

Star BUSINESS

Haziganj village in Nilphamari sadar upazila is becoming a hub for handmade products crafted from recycled materials.



Story on B4

PRICE HIKE OF CONSTRUCTION RAW MATERIALS

(Increase per square foot in the last one and a half years)

- Steel: Tk 130
- Cement: Tk 24.75
- Sand: Tk 28.12
- Stone chips: Tk 78.75
- Bricks: Tk 50
- Aluminium frames: Tk 40
- Iron grille: Tk 12
- General electrification: Tk 30
- Sanitary items: Tk 30
- Labour charge: Tk 60

APARTMENT PRICE

Rose by 35% to 40% (per square foot)

COST OF PRODUCTION

Increased by over Tk 500 (per square foot)



SOURCE: REHAB



Prices of mid-size flats (1,200 to 1,500 square feet) increased to around Tk 1.20 crore from Tk 85 lakh over the past one and a half years.

Kamal Mahmud
First vice-president of REHAB

Ukraine war affected 70pc of businesses

Survey finds

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Nearly 70 percent of businesses in Bangladesh have been impacted due to price increases of raw materials and weak consumer demand, which are primarily attributed to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

The businesses identified five top problematic areas – rising cost of raw materials, lack of beneficial policy implementation, difficulties in accessing finance, weak domestic demand and inefficient human resources.

This was revealed in The LightCastle Business Confidence Index (BCI) 2022-23 conducted by LightCastle in partnership with The Daily Star and launched at a city hotel yesterday.

The survey for the index was conducted during the March-June period of this year.

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Apartment sale slows for rising prices

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Apartment sales are going slow in Bangladesh due to their growing prices resulting from the country's macroeconomic vulnerabilities coupled with a rise in raw material and registration costs, according to realtors.

Apartment prices have increased by up to 40 percent over the past one and a half years due to a rise in prices of construction materials, which is a direct impact of the fallout on the global economy of the Russia-Ukraine war.

An assessment of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) shows



In case of bricks, it was Tk 50, aluminium frames Tk 40, iron grilles Tk 12, general electrification Tk 30, sanitation Tk 30 and labour charge Tk 60.

In this situation, the cost of constructing buildings increased by around Tk 500 per square foot.

Against this backdrop, apartment prices increased by around 35-40 percent depending on the location of the property, industry insiders said.

The realtors cited that the devaluation of taka, the local

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BSEC fines investor, brokerage, officials of two firms

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has separately fined an investor, a brokerage firm and top officials of two listed companies Tk 51 lakh in total for violating securities rules.

The stock market regulator informed of the regulation enforcement decisions for August through its website recently.

The BSEC fined investor Mohammad Abdul Hai Tk 35 lakh for being involved in a series of transactions using shares of Maksos



Spinning Mills Ltd to artificially raise its price.

The BSEC fined Sinha Securities Ltd Tk 5 lakh for several violations, including maintaining several individual and joint beneficiary owner (BO) accounts of some individual clients.

It also maintained customer and BO accounts under the name of some authorised representatives of the company and opened several BO accounts of different clients using some mobile numbers of authorised representatives.

Authorised representatives are the legally approved stock brokers in every brokerage firms.

It also violated rules by making cash payments to some clients of the company, executing margin agreements with

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GSMA Mobile Connectivity Index 2022

(Score out of 100)

Country	Score
India	61
Sri Lanka	59.4
Bhutan	57.2
Maldives	57
Nepal	52.6
Bangladesh	51.3
Pakistan	44.9

MOBILE CONNECTIVITY INDEX

Bangladesh lags behind neighbours

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Bangladesh advanced slightly in the global mobile connectivity index in 2022 but lags behind every South Asian nation except Pakistan.

Bangladesh advanced by 1.3 points, achieving a score of 51.3 out of 100, according to the GSMA Mobile Connectivity Index published recently.

The GSMA is a global organisation representing mobile operators and organisations across the ecosystem and adjacent industries.

India secured a mobile connectivity score of 61, showcasing the best performance in the region. Sri Lanka followed closely behind with a score of 59.4, indicating substantial connectivity.

Bhutan and the Maldives both obtained scores of 57, reflecting moderately developed mobile services, while Nepal scored 53, indicating room for improvement. In contrast, Pakistan lagged

behind with a score of 45, highlighting the need for significant advancements.

Bangladesh's subpar mobile connectivity performance stems largely from its significant shortcomings in terms of affordability, where it merited a mere 43.2 out of 100.

While Bangladesh is among the top five countries showcasing improvements in South Asia in terms of the mobile connectivity index, its score remains below the region's average of 52.

This illustrates the population's limited capacity to acquire mobile devices, a situation exacerbated by prevailing inflationary pressures, according to industry people.

That in turn inhibits widespread access to digital resources and impedes the nation's ability to bolster citizen's participation in the digital space, they said.

The economic condition of consumers is a hindrance to improved connectivity, said

Mustafa Jabbar, telecom minister. "However, investment in the telecommunication sector is not up to the mark. For example, investment in Teletalk is so far one-tenth of the required investment," he added.


He said private mobile network operators should roll out the spectrums that they took during last year's auction.

Although Bangladesh did better in the network coverage index with a score of 87.4, it fared poorly in network performance, scoring 41.1, handset affordability, scoring 33.3, taxation, scoring 10, and spectrum, scoring 27.9.


Bangladesh predominantly consists of vast, flat terrains with a remarkably high population density, making it easier for network operators to attain efficiency.

Many other nations are devoid of such features, said Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, former CEO of Robi Axiata. However, taxes – whether

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INVITATION FOR ONE - ON - ONE BUSINESS MEETING WITH MALAYSIAN COMPANIES AT CROWNE PLAZA, GULSHAN, DHAKA
29th OCTOBER 2023



Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), the national trade promotion agency of Malaysia, cordially invites Bangladeshi companies (importers, distributors & traders) for one-on-one business meeting with Malaysian companies at Crowne Plaza Dhaka, as per details below: No charge of fees will be imposed for a participation in the b2b meeting.

VENUE	DATE	TIME
The Ballroom, Level 25, Crowne Plaza, Dhaka	Sunday, 29 October 2023	9.00 am-5.00 pm

REPLY SLIP

Company Name:

Representative(s) Name: Designation:

Address:

Tel: Fax: Mobile:

Email: Web:

My/Our company is involved in the following activities:

WE ARE INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH THE FOLLOWING MALAYSIAN COMPANIES:

AGMO STUDIO SDN BHD Software development services, Software products and solutions offerings, Software support and maintenance services	
ANGLO WAX INDUSTRIES SDN BHD Candle Wax, Organic Chemicals and Tableware	
CAMASSIA SDN BHD Ready to eat Meals and Food and Beverage	
DOLUVO SDN BHD Fruit based Snacks	
GROUND DATA SOLUTIONS R&D SDN BHD Construction and Professional Service, Airborne Laser Mapping, Engineering Survey, GIS, Remote Sensing & Other Geomatics-Related Products	
H2O FLOW SDN BHD Pipes, Tubes, Valves and Fittings, Business Consulting Services Including Marketing Consulting, Water Plumbing and Drain Laying Services	
INDUSTRI MAKANAN JATI SDN BHD Spices, Condiments and Premix flour for frying	
JALEN SDN BHD Sauces and paste, Juices and Cordials	
LIFESTYLE VENTURES SDN BHD Sauces, Paste and Sambal	
MAMA BEST FOOD MANUFACTURER SDN BHD Bakery products and pastries like Frozen ready-to-eat food, Ready-to-drinks and snacks	
METAL DOT MACHINERY SDN BHD Metal Working Machinery and Equipment, Plastic Processing Machinery and Equipment	
PETROSAKA SDN BHD Design-to-build world-class solutions for oil & gas processing, petroleum refining, chemicals & petrochemicals and fertilizer sectors	
SERVICE4U SDN BHD IOT Cloud-based Telecommunication Service provider	
SIA FLEXITANKS (ASIA) SDN BHD Plastic packaging and Containers and Packaging for bulk liquid cargo	
UGREAT INTERNATIONAL SDN BHD Health Supplements, Cosmetics, Coffee, Tea and Cocoa based beverages	
UNA CROP SDN BHD Fruits and Nuts	
XCEL ITECH SDN BHD Education Training Software	

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