



# BUSINESS



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## AT A GLANCE

WORK STARTED  
November 2014WORK FINISHED  
June 2022COST  
Tk 30,193crMAIN BRIDGE LENGTH  
6.15km

## MATERIALS USED

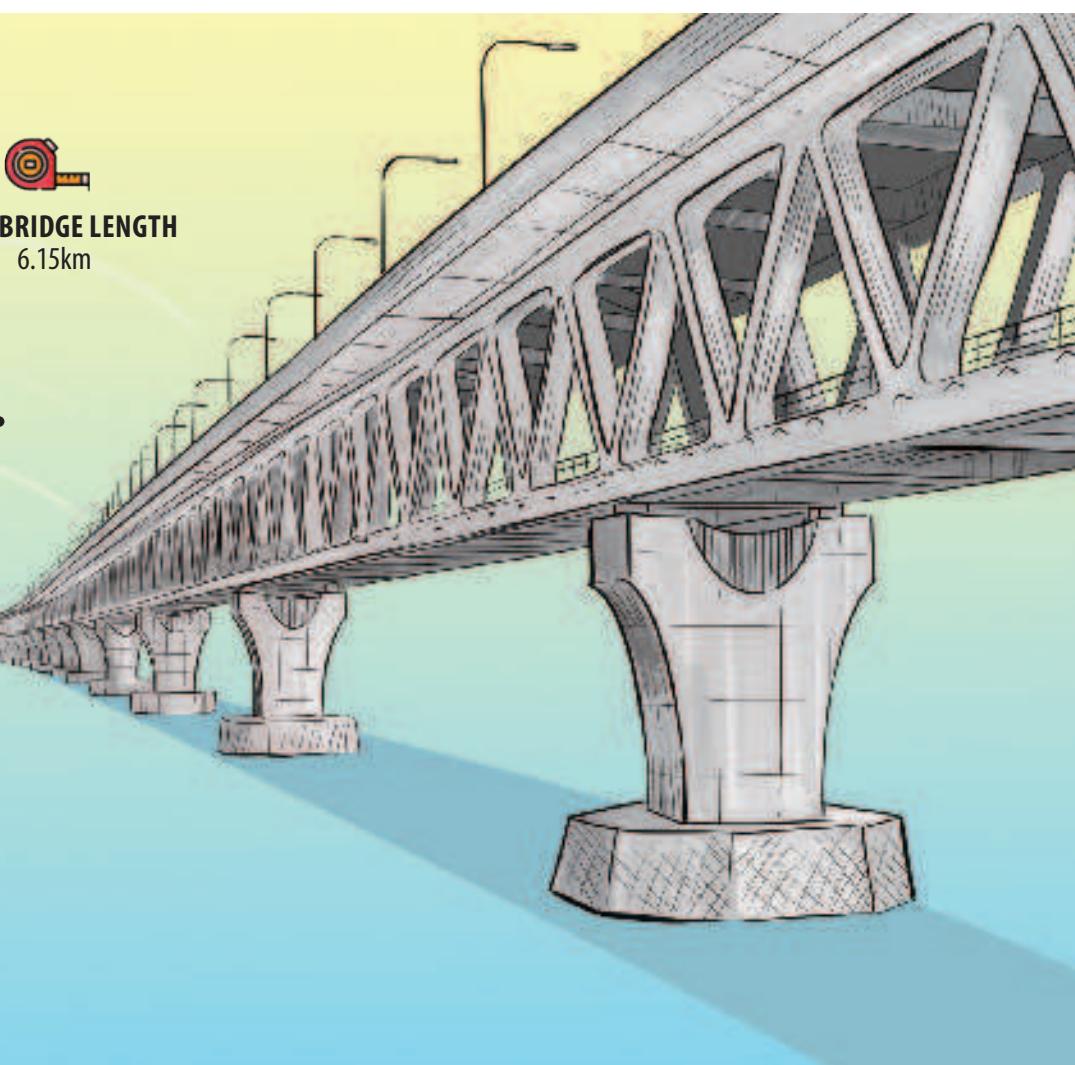
Steel: 92,000 tonnes  
Special rebar: 1,130 tonnes  
Cement: 250,000 tonnes  
Rock: 38.5 lakh tonnes

## UTILITIES THRU THE BRIDGE

- 760mm diameter gas transmission line
- 150mm fibre optic and telephone duct

## OTHER FACETS

- Citizens of 30 countries worked in the project
- More than 200 engineers, mostly Bangladeshi, were engaged
- Equipment and ingredients came from 10-15 countries
- The bridge will connect 21 districts in southwest
- Will help raise GDP growth by: 1.23%



## Padma Bridge: A display of local industries' prowess

Bangladeshi companies supplied major raw materials

## MAHMUDUL HASAN

While the construction of the Padma Bridge with the country's own fund has buoyed the nation's confidence, the longest bridge in Bangladesh has also given an opportunity to local industries to demonstrate their prowess to both local and global audiences that they can make quality materials.

A number of key ingredients used in building the bridge are made in Bangladesh and local industries supplied the construction materials.

For example, about 92,000 tonnes of steel were used in the construction of the main structure of the project. Local millers supplied most of the steel, with BSRM alone accounting for 88,000 tonnes or 96 per cent of the total.

Dewan Abdul Quader, executive engineer of the bridge project, says the local companies have contributed a lot to the bridge's construction and they have also received a major boost.

"Around 30 per cent of the contribution to this project came from local sources."

The contribution of the local companies was more in supplying rods, cement, sands and stones in the river training, building approach roads on both sides of the bridge, and other infrastructures related to the mega project.

Beginning construction in November 2014, the 6.15-kilometre bridge will connect 21 districts in the southwestern region to the rest of Bangladesh after its inauguration tomorrow. Built at the cost of nearly Tk 30,200 crore, the bridge is expected to spur Bangladesh's economic growth through increased connectivity and economic activities.

Tapan Sengupta, deputy managing director at BSRM Group of Companies, said more than 95 per cent of the rod was supplied by BSRM from the beginning to the end.

He credited the quality of products of international standards produced by the

biggest steel manufacturer in Bangladesh for it being selected to meet the demand for the key construction material.

"We were chosen because of our ability in ensuring the quality of products and services

in order to guarantee an uninterrupted supply for the mega project."

About 2.5 lakh tonnes of cement were used in the main structure of Padma Bridge and all of them came from domestic

manufactured in Bangladesh, were used in the columns of the main structure," said Sayef Nasir, director for sales at HeidelbergCement Bangladesh, which markets Scan Cement.

"Our quality was the key parameter for being selected as a supplier of cement."

Premier Cement Mills Ltd supplied cement to the bridge project along with the undergoing Padma Rail Link Project.

"Padma Bridge is a milestone project. We are proud to be part of it," said Mohammed Amirul Haque, managing director of the manufacturer.

Not only steel and cement, locally made cables were also used in the bridge for its lighting, various establishments on both sides of the Padma Bridge and sub-stations.

BRB Cable Industries Ltd, the country's largest cable manufacturer, supplied various types of cables used in the project.

"We have been supplying cables for the last three



and the capability of delivering products," he said.

"Padma Bridge is the pride of the country and we are proud to have supplied locally manufactured rods for such a prestigious project."

According to Sengupta, there was no complaint about BSRM products from the construction firm.

What is more, it kept its factory open during lockdowns

sources.

Of the volume, Scan Cement

provided around 2.25 lakh tonnes alone.

Bashundhara Cement, Crown Cement, Abul Khair Group's Shah Cement and Seven Circle Group's Seven Rings Cement have also supplied the item to complete the construction of various components of the bridge.

"Our materials,

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SM Shamsul Arefin

### Uttara Finance MD removed

## AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday removed SM Shamsul Arefin from the post of managing director of Uttara Finance and Investments Ltd (UFL) for his alleged involvement in financial irregularities.

The central bank sent a letter to the board of the non-bank financial institution to this effect, saying Arefin was involved in financial anomalies, adversely impacting the interest of depositors.

Rahman Rahman Huq, a chartered accountant firm, recently carried out a special audit into the irregularities committed

## Talks ongoing to buy wheat from Russia

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh yesterday edged closer to finalising a deal over buying 200,000 tonnes of wheat from Russia under a government-to-government contract in order to build up public food stocks to carry out various social safety net programmes.

"Russia already has offered to

export two lakh tonnes of wheat to Bangladesh.

Besides, a letter has

been sent to the

Bangladesh High

Commission in

Delhi to import

wheat from India

at government and

private levels," Food

Minister Sadhan

Chandra Majumder

told parliament

yesterday.

In reply to a lawmakers'

query, he said the foreign ministry has approached different wheat exporting countries as the prices of wheat and flour have gone up along with various food grains due to the war between Russia and Ukraine.

The move comes as public food

distribution has been increasing

amidst soaring prices of essential

commodities, including the staple

rice and the ongoing flood in the



expected to finalise prices and shipment of the grain,

said officials.

Russia, the world's biggest wheat exporter, has been supplying the grain to Bangladesh under state arrangements since fiscal year 2013-14.

In the current fiscal year, the government bought 300,000 tonnes of wheat from Russia, three times that in the previous year.

The food ministry official said

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## Abdullah Al Maher Joins as Group CEO & Head of Business Asrotex Group

Asrotex Group / Fariha Knit Tex Ltd. Appoints GROUP CEO & HEAD OF BUSINESS.

Having been at the helm of Fortune 500 companies and leading them to growth, it is without a doubt that Mr. Abdullah Al Maher is a veteran CEO in the field of Ready-Made Garments industry and proudly representing the "Made In Bangladesh" brand globally. He started his career at Comtextile Hong Kong Ltd. in 1994 and quickly excelled to becoming Team lead at Alster Int'l (Miles Germany). Mr. Maher was Country Manager for Sears Roebuck & Co.

in 2002 and by 2007 he was General Manager for TMS International, who had invited brand ESPRIT fully into Bangladesh. He was then hired as Capacity Assurance Manager at H&M in 2006 and his talent was recognized by the RMG industry whereby he was offered to work as Director for Youngone Corporation Thailand in 2017. Mr. Maher has worked in global positions and locations during 27 years of his career which includes his posting in Germany as Import Manager for Coastline Mode GmbH in 2001. Additionally, he has worked towards Market development in New York USA with TMS Group. Led Fakir Fashion Ltd for last four years as Chief Executive Officer.

He is a recognized personality within the corridors of policy makers and has engaged himself in various social initiatives promoting Environmental Sustainability and Circular Fashion agendas. He aims to contribute towards YOUTH Development of Bangladesh. He is keen on impacting positively on the lives of those he works with. Mr. Maher has an MBA in International Marketing from a top tier university of the nation. He has completed his master's & Bachelor's degree in English Literature from the nation's leading public university namely University of Chittagong. Additionally, from among his numerous professional exposures and trainings from foreign institutions, he has a Diploma in Man-Made Fiber & Textile from South Korea. On weekends when he is not promoting Sustainable, Mr. Maher takes the time to play golf.

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Padma had been solely reliant on ferries. This mode of transportation is not only inconvenient but is also filled with uncertainty, and it is far from seamless.

The Padma Bridge will open up opportunities for plenty of benefits to the southern region. The economic activities, that were previously impossible to carry out in the southern districts due to poor connectivity, will now be possible. The southern districts in Bangladesh have not experienced any industrialisation. As a result, the lack of overall economic development and poverty are major issues in that region.

Climate change is also having a significant

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