

# Fish breeding declines in Halda

SHYKH SERAJ

Dear readers, a few days back I went to the bank of the Karnafuli River, near the old bridge at Chittagong's Kalurghat. Note that Karnafuli flows ahead this way to the Bay of Bengal. The canal that started from the left of Karnafuli is Halda River.

You know that Halda is the world's best natural resource for breeding carp fish. I have seen fishermen collecting the eggs of the fishes and cultivating carp fish for the whole of Bangladesh. The natural farming of carp happens here in Halda. This is a sacred natural breeding field for mother fishes. This is rarely seen anywhere else.

For many years, this river has been harmed in various ways, and now it has become polluted. This natural breeding zone for carp fish is getting destroyed day by day. Behind this, there are many manmade reasons, such as sluice gates, and dumped of the city's waste into the river. For these reasons, the river has become almost dead.

This has been happening for many years, thus the Prime Minister's Office ordered investigation into it to find out what initiatives can be taken to save Halda, and protect it from getting harmed.

I went towards Halda from Karnafuli by an engine boat. Let me tell you where the crises lie. I also talked with researchers and those working on and for Halda.

Every year, in the Halda River, rui (carp) fishes spawn on the day of new moon during the frequent monsoon rain. They spawn at noon and afternoon on cloudy days as well. That special time of spawning is called tithi (lunar day).

Local fishermen take their places on the river before tithi. They jump in the river as soon as they see eggs. They make fry from the collected eggs traditionally. Even though the river has special characteristics for fries of rui, katla, mrigel and kalibaus, but due to lack of proper planning and maintenance, cutting the turn of the river, killing of mother fish and pollution, it is on

the verge of disaster.

Every year, the amount of eggs spawned by mother fishes is decreasing at a notable rate. Where 4,000kg of eggs were produced in 1945, this year, fishermen could barely collect any egg. This year, from March to June, waiting for every tithi, only three times they got sample eggs. They could only produce 12kg of eggs from there. As far as memory goes, such disparity of Halda has never been seen before. Experts are saying, year after year, the decrease of rui's spawn in Halda has led to this state.

Halda's destiny is now stricken with dredging, water logging and it is getting dry as well. All the city's drains lead straight to this fish repository.

Chittagong Water and Sewage Authority (WASA) lifts almost 200 crore gallons of water from this river.

Halda expert Associate Professor Md Manzoorul Kibria of Chittagong University stated some of the main characteristics of Halda river.

"The dams are very important. These work as habitats for the fishes. The fishes reside here after they migrate. This is the first point that these work as habitats of fishes," said Mr. Kibria.

Brick fields are also constructed by the shore of the river. This is also another way of destroying Halda. I caught sight of another canal on our way. The canal was carrying city waste as well.

The question is whether the river will survive or not. All around it, destructive actions are being carried out. Sand is being lifted as well in an unplanned way by a mechanical dredger from the river, I saw.

Meanwhile, in Chittagong's Hathajari upazila's North Mekhon Union's Rahallapur, an expensive project named Halda Extension Irrigation Project is being undertaken. At first, the cost of the project was Tk 40 crore. Now it has reached almost Tk 400 crore. According to experts, this is another unplanned project which is leading to Halda's destruction.

No comprehensive survey

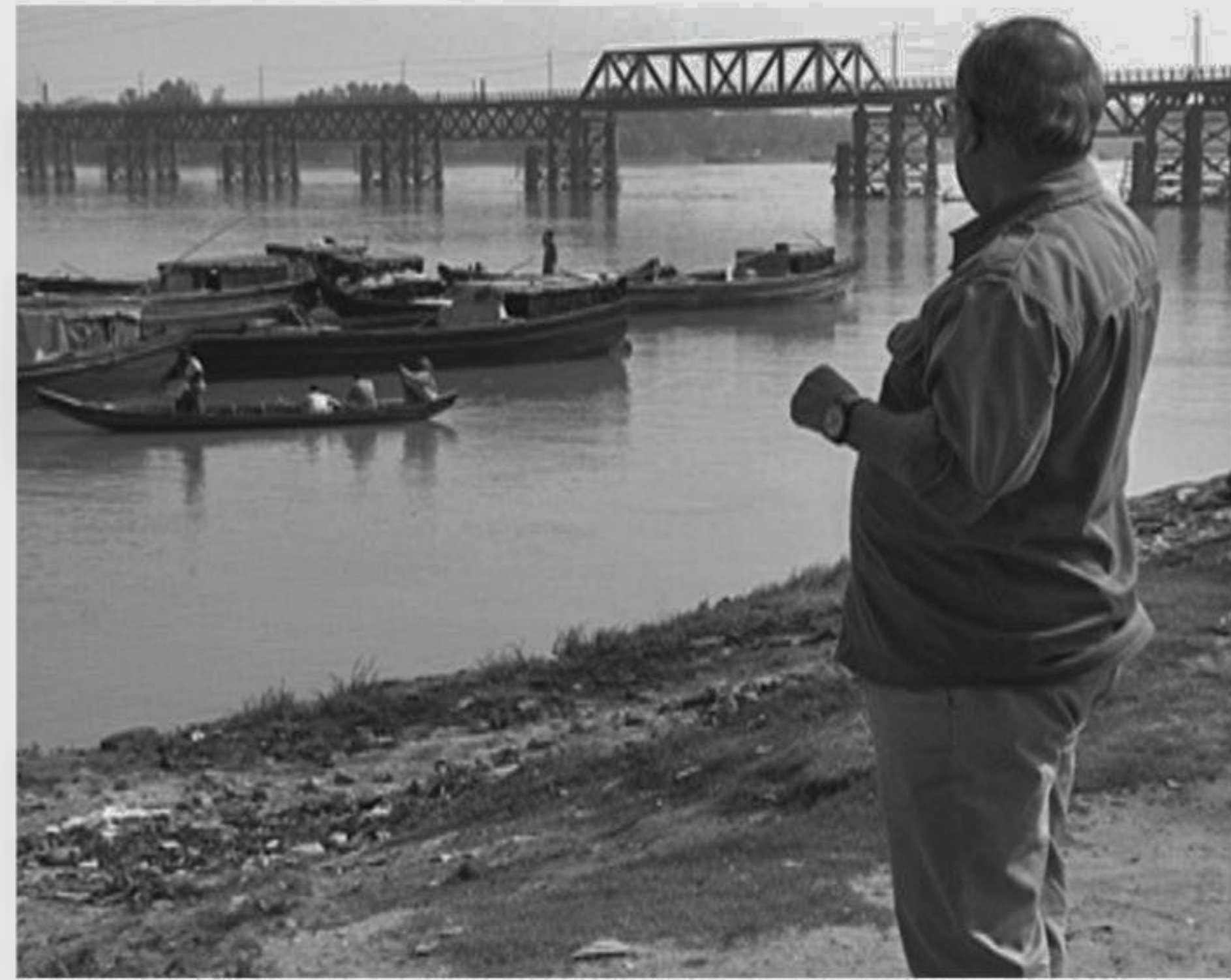


PHOTO: STAR

Boats on the Halda River lie mostly idle as fishes in the water body, especially famous for abundant natural breeding of carps, are less available now. Man-made pollution for the last several years has led to the situation.



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or initiative has been done or taken regarding the harm Halda is facing. Most of the initiatives taken were fragmented and incomplete. Like in current times, there has been a survey determining the possible effect of placing Chittagong's Fatikhhari's Bushpur Rubber dam. The survey has been conducted and supervised by famous water resource management expert Dr Ainun Nishat. We talked to him regarding the issue.

"Two rubber dams, one on the branch river and the other on the main, are obstructing the water flow of the river. So, one side is absolutely dry. So the movement of the fish and other aquatic animals is being ruined," said the expert.

"The height of the rubber dam has to be measured whether water will go over it or not. Even if it does, what's the exact amount", asked Dr Nishat.

"Now, a huge threat of tobacco farming has taken shape. During monsoon the

toxic materials of tobacco is running through the river, which is very harmful for the fish fries. Halda River has to be declared as a protected area and also our national heritage," stressed Dr. Nishat.

Meanwhile, Chittagong district administration, which also monitors preserving the rivers in the district, is very much concerned regarding city waste in Halda and also about illegal constructions which are obstructing the river's natural course. I have talked with Mesbah Uddin, the DC of Chittagong and also the Chairman of River Preservation Committee.

"We're trying heart and soul to save Halda. To stop the pollution we've formed mobile courts. People unlawfully take away sand. Yes, there are mobile courts, but that is not the final measure, a final solution to this problem," said the deputy commissioner.

"We're also discussing with Halda experts. A

charland is now visible on Halda which is also a problem for us. Dept. of Agriculture wants the rubber dam to stay, however the River Preservation Committee is against this idea," added the DC.

Dear readers, there should be clear indications of what amount of water should be disbursed sector wise. For example, what amount of water should be distributed to farming sector, fishery, aquatic animal and also for the city dwellers. Even what amount of waste can be dumped into river water. We're murdering Halda river. We're actually wiping out the parent stock.

The problem in our country is each sector tries to meet their own demands; they don't care about other sectors. To save the greatest resource of Mother Nature, Halda river, a water balance has to be created, with the intervention of inter-ministerial negotiation.

# Flood situation

FROM PAGE 2

where 5,000 flood-hit families have been shifted, said Russell Sabrin, additional deputy commissioner (general), Jamalpur.

He added 173 tonnes of rice, Tk 2.2 lakh in cash and 1,000 packets of dry food were distributed among the flood-hit people.

Abdus Salam, chairman of Chinaduli Union Parishad, however said the amount of relief was too inadequate.

In Munshiganj, water in the Padma was flowing above 19 cm of the danger level with a rise by nine centimetres yesterday. A number of families have been marooned in the upazila.

In Lalmonirhat, water

lever of the Dharla river increased by four centimetres and was flowing 106 cm above the danger level. The Teesta river, on the other side, was flowing five centimetres above the danger level yesterday morning.

At least 150,000 people of 35,000 families have been affected by flood in the district.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Office sources said 411 tonnes of rice, Tk 6 lakh in cash and huge quantity of dry food have already been distributed among the flood- and erosion-hit people in last one week.

Nuru Miah, 65, resident of a flood-affected village, said he and many others did not get any relief.

In Moulvibazar, the Monu and the Dholai rivers were flowing near the danger level, posing a threat to the adjacent 50 embankments.

Floodwater has already started to breach the Hazipur embankment in Kulara upazila since Monday night, although it was repaired a month ago.

In Gaibandha, huge onrush of water in the Ghagot river was posing a threat to at least five points in the Sadullapur Laxmipur flood control embankment.

More than a 100-foot stretch of the embankment has collapsed due to strong surge of water as the water was flowing above the danger mark.

# Dhaka, Delhi to talk security

FROM PAGE 16

Intelligence Bureau, elite counter-terror agency National Security Guard, the Delhi police commissioner, National Investigation Agency and the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The Bangladesh police boss met the heads of the Indian security agencies discussing not only counter-terror operations but also capacity-building, especially India giving training to their Bangladeshi counterparts, said the sources.

The Bangladeshi delega-

tion called on Indian President Pranab Mukherjee last evening and is set to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi this morning ahead of the ministerial talks to be held in the North Block.

During the ministerial talks, both sides would review implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement, security and border management and other related issues, the statement added.

The LBA was clinched during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Dhaka in June 2015, settling a long-

festering irritant in bilateral ties.

The Indian delegation at the talks would be comprised of National Security Adviser Ajit K Dobhal, Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi and officers of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Border Security Force (BSF), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Coast Guard and others agencies.

The Bangladeshi delegation would also visit Udaipur, a famous tourist spot in the desert state of Rajasthan, and Kolkata, according to the statement.

## PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Prime Bank Limited in its 451<sup>st</sup> Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016 considered / adopted the un-audited Half yearly Financial Statements of the Bank under reference of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter ended on 30.06.2016.

The Board also decided to disclose following comparative statement for the information of the stakeholders:

Sl No.	Particulars	Amount in Taka			
		Jan 2015-June 2015		Jan 2016-June 2016	
		Solo	Consolidated	Solo	Consolidated
1.	Earning Per Share (EPS)	2.12	2.11	0.68	0.31
2.	Net Asset Value (NAV) Per Share	24.27	24.32	23.17	22.81
3.	Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	2.94	3.07	5.07	5.47

By order of the Board of Directors  
sd/-  
Mohammed Ehsan Habib  
Company Secretary

Date: July 27, 2016

N.B. Details of un-audited Financial Statements will also be available on the Banks' website www.primebank.com.bd



# RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited

RAK Tower (7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Floor), Plot 1/A Jasimuddin Avenue, Sector -3, Uttara, Dhaka-1230. Phone: 58957393, 58952303, web: www.rakcerambd.com

## Un-audited Consolidated Financial Statements for the period from 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2016

	30 June 2016 Taka	31 Dec 2015 Taka
<b>Assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	4,029,918,055	2,311,590,599
Intangible assets	13,181,948	6,683,955
Capital work-in-progress	43,347,394	1,543,379,710
Trade and other receivables	111,037,500	148,050,000
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>4,197,484,897</b>	<b>4,011,704,264</b>
Inventories	2,445,659,231	2,239,844,230
Trade and other receivables	569,694,562	638,387,373
Loan to disposed subsidiary	201,898,000	201,898,000
Advances, deposits and prepayments	444,762,088	340,158,392
Advance income tax	2,321,899,699	2,219,806,786
Cash and cash equivalents	228,399,963	1,101,566,520
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>6,212,313,543</b>	<b>6,741,661,301</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>10,409,798,440</b>	<b>10,753,365,565</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Share capital	3,368,506,110	3,368,506,110
Share premium	1,473,647,979	1,473,647,979
Retained earnings	757,932,003	1,196,443,022
Equity attributable to equity holders of the company	5,600,086,092	6,038,597,111
Non-controlling interests	1,280	1,529
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>5,600,087,372</b>	<b>6,038,598,640</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Borrowings	725,187,791	420,624,802
Deferred tax liability	106,713,092	75,811,194
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>831,900,883</b>	<b>496,435,996</b>
Employees benefits payable	21,628,915	26,224,135
Borrowings	466,384,739	771,119,369
Trade and other payables	603,838,187	640,626,199
Accrued expenses	159,016,376	196,618,285
Provision for income tax	2,726,941,968	2,583,742,941
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>3,977,810,185</b>	<b>4,218,330,929</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>4,809,711,068</b>	<b>4,714,766,925</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>10,409,798,440</b>	<b>10,753,365,565</b>

	30 June 2016 Taka	30 June 2015 Taka	April to June 16 Taka	April to June 15 Taka
<b>Sales</b>	2,689,857,557	2,521,862,693	1,378,675,361	1,295,457,013
<b>Cost of sales</b>	(1,574,300,782)	(1,425,767,447)	(828,576,656)	(728,412,900)
<b>Gross profit</b>	1,115,556,775	1,096,095,246	550,098,705	567,044,113
Other income	1,200,250	623,353,060	600,250	950,000
Administrative expenses	(171,706,886)	(727,180,063)	(94,898,829)	(85,198,503)
Marketing and selling expenses	(335,025,484)	(366,221,804)	(174,063,450)	(171,220,165)
Elimination on disposal of subsidiary	(555,531,120)	(471,848,807)	(268,362,029)	(255,468,668)
<b>Profit from operating activities</b>	610,024,655	625,946,439	281,736,676	311,575,445
Finance income	16,131,668	60,110,367	3,759,528	(2,497,670)
Finance expenses	(18,461,261)	(6,152,714)	(11,879,371)	(4,517,173)
Net finance income	(2,329,593)	53,957,653	(8,119,843)	(7,014,843)
Share of profit/(loss) of equity-accounted investees	-	(11,162,961)	-	(7,670,750)
<b>Profit before contribution to worker's profit participation and welfare fund</b>	607,695,062	667,841,131	273,616,833	296,889,852
Contribution to worker's profit participation and welfare fund	(29,978,377)	(15,779,867)	(16,100,341)	(8,798,029)
<b>Profit before income tax</b>	577,716,685	652,061,264	257,516,492	288,091,823
<b>Income tax expense</b>	(143,199,027)	(220,140,785)	(54,196,122)	(96,409,540)
Current tax	(30,901,898)	(10,565,625)	(35,347,420)	(6,134,973)
Deferred tax	(174,100,925)	(209,595,160)	(89,543,542)	(90,274,567)
<b>Profit for the period</b>	403,615,760	442,466,104	167,972,950	197,817,256
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>	<b>403,615,760</b>	<b>442,466,104</b>	<b>167,972,950</b>	<b>197,817,256</b>
<b>Profit attributable to:</b>				
Equity holders of the company	403,615,509	421,604,227	167,972,834	188,445,231
Non-controlling interests	251	20,867,877	116	9,372,025
<b>Profit after tax for the period</b>	<b>403,615,760</b>	<b>442,466,104</b>	<b>167,972,950</b>	<b>197,817,256</b>
<b>Basic earnings per share (Par value TK 10)</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.56</b>

	30 June 2016 Taka	30 June 2015 Taka
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Cash receipts from customers	2,644,338,812	1,938,127,410
Cash payments to suppliers and employees	(2,227,716,889)	(1,962,761,168)
<b>Cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>416,621,923</b>	<b>(24,633,758)</b>
Interest received from bank deposit	2,578,242	2,796,833
Income tax paid	(102,092,913)	(92,687,584)
<b>Net cash (used in)/from operating activities</b>	<b>317,107,252</b>	<b>(114,524,509)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(382,709,785)	(527,418,905)
Sale of property, plant and equipment	129,500	-
Disposal proceeds of subsidiary and associate	43,355,000	368,257,060
Interest received from FDR	14,944,847	39,607,572
Income from rented depot	1,200,000	1,200,000
Intangible assets	(12,346,418)	(332,704)
Adjustment related to non-controlling interest	-	(44,075,000)
Dividend received	-	350,000
<b>Net cash (used in)/from investing activities</b>	<b>(335,426,856)</b>	<b>(162,411,977)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Finance charges	(21,001,300)	(5,026,605)
Avail/(repayment) of term loan	304,562,989	40,495,435
Avail/(repayment) of short-term loan	(304,734,630)	631,129,891
Dividend paid	(835,737,992)	(836,481,038)
Unclaimed share application refund	2,064,480	(230,400)
Loan realized from associate	-	64,003,174
<b>Net cash (used in)/from financing activities</b>	<b>(854,846,954)</b>	<b>(106,109,543)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(873,166,557)</b>	<b>(383,046,029)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents as at 01 January</b>	<b>1,101,566,520</b>	<b>1,475,522,002</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents as at 30 June</b>	<b>228,399,963</b>	<b>1,092,475,973</b>

The details of the published un-audited Consolidated Financial Statements is available in website of the Company. The address of the website is www.rakcerambd.com

Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Dated, 27 July 2016

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