

MONTHLY REPORT ON FISCAL-MACRO POSITION

March 2020

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Contents

1.	FISC	CAL SEC	TOR	04
	1.1	Rev	enue Earnings	04
	1.2	Go۱	vernment Expenditure	05
	1.3	Buc	lget Deficit	05
	1.4	Def	icit Financing	06
	1.5	Sale	e and Repayment of National Savings Certificates (NSC)	06
2	MO	NETAR	Y SECTOR	08
	2.1	Мо	netary and Credit Development	08
	2.2	Res	erve Money Development	08
3	EXT	ERNAL	SECTOR	09
	3.1	Exp	orts	09
	3.2	Imp	oorts (C & F)	09
	3.3	Ren	nittances	10
	3.4	Exc	hange Rate Movements	11
	3.5	Exte	ernal Reserve	12
	3.6	Bala	ance of Payments	12
4	REA	L SECT	OR	13
	4.1	Rea	l Sector Indicators	13
	4.2	Ind	ustrial Production	14
	4.3	CPI	Inflation	15
			List of Tables	
Tabl		1.1	Revenue Earnings	04
Tabl		1.2	Government Expenditures	05
Table		1.3	Budget Balance	05
Tabl		1.4	Deficit Financing	06
Tabl		1.5	Net Sale and Repayment of NSC	07
Tabl		2.1	Monetary and credit development	08
Tabl		2.2	Reserve money and money multiplier	08
Table		3.1	Export Performance in FY20	09
Tabl		3.2	Import Scenario in FY20	10
Tabl		3.3	Remittance Performance in FY20	10
Table		3.4	Exchange Rate Movements	11
Table		3.5	Foreign Exchange Reserve	12
Table		3.6	Balance of Payments	12
Table		4.1	Real sector indicators (Base year: 2005-06)	13
Table		4.2	Quantum Index of Manufacturing Industries (Base: 2005-06=100)	14
Tabl	е	4.3	CPI Inflation (National) (Base 2005-06)	15
CI.			List of Charts	0.4
Char		1.1	Monthly Trend of Revenue earnings (July-March period)	04
Char		1.2	Outstanding borrowing of government through NSC	06
Char		3.1	Monthly Trend of Exports	09
Char		3.2	Monthly Trend of Import Payments	09
Char		3.3	Monthly Trend of Remittances	10
Char		3.4	Period Average Exchange Rate Movements	11
Char		3.5	Outstanding stock of Gross Foreign Exchange Reserve	12
Char		4.1	GDP Growth Rate at current and constant prices (Base year 2005-06)	13
Char		4.2	Quantum Index of Manufacturing Industries (Base: 2005-06=100)	14
Char		4.3	Trends of Twelve-Month moving Average Inflation (Base 2005-06=100)	16 16
ı nər		44	crears or Point to Point initation (Base 7005-06=100)	

Executive Summary

The March 2020 issue of the report on Fiscal-Macro position contains relevant data and analysis on the movement of major macroeconomic variables in the current month compared to the same period of the previous year. An overview of the report is given below:

Fiscal Sector

Revenue earnings decreased by 1.25 percent while government spending increased by 5.94 percent in July-March of FY¹20 compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year. Overall, the budget deficit stood at 1.16 percent of GDP at the end of July-March FY20 against a deficit of 0.72 percent of GDP during the same period of the previous fiscal year.

Monetary Sector

Broad Money (M2) increased by 12.16 percent at the end of March 2020 resulted from 14.72 percent growth in the Net Domestic Asset (NDA) and 3.63 percent growth in the Net Foreign Asset (NFA). At the same time, reserve money growth also accelerated from 9.37 percent yearly growth to 10.86 percent growth in the first nine month of the fiscal year.

External Sector

During July- March of FY20, exports decreased by 6.24 percent in contrast to 12.57 percent growth in the same period of the previous fiscal year. At the same time, import payments also decreased by 4.81 percent while remittance inflow increased by 16.06 percent. Strong remittance inflow has improved the current account balance in FY20. Further, foreign exchange reserve stood at US\$ 32.57 billion at the end of March 2020, which is equivalent to import payments of 6.61 months.

Real Sector

Bangladesh experienced a robust 8.15 percent real GDP growth in FY19 against 7.86 percent growth in FY18. With this robust growth, per capita GNI has reached to US\$ 1909 in FY19 from US\$ 1751 in FY18. In the first seven months of the fiscal year, Quantum Index of medium and large-scale manufacturing industries, a key growth driver is increased by 3.33 percent in March 2020 from that of March 2019. The average of CPI inflation (12-month moving average) stands at 5.60 percent, of which, food and non-food inflation were 5.43 percent and 5.86 percent respectively at the end of March 2020.

¹ FY20 stands for fiscal year 2019-20 that starts from 1 July 2019 and ends on 30 June 2020

1. FISCAL SECTOR

1.1 Revenue Earnings

Revenue collection fall by 18.30 percent in March 2020 compared to that of the same month of the previous fiscal year. As a result, total revenue collection registered a negative growth of 1.25 percent in July-March of FY 2019-20 against the same period of the previous fiscal year. Among the sources, NBR tax revenue and Non-Tax revenue grew by -4.98 percent and 30.50 percent respectively while Non-NBR tax revenue decreased by -4.30 percent. Mentionable that, on year-to-year basis, total revenue earnings grew by 16.3 percent in FY19 compared to that of FY18.

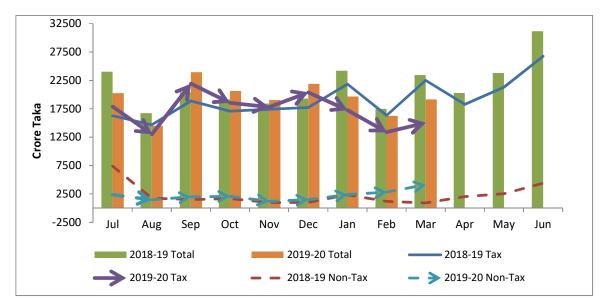


Chart 1.1: Monthly trend of Revenue earnings

Source: Integrated Budgeting & Accounting System (iBAS++), Finance Division

Table 1.1: Revenue Earning

(In crore

taka)

	Та	Tax Revenue			
Period	NBR	Non-NBR	Total	Revenue	Total Revenue
July-March FY20	1,47,504.64	5,187.26	1,52,691.90	24,482.23	1,77,174.13
July-March FY19	1,55,228.72	5,420.29	1,60,649.01	18,759.98	1,79,408.99
Growth (%)	-4.98	-4.30	-4.95	30.50	-1.25
2018-19 (Actual)	2,18,615.52	7,341.50	2,25,957.02	25,921.00	2,51,878.02
2017-18 (Actual)	1,87,103.30	7,223.47	1,94,326.77	22,229.22	2,16,555.98
Growth (%)	16.84	1.63	16.28	16.61	16.31

Source: Integrated Budgeting & Accounting System (iBAS++), Finance Division

1.2 Government Expenditure

Total government expenditure increased by 5.94 percent during July-March of FY20 compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year (Table-1.2). During this period, development expenditure increased significantly (39.20 percent). According to the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) of Ministry of Planning, ADP expenditure stood at BDT 90,704 crore at the end of July-March of FY20, which is 42.17 percent of the total allocation.

Table 1.2: Government Expenditure

(In crore taka)

	2017-18	2018-19	Yearly Growth (%)	FY 19 (July-Mar)	FY 20 (July-Mar)	Growth (%) (July-Mar)
a1. Recurrent Expenditure	1,78,879.4	2,16,662.3	21.12	1,37,814.2	1,35,619.9	-1.59
Pay and Allowances	47,847.09	53,398.87	11.60	38,985.59	39,024.37	0.10
Use of Goods and	23,479.42	28,562.22	21.65	16,819.89	14,078.93	-16.30
Interest Payment	41,765.51	49,460.72	18.42	32,436.85	26,508.97	-18.28
Domestic	38,160.17	46,014.52	20.58	29,621.00	24,370.70	-17.72
Foreign	3,605.34	3,446.21	-4.41	2,815.85	2,138.27	-24.06
Subsidies and Transfer	65,612.87	86,362.03	31.62	49,571.91	56,007.71	12.98
a2. Capital Expenditure	12,593.27	20,282.54	61.06	9,073.63	7,469.82	-17.68
a) Operating Expenditure	1,91,472.7	2,36,944.8	82.18	1,46,887.8	1,43,089.7	-2.59
b) Outlay for Food	6,993.62	4,203.74	-39.89	5,819.21	6,874.10	18.13
c) Net lending	1,240.93	-1,707.78	-237.62	-1,008.37	-4,656.97	361.83
d) Development	1,22,154.0	1,51,168.3	23.75	46,300.43	64,450.21	39.20
Out of which ADP ADP	1,19,538.3	1,47,400.3	23.31	45,885.50	60,816.42	32.54
Total Expenditure	3,21,861.3	3,90,609.1	-171.58	1,97,999.1	2,09,757.1	5.94
Total Expenditure (% of GDP)	14.30	15.36	1.06	7.79	7.48	-0.31

Source: Integrated Budgeting & Accounting System (iBAS++), Finance Division

1.3 Budget Deficit

Overall budget balance including grants records a deficit of BDT 32,425.97 crore during July-March of FY20 against a deficit of BDT 18,294.27 crore at the same period of the previous fiscal year. This budget balance was 5.44 percent and 4.64 percent of GDP at the end of FY19 and FY18 respectively.

Table 1.3: Budget Balance

(In crore taka)

Year	Overall Balance	Overall Balance as % of GDP
July-Mar FY20	-32,425.97	-1.16
July-Mar FY19	-18,294.27	-0.72
2018-19	-1,38,202.86	-5.44
2017-18	-1,04,437.06	-4.64

Source: Integrated Budgeting & Accounting System (iBAS++), Finance Division

1.4 Deficit Financing

Government's deficit financing stood at 32,405.31 crore at the end of March FY20, which was overwhelmingly financed from the banking sources. The government borrowed 75,984.96 crore from the banking sector in the first Nine months, which is 160.43 percent of the total financing target from banking sector in FY20. The excess borrowed money was used to repay domestic nonbank loans, especially repayment for National Saving Certificates (NSCs) and external loans.

Table 1.4: Deficit Financing

(In crore taka)

5	External	external Domestic			Total	Financing
Period	(Net)	Bank	Non-Bank	Total	Financing	as % of GDP
July-Feb FY20	-226.24	75,984.96	-43,353.42	32,631.55	32,405.31	1.15
July-Feb FY19	722.48	6,818.15	15,827.57	22,645.72	23,368.20	0.92
2018-19	31,289.03	29,479.41	72,355.50	1,01,834.91	1,33,123.93	5.24
2017-18	25,620.59	11,730.60	67,084.44	78,815.04	1,04,435.63	4.64
Target in FY20	63,848.00	47,364.00	30,000.00	77,363.00	1,41,211.00	5.03

Source: Integrated Budgeting & Accounting System (iBAS++), Finance Division

1.5 Sale and repayment of National Savings Certificates (NSC)

Monthly sale of NSCs has slowed down in the last in the recent past (Chart 1.2) on the back of various reform measures undertaken by the government. The sale of NSC during July-February of FY20 has been decreased by 20.85 percent while repayment of NSCs accelerated (increased by 52.01 percent) compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year. As a result, net sale of NSC decreased by 72.85 percent at the end of July-February of FY20 (Table 1.6). This trend has resulted outstanding stock of NSCs to slow down.



Chart 1.2: Monthly trend of the outstanding stock of NSCs

Source: Major Economic Indicators, Bangladesh Bank, Growth over the same period of the previous year

Table 1.5 Net Sale and Repayment of NSCs

(In crore taka)

Period	Sale	Repayment (Principal)	Net Sale	Outstanding at the end of period
July-Feb FY20	48,292.14	38,626.26	9,665.88	2,97,371.88
July-Feb FY19	61,012.25	25,409.76	35,602.49	2,73,369.02
Growth (%)	-20.85	52.01	-72.85	8.78
2018-19	90,342.39	40,402.91	49,939.48	2,87,706.00
2017-18	78,784.68	32,254.38	46,530.3	2,37,766.52
Growth (%)	14.67	25.26	7.33	21.00

Source: Major Economic Indicators: Monthly Update, Bangladesh Bank

2. MONETARY SECTOR

2.1 Monetary and Credit Development

Broad money (M2) growth has slowed down in the first Nine months of the fiscal year (Table 2.1). In the first Nine months of the fiscal year, Net Domestic Asset (NDA) increased by 8.89 percent and Net foreign asset increased by only 2.51 percent. Strong public sector credit growth on the back of government borrowing from the banking system has contributed moderate growth in the net domestic asset as the private sector credit slowed down significantly.

Table 2.1 Monetary and Credit Development

		utstanding stoo of period (in B	Changes in Outstanding stock (%)		
Items	Mar-20	Jun-19	Mar-19	Mar-20 over Jun-19	Mar-20 over Mar-19
A. Net Foreign Assets (NFA)	2792.43	2724.00	2694.73	2.51	3.63
B. Net Domestic Asset (NDA)	10314.26	9472.12	8991.06	8.89	14.72
a. Domestic Credit	12304.86	11468.85	10962.60	7.29	12.24
Public Sector	1639.06	1366.29	1165.74	19.96	40.60
Govt. (Net)	1337.65	1132.73	925.12	18.09	44.59
Other Public	301.41	233.56	240.62	29.05	25.27
Private sector	10665.80	10102.56	9796.86	5.58	8.87
b. Net Other assets	-1990.60	-1996.73	-1971.54	-0.31	0.97
C. Broad Money (A+B)	13106.69	12196.12	11685.79	7.47	12.16

Source: Monthly Economic Trends, March 2020, Bangladesh Bank

2.2 Reserve Money Development

Reserve money increased by 10.86 percent and 9.37 percent at the end of March 2020 from June 2019 and March 2019 respectively. During this period, money multiplier increased by -0.15 and -0.39 respectively.

Table 2.2: Reserve money and money multiplier

(Billion

BDT)

	Outstand	ding Stock a period	t the end of	Changes in Outstanding Stock	
Items	Mar-20	Jun-19	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-20
				over Jun-19	over Mar-19
Reserve money	2,729.18	2,461.88	2,250.903	10.86%	9.37%
Money multiplier	4.80	4.95	5.19	-0.15	-0.39

Source: Monthly Economic Trends, March 2020, Bangladesh Bank

3. EXTERNAL SECTOR

3.1 Exports

Merchandise Export has slowed down during July-March of FY20 compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year (Chart 3.1). In this period, export of goods decreased by 6.24 percent while it increased by 12.57 percent in the same period of the previous fiscal year. It is to be noted that exports of goods registered 10.55 percent growth in FY19 against a 5.81 percent growth in the same period of the previous fiscal year.

4500 10 4000 5 Export (Million US\$) 3500 Monthly Growth *(%) 0 3000 2500 2000 1500 -10 1000 500 -20 AUE Dec Mai May Ses Oct Mg M w ■ FY20 Monthly Growth

Chart 3.1: Monthly Trend of Exports

Source: Export Promotion Bureau, *Growth over the same period of the previous year

Table 3.1: Export Performance in FY20

(Million US\$)

	July-March	July-March	2018-19	2017-18
<u>'</u>	2019-20	2018-19		
Export	28,973.85	30,903.02	40,535	36,668.14
Growth*(%)	-6.24	12.57	10.55	5.81

Source: Export Promotion Bureau, *Growth over the same period of the previous year

3.2 Imports (C & F)

Import has also slowed down in the first nine months of the fiscal year (Chart 3.2). Import payments decreased by to 4.60 percent during July-March of FY20 while it increased by 5.12 percent in the same period of the previous fiscal year. During July-February period of FY20, Letter of Credit (LC) opened decreased by 1.94 percent while LCs settled for import decreased 0.01 by percent.

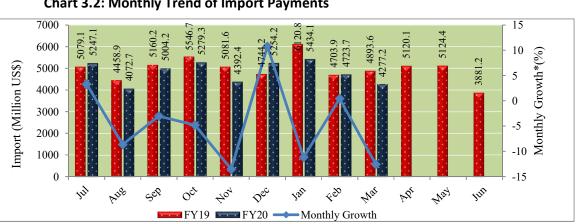


Chart 3.2: Monthly Trend of Import Payments

Source: Bangladesh Bank, *Growth over the same period of the previous year

Table 3.2: Import Scenario in FY20

(Million US\$)

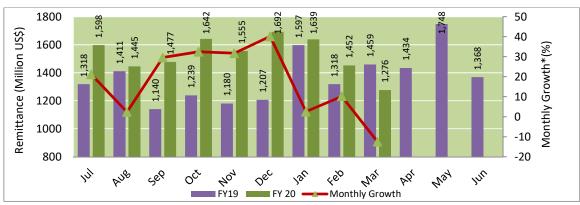
Period	2019-20 ^P	2018-19 ^R	2018-19	2017-18
Period	July-March	July-March		
Import payments	43,684.90	45,789.00	59,914.70	58,865.30
Growth (%)	-4.81	5.12	1.78	25.23
LCs Opened (July -February)	38,513.15	39,273.26	57,754.61	69,421.14
Growth (%)	-1.94	-21.77	-16.81	44.25
LCs Settled (July -February)	36,898.90	36,902.05	54,640.35	51,530.56
Growth (%)	-0.01	9.04	6.03	16.39

Source: Bangladesh Bank. Growth rate (%) over the same period of the previous fiscal year, R-Revised, P-Provisional

3.3 Remittances

Remittance inflow increased significantly in this fiscal year (Chart 3.3) on the back of 2.0 percent fiscal incentives by the government. Up to March of FY20, remittances inflow increased by 16.06 percent against 10.03 percent growth in the same period of the previous year.

Chart 3.3: Monthly Trend of Remittance



Source: Bangladesh Bank

Table-3.3: Remittance Performance in FY20

(In million US\$)

	2019-20 ^P July-March	2018-19 ^R July- March	2018-19	2017-18
Remittances	13,774.82	11,868.97	16419.63	14,981.69
Growth (%)	16.06	10.3	9.62	17.32
As % of GDP	12.13	11.86	5.47	5.43
As % of Export	47.54	57.90	40.51	40.86

3.4 Exchange Rate Movements

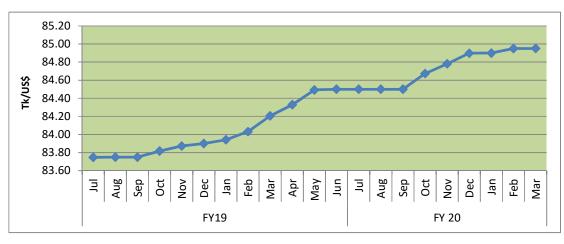
Exchange rate remained broadly stable due to Bangladesh Bank's timely intervention in the foreign exchange market. Domestic currency, Taka depreciated by 0.53 percent against US dollar in March 2020 from June 2019.

Table 3.4: Exchange Rate Movements (Taka per US\$)

Period	Average	End period
2011-12	79.10	81.82
2012-13	79.93	77.77
2013-14	77.72	77.63
2014-15	77.67	77.81
2015-16	78.40	78.40
2016-17	79.12	80.60
2017-18	83.70	83.70
2018-19	84.02	84.50
	2019-20	
July	84.49	84.50
August	84.50	84.50
September	84.50	84.50
October	84.67	84.75
November	84.78	84.90
December	84.90	84.90
January	84.90	84.90
February	84.95	84.95
March	84.95	84.95

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Chart 3.4: Monthly Average Exchange Rate Movements



3.5 External Reserve

The gross foreign exchange reserve stood at 32.57 billion at the end of March 2020, which is enough to cover import payments of 6.61 months based on average import liability of the previous 12 months. Overall, foreign exchange reserve did not increase in the recent past due to intervention in the foreign exchange market by Bangladesh Bank to avoid excessive volatility in the exchange rate.

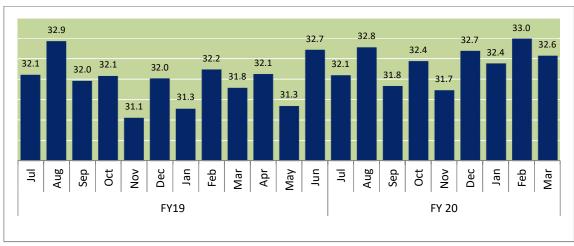
Table 3.5: Foreign Exchange Reserve

Reserve	2019-20 ^P (End of March)	2018-19 (End of March)	2018-19 (End of June)	
Million US\$	32,570.16	31,753.29	32,716.51	
Months of import payment	6.61	6.13	6.27	

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Chart 3.5: Gross Foreign Exchange Reserve (end of the month)

(Billion US\$)



Source: Bangladesh Bank

3.6 Balance of Payments (BOP)

The country's trade balance improved slightly at the end of July-March of FY20 as the import payments declined beside exports. Strong remittance growth has contributed to improve the current account balance to US\$ 2.65 billion deficit from a deficit of US\$ 4.21 billion at the same time of the previous year. Overall balance has also improved during the period.

Table 3.6: Balance of Payments

(Million US\$)

	2019-20 ^P July-March	2018-19 ^R July-March	2018-19 ^R	2017-18
Trade Balance	-12,078	-12,201	-15,494	-18,178
Current Account Balance	-2,648	-4,212	-5,254	-9,567
Capital Account	160	188	233	331
Financial Account	3,497	4,395	5,628	9,011
Error & Omission	-664	-697	-595	-632
Overall Balance	345	-326	12	-857

Source: Bangladesh Bank; R=Revised, P= Provisional

4. REAL SECTOR

4.1 Real Sector Indicators

Bangladesh economy experienced the highest GDP growth rate of 8.15 percent in FY19 in the recent past, supported by robust domestic demand, particularly private consumption and public investment. On the supply side, growth was driven mainly by industry (12.67 percent) and services (6.78 percent) with the sectoral composition of the economy continuing to shift away from agriculture to industry in FY19. At the same time, per capita GNI has rose to US\$1909 at the end of FY19 from US\$1751 in FY18.

Table 4.1 Real sector indicators (Base year 2005-06)

Concepts	Unit	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
GDP at constant	Billion	7,299.0	7,741.4	8,248.6	8,835.4	9,479.0	10224.30	11,057.94
prices	Tk.							
Growth	%	6.01	6.06	6.55	7.11	7.28	7.86	8.15
GDP at current	Billion	11,989.2	13,436.7	15,158.0	17,328.6	19,758.2	22504.79	25,424.83
prices	Tk.							
Growth	%	13.62	12.07	12.81	14.32	14.02	13.90	12.98
GNI at current	Billion	12953.5	14332.2	16142.0	18326.7	20607.2	23531.08	26,560.92
prices	Tk.							
Per capita GDP	Taka	78,009	86,266	96,004	108,378	122,152	137,518	153,578
Per capita GNI	Taka	84,283	92,015	102,236	114,621	127,401	143,789	160,440
Per capita GDP	US\$	976	1,110	1,236	1,385	1,544	1,675	1,828
Per capita GNI	US\$	1,054	1,184	1,316	1,465	1,610	1,751	1,909

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

Chart 4.1: GDP Growth Rate at current and constant prices (Base year 2005-06)



Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

4.2 Industrial Production

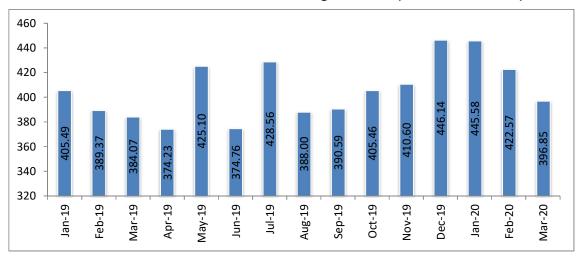
The quantum Index of large and medium scale manufacturing Industries increased by only 3.33 percent at the end of March 2020 from the same period of the previous fiscal year. It is to be noted that this growth rate was 15.0 percent and 14.7 percent in FY18 and FY19 respectively.

Table 4.2: Quantum Index of large and medium scale manufacturing industries (Base: 2005-06=100)

Period	Index	Growth* (%)
2010-11	157.89	16.9
2011-12	174.92	10.8
2012-13	195.19	11.6
2013-14	213.22	8.2
2014-15	236.11	10.74
2015-16	267.88	13.46
2016-17	297.89	11.2
2017-18	342.47	15
2018-19	392.82	14.7
March 2019	384.07	5.85%
March 2020 ^p	396.85	3.33%

Source: BBS, P-Provisional, *Growth over the same period of the previous fiscal year

Chart 4.2: Quantum Index of Manufacturing Industries (Base: 2005-06=100)



Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

4.3 CPI Inflation

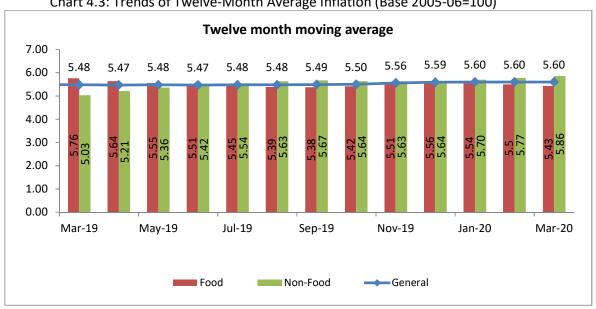
CPI inflation was 5.60 percent (Twelve-month average basis) at the end of March 2020, which is slightly higher than the set target of 5.50 for the FY20. Meanwhile, point-to-point inflation went up to 5.96 percent in March 2020, of which, food and non-food inflation were 5.91 percent and 6.45 percent respectively (Chart 4.3).

Table-4.3: CPI Inflation (National) (Base 2005-06)

Fiscal Year	Twelve-Month Average Basis				Point to Point Basis		
	General	Food	Non-Food	General	Food	Non-Food	
2014-15	6.41	6.68	5.99	6.25	8.00	5.45	
2015-16	5.92	4.90	7.47	5.53	6.32	6.15	
2016-17	5.44	6.02	4.57	5.94	7.51	3.67	
2017-18	5.78	7.13	3.74	5.54	5.98	4.87	
2018-19	5.48	5.51	5.42	5.52	5.40	5.71	
2019-20							
July	5.48	5.45	5.54	5.62	5.42	5.94	
August	5.48	5.39	5.63	5.49	5.27	5.82	
September	5.49	5.38	5.67	5.54	5.30	5.92	
October	5.50	5.42	5.64	5.47	5.49	5.45	
November	5.56	5.51	5.63	6.05	6.41	5.47	
December	5.59	5.56	5.64	5.75	5.88	5.55	
January	5.60	5.54	5.70	5.57	5.12	6.30	
February	5.49	5.87	4.89	5.47	5.44	5.51	
March	5.60	5.43	5.86	5.96	5.91	6.45	

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Chart 4.3: Trends of Twelve-Month Average Inflation (Base 2005-06=100)



Point to Point Infltion 6.05 5.96 5.75 5.63 5.58 5.62 5.57 5.52 5.49 5.54 5.55 5.47 5.46 5 4 3 2 1 0 Nov-19 Mar-19 Apr-19 May-19 Jun-19 Jul-19 Sep-19 Oct-19 Jan-20 Feb-20 Food Non-Food ----General

Chart 4.4: Trends of Point to Point Inflation (Base 2005-06=100)