





Star BUSINESS



EXPERIENCE
**UNINTERRUPTED
BANKING HOUR**
WITH  **MyPrime**
more to you!



Scan to download!





Horse-drawn carts are still in use in chars in Gaibandha's Phulchari upazila, situated over 250 kilometres north of the capital. Goods from the upazila have to be brought on boats some 20 kilometres upstream of the Jamuna river to reach the chars before they can be transported on carts. The photo was taken at Kalurpara Char on Sunday.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

Bangladesh's share in global RMG trade trebles in 17 years

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh's share in the global readymade garment trade more than tripled in the past 17 years as the country cements its position as one of the largest suppliers internationally.

In 2005, the country's share was 2.5 percent but it rocketed to 7.9 percent last year, data from the World Trade Statistical Review 2023 showed.

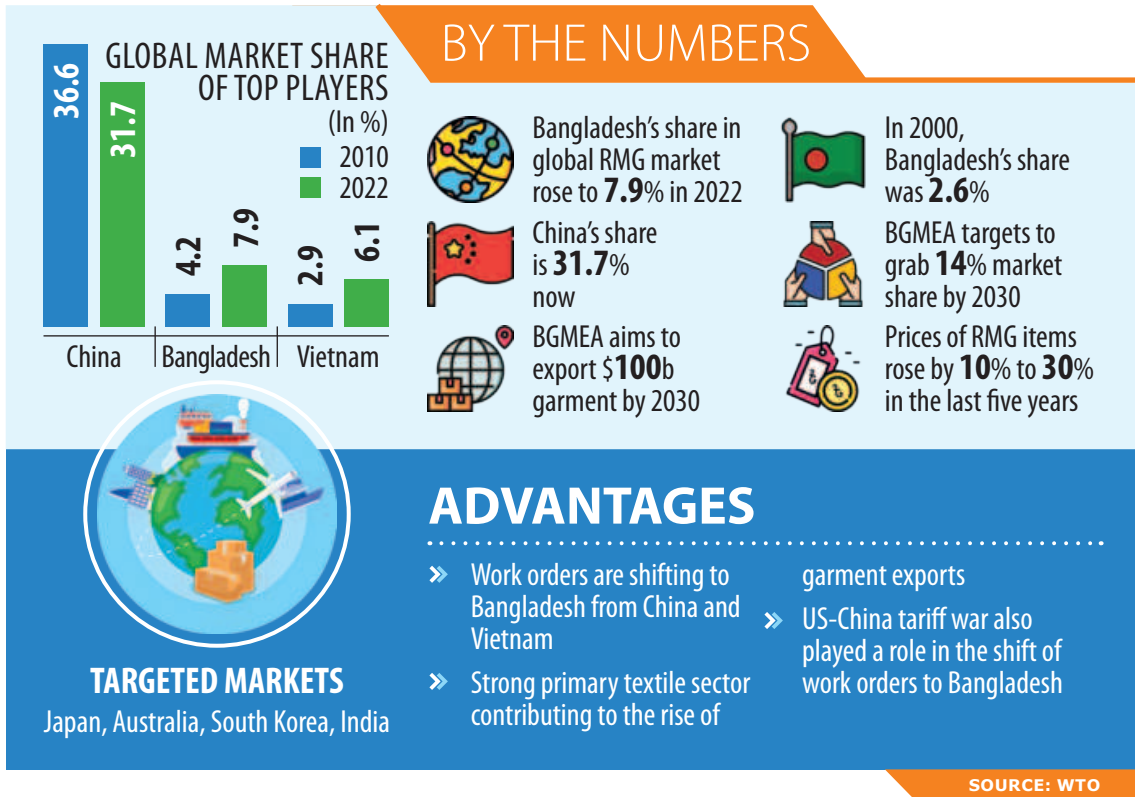
In 2000, Bangladesh shipped garment items worth \$4.82 billion. It posted a meteoric rise in the past 22 years, elevating earnings to \$45 billion last year.

A number of factors have driven the expansion in the past two decades as the country solidified its place as the second-largest apparel supplier in the world after China and raised its market share.

One of the strengths has been the expanding primary textile sector, which has already invested more than \$23 billion.

As a result, the knitwear segment currently can avail more than 90 percent of fabrics and yarn from domestic markets, which have cut the lead time by four weeks.

Similarly, woven exporters can procure more than 40 percent of fabrics locally. Equally, the



accessories sector meets 90 percent of the demand.

The China-US trade tension has worked in Bangladesh's favour.

For example, China's share in the global apparel business was

18.2 percent in 2000, 26.6 percent in 2005, and 36.6 percent in 2010. But it declined to 31.7 percent in 2022, owing largely to the rift that began in 2018.

So, while Bangladesh's share has continued to widen, China is losing its grip.

What is even more extraordinary for Bangladesh is that it has been capturing more market share despite the shortage of raw materials such as cotton and capital machinery and recurrent challenges such as energy.

Still, Bangladesh is also the largest apparel supplier to the European Union in terms of

volume and the largest denim supplier worldwide.

Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said exporters are also getting better prices.

He said exporters are receiving 10 percent to 30 percent higher prices per unit garment item. In the case of high-end value-added items, the price has gone up by a similar rate.

Md Fazlul Hoque, managing director of Plummy Fashions Ltd, thinks apart from the trade war and the backward linkage integration, Bangladesh has developed a lot

READ MORE ON B3

FOR INQUIRIES
CALL US AT
16704





ADB mobilises \$261m for expressway

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has mobilised \$261 million of private sector capital for a four-lane, 13.5-kilometre expressway between Dhaka and other major cities in order to ease traffic congestions and provide better connectivity.

The global lender made the decision as a transaction advisor for the government's Rampura-Amulia-Demra Expressway public-private partnership (PPP) project, it said in a press release yesterday.

The project is being funded through a \$193 million senior loan from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank; Bank of China; DBS Bank Limited; and Infrastructure Development Company Limited, a financial

READ MORE ON B3

Local operator to launch Dhaka-Kolkata cruise

JAGARAN CHAKMA

A vessel owner in Bangladesh is seeking to run a 10-day cruise from Dhaka to Kolkata.

Md Masum Khan, owner of vessel MV Rajarhat C, has applied with Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) to set sail from Sadarghat on October 10 for Howrah.

Already over 300 people have sought to book packages of prices ranging from Tk 6,000 to Tk 50,000 for the one-way tour, he told The Daily Star, adding that any type of Indian visa would work.

It will take 45 hours to traverse river and coastal routes to reach Howrah. The vessel will stay there for three days allowing tourists to go around Kolkata, he said.

The vessel will also anchor at different places, allowing travellers to explore diverse landscapes, villages and rural lifestyles, historical and archaeological sites, and ancient temples.

They can also experience cultures and cuisines of both countries, he said.

Rivers have an immense cultural



and historical significance for both countries, for which this cruise will be an enriching experience, believes Khan.

If this trip can be run successfully, the cruise will be regularly operated, he said.

A similar cruise has already been run from India, flagged off by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 13 this year.

Operated by Antara Cruises, MV Ganga Vilas travelled around 3,200km through five states in India and parts of Bangladesh over

51 days.

It was under a "Standard Operating Procedure" finalised by the shipping ministries of the two countries in October 2018 on the movement of vessels along designated coastal and inland routes of the two neighbours.

The BIWTA is yet to approve the cruise, said Commodore Arif Ahmed Mostafa, chairman of the BIWTA.

"We receive an application...we have enough time at hand to give approval," he noted.

SUSTAINABILITY RATING

Brac, City Bank, IDLC Finance retain top spots

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Brac Bank, The City Bank and IDLC Finance Ltd were named as the top banks and non-banks for the third consecutive year in the central bank's Sustainability Rating for 2022.

Other banks included in the list are Jamuna Bank, Prime Bank, Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited, Trust Bank, and United Commercial Bank.

Agrani SME Financing Company and Bangladesh Finance were included in the list under the non-bank financial institution category for two consecutive years.

Lankan Alliance Finance made it to the list in the same category for the first time since the rating was rolled out in 2020.

Sustainable finance indicators include banks and financial institutions' sustainable finance performance, including green finance, priority sustainable agriculture and cottage, micro, small and medium enterprise finance, access to sustainable finance for women, in-house green banking performances, environment and social risk management compliance, and participation in green investment.

Timely intervention by the board of directors in any sustainable finance issues, capacity-building initiatives and sustainable finance disclosures are also evaluated in the rating, according to the central bank.



powering with safety




FIR Cables
**FIGHTS IN FIRE
SURVIVES IN 950°C**

STOCKS	
DSEX ▼	CASPI ▼
0.20% 6,329.86	0.16% 18,689.69

COMMODITIES	
Gold ▼	Oil ▼
\$1,935.56 (per ounce)	\$79.34 (per barrel)

READ MORE ON B3



M. A. Samad
Founder

BGIC

AAA

ARGUS Credit Rating Services Limited

A. Rating Summary


Long Term - AAA;
Outlook - Positive;

Short Term - ST-1
Publishing Date - 01 August, 2023

B. Rating Explanation

AAA - Highest claims paying ability. Risk factors are negligible and almost risk free.

ST-1 - Very high claims paying ability. Protection factors are strong.



1st Private Sector Non Life Insurance Company in Bangladesh
বাংলাদেশ জেনারেল ইনশুরেন্স কোং লিমিটেড
BGIC Bangladesh General Insurance Company Ltd.
Service is our strength