

Is DITF proof of widening per capita income?

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Bangladesh's per capita income was \$1,909 last fiscal year, from \$1,751 a year earlier. And proof of this improved wealth can perhaps be found if one visits the ongoing Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF).

Customers have flocked to the month-long exhibition and they do not seem worried about penny-pinching: most were seen leaving the venue with bags full of various items.

Both branded and non-branded stores witness a healthy turnout of customers daily, said a number of DITF stall owners.

After speaking to a number of visitors and sales personnel, it was understood that people come to the fair in search of choice products at discounted prices.

However, visitors were also displeased with the fair's arrangements and lack of exclusive products.

Many also came to the fair without specific purchases in mind. One such visitor is Md Nuruddin Khan, who is a government official.

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There was barely a place to step foot while entering the Dhaka International Trade Fair in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area yesterday. The scene was similar inside as customers thronged the stalls selling various wares, ranging from household accessories to electronic appliances.

STOCKS BACK ON THE SLIDE

DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka bourse, saw corrections lasting after the highs of the previous week. However, stock investors are optimistic that the promised government fund to prop up the market will come through.

DSEX dropped to **4,469.65** points (fell **44.28** points, or **0.98%**)

Average daily turnover was **Tk 445.09** crore (dropped **Tk 8.09** crore, or **1.78%**)

TOP FIVE GAINERS

Company	Gain (in %)
Zeal Bangla	42.41
Shyampur Sugar	42.04
United Airways	35.71
VFS Thread	18.13
Indo-Bangla Pharmaceuticals	18.08

TOP FIVE LOSERS

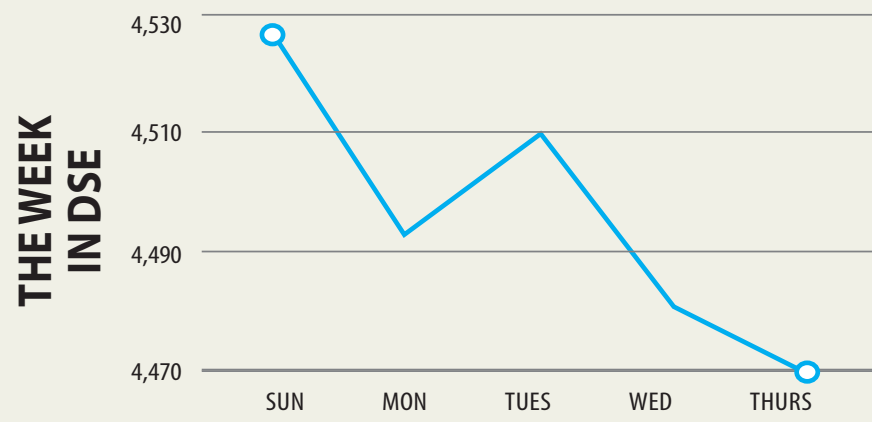
Company	Loss (in %)
BSRM Steel	13.22
ICB	12.51
BIFC	12
ILFS	11.32
Silco Pharmaceuticals	11.15

TOP SECTORAL FALL

Sector	Loss (in %)
Non-bank Financial Institutions	7.44
Telecommunication	5.10
Engineering	3
Mutual Funds	2.59
Fuel & Power	2.55

TOP TURNOVER

Company	Average turnover
LafargeHolcim	Tk 37.71 crore
ADN Telecom	Tk 11.49 crore
Square Pharmaceuticals	Tk 11.24 crore
Paramount Textile	Tk 11.09 crore
SS Steel	Tk 10.10 crore



Ensure uninterrupted use of credit cards

BB orders banks

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The central bank yesterday instructed banks to ensure uninterrupted use of credit cards by their clients to make payments for digital advertisements, after some lenders barred such activities by misunderstanding a previous notice.

The confusions started on November 14 last year, when the Bangladesh Bank -- with the view to checking online casinos and gambling, illegal foreign exchange trading and purchase of financial instruments issued in foreign stock markets, cryptocurrency and lottery tickets -- made the submission of an online transaction authorisation form (OTAF) mandatory for every

It was a cumbersome process in every sense, which understandably



elicited outrage from different quarters, prompting the central bank had to discard the OTAF process ten days later.

But some banks were still under confusion and went on denying payments for advertisement and digital marketing on social media platforms.

This compelled the central bank to issue a fresh notice yesterday.

"The latest central bank instruction is a clarification of the previous notice issued in November last year," a BB official told The Daily Star.

The lenders will also have to ensure that the credit cardholders clear the taxes during the purchase of legitimate products and

clients will be barred from purchasing any illegal service and product through cards though.

60,000 tonnes of Indian diesel to be imported in 2020

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government is all set to bring 60,000 tonnes of diesel at a cost of Tk 314.3 crore from India to meet its domestic demand for 2020.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has been importing the gas oil through rail wagons to its Parbatipur depot from India's state-owned Numaligarh Refinery since October 2017.

The cabinet committee on government purchase yesterday gave the go-ahead to the purchase.

Also at yesterday's meeting, another decision was also taken to import 31.1 tonnes of refined fuel oil from six state-owned foreign companies at a cost of Tk 5,142.51 crore under the government-to-government arrangement.

Of it, 10.3 lakh tonnes will arrive in Bangladesh in the first six months of the year, while the remaining 20.9

PROJECT	COST	IMPLEMENTING BODY
Emergency multi-sector Rohingya crisis response	Tk 297.15cr	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
Import of 60,000 tonnes of diesel from India's Numaligarh Refinery	Tk 314.3cr	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
Import of 31 lakh tonnes of fuel oil from six foreign state companies	Tk 5,142.51cr	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation

lakh tonnes more will be brought over the later six months.

BPC, the state-owned petroleum importer, will buy the oils from China's Petrochina and Unipet, Thailand's PTT Public Company, Indonesia's BSP Zapin, UAE's Emirates National Oil Company and Malaysia's Petco Trading Labuan Company.

The cabinet committee also approved another project to run different development work inside

Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar's Ukhia and Tekhnaf and to provide community services to 60,000 youths of the state-less minority group.

The disaster management and relief ministry will implement the Tk 297.15 crore project. However, the "Emergency multi-sector Rohingya crisis response" project was earlier scheduled to start in September 2018 and end in August 2021 at a cost of Tk 337.89 crore.



AHM Mustafa Kamal, extreme left, finance minister, poses with Hartwig Schafer, centre, vice president for South Asia at the World Bank, during a meeting at the former's office in the Economic Relations Division in Dhaka on Wednesday. Mercy Tembon, the WB's country director, was present.

FINANCE MINISTRY

NEXT STEP

Making a DIFFERENCE

Bangladesh is rapidly moving towards middle income status by 2021. Our businesses definitely offer immense opportunities for the growing economy and this diversity needs a stage for the stories untold. See Bangladesh make its mark on the global map as Making a Difference brings you our proudest success stories from across the country.

What is your greatest weakness?

Answering a commonly asked interview question

There are certain questions that interviewers often ask while interviewing potential recruits. These range from asking them about their personal lives, why they want this job, why they are the right fit, and where they see themselves in the next 5-10 years. Interviewers almost always want to know about the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates too and they find a horde of ways to phrase this exact inquiry. While it's easier to talk about your strengths, here's a few pointers that will help you answer the infamous question of "What is your greatest weakness?"

Your weakness is not a conceited strength
Many often answer this question with 'I'm a perfectionist' or 'I work too hard' or even 'Sometimes my creativity gets the better of me and I spend countless sleepless nights completing a project'. Interviewers have taken way too many interviews to fall for an ill-advised answer like this. This isn't a trick question. They genuinely do want to know what your weakness is to try and decipher if you are sufficiently self-aware. Say silly things and you'll sound like a self-absorbed liar.
Your weakness shouldn't be a prerequisite
Don't pick a weakness that is a deal breaker for the job (in fact, reconsider applying for a job where



the core competency required is something you don't possess). For example, if you're applying to be a team manager, you don't want to tell your interviewers that your greatest weakness is people skills or team management skills. Pick weaknesses that aren't quintessential for your performance at the job.
Your weakness should be fixable
The weakness you picked should have a solution that has been tried and tested by you. This shows the recruiters that you've acknowledged your weakness and have made active attempts in fixing it. For example,

you could say 'My weakness is that I find it very difficult to delegate responsibility to new team mates, in fear that they won't be able to deliver how I want it. To fix it, I started utilising the first few days of working with them in getting to know their strengths, weaknesses, abilities and willingness. This way, I can assign them things they're good at, while working on things that aren't their strongest suit.'

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