





ISSUE 5, FEBRUARY 2022 BANGLADESH

The Success Stories of Bangladesh

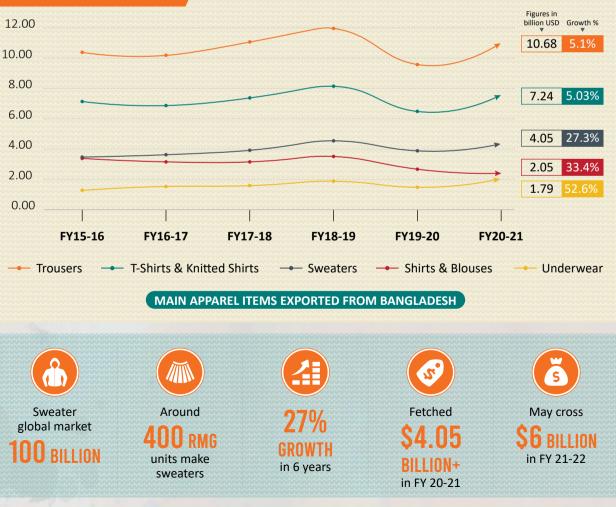




Bangladesh poised to grab a bigger pie of global sweater market

Bangladesh is turning into a major sourcing destination for sweaters as work orders are shifting from China to Bangladesh. Curiously, climate change has impacted this in favour of Bangladesh as sweater is becoming an allweather fashion item pushing down the demand of thick sweaters in favour or lightweights. Change in fashion trend also played a role as many put on lightweight sweater all the year round as a fashion statement. Trend in favour of putting on casual wears has also helped this cause as sweaters are a knit item and people use these also as casual wear. The first sweater factory was established in Bangladesh in 1987 and it fetched 3 million USD in the first year. Now, Bangladesh's sweater industry is fetching more than 4 billion USD and expanding further. Sweater has logged 27% export growth in the past six years as China pulled out from sweater-making due to complexities in the manufacturing process, higher cost of production, and shortage of skilled workers. Plus, local manufacturers have upgraded and automated their factories. Canada, US and the EU are the main export destinations whereas Russia, South Africa and

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SWEATER EXPORT GROWTH

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL



US, CANADA AND THE EU Main export destinations



JAPAN, SOUTH AFRICA AND RUSSIA Emerging markets

UPGRADED AND AUTOMATED FACTORIES
CAN TAKE MORE OF \$104 BILLION INDUSTRY
NEED TO PRODUCE MORE HIGH-VALUE ITEMS

Japan are emerging destinations. Of the \$600 million garments exported to Russia last year, the majority were sweaters. As economies are shrugging off COVID19 impacts, sweater-makers are eying fresh investment and factory expansion as demand has grown. Pullovers, cardigans, jumpers and mufflers are included in the basic knitwear category. As China is moving itself away from this category, Bangladesh can grab a bigger share of this \$104 billion pie where she has to compete with Cambodia, Turkey, Myanmar and Vietnam. Most Bangladeshi manufacturers still focus on low-cost sweaters (\$4-\$6/piece) whereas a few factories export high-value items in a low quantity. More production in the latter group will bring in higher income. However, the sector needs to fend off issues like unusual price hikes of cotton, innovation inadequacies, shortage of design centres, absence of strong backward linkage, HS code related complexities and requirement of huge investment for setting up factories. Earnings from sweater exports reached \$4.05 billion in FY 2020-21, up 12.62% year-on-year. In FY 2019-20, the receipts stood at \$3.59 billion, a decrease of 15.47 per cent from the previous year's \$4.25 billion due to COVID19 fallout. Industry veterans expect that the export earnings will cross \$6 billion at the end of current FY.







Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City will get over \$1 billion investment by 2025

Several Hi-Tech Parks, Software Technology Parks and IT Training & Incubation Centers throughout Bangladesh are being established to attract local and foreign investors for the development of Hi-Tech/ IT/ITES industries. The jewel in the crown of these planned establishments is Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City (BHTC) in Kaliakoir, Gazipur. Located just 25 kms from Hajrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka and spread over 355 acres of land, BHTC is equipped with all necessary amenities for establishing tech-based industries. Renowned companies like Oryx Bio-Tech Limited immediately grabbed this opportunity. Oryx will establish a large manufacturing plant here investing USD 300 million - the first-ever plasma fractionation plant in Bangladesh- to produce human plasma-based pharmaceutical products to be used in the treatment of diseases like cancer and hepatitis. Hikvision, a leading global surveillance device supplier, is expected to officially launch the first-ever security surveillance equipment manufacturing plant in Bangladesh at BHTC in March 2022. It will also produce networking, telecom, AI and robotics equipment. BHTC's proximity to the capital and offering of all necessary infrastructure with uninterrupted supply system with excellent communication network will pull big players. So far, 44 companies have been allotted plots and many of them have started constructing factory buildings. These companies will start their production in full scale by 2025 and by then BHTC will also be completed. At its prime, BHTC will employ around 50,000 skilled workers and attract investment to the tune of USD 1.3 billion.



The entire hi-tech city is divided into six blocks. Four Blocks will be entirely industrial areas and a special zone comprising 97.33 acres of land has been developed for establishing research and development facilities. BHTC already has necessary and associated infrastructures. Potential investors are also being extended a helping hand through BHTPA's one-stop service centre for quick application for land and acquire different types of licences and certificates. The authorities are also working with NBR to arrange tax exemption for IT devices and raw material needed for industries located at the hi-tech city. They are also working with Bangladesh Bank and a large private bank to arrange loans on easy terms for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs. BHTC will help Bangladesh rebrand as an ICT exporter country and take a great leap towards fulfilling the dream of building a digital Bangladesh.



Digital Bangladesh- a dream turned into reality



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E-GOVERNMENT

Achievements	2008	2021
Data center service seekers	-	100 million+
Information and service dissemination through 333 call center	-	73.7 million+
Information and service dissemination through 999 call center	-	10.9 million+
No. of Digital Centers	-	8280
Total no. of services extended through Digital Centers	-	600 million+
No. of services extended through Digital Centers/month	-	6 million
Government offices connected to National Information Portal	-	5200
Land records digitization	-	50.5 million+
Bail hearing in virtual courts	-	0.37 million
Bail granted through virtual court	-	0.17 million
Government officers connected to e-nothi (electronic file) system	-	11370+
Files disposed under e-nothi system	-	10.67 million

INDUSTRY PROMOTION

Achievements	2008	2021
Ongoing work on Software Technology park/Hi-tech park establishment	-	30
Completed work on Software Technology park/Hi-tech park establishment	-	09
4IR labs in different universities	-	33
No. of farms investing in Software Technology park/Hi-tech park	-	166
Support to Start ups in Software Technology park/Hi-tech park	-	223
establishment		
Income from ICT export	-	1.3 billion USD
Freelancing professionals	-	0.65 million

CONNECTIVITY

Achievements	2008	2021
Organizations with broadband/optical fiber connection	-	18500
Unions connected by broadband/optical fiber	-	3800
Laying broadband/optical fiber cable	-	28000 kms
Wifi connections at Union level	-	26000
Mobile phone connections	44.6 million	180 million
Internet users	5.6 million	130 million

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

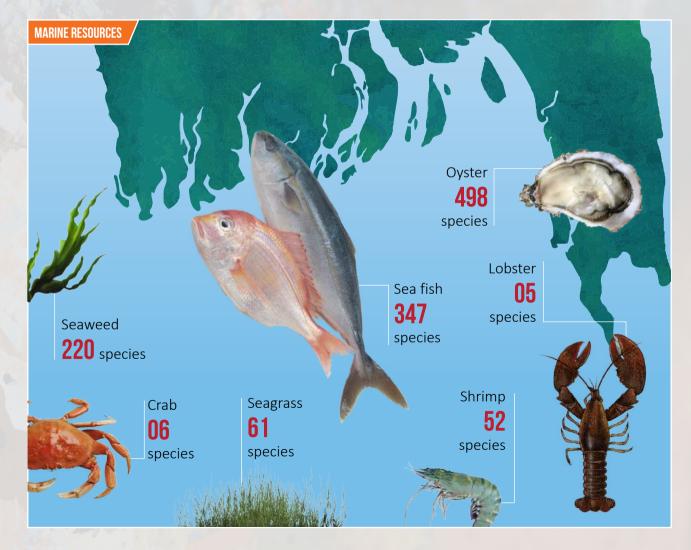
Achievements	2008	2021
No. of people receiving training	-	0.235 million
No. of people trained in emerging technology	-	56000+
Making trained freelancers	-	0.1 million
Establishment of Sheikh Russel Digital Lab	-	13000
Human resource development for IT sector	-	32000
No. of people receiving cyber security training	-	90000+
Multimedia classroom	-	58000
Establishing Sheikh Russel School of Future	-	300





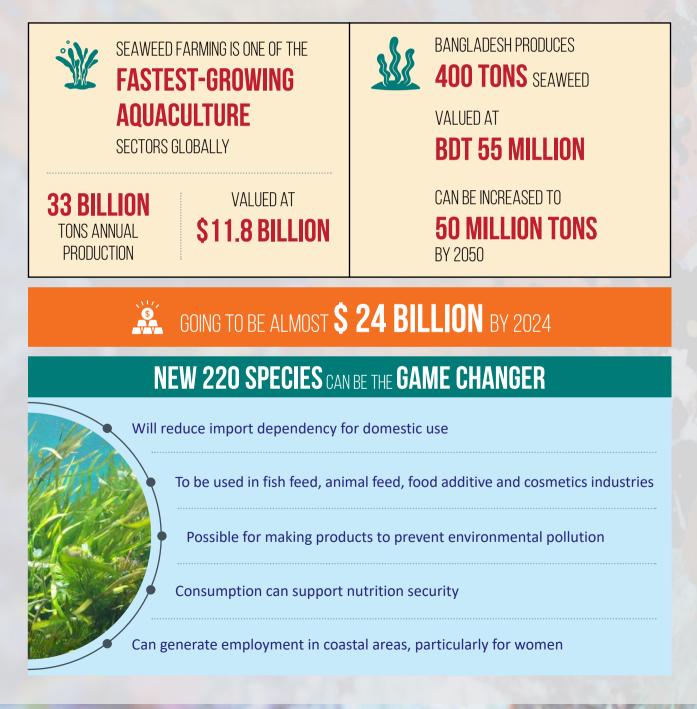
Seaweed found in the Bay of Bengal can be a game changer in agro industry

Bangladesh has hit a 'goldmine' as a survey conducted by the Maritime Affairs Unit (MAU) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh along with the Netherlands found presence of several hundreds of seaweed varieties in the Bay of Bengal. The field-level research done since 2020is looking into the presence, overall location, economic potential and commercialization of marine genetic resources. On the basis of the results, 220 species of seaweed, 347 species of marine fish, 498 species of oysters, 52 species of shrimp, 5 species of lobsters, 6 species of crabs, 61 species of sea-grass were identified in Bangladesh. This discovery of seaweed offers the country a huge commercial potential as it will reduce import dependency for domestic use and will also fetch foreign currency through export to the global market. Some seaweed varieties will end up in five types of industries- fish feed, animal feed, food additive, bulk cosmetics ingredient and high-value cosmetic ingredient. Seaweeds can also be used for fertilizers, biofuels and products to prevent environmental pollution. Increased consumption of seafood can support nutrition security. Seaweed production is easy and environment-friendly. Its cultivation can play a role in protecting the ecological balance



as well as protecting the coastal areas. Seaweed cultivation will also create employment opportunities of coastal people of Bangladesh, particularly women.

According to FAO, seaweed farming is one of the fastest-growing aquaculture sectors globally with an annual production of about 33 billion tons, valued at \$11.8 billion. This is anticipated to double by 2024. Over 40 countries are now producing this much of seaweed where China and Indonesia share 87% of the global production. Bangladesh currently produces some 400 tons of seaweed, valued at BDT 55 million, according to a local expert. However, a recent study suggested that it could be increased to 50 million tons by 2050. Before the MAU study outcome was revealed, 32 types of seaweed were known to be abundant along the coast of Bangladesh. 14 of these species are commercially viable but only 4 variants are being farmed on a small scale. Therefore, the study by Foreign Ministry and identification of 220 species of seaweed is a huge boon for Bangladesh and its nascent seaweed industry.

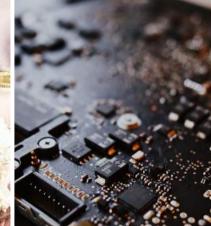






























A production powerhouse: Bangladesh among world's top 10 in 13 sectors

A thriving Bangladesh has established herself as a production powerhouse. In the last few years, Bangladesh made it into the world's top 10 in 13 sectors riding on positive policies and decisions of the government supplemented by enthusiastic efforts by the people and a group of dedicated entrepreneurs. The placements are quite diverse ranging from agricultural production to outsourcing.



2 nd

in Outsourcing personnel



600,000 FREELANCERS

OF GLOBAL WORKFORCE

27%

1.3 BILLION USD EARNING FROM ICT EXPORTS IN 2021

GLOBAL PRODUCTION

Moving in line with the vision 'Digital Bangladesh', the country's IT-savvy youth have marked a niche for themselves in taking up freelancing and outsourcing as a profession which helped Bangladesh stand firmly on global outsourcing map at 2nd position. There are 600,000 freelancers in Bangladesh's IT sector, which is around 27% globally. India ranks at the top. Bangladesh has earned 1.3 billion USD from ICT exports in 2021



PRODUCES 1 MILLION TONNES/YEAR IN BANGLADESH

Thailand come up third and fourth respectively.

3.7 MILLION TONNES/YEAR Globally, 3.7 million tonnes of jackfruits are produced annually, and Bangladesh is the second highest producer of the fruit, producing 1 million tonnes a year. India produces the most (1.8 million tonnes). Indonesia and



PRODUCED **19.7 MILLION** TONNES IN FY 2020-21

GREW VEGETABLE ON **9.35 LAKH HECTARES** OF LAND

PRODUCES **100 TYPES** OF VEGETABLE

According to DAE, Bangladesh now ranks third in vegetable production, producing 19.7 million tonnes in FY 2020-21 up from 18.4 million tonnes from previous year. For the last decade, there has been an upward trend in production and acreage. Bangladesh grew vegetables on 9.08 lakh acres of land in fiscal 2009-10 to produce 2.93 million tonnes of crops that year, which has gone up now to 9.35 lakh hectares, according to the BBS. Bangladesh now produces about 100 types of vegetables. China is the top vegetable producer in the world and India second.

J

in Freshwater Fish production



FRESHWATER FISH

PRODUCES **10%** OF THE WORLD'S PRODUCTION WENT UP **53%** AND EXPORT WENT UP BY **20%** IN 10 YEARS

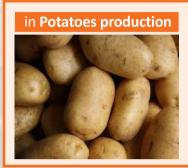
Bangladesh ranks third globally in the production of freshwater fish. According to FAO, Bangladesh produces 10% of the world's freshwater fish. China is first, making up 16% and India second with 14%. FAO predicts that by 2022 Bangladesh will be among the four countries in world which will see huge success in fish production. The others are Thailand, India and China. Over the past 10 years, fish production went up by 53% and fish export went up by 20%.



PRODUCED 34.6 MILLION METRIC TONS

MILLED RICE IN 2020/2021 CROP YEAR

Bangladesh is now self-sufficient in rice production and holds the 4th spot in the world. In the 2020/2021 crop year, Bangladesh with 34.6 million metric tons of milled rice was just behind Indonesia, which is at 3rd place with 35.3 million metric tons. China grabs the top spot with 148.3 million metric tons and India follows with 122.27 million metric tons of milled rice.



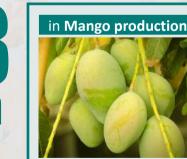
PRODUCED 9.61 MILLION METRIC TONNES IN 2020

Bangladesh is now seventh in the world when it comes to potato production. Since independence, the country's potato production has increased 11 times and in 2020, Bangladesh produced 9.61 million metric tonnes of potato. China, India, Ukraine and Russia took the first four places producing 78.18 million metric tonnes, 51.3 million metric tonnes, 20.84 million metric tonnes and 19.61 million metric tonnes respectively.



RECEIVED A TOTAL OF **21.8 BILLION USD** IN 2020

In 2020, Bangladesh ranked 8th in the world in receiving remittance from expatriates. Bangladesh received a total of 21.8 billion USD. India takes the top spot with 83.1 billion USD whereas China trails India here with 59.5 billion USD.



PRODUCED **889, 176 TONNES** IN 2021

EXPORTED **791 TONNES** IN FY 2020-21

In 2021, Bangladesh produced 889176 tonnes of mango which earned her the 8th spot in the global ranking for mango production. India tops the list in mango production, producing 15 million tonnes. China is the second with 4.3 million tonnes. Bangladesh's mango export volume is increasing. In FY 2020-21, it was 791 tons, 3 times of the previous FY's export.



PRODUCES 1 MILLION TONNE/YEAR

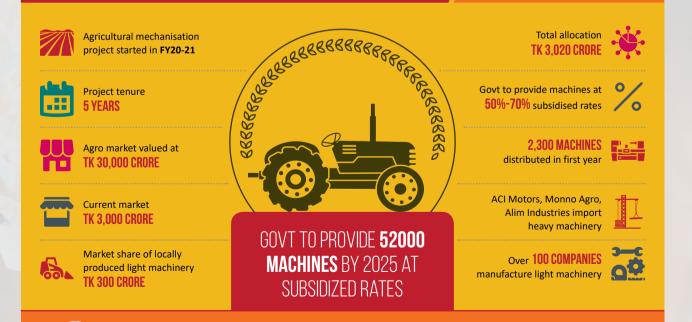
Bangladesh produces about a million tonne of guavas a year and is placed at eighth position in the world. India comes first with 17.6 million tonnes a year and China second with 4.4 million (44 lakh) tonnes. Previously only local guavas would be grown in Bangladesh, but the Thai and Kg variety of guavas brought about a revolution.



Government's farm mechanization efforts to spur investment boom in agro machinery sector

With remarkable growth in the agricultural sector, the Government now aims to take it even higher and has given a serious attention to mechanizing farm work initially by subsidizing farmers in equipment purchase. This means that more mechanized farming will be done, more equipment will be needed meaning a strong market and more investment as a result. It has already grabbed the attention of local entrepreneurs who are eying to manufacture heavy agricultural machinery targeting a market valued at BDT 30.000 crore. With a view to modernize the agriculture sector, address the farm labor shortage and make the sector commercially profitable by minimizing cultivation cost, the Government has taken up a BDT 3020 crore farm mechanization project in FY 2020-21 under which 52000 agro equipment (combined harvester, reaper, transplanter etc.) will be provided to farmers by 2025 at a subsidized rate. In FY 2020-21, the government distributed 2300 different agro machinery, including 1762 combined harvesters, 379 reapers, and 34 rice transplanters among farmers under the agricultural mechanization project. In the current FY, the government has allocated three times more than the previous FY. Currently only a few companies import heavy agricultural machinery whereas over 100 companies manufacture agricultural devices. Implementation light of the Government's farm mechanization project will re-shape this sector and it will be considered ready for investment as the market will surely grow bigger. ACI, which has already set up an automated factory for light agricultural machinery, is in negotiation with a Japanese

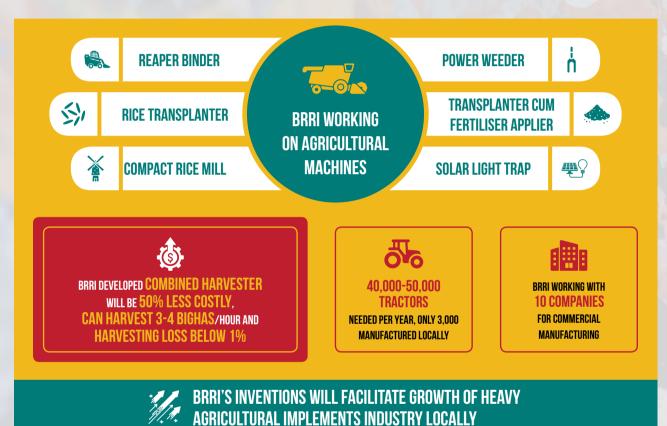
GOVERNMENT WANTS TO MODERNIZE AGRICULTURE SECTOR, ADDRESS FARM LABOR SHORTAGE AND MAKE IT COMMERCIALLY PROFITABLE



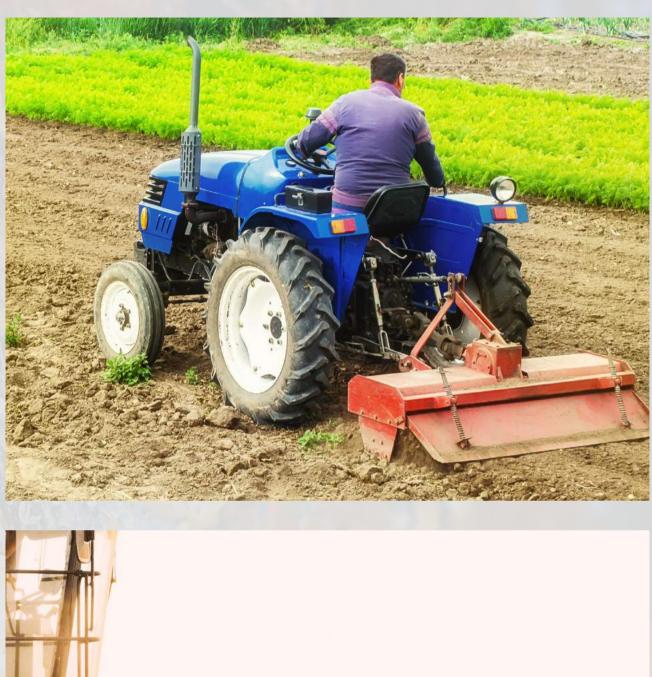
HUGE SCOPE FOR USE OF MACHINERY IN PLANTING, HARVESTING AND THRESHING

company to set up a joint venture in Bangladesh. Monno Agro also wants to build a state-of-theart factory. Industry specialists believe that with policy support (low-interest bank loans for investment, duty-free import of agro-machinery parts etc.) from the Government, local light manufacturing units can be expanded into heavy agricultural machinery production units. There is still a huge scope for use of machinery in planting, harvesting and threshing as more than 95% of such work is done without the use of modern machinery. Investment in this sector will also reduce import dependency for tractors and power tillers as only 3000 tractors are manufactured locally against an annual need of 40,000-50,000 tractors Most of the agricultural machinery in the country comes from China, India, Indonesia, Japan and Cambodia.

But our local scientists are quite capable in producing quality machines. Bangladesh Rice



Research Institute (BRRI) has recently developed a combined harvester more suitable for use in local croplands and if manufactured locally, a farmer's expenditure for procuring this machine will come down to about 50%. This is also capable of harvesting paddy on 3-4 bighas of land per hour and harvesting loss is below 1%. It is also capable to overcome the problems faced by imported heavy machinery such as movement through small roads, difficulty in use in small size cropland, repairing difficulty etc. BRRI invented technologies will be provided for free to local private agricultural machinery manufacturers, which is likely to push forward a process of building a thriving heavy agricultural implements industry locally. BRRI is currently working on 9 devices (including rice transplanter, power weeder, reaper binder, manual rice transplanter, transplanter cum fertilizer applier, compact rice mill, and solar light trap) and working with 10 companies to manufacture these machinery commercially. However, the technologies will be open for everyone for manufacturing under the supervision of the BRRI.





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Bangladeshi private economic zone pulls giant investors

The government's plan to establish 100 economic zones is going on in full speed and private economic zones are taking full advantage of this momentum. These are turning themselves into lucrative investment places and Abdul Monem Economic Zone (AMEZ) has already established itself as a sought-after investment destination

for giant investors, particularly foreign ones with wide range of lucrative features, such as suitable location, river connectivity, eco-friendly environment and all required amenities.

AMF7

AMEZ has already roped in Japanese manufacturer motorcycle Honda

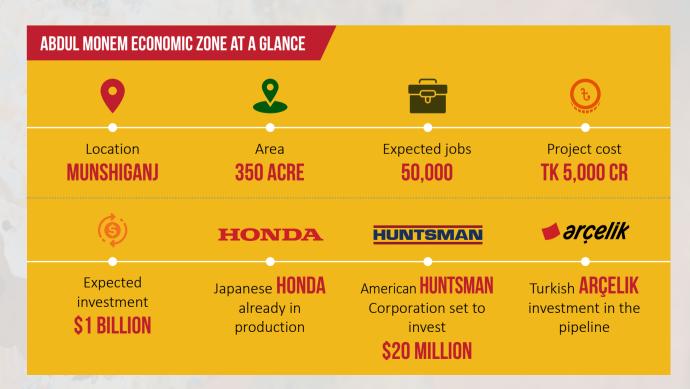
Motor Corporation. US-based multinational chemical producer Huntsman Corporation has been allotted 5 acres of land where a bonded warehouse will be set up. Huntsman will produce chemicals used in the apparel industry, with an initial investment of \$20 million, from which local RMG manufacturers will be greatly benefitted as currently they import these chemicals from China, India and a few other countries. Investments of several other manufacturers, including the Turkish home appliance producer Arçelik, are in the pipeline. Local giants like Walton, Bashundhra and Prime Textiles are eager to set up factories here.

Approved in 2017 by BEZA and set up on the



banks of Meghna in Munshigani's Gazaria (about 37 kms from Dhaka) over a sprawling 350 acres of land, AMEZ expects to have over \$1 billion investment and create at least 50,000 jobs. About 2/3 of the total land has already been developed for

setting factories and the rest is expected to be completed within two years. AMEZ is being developed as a green economic zone and the authorities have plans to make a power plant for their own electricity, install jetties for utilizing river connectivity and develop a system for rainwater preservation. Besides, a solar power grid will be built there.



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CONVENIENT LOCATION & ACCESS

- 61.1 kms from HSIA
- 240 kms from Chattogram Sea Port and 314 kms from Mongla Sea Port
- 70 meters from Dhaka-Chattagram Highway
- 600 meters from Meghna Ghat River Port

COMPETITIVE INCENTIVES

- 100% Tax Holiday for first two years
- Duty free import of raw materials, construction materials, capital machineries, finished goods
- Exemption from dividend tax



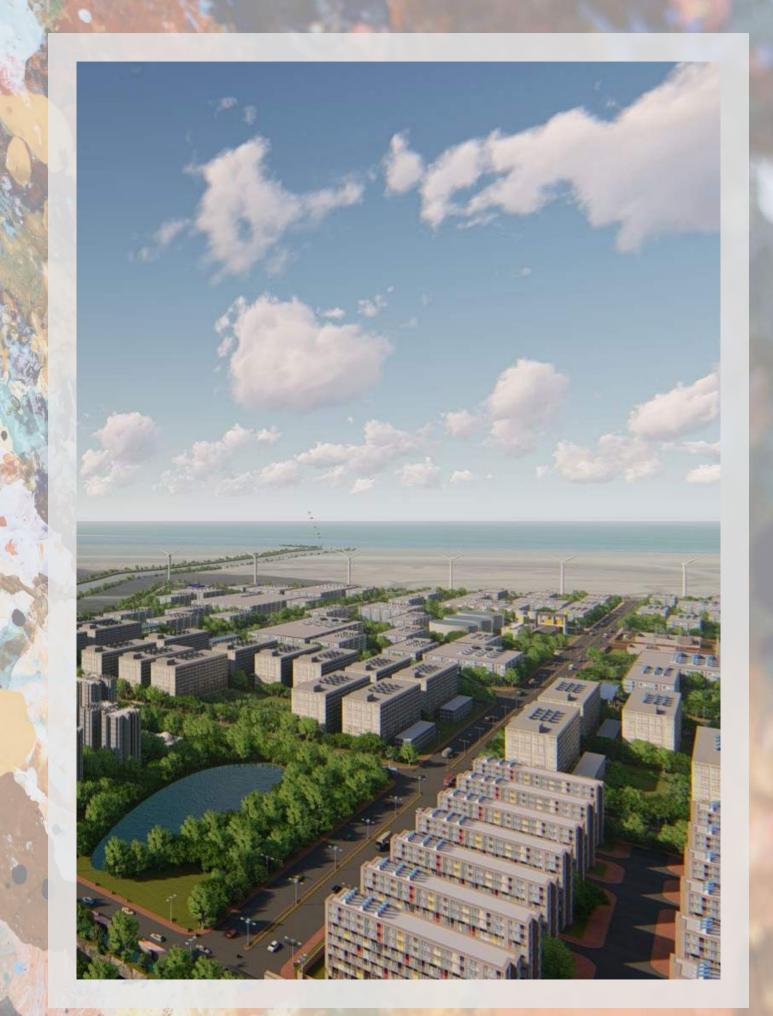
EXPECTED INVESTMENT VALUE 1 BILLION USD+

WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE

- Utility service including full time captive power plant, water supply sewage treatment
- Multimodal logistics and dry port
- One-stop administrative service
- Commercial facility service
- On-site accommodation for employees

POTENTIAL INDUSTRIES

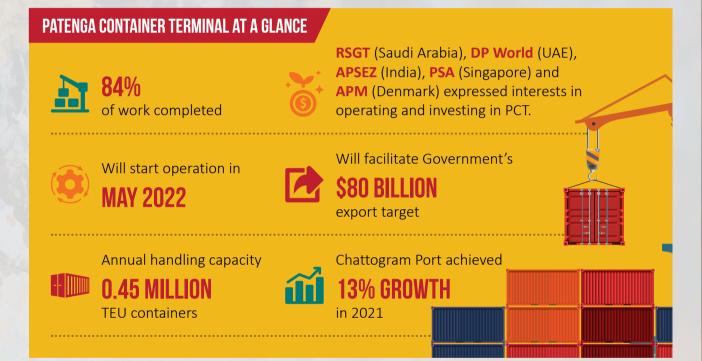
- Textiles, garment & accessories
- Leather products & shoes
- Pharmaceuticals
- Food processing
- Plastic & other consumer goods
- Machinery parts & Light engineering
- Automobile & accessories





Patenga Container Terminal likely to start operation in May 2022

An important element for achieving Bangladesh's Vision 2041, the much awaited Patenga Container Terminal (PCT) on the bank of Karnaphuli River is moving quickly towards completion. With 84% of work already completed, the 26-acre PCT is expected to start operation in May 2022. Construction of container jetties is 85% done while dolphin jetty got 83%, workshop 95% and office building 92% done till December 2021. With PCT, Chattogram is going to get a new terminal after 14 years. Chattogram Port has three existing terminals – General Cargo Berth, Chattogram Container Terminal (CCC) and Newmooring Container Terminal (NCT). There are four dolphin jetties as well for offloading liquid cargoes.



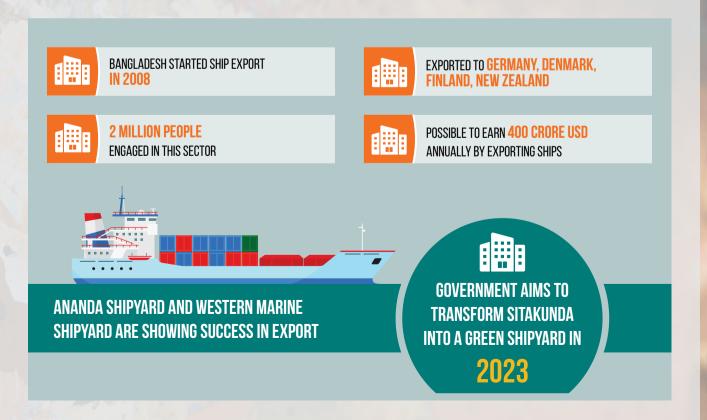
The government approved the project in 2017 at an original cost of BDT 1868 crore, which is being implemented with the Port's own funds. The cost was revised later and brought down to BDT 1229 crore. PCT is going to have an annual handling capacity of 0.45 million Twenty Equivalent Unit (TEU) containers and is expected to help facilitate the \$80 billion export target set by the Government. Some big international firms including Red Sea-Gateway Terminal (RSGT) of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates Dubai Port World (DP World) of the UAE, Adani Port and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) of India, PSA of Singapore and APM of Denmark expressed their interests in operating and investing in the terminal. The terminal will create scope for handling three container vessels at a time while there will also be facilities for offloading liquid cargo at a separate dolphin jetty. It will allow vessels of 9.5-metre draft and 190-metre length to dock.

The main seaport of Bangladesh achieved 13% growth in 2021 by handling over 32,01,548 TEUs container, 116619,158 tonnes of cargo and 4209 vessels in 2021 and overcame the setback witnessed by the maritime ports across the globe following COVID19.



Ship building industry of Bangladesh is experiencing a revival

The very promising ship building industry in Bangladesh is experiencing a revival after COVID19. The sector is receiving many orders and holds a great prospect. According to Chinese Association for the Ship Building Industry (CANSI), Bangladesh will receive orders equivalent to USD 1.5 billion (BDT 12795 crore) by 2022. In FY 2019-20, Bangladesh earned 18 million USD and this sector suffered a hit in FY 2020-21 due to COVID19. But as the pandemic is subsiding, the revitalizing global economy has put a positive impact on ship building industry as well and Bangladesh is regularly receiving orders. FMC Dockyard has recently received an order from Sudan to make tugboat for an amount of 13 million USD competing with the likes of Dutch, Turkish, Chinese and Indian companies. Western Marine and Anand Shipyards are also getting big orders. There is a growing trend of focusing on ocean-centric economic activity and this requires specialized, high-tech ships of various size. The constant demand for such ships has alerted local shipbuilders as well. The government is also providing policy support to this sector including cash incentives and tax exemption. Banks are also investing heavily in this sector. It is hoped that this sector will earn USD 4 billion a year. Bangladesh's ship building industry is relatively new. Bangladesh first exported ship in 2008 to Denmark. The country has also exported ships to Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Pakistan, India and Kenya. These ships included passenger ships, cargo ships, fishing ships and even battle ships. Through this, Bangladesh is slowly but confidently making its mark in the global ship building industry, which is largely dominated by China, South Korea and Japan making more than 90% of the total ships.





Some local conglomerates are also helping this cause. They have tried their hands in building class vessels mainly to transport their own raw materials and produced cargo. Smaller cargo ships (1000-1500 tons) are making way for larger cargo ships (3000-5000 tons). Meghna Group, City Group, Bashundhara Group and Delta Shipyard (a joint venture of TK Group and Seacom) have already built their own fleet of ships. Akij Group is also planning to invest in shipbuilding. UNCTAD's latest report marks a big jump for Bangladesh in ship building industry in five years, moving up 13 places to 14th position and in the process, going ahead of US, India, Spain, Romania, Malaysia, Norway and Indonesia, all of which were earlier ahead of Bangladesh. Bangladesh now boasts hosting at least 15 ship

building factories of international standard. Local conglomerates' investment in this sector is helping the economy in a multitude of waysreducing dependency, saving foreign currency and generating employment. Bangladesh has skilled personnel to take this sector ahead but the rising cost of iron plates (essential for ship building) is going to be a challenge. The prospect has grabbed the attention of foreign investors as well. A Dutch company has expressed interest in setting up a ship building factory next to Payra Port at a cost of 158 crore USD. If the factories are set up near sea ports instead of river ports, the sector will grow bigger as that will help it make bigger ships that can be exported to other countries.





Introducing the cultural heritage of Bangladesh: Traditional art of Shital Pati weaving of Sylhet

Shital Pati is the traditional art of making a handcrafted mat by weaving together strips of a green cane known as 'Murta'. The mat is used by people all over Bangladesh as a sitting mat, bedspread or prayer mat. Shital Pati, literally meaning 'cool mat', it earned its name from the cold comfort, which it offers in the tropical weather of Bangladesh. It is a flat and rectangular sheet which can be rolled up to put away. When spread on floor or bed, its upper surface appears glossy and smooth while the inner surface is Kishoreganj and Netrokona have generated pockets of Shital Pati weavers in these areas of Bangladesh. It is estimated that almost 4000 families in about 100 villages are directly involved in this craft. Both men and women participate in collecting and processing Murta, with women being more involved in the weaving process.

The craft is a major source of livelihood and a strong marker of identity. Primarily a family-based craft, it helps to reinforce family bonding and create a harmonious social atmosphere. Mastery



rough. Although made of flat, thin strips of green cane, its natural look is brown in finished form. The weaving pattern gives it a texture akin to jigsaw puzzle. Cane-strips may be dyed too. Also, the craftspeople known as 'patial' or 'patikaar' (meaning 'mat-maker') may weave cane strips in a way so as to create motifs of birds, animals, flowers and leaves or other symmetric patterns. of the technique commands social prestige, and the practice empowers underprivileged communities, including women. Traditionally made for sitting or lying, the use of good quality Shital Pati in the interior decoration industry is increasing. This has reinforced bonding between the rural and urban communities. The use of the ethnic motif of Shital Pati by top range

INSCRIBED IN 2017 ON UNESCO'S REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

The main bearers and practitioners are weavers living mostly in the low-lying villages in the greater Sylhet region (Habiganj, Moulavibazar, Sunamganj and Sylhet) of Bangladesh. However, Balaganj of Sylhet district is highly reputed for high quality Shital Pati. Although Murta is the best, Shital Pati can be made from bamboo, hogla, reed and palm leaves as well. Cultivation of Murta as well as natural growth of the same in swampy lands of Chittagong, Cox's Bazaar, Noakhali, Lakshmipur, Feni, Barisal, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Comilla, Dhaka, Faridpur, Tangail, fashion designers and book illustrators has enhanced the cultural value of the element. The government promotes awareness of the element through local and national craft fairs, and Shital Pati communities are increasingly being organized into cooperatives to ensure the efficient safeguarding and transmission of the craft and guarantee its profitability. Safeguarding efforts involve the direct participation of the communities concerned and the practice is primarily transmitted from generation to generation within the families of craftspeople.



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