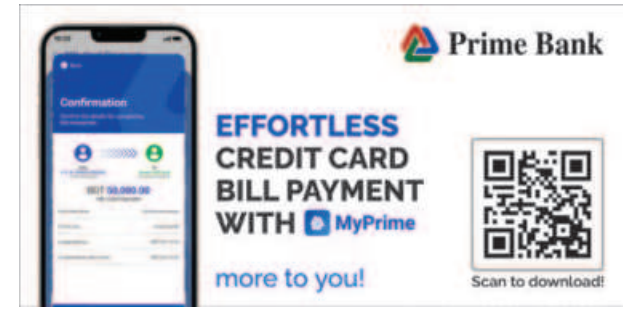


Star BUSINESS



TAZREEN FIRE: 10 YEARS ON Renewed calls for major brands to sign Accord

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Clean Clothes Campaign, the world's largest alliance of garment industry labour unions, yesterday piled pressure on the major brands connected to the Tazreen factory fire to sign the International Accord, which protects workers in all countries, including Bangladesh.

The International Accord, which came into effect on September 1 last year as the successor to the 2013 and 2018 Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh, is a legally binding and enforceable system that holds brands to account for its suppliers and gives workers avenues to raise their safety issues effectively.

A total of 186 brands and retailers have signed on the International Accord, CCC

“A decade later, there are still brands which have failed to draw the lessons from the preventable deaths at Tazreen and Rana Plaza.”

said in a statement on the 10th anniversary of the Tazreen factory fire, which claimed at least 117 lives and injured more than 200, making it the deadliest factory fire in the nation's history.

“A decade later, there are however still brands which have failed to draw the lessons from the preventable deaths at Tazreen and Rana Plaza,” it said, adding that many of the deaths in the fire accident on November 24, 2012 were because they were unable to escape – trapped between locked exits and barred windows.

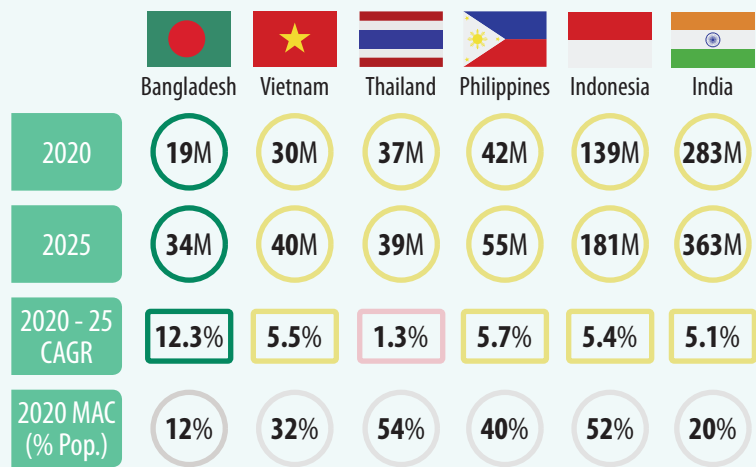
Major brands connected to the Tazreen fire, like Walmart, Sears and Disney, as well as brands implicated in the Rana Plaza collapse less than six months later, like French supermarket chain Auchan, JC Penney, The Children's Place and, again, Walmart, continue to “ignore workers' safety” by not signing the International Accord.

The International Accord has “proven its worth” by preventing mass casualties in the industry and making factories

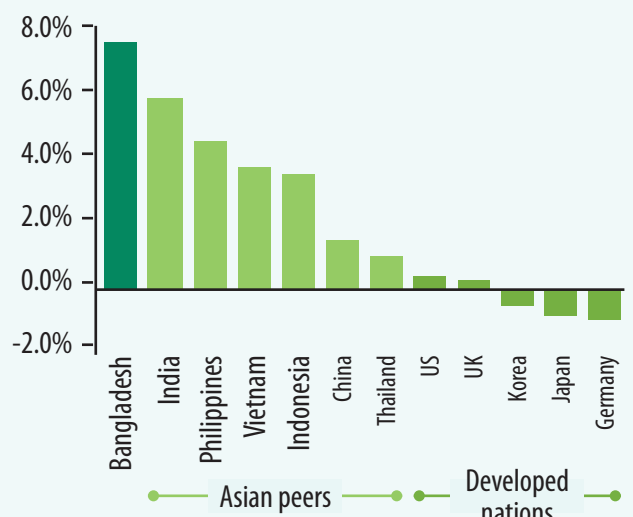
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BANGLADESH SET TO BECOME NINTH LARGEST CONSUMER MARKET GLOBALLY BY 2030

Growth led by surging middle and affluent class

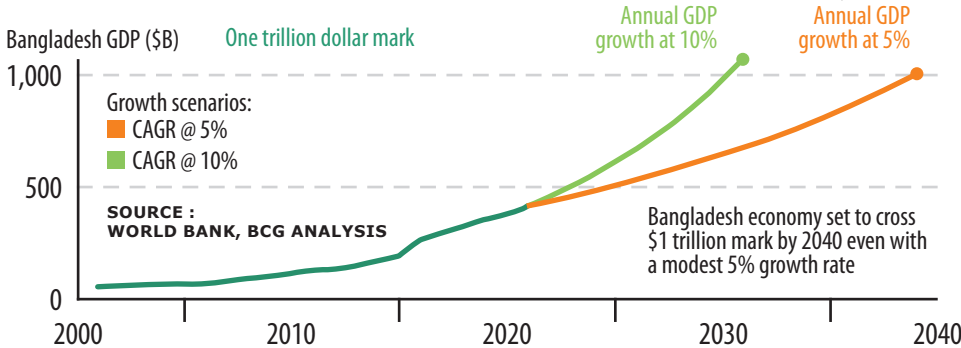


Fastest-growing consumer market



SOURCE: HSBC GLOBAL RESEARCH, BCG'S CENTER OF CONSUMER INSIGHTS, BCG ANALYSIS, NIELSEN HH DATA

Bangladesh on track to be a trillion-dollar economy



Private sector driving Bangladesh towards \$1-tr economy

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Private companies are spearheading Bangladesh's growth with their energy and optimism, putting the economy on a path to cross the \$1-trillion mark by 2040, according to a top global consulting firm.

The milestone will be achieved because of private firms' drive to become world-class global businesses and their ability to recruit the best talent, build globally recognised brands, and compete with leading multinational companies, said the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in a report.

The “Trillion-Dollar Prize Local Champions Leading the Way” report calls private sectors firms as emerging champions.

“Bangladesh's emerging champions are willing to push themselves to embrace more winning traits to go truly beyond great and lead the nation towards becoming a trillion-dollar economy by 2040,” it said.

“Bangladesh's emerging champions are innovative companies that have grown rapidly, created a structural advantage in the domestic market and are ready to pursue global ambitions.”



The success of these champions echoes the path of exemplary enterprises in other countries, doubling down on domain expertise, domestic success, and quality talent.

“These champions aim to raise international capital, form global alliances and penetrate a diverse and shifting global supply chain

to ensure supply security,” said the report.

The report is expected to be launched in Dhaka today.

According to the report, the private sector is also boosting innovation and productivity and

in Bangladesh having an annual revenue range of \$300 million to \$3 billion.

The emerging companies boast an impressive ten-year average shareholder return of 16 per cent, delivering above the S&P Global 1200 companies' 15 per cent, the Asia 50 Index's 14 per cent, and the MSCI Emerging Markets' 10 per cent.

The BCG report found solid optimism among companies with 57 per cent believing the next generation will have better lives.

In Bangladesh, there is a growing young workforce with a median age of 28 and the working age population is 68.4 per cent.

The report found that 83 per cent of Bangladeshi companies surveyed have a bold ambitious vision and 38 per cent focused on driving better customer outcomes through personalisation.

About 78 per cent strongly believe that they must build a culture of continuous

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Export-import to be easier as certificates' tenure extended

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has extended the tenures of the import registration certificate (IRC) and the export registration certificate (ERC) to five years from one year, easing doing business procedures.

Businesses welcomed the move since they had been seeking the extension for years.

“The new initiative will definitely benefit businesses as they will not have to spend more time and face hassles in receiving signatures from government offices at the end of every year,” said Rizwan Rahman, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

In a statement, Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the extension of the tenure of the IRC and the ERC would definitely reduce the cost of doing business and shorten the time needed.

“The initiative will benefit businesses as they will not have to spend more time and face hassles in receiving signatures from government offices every year.”

“This will bring benefit to businesses and bring speed to businesses.”

Businesses also demanded the same trade facilitation in all other licencing systems in order to reduce the cost of doing business and save valuable time.

Before scrapping the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index in 2021, Bangladesh was stuck in the lowest rung in the index because of the delay businesses face when it comes to collecting signatures from various government offices.

The time-consuming and lengthy processes linked to the licencing systems increase the cost of doing business and create the scope for corruption, alleged a number of business people.

Dhaka Chamber's Rahman said the tenure of other licences such as the trade licence and the bond licence should be extended.

Senior Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh said his ministry is in talks with other ministries and government agencies to extend the tenure of the trade licences.

“I think it is going to be done and the government is working on it,” he told The Daily Star.

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STOCKS	
DSEX ▲	CASPI
0.11%	Flat
6,215.11	18,339.67

COMMODITIES	
Gold ▲	Oil ▲
\$1,758.1	\$77.78
(per ounce)	(per barrel)

ASIAN MARKETS			
MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
▲ 1.24%	▲ 0.95%	▼ 3.11%	▼ 0.25%
62,272.68	28,383.09	3,252.88	3,089.31

Nearly 67% garment export receipts retained

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDDHA

Thanks to the increasing use of local raw materials, Bangladesh's retention value from the shipment of apparel items is rising, highlighting the development of a strong backward linkage industry and less reliance on imported yarn and fabrics.

The retention value of the exported apparel surged 36.36 per cent to \$28.5 billion in the financial year of 2021-22 from \$20.9 billion a year earlier, data from the Export Promotion Bureau and the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) showed.

It means the country was able to retain \$28.5 billion in FY22, accounting for 66.88

per cent of the total garment export receipts of \$42.61 billion in the financial year.

Of the sum, \$13 billion was made in the knitwear segment, \$6.11 billion in the woven segment, and \$908.25 million in the home textile sector.

The remaining \$14.11 billion could not be retained since Bangladesh has to import raw materials and intermediate goods to manufacture export-oriented garment

items.

The retention value in the garment sector was \$18 billion in 2019-20 out of the total shipment of \$28.7 billion.

A high retention value means local garment suppliers used more local yarn and fabrics to make apparel items for international consumers, cutting their dependence on imported raw materials such as yarn, fabrics and dyeing chemicals.

In fact, from the very beginning of the garment industry in Bangladesh, the knitwear sector has created more retention value than the woven sector thanks to the higher use of locally made yarn by the former.

Currently, local spinners can supply nearly 90 per cent of raw materials needed by export-oriented knitwear factories as entrepreneurs have invested heavily in the primary textile sector.

For instance, entrepreneurs have invested nearly \$15 billion in the spinning sector. Today, 450 large spinning mills are almost sufficient to meet the demand for raw materials such as yarn.

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Reconditioned excavators imported from Taiwan, Korea, Japan and other countries are on sale near City Gate, Chattogram, going for Tk 15 lakh to as much as Tk 2 crore depending on the condition and load capacities. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN