

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY	
▲ 0.01%	▲ 0.23%	\$1,780.40	\$74.02	▼ 0.34%	▼ 0.93%	▼ 0.04%	▲ 0.21%	BUY TK	83.95	99.65	116.60	12.82
6,052.75	10,576.20	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	52,323.33	29,018.33	3,138.31	3,525.60	SELL TK	84.95	103.45	120.40	13.48



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Business as usual for health ministry

Its development spending crawls despite pandemic



The health ministry's development spending has been low despite the government's emphasis on the sector for the second year running amid the coronavirus pandemic.

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

The health ministry's development spending was stuck at a disappointing level even after 11 months of the outgoing fiscal year for its failure to accelerate expenditures when the public needed the most.

The health division used Tk 3,759 crore out of Tk 11,971 crore in the 11 months to May, which is only 32 per cent of the allocation made from the annual development programme, data from the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) of the planning ministry showed.

Despite the government's emphasis on the sector for the second year running amid the protracted pandemic, the expenses have been low.

"The health ministry has low capacity in utilising project aid. It is, however, okay when it comes to using the government fund," said Pradip Ranjan Chakraborty, secretary of the IMED.

The health services division used up 48 per cent of the fund disbursed from the state coffers during the July-May period. It was 17 per cent when it comes to project assistance.


When the IMED asked the ministry about the low ADP implementation, it replied it was working, and good progress would be visible at the end of the fiscal year, Chakraborty said.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said the low implementation rate of the division proved that the officials responsible for executing projects were not efficient and did not emphasise implementing the initiatives related to the health sector.

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GLOBAL COTTON TRADE

Bangladesh among 3 countries leading recovery: USDA



MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

- Global recovery in cotton trade is led by China, Bangladesh and Turkey, USDA says
- Demand for yarn and cotton rose in the domestic market
- In the first 11 months of FY2021, Bangladesh earned \$28.57b from garment export
- Apparel export rose 11.1% year-on-year in the last 11 months

REFAWAT ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh has joined two other countries to lead the global cotton trade recovery as the demand for the commodity has risen sharply thanks to buoyant apparel shipments, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"Record global trade is boosted, led by robust demand in China, Bangladesh, and Turkey," the USDA said in its June report.

Cotton exports are up for the three largest exporters -- India, Brazil, and the United States. The US forecast has higher exports while stocks are projected at their lowest in four years.

The US season-average farm price has lowered by one cent to 67 cents per pound, the USDA said in its report on cotton for 2020-21.

For 2021-22, the June forecast shows higher trade and consumption with lower production and stocks.

A lower consumption outlook for India is more than offset by the higher-than-expected demand in China, Bangladesh, and Turkey, driving higher imports for these countries, said the USDA.

The recent import growth of cotton in Bangladesh resulted from the skyrocketing demand among local millers, spinners, traders and importers.

For instance, the export of yarn in the local markets is deemed to have grown by 163 per cent year-on-year between April and June this year, data from the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) showed.

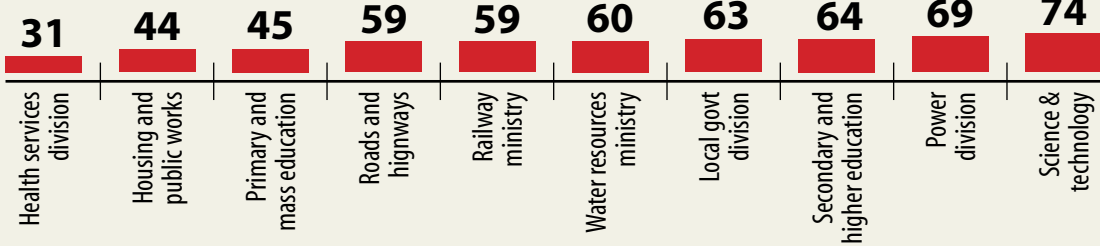
This is a result of higher demand from garment exporters, and for resumption of the full use of capacities of mills by spinners and weavers, it said.

In the first 11 months of fiscal 2020-21, the country earned \$28.57 billion from garment exports, registering 11.1 per cent year-on-year growth, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau.

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ADP IMPLEMENTATION

In % of allocation (July-May of FY'21); SOURCE: IMED



Look before you book a flat

MD ABU TALHA SARKER

Sheikh Mehedi Hassan and his wife recently moved into their flat from a rented one in Mirpur-6.

For them, it was a dream come true - ever since their marriage, the couple had been planning to own a flat in the capital city.

In fact, Hassan, a banker, had lived in rented flats since his graduation.

He had some apprehensions before buying the flat, as it was going to be the most expensive purchase of his life.

So, he did his homework and learnt about the entire process from the flat selection to verification of essential documents, which are crucial to this end, before placing the booking order.

He did not hesitate to seek help.

A number of his colleagues from the bank's legal department lent a helping hand to understand the legal procedures and scrutinise and verify documents of the developer and the land records.



"One shouldn't rush to sign a purchase agreement. Since you want to build a permanent address with your hard-earned savings, it is best to do thorough research on the seller and show the land deeds and contracts to a lawyer and then book the flat."

"As a result, I faced little troubles during our transition to our own flat from a rented house," the banker said.

There are several things that need to be looked at before buying a flat, plot or piece of land. Otherwise, there is a risk of getting into trouble, he said.

"One shouldn't rush to sign a purchase agreement. Since you want to build a permanent address with your hard-earned savings, it is best to do thorough research on the seller and show the land deeds and contracts to a lawyer and then book the flat."

Buyers must find out whether the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) has approved the design.

He said all of the conditions should be well-understood and be clearly laid out in the agreement.

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Shatranji earns GI recognition

SUKANTA HALDER and AKANDA MUHAMMAD JAHID

Shatranji, a traditional fabric of Rangpur, has been recognised as a Geographical Indication (GI) product of Bangladesh.

This move will benefit weavers and traders of the industry in branding the regional cloth in a better way at home and abroad.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun handed over the recognition certificate to Mushtaq Hasan, chairman of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), at a programme yesterday.

The ministry's Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT) registered Shatranji as the country's GI product following a BSCIC application on July 11, 2019. This is yet another product that has earned recognition as GI product after Jamdani and Hilsha fish.

According to World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. This recognition came at a time when



STAR/FILE

The recognition will benefit weavers and traders of the industry in branding the regional cloth in a better way at home and abroad.

the traditional industry in Rangpur was struggling to survive as demand from home and abroad has diminished amidst the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

According to local traders, the increasing price of raw materials has made it difficult for producers to continue running operations.

Around 50,000 people of Rangpur are involved in the industry, some 95 per cent of whom are women.

However, traders said the recognition of Shatranji, which comes in the form of rugs, placemats and carpets, would play a helpful role in the growth of the industry at both home and abroad.

Zakia Sultana, secretary to the industries ministry, said through the recognition, the unique identity of the fabric can be presented before the world and this move would strengthen the Shatranji-based economy.

"We have many more products in different districts. The patents of those products have not been collected so far for various reasons. We are working harder on these issues now," she added.

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BSEC removes floor price for all listed firms

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) yesterday lifted the floor price for all listed companies as it moved to halt its efforts to intervene in share price mechanisms.

Last April, it lifted the floor from 66 companies primarily.

Analysts, merchant bankers and asset managers welcomed the decision.

The capital market is all about price discovery where price floors have absolutely no place in the capital market, said Shahidul Islam, chief executive officer of VIPB Asset Management Company.

"The recovery of our market since mid-2020 would be much faster if the



price floor did not exist," he said.

"By imposing the floor prices, we have literally scared away many foreign institutional investors from our market," Islam added.

On March 19 of 2020, the stock market regulator imposed the floor price on all stocks by calculating their average prices from the preceding five

days to stop the index from falling amid the pandemic.

The decision was criticised by most analysts and foreign investors.

However, the regulator continued with the floor price for one year as many general investors feared the market would fall if the floor price was lifted.

Ifad Autos gets land to build industrial complex

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Ifad Autos has been allotted 30 acres of land at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar by the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) to set up an industrial complex.

The company has a plan to establish a manufacturing and assembly plant for motorcycles, a factory for automotive components, and a blending plant for machine lubricants in the complex.

"We have a target to utilise the full land within three to four years and the construction will start just after the current rainy season," said Managing Director Taskeen Ahmed.

"We may establish two other projects here because we are seeing potential of the automotive sector in Bangladesh," he said. There are more than 10 lakh commercial and 16 lakh passenger vehicles in the country which need spare parts, according to Ahmed.

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