



Prime Bank

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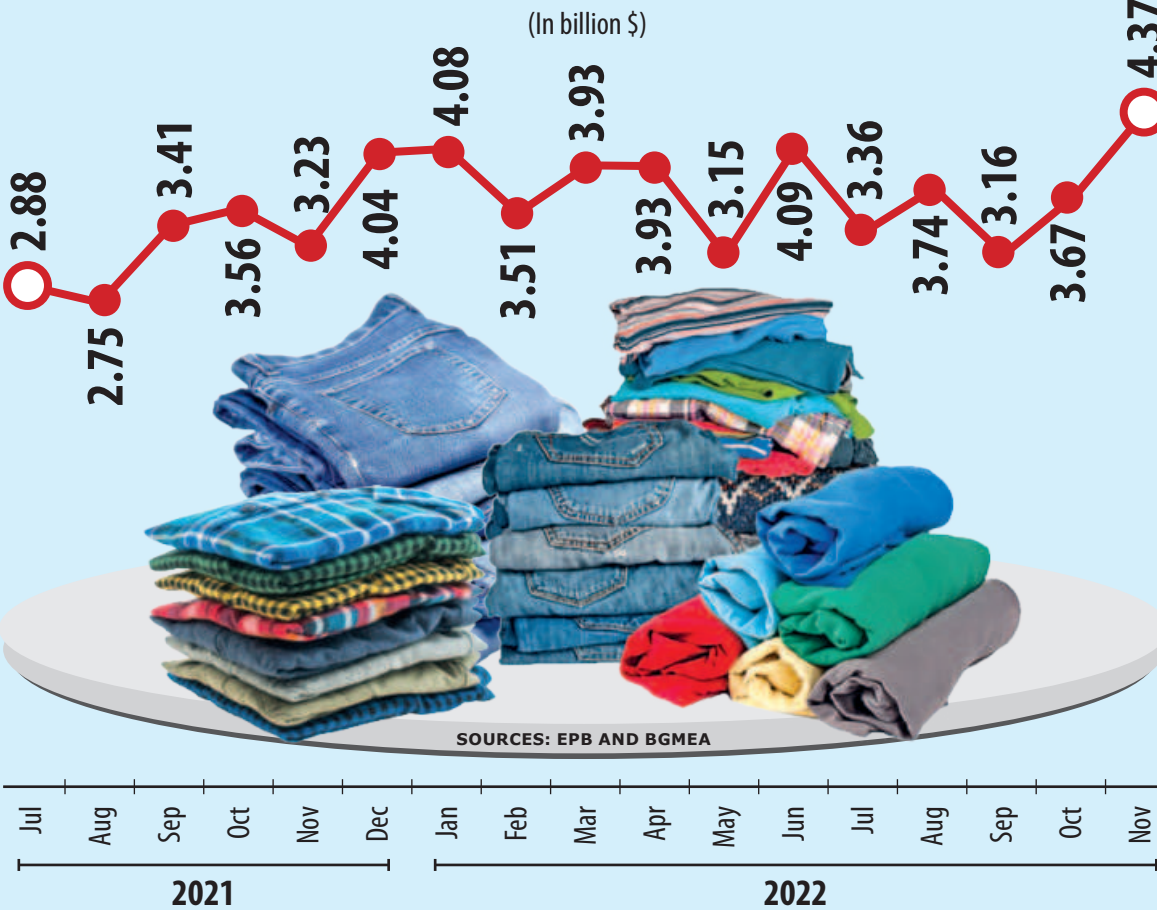
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SCAN FOR DETAILS

### » APPAREL EXPORT «

(In billion \$)



Month	Export (In billion \$)
Jul 2021	2.88
Aug 2021	2.75
Sep 2021	3.41
Oct 2021	3.56
Nov 2021	3.23
Dec 2021	4.04
Jan 2022	4.08
Feb 2022	3.51
Mar 2022	3.93
Apr 2022	3.93
May 2022	3.15
Jun 2022	4.09
Jul 2022	3.36
Aug 2022	3.74
Sep 2022	3.16
Oct 2022	3.67
Nov 2022	4.37

SOURCES: EPB AND BGMEA

### TAKEAWAYS

- Russia-Ukraine war had taken a toll on shipment
- Work order is improving now
- Retailers are placing inquiries for future purchase
- Old unsold stock with retailers is on the wane

### MILESTONE

Single-month apparel shipment hit record at **\$4.37b** in Nov

### EXPORTERS DEMAND

Political stability in the country

Uninterrupted and adequate gas supply to factories

### WHAT TO EXPECT

- Unit price may fall as cotton price, freight charge went down
- Recovery in apparel shipment will start from March
- Export will improve as inflation in the West is easing

# Garment exporters see moderate recovery in 2023

REEFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Local apparel suppliers are expecting moderate recovery in exports in the upcoming year as sales in the Western world are gradually gaining pace with a new normal arising from the Russia-Ukraine war and falling prices of petroleum products.

This in turn is causing inflationary pressure in the Western world to subside gradually, effectively leaving more money in the pockets of the consumers, enabling them to start spending behind the purchase of clothing items.

One variant of the crude oil was selling at \$79.56 per barrel in international markets yesterday whereas it had surpassed \$123 at one point in the outgoing year because of the severe fallout of the war.

As a result, Christmas sales were also upbeat, with old stockpiles of clothing of international retailers and brands worth billions of US dollars being sold off.

This has prompted international clothing retailers and brands to start coming up with new work orders for factories and make inquiries for future purchases.

November retail sales dipped from a surge of early holiday shopping the month before but still saw solid year-over-year growth that marked a strong start to the holiday season, according to the US-based National Retail Federation (NRF).

The trade association contributes \$3.9 trillion to the annual GDP of the US and supports one in four US jobs – 52 million working Americans.

“Consumers continued to spend on household priorities and holiday gifts for loved ones this November despite continued inflation and rising interest rates,” NRF President and CEO Matthew Shay said in a statement last week.

“Holiday shoppers are demonstrating resilience, and retailers are providing great products and experiences at the right price levels to help stretch household budgets,” he said.

“However, the recovery of the apparel shipment will not be strong, it would be moderate,” said Md Fazlul Hoque, managing director of Narayanganj-based garment exporter Plummy Fashions.

“The real recovery is expected to start from March onwards,” he said.

“We need not be worried as there will be moderate growth at the end of next year even in the difficult time of war,” Hoque said.

If no war had taken place, there would have been a strong recovery, he said.

Also, uncertainty still prevails over when the war will come to an end and many issues have not been resolved yet, which may have an impact on global trade, said Hoque.

He also said earnings from garment shipments last month should not be taken into account as purchase trends have not been that strong at the buyers’ end.

November’s export earnings from garment shipment amounted to \$4.37 billion, an all-time high for a single month.

Kutubuddin Ahmed, chairman of Envoy Textiles, a leading garment exporter, echoed Hoque regarding the recovery.

Because consumers entered a new normal as had been after the pandemic as no one knows when the war will come to an end, Ahmed told The Daily Star over the phone.

“People started adapting to a new normal as they are going through the severe impacts of war and inflation. Everybody is getting ready keeping in mind that this is wartime,” Ahmed said.

He, however, said domestic issues such as political stability, uninterrupted gas and power supplies and low bank interest rates must be maintained to gain the global market share even in this tough time of war.

Adequate and timely gas supplies to industries is a must

# Phones, laptops, internet turned pricier in 2022

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Bangladesh’s steady embrace of digitalisation, spearheaded by a growing number of tech startups and rising software and IT service exports, has suffered a heavy blow from the imposition of new taxes this year.

Broadband, smartphones, laptops and desktop computers – all have turned costlier for the National Board of Revenue heavily taxing digital consumers and entrepreneurs either directly or indirectly.

This could also potentially slow down the government’s realisation of a “Smart Bangladesh”.

This year a 15 per cent VAT has been imposed on laptop imports, a 10 per cent advance income tax on broadband internet service and a 5 per cent VAT on mobile phone sales.

It compounded woes of consumers already having to deal with the pandemic-induced disruptions to supply chains, soaring US dollar and energy prices and the Russia-Ukraine war.

## 2022 THE YEAR THAT WAS

Md Islam, a private sector employee, said he had planned to buy a laptop about six months ago.

“But I couldn’t do it as the price of the laptop has been spiralling, taking it out of my reach,” he added.

The impact has been immense on users of laptops, a device widely used for freelancing and the IT business.

Even before the budget for this fiscal year was unveiled on June 9, laptop prices were already up by 10 per cent to 15 per cent in Bangladesh.

It was a result of rising costs of the US dollar and shipping and disruptions to global microchip supplies.

All these caused laptops to currently cost 50 per cent more than that a year earlier, said industry people.

Of two types of laptop configurations that sell the most, one has gone up in price to Tk 50,000 to Tk 55,000 from Tk 32,000 to Tk 35,000 a year earlier.

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STOCKS	
DSEX ▼	CASPI ▼
0.20%	0.12%
6,189.69	18,303.88

COMMODITIES	
Gold ▲	Oil ▲
\$1,807.31	\$79.40
(per ounce)	(per barrel)

ASIAN MARKETS			
MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
▲ 1.20%	▲ 0.65%	▼ 0.36%	▲ 0.65%
60,566.42	26,405.87	3,257.70	3,065.56

# DSE turnover dips below Tk 200cr

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks started falling again yesterday while Dhaka Stock Exchange’s (DSE) turnover stood at less than Tk 200 crore, the lowest in two and a half years.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the DSE, edged down 12 points, or 0.20 per cent, to 6,189 points.

The drop was preceded by a day’s rise following a fall of seven consecutive days.

The DS30, the blue-chip index, fell 0.15 per cent to 2,191 points while the DSES, the index that represents Shariah-based companies, declined 0.25 per cent to 1,354 points.

Among the companies to undergo trade, 25 advanced, 137 declined and 167 remained the same.

Turnover, an important indicator of the market, dropped 12 per cent to Tk 198 crore from that the previous day.

This was the lowest it has gone since July 7, 2020 when it was Tk 139 crore.

The Dhaka stocks keep sliding amid economic worries and the market hit a 29-month low turnover, said International Leasing Securities

in its daily market review.

Following a previous positive session, the stocks reverted to the downward momentum as investors remained cautious about macroeconomic challenges amid the cloudy market outlook, it said.

Among the sectors, jute advanced 1.4 per cent, tannery 0.3 per cent and financial institution 0.2 per cent whereas travel and leisure dropped 1.5 per cent, service and real estate 1.4 per cent and paper and printing 1.2 per cent.

Based on the share of turnover, investors’ activities were mostly

centred on pharmaceuticals (21.6 per cent), ceramic (14.6 per cent) and IT (12 per cent).

Islami Commercial Insurance posted the highest appreciation of 9.84 per cent while Union Capital surged 9.52 per cent and International Leasing and Financial Services, Premier Leasing and Finance, and Jute Spinners advanced by more than 8 per cent.


Monno Ceramic Industries suffered the biggest fall of 7.88 per cent while Orion Infusion dropped 7.4 per cent, Bangladesh Monospool Paper Manufacturing Company 4.5 per cent and Gemini Sea Food 3.6 per cent.

Monno Ceramic Industries was the stock to be traded the most, with shares worth Tk 17 crore changing hands. Orion Infusion, Intraco Refueling Stations, Orion Pharma and the Sea Pearl Cox’s Bazar Beach Resort & Spa also saw significant transactions.

The Caspi, the all share price index of Chittagong Stock Exchange, dropped 23 points, or 0.12 per cent, to end the day at 18,303 points.

Of the securities to be transacted, 19 advanced, 41 declined and 77 did not show any price movement.

## Padma Bank Limited inaugurated the updated core banking system.



Padma Bank Limited has upgraded its core banking system to FloraBank in order to provide its customers with safe and quick banking services. Padma Bank Limited has entered the fully digital world by migrating this new core banking solution to FloraBank.

On Monday, December 26, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Padma Bank Limited, Tarek Reaz Khan, formally inaugurated this new state-of-the-art CBS through a program organized at Mirpur Learning and Talent Development Center.

At that time, Tarek Reaz Khan said that with the launch of this state-of-the-art core banking solution, customers can now enjoy modern, secure, reliable, and hassle-free banking services.

Deputy Managing Director & CRO, Faisal Ahsan Chowdhury, Chief Human Resources Officer & CCO, M Ahsan Ullah Khan, Head of Operations & CAMLCO, Syed Towhid Hossain, Chief Information Technology Officer, Mosharraf Hossain Khan, Mustafa Rafiqul Islam, Chairman and Managing Director Flora Systems Limited and other senior officials of the bank were present.

Padma Bank Limited will be able to complete customer loans, deposits, and other banking services with assurance and efficient security through FloraBank software developed by 100% professional and skilled Bangladeshi engineers.