



iNSIGHT



BANGLADESH ECONOMY

PERSUADING PACE

2nd Fastest Growing in South Asia: WB | 39th Largest in the World: IMF



Editorial

The economy of Bangladesh is a developing market economy. Growth of this country largely driven by its exports of readymade garments, remittance and the domestic agricultural sector. While, key export sectors include textile, shipping, fish & sea food, jute & leather goods. Along with these, it has also developed self-sufficient industries in pharmaceuticals, steel and food processing.

As a developing country Bangladesh is focusing on the digital economy. The success of the IT industry is central to the digital transformation and ongoing economic growth of Bangladesh. At the same time, Bangladesh achieved its rapid growth in telecommunication industry over the years, receiving high investment from foreign companies.

Even though, the capital market of this country is passing gloomy years, but the garments sector is doing good, inward remittance is increasing. At the same time, the number of employed workers living below the poverty line decreasing from previous years. These all together is fostering the economic growth of this country's economy.

Here, the growth analysis by sector will help us evolving a clear understanding about the economy of Bangladesh. Highlights from the quarter and other regular pages of insight will contribute in our decision-making process and keep us up to date. Write up of agent banking will enrich our knowledge.

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Message from the Chairman



The Economy of Bangladesh is growing fast among the South East Asian Countries. To keep this growth upward, the country focuses to encourage its Banking System, Remittance Inflow, Export, RMG Sector and other development parameters. GDP growth of our country is in upward trend. Followed by a slight downturn in the stock market, it is on the way to be balanced. On contrary, Remittance Inflow is higher than ever.

Since liberation, our Country has gone through several ups and downs, but in present days Bangladesh is growing significantly. At present a number of mega projects are going on across Bangladesh. The mega projects initiated by the present government includes Padma Bridge, Special Economic Zones, major power plants, deep seaport, metro rail, up gradation of rail and water ways and, of course, developing digital infrastructures to promote e-commerce. The year 2020-21 has been declared as Mujib Year marking the birth centenary of country's Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and golden jubilee celebrations of the independence of Bangladesh. With proper dedication and focused approach we will be able to achieve our goals and make the year more meaningful.

Bangladesh is an import-dependent country. It needs to import raw materials, accessories and machineries to foster development of the industrial sector. Banks have been facilitating payment, finance and risk management services to the sector.

Banks play a major role in facilitating remittances by migrant workers. However, Bangladesh received higher remittances during the last fiscal year resulting from a strong pick-up in global economic activities, especially in the Middle East countries.

Despite slow growth, Commercial Banks have been playing an important role in the economic development of Bangladesh. They provide investible funds to both the public sector, and specially the private sector. The banking sector, however, is faced with various challenges, which include among others, weak management, poor governance, lack of strong leadership, and non-compliance with ethical standards leading to various types of banking scams such as money laundering and Non-Performing Loans.

Banks have contributed considerably in the process of economic growth of Bangladesh. However, this contribution would have been greater if the sector had effectively addressed various challenges faced by the banking sector such as weak management, poor governance, lack of strong leadership and non-compliance with ethical standards leading to various types of banking scams such as money laundering and NPLs.

In order to play more significant role in the economic development, Banks should take necessary steps like Financial Inclusion, NPL Management, micro-finance policy etc. to eliminate the existing irregularities. Practicing good governance is also necessary.

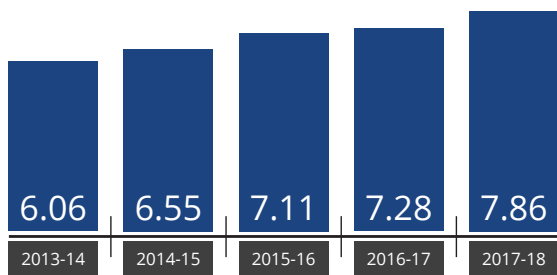
Reshadur Rahman

Chairman
Dhaka Bank Limited

Economy of Bangladesh: Growing Fast

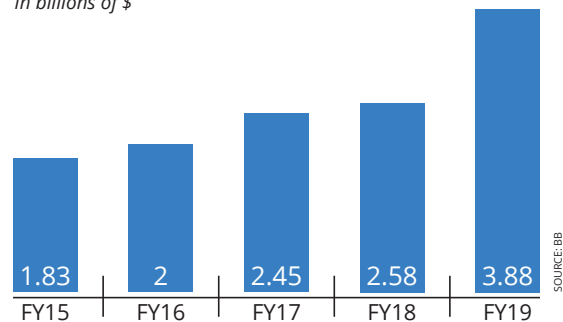
GDP GROWTH (in%)

SOURCE: BBS



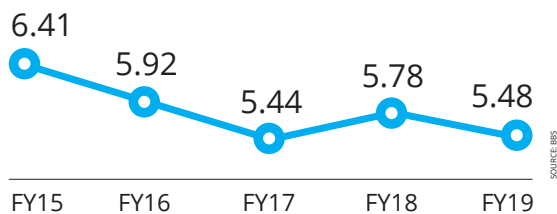
NET FDI INFLOW

In billions of \$

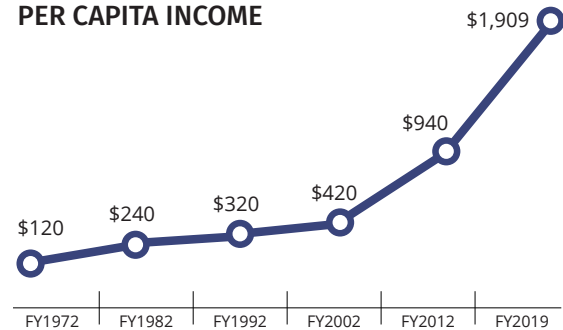


INFLATION

In %

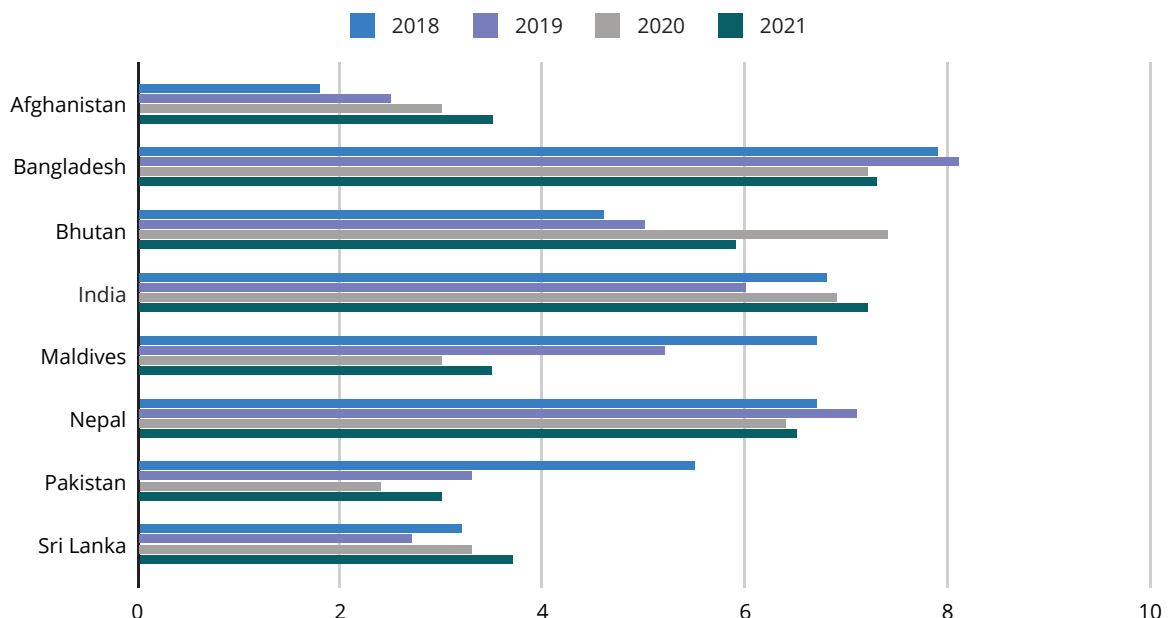


PER CAPITA INCOME



BANGLADESH 2ND FASTEST GROWING ECONOMY IN SOUTH ASIA: WB

2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021



Bangladesh's economy is forecasting to grow faster than all countries in South Asia except Bhutan in the current fiscal year.

According to the latest edition of the "South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) Centralisation Work", the gross domestic product in Bangladesh is projected to moderate to 7.2 per cent this fiscal year and 7.3 per cent the following one.

"The outlook is clouded by rising vulnerability financial sector, but the economy is likely to maintain growth above seven per cent, supported by a robust macroeconomic framework, political stability, and strong public investment," the WB report said.

The report forecasts that Bangladesh's economy would grow at a faster pace than India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, the Maldives and Afghanistan. The report said Bhutan's GDP growth is expected to jump to 7.4 per cent this fiscal year.

The growth is expected to gradually recover to 6.9 per cent in the fiscal year 2020-21 and to 7.2 per cent in the following year.

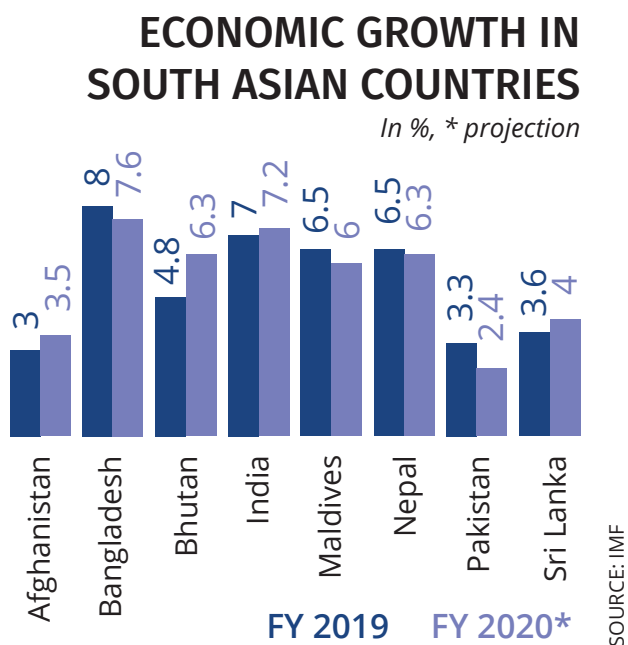
Pakistan's growth is projected to deteriorate further to 2.4 per cent this fiscal year. In Sri Lanka, the growth is expected to soften to 2.7 per cent in 2019. In the Maldives, growth is expected to reach 5.2 per cent in 2019 and in Nepal, GDP growth is projected to average 6.5 per cent over this and next fiscal year. Afghanistan is expected to recover and reach three per cent in 2020 and 3.5 per cent in 2021. In line with a global downward trend, the growth in South Asia is projected to slow to 5.9 per cent in 2019, down 1.1 percentage points from April 2019 estimates, casting uncertainty about a rebound in the short term.

As global and domestic uncertainties cloud the region's economic outlook, South Asian countries should pursue stimulating economic policies to boost private consumption and beef up investments.

With multiple initiatives underway across the region to shift more political and fiscal responsibilities to local governments,

the report warns, however, that decentralisation efforts in South Asia have so far yielded mixed results.

For decentralisation to work, central authorities should wield incentives and exercise quality control to encourage innovation and accountability at the local level.



Decentralisation in South Asia has yet to deliver in its promises and if it is not properly managed it can degenerate into fragmentation.

To make decentralisation work for their citizens, South Asian central governments should allocate their resources judiciously, create incentives to help local communities to compete in integrated markets and provide equal opportunities for their people.

Here's what you need to know about Bangladesh's rocketing economy

When it first became a country, in 1971, Bangladesh was incredibly poor. The GDP growth rate was -14%, political instability was rife, and the nation was devastated by floods and famine. Things have moved. Bangladesh now has an average growth rate of 8% – well above the Asian average, Asian Development Bank figures show.

- ◆ Bangladesh's GDP growth rate is forecast to be 8% in 2020

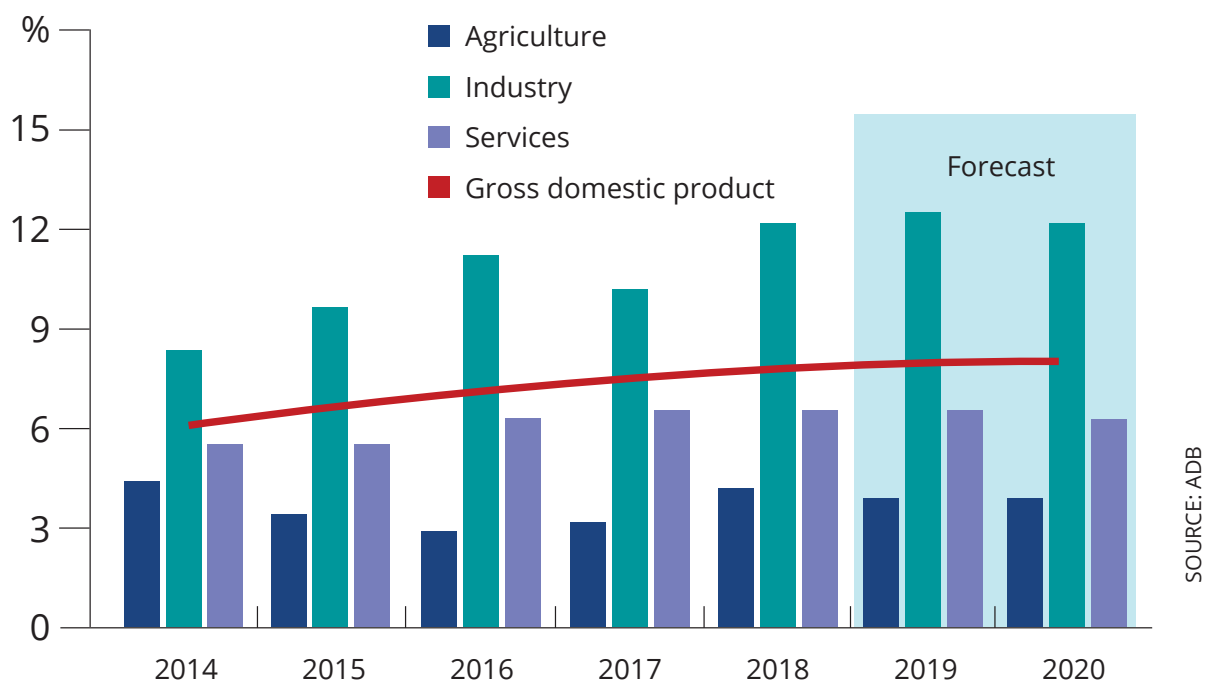
- ◆ The figures put it ahead of other Asian countries, including India
- ◆ It could shed its 'least developed country' status in five years

A decline in population growth is also helping an increase in per capita income. The number of employed workers living below the poverty line dropped from 73.5% in 2010 to 10.4% in 2018.

Bangladesh has been classed by the United Nations as one of the world's least developed countries (LDCs) since 1975, but its current trajectory means it is likely to shed that description by 2024.

Graduating from LDC status is a sign that a country's per capita gross national income, human assets, and resilience to economic and environmental shocks are robust enough to enable sustainable development.

GDP GROWTH BY SECTOR



Bangladesh was 105th in the The Global Competitiveness Report 2019 from the World Economic Forum. The more competitive a country is, the more likely it is that it will be able to improve living standards.

The garment trade that began in Bangladesh in the 1970s is now a \$30 billion industry. But the economy is diversifying. The services sector – including microfinance and computing – makes up 53% of the country's GDP.

The success of the IT industry is central to the digital transformation and ongoing economic growth of Bangladesh. It exports nearly \$1 billion of technology products every year – a figure that the government expects to increase

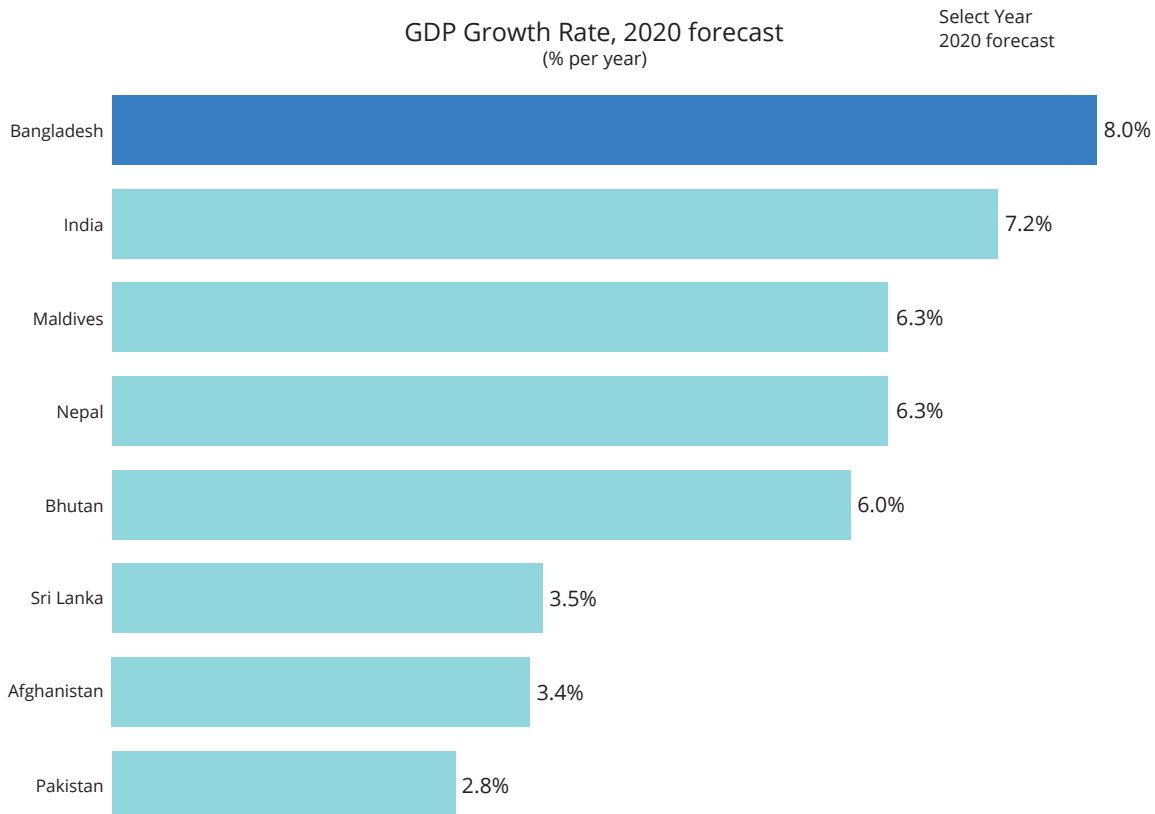
to \$5 billion by 2021. The country also has 600,000 IT freelancers.

Source: World Economic Forum

Bangladesh's economic growth hits record 8.15% in FY19

Bangladesh's economic growth is slightly higher than the provisional estimate, but the per capita income has remained unchanged.

The pace of economic growth was 8.15 percent in fiscal 2018-19, said Planning Minister MA Mannan at a media briefing in Dhaka on Tuesday, citing final data.



Source: Asian Development Bank. *Asian Development Outlook 2019 Update*

The provisional data had put the GDP growth at 8.13 percent for the year.

Bangladesh's per capita income stood at \$909, which is unchanged from the provisional data.

The planning minister cited recent devaluation of taka against US dollar as a reason for no change in per capita income.

The per capita income in 2018-19 finally stood at Tk 160,440, which was Tk 160,060 in accordance with the provisional data.

Bangladesh posted a GDP growth of 7.86 percent in 2017-18. The per capita income was \$1,751 in that financial year.

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics estimates 8.2 percent GDP growth in the current fiscal year. The World Bank estimation is 7.2 percent growth in 2019-20.

The size of the GDP has stood over Tk 25.42 trillion by the end of the last fiscal year, up from over Tk 22.5 trillion of the previous financial year.

Bangladesh's industries grew 13.08 percent in 2018-19, according to the final data. It posted 12.66 percent industrial growth in 2017-18.

Source: bdnews24.com

How the digital economy is shaping a new Bangladesh

With the advent of rapid digitalization, many developing countries like Bangladesh are focusing on the digital economy: a global market for digital outsourcing.

The digitalization of a country's economy not only drives innovation in its service industry, it also fuels domestic job opportunities, enabling faster economic growth. In the quest to lower costs and risks, many large corporations in developed nations like the US, UK and Australia are turning to IT outsourcing from countries including Bangladesh, leading to a recent boom in freelancing.

Freelancing jobs include everything from computer programming to web design, tax preparation, and search engine optimization.

This has generated a wide range of new opportunities for people in emerging markets that did not previously exist. Asia has become the number-one region for providing outsourcing services to the rest of the world. Freelancing offers many advantages, including the freedom to choose clients and projects, access to the global market, and flexibility over location. Most importantly, freelancers can avoid the long, frustrating hours commuting in traffic in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka.

Consequently, freelancing has become a popular career option for many Bangladeshi people, offering a new and flexible source of income that suits their lifestyles.

The rapid digitalization of Bangladesh - including easy internet access in urban areas and government and non-government initiatives to promote freelancing - has contributed to the recent growth of this way of working.

As a result, Bangladesh has already become the second-largest supplier of online labour, according to the Oxford Internet Institute (OII).

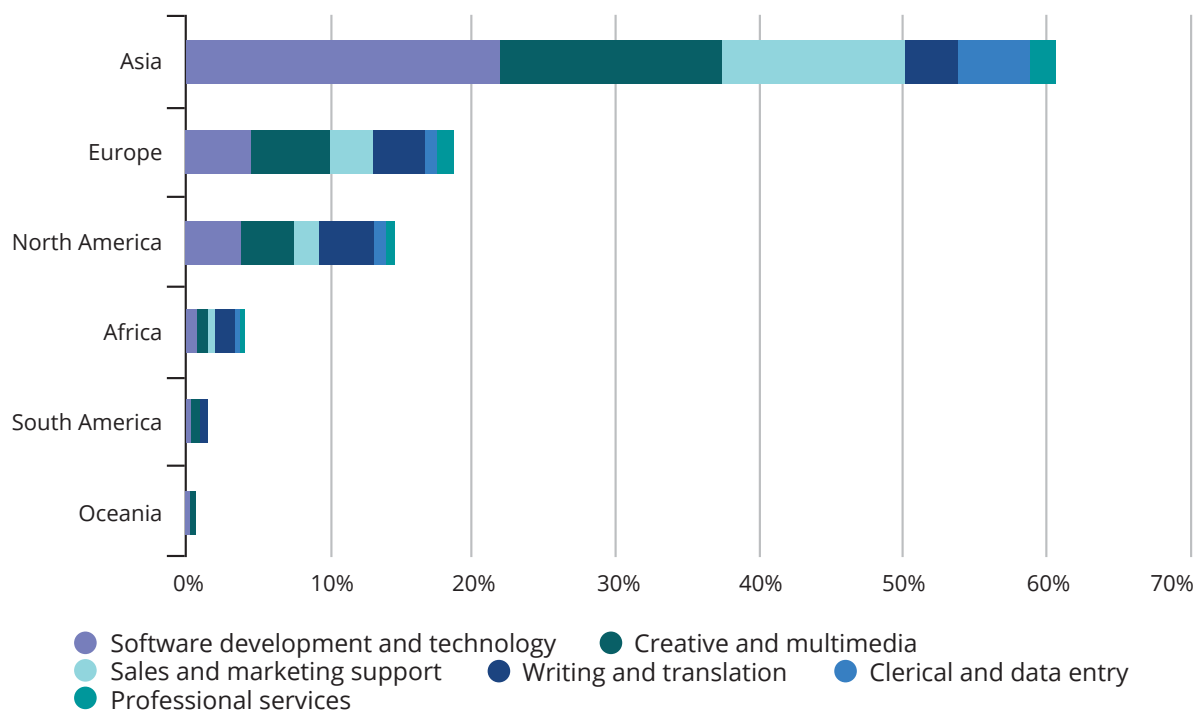
About 500,000 active freelancers are working regularly, out of 650,000 registered freelancers in the country; between them they are generating \$100 million annually, according to the ICT Division of Bangladesh.

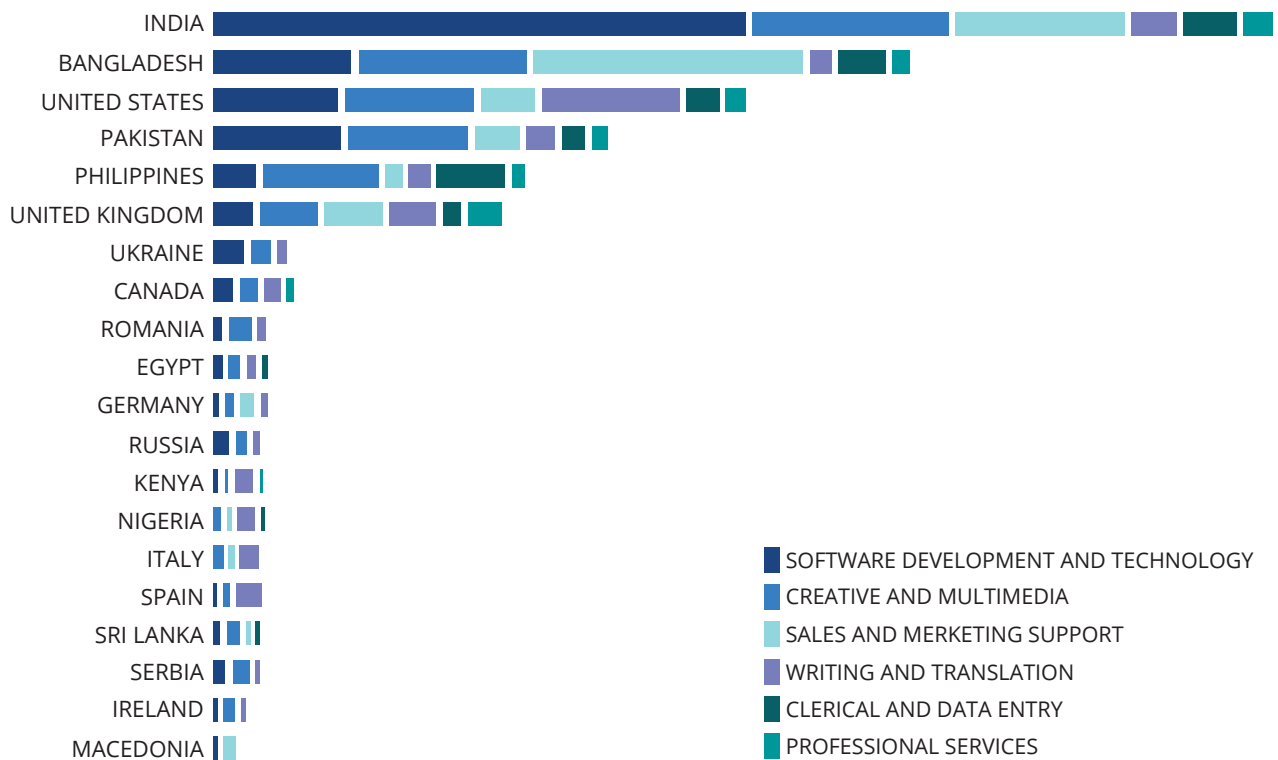
India is the largest supplier of online labour, with close to 24% of total global freelance workers, followed by Bangladesh (16%) and the US (12%). Different countries focus on different sectors of freelancing services. For instance, technology and software development is dominated by Indian freelancers, while Bangladesh is the top supplier of sales and marketing support services.

Freelancing: a solution to the unemployment problem

One in every 10 of Bangladesh's 44 million young people is unemployed, according to research by World Vision Bangladesh. Moreover, thousands of graduates who are finishing their studies at different public and private universities in Bangladesh are failing to find suitable positions in the job market each year.

As a result, the rate of educated unemployment in the country is increasing exponentially. However, these young unemployed people can easily start their career by taking some IT training and freelancing online. By doing so, they not only make a living but also contribute to the economy by earning a salary in a valuable foreign currency.



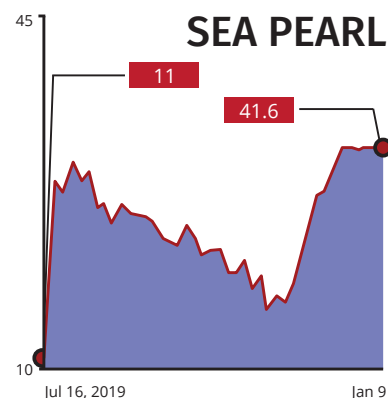
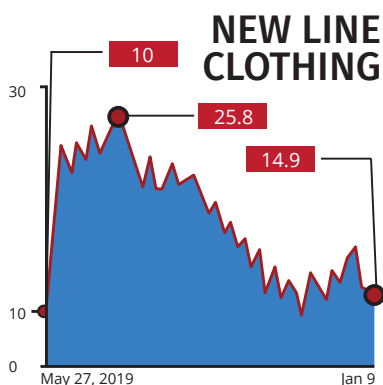


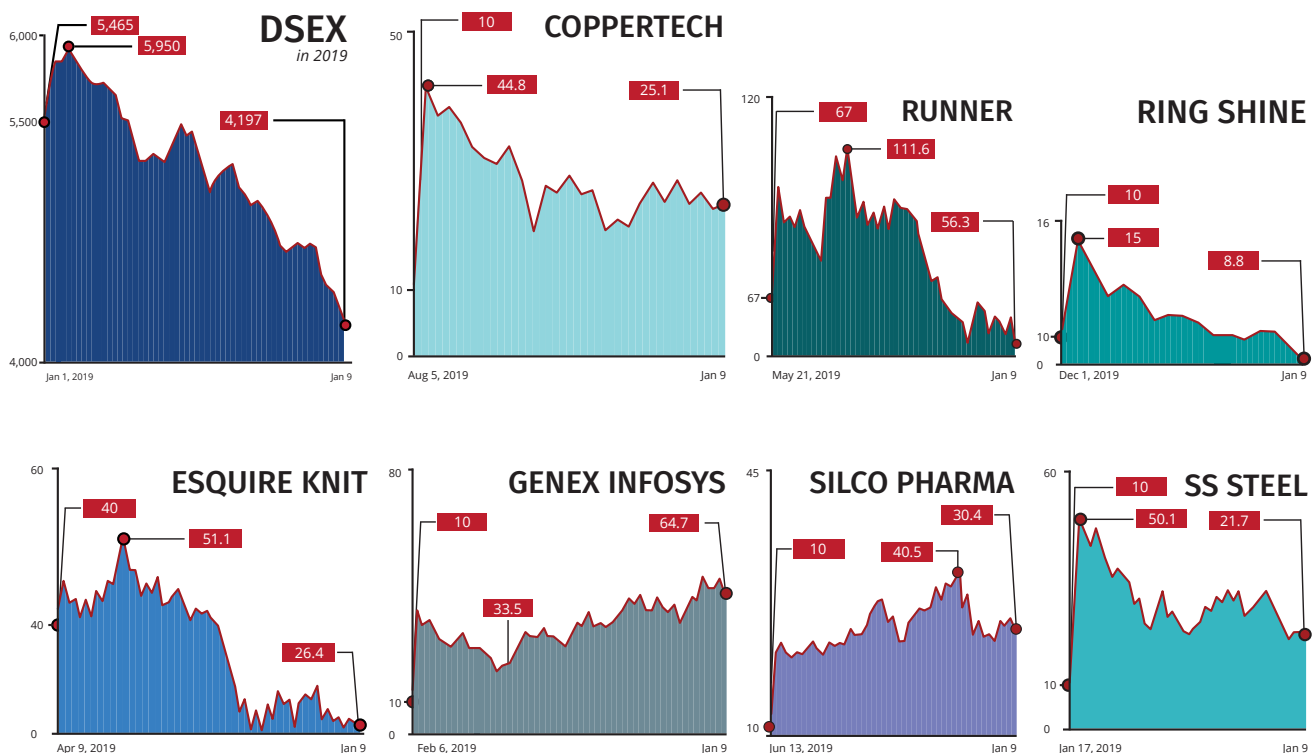
The way forward

Bangladesh is one of the few countries in Asia that has a huge youth population. Of its 163 million people, almost 65% are under the age of 25.

This vast, young and strong human resource, however, is still lacking in the knowledge necessary to thrive in the competitive global market.

Capital Market Update





2019: Not a good year for IPOs

Nine companies raised Tk 540 crore from the stock market last year by way of initial public offering. Almost all the companies' stock rose in the first few days of their trading. But, they tumbled after the investors got the true picture of the companies' prospects. During the time, DSEX declined but the newly listed stocks' descent was steeper.

Source: The Daily Star

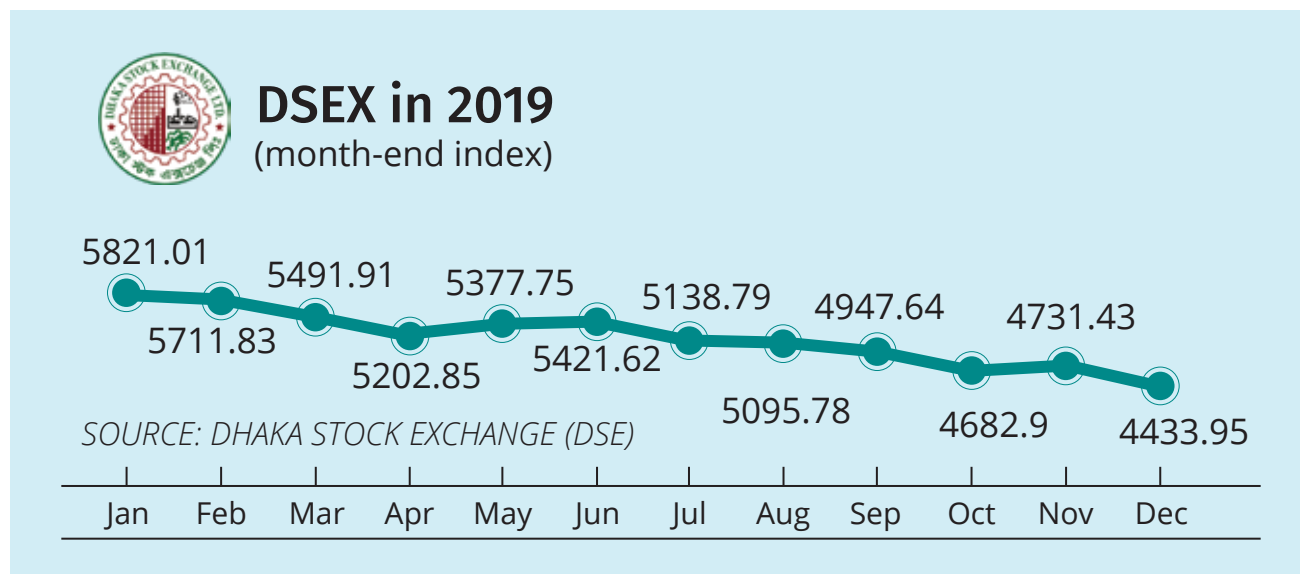
A gloomy year for stock investors

The capital market passed yet another gloomy year as the core index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) lost 18.5 per cent year-on-year in 2019, after hitting a 42-month low. After the stock market crash in 2010-2011, the government came up with some instant market supportive measures. The market even after nine years of a fragile journey failed to get a strong foothold, as investors were discouraged by one issue after another. The market has been in the doldrums almost throughout the year 2019 amid investors' confidence crisis. People familiar with the

market said round-the-year liquidity crunch in the banking sector, gloomy macroeconomic outlook, soaring non-performing loans, some policy changes and foreign investors' pulling funds out of the market worsened the situation. They said dearth of quality stocks, liquidation of People's Leasing and Financial Services (PLFS) coupled with telecom regulator's spat with Grameenphone also sapped local and foreign investors confidence. The financial sector remained volatile with liquidity crunch while soaring interest rate, huge non-performing loans and pressure on the exchange rate spilled over into the capital market, said an analyst at a leading brokerage firm. The index was hovering between 4,390 and 5,950 points during the year. The index reached highest at 5,950 on January 24 while dipping to 42-month low to 4,390 on December 24 amid lack of institutional investor participation. Between January 01 and December 30, 2019, DSEX, the prime index of DSE, lost 1,012 points or 18.52 per cent to close the year at 4,452. Market capitalisation of the prime bourse also shed 13.22 per cent in the outgoing year to Tk 3,395 billion. The daily turnover, another important gauge, stood at Tk 4.80 billion on an average, down by 13 per cent

year-on-year, in 2019. The port city's bourse, Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), also saw sharp fall in the outgoing year with its CSE All Share Price Index - CASPI -losing 2,854 points or 17.44 per cent to settle at 13,505 and the Selective Categories Index - CSCX -plunging 1,707 points or 17.25 per cent to finish the year at 8,187 on Monday. The stock market stepped into 2020 amid concern over the depressing macroeconomic outlook, lingering tussle between GP and telecom regulator over an audit claim and little hope of an immediate market recovery. Most surprising that the large-cap stocks, considered as blue chips, suffered most during the year as foreign investors' pulling funds out of the market that worsened the situation. The blue-chip index DS30, which groups 30 prominent companies, lost 246 points or 20 per cent to come down to 999 on Monday, after hitting a six-year low since April, 2014. An analyst said the free-fall in the trusted securities like GP, Square Pharma, British American Tobacco, United Power and BRAC Bank left no option for investors but to leave the market. The GP stock plunged more than 32 per cent since February this year which impacted the overall market.

Throughout the year, GP was embroiled in a tussle with the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) over the telecom regulator's audit claim of Tk 125.80 billion in unpaid taxes and dues. The chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) also blamed the plunge in stocks on the ongoing tussle between GP and the telecom regulator as well as huge sell-offs by foreign investors. Foreign investors sold more shares than they bought as they fear the local currency may devalue further and macroeconomic indicators may worsen. Until November, their net investment stood at Tk 3.75 billion in the negative, which was Tk 4.91 billion in the negative year-on-year. The depreciation of local currency against the US dollar was another reason for withdrawal of funds by the foreign investors. Shares of BATBC, Square Pharma, United Power and Brac Bank also slumped 72 per cent, 32 per cent, 27 per cent and 24 per cent respectively in 2019. The analyst said the continuous falling share prices triggered the panic sale, pulling the market further down.



The stock market is stuck well below the expected level. The market slide began early in the year and intensified the fall when fiscal year 2019-2020 budget was passed in parliament on June 30, 2019 without any significant incentive for stocks and the market had hardly rebounded since then.

The government's market supportive measures, including redefining the banks' capital market exposure and amending public issues rules, failed to boost the fund flow. The investors had run for exit after the market crash in 2010-11 with fear and anger, and their confidence is yet to be recovered.

Source: The FE



‘আমার শক্তি এটাই যে আমি আমার জনগণকে
ভালোবাসি। আর আমার দুর্বলতা, আমি এদের
প্রাণের চেয়েও বেশি ভালোবাসি।’

জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান-এর
জন্ম শতবার্ষিকীতে জানাই
গভীর শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

Agent Banking in Bangladesh

Mohammad Ataour Rahman

SAVP & Manager Operations, Banashree Branch

With a view to facilitate the under privileged people [mainly in rural areas], Agent Banking has been introduced in Bangladesh in 2013. As on September 2019, total amount of deposit collected through Agent Banking was Tk.6,169.86 crore and that of inward remittance distributed through Agent banking was Tk.11,937.69 crore. **74% of total deposit [Tk.4,595.33 crore]** came from rural areas and **90% of total inward remittance [Tk.10,686.70 crore]** was distributed in rural areas. As on September 2019, 22 Banks have obtained licenses from Bangladesh Bank (BB) and out of which 19 Banks are in operation. So, the demand for agent banking by the stakeholders has been increasing day by day.

Regulatory Issue:

Agent Banking has been introduced in 2013 through a guideline of Bangladesh Bank¹. The purpose of introducing Agent Banking is to provide banking services to the under-privileged population, who generally live in a geographically remote location and beyond the reach of the traditional banking network. This has allowed the banks to expand their business using intermediaries as agents. Agent banking is *gaining popularity as a cost-effective delivery channel to the bank* as well as a convenient way of getting banking services to the customers. A ***“Prudential Guidelines for Agent Banking Operations in Bangladesh”*** has been issued by BB in September 2017, which is a comprehensive guideline for the stakeholders².

What is Agent Banking:

Agent Banking means providing limited scale banking and financial services to the underserved population through engaged agents under a valid agency agreement, rather than a teller or cashier.

It is a new banking process where every transaction is completed by verification of customers' "Finger-Print through Biometric Machine".

It is also called a Biometric Account which is opened by the customer registering his finger print at Bank's nominated Agent Banking Point. To open such account, a customer has to go to an agent Banking Point with the following papers;

- ◆ Dully filled-in KYC Form (available at agent)
- ◆ Photograph of the Account holder & the nominee
- ◆ NID or any other acceptable ID with photograph.

¹PSD Circular No.05: Guidelines on Agent Banking for the Banks dated 09 December 2013.

²BRPD Circular No.14: Prudential Guidelines for Agent Banking Operation in Bangladesh dated 18 September 2017.

Way to Register Biometric Account:

After receiving all documents & taking finger print, agent will verify the documents and insert the NID number into Biometric Machine. Finally, the account will be authorized by the Bank Official & then the customer will get an SMS.

Agent Banking Services:

The following services will be covered under Agent Banking:

- ◆ Collection of small value cash deposits and cash withdrawals (ceiling should be determined by BB from time to time);
- ◆ Inward foreign remittance disbursement;
- ◆ Facilitating small value loan disbursement and recovery of loans, installments;
- ◆ Facilitating utility bill payment;
- ◆ Cash payment under social safety net programme of the Government;
- ◆ Facilitating fund transfer(ceiling should be determined by BB from time to time);
- ◆ Balance inquiry;
- ◆ Collection and processing of forms/documents in relation to account opening, loan application, credit and debit card application from public;
- ◆ Post sanction monitoring of loans and advances and follow up of loan recovery;
- ◆ Receiving of clearing cheque;

- ◆ Other functions like collection of insurance premium including micro-insurance etc.

Agent Selection Criteria:

The following issues should be taken into consideration for selecting agents:

- ◆ Competence to implement and support the proposed activities;
- ◆ Financial soundness and cash handling capability;
- ◆ Ability to meet commitments under adverse conditions;
- ◆ Business reputation;
- ◆ Ability to offer technology based financial services;
- ◆ Security and internal control, audit coverage, reporting and monitoring capacity.
- ◆ Loan defaulter or the convicted person can not apply for agencyship.

Restriction of Agents:

Agents are not allowed to provide the following services;

- ◆ Giving final approval of opening of bank accounts and issuance of bank cards/cheques.
- ◆ Dealing with loan/financial appraisals
- ◆ Encashment of cheques
- ◆ Dealing in Foreign currency.

Agent Banking Activities in Bangladesh: A brief of Agent Banking Activities.

[Taka in Lac]

	September 2018	June 2019	September 2019	Change Y-To-Y	Share (%) of Rural areas
Banks with License	20	21	22	2	--
Banks in Operation	18	19	19	1	--
Number of Agents	3588	6013	6531	82%	--
Number of Outlets	5351	8671	9391	76%	--
Number of Accounts	1,777,400	3,416,672	3,964,346	123%	83%
Amount of Deposit	201,276.07	528,446.39	616,986.49	206%	74%
Amount of Loan Disbursed	13,732.94	23,734.59	30,579.45	123%	80%
Amount of Inward Remittance	351,422.93	934,905.17	1,193,769.57	240%	90%

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Salient Features:

Year to Year growth rate of deposit collection and that of disbursement of inward remittance are 206% and 240% respectively. Growth rate of number of account and that of loan

disbursement are 123% & 123% respectively. Share of rural areas in vital issues like deposit and inward remittance are 74% and 90% respectively.

Activity summary of Agent Banking of 19 Banks:

A brief of Agent Banking activities of 19 Banks is as under:

[Taka in Lac]

SL No.	Bank Name	No. of Agent	No. of Account	Deposit	Disbursement	Remittance
01	Al-Arafah Islami Bank	156	198872	144,843.47	621.35	157,195.29
02	Dutch-Bangla Bank	753	1738286	144,436.32	494.61	447,546.45
03	Islami Bank Bangladesh	646	328707	114,431.68	-	178,246.28
04	Bank Asia	3094	1207790	111,010.72	23,194.05	314,698.76
05	Agrani Bank	200	110415	23,936.38	-	59,403.48
06	Mutual Trust Bank	102	48085	16,896.00	579.00	15,049.00
07	United Commercial Bank	93	28919	16,163.82	-	1,140.94
08	The City Bank	56	69367	11,611.75	3,612.64	6,422.80
09	Social Islami Bank	47	34265	7,489.55	-	3,835.19
10	The Premier Bank	29	22338	6,749.44	-	23.73
11	First Security Islami Bank	26	25337	6,634.17	-	1,509.51
12	AB Bank	48	10076	3,690.82	-	932.75
13	Midland Bank	31	11323	1,861.00	-	1,114.87
14	Standard Bank	26	10916	1,822.50	-	4,992.68
15	BRAC Bank	145	4287	1,449.55	2,034.00	789.78
16	NRB Bank	165	6633	1,439.07	33.80	613.83
17	Modhumoti Bank	350	54234	1,419.00	10.00	219.45
18	NRB Commercial Bank	556	53462	960.08	-	10.37
19	Eastern Bank	8	1034	140.75	-	24.41
	Total	6,531.00	3,964,346.00	616,986.07	30,579.45	1,193,769.57

Source: Bangladesh Bank, as on September 2019

Key issues are:

♦ **Dutch-Bangla bank Ltd.** has the **highest** number of Agent Banking accounts [1,738,286], disbursed the **highest** amount of **remittance** of Tk.4475.46 crore and collected **second highest** amount of **deposit** of Tk.1444.36 crore.

♦ **AL-Arafah Islami Bank** has collected the **highest** amount of **deposit** of Tk.1448.43 crore with a few number of Agents [only 156].

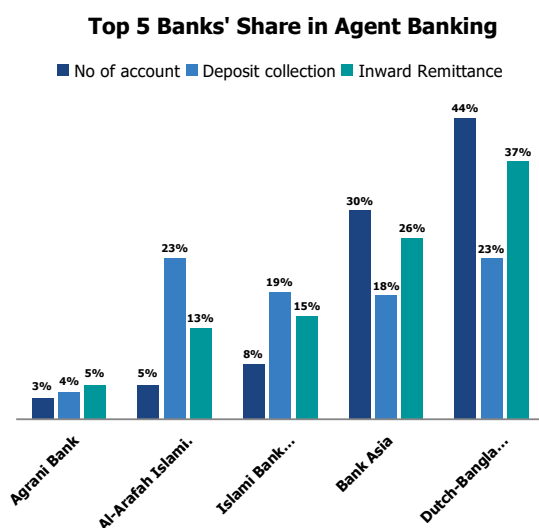
♦ **Bank Asia Ltd.** has the **highest** number of **Agents** [3094], has disbursed the **highest** amount of **loan** of Tk.231.95 crore [84% of total loan of Agent Banking] and also disbursed **second highest** amount of remittance of Tk.3146.98 crore.

Top 5 Banks in Agent Banking:

[Taka in Lac]

Bank Name	No. of Agent	No. of Account	Deposit	Loan Disbursement	Inward Remittance
Al-Arafah Islami Bank	156	198,872	144,843.47	621.35	157,195.29
Dutch-Bangla Bank	753	1,738,286	144,436.32	494.61	447,546.45
Islami Bank Bangladesh	646	328707	114,431.68	-	178,246.28
Bank Asia	3094	1207790	111,010.72	23,194.05	314,698.76
Agrani Bank	200	110415	23,936.38	-	59,403.48
Total	4849	3,584,070	538,658.57	24,310.01	1,157,090.26

Graph: Top 5 Banks' Share in Agent Banking.



Conclusion:

Agent Banking has a **positive growth** in all areas including number account, amount of deposit and inward remittance disbursement. It has been performing **more in rural areas** than in urban areas. But the disbursement of loan (only 4.96% of deposit) through agent banking is very insignificant. So, in order to improve the lifestyle of poor people, more banks should start disbursing loan to increase the economic activities in rural areas.

Highlights from the Quarter

\$5b in leather exports possible by 2022

Leather and leather good exporters are gung-ho about hitting \$5 billion in export receipts by 2022 if the government manages the Leather Working Group's certification at the earliest, according to industry insiders. Last fiscal year, leather and leather good exports fetched \$1.19 billion, making it the second highest export earner for Bangladesh after garment, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau. Bangladesh produces nearly 400 million square feet of rawhide, of which the local leather and footwear companies consume 30 million square feet. Some leather goods and footwear companies import 20 lakh square feet of high-quality leather to make exportable goods.

Remittance soars 32pc

Migrant workers sent home \$1.63 billion in October, the second largest remittance inflow in a single month, as the government's move to incentivise remitters from this fiscal year is appearing to be doing its trick. In the budget for fiscal 2019-20, the government introduced a 2 percent cash subsidy for remitters to encourage them to send money home through the legal channel. Last month's receipts were up 32.28 percent from a year earlier and 11.64 percent from a month earlier, according to the latest data from the central bank. Expatriate Bangladeshis sent record amounts in May: \$1.70 billion. As per a central bank notice, for amounts of up to \$1,500 expatriates will receive 2 percent incentive directly to their accounts without any verification.

Women's unpaid work equivalent to 40pc of GDP: Sanem

Women need recognition for their unpaid work because its monetary value was almost 40 percent of Bangladesh's GDP in fiscal 2016-17, said the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (Sanem). Sanem says the monetary value of unpaid domestic work is equivalent to 48.54 percent of fiscal 2016-17's GDP and

women account for 81.4 percent of the amount. Women looking for jobs have to do unpaid domestic work for 5.97 hours per day while women who never sought to join the labour force for 6.38 hours. Even employed women work for 3.08 hours that are unaccounted for. In contrast, men who are seeking jobs work 1.59 hours per day that go unaccounted for, men who never sought to join the labour force 1.68 hours and those employed 1.28 hours. The gender budget should pave the way for women to enter the labour force, said Nazneen Ahmed, senior research fellow of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

First Taka bond listed on London Stock Exchange

The first-ever Bangladeshi Taka-denominated bond titled "Bangla Bond" was listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE) on Monday which will help Bangladesh raise money from overseas investment. Initially, the Bangla Bond is equivalent to US\$10 million on the London bourse and it will have a three-year maturity, with a 6.3 per cent annual rate of interest. The IFC is the guarantor of Bangla Bond in the international market. The proceeds from this bond in the European market will be invested back in Bangladesh for development of its private sector.

FDI hits all time high

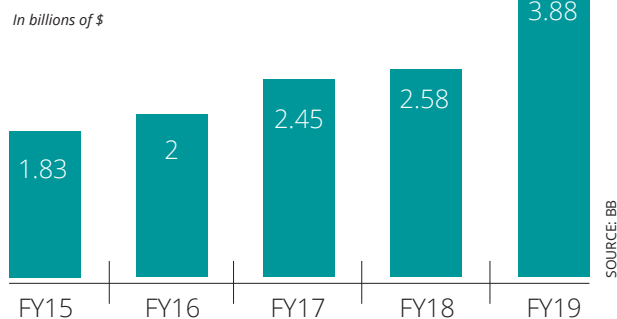
Foreign direct investment to Bangladesh surged 51 percent last fiscal year to its highest on record, riding largely on Japan Tobacco Inc's acquisition of Akij Group's tobacco business for \$1.47 billion. In 2018-19, net FDI stood at \$3.88 billion in contrast to \$2.58 billion a year earlier, according to data from the central bank. Japan Tobacco has made the investment focusing on the domestic market of Bangladesh and there is no scope to recruit additional workers from the domestic workforce for the existing industry. Bangladesh advanced eight notches to 168th out of 190 counties in this year's ranking. The economist, however, expressed

his hope that the FDI would increase once the special economic zones start running in full swing. Bangladesh Bank calculates the FDI in three categories: equity, reinvestment of earnings, and intra-company loan. The FDI posted a significant jump in equity capital, or new investment, climbing 94 percent year-on-year to \$1.19 billion. Intra-company loans rose 87 percent to \$1.33 billion and reinvestment of earnings by existing foreign companies grew 8.77 percent to \$1.36 billion.

NBR expects Tk 3,000cr from tax fair

The annual tax fair begins in all divisional headquarters tomorrow to help taxpayers submit returns and complete related formalities without any hassle. In the capital, the weeklong fair will take place at the Officers' Club. The NBR will simultaneously organise the show for four days in all district towns and for two days in 48 upazilas and one day in eight upazilas between November 14 and November 20. This year will mark the 10th year for the tax fair, which is being organised to raise awareness on the necessity of paying tax for national development and encourage more people to start the practice in a country where the tax-to-GDP ratio is one of the lowest globally. Since its inception in 2010, the tax fair has gained popularity as it gives an opportunity to people to submit income tax returns within a short time and without visiting any tax offices. Last year, the fair fetched a record Tk 2,468 crore for the NBR, up 11 percent year-on-year. The collection grew 21 folds from Tk 113 crore in 2010.

NET FDI INFLOW



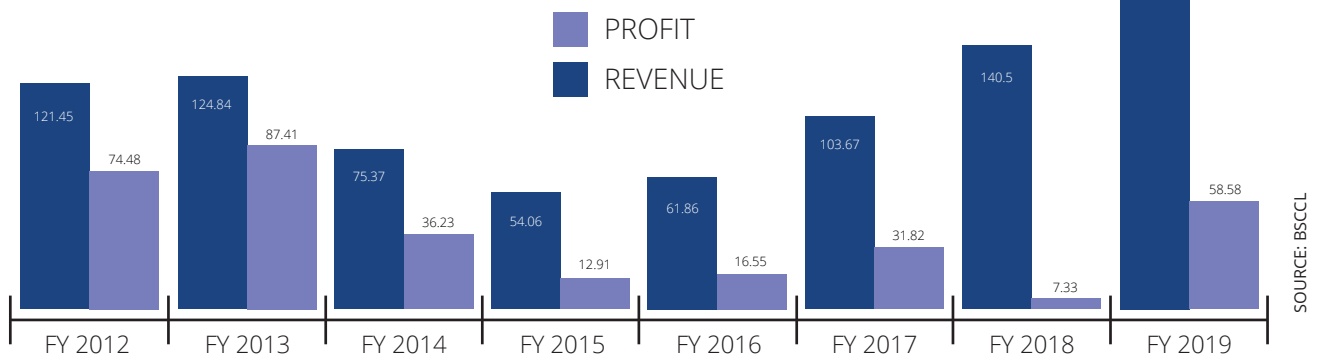
The number of tax returns submitted at the event rose nine times to 4.87 lakh in 2018 from 52,544 in 2010, according to the NBR. Bhuiyan expects that the gathering of taxpayers would continue to swell and enable the tax collector

to generate Tk 3,000 crore from the show this year. The number of tax return submission will increase to nearly 30 lakh at the end of the current fiscal year, from nearly 22 lakh the previous year. The government has a target to raise the number of tax returns submission to one crore by 2021.

Submarine Cable Company's profit jumps eightfold

Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Ltd's (BSCCL) net profit climbed eight times last fiscal year, on the back of a boost in bandwidth usage through a second undersea cable. The state-run cable company's net profit rose to Tk 58.58 crore in 2018-19 from Tk 7.33 crore in 2017-18, according to its annual financial statement. The company also clocked the highest ever single year revenue of Tk 195.57 crore last fiscal year during its decade-long journey. The BSCCL has decided to offer only 16 percent cash dividend to shareholders, meaning it will have to set aside Tk 27 crore from the net profit, said Managing Director Mashiur Rahman. In 2017-18, the company declared 5 percent cash dividend, the lowest since its listing in 2012. In order to connect with SEA-ME-WE-6 (South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe), an optical fibre submarine communications cable system, the BSCCL will need Tk 600 crore. The cable company has decided to earmark Tk 30 crore from last fiscal year's net profit. In the next two years, the BSCCL will have to do the same. Bangladesh was connected with its first undersea cable, SEA-ME-WE 4, in 2006 and with the second one, SEA-ME-WE 5, in 2017. The SEA-ME-WE 4 initially had 10 Gbps capacity but it was later increased to 300 Gbps and it will last only five more years. Thanks to the SEA-ME-WE 5, the BSCCL received 1,500 Gbps but it rose to 2,300 Gbps with technical advancements. As of September, the country's total international bandwidth consumption reached 1,250 Gbps, of which the BSCCL is supplying 650 Gbps, officials said. The rest is imported from India. The government owns 73.84 percent stake in the company, while institutional investors own 11.20 percent, foreign investors 3.03 percent, and general public 11.94 percent. The BSCCL shares closed down 2.95 percent at Tk 108.30 on Dhaka Stock Exchange.

REVENUE/PROFIT TRENDS *in crores of taka*



Biman buying two more 787 Dreamliners for \$585m

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is set to buy two 787-9 Dreamliner jets at a cost of \$585 million (\$ 580.5 crore) at list prices. Biman and US aero plane maker Boeing announced the deal at the 2019 Dubai Airshow in the UAE city of Dubai. Boeing's 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft is more advanced than 787-8 Dreamliner planes. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who had inaugurated the four 787-8 Dreamliner airplanes of Biman in Dhaka, is currently in Dubai to watch the airshow. The new purchase was recorded in October as an unidentified order on Boeing's website. It complements Biman's fleet of 787-8 jets with the larger and longer range 787-9 variant. For Biman, the 787-9 can carry 298 passengers in a standard three-class configuration and fly up to 7,530 nautical miles (13,950 kilometres) while reducing fuel use and emissions by up to 25 per cent compared to older aero planes.

Govt okays buying 50,000 tonnes of wheat

The government has approved procurement of 50,000 tonnes of wheat at a cost of Tk 1.14 billion. Swiss Singapore Overseas Enterprises Pte Ltd will supply the wheat at a price of \$268.14 per tonne. The committee also approved procurement of additional 30,000 tonnes of octane to meet the demand during November-December period. The procurement will cost the public exchequer Tk 1.59 billion.

Swiss Singapore Overseas Enterprises Pte Ltd will supply the wheat at a price of \$268.14 per tonne. The committee also approved procurement of additional 30,000 tonnes of octane to meet the demand during November-December period. The procurement will cost the public exchequer Tk 1.59 billion.

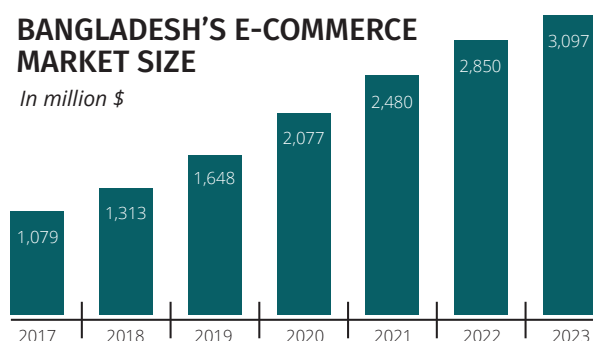
BB cuts interest rate for export development fund

The central bank yesterday cut interest rate on its export development fund (EDF) by 1 percentage point with a view to giving a boost to sluggish export earnings. As per a notice issued by the Bangladesh Bank, manufacturers who export will now be able to borrow foreign currency loans at LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) plus 1.5 percent, down from 2.5 percent previously. The banking regulator also cut the interest rate for banks as they will be charged LIBOR plus 0.50 percent from the previous rate of LIBOR plus 1 percent. Exporters initially apply to banks for the loans, after which lenders request the central bank to provide the fund. The EDF was launched in 2005 with an initial amount of \$100 million; it was gradually increased to \$3.50 billion. Exporters from six sectors can get loans from the EDF and the central bank can set a separate credit ceiling for them. For instance, a single member of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association is allowed to get \$25 million from the fund and a member of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association \$15 million.

E-commerce sales to reach \$3b in 4 years

BANGLADESH'S E-COMMERCE MARKET SIZE

In million \$



Bangladesh's e-commerce market stands at \$1.6 billion currently and will double to \$3 billion by 2023 on the back of a digital foundation laid down by the government and a young and tech-savvy population, a German research firm said recently.

In terms of e-commerce revenue, Bangladesh is ranked 46th in the global ranking, according to Statista, the online portal for statistics that makes available data collected by market and opinion research institutes and that derived from the economic sector and official statistics. According to the Statista report, the online fashion market in Bangladesh is currently worth \$598 million and it has the prospect to reach up to \$1.24 billion by 2023. Electronic products amounting to \$457 million and furniture and appliances worth about \$196 million are sold online. The online sales of furniture and appliances will would go up to \$352 million after four years. Online sales of toys and hobby products stand at \$260 million and it can almost be double to \$442 million by 2023.

Source: Daily News Paper [Oct-Dec, 2019]

Bangladesh Economy at a Glance

Reserve Money [in BDT crore]	246186.90 [Nov-2019]
Net Foreign Assets [in BDT crore]	271278.2 [Sep-2019]
Broad Money [in BDT crore]	1275477.00 [Nov-2019]
FDI Inflow [in USD million]	18680.21 [Apr-June'19]
BOP [in BDT crore]	-542.7 [Dec-2019]
GDP Growth [in %]	8.15 [Dec-2019]
12 moths Average Inflation [in %]	5.59 [Dec-2019]
Import [in USD million]	4393.00 [Nov-2019]
Export [in USD million]	3525.09 [Nov-2019]
FX Reserve [in USD million]	32486.62 [Dec-2019]
Tax revenue [in BDT crore]	18606.72 [Nov-2019]
Classified Loan Percentage Total Outstanding	11.99 [Sep-2019]
Wage Earners' Remittance [in USD million]	1687.15 [Dec-2019]

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Banking Industry at a Glance

No. of Internet Banking Customers	2251764 [June-2019]
No. of Internet Banking Transactions	1072960 [June-2019]
Amount of Internet Banking Transactions	4949.5 CR [June-2019]
No. of Mobile Banking Transactions	199531493 [June-2019]
Amount of Mobile Banking Transactions [in BDT crore]	31708.4 [June-2019]
No. of Agent Banking Transactions	3242126 [June-2019]
Amount of Agent Banking Transactions [in BDT crore]	9408.0 [June-2019]
No. of ATMs (in actual) (as on)	10722 [June-2019]
No. of POS (in actual) (as on)	52846 [June-2019]
No. of E-Commerce Transaction	350335 [June-2019]
Amount of E-Commerce Transaction [in BDT crore]	101.9 [June-2019]
W.A Call Money Rate	4.50 [Dec-2019]
W.A. Deposit Rate	5.71 [Nov-2019]
W.A. Lending Rate	9.63 [Nov-2019]
Spread	3.92 [Nov-2019]

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Key Appointments in Banking Sector

Designation	Name	Institution
Chairman	Ali Reza Iftekhar	The Association of Bankers, Bangladesh
MD & CEO	Syed Mahbubur Rahman	Mutual Trust Bank
MD & CEO	Kazi Alamgir	Bangladesh Development Bank
MD & CEO	Abul Kashem Md Shirin	Dutch Bangla Bank Limited
MD & CEO	Mirza Elias Uddin Ahmed	Jamuna Bank Limited
MD	M Fakhru Alam	One Bank Limited
AMD	Mamoon Mahmood Shah	NRB Bank

Events



Agreement Signing Ceremony with Praava Health

Dhaka Bank Limited has signed an agreement on November 03, 2019 for providing online cash management services to Praava Health Bangladesh Limited at Dhaka Bank Corporate Office. Mr. Emranul Huq, Additional Managing Director of Dhaka Bank Limited and Ms. Sylvana Sinha, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Praava Health Bangladesh Limited have signed the agreement while Mr. Syed Mahbubur

Rahman, Managing Director and CEO of Dhaka Bank Limited and Ms. Sylvana Sinha, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Praava Health Bangladesh Limited exchanged the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Other officials of both organizations were also present at the signing ceremony.



Mr. Emranul Huq, Additional Managing Director of Dhaka Bank Limited inaugurated Electric Lab in UCEP Institute of Science & Technology (UIST)

On 18th November, 2019 Mr. Emranul Huq, Additional Managing Director of Dhaka Bank Limited inaugurated Electric Lab in UCEP Institute of Science & Technology (UIST), Mirpur, Dhaka with the presence of Ms. Parveen Mahmud, Chairperson, BOG, UCEP Bangladesh. Mr. J L Bhowmik, Vice Chairman, UCEP

Bangladesh BOG and Ms. Tahsinah Ahmed, President, UIST Management Committee & Executive Director, UCEP Bangladesh. UCEP Bangladesh is a non-government organization which provides second chance education to out of school children and decent work to youth & through Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET) and skill development. The Electrical Lab in UCEP was developed with the financial support from Dhaka Bank Limited. Among others high officials of Dhaka Bank Limited and UCEP, Dhaka was also present at the opening ceremony of Science and Innovation Club and Electric Lab. Dhaka Bank donated Tk. 30.0 Lac for setting up Lab Equipment under CSR of the Bank.



Dhaka Bank signs Buy 1/Get 1 deal with Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel

Dhaka Bank Limited signed an agreement with Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel Dhaka. Dhaka Bank VISA Signature & Mastercard Titanium credit cardholders will enjoy Buy One Get One free facility on buffet Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner at Pan Pacific Sonargaon, round the year.

The ceremony of agreement signing took place at the premise of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on 27th of November 2019. Md. Shafquat Hossain, Head of Retail Business Division, Dhaka Bank Limited and Mr. Stephen James Peters, General Manager, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel exchanged

documents after signing the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Mr. H. M Mostafizur Rahaman, Head of Cards, Dhaka Bank Limited, Mr. M A Awal Director of Sales & Marketing & Mr. Asif Ahmed Director of Finance of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel along with other officials from both the organizations were present in the signing ceremony.



Dhaka Bank Officials greeted Mr. Arman Haque, Chairman of InnStar Group on the occasion of their 10th anniversary

Dhaka Bank Officials greeted Mr. Arman Haque, Chairman of InnStar Group on the occasion of their 10th anniversary November 29, 2019. Mr. Akhlaqur Rahman, EVP & Manager, Banani Branch, Mohammad Ainul Haque, VP, Corporate Banking Division and Mr. Md. Kamal Uddin, VP & Manager Operations, Banani Branch called on to congratulate Mr. Arman Haque on behalf of Dhaka Bank Management.



Dhaka Bank Disburses Loan to Medicinal Plant Cluster

To enhance financial inclusion and alleviate poverty, Dhaka Bank Ltd. has organized a loan disbursement program among 10 Taka account holders involved in seasonal farming of different medicinal plants at Palashbari, Gaibandha District at reduced interest rate on 04/12/2019. A K M Shahnawaj, Deputy Managing Director of Dhaka Bank, Shoheli Afreen, Joint Director, FID of Bangladesh Bank Head office, Sanjib Kumar Dey, Head of MSME & Agricultural Business and other officials of Rangpur Branch and Head office were also present along with good numbers of marginal farmers of adjacent localities.



Dhaka Bank signed MoU with Acorn Infrastructure Services Limited for Payroll Banking Services

Dhaka Bank has signed MoU with Acorn Infrastructure Services Limited, (a concern of Bangla Trac Group) for Payroll Banking Services on December 05, 2019 at Dhaka Bank Corporate Office. Under this MoU, the Bank will provide Payroll Banking Services to the employees of Acorn Infrastructure Services Limited. The Bank has fairly a wide range of retail banking products and preferential pricing for its Payroll Banking clients; for instance, salary accounts, credit-debit & prepaid cards, retail loans, and investment opportunities such as Dhaka Bank FD, DPS, Double Deposit Scheme etc. The Bank is also equipped with the cutting-edge mobile app, titled Dhaka Bank Go, which is integrated with bKash and internet banking solution for facilitating the client's everyday banking.

Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge), Dhaka Bank Limited and Mr. M Jahangir Alam, Chief Executive Officer, Bangla Trac Group have signed & exchanged the MoU of Payroll Banking Services at Dhaka Bank Corporate Head Office, Dhaka.



Dhaka Bank Employees & Cardholders to get special benefit at Healthcare Diagnostic Center Ltd (HDCL)

Dhaka Bank has recently signed a Corporate Medical Services Agreement with Healthcare Diagnostic Center Ltd. (HDCL) for the benefit of the bank's

cardholders and employees. Under the Corporate Medical Services agreement, Dhaka Bank cardholders and employees will enjoy privileged services and special discount on all kinds of diagnostic tests, imaging, health check-up packages etc. at HDCL while undergoing for any treatment for a period of 06 (six) months.

At the same time, a Service Agreements have been signed for providing Payroll Banking Services to the employees of HDCL. The Bank has fairly a wide range of retail banking products and variety of cards along with preferential pricing for its Payroll Banking clients; for instance, special salary accounts, credit-debit & prepaid cards, retail loans, and investment opportunities such as FD, Deposit Pension Schemes (DPS), Double Deposit Scheme etc. The Bank is also equipped with a cutting-edge mobile app, titled Dhaka Bank Go, which is integrated with bKash and internet banking solution for facilitating the client's everyday banking.

The ceremony of agreement signing took place at the premise of HDCL located in Shyamoli, Dhaka. Mr. H. M Mostafizur Rahaman, SVP & Head of Cards, Dhaka Bank Limited and Mr. Halimuzzaman, Managing Director, Healthcare Diagnostic Center Ltd. signed the MOU on behalf of the respective institutions.



Agreement Signing Ceremony between Dhaka Bank Limited and Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

A Signing Ceremony was held between Dhaka Bank Limited and Independent University, Bangladesh which took place on Monday, December 09, 2019 at

IUB Campus.

The Agreement was exchanged between Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge) of Dhaka Bank Limited and Prof. Dr. Milan Pagon, Vice-Chancellor (Acting) of Independent University, Bangladesh on behalf of the respective organizations.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge) of Dhaka Bank Limited and Mr. Khandker Md. Iftekhar Haider, Treasurer of Independent University, Bangladesh on behalf of the respective organizations.

Under this agreement, students of IUB can pay their tuition fees at any Dhaka Bank Branch spread across the country from January, 2020.

Guardians will not require to fill in any deposit slip for cash payment, and instead they will be receiving system generated payment confirmation slip with necessary details as a confirmation of the payment.



Dhaka Bank has signed an agreement with Rancon British Motors Ltd.

Dhaka Bank has signed an agreement with Rancon British Motors Ltd – the sole distributor of MG vehicles in Bangladesh on 15th December, 2019 at Dhaka Bank Corporate Office. Under this

agreement customers will get preferential facilities from Dhaka Bank while purchasing MG brand new vehicles for Rancon British Motors Ltd. The agreement was handed over by Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge) Dhaka Bank and Mr. Mohammad Sameer Uddin, Chief Financial Officer, Rancon British Motors Ltd Group.



Signing with National Housing

Dhaka Bank Limited has signed an agreement on January 02, 2020 for providing online cash management services to National Housing Finance and Investments Limited at Dhaka Bank Limited Corporate Office. Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge) of Dhaka Bank Ltd. and Mr. Md. Khalilur

Rahman, Managing Director of National Housing Finance and Investments Limited have signed and exchanged the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Other officials of both the organizations were also present at the signing ceremony. Under the agreement, Dhaka Bank Ltd. will provide online cash management services to the client.



Cheque handover to Hon'ble Prime Minister

Mr. Reshadur Rahman, Chairman along with Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker, Founder Chairman & Director of Dhaka Bank Limited donated Tk. 5.0 Crore towards Bangabondhu Memorial Trust for celebrating the Mujib Year 2020. The cheque was ceremoniously handed over to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gonobhabon on Monday, January 06, 2020.



Annual Managers Conference 2020

Annual Managers' Conference for the year 2020 of Dhaka Bank Limited was held on January 18, 2020 at InterContinental Dhaka, Dhaka. Mr. Reshadur Rahman, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dhaka Bank Limited inaugurated the conference as Chief Guest

while Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge) of Dhaka Bank Limited presided over the conference. Among others, Founder Chairman & Director Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker, Sponsor & Former Chairman Mr. A.T.M. Hayatuzzaman Khan, Directors messrs. Mohammed Hanif, Abdullah Al Ahsan, Mirza Yasser Abbas, Former Director Mr. Khandaker Mohammad Shahjahan, Independent Directors messrs. Md. Muzibur Rahman and A. S. Salahuddin Ahmed and Former Independent Director Mr. Syed Abu Naser Bukhtear Ahmed were present. Deputy Managing Directors Mr. Shakir Amin Chowdhury, Mr. Mohammad Abu Jafar, Mr. A K M Shahnawaj and Company Secretary Mr. Md. Shahjahan Miah were also present at the conference.

Branch Managers, Branch Operations Managers, Head of Divisions/Units from Head Office attended the program. The Conference reviewed overall progress of the year 2019 and chalked out various programs for achieving yearly target for 2020 of the Bank.



Signing with Rupayan

Dhaka Bank has signed an agreement with Rupayan Housing Estate Ltd. on January 19, 2020 at Dhaka Bank Corporate Office. While purchasing apartments in various projects of Rupayan, customers will get preferential loan facilities from Dhaka Bank under this agreement. The agreement was signed and exchanged

by Mr. Md. Shafquat Hossain, Head of Retail Business, Dhaka Bank and Mr. Reaz Mahmud, Chief Financial Officer, Rupayan Group with the presence of Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge), Dhaka Bank Ltd.



Mujib Borsho Golf Tournament

Dhaka Bank has sponsored 'Mujib Borsho Cup Golf Tournament -2020, Dhaka Bank Limited' on the occasion of Birth Centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Army Golf Club, Dhaka from 22nd to 25th January, 2020. Around 800 players from home and abroad have participated

in this remarkable tournament. Even though the tournament started on January 22, 2020; the official kickoff of the tournament was arranged at 9:00am on January 25, 2020 through a formal tee off with the presence of the Chief Guest of the tournament Major General Kazi Sharif Kaikobad, ndc, psc, Director General, Bangladesh Ansar & VDP.

The Prize Giving Ceremony and Cultural Program was also organized on 25th January, 2020. The ceremony was graced by Major General Kazi Sharif Kaikobad, ndc, psc, Director General, Bangladesh Ansar & VDP as Chief Guest. He was accompanied by the Founder Chairman & Director Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker; Sponsor & Former Chairman Mr. A.T.M. Hayatuzzaman Khan; Director Mr. Altaf Hossain Sarker, Managing Director (Current Charge) Mr. Emranul Huq of Dhaka Bank Limited.

শান্তিনিকেতনে কাটানো সারাদিন

তোফায়েল করিম খান | এফ.ভি.পি, সি.আর.এম ডিভিশন

ছোট বেলা থেকেই বই এবং পত্র-পত্রিকায় শান্তিনিকেতন সম্পর্কে এতবার পড়েছি এবং লোকমুখে এতবার শুনেছি, যে নিজের অজান্তেই মনের কোণে স্বপ্নের বীজ বপন হয়ে গিয়েছিল এবং সময় যত গড়িয়েছে এই স্বপ্ন যেন দিনে দিনে গাড়া হয়ে বসে যেতে থাকলো পরানের গহীন অন্ধকারে। এর মধ্যে অনেক দেশ... ফ্রান্স, ইতালি, সুইজারল্যান্ড, তুর্কি, ইংল্যান্ড, অস্ট্রেলিয়া ঘুরা হয়ে গেছে। কতো ঐতিহাসিক জায়গা দেখা হয়ে গেছে এসব দেশের। এরপর ইন্ডিয়াতেও একাধিকবার বেড়িয়েছি। ভূস্বর্গ কাশ্মীর দেখেছি, দেখেছি তাজমহল, লালবাগের কেল্লা, আরো কতো রাজা মহারাজাদের প্রাসাদ, মন্দির, খাষিদের মন্দির কিন্তু আলো জ্বলে ওঠেনি পরানের গহীনে অনেক ভালোবাসায় তুলে রাখা সেই স্বপ্নটিতে। এবার কলকাতা গেলে রবীন্দ্রনাথের আরেক সৃষ্টি শান্তিনিকেতনে যাওয়ার সুযোগকে আর হাতছাড়া করতে চাইলাম না। অবশেষে পরিবার নিয়ে ডিসেম্বরের ৫ তারিখ সকালে শিয়ালদহ থেকে ট্রেনে বোলপুরের উদ্দেশ্যে যাত্রা করলাম। একে একে পার হলাম কাঁকড়া গাছি, বিধান গড়, দমদম জংশন, দক্ষিণেশ্বর, বালুঘাট, চন্দন নগর, জো গ্রাম, নবগ্রাম, মস গ্রাম, বর্ধমান জংশন, থানা জংশনসহ বিভিন্ন স্টেশন।



যতই বোলপুর এগিয়ে আসছে ততই কৌতুহলে মন চঞ্চল হয়ে উঠছে। অবশেষে বেলা এগারোটা নাগাদ বোলপুর পৌঁছলাম। সত্যি বলতে কি কবির স্মৃতিবিজড়িত স্থান দেখার জন্য অনেক দিন অপেক্ষায় ছিলাম। আজ চোখের সামনে এগুলো দেখতে পাবো ভেবেই মনটা খুশিতে ভরে উঠল।

একরাশ উত্তেজনা নিয়ে ট্রেন থেকে নামলাম। বিষ্ময়ে তাকিয়ে দেখতে লাগলাম চারিদিক। এই সেই বিখ্যাত বোলপুর! নিতান্ত সাদামাটা একটি স্টেশন অথচ শান্তিনিকেতন তাকে এনে দিয়েছে জগতজোড়া পরিচিতি। কত বিখ্যাত ব্যক্তিদের চরণস্পর্শ লেগে আছে এখানকার মাটিতে! স্টেশন থেকে অটোরিক্সা টোটে নিয়ে আমরা শান্তিনিকেতনে যাত্রা করলাম। দু’পাশের দৃশ্য দেখতে দেখতে অটোরিক্সা এসে থামলো শান্তিনিকেতনের দোরগোড়ায়। শিহরিত তণু-মন। এই আমাদের কবিগুরু বিখ্যাত সেই শান্তিনিকেতন! পথ দিয়ে যেতে যেতে যেদিকে তাকাই বার বার মনে হয়- একদিন এখানে বিশ্বকবি ছিলেন, এই পথ দিয়ে হাঁটতেন, এখানে গাছতলায় বসে ছাত্রদের শিক্ষা দিতেন। মনে হতে লাগলো, এই বুঝি তাকে দেখতে পাবো আজানুলব্ধিত পোশাক পরে পিছনে দু’হাত বেঁধে দাঁড়িয়ে আছেন।

শান্তিনিকেতনের প্রবেশদ্বার দিয়ে ঢুকতেই চোখে পড়ে সারি বাঁধা শালগাছ, আমবাগান, তাল, বাউ ও নারকেল গাছ। উত্তর-পশ্চিমের প্রান্তে প্রাচীন দু’টি ছাতিমের তলার মার্বেল পাথরে বাঁধানো বেদি (মহাশ্বশি দেবেন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুরের প্রার্থনা করার স্থান ছিল)।



১৮৯১ সালে প্রতিষ্ঠিত ব্রাহ্ম মন্দির (উপাসনা গৃহ), প্রাচীন কদম গাছ, নন্দলাল বোস, রামকিনকর, বিনোদবিহারি মুখার্জীর ভাস্কর্য ঘেরা কলা ভবন, সঙ্গীত ভবন এবং বইয়ে সমৃদ্ধ গ্রন্থাগার। আশ্রম থেকে খানিকটা পূর্বে ছোট্ট টিলার ওপর প্রাচীন বট গাছ। শান্তিনিকেতনে ঘুরে বেড়ানোর সময় দেখলাম একটি বিশাল থোলা মাঠে মেলার আয়োজন চলছে, চারপাশে স্টল তৈরির কাজ চলছে। দোকানিরা কেউ কেউ তাদের পসরা নিয়ে দোকান সাজাতে শুরু করেছেন। প্রতি বছর ৭ পৌষ শান্তিনিকেতনে বিশাল পৌষমেলার আয়োজন হয়। ওই দিনটি শান্তিনিকেতনের ইতিহাসে সবচেয়ে পবিত্র দিন বলে কবিগুরু উল্লেখ করে গেছেন। দিনটিতে তার বাবা মহশী দেবেন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর ব্রাহ্মধর্মে দীক্ষিত হয়েছিলেন। কিছুদিন পরই মেলা বসবে। মনটা একটু খারাপ হয়ে গেল, মেলার সময় থাকতে না পারার কথা ভেবে। এরপর দেখলাম শিল্পকলার অনন্য একটি নিদর্শন উত্তরায়নে অবস্থিত মাটির তৈরী ‘শ্যামলী বাড়ি’। উত্তরণ কমপ্লেক্সে রবীন্দ্রনাথের স্মৃতিবিজড়িত স্থানগুলোতে বিভিন্ন স্থাপনা নির্মিত হয়েছে। চারপাশে বাগানে ঘেরা। পাখিদের কলকাকলি, ফুলে ফুলে প্রজাপতিদের থেলা, শান্ত নিরিবিলা পরিবেশ। তারপর আমরা গেলাম রবীন্দ্রভবন মিউজিয়ামে, এটি বিচিত্রা বাড়ি নামেও পরিচিত। রবীন্দ্র যাদুঘরে ঢাকার আগে ক্যামেরা-ব্যাগ ইত্যাদি জমা দিতে হয়। নোবেল পদক চুরি যাওয়ার পর নিরাপত্তায় খুব কড়াকড়ি। এ মিউজিয়ামে আছে রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুরের লেখা কবিতা, গদ্য, গল্প, প্রবন্ধ, নাটকের পাণ্ডুলিপি আর গানের শ্রুতলিপি, রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুরের হাতে লেখা চিঠি, পদক আর নোবেল প্রাইজ, সার্টিফিকেট, চিত্রকর্ম, শিল্পকর্ম, ফটোগ্রাফ ইত্যাদি।

তবে কেন যেন এসব সাজিয়ে রাখা বইখাতা, চিঠিপত্র, পাণ্ডুলিপি, ব্যবহৃত তৈজসপত্র আর দেয়ালে টাঙানো ছবির চেয়ে রবীন্দ্রনাথকে বেশি খুঁজে পাওয়া যায় এসবের বাইরে যে লাল নুড়ি বিছানো পথ চলে গেছে উদয়ন, কোনার্ক, শ্যামলী, পুনশ্চ আর উদীচী ছাড়িয়ে আরও দূরে, গ্রামছাড়া ওই রাঙামাটির পথে। প্রতি শনিবার বসে থোয়াই মেলা।

থোয়াই জমির রূপবিরল এবং আকর্ষণীয় থোয়াই নিয়ে রবীন্দ্রনাথ কবিতা লিখেছেন। শিল্পীরা ছবি এঁকেছেন, দেশ-বিদেশের বিখ্যাত ফটোগ্রাফাররা থোয়াইয়ের ছবি তুলেছেন। প্রতিকৃতিগুলোর কিছু রবীন্দ্রভবনের ফটো আর্কাইভস এ দেখা যায়। বেলা গড়িয়ে দুপুরের খাওয়ার সময় হয়ে গেল। খাবারের পর্বটি শান্তিনিকেতনের ভেতরেই “আমার কুটির হেসেল ঘরে” সেরে নিলাম আমরা। একটু বিশ্রাম নিয়ে আমরা গেলাম ‘আমার কুঠিরে’ কারুপল্লীর কারুশিল্প প্রদর্শনী কেন্দ্র। গ্রামবাংলার হস্তশিল্প, তাঁতবস্ত্র, চামড়াজাত শিল্প, বাটিক, মৃৎশিল্প ইত্যাদি আছে এখানে-যা বাংলার ঐতিহ্য। এরপর প্রবেশ করলাম ভারতের অন্যতম একটি প্রাকৃতিক মিউজিয়াম ‘প্রকৃতি ভবনে’। সেখানে প্রবেশ করতেই চোখে পড়ল সৌন্দর্যের এক বালক। সবুজে ছাওয়া প্রান্তরজুড়ে নানা রকম বৃক্ষরাশি দিয়ে তৈরী ভাস্কর্য, কাঠের তৈরী শিল্পকর্ম, পাথরখচিত ভাস্কর্য, নাম না জানা অসংখ্য ছোট ছোট গাছ মাথা উঁচু করে দাঁড়িয়ে আছে, প্রাকৃতিক সৌন্দর্যমণ্ডিত সারি সারি বাগান সমৃদ্ধ করেছে ওই স্থানকে।



বিকেল বেলা আম্রকুঞ্জে (আমতলায়) বসে শান্তিনিকেতনের শিল্পীদের পরিবেশনায় রবীন্দ্রসঙ্গীত এবং লোকগীতি শুনি। প্রাকৃতিক সৌন্দর্যমণ্ডিত চারপাশের মাঝে সুরের মূর্ছনায় মুহূর্তেই মনটা প্রশান্তির আনন্দে ভরে গেল।

রবীন্দ্রনাথের পরিবেশ চিন্তা এবং পরিবেশ শিক্ষার সাক্ষী হয়ে আছে বিশ্বভারতী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়। ঘুরে ঘুরে দেখলাম শান্তিনিকেতন ক্যাম্পাস, বাংলার অনেক বড় বড় কবি, সাহিত্যিক ও শিল্পীর শিক্ষাজীবন কেটেছে এখানে। আশ্রমের শেষ প্রান্তে বয়ে চলেছে কোপাই নদী। রবীন্দ্রনাথের বিখ্যাত শিশুতোষ ছড়া ‘আমাদের ছোট্ট নদী’, এ নদীর আকর্ষণ থেকেই কবিগুরু এ ছড়াটি লিখেছেন।

নদীর পাড়ে দাঁড়িয়ে রইলাম কিছু সময়। সূর্যটা ক্রমেই পশ্চিম আকাশে হেলে পড়েছে। ক্ষিধেও পেয়েছে বেশ। মোমো আর চা খেয়েই ক্ষিধে মিটিলাম। এবার ফেরার পালা। দুই চোখ মেলে দেখলাম সুন্দরের সুর, প্রাকৃতিক প্রাচুর্যে সমৃদ্ধ রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুরের অসাধারণ সৃষ্টি শান্তিনিকেতন, আর মনের কুঠিরে বন্দি করে রাখলাম এ ভ্রমণের স্মৃতি।

অর্থনীতির বড় চ্যালেঞ্জঃ খেলাপি ঋণ কমানো

সুমন বনিক | এফ. ভি. পি. এন্ড ম্যানেজার, উপশহর শাখা

একরাশ স্বপ্ন ও প্রত্যাশা নিয়ে শুরু হলো ২০২০ সাল। অর্থনৈতিক মুক্তি অর্জনে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে বাংলাদেশ। উন্নয়নের জোয়ারে ভাসছে এদেশের অর্থনীতির সাম্পান। উন্নয়ন সাম্পানের পালে লেগেছে নতুন নতুন প্রকল্পের হাওয়া। জাতিসংঘ ১৯৭৫ সালে বাংলাদেশকে স্বল্পোন্নত দেশ হিসেবে তালিকাভুক্ত করে। সেই পর্যায় থেকে উন্নয়নশীল দেশে উন্নীত হওয়ার যোগ্যতা বাংলাদেশ অর্জন করেছে। ২০২৪ সালের মধ্যে এই উত্তরণ প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন হবে। অর্থনীতিতে বাংলাদেশ বর্তমানে- ৪১ তম দেশ এবং দ্রুত বর্ধনশীল দেশে পঞ্চম। ওয়ার্ল্ড ইকোনমিক ফোরামের পূর্বাভাস অনুযায়ী, ২০২০ সালে ভারত ৭.২ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি নিয়ে দক্ষিণ এশিয়ায় দ্বিতীয় স্থানে থাকবে। তৃতীয় ও চতুর্থ স্থানে থাকবে মালদ্বীপ ও নেপাল আর ২.৪ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি হার নিয়ে সবার নীচে থাকবে পাকিস্তান। বর্তমানে আমাদের প্রবৃদ্ধির হার ৮.১৩ শতাংশ আর মাথাপিছু আয় ১৯০৯ ডলার। আমাদের রিজার্ভের পরিমাণ ৩৩ বিলিয়ন ডলার। দেশের মোট জাতীয় আয় যেমন বেড়েছে, তেমনি মানবসম্পদ, অর্থনৈতিক ও পরিবেশগত ঝুঁকি মোকাবিলার সক্ষমতা অর্জন করেছে বাংলাদেশ। শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, শিশুমৃত্যু রোধ, গড় আয়ু বাড়ানোর ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশের অর্জন চোখে পড়ার মতো। নোবেল বিজয়ী অমর্ত্য সেন সহ বিশ্ব অর্থনীতিবিদগণ বাংলাদেশের এই অর্জনে ভূয়সি প্রশংসা করেছেন। বাংলাদেশ এখন বিশ্বের রোল মডেল।

চাঁদেরও নাকি কলঙ্ক আছে, আছে কালো দাগ। ঠিক তেমনি বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতির ঝলমলে চাঁদে আছে ব্যাংক ব্যবস্থাপনায় খেলাপি ঋণের ছোপ ছোপ কালো দাগ। তাই দেশের অর্থনীতির গতিধারাকে চান্স রাখতে হলে খেলাপি ঋণের কালো দাগ মুছে ফেলতে হবে। তা নাহলে এতাসব অর্জন ধরে রাখা যাবে না। মুখ খুবড়ে পড়বে উন্নয়নের রথযাত্রা। শঙ্কার জায়গাটি এখানেই ঠায় দাঁড়িয়ে আছে। বর্তমানে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তথ্য অনুযায়ী ২০১৯ এর সেপ্টেম্বর পর্যন্ত ব্যাংক খাতে ঋণ বিতরণ করা হয়েছে ৯ লাখ ৬৯ হাজার ৮৮২ কোটি টাকা। এর মধ্যে খেলাপি হয়ে পড়েছে ১ লাখ ১৬ হাজার ২৮৮ কোটি টাকা যা মোট বিতরণকৃত ঋণের ১১.৯৯ শতাংশ। ব্যাংকিং খাতে অস্বাভাবিক ভাবে বেড়ে চলেছে শ্রেণীকৃত ঋণ। ২০০৯ সালে শ্রেণীকৃত ঋণ ছিল ২২ হাজার ৪৮২ কোটি টাকা। ২০১৮ সালের শেষে তা বেড়ে হয় ৯৩ হাজার ৯১১ কোটি টাকা। আর গত সেপ্টেম্বরে এসে তা দাঁড়ায় ১ লাখ ১৬ হাজার ২৮৮ কোটি টাকা, যা মোট ঋণের প্রায় ১২ শতাংশ। এখানে খেলাপি ঋণ অবলোপন করা হয়েছে প্রায় ৫০ হাজার কোটি টাকা। তাহলে মোট খেলাপি ঋণ বেড়ে দাঁড়াচ্ছে ১ লাখ ৬৬ হাজার কোটি টাকা। তবে আই. এম. এফ এর হিসেবে খেলাপি ঋণের পরিমাণ ২ লাখ ৪৬ হাজার কোটি টাকা। ব্যাংকিং সেক্টরে একি ভয়াবহ রূপ! এ অবস্থায় ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করা কতটুকু দুরূহ তা সহজেই অনুমেয়। খেলাপি ঋণের প্রভাব এতটাই ভয়াবহ যে এর প্রভাবে ব্যাংকিং সেক্টর ছাড়াও অর্থনীতির অন্যান্য চলক সমূহে ঋণাত্মক প্রভাব ফেলে। খেলাপি ঋণের চাপ গিয়ে পড়ছে নিয়মিত ঋণের ওপর। এর ফলে বেড়ে যাচ্ছে ব্যাংকের তহবিল খরচ, যার প্রভাবে সুদ হার বাড়ছে। সুদ হার বাড়ায় ব্যবসা পরিচালনা খরচ বাড়ছে। বাড়ছে উৎপাদন ব্যয়। যা রপ্তানী বাণিজ্যে প্রভাব ফেলছে। রপ্তানী ব্যয় বাড়ছে। রপ্তানী ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হচ্ছে।

চলতি অর্থ বছরে রপ্তানীতে সাড়ে সাত শতাংশ নেতিবাচক প্রবৃদ্ধি হয়েছে। খেলাপি ঋণের কারণে বেসরকারি খাতে ব্যাংকের ঋণের প্রবাহও কমে আসছে। একটি ঋণ যখন খেলাপি বা শ্রেণীকৃত ঋণে পরিণত হয় তখন সেই ঋণের বিপরীতে ব্যাংকের নিরাপত্তা সঙ্কিতি (প্রভিশন) রাখতে হয়, যা ব্যাংকের ঋণ বিতরণ কার্যক্রমে আঘাত করে সেই সঙ্গে ব্যাংকের মুনাফার সক্ষমতা হ্রাস পায়। পরিচালনা ব্যয় বৃদ্ধি পায় যা পরোক্ষভাবে ঋণের সুদের হারে প্রভাব বিস্তার করে। খেলাপি ঋণের প্রভাব অনেকটা চক্রাকারে ঘটে। খেলাপি ঋণ বেড়ে যাওয়ার খেলাপি ঋণ বেড়ে যাওয়ার অর্থই হল বিনিয়োগ আটকে যাওয়া। এই বিনিয়োগের জন্য ব্যাংকে কর দিতে হয়, ব্যাংকে সঙ্কিতি সংরক্ষণ করতে হয়, সুদ সৃষ্টি থাকে, মুনাফা হ্রাস পায়, নতুন ঋণ প্রদান হ্রাস পায়, যা আমানতের ওপর চাপ সৃষ্টি করে। এসব প্রত্যেকটি ঘটনাই ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রমে নেতিবাচক প্রভাব ফেলে। খেলাপি ঋণ শুধু ব্যাংকে নয়, পুরো অর্থনীতির জন্য মারাত্মক ঝুঁকি সৃষ্টি করে।

আমাদের কাছে কয়েকটি দেশের খেলাপি ঋণের একটি পরিসংখ্যান দেখলে আমাদের অবস্থানটা আরো একটু দৃষ্টিবদ্ধ হবে। ভারতে বর্তমানে খেলাপি ঋণ প্রায় ১০ শতাংশের কাছাকাছি। দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ায় ০.৭ শতাংশ, মালয়েশিয়ায় ১.৬ শতাংশ, নেপালে ২.৫ শতাংশ, পাকিস্তানে ৮.৮ শতাংশ, ভিয়েতনামে ২ শতাংশ, শ্রীলংকায় ৩.৪ শতাংশ আর বাংলাদেশে ১২ শতাংশ খেলাপি ঋণ নিয়ে ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম চলছে।

ভারত একটি বৃহৎ রাষ্ট্র। এতো বিশাল অর্থনীতির দেশ হওয়া সত্ত্বেও খেলাপি ঋণ সে দেশের সামগ্রিক অর্থনীতির ওপরে আঘাত হেনেছে। ভারতের জাতীয় আয়ের প্রবৃদ্ধি পাঁচ শতাংশের নিচে নেমে গেছে। তাহলে বুঝতে হবে খেলাপি ঋণের আঘাত আমাদের অর্থনীতিতে কতটুকু বিরূপ প্রভাব ফেলতে পারে। নেপালের মতো দেশে ঋণ খেলাপিরা পাসপোর্ট সুবিধা পান না। চীনে ঋণ খেলাপিদের বিমানে ওঠার নিষেধাজ্ঞা আছে। আমরা স্বপ্ন দেখি- আমরা একদিন মালয়েশিয়ার মতো উন্নত দেশ হবো। মালয়েশিয়ার খেলাপি ঋণ মাত্র ১ দশমিক ৬ শতাংশ। তাই আমরা স্বপ্ন দেখে ঘুমাতে চাই না, জেগে উঠতে চাই। স্বপ্নের বাস্তবরূপ দেখতে চাই। দেশের অর্থনীতিকে খেলাপি ঋণের রাহুগ্রাস থেকে মুক্ত করতে না পারলে আমাদের স্বপ্ন স্বপ্নেই হারিয়ে যাবে। তাই খেলাপি ঋণ কমানো আমাদের অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নের বড় চ্যালেঞ্জ।

Eastern Union (EU) - A Brave New World

BACKGROUND

It is interesting that the Eastern and South Eastern part of the Globe have been witnessing the world's largest regional trading group being formed which accounts for 47.4% of the global population, 32.2% of the global economy, and 29.1% of global trade. Lack of a concreted, structured and overarching union among these countries despite some commendable efforts over the years has been counterproductive to the many synergies. These motivated the visionary politicians, leaders and businessman of this part of the globe to form the brave new world- the Eastern Union.



The idea and dream of a Brave New World – The Eastern Union (EU) foresees the collaborative geo-strategic, geo-political and geo-economic development of an inclusive platform for the Eastern World. It takes the conventional classification of Asia-Oceania, Asia-Pacific and now Indo-Pacific and unites them into one unified entity: Eastern Union (EU) having the countries falls stretching alongside of the Indian and Pacific Ocean. Even in its nascence, many analysts see the new Eastern Union as a concept that captures the shift in power and influence from the West to the East. Viewed through the prism of economic potentialities, as the markets in the mature economies hurtle towards saturation, the focus is now on opening new markets in a fast developing and emerging economy of the region. The market offer is massive and the purchasing power in this region is a magnet for companies to firm up integration models especially in sectors like FMCG, Automobiles, Metals and Minerals.

THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT 2020, KOLKATA, INDIA

The Economic Summit-2020, Kolkata was held on 22nd January, 2020 at The Westin Kolkata Rajarhat. Around 400 participants including foreign delegates, politicians, policymakers, business experts and journalists participated in that summit. The summit endeavored to present a platform to the key players in business, economic and strategic domains to explore the validity of the concept of an "Eastern Union". The dignitaries and participants discussed on the following agenda:

- ◆ 'The Politics of New-EU'
- ◆ Exploring 'The New EU: The market and its potentialities
- ◆ Diplomacy as the driving force for 'The New EU'
- ◆ Regional Security for 'The New EU'
- ◆ Thought Leadership for the New-EU

Participants also discussed and debated on existing collaborations, relationships between Governments and the dynamics of multilateralism that this region is witnessing through several trade and economic agreements and treaties. Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Smt Sudesh Dhankhar (First Lady) along with Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Aniruddha Lahiri, Vice President CENERS-K and Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. B B Chatterjee, President,

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, PVSM, AVSM, VM, (Retd), President, CENERS-K and Honorary Chairperson, Strategic Initiative Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge), Dhaka Bank Limited were present at the summit. Among other dignitaries Mr. Andrew Ford, Consul-General, Australian Consulate-General, Kolkata; Major General A N M Muniruzzaman, NdC, PSC (Rtd), President, Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies; Dr. Harish Mehta, Editor-in-Chief, The Calcutta Journal of Global Affairs CENERS-K; Mr. Masayuki Taga, Consul General of Japan, Kolkata were also present at the Summit.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Aniruddha Lahiri, Vice President CENERS-K and others are receiving Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Smt Sudesh Dhankhar (First lady).



Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, PVSM, AVSM, VM, (Retd), President, CENERS-K and Honorary Chairperson, Strategic Initiative Committee and others.



Lamp Lighting by Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Smt Sudesh Dhankhar (First lady) in presence of other dignitaries.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON EXPLORING 'THE NEW EU: THE MARKET AND ITS POTENTIALITIES

Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge), Dhaka Bank participated the summit as one of the key panel speakers. He graced the session on Exploring 'The New EU: The market and its potentialities' with Dr. Alok Roy, Chairman, Medica Group of Hospitals and Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Aniruddha Lahiri, Vice President CENERS-K and Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. B B Chatterjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge), Dhaka Bank Limited gracing the Session.

On following question on how Bangladesh can be benefited from such union Mr. Emranul Huq said, As Bangladesh is one of the fastest growing economy in the word with consistent GDP around 8%; on the edge of completion of mega infrastructural projects,

increasing export trend around the world and a digitalized country can be benefited and reap the opportunities in this new brave world – EU through adopting and transforming technology-know-how with reduced trade barrier (tariffs and quota) among the member countries. Those ultimately will create a positive circumstances for Bangladesh government to achieve the vision 2041.



*Session on Exploring "The New EU": The market and its potentialities:
Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge), Dhaka Bank Limited
and others.*

INTERVIEWS WITH LEADING DAILIES AND BUSINESS PUBLICATIONS OF INDIA

On sidelines of the Economic Summit Mr. Emranul Huq also shared his views with the business reporters of leading Indian Newspaper and News Portals namely The Times of India, The Hindu Business Line, Ei Somoy, Ebangla.in, Uniindia.com and Thewall.in. In a question for suitability of single currency in that region Mr. Emran mentioned that there is already Asian Clearing Union (ACU) in place for trade related settlement having 9 (nine) member countries. At the preliminary level of EU initiating single currency might not be practical, as the countries in that region have economic differences among themselves. But for trade settlement among these countries single currency can be initiated.

In response to another question of a reporter Mr. Emran said, if Indian government reduce the required reserve money for opening up banking business in India, Dhaka Bank Limited might thought of opening off-shore branches at Kolkata and other areas of India especially in the 7-sisters region; it is because at present a huge number of Bangladeshis visit India for treatment and tourism purposes, the number of flights between both countries has increased in many folds and the volume of trade and business with these region of India with Bangladesh are also increasing significantly.



*Mr. Aniruddha Lahiri, Vice President CENERS-K and Former President,
The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting memento
to Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge),
Dhaka Bank Limited.*

CLOSING OF THE SUMMIT

Mr. Aniruddha Lahiri, Vice President CENERS-K and Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry handed over a memento to Mr. Emranul Huq, Managing Director (Current Charge) as a token of appreciation and gratitude towards Dhaka Bank Limited.

New Executive Joining



Name: Raqib Al Rashid
Designation: AVP
Joining date: December 19, 2019
Location: ICCD, HO

New Assignment



Name: Mr. Mostake Kaushik
Designation: SAVP
Joining date: December 30, 2019
New Assignment: In-charge
Branch: Reconciliation Unit, Head Office



Name: Mr. Rimpol Chowdhury
Designation: SPO
Joining date: December 19, 2019
New Assignment: Manager In-charge
Branch: Chandpur Branch, Chandpur



Name: Mr. Mohammad Nazmul Hasan
Designation: SPO
Joining date: December 24, 2019
New Assignment: Manager In-charge
Branch: Kapasia Branch, Gazipur

DBL Corner

Achievement



Name: Mr. Sk. Ishtiaque Bakir
Son of Mr. Sk. Abdul Bakir, SEVP & Manager,
Dhanmondi Branch
Position: General Secretary

Organization: NSU YES- The premium business club of North South University. NSU YES has dedicated itself towards creating an entrepreneurial mindset and instilling a sense of ethical leadership amongst the students of different universities.

New Born



Name: Yana Yusuf
Father: Yusuf Alam Rarhi
Senior Officer (cash), Pagla Bazar Branch, Narayanganj
Mother: Sumaiya Akter
Date of Birth: November 07, 2019

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BANK



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