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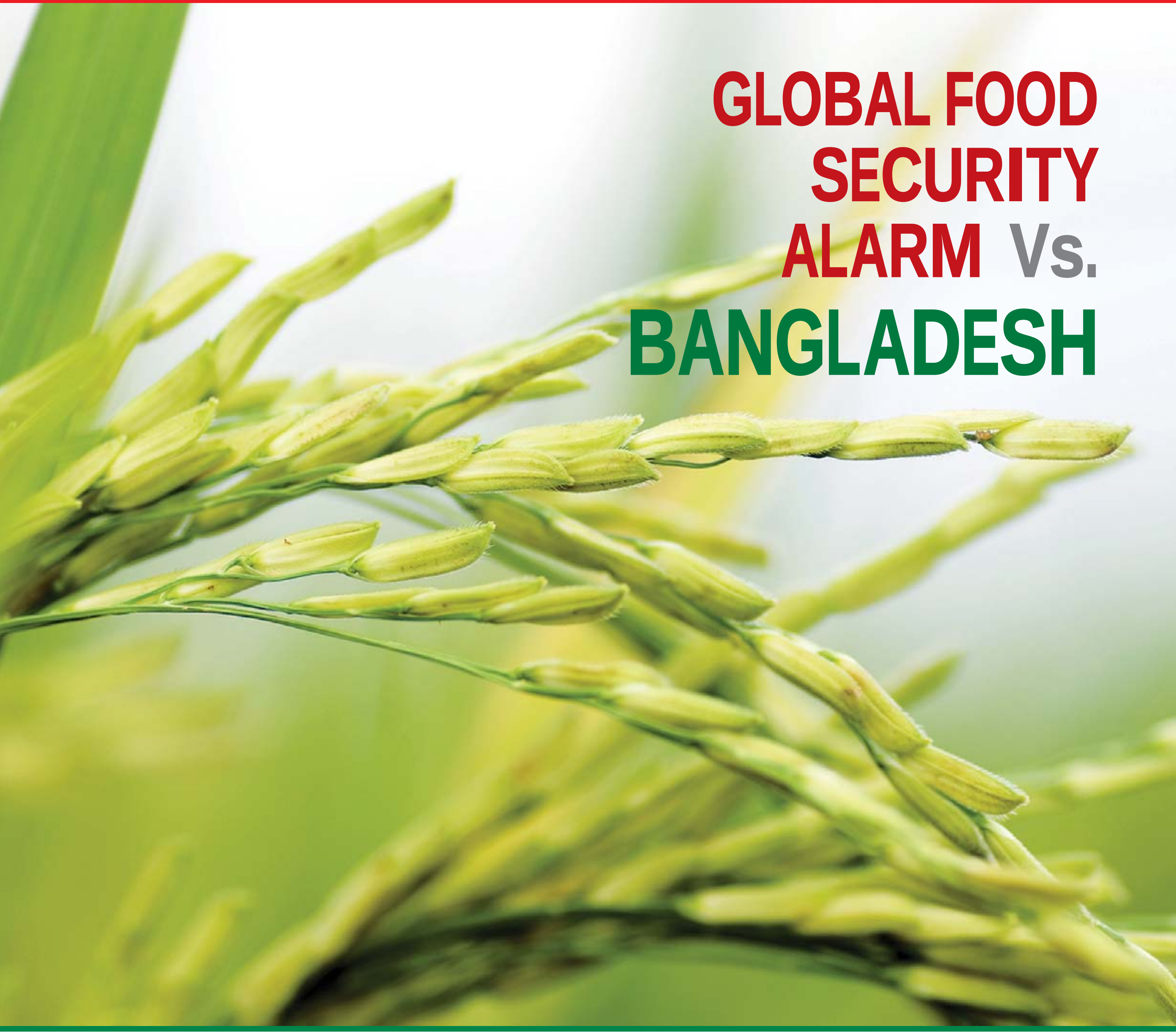

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ALARM Vs. BANGLADESH

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Global Food Security Alarm vs. Bangladesh


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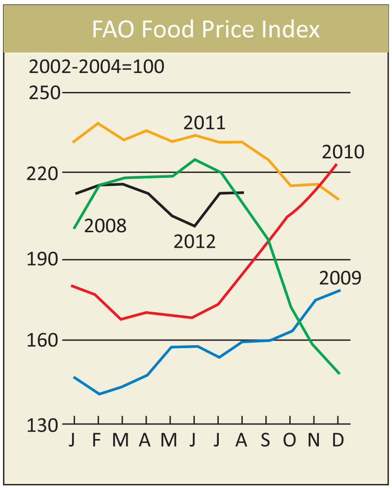
GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ALARM VS. BANGLADESH

The FAO food price index measures the monthly price changes for a basket of food commodities including cereals, oilseeds, dairy, meat and sugar. The FAO Food Price Index consists of the average of five commodity group price indices (representing 55 quotations), weighted with the average export shares of each of the groups for 2002-2004. The index reading in July was still well below the all-time high reached in February 2011. The Rome-based organization took the surprise step of publishing the index this month - which it usually does not - due to the exceptional market conditions affected by unusual weather patterns. Cereal prices surged 17%, while sugar leapt 12% to new highs in July from the previous month after rains hampered sugarcane harvesting in Brazil, the world's largest producer. Delayed monsoons in India and poor rains in Australia also contributed to higher prices. "The severe deterioration of maize crop prospects in the US following extensive drought damage pushed up maize prices by almost 33% in July," said the FAO. The price of rice and dairy was unchanged, although meat fell 1.7% due to a slump in pork prices. The surge in prices has renewed fears of a food crisis that plagued countries in 2007-2008, sparking violent street protests in countries like Haiti and Egypt. Higher food prices hurt the world's poorest countries because it means they will need to pay higher import bills as they do not produce enough food at home. "This is not some gentle wake-up call - it's the same global alarm that's been screaming at us since 2008," said Hannah Stoddart, Oxfam's head of economic justice policy, regarding the FAO data.



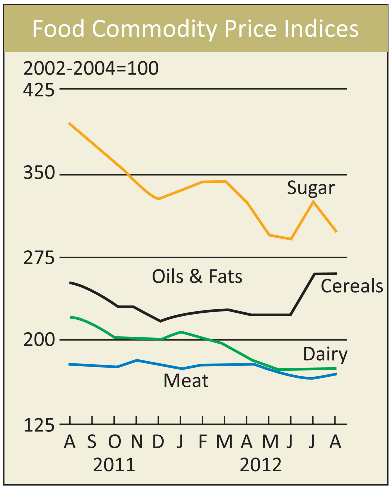
The FAO Food Price Index averaged 213 points in August 2012, unchanged from the previous month. Although still high, the Index value is 25 points below the peak (238 points) reached in February 2011 and 18 points less than in August last year. International prices of cereals and oils/fats changed little but sugar prices fell sharply, compensating for rising meat and dairy prices.

The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 260 points in August, the same as in July, with some increases in wheat and rice offsetting a slight weakening in maize. Deteriorating crop prospects for maize in the United States and wheat in the Russian Federation initially underpinned export quotations, but prices eased towards the end of the month, following heavy rains in areas hardest hit by drought in the United States and the announcement that the Russian Federation would not impose export restrictions. Renewed import demand sustained international rice quotations.

The FAO Oils/Fats Price Index averaged 226 points in August, unchanged from July, thus staying above the ten year trend, although still below 2008 and 2011 highs. Similar to last month, additional gains in soybean oil prices and strengthening quotations for sunflower and rapeseed oils have been offset by persistent weakness in palm oil values.

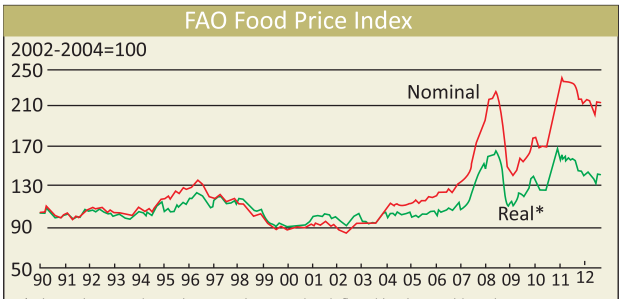
The FAO Meat Price Index averaged 170 points in August, up 4 points (2.2 percent) from July. All meat prices rose but most of the momentum came from the grain-intensive pig and poultry sectors, which saw their quotations firming by 4 and 6 percent respectively. The August price increase follows three consecutive months of declines.

The FAO Dairy Price Index averaged 176 points in August, up 3 points (1.6 percent) from July, sustained by increases in the prices of skim milk powder, casein, butter and whole milk powder, while cheese prices remained stable. Much of the recent strength stems from a firming demand combined with production constraints in those areas affected by drought and rising feed costs.



The FAO Sugar Price Index averaged 297 points in August, down 27.7 points (8.5 percent) from July, and 97 points (25 percent) from August last year. This month's sharp fall in sugar prices reflects improved production outlook amid more favourable weather conditions in Brazil, the world's largest sugar exporter, which was supportive to sugarcane harvesting, and recovering monsoon rains in India.

Falling prices and freight costs are unlikely to lead to any significant reduction in global expenditures on imported foodstuffs in 2012 as traded volumes for most food categories are forecast to register record levels. The expected net outcome, though highly tentative at this stage, is for import costs to reach USD 1.24 trillion in 2012, some USD 70 billion lower than the record of last year, but the third straight year of one trillion dollar plus bills.



** The real price index is the normal price index deflated by the World Bank Manutactures Unit Value Index (MUV)*

Global food prices are rising again spurred by the worst US drought in more than half a century. America is the world's largest producer of corn and the destruction of this year's crop will lead to disastrous knock-on effects across the globe, particularly in countries where food shortages are already a reality. Big corn importers, including South Korea, Japan, Peru, Guatemala, El Salvador, Columbia and much of East Africa will be badly affected, according to Marie Brill, a policy analyst at ActionAid, as reported in the UK's Guardian newspaper.

The effect of the drought on consumers is less straightforward. Prices have gone up already, and are expected to continue to rise, though no one can predict by how much. How consumers are affected will depend on where they live. As usual, the poorest consumers will suffer the most. In countries where the supply chain is shorter, price rises are passed on to the consumers directly. In economies like the US, food companies may try to absorb some of the rises themselves, rather than lose their customers.

It is not clear yet how governments will act to stop the price spike from becoming a crisis. Measures will need to include revising bio-fuel targets and taking measures to prevent commodity speculation. Last week French president Francois Hollande called for the use of the strategic global and regional agricultural stock piles to help cool prices.

Oxfam estimated that a global grain reserve of just 105 million tonnes would have been enough to help avoid the food price crisis in 2007-2008. The cost of maintaining this reserve would have been 1.5 billion USD; or just 10 USD for each of the 150 million additional hungry people that may have been fed. Jose Graziano da Silva, the director-general of the FAO, has expressed support for the French proposals. The success of any such plan will depend on whether there is support from national governments. Graziano da Silva is talking to China next month. China operates extensive state crop stockpiles. The US generally opposes regional or global reserves as counter-productive, costly and disruptive to the market.

USDA forecasts global rice production for FY 2012/13 at a record 466.5 million MT (milled rice), up almost 1 percent from a year earlier (USDA, Rice Outlook June 2012). The bumper crop is the result of area expansion by 1 million hectares from a year earlier, with Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa accounting for most of the expansion. Global area coverage for rice production is forecasted to be 159.8 million hectares in FY 2012/13. While record crops are projected for Asian exporters, the top four Asian rice importers —Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines— are projected to harvest record crops as well. On a year-to-year basis, Bangladesh, Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam account for most of the expected increase in domestic use. Global ending stocks for 2012/13 are projected at 104.2 million MT, which is fractionally below that of 2011/12. This is the first year of decline for global ending stocks since 2006/07.

Global food prices seem to have stabilized at a relatively high level of around 214 points as measured by the FAO Food Price Index. Although the outlook for the second half of this year and into the next indicates generally improved supplies, demand remains strong and the global food import bill in 2012 is expected to fall only slightly from the 2011 record.

Bangladesh Food Security

Since its launch in 2005, the National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme (NFPCSP) has been instrumental in building Bangladesh's institutional and human capacities to design and implement food security policies. Thus far, major achievements of the NFPCSP include the following:

- **Improved policy and programming frameworks**

  In the past, Bangladesh's approach to improving food security was largely focused on food availability. Important aspects related to improving the economic and physical access to food and the nutritional dimension of food security, on the other hand, were largely marginalised. By providing technical assistance, the NFPCSP has played a major role in enhancing capacities to formulate, implement and monitor comprehensive food security and nutrition frameworks. Two outstanding achievements include the development of the National Food Policy Plan of Action (2008) and the Country Investment Plan for Food Security that was first approved in June 2010 and then updated in June 2011 those have also proved to be very important instruments for aligning Development Partners' interventions with national priorities.

- **Increased human and institutional capacities of GOB**

  Capacity building is playing an important. FPMU had very limited office facilities and only 4 permanent staff with expertise in managing food stocks but today the agency has fully functional offices, counts 12 staff with university education in subjects closely relevant to the mandate of the FPMU (7 have completed MSc, 2 are in the process of completing a PhD and a MPhil and other 3 are currently finalizing their MSc). The NFPCSP has also enhanced the analytical skills of staff of the FPMU and other relevant agencies through study tours and tailor made courses (about 767 hours of in-class training) in food security analysis, both in the country and abroad.

- **Knowledge- and dialogue-based decision making**

  Information plays an important role in improving food security decision making. However, successful policy making and implementation also requires achieving consensus among the different stakeholders. This implies that information-based decision making should not be separated from dialogue among stakeholders. NFPCSP, the Government of Bangladesh has established policy processes that are based on both information and dialogue. This includes conducting scientific research on food security and organising regular seminars and workshops in which the Government, civil society representatives, development partners and researchers discuss findings and their implications on policy reform.

- **Greater access to information on food security**

  To further facilitate and encourage the use of information in decision making, fortnightly and quarterly food security monitoring reports are regularly issued and a web-based food security information system has been developed and integrated with the new public website. These provide decision makers and the general public with immediate access to food security information.

- **Well advised decision making**

  During the formulation of the Country Investment Plan, the NFPCSP played a central role in providing advice on the contents of the plan and promoting alignment with national policy and institutional frameworks.

Recent statistics

With all these efforts of the government, countrywide retail price of rice has declined from last quarter by 8 percent and from the same quarter in the previous year by 11 percent. Following the international price trend, the price of wheat flour has declined by 2 percent from last quarter but it is still around 6 percent higher than in April-June last year. The retail price of lentil, after decreasing in the last quarter, has increased significantly by 11 percent in the current quarter. When compared to the high food prices of 2008, the retail prices of all essential food commodities except of edible oil have decreased.

The general inflation rate, food inflation and non-food inflation, measured by the point to point variation in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), all declined. The inflation rate went down to single digits (9.6 percent) in April, for the first time since March 2011; mainly due to a fall in the prices of rice, spices and other food items. On average in the current quarter urban food inflation was 3.7 percent higher than rural food inflation. Despite the point-to-point basis fall in the current quarter, the twelve-month average inflation rate for FY 2011/12 was still high at 10.6 percent whereas it was 8.8 percent a year ago.

The country has received an increased volume of remittances in FY 2011/12, showing around 10 percent rise both in real and nominal terms compared to FY 2010/11. Remittance inflows have significant impact on the food security of around 8 million households who rely on them as their primary income.

Aush and Aman production as estimated by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is 2.3 mmt (16.7 percent less than the target) and 12.8 mmt (almost the same as last year's production and slightly less than the target) respectively. Boro production is forecasted (18.4 mmt) to have no growth from previous harvest; this is due to slightly lower area coverage and high energy costs.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

Due to a higher opening stock, satisfactory stock situation in government storage, as well as good domestic production, the total import of food grains for the FY 2011/12 was 43 percent of the total import in FY 2010/11.

Total food grain distribution through PFDS in FY 2011/12 was 12 percent less than in FY 2010/11. According to the FY 2012/13 budget, 38.7 million people – or 8 million households – will be covered under food security based social protection programmes and major employment generation and development programmes. In February 2012, an agricultural wage labourer could buy 8.7 kg of rice with his daily income of 254 Taka, an increase of 47 percent from the purchasing capacity a year ago. The decline in rice price and increase in daily wage compared to last year contributed to this increase in rice purchasing capacity of the agricultural day labourers. The national average wage for a female agricultural labourer was only 189 Taka/day- leading to only 6.5 kg/day in rice purchasing capacity.

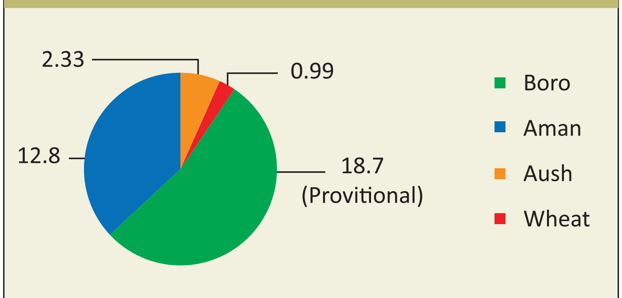
Monthly rice purchasing capacity was high in April and June in southern divisions-Khulna and Barisal, while it dropped in May. Agricultural wage and monthly work days were high in April and June because of increased labour opportunities in shrimp cultivation, Boro harvesting (in April) and Aman plantation (in June). In the coastal region, May is considered to be lean season. In addition due to continuous rainfall in May in different southern districts, agricultural wage and work days were both low. In the northern region (Rajshahi division), the scenario was different with monthly rice purchasing capacity being high in May due to Boro harvesting and transplanted Aush paddy cultivation.

Major Food Grain Overview of the Country

- **Domestic Production**

  Total food grain production target in the FY 2011-12 was 35.72 million metric tons (mmt). BBS has finalized Aush, aman, and wheat production estimates at 2.33 mmt, 12.79 mmt, and 0.99 mmt respectively. Although boro production has not yet been finalized, it may be 18.76 mmt according to the preliminary estimates of the BBS. This suggests that total foodgrain production in 2011-12 was 34.79 mmt, about 0.78% higher than the previous year's total production. For the FY 2012-13, DAE has set aman and Aush production targets at 13.3 mmt and 2.89 mmt respectively.

FY 2011/12 (Actual/Provitional in mmt)



- **Foodgrain Import**

  Total foodgrain import in the FY 2011-12 was 2.29 mmt of which 0.52 mmt was rice and 1.77 mmt wheat. This amount was 56.67% lower (3.10 mmt) than that of the previous fiscal year. Out of this 2.29 mmt, public sector import was 1.05 mmt (comprising 0.46 mmt rice and 0.59 mmt wheat) and private sector's contribution was 1.24 mmt of which .06 mmt was rice and 1.18 mmt wheat.

- **Domestic Foodgrain Procurement**

  Domestic procurement target in FY 2011-12 was revised from 1.15 mmt to 1.35 mmt through revised budget. The extended purchase of last year's boro in this FY was 0.65 mmt. Procurement of aman was about 0.35 mmt in 2011-12, which represented the highest ever quantity of aman procurement in the history of domestic procurement. Current boro rice procurement target for May to September 2012 procurement season is set at 1.0 mmt and actual procurement as on 30th June 2012 was 0.32 mmt. Thus total rice procurement in FY 2011/12 was 1.32 mmt. Wheat procurement during the last quarter was close to the target of 0.1 mmt.

- **Public Foodgrain Distribution**

  The quantity of foodgrains distributed through different channels under PFDS during the FY 2011-12 was 2.09 mmt, about 8.3% less than that of the last FY. In view of lesser distribution requirement (due to lower market price of rice), the government has distributed 20 percent less than the revised target of 2.61 mmt, with significant reductions in the distribution through channels like OMS, FPC, TR and VGF.

- **Public Stock of Foodgrain**

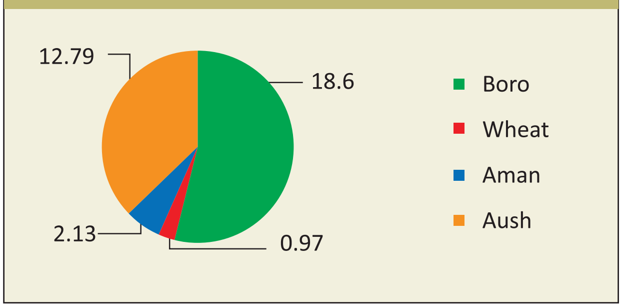
  The opening (1 July, 2011) public stock of foodgrains was 0.88 mmt which was about 69% higher than the opening stock of the FY 2010-11 (0.52 mmt). The public stock increased to its peak in the current FY at 1.54 mmt by the end of November 2011. Thereafter, with a gradual decline, the public stock stood at 1.23 mmt at the end of the fiscal year. Import arrivals during the first half of the FY and domestic procurement during the second half contributed to this increase in public stock despite regular distribution through different non-monetized channels like FFW and VGD.

Global rice production, as projected by ERS, USDA, is expected to reach the record high level at 463.7 mmt in 2011-12, while wheat production is projected to be at 694.3 mmt. International prices of rice have shown a slight upward trend, whereas wheat prices have declined moderately during 2011-12 Fiscal Year. During July-November 2011 rice price was increasing and then from December price continued to decrease till June 2012 except the month of May. Wheat price was in decreasing trend throughout the FY 2011-12 with some fluctuations. Increased global production had moderating effects on both rice and wheat prices in FY 2011-12.

Bangladesh Rice Outlook 2012-13

Assuming a normal monsoon, Bangladesh's rice production for FY 2012/13 is forecasted at 34.2 mmt, while rice consumption (food, seed, and feed use together) is forecasted at 35 mmt (GAIN, Grain and Feed Annual 2012). Based on the current production forecast and carryover stocks held by the government, farmers, and traders, the Directorate General of Food plans to import only 1.35 mmt of grain in FY 2012/13. The government aims to raise the storage capacity of its silos up to 2.2 mmt by 2015 to maintain emergency stocks and to help farmers receive fair prices as the rice price falls with every production boom. In the last 3 years, the storage capacity of government silos increased from 1.45 mmt to 1.65 mmt and the finance minister in his budget speech vowed to further raise it by 24,000 mt by 2013.

FY 2010/11 (Actual in mmt)



(To be contd.)

FINANCE AND ECONOMY

Bangladesh receives USD 1136m FDI in 2011: UNCTAD

The country received a record Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of USD 1136.38 million in the calendar year 2011, the Bangladesh Board of Investment (BoI).

According to BoI, the amount of FDI in 2011 was 24.42 percent higher than USD 913.32 million the country received in the previous year (2010).

In 2011, FDI flow was USD 31.5 billion in India and USD 1327 million in Pakistan, according to World Investment Report (WIR) 2012 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

"Bangladesh needs higher growth in FDI to raise the share of investment from 24 percent at present to 30 percent by 2013 in order to attain eight percent growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP)," BoI Executive Chairman Dr SA Samad told reporters.

He was speaking at a press conference organised at BoI office in the city to announce the UNCTAD report.

The BoI chairman said the government has declared 32 sectors as thrust sector for FDI and domestic private investments as the country needs USD 28 billion investment to attain the desired GDP growth.

However, out of total FDI inflows in 2011, the fresh equity declined by 16.94 percent to USD 431.85 million from USD 519.98 million in 2010. On the other hand, the re-invested earnings grew by 34.28 percent to USD 489.63 million in 2011 from USD 364.62 million in 2010 while the intra-company loans also rose by 24.42 percent to USD 214.90 million in 2011 from USD 28.72 million in the previous year.

In 2011, major sectors attracted FDI includes textile and clothing (USD 272.04 million), banking (USD 249.37 million), power, gas and petroleum (USD 238.21 million), telecommuni-cations (USD 180.99 million), cement company (USD 51.65 million), food products (USD 22.97 million) and agriculture and fishing (USD 5.59 million), BoI data shows.

The countries that have invested substantially in Bangladesh includes Egypt (USD 152.30 million), USA (USD 117.74 million), the Netherlands (USD 116.75 million), UK (USD 116.32 million), South Korea (USD 113.06 million), Hong Kong (USD 104.84 million), Japan (USD 46.55 million), Sri Lanka (USD 31.58 million), India (USD 25.74 million) and Norway (USD 24.26 million).

(July 05, 2012, Daily Sun) ■

USD 7.95b trade deficit in 11 months

The country's trade deficit in July-May of financial year 2011-12 increased to USD 7.95 billion, which is 6.12 per cent higher compared with that of the same period of the FY 2010-11.

The trade deficit slightly narrowed in May after a rapid rise in the first 10 months because of a drop in import payment and slower growth in export earnings, said Bangladesh Bank officials.

Data showed that the trade deficit in July-April was USD7.34 billion, which was 9.87 per cent higher than the same period of the FY 2011.

The deficit figure in July-March was USD6.58 billion, increasing by 13.04 per cent from July-March in FY 11, in July-February USD5.70 billion, or 17.32 per cent higher, in July-January USD5.02 billion, or 17.80 per cent per cent higher than the same period of the FY 11.

BB data showed that the import payments surged to USD 29.67 billion against exports worth USD21.71 billion in July-May in the FY2011-12.

The growth in import payment in the period came down to 7.04 per cent from around 40 per cent in July-May of FY 2010-11.

The growth in export earning in the period also decreased to 7.44 per cent from around 41.61 per cent in July-May of FY 2010-11 due to the current economic crisis in Europe and USA, a BB official told New Age.

He said that the country's import payment had recently reduced significantly due to a slow import growth of food grains, industrial raw materials and capital machineries.

The BB's data showed that growth in the settlement of letters of credit or import payment for industrial raw materials dropped to 11.97 per cent and for capital machinery to 21.05 per cent in July-April of FY 2010-11 compared to that of 57.89 per cent and 60.39 per cent growth respectively in the same period of FY2010-11.

Settlement of LCs for the industrial raw materials totalled USD11.34 billion in July-April against that of USD10.13 billion in the first ten months of FY2010-11.

During the July-April, the import payment for food grains totalled USD 745.72 million, or decreased by 54.65 per cent, against that of USD 1.64 billion in the same period of the FY 2010-11.

Due to declining trends in both export and import, the trade deficit had reduced from July to May in FY 2011-12.

The current account balance or the difference between the country's savings and investment in July-May of FY 2011-12 stood at USD754 million, up by 106.57 per cent from USD365 million in the same period of FY 2010-11.

Another BB official said the current account balance had increased in the period as the expatriate Bangladeshis sent home a big amount of remittance.

Moreover, the foreign direct investment in the first eleven months of FY2011-12 also increased significantly.

BB data showed remittance inflow in the first 11 months of FY 2011-12 stood at USD11.77 billion, growing by 10.88 per cent from the same period of FY 2010-11.

From July to May of FY 2011-12, the FDI stood at USD 1061 million, or grew by 50.92 per cent from that of the same period of FY 2010-11.

(July 05, 2012, New Age) ■

Average inflation 10.62pc in FY'12

The country's average inflation rate in the just-concluded fiscal year (FY), 2011-12, surged to a level of 10.62 per cent, although point-to-point rate of inflation dropped slightly to 8.56 per cent in June, according to the latest data of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

Before the previous fiscal, the highest rate of inflation, according to the BBS, was recorded at 9.93 per cent in FY 2007-08, due to two natural disasters and external price-shocks.

Analysts have expressed their concern over the situation and suggested for taking effective measures on an urgent footing to help check the inflationary pressure.

The average annual rate of inflation at 10.62 per cent in FY12 was higher than the government's projection at 7.5 per cent.

In FY 2010-11, the average annual rate of inflation was 8.80 per cent, and in FY 2009-10, it was 7.31 per cent.

The hike in electricity price and transport fare was the major reason behind the high rate of inflation in the previous fiscal, BBS Director General Golam Mostafa Kamal said at a briefing.

The BBS data also showed that on a point-to-point basis, the rate of inflation in June last dropped to 8.56 per cent. It was 1.61 percentage points lower from that of the same month of the previous fiscal and 0.59 percentage points lower than that of the previous month.

The price-spurt affected the consumers, as the non-food inflation stood at 11.72 per cent in last June, whereas the food-inflation was at 7.08 per cent during the same period.

The BBS said the food inflation on a point-to-point basis in June dropped by 5.43 percentage points to 7.08 per cent, compared to 12.51 per cent in the same month of FY 2010-11.

The non-food inflation, however, surged by 5.99 percentage points to 11.72 per cent in June last, compared to only 5.73 per cent in the same month of the FY11.

The BBS chief said cloth prices and costs of treatment, transport and laundry increased in June last, fuelling the non-food inflation in that month.

According to the BBS data, the point-to-point inflation in both rural and urban areas last month declined to 7.88 per cent and 10.29 per cent respectively from 8.38 per cent and 11.12 per cent in May last.

In the rural areas, the food inflation dropped to 6.02 per cent in June from 6.30 per cent in May, and the non-food inflation, to 11.88 per cent from 12.82 per cent.

The prices of food items in the urban areas dripped to 9.57 per cent in June from 10.17 per cent in May last and the prices of non-food items also dropped to 11.28 per cent from 12.44 per cent.

Although the inflationary pressure is still affecting people, the national wage hike has boosted their purchasing capacity, the BBS chief said.

Mr Golam Mustafa Kamal said the wage index in both May and June rose to 6883.56 points or by 14.73 per cent and 6951.68 points or by 14.79 per cent respectively.

(July 07, 2012, The Financial Express)

Exports fetch USD 24.28b last fiscal year

The country's export during the outgoing financial year stood at USD24.28 billion showing an increase of 5.9 per cent but fell short of the target of USD26.5 billion.

The 8.35 per cent shortfall from the target was attributed to the decline in demand for garment products in the dismal European market.

The single month earning of June, the last month of the fiscal, also persisted the negative growth of 3.14 per cent to USD2.31 billion. In fact, negative growth in export started from March last.

The total export earning during the 2010-11 fiscal stood at USD22.92billion which was 23.92 per cent higher than the target of USD18.50 billion.

Despite failure to achieve the target, Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) viewed the growth as good considering the global economic recession which sharply cut the demand.

The export target for the current fiscal year (2012-13) has been set at USD28 billion with a plan to expanding the traditional markets to new ones like Japan, China, India, Russia, Brazil, Malaysia, New Zealand, Korea, South Africa and Turkey.

Commerce Minister GM Quader presided over the meeting last week fixed the export target when he said export earning showed a down trend due to the economic recession in Europe and USA.

He, however, hoped the situation will not be the same this year and expected a positive change during current fiscal.

Slow growth rate in the country's merchandise export continued during the period of last fiscal as compared with the previous fiscal due mainly to the economic recession that sweeps over the developed countries.

"Still there remains ample scope to increase export volume, we need to improve the product quality and create new export market," the Minister had said.

Woven items fetched USD9.60 billion marking a 13.89 per cent growth over the same period of 2010-11 fiscal while knitwear accounted for USD9.48 billion showing a nominal growth of 0.05 per cent.

Apparel manufactures said they are now looking for exploring new markets to diversify and boost export.

During the July-June period, export of home textiles stood at USD9,06.07 million with a 14.87 per cent growth; footwear exports fetched USD335.51 million, frozen foods including frozen fish, shrimps and others USD598.42 million, and agricultural products USD402.70 million.

Specialized textiles, including terry towel, showed a negative growth of 15.67 per cent with earning of USD138.77 million during the last fiscal year while export of petroleum byproducts accounted for only USD275.44 million.

Leather and leather products and plastic products maintained the upward trend during the July-June period of the last fiscal.

Leather fetched USD330.16 million, leather products USD99.36 million, plastic products USD88.69 million and rubber USD16.23 million.

The export of jute and jute goods during the 2011-12 fiscal declined to USD967.38 million marking a 13.23 per cent fall. Raw jute fetched USD266.28 million showing a decline of 25.47 per cent while jute yarn and twine earned USD468.15 million.

Jute sacks and bags, however, witnessed a negative growth of 10.38 per cent in the last fiscal with an earning of USD185.26 million.

(July 11, 2012, The Financial Express)

EU to Support Small Businesses

The European Union (EU) and the Ministry of Industries (MoI) launched a new project for support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) entitled INSPIRED (Integrated Support to Poverty Reduction and Inequality through Enterprise). Industries minister Dilip Barua and Ambassador William Hanna, Head of the Delegation of the EU to Bangladesh,, were among others who attended the launching ceremony with K. H. Masud Siddique, Secretary, Ministry of Industries in the chair, said a press release.

The six-year project financed by the EU with an amount of EUR 19 million will improve the competitiveness of SMEs on local and international markets.

It will update and operationalise the national strategy for SME development, streamline SME regulations, improve SME access to affordable finance, and enhance support services provided by Business Intermediary Organisations (BIOs), the press release added. The project will be managed by the Ministry of Industries, in partnership with Bangladesh Bank.

ABM Khorshed Alam, Additional Secretary Ministry of Industries, will work as project Director. The Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management and Bangladesh Bank Training Academy will provide training to bankers on improved financial products and services for SMEs.

Business Intermediary Organisations (BIOs), such as trade associations or chambers of commerce, will benefit from a grant scheme of EUR 6.5 million helping them to improve their services for their members and to develop enterprise clusters in eight sectors, namely agro-processing, natural fibres, electronics, plastics, light engineering, furniture, textiles and leather.

Dilip Barua speaking at the function said that 'through this project , the capacity of Bangladesh Bank as regulator and other commercial banks will be strengthened, paving the way both for bankers and entrepreneurs in financing SMEs'.

Ambassador William Hanna speakinga s special guest highlighted the role SMEs in increasing the diversity and competitiveness of Bangladeshi products in global markets.

He stressed that 'much of the 2011 record-high Bangladesh exports to the EU, which reached EUR 8.5 billion, were exports by SMEs.'

K H Masud Siddique said that the successful implementation of this project would enable entrepreneurs to develop further competitive and sustainable businesses.

Capacity building of SME cell, SME Foundation and BIOs will create new platforms to explore diversified business opportunities.

The EU has contributed EUR 80 million in the period of 2007 - 2013, for economic cooperation and trade-related assistance in Bangladesh.

EU Trade-related programmes and projects in Bangladesh concentrate on four major areas:

Trade Policy, Quality Management, Private Sector Development and Skills Development.

(July 11, 2012, The independent) ■

BSCIC implements eleven projects worth BDT 13.8b

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) is implementing 11 development projects at the cost of Taka 1,3.8 billion aiming to create employment for nearly 2.5 lakh people.

Talking to BSS, Industries Minister Dilip Barua said the government is working to build Bangladesh an industrially developed country by 2021.

Referring to 28 per cent contribution of industry to the national income of the country at present, Dilip said, "We are working sincerely to increase the contribution of industry to the national income by 40 per cent by 2021."

To achieve the target, the BSCIC has taken up a 10-year plan for the development of small, cottage and medium industries.

BSCIC sources said the 11 development projects of the BSCIC include active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) industry park project, Savar leather industry city project, Gopalganj industry city extension project, BSCIC industry city project at Mirsarai in Chittagong, BSCIC industry park project in Sirajganj, Comilla industry city-2 project, BSCIC special economic zone project at Kumarkhali in Kushtia, Rangpur Benarasi Palli project, sarbajonin iodine mixing salt project and Barguna industry city project. — BSS

(July 13, 2012, daily sun) ■

Country's forex reserve crosses USD 10 billion

The country's foreign exchange reserve crossed USD10 billion mark again as the inflow of foreign currencies increased, officials said.

The foreign exchange reserve rose to USD10.02 billion on the day from USD9.93 billion of the previous working day.

It was USD9.85 billion on July 9 after making a routine payment of USD667 million to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) against imports during May-June period of this calendar year.

"The inflow of foreign exchange has increased recently following steady growth of inward remittance and decreasing import payments," a senior official of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) told the FE.

He also said purchasing the US dollar from the commercial banks by the BB is also contributing to improve the forex reserve position gradually.

The BB continues purchasing the US dollar from the commercial banks to keep the inter-bank foreign exchange market stable, the central bank official said.

As part of the operation, the central bank bought USD63 million from 10 commercial banks directly aiming to keep the exchange rate of the local currency against the greenback stable.

A total of USD230.50 million was bought from the commercial banks between July 3 and July 11 as part of the BB's intervention in the market, they added.

(July 12, 2012, The Financial Express) ■

Tax collection target exceeded by BDT 15 billion last fiscal

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) exceeded its tax collection target by nearly BDT 15 billon in the just concluded fiscal with the robust growth of Value Added Tax (VAT) and income tax revenue.

According to a provisional figure, the revenue board has collected nearly BDT 937 billion tax revenue in the 2011-12 fiscal against its target for BDT 923.70 billion.

VAT collection exceeds its target by BDT 10.53 billion achieving 21.38 per cent growth in 2011-12 fiscal over the corresponding period previous year.

Income tax collection has surpassed its target by BDT 4.66 billion in the just concluded fiscal with 21.52 per cent growth over the matching period.

Customs revenue also exceeded target with BDT 312.70 billion revenue against its target for BDT 308.76 billion.

"All the wings of the NBR have surpassed their target in the just concluded fiscal. It's a great achievement as the tax authorities exceeded its revised target," said a senior NBR official.

Original revenue collection target was BDT 918.70 billion that has been revised to BDT 923.70 billion in 2011-12 fiscal.

The NBR officials said they were confident about surpassing the target following trend of revenue collection in the last quarter of the just concluded fiscal.

VAT wing has achieved the tremendous growth regaining its pace that had dropped in the first half of the last year.

The NBR has collected the highest amount of revenue from VAT of BDT 340.15 billion against its target for BDT 329.62 billion. In the corresponding period, the VAT department collected BDT 280.23 billion tax.

Around 65 per cent of the total VAT came from a handful of sectors such as tobacco, natural gas, mobile phone etc.

Dhaka Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionarate (South) has exceeded its target by BDT 13.1 million with intensive monitoring and motivation to VAT depositors.

VAT depositors of the major commercial hub including Motijheel, Fakirapool, Purana Paltan areas are under the supervision of the wing.

The VAT south office has collected BDT 37.02 billion revenue against its target for BDT 36.91 billion in 2011-12.

Last year, the Vat office collected BDT 28.54 billion revenue. It has achieved 25.66 per cent growth in revenue collection over the corresponding period.

Customs revenue collection also increased in the last fiscal although the government gradually started shifting its dependency from import revenue to direct tax.

With the sharp increase in import price in the global market and close supervision in Chittagong port, Customs Department was able to collect significant amount of revenue.

Income tax collection also grew substantially with the fiscal measures focusing on Advance Income Tax (AIT).

The income tax wing collected BDT 10 billion revenue from tax at source from exporters in 2011-12 fiscal.

Advance income tax on major sectors has seen a hike in the last fiscal and also in the current fiscal as well.

AIT on exporters has been raised from 0.50 per cent to 0.60 and 0.70 per cent in 2011-12 and to 0.80 per cent in the currant fiscal.

AIT on private cars was also increased to BDT 15,000 from BDT 10,000 for 1500 CC cars. It was BDT 8,000 in 2011-12 fiscal.

(July 12, 2012, The Financial Express) ■

CEPZ ranked 9th among 600 global free zones

The Chittagong Export processing Zone (CEPZ) has been ranked 9th among 600 free zones of 120 countries by fDi Magazine of the Financial Times after global survey in 2010. "This is the first time the country's first EPZ has been ranked from overall categories of the fDi as we earlier were ranked 3rd and 4th in two different categories," said AKM Mahbubur Rahman (member finance) of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA). He said the ranking has been made through analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data from investment, facilities, cost effectiveness, transportation and best FDI (foreign direct investment) promotion categories. fDi launched the global ranking survey in 2010. The magazine's second global ranking of economic zones has awarded Dubai Airport Free Zone the title of global free zone of the future. The second ranking also goes to Dubai -Dubai International Finance Centre. Shanghai Walgaoqlao Free Trade Zone of China, Iskandar of Malaysia, DuBiotech of UAE, Tanger Free Zone of Morocco, Freeport of Ventspils of Latvia, Clark Freeport Zone of Philippines have been ranked 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th in the global free zones of the future. A total of 56 zones submitted details regarding many aspects of their zones and this was judged and scored by independent judges. — Munima Sultana

(July 14, 2012, The Financial Express) ■

BEPZA posts 13.88pc growth in export

The industries in the country's export processing zones achieved a 13.88-per cent growth in exports in the 2011-2012 financial year compared to that of the FY 2010-2011.

The industries exported goods worth USD4.21 billion in the FY 2011-2012 while they had exported goods worth USD3.7 billion in the FY 2010-2011, said a news release.

The amount of exports achieved in the FY 2011-2012 was USD210 million more than the export target of the BEPZA for the financial year.

The total amount of actual investment in the BEPZA in the FY 2011-2012 stood at USD339.26 million which was 8.31 per cent higher than the actual investment made (USD313.23 million) in the previous financial year.

The actual investment made in the FY 2011-2012 was the highest ever in the history of the BEPZA, the release added.

(July 15, 2012, New Age)

91pc of revised ADP allocation for fiscal '12 utilised

About 91 per cent allocation of the revised BDT 410.80 billion Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the immediate past financial year (2011-12) was utilized, according officials concerned.

Planning Commission officials said the ministries and agencies utilized nearly BDT 373.6 billion of the total ADP outlay during July 2011 to June 2012, one percentage points lower than the previous financial year (FY) 2010-11.

In FY2010-11, the government spent BDT 328.55 billion or 92 per cent of its total BDT 358.80 billion ADP allocations in the budget.

The Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) of the Planning Commission has finalised the draft implementation report of the outgoing fiscal which is expected to be released next week, a high official of the division told the FE.

The government has slashed the original BDT 460 billion allocation in the ADP to BDT 410.80 billion during the last quarter of the outgoing fiscal as many ministries and agencies performed poorly as far as implementation of their development projects is concerned.

The IMED official requesting anonymity said the Power Division is on the top of the list of the best performing agencies of the government as it has spent 96 per cent of its BDT 71.85 billion outlay in the last fiscal.

In FY2010-11, the Power Division was also the top performer among the larger 10 ministries, spending 99 per cent of BDT 59.81 billion allocation in the previous FY 2010-11, IMED data showed.

The IMED official said every year the development fund utilization is growing as the ministries and agencies have been spending more money in consecutive financial years to improve the country's rickety infrastructure and reduce poverty.

Bangladesh, one of the lowest public spenders in the South Asian countries, needs to boost the government investment in developing its infrastructure and alleviating high incidence of poverty, he added.

In the last FY2011-12 ADP, the government allocated the highest amount, BDT 88.65 billion or 22 per cent of BDT 410.80 billion ADP, for the Local Government Division (LGD).

The Power Division got the second highest allocation of BDT 71.85 billion or 17 per cent followed by Health and Family Welfare Ministry BDT 30.35 billion, and Road Division BDT 27.29 billion of the total ADP allocations in the last fiscal.

(July 21, 2012, The Financial Express) ■

Leather goods export earnings increase by 79pc in last fiscal

Country's export of leather goods fetched USD99.36 million during the just concluded financial year (2011-12), registering a significant increase by 79 per cent.

According to an Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data, the export of leather goods was worth USD 55.42 million during the corresponding period of the fiscal 2010-11.

Competitive price and maintenance of global standard by local companies have attracted the international buyers to import from Bangladesh, exporters said.

"The demand for Bangladeshi leather goods is increasing, especially in the European countries (EU) and Japan, due mainly to restriction on Chinese products," former president of Bangladesh Tannery Association (BTA) Mohammad Shahin told the FE.

He quoted exporters as saying that lower cost and international standard have attracted the international buyers to import from Bangladesh.

Besides, quality of our domestic leather is very attractive, which is also another reason for increasing demands of our products in the international market, Mr. Shahin added.

Trunks, suit-cases, handbags, shopping bags, belts, musical instrument cases, travelling bags, rucksacks, map-cases, cutlery cases & other conventional and non-conventional items were exported to different destinations across the globe, EPB data show.

(July 22, 2012, The Financial Express) ■

Connecting the Dots, Global Economy: Mid-year review

The global economy has clearly lost momentum in the first six months of this year. The US economy continues to expand at a sub-par annual rate of around 2%. Growth in the Chinese economy has dropped below 8% for the first time since 2009. Many European countries have slipped back into recession; while most of the emerging markets have seen minor downgrades in economic activity.

A side effect of the global slowdown is that many commodity prices have dropped recently. The lagged effects of past policy tightening and dete¬rioration in global confidence have produced a moderate slowdown in emerging markets, denting commodity prices in the process. Inflation in most economies has also receded. In response, many major central banks have eased monetary policy. For example, the People's Bank in China has cut its benchmark lending rate twice in June, and has directed commercial banks to make more loans.

Due to space constraint, let us only consider the economic performance of a number of countries and regions that are of interest to the readers in Bangladesh. In Asia, Japan has been one of very few countries in which eco¬nomic activity accelerated during the last few months. Real GDP grew at an annual pace of slightly less than 3% in the first quarter, following four consecutive quarters of contraction. Household consumption was the leading driving force commanding this rebound, followed by fixed investments and public spending.

Going forward, Japan's economy should return to a moderate recovery path, as domes¬tic demand remains firm and the economic performance improves among its Asian trading partners. In addition, reconstruction efforts will remain a key catalyst to growth, lifting both public and private housing investment, as well as propelling business fixed investment, as firms restore and rebuild disaster-stricken facilities. In line with these trends, the Japanese economy will expand by about 2% this year.

Contrary to Japan's recent performance, China's economy lost more steam during the first six months. Chinese GDP grew by less than 8% in the second quarter. In recent months, economic data has provided mixed signals regarding the strength of economic activity.

Industrial production, fixed asset investments, and retail sales remained weak, whereas both exports and imports expanded during May at a much stronger pace than expected. Credit data also came in sig¬nificantly above market expectations, which suggests that the more lax monetary stance is already having an impact on the economy.

Against this backdrop, annual inflation has remained subdued, dropping to 3% in May. This, combined with the recent softening in commodity prices, suggests price pressures will remain on a declining path. This will provide Chinese authorities any needed room for additional policy accommodation, even after already cutting interest rates in early June.

In all, the Chinese economy should expand by anywhere between 7-8% in 2012. Although Chinese authorities have lowered their economic growth target to 7.5% in their recently published five-year plan, I believe they will be adamant about preventing too much of a deceleration in economic momentum in a year of transition of political leadership.

Other leading emerging economies mirrored China's moderate slowdown, as they assimilated the lagged ef¬fects of prior tighter monetary policies and the deteriora¬tion of global confidence. Take the case of India.

Indian GDP growth dropped to an annual pace of 5.3% during the first quarter, the weakest showing since late 2004. Despite this softer growth performance, inflation has accelerated above 10% which, among other factors, led the Reserve Bank of India to keep the repo rate at 8% in June. The Reserve Bank had front-loaded the policy rate reduc¬tion in April with a cut of 50 basis points, assuming that the process of fiscal consolidation critical for inflation manage¬ment would get underway.

However, the sustained fiscal spending might be crowding out private investment. Consequently, the Reserve Bank further reduced policy interest rate. One problem is that, rather than supporting growth, it could exacerbate inflationary pressures. Against this backdrop, the Indian economy should expand by at least 5% in 2012.

There are a number of risks that the global economy faces at present. But, in my view, the European sovereign debt crisis remains the predomi¬nant downside risk to the global outlook. European leaders are trying to contain several fires at the same time. Thus far, they have managed not to be engulfed by the flames, but the situation remains fluid and winds can change without warning.

Borrowing costs in Spain, which has more than 700 billion euros worth of outstanding government debt, and Italy (Euro1.6 trillion) remain between 6 and 7%. If borrowing costs stay at these levels, the debt dynamics of these two governments could become unsustainable. In that case, Spain and Italy would need to restructure their debt. The resulting losses would fall largely on the domestic financial systems that hold large amounts of their respective government debts.

As the European financial system is interconnected, large losses in the banking system of one country could have a significantly negative effect on the banking system in other countries in the region.

What will it take to resolve the problem in the euro zone? As I had repeatedly argued in previous columns, the solution to the European sovereign debt crisis involves the creation of a fiscal and banking union in the euro area.

Until the European leaders show tangible progress in achieving fiscal integration, financial markets and the public at large will not regain confidence in the European common currency project, which is ultimately needed to contain the sovereign debt and banking crises.

A radical restructuring of the economic and political system is necessary in order to achieve this goal. In the absence of a major shock, however, such radical change is unlikely to happen within a short period of time.

Hence the mostly likely scenario is one of "muddle through." Each time the crisis rears its ugly head, European leaders would do just enough in terms of a policy response in order to make the crisis subside temporarily. I do not see the uncertainty arising out of the euro zone crisis going away anytime soon.

(July 17, 2012, The Daily Star)

IMF Chief warns over slowing global growth

International Monetary Fund Chief Christine Lagarde yesterday warned the global economy was slowing and said the situation could get worse because Europe was not doing enough to fix its debt crisis.

Lagarde said the IMF would cut its growth forecast in its global outlook to be released later this month.

"What I can tell you is that it will be tilted to the downside and certainly lower than the forecast that was published three months ago," she told an economic forum in Tokyo during a week-long Asian tour.

"And that is predicated on the right set of actions being taken in Europe in order to avoid very significant deterioration and to eliminate major threats."

In April, the IMF hiked its global growth forecasts to an annual rate of 3.5 percent this year, accelerating to 4.1 percent in 2013, up from the January forecast of 3.3 percent and 4.0 percent respectively.

Lagarde declined to elaborate on the IMF's new assessment due later this month, but said conditions since the last forecast had "regrettably" become "more worrisome", although she hailed recent steps to tackle Europe's woes.

The IMF chief cited measures adopted after a European leaders' meeting in Brussels last week and the European Central Bank's move on Thursday to cut interest rates to historic lows as proof of progress.

But "from the IMF perspective, we believe that more needs to be done in order to really complete the architectural job of the eurozone: A monetary union, a banking union followed by a fiscal union".

"It's also a question of implementation -- diligent, rigorous, steady implementation," Lagarde added.

Lagarde's comments came a day after Beijing's second interest rate cut in less than a month surprised markets and stoked worries about the world's second-biggest economy.

Then, the European Central Bank cut its main interest rate to a record low 0.75 percent, while the Bank of England kept its rate even but announced 50 billion pounds (USD 78 billion) in additional stimulus.

Lagarde applauded Asian nations, particularly China, for turning their focus away from depending on exports to measures that boost demand at home, adding that the "rebalancing that came with the crisis shouldn't go with the crisis".

The IMF chief will be in Jakarta on July 8-10, and in Bangkok on July 11-12, where she will participate in a seminar organised by the IMF, the Bank of Thailand and the Asian Development Bank.

(July 07, 2012, The Daily Star) ■

IMF cuts US growth forecast, warns against 'fiscal cliff'

The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday pared its growth forecast for the US economy and warned that the Obama administration could be slicing the deficit too fast for the weak economy.

It also said the economy was under threat from the pre-programmed "fiscal cliff" combination of sharp spending cuts and tax increases at the year-end, and a worsening of the eurozone crisis.

The IMF estimated 2012 US economic growth at 2.0 percent, down from April's forecast of 2.1 percent, and said even that outlook was at risk from both domestic and international threats.

"It is critical to remove the uncertainty created by the 'fiscal cliff' as well as promptly raise the debt ceiling, pursuing a pace of deficit reduction that does not sap the economic recovery," the fund said in its annual report on the US economy.

(July 04, 2012, The Daily Star) ■

British bank Barclays reels as CEO quits over rate rigging

Barclays chief executive Bob Diamond resigned on Tuesday, the second head to roll in two days in a dramatic twist to a deepening scandal over the rigging of a key global interest rate.

The scandal is dragging the City of London financial sector into disrepute after various problems revealed by the financial crises, could threaten other top banks, and has riled the government and politicians.

Diamond, high-profile and highly paid, caved in to heavy political pressure even though it was thought that he might hang on to his job after Barclays chairman Marcus Agius took the first wave of outrage by resigning on Monday.

Some analysts said that this was intended to shield Diamond, seen by some as a genius with the golden touch, by others as an overpaid and overbearing banker.

Agius is now expected to leave only after leading the search for a new chief executive to replace Diamond, who has quit after 18 months in the top post.

Barclays refused to comment on reports that chief operating officer Jerry del Missier was also set to resign.

The scandal, which may implicate other international banks and trigger criminal prosecutions, concerns manipulation of the Libor and Euribor inter-bank lending rates.

These benchmark rates play a key role in global markets, affecting what banks, businesses and individuals pay to borrow money and serving as a benchmark for contracts. Libor is a flagship London instrument used throughout the world and Euribor is the eurozone equivalent.

"Barclays today announces the resignation of Bob Diamond as chief executive and a director of Barclays with immediate effect," the bank said in a statement to the London Stock Exchange.

US national Diamond added in the statement: "The external pressure placed on Barclays has reached a level that risks damaging the franchise -- I cannot let that happen."

British finance minister George Osborne welcomed Diamond's resignation.

"I think it's the right decision for Barclays. I think it's the right decision for the country. I hope it's a first step towards a new culture of responsibility in British banking," he told BBC radio.

Diamond was still due to face questions from British lawmakers on Wednesday over the affair.

Barclays' share price jumped 3.0 percent to stand at 173.50 pence in midday trading on London's benchmark FTSE 100 index, which rose 0.35 percent overall.

"Despite the void Mr Diamond's departure leaves at one of the UK's largest banks, investors seem to be thinking -- or at least hoping -- that this may draw a line under the issue," said Mike McCudden, head of derivatives at trading consultancy Interactive Investor.

Diamond's resignation comes as the bank faced possible criminal prosecution.

(July 04, 2012, The Daily Star) ■

Tax billionaires to help poor: UN

The United Nations on Thursday called for a tax on billionaires to help raise more than USD 400 billion a year for poor countries.

An annual lump sum payment by the super-rich is one of a host of measures including a tax on carbon dioxide emissions, currency exchanges or financial transactions proposed in a UN report that accuses wealthy nations of breaking promises to step up aid for the less fortunate.

The annual World Economic and Social Survey says it is critical to find new ways to help the world's poor as pledged cash fails to flow.

The report estimates that the number of people around the globe worth at least USD 1 billion rose to 1,226 in 2012.

There are an estimated 425 billionaires in the United States, 315 in the Asia-Pacific region, 310 in Europe, 90 in other North and South American countries and 86 in Africa and the Middle East.

Together they own an estimated USD 4.6 trillion so a one percent tax on their wealth would raise more than USD 46 billion, according to the report.

But the UN acknowledged that the idea is unlikely to get widespread support from the target group, saying that for now its tax on the unimaginably wealthy remains "an intriguing possibility."

Without commenting on any of the individual taxes proposed, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that if the new "innovative financing" is to become viable, "strong international agreement is needed."

(July 08, 2012, The Daily Star) ■

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Economic growth to fall in Asia: ADB

Growth in some developing Asian countries, including Bangladesh and India, will go down further due to a worsening the financial and banking crisis in Europe and a sluggish recovery in the United States, the Asian Development Bank said yesterday.

"Economic growth in developing Asia moderated during the first half of 2012 as slower growth in the US and the euro area reduced demand for the region's exports," the lender said in a report.

Worries over the strength of important developing economies have emerged, according to the Asian Development Bank Outlook Supplement.

The supplement outlook did not say anything directly about Bangladesh. However, the outlook published in April projected Bangladesh's GDP (gross domestic product) growth at 6.2 percent for fiscal 2012, down from 6.7 percent a year ago.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics projected the growth at 6.3 percent in its provisional estimate.

However, Finance Minister AMA Muhith is still hopeful that growth would reach 7 percent in the final calculation.

The ADB predicts developing Asia will expand by 6.6 percent in 2012 and 7.1 percent in 2013, lower than 6.9 percent and 7.3 percent forecast in the lender's Asian Development Outlook published in April.

India's outlook, meanwhile, is clouded by a combination of high inflation and poor demand, both externally and internally.

India's economy is now expected to grow by 6.5 percent this year, down from the previous forecast at 7 percent.

South Asia's economy is expected to grow by 6.2 percent in 2012 and 6.9 percent in 2013. The earlier forecast said the growth would be 6.6 percent and 7.1 percent respectively.

South Asia's economic growth will moderate as the weaker global environment reduces exports and investment inflow. Although somewhat offset by stable inward remittance, widening trade deficits have led to the depreciation of most currencies in the sub-region.

(July 13, 2012, The Daily Star) ■

Britain sinks far deeper into recession than forecast

Britain's economy shrank far more than expected in the second quarter, battered by everything from an extra public holiday to government spending cuts and the neighbouring euro zone crisis.

Finance minister George Osborne said figures released on Wednesday showed Britain had "deep-rooted economic problems," adding that the slump in the second quarter was disappointing even when taking into account one-off factors that hurt.

Britain's gross domestic product fell 0.7 percent compared with the first three months, the sharpest fall since the height of the global financial crisis in early 2009, the Office for National Statistics said, showing a bigger drop than any of the economists surveyed in a Reuters poll last week had expected.

Output in Britain's service sector -- which makes up more than three quarters of GDP -- contracted by 0.1 percent in the second quarter after growing 0.2 percent in Q1 2012.

Industrial output was 1.3 percent lower, while construction -- which accounts for less than 8 percent of GDP -- shrank by 5.2 percent, its biggest drop since the first quarter of 2009.

The figures confirmed that Britain remains mired in its second recession since the start of the financial crisis, with the economy shrinking for a third consecutive quarter.

The broad-based slump will fuel pressure on the government to get the economy growing again after a crisis that has left many Britons poorer with rising prices and higher taxes eating up meager wage increases.

However, Osborne believes he has no money left for a meaningful spending boost, having staked his reputation on a tough plan to eliminate a budget deficit, still around 8 percent of GDP. The lack of growth also puts this goal into question.

(July 26, 2012, The Daily Star) ■

Big banks' glory days: gone for good?

The summer of 2012 may be remembered as the time when regulation, scandals and a protracted slow-growth economy finally caught up with big American banks.

Ever since the financial crisis, US banks and their investors have held out hopes of a return to the good times, when lending profits steadily rose and commercial and investment banking flourished together. But analysts and investors are now questioning whether things have changed for good.

"My gut says all these megabanks are worth more separately than combined," said Bill Black, managing partner of Consector Capital, a hedge fund that focuses on bank trading. Smaller, more focused banks could attract investors, satisfy regulators and increase depressed stock prices, he said.

Seven of the 10 biggest US banks beat analysts' average earnings expectations in the second quarter. But much of that came from cutting costs and dipping into money previously set aside to offset bad loans, rather than from growth in their main businesses, which is what investors want to see.

Revenue from lending, trading and advising corporate clients on mergers is still weak, and low interest rates continue to squeeze profits on loans and other investments. Banks and their already depressed stocks appear headed for a long, grim future.

Nancy Bush, who has been a bank analyst and investor for three decades, said she is ready to throw in the towel on banks of all sizes.

Toughing out a cyclical economic downturn with more job cuts is not a long-term answer, some banking experts say. Today's problems derive from structural changes in the financial sector, including increased regulation, and demand a radical restructuring.

"The bottom line is that they have to get smaller so they can manage better," said Roy Smith, a finance professor at New York University's Stern School of Business. "They have to give up the idea of being a universal bank holding company that jams together businesses that have nothing to do with each other."

(July 26, 2012, The Daily Star) ■

China Economy to rebound in 2H: IMF

A woman stands outside a retail store along a street in Shanghai on Wednesday. The IMF said Chinese economy will grow by 8.5 percent in 2013.

China's economy will rebound in the second half of 2012 to expand eight percent annually as government policies to spur growth take effect, the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday.

"Growth is expected to bottom out in the second quarter, and then accelerate in the second half of the year," the IMF said in an annual report on China's economy, which it also predicted would grow 8.5 percent in 2013.

The Fund noted that Chinese authorities, whose views are included in the report, said they had been pursuing policies to achieve a more sustainable pace of growth.

"This managed slowdown, however, has run into stronger-than-anticipated headwinds from the worsening of the euro area crisis," the IMF said.

"Measures to support growth are now being given more prominence and the authorities are confident that growth will be at least 7.5 percent this year."

Still, an expansion of eight percent would mark a further deceleration for China, a key engine of global growth. The economy, the world's second biggest, grew 9.2 percent in 2011 and 10.4 percent in 2010.

Authorities, worried the economy was overheating, from 2010 tried to rein in growth by raising borrowing costs and suppressing bank lending, among other steps.

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MTB NEWS & EVENTS

MTB OPENS SMART BANKING KIOSK AT BANASREE

Inaugurated By: Md Nurul Kabir, General Secretary, Banasree Kallyan Samity

Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, Deputy Managing Director of MTB, local elite, leaders of the local business associations and people from different strata and other MTB senior officials also attended the program.

Date: July 12, 2012
Venue: Banasree, Rampura, Dhaka 1219

INAUGURATION OF MTB SMART BANKING AT CDA AVENUE & MTB ATM AT ALONKAR MOR

Inaugurated By: MA Malek, Editor, Dainik Azadi & Syed Sirajul Islam, Managing Director, Well Groups of Industries.

Mohammad Ali Chowdhury, SEVP & Head of MTB Chittagong division branches and MTB Chittagong Branch Managers were present along with others.

Date: July 12, 2012
Venue: CDA avenue & Alonkar Mor, Chittagong 4000

MTB OPENS ATM AT ITTEFAQ MOR

Inaugurated By: Mrs. Shaju Hosein, Chairman of Rob-bar Publications

Special Guests: Md. Hashem Chowdhury, Deputy Managing Director of MTB

Local elites, Branch Managers from MTB Principal, Dilkusha, Dholaikhal, Fulbaria along with other departmental staff from Corporate Head Office were also present at the opening.

Date: July 02, 2012
Venue: Ittefaq Mor, 1 R. K. Mission Road, Dhaka 1000

WRITTEN TEST OF MTB MANAGEMENT TRAINEE BATCH 2012

Organized By: Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka, Dhaka 1000

Date: July 13, 2012
Venue: Ideal College, 65 Central Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205

MTB NEWS & EVENTS

MATCH MAKING EVENT BETWEEN MTB AND SME WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN CTG

Chief Guest: Md. Abul Quasem, Deputy Governor, Bangladesh Bank

Special Guest: Anis A. Khan, Managing Director & CEO, MTB

Chaired By: Syed Rezwanul Kabir, Managing Director & CEO, SME Foundation

Date: July 08, 2012
Venue: Hotel Agrabad, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong 4000

SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN MTB & ROBI AXIATA LTD.

Signed By: Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, Chief Financial Officer, Robi Axiata Ltd. and Md. Ahsan-uz Zaman, Additional Managing Director (AMD), MTB.

Date: July 17, 2012
Venue: Sun floor, MTB Centre, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212

MTB CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility)

MTB Square distributes Iftar items among Office Assistants and Cleaners.

Special Guests: A.K.M. Shameem, Sr. Executive Vice President, MTB Training Institute and Md. Zahid Hossain, Executive Vice President, MTB Dhaka Division Branches

Date: July 19, 2012
Venue: MTB Square, Tejgaon, Dhaka 1208

MTB CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility)

The philosophy of MTB has always been looking beyond the traditional banking business and offering assistance to not only the community as a whole but also to people in need. With this view, MTB Chakaria Branch took an initiative at its level best to alleviate sufferings of flood affected people in Chakaria.

Date: July 27, 2012
Venue: Demoshia, Chakoria, Cox's Bazar 4740

But the slowdown has prompted them to start unwinding some of those measures, including cutting interest rates and loosening requirements for the amount of reserves banks must maintain, in order to spur lending and boost activity.

The IMF also said that the government has room to do more.

“The authorities have taken the foot off the brakes, but they have not yet stepped on the accelerator,” Markus Rodlauer, the head of the IMF’s China team, said in a conference call to discuss the report.

“But they are ready to do so and they have room to do so if needed,” he said.

Chinese leaders have repeatedly expressed concern over the weakening economy and vowed to take further measures.

Premier Wen Jiabao has called stabilising growth the government’s top priority.

Growth slowed to a more than three-year low of 7.6 percent in the second quarter, marking the sixth straight three-month period in which it had slowed.

The Washington-based IMF said the projection of eight percent growth was based on the premise that China maintains policies aimed at such a result.

The IMF’s assessment echos many private economists, who also see the economy rebounding in the second half.

The Fund cited the ongoing eurozone sovereign debt crisis as the biggest external risk facing China’s economy.

Regarding China’s currency, the IMF changed its assessment from last year’s report, determining that the renminbi, or yuan, is now more closely aligned with the country’s economic fundamentals.

(July 27, 2012, The Daily Star) ■

Germans say they’re ‘better off without euro’

The majority of Germans think their country would be better off without the euro, a poll suggested on Sunday, as the economy minister reiterated doubts over whether Greece can stay in the single currency.

The Emnid poll for the Bild am Sonntag mass circulation weekly showed 51 percent of Germans believed Europe’s top economy would be better outside the 17-country eurozone. Twenty-nine percent said it would be worse off.

The survey also showed that 71 percent of Germans wanted Greece to leave the euro if it did not live up to its austerity promises.

Roesler and his party – junior partners in Germany’s ruling coalition – have frequently expressed doubts about whether Greece is prepared to follow through with the painful reforms necessary to stay in the single currency club.

Debt-wracked Greece is under immense pressure to carry out a structural reform programme, part of a package worth billions of euros that have been keeping its economy alive since 2010.

International auditors are currently in Greece, assessing the government’s progress towards reforms seen as essential to get the country back on its feet.

The audit report will determine whether Greece will receive the next tranche of 31.5 billion euros (USD 38.8 billion) from its aid programme that it needs to keep the economy afloat.

(July 30, 2012, The Daily Star) ■

NATIONAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Total Tax Revenue

NBR tax revenue collection in June 2012 was BDT 13944.72 crore which is higher by BDT 1876.97 crore or 15.55 percent against the collection of BDT 12067.75 crore in June 2011. NBR tax revenue collection during FY12 stood at BDT 94457.37 crore which is 18.96 percent higher than the level of FY11. Target for NBR tax revenue collection for FY 2011-12 was BDT 91870.00 crore.

Borrowing of the government through NSD certificates during July-May, 2011-12 remained positive and stood at BDT 17249.13 crore which is 6.69 percent higher than the level of BDT 16167.02 crore during July-May, 2010-11.

Liquidity Position of the Scheduled Banks

Total liquid assets of the scheduled banks stands higher at BDT 124391.09 crore as of end June, 2012 against BDT 100564.96 crore as of end June, 2011. Required liquidity of the scheduled banks also stands higher at BDT 79768.02 crore as of end June, 2012 against BDT 66493.75 crore as of end June, 2011.

Scheduled banks holding of liquid assets as of end June, 2012 in the form of Cash in tills & balances with Sonali bank, Balances with Bangladesh Bank, and Unencumbered approved securities are 6.09 percent, 33.42 percent and 60.49 percent respectively of total liquid assets.

Bank Group	As on end June, 2011 (BDT in crore)		As of end May, 2012*p	
	Total Liquid Asset	Required Liquidity (SLR)	Total Liquid Asset	Required Liquidity (SLR)
State Owned Banks	30146.85	19228.08	37930.26	22207.68
Private Banks	47857.65	34591.75	59374.13	40217.94
Private Islamic Banks	13418.07	6386.33	13386.17	9188.21
Foreign Banks	7969.63	5273.29	10432.68	5893.93
Specialized Banks	1172.76	1014.30	3267.85	2260.26
Total	100564.96	66493.75	124391.09	79768.02

**p Provisional*

Imports

Import payments in May 2012 stand higher by USD 185.90 million or 6.40 percent to USD 3093.60 million, against USD 2907.70 million in April 2012.

Of the total import payments during the period under review, imports under Cash and for EPZ stand at USD 31066.2 million, imports under Loans/Grants USD 218.0 million, imports under direct investment USD 99.2 million and short term loan by BPC USD 1564.6 million. The low growth in cumulative import payments and BB's cautious monetary policy stance, are contributing to ease pressure on gross foreign exchange reserves.

Exports

Merchandise exports in June, 2012 stands higher by USD 111.78 million or 5.09 percent at USD 2311.20 million as compared to USD 2199.42 million in May, 2012. The amount is lower by 3.14 percent than the export value of June 2011.

Remittances

Remittances in June 2012 stand lower at USD 1070.86 million against USD 1156.82 million in May 2012. This is however, slightly higher by USD 31.95 million against USD 1038.91 million of June 2011.

Total remittances receipts during July-June, 2011-12 increased by 10.24 percent to USD 12843.42 million against USD 11650.32 million during July-June, 2010-11. Strong growth in remittances stabilized gross reserves and helped to maintain strength of local currency.

Foreign Exchange Reserve (Gross)

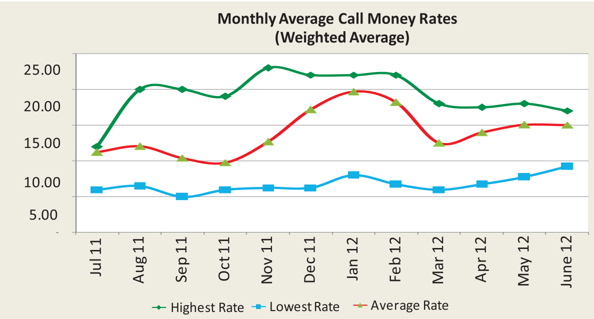
The gross foreign exchange reserves of the BB stood higher at USD 10364.43 million (with ACU liability of USD 667.61 million) as of end June 2012, against USD 9520.43 million (with ACU liability of USD 336.91million) by end May 2012. The gross foreign exchange reserves, without ACU liability is equivalent to import payments of 3.25 months according to imports of USD 2988.19 million per month based on the preceding 12 months average (June 2011-May 2012).

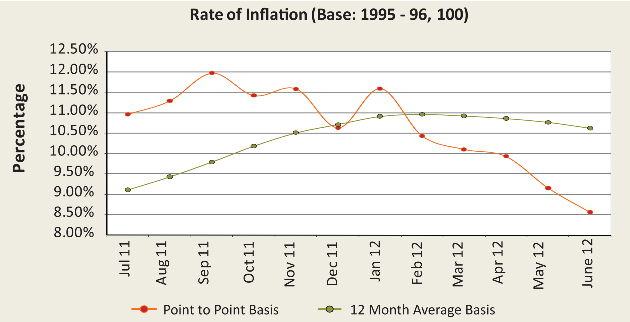
The gross foreign exchange balances held abroad by commercial banks stood lower at USD 1138.76 million by end June 2012 against USD 1095.46 million by end May 2012. However, this was higher than the balance of USD 903.24 million by end June 2011.

Exchange Rate Movements

Exchange rate of BDT per USD appreciated about 3.28 percent in the month of February and has since hover around that rate, resulted from moderate growth in remittances, foreign aid, and low import pressures. At the end of June 2012 BDT has depreciated by 9.44 percent from its level at the end of June 2011. On the other hand, during the same period, Indian Rupee depreciated by 20.19 percent.

(Source: Major Economic Indicators: Monthly Update, July 2012)





Rate of Inflation on CPI for National (Base: 1995-96, 100)	Jul 11	Aug 11	Sep 11	Oct 11	Nov 11	Dec 11	Jan 12	Feb 12	Mar 12	Apr 12	May 12	Jun 12
Point to Point Basis	10.96%	11.29%	11.97%	11.42%	11.58%	10.63%	11.59%	10.43%	10.10%	9.93%	9.15%	8.56%
12 Month Average Basis	9.11%	9.43%	9.79%	10.18%	10.51%	10.71%	10.91%	10.96%	10.92%	10.86%	10.76%	10.62%

Source: Major Economic Indicators

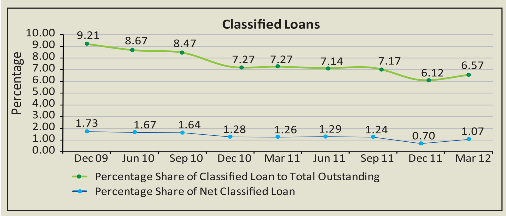
Monthly Average Call Money Market Rates (wt avg)	Jul 11	Aug 11	Sep 11	Oct 11	Nov 11	Dec 11	Jan 12	Feb 12	Mar 12	Apr 12	May 12	Jun 12
Highest Rate	12.00	20.00	20.00	19.00	23.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	18.00	17.50	18.00	17.00
Lowest Rate	6.00	6.50	5.00	6.00	6.25	6.25	8.00	6.75	6.00	6.75	7.75	9.25
Average Rate	11.21	12.03	10.41	9.77	12.70	17.15	19.66	18.18	12.51	13.98	15.05	15.02

Source: Economic Trends Table XVIII (Call Money)

BANKING AND FINANCIAL INDICATORS

Classified Loans	Dec 09	Jun 10	Sep 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Dec 11	Mar 12
Percentage Share of Classified Loan to Total Outstanding	9.21	8.67	8.47	7.27	7.27	7.14	7.17	6.12	6.57
Percentage Share of Net Classified Loan	1.73	1.67	1.64	1.28	1.26	1.29	1.24	0.70	1.07

				Percentage Change (%)	
Monetary Survey	May, 2011	June, 2011	May, 2012 P	May.12 over May.11	FY 2010-2011 P
Reserve Money (BDT crore)	85343.80	97500.90	92386.20	8.25%	21.09%
Broad Money (BDT crore)	429275.80	440,520.00	501088.60	16.73%	21.34%
Net Credit to Government Sector (BDT crore)	65632.80	73436.10	88231.50	34.43%	34.89%
Credit to Other Public Sector (BDT crore)	18899.90	19377.10	18401.40	-2.64%	28.72%
Credit to Private Sector (BDT crore)	336638.20	340712.70	398594.40	18.40%	25.84%
Total Domestic Credit (BDT crore)	421170.90	433525.90	505227.30	19.96%	27.41%



L/C Opening and Settlement Statement (USD million)	July-May, 2010-11		July-May, 2011-12		Percentage Change (%) Year over Year	
	Open	Sett.	Open	Sett.	Open	Sett.
Food Grains (Rice & Wheat)	2355.11	1821.22	795.19	834.93	-66.24%	-54.16%
Capital Machinery	2572.67	1846.42	2019.02	2281.64	-21.52%	23.57%
Petroleum	2948.03	3021.08	4343.96	4327.13	47.35%	43.23%
Industrial Raw Materials	14001.59	11215.58	13168.61	12387.13	-5.95%	10.45%
Others	14035.24	11327.84	13305.58	12597.53	-5.20%	11.21%
Total	35912.64	29232.14	33632.36	32428.36	-6.35%	10.93%

YEARLY INTEREST RATES						
End of Period	Bank Rate	Call Money Market's Weighted Average Interest Rates on		Schedule Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rates on		Spread
		Borrowing	Lending	Deposits	Advances	
2012*	5.00	15.02	15.02	....	....	....
2011	5.00	17.15	17.15	7.46	12.80	5.34
2010	5.00	8.06	8.06	6.08	11.34	5.26
2009	5.00	4.39	4.39	6.29	11.51	5.22
2008	5.00	10.24	10.24	7.09	12.40	5.32
2007	5.00	7.37	7.37	6.84	12.78	5.95
2006	5.00	11.11	11.11	6.99	12.60	5.61
2005	5.00	9.57	9.57	5.90	11.25	5.35
2004	5.00	4.93	5.74	5.56	10.83	5.27
2003	5.00	6.88	8.17	6.25	12.36	6.11

**: data upto month of July, 2012.*

Interest Rate Development *1/												
Period	Treasury Bills			BGTB				Repo	Rev. Repo	Avg Call Money Rate	Lending Rate	Deposit Rate
	91-Day	182-Day	364-Day	5-Year	10-Year	15-Year	20-Year	1-3 Day	1-3 Day			
2010-11 *r												
September	...	...	...	7.93	8.85	8.91	9.24	5.50	3.50	7.15	11.17	6.00
October	2.94	3.75	4.45	7.96	8.85	8.94	9.25	5.50	3.50	6.19	...	...
November	3.72	4.16	4.65	8.00	8.89	9.05	9.41	5.50	3.50	11.38	...	...
December	4.58	4.85	5.50	8.10	9.45	9.11	9.56	5.50	3.50	33.54	11.19	6.08
January	5.11	5.39	5.94	8.25	9.50	....	9.60	5.50	3.50	11.64	11.34	6.39
February	5.25	5.5	6.00	8.25	9.45	9.12	9.60	5.50	3.50	9.54	11.41	6.54
March	5.48	5.63	6.20	8.26	9.36	9.20	9.63	6.00	4.00	10.59	11.95	6.81
April	5.98	6.03	6.67	8.26	9.45	9.30	9.65	6.25	4.25	9.50	12.02	7.06
May	6.45	6.63	6.97	8.26	9.45	9.35	9.65	6.25	4.25	8.64	12.17	7.24
June	6.75	7.00	7.30	8.26	9.45	9.35	9.65	6.75	4.75	10.93	12.42	7.27
2011-12 *p												
July	7.04	7.28	7.60	8.26	9.45	....	10.00	6.75	4.75	11.21	12.55	7.32
August	7.40	7.65	7.90	8.30	9.50	9.65	10.25	6.75	4.75	12.02	12.63	7.40
September	7.73	8.30	8.65	8.35	9.53	10.30	10.85	7.75	5.25	10.41	12.72	7.42
October	8.12	8.40	8.65	8.50	9.55	10.99	11.50	7.75	5.25	9.77	12.80	7.46
September	8.73	8.90	9.13	8.50	9.55	11.00	11.50	7.75	5.25	12.70	12.83	7.53
December	9.50	9.18	10.00	8.50	9.55	11.00	11.50	7.25	5.25	17.75	13.01	7.55
January	10.50	10.63	10.88	9.00	11.25	11.50	11.95	7.75	5.75	19.67	13.43	7.86
February	11.00	11.23	11.31	11.25	11.35	11.60	12.00	7.75	5.75	18.18	13.63	7.95
March	11.00	11.20	11.25	11.3	11.40	11.65	12.03	7.75	5.75	12.51	13.69	8.11
April	11.21	11.29	11.33	11.37	11.50	11.70	12.07	7.75	5.75	14.18	13.72	8.17
May	11.34	11.36	11.37	11.40	11.56	11.75	12.10	7.75	5.75	15.05	13.70	8.25
June	11.37	11.40	11.40	11.45	11.60	11.80	12.12	7.75	5.75	15.02	...	...
July@	11.40	11.42	11.43	11.48	11.65	11.85	12.12	7.75	5.75	10.90	...	...

Source: MRP, DMD, Statistics Dept., Bangladesh Bank, *1/ Weighted Average Rate, *p Provisional, *r Revised, @ = upto 26th July, 2012, ... Data Unavailable

DOMESTIC CAPITAL MARKETS

CAPITAL MARKET – DSE
(For the Month of July, 2012)

Weekly Summary Comparison:

	July 22 - 26, 2012	July 02 - 05, 2012	% Change
Total Turnover in mn BDT	11,713	6,783	72.68
Daily Average Turnover in mn BDT	2,343	1,696	38.14

Category-wise Turnover

Category	July 22 - 26, 2012	July 02 - 05, 2012	% Change
A	83.86%	75.48%	0.084
B	1.84%	1.27%	0.006
G	0.00%	0.00%	0.000
N	11.94%	19.82%	(0.079)
Z	2.36%	3.43%	(0.011)

Scrip Performance in the Week

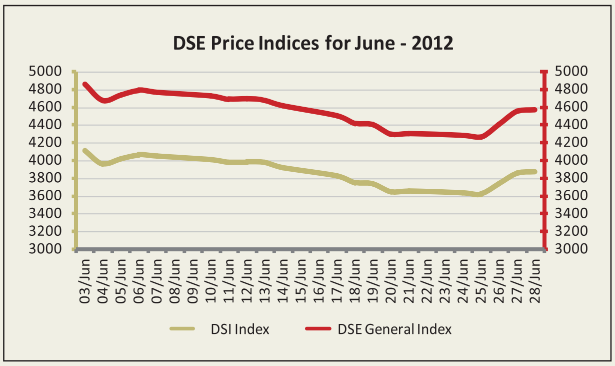
	July 22 - 26, 2012	July 02 - 05, 2012	% Change
Advanced	216	10	2060.00
Declined	57	260	(78.08)
Unchanged	9	4	125.00
Not Traded	2	10	(80.00)
Total No. of Issues	284	284	0.00

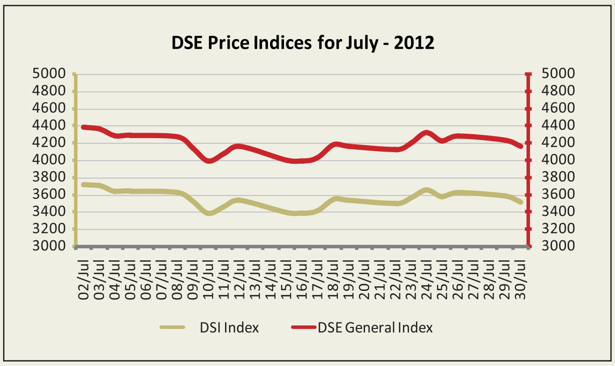
Top 10 Gainer Companies by Closing Prices, July, 2012

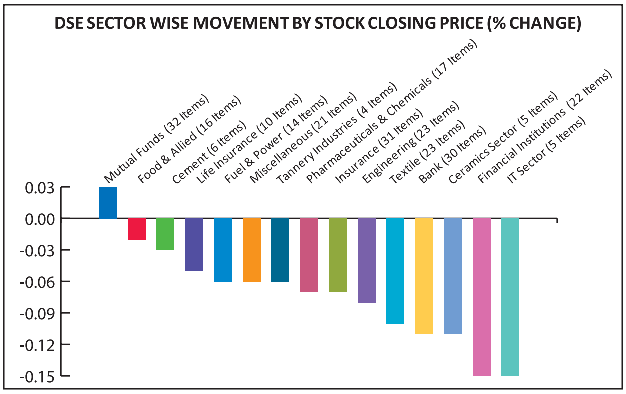
Sl	Names	Category	% of Change	Deviation % (High & Low)
1	Aamra Technologies Ltd.	N	24.87	29.32
2	Islamic Finance	A	21.45	25.42
3	Monno Stafflers	A	18.18	22.22
4	Keya Cosmetics	A	17.59	20.69
5	Saiham Cotton Mills Ltd.	N	17.58	21.12
6	CMC Kamal	A	16.23	19.79
7	ICB AMCL 1s t M.F.	A	15.71	14.32
8	Beacon Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	B	14.91	17.61
9	8th ICB M.F.	A	14.78	12.07
10	BD Finance	A	14.70	18.97

Top 10 Loser Companies by Closing Prices, July, 2012

Sl	Names	Category	% of Change	Deviation % (High & Low)
1	Beximco	A	-12.76	25.08
2	MBL 1s t Mutual Fund	A	-8.82	8.20
3	NLI Firs t Mutual Fund	A	-6.67	12.35
4	Gemini Sea Food	A	-6.51	5.63
5	Meghna PET	Z	-5.56	7.69
6	7th ICB M.F.	A	-4.86	0.00
7	Rangpur Foundry	A	-4.86	5.43
8	AB Bank 1s t Mutual Fund	A	-4.76	10.53
9	Tallu Spinning	A	-4.41	12.00
10	Popular Life	A	-4.35	6.94







Stocks returned to the black end of the month (July, 2012), as institutional investors injected fresh funds into the market. The benchmark general index, DGEN, the market tracking index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, finished the week (22 – 26 July, 2012) at 4,284.96 points, after surging 62.78 points or 1.48 percent.

According to market analysts “It seemed the market vibrated mainly by the active participation of institutional investors as the money market has eased up in recent times, which is evidential in the single-digit call money rate.” Besides, expectations of good half-yearly earnings by the fundamentally sound scripts along with announcement of fresh fund injection by several financial institutions further improved the market sentiment, market experts said.

The turnover value increased to BDT 11.7 billion, up by 72.68 percent compared to BDT 6.7 billion in the first week (02-05 July, 2012) of the month. Out of 284 issues traded in last week (22-26 July, 2012), 216 advanced, 57 declined and 09 remained unchanged. A total of 56.30 million shares changed hands on the day (26 July) against 65.86 million in the previous session.

All the major sectors ended in the red with IT plummeted the most 15.9 percent followed by Financial Institutions 15.3 percent, Ceramics Sector 11.6 percent and Bank 11.1 percent.

Grameenphone was the most traded stock of the day (26 July), owing to its transactions of 6.82 lakh shares worth BDT 14.16 crore, followed by Keya Cosmetics, Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company and GPH Ispat. The Sixth ICB Mutual Fund was the biggest gainer of the day, rising by 9.53 percent, while NLI First Mutual Fund, plunging by 6.66 percent, was the worst loser.

DOMESTIC CAPITAL MARKETS

CAPITAL MARKET – CSE
(For the Month of July, 2012)

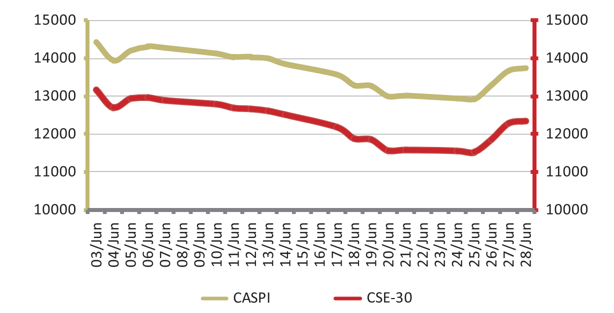
Top 10 Gainer Companies by Closing Price, July, 2012

Sl	Names	Category	Week Difference	Opening	Closing	Turnover (BDT)
1	Pragati Insurance Ltd.	A	26.11	56.30	71.00	80,526.00
2	Aamra Technologies Ltd.	N	25.12	19.50	24.40	19,309,800.00
3	Islamic Finance and Investment	A	21.78	30.30	36.90	8,768,033.10
4	Apex Foods Ltd.	A	20.85	51.30	62.00	217,920.00
5	Saiham Cotton Mills Ltd.	N	18.78	16.50	19.60	27,120,075.00
6	Keya Cosmetics Ltd.	A	18.63	32.20	38.20	62,620,140.00
7	Bd Finance and Investment Co. Ltd.	A	15.70	31.20	36.10	8,196,637.00
8	Dhaka Insurance Ltd.	A	15.60	53.20	61.50	921,025.00
9	National Polymer Ind Ltd.	A	15.00	32.00	36.80	14,230.00
10	Siaham Textile Mills Ltd.	A	14.89	18.80	21.60	5,596,100.00

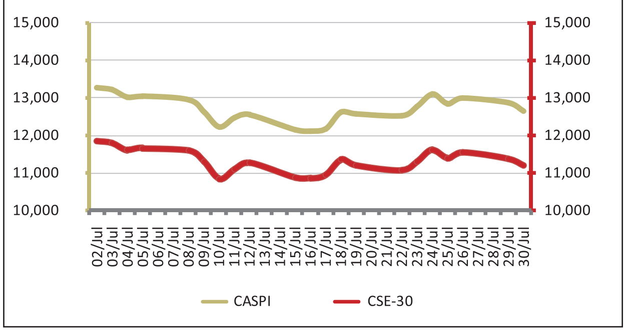
Top 10 Loser Companies by Closing Price, July, 2012

Sl	Names	Category	Week Difference	Opening	Closing	Turnover (BDT)
1	Beximco Ltd.	A	-12.28	77.30	67.80	98,446,461.00
2	IBN Sina Pharmaceuticals	A	-8.97	80.20	73.00	7,300.00
3	Prime Finance First Mutual Fund	A	-5.20	9.60	9.10	147,450.00
4	Reliance Insurance Ltd.	A	-4.81	81.00	77.10	7,710.00
5	Southeast Bank 1st Mutual Fund	A	-4.04	9.90	9.50	4,750.00
6	Peoples Insurance Company Ltd	Z	-3.75	24.00	23.10	9,628,625.00
7	British American Tobacco BD Co.	A	-2.60	650.00	633.10	290,695.00
8	Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd.	Z	-2.01	34.70	34.00	45,205,650.00
9	Legacy Footwear Ltd.	A	-1.89	21.10	20.70	142,500.00
10	IBBL Mudaraba Perpetual Bond	A	-1.89	977.00	958.50	86,215.00

CSE Price Indices for June -2012



CSE Price Indices for July -2012



INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

SELECTED GLOBAL INDICES

GLOBAL INDICES ROUND-UP FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2012

World stocks are poised for a choppy month (July 2012), as investors look to a string of economic reports for any signs of slowing growth that might spur the US Federal Reserve or European Central Bank to take action. “We may see light volume this week, and that could potentially create some choppiness,” said Brian Lazorishak, senior vice president at Chase Investment Counsel. Both the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank held back on offering new measures to stimulate the economy, dashing investor hopes. US markets rallied in response to better-than-expected jobs numbers, but investors remained cautious since the unemployment rate still rose to 8.3%. “The jobs numbers were consistent with slow growth,” said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital. “That rekindles the hope of Fed help, which could ignite a mid-summer rally.” Cardillo said that if economic data further indicates a slowdown, there is a greater likelihood that Fed chairman Ben Bernanke will hint at the possibility of more stimuli during the central bank’s annual symposium later this month (August) in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

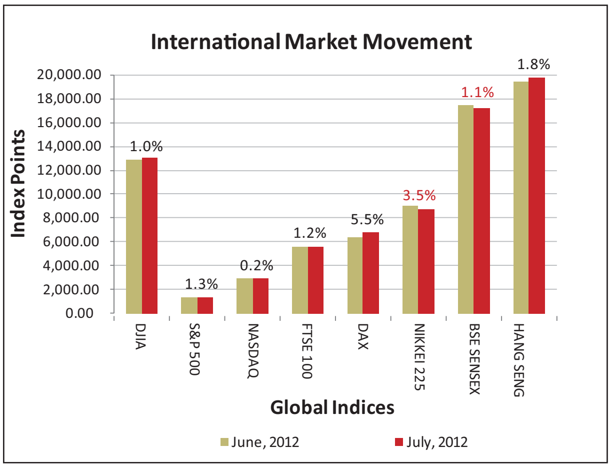
US stocks ended last month up slightly higher, with the Dow and S&P 500 both near the highest levels since early May. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 1%, the S&P 500 added 1.3% and the Nasdaq rose 0.2% for the month of July 2012.

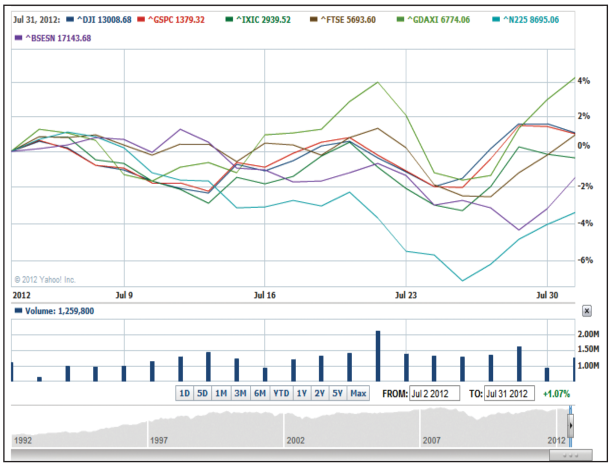
European stocks all closed higher. DAX in Germany jumped more than 5.5%, while the Britain’s FTSE 100 gained 1.2%. In Asia, major indexes closed in mix at July 2012. The HANG SENG increased 1.8%, Japan’s Nikkei (NIKKEI 225) down by 3.5% and BSE Sensex lost 1.1%.

International Market Movements

INDEX	VALUE (As of June 29, 2012)	VALUE (As of July 31, 2012)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
DJIA	12,880.09	13,008.68	128.59	1.0%
S&P 500	1,362.16	1,379.32	17.16	1.3%
NASDAQ	2,935.05	2,939.52	4.47	0.2%
FTSE 100	5,571.10	5,635.30	64.20	1.2%
DAX	6,416.28	6,772.26	355.98	5.5%
NIKKEI 225	9,006.78	8,695.06	-311.72	-3.5%
BSE SENSEX	17,429.98	17,236.18	-193.80	-1.1%
HANG SENG	19,441.46	19,796.81	355.35	1.8%
Arithmetic Mean				**0.8%**

DOUBLE VIEW





(Compiled from Yahoo! Finance)

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORECASTS

International Economic Forecasts: Wells Fargo Securities Economics Group™ Monthly Outlook
August, 2012

US OVERVIEW

Less Strength But More Resilience

Economic forecasts have been slashed in recent weeks as evidence has mounted suggesting Europe's economic problems are already weighing on U.S. economic growth. The ISM manufacturing index has dipped below 50 for the past two months, although it remains well above levels that would trigger recession fears. Consumer spending has also weakened and spending will likely rise at an even slower pace in the third quarter than it did in the second. Business fixed investment also appears to be slowing, as businesses ratchet down their expectations for economic growth and put key decisions on hold before the presidential election and budget debate.

We expect real GDP to rise at a 1.3 percent annual rate during the current quarter, with nearly one-third of the increase coming from inventory building. Trade will remain a drag on output, as imports modestly outpace exports. Both will slow, however, reflecting weakening global growth. Cutbacks in federal, state and local government will also subtract from growth in the current quarter and government is expected to remain a drag on overall growth throughout the forecast period, with federal spending cuts doing the most damage.

For the year, we expect 2012 real GDP to rise 2.1 percent but growth in 2013 is now pegged at just 1.4 percent. While growth is expected to be slower, it should also prove more resilient. The recovery in residential construction is gaining momentum, and overall job growth is expected to pick up as construction activity improves. We should also be on the lookout for the unexpected on both the monetary and fiscal fronts, where expectations today are for little change.

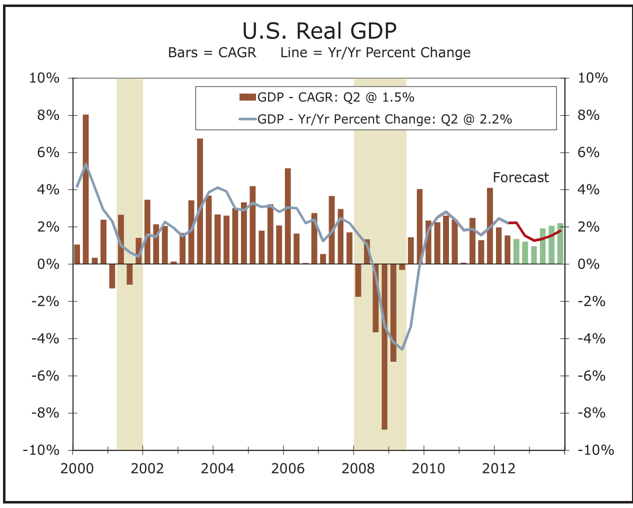
INTERNATIONAL OVERVIEW

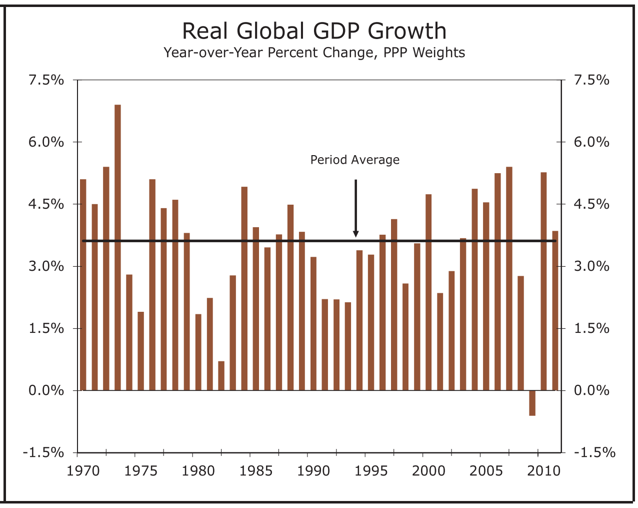
Global Growth Prospects Dim Further

Economic developments around the world in recent weeks have done little to alleviate our concerns about a subpar rate of growth for the global economy this year and next. Our full-year global GDP growth forecast for this year is unchanged from last month at 2.9 percent. If realized, not only would that growth rate fall short of the long-term average of roughly 3.6 percent per annum, it would also mark the slowest annual global growth rate since the global recession in 2009. We have shaved our global GDP forecast for next year to 3.2 percent from 3.3 percent previously.

A key impediment to growth in many economies around the world is still the European sovereign debt crisis. In this month's Outlook, we consider the potential shift in terms of a how the European Central Bank is handling the crisis and consider the extent to which Draghi's statements affect the outlook for Europe. Thus far, the ECB president has been all hat and no cattle, but a genuine shift to direct purchasing of government bonds by the ECB would mark a major policy shift.

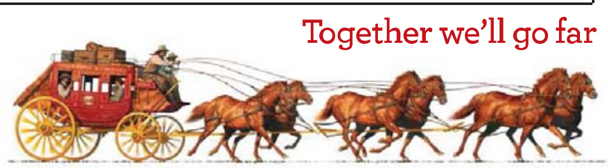
In the U.S. section of this report, we lay out our case for why economic growth in the United States likely will slow further in the second half of this year. Weakening in the world's largest economy, combined with deterioration in the outlook for China and other emerging market economies, has had many forecasters, including the International Monetary Fund, lowering their forecast global growth.





Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, International Monetary Fund and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

This report is available on wellsfargo.com/economics and on Bloomberg WFEC.



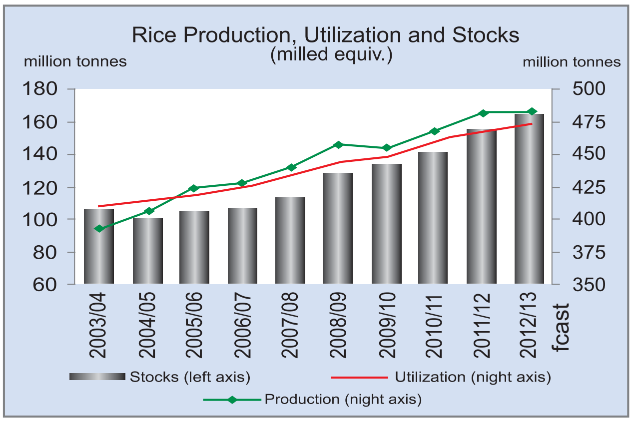
RICE MARKET MONITOR (RMM)

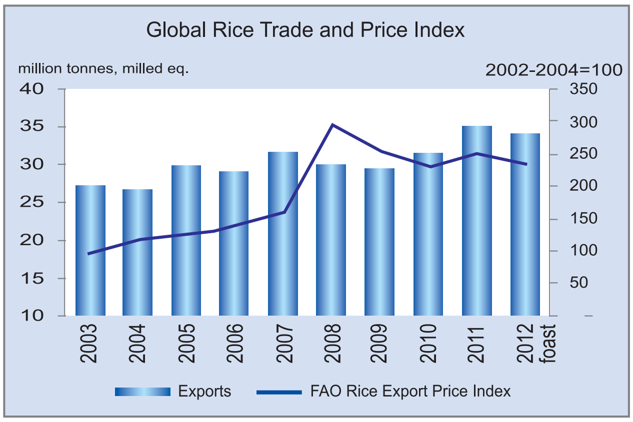
The FAO Rice Market Monitor (RMM) provides an analysis of the most recent developments in the global rice market, including a short-term outlook.

ROUND-UP

FAO has lowered its April forecast of global paddy production in 2012 by 7.8 million tonnes following a worsening of the outlook in Asia. The downward revision mainly concerned India, where the critical monsoon rains were 22 percent short of the Long Period Average by mid-July. As the season progressed, production forecasts for Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, Mali, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were also downgraded. On the positive side, the 2012 production forecasts in China (Mainland), Indonesia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand and the United States were all scaled up. At the new forecast level of 724.5 million tonnes (483.1 million tonnes, milled basis), global production in 2012 would be only marginally above the excellent 2011 results, recently further revised upwards.

Across the various regions, Asia is predicted to reap 657 million tonnes in 2012, 0.4 percent above the outstanding 2011 performance. Such a modest growth reflects expectations of a poor season in India, but also in Cambodia, the Chinese Province of Taiwan, the DPR Korea, the Rep. of Korea and Nepal, all of which may see production drop in 2012. By contrast, China (Mainland), Indonesia and Thailand are anticipated to record sizeable gains, with smaller, but widespread, increases expected in the rest of the region. Production in Africa looks set to recover in 2012, possibly jumping by 3 percent, which, to a large extent, draws on expectations of an improved performance in western Africa. Prospects are also positive in Eastern and Northern Africa, but the season may end negatively in the Southern part of the continent.





In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), a lack of precipitation and a shift towards more remunerative products in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay are behind a 7 percent drop of production in the region in 2012. Yet, prospects remain positive for Bolivia, Colombia, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela. In the other regions, Australia already concluded the season with an outstanding 32 percent area-led increase. As for output in the United States, it is officially anticipated to recover from last year's low, yet remaining well short of pre-2011 volumes. By contrast, production may fall in the EU, owing to a lingering drought in Spain.

Based on trade performance so far this year, FAO has lowered its April forecast of global rice trade in calendar 2012 by 160 000 tonnes to 34.2 million tonnes. Import forecasts were trimmed for Bangladesh and Indonesia, but raised for China (Mainland) and the Islamic Republic of Iran. As for export forecasts, deliveries from Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam have been lowered since April, outweighing upward revisions for Argentina, Brazil, India and the United States. At 34.2 million tonnes, global rice trade in 2012 would be about 1.0 million tonnes smaller than the 2011 record. Reduced import demand by countries in Far East Asia are behind this fall, as deliveries to Africa, LAC, Europe and North America are expected to rise compared with 2011. As for exports, Thailand is predicted to face a sharp decline in 2012, with Argentina, Brazil, China (Mainland), Myanmar, Uruguay and Viet Nam also foreseen to ship less. Parts of these reductions are expected to be offset by greater sales, especially by India, but also Australia, Cambodia, Pakistan and the United States.

Global rice utilization in 2012/13 is projected to hover around 474 million tonnes (milled basis), 6 million tonnes more than the 2011/12 estimate. Of these, 400 million tonnes are estimated to be used as food, up from 395 million tonnes in the previous year. This would keep rice food consumption per capita stable around 56.6 kilo per annum, even though domestic prices in many locations are above those prevailing one year ago. Utilizations of rice for feed and for other uses are anticipated to change little, at 12.6 million and 61.4 million tonnes, respectively.

The FAO forecast of global rice inventories at the close of the 2012-2013 marketing years has been revised up by 200 000 tonnes to 164.5 million tonnes (milled basis). At that level, carryover stocks would be 6 percent (or 8.6 million tonnes) larger than the previous year, marking the eighth consecutive season of stock accumulation. As a result, the global stock-to-use ratio would be up to an estimated 34 percent in 2013. Much of the reserve building this season is expected to be concentrated among exporting countries, while reduced imports may result in smaller reserves held by traditionally importing countries.

After gaining 2 percent in May, international rice prices have remained surprisingly stable, in sharp contrast with trends observed in the maize and wheat markets. Although the abundance of rice supplies lessens the prospect of a strong rebounding of prices in the coming months, still much uncertainty prevails as to their future direction. For instance, the necessity for Thailand to release stocks ahead of the new harvest in October must be weighed against India's possible consideration of a reinstatement of export restrictions, in spite of the country's ample inventories. Developments in the other cereal markets will also need to be closely monitored.

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

France Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry

History

France Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCIFB) was formed in 1996. It consists of French companies and local agents having close ties or contacts with France and Bangladesh, and a mutual interest in exploring and developing trade, business and/or investment opportunities between the two countries.

CCIFB is a member of UCCIFE (Union of French Chambers of Commerce and Industry Abroad). It is also a member of FBCCI (Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry). It is a part of a worldwide network of over 80 French Chambers in 71 countries. Today, the Chamber consists of 100 members.

Management Committee

CCIFB management consists of twenty members including His Excellency Mr. Charley Causeret, Ambassador of France as the Patron and Dr. Rifat Rashid as the Director of CCIFB.

Mr. Shah Sayed Kamal
President

Mr. Shah Sayed Kamal is the President of CCIFB for the tenure of 2010-2012. Mr. Kamal is the Managing Director of ECM Services Limited (Equipment Consultant and Marketing) a private limited company established in 1990 and registered with the joint stock company with specialty of services into the field of Defense Equipment / machineries.

Mr. Humayun Rashid, CEO, Energypac Power Generation Ltd. is the Vice-President of CCIFB.

Objectives

- To promote economic cooperation between France and People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- To promote exchange of trade information between France and Bangladesh with a view to stimulating greater understanding about each other's economic potentials and opportunities.
- To promote and support measures calculated to benefit and protect the interests of the members.

Services:

For French Companies:

- Business Information on Bangladesh
- List of Bangladeshi Suppliers
- Basic information on Company reputation
- Organising appointments from contacts provided
- Organising prospective mission / Trade show / Exhibition
- Mail box and secretarial services

For Bangladeshi Companies

- List of French buyers
- Organising prospective Trade mission to France
- Providing contacts for joint-venture projects
- Providing contacts & assistance to participate in
- International Trade Fairs in France
- Arrange translation and interpretation

Membership:

Bangladeshi Companies that has export or import business with France or intends to do so, may apply for Membership in a prescribed form (available at CCIFB website). Application fee is BDT 12,000 (Once) and annual fee is BDT 12,000. For detail procedure and formalities please see the website or contact CCIFB directly.

Events, Trade Shows, Discussions on Trade:

Contact

France Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry
CCIFB - House #2, Road #1, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Ph: (880 2) 882 1450 / 882 2751-54, Fax: (880 2) 882 1450 / 882 3655
E-mail: ccifb@qubeemail.com.bd
Web: http://www.ccifb.org

AlphaRating

Alpha Credit Rating Ltd. (Alpha Rating) was incorporated on the 24th of February 2011. a result of the initiative of a few distinguished and renowned professionals of Bangladesh and the with support and organizational assistance from SATCOM IT Ltd., Axis Resources Ltd., Equity Care Bangladesh Ltd., and TAN Equity and Investment Ltd.

A S A Muiz
Chairman, Alpha Rating

Abu Saleh Abdul Muiz brings with him 42 years of experience in the field of insurance and marketing. He has been the Marketing Director of Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd. Since 2000, and is also the current Additional Managing Director of the company, looking after Branch Control, Finance, Accounts, and HR departments. Mr. Muiz joined in Sadharan Bima Corporation (SBC) in 1972 and worked in various capacities before retiring as GM in 1997. He has a BA from Dhaka University and has been on training courses of insurance, re-insurance and aviation insurance placement in England, Germany, Switzerland and France throughout his career.

Philosophy of Alpha Rating:

It is our belief that being very good at something is only the starting point. Aiming to always be pioneers and leaders within our field of industry. In our company, we constantly adapt our policies and procedures to modern challenges and needs. The professional responsibility has always been our main concern. This will be maintained through continual professional development, constant investments in research as well as the use of the highest level of intellectuality, but also their preservation. Coupled with continual improvements in our services and workforce, these procedures ensure the quality control allowing us to offer top quality rating services in the country.

The AlphaRating teams recognize the importance, responsibilities and sensitivities encompassed in its Mission and therefore attach utmost priority to establishing working standards that reflect strict observance of the following values:

Values of Alpha Rating:

- Rigorous and systematic analysis
- Integrity
- Independence
- Transparency
- Professionalism
- Confidentiality
- Identifying innovative approaches relevant to changing conditions

Services by Alpha Rating:

- Corporate Entities Rating
- Financial Institution's Rating
- Insurance Company's Rating
- Sub-National Entities Rating
- Project Finance Rating

Mission of Alpha Rating:

AlphaRating's mission is to provide independent and reliable analysis and opinions on the creditworthiness of Bangladeshi obligors. We have set out to bring to Bangladesh the extensive international credit rating experience of our partners in order to contribute to the fostering of a credit rating culture among Bangladeshi obligors, investors and other market participants.
AlphaRating is committed to providing credible opinions through application of analytical methodologies and business policies that follow international best practices. As a national rating agency with an experienced local team, we aim to add value through our know-how of the Bangladeshi business culture and our understanding of the complexities of the domestic political and social environment.

Technical Partners:

Istanbul International Rating Services Inc (TurkRating) is a Turkish credit rating agency. It is one of the three rating agencies to receive accreditation from the Republic of Turkey's Banking Regulatory and Supervisory Agency (BRSA) and the Capital Markets Board. The agency was established in Turkey by a group of international experts with extraordinary depth and breadth of experience in ratings, investor services, banking, regulatory, and other industry sectors.

Roy Peter WEINBERGER

Mr. Weinberger, is Chairman of the Executive Board of Turkrating. He has more than 35 years of experience in rating services on an international level. He has held senior positions at both Standard and Poors' Corporation and Thomson Financial BankWatch and has contributed to the international expansion of both institutions. He will assist with assignments at AlphaRating on entity and debt rating.

Philippe DELHAISE

Mr. Delhaise a director of Turkrating, with degrees in Engineering, Philosophy and Economics and having an MBA. Mr. Delhaise was President of BankWatch's Asia Division between 1994 and 1999, Delhaise was responsible for all ratings and research coverage of financial institutions across the Asia-Pacific. He is an expert on bank, banking systems and sovereign risk in emerging markets, in particular in Asian countries. Mr. Delhaise has hosted Risk seminars in a large number of cities on four continents. Philippe Delhaise wrote a well-received book entitled "Asia in Crisis - The Implosion of the Banking and Finance Systems" published by John Wiley & Sons in 1998.
He will assist assignments of AlphaRating on Insurance Rating (life & non life).

Mahesh KOTECHA

Mr. Kotecha is a partner and a member of the Rating Committee of BRC Investor Services S.A., a rating agency in Bogota, Colombia; he is also the President and Founder of Structured Credit International Corp. (SCIC), which provides financial advisory services on ratings and securitizations for emerging markets. Mr. Kotecha worked for Standard and Poor's Corporation, rising from Vice-President to Managing Vice-President and Sr. Vice-President. He also founded and headed Standard and Poor's Non-US Structured Finance Group to rate transactions backed by non-US collateral, mortgage, and non-mortgage. He is one the panel advisors of AlphaRating.

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web: http://alpharating.com.bd

CSR ACTIVITIES

IBBL gives scholarships to HSC graduates

Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd (IBBL) gave scholarships to 200 underprivileged students who obtained GPA-5 in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations in 2011.

The function was held at Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation on Thursday, said a press release.

IBBL Chairman Prof Abu Nasser Muhammad Abduz Zaher was present at the programme as chief guest.

BDT 18000 was given to each of the GPA-5 achievers.

(July 01, 2012, The Daily Star)

Dhaka Bank donates BDT 3m to USTC

Dhaka Bank Limited donated BDT 3 million to University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC).Reshadur Rahman, Chairman of the bank handed over the cheque to Dr. Nurul Islam, National Professor and Founder Vice-Chancellor, University of Science and Technology, Chittagong. The fund was handed over at a blood donation programme organised by the bank to mark its 17th foundation ceremony in Dhaka recently. Khondker Fazle Rashid, Managing Director of the bank inaugurated the programme as chief guest, said a press release Saturday.

(July 08, 2012, Daily Sun)

HSBC water programme launched

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Limited has recently announced the HSBC Water Programme - a five year long USD 100 million global programme in partnership with WaterAid, Earthwatch and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The programme will seek to ensure supply of safe water, water conservation, sanitation best practices, as well as information and education management in the field of water efficiency.

In the next five years, HSBC Water Programme will provide safe water to 0.25 million people and sanitation to 0.4 million people in the north-east and north-western regions of Bangladesh through the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) project of WaterAid in Bangladesh. Around USD 3.12 million will be deployed for the cause.

(July 12, 2012, The Financial Express)

Southeast Bank Foundation distributes scholarships

Southeast Bank Foundation recently organized a reception at Ruposhi Bangla hotel to distribute scholarships to graduate level meritorious and underprivileged students. Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor of Bangladesh Bank was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Mr. Alamgir Kabir, FCA, Chairman, Southeast Bank Limited was present as special guest. Presided over by Mr. Mahbubul Alam, Managing Director of Southeast Bank Limited, the function was attended by member of Board of Directors, eminent persons and parents of students.

(July 17, 2012, The Financial Express)

Woori Bank's CSR

A day-long tree plantation and city cleaning programme was held at Uttara in the capital Friday with the support of Woori Bank of Republic of Korea.

As part of its global corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, the foreign bank donated USD 5,000 to a local volunteer organisation named Volunteers Bangladesh (VB) for the programme.

VB, with support of the bank, arranged the event on "Woori-VB Campaign for Environment Protection-2012" to create awareness about environment among the people.

(July 22, 2012, The Financial Express)

IDLC undertakes tree plantation initiativ

Selim RF Hussain, CEO and Managing Director of IDLC Finance Limited; Ram Sharma, Chief of Party of IPAC Project; and Md Wahed Ali, President of Satchari Nishorgo Sangastha, represented their respective

organizations at the recently held MoU signing event.

IDLC signed an MoU with Satchari Nishorgo Sangastha, to undertake a community tree plantation initiative at Satchari National Park, Habiganj, Sylhet. Under this arrangement, IDLC will sponsor the plantation of 7,500 seedlings of local varieties in 500 rural households surrounding the Satchari protected forest area.

The plantation is scheduled to be completed by August 2012.

(July 22, 2012, The Financial Express)

DBBL organises plastic surgery operation in Noakhali

Dutch-Bangla Bank organised a four-day long plastic surgery operation camp at its own cost at Good Heal Hospital, Maijdee, Noakhali.

The camp was organised under the Smile-Brighter programme to bring back smile on the faces of the poor cleft-lipped boys and girls, said a press release.

A total of 64 boys and girls were operated by a plastic surgery team headed by eminent plastic surgeon Dr. AJM Salek.

Managers of Basurhat and Choumuhani branches of the bank visited the camp.

(July 25, 2012, Daily Sun)

New Appointments During July, 2012

Banks, Financial & Other Institutions

Name	Current Position	Current Organization	Previous Position	Previous Organization
Syed Nurul Arefeen	Chairman	Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited	Chairman	Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited
Sazzadul Hassan	Managing Director	Syngenta Bangladesh Ltd	General Manger	Maersk Line, Syngenta
Mohammed Hasan	Chairman of Executive Committee	Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited	Chairman of Executive Committee	Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited
Syed Abdul Hamid	Managing Director and CEO	Agrani Bank Limited	Managing Director and CEO	Agrani Bank Limited
M Shahidul Islam	Managing Director	United Commercial Bank	Deputy Managing Director	United Commercial Bank
Md. Shafiul Azam	Deputy Managing Director	Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited	Senior Executive Vice President	Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited
Steve Ball	Chief Financial Officer	HSBC, Bangladesh	-	-
Inamur Rahman	Managing Director	Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company Ltd	Deputy Managing Director	Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company Ltd
Dr. Mohammed Haider Ali Miah	Managing Director	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited	Additional Managing Director	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Ltd.
Md. Fariduddin Ahmed	Advisor	Exim Bank	Managing Director and CEO	Exim Bank
Md Abdus Salam	Managing Director	Bangladesh Krishi Bank Limited	Deputy Managing Director	Janata Bank Limited
Mr. Sheikh Mozaffar Hossain	General Manger	Bangladesh Bank	Deputy General Manger	Bangladesh Bank
Yussuf Abdullah Harun	Chairman	Asia Insurance	Chairman	Asia Insurance

MTB NETWORK

Corporate Head Office
MTB Centre, 26 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka 1212
Tel : 880 (2) 882 6966, 882 2429, Fax : 880 (2) 882 4303

MTB Dhaka

Aganagar Branch
Babu Bazar Branch
Banani Branch
Baridhara Branch
Bashundhara Branch
Bashundhara City Branch
Chandra Branch
Chawk Moghaltuli Branch
Dhanmondi Branch
Dholaikhal Branch
Dilkusha Branch
Elephant Road Branch
Fulbaria Branch
Gazipur Branch
Gulshan Branch
Kapasia Branch
Madaripur Branch
Mohammadpur Branch
MTB Centre Corporate Branch
Mymensingh Branch
Narayangonj Branch
Pallabi Branch
Panthapath Branch
Principal Branch
Progati Sarani Branch
Savar Branch
Shah Mokhdum Avenue Branch
Shanir Akhra Branch
Sonargaon Branch
Sreenagar Branch
Tejgaon Branch
Tongi Branch
Uttara Model Town Branch

MTB Securities Ltd.

Corporate Head Office
Extension Office-Motijheel
Extension Office-Fulbaria
Extension Office-Fakirapul
Extension Office-Dilkusha
Banani Office
Dhanmondi Office
Gulshan Office
Narayangonj Office
Pallabi Office
Progati Sarani Office
Uttara Office

SME/Agri Branch

Dhanbari
Gafor Gaon
Hasnabad
Kaliganj
Noria
Sharulia Bazar

MTB Booth

Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport
- Arrival Lounge
- Departure Lounge

MTB Rangpur

Rangpur Branch
Thakurgaon Branch

MTB Securities Ltd.

Rangpur Office

MTB Barisal

Gournadi Branch

MTB Khulna

Jessore Branch
Kushtia

MTB Capital Ltd.

Corporate Head Office

131 MTB ATM

MTB Contact Centre

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7 DAYS a week
365 DAYS a year

just dial 16219 or
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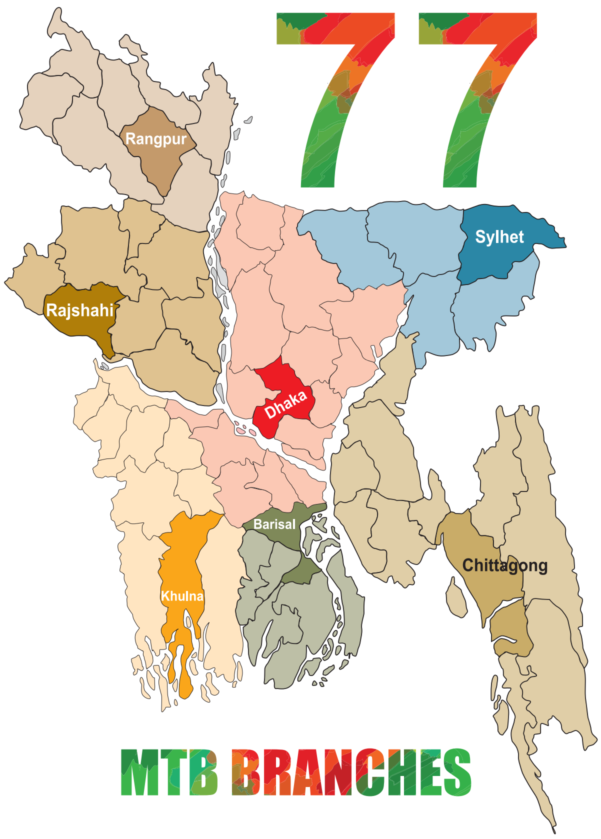

Dhaka	Rangpur	Barisal	Khulna	Rajshahi	Sylhet	Chittagong
Division	Division	Division	Division	Division	Division	Division

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Joypurhat Branch
Pabna Branch
Rajshahi Branch

SME/Agri Branch

Belkuchi
Ishwardi

MTB Securities Ltd.

Rajshahi Office

MTB Sylhet

Habigonj Branch
Moulvi Bazar Branch
Shahparan Gate Branch
Sylhet Branch

SME/Agri Branch

Syedpur

MTB Securities Ltd.

Sylhet Office

MTB Chittagong

Agrabad Branch
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Aman Bazar Branch
Brahmanbaria Branch
CDA Avenue Branch
Chokoria Branch
Comilla Branch
Cox's Bazar Branch
Dhorkora Bazar Branch
Feni Branch
Jubilee Road Branch
Karnaphuli EPZ Branch
Kerani Hat Branch
Khatungonj Branch
Nazirhat Branch
Oxygen Mor Branch
Raipur Branch

SME/Agri Branch

Dagon Bhuiyan
Haidergonj
Laksham
Nazumeah Hat
Ramchandrapur Bazar

MTB Securities Ltd.

Agrabad Office
Alankar Mor Office
CDA Avenue Office

MTB Booth

Shah Amanat International Airport