

# Economy shows signs of improvement: DCCI

The Bangladesh economy now reflects a better and more stable picture, according to the latest Monthly Review of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

According to the DCCI Monthly Review, some latest indicators suggest that the economy is gradually coming out of recession.

Agricultural performance, particularly that of food crop production, has so far been quite satisfactory this year and this has demonstrated once again the resilience of the key economic sector in Bangladesh, notes the review. DCCI observes that imports are picking up — though not substantially but in not too negligible ways — reversing the downward trend witnessed earlier in the first five months of the current financial year. The LC openings in December and January showed some up-trend, rising between 10 and 15 per cent for both industrial raw materials and customer

items, it mentions.

Export earnings in the first half of 1991-92 fiscal year were also higher by 7.63 per cent than those of the corresponding period in 1990-91 it observes.

The higher export receipts were however mainly because of an encouraging growth in two or three items while traditional exports continued to face problems, DCCI said.

The Monthly Review says that economic activities in other sectors — industry, domestic trade, public sector investments and associated operations — have also gained some momentum though the expected surge is yet to be evidenced to any marked extent.

Still then, some recovery, or at least the arrest of an earlier downturn on the wider economic front, is now visible in a number of areas and sectors, it views.

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Alongside this, the Review comments, the country's macro economic situation reflects now a better and a more stable picture. Revenue earnings in the first half of the current fiscal year were satisfactory and the National Board of Revenue (NBR) collected Taka 3125 crore between July and December, 1991 against the projected target of Taka 3075.

The government is expecting still higher revenue earnings for the second half of 1991-92 because imports are picking up and domestic production in some organised sectors has started showing some improvements, particularly in the wake of the anti-smuggling operations, DCCI notes.

The country's foreign exchange reserve position also remains comfortable, says the Review mentioning that reserves rose to 1245 million dollar in mid-January 1992 from 881 million dollar on June 30, 1991.

Remittances by Bangladeshi nationals are also steady with the amount totalling about 390 million dollar between July and December in 1991, showing a marginal rise by about one million dollar over the level of corresponding period last year.

The rate of inflation, on the basis of Dhaka Middle Class Cost of Living Index, was 1.82 per cent between last June and November. DCCI points out that the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) indicated in its year-end survey report that cost of index rose by 10.48 per cent in 1991.

The Review noted that the monetary and credit situation in the first half of the fiscal year has otherwise been very stable. Broad Money (M2), representing notes in circulation, demand deposits and time deposits, recorded a growth by about four per cent, which was far below the targeted rate of 9.44 per cent.

The DCCI Review mentions that total bank deposits were up by Taka 1183 crore while aggregate domestic credit recorded a net contraction by Taka 820 crore.

Decline in credit flows was primarily caused by the adoption of new criteria for credit disbursements, it says. The banks faced the problem of "excess liquidity" which rose from Taka 350 crore on June 30, '91 to Taka 752 crore on December 31, 1991, it mentions.

DCCI strongly feels that there is now a greater need to take a new stocks of the situation in the banking sector.

It reiterated the demand for extending the time-limit for settlement of credit overdues with earlier-announced interest exemption or remission facility upto June 30 next. Extension of time-limit, according to DCCI, will boost business confidence further.

encourage new investments in the private sector and help sustain the recovery signs that are already in evidence in some sectors.

DCCI urged the authorities to keep a firm control on spiralling current expenditures of the government, take appropriate steps to contain labour unrest on issues of unreasonable demands and go ahead steadily along realistic lines with appropriate reforms and privatisation of the ailing public sector bodies and autonomous organisations.

DCCI views that such moves will create conditions for sustained growth and support recovery in line with structural economic improvements.

It also suggests that the government make harder efforts to strengthen its development operations for creating an efficient infrastructure and alleviating poverty for sustained.

## Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on Feb 15, 1992

Star Economic Report

### Dismal show continues

The week's opening did not show any sign of optimism at the close of business at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). Saturday, Only 7,798 issues were traded which valued Tk 313,132 which is indeed a poor show for a full business day. On Thursday it was 3,924 stocks valuing Tk 249,942.

In all 29 stocks traded on the day. Of them eight gained nine lost and 12 exchanged at their previous quoted prices. However the DSE Composite Index edged up slightly, by 0.0698 points, and registered at 296.8116.

**THE DAYS TRADING AT A GLANCE**  
DSE All Share Price Index : 296.8116  
Market capitalisation (TK) : 8,488,936,281  
Turnover (in value TK) : 313,132  
(in volume) : 7,798

Company	FV/ML	Previous day's price Tk	Closing price Tk	Gain/Loss Tk	Change % over previous Price
<b>Gains (08)</b>					
<b>Shares:</b>					
Apex Tannery	100/5	186.00	190.00	+4.00	2.150
IFIC	100/5	178.00	180.00	+2.00	1.123
Bengal Food	100/5	116.00	117.00	+1.00	0.861
Chittagong Cement	100/5	225.00	226.00	+1.00	0.444
Dhaka Vegetables	100/5	126.86	127.67	+0.81	0.638
Oxygen	10/50	43.06	43.50	+0.44	1.021
Zeal Bangla Sugar	10/50	10.70	10.80	+0.10	0.934
Monno Ceramic	100/5	150.00	150.02	+0.02	0.013
<b>Losses (09)</b>					
<b>Shares:</b>					
B Thai Aluminium	100/10	92.00	88.00	-4.00	4.347
6th ICB Fund	100/10	64.50	63.17	-1.33	2.062
CQ Ballpen	10/50	53.00	52.00	-1.00	1.886
Desh Garments	100/10	59.00	58.50	-0.50	0.847
Rahman Chemicals	100/10	42.00	41.50	-0.50	1.190
Ambee Pharma	10/50	13.00	12.50	-0.50	3.846
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50	36.50	36.00	-0.50	1.369
BOIC	100/10	116.50	116.00	-0.50	0.429
Beximco	10/100	10.03	10.00	-0.03	0.299

### Traded at previous quoted prices (12)

Shares : Rupali Bank, Aziz Pipe, Monno Staffer, Monno Jute, BTC, Rupali Oil, Tulip Dairy, Pharma Aids, Progressive Plastic, Ibnesina, Quasem Silk, Bata Shoe.

### SHARES & DEBENTURES LISTED WITH DSE

Company	FV/ML Tk	Northern Jute	Shamser Jute	Specialised Jute	Shine Pakur Jute	Sorali Aansh
BANKS (10)		100/50	100/50	100/50	100/50	100/50
AL Baraka Bank	1000/11100.00					
AB Bank	100/5 188.00					
City Bank	100/5 270.00					
IFIC	100/5 180.00					
Islami Bank	1000/11810.00					
National Bank	100/5 108.00					
Pubali Bank	100/5 102.00					
Rupali Bank	100/10 90.00					
U.C.B.L	100/5 120.00					
Uttara Bank	100/5 158.00					

Company	FV/ML Tk	Northern Jute	Shamser Jute	Specialised Jute	Shine Pakur Jute	Sorali Aansh
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS &amp; CHEMICALS (15)</b>						
Ambee Pharma	10/50 56.00					
Bangla Process	100/5 203.00					
Beximco Pharma	10/50 125.00					
Gloco	10/50 10.00					
IC 1	100/5 78.02					
Kohinoor Chemical	100/5 17.17					
Petro Synthetic	100/5 110.00					
Pharma Aids	100/5 151.00					
Pharmaco	100/5 70.00					
Progressive Plastic	110/5 40.00					
Reckitt & Colman	100/50 240.00					
Rahman Chemicals	100/10 42.00					
Therapeutics	100/50 90.00					
The Bristina	100/10 92.00					

Company	FV/ML Tk	Northern Jute	Shamser Jute	Specialised Jute	Shine Pakur Jute	Sorali Aansh
<b>INVESTMENT (08)</b>						
ICB	100/5 90.00					
1st ICB Fund	100/5 340.00					
2nd ICB Fund	100/5 153.00					
3rd ICB Fund	100/5 131.00					
4th ICB Fund	100/10 127.00					
5th ICB Fund	100/10 90.00					
6th ICB Fund	100/10 63.17					
ICB Unit Cert.						
Sales Price	116.00					
Re-purchase	111.00					

Company	FV/ML Tk	Northern Jute	Shamser Jute	Specialised Jute	Shine Pakur Jute	Sorali Aansh
<b>INSURANCE (04)</b>						
BOIC	100/10 116.00					
Green Delta	100/10 130.00					
Peoples	100/10 133.00					
United	100/10 145.00					
<b>ENGINEERING (10)</b>						
Alfab Automobiles	100/5 184.00					
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50 36.00					
Aziz Pipes	100/5 240.00					
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5 84.24					
Bangladesh Lamps	100/5 230.00					
B Thai Aluminium	100/10 88.00					
Bengal Carbide	100/5 220.00					
Bengal Steel	10/50 18.00					
Eastern Cables	100/5 81.00					
Howader PVC	100/10 104.43					
Karim Pipe	100/5 130.00					
Metalex Corp.	100/5 108.00					
Monno Staffers	10/50 200.00					
Monno Jute	100/5 223.97					
National Tubes	100/10 108.00					
Panther Steel	10/50 6.00					
Quasem Drycells	10/50 7.56					
Renwick Japanswar	100/5 81.00					
Singer Bangladesh	100/5 1100.00					

Company	FV/ML Tk	Northern Jute	Shamser Jute	Specialised Jute	Shine Pakur Jute	Sorali Aansh
<b>FOOD &amp; ALLIED (23)</b>						
AB Biscuit	100/5 180.00					
Alpha Tobacco	10/50 48.00					
Aman Sea Food	100/5 33.00					
Apex Food	100/5 487.50					
Aroma Tea	100/5 70.00					
Bangas	100/5 145.00					
B.D. Plantation	100/5 300.00					
Bengal Food	100/5 117.00					
B.L.T.C.	100/5 500.00					
B.T.C.	10/50 41.00					
Cig. Vegetable	100/10 95.00					
Dhaka Vegetable	100/5 127.67					
E.L. Camella	100/5 1250.00					
Frogleg Export	10/50 3.00					
Gemini Sea Food	100/15 100.00					
Hill Plantation	100/5 300.00					
Modern Industries	100/5 170.00					
N.T.C.	100/5 275.01					
Rabeya Flour	10/100 NT					
Rupali Oil	10/100 6.50					
Tulip Dairy	100/10 95.00					
Yousuf Flour	10/50 NT					
Zeal Bangla Sugar	10/50 10.80					

Company	FV/ML Tk	Northern Jute	Shamser Jute	Specialised Jute	Shine Pakur Jute	Sorali Aansh
<b>MISCELLANEOUS (18)</b>						
Apex Tannery	100/5 190.00					
Aramit	10/50 NT					
Bata Shoe	10/100 33.50					
Beximco	10/100 10.00					
BSC	100/5 50.00					
Chittagong Cement	100/5 226.00					
G. Q. Ball Pen	10/50 52.00					
High Speed	100/5 100.00					
Hilmadri Ltd.	10/100 6.00					
Milton Tannery	100/5 25.00					
Monno Ceramic	100/5 150.02					
Phoenix Leather	100/5 105.00					
Savar Refractories	100/5 108.00					
The Engineers	100/5 100.00					
Usumaria Glass	100/83 213.00					

Company	FV/ML Tk	Northern Jute	Shamser Jute	Specialised Jute	Shine Pakur Jute	Sorali Aansh
<b>DEBENTURES (06)</b>						
Apex Tannery	1000/1 1001.00					
(17% 1992)						
Bengal Food	600/1 600.00					
(18.5% 1992)						
Beximco	2333/1 2340.00					
Beximco Pharma	1428/1 1440.00					
(17% 1997)						
Quasem Silk	1500/1 1750.00					
(17% 1994)						

Company	FV/ML Tk	Northern Jute	Shamser Jute	Specialised Jute	Shine Pakur Jute	Sorali Aansh
<b>FUEL &amp; POWER (03)</b>						
Padma Oil Co.	10/50 40.00					
Eastern Lubricant	10/50 14.00					
Oxygen	10/50 43.50					
<b>JUTE (12)</b>						
Ashad Jute	100/10 NT					
Anwarah Jute	10/50 NT					
Delta Jute	10/50 8.50					
Gawda Jute	10/50 NT					
Islam Jute	100/5 80.00					
Jute Spinner	100/5 95.00					
Mutual Jute	100/5 100.00					

# Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Bank's BC selling and TT (C), OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on February 14 and 15.

(Figures in Taka)

Currency	SELLING	BUYING	
		IC	OD Transfer
US dollar	38.9326	38.7087	38.448
Poundsterling	68.9054	68.5686	68.1358
DM	23.9434	23.7914	23.6313
FF	7.0371	6.9941	6.9470
S Riyal	10.4106	10.3507	10.2811
D Guilders	21.2804	21.1465	21.004
S Kroner	6.6027	6.5591	6.5150
Singapore Dollar	23.8543	23.7171	23.5574
UAE Dirham	10.6364	10.5753	10.5041
Kuwaiti Dinar	NA	NA	NA
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.5067	1.4999	1.4922
Pak. Rupee (AMU)	1.5744	1.5671	1.5593

Authorised dealers will apply TT clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladeshis working abroad.

NOTE : AMU — Asian Monetary Unit.