

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 1.12%	▲ 1.32%	\$1,791.25	\$76.49	▲ 0.75%	▼ 0.64%	▲ 0.39%	▲ 0.44%	BUY TK 83.95	98.46	115.22	12.75
6,219.94	10,836.43	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	52,880.00	28,598.19	3,141.02	3,534.32	SELL TK 84.95	102.07	118.76	13.40

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টাকা উত্তোলন করুন খুব সহজে।

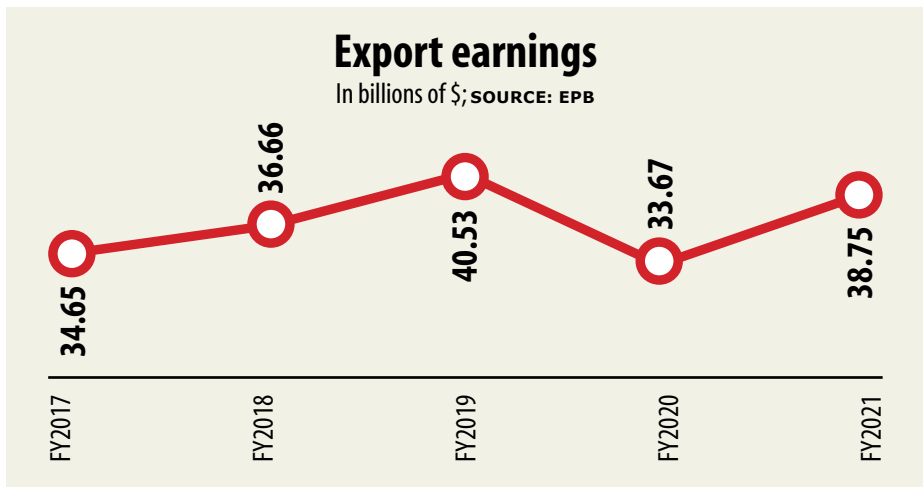
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Star BUSINESS

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Exports make strong rebound

Log 15pc growth in FY2021



REFAVET ULLAH MIRDHA

Export earnings rebounded strongly in the just-concluded fiscal year, fetching \$38.75 billion, buoyed by a revival in the shipment of garment items, official figures showed yesterday.

The receipts in fiscal 2020-21 are 15 per cent higher compared to a year ago, according to data from the Export

Promotion Bureau (EPB).

Month-wise, overseas shipment also recorded significant growth.

In June, the takings from merchandise exports surged 31.7 per cent to \$3.57 billion, which was \$2.71 billion in the same month a year ago. Despite the turnaround, the overall receipts could not reach the pre-Covid level of \$40.5 billion logged in the fiscal year 2018-19, the highest on record.

The shipment also fell 5.47 per cent shy of the \$41 billion target set by the government for FY21.

Exporters, however, hope that the uptick in the shipment would likely continue as the demand for the leading export item apparel has risen in the major markets in the west.

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Remittance surges at sharpest pace in three decades

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Remittance inflow posted 36 per cent growth in the just-concluded fiscal year, the sharpest in 30 years, thanks to the hard-earned money sent by migrant workers amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Bangladeshi diasporas sent home \$24.78 billion in 2020-21, the highest on record, in contrast to \$18.20 billion a year ago, Bangladesh Bank data showed.

Analysts say that the global hundi cartel, which operates an illegal cross-boundary financial system, has been facing a major disruption since the first quarter of 2020 as the international travelling came to a halt because of the pandemic, fuelling the growth of remittances.

Many nations, including the countries where most expatriate Bangladeshis work, have enforced restrictions on the movement from time to time to contain the spread of the virus.

This has dealt a blow to the hundi system and encouraged the expatriates to send money through the formal channel.

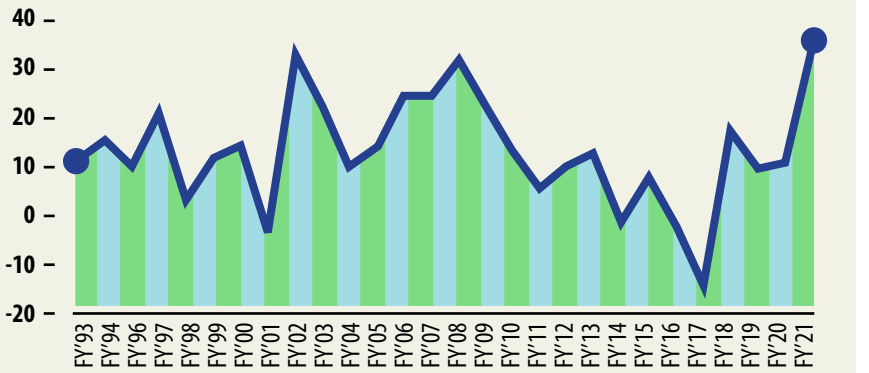
In addition, both the government and local banks have taken some measures, including the introduction of cash incentive, making remitting money through the banking channel attractive.

The growth in the remittance flow in FY21 surpassed the 33 per cent expansion recorded in 2001-02. Migrant workers sent \$2.5 billion in the year.

There is, however, no scope to be

REMITTANCE GROWTH

In %; SOURCE: BB



ANNUAL REMITTANCE INFLOW

FY'21	\$24.78b
FY'20	\$18.20b
FY'19	\$16.42b

INFLOW FROM MAJOR COUNTRIES

Saudi Arabia	\$4.03b
USA	\$2.83b
UAE	\$1.68b

TOP 3 RECIPIENT BANKS

Islami Bank	\$7.46b
Agrani	\$2.82b
Sonali	\$1.53b

Forex reserve reached \$46.42b on July 5 this year • Reserve stood at \$36.03b on June 30 last year

SOURCE: BB

complacent, said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

"Manpower export has dropped sharply in the recent period, and the expatriates are in dire straits due to the ongoing business slowdown."

Around 7-8 lakh Bangladeshis used to go abroad every year searching for jobs before the pandemic. But, only 2.17 lakh people found employment in other countries last year and 1.95 lakh so

far this year, data from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training showed.

In addition, the migrant workers now face various problems as many employers cut salaries owing to the business slowdown, said Mansur, also a former official of the International Monetary Fund.

"Still, remittance has been on the rise as the expatriates are sending more money using the banking channel due to the collapse of the

hundi system."

Remittance transfer may fall sharply once the embargo on movement is withdrawn. "So, the government should take preparation so that manpower export returns to the pre-pandemic level," he said.

Mohammad Shams-Ul Islam, managing director of Agrani Bank, also said the disruption in the hundi system helped accelerate the remittance growth.

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NBFI LOANS BB relaxes classification rules

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday relaxed the loan classification policy for borrowers of non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) given the ongoing business slowdown caused by the recent wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

Borrowers of the NBFIs will not be considered defaulters if they repay 50 per cent of their actual installment of loans which are scheduled to become overdue in June, according to a central bank notice.

Clients will be allowed to repay the 50 per cent of the installments within August.

In April, Bangladesh Bank (BB) said clients would be permitted to pay instalments of the first quarter of this year within June, meaning that they got an additional time of three months to make the payment.

But, the latest spread of the pandemic has dealt a blow to borrowers once again, which is why the BB has relaxed the loan classification policy further.

The BB asked the NBFIs not to impose any penal interest or additional fees, charge and commissions on the clients, who can avail the relaxed facility.

The NBFIs will not be allowed to show their unearned interest as income, said the BB.

The realised interest can only be transferred to their income books. Some 35 NBFIs are operating their business in the country.

Plenty of empty containers, only a few are handy

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

It may surprise many that a lot of empty containers are lying idle at the private inland container depots (ICDs) in Bangladesh when the ICDs are choked with export cargoes for failing to ship them on time due to an acute shortage of empty boxes.

As of yesterday, 26,336 empty containers were sitting idle at 19 private ICDs. But among them, the number of containers that are specifically required to carry exports is just a few.

Of them, there are 13,647 boxes of 20-foot containers, while the remaining 12,689 are 40-foot containers.

Bangladesh Inland Container Depots Association (BICDA) Secretary Ruhul Amin Sikder said small-sized 20-foot containers are not preferred to carry export cargoes. The bigger 40-foot containers are more suited for the



purpose. Although there are 12,689 40-foot empty containers in the ICDs, most of them cannot be booked for many reasons, he said.

Some of the 40-foot containers have got damaged and are not in a position to load cargoes, he added.

Khairul Alam Sujon, director of

the Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association, said many of the empty containers are idling as their owners -- shipping companies or mainline operators (MLOs) -- do not provide services to the ports in the US and the EU, the two major export destinations for the country's garment sector.

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HC appoints 5 independent directors at Int'l Leasing

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has appointed five independent directors to the much-talked about International Leasing and Financial Services for smoothly running operations as it had incurred a loss of around Tk 3,000 crore.

The company bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar made the appointments.

All the members of its present board of directors, except for Chairman Nazrul Islam Khan who was appointed by the bench earlier, are accused in a number of criminal cases and are fugitives in the eye of law.

The HC bench announced the appointments on June 16 on hearing an application filed by the non-bank financial institution for the induction of some independent directors.

That day, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) submitted an affidavit before the HC bench.

It pointed out that a number of criminal cases of cognisable offences are pending against all the present board members, except for Khan, and till date they have remained on the run.

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Customers nearly overwhelm this branch of a private bank in the capital's Motijheel yesterday as banks opened after remaining closed for four days since Thursday due to a bank holiday, weekends and strict lockdown. In addition, banking activities are currently limited between 10:00am and 1:30pm.

Better infrastructure, policy can create more online jobs: experts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

An online platform-based economy has huge potential of generating employment in Bangladesh if adequate digital infrastructure is built and proper policy intervention is made, said experts yesterday.

The pandemic has pushed many services onto digital platforms and the associated economy had already been growing for quite some time.

"A big portion of the unemployed can get jobs in the sector if we can create skilled human resources," said Prof Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

"One-third of tertiary education degree holders are unemployed in the country and they have so much opportunity in the digital economy," he said.

He said digital platforms bore enormous opportunities at both local and foreign markets.

The annual export of digital products and services now stands at \$1 billion, which can be taken to \$5 billion as neighbouring India exported \$145 billion-worth digital products, software

AT A GLANCE

Bangladesh now the 2nd largest supplier of online labour globally

It has a 16% share in global online workforce

Online payments rose to Tk 4,000cr in 2020, up from Tk 1,978cr in 2019

Exports of IT and software products fetch \$1b a year

There are 2,000 website-based entrepreneurs in the country

and services in 2020, he added.

"The digital platform-based economy will make our economy more competitive, increasing productivity and reducing lead time with automation," he added.

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