

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▼ 1.35%	▼ 1.14%	\$2,002.30	\$45.23	38,528.32	23,051.08	2,563.09	3,451.09	BUY TK 83.95	98.80	109.36	11.91
4,720.10	8,140.52	(per ounce)	(per barrel)					SELL TK 84.95	102.60	113.16	12.52

• এসবাইজিএস ডেভিট কার্ডের মূল ২০,০০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত বিকাশ অ্যাপে পরিশোধ করে উপভোগ করুন
 ১৫ ইনস্ট্যান্ট ক্যানসেল, সর্বোচ্চ ২০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত অফারটি চলবে ৩১ আগস্ট, ২০২০ পর্যন্ত

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Samsung Galaxy Note20 Ultra 5G to be made in Bangladesh

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Bangladesh's manufacturing prowess is getting yet another stamp of global approval. The South Korean tech giant Samsung has decided to manufacture its latest flagship devices, the Note20 and the Note 20 Ultra 5G, in the country.

The handset, which was rolled out globally on 5 August, can work with the fifth-generation cellular network technology that gives users near-real-time interactivity, faster internet, lower response times and the capacity to join many devices.

"We are manufacturing 5G devices and it shows that Bangladesh can now make anything," Mohammad Mesbah Uddin, chief marketing officer of Fair Electronics, Samsung's local assembly partner, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The first batch of the 5G devices put together in the state-of-the-art manufacturing plant of Fair Electronics spanning 30 acres in Narsingdi will hit the market in the middle of September. The company will make about 26 to 27 per cent value-addition to the 5G-enabled device, the pre-booking for which has started on 10 August and will continue until September.

"Samsung has full confidence in Fair Electronics and this dispelled the general notions that the country can't make world-class products."

Thanks to the local assembling, the price of the device would be Tk 35,000 less at least. If the device is imported, the price would be more than Tk 160,000, he added.

Although the device, which will come in mystic bronze and mystic black colourway, is priced at Tk 134,999, a customer can purchase it at Tk 110,000.

Customers will get Tk 15,000 discount on pre-booking. If they exchange a Samsung device, they will get another Tk 10,000, besides the price of the used device, according to Uddin.

The move from the local assembling industry came ahead of Bangladesh's planned rollout of 5G by 2021.

Fair Electronics, which started assembling Samsung handsets last year, has so far churned out 25 lakh units, most of which are 4G-enabled.

In January, the South Korean tech giant's flagship smart device Galaxy Note10+ was assembled at the plant of Fair Electronics in Narsingdi. The local company is now assembling almost all Samsung devices sold in Bangladesh.



This year, the company had plans to assemble 25 lakh units of smartphones. But for the coronavirus pandemic, it is now aiming to churn out 20 lakh units.

For the 5G device, Fair Electronics has made additional investments to install a 5G network testing equipment and a new underwater testing machine.

The 6.9-inch Galaxy Note20 Ultra 5G comes with 12GB of random-access memory (RAM) and is powered by a 4,500mAh battery.

Its design features a metal body elevated by exquisite details and transcendent colours and durable Corning Gorilla Glass Victus, the toughest-ever glass in a smartphone.

The phone has a triple rear camera setup with the pro-grade 8K camera and editing suite.

As strict social distancing has to be maintained because of the pandemic, Samsung is giving an opportunizing to customers to be acquainted with the device.

It has rolled out the "Meet the Galaxy Note20 Ultra 5G from home" initiative where customers can experience the device online before pre-ordering through a 15-minute

video call. Two sales representatives will assist the customer in the experience session made from Samsung flagship store located in BTI Landmark, Gulshan Avenue. Appointments will be scheduled between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm.

The campaign began on 14 August and would continue until 20 August.

"The pandemic has changed the way we live and communicate," said Md Mueyedur Rahman, head of mobile at Samsung Bangladesh.

Customers can pre-order the device from Samsung's official stores and online at www.note20preorder.com as well as through GP Shop, Robi Shop, Banglalink Shop, Evaly, Pickaboo and Daraz.

Fair Electronics is also assembling Samsung's other top device Galaxy Note20, which will hit the market next month with a price tag of Tk 99,000.

Customers can buy it at Tk 80,000 if they make a pre-booking. And if they exchange a Samsung device, they will get another Tk 10,000 plus the price of the used device.

Bangladeshis are garnering experience and learning about new and advanced technologies working at such plants, Uddin said. More than 95 per cent of the 1,500-strong workforce at the plant is local.

Tk 848cr project approved to widen road to boost Indo-Bangla trade

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday took up a Tk 848.3 crore project to widen a road that would broaden bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh.

It came as the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) approved seven projects involving Tk 3,461 crore.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is also the Ecne chairperson, presided over the meeting through video-conferencing from the Gono Bhaban.

The widening of the 38km Baraiyerhat-Hiako-Ramgarh road from 5.5 metres now to 7.3 metres in Ramgarh upazila under Khagrachhari district would be performed by the Roads and Highways Department between January 2020 and June 2022.

India would provide Tk 581.2 crore for the project from its third line of credit extended to Bangladesh, which would bear the rest of the cost.

The project would contribute to establishing road network between the Chattogram port and the Ramgarh land port and open the door for two-way trade



between Bangladesh and India through Sabram/Ramgarh land port, according to the project documents.

The proposed road is 72km off from the Chattogram port and 201km off from Dhaka.

The project, which was included in the list of the new unapproved projects in the annual development programme last fiscal year, is expected to widen the import and export activities between India and Bangladesh and improve the socio-economic conditions of the people in the area.

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Banks ordered to return to normal working hours



FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh Bank Head Office in the capital's Motijheel commercial area. The photo was taken recently.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The central bank yesterday ordered banks to run their branches like in normal times to give a boost to the economy although the COVID-19 caseload is showing no sign of coming down.

The Bangladesh Bank lifted the curtailed roster arrangement that was put in place on 22 March to protect employees from the deadly virus.

Now, lenders were asked to operate

banking operations from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm like they did before the pandemic hit the country.

The employees who contracted the virus will be allowed to stay home upon submitting a medical certificate. Similarly, pregnant female workers are spared.

The central bank, however, instructed banks to ensure employees follow the social distancing guidelines while working in branches.

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Income of poor long way from returning to pre-pandemic level

Finds survey by BIGD and PPRC

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

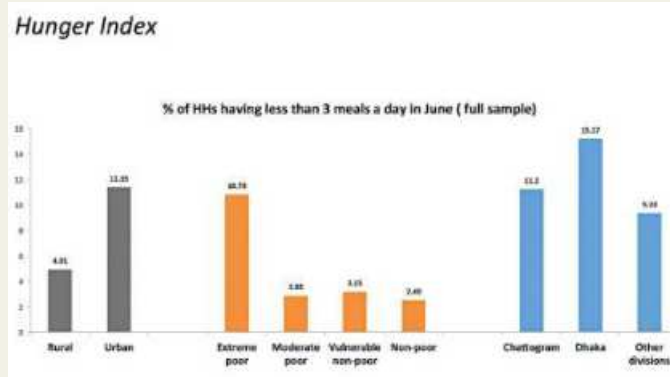
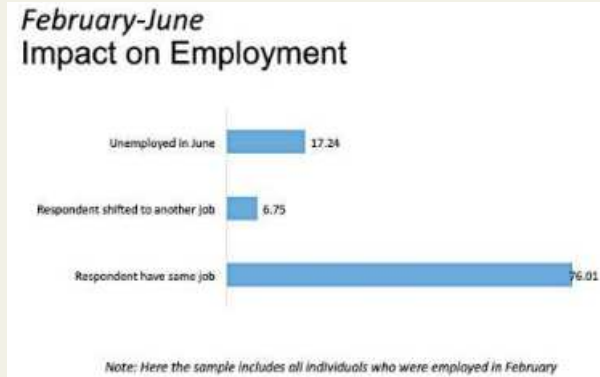
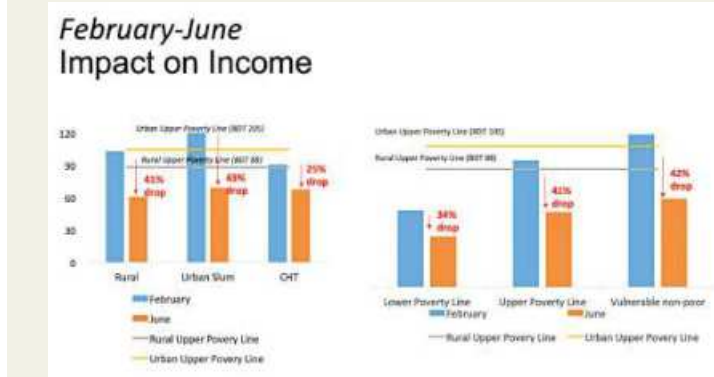
The income of the poor remains 42 per cent below the pre-pandemic levels although the economy reopened in June and activities recovered from the near-collapse for the coronavirus-caused shutdown.

The resumption has only modestly reversed the steep earnings drop in April and reduced the number of the crisis-caused "new poor" by 1.1 per cent to 21.7 per cent.

Food insecurity remains high as 11 per cent of the urban poor, including 15 per cent in Dhaka, do not get three meals a day. Nearly one-third of the poor had to cut consumption to cope with the crisis.

And 17 per cent of poor households were still out of work in June, found a new survey by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD).

"Across the board, there is a broad-based pessimism and uncertainty on whether they would be able to go back to the past position. This is a



fragile recovery," said PPRC Executive Director Hossain Zillur Rahman.

He was presenting the findings of the survey at a webinar organised by the two research organisations yesterday.

This was the second phase of the survey conducted among 7,638 households in an urban slum, rural and hill tracts areas between 20 June and 2 July by PPRC and BIGD.

The first round was conducted at the beginning of the shutdown in April to analyse the economic shocks faced by the poor and vulnerable people.

The survey found that the collapse of economic activities wiped out incomes in both rural and urban areas. The effect was deeper in the case of people living in urban areas.

Daily earning of the poor in urban

areas was Tk 108 in February, before coronavirus arrived on these shores. The income per day dropped to Tk 27 in April. It recovered to Tk 67 in June, which is much below the poverty line income.

The study finds that house helps, unskilled and skilled workers, as well as small businesses, were the hardest hit. Factory workers, however, got some protection as only 10 per cent

became unemployed.

"What we are seeing is the feminisation of joblessness. The impact on female employment is comparatively worse than that on male employment, even in sectors where both men and women workers are present," said BIGD Executive Director Imran Matin.

There is also informalisation of employment, he added.

To cope with reduced incomes, the poor increased their dependence on loans, in particular buying food and other items on credit from groceries, and cut consumption.

An increased portion of them also had to move out of the cities. This migration rose to 13 per cent in June from 6 per cent in April. This was 16 per cent for Dhaka alone.

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