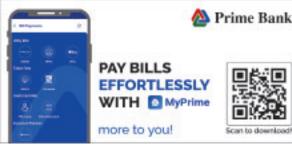
# BUSINESS



### **BB** allows relaxed loan facility for **NBFI** clients

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Borrowers of non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) can now avail a flexible loan repayment facility similar to that being enjoyed by bank customers up till December this year, according to a Bangladesh Bank notice issued yesterday.

As per the notice, borrowers of NBFIs who are struggling to repay their loans can avail the relaxed repayment facility considering the recent resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic and flooding in northern and north-eastern parts of the country.

#### **Borrowers can** avoid falling into the default zone by repaying half of the loan payable for **Apr-Dec**

As such, borrowers will be able to avoid falling into the default loan category by repaying half of the loan payable for the April-December period.

Clients will have to pay half of the payable amount every quarter during the period mentioned by the central bank.

The relaxed facility will be provided to borrowers who are facing a crisis to pay back their instalments due to the pandemic.

However, businesses that currently have a weak cash-flow will not be allowed to get the support.

On the other hand, the NBFI-customer relationship can also be leveraged to extend the support.

Such conditions will not be applicable for flood-hit borrowers in the cottage, micro, small-and-medium enterprise, and agriculture sectors.

In addition, NBFIs will not be allowed to transfer any unrealized interest against loans enjoying the deferral support as income.

The central bank move comes after the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the country's apex trade body, pushed for a relaxed loan classification policy till December. The banking regulator issued a separate notice to customers of banks on June 22, allowing them to enjoy the relaxed loan repayment facility.

#### Agriculture, IT and **WHAT'S WHAT** logistics have big investment potential in southwestern zone, says an economist Two economic zones in Shariatpur district BEZA Total 21 An ecotourism Mongla economic zone Another zone near developing 17 districts park will will be constructed Mongla will be set up by Madaripur, Faridpur and under public-private economic will be be built in a developer appointed Magura districts will get one by Indian govt zones covered Bagerhat partnership zone each **DISTRICT-WISE ECONOMIC ZONES** Major districts: Bagerhat, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Khulna, Satkhira, Barishal, Magura, Bhola, Kushtia

# 17 ECONOMIC ZONES getting ready for south-west

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The government is setting up 17 economic zones in southwestern districts to bring about an industrial revolution in the largely nonindustrialised region as it looks to accelerate economic growth of Bangladesh.

And the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) is upbeat that the road connectivity established between Dhaka and the region on Saturday following the inauguration of the Padma Bridge will attract investment in the industrial sector and create jobs for thousands of people.

The 6.15km bridge will also connect Bangladesh with the Asian Highway, paving the way for an industrial revolution to take place in 21 southwestern districts in particular and in the country in general, said the investment promotion agency in a statement.

The zones are part of the governmental goal of setting up 100 economic zones across the country, with a view to creating one crore jobs and exporting \$40 billion worth of goods and services from the

The Mongla Economic Zone (MEZ) is being developed on

205 acres of land near the Mongla Port and it has already constructed the administrative building, boundary walls, connecting bridge and roads, power sub-stations, and water

Powerpack Economic Zone Ltd is developing the MEZ under the public-private

is preparing the economic enclave. It is expected that the

setting up of industries in the two economic zones in Mongla will begin soon.

The Beza plans to set up an ecotourism park on 1,546 acres of land near the Sundarbans in Bagerhat.



partnership (PPP) model. A land-lease deal has been inked to set up three industrial units there.

"The establishment of industries at the MEZ will create jobs for a few thousand people and contribute to the overall development of the region," said Shaikh Yusuf Harun, executive chairman of the Beza, in a statement.

Development of another economic zone on 105 acres of land near the MEZ is underway as well. A developer, appointed by the Indian government,

It has approved the proposal of setting up two economic zones in Shariatpur: one on 525 acres of land in Jajira upazila and another on 686 acres of land in Goshairhat

upazila. The agency has agreed in principle to build an economic zone on 1,125 acres of land in the Rajoir upazila in Madaripur.

The government has decided to set up an economic zone on 888 acres of land in the sadar upazila under Faridpur. Moreover, a feasibility study has already been carried out for another zone on 200 acres of land in Kotalipara of Gopalganj.

It has taken up a project to conduct the feasibility study for an economic zone in Khulna's Botiaghata. The governing body of the Beza has also chosen Terokhada upazila to set up a zone.

The work to perform the feasibility study to construct an economic zone in Sreepur upazila under Magura and another in Satkhira sadar upazila has been initiated.

The feasibility study for setting up an economic zone at Agailjhara in Barishal has been completed and the Beza has approved the proposal of developing an economic zone in Hizla of the district.

The Beza plans to develop an economic zone in Bhola sadar upazila. It has acquired 382 acres of land to set up a similar zone at Bheramara of Kushtia. The feasibility study is underway

Moreover, another economic zone, located over 800 acres of land, would be set up in Dhaka's Nawabganj.

However, only setting up economic zones and establishing a globally standard connectivity thanks

READ MORE ON B3

## Dollar turns even costlier

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

The US dollar became more costlier yesterday as the local currency depreciated once again in the inter-bank platform.

The exchange rate stood at Tk 93.45 per dollar on Tuesday in contrast to Tk 92.95 on Monday. It was Tk 84.82 on June 28 last year.

In order to prevent a massive fall of the taka, Bangladesh Bank injected \$42 million into the market yesterday to help banks settle import bills, said a central bank official.

The central bank supplied a record \$7.47 billion to the market between July 1 and June 28 this fiscal year. However, the inter-bank exchange rate set by the central bank has been unable to offset the ongoing volatility due to the inadequate supply of the greenback.



The foreign exchange market is facing a shortage of US dollars due to soaring import payments and declining remittance inflows.

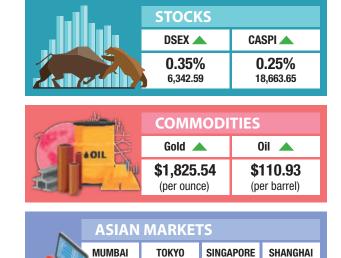
The country's import payments have shot up since the end of last year because of the rising prices of commodities in the global market.

Between July and April, imports went up by 41 per cent to \$68.66 billion, while exports grew 35 per cent to \$41 billion.

This resulted in a record trade deficit -- the gap between exports and imports -- of \$27.56 billion, up 53 per cent year-on-year. Inflow of remittance, the cheapest source of foreign currencies for Bangladesh, fell 16 per cent year-on-year to \$19.2 billion in the first 11 months of the fiscal year.

All these led to the decline in the foreign exchange reserves to \$41.7 billion as of June 28, whereas it was \$46.15 billion on December 31.

Bangladesh Bank had decided on June 2 to allow the exchange rate of the taka to float against the US dollar but recently backtracked from its stance, causing the forex market to become volatile again. Volatility in the country's foreign exchange market intensified after the central bank commenced setting the exchange rate of the taka against the US dollar.



**0.66%** 

27,049.47

**0.03%** 

53,186.45

### Profits drive cattle fattening

SOHEL PARVEZ

There has been growing interest among Bangladeshi farmers at rearing and fattening bulls, encouraged by high domestic prices which enable making a profit alongside an Indian clampdown on illegal inflows of

Over the past five years, the number of farmers engaged in the practice has risen alongside the number

In 2017, there were 33.42 lakh cattle under the special regime, which involves nutritious diets and movement restrictions, according to the Department of Livestock

At present, farmers are rearing 41 lakh cattle which are likely to be brought to markets for sale ahead of Eidul-Azha, when Muslims around the world sacrifice cattle as a part of their religious practice, causing demand to

Of all the cattle processed for meat round the year, half are slaughtered during Eid-ul-Azha, when a big portion of the fattened bulls are sold.

This also provides supplies of hide and skins, the key raw materials for leather used by the export-oriented leather and footwear industry which fetches nearly \$1 billion a year.

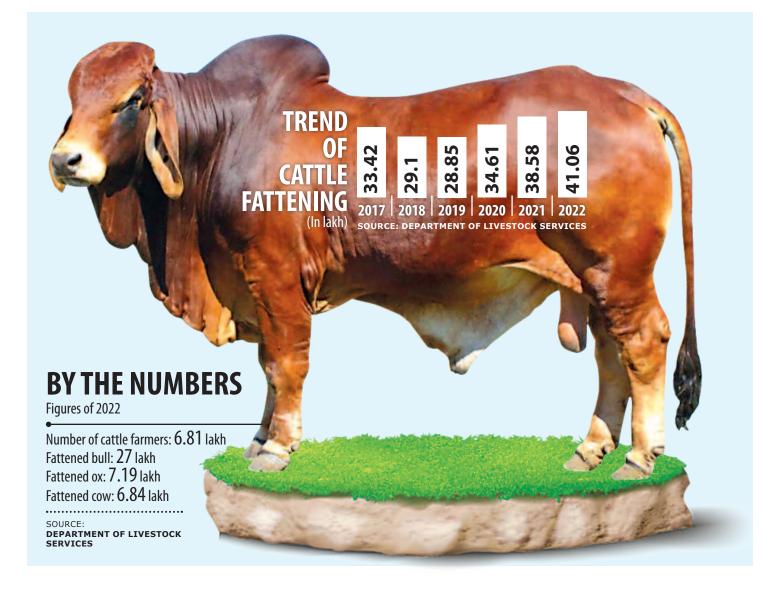
Farmers and livestock officials said investment in

dairy and cattle fattening increased in recent years after India embarked on a crackdown on cattle smuggled into Bangladesh since 2014. The restriction resulted in a slump in the supply of the

livestock from India, which was a source of 20 lakh cattle a year for Bangladesh earlier.

Cattle farming gained ground particularly among

READ MORE ON B3



#### NBR set to miss revenue generation target again

**0.09%** 

3,140.21

**0.89%** 

3.409.21

SOHEL PARVEZ

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) reached 76 per cent of its Tk 330,00 crore revenue generation target in the 11 months of 2021-22, meaning it is going to miss the full fiscal-year collection goal once again.

As of May of 2021-22, taxmen collected Tk 252,920 crore, posting 15 per cent year-on-year growth, provisional data released yesterday by the revenue administration showed.

The tax generation growth dropped substantially in May compared to a year ago, widening the gap between the target and the collection.

The NBR will have to generate Tk 77,000 crore in June to hit the target, a task that analysts have termed nearly impossible to attain even though

READ MORE ON B3