



Photo Gallery

COMPARATIVE POSITION OF BANGLADESH IN TRADE FACILITATION RELATED INDICATORS

Key Indicators	Bangladesh	Vietnam	India
Trading across Borders (rank)	176	104	68
Time to export-border and documentary compliance (hours)	315	105	64
Cost to export (USD)	633	429	270
Time to import (Hours)	360	132	85
Cost to import (USD)	1,270	556	366
Enabling Trade Index (Rank)	123	73	102
Trade Freedom (Rank) 2022	125	52	90
Trade Openness 2020	30.52%	208%	37.87%

SOURCE: DATA FROM DOING BUSINESS REPORT 2020

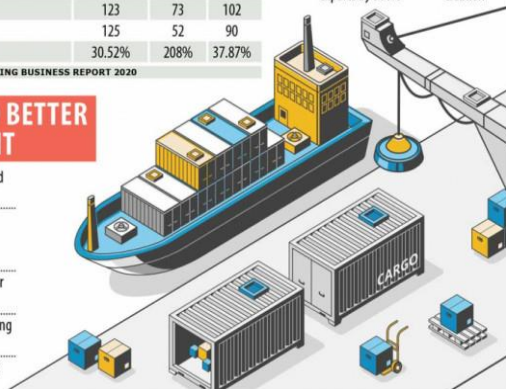
BENEFIT OF IMPROVED TRADE ENVIRONMENT

Reducing domestic logistics costs by 17% would increase exports by 7.4%

Trade facilitation to put positive impact on investment, job creation

MAJOR BARRIERS TO BETTER TRADE ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ Longer clearance time compared to South and East Asian comparators
- ◆ As many as 39 government agencies are involved in issuing certificates, licenses and permits for trade
- ◆ 35% of the products get damaged in ports for port infrastructure deficiency
- ◆ Inadequate digitisation, interoperability among clearance agencies
- ◆ High logistics cost comprising between 4.5% and 49.5% of total sales



Daily Business News

September 1, 2022

BUSINESS NEWS ANALYSIS REPORT

Capital Market News

DSE turnover scales Tk 20b-mark again

Stocks extended their winning streak Wednesday, with a turnover crossing Tk 20 billion-mark once again, as the enthusiastic investors put fresh funds on major sector shares amid high hopes. DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka stock exchange, went up by 24.38 points or 0.38 per cent to finish at 6,457. The DSEX added about 177 points in the past five trading days. Two other indices also edged higher. The DS30 index, comprising blue chips, advanced 3.73 points to finish at 2,283 and the DSE Shariah index gained 2.38 points to close at 1,398.

Turnover, a crucial indicator of the market, stood at Tk 20.05 billion on the country's premier bourse, a further buck by 13 per cent over previous day's mark of Tk 17.69 billion. Market operators said the market remained bullish amidst enthusiastic participation as the investors are more confident to put fresh bets on major sector stocks anticipating positive momentum ahead.

The growth in turnover and index - the two most important indicators of the market -- in general suggests investors' confidence in the market is back on the ascent, said a merchant banker. He noted that the recent recovery signs on the macroeconomic front, particularly foreign exchange market stability, easing inflationary pressures, and slashing fuel prices kept the market afloat.

Gainers took a modest lead over the losers as out of 380 issues traded, 179 advanced, 135 declined and 66 issues remained unchanged on the DSE trading floor. Lafargeholcim Bangladesh became the most-traded stock with shares worth Tk 974 million changing hands.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/dse-turnover-scales-tk-20b-mark-again-1661937160>

Global stock market expert James J Engel visits CSE

James J Engel, an associate professor of Finance, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University, USA, visited Chittagong Stock Exchange PLC (CSE) recently and held a courtesy meeting with the officials of the bourse. Mr James was welcomed with floral greetings by CSE's Chief Regulatory Officer (CRO)

Mohammad Mahadi Hassan. Mr Hassan briefed the distinguished guest about the achievements, activities and current status of CSE, said a press release.

Mr James gave a presentation on the current and future trends of the global capital market and discussed with the participants about various aspects of the global capital markets. He thanked all concerned of CSE for extending the invitation and warm welcome to him. Mr James J Angel holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a PhD in Finance from the University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business. He is an expert on capital markets and served as former chairman of the NASDAQ Economic Advisory Board. Mr James thanked all concerned of CSE for extending the invitation and warm welcome to him.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/global-stock-market-expert-james-j-engel-visits-cse-1662013410>

Economy News

Bangladesh fails to realise full potential of trade

In spite of a lot of emphasis by policymakers and top bureaucrats on facilitating trade and investment to bolster the economy, businesses are yet to get adequate support and services because of a lack of service-oriented attitude and an unfriendly mindset of public officials at the field level. This, along with a lack of diversification of the export basket, longer clearance time, involvement of over three dozen agencies issuing

certificates, licences and permits, and inadequate digitalisation, increases the cost of doing business. As a result, Bangladesh fails to realise the full potential of trade, said analysts and top business leaders at a webinar on trade facilitation for Bangladesh's export competitiveness.

"At the senior level of bureaucracy, there is a realisation that a major reform is necessary," said Salman F Rahman, the prime minister's private industry and investment adviser. "Unfortunately, this has not been translated at the field level," he told the webinar organised by the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh. "The big challenge now is to make their junior colleagues realise the benefit. Change in attitude and mindset is needed." He said a lot of samples of products were coming to Bangladesh and a number of products were not on the list of those eligible for bonded warehouse benefits.

Radiofrequency identification (RFID) tags are not on the list, so customs houses are facing difficulties in releasing the products. "But why can't we get the RFID tag in the list of the items to get bonded warehouse benefit?" he asked.

The entrepreneur demanded reducing the time it takes to get licences for bonded warehouse facilities to import raw materials at zero duty to make products for exports and increasing the validity period of certificates and various licences.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-fails-realise-full-potential-trade-3108206>

'US dollar hoarders will face stern action'

Punitive actions will be taken against people who have hoarded US dollars illegally, the Bangladesh Bank said today. The hoarders will have to sell the dollar to either banks or money changers by September 30, or else strict legal action will be taken against them, according to a Bangladesh Bank press release. It said that a non-resident Bangladeshi (NRB) is allowed to bring any amount of money when the person comes back to the country.

A single NRB will keep a maximum of \$10,000 or equivalent amount of other foreign currencies with him or her during staying in the country. The amount can be brought back to the foreign nations when an NRB goes there. But the NRBs have to sell the excess amount of \$10,000 to either banks or money changers within a month after coming to Bangladesh.

Legal action will be taken against the NRBs if they keep excess amount of foreign currency than the legal limit. A Bangladesh Bank official said the country's financial sector has started to face shortage of cash dollar once again.

Travelers had purchased each dollar for up to Tk 120 nearly one month ago from the open market after which BB took a set of measures to restore stability in the open market. The exchange rate of the taka against the US dollar hovered around Tk 108 per dollar for the time in first three weeks of August. But the rate has commenced to increase once again as the outbound individuals today purchased each dollar for Tk 112.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-dollar-hoarders-will-face-stern-action-3107796>

Forex reserve falls to \$39.05b

Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserve has started to decline once again as it stood at \$39.05 billion yesterday in contrast to \$39.21 billion the day before. The reserves stood at \$39.59 billion at the end of July compared to \$41.82 billion in June this year. The latest drop in the reserves will create pressure on the exchange rate of the taka against the US dollar further, a Bangladesh Bank official said.

The fall of taka's exchange rate means import payments will swell further, which will hike the price of imported commodities. In the last three days, the banking watchdog had sold \$367 million to different banks to help both the governments and businesses settle import bills for essential commodities, the official said. Between July and August, around \$2.50 billion were supplied to the market by the central bank from its reserves. It also injected a record of \$7.62 billion into the market in the last fiscal year.

The exchange rate of the taka against the US dollar stood at Tk 95 yesterday, up 11.5 per cent year-on-year. The exchange rate for the importers, however, experienced an around 20 per cent year-on-year fall. The BB official said the reserves might fall below \$39 billion in a day or two, after which it might further deteriorate substantially in the second week of this month when the central bank will clear payments for Asian Clearing Union (ACU).

The ACU is an arrangement by which the participants settle

payments for intra-regional transactions among the participating central banks on a net multilateral basis. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are the members of the Tehran-headquartered ACU that was established in December of 1974.

Remittance is now maintaining an upward trend, but it has failed to protect the reserves from the fall because of the high import payments against the slower-than-expected export earnings, the official said. Migrant workers sent \$1.72 billion in remittance in the first 25 days of August after they had logged the outflow to the tune of \$2.09 billion in July. Import bills rose 63 per cent year-on-year to \$7.66 billion in July when export earnings grew by 15 per cent to \$3.98 billion, data from BB and the Export Promotion Bureau showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/forex-reserve-falls-3905b-3108221>

Industry News

Bida, US venture capital firm to work together to attract FDI

The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) has joined hands with US-based venture capital firm Anchorless Bangladesh to attract and facilitate targeted global investments and jointly promote investment opportunities in Bangladesh and abroad.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed in this regard at a programme at Bida's head office

in Dhaka's Agargaon today. The MoU includes provisions for attracting high-value technology and high-impact investments in key priority sectors and provide support and advisory related to FDI and equity investment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bida-us-venture-capital-firm-work-together-attract-fdi-3107906>

Company News

Al-Arafah Islami Bank to issue Tk 500cr bond

Al-Arafah Islami Bank has received approval to raise Tk 500 crore by issuing a non-convertible, floating and mudaraba subordinated bond. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) approved the bond yesterday at a meeting held at the BSEC building in Dhaka. Institutional investors, high-net-worth people can buy the bond through private placement. The price of each unit of the bond would be Tk 5 lakh.

With the bond proceeds, the bank will strengthen its Tier-2 capital base. The bond has to be listed on the alternative trading board of the security exchanges. Its trustee is First Security Islami Capital & Investment and mandated lead arrangers are UCB Investment and Prime Bank Investment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/al-arafah-islami-bank-issue-tk-500cr-bond-3108126>

Price Sensitive News

Trading Code: STANDBANKL

News Title: STANDBANKL: Sale Confirmation of a Sponsor

News: Mr. Mohammad Nurul Islam, one of the Sponsors of the Company, has further informed that he has completed his sale of 20,00,000 shares of the Company at prevailing market price through Dhaka Stock Exchange as per declaration disseminated on 22.08.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: EASTERNINS

News Title: EASTERNINS: Dividend Disbursement

News: The Company has informed that it has disbursed the cash dividend for the year ended December 31, 2021 to the respective shareholders.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: SUNLIFEINS

News Title: SUNLIFEINS: Suspension for Record date

News: Trading of the shares of the company will remain suspended on record date i.e., 04.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: SEMLFBSLGF

News Title: SEMLFBSLGF: Suspension for Record date

News: Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 04.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: SEMLIBBLSF

News Title: SEMLIBBLSF: Suspension for Record date

News: Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 04.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: SEMLLECMF

News Title: SEMLLECMF: Suspension for Record date

News: Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 04.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: WALTONHIL

News Title: WALTONHIL: Suspension for Record date

News: Trading of the shares of the company will remain suspended on record date i.e., 04.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: GSPFINANCE

News Title: GSPFINANCE: Suspension for Record date

News: Trading of the shares of the company will remain suspended on record date i.e., 04.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: RELIANCE1

News Title: RELIANCE1: Spot News

News: Trading of the units of the Fund will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 04.09.2022 to 05.09.2022. Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 06.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: ABB1STMF

News Title: ABB1STMF: Spot News

News: Trading of the units of the Fund will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 04.09.2022 to 05.09.2022. Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 06.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: EBLNRBMF

News Title: EBLNRBMF: Spot News

News: Trading of the units of the Fund will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 04.09.2022 to 05.09.2022. Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 06.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: PHPMF1

News Title: PHPMF1: Spot News

News: Trading of the units of the Fund will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 04.09.2022 to 05.09.2022. Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 06.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: POPULAR1MF

News Title: POPULAR1MF: Spot News

News: Trading of the units of the Fund will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 04.09.2022 to 05.09.2022. Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 06.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: EXIM1STMF

News Title: EXIM1STMF: Spot News

News: Trading of the units of the Fund will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 04.09.2022 to 05.09.2022. Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 06.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: FBFIF

News Title: FBFIF: Spot News

News: Trading of the units of the Fund will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 04.09.2022 to 05.09.2022. Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 06.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: 1JANATAMF

News Title: 1JANATAMF: Spot News

News: Trading of the units of the Fund will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 04.09.2022 to 05.09.2022. Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 06.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: IFIC1STMF

News Title: IFIC1STMF: Spot News

News: Trading of the units of the Fund will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 04.09.2022 to 05.09.2022. Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 06.09.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: TRUSTB1MF
News Title: TRUSTB1MF: Spot News
News: Trading of the units of the Fund will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 04.09.2022 to 05.09.2022. Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 06.09.2022.
Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: EBL1STMF
News Title: EBL1STMF: Spot News
News: Trading of the units of the Fund will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 04.09.2022 to 05.09.2022. Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 06.09.2022.
Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: GRAMEENS2
News Title: GRAMEENS2: Spot News
News: Trading of the units of the Fund will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 04.09.2022 to 05.09.2022. Trading of the units of the Fund will remain suspended on record date i.e., 06.09.2022.
Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: EIL
News Title: EIL: Change of AGM Time
News: The Company has further informed that the 22nd AGM of the Company will be held on September 01, 2022 at 11:00 AM instead of earlier declared time at 11.30 AM. Other information of the AGM will remain unchanged.
Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: OLYMPIC
News Title: OLYMPIC: To import machineries, development works & operations extension
News: (Continuation news of OLYMPIC): an agreement with Lucerne Cocoa & Chocolate Products Limited for 2 (two) years term from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2024 for purchase of different kinds of chocolate products from them for sale in own brand name. 5) To arrange construction of 9000 sft. floor area Tin Shed with RCC base, column, floor and brick wall, etc. on newly purchased land near Lolati factory at a total cost of BDT 1.00 Crore and 65.00 Lac to meet the shortage of processing and storage space. (end)
Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: OLYMPIC
News Title: OLYMPIC: To import machineries, development works & operations extension
News: (Continuation news of OLYMPIC): Also to complete other required works there including installation of Cargo Lift, Air Circulation System, etc. The revised expenditure for the purpose now is estimated to be around BDT 12.00 Crore and 20.00 Lac and approximately BDT 1.00 Crore will be released per month for the next twelve months. Completion of 2nd phase works will remove the shortage of storage space for raw materials, packing materials and finished products in the Units. 4) To execute (cont.5)
Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: OLYMPIC
News Title: OLYMPIC: To import machineries, development works & operations extension
News: (Continuation news of OLYMPIC): Manufacturing Unit of the company at Kutubpur in Narayanganj district. This 2nd Baked Snacks Processing Line will ensure additional production of 200 tons Baked Snacks per month to meet growing demand for Snacks of the company. 3) To start 2nd phase Civil Construction and other works of 5-storey Extension Building of Cartons and Snacks Units of the company at Kutubpur in Narayanganj district measuring around 44,100 sft. areas. (cont.4)
Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: OLYMPIC

News Title: OLYMPIC: To import machineries, development works & operations extension

News: (Continuation news of OLYMPIC): 2) To import one complete set of machineries and spare parts including Water Softener, Chiller, Cooling Tower, Barrel Set, etc. from India /China as-well-as to purchase other required items including Solution Preparation & Measuring Tank, LPG System, Utility Supply Lines, Pipes, Fittings, Cables, etc. from local sources and installation thereof at a total cost of around BDT 3.00 Crore and 11.00 Lac for setting up 2nd Baked Snacks Processing Line at Snacks (cont.3)

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: OLYMPIC

News Title: OLYMPIC: To import machineries, development works & operations extension

News: (Continuation news of OLYMPIC): at Kutubpur in Narayanganj district to enhance production capacity of making various sizes Corrugated Cartons by 102 million pieces per annum for packaging products of the company. The import and installation of the line with some other required local items including Slitter, Stacker, Overhead Crane, Trolley, etc. will cost around BDT 11.00 Crore and will meet the present shortage of Cartons. (cont.2)

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: OLYMPIC

News Title: OLYMPIC: To import machineries, development works & operations extension

News: Refer to their earlier news disseminated by DSE on 23.11.2021 regarding decision on development works and extension of operations, the Company has further informed that the Board of Directors of the Company has taken following decisions: 1) To import one set brand new WJ 150-1800-11 model Double Wall Corrugated Board Production Line with Automatic Bailing Press, Dust Collector and required standard accessories from China for Carton Manufacturing Unit of the company (cont.1)

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: NAHEEACP

News Title: NAHEEACP: Invest in a new project

News: The Company has informed that the Board has decided to invest in a new project for manufacturing & selling of five different products namely: 1. Cross Tee, 2. Main Tee, 3. Wall Angle, 4. Runner for Aluminum Ceiling & 5. UPVC Ceiling. Estimated total project cost for the new products is BDT 27.00 Crore (Approx.). The project will contribute an additional estimated yearly revenue of BDT 25.00 Crore (Approx).

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: PRIMEBANK

News Title: PRIMEBANK: MOU signed between Prime Bank Ltd. and Union Capital Limited

News: The Company has informed that the Board has consented for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Union Capital Limited to explore the opportunity for potential collaboration between the two institutions, subject to all regulatory approvals.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: BNICL

News Title: BNICL: Sale & Buy Confirmations

News: Mr. Abdul Baten, Director; Mr. Abdur Rouf, Sponsor Director and Ms. Farida Akter, Director of the company, have further informed that they have completed their sale of 2,55,833 shares, 2,70,000 shares and 1,90,000 shares respectively of the Company, whereas Ms. Tasnim Binthe Mostafa, another Director of the company, has further informed that she has completed her buying of 7,15,833 shares of the Company at prevailing market through Dhaka Stock Exchange as per declaration disseminated on 17.08.2022.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: SANDHANINS

News Title: SANDHANINS: Q2 Financials

News: (Continuation news of SANDHANINS): Decrease in Consolidated life revenue account for Jan-June, 2022 was Tk. 560.24 million with total life insurance fund of Tk. 7,001.83 million as against decrease in Tk. 468.64 million and Tk. 7,505.43 million respectively for the same period of the previous year. (end)

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: SANDHANINS

News Title: SANDHANINS: Q2 Financials

News: (Q2 Un-audited): Decrease in Consolidated life revenue account for Apr-June, 2022 was Tk. 252.36 million with total life insurance fund of Tk. 7,001.83 million as against decrease in Tk. 104.07 million and Tk. 7,505.43 million respectively for the same period of the previous year. (cont.)

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Trading Code: SANDHANINS

News Title: SANDHANINS: Q1 Financials

News: (Q1 Un-audited): Decrease in Consolidated life revenue account for January-March, 2022 was Tk. 307.87 million with total Consolidated life insurance fund of Tk. 7,254.19 million as against decrease in Consolidated life revenue account of Tk. 364.57 million and Tk. 7,609.50 million respectively for the same period of the previous year.

Post Date: 2022-09-01

Daily Business News

UFCML Research Team

Contact:

Rishad Reza Nur

Analyst

Mob: 01715551555

Email: rishad_reza@outlook.com

UTTARA FINANCE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Jibon Bima Tower (6 th Floor),

10 Dilkusha C/A,

Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.