

Since 1981

August - September 2019

DCCI REVIEW



ঢাকা চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি

ঢাকা চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি
Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry

BANGLADESH
IS BUILDING
BANGLADESH



**Monthly Bulletin of the
Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry
(In-house Circulation Only)**

Vol. XXXIX No. 39 (01 August to September 30, 2019)
Published on 05 December, 2019

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT

Mr. Osama Taseer

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Waqar Ahmad Choudhury

VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Imran Ahmed

DIRECTORS

Mr. Abul Kasem Khan

Engr. Akber Hakim

Mr. Andaleeb Hasan

Mr. Ashraf Ahmed

Alhaj Deen Mohammed

Mr. Enamul Haque Patwary

Mr. Hossain A Sikder

Kh. Rashedul Ahsan

Mr. K.M.N. Manjurul Hoque

Engr. Md. Al Amin

Mr. Md. Rashedul Karim Munna

Mr. Mohammad Bashiruddin

Mr. Nuher L. Khan

Mr. Shams Mahmud

Mr. S.M. Zillur Rahman

Editorial Note	02
BUSINESS KALEIDOSCOPE	04
Chamber News	06
Article	14
National Economy	17
SAARC News	23
Asia-Pacific News	26
Middle East News	29
International News	32
সংবাদ বিচিত্রা	৩৫
Trade Information	39
Currency/Share	40

REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD

Founder Chairman

Late Nuruddin Ahmed

Members

Mr. Sayed Kamaluddin

Mr. A. S. M. Quasem

Mr. M A Momen

Mr. Hossain Khaled

DCCI REVIEW

Published by :

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI)

65-66 Motijheel Commercial Area

Dhaka-1000, Phone : 9552562 (Hunting)

Fax : 880-2-9560830

E-mail : info@dhakachamber.com

Website : http://www.dhakachamber.com

For online version: dhakachamber.com/publication/review

DCCI Gulshan Centre

Taj Casilina, Suite # 3C, Plot # SW(4)I

25 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1

Dhaka- 1212, Tel: 88-02- 9852246

স্মার্ট যুগের স্মার্ট অপশন
অনলাইনে ভ্যাট
রিটার্ন সাবমিশন

ভ্যাট এখন অনলাইনে
ভিজিট করুন:

www.vat.gov.bd



বিঃদ্র: ল্যান্ড ফোন বা বিদেশ হতে কল করুন

০৯৬৭৮০১৬৫৫৫

কন্টাক্ট সেন্টারের সময়সূচি
প্রতি কর্মদিবস সকাল ৯:০০ টা থেকে বিকাল ৫:০০ টা পর্যন্ত

জনসচেতনতায়



জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার



College Code: 6593

A College with A Difference

DCCI Business Institute



(A DCCI College of Business Administration)

ADMISSION GOING ON ...

BBA (Professional) Programme

MAJOR IN

◆ Accounting ◆ Finance ◆ Marketing ◆ Management ◆ MIS

Why we're different

- Special offer : Only **Tk. 57,500** for Double Golden GPA– 5.
- Monthly Installment payment facility.
- Internship placement support with DCCI members' business.
- Scholarship for meritorious students and affordable Tuition fees.
- Job placement under DCCI collaboration.
- Enriched & experienced Dhaka university qualified faculty
- Industrial tours.
- Opportunity to meet entrepreneurs (Members of DCCI).
- Non smoking & non political environment.
- Free Career oriented skill-building activities & professional training.
- Air-conditioned, well-equipped and safe academic atmosphere.
- Post –lecture tutorial support.
- Student counseling & extracurricular activities.

Dhaka Chamber Building (10th & 11th), 65-66 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

Help Line – 01718741039, 9552562 Ext. 232

Email: info@dbicollege.edu.bd, Website : www.dbicollege.edu.bd

- Computer lab with internet facility and rich full library resources.

DCCI REVIEW

August - September 2019

The DCCI and the new VAT law

The new VAT law, the Value-Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act 2012, having been put on hold for a few years amidst uncertainty and resistance by stakeholders caused mainly by the unpreparedness of the government and business community, came into force on July 1, with the implementation of the 2019–2020 national budget. The revenue board aims to bring home Tk 1,230.67 billion by the imposition of value-added tax on various goods and services with rate having been increased on many other goods and services. While the government has introduced the tax at the rate of 5 percent, 7.5 percent and 10 percent on specific goods and services in addition to the standard 15 percent, which has been in force for about three decades, the law has made mandatory the use of electronic cash register machines and point of sales terminals by 25 types of businesses, even in district towns, to ensure that the deposit of value-added tax collected from consumers goes to the government treasury.

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries has welcomed the enforcement of the new VAT law, as other groups of businesspeople and businesses have done, as the law brings hopes for compliance keeping to the expectations of the world community, with a call for proper and transparent collection system and for assurances that small and medium ventures should not be adversely affected by the enforcement of the law and businesses overall should not be harassed on the excuse of the collection of value-added tax.

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce of Industries has already conducted a workshop, with about 200 participants from different business houses attending, to create awareness of the law. The DCCI also has plans to hold similar workshops in future for its members as business entities need to be familiar with and aware of the new features that the new VAT law contains. Such initiatives of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries should complement the government awareness campaigns run on electronic and print media.

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries, which believes that a proper system of value-added tax

collection would contribute to the growth of the national economy, has also put out a call for business entities to keep books and records properly to effectively benefit from the facilities laid out in the law.

The new VAT law aims at the modernisation and digitisation of the tax system with a transition from a manual to a digital administration of value-added tax, which will help to resolve bureaucratic hurdles that businesses have so far had to deal with. Online VAT registration, the payment of value-added tax and the filing of returns that have been put in place will help businesses to carry on with their daily compliance without needing to visit revenue board offices. This will not only dispense with the hassle that is associated with VAT office visits but also save time and cost for businesses which could be invested in daily operation.

Although the National Board of Revenue has described the new VAT law as ‘business- and SME-friendly’, businesspeople believe that there are issues which, if left out of regular oversight, might inconvenience businesses. There should, therefore, be scopes for businesses to take up any issues of the new VAT law that could be harming for business with the National Board of Revenue to resolve. A provision like this could help both the businesses, in adhering to the law, and the government, in ensuring adherence of businesses to the law.

There are apprehensions in the business community about the powers of VAT officials such as the confiscation of any products without any notice to realise outstanding tax, of judicial or metropolitan magistrates in ordering the freezing of bank accounts of business or the issues of seeking redress against decisions of VAT offices in the court of law. The government should look into such issues that could harm the enforcement of the law and the curtailment of the right of businesspeople.

With some such issues being properly looked into and attended to, the new VAT law should help the government to reach the target of the collection of value-added tax, which is the biggest source of revenue, followed by income tax and customs tariff.

রেজিস্টার্ড নং ডি এ-১

বাংলাদেশ



গেজেট

অতিরিক্ত সংখ্যা

কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত

বৃহস্পতিবার, সেপ্টেম্বর ১৯, ২০১৯

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
(কাস্টমস)

প্রজ্ঞাপন

তারিখ: ০৪ আশ্বিন ১৪২৬ বঙ্গাব্দ/১৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

এস, আর, ও, নং ২৯৭-আইন/২০১৯/৪৬/কাস্টমস।—Customs Act, 1969 (Act No. IV of 1969), অত্রপূর্ব উক্ত Act বলিয়া উল্লিখিত, এর section 219 এর sub-section (1), section 18 এর sub-section (1) এর proviso এর সহিত পঠিতব্য, এ প্রদত্ত ক্ষমতাবলে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড নিম্নরূপ বিধিমালা প্রণয়ন করিল, যথা:—

১। শিরোনাম।—এই বিধিমালা কাস্টমস (ডি মিনিমিস) বিধিমালা, ২০১৯ নামে অভিহিত হইবে।

২। সংজ্ঞা।—বিষয় বা প্রসঙ্গের পরিপন্থী কিছু না থাকিলে এই বিধিমালায়—

- (ক) “ডি মিনিমিস (De minimis)” অর্থ সেই পরিমাণ মূল্য বা গুরু-কর যাহার নিম্ন মূল্যমানের পণ্য হইতে সরকারি রাজস্ব হিসাবে গুরু-কর আদায়যোগ্য নহে;
- (খ) “গুরু-মূল্য (Customs value)” অর্থ ইন্টার্নেল ও ফ্রেইট চার্জসহ পণ্যের মূল্য; এবং
- (গ) “স্বাভাবিক মূল্য (Intrinsic value)” অর্থ ইন্টার্নেল ও ফ্রেইট চার্জ ব্যতীত কেবল পণ্য মূল্য।

(২২৪৪১)
মূল্য ৪ টাকা ৪.০০

২২৪৪২ বাংলাদেশ গেজেট, অতিরিক্ত, সেপ্টেম্বর ১৯, ২০১৯

৩। আমদানি পদ্ধতি।—(১) যদি পণ্যের মূল্য এবং প্রযোজ্য গুরু-কর ডি মিনিমিস সীমান মতো থাকে, তাহা হইলে কোনো পণ্যের আমদানি নিয়ন্ত্রণের ক্ষেত্র ব্যতীত উক্ত পণ্য গুরু-কর পরিশোধ ব্যতিরেকে ছাড়করণ হইবে।

(২) ডি মিনিমিস আমদানির জন্য নির্ধারিত রেজিস্টারের বিধিবদ্ধ করিতে হইবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কাস্টমস কর্মশালার কর্তৃক প্রেরণ আদেশ দ্বারা নির্ধারিত সহজীকরণ পদ্ধতিতে আমদানিকৃত পণ্য ছাড়করণ করা হইবে।

(৩) রঞ্জনিকারক, আমদানিকারক, ফনসাইনি বা ফ্রেইট ফরওয়ার্ডার কর্তৃক অবশ্যই ইনভয়েস, জন্স রশিস বা সমজাতীয় দলিলে আমদানিকৃত ডি মিনিমিস পণ্যের সুনির্দিষ্ট মূল্য বিবরণ প্রদর্শিত হইবে।

৪। প্রযোজ্যতা ও অপ্রযোজ্যতা।—(১) নিম্নবর্ণিত ক্ষেত্রে ডি মিনিমিস সুবিধা প্রযোজ্য হইবে, যথা:—

- (ক) যে সকল পণ্যের স্বাভাবিক মূল্য ২ (দুই) হাজার টাকার অধিক নহে এবং গুরু-কর ২ (দুই) হাজার টাকার অধিক নহে এইরূপ পণ্যচালান ডি মিনিমিস এর মাধ্যমে কাস্টমস ডিউটি, নেভসেটর ডিউটি এবং অন্যান্য কর বা চার্জ পরিশোধ ব্যতিরেকে আমদানি করা যাইবে;
- (খ) আমদানি নীতি আদেশে বর্ণিত অধিক ২ (দুই) হাজার টাকা মূল্যমান এবং ২ (দুই) হাজার টাকা গুরু-কর সীমা পর্যন্ত আমদানিকৃত পণ্যের বাণিজ্যিক নমুনার ক্ষেত্রে ডি মিনিমিস সুবিধা প্রদান করা যাইবে।

(২) নিম্নবর্ণিত ক্ষেত্রে ডি মিনিমিস সুবিধা প্রযোজ্য হইবে না, যথা:—

- (ক) “Without commercial value” বা “No commercial value” যেখিত পণ্য আমদানি বা মূল্য শেফা করা সত্ত্বেও “Value for customs purpose only” নিখিত পণ্য চালান;
- (খ) কোনো স্বাতন্ত্র্য কর্তৃক অসীত ক্রমাক, মস, সুখি বা প্রোবানী জাতীয় পণ্য এবং এতদ্ব্যতীত কাস্টমস কর্মশালার কর্তৃক আদেশ দ্বারা নির্ধারিত কোনো সহবন্দনশীল পণ্য;
- (গ) উক্ত Act বা বিলোম আমদানি নীতি আদেশে উল্লিখিত নিখিত বা নিরঞ্জিত পণ্যসহ অস্ত্র, বিক্ষোভক, সামরিক সরঞ্জাম, মানক, মানক উপকরণ এবং অন্যান্য পণ্য যাহা জনশৃঙ্খলা বা জননিরাপত্তা বিধিত করিতে পারে;
- (ঘ) মূল্য সীমা নির্বিশেষে বাণিজ্যিক প্রকৃতির পণ্য;
- (ঙ) নিখিত সীমান মতো এবং ব্যক্তিগত ব্যবহার ব্যতীত কোনো সরকারি দপ্তর বা সংস্থা কর্তৃক নিয়ন্ত্রণীয় পণ্য।

৫। ডি মিনিমিস ইউনিট।—(১) প্রত্যেক কাস্টমস হাউস বা কাস্টমস স্টেশনে সুনির্দিষ্ট ডি মিনিমিস ইউনিট থাকিবে এবং উক্ত ইউনিট ডি মিনিমিস হিসাবে যেখিত পণ্যচালান খালাসকরণে নিয়োজিত থাকিবে।

(২) ডি মিনিমিস অধিক সীমা অতিক্রমকারী কোনো পণ্যচালানের অংশবিশেষ যাহাতে উক্তব্য সুবিধা প্রদান করিতে না পারে তাহা সংশ্লিষ্ট ডি মিনিমিস ইউনিট নিখিত করিবে।

বাংলাদেশ গেজেট, অতিরিক্ত, সেপ্টেম্বর ১৯, ২০১৯

২২৪৪৩

৬। সুইকি ব্যবস্থাপনা।—(১) ডি মিনিমিস সুবিধার আমদানিকৃত পণ্য ছাড়ের পূর্বে যখনই আইনি প্রক্রিয়া প্রতিষ্ঠান ও গুরু-কর আদায় নিশ্চিতকরণকল্পে কাস্টমস কর্তৃপক্ষ উপযুক্ত সুইকি ব্যবস্থাপনা নীতি গ্রহণ করিবে এবং কাস্টমস সুইকি ব্যবস্থাপনা ইউনিট কর্তৃক সার্বভৌম ভিত্তিতে ডি মিনিমিস কার্যক্রম সম্পাদিত হইবে।

(২) সুইকি ব্যবস্থাপনা নীতির আওতায় সহকারী রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা বা রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা ডি মিনিমিস সুবিধায় আমদানিকৃত পণ্য কঠিন পরীক্ষা করিবে এবং পরীক্ষার ফলাফল উচ্চতর কর্তৃপক্ষকে অবহিত করিবে।

(৩) খানসাম্পূর্ণ সুইকি ব্যবস্থাপনা নীতির আওতায় কেবলমাত্র বিস্তৃত কাস্টমস কর্তৃপক্ষ ডি মিনিমিস সুবিধার ছাড়কৃত পণ্যচালান পরীক্ষা-নিরীক্ষা করিতে পারিবে।

(৪) খানসাম্পূর্ণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ প্রতিষ্ঠান শস্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাস্টমস কর্তৃপক্ষ ডি মিনিমিস চালান সম্পর্কিত তথ্য উপযুক্ত পদ্ধতিতে সংরক্ষণ করিবে।

৭। দলিলাদি দৃষ্টি ও পণ্য ছাড়করণ পদ্ধতি।—(১) আমদানিকারক বা অসকর্তৃক মালিকীত্ব প্রতিনিধি সর্বনিম্ন সংখ্যক দলিলাদির মাধ্যমে সংশ্লিষ্ট আকারে গুরু শেফা প্রদান করিবে এবং উক্ত দলিলাদির মধ্যে কমাশিয়ার ইনভয়েস, প্যারিসি লিস্ট, মুদ্রক নিবন্ধন, ট্রান্সপোর্ট দলিলা এবং আনুযায়িক অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদি থাকিবে।

(২) কাস্টমস কর্তৃপক্ষ ডি মিনিমিস পণ্যের জন্য পৃথক Customs Procedure Code (CPC) প্রস্তুত করিতে পারিবে।

(৩) কাস্টমস কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক নিরূপিত মূল্যের ভিত্তিতে ডি মিনিমিস সুবিধার প্রাপ্যতা নির্ধারিত হইবে এবং পণ্যচালানের মূল্য নির্ধারণের ক্ষেত্রে বিদ্যমান গুরু মূল্যমান সংক্রান্ত সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধি অনুবৃত্ত হইবে, তবে এইরূপ ক্ষেত্রে ইন্টার্নেল এবং ফ্রেইট ব্যতীত কেবল পণ্যের স্বাভাবিক মূল্য নির্ধারণ করিতে হইবে।

(৪) ডি মিনিমিস মূল্যসীমা বহির্ভূত পণ্যচালান আকারে ক্ষেত্রে যদি প্রমাণিত হয় যে, প্রকৃতই ডি মিনিমিস মূল্যসীমা বহির্ভূত পণ্য আমদানি হইয়াছে, তাহা হইলে উহার উপর প্রযোজ্য স্বাভাবিক গুরু-কর পরিশোধ না করা পর্যন্ত উক্ত পণ্যচালান আটক রাখা হইবে।

(৫) জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড গুরু-কর ছাড়করণ মূল্য এবং গুরু-করের পরিমাণ নিয়ন্ত্রিতভাবে পর্যালোচনা করিবে এবং, প্রয়োজনে, ডি মিনিমিস সংক্রান্ত বিধি-বিধান হাসানকরণ করিবে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের আদেশক্রমে
মোঃ মোশাররফ হোসেন সুইয়া, এনজি
চেয়ারম্যান।

মোঃ হাবিবুল ইসলাম খান, উপপরিচালক, আদেশ সরকারি মুদ্রালায়, রেজিস্টার, ঢাকা কর্তৃক মুদ্রিত।
মোঃ বাবুল মন্ডল, উপপরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ সরকার ও প্রকাশনা অফিস, ঢাকা, চেয়ারম্যান,
সমগ্র কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত। website: www.bgpress.gov.bd

BUSINESS KALEIDOSCOPE



Entrepreneur...Intrapreneur...and 'Ultrapreneur'

Customs (De minimis) Rules-2019 for smooth release of sample

In trade and economic activity, time has an economic cost. Saving time in the transit of goods and products at the cross-border trade has a clear economic benefit. The longer products take to get to market, the more likely they will perish, be outdated, be displaced by superior alternatives. Major obstacles of the delivery of samples in some developing countries are high tax and delay in procedural formalities of importing sample. The formality and associated formal and informal costs are incremental for business houses in Bangladesh.

One of the drawbacks of Bangladesh garments is longer lead time. One research on global business has shown that a 10% cut in delivery time will, other things being equal, expand exports of time-sensitive manufactures by 4%. The cost of sample is very low and tax on sample is insignificant. The paper work and expenditure for small and regular consignments are similar, where the value of the goods and amount of duties and taxes are lower than the cost to administrative works for shipment of sample and regular consignment. Resource saving in government administration is the largest benefit.

The import and export of the sample before an order for import and export is crucial for the selection of perfect products. Business and manufacturing units also import small parts and other materials for smooth production and business process. Testing of samples is an essential activity

to ensure quality of the supplied products. Usually, a long negotiated deal is stuck up only for final approval of the sample before shipment.

Different international trade alliances adopted many methods to resolve the issue and come to an arrangement to exempt small consignment from custom duty to save administrative cost and expenses of business under De minimis exemption. De minimis is an abbreviated form of the Latin Maxim De minimis non curat lex, "the law cares not for small things". A legal doctrine by which a court refuses to consider trifling matters.

Each country has own provision of De minimis value for small consignment determined under own law and rule. At the summit of Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) in 2011, a common De minimis value of USD100 was introduced. It has been estimated that this would generate a net economic benefit of about USD19.8 billion among the 21 APEC economies. Currently, there are 21 economies that are members of APEC, namely Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong-China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Peru, PNG, Russia, Singapore, Taipei Chinese, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam. Bangladesh and some other countries also applied for membership of APEC.

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) recommended establishing a global baseline De minimis value minimum of

BUSINESS KALEIDOSCOPE

USD200 to generate economic benefits by refocusing public revenue collection from more efficient revenue sources - boosting the global economy and enhancing job creation. ICC states that governments should strive to implement a commercially significant De minimis value of USD1,000.

According to the Immediate Release Guidelines of ICC, Customs shall ensure that information regarding the De minimis value is readily available. Where practicable, De minimis threshold value or amount should be stipulated in national legislation. In determining the value of these consignments, transport cost may be excluded.

The policy and rules of Bangladesh are very complex. If the total duty and tax amount of any imported non-commercial item is Tk 2,000, the duty-free benefit will be applicable for the product according to the rule. In 2018, NBR raised the exemption value to Tk 2,000 in the Customs Act-1969 from previous Tk 1,000 following the request of stakeholders, including European Delegation in Bangladesh but the new threshold has not become effective in absence of relevant rules. National Board of Revenue (NBR) just has issued rules allowing duty-free import of non-commercial goods including samples and other small consignment worth upto Tk 2,000. In September 2019, Customs wing of the NBR issued the rules titled 'Customs (De minimis) Rules-2019.

There is an additional licensing formality for importing a sample. All the recipients of the samples must have import licence and VAT registration for release of a consignment of the sample. An exporter who has an export licence cannot import sample without an additional import licence. According to NBR, the ASYCUDA world software installed has such an option that NBR cannot give input into the software without a registered number as an importer.

Section 13 of Bangladesh Import policy order 2015-18 on Import of samples, advertising materials and gifts stated Goods of gift, advertising materials and samples may be imported free of charge within CFR value limit without any prior permission from the Chief Controller during each financial year for with maximum C&F value of Tk.3,00,000. If the limit exceeds, importer should obtain permission from Chief Comptroller of Import and Export (CCI&E).

Logistics and Courier service companies deliver samples at the door of the importer in many countries except Bangladesh. Bangladesh even charges tax on product catalogue and brochure as import unlike any other country.

The import value of sample and customs assessed tax on C&F values are fixed for a financial year. Usually these samples and gifts are imported through courier and air cargo. The freight of these two services are very expensive. De minimis facility will also not be applicable for the products declared as 'no commercial value' or 'without commercial value,' or marked as 'value for customs purpose only', as stated in rules. But, this point should be clarified.

Customs officials feel that importer or his/her representative should submit a short customs declaration containing the commercial invoice, packing list, VAT registration and transport document for releasing the goods. Importers, exporters, freight forwarders or consignees will have to mention the value of imported products under De minimis rules in the invoice and purchase documents or similar types of documents.

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Policy Statement coincides with several international developments seeking to facilitate trade by simplifying cross border trade procedure to reduce barriers to trade. Under the Transitional Standard 4.13 of Revised Kyoto Convention, the Contracting parties to the World Customs Organization are encouraged to set De minimis value below which duty and tax are not applicable. It should be noted that setting such De minimis value[s] shall not affect the right of Customs to examine, detain, seize, confiscate or refuse entry of goods, or to carry out post-clearance audits under the risk management system.

Moreover, the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) in 1999 acknowledged that the e-commerce trend of increasing number of small consignments and included a provision on De minimis values. According to the Transitional Standard of RKC, Customs administrations shall specify a minimum threshold amount of duty and tax. Consequently, documentary requirements are minimal for goods for which no duty and tax will be applied. Administrations that have implemented a De minimis regime also applied to Immediate Release Guidelines (IRG) of World Customs Organisations(WCO) to provide immediate release on the basis of a consolidated declaration that can be a manifest, waybill, cargo declaration or inventory of such items.

It seems that the rule only increases the invoice value of consignment. The concerned authority is not willing to reduce clearance formalities rather increases hassle of documentary evidences. The policy will partially resolve the problem but the requirement of additional import license and VAT registration are still considered as additional hassle in sample import. It will require further amendment and simplification in the process of sample release while Import Policy should be aligned to the new De minimis rule and ASYCUDA software needs to be updated accordingly. After these reforms, the economy and business community will get the full-fledged benefits of De minimis rule.



President's Pick of the Month

DCCI holds workshop on new VAT Act

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a workshop on “Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act 2012” at the DCCI. The DCCI President Osama Taseer, Senior Vice-President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury and Vice-President Imran Ahmed attended the workshop. Around 200 participants from different business houses took part in the workshop.

Md Tariq Hassan, Second Secretary, NBR, M Shafiqul Alam, FCA, Convenor, DCCI’s Standing Committee on Custom VAT, Taxation and Snehasish Barua, Tax Consultant, DCCI made their presentations on new law.

Osama Taseer said that the workshop was organised to make the business entities aware of the new features in the VAT Act 2012. The NBR set a target to Tk 1,23,067 crore from



DCCI President Osama Taseer speaking at a workshop titled “Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act - 2012” held on October 28.

value-added tax in the 2019–20 fiscal, he said. The VAT Act 2012, which replaced the old one, has a few new features and “we need to be familiar with the procedures.” He also said that businessmen should not be harassed in the name of VAT collection.

He urged the participants to take up the issues with the NBR if any clause or rule is not business-friendly.

Md Tariq Hassan, Second Secretary, NBR said that the present VAT act is more business-friendly as well as SME-friendly. M Shafiqul Alam,



DCCI President Osama Taseer (first row, second from right), Senior Vice President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (first row, second from left), Vice President Imran Ahmed (first row, left), Convenor, DCCI’s Standing Committee on Custom VAT, Taxation M. Shafiqul Alam, FCA (first row, right) along with the participants are seen at the workshop titled “Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act - 2012” held on October 28.

FCA, Convenor, DCCI's Standing Committee on Custom VAT, Taxation said that the VAT deduction at source should be maintained properly through VAT challan.

DCCI's Tax Consultant Snehasish Barua called on business entities to maintain books and records properly to avail tax exemptions.

DCCI's Senior Vice-President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury said that from 2012 to 2016, 36 percent

revenue had been collected from VAT. A proper and transparent VAT collection system is important for country's development.

We want to make our business community aware of this new VAT law for their own interest. He also mentioned that the DCCI would arrange more such awareness workshop in future.

DCCI organizes the workshop for the second time this year to create

awareness among the businessmen and to encourage them to know the new VAT Act.

DCCI Directors Alhaj Deen Mohammad, Enamul Haque Patwary, Shams Mahmud, Kh Rashedul Ahsan former Senior Vice-President Alhaj Abdus Salam and former Vice-President M Abu Hurairah were also present **r**

Workshop Recommendations

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) organized day-long workshops on 'Awareness Raising on Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act 2012' respectably on 27th July 2019 and 28th September 2019. The 1st workshop was an immense success in educating the businessmen on the details about the rules and procedures of new VAT Act and pertinent SROs. About 14 electronic media and numerous print media covered the workshop. This success led to repeated requests from DCCI members to organize a follow-up on the 1st workshop. In this respect, DCCI put its all-out effort to arrange another workshop on the same subject with extended concentration on the subject-matters featured by a total eight sessions. This time, participants' mix is more diversified entailing Banks, Insurance & Financial Institutions, Telecom Companies, Corporate Houses and respected members of DCCI. Here 191 registered participants attended the 2nd workshop while the total attendance covered around 220 participants from different sectors.

Osama Taseer, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) delivered his Speech on VAT workshop necessity for raising awareness among members and business while Waqar Ahmad Choudhury, Senior Vice President, DCCI gave the concluding remark.

Summary of recommendations emerged from the discussion is as follows:

The participants requested President to address the complex issues of the VAT & SD Act 2012 and inform NBR about the simplicity of the Act.

The participants requested DCCI to continue dialogues with NBR on resolving challenges related to complex provisions of VAT & SD Act 2012.

To give impetus to its wider member-base, DCCI, each year, may organize such awareness-raising workshops on New Finance & VAT Act issues immediately after the declaration of National Budget.

Policy, incentives sought to encourage green construction

Dialogue on "Environmental Sustainability and Certification" held at DCCI

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised an interactive dialogue on "Environmental Sustainability and Certification" on August 25, 2019 at the DCCI.

About 50 people from different organisations participated in the

dialogue. Sustainable Infrastructure Development Consultant and CEO of EnergySolve International (Pvt.) Ltd. Mahendra Jayalath presented the keynote paper. The DCCI president Osama Taseer chaired the dialogue.

Osama Taseer said that the DCCI was relentlessly working with

policymakers and development partners to promote environmental sustainability through remarkable initiatives such as "Eco-friendly Jute Pulp Paper Project" and "Resource-Efficient Cleaner Production Project" in the metal industry. Sustainability is one of the most discussed



Sustainable Infrastructure Development Consultant & CEO of EnergySolve International (Pvt.) Ltd. Mahendra Jayalath (second from right) seen receiving crest from DCCI President Osama Taseer (second from left) after an interactive Dialogue titled “Environmental Sustainability and Certification” held on August 25. DCCI Senior Vice President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (left) and Vice President Imran Ahmed (right) are seen in the picture.

environmental and climate change related issues, he said. The growing climate change vulnerability, especially rising temperature, is adversely affecting the sustainability of the construction and building sector, he mentioned.

A study shows that about 40 percent of electricity of the total production in Bangladesh and 30 percent worldwide are consumed by the residential sector. There are 90 leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified green factories in Bangladesh. Among them, 24 are LEED platinum rated and more than 280 factories are registered with the USGBC for LEED certification.

To ensure a comprehensive “greening” of Bangladesh’s building sector, both the public and private sector need to work together to support the integration and the mainstreaming of green building concept.


Mahendra Jayalath in his presentation highlighted that sustainable development was the driving force behind modern-day development. The contamination of water, soil and air, pollution by chemicals, deforestation and waste management are some of the concerns related to sustainable environment. According to a study, building’s contribution to total environmental burden ranges between 12 percent and 42 percent

and most of it is atmospheric and pollution emissions which is 40 percent.

He said, “We need to focus on green building for sustainable environment as it would help us combating against climate change issues. For safe water resource, high benefit at low cost, lower business operating cost, increased building valuation, improved production capacity, energy efficiency and gaining confidence of international buyers, sustainable environment-friendly certified green building are very important.”

Participants in the dialogue stressed and recommended awareness creation for the use of green technology in building construction, loan facility at low interest rate for green building, reduction in duty on green building materials, rainwater harvesting, renewable energy, reducing misuse of power and energy and modern waste management system.

Senior Vice-President of DCCI Waqar Ahmad Choudhury gave the concluding remarks.

DCCI Vice-President Imran Ahmed, and Directors Ashraf Ahmed, Alhaj Deen Mohammad, Enamul Haque Patwary, Hossain A Sikder, Kh Rashedul Ahsan, KMN Monjurul Hoque, Engr Md Al Amin, Md Rashedul Karim Munna, Mohammad Bashiruddin, Shams Mahmud and SM Zillur Rahman were present 

Dialogue Recommendations

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) organized the Interactive Dialogue titled “Environmental Sustainability & Certification” on 25th August 2019 at DCCI President’s Executive Floor. Mr. Mahendra Jayalath, Sustainable Infrastructure Development Consultant & CEO of EnergySolve International (Pvt.) Limited presented the Keynote Paper while Mr. Osama Taseer, President, DCCI gave the welcome remark. The concluding remark was given by Mr. Waqar Ahmad Choudhury, Senior Vice

President, DCCI. In this interactive dialogue, a remarkable mix of sectoral participants representing Industry, Academia, Experts, Environmentalists, Development Partners, Public Sector and Business Leaders were present.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS EMERGED FROM THE DISCUSSION IS AS FOLLOWS:

To ensure a comprehensive “greening” of Bangladesh’s building sector, both the public and private sector

need to work together to support the integration and mainstreaming of green building consideration into national and municipal policies.

Dialogues and cooperation between policy makers and financial institutions need to be facilitated and financial institutions should keep the provision of green loan products for buildings.

Emphasized that sustainable design, design with nature, environmentally sensitive design, holistic resource management should be the key to enforce modern day development.

Suggested few areas to be considered to enforce sustainable designing: Building location & orientation, Proper material selection, Storm water quality and quantity control, Energy Efficient design development, Renewable Energy applications, Water efficient design development, Water efficient landscapes, Waste water treatment, rainwater harvesting & reuse, Heat island effect – non roof and roof, Light pollution reduction, Daylight & views for occupants and occupied spaces, Ventilation & occupant comfort and Life cycle analysis of measures.

Guided on the post-operative concerns of certification & sustainability:

- ◆ Establish a group to review facility operations
- ◆ Strictly monitor energy and water consumption and analyze reasons for deviation and take corrective action to minimize
- ◆ Perform audits annually – Review all measures awarded

- ◆ Rectify defects as soon as it is identified
- ◆ Perform energy & water system commissioning at regular intervals

In terms of Rain Water Harvesting technology, the best practice what is being done in Sri Lanka can be replicated for Bangladesh.

In the context of Bangladesh, the pertinent area we need to look is providing and disseminating knowledge and information flow to the interested parties working for sustainability. In doing this, the triple bottom-line benefit called PPP (People, Planet, Profit).

In discussing the role of public and private sector, it is suggested to map out the framework for sustainability by the public sector in consultation with private sector.

Certification for environment-friendly building will enhance marketing exposure of the industry and also reduce the cost-of-doing business through ensuring efficient use of energy, resources and a healthy working environment. Hence, environmental sustainability practice would usher a new era across industrial sectors in Bangladesh.

Ensuring single-digit interest rate for LEED-certified factories, provision of green loan products, lower corporate tax for green factories, cash incentives for green industrial product export may steer this culture in the days to come.

Philippines sees Bangladesh as potential market to explore

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a seminar on “Promoting Bilateral Trade and Investment between Bangladesh and Philippines” on September 2, 2019 at the DCCI.

The DCCI also hosted a B2B matchmaking between the visiting Philippines trade team and its Bangladeshi counterparts. Agnes Perpetua R Legaspi, Assistant Director, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines, led the delegation. The seminar was organised by the DCCI in collaboration with Bangladesh

Philippines Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Leo Marco C Vidal, Charge d’Affaires, Embassy of the Philippines in Bangladesh, Jeremiah C Reyes, Philippines Commercial Attaché and President of the BPCCI and Director, DCCI Engr Akber (AL) Hakim were present at the seminar. The DCCI President Osama Taseer chaired the seminar.

Osama Taseer said that the bilateral trade had been significant in terms of both value and share, hovering around \$65 million during the 2017–18 financial year. Bangladesh

can develop its agriculture with the knowledge transfer of Philippines, skills in food production, processing, canning and packaging, IT, business process outsourcing, electronics, tourism, etc. On the other hand, the Philippines can collaborate with Bangladesh’s apparel, pharmaceuticals and ceramics sector, he said.

He underscored the importance of a direct flight between Bangladesh and the Philippines to increase people-to-people contact. Moreover, preferential trade agreements leading to bilateral FTAs could open up



DCCI President Osama Taseer (left) speaking at a seminar on “Promoting Bilateral Trade and Investment between Bangladesh & Philippines” held on September 2. Assistant Director, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Republic of the Philippines Agnes Perpetua R. Legaspi (third from left), Charge D’ Affaires, Embassy of the Philippines in Bangladesh Leo Marco C. Vidal (second from right), Philippines Commercial Attache’ Jeremiah C Reyes (right) and President of BPCCI and Director, DCCI Engr. Akber (AL) Hakim (second from left) were also present.

substantial economic gains for the both countries, he said.

The Ambassador of the Philippines in Bangladesh Vicente Vivencio T Bandillo could not attend the seminar, but sent his written speech through Leo Marco C Vidal, Charge d’Affaires, Embassy of the Philippines in Bangladesh. The ambassador said that the Philippines would like to export more to Bangladesh.

They would like to see more Filipino companies taking advantages of the opportunities in Bangladesh for trade and investment. They would like to welcome more Bangladeshi exports to the Philippines. He also invited Bangladeshi companies to invest in the Philippines to boost bilateral trade volume.

Engr Akber (AL) Hakim, President of the BPCCI and Director of the DCCI, said that it was time for Asia. Asia is going to overtake the rest of the world by 2020 on PPP basis, he said. The contribution of Asia to the

world GDP is 42 percent on PPP basis. He said that by 2050, the size of economy of Bangladesh and the Philippines would reach around \$3 trillion and \$3.3 trillion respectively.

He urged the businessmen of the Philippines to import apparel, leather and leather goods, jute and jute goods, vegetables from Bangladesh. He said that the Philippines received \$30 billion as remittance every year through their skilled workforce. He said that the Philippines could also help Bangladesh in skills development, training for skills development, IT and IT-enabled services, business process outsourcing, hospitality and nursing.

Agnes Perpetua R Legaspi, Assistant Director, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines, urged an increase in the existing bilateral trade. She said that Bangladesh could import electronics, home decor furniture, fashion, jewellery, fresh halal food, organic beauty

products from the Philippines. She said that the Philippines have FTAs with different ASEAN countries and enjoys GSP facility in the European Union, the United States, Canada and Russia. She urged Bangladeshi entrepreneurs to invest in her country taking advantage of the facilities.

Jeremiah C Reyes, Philippines Commercial Attaché said that economic ties between Bangladesh and the Philippines should be stronger. “We are experiencing a trade war between the United States and China. But we have to figure whether this trade war is an opportunity for us. Bangladesh is a potential market and we want to explore this promising market.”

The DCCI’s former president RM Khan, Directors Alhaj Deen Mohammad, Enamul Haque Patwary, Hossain A Sikder, Engr Md Al Amin, Nuher L Khan, Shams Mahmud and former director Rizwan Ur Rahman were present **r**

Seminar Recommendations

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) and Bangladesh Philippines Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BPCCI) jointly organized the Seminar titled “Promoting Bilateral Trade and Investment between Bangladesh & Philippines” on 2 September 2019 at DCCI President’s Executive Floor. Mr. Osama Taseer, President, DCCI gave the welcome remark while Engr. Akber (AL) Hakim, President, Bangladesh Philippines Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BPCCI) presented the Keynote Paper. To portray the growing sectoral opportunity between the two friendly nations: H.E. Mr. Leo Marco C. Vidal, Charge D’ Affair, Philippines Embassy in Bangladesh, Mr. Jeremiah C Reyes, Philippines Commercial Attache and Ms. Agnes Perpetua R. Legaspi, Assistant Director, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Republic of the Philippines gave enlightened the audiences with their valued insights. The concluding remark was given by Mr. Waqar Ahmad Choudhury, Senior Vice President, DCCI.

A B2B Matchmaking Session between Filipino and Bangladeshi Businesses held afterwards the Seminar at DCCI Business Lounge, 5th floor. A 8-member delegation from the Philippines representing Healthy Beverages and Wellness Products sector, Personal Care Products (Cosmetics) sector, Food Products, Snacks and Food Franchising sector, Healthcare and Personal Care Products sector and Design & manufacturing of food processing & packaging equipment sector joined the B2B Matchmaking session. While, Bangladeshi businessmen trading in the areas of Beverages, Agro-food, Pharmaceuticals & Chemical ingredients, Personal Care Products, Snacks and Foods Franchising, Frozen Food, Packaging etc. joined the session to facilitate a platform between the businesses from the both side to discuss and explore mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities.

Summary of recommendations emerged from the discussion is as follows:

- ◆ Frequent interaction of the business communities of both countries and single country trade fairs in respective capitals may boost the trade between us.
- ◆ Asia is undergoing a paradigm-shift. And, to get attached to this momentum, it is imperative to shift our focus on east from the age-old pro-east focus. Moreover, South-South cooperation is the new catch now. So, Bangladesh and the Philippines should capitalize and calibrate the total opportunity to spearhead the run towards becoming “knowledge economy”.
- ◆ Both Bangladesh and the Philippines are witnessing an expanding consumer base, therefore, demand of value-additive and new products is growing. So, synergy is needed between the both sides to capitalize on this feature.
- ◆ DTI and Bangladesh should start working on the areas where scope of mutual benefits will be perfectly expedited to speed up trade and investment.
- ◆ The impact of Trade war is similar with Bangladesh and the Philippines since both nation act the supply chain source for US and China. Therefore, it is opening a platform for the both nation to work and strategize on this particular aspect.
- ◆ Considering the similar economic reality and development blueprint, we need to revisit the most-talked success stories i.e. GDP growth and other areas that if these are really making impact on the life of the masses. Moreover, we need to ask ourselves whether the both nation’s current policy basket is enough to combat the similar challenges witnessed.
- ◆ DTI can open up initiatives to tap market opportunities in Bangladesh and create platform for Filipino businesses to enter the burgeoning market of South-Asia.
- ◆ There are sectors like design-driven home and lifestyle products, Jewelry, travel good, processed foods, health and wellness products, organic and halal foods etc. from the Philippines are open for Bangladeshi businesses to explore.
- ◆ The Philippines is keen on expanding its trade relation with the South-Asia especially with Bangladesh. Considering its extensive trade tie with the west, it is now considering South-Asia as the new destination of mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities.
- ◆ Having the strong grip in the ASEAN, Philippines can bridge Bangladesh in the east and the South-East regions. Moreover, Philippines can portray their strategies to access critical markets before Bangladesh. Knowledge dissemination and tech-transfer can help the both sides in this respect.
- ◆ Emphasized DTI’s collaboration with DCCI, on arranging B2B matchmaking sessions, trade delegation exchange programs and market research etc.
- ◆ Bangladesh can develop its agriculture with the knowledge transfer of Philippines, skills in food production, processing, canning and packaging, IT, electronics, tourism etc. On the other hand, the Philippines can collaborate with Bangladesh’s RMG, Pharmaceuticals and Ceramics sector.
- ◆ Cooperation between two countries can help Bangladesh learn skills of Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) from the Philippines.
- ◆ There is an increasing need for direct flight between Bangladesh and the Philippines for increasing people-to-people contacts.
- ◆ Preferential trade agreements leading to bilateral FTA etc. could open up substantial economic gains for the both countries.

DCCI urges Chinese investment in agro-processing



Acting President of DCCI Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (center) presiding over an interactive business meeting between Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) and Chinese trade delegation held on September 09. Chairman of Liaoning Federation of Industry and Commerce Zhao Yanqing (seventh from left), DCCI Vice President Imran Ahmed (sixth from right) among others were present during this meeting.

An interactive business meeting between the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a visiting 11-member Chinese trade delegation was held on September 9, 2019 at the DCCI.

The DCCI also hosted an effective B2B matchmaking between the visiting Chinese trade team and its Bangladeshi counterpart with a view to boosting bilateral trade. Zhao Yanqing, Chairman of the Liaoning Federation of Industry and Commerce, led the Chinese delegation. The Acting President of DCCI Waqar Ahmad Choudhury chaired this bilateral business talk.

Waqar Ahmad Choudhury said that China is the largest trading partner of Bangladesh. In 2017–18, bilateral trade of Bangladesh and China was about \$12.40 billion which is 13.85 percent of the total trade of Bangladesh. But the trade deficit with China reached \$11 billion in 2017–18.

It is encouraging that the investment synergy between Bangladesh and China is expanding. FDI inflows from China to Bangladesh reached \$1.03 billion largely in power, apparel and financial sectors, he said. He also said that agro-processing offers immense investment opportunities for Chinese investors as this sector is the second largest export sector of Bangladesh. Waqar Ahmad Choudhury invited the Chinese investors to invest in high-end apparel, backward linkage of pharmaceuticals, leather and footwear, electronics and automobile sectors in Bangladesh.

Zhao Yanqing said that Liaoning province is situated in the north-east of China which is near Korea, Japan and Mongolia. He invited Bangladeshi investors to invest in Liaoning province to tap the export market of Korea, Japan and Mongolia. Liaoning province is rich in mineral resources such as nickel, iron and magnesium. He said that Bangladesh and Liaoning province are similar in

size and the province is developed in terms of infrastructure and industrial base.

DCCI Vice-President Imran Ahmed offered vote of thanks and said that China can play a vital role in developing South Asian regional trade and investment.

DCCI Directors Enamul Haque Patwary and SM Zillur Rahman and entrepreneurs from different organisations took part in the meeting.

Representatives from eight companies sat with the Chinese delegation for a B2B session. A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the DCCI and the Liaoning Federation of Industry and Commerce.

Both the parties showed their keen interest to do business and the Chinese investors would like to invest in Bangladesh. They are also interested to do joint ventures with their Bangladeshi counterparts **r**

BIDA urges improvement in ease of doing business

DCCI Board of Directors calls on BIDA Executive Chairman

Members of the board of directors of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by its President Osama Taseer called on executive chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority Md Sirajul Islam at the BIDA headquarters on September 23, 2019.

In the discussion, Osama Taseer said that private investments need to be scaled up to 32–35 percent to come out of the stagnant situation caused by poor ranking in different indexes. At present, the private investment stands at 23.4 percent. The FDI inflows to Bangladesh increased to \$3.6 billion in 2018 from \$2.58 billion. In order to boost private investment and drive the economic growth, Bangladesh needs to improve its position in competitive indices. He again stressed policy reforms and said that complex regulations and bureaucratic hurdles increase transaction costs of doing business in Bangladesh.

He requested the BIDA chair to establish a one-stop service window. Moreover, the national FDI strategy needs to be aligned with the industrial policy, export policy, foreign exchange regulations, import policy and other government strategies, he said. In order to develop SEZs, coordination among BEZA, PPP and BIDA needs to be developed, he said.

BIDA Executive Chairman Md Sirajul Islam said that concerted efforts were needed to improve in the Ease of Doing Business Index and to come out of this stagnant situation, BIDA should roll out one-stop services for investors. He also stressed compliance and sustainability in the industries for the sake of environmental issues. He said that the diversification of goods was important for export competitiveness. He said, “We have to reform and update the Company Act in view of modern technology.”

Senior Vice-President of DCCI Waqar Ahmad Choudhury said that in order to sustain an 8 percent plus GDP growth, “we have to develop our infrastructure and the capital market. And for infrastructure development we need to create a strong bond market for long term financing.”

DCCI Directors Ashraf Ahmed, Enamul Haque Patwary, Hossain A Sikder, Md Rashedul Karim Munna and Nuher L Khan also spoke. They urged utility connections to economic zones, a single-digit interest rate for SMEs, reforms in the Company Act and a lower interest rate on private-sector lending.

DCCI Directors Andaleeb Hasan, Shams Mahmud, SM Zillur Rahman, Executive Member, BIDA Navash Chandra Mandal were also present **r**



DCCI President Osama Taseer (sixth from right) presenting crest to the Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Md. Sirajul Islam (fifth from left) on September 23. DCCI Senior Vice President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (fourth from left), DCCI Directors Ashraf Ahmed (second from right), Enamul Haque Patwary (left), Hossain A Sikder (fifth from right), Md. Rashedul Karim Munna (third from left), Nuher L. Khan (second from left), Andaleeb Hasan (third from right), Shams Mahmud (right), SM Zillur Rahman (fourth from right) are seen in the picture.

TIR Convention and regional market

Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) convention seems immense importance for inter-regional connectivity, mobility of vehicles and efficient movement of cargo across borders. TIR procedures provide high security for customs and enable goods to move under customs control across borders without the payment of customs duties and taxes for goods in transit.

The TIR Carnet system offers a 'single customs guarantee' backed by the TIR international guarantee chain, managed by International Road Transport Union (IRU). This guarantee is to compensate probable evasion of tax by misuse of TIR carnate. The TIR system provides a globally tested 'institutional and operational mechanism' that helps countries implement transit agreements in an efficient manner.

TIR is a convention of International Road Transport is governed under the TIR Convention, 1975, which is managed and administered by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The TIR Convention facilitate the cross border carriage of goods by road from one customs office of departure in one country to a customs office of destination in another country, through as many countries as required, without any intermediate frontier check of the goods carried, unless customs authorities decide otherwise.

A TIR container is securely closed with a customs seal, so border officials know that the cargo has not been tampered with at any point along its journey. They can be sure that what is in the container is exactly what is on the TIR Carnet. Carnet de Passages en Douane (CPD) is an international customs document which covers the temporary admission of motor vehicles or other transport with trade consignments.

It is like a passport for a vehicle to enter multiple countries for temporary importation without having to pay the duty and taxes. Customs officials can check the validity of a TIR Carnet at any time, with software integrated into the particular custom authority's system of member countries.

TIR Carnate is such document issued under the TIR convention. TIR enable goods to travel across national frontiers with a minimum of interference and delays

by Customs administrations, it reduce waiting times at borders and allow exporters and importers to select more easily the type of transport which is most suitable for their needs by reducing the impediments to international traffic by road caused by frequent Customs controls.

Customs simply have to verify the Carnet and that the seals are intact, rather than spend time to open the container and physically check the load, and report the transit via a state-of-the art computer system. With TIR, goods are contained in sealed load compartments, and the contents are detailed in a TIR Carnet.

This essential document accompanies the driver and the cargo along its journey. This makes TIR the safest and most reliable way to transport goods around the world, with the legal certainty that comes from the United Nations TIR Convention and IRU's international financial guarantees.

The study on selected UNESCAP countries which include Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Vietnam observed that the implementation of the TIR System can contribute to "potential monetary savings" and it can be in the range between 0.14 and 1.31 percent of national annual GDP.

Thus, the study suggests that it is important for these countries to consider all possibilities to accede to the TIR Convention to accrue economic gains of cross border trade flows.

The TIR system operates on six unique pillars: (i) secure vehicles or containers, (ii) international guarantee chain, (iii) TIR carnet, (iv) reciprocal recognition of customs controls, (v) controlled access, and (vi) TIR IT risk management tools. These pillars ensure that goods travel across borders with minimum interference en route and at the same time, provide maximum safeguards to custom administrations.

International Road Transport Union (IRU) undertook a comprehensive analysis (2016) of transit costs in East and Southern Africa and demonstrates that the implementing the TIR Convention can substantially lower the cost of doing trade in Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA). The average reduction in transportation cost would be hundreds of dollars per container, thus

saving billions of dollars and increasing GDP in African countries.

The faster border crossings due to TIR convention shall reduce transport costs for users and also dramatically reduce administrative and financial burdens. It has international guarantee from IRU replacing costly guarantees in each country of transit. Customs authorities also benefit from the international guarantee, covering the risk of non-payment of customs duties and taxes.

The TIR System enables door-to-door transport with minimum interference at international borders of contracting parties to the TIR Convention and thus serves, in the best possible way, international trade and the economies of all the countries involved.

Globally, it is recognized that the implementation of transit and transport agreements hinge on institutional and operational frameworks that enable better implementation of their protocols. There are many international conventions that provide well-tested frameworks to implement transit and transport agreements but TIR is considered to be one of the most successful instruments.

TIR system having standard system of : (a) Goods should travel in vehicles or containers secured by customs; (2) Throughout the journey, duties and taxes at risk should be covered by an internationally valid guarantee; (c) Goods should be accompanied by an internationally accepted customs document (TIR carnet), opened in the country of departure and serving as a customs control document in the countries of departure, transit and destination; (d) Customs control measures taken in the country of departure should be accepted by all countries of transit and destination; (e) Access to the TIR procedure for national associations to issue TIR carnets and to act as guarantor; natural and legal persons shall be authorized by competent national authorities to utilize TIR carnets; (f) IT risk management tools .

It emerge as an important feature of the TIR system in light of the increasing significance of computerization of all TIR related procedures. It provides more security and facilitation to transit operations.

The key stakeholders involved in the TIR procedure are UNECE, IRU, national TIR associations, customs authorities, insurance companies that are part of the TIR guarantee chain, and TIR transport operators. The

national Association or Chamber is authorized by the country's customs authorities is to issue TIR carnets and provide a guarantee to the customs authorities for all TIR operations performed within the territory of the country. IRU has been authorized to distribute the international Customs transit and guarantee document, the TIR Carnet, and to manage the international guarantee system.

In order to join TIR convention, a nation party should get ready with (a) introducing the relevant transport & transit compliant laws, (b) an adequate transport infrastructure and (c) an enabling environment for the private sector logistics & freight forwarding industry to grow to the benefit out of this convention.

The TIR Convention has been implemented and is operational in most of the Asia Pacific countries. China has recently ratified the TIR Convention to become the 70th contracting party in 2016.

India became 71th country to ratify TIR Conventions in 2017 and gradually taking over the regional market from Singapore, Hong Kong and Dubai. Bangladesh can be a regional transit and investment hub for the market of China, India and ASEAN countries to take the opportunity of being in the middle of these markets.

M. S. Siddiqui

Legal Economist

e-mail: mssiddiqui2035@gmail.com



DCCI Senior Vice President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (center) speaking at a dialogue on Financing Schemes & Available Credit Facilities for Export Competitiveness organized by BUILD on August 7. Deputy Governor, Bangladesh Bank Ahmed Jamal (second from left), CEO of BUILD Ferdaus Ara Begum (left) among others were present.

DCCI Senior Vice President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (center) seen exchanging views with the members of Detroit delegation on August 8.



DCCI President Osama Taseer (left) seen presenting bouquet to newly elected Chairman (current charge) of Janata Bank Ltd. Kamrul Islam, FCA (right) on August 18.

Govt to cut down on bank borrowing

The government is set to reduce borrowing from the country's banking system for September to meet the budget deficit partly. The ministry of finance has set the bank borrowing target at over Tk 23 billion for September, according to the auction calendar issued by the Bangladesh Bank.

According to the calendar, the government may take up to Tk 174 billion as gross borrowing from the banking system in the next month by issuing treasury bills and bonds. The auction calendar means the schedule and the amount of T-bills and bonds to be issued through auction for raising funds from the market to meet the government budget deficit partly.

The government's net bank borrowing is set to reach Tk 23.40 billion by the end of September, after deducting Tk 150.50 billion as maturity amount of the government securities from the gross borrowing amount, the central bank officials added.

The government's net bank borrowing was Tk 48.50 billion in August of this calendar year, according to the officials. They said the higher profit of the central bank has helped the government cut down on the bank borrowing for September.

The BB has already deposited its profit worth Tk 43.16 billion for the 2018–19 financial year with the government account, they added. The central bank's such profit in the 2018 financial year was Tk 7.92 billion, the officials said.

The Bangladesh Bank has earned a higher profit mainly because of its



judicious foreign exchange reserve management, a BB official said. "Our 90-plus per cent earnings came from the foreign exchange reserve investment in different securities in the global market in the 2019 financial year," the BB executive director said.

Meanwhile, the government's aggregate net bank borrowing stood at Tk 262.48 billion as of August 20 of this fiscal year mainly due to adjustment to higher expenditure for June of the 2019 financial year. Usually, the adjustment to previous fiscal year's expenditure is allowed in the first half of July of the next financial year, the BB officials said.

Besides, the downtrend in sales of national savings certificates in the recent months has contributed to higher bank borrowing by the government. The net sales of national savings instruments came down to Tk 32.08 billion in June from Tk 32.58 billion in the previous month of 2019, according to official figures.

The government had already targeted higher borrowing from the banking

system to finance the budget deficit partly for the 2020 financial year. Its bank borrowing is set to be Tk 473.64 billion for the 2020 financial year, up from Tk 308.95 billion in the previous year, according to the budget documents.

"The government's bank borrowing may exceed the target by the end of this fiscal if the decreasing trend in sales of the national savings instruments continues," a senior official familiar with the government debt-management activities hinted.

Under the arrangement, the government will borrow Tk 280.94 billion by issuing long-term bonds while the remaining Tk 192.70 billion will come from T-bills.

Currently, four T-bills are being transacted through auctions to adjust the government's borrowings from the banking system. The T-bills have 14-day, 91-day, 182-day and 364-day maturity periods. Also, five government bonds with tenure of 2-, 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year are traded on the market **r**

No need to visit VAT office for registration

Getting registered for value added tax does not require any visit to revenue offices as it can be done online, stressed the National Board of Revenue. Allegations have

surfaced of businesses being asked to bring over documents even if they had already applied online for the registration.

"This is undesirable and

unexpected," said the revenue authority in a circular, warning of stern action against officials involved in any such irregularity. The VAT registration is a precondition for

engaging in manufacturing, export, import and supplying business in Bangladesh. The new VAT law has provisions facilitating the online registration.

It stipulates that an applicant be provided the VAT registration certificate, which contains a business identification number, within three working days of the application's submission, said the NBR. If there is any inconsistency in the application, the official concerned has to inform the applicant within the same time frame, it added.

However, assistance should be extended to anyone voluntarily coming over to an office, said the notice signed by Md Tariq Hassan, second secretary (VAT policy) of the NBR. In another notification, the NBR said companies getting one central BIN instead of individual ones for every branch or unit would have their accounts audited on a mandatory basis every year.

AVAT official said under the new law, companies would no longer need to pay VAT before delivering goods to other units or branches. That is why, the provision of compulsory audit has been incorporated to ensure compliance, he said.

The NBR also said even if a firm uses two or more places to supply homogeneous products, it would need to get just a single VAT registration. All such details, alongside address of headquarters and purchase of raw materials, import and export and goods supplies, will be listed under this sole registration, it said.

However, such businesses will need to keep records of goods supplied to branches or units while branches will keep record of all sales. The information should be furnished with returns every month, says the notification **r**

Bangladesh Bank updates loan limits for enterprises

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has issued a master circular for financing in the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprise (CMSME) sector, reports BSS.

The central bank, in a circular, updated the definition of CMSME in line with the National Industrial Policy and set a limit to the amount of credit the enterprises can avail. Moreover, the circular said, banks and financial intuitions (FIs) have to keep at least 25 per cent loan and advance balance by 2024 and they have to increase minimum one percent loan and advance balance every year.

At least 50 per cent has to be kept for cottage, micro and small enterprises and minimum 15 per cent lending has to go to women entrepreneurs. The circular also said banks and FIs have to keep minimum 40 per cent CMSME lending to manufacturing sector, 25 per cent for service sector and a maximum 35 per cent for trading.

The highest ceiling of credit for cottage entrepreneurs is Tk 1.5 million while Tk 10 million for manufacturing micro industries, Tk 2.5 million for micro service industries and Tk 5.0 million for micro entrepreneurs.

Small manufacturing industries will get maximum Tk 200 million while Taka 50 million for small service industries and small entrepreneurs. Medium manufacturing industries will get Tk 750 million while Tk 500 million crore for medium service industries, the circular said **r**

Clauses for arbitration will be there in all govt contracts

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Anisul Huq said the government has decided in principle to incorporate appropriate

clauses for arbitration and mediation in its all contracts. He also said the government has taken steps to ensure that both foreign and local arbitration awards can be enforced in Bangladesh.

"We are encouraging all government entities to choose Bangladesh at the first instance as the place of arbitration for resolution of any disputes," he said. Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) organised the seminar on "Effective ADR Process to Resolve Financial Disputes for a Sustainable Financial Sector" at a city hotel, marking its 8th founding anniversary.

Law Minister also stated that BIAC has been able to develop neutral, efficient and dependable dispute resolution service in the country. As the country's first and only alternative dispute resolution (ADR) institution, BIAC has been playing a vital role in resolving commercial disputes amicably for last eight years of its operation.

Speaking at the seminar, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, MP said the recommendations put forward at the seminar will definitely help the BIAC improve Bangladesh's rank in World Bank's Doing Business Index.

He also stressed the need for interaction between BIAC and presiding officers of courts, lawyers and jurists through seminars and workshops. BIAC Chairman Mahbubur Rahman moderated the seminar.

He said, "We should resort to a system that would allow us to resolve financial disputes and enforce contracts through expeditious and cost-effective manner."

He informed that a committee formed by the Bangladesh Bank comprising BIAC, Bangladesh Bank and Association of Bankers, Bangladesh has submitted a draft guideline for the banks in Bangladesh to resolve financial

disputes in banking institutions using ADR.

The guideline is under active consideration of the central bank, Mahbubur Rahman said.

He added that BIAC has received recognition by signing cooperation agreement with the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Hague, the Netherlands which is the first permanent intergovernmental organisation to provide a forum for the resolution of international disputes through arbitration and other peaceful means.

BIAC's Chief Executive Officer Muhammad A (Rume) Ali gave a brief account on BIAC's activities and achievements in recent years in introducing globally-accepted best practices of ADR to resolve financial disputes in the country.

He insisted that for a sustainable financial sector, ADR can play a significant role in pre-empting disputes before going to courts.

Managing Director of Thailand Arbitration Center (THAC) Pasit Asawawattanaporn said the THAC and BIAC established collaboration to cater the need of dispute resolution in businesses, commerce and potential trade roles across Asia and have been working together to promote ADR through organising trainings and conferences to increase ADR awareness.

Practice Manager of Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation at International Finance Corporation (IFC), Singapore Paramita Das Gupta said IFC strongly believes that availability of efficient contract enforcement mechanisms, both through formal court procedures and out of court mechanisms, are fundamental for the proper functioning of market economies.

Dean at Under Grad Laws of University of London, UK Professor Simon Askey in his speech opined

that a sustainable approach to arbitration must recognise that arbitrators are appointed because they can work in ways that parties are locally familiar with and which take account of shared attitudes of the parties.

Barrister at Law, Advocate of Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Dr. Khaled Hamid Chowdhury said mediation is one of the most effective methods of ADR as it is entirely controlled by parties involved, voluntary and flexible.

Managing Director of IFIC Bank Ltd M. Shah Alam Sarwar said given both the bank and the borrower are willing to rely on such a level of expertise to enforce their long-term relationship, institutional ADR will bring in better prospects of doing business, for both parties.

Managing Director of The City Bank Ltd. Mashrur Arefin said if pre-litigation mediation and arbitration is ensured, the burden on the courts will be lessened to a great extent and that will result in the reduction of the backlog of cases.

Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division Senior Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Haque, and Board Members of BIAC Osama Taseer and Nihad Kabir were also present. In the past 8 years, BIAC has been trying to create awareness among the legal and business community.

Since 2011, BIAC has organised over 100 seminars and workshops; 56 training programmes on arbitration, mediation and negotiation; administered 267 hearings and meetings of ADR cases.

BIAC has received recognition from 14 International ADR institutions and 25 leading corporate companies, banks, financial institutions, law chambers, universities and NGOs in the country by signing cooperation agreements.

Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman of BIAC, is the only Arbitrator from Bangladesh appointed by the China International Economic Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC).

Bangladesh Bank has recognised BIAC as an ADR institution through an advisory letter issued in April 2016, where the central bank urged all banks to include ADR clause in their loan and commercial contracts and suggested that in resolution of disputes through ADR methods, the banks may use BIAC's ADR clause **r**

Construction of new container terminals at Ctg port

The construction work on two new container terminals for the Chittagong port, the prime seaport of the country, has been progressing in full swing. The terminal projects taken up by the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) are scheduled to be completed by 2025, sources said.

Once the projects are completed, the capacity of the port would increase multiple times from the current level. Sources said the CPA took up a total of three projects, Patenga Container Terminal, Bay Terminal and Laldia Multipurpose Terminal to enhance efficiency and productivity of the premier seaport in order to keep up with the growing pace of maritime trade.

Of them, the Laldia Multipurpose Terminal will be constructed under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. CPA Chairman Rear Admiral Zulfikur Aziz said, "The CPA has now been working to construct one multipurpose terminal and two container terminals with a view to ramping up efficiency and productivity of the port."

The multipurpose terminal will be 1,500 metre long while one container terminals will be 1,225 metre long and the other 800 metre long, he added. "The construction



of the three terminals will be completed by 2025.”

Piling work for the construction of Patenga Container Terminal (PCT) is now going on, he said. The CPA has been carrying out the PCT construction work with its own fund. After completion of the construction of PCT, three container carrier ships measuring 190-metre long each with 10.5-metre draft would be able to berth at a time there, said the CPA chief.

“The new jetty of the PCT will be 600-metre long. Besides, 220-metre-long oil carriers would be able to berth at dolphin jetty of PCT,” he added. “There will be 16 acres land for the back-up jetty of PCT to house 4,500 TEUs (container units). Under the PCT project, 112,000 cft RCC pavement, 2,128 cft freight station and 1750-metre-long bonded customs wall will be constructed. We can start the partial operation in June 2020,” the CPA chief said.

He also said, “A new jetty is a must to cope with the ever-increasing volume of cargo, container as well as vessel traffic. However, our port has been experiencing 16 to 17 per cent of growth in cargo and container handling in the last few years.”

“The PCT and other terminals, including Bay Terminal, will play a vital role in handling growing number of cargoes and containers at

the prime seaport of the country,” he added.

For the Bay Terminal project, the Central Land Allocation Committee (CLAC) approved 803.17 acres of land on March 28 last. The CPA will pay Tk 12 billion to the Chattogram District Administration for the land, said the sources.

CPA member Md. Jafar Alam said, “The CLAC approved 803.17 acres of land for the Bay Terminal project. This is a prestigious project of the CPA to enhance the capacity of the Chittagong port.”

“Construction-related activities for the terminal will begin after getting the feasibility test report, detailed design report and internal connectivity test report,” he said.

He also said, “CPA is planning to construct the Bay Jetty with the financing from India. The ADB is likely to provide the fund for the construction of the Bay Terminal.”

Besides, the CPA has taken steps to build Laldia Multipurpose Terminal under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode for the first time.

This terminal will be constructed at a cost of around Tk 30 billion on 52 acres of land at Laldia at the estuary of the river Karnaphuli. The project will be funded by the five members of a consortium and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Laldia Terminal will have two berths for the handling of containers as well as two berths for the handling of dry bulk and break bulk general cargoes **r**

Good Fashion Fund launched to invest in supply chain innovation

The Good Fashion Fund was launched spearheading systemic change in the apparel and footwear supply chain by investing in the implementation of innovative technologies in Bangladesh, India and Vietnam. The USD 60 million fund for Bangladesh, India and Vietnam is going to provide impact lending tools to finance investments in supply chain innovations, said a statement.

Initiated by Fashion for Good, the Fund is a collaboration between C&A Foundation, Hong Kong-based The Mills Fabrica and FOUNT, an impact investment firm. “The Good Fashion Fund will be officially announced at the Hong Kong Fashion Summit by C&A Foundation Board Director Albert Brennin kmeijer and Fund Director Bob Assenberg”, the statement added.

With a target size of USD 60m, the Good Fashion Fund is the first investment fund focused solely on driving the implementation of innovative solutions in the fashion industry. Currently, apparel supply chains are plagued by their negative environmental and social impacts. But while sustainable solutions do exist today, there is a lack of capital available to scale these technologies within the supply chain. The Fund was created to address this gap - connecting the most promising technologies to the industry to collaboratively tackle its challenges.

The new fund provides impact lending tools to finance investments in supply chain innovations specifically in India, Bangladesh

and Vietnam as well as other areas throughout Asia. The fund's blended structure combines risk-tolerant capital with private sector investment that allows for flexibility and tailored financing to best fit each individual's situation.

The vision for the Good Fashion Fund is for manufacturers in the apparel supply chain to invest and reinvest in innovations that deliver both economic growth and good fashion practice, mobilising the use of safe and recyclable materials, clean and efficient energy, closed-loop manufacturing and the creation of fair jobs and growth, in line with the FIVE GOODS: Good Energy, Good Water, Good Materials, Good Economy and Good Lives.

Small to medium manufacturers whose products or services are in line with these criteria looking to implement best-in-class technology and equipment, will be eligible for funding. The Fund is also mandated to support larger manufacturers committed to investing in highly disruptive technologies.

Katrin Ley, Managing Director Fashion for Good said, "Disruptive innovation is needed to shift the Fashion Industry from a model of 'take-make-waste' towards a more circular and regenerative system. While the technology exists today to move forward towards circularity, it is not yet being scaled. The Good Fashion Fund provides the resources, tools and incentives needed to bridge the innovation gap, bringing these innovations to the mainstream."

Leslie Johnston, Executive Director C&A Foundation said, "We all know that 'business as usual' will not result in the fashion industry being a true force for good. Innovation is critically needed. And yet, without sufficient funding, many innovations are unable to scale. We are therefore proud to be an anchor investor in

the Good Fashion Fund which - with its high risk appetite and focus on getting innovations into the supply chain - will address this finance gap."

Vanessa Cheung, Founder The Mills Fabrica said, "With the launch of the Good Fashion Fund, we are delighted to partner with C&A Foundation, Fashion for Good and FOUNT to create a new platform to address the financing gap for sustainable innovations. We look forward to supporting the Fund with our network and partners in Asia."

"We are thrilled to be working with Fashion for Good, C&A Foundation and The Mills Fabrica to generate substantial impact within the apparel value chain in Asia, an initiative that fits FOUNT's impact and sustainable investment strategy very well. The Fund demonstrates how to invest beyond sustainability towards a restorative and regenerative apparel supply chain and addresses the need in the local markets for long term financing for manufacturers and contributes to multiple SDGs" 

RMG suppliers under price cut pressure: Report

Despite their overhead cost increased due to the recent wage hike, Bangladeshi readymade garment (RMG) manufacturers are facing continuous pressure from the global buyers to reduce the products prices further, according to a latest report. "In Bangladesh for instance, 38 per cent of the suppliers reported that their buyers hold them to last year's prices, despite inflation and rising wages," said Better Buying Index Report 2019.

It also revealed that 36.4 per cent of the suppliers had to accept last-minute, low price orders to fill capacity while 31.8 per cent responded that they were left with unused capacity.

About 45 per cent left with excess materials. Of these, some 5.6 per cent reported retailers and brands paid for the excess materials and 83.3 per cent were asked to hold materials for use in future orders while 5.6 per cent reported retailers and brands took no responsibility for excess materials, the report revealed.

Better Buying, supported by C&A Foundation and Humanity United launched the report designed to support industry efforts to improve purchasing practices in supply chains globally.

The organisation tracked and released performance scores and analysed about purchasing practices, using data submitted anonymously by suppliers on its online platform. It included 802 verified ratings from 715 suppliers across 52 countries, and measures the performance of 71 retailers and brands.

Buyer performance is measured against seven key categories of purchasing practices: planning and forecasting, design and development, cost and cost negotiations, sourcing and order placement, payment and terms, management of the purchasing process, and win-win sustainable partnership.

Most frequently reported high-pressure strategies by retailers/brands cost and cost negotiation practices in Bangladesh included sharing competitors' bids/pressure to meet other competitors across different countries, requiring supplier to meet specific elements of other suppliers' cost structure.

Take it or leave it - meet the target cost or supplier cannot win the order, also the strategies used by buyers, according to 27.9 per cent suppliers. Some 25.6 per cent opined that buyers' strategy included demanding across the board price cuts from previous orders/years.



Coordinating Director Kh. Rashedul Ahsan (fourth from left), Convenor and Members of Skills Development Standing Committee were present at the 3rd meeting held on August 22.

DCCI President Osama Taseer (second row, right) along with business leaders were present at a discussion meeting organized by FBCCI on the occasion of the National Mourning Day 2019 held on August 24.



Chairman, BIAC Mahbubur Rahman (seventh from left), Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Annisul Haq (sixth from left), Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, MP (fifth from left), DCCI President Osama Taseer (third from right), MCCI President Barrister Nihad Kabir (second from right), CEO of BIAC Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali (fifth from right) along with other dignitaries were seen in a group photo session on the occasion of 8th Anniversary celebration of BIAC held on August 31.

India's central bank unveils \$24b windfall for govt

India's central bank has announced a \$24-billion windfall for the cash-strapped government, giving a much-needed boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he seeks to kickstart growth in Asia's third-biggest economy. But the payout will likely stoke fresh concerns about the Reserve Bank of India's independence following a standoff that has seen top officials quit amid accusations of government interference.

Modi has come under increasing pressure to fire up the economy, which has slowed in each of the past three quarters losing its status as the world's fastest-growing with unemployment at its highest since the 1970s.

The auto sector has been particularly badly hit, with car sales plunging in July for the ninth month running, while weak consumer spending and high taxes have hit demand for everything from biscuits to hair oil. The RBI said it had approved a transfer of 1.76 trillion rupees (\$24.4 billion) to government coffers, including a dividend of 1.23 trillion rupees and 526 billion rupees in excess reserves following the adoption of a new methodology for assessing market risk.

The announcement came days after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman



announced a slew of measures to help the economy, including bringing forward a \$10-billion liquidity lifeline for credit-shy banks and rolling back an extra levy on equity sales that had spooked foreign investors.

Sujan Hajra, an economist at Anand Rathi Securities, said that the latest announcement is a "positive move" for the economy and for public finances. "As the RBI said, despite this fund transfer, India will still have one of the best capitalisations of the central banks globally and it does not reflect poorly on either the government or the central bank," Hajra said.

Ashutosh Datar, an independent economist from Mumbai, agreed,

said: "The amount looks huge but it is not and there is no raid on RBI reserves."

However, the bank's independence has already been called into question after it cut interest rates four times this year to a nine-year low, reportedly under government pressure. Governor Urjit Patel resigned in December following a public spat with the Modi government — which was re-elected earlier this year — accusing it of trying to undermine it. He was followed in June by deputy governor Viral Acharya citing the same reasons, although the bank insisted this was unrelated and he had left for personal reasons **r**

Pakistan Footwear exports rise by 13pc

Pakistan's footwear exports witnessed an increase of 13 percent in the 2019 financial year compared with the corresponding period of the past financial year. Pakistan exported footwear worth \$122.181 million during July-June (2018–19) against the exports of \$108.125 million during July-June (2017–18), showing a growth of 13 percent, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

Among these, the exports of leather footwear witnessed a growth of 12.03 percent as it surged from \$95.150 million during last fiscal year to \$106.598 million during the current year. The canvas footwear exports from the country stood at just \$0.368 million during the current year against \$0.230 million during last year, showing increase of 60.73 percent.

However, the exports of all other

footwear commodities increased by 19.38 percent during the period under review as these went up from \$12.745 million last year to \$15.215 million during the current fiscal year.

Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the footwear exports increased by 12.91 percent during the month of June 2019 when compared to the same month of last year. The footwear exports during 2019 were recorded at \$12.045 million against the exports of \$10.668 million in June 2018.

During the month under review, the leather footwear exports also increased by 9.69 percent, canvas by 100 percent whereas the exports of all other footwear commodities increased by 36.44 percent. On the other hand, the month-on-month exports of footwear, witnessed increased of 23.75 percent during June 2019 when compared to the exports of \$9.733 million in May 2019, the PBS data revealed.

On month-on-month basis, the exports of leather footwear increased by 27.78 percent, canvas footwear by 480.95 percent whereas the exports of all other footwear products however declined by 10.77 percent.

It is pertinent to mention here that the country's merchandise trade deficit plunged by 15.33 per cent during the fiscal year 2018-19 compared to the corresponding period of last year. The trade deficit contracted to \$31.820 billion during July-June (2018-19) against the deficit of \$37.583 billion recorded during July-June (2017-18).

The exports during the period under review witnessed decrease of one per cent by falling from \$23.212 billion during last year to \$22.979 billion during the ongoing fiscal year. On the other hand, the imports declined by 9.86 per cent to \$54.799 billion during the period under review from \$60.795 billion last year, the data revealed.

On year-on-year basis, the merchandise exports declined by 8.77 per cent, from \$1.882 billion in June 2018 to \$1.717 billion in June 2019 while the imports declined by 22.80 per cent from \$5.652 billion in June 2018 to \$4.364 billion in June 2019, the data revealed **r**

Moody's views Lanka growth to weaken, slow recovery

Sri Lanka's economic growth will slow sharply in the second quarter of this year after April's suicide

bombings with its growth momentum interrupted in 2019 before picking up the next year, Moody's Investors Service said. "We expect Sri Lanka to face a marked cooling in Q2, reflecting a slump in tourism following the terrorist bombing in April," the rating agency said in a new report that lowered growth forecasts for most of 16 economies it rates in Asia.

Weak output in the year-to-date and deteriorating outlook for trade drive lower growth forecasts across Asia, the report said. "Spill-overs from an uncertain operating environment are most apparent in softer capital formation, although some signs of trade and investment diversion are emerging," it said.

It also forecast stable private and public consumption to be sustained on account of monetary and fiscal policy accommodation. Moody's said Sri Lanka's economic growth is forecast to slow to 2.6 percent in 2019 and pick up again to 3.4 percent in 2020, having grown 3.2 percent in 2018 and 3.4 percent in 2017.

More trade reliant economies will see a greater deterioration in growth through the export channel, with more advanced G 20 economies growing below potential, the rating agency said. Moody's said the G20 broad-based below potential growth has wide implications for trade-reliant Asia.

Global trade hubs like Singapore and Hong Kong and large manufacturing and commodity exporters are most sensitive to the weaker G20 growth outlook, with economies like India and Sri Lanka less so, the report showed.

It noted that growth has generally slowed across the Asian region with the uncertain operating environment weighs on investment. "Externally oriented economies have experienced a sharper slowing in the first half of 2019," Moody's said.

Bhutan's startups face challenges

Young entrepreneurs who set out at the startup centre two years ago are facing a gamut of challenges like sustaining themselves in the market. Lack of skilled manpower, absence of solid team, smaller amount of production and varied market forces are some of the challenges that startups are grappling with in Thimphu.

According to the Chairman of the startup center, Dawa Tshering said the mindset of the Bhutanese needs to change. "Even if we sell our products, keeping the price same as other imported products, people go for imported ones," he said.

He added most of their products are organic. "If we are facing challenges to sustain in the market at this initial period, I can't imagine what will happen once we graduate from this startup centre." "Some may drop their business. Not having a solid team is also coming in the way of running startups," said Dawa Tshering, also CEO and founder of Bhutan Essence (Herbal tea).

Speaking on the sidelines of a one-day startup expo at Changlingmithang, Yangchen Wangmo, founder of Norwang Chips said many startups wound up due to lack of a strong team. "It requires team work, as a startup cannot be run by a single person. The idea behind our startup came from my friend, who is also its founder. However, all members of our team have to work together for its success," she said.

One of the founders at a startup center said, "The startup boom is still very much there. However, there is need for proper implementation of the idea and an understanding of the market demand." More than 32 startups are exhibiting their products and services at the Changzamtok, startup center currently **r**



DCCI Senior Vice President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (centre), Vice President Imran Ahmed (eighth from left), Director Alhaj Deen Mohammed (sixth from left), Hossain A Sikder (fifth from right), former Senior Vice President Alhaj Abdus Salam (seventh from left) and business leaders of different associations from old Dhaka are seen at a discussion meeting held on September 9.

DCCI President Osama Taseer (center), former President Matiur Rahman (third from right) and representatives from Automobile Industries were present at a discussion meeting titled 'Prospect and Challenges of Automobile Industries in Bangladesh' held on September 7.



Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, FCA, MP (left), Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Annisul Haq (second from left), Adviser to the Prime Minister on Private Industry and Investment Salman F Rahman (fourth from right), former Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, MP (third from left), DCCI Senior Vice President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (second from right), MCCI President Barrister Nihad Kabir (right) were present at a meeting on Company Act held on September 8.

China's industrial profits swing to growth

Profits at China's industrial firms returned to growth in July, helped by public works spending and improved margins in the petrochemical and auto sectors, but an economic slowdown and the US trade war are expected to weigh on the business outlook. Industrial profits rose 2.6 percent in July year-on-year to 512.7 billion yuan (\$72.28 billion), according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics, swinging from a 3.1 percent decline in June.

Despite the turnaround in headline growth, worsening conditions for businesses exposed to global trade and smaller private sector firms are likely to add to case for more government support to shore up slowing economic growth.

"The downward pressure on the economy is relatively high, the market demand is slowing down, the prices of industrial products are falling," the statistics bureau's senior statistician, Zhu Hong, said in a statement accompanying the data. "There will still likely be volatility and uncertainty in profits of industrial enterprises," Zhu said.

ING Greater China Economist Iris Pang said public infrastructure spending had supported firms' return to profit growth, particularly for electric products companies. However, persistent cash flow pressures felt by export firms and smaller businesses supported arguments for the government to do more.



"We believe that most private enterprises suffer from long account receivable cycles," Pang wrote in a note. "They may be the low-end subcontractors of infrastructure projects. We worry that they may be the last to receive payments from their construction works." She expects more central bank support, such as added liquidity and cuts to banks' reserve requirements, which would free up the flow of credit to smaller firms.


For January–July, industrial firms earned profits of 3.50 trillion yuan, down 1.7 percent from a year earlier. That compared with a 2.4 percent fall in the first six months. The uptick in July came mainly from petrochemical and auto sectors, the statistics bureau said in a separate statement on the data.

China's industrial profits have broadly slowed since the second half of 2018 as economic growth skidded to a

near 30-year low while an escalating US-China trade war slashed already lean earnings for businesses.

The July expansion in industrial profits contrasts with sluggish producer inflation and waning industrial output growth, which sank to record lows in July, indicating weakness in both the demand and supply sides.

As the trade dispute fuels global recession worries, investors and analysts have been expecting new stimulus measures from Beijing to boost domestic demand and lower funding costs for firms.

To offset the effects of the US trade war, Chinese policymakers have rolled out various growth measures including reserve requirement ratio cuts, tax cuts and a push for banks to lend to smaller companies. But Beijing has also maintained it would not resort to a "flood-like stimulus" 

Thailand aims to be Southeast Asia's power-trade hub

Thailand is jump starting a decades-old plan to create a Southeast Asia electricity super-grid, and wants to be the power-trading hub at the centre of it. The nation is set to triple the amount of electricity from Laos that it resells to Malaysia, while

encouraging infrastructure upgrades stretching from Cambodia to Myanmar necessary for cross-border power trading, said Wattanapong Kurovat, director general of the country's energy policy and planning office. The moves are part of Energy

Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong's efforts to make Thailand's power system cleaner, cheaper and more efficient.

The trade is simple, Wattanapong said. Thailand would buy more electricity for its own national grid from Laos,

which generates more than it needs from dams along the Mekong River and its tributaries. It would then have excess power in its own national grid that it could sell into Malaysia, Cambodia or Myanmar.

“We’re trying to move quickly to become the center of the region’s power grid,” Wattanapong said in an interview in Bangkok. “We already have the capacity and the infrastructure to support the vision to become the regional hub.” The idea of connecting power plants and customers across Southeast Asia has been pursued for more than 20 years, but stymied by issues including lack of government coordination and infrastructure funding.

International grids are rare outside Europe, and require solving technical and legal hurdles in addition to building expensive infrastructure. The benefits of success include increased energy security and opportunities to develop untapped renewable resources, according to the International Energy Agency **r**

Cambodia apparel exports at risk as EU wraps up tariff review

Business groups in Cambodia are warning that tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars worth of exports may be at risk as the European Union comes a step closer to deciding whether it will end preferential trade arrangement for the Southeast Asian country.

The EU concluded its six-month monitoring period of Cambodia, a step in its review of the country’s eligibility for duty-free access to the European market under the Everything But Arms scheme. EU officials now have three months to draft conclusions on whether the trade

preferences should be withdrawn due to “severe deficiencies” in Cambodia’s human rights record and a democratic backslide.

Duty-free access to the EU market is hugely important for Cambodia’s apparel and footwear sector, which generated more than \$8 billion last year — more than two-thirds of the country’s total exports, according to government figures.

Almost 40 percent of Cambodia’s exports last year went to the EU, equal to \$4.5 billion in the day’s exchange rates. Of these, about 75 percent was textiles and about 13 percent was footwear or hats. The U.S. was the next largest importer of Cambodian goods, accepting more than 20 percent of the country’s exports.

The government has begun factoring in the loss of the EBA into its economic projections. Last week it released a revised projection for next year predicting GDP growth would slow from 7.1 percent to 6.5 percent, in part due to the EBA withdrawal. Growth in the garment and footwear sector — which employs at least 750,000 workers — would drop from 7.1 percent to 3.5 percent next year, according to the new government projections. Other important sectors, such as construction, tourism and agriculture, are predicted to remain stable or enjoy modest growth.

Despite the high economic stakes, the EU’s review process has been met with by defiance on the part of longtime Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has vowed he will “not bow down” to international pressure.

In an interview with local media this week, an official from Cambodia’s Ministry of Commerce said the government had begun reforms to mitigate the potential consequences of the EBA being withdrawn,

including reducing electricity prices and streamlining export procedures. The impact, however, could be greater than the government is predicting **r**

Indonesia persuades SMEs to boost productivity, quality

Indonesia’s Industry Ministry has highlighted the importance of technology application for small- and medium-scale enterprises to boost productivity and quality while increasing access to the global market. “The SMEs have played a pivotal role as a backbone for the national economy,” the ministry’s Director General of Small, Medium, and Various Industries Gati Wibawaningsih noted in a statement.

According to Wibawaningsih, the ministry had recorded over 4.4 million SMEs, or some 99 percent of the total business units in Indonesia. “Small- and medium-scale enterprises have absorbed up to 10.5 million workers, or some 65 percent of the total (workers) in the industry sector,” Wibawaningsih said.

The ministry has applied several policies and events to boost the potential of SMEs in the era of digital economy, including the event of e-Smart SME 2019 in some regions.

“In August, we have held the event in Palembang (South Sumatra), with 500 participants from various regions in South Sumatra,” Wibawaningsih noted.

Similar events were already organised in Semarang, Makassar, Surabaya, Pontianak, Bogor, and Denpasar. In future, it will be held in Medan and Banjarmasin. As of 2018, the number of SMEs in South Sumatra had reached 65,682 and absorbed a total 216,824 workers **r**



Local Government and Rural Development & Co-operatives Minister Md. Tajul Islam (left), DCCI Senior Vice President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (fourth from left) among others were present at the inauguration ceremony of the conference on National Sanitation Industry: Consultation in Bangladesh held on September 11.

DCCI Director Enamul Haque Patwary (center) seen exchanging views with the members of the Chinese delegation on September 15.



DCCI President Osama Taseer speaking at a workshop organized by Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship Center, University of Dhaka on September 15. Textiles and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi (Bir Protik) (right), MCCI President Barrister Nihad Kabir (third from right) among others were also present.

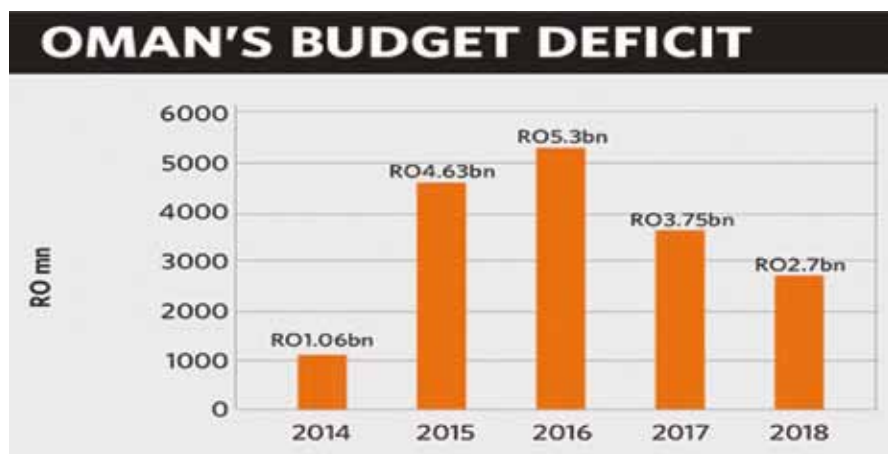
Oman's budget deficit sharply reduced as non-oil revenues rise

On the back of significantly higher revenues from non-oil sources this year, Oman's government managed to reduce the sultanate's budget shortfall by more than RO453mn or 25 per cent in the January–August period of 2019 compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The sultanate's budget deficit sharply dropped to RO1.378b in the first eight months of 2019 from RO1.832b in the same period of 2018. Oman's 2019 state budget estimates a deficit of RO2.8b for the full year.

Boosted by higher income from corporate tax and other non-hydrocarbon sources, Oman's total revenues increased by RO461mn (or 6.9 per cent) to RO7.138b in the eight months ended August 31, 2019 compared to RO6.677b in the same period of the past year.

Net oil revenue increased 1 per cent to RO4.059b in January–August this year from RO4.019b recorded in the corresponding period a year ago, while gas revenues inched up 0.7 per cent to RO1.207b for the same period. During the first nine months of 2019, Oman sold its crude oil at



an average price of \$64.6 per barrel.

Revenue from corporate income tax surged 41.7 per cent to RO570.9mn in the first eight months of 2019 compared to RO403mn in the same period of 2018. Income from other revenues category jumped by nearly 40 per cent to RO1.1b in the eight months of 2019 from RO786.8mn for the same period of the past year.

S&P Global Ratings, which affirmed its 'BB/B' long- and short-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings on Oman, said that the sultanate's fiscal deficit is expected

to slightly reduce to 8.4 per cent of GDP in 2019, from 8.7 per cent in 2018.

Oman's total public expenditure during the January–August period of this year remained almost stable at RO8.517b compared to RO8.509b a year ago.

Of the total public spending, current expenditure increased 1.9 per cent to RO5.920b this year compared to RO5.807b in 2018, while investment expenditure decreased 11.3 per cent to RO1.522b **r**

Qatar to register strong economic growth

GCC and will register a strong growth in 2019, the Qatar Central Bank said in its 2018 Annual Report. It added that favourable movements in global oil prices, strong exports and improvement in fiscal balance are likely to provide overall macroeconomic stability in 2019.

While the Qatari economy remained robust and stable last year, real GDP growth has somewhat moderated to 1.4 per cent in 2018, from 1.6 per cent in 2017. With several FIFA World Cup 2022 related projects near completion stage, and as a result of

the ongoing economic diversification strategy, sources of growth for non-hydrocarbon sector have been getting diversified.

Going forward, as per the Qatar Economic Outlook released by Planning and Statistics Authority, real GDP is projected to grow at average rate of 2.8 per cent during 2018-2020. The estimated budget surplus will fall to QR4.35b in 2019, from a surplus of QR15.1b in 2018, because of increase in expenditure on major projects by 15 percent.

Total public revenue is estimated to increase by 1.5 percent to QR211b. Revenue from 'oil and gas' is budgeted at QR168b, a decline of three percent from the actuals of 2018. Revenue from 'miscellaneous transferable' is budgeted at QR43b, an increase of 23.6 percent over the actuals of 2018, reflecting the government efforts to diversify revenue from non-oil and gas sources.

Total public expenditure has also been budgeted at QR206.7b during 2019, an increase of 1.7 percent and 7.2 percent over the budget estimates

and the actual of 2018, respectively. According to the QCB report, payment systems in Qatar comprising of retail and wholesale segment grew in comparison to the previous year, both in value and in volume terms. The size of Qatar's payment system was QR4.1 trillion in 2018.

Also, shares in the Qatar Stock Exchange have risen significantly as the world's best performing performer, with the current account surplus increasing and the country's large foreign exchange reserves rebuilt.

More recently, total reserves in the banking system remained stable at QR80.3b in July, which showed a 9.7 percent increase from July 2018 and a 43.7 percent increase since the second month of the blockade in July 2017, Al Byraq Centre for Economic and Financial Studies noted in its weekly analysis.

The mandatory reserve also grew to QR 37b compared to QR36.6b a year ago, and QR35b two years ago. This reflects the steady increase in the volume of deposits in the commercial banks **r**

S Arabia's deflation seen to normalise in 2020

KPMG Al Fozan and Partners, the leading provider of audit, tax and advisory services in Saudi Arabia, released its report on the inflationary trends in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which analyses the general price increase trends from 1964 to 2019.

Saudi Arabia overhauled its tax system to increase revenue from its non-oil sectors as it successfully introduced VAT in January 2018. The VAT for most goods and services, such as food and beverages, domestic transportation, hotels, private education, and private healthcare, put upward pressures on

prices, as inflation reached to 2.5 percent in 2018 from -0.8 percent in 2017.

"Although the introduction of VAT was essential to achieve some of the Vision 2030 goals, such as increasing non-oil revenue, other economic indicators need to be looked at such as GDP growth, especially considering total real GDP slowed by 0.9 percent in 2017. However, the economy experienced prices deflationary period at the beginning of 2019, where it is expected to remain for the rest of the year, before normalising in 2020," said Dr. Hussain Abusaaq, Chief Economist and Head of Research, KPMG Al Fozan and Partners.

While the timing of the introduction of tax-based reforms and energy reforms might not be favourable due to the prevalence of deflationary situation in 2017, the benefits of such reforms are likely to very good for the Kingdom in the long-run.

"In the short run, VAT is expected to cause minimal one-off price rise. In the long term, it is not likely to cause a significant or sustainable increase in underlying inflation," he added.

Meanwhile, small and medium-sized enterprises experienced a moderate impact from VAT due to high compliance costs, and due to concerns regarding VAT neutrality, Dr Abusaaq said. "In response, the government introduced the 'Private Sector Stimulus Plan' to stimulate growth, remove any potential obstacles and enhance private sector confidence," he noted.

Saudi Arabia's Small and Medium Enterprises Authority supports SMEs by establishing several initiatives such as returning government fees, indirect lending to SMEs and raising the capital of some existing programs (Kafalah) **r**

Egyptian government finances gradually improving: Moody's

Egypt's government finances are weak but gradually improving, according to a new report released by Moody's Investors Service. In its annual report on Egypt, the credit ratings agency said that Egypt's credit profile of B2 "stable" reflects the government's weak, but gradually improving, finances. The agency added that the government's financing needs are very large with high rollover rates, which may force a tightening of the state's domestic or external financing conditions.

Egypt has been undergoing a series of economic reforms since late 2016, when the central bank removed its support for the Egyptian pound and allowed the currency to float. This move was a requirement of the International Monetary Fund, which has loaned Egypt \$12 billion over the past three years with various conditions attached. Egypt received the final instalment of this loan in late July 2019.

Moody's expects that domestic borrowing costs will gradually decline as the effects of energy price and tariff hikes dissipate. This will allow the Central Bank of Egypt to lower interest rates. "Egypt's debt affordability as measured by interest to revenue will remain very weak and financing needs very large in the next few years," said Elisa Parisi-Capone, a Moody's vice-president, senior analyst and the report's co-author.

"Over the longer term, the removal of structural obstacles to a more inclusive, private sector-led growth model will be a gradual process that remains exposed to long-standing vested interests or the risk of reform reversal," added Parisi-Capone **r**



Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, MP (second from right), Textiles and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi (Bir Protik) (third from right), NBR Chiarman Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, ndc (third from left), DCCI President Osama Taseer (second from left) among others are seen at the installation ceremony of Bangladesh-China Chamber of Commerce & Industry held on September 16.

Coordinating Director Md. Rashedul Karim Munna (center), Convenor and Members of the SME Standing Committee were present at the 2nd meeting held on September 17.



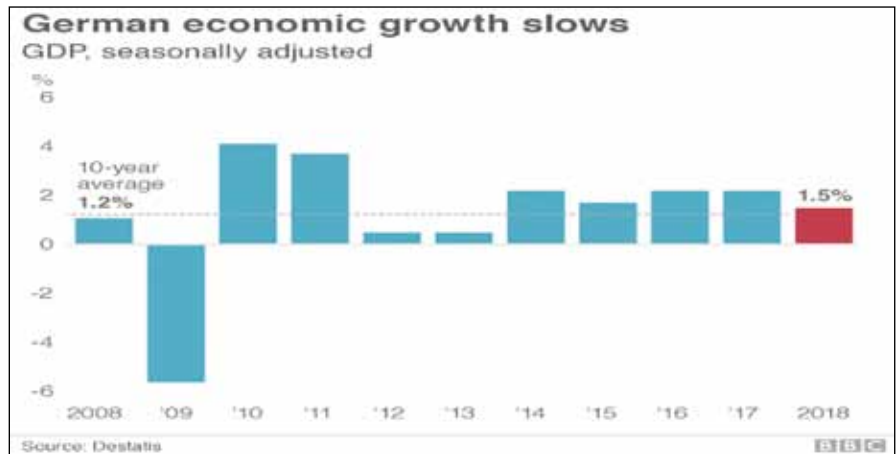
DCCI President Osama Taseer (third from left) presenting crest to Ambassador, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Bangladesh H.E. Saed Mohammed Al-Muhairi (fourth from left) on September 18. DCCI Senior Vice President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (second from left), Vice President Imran Ahmed (fourth from right), Director Enamul Haque Patwary (left) among others are seen.

German unemployment stable despite recession warning

Germany's labour market remains robust, but is starting to feel the impact of a slowing economy, official data showed. Federal labour agency chief Detlef Scheele said in a statement that "the weak economic phase" Germany is experiencing has also left "a slight mark" on the job market amid fears of a looming recession, but "all in all, however, it is proving to be robust".

Seasonally-adjusted figures showed five percent of people out of work in August, the same level for the previous three months consecutively. However in absolute terms widely referenced in public debate but less representative of underlying trends unemployment increased 44,000 month-on-month to 2.32 million people out of work.

Meanwhile, vacancies fell by 8,000 in August, also in adjusted figures the fifth consecutive decrease in a row.



The slight drop in figures mirrors a more worrying trend in Europe's biggest economy with the central bank or Bundesbank having last week issued a warning that Germany could enter recession in the third quarter. Falling orders against the backdrop of a trade war between the US and China, two of its main customers, have hit Germany's manufacturing industry hard.

The outlook for German growth

"is not good" and "dark clouds are fuelling fears in the labour market", says Martin Mueller, labour market expert at KfW Bank, but "there is no sign of a recession yet, however." At regional level, the unemployment rate remains at its lowest in Bavaria, at 2.9 percent, and Baden-Wuerttemberg, 3.3 percent. It remains highest in the capital Berlin, at eight percent, and the state of Bremen, where it is a Germany-high figure of 10.3 percent **r**

Trump says China talks coming, Beijing calls for trade war resolution

The United States and China sought to ease trade war tension, with Beijing calling for calm and US President Donald Trump predicting a deal after markets fell in response to new tariffs from both countries. Trump, speaking on the sidelines of the G7 summit of world leaders in France, said Chinese officials had contacted US trade counterparts overnight and offered to return to the negotiating table.

Vice Premier Liu He, who has been leading the talks with Washington, said China was willing to resolve the trade dispute through "calm" negotiations and resolutely opposed the escalation of the conflict. Trump welcomed that language and, days after referring to President Xi Jinping

as an enemy, heaped praise on his Chinese counterpart.

"They want calm, and that's a great thing, frankly. And one of the reasons that he's a great leader, President Xi, and one of the reasons that China's a great country is they understand how life works," Trump said.

"China called last night our top trade people and said 'Let's get back to the table', so we'll be getting back to the table, and I think they want to do something," he said. In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said he had not heard that a phone call between the two sides had taken place. However, China's Commerce Ministry typically releases statements on trade calls. It did not

immediately respond to a request for comment. The increasingly bitter trade war between the world's two largest economies escalated, with both sides levelling more tariffs on each other's exports.

Trump announced an additional duty on some \$550 billion of targeted Chinese goods, hours after China unveiled retaliatory tariffs on \$75 billion worth of US goods. The White House said Trump regretted not raising the tariffs even more. But the president also appeared to back off of his threat to order US companies out of China.

Liu, speaking at a tech conference in southwest China's Chongqing, said nobody benefited from a trade

war. “We are willing to resolve the issue through consultations and cooperation in a calm attitude and resolutely oppose the escalation of the trade war,” Liu, who is Xi’s top economic adviser, said, according to a government transcript.

“We believe that the escalation of the trade war is not beneficial for China, the United States, nor to the interests of the people of the world,” he said. The trade war has damaged global growth and raised market fears that the world economy will tip into recession. Geng, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said China would retaliate if Trump enforced the latest US tariffs **r**

France, US strike draft compromise on French digital tax

French and US negotiators have reached a compromise agreement on France’s digital tax, a levy which prompted US President Donald Trump to threaten a separate tax on French wine imports, a source close to the negotiations said. The compromise struck between French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Donald Trump’s White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow envisages that France would repay to companies the difference between a French tax and a planned mechanism being drawn up by the OECD

The draft agreement will be submitted to Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron at a G7 leaders summit in Biarritz. “Trump’s advisor is OK with the proposal,” the source told Reuters. “That would be the mechanism at this stage, that’s the joint proposal.”

France’s 3 percent levy applies to revenue from digital services earned by firms with more than 25 million

euros (\$27.86 million) in French revenue and 750 million euros (\$830 million) worldwide. US officials complain it unfairly targets US companies such as Facebook, Google and Amazon. They are currently able to book profits in low-tax countries such as Ireland and Luxembourg, no matter where the revenue originates.

Le Maire and his US counterparts worked on finding a deal all weekend, first at the French finance minister’s family house in the Basque countryside and later at a dinner in a Biarritz restaurant, the source said. The row has been threatening to open up a new front in the trade spat between Washington and the European Union as economic relations between the two appeared to sour.

Trump had lambasted Macron’s “foolishness” for pursuing the French levy and threatened to tax French wines in retaliation.

The French leader pushed hard in 2018 for a digital tax to cover EU member states, but met resistance from some other countries. He decided to go ahead with a national tax, which was signed into law in July and applies retroactively to January 1, 2019 **r**

UK govt planning fuel duty cut in emergency budget

The British government is planning to cut fuel duty for the first time in eight years in a possible emergency October budget. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who took office last month, has pledged to take Britain out of the European Union at the end of October with or without an exit deal.

Johnson’s government have already set out a range of new policies seen by many as laying the groundwork for an early election. His Conservative Party, which does not have a majority

in parliament, has also seen a bounce in its poll ratings, fuelling speculation he could go the country this year.

The Sunday Times said Johnson’s team were working on an emergency budget for October, which would include a fuel duty cut. It has also war-gamed holding an election on October 17, the paper said.

Asked about the fuel duty cut, transport minister Grant Shapps told Sky News it was a question for finance minister Sajid Javid. The government is focussed on its number one priority of delivering Brexit on October 31, he added **r**

World needs to end risky reliance on US dollar: BoE

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney took aim at the US dollar’s “destabilising” role in the world economy and said central banks might need to join together to create their own replacement reserve currency. The dollar’s dominance of the global financial system increased the risks of a liquidity trap of ultra-low interest rates and weak growth, Carney told central bankers from around the world gathered in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in the United States.

“While the world economy is being reordered, the US dollar remains as important as when Bretton Woods collapsed,” Carney said, referring to the end of the dollar’s peg to gold in the early 1970s. Emerging economies had increased their share of global activity to 60 percent from around 45 percent before the financial crisis a decade ago, Carney said.

But the dollar was still used for at least half of international trade invoices — five times more than the United States’ share of world goods imports — fuelling demand for US assets and exposing many countries to damaging spillovers from swings in the US economy.



DCCI President Osama Taseer (third from left), EC Chairman of Modhumoti Bank Limited Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh MP (left) were present at the 6th founding anniversary celebration of Modhumoti Bank Ltd. on September 19.

DCCI Senior Vice President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (right) exchanging views with the Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Republic of Turkey in Bangladesh on September 29.



DCCI Vice President Imran Ahmed (left) attended the Public Procurement Assessment workshop held on September 29.

চলতি অর্থবছর প্রবৃদ্ধি হবে ৭.৬ শতাংশ; আইএমএফের প্রতিবেদন

চলতি অর্থবছর মোট দেশজ উৎপাদনে (জিডিপি) প্রবৃদ্ধিতে দক্ষিণ এশিয়ায় দেশগুলোর মধ্যে শীর্ষে থাকবে বাংলাদেশ। আন্তর্জাতিক মুদ্রা তহবিলের (আইএমএফ) এক প্রতিবেদনে এমন তথ্য জানানো হয়েছে। সংস্থাটি চলতি অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশে ৭ দশমিক ৬ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধির প্রক্ষেপণ করেছে। কিন্তু প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জনে সরকারের লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ৮ দশমিক ২ শতাংশ, যা আইএমএফের চেয়ে শূন্য দশমিক ৬ শতাংশ কম। ওয়াশিংটন থেকে প্রকাশিত আইএমএফের 'সাঁউথ এশিয়ান আপডেট' শীর্ষক প্রতিবেদনে এসব তথ্য ওঠে এসেছে।

এতে বলা হয়েছে, চলতি অর্থবছর ৭ দশমিক ২ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি নিয়ে দক্ষিণ এশিয়ায় দ্বিতীয় অবস্থানে থাকবে ভারত। দেশটিতে গত অর্থবছর প্রবৃদ্ধি হয়েছে ৭ শতাংশ। নেপাল ও ভূটানে ৬ দশমিক ৩ শতাংশ করে, মালদ্বীপে ৬ শতাংশ, শ্রীলংকায় ৪ শতাংশ, আফগানিস্তানে ৩ দশমিক ৫ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধির প্রক্ষেপণ করেছে আইএমএফ। এ অঞ্চলের মধ্যে সবচেয়ে কম ২ দশমিক ৪ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জিত হবে বলে জানিয়েছে সংস্থাটি। আইএমএফ বলেছে, স্বল্পমেয়াদে ইতিবাচক দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি থাকা সত্ত্বেও, আগের প্রবৃদ্ধির ধারা সামনের দিনগুলোতে বজায় রাখা চ্যালেঞ্জিং হয়ে উঠবে। এজন্য বিনিয়োগ আরও বৃদ্ধি, প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলো পরিচালনার ক্ষেত্রে নীতি ও কৌশল উন্নত করতে হবে।

সংস্থাটি গত অর্থবছরের (২০১৮-১৯) প্রবৃদ্ধি প্রাক্কলনেও সংশোধন এনেছে। এপ্রিলে আইএমএফ ৭ দশমিক ৩ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জিত হয়েছে বলে জানায়। এখন সংস্থাটি বলছে গত অর্থবছর ৮ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জিত হয়েছে। অপরদিকে, বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরোর তথ্য অনুযায়ী, গত অর্থবছর প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জিত হয়েছে ৮ দশমিক ১৩ শতাংশ।

প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়েছে, বাংলাদেশে আর্থিক স্থিতিশীলতা রক্ষায় ও সংশ্লিষ্ট রাজস্ব খাতের ঝুঁকি মোকাবেলায় ব্যাংক খাতের খেলাপি ঋণ কমানো জরুরি হয়ে পড়েছে। এজন্য ব্যাপক, বিশ্বাসযোগ্য ও নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের কর্মপরিকল্পনা নিতে হবে। এছাড়া বাংলাদেশের তিনটি খাতে সংস্কারকে প্রাধান্য দিয়েছে আইএমএফ। এর মধ্যে রয়েছে ব্যাংক খাতের ক্রমাগত দুর্বলতা কাটিয়ে ওঠা। সামাজিক চাহিদা, অবকাঠামো ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনে ঝুঁকিগ্রস্তদের গুরুত্ব দেয়া। সুশাসনের মাধ্যমে ব্যবসায় পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন করে অর্থনীতির বৈচিত্র্যকরণ করা।

ব্যাংক খাত নিয়ে প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়েছে, এ খাতে সম্পদের নির্বিড় মূল্যায়ন করে মানদণ্ড শক্তিশালী করতে হবে। ঋণ পুনঃতফসিল ও ঋণ

পুনর্গঠনের ব্যবহার কম করতে হবে। প্রতিবেদনে বাজেট ঘাটতি পূরণে রাজস্ব সংগ্রহ বাড়ানোর তাগিদ দিয়েছে আইএমএফ। নতুন ভ্যাট আইন কার্যকর করাকে ঋণাত্মক জানালেও ভ্যাট হার সহজ করার ওপর গুরুত্বারোপ করেছে সংস্থাটি।

বাংলাদেশ নিয়ে আইএমএফের এ পূর্বাভাস বিশ্বব্যাংকের সমান। অন্যদিকে এডিবি তাদের সম্প্রতি প্রকাশিত এশিয়ান ডেভেলপমেন্ট আউটলুকে চলতি অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশের ৮ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি হবে বলে পূর্বাভাস দিয়েছে। যদিও বিবিএসের সাময়িক হিসাবে বলা হয়েছে, চলতি অর্থবছরে প্রবৃদ্ধি হবে ৮ দশমিক ১৩ শতাংশ। গত অর্থবছরে ৭ দশমিক ৮৬ শতাংশ প্রবৃদ্ধি হয়েছে।

প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়েছে, প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জনে ভারত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বী দেশ চীনকে ২০১৯ এবং ২০২০ সালে ফের পেছনে ফেলে দিতে পারে। কিন্তু তা সত্ত্বেও ভারতকে দীর্ঘমেয়াদে অর্থনীতির চাকায় গতি ধরে রাখতে অনুৎপাদক সম্পদ ছাঁটাই, রাজস্ব ঘাটতিতে রাশ টানা, ভর্তুকি কমানো, সংস্কার অব্যাহত রাখার মতো বিষয়ে গুরুত্ব দিতে হবে বলে জানিয়েছে আইএমএফ।

সংস্থাটি জানিয়েছে, চলতি ও আগামী অর্থবছরে ভারতের সম্ভাব্য প্রবৃদ্ধি যথাক্রমে ৭ দশমিক ২ ও ৭ দশমিক ৫ শতাংশ- যা চীনের তুলনায় (৬ দশমিক ৩ ও ৬ দশমিক ১ শতাংশ) খানিকটা বেশি। তবে আগের পূর্বাভাসের চেয়ে কম। যদিও আইএমএফের মতে, প্রবৃদ্ধি ধরে রাখতে সবার আগে জোর দিতে হবে ভারতে কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ তৈরির ওপর। সংস্কারে গতি কমতে দেয়া যাবে না। রাজস্ব ঘাটতিতে রাশ টানা জরুরি। জিএসটির জাল আরও বিস্তৃত হওয়া প্রয়োজন। দরকার ভর্তুকি কমানোও। আরও কঠোরভাবে রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত্ব ব্যাংক পরিচালনার মাধ্যমে কমাতে হবে অনুৎপাদক সম্পদের বোঝা। অবকাঠামো প্রকল্পে জমি পাওয়ার পথও প্রশস্ত করতে হবে।

নতুন অর্থবছরের মুদ্রানীতি ঘোষণা :

বেসরকারি খাতে ঋণ প্রবৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যমাত্রা কমে ১৪.৮%

গত অর্থবছর বেসরকারি খাতে ঋণ প্রবৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ছিল ১৬ দশমিক ৫০ শতাংশ। এর বিপরীতে মাত্র ১১ দশমিক ৩০ শতাংশ অর্জিত হয়েছে। এতেই সন্তোষ প্রকাশ করেছে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক। এ আত্মতুষ্টি নিয়েই ২০১৯-২০ অর্থবছরের জন্য নতুন মুদ্রানীতি ঘোষণা করেছে কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংক। নতুন মুদ্রানীতিতে বেসরকারি খাতে ঋণ

প্রবৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যমাত্রা আগের তুলনায় কমানো হয়েছে। তবে নতুন লক্ষ্যমাত্রা (১৪ দশমিক ৮) অর্জিত প্রবৃদ্ধির চেয়ে বেশি। বিপরীতে প্রায় আড়াই গুণ বাড়ানো হয়েছে সরকারি খাতে ঋণ প্রবৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্য। আর অপরিবর্তিত রাখা হয়েছে নীতি সুদহার, নগদ জমা ও তরল সম্পদের বিধিবদ্ধ মাত্রাগুলোর সীমা। ডলারের বিপরীতে টাকার অবমূল্যায়নের বিষয়েও কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের শক্ত অবস্থান স্পষ্ট করা হয়েছে ঘোষিত মুদ্রানীতিতে।

সম্প্রতি বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকে আয়োজিত সংবাদ সম্মেলনে ২০১৯-২০ অর্থবছরের জন্য মুদ্রানীতি ঘোষণা করেন গভর্নর ফজলে কবির। ঘোষিত মুদ্রানীতির ভঙ্গি উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে 'সতর্কভাবে সংকুলানমুখী'। ২০১৯-২০ অর্থবছরের জন্য ঘোষিত মুদ্রানীতিতে বেসরকারি খাতে ঋণ প্রবৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যমাত্রা প্রাক্কলন করা হয়েছে ১৪ দশমিক ৮ শতাংশ। ২০১৮-১৯ অর্থবছরে এ খাতে ঋণ প্রবৃদ্ধি ১৬ দশমিক ৫০ শতাংশ প্রাক্কলন করা হয়েছিল। কিন্তু অর্থবছর শেষে অর্জিত হয়েছে মাত্র ১১ দশমিক ৩০ শতাংশ।

বেসরকারি খাতে কমলেও বাড়ানো হয়েছে সরকারি খাতে ঋণ প্রবৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্য। ২০২০ সালের জুন পর্যন্ত সরকারি খাতে ঋণ প্রবৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্য ধরা হয়েছে ২৪ দশমিক ৩ শতাংশ। যদিও ২০১৮-১৯ অর্থবছরে এ প্রবৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ১০ দশমিক ৯ শতাংশ ধরা হয়েছিল। কিন্তু অর্থবছরের শেষে অর্জিত হয়েছে প্রায় দ্বিগুণ, তথা ২১ দশমিক ১ শতাংশ। তবে ঘোষিত মুদ্রানীতিতে রেপো ও রিভার্স রেপোর সুদহার যথাক্রমে ৬ ও ৪ দশমিক ৭৫ শতাংশ অপরিবর্তিত রাখা হয়েছে।

২০১৮-১৯ অর্থবছরের দ্বিতীয়ার্ধে বেসরকারি খাতে ঋণ প্রবৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্য ধরা হয়েছিল ১৬ দশমিক ৫০ শতাংশ। এ সময়ে মাত্র ১১ দশমিক ২৯ শতাংশ অর্জিত হয়েছে। লক্ষ্যমাত্রার তুলনায় এটি অনেক কম। যদিও লক্ষ্য অর্জিত না হওয়ায় দেশের ঋণ বাজারে পরিপক্বতা এসেছে বলে মন্তব্য করেছেন গভর্নর ফজলে কবির। মুদ্রানীতির ঘোষণায় তিনি বলেন, নিম্নতর অভ্যন্তরীণ ঋণ প্রবৃদ্ধির জোগানেই লক্ষ্যমাত্রার চেয়ে উচ্চতর জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধি, মধ্যম আয়ের দেশের ঋণবাজারের সঙ্গে তুলনীয় পরিপক্বতা আসার শুভসূচনার ইঙ্গিত দেয়।

বিগত সময়ে বেসরকারি খাতে উচ্চঋণ প্রবৃদ্ধির জন্য অতিউৎসাহী কিছু ব্যাংকের প্রশ্নযোগ্য ঋণ সৃষ্টির প্রবণতার কথা বলেছেন গভর্নর। তিনি বলেছেন, কিছু ব্যাংকের অতিউৎসাহী প্রশ্নযোগ্য মানের ঋণ সৃষ্টির প্রবণতা থেকে ঋণবাজারে আকস্মিক তেজিভাব এসেছিল। সে প্রবণতা সংযত

হওয়ায় বাংলাদেশের বেসরকারি খাতে ঋণের প্রবৃদ্ধি এখন দক্ষিণ ও পূর্ব এশীয় অঞ্চলের দ্রুত প্রবৃদ্ধিশীল উদীয়মান বাজার অর্থনীতিগুলোর সঙ্গে তুলনীয় ধারায় এসেছে।

এক বছরের বেশি সময় ধরে দেশের ব্যাংকিং খাতে তারল্য সংকট চলছে। এ সংকট দিনদিন আরো গভীর হচ্ছে। চাহিদা না জোগান কোন সমস্যার কারণে তারল্য সংকট তৈরি হয়েছে? এমন প্রশ্নের উত্তরে গভর্নর বলেন, চলতি বছরের জুন শেষেও দেশের ব্যাংকিং খাতে ৮৫ হাজার কোটি টাকা উদ্বৃত্ত রয়েছে। তবে সব ব্যাংকে আনুপাতিক হারে তারল্য নেই। এক্ষেত্রে কিছুটা অসামঞ্জস্যতা (মিসম্যাস) রয়েছে। কিছু ব্যাংকের কাছে অনেক বেশি টাকা আছে, কিন্তু ঋণের পরিমাণ কম। আবার কিছু ব্যাংক আছে, যাদের হাতে ঋণের চাহিদা আছে, কিন্তু তারল্য নেই। এ অসামঞ্জস্যতার জন্য আমাদের কলম্যানি বাজার রয়েছে। কারো নগদ অর্থের প্রয়োজন হলে কলম্যানি থেকে টাকা সংগ্রহ করছে। চাপ না থাকায় কলম্যানি বাজারের সুদহারও নিয়ন্ত্রিত রয়েছে।

ডলারের বিনিময় সম্পর্কে তিনি বলেন, ডলারের বিনিময় হার অত্যন্ত যুক্তিসংগত পর্যায়ে রয়েছে বলেই আমরা মনে করছি। ডলারের বিনিময় হার নিয়ে কোনো সমস্যা হচ্ছে না। আন্তঃব্যাংক লেনদেনে ডলারের বিনিময়মূল্য এখন ৮৪ টাকা ৫০ পয়সায় সীমাবদ্ধ আছে। এটিকে আমরা যৌক্তিক ও ভারসাম্যপূর্ণ বলে মনে করছি। চাহিদার ভিত্তিতেই ধীরে ধীরে টাকার অবমূল্যায়ন হচ্ছে।

৮ শতাংশ জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধির

পূর্বাভাস এডিবি

চলতি ২০১৯-২০ অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশের মোট দেশজ উৎপাদনে (জিডিপি) প্রবৃদ্ধি ৮ শতাংশ হবে বলে পূর্বাভাস দিয়েছে এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংক (এডিবি)। এশীয় অঞ্চলে অন্যান্য দেশের প্রবৃদ্ধির পূর্বাভাস কমিয়ে নির্ধারণ করলেও বাংলাদেশে শক্তিশালী প্রবৃদ্ধির পূর্বাভাস দেওয়া হয়েছে। চীন-মার্কিন বাণিজ্যযুদ্ধের প্রভাবে বাংলাদেশের রপ্তানি বাড়তে পারে। এর পাশাপাশি প্রবাসীদের রেমিট্যান্স প্রবাহ বাড়বে বলে মনে করছে সংস্থাটি।

একইসঙ্গে মুদ্রানীতির কারণে বেসরকারি খাতে ঋণপ্রবাহও বাড়বে। ব্যবসায় পরিবেশ উন্নত করতে চলমান সংস্কার এবং অবকাঠামো খাতে বিনিয়োগের সুবাদেও বাড়বে প্রবৃদ্ধি। তবে গ্যাসের মূল্যবৃদ্ধি, টাকার অবমূল্যায়ন এবং ভ্যাটের আওতা বাড়ার

কারণে পণ্য ও সেবার দাম সামনের দিনগুলোতে বাড়বে। এতে মূল্যস্ফীতি বাড়তে পারে।

এডিবি সংবাদ সম্মেলনের মাধ্যমে এশিয়ান ডেভেলপমেন্ট আউটলুকের হালনাগাদ প্রতিবেদনটি প্রকাশ করা হয়। এ সময় এডিবির কাফি ডিরেক্টর মনমোহন প্রকাশ স্বাগত বক্তব্য দেন। মূল প্রতিবেদনটি উপস্থাপন করেন সংস্থাটির ঢাকা অফিসের অর্থনীতিবিদ সুন চ্যাং হং।

মনমোহন প্রকাশ বলেন, দুই অঞ্চের প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জন করতে অবশ্যই অবকাঠামো উন্নত করতে হবে। শুধু সড়কব্যবস্থা নয়, অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চলগুলোকে সেভাবে তৈরি করা, বন্দরসুবিধা তৈরি করতে হবে, এর পাশাপাশি দক্ষ মানবসম্পদ তৈরি করতে হবে। আর্থিক খাতকে শক্তিশালী করার তাগিদ দিয়ে তিনি বলেন, বিনিয়োগকারীরা চাইবে তাদের বিনিয়োগ সুরক্ষিত হোক। বর্তমান বিশ্বে বড়ো বড়ো শিল্প ভিয়েতনাম, কম্বোডিয়াসহ অন্যান্য দেশে স্থানান্তরিত হচ্ছে। কারণ তারা বিনিয়োগ আকর্ষণ করতে পারছে। এ ধরনের বিনিয়োগ আকর্ষণ করতে ব্যবসায়িক পরিবেশ দ্রুত উন্নত করতে হবে। তিনি বলেন, বাংলাদেশের সবকিছু ঢাকা ও চট্টগ্রামকেন্দ্রিক। সারাদেশে সুষমভাবে বিনিয়োগ আকৃষ্ট করতে হবে।

বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতি নিয়ে মনমোহন প্রকাশ বলেন, দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার দেশগুলোর মধ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রবৃদ্ধিতে অগ্রগামী। তবে এই প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জনে বাংলাদেশের জন্য মধ্যম ও দীর্ঘ মেয়াদে বেশ কিছু চ্যালেঞ্জ রয়েছে। এগুলো হচ্ছে রপ্তানি বহুমুখীকরণ, শহর ও গ্রামের মধ্যে বৈষম্য কমিয়ে আনা, বেসরকারি খাতে বিনিয়োগ বাড়ানোর ক্ষেত্রে ব্যবসার পরিবেশ উন্নত করা, মানবসম্পদ উন্নয়ন, ভ্যাট আইনের কার্যকর প্রয়োগ ইত্যাদি।

এডিবির প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়েছে, চলতি অর্থবছরে ভারতের জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধি হতে পারে ৭ দশমিক ২ শতাংশ, যা আগের প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়েছিল ৭ দশমিক ৩ শতাংশ। এছাড়া পাকিস্তানের প্রবৃদ্ধি হবে ২ দশমিক ৮ শতাংশ, চীনের ৬ শতাংশ, কোরিয়ার ২ দশমিক ৪ শতাংশ, সিঙ্গাপুরের ১ দশমিক ৪ শতাংশ, ইন্দোনেশিয়ার ৫ দশমিক ২ শতাংশ, মালয়েশিয়ার ৪ দশমিক ৭ শতাংশ, ফিলিপাইনের ৬ দশমিক ২ শতাংশ, সিঙ্গাপুরের ১ দশমিক ৪ শতাংশ, থাইল্যান্ডের ৩ দশমিক ২ শতাংশ এবং ভিয়েতনামের ৬ দশমিক ৭ শতাংশ। তবে সার্বিকভাবে এশিয়ার প্রবৃদ্ধি হবে ৫ দশমিক ৫ শতাংশ, যা মূল প্রতিবেদনের পূর্বাভাসে ছিল ৫ দশমিক ৬ শতাংশ। পূর্ব ও দক্ষিণ এশিয়ায় বাংলাদেশ ছাড়া প্রায় সব দেশের প্রবৃদ্ধি আগের চেয়ে কমিয়ে পূর্বাভাস দেওয়া হয়েছে। শুধু বাংলাদেশের অপরিবর্তিত রাখা হয়েছে। প্রতিবেদন

অনুযায়ী, চলতি অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশের রপ্তানি প্রবৃদ্ধি হতে পারে ১০ শতাংশ। এক্ষেত্রে চীন-মার্কিন বাণিজ্যযুদ্ধের সুবিধা পাবে বাংলাদেশ। আমদানি অনেক বেড়ে যাবে। কারণ সরকারের মেগা প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের কারণে প্রচুর মূলধনী যন্ত্রপাতি ও কাঁচামাল আমদানি করতে হচ্ছে। তবে এ বছর খাদ্য আমদানি কমেতে পারে।

বিনিয়োগ নিরুৎসাহিত করছে অবকাঠামো ঘাটতি; এমসিসিআই

সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে দেশের অর্থনীতিতে অনেক অর্জন রয়েছে। অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি ৮ শতাংশ ছাড়িয়ে গেছে। তবে নির্দিষ্ট কিছু ক্ষেত্রে সম্ভাবনার চেয়ে পিছিয়ে রয়েছে দেশ। দুর্বল অবকাঠামোর কারণে নতুন বিনিয়োগে নিরুৎসাহিত হচ্ছেন উদ্যোক্তারা। এক্ষেত্রে বড় প্রতিবন্ধকতা বিদ্যুৎ ও গ্যাসের ঘাটতি। এ ছাড়া নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও নীতি কাঠামোর অস্পষ্টতা এবং নীতি বাস্তবায়নে দুর্বলতা বিনিয়োগের অন্যতম বাধা। এসব দুর্বলতা দূর করতে পারলে দেশি ও বিদেশি বিনিয়োগকারীদের আস্থা ফিরে আসবে।

সম্প্রতি মেট্রোপলিটন চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রির (এমসিসিআই) গত অর্থবছরের শেষ প্রান্তিকের (এপ্রিল-জুন) ওপর প্রতিবেদনে এমন পর্যালোচনা করা হয়েছে। পর্যালোচনায় বলা হয়, দেশের অর্থনৈতিক অগ্রগতিতে মানুষের আস্থা রয়েছে। আগামী ২০২৪ সালে উন্নয়নশীল ও ২০৪১ সালে উন্নত দেশ হতে চায় বাংলাদেশ। কিন্তু এ অর্থনৈতিক লক্ষ্য অর্জনের পেছনে নির্দিষ্ট কিছু ঝুঁকি রয়েছে, যা সতর্কভাবে মোকাবেলা করতে হবে। বিশেষকরে কম বিনিয়োগ, দুর্বল অবকাঠামো এবং গ্যাস ও বিদ্যুতের ঘাটতি উচ্চ অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জনের পথে বড় বাধা। এসব বাধার ফলে শিল্পের উৎপাদন ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হচ্ছে এবং নতুন বিনিয়োগ নিরুৎসাহিত হচ্ছে।

মেট্রো চেম্বার অবসহ মনে করছে, দেশের রাজনৈতিক পরিস্থিতি অদূরভবিষ্যতে স্থিতিশীল ও শান্তিপূর্ণ থাকবে। এ কারণে আমদানি, রফতানি ও রেমিট্যান্স বাড়বে। প্রতিবেদনে গত অর্থবছরের কৃষি, শিল্প ও সেবা খাতের অর্জন, মুদ্রা বাজার ও পুঁজিবাজার, আমদানি-রফতানি, বাজেটের অর্থায়ন, বৈদেশিক সাহায্য, লেনদেনের ভারসাম্যসহ অর্থনীতির গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিভিন্ন সূচকের পরিসংখ্যান রয়েছে।

প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়, অবকাঠামো দুর্বলতা বিশেষত গ্যাস ও বিদ্যুৎ ঘাটতিতে শিল্পের উৎপাদন ব্যাহত হচ্ছে। পাশাপাশি সমানভাবে এগিয়ে চলা বিশ্বের অন্যান্য দেশের তুলনায় বাংলাদেশে বিদেশি

বিনিয়োগ কম। একই কারণে নতুন বিনিয়োগ নিরুৎসাহিত হচ্ছে। তবে বিদ্যুৎ সংকট সত্ত্বেও কৃষি ও শিল্পে তুলনামূলক ভালো প্রবৃদ্ধি হয়েছে। সামষ্টিক অর্থনীতি ইতিবাচক ধারায় রয়েছে। মূল্যস্ফীতি নিয়ন্ত্রণে আছে। বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার ভালো রিজার্ভ রয়েছে।

প্রতিবেদনে জ্বালানি পরিস্থিতি সম্পর্কে বলা হয়, সর্বশেষ প্রান্তিকে বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহের উন্নতি হয়েছে। কিন্তু এর চেয়ে বিদ্যুতের চাহিদা অনেক বেশি বেড়েছে। ২০১৯ সালের ২৯ মে সর্বোচ্চ বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদনের রেকর্ড হয়েছে ১২ হাজার ৮৯৩ মেগাওয়াট। জুলাই মাসে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদনের সক্ষমতা বাড়িয়ে ১৮ হাজার ৮২৫ মেগাওয়াট করা হয়েছে। কিন্তু বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন এর তুলনায় কম হচ্ছে। এর বড় কারণ, গ্যাসের ঘাটতি। পাশাপাশি কিছু বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র বন্ধ হয়ে গেছে। গ্রাহকের কাছে বিদ্যুৎ ঠিকমতো পৌঁছানোর ক্ষেত্রে অন্যতম বাধা হলো, সঞ্চালন অবকাঠামোর দুর্বলতা।

শেয়ারবাজার পরিস্থিতি নিয়ে বলা হয়, গত অর্থবছরে শেয়ারবাজার বেশিরভাগ সময় নিম্নমুখী ধারায় ছিল। ঢাকা স্টক এক্সচেঞ্জে জুনেও সূচক নিম্নমুখী ছিল। বাজেটে কোম্পানির রিজার্ভের ওপর কর আরোপ করায় শেয়ারবাজারে প্রভাব পড়ে।

টেকসই উন্নয়নের জন্য এফডিআই

জরুরি; আইসিসিবি

বিশ্বব্যাপী উন্নত এবং উন্নয়নশীল দেশগুলোর মধ্যে সম্পদ ও প্রযুক্তি স্থানান্তরের সবচেয়ে কার্যকর পদ্ধতি হচ্ছে সরাসরি বিদেশি বিনিয়োগ বা এফডিআই। ২০৩০ সালের মধ্যে টেকসই উন্নয়নের লক্ষ্য (এসডিজি) অর্জনে বিদেশি বিনিয়োগের ভূমিকা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। ভারী এবং হালকা উভয় ধরনের সম্পদ জড়ো করার জন্য সবচেয়ে শক্তিশালী আন্তর্জাতিক পদ্ধতি হিসেবে সরাসরি বিদেশি বিনিয়োগকে বিবেচনা করা হয়, যা অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি ও উন্নয়নের জন্য অত্যাবশ্যিক।

ইন্টারন্যাশনাল চেম্বার অব কমার্স বাংলাদেশের (আইসিসিবি) সর্বশেষ ত্রৈমাসিক বুলেটিনের সম্পাদকীয়তে এমন পর্যবেক্ষণ রয়েছে। এতে বলা হয়, এসডিজি অর্জনে বিশ্বের ৪ দশমিক ৬ ট্রিলিয়ন ডলার থেকে ৭ দশমিক ৯ ট্রিলিয়ন ডলার প্রয়োজন হবে। আঙ্কটাডের হিসাবে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ টেকসই উন্নয়ন খাতের বার্ষিক বিনিয়োগ ব্যবধান ২.৫ ট্রিলিয়ন ডলার এবং অনেক দেশকেই অবকাঠামো খাতে বিনিয়োগ দ্বিগুণ করতে হবে। বিশ্ব অর্থনৈতিক কাঠামোরও সংস্কার প্রয়োজন। অভ্যন্তরীণ এবং আন্তর্জাতিক নিয়মনীতি ও প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলোর ভূমিকা আরও শক্তিশালী হওয়া প্রয়োজন।

সিআইপি হলেন ১৮২ ব্যবসায়ী

দেশের ১৮২ ব্যবসায়ীকে বাণিজ্যিক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যক্তি (সিআইপি) নির্বাচিত করেছে সরকার। গতকাল বুধবার রাজধানীর হোটেল ইন্টারকন্টিনেন্টালে নির্বাচিত সিআইপিদের হাতে কার্ড তুলে দিয়েছেন বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী টিপু মুনশি।

তৈরি পোশাকে ওভেন ক্যাটাগরিতে হা-মীম গ্রুপের এমডি এ. কে. আজাদ, শারমিন গ্রুপের এমডি মোহাম্মদ ইসমাইল হোসেন, অনন্ত গার্মেন্টের ইনামুল হক খান, ইন্টারফ্যাব শার্ট ম্যানুফ্যাকচারিংয়ের আহসান কবির খান, স্পারো অ্যাপারেলের মুস্তাজিরুল শোভন, স্মার্ট জিন্সের মুজিবুর রহমান, তারামিমা অ্যাপারেলসের মিরান আলী, ডেকো অ্যাপারেলের এম সহিদ হোসেন, সাইনিস্ট অ্যাপারেলের আলী আজিম খাস, তুসুকা ট্রাউজার্সের আরশাদ জামাল, গার্মেন্টস এক্সপোর্ট ভিলেজের এ কে এম বদিউল আলম, এবিএম গার্মেন্টের ওয়াসিম রহমান, রাকফ অ্যাপারেলের এম সাজ্জাদ আলম, ক্যাসিওপিয়ান তানভীর আহমেদ, এনভয় গ্রুপের সালাম মুর্শেদী, ওয়েল গ্রুপের সৈয়দ নূরুল ইসলাম, অনন্ত গ্রুপের শরীফ জহির ও আলিফ গ্রুপের আজিজুল ইসলাম সিআইপি নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন। নিটওয়্যারে স্কয়ার ফ্যাশনসের তপন চৌধুরী, জিএমএস কম্পোজিটের গোলাম মোস্তফা, ফকির নিটওয়্যারসের ফকির আখতারুজ্জামান, ফোর এইচ ফ্যাশনসের গাওহার সিরাজ জামিল, অবন্তী কালারের অহিদুল হক আসলাম সানী, মেট্রো নিটিংয়ের অমল পোদ্দার, ডার্ড কম্পোজিটের নাবিদ উদ দৌলাহ, এস এম নিটওয়্যারের এ কে এম আনোয়ারুজ্জামান, ভিয়েলাটেক্সের রেজাউল হাসানাত, ফারিহা নিটের আসাদুল ইসলাম, এমএম নিটের মফিজুল ইসলাম, বি-কন নিটওয়্যারের খ্রীতি পোদ্দার, দিগন্ত সোয়েটার্সের শাহনাজ কামাল, আমান টেক্সের রফিকুল ইসলাম, মেঘনা নিটের মোখলেছুর রহমান, মিডল্যান্ড নিটের ফেরদৌস আরা, লিবাস টেক্সটাইলের মশিউর রহমান চমক, এএম সি নিটের সুবল চন্দ্র সাহা, আদুরী অ্যাপারেলের আবদুল কাদির মোল্লা, বানদো ডিজাইনের সিদ্দিকুর রহমান, তামিশনা ফ্যাশনের ঘুলজার আলম চৌধুরী, এ ওয়ান পোলারের জামিল আনসারী, আহসান কম্পোজিটের কামরুল আহসান, ইব্রাহিম নিটের কানিজ ফাতিমা, এমএন নিটওয়্যারের মঈন উদ্দিন আহমেদ, সজীব নিটওয়্যারের আজিমুল ইসলাম, লিবার্টি নিটওয়্যারের শামসুজ্জামান, দেইউ বাংলাদেশের রাকিবুল ইসলাম, মার্টিন নিটওয়্যারের জি এম হায়দার আলী, প্যাপিলন নিটের নূরুল আলম চৌধুরী, হামিদ সোয়েটারের ইন্তেখাবুল হামিদ, নিউ এশিয়ার এ মতিন চৌধুরী,

ডিবিএল গ্রুপের আবদুল জব্বার, মাসকো গ্রুপের আহমেদ আরিফ বিল্লাহ, কেডিএস গ্রুপের খলিলুর রহমান, ইসলাম গ্রুপের সাকের আহমেদ, স্টারলাইট গ্রুপের সুলতানা জাহান, ক্লিফটন গ্রুপের এম মহিউদ্দিন চৌধুরী, হান্নান গ্রুপের এ বি এম সামসুদ্দিন, জে কে গ্রুপের জাহাঙ্গীর আলম খান, এপিএস গ্রুপের শামীম রেজা ও নোমান গ্রুপের মোহাম্মদ নূরুল ইসলাম সিআইপি নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন।

পাট খাতে উত্তরা পাট সংস্থার রবিউল আহসান, আকিজ জুটের শেখ নাসির উদ্দিন, রহমান জুটের ফজলুর রহমান, ওহাব জুটের শেখ ফারুক হোসেন, নিউ ঢাকা ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজের হুমায়ুন কবির ও বাংলাদেশ এক্সপোর্টের আনিসুর রাজ্জাক। চামড়া খাতে অ্যাপেক্স ট্যানারির এম এ মাজেদ, বে ফুটওয়্যারের জিয়াউর রহমান, পিকার্ডের সাইফুল ইসলাম, এফবি ফুটওয়্যারের হেদায়েত উল্লাহ, আরএমএম লেদারের মহিউদ্দিন আহমেদ মাহিন ও লেদারেক্স ফুটওয়্যারের নাজমুল হাসান। হিমায়িত খাদ্যে সি মার্কেটের ইকবাল আহমেদ, এমইউ সি ফুডের শ্যামল দাস, অ্যাটলাস সি ফুডের মিজানুর রহমান, জালালাবাদ ফোজেন ফুডের আবদুল জব্বার মোল্লা, মডার্ন সি ফুডের রেজাউল হক, রূপসা ফিশের এস এম আমজাদ হোসেন ও ফ্রেশ ফুডসের তৌহিদুর রহমান। কৃষিজাত পণ্য খাতে মনসুর ট্রেডিংয়ের মোহাম্মদ মনসুর, রাজধানী এন্টারপ্রাইজের গোবিন্দ চন্দ্র সাহা, আরআর ট্রেডের শাহীন মনসুর, প্রাণ ডেইরির আহসান খান চৌধুরী, প্রাণ এগ্রোর ইলিয়াস মৃধা, প্রমি এগ্রোর এনামুল হাসান খান, স্কয়ার ফুডের অঞ্জন চৌধুরী ও কিষোয়ান স্নাকসের এম এ মোতালেব সিআইপি নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন।

হালকা প্রকৌশল খাতে ইউনিগারি সাইকেলের মিজানুর রহমান ভূঁইয়া ও বিএসআরএম স্টিলের আমের আলী হোসেন; ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস খাতে স্কয়ার ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালসের স্যামুয়েল এস চৌধুরী ও ইনসেপ্টার আবদুল মুজাদ্দির; হস্তশিল্পজাত দ্রব্যে কারুপণ্য রংপুরের সফিকুল আলম সেলিম, ক্লাসিক্যাল হ্যান্ডমেড প্রডাক্টসের তৌহিদ বিন আবদুস সালাম, বিডি ক্রিয়েশনের বেলাল হোসেন, কোর দ্য জুটের বার্থা গীতি বাউড়, হেলাল অ্যাড ব্রাদার্সের হেলাল মিয়া ও কনক্সপোর আবু আলম চৌধুরী; হোম টেক্সটাইলে জাবের অ্যাড জোবায়ের ফেব্রিক্সের রফিকুল ইসলাম (নোমান), নোমান টেরিটাওয়্যারের আবদুল্লাহ মো. তালহা ও ইউনিলায়েসের শাহ শহীদুল আলম সিআইপি নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন।



DCCI former Presidents Mahabubur Rahman, Aftab Ul Islam, FCA, Fazle R M Hasan, FCA, Matiur Rahman, Hossain Khaled, Asif Ibrahim, Md. Sabur Khan, Mohammad Shahjahan Khan, President Osama Taseer Vice President Imran Ahmed, Members of the Board of Directors among others are seen at the inaugural ceremony of refurbished Auditorium of DCCI on September 21.

DCCI Former Presidents Mahbubur Rahman (seated right), Aftab ul Islam (seated left), DCCI President Osama Taseer (second from left), Senior Vice President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (right), Vice President Imran Ahmed (left) and former Senior Vice President Alhaj Abdus Salam (second from right) are seen at the Lounge of newly refurbished Auditorium of DCCI inaugurated on September 21.



DCCI former Presidents M A Sattar(third from right), Mahbubur Rahman (fourth from right), MH Rahman (right), Rashed Maksud Khan (second from right), Aftab ul Islam (fifth from right), Matiur Rahman (seventh from right), Fazle R M Hasan (eighth from right), Ali Hossain Hassan (second from left), Md. Sabur Khan (left), DCCI President Osama Taseer (sixth from right), Senior Vice President Waqar Ahmad Choudhury (fourth from left) and Vice President Imran Ahmed (second from left) are seen in a meeting on the occasion of inaugurating of newly refurbished auditorium of DCCI on September 21.

TRADE INFORMATION

7

August-September 2019

The following **Trade Inquiries** have been received in the Chamber from different sources abroad. Interested member-firms may like to contact them directly without any obligation on the part of DCCI.

FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS

Arab Health

Date: 27 Jan-30 Jan, 2020
 Venue: Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE
 Organizer: Informa PLC
 Contact Person: Mr. Ali Alidina, Marketing Manager
 Tel: +971 55 884 6186
 E-mail: ali.alidina@informa.com
 Website: www.arabhealthonline.com

International Production & Processing Expo

Date: 28 Jan-30 Jan, 2020
 Venue: Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, USA
 Organizer: International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE)
 Contact Person:
 Ms. Penny Stathes
 Mob: +1 (678) 514-1977
 E-mail: pstathes@ippexpo.org
 Website: www.ippexpo.org

Frankfurt International Trade Fair (Ambiente)

Date: 07 Feb-11 Feb, 2020
 Venue: Frankfurt, Germany
 Organizer: Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)
 Contact Person:
 Mr. Abdur Rashid
 Deputy Director (Fair and Display)
 Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)
 Mob: +8801552450512
 E-mail: dd-commodity@epb.gov.bd
 Website: www.epb.gov.bd

MAGIC LAS VEGAS

Date: 05 Feb-07 Nov, 2020
 Venue: Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas, USA
 Organizer: Informa PLC
 Mob: +1 (218) 740-6873
 E-mail: cs@fashionresource.com
 Website: www.magicfashionevents.com

Frankfurt International Trade Fair (Ambiente)

Date: 07 Feb-11 Feb, 2020
 Venue: Frankfurt, Germany
 Organizer: Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)
 Contact Person:
 Mr. Abdur Rashid, Deputy Director (Fair and Display)

Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)
 Mob: +8801552450512
 E-mail: dd-commodity@epb.gov.bd
 Website: www.epb.gov.bd

Gulfood

Date: 16 Feb-20 Feb, 2020
 Venue: Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE
 Organizer: Gulfood
 Contact Person: Mr. Gulsum Kayis Arslan, Marketing Manager
 Mob: +91 (022) 2660 5550
 E-mail: gulsum.arslan@dwtc.com
 Website: www.gulfood.com

China International Agrochemical & Crop Protection Exhibition

Date: 24 Feb-26 Feb, 2020
 Venue: Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC)
 Shanghai, China
 Organizer: CAC Global Events
 Contact Person: Ms. Ma Chen
 Tel: +86-010-64285314
 E-mail: maggie@agrochemshow.com
 Website: www.agrochemshow.com

45th FOOD EX JAPAN 2020

Date: 10 Mar-13 Mar, 2020
 Venue: Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Japan
 Organizer: Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)
 Contact Person:
 Mr. Abdur Rashid
 Deputy Director (Fair and Display)
 Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)
 Mob: +8801552450512
 E-mail: dd-commodity@epb.gov.bd
 Website: www.epb.gov.bd

45th FOOD EX JAPAN 2020

Date: 10 Mar-13 Mar, 2020
 Venue: Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Japan
 Organizer: Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)
 Contact Person:
 Mr. Abdur Rashid, Deputy Director (Fair and Display)
 Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)
 Mob: +8801552450512
 E-mail: dd-commodity@epb.gov.bd
 Website: www.epb.gov.bd

Share Market Intelligence (as on 30 September, 2019)

Top 5 Turnover Leaders

Dhaka Stock Exchange				Chittagong Stock Exchange			
Company	Close Price	% Ø Price	Turnover (BDT mn)	Company	Close Price	% Ø Price	Turnover (BDT mn)
BECONPHAR	37.00	8.50	111.67	DOREENPWR	54.30	-1.09	8.79
NLTUBES	161.40	1.45	104.84	NATLIFEINS	258.90	4.78	5.98
SONARBAINS	49.90	-0.99	103.37	ADVENT	25.10	-3.83	5.74
GP	312.00	-5.31	91.39	SILVAPHL	18.30	8.93	5.30
VFSTDL	25.00	5.93	90.07	SSSTEEL	31.00	-2.52	5.12

Top 5 Market Capitals

Dhaka Stock Exchange				Chittagong Stock Exchange			
Company	Close Price	% Ø Price	Turnover (BDT mn)	Company	Close Price	% Ø Price	Turnover (BDT mn)
GP	312.00	-5.31	421.294	GP	312.00	-5.28	421.294
BATBC	1093.90	0.93	196.902	BATBC	1,094.30	0.51	196.974
SQURPHARMA	214.90	-1.38	181.427	SQURPHARMA	215.70	-0.09	182.102
UPGDCL	263.20	-0.15	138.705	UPGDCL	263.90	0.19	139.074
RENATA	1176.40	-1.26	104.216	BRACBANK	60.10	-0.66	74.126

Share Market Intelligence (as on 30 September, 2019)

Currency	Buying	Selling
US\$	85.90	86.80
EUR	91.95	95.95
GBP	106.10	110.10
AUD	55.60	57.60
YEN	0.75	0.78
Saudi Riyal	22.30	23.00
S'pore\$	61.50	63.50

Source : The Financial Express & The New Age

DCCI LIBRARY



DCCI LIBRARY WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1969, A WELL-EQUIPPED LIBRARY WITH A COLLECTION OF ABOUT 7,800 BOOKS, JOURNALS, MAGAZINES AND OTHERS PUBLICATIONS. RECENTLY, DCCI LIBRARY HAS BEEN INTRODUCED LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE, AS A RESULT, ALL LIBRARY SERVICES COULD BE PROVIDED THROUGH THIS SOFTWARE SYSTEM.

SERVICES: INTERNATIONAL TENDERS AND CONSULTING INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORIES, GOVERNMENT AND

NON-GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL PUBLICATIONS WITH STUDY SPACE, 120 TEXT BOOKS OF BBA, 600 REFERENCE BOOKS (DIRECTORIES, MAGAZINES, JOURNALS) AND TRAINING MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY.

USERS: DCCI MEMBERS, STUDENTS FROM DCCI BBA COLLEGE, DCCI STAFF AND OTHER BUSINESS PEOPLE USE THE LIBRARY FREQUENTLY.



Training Courses & Workshops of DBI in December, 2019

- | | | | |
|---|---|---------|--|
| 1 | Managing Accounts-Best Practices | 5,500/- | 06-07 December (Friday & Saturday)
10:00 a.m.- 05:30 p.m. |
| 2 | VAT and Income Tax Management | 5,500/- | 06-07 December (Friday & Saturday)
10:00 a.m.- 05:30 p.m. |
| 3 | Professional Selling Skills & Secret of Success | 5,500/- | 13-14 December (Friday & Saturday)
10:00 a.m.- 05:30 p.m. |
| 4 | Branding and Brand Management for Business Success | 5,500/- | 13-14 December (Friday & Saturday)
10:00 a.m.- 05:30 p.m. |
| 5 | Development of Managerial Leadership Skills | 5,500/- | 20-21 December (Friday & Saturday)
10:00 a.m.- 05:30 p.m. |
| 6 | Financial Analysis for Decision Making | 5,500/- | 20-21 December (Friday & Saturday)
10:00 a.m.- 05:30 p.m. |
| 7 | Kaizen for Excellent Organizational Performance | 5,500/- | 27-28 December (Friday & Saturday)
10:00 a.m.- 05:30 p.m. |
| 8 | Essential Skills of Office Secretary & Personal Secretary | 5,500/- | 27-28 December (Friday & Saturday)
10:00 a.m.- 05:30 p.m. |

Registration Deadline : at least 3 days before starting date

Discount : 10% for DCCI Members, Women Participants, Graduate Students, 3 or more participants from one organization for same course and Early Bird Package (at least 5 days before deadline)

Contact : DBI, 65-66 Motijheel C/A, (11th fl), Dhaka-1000
Cell : 01718-972656, 01913-756587 & 01913-745062
Phone : 9552562 Ext. 281, 124 & 137
E-mail : dbi@dhakachamber.com
Website : www.dcci-dbi.edu.bd

** Seats are Limited
* Certificates Awarded
* Tailor-made Courses
/Workshops Arranged*