

CHAMBER NEWS

ISSUE 11 ■ November 2024

Managing Supply Chain Gaps in Bangladesh



METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, DHAKA

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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

Managing Supply Chain Gaps in Bangladesh

Supply chain management plays a vital role in ensuring the continuous economic development of every nation, with Bangladesh being no exception. The efficiency of the country's supply chains is crucial for its global trade success, particularly as a leading exporter of ready-made garments (RMG). As global markets grow more competitive, the strategic management of supply chain gaps is vital for not only sustaining growth but also strengthening the country's image as a reliable trade partner.

The current state of the supply chain in Bangladesh showcases both its strengths and vulnerabilities. The RMG industry, accounting for over 80% of the country's export earnings, is heavily reliant on imported raw materials. Relying on foreign sources can cause delays and higher production costs, especially during global disruptions. Gaps still prevail in Bangladesh's transportation, warehousing, and technology adoption, despite improvements in its logistics infrastructure. Therefore, solving these supply chain challenges is crucial for global economic growth and competitiveness.

To manage supply chain gaps in Bangladesh, reducing reliance on imported raw materials by increasing local production could help. For example, the government is promoting cotton cultivation to reduce the garment industry's dependence on international suppliers. Linking local producers with manufacturers could safeguard the sector from global price shifts. Thus, Bangladesh can increase self-sufficiency and lessen supply chain risks through investments in agriculture and key industries.

Next, supply chain gaps could also be addressed through infrastructure development. Despite some progress, the country still needs more modern transportation networks, warehousing facilities, and ports. Improvements in these areas could be boosted by public-private partnerships, which is already happening in many other countries. Smart infrastructure investments can help Bangladesh streamline goods flow, shorten delivery times, and decrease business costs. Ultimately, the key to Bangladesh staying competitive in the global market and ensuring supply chain reliability lies in an efficient infrastructure.

Consideration of workforce development is also crucial for boosting supply chain resilience. Skilled workers in the garment sector drive production in Bangladesh. It is therefore crucial to invest more in skills training to boost productivity and efficiency across different industries. Through upskilling employees and adopting best practices, supply chain operations can achieve greater efficiency. By providing workers with appropriate skills, Bangladesh can ensure the readiness of its supply chains for future requirements.

Managing supply chain gaps is significantly influenced by environmental sustainability. It is crucial for supply chains to be environmentally friendly in a world where sustainability is a top priority. Bangladesh has shown notable advancements in this field, specifically in promoting sustainable practices in the textile industry. By implementing sustainable strategies, such as decreasing carbon emissions in transportation and fostering circular economies, the nation's international standing will be improved. Moreover, environmentally sustainable supply chains exhibit higher efficiency and resilience to disruptions due to decreased reliance on finite resources.

Technology adoption is the final crucial factor in addressing supply chain gaps. Digital tools like predictive analytics and blockchain can enhance operations, transparency, and decision-making. Already, e-commerce and digital payments are changing supply chains in Bangladesh. Helping small and medium enterprises incorporate these technologies can boost productivity and decrease losses. Thus, the adoption of digital innovation will empower Bangladesh to develop a supply chain that is more agile and responsive, capable of overcoming future obstacles.

The management of supply chain gaps is paramount for upholding Bangladesh's economic growth and boosting its global competitiveness. The country can strengthen its supply chain network by reducing imports, investing in infrastructure, improving workforce skills, promoting sustainability, and adopting technology. With the government and private sector working together, Bangladesh is poised to excel in international trade and can set the standard for supply chain management in South Asia.

ARTICLE

WORLD'S BEST EMPLOYERS IN 2024

By Rachel Rabkin Peachman

Workers around the world are justified in feeling uncertain about their place in the labor market: The current geopolitical unrest, growing cost of living, rapid evolution of generative AI in the workplace, and the increasing need to prioritize sustainability in the supply chain all have an impact on jobs, according to research from the World Economic Forum. And to stay competitive, workers need to be vigilant about upskilling and adapting to shifting job responsibilities.

For some lucky employees, however, opportunities to advance their skillsets, try new tools, and grow with their jobs are baked into their company's offerings. These employees tend to stay in their jobs for longer and remain more content and engaged at work—although finding these companies is not always easy.

Now Forbes is here to simplify that search, with our eighth annual ranking of the World's Best Employers 2024.

To determine the list, Forbes—in partnership with market research firm Statista—surveyed more than 300,000 employees in over 50 countries who work for multinational corporate groups that employ more than 1,000 workers and operate in at least two of the six continental regions of the world (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Oceania). Respondents were asked whether they would recommend their company to family or friends, and to rate it based on such criteria as salary, talent development and remote work options. Participants could also rate companies they knew through their own industry knowledge and through friends and family who worked there.

Survey responses were analyzed and tallied—along with data from the previous three years—with a heavier weight put on the more recent data and on the evaluations from current employees. While the number of honorees per country varied based on the population and qualifying companies in each area, 850 companies, spanning 48 countries, earned a spot on our list.

This year, the top 10 spots were populated by familiar contenders, but for the first time, Microsoft ranked at No. 1, after landing between No. 2 and No. 4 on every prior annual ranking. Coming in at No. 2 was Alphabet (aka Google), which has ranked within the top eight (often earning the No. 1 spot) in all prior seven years. The No. 3 spot went to Samsung Electronics, which has nabbed No. 1 for the past four years.

The industries that dominated this year's list were similar to those from last year: banking and financial services (with

companies such as Seoul-based KB Financial Group at No. 11); construction, chemicals, and raw materials (such as Japan-based Osaka Gas at No. 25); and engineering and manufacturing (including Munich-based Siemens and Volvo Group in Gothenburg, Sweden, at No. 32 and 33 respectively).

Regardless of the sectors they inhabit, however, many of the list's high-ranking employers share one thing in common: providing employees with opportunities to upskill and advance in their careers, particularly in regard to the ever-accelerating pace of technological advancements. For example, Kathleen Hogan, Microsoft's chief people officer, says that nurturing employee growth is central to keeping staffers "energized and empowered to do meaningful work." This is why, she adds, "ten years ago we intentionally made a commitment to shift our culture from being 'know-it-all' to 'learn-it-all,'" which has fostered an environment where employees can take risks and learn from mistakes. Microsoft also offers hundreds of online and in-person technical, management and professional development classes that enable employees to expand their knowledge and skills as their career progresses.

Likewise, Samsung provides multiple avenues for employees to learn, including through professional development programs. The company's own dynamic training platform, called the University of Samsung or the "UniverSE," consists of 12 schools under three academies, and offers a variety of courses on topics ranging from functional skills to leadership. The training is available to employees around the world, including part-time and contract workers.

As KH Na, chief human resources officer at Samsung Electronics, notes, investing in employees is paramount. "As much as it is important to make technological innovations, it is equally crucial to build a better workplace, as these are mutually reinforcing objectives," he says. "These efforts are based on one of Samsung's core values, which states that "a company is its people."

Following are the top 15 companies in the list.

Microsoft Corp



Microsoft Corp. engages in the development and support of software, services, devices, and solutions. It operates through the following business segments: Productivity and Business Processes; Intelligent Cloud; and More Personal Computing. The Productivity and Business Processes segment comprises products and services in the portfolio of productivity, communication, and information services of the company spanning a variety of devices and platform. The Intelligent Cloud segment refers to the public, private, and hybrid serve products and cloud services of the company which can power modern business. The More Personal Computing segment encompasses products and services geared towards the interests of end users, developers, and IT professionals across all devices. The firm also offers operating systems; cross-device productivity applications; server applications; business solution applications; desktop and server management tools; software development tools; video games; personal computers, tablets; gaming and entertainment consoles; other intelligent devices; and related accessories. The company was founded by Paul Gardner Allen and William Henry Gates III in 1975 and is headquartered in Redmond, WA.

Alphabet



Alphabet, Inc. is a holding company, which engages in the business of acquisition and operation of different companies. It operates through the Google and Other Bets segments. The Google segment includes its main Internet products such as ads, Android, Chrome, hardware, Google Cloud, Google Maps,

Google Play, Search, and YouTube. The Other Bets segment consists of businesses such as Access, Calico, CapitalG, GV, Verily, Waymo, and X. The company was founded by Lawrence E. Page and Sergey Mikhaylovich Brin on October 2, 2015 and is headquartered in Mountain View, CA.

Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.



Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. engages in the manufacturing and selling of electronics and computer peripherals. The company operates through following business divisions: Consumer Electronics, Information Technology & Mobile Communications and Device Solutions. The Consumer Electronics business division provides cable television, monitor, printer, air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines and medical devices. The Information Technology & Mobile Communications business division offers handheld products, communication systems, computers and digital cameras. The Device Solutions business division comprises of memory, system large scale integrated circuit and light emitting diode. The company, founded on January 13, 1969, is headquartered in Suwon, South Korea. It inspires the world and shapes the future with transformative ideas and technologies. The company is redefining the worlds of TVs, smartphones, wearable devices, tablets, digital appliances, network systems, and memory, system LSI, foundry and LED solutions.

Adobe



Adobe, Inc. engages in the provision of digital marketing and media solutions. It operates through the following segments: Digital Media, Digital Experience, and Publishing. The Digital Media segment offers creative cloud services, which allow members to download and install the latest versions of products, such as Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Photoshop Light room and Adobe InDesign, as well as utilize other tools, such as Adobe Acrobat. The Digital Experience segment provides solutions, including analytics, social marketing, targeting, media optimization, digit experience management, and cross-channel campaign management, as well as premium video delivery and monetization. The Publishing segment includes legacy products and services for eLearning solutions, technical document publishing, web application development, and high-end printing. The company, founded by Charles M. Geschke and John E. Warnock in December 1982, is headquartered in San Jose, CA. .

BMW



Bayerische Motoren Werke AG engages in the manufacture and sale of automobiles and motorcycles. It operates through the following business segments: Automotive, Motorcycles, Financial Services, and Other Entities. The Automotive segment develops, manufactures, assembles, and sells cars and off-road vehicles, under the following brands: BMW, MINI, and Rolls-Royce, as well as spare parts and accessories. The Motorcycles segment focuses on the premium segment. The Financial Services segment offers credit financing, leasing and other services to retail customers. The Other Entities segment includes holding and group financing activities. The company, founded on March 6, 1916, is headquartered in Munich, Germany.

Delta Air Lines



Delta Air Lines, Inc. engages in the provision of scheduled air transportation for passengers and cargo. It operates through the Airline and Refinery segments. The Airline segment provides scheduled air transportation for passengers and cargo. The Refinery segment consists of jet fuel and non-jet fuel products. The company was founded by Collett Everman Woolman in 1928 and is headquartered in Atlanta, GA.

Airbus



Airbus SE engages in the design, manufacture, delivery, and provision of aerospace products, space, and related services. It operates through the following segments: Airbus Commercial Aircraft; Airbus Helicopters; and Airbus Defence and Space. The Airbus Commercial Aircraft segment develops, manufactures, markets, and sells commercial jet aircrafts; and offers aircraft conversion and related services. The Airbus Helicopters segment deals with the development, manufacture, marketing, and sale of civil and military helicopters. The Airbus Defence and Space segment covers systems and services in the field of defence and space for governments, institutions, and commercial customers. The company, founded on December 29, 1998, is headquartered in Leiden, the Netherlands.

IKEA



IKEA was founded in Sweden in 1943 by 17-year-old Ingvar Kamprad. IKEA operates 422 stores in more than 50 markets. Nearly 70% of the stores located in Europe. The best countries for IKEA are Germany (15% of sales) and the U.S. (14%). The retailer added 19 stores last year, including its first store in India in Hyderabad. Ikea received 957 million store visits in 2018 and 2.5 billion to Ikea.com. It offers roughly 9,500 products.

Lego

The name Lego is an abbreviation of the two Danish words "LEg GOdt", meaning "play well." It is a mantra that the Danish company has followed for more than 80 years. The Lego brick in its current form was introduced in 1958. The privately-held company is owned by Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, who is the third richest man in Denmark and the grandson of the company's founder. Lego signed a partnership with Chinese internet giant Tencent and has plans to further expand its presence in this strategic market. Lego plans to open an office in Dubai at the end of the year to support efforts to expand operations in the Middle East and Africa.

IBM

International Business Machines Corp. is an information technology company, which provides integrated solutions that leverage information technology and knowledge of business processes. It operates through the following segments: Cloud & Cognitive Software, Global Business Services, Global Technology Services, Systems, and Global Financing. The Cloud & Cognitive Software segment provides integrated and secure cloud, data and solutions to the clients. The Global Business Services segment provides clients with consulting, application management and global process services. The Global Technology Services segment provides comprehensive IT infrastructure and platform services that create business value for clients. The Systems segment provides clients with innovative infrastructure platforms to help meet the requirements of hybrid cloud and enterprise AI workload. The Global Financing segment encompasses two primary businesses: financing, primarily conducted through

IBM Credit LLC, and remanufacturing and remarketing. The company was founded by Charles Ranlett Flint and Thomas J. Watson Sr. on June 16, 1911 and is headquartered in Armonk, NY.

KB Financial Group

KB Financial Group, Inc. is a holding company that engages in providing financial services through its subsidiaries. It operates through the following segments: Corporate Banking, Retail Banking, Other Banking Services, Credit Card, Life Insurance, Investment and Securities business. The Corporate Banking business segment provides services such as loans, overdrafts, deposits, credit facilities and other foreign currency activities. The Retail Banking business segment offers services such as private customer current accounts, savings, deposits, consumer loans and mortgage loans. The Other Banking business segment provides services relating to banking business besides corporate banking and retail banking services. The Credit Card business segment offers services such as domestic as well as overseas credit and debit card operations. The Investment and Securities business segment provides services such as investment banking and brokerage. The Life Insurance business segment provides products such as life insurance and wealth management. The company, founded on September 29, 2008, is headquartered in Seoul, South Korea.

Intel Corp

Intel Corp. engages in the design, manufacture, and sale of computer products and technologies. It delivers computer, networking, data storage, and communications platforms. The firm operates through the following segments: Client Computing Group (CCG), Data Center Group (DCG), Internet of Things Group (IOTG), Non-Volatile Memory Solutions Group (NSG), Programmable Solutions (PSG), and All Other. The CCG segment consists of platforms designed for notebooks,

2-in-1 systems, desktops, tablets, phones, wireless and wired connectivity products, and mobile communication components. The DCG segment includes workload-optimized platforms and related products designed for enterprise, cloud, and communication infrastructure market. The IOTG segment offers compute solutions for targeted verticals and embedded applications for the retail, manufacturing, health care, energy, automotive, and government market segments. The NSG segment constitutes of NAND flash memory products primarily used in solid-state drives. The PSG segment contains programmable semiconductors and related products for a broad range of markets, including communications, data center, industrial, military, and automotive. The All Other segment consists of results from other non-reportable segment and corporate-related charges. The company was founded by Robert Norton Noyce and Gordon Earle Moore on July 18, 1968 and is headquartered in Santa Clara, CA.

Sony Corp



Sony Corp. engages in the development, design, manufacture, and sale of electronic equipment, instruments, devices, game consoles, and software for consumers, professionals and industrial markets. It operates through the following segments: Game and Network Services, Music, Pictures, Home Entertainment and Sound, Imaging Products and Solutions, Mobile Communications, Semiconductors, Financial Services, and All Others. The Game and Network Services segment deals with gaming machines, software and network services. The Music segment produces and publishes music and provides image media platforms. The Pictures segment handles film production, television program creation, and media networks. The Home Entertainment and Sound segment offers LCD televisions, home audio, Blu-ray Disc players and recorders, and memory-based portable audio devices. The Imaging Products and Solutions segment provides digital imaging products, professional solutions, and medical goods. The Mobile Communications segment deals with mobile phones and internet services businesses. The Semiconductors segment provides image sensors and camera modules. The Financial Services segment manages the life insurance and non-life insurance operations and banking business. The All Other segment includes personal

computer (PC) business, overseas Blu-ray Disc, DVD and CD manufacturing, and battery business. The company was founded by Akio Morita and Masaru Ibuka on May 7, 1946 and is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan.

Bosch Group



The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. It employs roughly 402,000 associates worldwide (as of December 31, 2017). The company generated sales of 78.1 billion euros in 2017. Its operations are divided into four business sectors: Mobility Solutions, Industrial Technology, Consumer Goods, and Energy and Building Technology. As a leading IoT company, Bosch offers innovative solutions for smart homes, smart cities, connected mobility, and connected manufacturing. It uses its expertise in sensor technology, software, and services, as well as its own IoT cloud, to offer its customers connected, cross-domain solutions from a single source. The Bosch Group's strategic objective is to deliver innovations for a connected life.

Apple



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

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

CHAMBER EVENT



LECTURE ON "AI REVOLUTION: TRANSFORMING BUSINESSES FOR SCALABLE GROWTH"

The Chamber organized a lecture on "AI Revolution: Transforming Businesses for Scalable Growth" at its Gulshan office on 17 October 2024. Professor Dr. Alamgir Hossain, CEO, Digital Readiness and Intelligent Systems Ltd. (UK), graced the event as the Guest Speaker. Chamber President Mr. Kamran T. Rahman made the welcome remarks. The Guest Speaker delivered his presentation on the lecture topic. Following that, an open discussion session ensued, with active participation from all attendees. Chamber's Senior Vice-President, Mr. Habibullah N. Karim, made the concluding remarks and offered a vote of thanks. Representatives from Chamber member firms attended the lecture.



MEMBER EVENTS

MUTUAL TRUST BANK



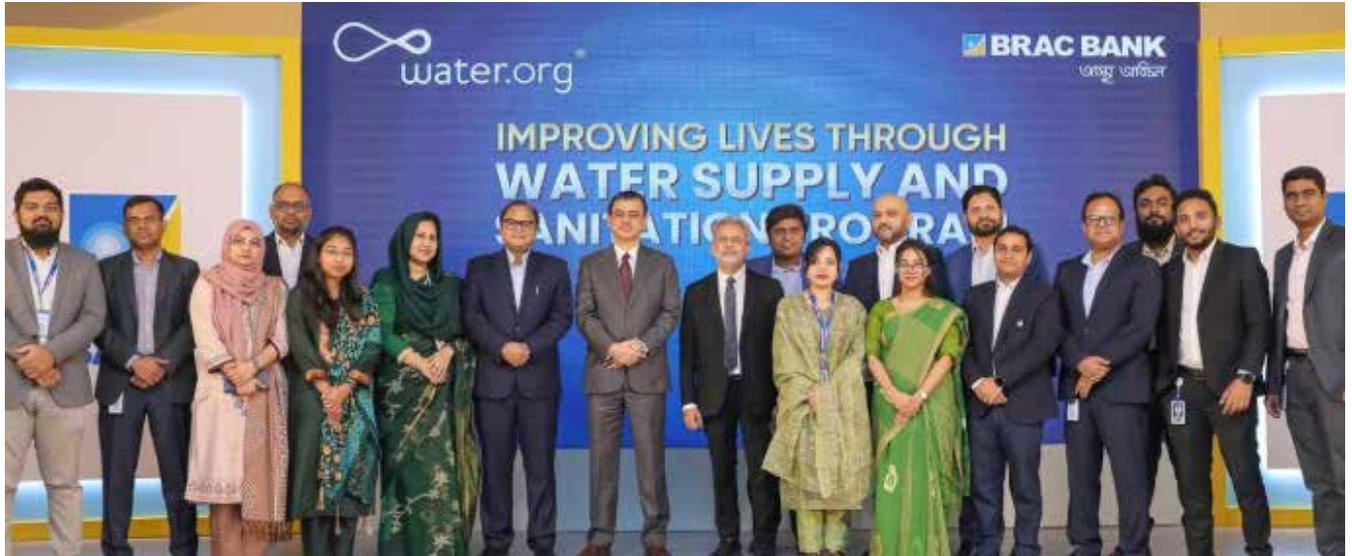
The MTB Foundation recently presented its 14th Bravery and Courage Award to the family of late Md Jubayer, who lost his life while trying to save a mother and her one-year-old son as they attempted to commit suicide by jumping in front of an oncoming train in Adorsha College Gate area in Gaibandha. In his attempt to save Rajia Begum and her child, Jubayer and the mother were hit by the speeding train, leaving both of them critically injured. They later succumbed to their injuries at Gaibandha General Hospital. A special crest and cheque were handed over to the family members of late Md Jubayer at a simple ceremony held at the MTB Centre. Directors of the bank Rashed Ahmed Chowdhury, Khwaja Nargis Hossain, and Anika Chowdhury, Managing Director & CEO Syed Mahbubur Rahman, and Chief Executive Officer of MTB Foundation Samia Chowdhury attended the event.

LANKABANGLA FINANCE PLC



LankaBangla Finance PLC. recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Asperia Health Care Limited, Chittagong. The collaboration brings forth an exclusive benefit for LankaBangla credit cardholders. Asperia Health Care Limited will provide up to 35% discount on tests for LankaBangla Credit Cardholders. Khurshed Alam, Head of Retail Business of LankaBangla Finance PLC. and Golam Baki Masud, Chairman of Asperia Health Care Limited, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on behalf of their respective organizations. Representing LankaBangla Finance PLC. were Mohammad Hafiz Al Ahad, Head of Human Resources; Md. Jobaer Khan, Head of Agrabad Branch, Chattogram; and S.M. Iftakher Mohamood, Head of CDA Avenue Branch, Chattogram. From Asperia Health Care Limited, Joynob Ruma, Director of Business Development; and Jahedul Alam, Director of Finance were present at the event.

BRAC BANK



BRAC Bank, in collaboration with Water.org, a global nonprofit organization, and its microfinance partners, has introduced financing for safe water supply and sanitation. The bank marked the launch through a ceremony, styled "Improving Lives through Water Supply and Sanitation" at the Lakeshore Hotel in the capital. The initiative aims to extend financial support to rural communities to access safely managed water and sanitation products, collaborate with technology partners to introduce advanced solutions, improve the quality of water and sanitation services, and offer financial assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the water and sanitation sector to foster development and sustainability. The ceremony was a networking session for microfinance institutions (MFIs) and Water.org as they shared knowledge, exchanged ideas, and discussed innovative solutions. Selim RF Hussain, Managing Director and CEO of the bank, and Manoj Gulati, regional director for South Asia at Water.org, attended the event.

SYNGENTA BANGLADESH



In response to the current devastating floods impacting the agricultural community, Syngenta Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) under the Ministry of Agriculture, donated vegetable seeds to support the affected farmers on 17 October 2024. The donation aims to enhance sustainability in agricultural productivity, crucial for ensuring food security in the face of future challenges. The seeds will be distributed among a significant number of farmers in the severely affected areas, particularly those located in Sherpur, for alleviating immediate losses and enhancing the livelihoods of the affected farmers.

UNILEVER BANGLADESH LIMITED



Unilever Bangladesh Limited (UBL) is considered to be one of the pioneers of integrating sustainability at the core of its business, setting many benchmarks and success cases to adapt effective and transparent sustainable practices in Bangladesh. UBL's approach to form effective collaboration and engage relevant institutions to drive plastic circularity was recognized as the best Sustainable Partnership and Institution initiative. UBL was also recognized as an SDG Brand Champion for Women's Inclusion and Leadership in Manufacturing. Besides, two other UBL initiatives to drive Responsible Consumption and Production and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure also received Honorable Mentions.

IPDC FINANCE PLC



On the occasion of World Ozone Day 2024, IPDC Finance PLC is partnering with Truvalu Bangladesh to facilitate green financing for SMEs under the "Access to Green Financing (A2GF) for Enterprises" program implemented jointly by Truvalu, One to Watch and United Nations Capital Development Fund and supported by the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh. The A2GF program aims to promote green and sustainable finance solutions for SMEs to support sustainable development and green initiatives. Under the A2GF program, IPDC Finance PLC and Truvalu Bangladesh will jointly seek to provide capacity development training to SMEs to go green along with access to green finance solutions, supporting projects that prioritize environmental protection and contribute to a healthier, greener future. The signing event was attended, among others, by Rizwan Dawood Shams, Managing Director of IPDC Finance PLC, and Ms. Sharawwat Islam, Managing Director of Truvalu Bangladesh.

METLIFE BANGLADESH

MetLife

MetLife Bangladesh settled Tk 1,425 crore claims in the first six months (January-June) of 2024. The amount includes the money customers received as insurance benefits and claims for loss of life and medical needs. MetLife's proactive approach and efficient settlement of claims have resulted in customers' satisfaction and enhanced trust in insurance sector. Commenting on this, MetLife Bangladesh's Chief Executive Officer, Ala Ahmad, said, "MetLife is committed and is consistently investing in building a robust insurance infrastructure, which helps our customers get various services, including receiving claims quicker and without any difficulties. Receiving claims without any delays is one of the most important experiences for customers, and it contributes to building stronger trust in the insurance sector."

IDLC FINANCE PLC

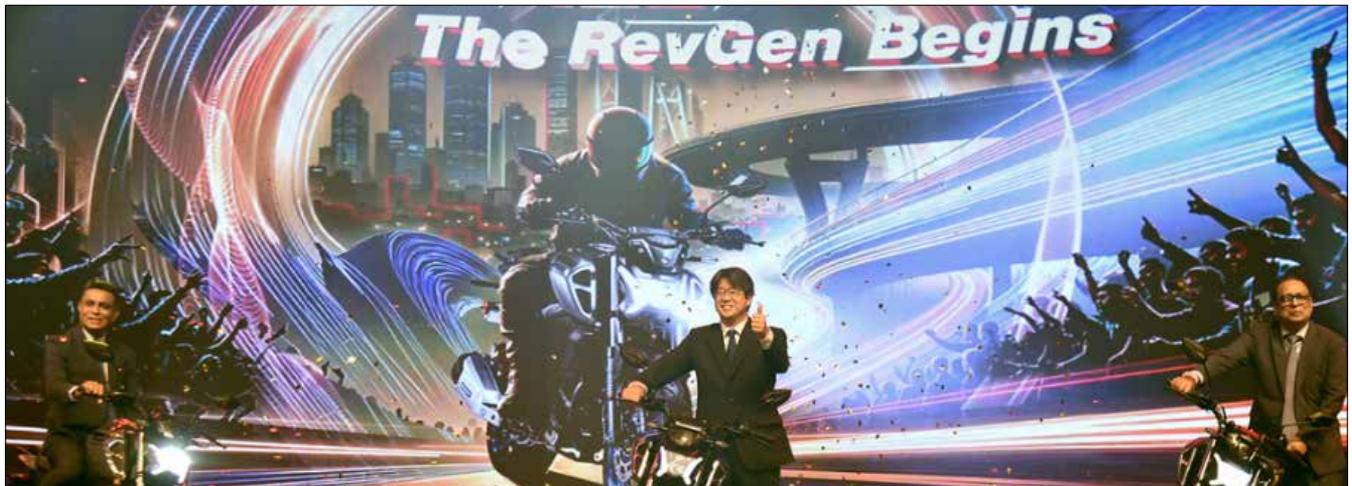
In a commendable effort to tackle deforestation and promote environmental sustainability, IDLC Finance PLC partnered with the environmental organization Tarupallab for a large-scale tree plantation campaign. The initiative ensured the plantation of 1,000 rare and endangered tree saplings at Teota Jomidar Bari, a historic cultural site in Manikganj. The project, supported by IDLC Finance PLC and Tarupallab, aligns with global goals of promoting sustainability through environmental restoration and heritage conservation, ensuring that nature and culture are protected.

ROBI AXIATA PLC



Robi Axiata PLC. has been recognized with the 'Silver' award at the 11th ICSB National Award for Corporate Governance Excellence 2023 organized by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries of Bangladesh (ICSB) at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital. This formal recognition further strengthens Robi's reputation as a highly respected corporate entity of the country. Chief Guest of the award ceremony, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Adviser to the Ministries of Finance, Commerce, and Science and Technology presented the award to Robi's Chief Financial Officer, M. Riyaz Rasheed. Md. Abdur Rahman Khan FCMA, Secretary of the Internal Resources Division and Chairman of the National Board of Revenue, Md. Selim Uddin, Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, and Dr. Md. Khairuzzaman Majumder, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance were present at the event as special guests. M. Nurul Alam FCS, Chairman of the ICSB Corporate Governance Committee, was also present.

ACI MOTORS LIMITED



Yamaha Bangladesh has announced the launch of the new Yamaha FZS Version 4.0 in the Bangladesh market. The grand event took place on September 28, 2024. Powered by a 150cc FI engine, this state-of-the-art model boasts Class D headlights with position lamps, an LCD meter, LED flashers, and the Yamaha Motorcycle Connect App (Bluetooth Connectivity App). Besides, the bike comes with two advanced safety features: a single-channel ABS braking system and a traction control system, typically seen in sports or higher-cc motorcycles. Both features are crucial for ensuring the rider's safety, particularly in Bangladesh's riding conditions. Initially, the bike will be available in six colors and can be purchased with attractive discount through online pre-booking. The price of this attractive bike model is Tk 299,500. Among others, Eishin Chihana, Chairman of Yamaha Motor India Group, Dr. FH Ansarey, Managing Director of ACI Motors, Subrata Ranjan Das, Executive Director of ACI Motors were present at the inauguration event.

CORPORATE



Square Pharmaceuticals posted a record profit of Tk 20.92 billion for FY'24, driven by record sales. Based on the record consolidated net profit, the company also declared the highest ever cash dividend -- 110 percent -- for the same fiscal year. Year on year, the drug maker registered a 10.26 per cent profit growth. The company's expanded distribution network and higher sales volume boosted its revenue, resulting in record profit growth in FY'24. In FY'24, Square Pharma's revenue rose 12 percent to Tk 70 billion. Its consolidated net asset value per share stood at Tk 142.05 for FY'24 against Tk 129.95 in the previous fiscal year. The consolidated net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) rose to Tk 20.90 in FY'24, up from Tk 9.64 in the previous fiscal year.



Guardian Life Insurance Limited, in its 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM), declared a 15 percent stock dividend and a 5.0 percent cash dividend for its shareholders for the year 2023. The company had distributed a 15 percent cash dividend in both 2021 and 2022, as well as an 85 percent stock dividend in 2019 demonstrating its commitment to rewarding shareholders. Since its inception in 2013, Guardian Life Insurance, a fourth-generation life insurance company sponsored by Apex, BRAC, and Square, has consistently shown strong growth across all financial indicators. With investments of Tk 5.46 billion, the company has maintained an impressive Compound Average Growth Rate (CAGR) of 25 percent in the life fund, 21 percent in gross premium, and 26 percent in assets.



Beacon Pharmaceuticals will pay a 20 percent cash dividend for the year ended in June this year, the highest since its listing on the stock exchanges in 2010. The drug maker's profit grew 2.3 percent year-on-year to Tk 522 million for FY24 amid the prevailing macro-economic challenges. Accordingly, earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk 2.26 for the year to June from Tk 2.21 a year ago. The Board of Directors of the company declared a 20 percent cash dividend for general shareholders and 10 percent for sponsor-directors.



British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company (BATBC) is set to invest Tk 115.6 million in rooftop solar panels and related infrastructure at its Savar factory. The Board of Directors of the multinational cigarette manufacturer approved the capital investment decision at a meeting. The investment in solar panel system with 1.5 megawatt capacity would reduce carbon emission by 944 tonnes per year. The solar panel system, which has a lifespan of 20 years, is expected to ensure annual electricity cost savings of Tk 51 million.



Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited secured a 21 percent year-on-year growth in profit to Tk 566 million in the second quarter (Q2) through September this year, driven by higher sales. The company posted a 12 percent year-on-year growth in sales to Tk 5.90 billion in Q2 this year, while the cost of sales grew nearly 15 percent year-on-year to Tk 4.06 billion. Higher sales and significantly low finance costs, largely due to less impact of the currency's devaluation against foreign currencies, helped Berger maintain a healthy profit growth. The paint maker's foreign exchange loss fell to Tk 128 million in Q2 this year from Tk 207 million in the same quarter the year before, according to its financial statements. On the other hand, its investment income more than doubled year-on-year to Tk 173 million in the July-September quarter due to interest rate hikes.



Board of Directors Marico Bangladesh recommended a 450 percent interim cash dividend based on its financial performance in the three months to September 2024. The company saw a 25 percent year-on-year growth in profit to Tk 1.46 billion in the second quarter through September 2024. Marico's net finance income jumped 903 percent year-on-year to Tk 228.25 million in July-September this year. It also experienced a 27 percent growth in profit to Tk 3.19 billion in the six months to September, compared to the same period a year ago.



IDLC Finance gained an 80 percent higher profit in its third quarter through September 2024, compared to the same quarter a year ago. The non-bank financial institution (NBFI) secured earnings of Tk 503 million in Q3 this year. In the first nine months to September this year, profit surged 25 per cent year-on-year to Tk 1,254 million. In the first nine months of 2024, the NBFI's cash flow improved to Tk 8.47 per share from Tk 0.69 in the negative per share. Cash flow increased as cash generation from loans and advances went up by Tk 11,948 million, according to the company.



DBH Finance gained a remarkable 40 percent year-on-year growth in profit to Tk 333 million in the third quarter (Q3) this year, riding on substantial investment income from government securities. The earnings per share (EPS) jumped to Tk 1.68 for July-September this year from Tk 1.20 for the same quarter last year. The non-bank financial institution (NBFI), which mainly caters to the demand for home loans, reaped handsome profits from investments in government securities alongside high interest income although interest expenses on deposits increased too. While interest income grew 22 percent year-on-year to Tk 1.93 billion in the quarter through September, interest payment to depositors and lenders soared 38 percent to Tk 1.55 billion. However, the net interest income dropped 18 percent year-on-year to Tk 376 million in the July-September quarter.



Sonali Paper & Board Mills Limited

Despite securing a steep growth in operating profit, Sonali Paper & Board Mills experienced a 20 percent decline in net profit year-on-year to Tk 124.79 million in FY24. The income shrank mainly because of the company's lower profit from the secondary market. However, the company has maintained a consistency in the recommendation of dividends for FY24 with the previous two years. The Board of Directors recommended 40 percent cash dividends for FY24.



Grameen Bank

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) granted Grameen Bank tax exemption until 2029 to remove discrimination in this field. The bank had been enjoying the tax exemption since its establishment in 1983. However, since 2020, the bank has no longer enjoyed the facility. The tax exemption was reinstated on October 10, 2024, through a statutory order after a four-year break. It mentioned that other institutions operating identical microcredit programs like Grameen Bank are enjoying the tax benefits. However, Grameen Bank will still be required to submit annual income tax returns, as per the gazette.

SKY BEES LIMITED

Sky Bees Limited will invest US\$45.95 million to set up an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV, commonly known as drone) manufacturing plant in the BEPZA Economic Zone (BEPZA EZ) This will be the first factory to manufacture drones in the zones under BEPZA, creating employment opportunities for 55 people. In this connection, the BEPZA signed an agreement with Sky Bees Limited recently.



Doreen Power Generations and Systems announced that it would sell another power plant in Feni a month after it sold its Tangail plant upon the expiry of its 15-year power purchase contract with the government. The Board of Directors of the independent power producer took the decision due to the uncertainty hanging over the extension of the power purchase agreement with the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). It also approved a vendor agreement with Trust Marine Services for the sale of engines, alternators, including accessories, substation equipment, building, and steel structures of the Feni 22 MW Power Plant worth Tk 100.50 million.

NATIONAL

GOVT TO PROCURE 2 CARGOS OF LNG, 30,000 MTS OF FERTILIZER



The government approved separate proposals for procuring two cargos of LNG and 30,000 metric tons of MOP fertilizer to meet the country's growing demand. The approvals came from the 9th meeting of the Advisers' Council Committee on Government Procurement with Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed in the chair.

Following two separate proposals from the Energy and Mineral Resources Division, Petrobangla would procure one cargo LNG from the spot market from M/S Total Energies Gas and Power Limited, Switzerland through international quotation process. with around Taka 657.61 crore. In another proposal, the Petrobangla would procure one cargo LNG under DPM method from M/S Total Energies Gas and Power Limited, Switzerland with around Taka 640.15 crore.

Besides, the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) under the Ministry of Agriculture would procure 30,000 metric tons of MOP fertilizer under state-level agreement from JSC Foreign Economic Corporation "Prodintorg" with around Taka 104.31 crore.

BB ALLOWS \$500 EXPORT WITHOUT EXP DECLARATION

The Bangladesh Bank in a notification issued recently allowed a maximum of \$500 export under business-to-consumer (B2C) on e-commerce websites without declaration on EXP form to encourage small-value exporters. To facilitate exports, declaration on EXP form to customs authorities will not be required for small-value export up to \$500 or equivalent concluded on an e-commerce website against payment received prior to shipment. EXP form is issued by an authorized dealer(AD) bank in favor of an exporter concerned, stating that the exporter is an authentic business entity and has made arrangements with the bank for realization of export proceeds of the goods declared on this form within four months from the date of shipment.

Under the new arrangement, authorized dealer (AD) banks will report the transactions to the Bangladesh Bank reporting system under e-commerce with reference to bill of export extracting from the customs electronic system. Earlier, such exports under B2C on e-commerce websites were permissible through the online EXP form procedure.

US\$5.85 MILLION INVESTMENT IN AEPZ



JIDALAI Co. Ltd. is going to invest US\$5.85 million to set up a pullers of zipper manufacturing plant in Adamjee Export Processing Zone (AEPZ). The Chinese company will produce annually 70 million pieces of pullers of zipper and create employment opportunities for 189 Bangladeshi nationals.

NBR REMOVES IMPORT, REGULATORY DUTIES TO STABILIZE RICE SUPPLY



The National Board of Revenue (NBR) removed all import and regulatory duties on rice to ensure food security and control prices for the general population. The NBR issued a statutory regulatory order (SRO) in this regard recently. According to a NBR press release issued, the existing 15% import duty and 5% regulatory duty on rice will be fully waived, effectively reducing the overall import tax on rice from 25% to just 2%. The decision is expected to lower rice prices by at least Tk9.60 per kilogram.

NBR CUTS IMPORT DUTY ON EGGS



The National Board of Revenue (NBR) cut import duty on eggs from the existing 25 percent to 5 percent. The duty cut would reduce import costs of eggs by Tk 13.8 per dozen. The reduction of import duty will increase the supply of eggs in the market and reduce the price of eggs at the consumer level. The reduced import tax for eggs will be valid till 31 December this year.

GOVT SLASHES VAT ON IMPORT, TRADING OF EDIBLE OIL



The government has reduced the value-added tax (VAT) on imports of crude and refined soybean oil, palm oil, and other edible oils to 10 percent from the existing 15 percent, according to a Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) issued by the Internal Resources Division (IRD). Through another SRO, the division exempted all VAT on local production and trading stages of edible oils. The reduced VAT will remain effective until 15 December 2024.

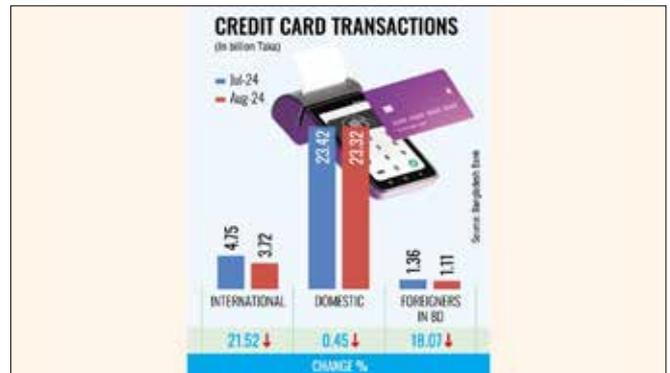
CENTRAL BANK RAISES POLICY RATE TO 10 PERCENT

Bangladesh Bank has increased the policy interest rate by 50 basis points to 10 percent as part of its efforts to tame inflation. The fresh enhancement of the repo rate in less than a month will come into effect on 27 October, the central bank said. In September, the regulator raised the rate to 9.5 percent from 9.0 percent.

BB SIMPLIFIES FOREX RULES

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has simplified foreign exchange rules through three separate circulars, allowing banks to remit different types of payments abroad without its approval. The rules will apply to banks making payments to accounts that handle lease rentals by airlines incorporated in Bangladesh. It will also apply to remittances for service charges to the bank accounts of cloud services, IT infrastructure and remote software applications. Banks can also make payments on behalf of service arrangers routing respective services to the ultimate users without prior BB approval. Resident Bangladeshis proceeding abroad for professional or skilled employment or immigration are required to maintain bank accounts in the respective country before obtaining a visa. So, banks will be allowed to remit funds to deposit in the accounts as per the requirements of relevant authorities abroad.

CREDIT CARD USAGE DROPS IN AUGUST

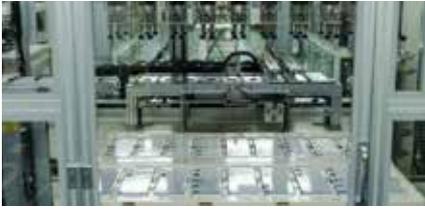


The trend in credit-card transactions in all categories in Bangladesh showed a noticeable decline in August 2024, as economic activity across the country was in a downward trajectory. The Bangladesh Bank (BB) data revealed that domestic transactions within Bangladesh witnessed a slight decrease of 0.45 percent, amounting to Tk 23.32 billion compared to Tk 23.42 billion in July 2024.

Concurrently, international transactions outside the country totaled Tk 3.72 billion in August, showing a decrease of 21.52 percent from Tk 4.75 billion in the previous month. Analyzing country-wise cross-border transactions, the BB data disclosed that the majority of transactions occurred in the USA (20.17 percent). The rest of such transactions were distributed in India (13.57 percent), UK (9.25 percent), Thailand (8.77 percent), Singapore (8.09 percent), Canada (6.82 percent), Malaysia (4.55 percent), the UAE (3.88 percent), Australia (3.05 percent), Netherlands (2.88 percent), Ireland (2.68 percent), Saudi Arabia (2.53 percent) and other countries (13.77 percent).

INTERNATIONAL

INDONESIA



Indonesia bets on SE Asia's first battery plant to become EV hub. Rows of robotic arms move with precision to assemble nickel-based battery cells on the production line at Indonesia's inaugural electric vehicle battery plant, the first in Southeast Asia. After being chosen by a joint venture of South Korea's Hyundai and LG for the \$1.1 billion factory, Indonesia is now looking to boost investment to give it an edge in the race to become a regional EV hub. When he opened the West Java plant in July then-president of Indonesia said such investments would make Southeast Asia's biggest economy an "important global player" in the EV supply chain. But while the country boasts the world's largest nickel reserves, it still faces a battle owing to its poor processing and refining capacity, environmental worries and the rise in other types of batteries.

CHINA



China's manufacturing output expanded in October 2024 for the first time since April, rare good news for leaders struggling to boost activity in the world's second-largest economy. The country is battling sluggish domestic consumption, a persistent crisis in the property sector and soaring government debt -- all of which threaten the country's official growth target for this year. China's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) -- a key measure of industrial output -- was 50.1 in October, the National

Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced, up from 49.8 in September. A figure above 50 indicates an expansion in manufacturing activity, while a reading below that indicates a contraction. The key indicator had slid for six months, with the last positive PMI recorded in April, when it stood at 50.4.

JAPAN



Japanese inflation slowed in September 2024 with prices up 2.4 percent on-year, not including volatile fresh food, official data showed. The core Consumer Price Index eased from 2.8 percent in August as the pace of increase in electricity and gas prices relented, the internal affairs ministry said. Despite the slowdown, the rate remained above the Bank of Japan's two percent target, set over a decade ago as part of efforts to boost the stagnant economy. The target has been surpassed every month since April 2022, although the bank has questioned to what extent that is down to temporary factors such as the Ukraine war.

AUSTRALIA



Australia is planning to reduce bank card surcharges, including the elimination of transaction fees on debit cards, the government said, as the use of cash declines in the country. The government said the central bank was undertaking a review of the merchant card payment costs and surcharging, and subject to that consultation, it is prepared to ban debit card surcharging from 2026. It also announced A\$2.1 million (\$1.4 million) of new funding for the competition regulator to tackle excessive surcharges.

UK



Britain needs an additional one trillion pounds (\$1.3 trillion) in investment in the next decade to grow the economy, according to the report from UK financial services lobby group Capital Markets Industry Taskforce. New British Prime Minister said he wanted the economy to achieve annual growth of 2.5% - a rate that Britain has not regularly reached since before the 2008 financial crisis. An annual growth rate of 3 percent would require extra investment of 100 billion pounds a year in the next 10 years, particularly in energy, housing and venture capital, according to the report. The investment could come out of the six trillion pounds in long-term capital in Britain's pensions and insurance sector.

BRAZIL



Inflation in Brazil climbed to 4.42 percent year-on-year in September 2024 as a severe drought in Latin America's biggest economy caused food and fuel prices to soar. The monthly increase of 0.44 percent in the consumer price index is the biggest for the month of September in three years, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) said. The IBGE attributed the price rises in September to a surge in household electricity prices (+5.36 percent) and food prices (+0.5 percent), both linked to the worst drought in Brazil since records began in 1950. Environmentalists have linked the drought, which has fueled the worst wildfire season in Brazil in years, to climate change.

COUNTRY PROFILE

Canada



	Area	9,984,670 sq km
	Population	38.79 million
	Capital	Ottawa
	Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$2.238 trillion (2023)
	Real GDP per capita	\$55,800 (2023)
	GDP official exchange rate	\$2.14 trillion (2023)
	Real GDP growth rate	1.07% (2023)
	Inflation rate (consumer prices)	3.88% (2023)
	Public debt	61.42% of GDP (2022)
	Taxes and other revenues	12.83% of GDP (2022)
	Current account balance	-\$13.255 billion (2023)
	Foreign exchange and gold reserves	\$117.551 billion (2023)

Source: The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency

Canada, a federated country in North America, made up of ten provinces and three territories, is a vast nation with a wide variety of geological formations, climates, and ecological systems. Though Canada is the second largest country in the world, it has one of the 10 lowest population densities in the world. Most Canadians live in the southern part of the country, in metropolitan areas such as Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver, Ottawa, Hull, and Edmonton. The majority of its citizens enjoy a high quality of life by world standards.

Historically, much of the country's wealth has been generated through the extraction and processing of natural resources, especially fish, furs, timber, minerals, and farm produce. However, since the early 20th century, the growth of Canada's manufacturing, mining, and service sectors has transformed the nation from a largely rural economy to an urbanized, industrial one. Canada has a large oil and natural gas sector with the majority of crude oil production derived from oil sands in the western provinces, especially Alberta.

Agriculture and Forestry



Wheat, rapeseed, maize, barley, soybeans, potatoes, oats, peas, and lentils are major crops.

The forest industry, concentrated in British Columbia, Québec, and Ontario, accounted for about \$23.7 billion (about 1.9% of the total GDP) in Canada's economy in 2011 providing direct employment for about 233,900 Canadians. Canadian wood products are among the finest in the world: Canadian softwood lumber is made up of long fibers that provide a high strength-to-weight ratio, and Canadian pulp is known for strong, light-colored paper products. Canada is the world's largest producer of newsprint, producing about 27 percent of the world's total.

Industry



Transportation equipment, chemicals, processed and unprocessed minerals, food products, wood and paper products, fish products, petroleum, natural gas are major industries. Transportation equipment, chemicals, processed and unprocessed minerals, food products, wood and paper products, fish products, petroleum, natural gas are major industries.

Electricity generation sources (2022 estimate)



Hydroelectricity: **61.5%**, Fossil Fuels: **17.2%**, Nuclear: **12.9%**, Wind **6.0%**, Biomass and Waste: **1.5%**, Solar: **0.9%**

Transportation



Road:

There are a total of 1,042,300 kms of roads in Canada, of which 415,600 kms are paved, including 17,000 kms of expressways, making long distance travel by car possible between most destinations.

Railway:

Canada's rail network, which runs across the country, from Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the east to Vancouver and Prince Rupert, British Columbia, in the west, has 49,422 kilometers of total track, of which only 129 kilometers is electrified. Three Canadian cities have commuter train services: in the Montreal area by Réseau de transport métropolitain, in the Toronto area by GO Transit, and in the Vancouver area by West Coast Express.

Airports: Total Airports: 1,425 (2024)

Due to Canada's large size, people often travel between major cities by airplanes. Canada's largest air carrier and its flag carrier is Air Canada, which had 34 million customers in 2006 and, as of April 2010, operates 363 aircraft.

Foreign Trade



Export: \$717.677 billion (2023)

Imports: \$726.139 billion (2023)

Major export destinations: US, China, Japan, UK, Mexico

Major export commodities: crude petroleum, cars, natural gas, refined petroleum, gold

Major import sources: US, China, Mexico, Germany, Japan

Major import commodities: Cars, refined petroleum, vehicle parts/accessories, trucks, crude petroleum

Bilateral Trade between Bangladesh and Canada

(Value in million US\$)

FY	Export	Import	Total trade
2022-2023	1,721.71	1,417.5	3,139.21
2021-2022	1,522.96	647.5	2,169.96
2020-2021	1,164.01	998.8	2162.81

Two-way trade between Bangladesh and Canada amounted to US\$ 3,139.21 million in FY 2022-23 compared with US\$ 2,169.96 million in FY 2021-22, showing a growth of 44.67 percent.

Bangladesh's export to Canada in FY 2022-23 amounted to US\$ 1,721.71 million showing a growth of 13.05 percent from US\$ 1,522.96 million in FY 2021-22. Bangladesh's import from Canada in FY 2022-23 amounted to US\$ 1,417.5 million showing a growth of 118.92 percent over US\$ 647.5 million in FY 2021-22.

Major export items from Bangladesh to Canada in FY 2022-23 were: articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted (\$874.43 million), articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted (\$671.41 million), other made-up textile articles; sets; worn clothing and worn textile articles; rags (\$74.19 million), footwear (\$51.59 million), headgear and parts thereof (\$14.91 million), articles of leather; saddlery and harness (\$8.08 million), preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products (\$6.61 million), special woven fabrics; tufted textile fabrics; lace; tapestries; trimmings; embroidery (\$4.82 million), pharmaceutical products (\$1.18 million) etc.

Main import items from Canada into Bangladesh in FY 2022-23 were: fertilizers (\$6106.7 million), cereals (\$4601.9 million), edible vegetable and certain roots and tubers (\$237.5 million), oilseeds and oleaginous fruits (\$41.4 million), iron and steel (\$22.8 million), cotton (\$5.9 million), plastics and articles thereof (\$4.9 million), machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof (\$4.1 million), paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard (\$3.5 million), optical, photographic instruments (\$2.7 million), etc.

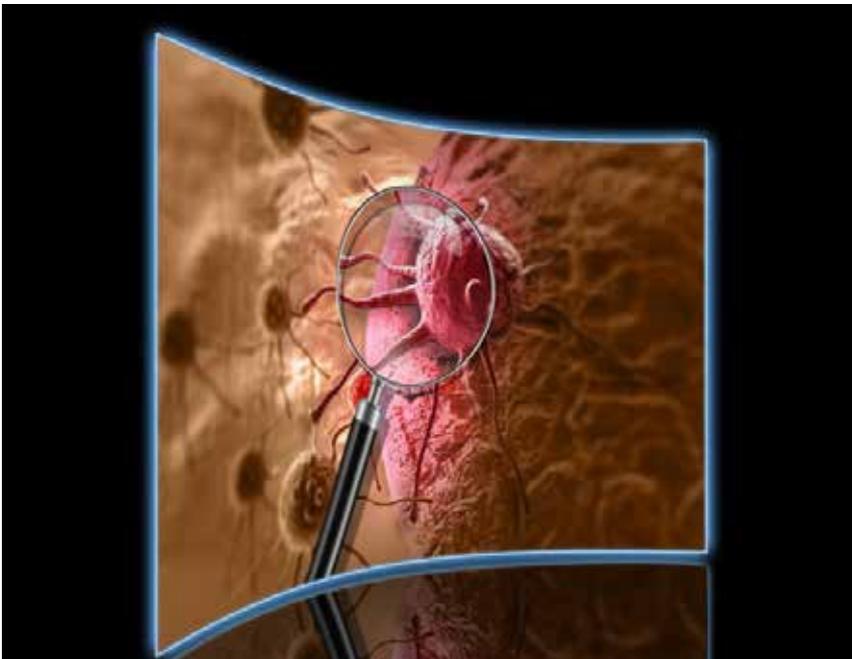
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MOUNT EVEREST ASCENDING



Mount Everest is about 15 to 50 meters taller than it would otherwise be because of uplift caused by a nearby eroding river gorge, and continues to grow because of it, finds a new study by UCL researchers. The study, published in *Nature Geoscience*, found that erosion from a river network about 75 kilometers (~50 miles) from Mount Everest is carving away a substantial gorge. The loss of this landmass is causing the mountain to spring upwards by as much as 2 millimeters a year and has already increased its height by between 15 and 50 meters over the past 89,000 years. At 8,849 meters high, Mount Everest is the tallest mountain on Earth, and rises about 250 meters above the next tallest peak in the Himalayas. Everest is considered anomalously high for the mountain range, as the next three tallest peaks – K2, Kangchenjunga, and Lhotse – all only differ by about 120 meters from each other.

SCIENTISTS UNVEIL REVOLUTIONARY CHATGPT-LIKE AI FOR CANCER DIAGNOSIS



Some researchers at Harvard Medical School have developed a versatile AI model, similar to ChatGPT, that can perform a wide range of diagnostic tasks across various types of cancer. The new AI system goes a step beyond many current AI approaches to cancer diagnosis, the researchers said. Current AI systems are typically trained to perform specific tasks — such as detecting cancer presence or predicting a tumor’s genetic profile — and they tend to work only in a handful of cancer types. By contrast, the new model can perform a wide array of tasks and was tested on 19 cancer types, giving it a flexibility like that of large language models such as ChatGPT. The AI model, which works by reading digital slides of tumor tissues, detects cancer cells and predicts a tumor’s molecular profile based

on cellular features seen on the image with superior accuracy to most current AI systems. It can forecast patient survival across multiple cancer types and accurately pinpoint features in the tissue that surrounds a tumor — also known as the tumor microenvironment — that are related to a patient’s response to standard treatments, including surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and immunotherapy.

OVERCOMING KEY BARRIER TO SAFER, MORE EFFICIENT EV BATTERIES



Some researchers at McGill University have made a major breakthrough in advancing all-solid-state lithium batteries, a promising next-generation technology for electric vehicle (EV) batteries. By addressing a long-standing issue with battery performance, this innovation could pave the way for safer, longer-lasting EVs. The challenge lies in the resistance that occurs where the ceramic electrolyte meets the electrodes. This makes the battery less efficient and reduces how much energy it can deliver. The research team has discovered that creating a porous ceramic membrane, instead of the traditional dense plate, and filling it with a small amount of polymer can resolve this issue. Current lithium-ion batteries rely on liquid electrolytes, which pose safety risks due to their flammability. All-solid-state batteries aim to replace liquid components with solid ones to improve safety and efficiency. This new design offers a novel way to overcome one of the key barriers to making all-solid-state batteries a reality for the EV industry.

TIBETAN WOMEN DEFY THIN AIR WITH EXTRAORDINARY ADAPTATIONS



Breathing thin air at high altitudes poses a serious challenge—there's simply less oxygen with every breath. Yet, for over 10,000 years, Tibetan women living on the Tibetan Plateau have not only survived but thrived in this harsh environment. A recent study led by Cynthia Beall, Distinguished University Professor Emerita at Case Western Reserve University, sheds light on this phenomenon. The research reveals how Tibetan women's unique physiological traits improve their ability to reproduce in an oxygen-poor environment. Beall and her team collected data on the women's reproductive histories, physiological measurements, DNA samples, and social factors. They wanted to understand how oxygen delivery traits in the face of high-altitude hypoxia (low levels of oxygen in the air and the blood) influence the number of live births—a key measure of evolutionary fitness. They discovered that the women who had the most children had a unique set of blood and

heart traits that helped their bodies deliver oxygen. These findings highlight not only the remarkable resilience of Tibetan women but also offer valuable insights into how humans can adapt to extreme conditions.

REVIEW

Export Earnings



We have received the export data from the Bangladesh Bank (BB), instead of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), which compiled from the National Board of Revenue (NBR). According to that latest data, export earnings in the first two months of the current fiscal year (July-August of FY25) increased by 4.27 percent to US\$7.86 billion from US\$7.54 billion in the corresponding two months of the previous fiscal year. The growth rate was slow due mainly to production disruption in the major garment-industrial belts for curfews amid student movement and labor unrest. On the other hand, export earnings in August 2024, the last month of the review period, increased by 5.59 percent to US\$4.03 billion from US\$3.82 billion in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal year and by 5.49 percent compared to that of the previous month (July 2024).

Monthly Trends in Exports

Month	Exports (million US\$)		Change (%)
	FY25 ^P	FY24 ^R	
July	3823.73	3715.60	+2.91
August	4033.68	3820.10	+5.59
Total of July – August	7857.41	7535.70	+4.27

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised

Sources: Bangladesh Bank (BB)

Of the total US\$7.86 billion, the readymade garments (RMG) export rose 5.01 percent to US\$6.50 billion in July-August of FY25 from US\$6.19 billion in July-August of FY24. RMG including knit and woven items contributed the lion's share of 82.70 percent in the period under review. A breakdown of the clothing sector performance shows that the knitwear sub-sector fetched US\$3.62 billion, earning increased year-on-year by 6.28 percent from US\$3.41 billion. Earnings from woven garment exports amounted to US\$2.88 billion from US\$2.79 billion, up by 3.51 percent. In July-August of FY25, earnings from main other 31 non-RMG sectors were: home textiles US\$110.60 million, agricultural products US\$168.00 million, jute and jute goods US\$123.70 million, leather and leather products US\$201.30 million, frozen and live fish US\$61.70 million, chemical products US\$54.30 million, plastic products US\$42.80 million, and engineering products US\$73.40 million.

Category-wise breakdown of exports

(USD in million)

SL NO	Particulars	July-August of FY25	July-August of FY24
1	Woven Garments	2884.30	2786.40
2	Knitwear	3619.40	3405.50
3	Home Textiles	110.60	112.90
4	Agricultural Products	168.00	173.70
5	Jute and Jute Goods	123.70	151.70
6	Leather and Leather Products	201.30	186.40
7	Frozen and Live fish	61.70	60.90
8	Chemical Products	54.30	56.60
9	Plastic Products	42.80	35.00
10	Engineering Products	73.40	84.20
11	Others	517.91	482.40
	TOTAL	7857.41	7535.70

Source: National Board of Revenue, compiled by Statistics Department, Bangladesh Bank.

Among all others items, exports of plastic products (+22.29%), leather and leather products (+7.99%) and frozen and live fish (+1.31%) increased during July-August of FY25. However, the highest decreases in exports were of jute and jute goods (-18.46%), followed by engineering products (-12.83%), chemical products (-4.06%), agricultural products (-3.28%) and home textiles (-2.04%) during July-August of FY25 as compared to the preceding fiscal year.

Import Payments (C&F)



According to Bangladesh Bank data, total value of imports (C&f) in July-August of FY25 decreased by 1.06 percent to US\$10.52 billion from US\$10.63 billion in July-August of FY24. The fall was mainly due to the outcome of a number of initiatives taken by the central bank as well as the government since April 2022 (i.e., close monitoring of LC opening with price rationalization along with depreciation of local currency) in order to restrain foreign currency expenditure. Also, fall of import of capital goods, food grains, and consumer goods in the period under review helped reduce import (C&F) payments.

Monthly Trends in Imports (C&F)

Month	Imports (million US\$)		Change (%)
	FY25 ^P	FY24 ^R	
July	5247.80	5384.60	- 2.54
August	5271.50	5247.60	+ 0.46
Total of July - August	10519.30	10632.20	- 1.06

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised

Sources: Bangladesh Bank (BB)

Among the categories of import items, intermediate goods, capital goods, consumer goods and food grains had 62.41 percent, 15.31 percent, 7.65 percent and 2.10 percent share respectively to total custom-based import during July-August of FY25.

Category-wise breakdown of custom-based import

(USD in million)

SL NO	Particulars	July-August of FY25	July-August of FY24
1	Food Grains	220.70	240.40
2	Rice	1.10	1.10
3	Wheat	219.60	239.30
4	Consumer Goods	804.60	831.50
5	Edible Oil	360.40	358.70
6	Sugar	132.70	279.50
7	Others	311.50	193.30
8	Intermediate Goods	6564.60	6208.80
9	Crude Petroleum	121.20	93.50
10	Raw Cotton	640.50	603.90
11	Textile and Articles thereof	1268.00	1082.20
12	Others	4534.90	4429.20
13	Capital Goods	1610.80	2003.80
14	Capital Machinery	531.00	746.40
15	Other Capital Goods	1079.80	1257.40
16	Others	1318.60	1347.70
	TOTAL	10519.30	10632.20

Source: National Board of Revenue, compiled by Statistics Department, Bangladesh Bank

The settlement of import Letters of Credit (LCs) during July-September of FY25 decreased year-on-year by 2.40 percent and stood at US\$16.21 billion from US\$16.61 billion. On the other hand, fresh opening of import LCs during July-September of FY25 also decreased year-on-year by 6.74 percent and stood at US\$15.59 billion from US\$16.72 billion.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)



The gross inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first two months of the current fiscal year (July-August of FY25) increased by 13.79 percent to US\$693 million from US\$609 million in the corresponding two months of the previous fiscal year (July-August of FY24), according to the BB's balance of payments latest data. Of which, the net FDI liabilities in the first two months of the current fiscal year increased year-on-year by 12.75 percent to US\$283 million from US\$251 million. FDI inflow in Bangladesh is low compared to that in many other countries at similar level of development.

Bangladesh's low labor costs are generally believed to be attractive to foreign investors, yet they hesitate to make fresh investments in the country because of the country's underdeveloped infrastructure, and such other impediments as the shortage of energy and weak transmission infrastructure, lack of consistency in policy and regulatory frameworks, scarcity of industrial land, corruption, and non-transparent and uneven application of rules and regulations. The government needs to address these impediments to attract more FDI to the country in order to ensure the country's economic development.

Inflow of Remittances



According to the Bangladesh Bank (BB) latest data, inflow of remittances registered US\$2,404.79 million in September 2024, 80.22 percent higher than that of the same month of the previous fiscal year (US\$1,334.35 million). The country saw a rebound in remittance in September 2024, which provides much needed respite for the economy facing multiple macroeconomic strains in recent times amid a persistent foreign exchange reserve shortage, according to some experts. Compared with the remittance earnings in August 2024 worth US\$2,224.15 million, the September figure was higher by 8.12 percent. The growth of remittances could be attributed to gradual easing of political situations and stability in the exchange rate. Additionally, expatriates may be sending money home to support their flood affected families and relatives.

Monthly Trends in Remittances

Month	Remittances (million US\$)		Change (%)
	FY25 ^P	FY24 ^R	
July	1913.77	1973.15	- 3.01
August	2224.15	1599.45	+ 39.06
September	2404.79	1334.35	+ 80.22
Total of July – September	6542.71	4906.95	+ 33.34

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised

Source: Bangladesh Bank (BB)

On the other hand, the inflow of remittance in July-September of FY25 increased by 33.34 percent to US\$6,542.71 million from US\$4,906.95 million in July-September of FY24. The surge in remittances could be attributed to factors such as the depreciation of Taka, introduction of the crawling peg exchange rate system and a new incentive scheme introduced by banks starting from 22 October 2023, which allows up to 2.5 percent additional incentive on inward remittances, in addition to the existing 2.5 percent incentive provided by the government.

Remittance earnings from top ten countries:

Rank	July-September of FY25		
	Country	Amount in million USD	Share of total remittance (%)
1	U.A.E.	1032.21	15.78
2	U.S.A.	920.38	14.07
3	Saudi Arabia	858.86	13.13
4	Malaysia	619.66	9.47
5	U.K.	565.61	8.64
6	Italy	425.69	6.51
7	Kuwait	359.18	5.49
8	Oman	327.53	5.01
9	Qatar	265.14	4.05
10	Singapore	202.31	3.09
	Others	966.14	14.77
	Total	6542.71	100.00

Source: Statistics Department, Bangladesh Bank

U.A.E continued to hold the top position among remittance sending countries while Saudi Arabia became the third during July-September of FY25. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain) contributed 46.47 percent of the total remittance inflows, while 14.07 percent of the total remittances originated from the U.S.A during July-September of FY25. In the top ten list, among the European countries, the U.K. and Italy jointly contributed 15.15 percent of total remittances received in July-September of FY25.

Foreign Exchange Reserves



Bangladesh Bank's gross foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$24.86 billion at the end of September 2024 compared to US\$26.91 billion at the end of September 2023. On the other hand, gross foreign exchange reserves, compliant with BPM6 (Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, 6th edition), stood at US\$19.74 billion at the end of September 2024 which was 21.06 billion at the end of September 2023.

Monthly Trends in Foreign Exchange Reserves

Month	FY25 ^P	FY25 ^P (BPM6)	FY24 ^R	FY24 ^R (BPM6)
July	25823.59	20393.66	29732.07	23374.25
August	25565.75	20543.92	29260.65	23255.00
September	24862.97	19743.33	26908.40	21056.56

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised

Source: Bangladesh Bank (BB)

Exchange Rate



Exchange rate of Bangladesh Taka against US\$ depreciated since the end of June 2022. Between end-June of FY24 and end-September of FY25, the value of Taka depreciated by 1.67 percent in terms of US dollar. On the inter-bank market, the US dollar was quoted at Tk.118.00 at the end of June 2024 and Tk.120.00 at the end of September 2024.

Monthly Exchange Rate

Month	FY25 ^P (Taka per US\$)		FY24 ^R (Taka per US\$)	
	Month Average	End Month	Month Average	End Month
June	-	-	117.9901	118.0000
July	117.9720	118.0000	108.9367	109.0000
August	118.9057	120.0000	109.4973	109.5000
September	120.0000	120.0000	110.0800	110.5000

Note: i) P=Provisional; R=Revised

ii) Month average rates (BB intervention rates) are provided by Statistics Department of Bangladesh Bank up to 10 September 2022. Month end rates are calculated by Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealer's Association (BAFEDA) up to 10 Sept. 2022 which, also include BB intervention rates till that. From 12 Sept. 2022 onwards, daily rates have been collected from BAFEDA and monthly averages have been calculated from those rates.

Source: Bangladesh Bank (BB)

To contain the persistent foreign exchange pressure, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) as well as the government took various policy measures; aided by steady inflow of remittances and lower import payments. The BB sold a net of US\$756.10 million in the foreign exchange market during July-September of FY25, compared to a net sale of US\$3,168.71 million in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

Monthly Trends in Inflation (Base: 2021-22=100)

Period	Point to Point-All (National)			Point to Point-Rural			Point to Point-Urban		
	General	Food	Non-food	General	Food	Non-food	General	Food	Non-food
FY25^P									
July	11.66	14.10	9.68	11.89	14.06	9.84	11.27	14.22	9.43
August	10.49	11.36	9.74	10.95	11.44	10.45	10.01	11.24	9.20
September	9.92	10.40	9.50	10.15	10.38	9.91	9.83	10.50	9.38
FY24^R									
July	9.69	9.76	9.47	9.75	9.82	9.48	9.43	9.63	9.20
August	9.92	12.54	7.95	9.98	12.71	7.38	9.63	12.11	8.48
September	9.63	12.37	7.82	9.75	12.51	7.42	9.24	12.01	8.12

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

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

Meanwhile, the food and the non-food inflation (point to point) decreased in September 2024 from the previous month (August 2024). The BBS data showed that the food and the non-food inflation decreased by 0.96 percentage points and 0.24 percentage points respectively to 10.40 percent and 9.50 percent in September 2024 from 11.36 percent and 9.74 percent in August 2024. Year-on-year, food and non-food inflation was at 12.37 percent and 7.82 percent, respectively, in September 2023.

In September 2024, people in rural areas got worst hit of price shocks with higher inflation in general and non-food categories compared that of urban people. The inflation rate in general and non-food soared to 10.15 percent and 9.91 percent in the rural Bangladesh in September 2024 - higher than the rate in the urban areas at 9.83 percent and 9.38 percent, respectively. On the other hand, the food inflation decreased to 10.38 percent in rural area compared to 10.50 percent in urban Bangladesh.

Price Situation



According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) latest data, the rate of general inflation (point to point, Base: 2021-22=100) was 9.92 percent in September 2024, down by 0.57 percentage points from 10.49 percent in the previous month (August 2024). This reduction in general inflation was mostly driven by the falling trend in food inflation though the prices of many essentials still remained at an elevated level. Also, the government and the central bank have taken various steps including a raise in policy rate, liberalized the interest regime and introduced crawling-peg system to curb the higher inflation, which may help to reduce the inflation in the month. A year ago, in September 2023, the general inflation rate was lower at 9.63 percent.

STATISTICS

COMMODITY-WISE EXPORT SHIPMENTS

(In million US\$)

Items	2023-24 ^R July-Aug	2024-25 ^P July	2024-25 ^P July-Aug	% Changes 4 over 2
A. Frozen and live fish	60.90	29.00	61.70	1.31
1. Fish	12.50	6.60	12.90	3.20
2. Shrimps	45.30	21.30	45.90	1.32
3. Others	3.10	1.10	2.90	-6.45
B. Agricultural products	173.70	80.20	168.00	-3.28
1. Vegetables	37.80	6.70	12.30	-67.46
2. Tobacco	27.40	10.40	25.90	-5.47
3. Fruits & flowers	1.20	5.30	12.10	908.33
4. Spices	7.00	5.10	9.90	41.43
5. Dry food	28.00	17.40	36.40	30.00
6. Others	72.30	35.30	71.40	-1.24
C. Manufactured products	7301.10	3714.50	7627.70	4.47
1. Petroleum bi-products	4.50	0.10	0.40	-91.11
2. Chemical products	56.60	23.90	54.30	-4.06
3. Plastic products	35.00	19.70	42.80	22.29
4. Leather & Leather Products	186.40	98.30	201.30	7.99
5. Cotton & cotton products	84.90	46.30	93.00	9.54
6. Jute and jute goods	151.70	58.60	123.70	-18.46
7. Specialised textiles	47.60	26.60	56.50	18.70
8. Knitwear	3405.50	1729.10	3619.40	6.28
9. Woven garments	2786.40	1449.60	2884.30	3.51
10. Home textile	112.90	54.50	110.60	-2.04
11. Footwear	62.40	35.60	80.90	29.65
12. Engineering products	84.20	37.20	73.40	-12.83
13. Ships, boats & floating structures	0.00	0.10	0.10	
14. Others	283.00	134.90	287.00	1.41
Total (A+B+C)	7535.70	3823.70	7857.40	4.27
Of which exports from EPZ to foreign	925.40	546.80	1082.20	
Of which exports from EPZ to Bangladesh	296.80	153.00	320.50	
Of which CMT (cutting, making and trimming) exports	296.90	205.60	404.30	

Note: Compiled by Statistics Department of Bangladesh Bank P: Provisional, R: Revised

COMMODITY-WISE IMPORT PAYMENTS*(In million US\$)*

Items	2023-24 July-August	2024-25 July	2024-25 July-August	% Changes 4 over 2
A. Food Grains	240.4	99	220.7	-8.2
Rice	1.1	0.5	1.1	0.0
Wheat	239.3	98.5	219.6	-8.2
B. Consumer goods	831.5	415.3	804.6	-3.2
Milk & cream	77.0	43	77	0.0
Spices	76.2	43.8	86.4	13.4
Edible oil	358.7	187.1	360.4	0.5
Pulses (all sorts)	40.1	76.3	148.1	269.3
Sugar	279.5	65.1	132.7	-52.5
C. Intermediate Goods	6208.8	3181.3	6564.6	5.7
i) Petroleum goods	719.5	350.4	985	36.9
Crude petroleum	93.5	61.1	121.2	29.6
POL	626.0	289.3	863.8	38.0
ii) RMG related goods	2504.2	1380.8	2835	13.2
Raw cotton	603.9	320.3	640.5	6.1
Yarn	461.3	279.3	550.8	19.4
Textile and articles thereof	1082.2	598	1268	17.2
Staple fibre	205.5	103	224.3	9.2
Dyeing and tanning materials	151.3	80.2	151.4	0.1
iii) Other intermediate goods	2985.1	1450.1	2744.6	-8.1
Clinker	165.0	66.9	121.7	-26.2
Oil seeds	168.4	49.5	116	-31.1
Chemicals	613.4	307.4	635.7	3.6
Pharmaceutical products	66.6	23.5	57.3	-14.0
Fertilizer	378.3	211.4	284.3	-24.9
Plastics and rubber articles thereof	526.5	286.5	559.4	6.3
Iron, steel & other base metals	1066.9	504.9	970.2	-9.1
D. Capital Goods	2003.8	864.6	1610.8	-19.6
Capital machinery	746.4	267.1	531	-28.9
Other capital goods	1257.4	597.5	1079.8	-14.1
E. Others n.i.e.	1347.7	687.6	1318.6	-2.2
Grand Total	10632.2	5247.8	10519.3	-1.1
Of which: EPZ	549.1	306.7	622.1	13.3

Source: National Board of Revenue

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (BOP)

(USD in million)

Particulars	FY23 ^R	FY24 ^R	July-August of FY24 ^R	July-August of FY25 ^P
Trade balance	-27384	-22432	-3044	-2754
Exports f.o.b (including EPZ)	43364	40810	6986	7160
Imports f.o.b (including EPZ)	70748	63242	10030	9914
Services	-3131	-3808	-584	-613
Credit	6971	6289	1019	960
Debit	10102	10097	1603	1573
Primary income	-3407	-4817	-655	-745
Credit	443	557	98	96
Debit	3850	5374	753	841
Of which: Official interest payment	1030	1540	205	241
Secondary income	22289	24545	3673	4223
Official transfers	88	72	1	5
Private transfers	22201	24473	3672	4218
of which : Workers' remittances (current a/c. portion)**	21611	23912	3573	4138
Current account balance	-11633	-6512	-610	111
Capital account	475	554	11	66
Capital transfers	475	554	11	66
Financial account	6890	4546	-1337	-145
i) Foreign direct investment(net)*	1649	1697	251	283
ii) Portfolio investment (net)	-30	-62	3	49
of which : Workers' remittances (financial a/c. portion)**	118	93	21	15
iii) Other investment(net)	5271	2911	-1591	-477
Medium and long-term (MLT) loans	8704	9680	727	387
MLT amortization payments	1745	2021	289	456
Other long-term loans (net)	434	249	38	74
Other short-term loans (net)	-1883	-1574	-280	-92
Trade credit (net)	2532	-1762	-1183	-474
DMBs & NBDCs(net)	-2771	-1662	-604	84
Assets	799	895	131	-454
Liabilities	-1973	-767	-473	-370
Errors and omissions	-3954	-2888	241	-1431
Overall balance	-8222	-4301	-1695	-1399
Reserve assets	8222	4300	1695	1399
Bangladesh Bank (net)	8222	4300	1695	1399
Assets	-8766	-2900	-1484	-1509
Liabilities	-544	1400	211	-110
Gross official reserves (as per BPM6)	24754	21686	23255	20475
Gross official reserves	31203	26714	29261	25581
In months of imports of goods and services (prospective)	4.6	4.4	5.0	4.5
In months of imports of goods (cif) (prospective)	5.0	4.8	5.5	4.9

Source :Statistics Department, Bangladesh Bank.

Note:- Both exports and imports are compiled on the basis of customs data. P=Provisional; R = Revised.

* FDI is calculated on net basis by deducting disinvestment, repayments of loans & loss.

FRESH OPENING AND SETTLEMENT OF IMPORT LCS

(USD in million)

Items	FY24		FY23	
	Opening	Settlement	Opening	Settlement
A. Consumer goods	6720.57	6695.68	7598.75	7743.71
Rice and wheat	1685.34	1746.23	2201.75	2210.40
Sugar and salt	1067.28	1096.18	1053.52	903.67
Milk food	365.47	389.42	373.81	387.21
Edible oil (refined)	1256.66	1221.42	1762.25	1938.68
All kinds of fruits	383.54	348.65	313.65	306.06
Pulses	360.80	334.51	320.09	314.87
Onion	175.48	181.13	125.01	104.71
Spices	574.07	551.48	361.85	325.51
Second hand clothings	1.28	0.88	2.59	2.62
Drugs and medicines(finished)	54.68	64.30	69.03	87.56
Others	795.97	761.49	1015.20	1162.42
B. Intermediate goods	4613.48	4840.22	5622.22	5500.90
Coal	977.54	1081.90	1288.01	888.50
Cement	123.19	110.44	142.17	156.50
Clinker & limestone	642.41	680.80	952.57	1021.39
B. P. sheet	124.62	124.53	97.00	93.45
Tin plate	4.44	3.67	6.38	6.59
Scrap Vessels	431.03	457.78	529.22	501.50
Iron and steel scrap	1484.64	1524.46	1421.33	1581.37
Non-ferrous metal	158.43	162.16	154.54	129.95
Paper and paper board	274.83	261.53	287.47	279.91
Others	392.35	432.95	743.54	841.75
C. Industrial raw materials	23447.25	21765.38	23007.94	25872.61
Edible oil (Crude)	163.30	245.84	481.16	448.77
Seeds	941.38	939.02	596.55	845.19
Textile fabrics (B/B & others)	9371.23	8714.93	9197.72	9832.88
Pharmaceutical raw materials	1054.22	1026.84	947.29	958.48
Raw cotton	3174.78	2908.25	2477.81	3192.48
Cotton yarn	2338.55	1989.78	1683.98	1928.36
Copra	42.81	38.24	130.78	195.71
Synthetic fibre & yarn	991.38	867.83	906.92	1067.62
Chemicals & chem. products	3087.37	3008.24	4267.17	5132.93
Others	2282.23	2026.41	2318.55	2270.19
D. Capital machinery	2633.19	2656.96	2955.59	3481.37
Textile machinery	129.43	182.87	171.80	433.10
Leather / tannery	5.08	4.00	7.58	10.64
Jute industry	4.37	3.60	9.14	18.06
Garment industry	307.99	375.92	283.18	486.01
Pharmaceutical industry	81.35	110.67	102.52	123.56
Packing industry	3.72	5.00	6.22	6.22
Other industry	2101.25	1974.89	2375.14	2403.77
E. Machinery for misc. inds.	2335.62	2323.05	2586.57	2732.44
Other machineries	20.49	27.22	74.83	87.11
Marine diesel engine	3.12	5.13	10.21	8.19
Computer & its accessories	214.22	240.15	207.17	270.29
Motor vehicle & motorcycle parts	153.30	146.25	175.99	172.31
Bicycle parts	34.90	32.80	61.26	72.14
Other iron and steel products	287.32	258.60	241.08	236.32
Motor vehicles	304.09	324.79	341.05	404.76
Other electronics components	70.79	64.03	79.28	100.58
Tractors & power tiller	31.48	30.17	22.57	27.90
Others	1215.91	1193.91	1373.14	1352.84
F. Petroleum & petro.prodts.	9175.77	8911.78	9488.30	9380.36
Crude	693.87	657.12	796.78	627.13
Refined	4954.07	4821.23	4832.28	4904.61
Others	3527.83	3433.42	3859.24	3848.61
G. Others	19840.74	18873.86	16987.95	17307.74
Commercial sector	4778.91	4619.19	4324.67	4270.27
Industrial sector	15061.83	14254.67	12663.28	13037.47
Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant	---	0.00	---	0.00
Total	68766.62	66066.92	68247.31	72019.13
of which back to back	9698.56	8835.42	8601.91	9544.00

Source: Foreign Exchange Operations Department(FEOD), Bangladesh Bank.
Opening = 'Fresh opening of import LCS'; Settlement = 'Settlement of import LCS'.
Data retrieved from Online Import Monitoring System on 13.08.2024.

PRODUCTION OF SELECTED INDUSTRIAL ITEMS ON LARGE SCALE (BASE YEAR : 2015-16)

Description of items of industry	Unit	No. of reporting industries	2022-23	2023-24 (R)	Jul-23 (R)	Jun-24 (R)	Jul-24 (P)
Mfg. of Food Products							
Processing and preserving of meat	M. Ton	3	1146	1337	1444	918	1020
Processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and molluscs	M. Ton	EBP.	4047	3523	3585	2540	3420
Processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables	'000' Litre	3	2625	2913	2325	3020	2500
Mfg. of vegetable and animal oils and fats	M. Ton	3	155079	176472	192455	115347	158340
Mfg. of dairy products	M. Ton	3	6516	7937	7072	9418	9200
Mfg. of rice & rice milling	M. Ton	3	198	199	210	200	208
Mfg. of bakery products	M. Ton	3	2973	3239	3024	3564	3620
Mfg. of sugar, cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	M. Ton	BSFIC	1729	2568	0	0	0
Mfg. of macaroni, noodles, couscous and similar farinaceous products	M. Ton	3	58	60	58	72	75
Mfg. of processing of tea and coffee	M. Ton	BTB	8329	8391	13654	12824	11435
Mfg. of other food products n.e.c. (Salt)	M. Ton	3	206	261	180	345	369
Mfg. of Prepared animal feeds	M. Ton	3	83709	87798	84709	85427	86528
Mfg. of Beverages							
Mfg. of soft drinks	'000' Litre	4	15825	16113	20957	15320	16258
Mfg. of Tobacco							
Mfg. of tobacco products (cigarettes & others)	Million No.	3	54555	59343	49598	64258	66125
Mfg. of bidies, Zadra and quivam, Tobacco manufacture n.e.c.	Million No	5	2093	1831	1596	1435	1520
Mfg. of textile							
Preparation and spinning of textile fibres	M. Ton	7	2879	2659	2248	2824	2356
Weaving of textiles, Silk & Synthetic	'000 Mitre	4	1169618	1293246	1110877	1097466	1035684
Finishing of textiles (dyeing, bleaching etc.)	'000 Mitre	7	14362	17278	17203	18909	19256
Mfg. of Jute textiles, Pressing and baling of jute and other fibres, spooling and thread ball	M. Ton	BJMC	32209	38051	23742	105600	24560
Mfg. of Knitted and crocheted fabrics, made-up textile articles, except apparel, carpets	M. Ton	10	871145	925992	974335	1017957	971748
Mfg. of Wearing Apparel (Ready made garment)			150669	146752	140586	152638	146350
Mfg. of Wearing apparel, except fur apparel	Million TK		150669	146752	140586	152638	146350
Mfg of Knitted and crocheted apparel, articles of fur and crocheted apparel	Million TK	EBP.	150669	189201	194492	206188	198771
Mfg. of leather and related products							
Tanning and dressing of leather; dressing and dyeing	Dozen	EBP.	1441	1608	617	910	685
Mfg. of luggage, handbags and the like, saddlery and	000 Pair	3	1598	1849	1541	2120	2050
Manufacture of footwear	'000' sqm.	5	522	416	397	387	410
Mfg. of Wood and Products							
Sawmilling, wood-based panels, wooden containers, bamboo & cane Products	'000' sqm.	3	179774	176458	186749	181202	195260
Mfg. of Paper and Paper Products							
Manufacture of pulp, paper and paperboard	M. Ton	3	4368	4009	4436	3450	4250
Mfg of other articles of paper and paperboard	M. Ton	3	12553	13057	13150	13508	14184
Printing & Reproduction of Recorded Media							
Printing, Service activities related to printing, Reproduction of recorded media	'000' No.	3	9195	10111	9625	11250	10200
Manufacture of Coke and Refined Petroleum Products							
Manufacture of refined petroleum products	M. Ton	1	127225	342175	114721	200477	145260
Manufacture of Chemicals and Chemical Products							
Mfg. of basic chemicals (Compressed Liquid Gas)	C. No	3	1516	1233	1472	1158	1724
Mfg. of fertilizers and nitrogen compounds; plastics & synthetic rubber	M. Ton	3	79001	62126	67984	60725	61250
Mfg. of paints, varnishes and similar coatings, printing ink and mastics, Pesticides & other agrochemical products	'000' Litre	3	233	256	254	257	260

Description of items of industry	Unit	No. of reporting industries	2022-23	2023-24 (R)	Jul-23 (R)	Jun-24 (R)	Jul-24 (P)
Mfg. of soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations, perfumes	'000' Tk.	3	95646	85965	82591	91450	102100
Matches, Fire fox, manmade fibre, other chemical products	'000' Gross	3	3971	4289	4234	3985	4025
Mfg. of Pharmaceutical							
Mfg. of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products	'000' Tk.	10	10195155	11574953	11378700	11134811	11468811
Mfg. of unani& Ayurvedic, homeopathic & biochemical medicine.	'000' Tk.	3	115900	133231	111021	127810	129500
Manufacture of rubber tyres and tubes; retreading and rebuilding of rubber tyres	Dozen	3	176128	194769	186676	191452	210504
Mfg. of plastics products	M. ton	3	3257	3440	4599	2993	3250
Manufacture of polythene products	'000' Doz	3	13229	13377	14500	11569	14250
Manufacture of Other Non-metallic Mineral							
Manufacture of glass and glass products	'000' Sqf.	3	11135	14659	11130	17125	14520
Mfg. of clay building materials, Refractory Products	'000' Sqf.	3	1201	1058	1506	1021	1425
Mfg. of other porcelain and ceramic products		3	1681	1875	1312	2045	1650
Manufacture of cement, lime and plaster; article of concrete cement & shaping & finishing of	'000' Sqf.	8	820410	802640	732008	703755	870881
Manufacture of bricks	'000' No.	3	53.427	51.600	55.000	37.500	42.500
Mfg. of basic metals							
Manufacture of basic iron and steel; basic precious & other non ferrous metals; casting of non-ferrous metals	M. Ton	6	128513	126987	123433	129585	123433
Mfg. of fabricated metal products except machinery							
Manufacture of cutlery, hand tools and general hardware	'000' No.	3	4128	4105	4108	3980	4250
Manufacture of other fabricated metal products n.e.c.	M. Ton	3	114	139	112	179	185
Mfg. of computer, electronic and optical products							
Manufacture of communication equipment; electronic components & boards; computer & peripheral equipment	No.	3	66565	70141	62025	74500	75800
Mfg. of electrical equipment							
Manufacture of Batteries & Accumulator	'000' No.	3	53.72	61.87	57.28	54.22	59.25
Mfg. of Fibre optics cables; other electronic and electric wires and cables;	M. Ton	3	8010	9853	11414	4985	6312
Mfg. of domestic appliances; other electrical appliances	No.	3	384275	390297	365365	384230	393836
Mfg of machinery & Equipment							
Mfg. of metal forming machinery and machine tools; machinery for food, beverage & tobacco processing.	No.	3	1117	1251	1098	1432	1540
Mfg. of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers							
Mfg. of motor vehicles ; bodies (coachwork) for motor vehicles, trailers & semi-	No.	3	507	423	455	430	495
Mfg. of other transport equipment							
Building of ships and floating structures; ship breaking & dismantling; railway locomotives	M. Ton	8	6703	6400	7900	6922	6950
Mfg. of Motor vehicles	No.	3	1584	2067	1679	2805	2940
Mfg. of bicycles and invalid carriages	No.	3	2182	2562	2308	2472	2750
Mfg. of Furniture							
Mfg. of wooden furniture and fixture	No.	3	17768	16511	22424	15256	16500
Mfg. of plastic furniture and fixture	No.	3	2697802	2360822	2227356	2509288	2574028
Mfg. of packaging materials	No.	3	532	525	544	556	564
Other Manufacturing							
Mfg. of sports goods	Million Tk.	3	120	133	148	145	149

Note: P= Provisional, Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

CAPITAL MARKET SNAPSHOT

Market Slipped Significantly in September

Chart: DSEX Index with MoM return

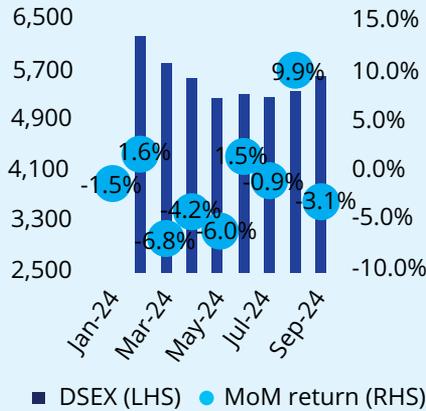


Chart: Avg. Daily Turnover (BDT bn)



Chart: Market P/E (x)



Chart: Sector M.cap return in Sep'24

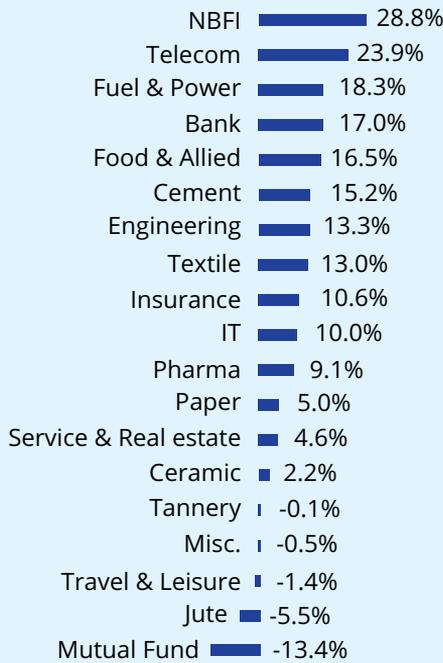


Chart: Turnover (BDT bn) in Sep'24

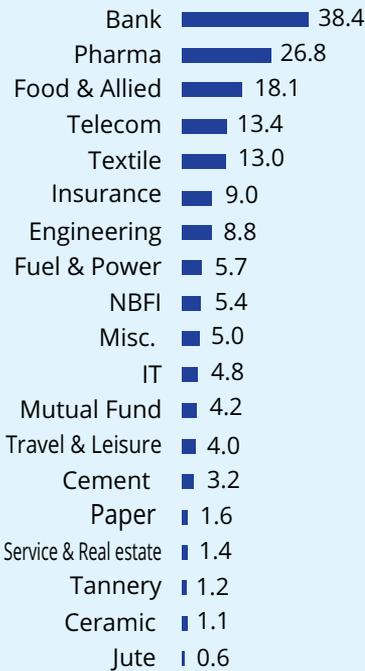


Chart: Sectors by M.cap

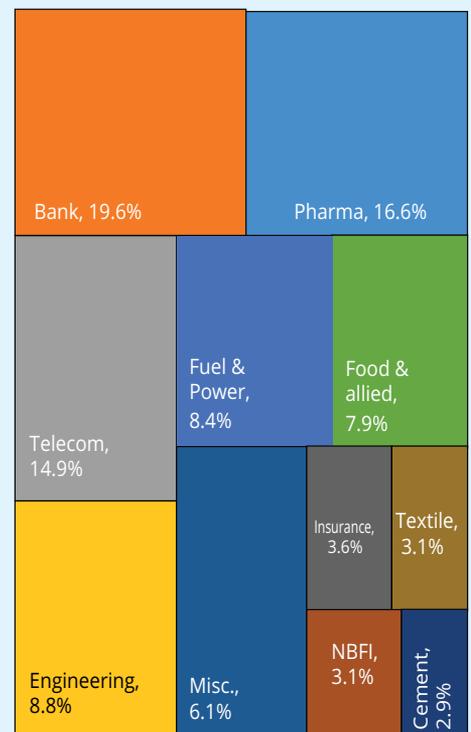


Table: P/E ratio of sectors vs market

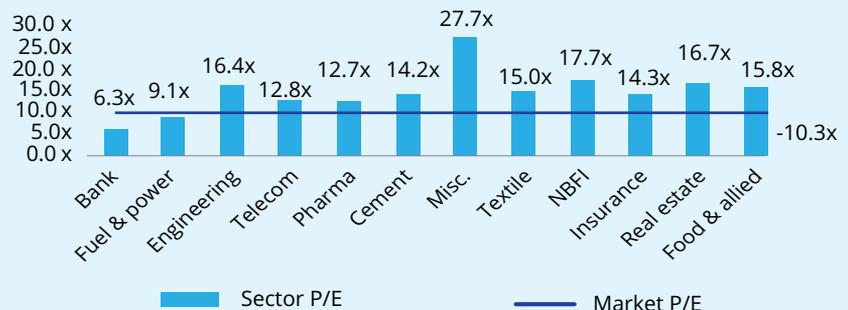


Table: Turnover leaders in Sep'24

Rank	Ticker	Turnover (BDT bn)
1	BRACBANK	6.5
2	GP	5.1
3	LINDEBD	4.8
4	IBNSINA	3.4
5	ISLAMIBANK	3.4

Source: DSE, City Brokerage Limited

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

Period	General Index	1. Food	2. Non-Food	Index by expenditure group						
				I. Clothing & Footwear	II. Fuel & Lighting	III. Household Equipment	IV. Health	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
2021-22	306.18	332.86	271.98	320.14	232.43	320.30	253.62	313.00	202.60	312.28
2022-23	109.02	108.71	109.39	106.71	108.25	109.68	114.09	109.67	108.58	112.05
2023-24	119.63	120.30	119.08	115.73	118.94	123.81	118.23	117.62	123.75	122.53
May (base:202122=100)	122.04	121.42	122.54	118.34	123.12	126.85	123.06	119.33	127.37	128.25
June (base:202122=100)	123.38	123.94	122.93	118.43	123.23	126.96	123.77	119.48	127.68	128.54
July (base:2021-22=100)	126.06	128.64	123.96	118.80	123.93	127.09	124.50	119.79	128.29	129.83
August (base:2021-22=100)	129.34	133.72	125.77	122.64	125.86	129.17	125.66	120.70	129.54	132.23
September (base:2021-22=100)	130.61	135.21	126.87	122.86	126.48	130.80	125.88	123.37	130.71	134.23

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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

Period	General Index	Index by expenditure group								
		1. Food	2. Non-Food	I. Clothing & Footwear	II. Fuel & Lighting	III. Household Equipment	IV. Health	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment,	VIII. Misc. Goods & Services
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
2021-22	304.76	326.34	270.42	318.29	223.88	308.52	269.97	274.69	225.50	332.14
2022-23	109.08	108.79	109.54	106.63	109.32	108.99	116.61	108.62	108.10	111.24
2023-24	119.73	120.41	119.10	113.95	121.36	124.08	120.18	118.35	122.07	120.42
May (base:202122=100)	122.26	121.90	122.61	116.45	125.43	126.63	126.21	120.27	125.50	125.32
June (base:202122=100)	123.59	124.16	123.05	116.49	125.57	126.71	126.88	120.45	125.95	125.60
July (base:2021-22=100)	126.38	128.66	124.21	116.81	126.53	126.73	126.91	120.72	126.49	126.53
August (base:2021-22=100)	129.66	133.46	126.06	119.65	129.11	128.87	127.12	122.99	128.54	127.37
September (base:2021-22=100)	130.85	134.80	127.10	119.83	130.15	130.72	127.26	125.16	129.04	129.33

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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

Period	General Index	Index by expenditure group								
		1. Food	2. Non-Food	I. Clothing & Footwear	II. Fuel & Lighting	III. Household Equipment	IV. Health	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
2021-22	308.81	348.75	274.07	323.66	242.32	341.00	225.63	355.22	177.90	287.76
2022-23	108.87	108.52	109.13	106.87	107.07	110.75	108.92	110.56	109.33	113.16
2023-24	119.30	120.09	118.81	119.14	116.10	123.31	114.40	117.40	125.95	124.68
May (base:202122=100)	121.50	120.43	122.17	121.99	120.40	127.25	116.86	119.03	130.17	131.04
June (base:202122=100)	122.89	123.53	122.50	122.16	120.48	127.40	117.65	119.15	130.36	131.33
July (base:2021-22=100)	125.35	128.64	123.30	122.61	120.88	127.73	119.76	119.45	130.84	133.07
August (base:2021-22=100)	128.94	134.33	125.59	128.48	122.04	129.73	122.80	120.82	133.10	137.58
September (base:2021-22=100)	130.39	136.13	126.81	128.72	122.18	130.95	123.17	124.11	135.02	139.71

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

WAGE RATE INDEX BY SECTORS: NATIONAL (BASE: 2021-22 = 100)

Sector	2021-22	2022-2023	2023-24	July '24	August '24	September '24
General	191.80	205.30	115.33	119.13	119.93	121.21
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.06	7.04	7.74	7.93	7.96	8.01
percentage change (over previous month)				0.22	0.67	1.07
1. Agriculture	192.21	205.69	115.66	119.45	120.36	121.71
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.10	7.01	8.08	8.21	8.25	8.28
percentage change (over previous month)				0.20	0.76	1.12
i) Agriculture	192.39	205.98	115.81	119.51	120.45	121.81
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.16	7.06	8.17	8.28	8.32	8.35
percentage change (over previous month)				0.06	0.79	1.13
ii) Fish	183.06	191.07	113.09	118.40	118.84	120.05
percentage change (Point to Point)	2.95	4.37	8.35	7.07	7.12	7.15
percentage change (over previous month)				2.64	0.37	1.02
2. Industry	187.83	201.01	114.72	118.40	119.10	120.31
	5.85	6.97	7.24	7.52	7.54	7.61
				0.22	0.59	1.02
i) Construction	174.62	184.35	114.29	118.09	118.77	119.96
percentage change (Point to Point)	4.41	5.57	8.26	7.45	7.48	7.55
percentage change (over previous month)				0.43	0.58	1.00
ii) Production	214.87	234.79	117.69	120.58	121.42	122.80
percentage change (Point to Point)	8.30	9.28	7.70	7.96	7.94	7.98
percentage change (over previous month)				-1.24	0.70	1.14
3. Service	199.42	212.23	116.22	120.53	121.22	122.41
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.32	7.31	8.29	8.27	8.24	8.29
percentage change (over previous month)				0.32	0.57	0.98

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

WAGE RATE INDEX BY SECTORS: DHAKA DIVISION (BASE: 2021-22=100)

Sector	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	July '24	August '24	September '24
General	189.42	199.93	112.92	115.78	116.95	118.59
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.25	5.54	6.98	7.79	7.78	7.84
percentage change (over previous month)				-0.34	1.01	1.40
1. Agriculture	190.78	201.30	112.51	114.52	115.97	118.06
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.11	5.51	6.60	8.14	8.17	8.21
percentage change (over previous month)				-1.32	1.27	1.80
i) Agriculture	190.80	201.36	112.50	114.49	115.95	118.05
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.13	5.53	6.58	8.14	8.17	8.21
percentage change (over previous month)				-1.34	1.28	1.81
ii) Fish	187.35	193.85	113.66	119.95	120.54	121.83
percentage change (Point to Point)	2.74	3.47	9.85	8.15	8.18	8.24
percentage change (over previous month)				4.13	0.49	1.07
2. Industry	182.93	193.18	113.41	116.82	117.70	119.09
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.17	5.60	7.39	7.49	7.47	7.54
percentage change (over previous month)				0.30	0.75	1.18
i) Construction	173.84	181.65	113.12	116.44	117.37	118.80
percentage change (Point to Point)	3.86	4.50	8.24	7.43	7.41	7.48
percentage change (over previous month)				0.26	0.80	1.22
ii) Production	202.14	217.53	115.97	120.14	120.58	121.61
percentage change (Point to Point)	7.63	7.63	7.76	8.02	7.98	8.05
percentage change (over previous month)				0.72	0.37	0.85
3. Service	200.28	211.37	111.75	114.15	115.92	117.62
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.00	5.54	5.87	8.36	8.24	8.33
percentage change (over previous month)				-0.97	1.55	1.47

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

WAGE RATE INDEX BY SECTORS: CHATTOGRAM DIVISION (BASE INDEX: 2021-22=100)

Sector	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	July'24	August '24	September '24
General	189.51	202.76	113.92	117.16	117.99	119.40
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.10	6.99	6.48	7.41	7.46	7.52
percentage change (over previous month)				-0.20	0.71	1.19
1. Agriculture	190.56	202.96	113.08	116.15	117.33	119.13
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.23	6.51	6.16	7.95	7.98	8.03
percentage change (over previous month)				-0.23	1.01	1.53
i) Agriculture	190.76	203.31	113.32	115.54	117.02	119.04
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.34	6.59	6.30	8.35	8.37	8.42
percentage change (over previous month)				-1.35	1.28	1.73
ii) Fish	185.39	193.62	112.47	117.69	118.12	119.37
percentage change (Point to Point)	3.38	4.44	7.69	6.98	7.02	7.05
percentage change (over previous month)				2.62	0.36	1.06
2. Industry	184.54	198.01	114.28	117.54	118.22	119.30
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.59	7.30	6.51	6.89	6.93	7.01
percentage change (over previous month)				-0.01	0.58	0.92
i) Construction	182.46	195.63	114.18	117.41	118.10	119.17
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.51	7.23	6.49	6.81	6.86	6.94
percentage change (over previous month)				0.01	0.58	0.91
ii) Production	192.12	206.68	116.37	120.18	120.75	122.01
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.78	7.57	8.16	8.39	8.50	8.55
percentage change (over previous month)				-0.43	0.47	1.04
3. Service	194.39	210.68	115.12	118.79	119.19	120.83
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.46	8.37	6.22	8.26	8.32	8.39
percentage change (over previous month)				-1.10	0.34	1.38

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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ইন্স্যুরেন্সের
টাকা প্রাণ্ডিয়া
এখন মাত্র

৩

দিনের
ব্যাপার



গার্ডিয়ান লাইফ-এ ৯৫% ক্লেইম
সেটেল্ড হয় মাত্র ৩ দিনে*

*কর্মদিবস

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.