optical, Photographic, Medical Instruments etc	89.27	92.00	45.23	50.18	44.30	10.94	13.27
b) Furniture	79.47	90.00	44.24	48.32	34.60	9.22	39.65
c) Golf Shaft	14.30	16.00	7.87	10.12	8.63	28.59	17.27
d) Others	141.14	155.00	76.19	88.58	63.99	16.26	38.43

Source: Export Promotion Bureau

FRESH OPENING AND SETTLEMENT OF IMPORT LCS

(USD in million)

Items	July-November, FY22			July-November, FY21		
	Fresh opening of import LCS	Outstanding LCS at the end period	Settlement of import LCS	Fresh opening of import LCS	Outstanding LCS at the end period	Settlement of import LCS
A. Consumer goods	4203.58	1557.86	3603.95	2697.91	157.37	2426.13
Rice and wheat	1266.90	496.47	1057.93	636.71	21.15	548.04
Sugar and salt	399.49	176.52	333.09	211.20	5.62	275.00
Milk food	113.59	82.66	137.27	124.72	3.73	106.19
Edible oil (refined)	564.28	178.92	474.03	311.72	12.68	312.15
All kinds of fruits	229.19	89.09	160.51	225.93	20.08	174.38
Pulses	74.13	27.66	103.60	75.14	4.11	82.87
Onion	86.45	16.09	82.24	126.88	25.47	87.12
Spices	98.68	28.69	111.88	157.69	3.69	190.16
Second hand clothings	1.47	0.75	1.04	1.65	0.12	0.65
Drugs and medicines(finished)	559.53	58.59	529.89	52.54	6.85	42.65
Others	809.85	402.42	612.46	773.72	53.87	606.92
B. Intermediate goods	3066.33	1174.18	2734.32	2016.02	120.80	1609.23
Coal	300.66	77.64	223.14	158.53	3.32	55.62
Cement	106.40	50.55	85.89	63.14	7.70	47.33
Clinker & limestone	482.88	219.19	387.81	383.70	25.09	330.83
B. P. sheet	61.07	24.01	48.59	56.57	4.66	61.02
Tin plate	6.92	4.24	4.77	2.34	0.04	4.40
Scrap Vessels	499.85	51.07	517.94	227.80	3.50	217.13
Iron and steel scrap	754.89	384.66	764.96	574.07	42.63	430.46
Non-ferrous metal	143.25	71.15	135.18	68.35	4.83	59.83
Paper and paper board	150.09	69.57	127.70	122.60	7.61	126.57
Others	560.32	222.11	438.34	358.93	21.42	276.04
C. Industrial raw materials	12834.24	7438.21	10826.13	8288.13	570.66	7305.06
Edible oil (Crude)	145.09	32.19	130.14	142.61	5.56	145.90
Seeds	297.85	116.80	320.89	163.45	1.01	191.67
Textile fabrics (B/B & others)	5054.03	3216.68	4040.86	3462.26	265.11	2936.57
Pharmaceutical raw materials	483.84	219.01	454.72	376.75	12.78	455.45
Raw cotton	1352.09	847.93	1123.21	1018.23	64.72	824.06
Cotton yarn	1464.59	964.61	1273.57	560.2	34.48	593.20
Copra	217.47	116.14	178.69	186.29	12.40	132.50
Synthetic fibre & yarn	717.62	434.96	594.84	320.40	17.15	331.75
Chemicals & chem. products	3101.65	1489.90	2709.22	2057.93	157.45	1693.96
D. Capital machinery	2363.66	1896.33	1660.21	1953.04	490.86	1273.35
Textile machinery	298.16	275.75	76.52	71.19	1.64	81.16
Leather / tannery	7.94	4.11	5.70	8.25	1.36	5.55
Jute industry	3.22	2.37	5.12	10.20	0.24	3.77
Garment industry	372.21	312.32	220.14	134.86	14.52	146.54
Pharmaceutical industry	81.48	63.01	68.59	65.57	26.89	46.07
Packing industry	5.90	5.34	2.39	4.24	0.03	4.69
Other industry	1594.76	1233.44	1281.75	1658.74	446.17	985.57
E. Machinery for misc. inds.	2221.42	1245.50	1573.95	1457.66	85.26	1193.22
Other machineries	40.32	18.81	41.69	48.80	2.15	53.69
Marine diesel engine	1.97	1.85	0.60	2.56	0.85	6.22
Computer & its accessories	221.24	138.33	163.80	152.85	16.76	108.81
Motor vehicle & motorcycle parts	79.48	26.73	109.87	100.72	3.66	72.96
Bicycle parts	66.55	30.16	60.81	47.80	2.18	40.43
Other iron and steel products	145.79	71.16	80.81	97.45	6.92	93.31
Motor vehicles	350.94	159.51	269.69	250.84	9.18	209.58
Other electronics components	59.39	40.43	42.77	72.14	2.63	50.67
Tractors & power tiller	21.01	14.94	18.69	34.41	1.04	28.08
Others	1234.74	743.57	785.21	650.09	39.88	529.46
F. Petroleum & petro.prodts.	3018.61	388.55	3016.89	1556.37	49.75	1497.69
Crude	493.19	30.54	527.26	348.58	4.73	266.02
Refined	2525.42	358.01	2489.64	1207.79	45.03	1231.67
G. Others	7721.38	11488.33	6905.78	5152.93	9592.59	4417.36
Commercial sector	1819.55	881.63	1590.82	1480.65	177.37	1243.10
Industrial sector	5901.83	10606.70	5314.95	3672.27	9415.21	3174.26
Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant	---	7601.12	379.98	---	9093.75	45.61
Total	35429.22	25188.97	30321.23	23122.05	11067.29	19722.04
of which back to back	5192.50	3526.66	4327.40	3231.11	213.52	2909.72

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

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (BOP)

(In million US\$)

Items	2020-21 ^R July-Nov	2021-22 ^{RP} July-Oct	2021-22 ^P July-Nov	% Changes 4 over 2
Trade balance	-5046	-9099	-12530	
Export f.o.b. (including EPZ)	15195	14800	18636	22.65
Of which: Readymade garments	12895	12621	15856	22.96
Import f.o.b (including EPZ)	20241	23899	31166	53.97
Services	-1000	-990	-1401	
Credit	2807	2825	3625	29.14
Of which: Government Services	1095	784	974	-11.05
Debit	3807	3815	5026	32.02
Primary income	-1499	-948	-1123	
Credit	52	120	148	184.62
Debit	1551	1068	1271	-18.05
Of which: Official interest payments	384	308	361	-5.99
Secondary income	11100	7252	8868	
Official transfers	11	7	7	
Private transfers	11089	7245	8861	-20.09
Of which: Workers' remittances inflows	10894	7055	8609	-20.97
Current Account Balance	3555	-3785	-6186	
Capital account	59	68	69	
Capital transfers	59	68	69	16.95
Financial account	1473	2880	4589	
Foreign direct investment (gross inflows)	1481	1129	1511	2.03
Of which : Net FDI flows	631	452	664	5.23
Portfolio investment (net)	-164	-77	-84	
Of which: Investment by NRBs	116	42	54	-53.45
Other investment (net)	1006	2505	4009	
Net Aid Flows	1425	2000	2348	
Medium and long-term (MLT) loans	1998	2551	3013	50.80
MLT amortization payments	573	551	665	16.06
Other long-term loans (net)	199	483	451	
Other short-term loans (net)	293	574	1029	
Trade credit (net)	63	-550	-580	
DMBs and NBDCs (net)	-974	-2	761	
Assets	97	859	321	
Liabilities	-877	857	1082	
Errors and omissions	-20	-502	-495	
Overall Balance	5067	-1339	-2023	
Reserve Assets	-5067	1339	2023	
Bangladesh Bank (net)	-5067	1339	2023	
Assets	4862	142	-1278	
Liabilities	-205	1481	745	
Memorandum Items:				
Gross reserves (before valuation adjustments)	40899	46534	45113	
Valuation Adjustment During the Period	370	-75	-232	
Gross reserves (after valuation adjustments)	41269	46459	44881	
In months of imports of goods and services (prospective)	5.7	5.8	5.7	
In months of imports of goods (cif) (prospective)	6.1	6.3	6.1	

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

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

Source: Bangladesh Bank

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

Description of items of industry	Unit	No .of reporting industries (selected)	2019-20	2020-21	Aug-20	July' 21 (p)	Aug-21 (p)
Manufacture of Food Products							
Fish & sea food	M.Ton	180 & *	42724	40512	3265	3676	5336
Processing & Preserving of fruits and vegetables	"000" Litre	3	123517	109120	9078	8694	9223
Hyd. Vegetable oil	M.Ton	2	1005502	998073	70431	53644	74490
Grain milling	M.Ton	8	614006	332939	29134	26786	41400
Rice milling	M.Ton	6	42689	47888	3590	4590	4610
Sugar	M.Ton	16	81768	48082	0	0	0
Black & Blending Tea	M.Ton	116	89930	90008	11321	12760	14387
Edible salt	M.Ton	8	88272	101262	7810	8763	7877
Animal feeds	M.Ton	3	704880	859315	74668	71815	73308
Manufacture of beverages							
Spirits & Alcohol	"000" Litre	1	5159	4272	358	458	371
Soft Drinks	"000" Doz Bottle	4	59222	104902	7976	15129	11845
Mineral Water	"000" Litre	4	156784	273894	21701	22907	27193
Manufacture of tobacco products							
Cigarettes	Mill. No	1	16186	15403	1240	1310	1315
Biddies	Mill. No	5	96246	89893	5776	6370	6385
Manufacture of textile							
Preparation & Spinning of Textile fibers	M.Ton	20	223314	257198	21641	21641	23397
Weaving of Textiles	"000" Metre	15	42283	36858	3417	3416	3962
Dyeing, bleaching & finishing	"000" Metre	19	129650	130133	10123	11085	11092
Jute Textile	M.Ton	95	379585	310057	20566	15891	20000
Mfg. of wearing apparel							
Wearing Apparel	Million Tk.	*	1188830	1229409	93622	104203	97772
Knitwear	Million Tk.	*	1177323	1398236	110130	140641	135722
Manufacture of leather and related products							
1511 Tanning & Finishing Leather:	"000" Sq Metre	175 & *	13075	16595	998	1545	1191
Leather Footwear	"000" Pair	4	28538	32079	1217	3486	2197
Manufacture of wood and products of wood and cork							
Particle board/ plywood	"000" Sq Metre	2	12258	13710	1092	1219	1231
Manufacture of Paper and paper products							
Pulp, Paper & newsprint	M.Ton	3	241050	328647	21465	32999	30955
Articles made of paper	M.Ton	2	41000	40766	3801	2603	2608
Printing and reproduction of recorded media							
Printing of Books and periodicals	"000" No.	10	142464	157634	13150	12740	12516
Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products							
Petroleum refining	M.Ton	1	1078570	1530820	132520	139126	144388
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products							
Compressed liquidities gas	Cylinder (12.5 Kg.)	2	1160550	1057162	68510	84500	79372
Fertilizer	M.Ton	7	976157	1296008	169587	104329	93154
Perfumes and cosmetics	"000" Tk.	3	10942940	12012471	1157292	848271	844549
Soaps & detergents	M.Ton	3	176084	190893	14024	9593	15719
Matches	"000" Gross	2	36644	45323	4224	3710	3715
Manufacture of Pharmaceuticals and medicinal chemical							
Pharmaceuticals/Allopathic drugs and medicine	"000" Tk.	20	251533893.4	281575024	23498046	21907532	24982231

Description of items of industry	Unit	No .of reporting industries (selected)	2019-20	2020-21	Aug-20	July' 21 (p)	Aug-21 (p)
Unani and Ayur Bedic Medicine	"000" Tk.	3	712467	1502532	117858	151620	151257
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products							
Rubber footwear/ other rubber products	Dozen Pair	8	536631	310938	28287	25024	27500
P.V.C products/plastic products	M.ton	3	54410	52008	4364	4335	4215
Non-Metallic mineral Prod							
Glass Sheet	"000" Sq ft.	3	20364	22587	2080	1180	1979
Tiles	"000" Sq ft	5	279741	199944	16454	12009	14471
Ceramic	"000" Dz	2	36480	37361	3044	3234	3254
Cement	M.Ton	8	17951285	21030828	1217396	1151895	1624706
Bricks	"000" No.	4	218294	325598	21993	27947	30255
Manufacture of basic metals							
Re-rolling mills	M.Ton	31	335640	379761	24488	34065	34080
Manufacture of fabricated metal products except machinery							
Structural metal products	"000" M.ton	5	14161	13519	933	1559	1345
Other Fabricated metal products	Dozen	8	970756	991088	82010	83111	83464
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products							
communication equipment's (TV, Telephone) Television	No.	3	665938	700595	55305	29325	62639
Manufacture of electrical equipment							
Electric Motors, Generators, transformers/	No.	2	614681	335541	23456	29913	31733
Electrical apparatus 2732 Wires & Cables (ELEC.)	M.ton	3	52426	53210	4231	4696	4688
Electrical appliances / Domestic appliances	No.	9	532528	521593	43325	43990	43896
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c							
Agriculture & Forestry machinery	No.	2	105041	95682	9472	10093	8042
Machinery for Textile , apparel and leather production	No.	9	20236	21067	1698	1691	1796
Machinery equipment NEC	No.	10	1154859	1165988	98095	89764	90489
Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers							
Assemble of Motor vehicles	No.	2	1214	844	31	76	131
Manufacture of other transport equipment							
Ship and boat building	M.Ton	3	578562	370882	30812	33142	33641
Motor cycle	No.	3	86393	91094	7997	8078	8090
Manufacture of furniture							
Metal furniture	No.	2	4497	4149	285	350	434
Wooden furniture	No.	5	92457	122211	6137	8062	9207
Plastic furniture	No.	2	1527531	1202074	91578	11729	74046
Natural Gas	MMCM	8	24998	25172	2063	2090	2098
Electricity	MKWH	1	69634	78654	7207	7232	7901

Note: n.a.=not available. p= provisional, r= revised, M.cu.m.= million cubic meter. Mt = metric ton. MkwH = million kilowatt per hour, Tk.= Taka, * = EPB; F = Final

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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

Period	General Index	Index by expenditure group								
		1. Food & Beverage	2. Non-Food	I. Clothing & Footwear	II. Fuel & Lighting	III. Household Equipment	IV. Medical Care & Health Expenses	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment,	VIII. Misc. Goods & Services
2013-14	195.08	209.79	176.23	194.77	163.47	206.14	164.06	167.20	164.38	193.75
2014-15	207.58	223.80	186.79	204.50	171.80	214.45	180.77	181.78	168.02	204.21
2015-16	219.86	234.77	200.66	233.38	182.74	227.39	199.94	201.34	171.01	211.61
2016-17	231.82	248.90	209.92	243.56	194.01	235.85	206.70	210.78	177.56	217.51
2017-18	245.22	266.64	217.76	255.24	200.25	249.68	209.28	218.80	183.65	223.81
2018-19	258.65	281.33	229.58	277.64	206.98	265.25	215.31	235.23	186.72	239.87
2019-20	273.26	296.86	243.00	290.00	220.70	282.67	230.07	248.48	190.13	259.27
2020-21	288.44	313.86	255.85	298.14	228.29	298.15	247.86	271.45	193.61	288.53
2021										
June	291.70	314.19	262.87	306.00	226.63	308.95	251.90	297.31	196.54	301.82
July	293.19	316.02	263.93	307.11	227.12	310.07	252.47	300.58	197.00	302.72
August	297.73	323.04	265.28	310.34	228.06	311.90	252.66	301.81	197.47	303.97
September	304.22	332.58	267.85	313.63	230.62	316.69	252.89	303.73	199.55	306.12
October	307.49	337.70	268.75	314.48	231.64	316.85	252.99	306.31	199.71	306.66
November	305.97	333.58	270.58	316.73	232.46	317.92	253.09	313.36	200.25	307.71
December	304.81	330.71	271.61	320.38	232.71	318.70	253.16	314.27	201.02	308.65

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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

Period	General Index	Index by expenditure group								
		1. Food & Beverage	2. Non-Food	I. Clothing & Footwear	II. Fuel & Lighting	III. Household Equipment	IV. Medical Care & Health Expenses	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment,	VIII. Misc. Goods & Services
2012-13	183.90	192.14	170.79	184.54	157.40	186.40	164.63	160.98	174.07	187.05
2013-14	196.90	207.72	179.69	200.61	164.05	197.62	168.87	166.01	179.72	199.74
2014-15	209.10	221.02	190.13	214.07	171.34	209.29	187.18	174.09	183.84	212.34
2015-16	220.10	230.31	203.86	242.26	179.19	222.11	211.04	188.69	187.84	221.12
2016-17	231.02	243.08	211.83	253.51	187.45	229.57	219.35	193.71	194.81	226.47
2017-18	244.17	259.86	219.21	263.96	192.89	246.23	221.15	197.24	201.31	233.72
2018-19	256.74	273.55	230.01	282.76	198.99	261.30	225.86	207.51	205.05	253.71
2019-20	271.20	289.08	242.74	292.21	212.44	277.56	242.40	217.05	208.93	275.65
2020-21	286.37	306.40	254.51	298.86	220.23	286.65	264.04	234.11	214.52	305.80
2021										
June	288.95	306.47	261.07	305.46	216.70	297.57	268.29	258.73	219.52	322.27
July	290.34	308.10	262.08	306.64	217.46	298.65	269.03	260.86	220.08	322.84
August	295.21	315.29	263.25	308.15	218.83	300.24	269.06	262.52	220.27	323.49
September	302.27	325.14	265.88	311.22	221.60	305.23	269.29	264.50	221.93	325.75
October	306.10	330.77	266.85	311.93	223.17	305.04	269.32	267.33	221.97	325.94
November	304.31	326.57	268.89	314.38	224.10	306.24	269.42	275.53	222.77	326.97
December	303.14	324.00	269.95	318.14	224.27	306.91	269.47	276.30	223.49	328.00

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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

Period	General Index	Index by expenditure group								
		1. Food & Beverage	2. Non-Food	I. Clothing & Footwear	II. Fuel & Lighting	III. Household Equipment	IV. Medical Care & Health Expenses	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment,	VIII. Misc. Goods & Services
2013-14	199.73	214.85	171.61	183.66	162.80	221.11	155.82	168.52	147.83	186.37
2014-15	204.76	230.56	182.32	197.93	172.33	223.53	169.80	190.26	150.95	194.16
2015-16	219.31	245.66	196.39	216.50	186.86	236.67	180.93	215.50	152.84	199.87
2016-17	233.29	263.09	207.38	224.66	201.60	246.87	185.05	229.59	158.93	206.45
2017-18	247.17	283.19	215.83	238.67	208.77	255.74	188.96	242.55	164.59	211.57
2018-19	262.17	300.30	229.00	267.92	216.22	272.20	197.25	265.77	166.95	222.78
2019-20	277.06	315.83	243.34	285.82	230.27	291.66	208.97	283.12	169.81	239.06
2020-21	292.27	332.08	257.64	296.78	237.63	318.36	220.17	312.59	171.05	267.20
2021										
June	296.79	333.04	265.26	307.02	238.13	328.95	223.85	339.82	171.74	276.58
July	298.47	335.34	266.40	308.02	238.31	330.15	224.12	344.35	172.10	277.88
August	302.39	341.94	267.99	314.51	238.74	332.41	224.59	345.11	172.87	279.86
September	307.81	350.75	270.46	318.22	241.05	336.84	224.83	346.97	175.41	281.89
October	310.05	354.60	271.29	319.31	241.45	337.61	225.03	349.27	175.69	282.86
November	309.05	350.69	272.83	321.21	242.13	338.46	225.15	355.04	175.94	283.93
December	307.89	347.07	273.82	324.64	242.48	339.45	225.24	356.12	176.77	284.76

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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

Sector	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	October '21	November '21	December '21
General	160.23	170.39	180.83	188.71	190.67	191.87
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.40	6.35	6.12	5.97	6.02	6.11
percentage change (over previous month)				0.84	1.04	0.63
1. Agriculture	159.92	170.28	181.16	189.12	191.29	192.53
percentage change (over previous month)	6.42	6.48	6.39	6.08	6.12	6.24
percentage change (over previous month)				0.89	1.15	0.65
i) Agriculture	159.91	170.32	181.23	189.27	191.46	192.72
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.44	6.51	6.41	6.14	6.18	6.31
percentage change (over previous month)				0.90	1.16	0.66
ii) Fish	160.59	168.58	177.84	181.19	182.55	182.79
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.22	4.97	5.49	2.83	2.86	2.68
percentage change (over previous month)				0.02	0.75	0.13
2. Industry	158.74	168.24	177.52	184.92	186.42	187.52
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.22	5.99	5.51	5.61	5.66	5.72
percentage change (over previous month)				0.81	0.81	0.59
i) Construction	152.86	160.17	167.24	172.59	173.64	174.53
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.19	4.77	4.42	4.21	4.26	4.30
percentage change (over previous month)				0.70	0.61	0.51
ii) Production	170.66	184.65	198.37	209.92	212.34	213.86
percentage change (Point to Point)	8.14	8.21	7.43	8.02	8.08	8.15
percentage change (over previous month)				1.00	1.15	0.72
3. Service	164.78	175.33	185.99	194.48	196.33	197.52
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.69	6.41	6.07	6.16	6.21	6.25
percentage change (over previous month)				0.70	0.95	0.61

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics



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১০০-৫০০ কেজি: ১০ গ্রাম করে প্রতিদিন খাওয়াতে হবে
৫০০ কেজির উপরে: ২০ গ্রাম করে প্রতিদিন খাওয়াতে হবে

প্যাক সাইজঃ

১০ গ্রাম স্যাচট

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- > ৭ টি মিনারেলস
- > ৩ টি ভিটামিন
- > ৪ টি প্রোবায়োটিকস

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A Brief Profile of MCCI, Dhaka

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

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

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

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