

## Bangladesh's share in global RMG trade to rise this year

**BGMEA says**

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is hopeful that the country's share in the global apparel market may reach 8 per cent within this year as international clothing retailers and brands are coming here with new work orders.

Currently, the share of Bangladesh in the global apparel business is 6.26 per cent as the World Trade Organisation made the estimate based on the actual earnings from garment shipment in 2020. Bangladesh is now the second largest garment exporter in the world after China.

Although there are some signs of slowdown in garment exports now, it is expected that the shipment to new destinations, particularly in the Asian markets, will witness growth, BGMEA President Faruque Hassan said at a press conference yesterday.

The BGMEA organised the press conference at its office in Dhaka to brief journalists about the outcomes of the just concluded Made in Bangladesh Week, a campaign to showcase Bangladesh's strength in the garment business, held in the capital.

## Fu-Wang Ceramic sees lower profit in FY22

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Fu-Wang Ceramic Industries Ltd reported a 32.39 per cent year-on-year decline in profit to Tk 3.13 crore in the last financial year.

The profit stood at Tk 4.63 crore in 2020-21.

Thus, the company posted earnings per share of Tk 0.23 in 2021-22 against Tk 0.34 a year earlier.

"The EPS decreased due to the increase in the cost of goods sold and financial expenses," said the ceramics manufacturer.

The net asset value per share of Fu-Wang Ceramic was Tk 11.78 in the last financial year, slightly up from Tk 11.70 a year prior.

The net operating cash flow per share turned into a negative Tk 3.27 in 2021-22 from a positive Tk 0.51 in 2020-21.

The board of directors has recommended a 2 per cent cash dividend for the shareholders other than sponsors or directors for the last financial year.



Football fans are flocking to retail stores across the country in droves to grab the jersey of their favourite team taking part in the FIFA World Cup. The photo was taken from Khulna city recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

# Jersey sales surge as football fever grips fans

**MD ABU TALHA SARKER**

Jersey sales have surged in Bangladesh despite the cost-of-living crisis as fans are gearing up to watch the FIFA World Cup 2022 in style.

The national football team is not part of the quadrennial competition, which is kicking off in Qatar today, but there is no lack of fervour among local fans.

In fact, they are flocking to retail stores across the country in droves to grab the jersey of their favourite team taking part in the World Cup four thousand kilometres away.

On Thursday, three friends – Masudur Rahman, Tuhin Islam, and Dipan Biswas – went to the Somobay Twin Towers Market in Gulistan to buy jerseys.

Rahman, a supporter of the Brazilian football team, bought a jersey for his two-year-old son. Islam, a fan of the Argentine team, purchased one jersey for himself, one for his six-year-old son, and one for his younger brother.

Dipan, also a Brazilian supporter, bought one for himself.

Rahman and Islam also have had the names of their sons printed on the rear of the shirts, spending Tk 80 each.

The three are among the hundreds of thousands of football fans who have bought jerseys of their favourite football teams.

In fact, the entire Gulistan has worn a festive look as retailers and wholesalers from the capital and other parts of the country are coming to buy jerseys for themselves or for their shops.

There are 300-350 retail and wholesale shops in the area home to the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium Market, the

Somobay Twin Towers Market, the Hall Market and the Bangabazar Market.

Traders say jerseys of Argentine and Brazilian football teams are the most sought-after items, together accounting for almost 90 per cent of the jerseys sold.

The team shirts of Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, England, the Netherlands and Croatia are also being sold.

Md Altaf Hossain, managing director of Pacific Sports at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium Market, says they are witnessing an avalanche of customers in the markets.

**The entire Gulistan has worn a festive look as retailers and wholesalers from the capital and other parts of the country are coming to buy jerseys for themselves or for their shops**

"The customers' turnout has exceeded our expectations. As a result, the sales have been good."

He is selling the team's jersey at Tk 1,200 and the fan's jersey at Tk 1,000.

Md Rakibul Hasan Uzzal, the proprietor of Khelar Bhuban, an outlet in Sirajganj's Mukta Plaza, came to Dhaka to buy jerseys from the Twin Towers wholesale market on Wednesday since all of the jerseys he took earlier have been sold out even before the World Cup began.

"The sales of jerseys have begun in full swing in the northern district as well," he said.

Omar Chishty Sunny, proprietor of Sports Centre at the Somobay Twin Tower

Market, imports jerseys along with some other traders.

According to the trader, jerseys are mainly manufactured in China and Thailand. But local traders bring in most of the shirts from China.

There are three types of jerseys for each team: home, away and practice jerseys. Of the three, the home jerseys are high in demand compared to two others, Sunny said.

M Shamim Hossain Patwary, president of the Bangladesh Sports Goods Merchants Manufacturers and Importers Association, says the demand for locally made jerseys has increased a lot.

This is because most traders are not able to open a letter of credit (LC) to import jerseys due to the ongoing dollar crisis.

In order to save the foreign exchange reserves, whose level fell by 25 per cent since the Russia-Ukraine war began, the government has limited the imports of non-essential and luxury items.

Since LCs could not be opened, jerseys could not be imported in line with demand. So, traders have had to depend on local suppliers this time around.

Some businesspeople like Patwary opened LCs to buy sports accessories, including jerseys, before the outset of the dollar crisis.

Street vendors are also selling jerseys of football teams, and so do online sellers.

Sabbir Hossain, manager of Solco Sports in Mirpur, which sells jerseys online, says there is a demand for all types of jerseys. Among them, jerseys priced at Tk 350 to Tk 550 are high in demand.

In the past several weeks, he has received orders to sell 200 to 250 jerseys every week.

## Minimise your tax, maximise your wealth

**JASIM UDDIN RASEL**

Abdul Karim is not worried about the tax liability of Tk 51,500 because he has invested enough money in the specified areas and he knows that an investment allowance is the legal way to get a tax rebate. And this tax credit will help him reduce the tax significantly.

He paid a premium for his children's education. He knows that the life insurance premium paid by the taxpayer for dependent children or wife (if not a taxpayer) shall be eligible to get a tax rebate. But in the case of DPS (deposit pension scheme), it shall only be in the name of the taxpayer himself and the maximum yearly limit is Tk 60,000.

He writes down the Tk 120,000 as RPF (Recognised Provident Fund) because his company also contributes Tk 60,000 to the Fund which is the same as his contribution. Both contributions are considered as investment allowances.

He has got one figure to calculate the tax rebate but he has to find out two more figures. One is, 20 per cent of the taxable income of Tk 810,000 is Tk 162,000. He got taxable income from the second step.

And another one is Tk 1 crore. Out of these three figures, the lower amount shall be the investment allowance.

Though he has invested Tk 200,000, he is eligible to get a tax rebate of 15 per cent on Tk 162,000. Karim always tries to invest more than the limit because he does not want to take the risk of losing the full benefit of the tax rebate.

However, his tax rebate amount shall be Tk 24,300 (Tk 162,000X15 per cent). He has to pay only Tk 27,200 instead of Tk 51,500. He has been successfully able to minimise his tax liability.

On the other hand, he will receive a big amount after the maturity of these investments, which will help him acquire assets like plots or apartments. Or, he may use the money for his children's higher education. So, the investment will also help him minimise his wealth.



Karim has got two figures in this step that shall be written down in the second part of the first page of the tax return form. He opens the page and writes tax rebate Tk 24,300 in serial no. 07 and tax payable Tk 27,200 in serial no. 08.

His company has already deducted Tk 2,000 as tax each month, or Tk 24,000 annually. It should also be excluded from the tax payable amount. He writes Tk 24,000 in serial no. 9(a). So, the difference amount is only Tk 3,200, which shall be paid with the tax return. This amount shall be written in serial 10.

In the last line in serial 11, he writes the exempted amount of Tk 390,000, the amount he excluded from his total income while calculating the taxable income in the second step.

Under this line, there is a verification that shall be made by Abdul Karim mentioning his name, his father's name and the taxpayer identification number. He shall also sign the documents specifying the date of signature.

Finally, at the bottom of this page, he mentioned the enclosures he will attach with the tax form like the two pages he made while working in the second and third steps, the salary certificate, the tax challan, insurance premium receipts, and DPS statement.

So, the first page of the tax return form is completed. In the fourth step, he will prepare assets and liabilities statements from where he will know how wealthy he is.

*The author is lead consultant of Taxpert, an online tax training centre.*

## SME fair in Dhaka from Nov 24

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The 10th National Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Fair-2022 will be held from November 24 to December 3 this year with the aim of promoting SME entrepreneurs and expanding their markets through product diversification.

The fair will be organised by the SME Foundation at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka, where 350 stalls will be available for SMEs to showcase their products and take orders.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun is expected to inaugurate the fair, which will be open to visitors from 10:00am to 8:00pm every day.

Of the 325 organisations participating in the event, some 130 are from the fashion design sector.

In addition, food and agro-processing, handicraft, leather, jute, ICT, light engineering and plastic product makers will be among the participants.

Besides the fair itself, seminars will be organised on five topics, namely easy financing, women-entrepreneurship, technology, ICT and cluster development for SME entrepreneurs.

In order to recognise the contribution of SME entrepreneurs, the SME Foundation has taken the initiative to give the 'National SME Entrepreneur Award 2022' in both male and female categories.

This year, six entrepreneurs will be awarded in each of the five categories.

The SME Foundation has been organising the fair since 2012. Since then, 1,886 entrepreneurs have sold products worth about Tk 32.88 crore while receiving orders worth around Tk 53.50 crore at the event.

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The aim of the SME fair is to promote entrepreneurs and expand the market through the diversification of products. SME Foundation is going to organise the ten-day show at Bangabandhu International Conference Center from November 24.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

## ICB profit falls over 62pc in Q1

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) posted a 62.85 per cent year-on-year decline in profit in the first quarter of the current financial year.

The state-run investor made a profit of Tk 20.95 crore in the July-September quarter of 2022-23, way lower than Tk 56.41 crore it raked in in the identical quarter of 2021-22.

Thus, the consolidated earnings per share were Tk 0.26 in the first quarter against Tk 0.70 in the same period a year earlier, according to the un-audited financial statements.

The EPS decreased compared to the same period of the previous year because of the decline in capital gains and fees and commissions, said the ICB in a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

Shares of the company ended at Tk 92 on the DSE yesterday, unchanged from the previous session.