

Economy

Poverty rate drops to 18.6% with a rise in inequality

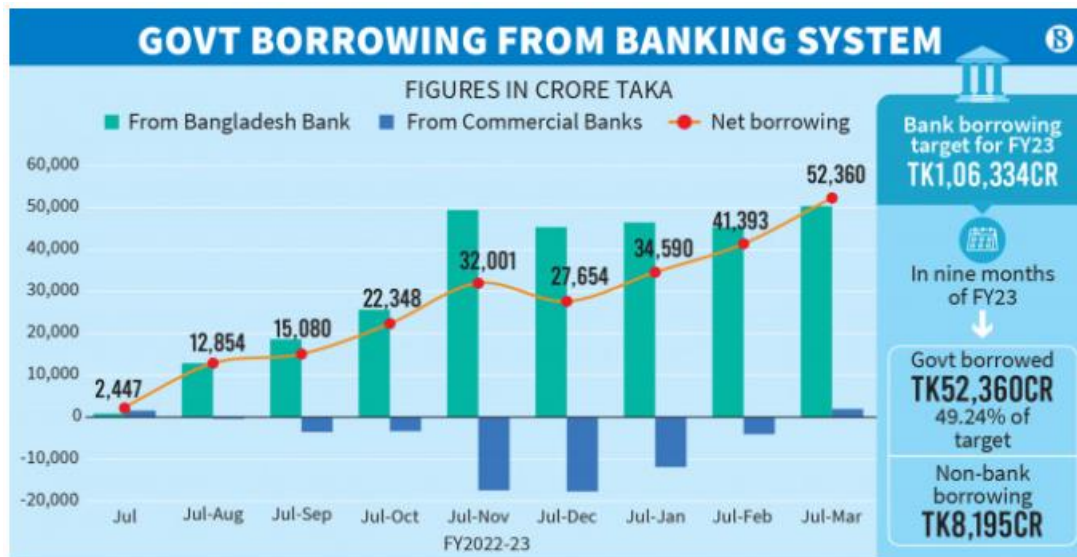
The latest household survey comes with good news that the poverty rate in Bangladesh dropped to 18.6% in the last six years – half of the period being devastated by twin global shocks. But there is a note of warning too – the improvement comes with widening income inequality.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/incomes-grow-inequality-widens-615274>

Govt's bank borrowing increases by Tk11,000cr in March

The government borrowed around Tk17,770 crore from the banks, while it collected only Tk1,409 crore from non-banking sources in February and March of this year. The government borrowed around Tk6,803 crore in February and around Tk11,000 crore from the banking sector in March this year.

The government's borrowing from the Bangladesh Bank reached Tk 50,380 crore in the nine months till March 30 of the current financial year 2022-23.



Infograph: TBS

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/govts-bank-borrowing-increases-tk11000cr-march-615554>

People using savings for survival

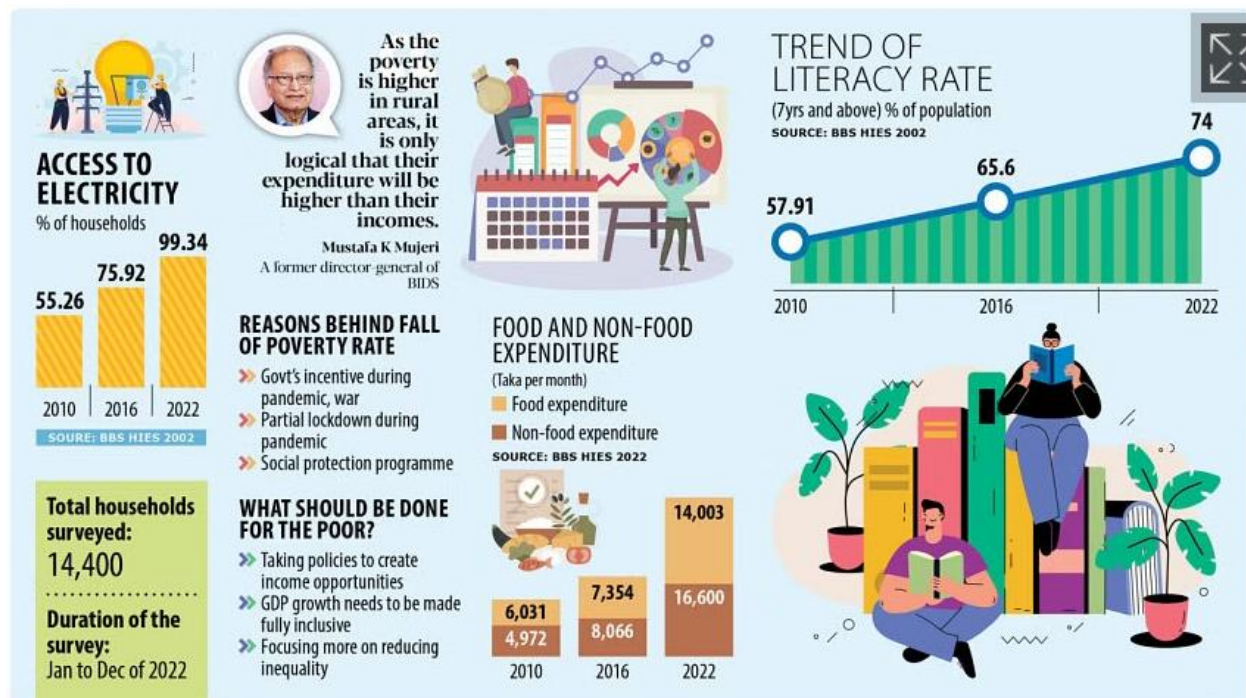
People have been withdrawing their savings to cope with the rising living costs caused by the growing inflation in the country. According to Bangladesh Bank data, savings deposits dropped by 4.16 per cent to Tk 3,53,911 crore while fixed deposits declined by 0.16 per cent to Tk 6,91,431 crore in December 2022 compared to September 2022.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/199301/people-using-savings-for-survival>

Household income, expenditure nearly triple in 12 years

Monthly average household income and expenditure in Bangladesh doubled in the last six years and nearly tripled in 12 years, official figures showed yesterday. The average monthly household income rose to Tk

32,422 in 2022, up more than 102 per cent on 2016, according to the latest data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). On the other hand, monthly average household expenditure increased to Tk 31,500 in 2022, up 100 per cent from Tk 15,715 in 2016.



<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/household-income-expenditure-nearly-triple-12-years-3295866>

Bangladesh requests AIIB, JICA, Korea to disburse USD 820 Mn as budget support

Bangladesh has requested disbursement of USD 820 Mn fund from the development financiers and Korean government, apart from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan, officials said. The fund would be used for attaining inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic fallout, continued efforts towards sustainable development, and ensuring solid macro-economic stability, they added.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bd-requests-aiib-jica-korea-to-disburse-820m-as-budget-support>

Foreign currency account facility for local shippers, airlines

The central bank has allowed banks to open foreign currency accounts in the names of shipping companies, airlines and freight forwarders to support their global operations. In view of the growing trend of global operations by shipping companies and airlines, banks may open FC accounts in the names of the companies having global operations, said the Bangladesh Bank in a notice yesterday. Up to 75% of the inward remittances of the companies can be kept as deposits in the accounts. The remainder has to be encashed in the local currency.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-currency-account-facility-local-shippers-airlines-3294771>

Global Economy

World Bank raises global growth outlook for 2023

World Bank Group President David Malpass announced on Monday the lender has raised its global growth forecast for 2023 to 2.0 per cent from 1.7 per cent in January due to China's recovery. According to Reuters, Malpass attributed the upward revision to an improved outlook after China adjusted its COVID-19 pandemic response, with growth in the country expected to reach 5.1 per cent this year compared to a previous estimate of 4.3 per cent, reports Xinhua.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/global/world-bank-raises-global-growth-outlook-for-2023>

Stock-Specific News

Berger to borrow USD 60 Mn from its foreign parent company

Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd has decided to enter an agreement with its **foreign parent company J&N Investments (Asia) Limited** to avail USD 60 Mn in loans. The loan will facilitate the opening of letters of credit for raw material imports by Berger Paints Bangladesh and will be disbursed in phases based on business requirements. The interest rate and repayment period would be determined by the regulatory authorities i.e. Bangladesh Investment Development and Regulatory Authority during their approval.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/berger-borrow-60m-its-foreign-parent-company-615546>

Brac Bank profits grow by 10.13% in 2022

Brac Bank Ltd has posted a 10.13% growth in its annual profits in 2022. The private sector commercial bank and its subsidiaries' combined EPS stood at BDT 4.02 which was BDT 3.65 in the previous year, according to the DSE.

At the end of December, the net asset value of the bank and its subsidiaries stood at BDT 40.86. The bank's board of directors on Tuesday recommended 7.5% cash and 7.5% stock dividends for 2022. Brac Bank also announced to increase its authorised capital to BDT 50 Bn from BDT 20 Bn to create headroom for its paid-up capital.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brac-bank-profits-grow-1013-2022-615186>