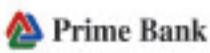
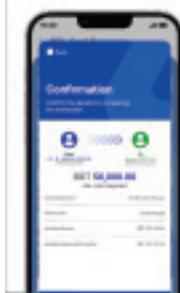


# star BUSINESS



Prime Bank



EFFORTLESS  
CREDIT CARD  
BILL PAYMENT  
WITH  MyPrime

more to you!



Scan to download!

## New census points to digital divide

Nearly half don't own mobile phone, 70pc don't use internet

MAHMUDUL HASAN

About three crore people of Bangladesh, aged 18 or above, don't own a mobile phone and 6.5 crore don't use internet, according to the new population census, highlighting the non-affordability of connecting devices and elusive digital inclusion for many.

Of the population group aged five and above, 44.13 per cent, or 6.6 crore, don't own a handset, while more than 69 per cent, or 10 crore, don't use internet, data from the preliminary report of the Population and Housing Census 2022 showed.

This depicted a grim scenario when it comes to digital inclusion and contradicts the claim of the government, which often paints a rosy picture of the country's digital advancement and connectivity.

For example, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for ICT, said during an event recently that there are over 13 crore internet users in Bangladesh, more than double the census figures.

The data he cited came from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).



"The data is machine-generated and collected from mobile network operators and internet service providers on a monthly basis. So, it is more credible than the census data that citizens have shared voluntarily," Palak told The Daily Star.

The census also revealed the gender gap in connectivity and the digital divide between the centre and the margin.

According to the census, 66.53 per cent of men and 45.53 per cent of women use mobile phones. The number of internet users stands at 38.02 per cent and 23.52 per cent, respectively.

The Dhaka division is home to the highest number of mobile and internet users, with 62.07 per cent and 40.41 per cent, while the Sylhet division has the lowest percentage of mobile users at 47.55 per cent. Rangpur has the lowest share of internet users, at 17.67 per cent.

### HOW MANY PEOPLE REALLY OWN A MOBILE PHONE?

According to the BTRC, the country's total mobile subscribers stand at 18.44 crore as of June.

In Bangladesh, a SIM that was activated in the last 90 days is counted as a subscriber. The commission doesn't disclose the number of unique customers.

Telecom Minister Mustafa Jabbar said he had been informed by the BTRC that the number of unique mobile phone users is 12 crore.

As per rule, one person can own 15 SIMs and the BRTC's subscribers figure represents the total number of SIMs active in the network, he said.

"We don't expect 100 per cent of the population aged 18 or above will use mobile phones under the current stage of literacy rate, skills and economic condition of the people."

However, according to the BTRC, Bangladesh's teledensity surged past 105 per cent as of April, way higher than the findings of the census that put it at 55.89 per cent.

READ MORE ON B3



### IMPORT OF MAJOR RAW MATERIALS

Jan-Jun; SOURCE: BTMA AND EPB

	<b>Yarn</b> \$2.66b (\$3.5b in 2021)		<b>Knitted fabrics</b> \$1.29b (\$2b in 2021)		<b>Woven fabrics</b> \$2.21b (\$3.2b in 2021)		<b>Cotton</b> \$2.26b (\$3.8b in 2021)
---	--	--	---	---	---	---	--

### UPSIDES

China losing its market share of high-value garment items  
Emerging players like Myanmar and Ethiopia losing market share

### A MAJOR IMPACT

A surge in import of apparel raw materials contributed to forex crisis

### KEY POINTS

- Apparel raw materials import surged after Covid recovery
- Import value is high for soaring prices of raw materials in global markets
- War put a damper on garment exports to major European destinations

### EXPORT AND GROWTH: FY22

(Rise year-on-year)

	Garment grew 35.47% to \$42.61b		Knitwear rose 36.88% to \$23.21b		Woven grew 33.82% to \$19.39b
---	---------------------------------	---	----------------------------------	---	-------------------------------

## Import of apparel raw materials surges

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The import of basic raw materials used to produce garment items in Bangladesh surged in the first six months of 2022 on the back of a rise in demand in the export markets, even contributing to the dollar crisis in the country.

The imports of yarn, cotton, knitted and woven fabrics rocketed in such a way that their combined value in the January-June period this year almost equalled that of the entire 2021.

It came after global retailers and brands poured orders after they received an uninterrupted supply of goods from Bangladesh even during the peak of the coronavirus pandemic, which brought the global supply chain to a standstill.

Textile millers and garment exporters also bought raw materials in additional quantities thanks to a brighter outlook of the garment trade because of the global recovery from the severe fallout of Covid-19. But the Russia-Ukraine that broke out in February has put a damper

on the projection.

Textile millers purchased yarn worth \$2.66 billion in January-June, accounting for 76 per cent of the total import value of \$3.5 billion in 2021, data from the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) showed.

Knitters bought \$1.29 billion worth of fabrics in the first half of 2022 from international sources, more than three fifth of the \$2 billion they spent throughout last year.

READ MORE ON B3



www.primebank.com.bd

## Port facilities compliant

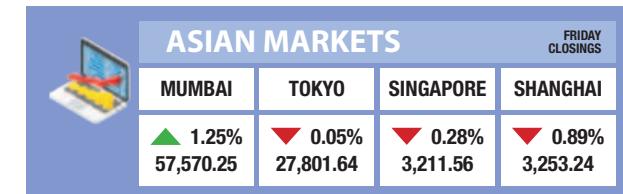
CPA thinks as US inspection team due today

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, *Chittagong*

The Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) is very confident about the port facilities being compliant with international regulations ahead of a scheduled annual visit by the US Coast Guard this week despite its ongoing struggle to handle a number of abandoned import containers with dangerous cargo.

Under its International Port Security (ISP) programme, a four-member delegation of the US Coast Guard will arrive today and begin a three-day visit to the country's premier seaport from Monday.

READ MORE ON B3



### Debt Capital Market Transaction

#### Syndicated Term Facility BDT 2,660 Million

For  


LEAD ARRANGER & AGENT

 Prime Bank

### PARTICIPANTS



The announcement appears as a matter of record only

 Prime Bank

THE MOST ANTICIPATED CONGREGATION OF THE LEADING INDUSTRY ICONS OF BANGLADESH | REGISTER NOW: +880 1404016899, +880 1950707601

**STRATEGY SUMMIT 2022**

**SPONSORS**

**EVENT DETAILS**

**SCAN TO REGISTER**



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC



Md. Atiqur Rahman  
Chairman & Managing Director, BRTC

<div style="