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United Nations has set Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) in 2016 with an objective to reduce poverty and save the planet. The goal is to be achieved by 2030. There are 17 goals. Formal name of the goal is "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." The SDG goals cover social, economic and environmental issues encompassing poverty, hunger, education, health, gender equality, urbanization, global warming, water, sanitation, energy, social justice etc. There 169 targets related to 17 goals. For each target there are 1 to 3 indicators to measure its success. In total there are 304 indicators. 193 countries adopted the goal.

The SDG goals are developed to succeed Millennium Development Goals (MDG) which ended in 2015. There are 8 goals in MDG which related to development whereas SDG is related to Sustainable Development. MDG was criticized to be dealing with the problem whereas SDG is dealing with the causes of the problem.

Implementation of SDG started since 2016. All countries are developing their own plan to achieve each goal. Countries are developing legislation if necessary, allocating budget and engaging universities, private sector, NGOs, civic bodies to materialize the target.

In response to the accusation that the MDGs were too narrow in focus, the SDGs set out to tackle a whole range of issues, from gender inequality to climate change. The unifying thread throughout the 17 goals and their 169 targets is the commitment to ending poverty: “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,” notes the agenda’s preamble.

But the most important way of achieving the SDGs was touched upon in the UN press conference: “We will need all partners to make this a success.” Multi stakeholder partnerships, involving government, the private sector and civil society, have been described as the glue that will hold this process together, and will be the only way of ensuring these incredibly ambitious goals are met.

ICMAB being a platform to provide education and also a forum for its members can play vital role in implementing the SDG goals. We have only one planet, which has sufficient resources to meet the need but not enough to meet the greed of the people. Being a cost accountant we always thrive for cost reduction, waste minimization- which in line several goals of SDG. So we CMAs can be ambassador of achieving goals.

Shawkat Hossain FCMA
My dear beloved professional colleagues,

I believe you all are doing great in your respective professional and personal life. I express my sincere thanks and gratitude for supporting me in different initiatives I have taken for the development of our institute. This issue of the journal takes SDGs as theme and ICMAB is hosting an international conference on ‘Achieving Sustainable Development Goals – Challenges and Way Forward’ on 23rd September at Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. ICMAB brings a vibration among regulators, policy makers, professionals, practitioners, donors, entrepreneurs and other key stakeholders by bringing all of them in a single platform for brainstorming on such a global issue. Three veteran professional cost accountants from Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) are joining us to uplift the capacity of our members in the field of cost audit. We are also co-hosting a roundtable with Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) at Dhaka to discuss on SMEs in achieving SDGs where more than 40 representatives from different categories like corporate leaders, representatives from NGOs, development partners, regulators, supply chain experts will join. We are trying to make a bi-lateral relationship with GRI who advocates sustainability reporting framework globally.

To build the capacity of our teachers, question setters, moderators and examiners, we have organized two-days long Training for Trainers program where an expert from Sri Lanka spoke before our members. He has also proposed a question setting and marking guidelines for the papers under new syllabus and we are going to implement the guideline from December 2018 session for the students under new syllabus. ICMAB has also launched 80 hours long training program on Business and Financial Modeling by using Microsoft Excel for increasing the IT skills of our members which will make them more competent in market place. ICMAB is also offering a certificate course on IAS/IFRS from next month to ensure skilled accountants in the market. These courses are professionally designed and facilitated by renowned practitioners and professionals.

As a continuous endeavor, we are working to provide best infrastructure to our members at every possible respect. In our Mosque Complex, we have installed a modern training room having all the facilities with a capacity of 110 participants at a time. The institute has also inaugurated the IT center at the ground floor of the main building with 40 computers of advanced configuration with projectors and other facilities. This room can be used for any type of computer related training and workshops. The sixth floor of the institute is taking a new look soon which will give a corporatized fashion in outlook and action. There will be three independent training rooms with a capacity of 40 each. Different committees can hold their meetings simultaneously now. The council room will be a bigger one which can accommodate 100 participants at a time, if needed. Four office bearers (other than president) will have their rooms side by side. There will be no idle space on the council floor now and the outside view of the floor will also be different.

Your council is always planning to bring the best services for you. I hope, I will bring more news for you in my coming note. I need your good wishes in this endeavor and active support. Only them I can make impossible possible. Please keep me in your prayer.

Mohammed Salim FCMA
President, ICMAB
As a global agenda, all the member countries of the United Nations are striving towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), their 169 targets and 230 indicators. In this regard, corporate sectors are contributing towards achieving these SDGs through recognition, measurement and disclosure of ‘environmental, social and governance’ (ESG) issues. In this paper, these ESG issues are focused in the context of various regulatory frameworks of Bangladesh.

Keywords: SDGs, ESG, Corporate Governance Code, Triple bottom line.

Introduction
The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the global ambitious goals with the pledge that “no one will be left behind” (UN, 2015: 1/35). On 25 September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the 193 member states of the United Nations (UN). The Agenda represents the synthesis of the UN conferences on sustainable development of 1992 (Rio Earth Summit: UN Conference on Environment and Development), 2002 (UN World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg), and 2012, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [as a result of UN Millennium Summit on 6-8 September 2000 at New York], which started from 2016 and lapsed at the end of 2015. This paper is an attempt to focus on how a shift in the corporate reporting can significantly contribute towards the achievement of these SDGs through recognition, measurement and reporting on SDGs, their targets and indicators.

SDGs, Their Targets and Indicators
The MDGs were a package of eight goals (eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary
education; promoting gender equality and empowering women; reducing child mortality; improving mental health;
combating HIV/AIDS (human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome), malaria, and other
diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and developing a global partnership for development) to achieve over
fifteen years from the beginning of 2001 to the ending of 2015. The MDGs were not for the whole planet, rather they
were targets mainly for poor countries, to which rich countries were to add their solidarity and assistance through
finances and technology (Sachs, 2012: 2208). As a follow-up of the 15-year MDGs, the SDGs are another 15-year agenda
for the entire planet. At the heart of the UN’s 2030 Agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), their
169 targets and 230 indicators as shown in Table-1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table-1: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Targets and Indicators</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SDGs</strong></td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>Goal 1: No Poverty</td>
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<td>Goal 2: Zero Hunger</td>
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<td>Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being</td>
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<td>Goal 4: Quality Education</td>
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<td>Goal 5: Gender Equality</td>
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<td>Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation</td>
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<td>Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy</td>
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<td>Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</td>
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<td>Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure</td>
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<td>Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities</td>
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<td>Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</td>
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<td>Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production</td>
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<td>Goal 13: Climate Action</td>
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<td>Goal 14: Life Below Water</td>
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<td>Goal 15: Life on Land</td>
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<td>Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</td>
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<td>Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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* 9 indicators repeat under 2 or 3 different targets.

**Note:** Number in parentheses indicates repeat indicators that can be excluded to get total number of indicators without repetition.

**Source:** United Nations (2016), Final list of proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights on 5 Ps: people, planet, prosperity, peace and
partnership—hence a plan of action for people (all human beings), planet and prosperity, seeking to strengthen
universal peace in larger freedom, and all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership
(Global Partnership for Sustainable Development) to implement this plan. The 17 SDGs and 169 targets are
integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social
and environmental (UN, 2015: 1/35). This is often mentioned as the so-called triple bottom line approach to
human wellbeing, that is, almost all the world’s societies acknowledge that they aim for a combination of
economic development, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion (Sachs, 2012: 2206).
Corporate Governance Frameworks in Bangladesh

From the regulatory perspective, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), regulator of the capital market of Bangladesh, prepared and issued its first Corporate Governance Guidelines (CGG) in 2006 as a “comply or explain” basis applicable for corporate entities listed with stock exchanges. On 9 January 2006, BSEC issued an order requiring the listed companies to follow a number of corporate governance (CG) related conditions. The aim was to improve the CG situation and thereby, better protect the interests of minority shareholders and develop Bangladesh capital market. The Commission revised its order by a notification dated 20 February 2006 with some modifications (SEC, 2006).

In order to further improve the CG situation, the BSEC issued the revised CG guidelines through a notification on 03 July 2012 replacing its previous notification issued in 2006 in this respect, which was also substituted by another notification on 07 August 2012 with a minor amendment (Notification No. SEC/CMRRCD/2006-158/134/Admin/44, dated 07 August 2012; published in the Gazette on 30 August 2012). The thoroughly revised 2012 CGG was as “comply” basis (in place of “comply or explain” basis) with a requirement on compliance certification by a practicing professional accountant or chartered secretary.

In May 2016, BSEC formed a committee to review the existing CGG and recommend a revised one incorporating the development of best practices in this area and the committee submitted its final report in mid-December 2017. On the basis of the committee’s report, the draft version of the Corporate Governance Code (CGC) was placed in the meeting of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) in the third week of December 2017 and approved with some amendments for publishing in widely circulated daily newspapers and the website of BSEC inviting ‘opinion, advice or objection thereon of all persons concerned’ allowing at least two weeks for submission of such opinion, advice or objection in accordance with two provisos to sub-section (1) of section 33 of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969 (Ordinance No. XVII of 1969). Consequently, the draft CGC was published in the BSEC’s website on 21 December 2017 with a request to give comments or opinions by 04 January 2018. It was also published in three daily newspapers (one English and two Bangla) on 22 December 2017. Huge number of individual persons and organizations including chambers of commerce and industries and professional bodies submitted their opinions, comments, advice and suggestions. Considering those opinions and suggestions, BSEC in its meeting held on 03 June 2018, has approved the new Corporate Governance Code (CGC) 2018. The new CGC has been issued as the Notification No.BSEC/CMRRCD/2006-158/207/Admin/80, dated 03 June 2018, and published in the official Gazette on 10 June 2018.

In the 2012 CGG, the ESG (environmental, social and governance) issues are indirectly addressed. However, under the backdrop of the United Nations’ initiative on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), since the ESG issues are of paramount importance from a national perspective, there is an attempt to incorporate the ESG issues in the new CGC 2018 more visibly. It is to be noted that the ESG issues have been considered here only from the context of overall corporate governance regulatory frameworks. The 2012 CGG (dated 07 August 2012) is still in force (BSEC, 2013), because the new CGC 2018 shall be complied by the listed companies within 31 December 2018 (BSEC, 2018a).

ESG Issues in Bangladesh in Corporate Reporting

From the corporate reporting perspective, the ESG (environmental, social and governance) disclosure is one of the most important sustainability initiatives. According to a recent survey of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), “WFE Sustainability Survey April 2017: Exchanges Promoting Sustainability”, those stock exchanges who do have sustainability programs, promote sustainability in a number of ways, of which “encouraging or requiring ESG disclosure from listed companies” was the most frequently cited sustainability initiative (67% of respondents) (WFE, 2017: 5).
Within the purview of BSEC’s regulatory framework, there is one type of capital market instruments, under the title of ‘alternative investment fund’, where the Fund Manager shall have to disclose in the annual report of the fund on material risks how they are managed which shall include, among others, extra-financial risks, including ESG (environmental, social and governance) risks, at fund and portfolio company levels [Rule 6(17)(c)ii. of the BSEC (Alternative Investment) Rules 2015] (BSEC, 2015). Here, the ‘impact fund’ (one type of alternative investment funds) may be directly linked to environmental impact or social impact or both.

So far up to 30 June 2018, twelve (12) Fund Managers (Alternative Investment) and two (2) Trustees (Alternative Investment Fund) have obtained registration from the BSEC (Source: BSEC) to pool the fund from willing investors by issuing units of alternative investment funds as the investment vehicle and invest those fund in the organizations allowed under the BSEC (Alternative Investment Fund) Rules which will qualify the investment criteria of “private equity fund” or “venture capital fund” or “impact fund”. However, Build Bangladesh (www.buildbangladesh.org.bd), the Impact Investment stream of the Impress Group of Bangladesh, is driving the agenda to enhance the Impact Investment ecosystem in Bangladesh. The ‘seeding fertile ground’ for Impact Investment in Bangladesh gave Build Bangladesh the confidence to host the inaugural international summit on Impact Investment in Dhaka on 10 November 2016 involving national and international experts from USA, UK, the Netherlands, Australia and India. The expectation of the Summit was to gather local and global leaders to share knowledge and experience from their Impact Investment ‘journey’ to guide ours. In continuation of the initiative, Build Bangladesh hosted the workshop titled “Bringing Impact Investors Together – shaping the future of Impact Investment in Bangladesh”, with all relevant stakeholders on 21 March 2017. As a progressive outcome to this, in partnership with the UNDP SDG Impact Finance (UNSIF), Build Bangladesh have launched the first Impact Fund for Bangladesh on 20 September 2017 at a side event of the 72nd General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. The Build Bangladesh Impact Fund was launched by the Hon. Prime Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Sheikh Hasina along with the UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner, the Canadian Minister for International Development Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau and the UNDP Asia-Pacific Director Haoliang Xu. Now a National Advisory Board (NAB) for Impact Investment in Bangladesh has been formed in July 2018, with the Secretary, Economic Relations Division of the Government of Bangladesh as the Chair with a view to guiding the way forward for shaping the future of Impact Investment in the country (Build Bangladesh, 2018).

Other ESG related corporate reporting issues are discussed below.

### Environmental Issues

As the environmental issues are concerned in Bangladesh, it has more than three dozens of statutes. But the Bangladesh Environmental Conservation Act 1995 (BECA1995), amended up to October 2010, and the Environmental Conservation Rules 1997 (amended up to March 2003) framed thereunder are the main statutes for environmental issues. The Constitution of the country was amended in July 2011 by inserting a new article (Article 18A) on “Protection and improvement of environment and bio-diversity.” In accordance with this constitutional provision, “The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, bio-diversity, wetlands, forests and wild life for the present and future citizens.” Under section 12 of the BECA1995, no industry can be established or no project can be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment (DOE) under the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), which is to be usually renewed every year by 31 March.

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2 As per rule 2(2) of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Alternative Investment) Rules, 2015 (enacted in June 2015), “alternative investment fund” or “fund” means any fund established or constituted in Bangladesh in the form of a trust which is a “private equity fund” or a “venture capital fund” or an “impact fund” or any other type of fund as declared by the BSEC as alternative investment fund from time to time. This is a mode of investment vehicle (in the nature of collective investment scheme, not to be allowed for listing with stock exchanges) by pooling fund from eligible investors in the form of a trust.

3 As per rule 3(18) of BSEC (Alternative Investment) Rules, 2015, “impact fund” means an alternative investment fund which invests in equity and equity linked instruments of such companies, organizations, and funds which are engaged in activities with the intention to generate a measurable and beneficial social or environmental impact in addition to financial returns, as justified with internationally recognized criteria. Thus, an impact fund may be, in addition to financial rate of return, subject to either measurable positive impact on environment, or positive social rate of return or both.
The BCEA1995 also lays down the requirements on issues surrounding environmental management in an industry, which mainly concern establishing an environmental management system (EMS) in the factories; the existence of an environmental emergency plan (EEP), storage of hazardous and combustible materials in secure and ventilated areas, and disposal of them in a legal manner. Likewise, the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 (amended up to 2013) underscores the effective arrangements in every establishment for the disposal of waste and effluents due to the manufacturing process carried out therein.

Bangladesh Bank (BB), the central bank and prime regulator of the banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), has set examples for others by pioneering green banking initiatives, where BB has been proactively guiding the banks and NBFIs for diverse sustainable banking endeavours since 2011. In such aspect, green banking initiatives of BB broadly categorised into the following aspects: policy initiatives, monitoring the green banking activities of banks and NBFIs, refinancing facilities from BB in diverse green products/sectors (renewable energy, energy efficiency, solid waste management, liquid waste management, alternative energy, etc.) and BB's own initiatives for environmental management. These are disclosed in the annual report of listed banks and NBFIs. Green Reporting following GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) Guidelines has been made compulsory for banks under a guideline issued on February 27, 2011 with a quarterly reporting from the quarter ending June 2011. Tax holiday to industrial undertaking was made conditional to obtaining environmental clearance certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment under MOEF since July 1, 2010. From 01 July 2014, the government also introduced ‘environment protection surcharge’ (which was mentioned as Green Tax of the Finance Minister in the Budget Speech of FY2014-15) at the rate of 1 percent on ad valorem basis on all kinds of products manufactured in Bangladesh by the industries polluting the environment, where the tax base is the base of value added tax (VAT).

Environmental issues are not directly incorporated in the CGG of Bangladesh. However, under the 2012 CGG, according to Condition No. 3.4.1(ii)c), the Audit Committee shall immediately report to the Board of Directors on the following findings, if any: “suspected infringement of laws, including securities related laws, rules and regulations.” Under Condition No. 3.4.2, if the Audit Committee finds that any rectification on “Condition No. 3.4.1(ii)c)” has been unreasonably ignored, the Audit Committee shall report such finding to the Commission (BSEC), upon reporting of such matters to the Board of Directors for three times or completion of a period of 6 (six) months from the date of first reporting to the Board of Directors, whichever is earlier. From 09 January 2006 to 02 July 2012, this time period was “a period of 9 (nine) months from the date of first reporting to the Board of Directors.” Thus, if a listed company violates any “laws, including securities related laws, rules and regulations” of the country, under the present CGG, the company’s Audit Committee will oversee it. Under the listing regulations, the Corporate Governance and Financial Reporting Compliance (CGFRC) Departments of the stock exchanges primarily monitor this issue and send their report on regular basis to the BSEC for taking enforcement actions, if any. In the new CGC 2018, there are similar provisions in Condition No. 5(6)(a)(ii)(c) and Condition No. 5(6)(b) as were in Condition No. 3.4.1(ii)c) and Condition No. 3.4.2 respectively in 2012 CGG.

Under the new Public Issue Rules 2015 (effective from 28 December 2015) of BSEC, an industrial company willing to go for public has to provide rigorous and comprehensive disclosures including Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment (DOE) and litigation involving labour laws, fiscal laws including the Environment Protection Surcharge Collection Rules, 2014 (enacted under section 67 of the Finance Act 2014) or other relevant laws, and due diligence authentication by the Board of Directors, top management and issue managers.

In Bangladesh, financial reporting based on IAS (International Accounting Standard) or IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standard) was made mandatory for listed corporate entities from 22 October 1997. Some specific IAS was made mandatory explicitly separately (e.g., IAS 30 was made compulsory for banks and NBFIs (non-bank financial institutions) from 25 June 2003, although superseded by IFRS 7 issued in August 2005 effective from 01.01.2007; quarterly reporting under IAS 34 was made mandatory from 27 September 2009 beginning with the quarter ended on 30 September 2009). In accordance with the Condition No. 1 of
the recent Notification on Financial Reporting and Disclosure (20 June 2018), the financial statements (annual or interim) of the company shall be prepared in accordance with the Securities and Exchange Rules, 1987 as well as the provisions of International Accounting Standards (IAS) or International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as applicable in Bangladesh or as per requirements under the Financial Reporting Act, 2015 (Act No. XVI of 2015) as the case may be, unless otherwise specified in the referred Rules and other rules related to the issue or issuer of securities (BSEC, 2018b). Under section 35(3)(a) of the Income-tax Ordinance, 1984 (ITO), every company as defined in the Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913) or the Companies Act, 1994 (Act No. XVIII of 1994) shall, with the return of income required to be filed under the ITO, furnish a copy of the trading account, profit and loss account [which includes income statement and other similar statements of accounts prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards under section 2(65A)] and the balance sheet in respect of the relevant income year, certified by a chartered accountant to the effect that the accounts are- (i) maintained and the statements are prepared and reported in accordance with Bangladesh Accounting Standards (BAS) and Bangladesh Financial Reporting Standards (BFRS)\(^4\) or in accordance with International Accounting Standards (IAS) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted in Bangladesh; and (ii) audited in accordance with the Bangladesh Standards on Auditing (BSA).\(^5\)

Negash (2012) has enumerated specific IFRS/IAS and interpretations thereon, i.e., SIC [Standing Interpretations Committee of the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC, the predecessor to the IASB), and Interpretations issued by that committee] or IFRIC (IFRS Interpretations Committee), which are related to environmental accounting. Negash in his paper referred to six IFRSs [IFRS 1, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9], nine IASs [IAS 20, 27, 28, 31, 32, 37, 38, 39 and 41], three IFRICs and one SIC [IFRIC 1, 3 (withdrawn) and 5, and SIC 12 (superseded)] with respect to following aspects of environmental accounting: emission rights (allowances) and trans-boundary matters (IFRIC 3); segmental and geographical disclosures (IFRS 8); consolidation of inter-related entities (IAS 27); associates and joint ventures (IAS 28 and IAS 31); mergers and acquisitions (IFRS 3 and SIC 12); impairment of emission rights (intangibles under IAS 38); presentation, disclosure, recognition and measurement of financial instruments (IAS 32, IFRS 7, IAS 39 to be superseded by IFRS 9); IFRS 6 (effective January 2009) deals with exploration and evaluation of mineral resources (IFRS 6); changes in existing decommissioning, restoration, rehabilitation and similar liabilities (IFRIC 5); specialized industries (IAS 41) and provisions, contingent liabilities and state-contingent assets (IAS 37). And according to the claim by Negash (2012), along with the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting 2018 and IFRS 1 First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards, the IASB (International Accounting Standards Board) already has the basis on which environmental information at the corporate level can be reported. Thus, it appears that IFRS-based environmental reporting would not be a difficulty in Bangladesh.

Issues of sustainability in general and environmental impacts caused by the listed companies were not in the earlier versions of corporate governance regulations of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC). Now these are directly incorporated in the new Corporate Governance Code 2018. In accordance with the Condition No. 1(5)(iii) of the CGC 2018, a listed company’s Board of Directors shall include “Risks and concerns including internal and external risk factors, threat to sustainability and negative impact on environment, if any” as the additional statement or disclosure in the Directors’ Report to shareholders prepared under section 184 of the Companies Act, 1994 (Act No. XVIII of 1994). As per the Condition No. 1(7) (b) of the Corporate Governance Code 2018, in the code of conduct, based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) for the Chairperson of the Board, other

\(^4\) The ICAB Council in its 8th meeting held on April 24, 2017 has decided to adopt IAS/IFRS as original and not as customized and named as BAS/BFRS. In a circular dated 14 December 2017, ICAB has notified that the reference for original IAS/IFRS is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 01 January 2018 [Sources: ICAB Office, and http://www.icab.org.bd/icabweb/webNewsEventNoticeCir/view/378964; accessed 02-05-2018.

\(^5\) ICAB has also decided to adopt ISA as original instead of BSA effective for audits of financial statements for annual periods beginning on or after 01 January 2018 [Source: ICAB’s letter to BSEC Chairman, dated 10 June 2018].
board members and Chief Executive Officer of the company, shall include, among others, compliance with laws, rules and regulations [that include environmental laws also]; and relationship with environment (BSEC, 2018a).

**Social Issues**

In Bangladesh, corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative is usually an agenda of the entities’ own strategies. However, there is a concerted effort by the government to give CSR an institutional shape in a number of areas by offering tax rebates (since 15 January 2009) and on CSR related to research and development (R&D) by offering tax exemption (since 01 July 2014). Department of Off-site Supervision (DOS) of Bangladesh Bank has issued a circular [DOS Circular No. 01, dated 1 June 2008] on “Mainstreaming Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in banks and financial institutions in Bangladesh.” This circular was not initially made mandatory, but BB monitored CSR adoption and CSR performance of banks and NBIFIs, as an additional dimension of their management performance. However, annual CSR Reporting was mandatory for banks and NBIFIs in Bangladesh from June 1, 2008 and half-yearly CSR reporting was made compulsory for banks from the half-year period ending on 30 June 2010 within 30 days of each half-year end [DOS Circular Letter No. 07, dated 15 July 2010]. BB issued another circular [DOS Circular No. 05, dated 01 December 2011] regarding “CSR Performance Reporting by banks on gender equality issues.” Under this circular, banks have to disclose gender equality related performance indicators in the half-yearly CSR reporting from December 2011 and onward. The information to be disclosed in this regard include: gender diversity among board members and permanent employees; maternity leave policy; day care center at head office/branch; transportation facility to female employees working beyond usual office hour; separate washroom for female employees at head office/branch; employee turnover by gender; training on gender equality/ awareness program; sexual harassment prevention/ awareness policy and inappropriate sexual harassment complaint, if any. On 22 December 2014, BB issued an indicative guideline for allocation and end use monitoring process of CSR expenditures and activities. As per report of BB, total amount of CSR expenditure by banks and NBIFIs in FY2016 was Taka 5607.7 million while the amount was Taka 5400.7 million in FY2015, mainly in education, health, and humanitarian and disaster relief.

Although CSR issues are yet to be included specifically in the BSEC’s CGG, but for the listed banks and NBIFIs, the disclosures on CSR are subject to scrutiny of the CGFRC departments of the stock exchanges under the listing regulations and rarely an issue of enforcement on the part of BSEC.

**Governance Issues**

Governance issues are the main thrust of the BSEC’s CGG. In 2006 CGG, there were 37 line items of individual conditions included in the reporting on CG under five broad categories of issues [Board of Directors; Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Head of Inter Audit (HIA) and Company Secretary (CS); Audit Committee; External or Statutory Auditors; and Reporting and Compliance of Corporate Governance]. In 2012 CGG, another two broad categories of issues [Subsidiary Company; and Duties of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and CFO] and further 57 line items of individual conditions were added. From the perspective of enforcement, another major shift from the 2006 CGG to the 2012 CGG was from “comply or explain” basis to “comply” basis with a requirement on compliance certification. Thus, a practicing professional accountant (chartered accountant or cost and management accountant) or chartered secretary has to certify on the compliance of a total of 95 line items of individual conditions of the 2012 CGG under seven broad categories of issues (in 2006, ‘Reporting and Compliance of Corporate Governance” was not a line item; but in 2012, it was). In comparison to 2012 CGG, the 2018 CGC has 9 broad categories of issues with two new categories: “Nomination and Remuneration Committee”; and “Maintaining a Website by the Company”; and combining preceding two categories into one: “Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Head of Inter Audit (HIA) and Company Secretary (CS)” and “Duties of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and CFO” combined into “Managing Director (MD) or Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Head of Internal Audit and Compliance (HIAC) and Company Secretary (CS)”. Along with the preceding 95 conditions, new 62 conditions have been added, 76 conditions are as they were in 2012
enacted in September 2015 and a Financial Reporting Council (FRC) has been established thereunder in April 2016. This FRC is the Super Regulatory Body with respect to reporting infrastructure of public interest entities (PIE). The general objectives of the FRC include: (a) Setting standards of accounting and auditing profession, standards relating to ethics, etc.; (b) Improving qualitative standards of accounting and auditing services; (c) Developing of accounting and auditing profession; (d) Ensuring the highest level of standard of accounting and auditing activities of the auditors enlisted with the FRC; (e) Enhancing the reliability of the financial reports; (f) Ensuring integrity and transparency of professional activities of accounting and auditing and giving cooperation in increasing the capability thereto; and (g) Motivating public interest entities in preparing high standard report of financial and non-financial information.

Thus, the management of a PIE as information producer and all the information intermediaries (auditors, financial analysts, securities underwriters, bankers, and lawyers, who provide value added to the primary information supplied by the management) of PIEs are under the monitoring and enforcement of the FRC. The first Chairman of the FRC joined in July 2017 and the first meeting of the FRC was held in August 2017 (Bala, 2017: 26). In the meantime two executive directors of the FRC also joined. However, the FRC is yet to be fully operational.

Another very recent development is that, of the two stock exchanges, Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has become a full member of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) in June 2017, whereas Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) is an affiliate member of this global body (from 28 October 2013). However, CSE as the 62nd Partner Exchange (on 31 January 2017) and DSE as the 75th Partner Exchange (on 24 June 2018) have joined the United Nations’ Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative6 and thereby they expressed their commitment to promoting long-term sustainable investment and improved ESG disclosure and performance among companies listed on the stock exchanges.

As mentioned earlier, in the new CGC 2018, few provisions on ESG disclosure initiative have already been incorporated. Thus, ESG issues are expected

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6 The SSE is a peer-to-peer learning platform for exploring how exchanges—in collaboration with investors, regulators, and companies—can encourage sustainable investment and enhance corporate transparency, and ultimately performance, on ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance) issues. The SSE is convened by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Global Compact, the UN Environment Program Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) [Source: www.sseinitiative.org].
to be disclosed in the listed companies' report of the board of directors to the shareholders including Management’s Discussion and Analysis.

Conclusion and Way Forward
Bangladesh has been marching through a development highway with a continuous enviable socio-economic progress over a couple of years. Since the financial year (FY) 2010-11, the country has been achieving annual GDP (gross domestic product) growth rate of 6 percent plus up to FY2014-15. Thereafter the country has been successful in breaking the 6 percent growth trap and elevating it to a rate of 7 percent plus. The World Bank declared Bangladesh a lower-middle income country in July 2015 from its low-income status. In 2008 general election, the present ruling party came up with its election manifesto as ‘Charter for Change’ (Din BodolerSanad), where the vision was outlined to be a middle income and digital Bangladesh by 2021 and a “Developed” country by 2041. Bangladesh, as a role model, completed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) journey with tremendous success by the end of 2015. The country then stepped into the era of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. As predicted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Bangladesh, will move up to the 23rd largest economy based on the projected Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) from its current position of 31st by 2050 (PwC, 2017). The government has already identified the lead and associate ministries involved in achieving each of the seventeen SDGs. The steps the ministries will take to achieve their respective targets during the 7th Five Year Plan period (FY2016-FY2020) have also been identified. Now SDGs are being linked with the performance indicators of different ministries/divisions as mentioned in the Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF). Besides, Annual Performance Agreements (APA) of various ministries/divisions have been aligned with the SDGs. BSEC has APA with the Financial Institutions Division (FID) of the Ministry of Finance (MOF), through which it is also committed to introduce several reforms incorporating those SDGs which are directly linked with the capital markets. In this context and in line with the development of best practice of ESG issues within the CG regulatory framework elsewhere outside Bangladesh, hopefully professional accounting community will be proactive in preparing ESG disclosures for corporate sectors to improve the corporate citizenship of the country.

References

7 From FY2010-11 to FY2014-15, the annual GDP growth rates were 6.46%, 6.52%, 6.01%, and 6.06% respectively and thereafter, for FY2015-16, it was 7.11%, for FY2016-17, it was 7.28%, for FY2017-18, the provisionally estimated growth rate is 7.63%, and for FY2018-19 the target growth rate in budget is 7.80% (Bangladesh Economic Review 2017, pp. 269-270 & 275-278 and Budget Speech 2018-19, p. 122).
8 According to a press release of the World Bank dated July 1, 2015, Bangladesh moves up in income bracket. The World Bank’s latest estimates of Gross National Income per capita (GNI) continued to show improved economic performance in many low-income countries, with Bangladesh, Kenya, Myanmar, and Tajikistan now becoming lower-middle income countries, joining those with annual incomes of $1,046 to $1,525. According to data released by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) on May 14, 2015, the per capita income in Bangladesh rose from $1,190 to $1,314.
9 The Medium Term Budget Framework (MTBF) is a three-year estimates (the budget year and two forward years) of revenue and expenditure for 2014-15 (the budget year), and projections for the two forward years. As a pilot basis, MTBF was first prepared for FY2005-06 for five ministries in line with the recommendation of the report of the Public Expenditure Review Commission (December 2003). From FY2009-10, it has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of sections 10(4) and 10(5) of the Public Money and Budget Management Act 2009 (enacted in July 2009). Ministry Budget Frameworks (MBFs) prepared by Ministries, Divisions and Other Institutions under the MTBF provide linkages between Government strategic objectives and its policies and resource allocations, and between resource allocations and performance.
Bangladesh, as a role model, completed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) journey with tremendous success by the end of 2015. The country then stepped into the era of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. As predicted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Bangladesh, will move up to the 23rd largest economy based on the projected Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) from its current position of 31st by 2050 (PwC, 2017).
Abstract
Bangladesh has been admired by both local and international community due to its enviable achievement across different targets set with reference to each Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As a reward, the country has been graduated to lower middle income country from least developed country (LDC) status. It changes the life style of country people in different social and economic indicators, and at the same time, it brings new challenges. By the end of 2015 when the MDGs regime ends, the United Nation (UN) sets 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are a UNIVERSAL set of goals – comprising 169 targets and multiple success indicators of each target to enable all UN members to respond to these challenges and develop an agenda and policies to sustain PEOPLE, our PLANET and PROSPERITY over the next 15 years. This paper takes Bourdieu’s ‘Theory of Society’ to analyze the participation of the society into this noble journey taking Bangladesh as a case for study. It explores different policy documents and other available publications within the broader context of SDGs to develop the main theme of the study. It assesses the status of the country in terms of its achievements across different SDGs so far; challenges the country faces, preparedness of the country in achieving SDGs and other peripheral areas. The paper expects to engage different stakeholders to build awareness on the issue with some policy directions for discussion and implementation.

Keywords: Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030, Theory of Society, Bourdieu, Bangladesh.
Introduction

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) act as major socio-economic agenda for all the countries under UN which are encrypted as strategic documents from a global perspective. Each nation is committed to attain the targets which brought significant changes to the lifestyle of global citizens. It becomes a necessity due to the potential threats that the planet suffers from. In September 2015, heads of states and governments met at the UN headquarter in New York and agreed on a new generation of 17 SDGs with 169 targets to succeed the MDGs and to guide global development over the 15 years time period (2016-2030). The MDGs are considered as the first ever global blueprint for fighting against poverty collectively. MDGs have achieved notable progress in many global issues and also have given the hope to create a new world within existing means. The achievements through MDGs offer new aspiration to achieve some bigger goals collectively. Eventually the 2030 Agenda for SDGs has offered a set of bold, ambitious and innovative package to transform the world. The experience with the MDGs implies that, Bangladesh has many reasons to feel excited about the promises that are beckoning us for another decade and a half.

Being motivated from the successful implementation of MDGs which ensures a revised status of the country before the international community, the country is much committed to achieve a strong scorecard in different goals and targets under SDGs. Bangladesh has already proved that the country can attain the goals through inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships and that investments made in Bangladesh are worth its dividends. In the last fifteen years, Bangladesh has witnessed one of the fastest reductions in poverty anywhere in the world with a limited resource base. The country has met the target of reducing the proportion of population below the national poverty line three years ahead of time, which presently stands at 22.4 per cent (Official Assessment of Planning Commission of Bangladesh and govt. budget speech 2016-17). It has reached the targets of reducing infant mortality rate from 92 per 1000 live births in 1990 to 46 now; and of decreasing the prevalence of underweight children below the age of 5 years from 66 per cent in 1990 to 32.6 per cent at present. In terms of education, the country has achieved nearly hundred percent enrollments in primary schools; attained gender parity with more girls than boys in primary and secondary schools. It has met the targets of preventing malarial deaths and of raising the share of people using an improved drinking water source as well. As one of the top performing countries of MDGs, Bangladesh is equally confident to embrace the new targets of SDGs and the Prime Minister of our country has expressed her deep commitment to achieve the SDGs’ targets before the time frame of 2030.

This paper analyzes the achievement of the country across different goals and targets under SDGs, highlights the summary from policy documents like 7th five years plan, master plan for the country, poverty reduction strategy papers, inter-ministerial targets to attain agenda 2030, vision 2021 and vision 2041 which mostly captures the strategic goals of the country. Bourdieu’s ‘Theory of Society’ has been used with the three core concepts which are habitus, capital and field to align the multi-stakeholders perspective to develop cultural capital within the societal structure under set guidelines and norms to attain common goals. Based on the theoretical framework used in this paper, it stresses on the SDGs theme on ‘whole of society’ approach to transform the planet into a livable place for all.

Objectives

The paper highlights the status of achieving SDGs so far and critically analyzes the preparedness and commitment of the country towards the journey. It identifies the challenges that the country may encounter while addressing respective targets under SDGs. It also highlights the emerging concerns and way forward in achieving SDGs. Different policy documents are consulted to put light on target gaps and at the same time, the paper brings some policy dimensions for discussion and implementation.

Theoretical Framework

A large number of researchers are in favor of adopting prior theoretical framework in research (Laughlin et al, 1989; Humphrey and Scapens, 1996; Llewelyn, 2003; Denzin and Lincoln, 2003; Silverman, 2004; Irvine and Gaffikin, 2006; Vincent et al. 2006; Cooper 2008; Hoque, 2008; Maxwell, 2009, Flick, 2009). Maxwell (2009) claimed that a useful theory helps to organize the data. In making sense of the data, theorization is particularly important because it relates to the construction of meaningful patterns and organizations of facts. Jorgenson (1989) also
argued that a theory is an arrangement of facts in the form of an explanation or interpretation. The present study draws extensively upon a post modern sociological theory - Bourdieu’s ‘Theory of Society’ for the analysis and interpretation of data. The French Sociologist Pierre Bourdieu is one of the most influential sociologists of the 20th century. His work is concerned with the dynamics of power in society particularly how power is transferred and social order maintained within and across generations.

Bourdieu (1980, 1984, and 1986) sees power as culturally and symbolically created, and constantly re-legitimized through interplay of agency and structure. The main way this happens is through what he calls ‘habitus’ or socialized norms or tendencies that guide behavior and thinking. Habitus is created through a social, rather than individual processes leading to patterns that are enduring and transferrable from one context to another, but that also shift in relation to specific contexts and over time. Habitus can be explained as a set of attitudes which organizes practices and the perception of practices. According to Bourdieu habitus has the potential to influence our actions and to construct our social world as well as being influenced by the external.

A second important concept introduced by Bourdieu is that of ‘capital’, which are linked with habitus and key to understanding field theory. Bourdieu identifies four types of capital as part of the structuring process of habitus and used by individuals for gaining dominance and power. These are:

- Social capital- comprised of circles of friends, groups, memberships and social networks (also virtual within online communities).
- Cultural capital- includes individual’s knowledge, experience and connections (Academic background, credentials and work life).
- Economic capital- consists of economic assets held (Property owned, earning ability).
- Symbolic capital- is the honour, prestige and recognition of an individual (a war hero, pioneer in a field).

Bourdieu defines Society is split up into spheres of actions. He calls it fields. In his field theory Bourdieu uses football field as a metaphor. The players on the football field each have a position which either attacks or defends. Instead of analyzing societies in terms of classes Bourdieu uses the concept of field. According to Bourdieu A field is a system of social positions structured internally in terms of power relationships. Fields are the various social and institutional arenas in which people express and reproduce their dispositions, and where they compete for the distribution of different kinds of capital. Social reality in Bourdieu’s view is a process of dialectic of the internalization of externality and the externalization of internality (Bourdieu, 1990).

Dialectic relationships among habitus, fields, and capitals produce agents’ social practices as Bourdieu illustrated in an equation: (Habitus × Capital) + Field = Practice (Bourdieu, 1984).

In the football field there are set of rules. Bourdieu termed it ‘doxa’. A final important concept in Bourdieu’s understanding of power is that of ‘doxa’, which is the combination of both orthodox and heterodox norms and beliefs. Each position within the field is determined by the individual’s habitus; their past performance, skills, education, social class and influences. When the habitus of an individual matches the social field everything runs smoothly (working together to score the goals and win the game). However, if one of the players wants to change the rules a struggle ensues. In the football match, cultural capital may be used as referee to determine the course of action (knowledge) needed. According to Bourdieu, a society is a multidimensional space consisting of number of fields. These might be various institutions, social groups like workplaces, local communities, etc. In this study, we believe that the achievement of SDGs is not possible without collective efforts of all the stakeholders in their respective fields, provided that all the stakeholders have set their own habitus and utilizes their own capital. When entering a field the individual has with him/her a habitus. Habitus is a kind of bundle of resources or capital. Doxa is a set of rules in a particular field. Difference between doxa and opinion is that doxa is kind of unquestioned truth, while opinion contains things that might be openly discussed.

Research Method and Data Analysis

The study is based on secondary sources of data. Data are collected from various published
documents. Policy papers are also used along with research articles published in different scholarly journals. Newspaper articles and archival records are used in appropriate cases to supplement the analysis. For data analysis, different techniques like thematic analysis, contents analysis are used and then synchronized to develop a general understanding of the readers.

Findings and Analysis
This section presents the core areas of the analysis under the main themes identified through thematic analysis. To put special emphasis on social practices, three core theoretical concepts (habitus, capital and field) as proposed by Bourdieu have been used in this analysis.

Global Development Blueprint: MDGs vs. SDGs
Millennium Development Goals (8 goals, 20 targets and 60 indicators) consisted of eight global development objectives that were established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000 and adoption of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. All 189 (presently 193) UN member states and 23 International organizations committed to help achieve eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Coinciding with the end of MDGs the world leaders have adopted yet another set of global goals, SDGs, for the period 2015 to 2030 titled ‘Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ when they met in New York in the Annual UN General Assembly meeting. Tabled on 25th September 2015 after two years of relentless brainstorming by an international working group and negotiations it was universally adopted on 27th September. The global agenda is a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of 17 universal and transformative goals and 169 targets in quest of universal peace, humanity free from poverty and a progressive planet. The 15-year agenda came into effect on 1st January 2016, as a follow-up program after MDGs wind up in December 2015.

Bangladesh is one of the few countries that achieved most of the goals ahead of time. But there are still areas that need greater attention such as further reduction of hunger and poverty, adaptation to climate change, employment generation for the upcoming generations and ensuring education for all. This was revealed at the ‘Millennium Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report-2015’ published by the Planning Commission. The report showed that the MDG targets that Bangladesh has achieved include reducing headcount poverty and poverty gap ratio, reducing the prevalence of underweight children, attaining gender parity at primary and secondary education, under-five mortality rate reduction, containing HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs, under-five children sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets, detection and TB cure rate. Bangladesh has made a remarkable progress in increasing enrolment at primary schools, lowering infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio, improving immunization coverage and reducing the incidence of communicable diseases. The MDG progress report 2015 also said the areas in need of greater attention are increase in primary school completion and adult literacy rates, creation of decent wage structure, increase in employment opportunity for women, increase in the presence of skilled health professionals at delivery, increase in forest coverage and wider use of ICT.

Bangladesh has recorded admirable progress in different social and economic indicators. It has crossed the threshold of middle income group of countries, an event worthy of celebration and jubilation by all citizens. Now the Government of Bangladesh has targeted to become an upper middle-income country well before the envisioned 2021. Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) growth reached 7.24 per cent this fiscal year, beating all previous records. The per capita income rises to $1,602, which was $1,466 in the last fiscal year. The economic growth reached this record high, riding on buoyant exports and robust agricultural outputs. For fiscal year 2015-16, the GDP growth was 7.24 per cent, while the target for this fiscal year was 7.2 per cent. Bangladesh has to maintain the pace for at least three years before WB finally confers upper middle income status and UN upgrades it from least developed country to developing country. To fulfill the criteria for entry into the upper middle income group, Bangladesh is to have a minimum per capita GNI of $4,126. To reach this target in 2021 seems to be an uphill task. 7th five year plan for the period from 2016 to 2020 has been prepared accommodating mostly all the SDGs as far
as possible to make the dream true before 2021. From the analysis, it seems that the social field is fertile enough to accommodate new challenges and opportunities. Buerdieu’s habitus is operative in this particular area. The concept of habitus shows how human action makes a balance between objective structure and subjective perception. It is as a set of regulatory schemes of thought and action, which are to some extents, a product of prior experience. The success in achieving MDGs will guide the society to achieve SDGs in coming days also.

Achievement on SDGs

Though it is early to put any comment on the progress on different indicators across seventeen SDGs, still it is important to observe the score and comparing the same within and outside for any revisions required in policy issues. As per UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2018), Bangladesh scored a rank of 111 out of 156 countries in the SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2018 which reflects slight improvement from previous year. Its overall performance on the index is 59.3 out of 100, which is lower than the regional average score of 64.1. Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka scored higher than Bangladesh on the index, while India, Pakistan and Afghanistan scored lower. Bangladesh has a ‘red’ threshold on 8 out of 17 SDGs, indicating that it needs to overcome major challenges in order to meet the goals in those eight areas. Bangladesh received red ratings on SDG2 - zero hunger, SDG3 – good health and well being, SDG7 – affordable and clean energy, SDG9 – industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG11 – sustainable cities and communities, SDG14 - life below water, SDG16 – peace, justice and strong institutions, and SDG17 – Partnerships for the goals. Only in one SDG, the country is on track and in another it maintains the SDG achievement. In five SDGs, the status of the country is progressing. However, in one case it is decreasing, in four cases it remains stagnant and in four other cases it shows no trend.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title of the Goal</th>
<th>Threshold</th>
<th>SDG Trend</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Poverty</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>On track</td>
<td>97.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No Hunger</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Moderately Increasing</td>
<td>46.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Good Health and Well-being</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Moderately Increasing</td>
<td>60.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Quality Education</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>63.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals and Indicators</td>
<td>Value</td>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Trend</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG1 – End Poverty</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty headcount ratio at $1.90/day (% population)</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected poverty headcount ratio at $1.90/day in 2030 (% population)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG2 – Zero Hunger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevalence of undernourishment (% population)</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of stunting (low height-for-age) in children under 5 years of age (% )</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of wasting in children under 5 years of age (% )</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of obesity, BMI ≥ 30 (% adult population)</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cereal yield (t/ha)</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG3 – Good Health and Well-Being</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)</td>
<td>176.0</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)</td>
<td>221.0</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV prevalence (per 1,000)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<td>↓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age-standardised death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disease in populations age 30–70 years (per 100,000 population)</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Age-standardised death rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)</td>
<td>125.1</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Traffic deaths rate (per 100,000 population)</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Life Expectancy at birth (years)</td>
<td>71.8</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)</td>
<td>84.4</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Surviving infants who received 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%)</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Universal Health Coverage Tracer Index (0-100)</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Subjective Wellbeing (average ladder score, 0-10)</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG4 – Quality Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net primary enrolment rate (%)</td>
<td>90.5</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean years of schooling</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds, both sexes (%)</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals and Indicators</td>
<td>Value</td>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Trend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG5 – Gender Equality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmet demand for contraception, estimated (% women married or in union, ages 15-49)</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female to male mean years of schooling of population age 25+ (%)</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female to male labor force participation rate (%)</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG6 – Clean Water and Sanitation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-income countries: population using safely managed water services (%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries: population using at least basic drinking water services (%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-income countries: population using safely managed sanitation services (%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries: population using at least basic sanitation services (%)</td>
<td>46.9</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater withdrawal as % total renewable water resources</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imported groundwater depletion (m3/year/capita)</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG7 – Affordable and Clean Energy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to electricity (% population)</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to clean fuels &amp; technology for cooking (% population)</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO2 emissions from fuel combustion / electricity output (MtCO2/TWh)</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted GDP Growth (%)</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slavery score (0-100)</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults (15 years +) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (%)</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (% total labor force)</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of the population using the internet (%)</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile broadband subscriptions (per 100 inhabitants)</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of overall infrastructure (1= extremely underdeveloped;7= extensive and efficient by international standards)</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics performance index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (1=low to 5=high)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Times Higher Education Universities Ranking, Average score of top 3 universities (0-100)</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>■</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: Performance by Indicator

Source: UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2018)

It is important to look at the scores across different indicators to intervene important areas based on the social context. In Bourdieu’s (1977, p 72) own words, habitus constitutes a set of durable, transposable dispositions which regulates mental activity to the point where individuals are often unconsciously aware of their influence. In similar point of view, habitus concept is an avenue of explaining how social and cultural messages shape individual’s thoughts and actions. The habitus, basically, is thus not wholly structured, though it is still remains strongly influenced by historical, social and cultural contexts. Based on the micro analysis, a collective
effort should be deployed to attack particular areas for improvement.

Prioritizing SDGs for Intervention

It remains an unsolved enquiry whether a country should prioritize SDGs considering the country specific factors or it should take an all-out effort to address all the SDGs together. As per ‘Theory of Society’, every society has its particular norms which may be different from others. Thus, it needs to be localized based on a contextual analysis. In Bourdieu’s (1986) view, social capital is the sum of the resources, actual or virtual, that accrue to an individual or a group by virtue of possessing a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual acquaintance and recognition (Bourdieu & Wacquant, 1992). Social capital exists as a set of lasting social relations, networks and contacts. We need to capitalize our own social capital. In principle, all the SDGs are inter-connected which cannot be isolated. And in terms of achieving the goals, a country should not take a standalone perspective; these are the goals for all to save our single planet. Still experts put opinion on careful selection of SDGs for intervention. Some experts prescribe that Bangladesh needs to focus on eradicating poverty and hunger, reducing inequalities and taking climate action properly in the era of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Noting that the four goals have strong correlation with other goals, they said Bangladesh needs to address the four areas properly to get successes in implementation of SDGs like it got in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In a workshop held in Cirdap auditorium, an expert from Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) categorically mentioned -

Four among 17 SDGs are very important for Bangladesh. If the four goals are attained, it’ll help reach some other goals of the global agenda. Those four are no poverty (Goal-1), zero hunger (Goal-2), reduced inequalities (Goal-10) and climate action (Goal-13). Alongside the poverty eradication, Bangladesh should address hunger particularly malnutrition problem as even many children of the well-off families are suffering from malnutrition. Talking about inequalities, he said it needs to address all sorts of inequalities among the people and inequality between the men and women. About climate change, he continued Bangladesh should strengthen the climate policies, strategies and projects to mitigate and adopt with the impact of the climate change.

One of the lead economist of World Bank Dhaka office said though Bangladesh has been posting robust economic growth consistently, income inequalities at individual-level steady goes up unlikely consumption inequalities. Noting that the rate of inequalities in Bangladesh is neither high nor low, he said the annual average gain in income share for the top-class 20 percent population (the highest quintile) is 0.46 percent, according to a study conducted in 2010. Though rise of inequalities is a global problem, Bangladesh needs to reduce inequalities particularly income inequalities to gain sustainable development, he added. The economist said inequalities at national-level (among the nations) has been reduced significantly after 1980s, but inequality among the individuals is still high. He said sustainable reduction in inequalities will be difficult without increasing intergenerational mobility.

Another expert from Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) said impacts of climate change in Bangladesh are now visible as it causes multi-faceted problem. The climate change leads many problems, including frequent and intensified cyclones and floods, deeper penetration of saline water, erratic rainfall, drought, riverbank erosion, climate refugees, health disease, food insecurity, water insecurity, landslide in Chittagong Hill Tracks and migration, he said. He continued, climate change will dominate human lifestyle in many societies and communities. About Bangladesh, he said one meter rise of sea level will inundate 17 percent lands of Bangladesh. Some 20 million coastal people somehow will be affected and many of will be displaced, he added.

The Citizen’s Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, in partnership with the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), organized a workshop titled, Appreciation Course on 2030 Agenda: Framework Issues and Implementation Challenges on 19 November 2016 at the BRAC Centre Inn Conference Room, Dhaka. A total of 42 participants from 36 Partner Organizations of the Platform prioritized the SDG targets, contextualized “leave no one behind” for Bangladesh, and recommended action agenda for implementing SDGs in Bangladesh. The participants
ranked seven SDGs as the highest priority areas in Bangladesh: SDG 1 on eradication of poverty; SDG 3 on good health and well-being; SDG 4 on quality education; SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation; SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth; SDG 13 on climate change; and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. However, in the context of Bangladesh it may be argued that emphasis should be on weaker areas of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) achievement, while the lowest possible measures should not define the ambition. Despite of progress in many development indicators among the MDG targets, experts opine that, major challenges remain for Bangladesh, especially with regard to the hunger-related indicators like MDG-1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), MDG-5 (improve maternal health) and MDG-7 (ensure environmental sustainability), which is fully off track and is unlikely to be met.

Based on the analysis, it is understood that SDGs need to be ranked considering the socio-economic needs of the country, unattained goals in MDGs and red marked SDGs as per the SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2018. Localizing SDGs and engaging stakeholders in a broader framework is important for successful implementation of SDGs.

Challenges to Achieve SDGs

Every social journey posits additional threats due to wide divergences in their expectations, commitments and interests. In the field, if the participants hold different targets, ultimate goal could not be achieved. Fields are arenas of struggle in which actors attempt to accrue or control various resources such as economic, cultural and social capitals. It captures formally institutionalized relationships based on explicit codes or rules as well as non-formalized, customary relationships structured by cultural norms or practices. Achieving SDGs take whole of society approach where everybody’s interest should be properly addressed. The key challenges for Bangladesh in implementing the SDGs are: Integration in the national planning process; Financial and non-financial resources; Institutional mechanism for implementation; Data for Monitoring; and Participation and accountability (CPD). Attainment of the SDGs would require a strong and effective institutional mechanism involving all stakeholders including public representatives across the country, government and the bureaucracy, private sector, civil society, knowledge community, and development partners.

Seventh Five Year Plan

Bangladesh’s journey towards the implementation of SDGs has been started with a successful integration with SDGs into the 7th Five Year Plan. The 7th Five Year Plan for the period of 2016-2020 is a National Policy guideline of Bangladesh prepared by the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission. The Plan has been prepared to provide direction through new strategies, institutions and policies to the national development for a period of 5 years and focuses on pro-poor economic growth, sustainable development and risk resilience with the vision of reducing inequality and ensuring justice in the society. The 7th FYP contains a Development Results Framework (DRF) which has been prepared in consultation with government and non-government stakeholders for monitoring the implementation of the Plan. The DRF is the outcome of a consultative process where due emphasis has been given on the views of different sectors. It is a robust and rigorous result based monitoring and evaluation framework using which core macro and sectoral quantitative results will be monitored to measure the effective implementation of the 7th FYP. It is praiseworthy to say that the DRF has been prepared considering the interim indicators of the then proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as consultations for adoption of both the frameworks were taken place at the same space of time. Out of 169 targets, 56 are aligned with 7th FYP while 37 are partially aligned and 65 could not be aligned. In terms of indicators, 41 indicators of SDGs are found fully aligned with 7th FYP, 27 are partially aligned and 138 are not directly aligned. However, there will be 2 more such five year plans during the implementation period of SDGs when unattended targets and indicators could be addressed.

Apparently the 7th Five Year Plan has been prepared in coordination with the targets of SDGs. Government has claimed that the preparation and launching of the plan coincided with the global discourse on SDGs and Bangladesh was one of the forefront countries that played a significant role in formulating the SDGs at that time. The 7FYP has made a reflection on the core goal of SDGs especially in ending poverty in
all its form. Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in reducing the poverty in last few decades. Nevertheless, about a quarter of the population of 160 million is still living below the poverty line, hence setting that target is a necessary condition for attacking poverty with delineating 7.4% expected annual growth rate that was suggested by SDGs. The following table has reflected the major SDGs’ targets that are integrated with government’s 7FYP. Given the comprehensiveness and cross cutting nature of SDGs, policy coherence is very critical for the success of SDGs implementation in Bangladesh. Effective coordination among all stakeholders including civil society participation holds key for SDGs implementation. It is important to ensure societal consent and approval to develop and utilize the beauty of cultural capital within the doxa. Otherwise, there is a risk of disagreement among the participating stakeholders that may ruin the whole process. A summary on the integration of SDGs with 7th five year plan is given in Table 3 below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.</td>
<td>i. Reduction in the head-count poverty ratio by about 6.2 percentage points (from 24.8% to 18.6%). ii. Reduction in extreme poverty by about 4.0 percentage points (i.e. 8.9 % in 2020). iii. Spending on Social Protection as a share of GDP to be increased to 2.3%. iv. Creation of a Lagging Region Fund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.</td>
<td>i. Consolidation of Food Transfer Program as suggested by National Social Security Program. ii. Reduce proportion of stunting among under-five children from 36.1% to 25%. iii. Reduce proportion of underweight children among under-five children from 32.6% to 20%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing For all at all ages.</td>
<td>i. Under 5 mortality rate to be reduced from 41 to 37 per 1000 live births. ii. Maternal Mortality Ratio to be reduced from 170 to 105 per 100,000 live births. iii. Immunization, measles (percent of children under 12 months) to be increased to 100 percent. iv. Births attended by skilled health staff to be increased to 65 percent. v. Reduction of Total Fertility Rate to 2.0. vi. Increasing Contraceptive Prevalence Rate to 75%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</td>
<td>i. Achieving 100% net enrollment rate for primary and secondary education. ii. Ensure quality education at primary, secondary and tertiary education. iii. Percentage of cohort reaching grade 5 to be increased to 100% from current 80%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.</td>
<td>i. Gender Parity Index in tertiary education to be raised from current 0.70 to 1.0. ii. The ratio of literate female to male for age group 20-24 to be raised to 100% from the current 86%. iii. Increase the share of female officers (Grade-9 and above) in the public sector to 25% by 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.</td>
<td>i. Safe drinking water to be made available for all rural and urban population. ii. Proportion of urban population with access to sanitary latrines to be increased to 100 percent and 90 percent for rural population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.</td>
<td>i. Generation of electricity to be increased to 23,000 MW. ii. Electricity coverage to be increased to 96%. iii. Increase energy efficiency by 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</td>
<td>i. Attaining average real GDP growth rate of 7.4% per year over the plan period. ii. Total revenue to be raised from 10.7% of GDP to 16.1% by FY20. iii. 12.9 million additional jobs will be available during 7th FYP including some 2 million jobs in abroad. iv. FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) to be increased substantially to $9.6 billion by FY20 from present $1.57 billion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.</td>
<td>i. Focus on fast tracking a number of transformational infrastructure projects. ii. Increase the contribution of the manufacturing sector to 21.5% of GDP by FY20 from 17.8% of FY15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.</td>
<td>i. Spending on Social Protection as a share of GDP to be increased to 2.3% of GDP. ii. Reduce Income Inequality from 0.458 to downward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.</td>
<td>i. Access to improved water source will be ensured for all urban dwellers. ii. Ensure sustainable urban development that supports increased productivity, investment and employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.</td>
<td>No Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.</td>
<td>i. Environmental, Climate Change and disaster risk reduction considerations are integrated into project design, budgetary allocations and implementation process. ii. 500 meter wide green belt to be established and protected along the coast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.</td>
<td>i. Develop law &amp; regulation in pollution control including sea vessel and ship breaking industries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SDG 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

- **i.** Increase productive forest coverage to 20 percent with 70% tree density.

**SDG 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

- **i.** To ensure all persons are able to live securely under the rule of law.
- **ii.** Enhancing Integrity & Controlling Corruption.
- **iii.** Strengthen Right to Information (RTI) and Access to Information process.
- **iv.** Making parliamentary process effective.

**Goal 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

- **i.** Develop effective Aid Information Management System (AIMS).
- **ii.** Ensure development partners’ policy alignment and system harmonization.
- **iii.** Effective national Policy on Development. Cooperation to guide development cooperation in Bangladesh.

### Table 3: SDGs and 7th Five Year Plan

*Source: EquityBD Campaign Brief, March 2017*

It is surely an admirable attempt that the country has begun with the targets from the very beginning. Eventually both the 7th five year plan and SDGs begin in the same year (2016) and Bangladesh doesn’t have any gap in its initiative. Apty Bangladesh can be called the early starter in implementation of SDGs. It needs to be monitored strictly, otherwise, it may not bring expected outcome. To spearhead the process, SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee has been formed at the Prime Minister’s Office to facilitate the implementation of SDGs Action Plan. The General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission serves as the focal point of the government for formulating SDGs implementation strategy and action plan for Poverty eradication. Disintegrated process will create chaos within the habitus where participants may be motivated to spoil the process for self-interest. However, 7th Five Year Plan has been properly integrated with SDGs which will accelerate the process of achieving the targets. It will also help to achieve 2021 vision.

### Concerns and Way Forward

**Integrating with national policy:** SDGs need to be aligned with plans and programs of the government and indicators should be determined with reference to the country context. In this context, Bangladesh is doing great. The government prepared a “National Action Plan for SDGs Implementation” in accordance with 7th FYP objectives and shared with all relevant ministries for preparation of their respective implementation plan for achieving the SDGs targets as per instruction by inter-ministerial committee. Bangladesh has also completed the “Mapping of Ministries/ Divisions by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs Aligning with 7th FYP (2016-2020).” Through the Mapping, the Government has identified 43 Lead Ministries/ Divisions including Prime Minister’s Office and Cabinet Division and 34 Co-lead Ministries/ Divisions responsible for implementing the SDGs and its targets including actions to achieve the SDGs targets beyond 7th FYP (2021-2030). The mapping exercise has created an opportunity to look at the data scenario of Bangladesh through the lenses of the SDGs indicators. The Mapping showed that almost 50 per cent of identified ministries have linked with multiple SDGs. This suggests setting up a strong national coordination mechanism and cooperation among government ministries/agencies in order to transform SDGs agenda into the national context. These exercises establish rules and guidelines to comply with. However, as per the Theory of Society concept, all the stakeholders should be involved in a broader framework to develop ownership orientation among them. This issue should be properly taken care of due to the fact that the implementation of SDGs is not the sole responsibility of the government rather it is the responsibility of all.

**Managing data gaps:** The importance of robust data in measuring progress on achieving the SDGs is very important but there exist gaps in data as a potential sticking point. Planning Commission has carried out a data gap analysis to identify the data needed to monitor and track progress in implementation. The government undertook a comprehensive study of data gap analysis for SDGs monitoring in Bangladesh. The study report titled “Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development
Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective, found that Bangladesh was facing a considerable data gap for monitoring the SDGs as data of less than one-third of the indicators are readily available while two-thirds are either partially available or not available at all. Out of total 241 indicators (for some with repeated use) to monitor against the 169 targets, data of only 70 indicators are readily available while data on 108 indicators are partially available and 63 indicators related data are not available at all. It is a challenge and a policy framework is required to minimize the data gaps. Due to the shortage of data gaps, proper monitoring and performance appraisal framework will become inactive which may generate tension among the stakeholder leading leakages in cultural capital and it may accelerate unrest in the field.

Collectivism: We can take experience from others – and avoid their mistakes. Despite very different circumstances, countries are facing shared challenges and opportunities in SDG implementation. There should be a process of sharing experiences in a bigger platform. The goal of UN will only be successful if all the nations can ensure the achievements together. The whole planet is considered as a single society here without any border. The field is same and the players will follow the same rules of the game and in terms of policy issues, these should be easily transported without any restriction.

Digitization: The goals of ‘Digital Bangladesh’ for 2021 are in alignment with the SDG goals and have been translated into e-governance initiatives to support the eradication of poverty, ensuring food security, improving public access to health and education services, developing talents for the 21st century, providing equitable services for women and people from all economic, religious and ethnic background. Bangladesh has designed SDG Tracker, an innovative tool that will help measuring achievements in attaining SDGs. Two major components of SDG Tracker are SDG Portal and Dashboard. SDG tracker will provide status of Bangladesh’s progress on SDGs over the period of time. The Access to Information (a2i) Program of the Prime Minister’s Office, with technical support from UNDP and USAID— in collaboration with General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and other government and private stakeholders, designed and developed SDG Tracker to serve the digitization needs relating to SDGs. It is proven that targets, application, monitoring and assessment are sequential steps. It brings transparency and accountability among the activists and ensures harmony in the field for better functioning of synergies from all forms of capital.

Financing: The General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission has conducted an important study on “SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective” to assess the resources needed to implement. Traditional sources of funding are insufficient to implement the SDGs. The report estimates that an additional amount, over the current provision of investment related to SDGs by public sectors and external sources, would be USD 928.48 billion at 2015-16 constant prices. This amount would be required for SDGs implementation over the period of FY 2017-FY 2030, which is 19.75 per cent of the accumulated GDP under 7th FYP extended growth scenario. The annual average cost of SDGs would be USD 66.32 billion (at constant prices) for this period. Moreover, the implementation of the 7th plan requires total investment of 34.4 percent of GDP by 2020, of which private sector is expected to provide 26.6 percent of GDP. According to Bangladesh Delta Plan, the investment only for climate change, environment and water related projects account for 1.8 percent of GDP by 2020. The resource gap is yet huge; public spending is only 0.8 percent of GDP on water sector projects, which has been highly inadequate. One single source will not be enough. The government needs to find innovative ways of financing both from the public and the private sectors, development partners and ensure effective and efficient ways for utilization. The study suggests five potential sources for meeting the financing gap: they are 1) Public Financing; 2) Private Sector Financing; 3) Public Private Partnership (PPP); 4) External Sources including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Aid and Grants; and lastly 5) Nongovernment Organizations (NGOs). In the Theory of Society, Bourdieu put special emphasis on financial capital to run the social institution smoothly. Thus, it needs to be analyzed critically considering the implication of different sources of financial capital on other capitals.

Unplanned urbanization: Bangladesh has been experiencing a rapid increase in the urban population, in 1990, 20 percent of the population lived in urban areas, this has increased to 35 percent in 2016 and it is expected to overtake the share of rural population.
approximately in 2040. The rapid migration to urban areas and the inadequate infrastructure and access to open space to meet the growing demand is a serious problem for the country. In SDG11 – sustainable cities and communities, Bangladesh has gotten a red mark with a low score value of 39.4 showing a stagnant trend. Society will demonstrate aggressive movement on silly issues even if the field is not up to their satisfaction.

**Skill development and quality education:** Around 13 million 15-29 aged young population is not in education, employment and training according to LFS 2015-16, which suggests that a large number of young populations remain unutilized. If they can be trained up and provided with education and employment, the scenario will be totally different. This will have a long term consequences in per capita income, growth, poverty and health outcome. Further, improving quality of education in recent times poses a big concern. In SDG4 – quality education, Bangladesh receives orange mark with score value of 63.9. Trend couldn’t be established due to shortage of data. This SDG needs extra attention due to the necessity of responsive feedback from the social participants.

**Competitiveness:** Despite, Bangladesh for the first time has been placed in the top 100 (99 out of 137 countries) in 2017 in the World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Report, yet corruption is still the major obstacle for doing business in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has to keep up the momentum of ongoing reforms to make smoother business climate reducing the transaction cost substantially. The realization of One-stop Service Act-2017 will be a landmark step in attracting investment from abroad. To develop an equitable and competitive society where all the social agents will act rationally and ideally, a culture should be patronized driven by competitiveness. Otherwise social practice will be misguided due to unfair play in the field.

**Governance:** There is no alternative to improve governance in order for growth to be more sustainable and pro poor. Yet Bangladesh has made notable progress in governance indicators, there are scope for much improvement. Governance issue is particularly critical in the use of public resources, service delivery of institutions, transports, law enforcement, judiciary, land administration, tax and customs, as they are deemed corrupted service providers in Bangladesh. Digitalization can be an effective tool to address these governance challenges. In SDG 16 – peace, justice and strong institutions, Bangladesh receives red mark with a score value of 60.7 reflecting a poor status. If governance is not strong, the stakeholders of social change process may not act judiciously.

**Inequality and disparity:** The declining share of bottom 5 percent income (the share of national income was 0.78 percent in 2010 and 0.23 percent in 2016) and increasing share of top 5 percent income means that unless inequality issues are rightly addressed, the country will have to face the bitter experience of social unrest, marginalization to a greater degree in the forthcoming days. Further poverty is severely intense in some districts and the disparity is widespread. Kurigram has population with 70.8 percent under upper poverty line, followed by Dinajpur with 64.3 percent and Bandarban with 63.2 percent respectively while the incident of poverty in Narayanganj is just 2.6 percent. National average of below poverty is 22.37 percent in 2017 as projected in 7th FYP. Though Bangladesh receives yellow threshold only in SDG1- no poverty with a score value of 97.0, we should not withdraw our attention on this SDG, rather we should revisit to continue our achievement in this SDG. As per Theory of Society, the maximum utilization of collective capital is possible within the set norms and guidelines (doxa) if the disparity in the society could be kept at healthy level.

**Conclusion**

Bangladesh has successfully moved from MDGs to SDGs as it is committed to fight against poverty and hunger. As part of her strong desire to implement the SDGs, she has participated in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of SDGs in 2017 at the auspices of the UN High Level Political Forum to showcase her achievement before the international community. Bangladesh has an inspiring story to tell. In 2017 Bangladesh has submitted VNR of SDGs along with 42 other countries. Seventy Four (74) targets and 115 indicators related to 7 goals have been used for reviewing the SDGs. The focus of the report is where we are in implementing Agenda 2030. 7 Goals: Goal 1 (Poverty); Goal 2 (Hunger); Goal 3 (Health); Goal 5 (Gender); Goal 9 (Infrastructure); Goal 14 (Life under water); Goal 17 (Means of implementation) have been reviewed in this Voluntary Review Report.
The Government of Bangladesh envisioned transforming Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. The country has already become a lower middle income country due to its achievements in MDGs. The country has already translated its vision, pronounced at the highest political level, into an actionable agenda by formulating Perspective Plan (2010-2021) and two Five Year Plans (FYPs) associated with this. Bangladesh integrated the 2030 Agenda in its 7th FYP (2016-2020). This offered a tremendous opportunity to implement the 2030 Agenda, while reflecting the priorities of the SDGs in the national plan. The Government has adopted “Whole of Society” approach to ensure wider participation of NGOs, development partners, private sector, media and CSOs in the process of formulation of the Action Plan and implementation of the SDGs. To spearhead the process, ‘SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee’ has been formed at the Prime Minister’s Office to facilitate and implementation of SDGs Action Plan.

The good part is that the SDGs match with our own goals of becoming an upper middle income country by 2030 and a developed country by 2041. In the absence of SDGs, Bangladesh might have to plan in her own. SDGs have supported us strategically to reach to our ultimate target. As per ‘Theory of Society’, social reality is a process of dialectic of the internalization of externality and the externalization of internality (Bourdieu, 1990). One of the challenges in SDGs is localization of SDGs targets and indicators for contextualizing the 2030 Agenda appropriately with local development plans and strategies. However, it is the social reality to internalize and then externalize the findings and challenges. From his various works, it reveals that Bourdieu has tried to develop theoretical model of social practices which minimizes dichotomy of objectivism and subjectivism (Jenkins, 2002). We should also try to take a multi-stakeholder approach involving private sector, NGOs, CSOs, media and major group of other stakeholders in line with the ‘whole of society’ approach of SDGs. Based on the continuous assessment and involvement, it is believed that the journey of ensuring ‘leaving no one behind’ will succeed as a natural process and Bangladesh is confident to set the example of a leading SDGs achiever.

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Sustainable banking process towards achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs): Bangladesh perspective

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ABSTRACT
Sustainability Reporting demonstrates how the company influences and is influenced by expectations about sustainable development. Stakeholders can compare performance within a company and between different companies over time. In addition, some regulatory bodies issued guidelines and encouraged organization to issue sustainability reports. Sustainability reporting complements financial reports with forward-looking information and the understanding of key value drivers, such as human capital formation, corporate governance, management of environmental risks and liabilities. Sustainability reporting shows an understanding of the external environments (products, labour, and capital markets and regulatory structures) in which the company conducts its business. Besides, it assesses the elements that emphasize in the company’s competitive advantage (through cost leadership and product/service differentiation and the formation of intellectual capital). Bangladesh Bank as the regulatory authority for the commercial banks in Bangladesh has already stepped up sustainability reporting following the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) guidelines. Sustainability reporting is a concrete tool that reinforces transparency of the commercial banks and it builds an enabling environment through sustainable banking. This research study focuses on the sustainable banking for stainability reporting practices in banking sector Bangladesh and how this reporting system can formulate a future plan for a sustainability reporting culture for banks in Bangladesh towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Keywords: Sustainable Banking, Sustainability Reporting (SR), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), Bangladesh Bank (BB), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
INTRODUCTION

Sustainability is the state of global system, which includes environmental, social and economic subsystems, in which the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability is combination of two words; ‘Sustain’ and ‘Ability’ i.e. SustainAbility. The simplest and most fundamental meaning of sustainability is: "the ability to sustain" or, put another way, "the capacity to sustain". As per Oxford Dictionary, sustainability means “able to be maintained at a certain rate or level” i.e. sustainable economic growth.

Due to nature, financial institutions are exposed to risk arising from the companies whose operations they choose to finance. Sustainability reporting is one of the tools of corporate transparency that captures a company’s financial and non-financial performance. It is particularly useful because investors and other business stakeholders can have a holistic view of a company's performance. Sustainability reporting measures and discloses corporate performance in environmental, social and economic terms. Sustainability reporting is also synonymous with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting. Any issue that affects business stakeholders including employees, community, government, shareholders, finance providers, amongst others is what sustainability reporting is concerned with. These issues include environmental protection, environmental liabilities, renewable and recycled materials used, energy consumption, defined benefit plan obligations, structure and composition of the board, competencies of members of highest governing body, tenure on governance body, conflicts of interest, among others which are also the key components of sustainable banking models for banking industry. The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) recognizes the necessity for financial institutions to be accountable for their social, economic and environmental impacts and has put in place the financial services sector disclosures.

SUSTAINABLE BANKING

Sustainable Banking creates long-term resilient and sustainable economic, social and environmental values having a green, responsible and inclusive strategy through transparent and efficient utilisation of resources. Sustainable Banking approach is based on certain principles that not only consider profit but also economic and social benefits. The main objective of sustainable banking is to maintain financial and social stability. Under the guidelines on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Bangladesh Bank has been pursuing policy and instructions in all possible areas of sustainable banking for last half of a decade. The sustainable banking initiatives of Bangladesh Bank have been undertaken under three broad categories: green banking, corporate social responsibility and financial inclusion. (Sustainable Banking, Bangladesh Bank)

LITERATURE REVIEW

Deegan and Gordon (1996), Kolk (2003), KPMG (1999, 2002) and Peck and Sinding (2003) in their study observe that over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of companies providing environmental information. A literature review of corporate environmental disclosures by Meek and Roberts (1995), Nieminen and Niskanen (2001) and Russo and Fouts (1997) show four major streams of research. The first stream deals with who reports environmental information and how this reporting has benefited the reporters. The next stream of research is about the content of the reporting, or what is actually being reported. The third and fourth stream, which is relatively new, deals with the “how” or the medium of reporting. In the contrast, KPMG (2002) finds that where voluntary environmental reporting was mostly restricted to firms from high environmental impact industries in industrialized countries. The recent reporting practices show that environmental communication is becoming common in non-industrial sectors and different regions in the world.

Pushpa Yadav (March, 2016) opined in a study that during the last few decades the changing pattern of global environment has made the corporate accountable for their impact on the communities and environment of where they operate, both economic as well as non-economic, like education, climate change, community health, business sustainability. Commercial banks being pillar of the economy plays a vital role in the economic development of country. Siti Nurain Muhmad (2017) states that corporate reporting requirement for banking institutions is definitely rise in the ASEAN region, which is covering the disclosure of sustainability statement.
REGULATORY FRAMEWORK ON SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING BY COMMERCIAL BANKS: BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVES

On February 27, 2011, a policy has been issued entitled ‘Guidelines for Green Banking’ by Bangladesh Bank to be followed by the scheduled banks. As per the guidelines, the operating commercial banks are required to produce their sustainability reporting for their stakeholders under Independent Annual Sustainability Report (IASR) following Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) principles which is an internationally accepted format. As such, all commercial banks and NBIs in Bangladesh are required to prepare and publish annual sustainability report (ASR) following GRI or any other international guidelines. To monitor the activities of banks and NBIs, Sustainable Finance Unit (SFU) has already been formed in Bangladesh Bank.

Bangladesh bank as central bank of the country supports the commercial banks on corporate social responsibility connected activities. A 10% tax exemption facility has been approved by Bangladesh government for the firms with proposition on a part of the corporate income to be allocated for CSR programs. The rising concern for global warming also boosts up the issue of sustainable development activities in all aspects of business. This global warming leads the banking sector of Bangladesh to formulate new strategies towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recent initiatives from the central bank of Bangladesh and other regulatory authorities leads the way to be more sustainable and influence the commercial banks to address the issue of sustainable disclosure.

Therefore, top management of Bangladeshi commercial banks and thorough engagement of key stakeholders are intended to reinforce their effort to undertake more organized social accountability for sustainable development (M. H.-U.-Z. Khan; 2010).

SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PRACTICES IN BANKING SECTOR OF BANGLADESH

Though small in number, private commercial banks in Bangladesh have been found publishing annual reports encompassing their activities in line with sustainable developments.

Among 31 private commercial banks, only 12% banks reported sustainability separately in the annual report according to GRI reporting guideline, but 39% banks though disclosed report of sustainability in the annual report separate it was found without following GRI reporting guidelines and 49% banks did not disclose the separate sustainability report in annual report which signifies the increasing trend in every phases (Md. Shahed Mahmud, Tanmay Biswas and Md. Nazmul Islam, 2017).

GRI-G4 FOCUSES ON SDGS INDEX BY FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR SUPPLEMENT (FSSS)

G4 stands for the 4th Generation Guidelines which has been introduced by GRI in 2010 that focuses the organizations’ capability to enable themselves to be accountable and obvious about their own steps towards SDGs in a suppl and incremental way. For the purposes of developing the sector disclosures to facilitate under four categories namely retail banking, commercial and corporate banking, asset management, and insurance, the Financial Services Sector Disclosures document based on the ‘GRI Financial Services Sector Supplement (FSSS)’ has also been developed to obtain the basic objective of sustainable development goals through financial institutions.

TRANSITION FROM GRI GUIDELINES TO GRI STANDARDS

This Standard is issued by the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) in 2015. This Standard is effective for reports or other materials published on or after July 01, 2018.

The GRI Standards are divided into four series as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Universal Standards 100 series</td>
<td>The 100 series includes three universal Standards: GRI 101: Foundation is the starting point for using the set of GRI Standards. GRI 101 sets out the Reporting Principles for defining report content and quality. It includes requirements for preparing a sustainability report in accordance with the GRI Standards, and describes how the GRI Standards can be used and referenced. GRI 101 also includes the specific claims that are required for organizations preparing a sustainability report in accordance with the Standards, and for those using selected GRI Standards to report specific information.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GRI 102: General Disclosures is used to report contextual information about an organization and its sustainability reporting practices. This includes information about an organization’s profile, strategy, ethics and integrity, governance, stakeholder engagement practices, and reporting process.

GRI 103: Management Approach is used to report information about how an organization manages a material topic. It is designed to be used for each material topic in a sustainability report, including those covered by the topic-specific GRI Standards (series 200, 300, and 400) and other material topics.

Applying GRI 103 with each material topic allows the organization to provide a narrative explanation of why the topic is material, where the impacts occur (the topic Boundary), and how the organization manages the impacts.

SUSTAINABLE BANKING IN BANGLADESH FOR SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING PRACTICES

The concept of sustainability in banking has been evolved from the idea of making banking social and environment friendly. By using some broad categories of green banking criteria, CSR activities, role in financial inclusion, Bangladesh Bank has been taking following measures to integrate sustainability reporting into the mainstream banking structure through formulating policies and imposing instruction:

GREEN BANKING

Green Banking covers a wide area of banking activities that have positive impact on society and environmental protection and finally leads towards sustainable banking. Therefore, all the activities that cover principled banking activities like energy efficient financing & incentives, green credit cards, green loans, green savings accounts, green checking accounts, green money market accounts, green mobile banking accounts, online banking, remote deposit, waste management, roof gardening and green financing come under the umbrella of sustainable banking for overall sustainable development.

GREEN FINANCE

A total amount of BDT 548.6 billion (USD 6.61 billion) was disbursed during FY 2017 by 50 banks and Non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) involved in green finance. However, as per contribution of total green finance signifies that the major contribution by private commercial banks (PCBs) which is 77.64% whereas the contribution of foreign commercial banks (FCBs) is 18.51% follows by NBFIs is 2.54% and state-owned commercial banks is 1.32%. The following Table-1 shows the direct & indirect green finance by banks of Bangladesh and Table-2 signifies the green finance by the banks and financial institutions in different products in the financial year-2017 respectively.

Table-1: Direct and Indirect green finance in FY-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of bank</th>
<th>Direct green finance</th>
<th>Indirect green finance</th>
<th>Total green finance</th>
<th>Sector-wise contribution (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCBs</td>
<td>2884.40</td>
<td>4336.20</td>
<td>7220.60</td>
<td>1.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFIs</td>
<td>18.90</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18.90</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCBs</td>
<td>30578.50</td>
<td>3953.66</td>
<td>425944.50</td>
<td>77.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCBs</td>
<td>551.30</td>
<td>100973.60</td>
<td>101524.90</td>
<td>18.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBFIs</td>
<td>4632.60</td>
<td>9275.10</td>
<td>13907.70</td>
<td>2.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in BDT million</td>
<td>38665.70</td>
<td>509950.90</td>
<td>458616.60</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in USD million</td>
<td>465.85</td>
<td>6143.99</td>
<td>6609.84</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Source: Sustainable Finance Department, Bangladesh Bank (Central Bank of Bangladesh)]

SCBs= State owned commercial banks, DFIs= Development Financial Institutions, PCBs= Private Commercial Banks, FCBs= Foreign Commercial Banks, FIs= Financial Institutions

Table-2: Green Finance in different Products by banks in FY-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Green Finance</th>
<th>SCBs</th>
<th>DFIs</th>
<th>PCBs</th>
<th>FCBs</th>
<th>FIs</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renewable energy</td>
<td>47.90</td>
<td>4.30</td>
<td>2202.50</td>
<td>330.10</td>
<td>1859.00</td>
<td>4443.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy efficiency</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>3118.80</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>277.40</td>
<td>3398.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### POLICY INITIATIVES

Bangladesh Bank issued its first policy instruction known as ‘The Guidelines on Environmental Risk Management’ (ERM) for all banks which has been revised as Environmental & Social Risk Management (ESRM) in 2017. As per guidelines, the banks have been doing compliance in climate risk and are expected to have a minimum five percent in green finance of its total loan portfolio. Banks are also required to make certain of having Effluent Treatment Plan (‘ETP’) before taking financial decision in applicable cases.

### INVESTMENT UNDER REFINANCE SCHEME IN GREEN PRODUCTS

In Bangladesh, 50 (fifty) banks and NBFI s who have engagement in green banking disbursed BDT 348.80 million (USD 4.12 million) during FY-2017. Bangladesh Bank re-finance to the commercial banks for financing in these green investment in every year. Bangladesh bank selected green products like solar energy, bio-gas plant, effluent treatment plant totalling 51 green products/initiatives for refinancing facilities under this scheme (Table-3).

### Table-3: Disbursement through Refinance Scheme for Green Products (2013-2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bio gas</td>
<td>113.60</td>
<td>212.80</td>
<td>83.30</td>
<td>84.80</td>
<td>46.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar home system</td>
<td>40.20</td>
<td>32.20</td>
<td>87.50</td>
<td>114.70</td>
<td>35.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar irrigation pump</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>17.90</td>
<td>26.50</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar assembly plant</td>
<td>122.70</td>
<td>49.60</td>
<td>148.10</td>
<td>16.30</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar Mini-grid</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effluent treatment plant</td>
<td>57.40</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>58.00</td>
<td>179.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHK technology in brick kiln</td>
<td>172.20</td>
<td>59.00</td>
<td>47.00</td>
<td>177.80</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermicompost</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green industry</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe working environ- ment</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>35.70</td>
<td>55.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic manure from slurry</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper waste recycling</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy efficient technology</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in BDT million</td>
<td>2884.40</td>
<td>18.90</td>
<td>30578.50</td>
<td>551.30</td>
<td>4632.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in USD million</td>
<td>46.97</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>369.75</td>
<td>6.67</td>
<td>56.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SUSTAINABLE BANKING IN BANGLADESH FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) & ROLE OF BANKS IN BANGLADESH

In continuation of the footstep of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to bring an end to poverty, to save the earth and to warrant human development the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been designed consisting of 17 (seventeen) goals while including new areas such as global warming, financial disparity, modernization, urbanization, and good governance.

Due to nature, financial institutions are exposed to risk arising from the companies whose operations they choose to finance.
towards implementing the above sustainable development goals. Bangladesh Bank acts as bridge for monitoring communication and coordination among concerned government agencies to implement the financing approaches of sustainable development. While reviewing the annual reports of different commercial banks of Bangladesh, the following sustainability performances have been found general among them:

**ENERGY CONSERVANCY**
This indicates the ecologically responsible activities that include identification and management of process to reduce direct and indirect impact of different activities on the environment, reduce energy consumption and also efficient utilization of energy resources.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING**
Encouraging work flow automation to minimize use of paper and also use biodegradable papers produced from recycle and also policy formulation towards paperless activities and also encouraging e-mail based communication, web-based activities and less printed documents.

**CONGENIAL WORK ENVIRONMENT**
To cater personal development, promote team work and for increasing efficiency, a congenial working environment is developed at the organizations ensuring occupational health and safety arrangement.

**FINANCIAL INCLUSION**
The concept of financial inclusion caters more scopes to the wide range of unbanked people to avail tailor made banking facilities at a considerable low rate which is expected to lead the way towards financial literacy among the people and in long run result into a sustainable financial system. Though banks operate to offer financial services still its CSR activities for financial inclusion increases the efficiency to understand and compare financial products and markets.

**SCHOOL BANKING**
In November 2010, Bangladesh Bank instructed to all commercial banks in Bangladesh has to open school banking branches to bring students under the umbrella of banking services which will help the economic activities of the nation and will have contribution towards sustainable development. The primary aim of school banking program is to inspire savings and encourage the savings habit among the students as future citizen. Till December 2017, number of total school banking accounts in Bangladesh raised to 1.46 million having a deposit amount of BDT 13629.60 million (USD 164.81 million).

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**
It includes the steps taken by an organization to
protect its employees from the occupational health hazards and also take care of the health and safety of its stakeholders through identification of risk factors, ensuring protective measures, capacity building in health safety and also financial cooperation in case of accidents.

**GREEN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT**
While entering into agreements with suppliers taking into consideration of their respective social and environmental risk is green supply chain management through which business entities become faithful to their suppliers with respect and specially in case of contract and payment terms.

**NETWORKING & RELATIONSHIP**
Under this concept, organizations tend to work with others to share knowledge and enhance awareness of sustainable development issues while having role in the public debate on the similar issues.

**FREQUENT REPORTING**
Presently there is no compulsory obligation to report on CSR activities still different organizations are producing report on their CSR activities. As CSR is considered as a practice of sustainability activities, organization’s motivation towards CSR publication is regarded as their strong commitment towards environment and society.

**EMPOWERMENT AND EFFICIENCY**
It is required to enhance the efficiency and empowerment of the persons along with institutions and sector as a whole to be capable of analysing SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunity and threat) in connection with profit generation activities.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**
Human Rights and other civil rights violation should be avoided and the adverse issues are to be addressed in proper manner.

**INVESTMENT TO THE COMMUNITY**
Organizations need to get concerned with the community from where these are operated to ensure basic needs like rehabilitation, medical care, education, small industries, cultural activities, research, knowledge development, income generation, technological advancement, employment and empowerment of the society.

**EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Support for educational development includes providing establishment, patronizing research and knowledge development activities, arrangement for material support, offering donations and scholarships.

**MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT**
Arrangement of training, workshop and media programs for the capacity building of the entrepreneurs.

**DISABILITY REHABILITATION**
Rehabilitation of the physically and mentally challenged persons through financial support and also through creating employment opportunities.

**ENCOURAGING PHILANTHROPY**
Employees and workers of the organization as part of their civil responsibility can also contribute to the development of the community. Organizations can encourage and inspire the employees to share their extra time, additional resources, special skills and energy to different social service activities for the underprivileged specially those are initiated and patronized by the organization.

**RECOMMENDATION**
The government of Bangladesh has to encourage to all that if the businesses and all other organizations monitor and report data on their sustainability performance, they will have the vital information needed by executives to manage risk and identify sustainable opportunities. Government should adopt a uniform reporting practice to prepare sustainability reporting by all organizations for ensuring a level playing field, transparency, innovation, flexibility, better regulation and progress towards sustainability.

Awareness building initiatives need to be undertaken for various stakeholder communities, both at the firm level as well as sector level. Industry has to demonstrate a long-term commitment both at a strategic and operational level to sustainable business practices. This is essential for them to realize the potential benefits as they refine their business processes and merits for performance measurement and success. The educational institutions are expected to customize their programs to include sustainability as a discipline and Bangladesh should focus on industry-university linkages to develop an institutionalize knowledge base. It requires synchronization in Bangladesh’s context based on
GRI framework, globally acceptable framework, in all sectors including small & medium enterprises.

The government can be a catalyst for ensuring speedy adoption of sustainability through policy initiatives immediately pave the way for a sustainable society committed to sustainable development. The competitiveness of a company and the well-being of the communities around it are inseparable. A successful community can create demand for products and can also provide a supportive environment to business.

CONCLUSION

Now-a-days sustainable banking for sustainability reporting practices has become the best practice across the world today. With a focus on sustainability, organizations can manage their environmental and social impacts while improving natural resource stewardship and operational efficiency and letting it remain a critical component of employee, stakeholders and the relation with them for going the extra miles and the banks understand that the sector will play a critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From the research study, it has been observed that while all of the SDGs can be inspirational for organizations, focusing on those that align best with the business strategy and existing corporate responsibility priorities likely will be most impactful for the banking industry. Banks in Bangladesh are mapping business activities through sustainable & green banking process adopting sustainability reporting under GRI method to achieve key SDGs.

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Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): From the research study, it has been observed that while all of the SDGs can be inspirational for organizations, focusing on those that align best with the business strategy and existing corporate responsibility priorities likely will be most impactful for the banking industry. Banks in Bangladesh are mapping business activities through sustainable & green banking process adopting sustainability reporting under GRI method to achieve key SDGs.
ABSTRACT
Bangladesh had set an example in achieving MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) and is gradually approaching towards achieving SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) as well. Government has taken many effective initiatives to achieve SDGs. Alongside, private sector is also contributing in this journey. Stakeholders can be made aware of this contribution by sustainability reporting. This paper discusses Bangladesh’s progress in achieving SDGs in brief and the concept of sustainability reporting along with framework and practice in Bangladesh. Then it focuses on how SDGs are going to change the present trend of corporate reporting to an integrated one. This paper then outlines the relevance of sustainability reporting in reflecting SDGs progress and private sector’s contribution to make the information more useful to the stakeholders. Finally, there are some recommendations as to how sustainability reporting can be used more effectively.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sustainability Accounting, Sustainability Reporting, Corporate Sustainability Reporting (CSR), triple bottom line or Triple-P’s; People, Planet, Profit, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).
1. Introduction
Sustainable development as a concept was launched in the late 1980s. The UN’s Brundtland report defined it as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Although the concept is contested, it serves as a valuable tool in scrutinizing complex issues. Theoretically, the concept is tied to the stream of ecological modernization which argues that economic growth and ecological concerns can be favorably combined. Sustainability recognizes the interdependence of economic, social and environmental factors. With reference to future generations it is also forward-looking. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call of action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people, irrespective of their country of origin, enjoy peace and prosperity.

A ‘zero draft’ of the SDGs was launched by UN, which underlined the important role of the business sector as far as contribution and accountability are concerned. The document includes goals and targets, which businesses are expected to implement, monitor, measure and report on from 2015 onwards. Sustainability reporting plays a key role in these deliberations. The topic of private sector accountability has appeared prominently on the agenda for over two decades now. The drivers have been a lack of public trust in published corporate information. Opportunities for establishing a green economy and new markets have also arisen. There is no accountability without transparency – so sustainability reporting has become a key accountability tool for many companies and their stakeholders. Bangladesh is approaching towards achieving SDGs and the public private partnership is crucial in this journey. Sustainability reporting may be a tool to make the private sector more aware and encourage them to participate in the progress and also may be used to report the contribution of business entities in the achievement of SDGs and make the users’ information more useful.

2. Literature review
Despite their different names, triple bottom line reporting, social and environmental reports, sustainability reports, and corporate social responsibility reports, each reporting mechanism attempts to account for their social and environmental impacts (Archel, Fernandez & Larrinaga, 2008). Elkington’s Measurement Claim (Elkington, 1997) explains that social performance and impact can be measured in relatively objective ways. The Aggregation Claim (Elkington, 1997) is a social profit or loss that can be calculated using data from standard indicators and a relatively uncontroversial formula that could be used for any firm. The Aggregation Claim is not achieved because there is not method or formula in the framework to aggregate across the principles. If leading indicator disclosures are mandated or assured by external professional accountants, the reliability of these disclosures could potentially increase in the future (Coram, Monroe & Woodliff, 2009).

The Institute of Social and Ethical Accountability (ISEA) established in 1996 in UK as an international professional body for strengthening social responsibility and ethical behavior of social responsibility. The European Union Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a management tool for companies and other organizations to evaluate report and improve their environmental performance. The scheme has been available for participation by companies since 1995 (Council Regulation (EEC) No.1836/93 of June 29’1993) on a voluntary basis. In Australia disclosure of social accounting is volunteer (Campbell and et al, 2002). In Bangladesh the social reporting and disclosures are totally voluntary and yet no legal framework has been developed. Since 1990 the Government of Bangladesh has been taking steps to pay attention on environmental condition and for this in 1995 the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995, revised in 2000 and in 2005 promulgated. According to the present Company Act-1994 the companies should disclose only on energy usage. There are few studies regarding social and environmental reporting practices in Bangladesh. Belal(1999) in his study unearthed that 90 pc (percent) companies showed environmental disclosures, 97 pc companies disclosed employee related information and 77 pc made ethical disclosures.

3. Methodology and Limitations
This study has been conducted mainly on the basis of literature survey and secondary information. It is descriptive in nature. Various journals and research papers, diagnostic study reports and newspaper articles have been surveyed in making this study. Major limitation is that primary data is not used and quantitative analysis has not been performed.
for obvious reason. Relationship between SDGs achievement and sustainability reporting is a gradually expansive issue which cannot be discussed in this limited scope.

4. SDGs and Bangladesh’s Progress

United Nations in the 70th session of General Assembly unanimously adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be implemented from January 2016 to December 2030. The outcome document entitled ‘Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ has integrated follow-up and review mechanism to track progress of implementing this Agenda. Here are the major goals which was under close review in 2017 and Bangladesh’s progress of achieving those goals. Goal 17 is reviewed on continuous basis.

SDG # 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Bangladesh has been successful in achieving significant poverty reduction since 1990. The poverty rate was 56.7% in 1991, which came down to 24.3% in 2016. And the extreme poverty rate was 41.1% in 1991, which declined to 12.9% in 2016. The following table shows the long term poverty reduction progress of Bangladesh (various rounds of HIES, BBS).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head count poverty</th>
<th>Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National (Upper Poverty Line)</td>
<td>56.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National (Lower Poverty Line)</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Long term Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh

SDG # 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Count Poverty Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) Method

Bangladesh agriculture sector has achieved food security for 160 million people in the country. This has been possible by ensuring efficient food delivery mechanism, improved rural infrastructure, liberalized agricultural inputs, and integration of product markets. Since independence, rice production has more than tripled from 11 million tonnes (milled rice) in 1972 to about 34.9 million tonnes in FY 15.

The vision 2021 of the government targets surplus production of fish and shrimp for export. The 7th FYP promotes increased participation of women in fish cultivation. Bangladesh has made commendable progress in eradicating hunger in the last two decades. The underweight children under-five years of age have come down to 32.6% in 2014 (female: 33.1%, male: 32.2%) from 66% in 1990.

SDG # 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable progress in improving the life expectancy at birth (72 years). The status of mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling has also improved significantly. The gross national income (per capita 3,341 PPP$) has also increased elevating the country in the group of medium-ranking Human Development Index (HDI) countries. The prevalence of malaria dropped from 456 (2005) to 300 (2015) per 100,000 persons; the death rate has also reduced to 0.07 per 100,000 populations in 2015. TB is reduced to a significant level. Polio and leprosy are virtually eliminated. HIV prevalence is still very low, but there is a high risk of infection. Tobacco products of most popular brands are now taxed at 72% of retail price and 50% of packaging contains health caution message.

SDG # 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The primary school enrolment of girls has increased from 5.4 million in 1990 to 9.72 million in 2015. Since 1991, the secondary education enrolment for female students has increased significantly with girls’ enrolment surpassing boys’ in 2000 (52% for girls and 48% for boys). The parity still exists. In schools, more than 65% teachers are female. Reversing the past trend from 2001, women now live longer than men. Life expectancy of women as a ratio of life expectancy of men is 72.0: 69.4 (SVRS, 2015).

In the last parliamentary election in 2014, women got directly elected in 21 Parliament seats, which is almost double as compared with the earlier election. In the current parliament, the Speaker, the Leader of the House, Leader of the opposition, Deputy Leader of the House are all Women. Bangladesh secured 7th position in the political empowerment score rank of the Global Gender Gap sub-index out of 144 countries. In the overall score, Bangladesh ranked 72 in 2016.
SDG # 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Power generation capacity has reached 15,379 MW in FY 17. Transmission and distribution networks have also widened significantly. The access to electricity increased to 80% in FY 16 from the baseline of 48% in FY 10. The share of manufacturing in GDP has increased from around 14% in 1995-96 to nearly 21% in 2015-16. Because of the labor-intensive nature, the RMG sector now accounts for the bulk of manufacturing employment (60%).

Out of 3812 km National Highways in Bangladesh, 368 km highways have already been expanded to four or more lanes, which include the Dhaka Chittagong Highway. Bangladesh aims at increasing tele-density to 70% by 2015 and 90 percent by 2021. Bangladesh has been able to digitally connect all Ministries/Divisions, and District offices. The vision of Digital Bangladesh is to ensure that citizens have access to ICTs for accessing information and knowledge required to perform their day-to-day activities.

SDG # 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Bangladesh has 118,813 sq. km in the Bay of Bengal which includes both territorial sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Total marine waters stand at 121,110 sq. km of which coastal waters and the shallow shelf sea constitute about 20% and 35% respectively. The rest 45% is in deeper waters. Almost all of Bangladesh’s marine fishing is carried out in shallow and shelf waters, beyond which no fishing is being currently done due to lack of appropriate vessel, fishing technologies and human capacity. Increased economic activities demand more energy and nearly 62% is currently supplied from oil and gas, with about one third of this is shared by offshore production. Bangladesh is yet to assess the true potential of blue economy.

SDG # 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Goal 17 of the Agenda exclusively focuses on the global partnership theme and highlights the same as one of the driver goals to achieve the other goals of the Agenda. The 60th paragraph of the declaration reinforces further the significance of “revitalized and enhanced Global Partnership” to achieve the goals and targets of SDGs.

Bangladesh is expecting her rights in case global partnership in SDGs which must be commensurate with LDCs perspectives. Bangladesh deserves to have ODA support according to the developed countries commitment (0.7% of their GNI). Furthermore a fair and equitable share of trade with duty free and quota free access is needed that facilitate the achievement of the SDGs.

5. Sustainability Reporting Framework and Practice in Bangladesh

In 1975, the first CSR model appeared and was named Corporate Social Performance (CSP) model appeared as a three-tier corporate behavior (Seth, 1975):

1. Social obligation (representing the legal and market constraint),
2. Social responsibility (societal norms and expectations), and
3. Social responsiveness (anticipatory competence and preventative adaptation to social needs).

Then, in 1999, the model was expanded model was expanded to a four-tier model (Carroll, 1999):

1. Economic (profitability),
2. Legal (obedience to the rules of law),
3. Ethical (avoid harm, do what is right and fair), and
4. Discretionary/ philanthropic (be a concerned corporate citizen for disadvantaged workers).

These frameworks, the CSR evolved from the 1950s and the primary focus was on businesses responsibilities to society and doing good deeds for society. Sustainability accounting reporting is mainly voluntary, there is no authority that will penalize a company for noncompliance. So, the companies that practice sustainability accounting reporting do not face penalization if there are misstatements, but again it is less likely that there will be misstatements because the company can develop its own framework.

Globally, the International Integrated Reporting Committee (IIRC) is a joint initiative by organizations supporting sustainability reporting, including the
GRI. It aims to develop a framework for reporting financial, environmental, social, and governance information in an integrated format. The founding of the IIRC in 2010 can also be seen as a way to tackle the confusion caused by having several organizations acting in the field. Major providers of sustainability reporting guidance include:

- GRI (GRI’s Sustainability Reporting Standards)
- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises)
- The United Nations Global Compact (the Communication on Progress)
- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO 26000, International Standard for social responsibility)

There is no mandatory guideline in corporate laws in Bangladesh to disclose corporate environmental information; there are numerous laws in Bangladesh to protect the environment. Some of them are listed below:

1. Environmental Conversion Act, 1995
2. Environmental Conversion Rules, 1997
3. Ozone Depleting Substances Rules, 2004
4. Environmental Court Act, 2010
5. Climate Change Trust Act, 2010
7. Policy Guidelines for Green Banking, 2011
8. Bangladesh Biodiversity Act, 2012

The empirical study by Islam Ahmed & Chowdhury, 2012 of 50 listed companies of Dhaka Stock Exchange from Textile sector and Food & Allied sector showed the following results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Textile</th>
<th>Food and allied</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chairman's Message</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Director or CEO's Message</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Value Added Statement</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Corporate Governance</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>11.25</td>
<td>10.75</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Empirical result of sustainability reporting in Bangladesh

Bangladeshi banks are practicing global sustainability reporting, with some banks preparing their sustainability reports according to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). Bangladesh Bank (central bank) has made a tremendous effort since 2008 to issue circulars related to social and environmental issues. Moreover, it has played a major role in recent years with the issuance of a comprehensive circular regarding implementation of green policies by financial institutions (i.e., BRPD Circular No. 2). At present, Bangladesh Bank green policy guidelines provide the only mandatory framework in the history of Bangladesh’s financial organizations. Bangladesh Bank also began publishing an annual Green Banking review report on the financial sector in 2013 describing the financial and nonfinancial green performance activities of banks.

6. SDG’s Impact on Corporate Reporting

More corporate will need to determine which of the 17 Global Goals are most material to their businesses, by mapping them against their current strategic focus areas and report disclosures. Additional key performance indicators may be needed where gaps exist and companies will need to be able to track and report both positive and negative impacts to show their contribution to achieving the SDGs.

However, simply mapping and measuring the impact of corporate sustainability initiatives towards individual SDGs will not be enough. Once data and information has been collected and analyzed, the impact needs to be reported in an effective manner. And the nature of the SDGs means that often one goal can encompass multiple economic, social and environmental aspects.

Responding to and demonstrating a holistic contribution towards the SDGs will present a challenge for many organizations. The UN Global Compact, the world’s largest corporate sustainability initiative, and GRI, the world’s leading organization for sustainability reporting, have formed a ground-breaking action platform to tackle this challenge; there are two components of the Action Platform:

- The Corporate Action Group (CAG) will serve as a business engagement and peer learning forum, where business representatives can demonstrate
leadership, by helping define and promote their contributions to the SDGs. Participating businesses are selected from UN Global Compact signatories and GRI's network. These organizations will have the opportunity to engage in a series of on-line and in-person workshops.

• The Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC) will be comprised of the members of the CAG, plus representatives from other stakeholder groups: governments, international and civil society organizations, investors, trade unions, data users, statistical offices and academics. This committee will provide guidance for the research and analysis done by the UN Global Compact and GRI. The MAC will be a forward-looking international leadership group that will play a key role in shaping the future of corporate reporting.

The SDGs, which will shape the global development agenda from now until 2030, explicitly call on business to use creativity and innovation to address sustainable development challenges, such as poverty, gender equality, clean water, clean energy and climate change. Many companies, however, are uncertain about what actions they can and should take in order to contribute to the goals. To meet this need, the SDG Compass is a guide that companies can use to align their strategies with the relevant SDGs, and measure and manage their impacts. It is supported by a live and constantly updated inventory of business indicators and tools.

7. Importance of Sustainability Reporting in Reflecting SDGs Progress

“Corporate sustainability reporting can be a powerful tool to measure the contribution of business towards the SDGs,” said Mukhisa Kituyi, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Sustainable development goals reaffirm a country’s focus towards socio-economic, inclusive growth. Whereas organization sustainability goals help develop stakeholder relation. And it is not sufficient if both these enteritis individually pay attention to sustainability. Both the public and private sectors should also participate in developing a combined strategy that can establish corporate sustainability goals and link it with the region’s sustainable development agenda.

‘Measuring sustainability is important for both corporate and national accounting. While there is still room for improvement, Bhutan’s measurement of Gross National Happiness is a step in the right direction, and offers important lessons in the importance of human wellbeing to society. As sustainable reporting and sustainable development evolve, alternative metrics will be critical at both the micro and macro scale’- Mr. Randall Krantz, Strategic Advisor to the CEO, Druk Holding and Investments. Bhutan’s measurement of Gross National Happiness is getting more and more appreciation and may be helpful in reporting the progress of Bangladesh in achieving SDGs.

“Business is a vital partner in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Companies can contribute through their core activities, and we ask companies everywhere to assess their impact, set ambitious goals and communicate transparently about the results.”- Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General. It’s becoming widely accepted that business has a critical role to play in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Changing dynamics in the stakeholder relationships and a need to build and maintain trust has put increased transparency high on the priority list for business leaders. Demonstrating the wider impact of a business’ operations is no longer optional for leading businesses. Businesses can incorporate SDGs in their reporting and strategy by adopting the following goal setting approaches;
Companies can use the SDGs as an overarching framework to shape, steer, communicate and report their strategies, goals and activities, allowing them to capitalize on a range of benefits such as:

- **Identifying future business opportunities**
  The SDGs aim to redirect global public and private investment flows towards the challenges they represent. In doing so, they define growing markets for companies that can deliver innovative solutions and transformative change.

- **Enhancing the value of corporate sustainability**
  Whilst the business case for corporate sustainability is already well established, the SDGs may for example strengthen the economic incentives for companies to use resources more efficiently, or to switch to more sustainable alternatives, as externalities become increasingly internalized.

- **Strengthening stakeholder relations and keeping the pace with policy developments**
  The SDGs reflect stakeholder expectations as well as future policy direction at the international, national and regional levels. Companies that align their priorities with the SDGs can strengthen engagement of customers, employees and other stakeholders, and those that don’t will be exposed to growing legal and reputational risks.

- **Stabilizing societies and markets**
  Business cannot succeed in societies that fail. Investing in the achievement of the SDGs supports pillars of business success, including the existence of rules-based markets, transparent financial systems, and non-corrupt and well-governed institutions.

- **Using a common language and shared purpose**
  The SDGs define a common framework of action and language that will help companies communicate more consistently and effectively with stakeholders about their impact and performance. The goals will help bring together synergistic partners to address the world’s most urgent societal challenges.

The Global Goals give us a globally agreed set of targets to address the world’s most pressing
social, environmental and economic challenges and can be used to provide the perfect framework for business to report on their impact and contribution to society. But there’s a need for a consistent approach in how business is reporting this contribution. This will allow companies to be transparent about their operations, enable investors to make informed decisions and give governments an understanding of how business is contributing to the goals in their country. As we have discussed in section 4, Bangladesh is gradually making remarkable progress in achieving SDGs as it made in achieving MDGS, sustainability reporting is becoming more and more relevant to report the contribution of business in achieving SDGs.

8. Findings and Recommendations

The SDGs work in the spirit of partnership and pragmatism to make the right choices now to improve life, in a sustainable way, for future generations of world countries. They provide clear guidelines and targets for all countries of the world to adopt in accordance with their own priorities and the environmental challenges. The SDGs are an inclusive agenda.

Today, the overall performance of an organization is evaluated based on not only financial results but also contributions toward protecting and improving the environment. Thus, sustainability reporting has become an important consideration when investors and creditors assess risks associated with their investments. Bangladesh is a developing country, but a recent trend indicates that the country is moving toward a middle-income position. Its economy depends mostly on the manufacturing and financial sectors. The banking sector has had a positive contribution to and an influence on the economic development of the country.

Over the last three decades significant progress has been achieved in international harmonization of corporate financial reporting based on the International Financial Reporting Standards led by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and supported by the International Standards of Audit (ISAs), issued by the International Audit and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB). To respond to new demands posed by the SDGs agenda, these efforts need to be further enhanced and supported by incorporation of the sustainability information into the established reporting frameworks, which will also require harmonization of company data on sustainability performance.

Priority should be given to adverse human rights impacts or risk, regardless of the potential cost or benefit to the business. Nevertheless, there is increasing evidence that risks to human rights frequently converge with risks to business and that this convergence is particularly strong where the most severe human rights impacts are concerned. Companies can announce goals aligned with the SDGs on the United Nations website, using www.business.un.org. This includes a transparency requirement in the form of a commitment to communicate annually – using existing channels of sustainability or integrated reporting – about the progress made towards achieving your goals.

At present, Bangladesh faces several environmental problems, including water pollution, air pollution, and land degradation, loss of biodiversity, poor waste management, coastal erosion, and poor chemical waste processing. The banking sector can play a tremendous role in upgrading the present environmental situation of the country. Professional accountants and accounting bodies have already begun sustainability and CSR reporting activities. They can be more active to create awareness among the business entities. Finally, the government should take lead initiative and create strong legal framework of sustainability reporting.

9. Conclusion

SDGs implementation requires a multi-stakeholder approach involving private sector, NGOs, CSOs, Media and Major Group of Other Stakeholders. Bangladesh has been working towards enhancing participation of all the stakeholders in its efforts to implement the SDGs. Business organizations can also and in fact is participating in this process. Now the contribution should be increased as responsible member of the society and this can be shared with the users through sustainability reporting.

Corporate responsibility (CR), corporate environmental responsibility (CER), and CSR are now undeniably mainstream business practices worldwide; additionally, there has been a dramatic increase in CR reporting rates in the Asia-Pacific
area over the past three years. Organizations can use reporting to inform their risk analysis strategies and boost their business. A growing number of companies see sustainability reporting as a means to drive greater innovation through their businesses and products to create a competitive advantage in the market. Governments, businesses and stakeholders all directly benefit from it, and the positive impact on social, environmental and human rights issues is evident.

The SDGs should not be seen just as a responsibility—they also provide opportunities for businesses. The availability of sustainability information can also be used by the governments to assess the impact and contribution of businesses to the economy and to understand which issues are being tackled by which players.

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Financial Sustainability of Private Commercial Banks in Bangladesh

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Abstract
Sustainable development is increasingly measured to be a dynamic approach for progress. There has been growing desire across the globe to evaluate organizational performance from economic, environmental and societal performance perspective. This paper explores various aspects of financial sustainability of commercial banks in Bangladesh by defining the net income growth of the respective banks as the measure of financial sustainability and testing the impact of deposit growth ratio, deposit to asset ratio, loan growth ratio, loan to deposit ratio, equity to asset ratio, loan to asset ratio, and interest coverage ratio on financial sustainability. For this purpose, we have used data from 2008 to 2014 from 30 conventional and nonconventional private commercial banks of Bangladesh and employed a balanced panel regression analysis. Only the loan growth ratio turned out to be statistically significant as a predictor of net income growth ratio, our measure of financial sustainability for the banking sector of Bangladesh.

Keywords: Financial sustainability, net income growth ratio, loan growth ratio, private commercial bank.
1.0 Introduction
To remain competitive in the global economy, tracking financial sustainability of Bangladeshi corporations is very important. Commercial banking sector in Bangladesh is among the most affluent sectors and is a major factor for capital formation for the economy. The government also has been exerting considerable efforts in raising awareness about securities market. The stock market crash of 2010 ruined the trust of the investors, and it seems that it will take some time to regain the confidence of the investors. The banks are also major participants in the stock market and banks encountered significant losses which led to further erosion of trust in the financial sector. An increasing number of banks entered in the economy but with scarcity of quality borrowers in the economy in terms of credit worthiness, the uncertainty has increased about the financial sustainability of banks. The present study is an endeavor to examine financial sustainability of private commercial banks in Bangladesh.

The paper is organized as follows. First, we review the literature regarding the definition of financial sustainability, various aspects of financial sustainability and various models discussed in the literature. Next, we specify the model we have tested in this paper, define the variables, and clarify the specification. This is followed by a discussion on our data and how the data were set up to test the model. In the next section, we present our findings and analysis of the findings. We close out the paper with summarizing our study and some concluding comments.

Literature Review

The topic we had chosen, financial sustainability, is an important component of the discussions on sustainable development. Sustainability is complex and multi-faceted covering a broad range of topics from habitat protection, to energy consumption, to stakeholder satisfaction and financial results. Financial sustainability factors are important drivers for both risks and opportunities in business. Strategic management and information management are thus required to take into account and evaluate information necessary in pursuing financial sustainability of an organization (Schaltegger 2011). Modern enterprises use sustainability performance assessment for both external and internal reasons, because the use of performance indicators can improve effectiveness and success of enterprise management.

Sustainability is a generic concept used in a variety of domains and there is an interrelationship among three dimensions which are economic, social and environmental issues and that should be considered in unison to support the worldview. Our focus is on financial sustainability of the commercial banks in Bangladesh. This phrase is not very commonly used in evaluation of the banking sector of Bangladesh. However, it is our belief that tracking this measure is extremely important in evaluating financial performance of banks. Generally, financial sustainability means ensuring longevity of an organization in terms of generating profit from its earned revenue by deducting all the expenses. Patricia León (2001) has delineated strategic and financial planning, income diversification, sound administration and finance, and own income generation as four pillars of financial sustainability for the nonprofit organization. Banking sector has proved to be an essential engine for capital formation as well as for economic growth of the country.

The increasing number of banks in a small country like Bangladesh put a question on the sustainability of the industry though for capital formation and in employment generation the industry is adding much contribution. In the context of financial sustainability of commercial banks, there are limited literatures found. Rather financial sustainability of the Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) investigated much in the framework of different countries. According to Hulme and Musley (1996), supposed MFIs and banks are not different except the poor clients in case of MFIs. Here, we tried to relate commercial banks’ financial sustainability with MFIs’ financial sustainability.

MFIs are financially sustainable when they are able to cover all costs from their own generated income from operations (Thapa et al., 1992) with no external support. Foster et al. (2003) suggested operational self sustainability and financial self-sustainability as two levels of financial sustainability where financial sustainability is accomplished when an entity can earn enough operating income to cover all operational expenses with full or partial reliance on subsidy as its capital base. Again Meyer (2002) stated operational sustainability of the MFI is achieved after covering its operational costs from its operating income despite of it is sponsored or
not. So MFIs cannot be considered as financially sustainable if it is making loss as well as making profit with covering some of the operating costs by subsidized resources of funds (Kinde, 2012).

Iezza (2010) identified two levels of sustainability: operational self-sufficiency (OSS) and financial self-sufficiency (FSS) also differentiated the FSS from the OSS. Return on assets (ROA) and Return on equity are also used as sustainability measurement. Olivares-Polanco (2004) and Cull et al. (2008) applied return on assets in evaluating sustainability or profitability. Glaütier and Underdown (2001); McCullers and Schroeder (1982), used profit as a proxy measure of financial sustainability where profit means coverage of operational expenses to earn income as well as any cost needed to at least maintain the present position. Again Ganka in 2010 used accounting profit and the related accounting measure as a measurement of financial sustainability. Bereket Zerai & Lalitha Rani 2012, found a strong positive correlation between the number of active borrowers (breadth of outreach) and operational sustainability.

The capital structure of the institutions has also an impact on sustainability. Kyereboah (2007) found that the MFIs with higher leverage have greater ability to handle moral hazards and adverse selection than the institutions with lower leverage ratios. But, Ganka (2010) stated that different sources of capital do not improve financial sustainability. Also conclude that, for the betterment of financial sustainability equity is relatively cheaper source of financing. Again Arun in 2005 stated that combination of a cheaper source of capital for increasing profitability is a good way as it reduced overall financing expenses. Beside these several studies based on empirical evidence found that between debt level and firm's performance or profitability there are both positive association (Roden and Lewellen, 1995; Champion, 1999; Berger and Bonaccorsi di patti, 2006) and negative association (Rajan and Zingales, 1995; Wald, 1999; Booth et al., 2001; Fama and French, 2002). Though, Kinde (2012) found an insignificant relationship.

Okumu (2007) conducted a study on 53 MFIs in Uganda using panel data for a period of six years and found significant negative relationship between sustainability and ratio of gross outstanding loan portfolio to total assets although Bourke (1989) while conducted studies on determinants of profitability expected that, a positive relationship between loan intensity or loans to total assets and profitability but found a negative relationship between operating expense ratio and profitability. On the other hand Molyneux and Thornton (1992) found that higher payroll expenditures are paid to productive human capital by banks those obtained high profit and concludes a positive relationship.

According to, Lariviere and Martín (1999) outreach refers ability of an MFI to offer high quality financial services to a large number of clients. Schreiner in 2002 stated that depth and breadth are the two components of outreach. Various researchers (Ganka, 2010; Mersland and Strom, 2009; Harmes et al., 2008) used breadth of outreach as an important variable for measuring sustainability performance of microfinance institution on the basis of assumption that the larger the number of borrowers the better the outreach. According to Hishigurem (2004), breadth of outreach means the number of poor served by a microfinance institution. LOGOTRI (2006) found larger number of borrowers is one of the biggest sustainability factors; and Ganka (2010) concluded increased number of borrowers may generate inefficiency because of negative and significant correlation found while conducting studies on Tanzanian microfinance institutions. Again, Hartarska (2005) reports no significant impact of number of borrowers on financial sustainability.

Woller and Schreiner (2002) found a positive relationship between that depth of outreach with financial self sustainability. For measuring the depth of outreach The loan size is generally used as a proxy (Bhatt and Tang 2001; Cull et al. 2007; Schreiner 2002; Lensink 2008) but Mersland and Strom (2009) argue that computed average loan size figure may be influenced by average loan size as it does not consider the relative number of the poorest with small loan sizes. Again, the result of empirical study between loan size and MFIs' sustainability is positive and significant found by Ganka (2010), Bogan (2008), Mersland and Storm (2007) and Cull et al (2008).

Tehulu in 2013 conducted an empirical study to identify the determinants of financial sustainability of microfinance institutions in East Africa using unbalanced panel data collected from 23 microfinance institutions (MFIs) in East Africa from the period 2004 to 2009. In this study binary probit and ordered probit regression models are used. He found loans intensity and size are positively and significantly associated with MFIs'
financial sustainability but a negative and significant relationship with management inefficiency and portfolio at risk and breadth of outreach and deposit mobilization are not important determinants of financial sustainability.

Although Bourke (1989) stated that a positive relationship between loans intensity (loans/total asset) and profitability can be expected as loan to households and firms is risky and higher the risk higher the expected return. He also found a negative relationship between operating expense ratio and profitability.

Woller and Schreiner (2002) found that productivity is a significant determinant of profitability while examining the determinants of financial sustainability. But Ganka (2010) on Tanzanian rural microfinance found a negative and strongly statistically significant relationship between number of borrowers per staff and financial sustainability. However, Christen et al. (1995) found no association between productivity and financial sustainability.

Kinde (2012), found that microfinance breadth of outreach, depth of outreach; dependency ratio and cost per borrower influence the financial sustainability and capital structure and staff productivity have insignificant impact while conducting a study on identifying factors affecting financial sustainability of MFIs in Ethiopia using a balanced panel data set of 126 observations from 14 MFIs over the period 2002-2010.

Sultana and Akter (2015) found that the most important factors for sustainability are environmental and social responsibilities, customer satisfaction, financial performance, political and economic factors, accountability and transparency, sensible competitiveness, operational efficiency, employee contentment, and legal factors in the context of Bangladeshi commercial banks.

From the above review of literature in case of MFIs we transform the variable affecting the financial sustainability of MFIs for commercial banks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement or proxy used</th>
<th>Name of Variables as used in case of MFI</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Expected effect on FS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net income growth</td>
<td>Operational Efficiency</td>
<td>Thapa et al., (1992)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operational Efficiency</td>
<td>Meyer (2002)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement or proxy used</th>
<th>Name of Variables as used in case of MFI</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Expected effect on FS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>deposit growth ratio</td>
<td>Profit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deposit to asset ratio</td>
<td>Accounting Profit</td>
<td>Olivares-Pollanco (2004)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>leverage</td>
<td>Cull et al. (2007)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equity to asset ratio</td>
<td>debt level</td>
<td>McCullers &amp; Schroeder (1982)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>interest coverage ratio</td>
<td>debt level</td>
<td>Gautier &amp; Underdown (2001)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheaper Equity,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>operating expense ratio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>depth of outreach</td>
<td>Kyereboah (2007)</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>breadth of outreach</td>
<td>Rajan and Zingales, 1995; Wald, 1999;</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Booth et al, 2001; Fama and French, 2002</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>breadth of outreach</td>
<td>Ganka (2010)</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loan to asset ratio</td>
<td>average</td>
<td>Kinde, (2012).</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loan to deposit ratio</td>
<td>loan size</td>
<td>Bourke,1989</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>depth (loan size) and breadth (number of borrowers) of outreach</td>
<td>Woller and Schreiner (2002)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>number of active borrowers (breadth of outreach)</td>
<td>Ganka, 2010; Mersland and</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Model Specification

Since we define net income growth as the primary measure of financial sustainability, this is our dependent variable. We wish to examine how this responds to various typical financial measures used to manage and lead the banking institutions. The predictor variables in our model are deposit growth ratio, deposit to asset ratio, loan growth ratio, loan to deposit ratio, equity to asset ratio, loan to asset ratio, and interest coverage ratio also the dependent variable is net income growth of the respective banks as a measurement of financial sustainability. The model we test is as follows:

\[ Y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1it} + \beta_2 X_{2it} + \beta_3 X_{3it} + \beta_4 X_{4it} + \beta_5 X_{5it} + \beta_6 X_{6it} + \beta_7 X_{7it} + \epsilon_{it} \]

Where,

- \( Y_{it} \) = net income growth (NIG)
- \( X_{1it} \) = deposit growth ratio (DG)
- \( X_{2it} \) = deposit to asset ratio (DAR)
- \( X_{3it} \) = equity to asset ratio (ETA)
- \( X_{4it} \) = interest coverage ratio (ICR)
- \( X_{5it} \) = loan growth ratio (LG)
- \( X_{6it} \) = loan to asset ratio (LTA)
- \( X_{7it} \) = loan to deposit ratio (LTD)

The subscript \( i \) represents the \( i \)th bank in the sample and the subscript \( t \) represents the variable value in the year \( t \). \( \beta_0 \) is the intercept, \( \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5, \beta_6 \) and \( \beta_7 \) are the parameter values reflecting the relationship between the dependent and independent variables and \( \epsilon_i \) is the classical random disturbance term. Some of these predictor variables like ETA, LG, LTA, LTD should have a positive relationship whereas the predictor variables like DG, DAR, and ICR should have a negative relationship with the dependent variable as we have specified the variable definitions given below.

**Variable definitions:**

- **Y**: Net income growth (NIG) has been computed using the profit after tax as reported in the banks’ income statements. The annual growth is computed as increase in profit after tax in year \( t \), (profit after tax \(_t\) - profit after tax \(_{t-1}\)) divided by profit after tax in year \( t-1 \). The net income does not reflect extraordinary income or one time transactions.

- **X1**: Deposit growth (DG) ratio has been computed using the total deposit as reported in the banks’ statement of financial position. The annual growth is computed as increase in total deposit in year \( t \), (total deposit \(_t\) - total deposit \(_{t-1}\)) divided by total deposit in year \( t-1 \).

- **X2**: Deposit to asset ratio (DAR) has been computed using the total deposit divided by total asset in year \( t \) reported in the banks’ statement of financial position.

- **X3**: Equity to asset ratio (EAT) has been computed using the book value of total equity divided by total asset in year \( t \) reported in the banks’ statement of financial position.

- **X4**: Interest coverage ratio (ICR) has been computed using the interest paid on deposits and borrowings divided by operating revenue in year \( t \) reported in the banks’ income statement.

- **X5**: Loan growth (LG) ratio has been computed using the total loans and advances for conventional banks and investments for nonconventional banks as reported in the banks’ statement of financial position. The annual growth is computed as increase in total loans and advances or investments in year \( t \), (total loans and advances \(_t\) or investments \(_t\) - total loans and advances \(_{t-1}\) or investments \(_{t-1}\)) divided by total loans and advances or investments in year \( t-1 \). Total loan and advances includes all Loans, cash credits, overdrafts, and investments, bills purchased, and discounted irrespective of maturity.

- **X6**: Loan to asset ratio (LTA) has been computed using the total loans and advances divided by total asset in year \( t \) reported in the banks’ statement of financial position.

- **X7**: Loan to deposit ratio (LTD) has been computed using the total loans and advances divided by total deposit in year \( t \) reported in the banks’ statement of financial position.
financial position. We start with standard regression model assumptions of homoscedasticity, absence of multicollinearity and absence of serial correlation. Since the variables in the model are all ratios, heteroskedasticity is not a likely problem. We will examine multicollinearity. In a time series model, serial correlation is a common problem and data stationarity is a requirement for the model to be valid. To check for non-stationarity property, the data are subjected to Augmented Dickey and Fuller test (ADF test) and Phillips-Perron test. Balanced panel regression has been run using the Eviews8 software. Granger Causality Test is conducted with the help of E-Views 8 to examine short run relationship between variables.

Data
Our data consist of the 30 listed conventional and nonconventional private commercial banks that existed during the year 2007. At present, there are 56 scheduled and 4 non-scheduled banks in Bangladesh. Among these banks, we took only listed private commercial banks which include 23 conventional banks. And rest 7 banks are nonconventional Islamic banks. We collected data from annual reports of these selected banks for the year 2007–2014 and extracted and computed all values for our model. Thus, we obtained data for seven years for each of our thirty banks resulting in 210 data points.

Analysis & Findings:
Data Stationarity Test (Trend & Intercept):
For using these data for further analysis unit root test for each series has been done. Results of Augmented Dickey fuller test and Phillips-Perron Test of unit root have been depicted here.

Table 1: ADF Test Statistics for unit root

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>ADF Test Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIG</td>
<td>-12.73135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG</td>
<td>-10.93836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTA</td>
<td>-7.139649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETA</td>
<td>3.556203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICR</td>
<td>-8.262424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LG</td>
<td>-10.39038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTA</td>
<td>-7.027808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTD</td>
<td>-6.712983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Test Critical Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% Level</td>
<td>-3.431471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% Level</td>
<td>-3.139414</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 shows the results of ADF test statistic used to check the non-stationary property of the data and to determine how many times the variable needs to be differenced to result in a stationary series. The results in table 1 shows that ADF tests reject the null of non-stationary for NIG, DG, DTA, ICR, LG, LTA and LTD at 5 percent level, so no unit root is present for these series and data is stationary at level. But the null hypothesis cannot be rejected for ETA at 1% level, so there may be unit root and data is non-stationary. After first differencing the result shows that ETA becomes stationary as it has no unit root at any level of significance.

Table 2: Phillips-Perron Test Statistics for unit root

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Phillips-Perron Test Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIG</td>
<td>-12.67587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG</td>
<td>-10.98201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTA</td>
<td>-6.978593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETA</td>
<td>4.779065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICR</td>
<td>-7.999226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LG</td>
<td>-10.34040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTA</td>
<td>-6.68034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTD</td>
<td>-6.705006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Test Critical Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% Level</td>
<td>-3.461630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% Level</td>
<td>-2.875195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% Level</td>
<td>-2.574125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 shows the results of Phillips-Perron test statistic used to check the non-stationary property of the data and to determine how many times the variable needs to be differenced to result in a stationary series. The results in table 2 shows that Phillips-Perron test reject the null of non-stationary for NIG, DG, DTA, ICR, LG, LTA and LTD at 1 percent level, so no unit root is present for these series and data is stationary at level. But the null hypothesis cannot be rejected for ETA at 1% level, so there may be unit root and data is non-stationary. After first differencing the result shows that ETA becomes stationary as it has no unit root at any level of significance.
Test of Independence of Independent Variables: For testing the independency of predictor variables correlation matrix has been produced here.

**Table 3: Correlation matrix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NIG</th>
<th>DG</th>
<th>DTA</th>
<th>ETA</th>
<th>ICR</th>
<th>LG</th>
<th>LTA</th>
<th>LTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIG</td>
<td>1.000000</td>
<td>0.160991</td>
<td>0.134949</td>
<td>0.116627</td>
<td>0.044422</td>
<td>0.276289</td>
<td>0.208282</td>
<td>0.113467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG</td>
<td>1.000000</td>
<td>0.297479</td>
<td>0.300715</td>
<td>-0.011684</td>
<td>0.413170</td>
<td>0.185651</td>
<td>0.182408</td>
<td>-0.014814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTA</td>
<td>1.000000</td>
<td>0.297479</td>
<td>0.300715</td>
<td>0.297479</td>
<td>0.297479</td>
<td>0.185651</td>
<td>0.182408</td>
<td>-0.014814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETA</td>
<td>0.116627</td>
<td>0.300715</td>
<td>0.300715</td>
<td>0.297479</td>
<td>0.297479</td>
<td>0.185651</td>
<td>0.182408</td>
<td>-0.014814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICR</td>
<td>0.044422</td>
<td>0.413170</td>
<td>0.413170</td>
<td>0.297479</td>
<td>0.297479</td>
<td>0.185651</td>
<td>0.182408</td>
<td>-0.014814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LG</td>
<td>0.276289</td>
<td>0.185651</td>
<td>0.185651</td>
<td>0.185651</td>
<td>0.185651</td>
<td>0.185651</td>
<td>0.185651</td>
<td>0.185651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTA</td>
<td>0.208282</td>
<td>0.182408</td>
<td>0.182408</td>
<td>0.182408</td>
<td>0.182408</td>
<td>0.182408</td>
<td>0.182408</td>
<td>0.182408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTD</td>
<td>0.113467</td>
<td>-0.014814</td>
<td>-0.014814</td>
<td>-0.014814</td>
<td>-0.014814</td>
<td>-0.014814</td>
<td>-0.014814</td>
<td>-0.014814</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The correlations between LG and DG and also between LTA and LTD are high indicating that they provide the same information and we have to drop one of the pair. As we cross check for the solution to drop one of the pair, we found that the LG and LTA pair has given the better R-squared. So for further enquiry we drop variables DG and LTD.

**Estimation of Equation:**

The estimation of the equation by direct LS gives the following one with the variables that have been kept:

**Table 4: Estimation of Equation**

**Dependent Variable:** NIG  
**Method:** Least Squares  
**Included observations:** 210

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Std. Error</th>
<th>t-Statistic</th>
<th>Prob.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>-1.906646</td>
<td>1.035628</td>
<td>-1.841052</td>
<td>0.0671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTA</td>
<td>1.176767</td>
<td>1.312693</td>
<td>0.896453</td>
<td>0.3711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETA</td>
<td>0.505426</td>
<td>0.598249</td>
<td>0.844842</td>
<td>0.3992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICR</td>
<td>0.011203</td>
<td>0.575338</td>
<td>0.019473</td>
<td>0.9845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LG</td>
<td>1.150973</td>
<td>0.458083</td>
<td>2.52588</td>
<td>0.0128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTA</td>
<td>1.490174</td>
<td>0.918497</td>
<td>1.622404</td>
<td>0.1063</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

R-squared 0.096471  
Adjusted R-squared 0.074326  
S.E. of regression 0.809421  
Sum squared resid 133.6500  
Log likelihood -250.5294  
F-statistic 4.356280  
Prob(F-statistic) 0.000866

\[ NIG = -1.906646 + 1.176767 \text{DTA} + 0.505426 \text{ETA} + 0.011203 \text{ICR} + 1.150973 \text{LG} + 1.490174 \text{LTA} \]

The slope coefficient of independent variable is statistically significant at 1 % level for LG and shows a positive relationship. But the other independent variables, DTA, ETA, ICR, and LTA, are not statistically significant. The result is implying that in Bangladeshi commercial banks, a one percent increase in loan growth (LG) results 1.542% increase in net income growth of the reported banks and other variables have insignificant influence over the net income growth of the reported commercial banks. The value of adjusted R-squared explains that 9.65% of the variation of the dependent variable, net income growth as a proxy of financial sustainability is due to variations in independent variables taken together namely deposit growth ratio, deposit to asset ratio, equity to asset ratio, interest coverage ratio, loan growth ratio, loan to asset ratio, loan to deposit ratio. This leaves 90.35% unexplained indicating low explanatory power and the possibility of other external influencing variables. But according to Cameron, 2009 (cited in Ganka, 2010) expresses that for panel data, the R-squared above 0.2 is needed for reliable conclusions.
Cointegration:

Table 4: Cointegration test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>ADF Test Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sample (adjusted): 6 210</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Included observations: 205 after adjustments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trend assumption: Linear deterministic trend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series: NIG DTA ETA ICR LG LTA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lags interval (in first differences): 1 to 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unrestricted Cointegration Rank Test (Trace)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of CE(s)</th>
<th>Hypothesized</th>
<th>Trace</th>
<th>0.05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None *</td>
<td>0.261129</td>
<td>209.9146</td>
<td>95.75366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At most 1 *</td>
<td>0.238645</td>
<td>147.8749</td>
<td>69.81889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At most 2 *</td>
<td>0.172963</td>
<td>91.98056</td>
<td>47.85613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At most 3 *</td>
<td>0.139570</td>
<td>53.04973</td>
<td>29.79707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At most 4 *</td>
<td>0.096933</td>
<td>22.3354</td>
<td>15.4971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At most 5</td>
<td>0.006477</td>
<td>1.332153</td>
<td>3.84166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trace test indicates 5 cointegrating eqn(s) at the 0.05 level

* denotes rejection of the hypothesis at the 0.05 level

**MacKinnon-Haug-Michelis (1999) p-values

Unrestricted Cointegration Rank Test (Maximum Eigen value)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of CE(s)</th>
<th>Hypothesized</th>
<th>Max-Eigen</th>
<th>0.05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None *</td>
<td>0.261129</td>
<td>62.03965</td>
<td>40.07757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At most 1 *</td>
<td>0.238645</td>
<td>55.89437</td>
<td>33.87687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At most 2 *</td>
<td>0.172963</td>
<td>38.93082</td>
<td>27.58434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At most 3 *</td>
<td>0.139570</td>
<td>30.81619</td>
<td>21.13162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At most 4 *</td>
<td>0.096933</td>
<td>20.90139</td>
<td>14.24660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At most 5</td>
<td>0.006477</td>
<td>1.332153</td>
<td>3.84166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Max-eigen value test indicates 5 cointegrating eqn(s) at the 0.05 level

* denotes rejection of the hypothesis at the 0.05 level

**MacKinnon-Haug-Michelis (1999) p-values

1 Cointegrating Equation(s): Log likelihood: 1295.935

Normalized cointegrating coefficients (standard error in parentheses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NIG</th>
<th>DTA</th>
<th>ETA</th>
<th>ICR</th>
<th>LG</th>
<th>LTA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.000000</td>
<td>-1.543831</td>
<td>-8.200443</td>
<td>-2.905587</td>
<td>-5.331245</td>
<td>12.24192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2.83980)</td>
<td>(2.60807)</td>
<td>(1.46032)</td>
<td>(1.47685)</td>
<td>(2.02909)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As one of the variables (ETA) is considered to be I(1), the Cointegration method is appropriate to estimate the long run relationship between the variables. With the linear deterministic trend assumption to explore the number of cointegrating vectors, Maximal Eigen value and Trace statistics both are used. From the result it can be infer that there is a long run association ship among the six variables. The Trace statistic and Maximal Eigen statistic both identified five cointegrating vectors. The normalized cointegrating coefficients are reported in same table. This shows that in the long run all the independent variables have impact on net income growth.

Granger Causality Tests:

Table 5: Granger Causality Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pairwise Granger Causality Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sample: 1 210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lags: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Null Hypothesis: Obs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Final step of analysis is to test for causality between NIG and DTA, ETA, ICR, LG, LTA in the long run. The results are presented in table 5. Granger-causality results suggest that the null hypotheses that LG does not Granger Cause NIG & NIG does not Granger cause LG are rejected at 5% significance level which states that there is both way causality running from loan growth (LG) to net income growth (NIG) & net income growth (NIG) to loan growth (LG). There is also unidirectional causality in case of ICR in relation to NIG.

**Conclusion**
Understanding the necessity and unavoidable implication of financial sustainability, this study is an endeavor to investigate the financial sustainability of the commercial banks of Bangladesh. It is reasonable to specify that net income growth is dependent on the loan growth or deposit growth of the any banks. The research considered NIG as the indicator of financial sustainability where it is found that increase in net income growth is dependent on the increase in loan growth (LG). As the study proceeds to find out the long run relationship among the variables, it shows a statistically significant relationship. Further there is both way causality running from net income growth (NIG) & loan growth (LG). To be remained operationally sustainable is the way to be financially sustainable for the banking sectors of Bangladesh. And further investigation could be done for identifying the factors (as the value of R-squared is low) that could also have impact on the financial sustainability of the commercial banks of Bangladesh.

**References:**


Booth et al, 2001; Fama and French, 2002). However, Kinde (2012) found that capital structure has insignificant impact on financial sustainability of MFIs.


Understanding the necessity and unavoidable implication of financial sustainability, this study is an endeavor to investigate the financial sustainability of the commercial banks of Bangladesh. It is reasonable to specify that net income growth is dependent on the loan growth or deposit growth of the any banks.
Role of Civil Society in Industrial Pollution Control: A Bangladesh Perspective

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Abstract
Pollution has vast impact on global warming and climate change. Therefore, leaders of developed countries along with other countries are trying to reduce pollution through initiating various laws and agreements. Consequently, Bangladesh also contributes by enacting different laws in pollution prevention. This paper investigates the role of civil society (an advanced group of people of different professions) of Bangladesh in industrial pollution prevention and controlling. The study considers ten different groups of civil society and collects opinions from them through a structured questionnaire using five point likert scale. The findings show that almost all groups support that industrial pollution hampers in many ways like water, air, land pollution etc. It is also recognized by all that pollution has negative impact on human lives as well as business. However, not a single group plays a significant role in preventing pollution.

Keywords: Industrial pollution, Civil society, Bangladesh.

Introduction
Environmental issues are being increasingly voiced in different forums and trade negotiations at the global, national and regional levels. The needs for formulation of environmental regulations and appropriate enforcement of existing environmental laws have widely discussed among the policymakers. McCloskey and Maddock (1994) reveal that environmentalism has become a competitive issue in the market place and requires the minimization of environmental degradation as well as the achieving of public acceptability and credibility. As per ADB report (1997) there is every possibility of facing the challenge of severe environmental standard in international trade, especially in Asian countries.

At present, environmental pollution by industry has become a growing concern in Bangladesh (Nishat et al., 2001). The study of Rahman (1992) reveals that many people are being affected due to industrial pollution in Bangladesh. A study of Reazuddin (1994) shows that about 30000 industrial units consisting of 24000 small and cottage, and 6000 large and medium; create stringent environmental problems in Bangladesh. Another study of Islam and Miah (2003) shows that industrial pollution contributes a huge load on national pollution.

It is also evident that the industrial concerns have been depleting water, land and air in colossal manner by producing pollution. On the other hand, the environment polluting industries are also facing various pressures from different stakeholders such as government, community groups, NGOs etc. As an important stakeholder, government plays vital role by introducing different laws. But, it is hard to create such an environment singly without support from other vital stakeholders. Civil society is an inevitable part of stakeholders as they have the power to force the government as well as the business units to act as their wish.
In this paper, I consider civil society as Researchers, media & press, artists & sportsmen, politicians, professionals, cultural activists, trade union members, women & children organization members, bureaucrats and professional associations. In the later part of this paper, readers should use civil society as these ten groups of people. Against this backdrop, this paper attempts to know the role of civil society members to prevent and to control industrial pollution.

**Literature review**

Kleiner (1991) explains the term "Green" which means - sustainable use of natural resources, reduction and disposal of wastes, wise use of energy, and marketing of safe products and services. The findings of the study reveal that the emergence of environmentalism movement of consumers in developed countries strongly forces the companies to ensure environmental quality of product, and prefect their manufacturing processes from the point of view of environment by using various pollution prevention techniques.

Solaiman et al. (1999) focus on the growth of green marketing practices in Bangladesh. The study finds that the living environment in Bangladesh has been adversely affected by man-made hazards, variety of marketing ills and malpractices in Bangladesh.

Pressures from civil society to abate environmental pollution force firms to be environmentally friendly. Brunner and Cohen (2003) indicate that there is a significant positive relationship between pollution abatement expenditures and environmental patents. Punwar (2002) argues that it is urgently needed to bring out less-polluting technologies for industries in developing countries. Social movement by civil society can lead a pollution free country.

Ann et al. (2006) conclude that there is a need for a partnership between government, business and the community to improve the quality of the environment. The study of Solaiman and Akteruzzaman (2000) has three important findings, which are: (i) consumers are concerned about the environmental impact of what they buy; (ii) pollution is a serious problem and is getting worse; and (iii) people are not interested to sacrifice environmental quality for the sake of better economy.

Islam (2000) reveals that the Bangladesh is experiencing serious environmental degradation. It is argued that the intelligentsia and members of the civil society can play a leading role in building up the necessary social movement to protect the natural environment in Bangladesh.

Alam et al. (2002) highlights the serious environmental degradation problem in Bangladesh with a special emphasis upon the role of civil society. The paper argues that the civil society can play a vital role in organizing the people for social movement against environmental degradation through seminar, symposium, workshop, publicity, leaflets, poster, rally etc.

From the above discussion, it is clear that awareness towards natural environment is being increased day by day. Civil society, one of the important stakeholders, plays vital role to prevent industrial pollution. Previous literatures proved that without their role, it is difficult to implement any sorts of regulatory enforcement towards business organizations. To my knowledge, there is no research work yet to be taken by any researchers to know the civil society perception on environmentalism in the emerging economy perspective. Thus, this paper aims to know the perception of civil society about environmental pollution and its prevention in Bangladesh.

**Objectives**

The main objective of this study is to know the perception of civil society about industrial pollution and its prevention. To attain this goal, some specific objectives are set:

a. To know the perception of civil society regarding environmental degradation
b. To explore the perception of civil society about impacts of industrial pollution
c. To know how different groups of civil society prevents industrial pollution
d. To know the role of different groups of civil society in preventing industrial pollution

**Research Methodology**

This is an opinion based survey research. The participants of this research are the members of civil society. From the members of civil society, ten groups of the members have been selected as respondents. They are Researchers, media & press, artists & sportsmen, politicians, professionals, cultural activists, trade union members, women & children organization members, bureaucrats and professional associations. 10 respondents from each group are selected randomly. In order to collect information relating to research topic and context, a questionnaire is designed. This questionnaire contains questions about various aspects of greening industries such as opinion about industrial pollution, role of pressure groups in preventing pollution, impacts of industrial pollution, suggestive statements relating to greening industries etc.

The collected opinions have been arranged in tables by using 5-point Likert-type scale (Strongly agree=5, agree=4, indifferent=3, Disagree=2, strongly disagree=1). Weight has been given on different points to calculate average. On the basis of average, different factors have been identified for various purposes. Moreover, different statistical and arithmetic methods have also been used to analyze the facts and draw the conclusion.

**Findings and Analysis**

**Environmental degradation**

Table-I represents the average score of five statements
opined by the members of civil society regarding environmental degradation. As per table data, statement-1 obtains the average highest score of 4.29 followed by statement-5 (4.20), statement-3 (4.09), statement-4 (4.07) and statement-2 (4.04) respectively. It shows that depletion of water resources is the major environmental degradation in Bangladesh while forest resources depletion is the lowest by industrial pollution.

Table-2: Opinions of members of civil society regarding environmental degradation

Table-1: Opinions of members of civil society regarding environmental degradation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>Members of civil society</th>
<th>Stat-1</th>
<th>Stat-2</th>
<th>Stat-3</th>
<th>Stat-4</th>
<th>Stat-5</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researchers</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media &amp; press</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artists &amp; sportsmen</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politicians</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural activists</td>
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<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade union</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and children organization</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureaucrats</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional associations</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.07</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>4.29</td>
<td>4.04</td>
<td>4.09</td>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>4.14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


According to the average score, researchers (4.54) think that industrial pollution is mostly liable for environmental degradation in Bangladesh. Similarly, professionals (4.50) also feel that industrial pollution causes environmental degradation. The members of media and press (4.24), and bureaucrats (4.24) opine that industrial pollution reasons environmental depletion in Bangladesh. The other groups of civil society also indicate that industrial pollution is responsible for environmental degradation. The average score of other participants of civil society was more than 3.00, means agree with these statements.

Impacts of Industrial pollution

Table-2 describes the opinions of the members of civil society regarding effects of industrial pollution. As per average score (4.11) it is seen that all participants of civil society believe in harmfulness of industrial pollution.

Table-2: Opinions of civil society regarding the impacts of industrial pollution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>Members of civil society</th>
<th>Stat-1</th>
<th>Stat-2</th>
<th>Stat-3</th>
<th>Stat-4</th>
<th>Stat-5</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researchers</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media &amp; press</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artists &amp; sportsmen</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politicians</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
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<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural activists</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade union</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement-1 scored highest (4.24) while the minimum score is 4.01 obtained by statement-4. The range of average score is between 4.24 and 4.01 which means all the participants agree with each statement. On the other hand, each group score varies from average score of 4.54 to 3.88. The highest score is obtained by researchers and the lowest score is secured by cultural activists.

Environmental aspects

Table-3 highlights the perception of civil society about various environmental aspects. There are nine different issues considered for evaluation.

Table-3: Opinions of members of civil society regarding environmental aspects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>Members of civil society</th>
<th>Stat-1</th>
<th>Stat-2</th>
<th>Stat-3</th>
<th>Stat-4</th>
<th>Stat-5</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researchers</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media &amp; press</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artists &amp; sportsmen</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politicians</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural activists</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade union</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and children organization</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureaucrats</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional associations</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>3.79</td>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


According to the value of score, statement-1 obtained the highest score of 4.31 and the statement-8 received the lowest score of 2.16. Only two statements obtained more than 4.00 including statement-1 and statement-4. Three statements scored 3.97 (statement-4), 3.90 (statement-3) and 3.60 (statement-2) respectively. It is considered as agreed by the respective participants. The rest of the statements didn’t secure 3.00 which means disagree with these statements. These statements are statement-5 (2.26), statement-9 (2.26), statement-6 (2.24) and statement-7 (2.16). The average score of 3.20 entails that maximum participants was indifferent in responding with respect to these statements.
Role of Civil Society

The role of civil society is measured and represented in the Table-4. In this table, members of civil society measure the role of civil society in preventing and controlling industrial pollution.

Table-4: Role of civil society towards environmental pollution aspects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researchers</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media &amp; press</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artists &amp; sportsmen</td>
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<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politicians</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural activists</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade union</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and children organization</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureaucrats</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>1.76</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>2.13</td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>1.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


As per average score, it is seen that no group plays vital role in pollution prevention. However, it is noticed that media and press (2.88) contributes more in combating pollution. Then, researchers (2.67) play a little role in preventing pollution followed by cultural activists (2.34), professionals (2.26) and bureaucrats (2.20). The other groups have not any effort in controlling industrial pollution at all.

Conclusion

Environmental conservation is a top most concerned issue for the world at present. Various alliances in this regard and summit like cop-20 prove its urgency. As like as other countries, Bangladesh is also trying to cope up with these treaties and agreements. Although Bangladesh is a small and developing country, but geographically it is in great danger due to pollution. Since pollution is a boundaryless problem, hence it should be controlled by every stakeholder. Developed countries of the world established strong culture against pollution. The other part of the world has been failed to build up culture against pollution.

It is not possible to reduce pollution only by introducing some regulations. It is essential to create awareness among the stakeholders about the impacts of pollution. It is not only the duty of government to create awareness towards stakeholders but also every stakeholder. One of the major stakeholders is civil society. As we know, civil society consists of several groups such as researchers, artists, media, cultural activists, politicians, bureaucrats etc. this it represents the whole society in a whole.

This paper investigates the perception and role of civil society of Bangladesh in pollution prevention and natural environmental conservation. In this study, ten different groups of civil society members are considered. Based on their opinions, it is opined that every groups confessed the negative impacts of industrial pollution. They aren’t so active in case of green concern. However, some groups like researchers, cultural activists, media, and press men etc. are to some extent cautious about pollution. Civil society members aren’t convinced about their role against pollution. As per findings of the study, it can be said that the overall role of civil society members of Bangladesh in pollution prevention is very poor.

This study didn’t consider the present industrial pollution prevention and controlling situation of Bangladesh. If it would possible, then the findings of the current study might be linked between industrial pollution and stakeholders’ pressure. However, this paper contributes in the literature by adding knowledge of role of civil society in an emerging economy. Further research can be conducted to know whether there is any relationship between industrial pollution and stakeholders’ role in a weak corporate culture.
Revenue Recognition for Bundle Sales under IFRS 15: An Overview of Changes in Accounting Process in Telecommunication Industry of Bangladesh

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Abstract
Revenue recognition is one of the most important and controversial issues in accounting. All types of organizations are involved with this issue. With the change in sales pattern, the issue has become more complicated day-by-day. IASB tried to solve the issue of revenue recognition by separating regular sales and other types of sales and long-term contracts. As a result, two IASs were developed, IAS 18 for Revenue and IAS 11 for Construction Contract. But there was no consensus between IASB and FASB on their rules of revenue recognition. The FASB guidance was very detailed but the IASB guidance was not. Finally, these two leading standard setting bodies released a new joint standard on revenue recognition, IFRS 15 for Revenues from Contracts with Customers. This article aims to highlight on a review basis the impact of this new standard of revenue recognition for bundle sales on accounting processes in telecommunication industry of Bangladesh.

Keywords: IFRS 15, revenue recognition, bundle sales, performance obligation, five-step model, accounting process, and telecommunication industry.
1. Introduction

Revenue recognition for a bundle sale or a long-term contract deserves some sound rules to calculate profits and losses and tax liability based on that. For this, the world’s leading standard setting bodies like International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) introduced separate recognition criteria. But due to having more globalizing tendency of business, they initiated a joint project to clarify the principles for recognizing revenue and to develop a common revenue standard for United States General Accepted Accounting Principles (U.S. GAAP) and International Accounting Standards (IASs). And then the outcome of the joint project of IASB and FASB is IFRS 15: Revenues from Contracts with Customers. The application of IFRS 15 on or after January 1, 2018 supersedes the aforesaid of IAS 11: Construction Contracts and IAS 18: Revenue.

Under the above backdrop, IFRS 15 is expected to carry much importance to the users of financial information as to revenue recognition for bundle sales and long-term contracts. This study is an attempt to unearth the seed of this expectation by a comparative analysis of the requirements of IFRS 15 with that of IAS 18 made with the help of existing literature and with a relevant typical example for a special type of sale called bundle sales which are common in telecommunication industries of Bangladesh. Thus the aims of this study are to review the provisions of IAS 18 and IFRS 15; to highlight the features of IFRS 15 and its improvement over IAS 18 with respect to revenue recognition for bundle sales; and to focus the challenges IFRS 15 needs to overcome for getting easy market acceptability. Contents analysis is adopted as research methods for this study, which involves the study of recorded human communications, such as books, journals, materials on websites, and relevant standards. Some assumed data are used to illustrate the recording and disclosure of revenue recognition under IFRS 15.

This paper is organized into seven sections along with an abstract. The introduction including aims and methods of the study is placed in the first section followed by a literature review of the relevant standards, a comparative analysis of the accounting process for revenue recognition under IAS 18 and IFRS 15 along with a typical example in the telecommunication industry of Bangladesh, disclosure requirements under IFRS 15, challenges to implement IFRS 15, concluding remarks and implications, and the references.

The following section depicts a brief overview of the existing standards relating to revenue recognition, IAS 18 and the new and comprehensive standard for the same purpose, IFRS 15.

2. IAS 18 and IFRS 15 – An Overview

IAS 18 states that revenue should be recognized when it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity and these benefits can be measured reliably (ICAEW, 2008). It bases revenue recognition around an analysis of the transfer of risks and rewards (BDO, 2016).

IFRS 15 has been established by replacing the accounting standards for revenue recognition that existed under U.S. GAAP, IAS 18 and IAS 11. U.S. GAAP requires numerous revenue requirements for particular industries or transactions, as a result, these numerous requirements frequently resulted in different accounting for economically similar transactions (Onicioiu and Tănase, 2016). On the other hand, IAS 18 and IAS 11 are difficult to apply to complex transactions as they present limited guidance on important revenue topics such as accounting for multiple-element arrangements and construction contracts. IFRS 15 is thus established as a single, comprehensive framework for revenue recognition. Under this new standard, revenue is recognized by a vendor when control over the goods or services is transferred to the customer (BDO, 2016).

In this way of addressing IAS 18 and IFRS 15, it is material to brief some points of discussion of these old and new standards in terms of their objective, scope, state of revenue measurement and recognition, timing of revenue recognition, style of revenue identification and allocation to goods and services within a contract, and time value effect on revenue.

2.1 Objective

The objective of IAS 18 is to prescribe the accounting treatment for revenue arising from certain types of transactions and events (EC,
But the objective of IFRS 15 is to establish principles that an entity shall apply to report useful information to users of financial statements about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from a contract with a customer (PKF, n. d.).

### 2.2 Scope

IAS 18 is applied in accounting for revenue arising from a) the sale of goods; b) the rendering of services; and c) the use by others of the entity’s assets including interest, royalties and dividends earned by the entity (ICAEW, 2008). But IFRS 15 is applied to all contracts with customers, except for leases within the scope of IAS 17; insurance contracts within the scope of IFRS 4; and financial instruments and other contractual rights or obligations within the scope of IFRS 9, IFRS 10, IFRS 11, IAS 27, and IAS 28 (BDO, 2014).

### 2.3 State of Revenue Measurement and Recognition

Under IAS 18, revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable (EC, 2009) and recognized when prescribed conditions are met, which depend on the nature of the revenue (IASplus, n. d.). On the contrary, the core principle of IFRS 15 is that an entity recognizes revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services (DTTL, 2014). To apply this principle, IFRS 15 prescribes a five-step revenue recognition model. The steps are 1) identifying the contract with a customer, 2) identifying the performance obligations in the contract, 3) determining the transaction price of the contract, 4) allocating the transaction price to separate performance obligations, and 5) recognizing revenue as the entity satisfies a performance obligation.

### 2.4 Timing of Revenue Recognition

Under IAS 18, the timing of revenue recognition from the sale of goods is based primarily on the transfer of risks and rewards. IFRS 15, instead, focuses on when control of those goods has transferred to the customer (DTTL, 2014). That is, an entity under IFRS 15 shall recognize revenue when the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer over time or a point in time.

### 2.5 Style of Revenue Identification and Allocation to Goods and Services within a Contract

IAS 18 does not provide specific guideline for judgment when identifying the goods and services within a contract and then to allocating the revenue to those goods and services identified, rather the recognition criteria in this standard are usually applied separately to each transaction. But IFRS 15 requires the revenue from a contract to be allocated to each distinct good or service provided on a relative standalone selling price basis (DTTL, 2014).

### 2.6 Time Value Effect on Revenue

Under IAS 18, no specific financing arrangement is kept for any deferred revenue received or receivable in cash or cash equivalent; when the arrangement effectively constitutes a financing transaction, the fair value of the consideration is determined by discounting all future receipts using an imputed rate of interest. On the other hand, under IFRS 15, the financing component, if it is significant, is accounted for separately from revenue. This applies to payments in advance as well as in arrears, but subject to an exemption where the period between payment and transfer of goods or services will be less than one year (DTTL, 2014).

Under the above background, it is seen that IFRS 15 introduces new and more extensive guideline as to recognizing revenues from contracts with customers than IAS 18. Basically, the application of the control criterion to all types of transactions for providing goods or services is one of the main changes in IFRS 15 compared with current practice. In this way, an overview discussion is made in the following section 3 and 4 highlighting the improvement in IFRS 15 over IAS 18 as to revenue recognition and the disclosure requirements for revenue recognition.

### 3. Comparative Analysis of Accounting Process

In the beginning of this section, a comparison is made between IAS 18 and IFRS 15 for the recognition of revenue for bundle sales. Revenue recognition concepts under IAS 18 and IFRS 15 differ to a great extent. While different
types of revenues are recognized in various ways under IAS 18, the new standard, IFRS 15, attempts to allow uniformity in recognizing all types of revenues. IAS 18 contains principles for revenue recognition, but they are quite broad and as a result, many companies use their judgment to apply them to their specific situation. This is one of the main reasons for IAS 18 to be replaced by IFRS 15 (AUD, 2017).

Under the new model, revenue will be recognized earlier than the older rules. IFRS 15 allows the recognition of revenue just after transferring the control over the goods or services to the customer, but IAS 18 looks at the transfer of risks and rewards for the same purpose. This shift might lead to different timing for revenue recognition; for example, revenue for certain licenses might now be recognized over time rather than at a point in time (Mason, n. d.). Moreover, the reporting criteria in IAS 18 is decided on whether revenue is received from goods, services, interest, royalties or dividends, but the same in IFRS 15 will be recognized based on the contract and performance obligation (AUD, 2017).

As the bundle sales concept refers to earning revenue from selling goods and thereafter providing services thereto, it mostly befits with the telecommunication industry. Thus the difference of revenue recognition under the new standard will be made clear by taking a typical example of bundle sales of product plus service by an agent of a telecommunication company in Bangladesh, Grameen Phone (GP) Ltd., below.

3.1. Typical Example: Bundle Sales
Mr. Haran enters into a 12-month mobile-phone plan with a Grameen Phone (GP) agent located in Chittagong, Bangladesh. The terms of the plan are as follows:
1. Mr. Haran’s monthly fixed fee is Taka (TK.) 200.
2. Mr. Haran receives a free handset at the inception of the plan.

GP agent sells the same handset for TK. 600 and has the same monthly prepayment plans without handset for TK. 160 per month.

Here to indicate how GP agent should recognize the revenues from this plan in line with IAS 18 and IFRS 15, a couple of things like a price of a SIM kit, or the situations when Mr. Haran hangs on the phone for hours and spends some minutes in excess of his plan, can be ignored.

3.1.1. Accounting for revenue under IAS 18
As per prevailing rules of IAS 18, GP agent should apply the recognition criteria to the separately identifiable components of a single transaction, i.e. handset and monthly plan. However, IAS 18 does not give any guidance on how to identify these components and how to allocate selling price, rather, it allows applying different practices. That is, GP agent recognizes revenue from the sale of monthly plans in full as the services was provided, and no revenue for handset. They treat the cost of handset as the cost of acquiring the customer.

So the journal entry for recognizing revenue from monthly plan on a monthly basis in GP agent’s book will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dr.</th>
<th>Cr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receivable or Cash TK. 200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue TK. 200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.2. Accounting for revenue under IFRS 15
GP agent needs to follow five steps in recognizing revenue under IFRS 15 as stated below:

Step 1: Identification of contract which is here a 12-month plan with Mr. Haran.

Step 2: Identification of performance obligations in the contract which is here the obligation to deliver a handset and the obligation to provide phone services for 12 months.

Step 3: Determination of transaction price which is here TK.2,400, calculated as monthly fee of TK. 200 times 12 months.

Step 4: Allocation of transaction price of TK. 2,400 to individual performance obligations in the contract which are here handset and phone services based on their relative stand-alone selling prices or estimates. The allocation is shown in Table 1.

3.1.2.1. Table 1: Allocation of transaction price of TK. 2,400 to individual performance obligations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance obligation</th>
<th>Stand-alone selling price</th>
<th>% on total</th>
<th>Revenue = Transaction price of TK. 2,400 x percentage of stand-alone price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Handset</td>
<td>TK.600</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>TK.571.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone services</td>
<td>TK. 1,920</td>
<td>76.2%</td>
<td>TK. 1,828.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>TK. 2,520</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>TK. 2,400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source. Typical Example. Calculation has been made by the authors.
Note1. Monthly prepayment plan without handset for TK. 160 per month times 12 months.
Table 1 reveals that the transaction of TK. 2,400 during 12 months period is allocated as revenue to individual performance obligations of GP handset (TK. 571.20) and phone services (TK. 1,828.80) based on their relative stand-alone selling prices of TK. 600 (23.8% of total) and TK. 1,920 (76.2% of total) respectively.

Step 5: Recognition of revenue when GP agent satisfies the performance obligations. Therefore, when GP agent gives a handset to Mr. Haran, it needs to recognize the revenue of TK. 571.20, on the contrary, when GP agent provides phone services to Mr. Haran, it needs to recognize the total revenue of TK. 1,828.80. It is practical to record this revenue once per month as the billing happens.

So the journal entries to record the recognition of revenues in GP agent’s books of accounts from individual performance obligations i.e. selling of handset and providing phone services to Mr. Haran will be as follows under IFRS 15:

1. When handset is given to Mr. Haran (i.e. for sale of handset):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dr.</th>
<th>Cr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unbilled revenue / Receivable TK. 571.20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue from sale of goods TK. 571.20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. When phone services are provided to Mr. Haran on a monthly basis according to the contract with him (i.e. for monthly bill of phone services), following journal entries will be made to show cash collection from customer (here Mr. Haran) due to providing phone services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dr.</th>
<th>Cr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash from Haran TK. 200.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue from phone services (TK. 1,828.80/12) TK. 152.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unbilled Revenue / Receivable (TK. 571.20/12) TK. 47.60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here it is seen that Mr. Haran effectively pays not only for phone services, but also for his handset. As a consequence, though the GP agent’s reported profits are the same in total but there pattern over time is different under IFRS 15. So the significant impact of IFRS 15 is that the companies will report profits in a different way and their profit reporting pattern will change. This can be proved below by the current example.

Assuming that the financial year is 2018-2019 and the contract starts on January 1, 2019 and GP’s financial year ends on June 30, 2019. Now Table 2 below shows how much profits GP reports from this contract with Mr. Haran under IAS 18 and IFRS 15 in the year 2018-2019.

Table 2: Reporting profit by GP in 2018-2019: IAS 18 vs. IFRS 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance obligation</th>
<th>Under IAS 18</th>
<th>Under IFRS 15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Handset</td>
<td>TK. 0.00</td>
<td>TK. 571.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone services</td>
<td>TK. 1,200.00 (i.e. TK. 200 x 6)</td>
<td>TK. 914.40 (i.e. TK. 152.4x6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,200.00</td>
<td>1,485.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source. Typical Example. Calculation has been made by the authors.

It is evident from Table 2 that as GP treats the cost of handset as the cost of acquiring the customer, it reports no revenue for the handset in the beginning of the contract and then reports steady profits at the rate of TK. 200 per month that totals TK. 1,200 under IAS 18, because they recognized the revenue in line with the invoicing to customers. But under IFRS 15, GP reports profits total TK. 1,485.60 in the same period as their pattern over time is different.

From the typical example it is revealed that revenue is defined under IAS 18 as a gross inflow of economic benefits arising from ordinary operating activities of an entity. IAS 18 says that GP should apply the recognition criteria to the separately identifiable components of a single transaction (handset plus monthly plan). No price is assigned to handset and it is treated as cost of acquiring new customers. On the other hand, the transaction price under IFRS 15 must be allocated to the individual performance obligations in the contract and recognized when these obligations are delivered or fulfilled. That is, IFRS 15 focuses in identifying performance obligation and then allocating the price to performance obligation.

Under the above backdrop, it is evident that IFRS 15 will make major changes in different accounting processes like identification, measurement, recording and presentation of revenues from bundle sales of concerned businesses specially the businesses in the telecommunication industry. So a great change over accounting process for recognizing revenue is expected to be evident in the said industry when IFRS 15 will become mandatory to follow on or after January 1, 2018.

Now the disclosure requirements for recognizing
revenue as guided by IFRS 15 are summarized in the following section.

4. Disclosures under IFRS15

Table 3: below depicts a summary of the most significant disclosures relating to revenue recognition entities need to disclose under IFRS 15.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disclosure area</th>
<th>Summary of requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Revenue recognized from contracts with customers    | i. Revenue recognized from contracts with customers, separately from its other sources of revenue.  
ii. Impairment losses on receivables or contract assets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Disaggregation of revenue                            | i. Categories that depict the nature, amount, timing, and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows.  
ii. Sufficient information to enable users of financial statements to understand the relationship with revenue information disclosed for reportable segments under IFRS 8: Operating Segments.  
 iii. Information about contract balances is included in contract liabilities at the beginning of the period and revenue from performance obligations (wholly or partly) satisfied in prior periods.  
 iv. Explanation of relationship between timing of satisfying performance obligations and payment.  
 v. Information about performance obligations  
   i. When the entity typically satisfies performance obligations.  
   ii. Significant payment terms.  
   iii. Nature of goods and services.  
   iv. Obligations for returns, refunds and similar obligations.  
   v. Types of warranties and related obligations.  
   vi. Aggregate amount of transaction price allocated to remaining performance obligations at the end of period.  
 v. Information about significant judgments  
   i. Judgments impacting the expected timing of satisfying performance obligations.  
   ii. Methods used to recognize revenue for performance satisfied over time, and explanation.  
   iii. The transaction price and amounts allocated to performance obligations (e.g. estimating variable consideration and assessing if constrained and allocating to performance obligations). |

Source. Watchman, 2014

Table 3 reveals that IFRS 15 includes a cohesive set of disclosure requirements that would result in an entity providing users of financial statements with comprehensive information about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from the entity’s contracts with customers in the areas of (a) revenue recognized from contracts with customers; (b) disaggregation of revenue into appropriate categories; (c) performance obligations, focusing when the entity typically satisfies its performance obligations and the transaction price that is allocated to the remaining performance obligations in a contract; and (d) significant judgments and changes in judgments made in applying the requirements to those contracts.

Under the above situation, the telecommunication industry will face some challenges, revealed in the following section, for implementing IFRS 15 in a populous country like Bangladesh because of the unique nature of IFRS 15 over IAS 18.

5. Challenges to implement IFRS 15

As the telecommunication industry generally needs to deal with much people for various kinds of transactions analyzed in section 3, the businesses of this industry may combat with many challenges in implementing new standard IFRS 15. Some of the challenges deserve a careful look are noted below.

5.1 While providing free handsets to customers was considered as the costs of obtaining a client (i.e. marketing costs) under IAS 18, IFRS 15 will not allow this because allocating the transaction price to individual performance obligations is required under IFRS 15. That is, the total contract prices must be allocated between the revenue from sale of handsets and sale of monthly services. So one of the main challenges for a telecommunication business will be to separate bundled sales between individual performance obligations and transaction prices.

5.2 As IFRS 15 will provide more useful information for users of financial statements and its significant amounts of disclosure requirements seem materially above the current standards, it requires higher effort, investment, personnel, time consuming for disclosure needs. Thus understanding the new requirements may involve different costs, such as costs for updating or changing the software, costs for training the professional staff from different departments, etc. for public or private businesses.

5.3 Since IFRS 15 requires the revenue from a contract to be allocated to each distinct good or
service provided on a relative stand-alone selling price basis, entities may have to amend their current accounting policies as a result of more detailed guidance in IFRS 15. This may significantly change the profile of revenue recognition for some entities where, for example, they offer a ‘free’ maintenance period to customers as part of a transaction. Where entities have a large number of customers with different options, there may be some significant practical challenges to overcome in order to ensure systems are in place to deal with the new requirements (DTTL, 2014).

5.4 Since IFRS 15 requires accounting for a financing component separately from revenue, entities might be needed to carefully introduce time value of money in some long term advances received or paid, or contracts settled after more than one year.

5.5 The transition to IFRS 15 will affect all businesses, to varying degrees. Thus the potential aspects of the business that may be affected by the transition to IFRS 15, namely, accounting including taxation, debt covenants, employee training, compensation and bonus plan, right of return, commission expenses for obtaining a client, etc. need careful consideration and resolving.

6. Concluding Remarks and Implications

IFRS 15 addresses the issues relating to revenue recognition for bundle sales and long-term contracts. It is going to be applied worldwide by the IASB member countries and the USA (country of origin of the FASB) from January 1, 2018. Despite having some challenges to the successful application of IFRS 15, it is believed that the benefits that are expected to arise from the implementation of IFRS 15 are likely to outweigh the associated costs for users by adopting a unique and comprehensive revenue recognition model applicable not only for telecommunication industry but also across all other concerned entities, industries and jurisdictions. A cohesive set of disclosure requirements under this new standard is also expected to be material and not to be seen as a checklist of minimum requirements, which in turn will reduce the burden to disclosures. In this background, this review article is expected to be useful to the academic readers as well as to the practitioners to comprehend this new IFRS before its mandatory application in real life situation. Moreover, as the adoption of IFRS 15 will bring forth a large change in accounting practices on revenue recognition for bundle sales of concerned entities including telecommunication industry in Bangladesh, it is expected that this new standard will pertinently open up some gateways for further research to examine how the concerned entities do face the challenges emerged due to the effect of this new standard.

References


Finance Act 2018 brings some changes in the Provisions of Income Tax Ordinance, 1984. First part of the changes were published in the May-June 2018 volume of the journal. Rest of the changes are discussed below:

**Section 58:**
A new sub section (3) has been added after sub section (2) of section 58. The new sub section (3) is as follows:
“(3) Every person who has deducted or collected any tax under this Chapter shall furnish a statement to such income tax authority and in such manner as may be prescribed.”

**Section 75:**
New clause (iiia) and (iiib) have been added after clause (iii) of sub section (2) of section 75. The new sub clauses are as follows:
“(iiia) a non-resident, not being a non-resident individual, having no permanent establishment in Bangladesh; or
(iiib) a non-resident individual having no fixed base in Bangladesh; or”

**Section 82C:**
A new sub section (8A) has been added after sub section (8) of section 82C. The new sub section (8A) is as follows:
(8A) Where tax has been mistakenly deducted and collected in excess or deficit of the due amount (i.e. the amount to be deducted or collected in accordance with the provision of Chapter VII), minimum tax under this section shall be computed based on the due amount of deduction or collection, and provisions of this section shall apply accordingly.

**Section 108:**
A new sub section (108A) has been added after section (108). The new sub section (108A) is as follows:
108A. Information regarding filing of return by employees.
(1) Every employee shall furnish the following information to the employer by the fifteenth day of April each year-
   (i) Taxpayer’s Identification Number;
   (ii) Date of filing of the return of income; and
   (iii) The serial number provided by the income tax authority upon filing of the return of income.
(2) Any person responsible for making any payment which is an income of the payee classifiable under the head “Salaries”, shall, by the thirtieth day of April of each year, furnish to such income tax authority and in such manner as may be prescribed, a statement containing the following information regarding the payee:-
   (i) The name, designation and the Taxpayer’s Identification Number;
   (ii) Date of filing of the return of income;
   (iii) The serial number provided by the income tax authority upon filing of the return;
(3) Nothing in this section shall apply to a payment made by the Government.

**Section 113:**
A new section (113A) has been added after section 113. The new section (113A) is as follows:

113A. Automatic furnishing of information.- (1) The Board may, by a notice in official gazette, require any authority, person or entity to furnish in digital manner to the Board or any income tax authority specified by the Board, any information including information regarding assets, liabilities, income, expenses and transactions in respect of any class of persons.

(2) The information mentioned in sub-section (1) shall be furnished in such digital manner as may be specified in the notice.

(3) For the purpose of this section, furnishing in digital manner includes-
(a) uploading data in the system of the Board;
(b) sharing data to the digital or electronic system of the Board; and
(c) enabling digital or electronic access to the intended system.

**Section 124:**
Sub section (2) and (3) of section 124 will be replaced by the following sub section (2) and (3):

(2) Where any person has, without reasonable cause, failed to-
(a) file or furnish any return, certificate, statement or information required under sections 58, 75A, 108, 108A,109, or 110; or
(b) display the tax payer's identification number (TIN)certificate in accordance with the provisions of section 184C, the Deputy Commissioner of Taxes may impose upon such person-
(a) where the return, statement or information under sections75A, 108 or 108A has not been filed or furnished, a penalty amounting to ten per cent of tax imposed on last assessed income or five thousand taka, whichever is higher, and in the case of a continuing default, a further penalty of one thousand taka for every month or fraction thereof during which the default continues; (b) in other cases of non-compliance, a penalty amounting to five thousand taka, and in the case of a continuing default, a further penalty of one thousand taka for every month or fraction thereof during which the default continues.

(3) Where any person has, without any reasonable cause, failed to furnish information as required under section 113, the income tax authority requiring the information under section 113 may impose a penalty of twenty five thousand taka and in case of a continuing default a further penalty of five hundred taka for each day.

**Section 132:**
Section 132 has been replaced by the following section 132. The new section 132 is as follows:

132. Orders of penalty to be sent to Deputy Commissioner of Taxes.- The Appellate Tribunal or any income tax authority, not being the Deputy Commissioner of Taxes himself, making an order imposing any penalty under this Ordinance shall forthwith send a copy of the order to the Deputy Commissioner of Taxes, and thereupon all the provisions of this Ordinance relating to the recovery of penalty shall apply as if such order were made by the Deputy Commissioner of Taxes.

**Section 143:**
Clause (a) of sub section (2) of section 143 will be replaced by the following clause. The new clause (a) of sub section (2) of section 143 is as follows:

(a) from whom any money or goods is due or may become due to the assessee, or who holds, or controls the receipt or disposal of, or may subsequently hold, or control the receipt or disposal of, any money or goods belonging to, or on account of, the assessee, to –
(i) pay to the Deputy Commissioner of Taxes the sum specified in the notice on or before the date specified therein for such payment; or
(ii) stop the transfer of that goods to the assessee or the placement of that goods under the disposal of the assessee until the amount of tax mentioned in the notice has been paid or a satisfactory arrangement has been made with the Deputy Commissioner of Taxes for payment of such tax; or

**Section 153:**
Section 153 will be replaced by the following

153. Appeal to appellate income tax authority.- (1) Any person aggrieved by order of an income tax authority regarding the following matters may appeal to the respective appellate income-tax authority-
(i) assessment of income;
(ii) computation of tax liability or refund;
(iii) set off or carry forward of loss;
(iv) imposition of any penalty or interest;
(v) charge and computation of surcharge or any other sum;
(vi) credit of tax; and
(vii) payment of a refund.

(2) Subject to sub-section (3), an appeal in the following cases shall be made only to the Commissioner of Taxes (Appeals)-

(i) appeal by a company;
(ii) appeal against an order under section 120;
(iii) appeal against an order of adjustment or penalty involving international transactions as defined in 107A;
(iv) appeal against an order, in matters mentioned in sub-section (1), made by an income tax authority in the rank of a Joint Commissioner of Taxes or above.

(3) The Board may-

(i) assign any appeal to any appellate income-tax authority;
(ii) transfer an appeal from one appellate income-tax authority to another appellate income-tax authority.

(4) No appeal shall lie in respect of an income which is computed as a share of the taxed income.

(5) No appeal shall lie against any order of assessment in the following cases-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(i) Where the return of income was filed</th>
<th>If tax under section 74 has not been paid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Where no return of income was filed</td>
<td>If at least ten per cent of the tax as determined by the Deputy Commissioner of Taxes has not been paid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provided that where the tax on the basis of return has been paid by the appellant before filing the appeal and the appellate income-tax authority is convinced that the appellant was barred by sufficient reason from paying the tax before filing the return, it may allow the appeal for hearing.

Explanation.- In this section, appellate income-tax authority means the Commissioner of Taxes (Appeals) or the Appellate Joint Commissioner of Taxes, as the case may be.

Section 163:

Clause (r) of sub section (3) of section 163 will be replaced by the following:

(r) a list of highest taxpayers or distinguished taxpayers in accordance with rules made or guidelines issued by the board on this behalf;

A new clause (t) will be added after clause (s) of sub section (3) of section 163.

(t) any information required to furnish under section 108A.

Section 166:

A new section 166A has been added after section 166 which is given below:

166A. Punishment for providing false information, etc.- A person is guilty of an offence punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years or with fine, or with both, if he is in possession of any information in relation to an assessee and after being required to furnish the information to an income tax authority under this Ordinance –

(a) conceals the information; or
(b) deliberately furnishes inaccurate information.

Section 169:

A new section 169A has been added after section 169 which is given below:

169A. Further enquiry and investigation, etc. for prosecution.- The Deputy Commissioner of Taxes, with prior approval of the Commissioner of Taxes, may make such enquiry and investigation, in addition to the enquiry already made under this Ordinance, as may be necessary for the purpose of prosecution of an offence under this Chapter or a tax related offence under Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012.

Section 178:

A new sub section (4) has been added after sub section (3) of section 178. The new sub section (4) is as follows:

(4) In this section-

(a) “electronic mail” shall have the same meaning as assigned to electronic mail by Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006;
(b) “official electronic mail of the sender” means the electronic mail designated by the Board to the income tax authority serving the notice;
(c) “specified electronic mail address of the person” means the electronic mail address –

(i) that has been mentioned in the return of income of the person submitted for the respective income year;
(ii) that has been specified by a person, in writing, to the income tax authority, as the electronic mail address of such person.
Q: The trend for young generations recently changed toward business education but during your time mostly the trend was toward becoming “Engineer” or “Doctor”. What made you interested to become business/finance professional?
Zinnia: When we were growing up, Bangladesh had just entered the era of democracy. There were discussions and debates on the economic outlook of the country. Daily newspapers and business magazines were launched with special focus on prospects and challenges for the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. During my school years I studied both science and commerce subjects. While science deeply interested me, I found the commerce areas to be more present in our everyday life and helped me understand many of the topics being discussed. Sometime around that stage I decided to travel along these lines.

Q: What was the main source of motivation/inspiration in your way to here- Top Position in finance?
Zinnia: Firstly, I must say, that my father is a professional accountant; so my exposure to the finance world was not new. One of my favorite pastime was going through the journal of his Institute. Indirectly he remained an inspiration for me, although he never expressed that I should follow his line of expertise. I only focused on professional finance during my last year in University and thereafter. I thoroughly enjoyed both the academic side of Finance and its application in the workplace.

Q: How CMA as a certification helped you through the career up to now- as Finance Director of global renowned MNC?
Zinnia: I started the CMA (UK) program immediately after my BBA program. I was already working at the time. Hence the relevance of CMA at my workplace helped me go through the study experience. Back at the time, there was no CMA support office and as BBA students we did not receive any exam exemptions. Therefore, it was a long journey, but I was fortunate to get support from my senior finance colleagues who used real life examples to explain concepts to me. The CMA preparation really helped put perspective to the work I was doing over the initial years and set the tone out on the expectations of a CMA professional from the business.
Q: How you manage your networking? Does CMA community support you to continue enrich the networking which is helpful for your career?

Zinnia: Any profession demands a certain level of networking. It is important to know the people behind the stories. In a profession like ours, where solutions cannot come from documents only, it helps to know people who have gone through experiences and can help put perspectives on given situations. As a female in our society with several obligations, networking becomes a serious challenge. However, I try to reach out and meet my professional colleagues at programs/occasions. Fortunately, the CMA community in Bangladesh is very closely connected and even if I reach out to someone I have never met before, I have not failed to receive support.

Q: Do you think CMA as a profession can play vital role in getting Finance Leader for local & Global companies? What challenges / improvement area you can suggest?

Zinnia: The CMA curriculum has all it takes to equip one to handle senior finance roles whether in country or abroad. However, we often see that there are many incumbent students who have just stumbled upon the program or commenced through some reference about the program. A large body of the students do not know the overall purpose of the CMA program, the approach to study and the career asks post qualifications. Here, we can help new students by setting the tone from the beginning. We can give them exposure on both the practical aspects of a finance career and the expectations from finance professionals. This will help these aspiring students to understand from the beginning whether this is the right path for them. One should only embark on a challenging path like CMA when one is clear of the end game.

Q: What type of leadership style you follow?

Zinnia: I tend to flex my leadership style based on the team composition and the situation the team is going through. With an experienced team, I would lead by ‘management by exception’, having set the broad goals with regular follows ups. However, at a critical stage of a project implementation or a business crisis, I would tend to jump in and check back and forth on every issue. Generally, I believe in ‘freedom through responsibility’. I have professionally grown in such an environment and have seen that freedom helps bring in better accountability and trust within teams.

Q: How technology will impact our profession and what is your advice for our young professionals?

Zinnia: Technology is a vast subject and in itself remains just an academic concept. It is upto individual professions- medical, engineering, finance, photography, etc- how to leverage developments in technology. We should allow for technology to help us cut out on areas like transactional accounting and reporting. However, tech in itself cannot design solutions. These would have to come from ourselves. While it is easier for young finance professionals to embrace and keep upto speed on the everyday changes, I would encourage senior professionals to be aware of key developments and, if possible, have reverse mentoring in place for technology awareness. i.e. having a young IT savvy member as a mentor.

Q: What do you look for in a member in your finance team?

Zinnia: I strongly value professionals who demonstrate a learning attitude, with a strong sense of integrity and take responsibility of own deliveries. It is important for finance members to be seen as a team player, integrated with the business. Often our work, specially for juniors, makes us attached to the desks, however I encourage my team members to walk around the workplace, know people and discuss the business.

Q: The key to your success?

Zinnia: Taking opportunities to learn, even when it felt daunting, being realistic on expectations (specially as a female professional) and being demanding on myself to raise the standards.

Q: Message to youngers who have the desire to be world class finance professional;

Zinnia: Firstly, believing that there is no short cut to achieving something. Secondly, being a part of the business first and a finance professional second. As finance professionals, we are here to help steer the business not just set out the do’s and don’ts. Thirdly, taking your team along in the journey and caring for their development. Last not the least, demonstrating a high standard of business ethics & professionalism all the way.

[Interviewed by Saifur Rahman FCMA, Associate Editor, The Cost & Management]
Legal Frame Work, Accounting and Reporting on Financial Transaction For Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Activities in Bangladesh

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Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is known by many other titles. These include corporate responsibility, corporate ethics, corporate accountability and corporate citizenship just to name a few. A key point to note is that Corporate Social Responsibility or CSR has no universal definition; however, it generally refers to clear business practices with respect to ethical values, compliance with legal requirements and respect for economic values. CSR goes beyond making profits, companies and stakeholders are responsible for their impact on people and planet. Increasingly, stakeholders should expect that companies should be more responsible both socially and environmentally in their conduct of their business. The world business council for sustainable development has described CSR as the business contribution to sustainable economic development. Corporates are mostly guided by laws, regulations and practice of good citizenship. Let us evaluate (what we have, what we need) the legal frame works for CSR in Bangladesh.

A Brief History of Corporate Social Responsibility
The history of CSR dates back many years and in one instance can even be traced back 5,000 years in ancient Mesopotamia around 1700 BC, king Hammurabi introduced a code in which builders, innkeepers or farmers were put to death if their negligence caused the death of others, or major inconvenience to local citizens. In ancient Rome senator grumbled about the failure of business to contribute sufficient taxes to fund their military campaigns, while in 1622 disgruntled shareholders in the Dutch East India Company started issuing pamphlets complaining about management secrecy and “self-enrichment”. With industrialization, the impacts of business on society and the environment assumed an entirely new dimension. The “Corporate paternalist” of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries used some of their wealth to support philanthropic ventures. By the 1920s discussions about the social responsibilities of business had evolved into what we can recognize as the beginnings of the “modern” CSR movement.
“The phrase corporate social responsibility was coined in 1953 with the publication of Bowen’s Social Responsibility of Business” (Corporate watch report, 2006). The evolution of CSR is as old as trade and business for any corporation. Industrialization and impact of business on the society led to a complete new version. By 80s and 90s CSR was taken in discussion, the first company to implement CSR was Shell in 1998. CSR evolved beyond code of conduct and reporting, eventually it started taking initiative in NGO’s, Multi stake holder and ethical trading. All religions appreciate CSR, assured increments (in return of CSR) for CSR (expenditure, activity, service).

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) vs Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):**

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted on September 25, 2015 by 193 countries as a follow up to the Millennium Development Goals. The SDGs focus to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all, as part of a new sustainable development agenda. A total of 17 goals and 169 targets are set to be achieved by 2030 and the realization of the same calls for a collective effort from the government, the corporates and the civic society organizations. SDGs have immense opportunities for the corporate sector’s participation. These goals are bringing private players from various sector to achieve the common aim of sustainable development by exploring synergies between different stakeholders for cumulative synchronized growth. For example, when an organization defines its CSR focus area on enhancing livingly hoods through skill development training of woman and youth, it is contributing to various SDGs like crating a means to end poverty, zero hunger, quality education, gender equality and decent work and economic growth. It is worthy to say SDGs are the bigger version of CSR.

**Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Bangladesh:**

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy, practice and reporting in Bangladesh corporate environment is not that old. Eventually there were no explicit policy on CSR in Bangladesh prior to 2008. It is started officially in banking sector in a structured manner after circulation of DOS Circular No. 1, dated June 01, 2008 by Bangladesh Bank (BB). On other hand, corporates except for banks also discharging CSR in different forms but there is no such complete accepted method (CSR policy, practice, recording, incentive and reporting) of doing CSR.

**CSR in Banking sector in Bangladesh:**

in 2008, Bangladesh Bank (BB) took initiatives for formalizing CSR in the banking sector of Bangladesh and issued and elaborate directive titled “mainstreaming corporate social responsibility (CSR) in banking and Financial Institutions in Bangladesh”. By the course of time Bangladesh Bank has advised all the Commercial banks to include the CSR programs in their mainstream banking activities instead of short term social works like providing grants, aids and donations. The BB circulars asked the banks to formulate their own CSR policy with the annual outlay for CSR programs. Referring to the Global Reporting initiatives (GRI), BB said that the CSR annual report should include the banks performance in economic, environment and social sectors with special focus on both qualitative and quantitative operations. BB has, of course, started guiding the banking sector to become more inclusive and environmentally responsive issuing different circulars, e.g. agricultural credit policy, guideline on environment risk management, policy guideline for green Banking etc.

**CSR in Corporates other than banks and financial Institutions:**

Except for 3 vide SROs issued by the Ministry of Finance (issued with in July 01, 2010 to July 01, 2014) there is no CSR related guideline for corporates. BSEC is working on it by incorporating CSR reporting in corporate governance reporting requirement by BSEC (www.sec.gov.bd) for listed companies.

**Policy Guideline issued by Ministry of Finance:**

It is ice breaking guideline issued by Internal Resource Division of Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh for all assesses irrespective of any bank, financial organization, or Corporate by SRO No. 270-law/Income tax /2010 dated July 01, 2010. But it is replaced by SRO No. 229/Law/Income Tax/2011 dated July 04, 2011. It focused mainly on the activities (a list 20 heads) may qualify as CSR and prerequisites to get tax incentive (10% on the expenses subject to preapproval from DCT) for CSR to the organization. By the course of Government issued another time demanding two SROs e.g.;

1. SRO No. 223-Law/ income tax/2012, it added two new heads that shall be treated as CSR.
These three vide SROs are guiding corporates an inclusive (CSR should be out of 23 heads stated in the said SROs) definition of CSR and the terms and conditions to be filled to get the tax incentive (10% on the amount expended in the activities of CSR specified in the SROs but it shall be treated as allowable expenses to compute taxable income) for the CSR expenditure committed by the Corporates as an assessee of NBR. [www.nbr.gov.bd](http://www.nbr.gov.bd)

Policy Guideline on CSR in SAARC Countries: SAARC includes Seven Countries (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Afghanistan). But successful corporates and corporates structure can be seen only in four countries (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka). Out of these four countries India having the largest economy is much ahead on structured CSR than any other countries having a strong policy Guideline e.g.;

1. Corporate Social Responsibility, Section 135, Companies Act 2013, gives a legal frame work of CSR for Companies doing business in India, every company including its holding or subsidiary, as well as foreign companies having a project office /branch in India, meeting certain criteria (i.e. equaling or exceeding net worth of INR 500 crore, or net profit of INR 5 crore, or turnover of INR, 1000 crore) during any financial year, is required to comply with the CSR provisions.

2. Companies (Corporate Social responsibility policy) Rules, 2014 and amended rules 2015; It defines some relevant terms relevant to CSR, management of CSR, CSR expenditure, CSR reporting and requirement of publication in wave site of corporates.

**Accounting & Reporting Requirements:** After having incurring CSR expenditures, acquiring assets for the purpose of CSR, incurring liabilities for CSR, issuing guarantee for CSR, and realization of any income from CSR activities and receiving any grant for CSR every company should account for in its financials for all stakeholders. There is no IAS or IFRS on CSR accounting. Accounting Institutions of this subcontinent (IACI, ICAB, ICMAB, ICMAP, IACP, ICAS etc.) are working on Accounting and Reporting of CSR related transactions and Commitments of an organization. Out of these accounting initiatives of different institutes ICAI (The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India) and ICAI (The Institute of Cost Accountants of India) has issued following guidelines to record and repot expenditures for CSR activities;

1. “A guideline note on accounting for expenditure on the CSR activities” by ICAI (The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India) dated May 15, 2015.

   a. **Contribution to a fund specified in the Schedule VII to the Companies Act 2013,** if it is revenue in nature, it should generally be charged as an expense for the year of the Income Statement.

   b. **Expenditure incurred by a company itself on the CSR activities;** In case where expenditure may give rise to an ‘asset’, the company would need to assess whether it has control over the asset and is able to derive future economic benefits from it. In cases, where the control of the asset is transferred by the company, it should not be recognized as an ‘asset’ in it books and such expenditure should be charged to the Income Statement. In other cases, where the company retains control of the asset then it would need to be examine whether any future economic benefits accrue to the company. Invariably, future economic benefits from a ‘CSR asset’ would not flow to the company as any surplus from CSR cannot be included in business profit.

   c. **Expenditure through a trust, society, etc.:** Similarly, in case a company incurs expenditure on the CSR activities, it should be treated as an expense for the year and charged to the income statement.

   d. **Received grant from other companies for CSR activities:** In case a company receives a grant from other for carrying out CSR activities, the CSR expenditure should be measured net of the grant.

   e. **CSR activities by supplying goods manufactured by the company:** In case a company supplies goods manufactured by it or renders services as CSR activities, the expenditure incurred should be recognized when the control in the goods is transferred or the allowable services are rendered by the company. Accordingly, the goods manufactured would be accounted for as per principles of IAS 2, Valuation of Inventories and services rendered should be measured at cost. The guidance note clarifies that all indirect taxes such as excise duty, service tax, VAT, etc. on such goods and services contributed would also form part of the CSR expenditure.
f. Recognition of income earned from CSR projects/programs or during the course of the CSR activities: In respect of a CSR project/program/activity undertaken by a company, it needs to be determined whether any surplus arising from it. Any surplus arises out of CSR projects or programs or activities would not form part of the business of a company. Thus the surplus should immediately be recognized as a liability for the CSR expenditure in the Statement of Financial Position and recognized as a charge to the Income Statement.

2. “Guidance note on treatments of costs relating to corporate CSR activities” by ICAI (The Institute of Cost Accountants of India) dated May 26, 2016.

a. Presentation and disclosure of CSR expenses in Cost Statements;
   i. All expenses relating to the CSR projects, programs and activities, whether incurred up to the statutory limit shall be treated as non-cost item and reflected separately in the profit reconciliation statement.
   ii. Similarly, all income generated out of assets created under CSR projects, programs and activities, whether recognized as revenue in the Income statement or not, shall be treated as non-cost items and reflected separately in the profit reconciliation statement.
   iii. Details of all such transactions relating to CSR project, programs and activities, if held with the related parties shall be so disclosed in the statement relating to related party transactions.

Accounting and Reporting of Expenditures in CSR activities in Bangladeshi Listed Companies; Among the 300 plus listed companies we consider widely circulated two companies, One from banking sector Dutch Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) (to get details picture of their CSR activity and engagement please visit www.dutchbanglabank.com) and another is British America Tobacco Bangladesh Company Limited (BATBC) (a bigger picture and detailed information CSR engagement of BATBC is available their web site www.batbangladesh.com) to know about accounting and reporting of CSR. Their accounting for CSR is as follows;

1. British America Tobacco Bangladesh Company Limited BATBC: It has reported in accounted for in the name of “Social Responsibility” and it is charged to income statement under Operating Expenses (Note 22, page 191, Annual Report-2017).

2. Dutch Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL): DBBL also recorded the expenses for CSR activities as “Other Expenses” in name of “Subscription and Donation” (Note-43, Page 433, and Annual Report 2017).

Role of ICAB and ICMAB in accounting of Cost/Expense for CSR activity: We have found no accounting and reporting standard on CSR adopted by IFAC. Not found any accounting guideline for costs/expenses of CSR activities of corporates/organizations issued by ICMAB, ICAB, BSEC and BFRC. Corporates are expending for CSR every day and gradually it is increasing with new dynamics, we have seen in the financials of BATBC and DBBL. A guideline on accounting of CSR activity Cost/Expense will facilitate Accountants in service, Accountants in practice, Regulators, Investors and society as whole having harmonized accounting and understanding.

Recommendations: We have survived in famine 1974, in flood 1988, in cyclone 1991, in Sedor 2007 with highest demographic density, low per capita income, low protein allocation, low literacy rate, low allocation for social security, high unemployment, and unavoidable corruption. We have survived due to our practice of transfer payments in every level of society. The transfer payments in every level of society is the deep penetrated (the granular version) CSR in the society. We need a structured version of CSR so that we can use our in build mind (crying heart to see suffering society) and practice of transfer payment (CSR). It needs regulators, facilitators, corporates, civil society, NGOs, Medias and society as a whole to come forward to have a well-defined guideline (India is nice example in this case) on CSR.

Disclaimer: The views expressed here are writer’s personal.

Reference:
2. Dos circular No. 01, “Mainstreaming Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Banks and financial institutions in Bangladesh” dated June 01, 2008. www.bb.org.bd
7. Guidance Note on accounting for expenditure on CSR activities-issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. www.icai.org
UPDATE ON Dhaka Stock Market

The Journal is running a series of updates on Dhaka Stock Market. In this issue of THE COST & MANAGEMENT, A.K.M. Shahidul Kirmany CMA (CIMA, UK), FCMA has given a reflection of relevant changes and updates on the Dhaka Stock Market. The analysis of the Dhaka Stock Market has been done considering the period from July 2, 2018 to August 30, 2018. Mr. Kirmany is presently working with the VIPB Asset Management Company Limited as Chief Operating Officer.

Macro-economy Update

• Bangladesh Bank (BB) has taken initiatives to accelerate the flow of inward remittances from Japan and South Korea. The BB is giving approval to the interested commercial banks for setting up more drawing arrangements with money transfer companies in the two countries. Some local banks including Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited have already shown interest to intensification the inflow of remittances from the two East Asian countries.

• In Bangladesh’s history, imports crossed the $50 billion mark in a single fiscal year, stimulating worries of inflation and depreciation of the local currency against the dollar. In fiscal 2017-18, letters of credit settlement stood at $51.53 billion, up 16.40 percent year-on-year, on the back of rising demand for food grains and petroleum products.

• The size of the Eid-ul-Azha economy is thought to be around Tk 31,000 crore, of which at least Tk 22,000 crore comes from cattle sales. It confirms the supply of half of the annual requirement for raw materials of the country’s second-biggest export earning sector: the leather and leather goods industry.

• The industrial production marked an increase in the first three quarters of the last fiscal year (FY) compared to the same period of the previous fiscal. The industrial production surged due to the increase in credit disbursement in the sector and improvement in the country’s power supply situation. Based on data released by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) the production increased mainly in the fields of textiles, apparels, food products, pharmaceuticals and medicinal chemicals, leather and related products and tobacco products.

• World Trade Statistical Review-2018, released by the World Trade Organization (WTO) last month, disclosed that, Bangladesh is the second largest importer of the commercial services among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). It showed that Bangladesh imported commercial services worth $9.01 billion in 2017.

• Bangladesh Bank’s operating profit jumped by 46 percent year-on-year to Tk 791 crore last fiscal year because of higher income from the investment of foreign exchange. The central bank will transfer Tk 690 crore as net profit to the state treasury.

• According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) due to rise in the public sector investment, the country’s gross investment is anticipated to exceed its gross national savings in this fiscal year 2018-19. The gross investment is expected to stand at 32.3 per cent of the gross domestic product, up by 2.3 percentage than that of gross national savings.

• According to the latest statistics of the central
bank the foreign direct investment in Bangladesh fallen again in the past fiscal year after three years of gaining. Provisional data of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) on the annual balance of payments (BoP) showed that the gross inflow of FDI declined by 7.90 per cent to US$ 2.79 billion in FY 2017-18 from $3.03 billion in FY 2016-17.

- The draft of the new customs act is likely to be placed before the cabinet soon for its approval to facilitate getting the nod of the parliament in its next session. The new law has been drafted incorporating international best practices in customs procedures, including automation, special schemes for trusted traders and trade liberalisation issues, to make export-import activities easier, faster and less costly.

- The central bank has decided to give license to one more private commercial bank a few months ahead of the national elections. It has given clearance in principle to issue license to the proposed Community Bank Limited, sponsored by Bangladesh Police Welfare Trust after completing all rules and regulations.

- Mobile call volume dropped by 15 percent since the introduction of the minimum uniform call rate, as users attempted to minimize costs.

**Stock Market Updates**

**July 2, 2018 to August 30, 2018**

- The benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSEX) was up by 5.23% during the period. The daily turnover was highest on July 11, 2018.

**Changes in Indices (from July 2, 2018 to August 30, 2018)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Open</th>
<th>Close</th>
<th>Point Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DSEX</td>
<td>5,322.41</td>
<td>5,600.64</td>
<td>278.23</td>
<td>5.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSES</td>
<td>1,247.77</td>
<td>1,269.61</td>
<td>21.84</td>
<td>1.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS30</td>
<td>1,915.82</td>
<td>1,960.72</td>
<td>44.89</td>
<td>2.34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DSE Performance (from July 2, 2018 to August 30, 2018)**

- Banks, Telecommunication, Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals, Fuel & Power holds 17.37%, 16.61%, 16.00%, 12.18% of the market capitalization respectively.

- **Sectoral Market Capitalization as on June 30, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Market Capitalisation in mn</th>
<th>% of total Market Cap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>566,934.62</td>
<td>17.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Institutions</td>
<td>210,151.75</td>
<td>6.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>85,592.57</td>
<td>2.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual Funds</td>
<td>40,809.35</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Allied Product</td>
<td>276,142.15</td>
<td>8.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmaceuticals &amp; Chemicals</td>
<td>522,117.60</td>
<td>16.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textile</td>
<td>116,581.81</td>
<td>3.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>190,590.29</td>
<td>5.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceramic</td>
<td>29,884.48</td>
<td>0.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tannery</td>
<td>26,509.00</td>
<td>0.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper &amp; Printing</td>
<td>2,156.78</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>1,945.51</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cement</td>
<td>117,546.67</td>
<td>3.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel &amp; Power</td>
<td>397,528.45</td>
<td>12.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services &amp; Real estate</td>
<td>19,121.81</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT - Sector</td>
<td>15,243.82</td>
<td>0.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecommunication</td>
<td>542,100.46</td>
<td>16.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and Leisure</td>
<td>21,829.10</td>
<td>0.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>77,445.73</td>
<td>2.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Bond</td>
<td>2,886.00</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>3,263,117.95</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• **Top 10 Companies by Market Cap as on June 30, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Grameenphone Ltd.</td>
<td>525,131.68</td>
<td>16.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd.</td>
<td>216,129.33</td>
<td>6.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>British American Tobacco Bangladesh</td>
<td>207,402.00</td>
<td>6.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Investment Corporation Of Bangladesh</td>
<td>100,863.98</td>
<td>3.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>United Power Generation</td>
<td>99,650.10</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Renata Ltd.</td>
<td>90,795.22</td>
<td>2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>BRAC Bank Ltd.</td>
<td>76,362.02</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd</td>
<td>65,501.47</td>
<td>2.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Olympic Industries Ltd.</td>
<td>44,866.29</td>
<td>1.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Summit Power Ltd.</td>
<td>40,472.55</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• The Dhaka Stock Exchange is giving consideration to over allowing the listed companies to publish price sensitive information directly on the bourse’s web site through eXtensible Business Reporting Language-based electronic disclosure system to check delay in publishing PSI by the firms. The system provides a complete electronic solution from corporate disclosure to fair speedy information access for investors.

• The finance ministry has recommended that the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission should extend the tenure of around 30 closed-end mutual funds by another term of 10 years amid hectic lobbying by trustees of some of the funds. The ministry in a letter to the commission made the recommendation after BSEC chairman M Khairul Hossain had sought the ministry’s advice on the fate of 36 mutual funds, which would be wound up or be made open-end funds between 2018 and 2028.

• Net foreign investment in the Dhaka Stock Exchange has been on a downward curve for the last four months. In the month of July, 2018 foreign investors bought shares worth Tk 412.04 crore and sold issues worth Tk 444.74 crore, taking their net investment to Tk 32.70 crore in the negative. The net foreign divestment was Tk 207 crore in June.

• Grameenphone’s suspected financial discrepancies have swollen almost three times to Tk 11,530.15 crore after the telecom regulator entered another audit of the operator’s books. In the first audit conducted in 2011, financial discrepancies amounting to Tk 3,034 crore were detected in the operator’s books from its inception in 1996 through to March 2011. Grameenphone then disputed the appointment process of the auditing firm.

• The anticipated strategic partnership agreement between the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and the Chinese consortium of Shenzhen Stock Exchange and Shanghai Stock Exchange is nearing execution. According to the Share Purchase Agreement (SPA), the consortium will hold 25% equivalent to 450,944,125 ordinary shares of DSE at Tk. 21 each in order to partner with the bourse. The consortium has also offered about Tk. 300 crore on top of the initial Tk. 947 crore, for infrastructural and technological development.

**Disclaimer:**

Investing involves risk. The value of an investment and the income from it will fluctuate and investors may not get back the principal invested.

Past performance is not indicative of future performance. It is for informational purposes only. This document does not constitute investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any security and shall not be deemed an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any security.

Certain data used are derived from various sources believed to be reliable, but the accuracy or completeness of the data is not guaranteed and no liability is assumed for any direct or consequential losses arising from their use. This material has not been reviewed by any regulatory authorities.

**Sources of the information:**

• Website of Dhaka Stock Exchange
• The Daily Financial Express
• The Daily Star
• The New Age
World

This section focuses on reflections from young students of ICMAB and how they have been pursuing their CMA career path and facing challenges in CMA study at the beginning of their career.

Md. Morshedul Alam Sourav is a Management Level student of ICMAB. His home district is Jamalpur. He has completed BBA in Accounting from East West University and MBA in International Business from University of Dhaka. He has completed HSC from Notre Dame College and SSC from Motijheel Ideal School & College. He is currently working as an Accounting Specialist in Cooper’s Bakery Bangladesh. During his education life he was involved with different social organizations such as EWU Career Club, Youth Club of Bangladesh (YCB), Youth School for Social Entrepreneurs (YSSE) etc.

Why do you pursue CMA education from ICMAB? Explain in detail.
It has always been my dream to become a professional accountant and become a Executive of a well reputed company. In order to achieve that goal I need a professional degree that could give me an advantage to achieve my dream. When I was searching for such a degree after my graduation, I found that no local degree matches with CMA in terms of depth of knowledge covering the whole business. I also came to know that ICMAB signed a MoU with CIMA that will help me gaining CIMA certification too after completing CMA. In addition, I used to look frequently in LinkedIn and found out that all the FCMAs and ACMAs hold prestigious positions in different organizations. Then I realized that this CMA degree can give me the foundation that I need to become a successful finance leader. After graduation I got admitted into ICMAB as a business level student.

How do you make a comparison between CMA education and other academic qualifications?
The main contrast between the two is the system of learning. When it comes to CMA, you must have to know how you can apply your theoretical knowledge into the real business scenario. In contrast to academic qualifications such as BBA/MBA/Masters in which students usually focus more on theoretical knowledge, CMA is totally different. Without connecting your knowledge with business, it is not possible to pass CMA. Rigorous and competitive case basis questions will force you to understand the business context first if you want to secure a pass mark.
I personally think CMA teaches us to become a great professional, having the ability to analyze things in a different way, being adaptive to change and having a whole range of other skills.

What are the main challenges you faced in studying for CMA education?
The main challenge that I have been facing while
studying CMA is to manage time and make a proper planning for the exams. After joining Cooper’s it has become a bit difficult for me to allocate study time properly. But proper plans and analysis of subjects help me take good preparations for the CMA exams. I have also found that being patient is a vital thing for CMA studies as you have to study on continuous basis and cannot stop even if you cannot pass. When it comes to ICMAB, I have realized that library hours are too short. It would be really great for job holders if the library could be opened till 10 pm.

Stress management is also a challenge for me. But I know that I have to manage all the obstacles and turn these into strengths to qualify CMA.

**Do you think that CMA qualification will help you to get added advantage in the job market?**

Yes, I do believe that CMA can give me an edge in the job market. A professionally designated accountant always receives highest attention from the corporate world, and this is what makes CMA unique in the job market. During my job search time, I got call from most of the jobs that I applied, and to me those organizations seem to be more positive towards professional candidates. As a part-qualified CMA, I have already got a job in Cooper’s without any hassle. After qualifying CMA, I believe that I definitely will be able to move towards senior position of any reputed company because of the skills and knowledge I will get from CMA.

**What are the strategies you are following to complete the CMA education on schedule?**

Currently I have been preparing myself to complete Management level. It’s difficult to take preparations for exams like CMA when you are involved in a full time job, but I have managed my time efficiently and effectively. Whenever I get free time, I try to revise the concepts that are important for the exams. I believe that one should read the syllabus first and then make a proper plan for the study. I always do that, and I have been successful so far. In professional exams, you need to have knowledge about all the relevant topics of your subjects if you want to do well. That is the only mantra.

**What do you expect to get from ICMAB as a student?**

Being the country’s only professional cost and management institute, I expect a lot from ICMAB. I think that a professional accountant should not only possess theoretical but also possess practical and other aspects of knowledge that can help him become a true leader of the corporate world.

- ICMAB should arrange frequent workshops and seminars for its members and students so that they can meet famous corporate leaders of the country and increase their networks.
- It should introduce a career club that can arrange different job related workshops, fairs and other activities for its members and students. CV writing skills, interview techniques and other stuffs should be included into the workshops. A dedicated job portal should be introduced and run by the career club to help existing and potential members to get jobs.
- It should facilitate the study system by providing its own study materials and thorough explanations of the answers.
- As it’s difficult to get hands-on experience of different accounting software such as SAP, Oracle, QuickBooks, Tally & others, ICMAB should provide adequate training with lowest possible cost to its students so that they can become fully competent for the job market.
- It should also work with developing communication and presentation skills of its students in order to make them competent for MNCs.
- Since AI (Artificial Intelligence) is coming, and BPO has already started, proper guidance and training should be provided by ICMAB to its existing and potential members who aspire to start BPO business on their own.

**Could you remember any memorable event during your study at ICMAB?**

One of the memorable moments that I can recall is when my first professional exam result got published. I could not believe that I was the only one who passed P1 (Performance Operations) at ICMAB. I was totally mesmerized by the result. It gave me huge motivation to continue. As a result, on June 2017 exam, I have passed F2 (Financial Management) as the only student at ICMAB. I just cannot express those moments of sheer happiness. Those events were really great for my family too.

**Do you think the CMA qualification will be able to fulfill your aspirations?**

Yes, I think that CMA is the best choice for me to fulfill the dreams that I have. CMA degree will not automatically provide a successful career, but it will definitely provide a solid background that I can use as a talisman for my career development. CMA is like having a globally respected qualification that will definitely set me apart from others. It’s joining a community of bright minds and having access to professional development throughout my career.

[Interviewed by Sazedul Hoq ACMA]
A delegation of ICMAB led by its President Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA called on Mr. Abul Maal A. Muhith MP, Minister, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh at his office on July 25, 2018.

ICMAB President appraised the Finance Minister about the role of Cost and Management Accountants and their contribution towards the establishment of transparency, accountability and corporate governance in the business and industrial sectors of our country. The delegation sought active guidance and support of the honorable Finance Minister for development of CMA Profession and the Institute. Finance Minister assured the ICMAB President and the members of the delegation of his continued support for the betterment of CMA profession in the continuously changing global environment.

Among others, Vice-Presidents Mr. M. Abul Kalam Mazumdar FCMA & Mr. Arif Khan FCMA, Secretary Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Khan FCMA, Treasurer Prof. Dr. Swapan Kumar Bala FCMA and Executive Director of the Institute Mr. Md. Mahbub Ul Alam FCMA were present in the meeting.

ICMAB Delegation called on Finance Minister on July 25, 2018

ICMAB CPD program on “IFRS: 16 & IAS: 12”

CPD program on “IFRS: 16 and IAS: 12” held at ICMAB Ruhul Quddus Auditorium, Dhaka on July 19, 2018 where Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim, Managing Director & CEO, Super Star Group attended the program as Chief Guest.

Mr. Md. Monowar Hossain FCS, FCA, FCMA, General Manager & Head of Internal Control and Compliance (ICC), Agrani Bank Ltd. presented paper on “IAS: 12” and Mr. Md. Shafiqul Alam ACS, FCA, FCMA, Advisor Finance & Nominated Director, Super Star Group presented paper on “IFRS: 16” in the program respectively.

Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA, President ICMAB presided over the program. Mr. Md. Kausar Alam FCMA, Vice-Chairman, Seminar & Conference Committee delivered welcome speech while Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Khan FCMA, Secretary ICMAB offered vote of thanks.

A good number of professional CMAs took part in the question & answer session which made the program very lively.
ICMAB arranged a seminar on “Sustainability reporting towards achieving SDGs” at ICMAB Ruhul Quddus Auditorium, Dhaka on July 27, 2018.

Mr. C. Q. K. Mustaq Ahmed, Chairman, Financial Reporting Council (FRC) and Mr. Md. Eunusur Rahman, Senior Secretary, Financial Institutions Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh attended as Chief Guests in the Inaugural session and Technical & Plenary sessions respectively in the seminar. Dr. Md. Salim Uddin FCMA, Chairman, House Building Finance Corporation and Professor, Department of Accounting, University of Chittagong attended as Special Guest in the Technical Session – II.

Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA, President ICMAB presided over the program. Mr. Md. Kausar Alam FCMA, Vice-Chairman, Seminar & Conference Committee delivered the welcome speech while Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Khan FCMA, Secretary ICMAB offered vote of thanks in the program.

Dr. Aditi Haldar, Director, GRI South Asia and Ms. Rubina Sen, Senior Coordinator, GRI South Asia presented papers on “Sustainability reporting towards achieving SDGs” in the Technical Session – I.

Mr. Md. Touhidul Alam Khan FCMA, Deputy Managing Director & Chief Business Officer, Prime Bank Ltd. presented a paper on “Sustainability reporting towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Banking sector of Bangladesh”, Mr. Elias Ahmed FCMA, Chief Financial Officer, Marico Bangladesh Ltd. presented a paper on “Sustainability reporting in Corporate Arena” and Mr. Nepoleon Dewan, Senior Assistant Chief, General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh presented a paper on “Reporting SDGs at National level and next steps” in the Technical Session - II of the seminar as Resource Persons.

Mr. Arif Khan FCMA, Council Member, Past President, ICMAB and CEO & Managing Director, IDLC Finance Ltd. was present as moderator in Plenary Session.

Prof. Dr. Swapan Kumar Bala FCMA, Treasurer, ICMAB & Commissioner, Bangladesh Securities & Exchange Commission, Dr. Md. Salim Uddin FCMA, Chairman, House Building Finance Corporation and Professor, Department of Accounting, University of Chittagong, Mr. Md. Touhidul Alam Khan FCMA, Deputy Managing Director & Chief Business Officer, Prime Bank Ltd., Mr. Elias Ahmed FCMA, Chief Financial Officer, Marico Bangladesh Ltd. and Mr. Nepoleon Dewan, Senior Assistant Chief, General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh were present in Plenary Session as Panelists.

A good number of professional CMAs took part in the question & answer session which made the program very lively.
ICMAB organized the discussion session to exchange professional views with senior HR Experts & Talent Management Partners and HR Recruiting Firms on Monday, August 13, 2018 at Six Seasons Hotel, House-19, Road-96, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212. The aim of the session was to make a bridge between two professional groups to work together to achieve synergy in the corporate level. The collaboration between HR leaders and ICMAB will bring positive value for our economy. This close relationship with CMAs and other Experts would help to achieve organizational goal. The overall activities of ICMAB was highlighted in the session.

Council Members of the Institute and leading CMA professionals attended the Program. The program preceded by a brief discussion session to provide an overview of the Institute and its members. The gathering gave an excellent opportunity for both to exchange views and discussed issues of mutual professional interest.

The President of ICMAB said that ICMAB maintains world class course curriculum and its qualification is recognized in the global market. ICMAB members are working at the top positions in the different sectors of the country as well in the international arena. As a member body of IFAC, CAPA and SAFA, ICMAB’s members maintains highest level of professional ethics and code of conducts at their own working place. ICMAB members always update their knowledge with changing business environment through Continual Professional Development Program (CPD) organized by the Institute on regular basis. President of ICMAB also said that there are enough talented professional accountants in our country who have integrity to the nation and requested the HR leaders to recruit more local professional accountants to get the competitive advantages in the long run and save huge amount of foreign currency as billions of dollars are now transferring to our neighboring countries by hiring unnecessary foreign professional.

Mr. Md. Musharraf Hossain, Founder President, Federation of Bangladesh Human Resource Organizations (FBHRO) was present as Chief Guest. Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA, President ICMAB presided over the program. Mr. Mohammad Alamgir FCMA, Chairman, Placement Committee delivered the welcome speech while Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Khan FCMA, Secretary ICMAB offered vote of thanks in the program.

Mr. Roomee Tareque Moudud FCMA, Director, American International University, Bangladesh presented a theme paper on CMA Profession. Mr. Quazi M. Ahmed, Founder and CEO, Future Leaders was present as moderator. Mohammad Mashequr Rahman Khan, President of Bangladesh Society for Human Resources Management (BSHRM) was also present at the program.

Prof. Dr. Hasan Ahmed FCMA, Pro-Vice Chancellor of United International University, Prof. Dr. F. A. Sobhani, Director, MIHRM Program, United International University, Dr. Y M Islam, Vice Chancellor, Daffodil International University, Syeda Zakeerin Bakht Nasir, Chief Consultant & CEO, ZN Consultants, Mr. Gofran Farooque, Director & COO, e-zone and Mr. Zulfiquar Hussain, CEO, Grow n Excel, K. Sattar, Managing Director, CONSUMARK expressed their views and valuable comments in the discussion session. A good numbers of senior HR professionals from different corporate sectors of the country were present in the program.
Seminar held at IUT

The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) organized a seminar titled “Accounting as a Profession” on July 24, 2018 at Islamic University of Technology (IUT) premises in collaboration with the Department of Business & Technology Management (BTM) of the said University.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Rakibul Islam, Head of Business & Technology Management (BTM) department of IUT graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Ms. Naznin Akter, Assistant Professor of Business & Technology Management (BTM) department of the same University attended the session as Special Guest. Institute’s academic Consultant Dr. Nikhil Chandra Shil FCMA was present in the seminar as the Guest of Honor.

Dr. Nikhil Chandra Shil FCMA discussed regarding the necessity of professional degrees in addition to academic degrees for accelerating career success. Education system of ICMAB is also briefed along with the membership profile to motivate the audiences. Bringing some successful indicators of Bangladesh which is undergoing through serious development initiatives, the speaker presented the potential of professional accountants in coming days. Around 60 students of the said University attended the seminar and listened to the speakers till the end which last for more than one hour. Students were also engaged in an informal networking with the speakers at the end of the seminar which reflects their keenness with the professional education.

ICMAB Made Agreement with Central Hospital for Getting Medical Services for its Members & Employees

The Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on July 16, 2018 with Central Hospital Limited, (one of the leading and renowned hospital and health care organization in the country) to get various medical services for its members & employees. Mr. Md. Mahbub Ul Alam FCMA, Executive Director, ICMAB and Dr. M.A. Quasem, Director, Central Hospital Limited signed the agreement in favor of each organization Representatives from both the organizations also remained present as witnesses. Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA, President ICMAB was present at the MoU signing ceremony.

Employees of ICMAB will get different health care services on a discount rate from Central Hospital Limited. A glimpse of offered services are as follows:

a) 25% discount on all kinds of pathological investigation.
b) 10% discount on Radiology & Imaging.
c) 20% discount on histopathology.
d) 10% discount on Hospital bed rent etc.

Members and employees are advised to show their ID Card / Membership number to the Hospital authority while taking the service or at the time of making payment / bill.
To develop the leadership capacity of the students of ICMAB, the Students Affairs Committee of the Institute organized a training program on “Communication & Presentation Skills” on Saturday, August 4, 2018 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at ICMAB Ruhul Quddus Auditorium.

The program had two sessions. Session-1: Networking & Communication Skills was conducted by Mr. Mohammed Nazrul Islam, 2015 National President, JCI Bangladesh and Session-2: Presentation Skills was taken by Mr. Erfan Haque, 2018 National Vice President, JCI Bangladesh. Both the session was moderated by Mr. Md. Shafiqul Alam, LL.B, ACS, FCA, FCMA, Director Finance and Company Secretary of Super Star Group (SSG).

Mr. Waqar Ahmad Choudhury, Managing Director & CEO of Vanguard Asset Management Ltd. graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA, President of the Institute and members of the Students Affairs Committee was also present in the program. Around 250 students attended the said program. The program was conducted by Mr. Md. Mahabub Alam FCMA.

A delegation of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) headed by its President Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA called on Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member (Sr. Secretary), General Economic Division, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at his office on July 16, 2018.

ICMAB President updated the honorable Senior Secretary about the overall affairs of the Institute and particularly about the development issues of CMA profession. He also sought help of the Secretary for further development of ICMAB and the Secretary assured him to provide all out support and assistance to ICMAB.
Seminar Held at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)

The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) organized a seminar titled “Management Accounting Education for a Challenging Career” on July 10, 2018 at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) premises in collaboration with the School of Business of the said University.

Professor H. M. Jahirul Haque, Vice Chancellor of ULAB graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Institute’s President Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA, Secretary Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Khan FCMA, Academic Consultant Dr. Nikhil Chandra Shil FCMA were present in the seminar as the Guests of Honor. The seminar was chaired by Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees & Dean of Business School of ULAB.

Among others Mr. A F Wazir Ahmed, Assistant Professor & Director of BBA Program, Mr. Mazrukh Rohan, Senior Lecturer of Business School, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and Institute’s Director of Academic Affairs Mr. Nazmus Salehin were also present in the session.

Speakers at the seminar discussed about the necessity of professional degrees in addition to academic degrees for accelerating career success. Education system of ICMAB is also briefed along with the membership profile to motivate the audiences. Bringing some successful indicators of Bangladesh which is undergoing through serious development initiatives, the speakers presented the potential of professional accountants in coming days. Around 160 students of the said University attended the seminar and listened to the speakers till the end which lasts for more than one and half hours. Students were also engaged in an informal networking with the speakers at the end of the seminar which reflects their keenness with the professional education.
President attends “CMA Global Management Accounting Conference” in Sri Lanka as a Panel Discussant

ICMAB President Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA was invited by the Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka to participate in the “CMA Global Management Accounting Conference 2018” as a Panel Discussant. The theme of the conference was “Integrated Reporting Future of Corporate Reporting”.

Mr. Salim attended in the Inaugural Session - “Integrated Reporting and Value Creation” as a Panelist and put valuable comments on the topic. He also attended the question and answers by the participants of the program.

The conference was held on July 5, 2018 at Cinnamon Lake Side, Colombo. Representatives from CAPA, SAFA and other international accounting bodies participated in the conference.
President of the Institute Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA had a courtesy meeting with Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzak MP former Minister, Ministry of Food, GoB and Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Finance on July 11, 2018.

President of the Institute Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA is with General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq immediate Rtd. Chief of Army Staff on 20th June 2018 at Army Head Quarter, Dhaka Cantonment.
President of the Institute Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA attended NTV’s live program on Market Watch with Mr. Faruq Ahmad Siddiqi, Former Chairman, Bangladesh Securities Exchange Commission and Secretary, GoB on July 24, 2018.

ICMAB President Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA participated in the session “Peoples Bizz Talk” on Peoples Radio 91.6 FM on Friday July 20, 2018 from 9pm to 10pm. The program was hosted by Mr. Md. Shafiqul Alam FCMA, Finance Advisor, SSG. URL: http://youtube.com/peoplesradiofm.
Discussion session on
“Performing Holy Hajj- a practical approach”.

The Dhaka Branch Council (DBC) of the ICMAB organized a Discussion Session on "Performing Holy Hajj- a practical approach" on July 05, 2018 at ICMA Bhaban, Nilkhet, Dhaka. The Program was presided over by DBC Chairman Mr. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman FCMA, Mr. G. M. Omar Faruque Chowdhury FCMA, Principal & CEO, G M Chowdhury & Co. (Cost and Management Accountants) was present as Session Chairman. Mr. Md. Ibrahim Khalil FCMA, Principal, Khalil & Associates (Cost & Management Accountants) was present as commentator. Dr. Mohammad Manzur-E-Elahi, Assistant Professor at Bangladesh National University, Member - Shariah Board at Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. and a Member - Shariah Board at SEML IBBL Shariah Fund was present as the key Resource Person. Among others Institute’s Past Presidents, Past Chairmen of DBC, current office bearers and other council members of DBC and a large number of fellow and associate members were present and actively participated in the program. DBC Treasurer Mr. A.K.M Zakaria Hossain FCMA gave the welcome address. Mr. Md. Bakhtiar Alam FCMA, Secretary of DBC offered vote of thanks.

“Certificate Course on IAS & IFRS”, Module-1

The Dhaka Branch Council (DBC) of the ICMAB organized a “Certificate Course on IAS & IFRS”, Module-1 on July 10, 2018 at ICMA Bhaban, Dhaka. The Program was presided over by DBC Chairman Mr. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman FCMA, Mr. Md. Syful Islam FCA, FCMA, Syful Shamsul Alam & Co. and Mr. Md. Sarwar Hossen FCA, FCMA, Group Financial Officer, Bio Pharma Limited was present as Session Chairman and commentator respectively. Mr. Md. Tareq Kamal ACA, Manager, Audit and L & D (Learning & Development) at KPMG Bangladesh (Rahman Rahman Hug) was present as the key Resource Person. Among others Past Presidents of ICMAB, Past Chairmen of DBC, current office bearers and other council members of DBC and a large number of fellow and associate members and Students of ICMAB were present and actively participated in the program. Dr. Syed Abdulla Al Mamun FCMA, DBC Councillor & Associate Professor of Finance & Head, SAC, Southeast Business School, Southeast University & Finance expert, G2G SEZ Project, JICA offered welcome address and nicely conducted the program.
DBC's Training Program on "Income Tax, VAT & Customs" held

Six-day long training programs on "Income Tax, VAT & Customs" were organized by the DBC at ICMA Bhaban, Dhaka. Two sessions so far held on July 12 to 20 & July 28 to August 02, 2018. The programs were presided over by DBC Chairman Mr. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman FCMA. The programs were moderated by Mr. Md. Abdus Satter Sarkar FCA, FCMA, Vice-Chairman of DBC. In each program, there were eleven technical sessions. Resource persons of the programs were Mr. Ranjan Kumar Bhowmik FCMA, Member, Commissioner of Taxes, NBR, GOB. Mr. Mohammed Zakir Hossain, Additional Commissioner NBR, Mr. A. K. M. Mahbubur Rahman, Additional Commissioner NBR, Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Khan FCMA, Deputy Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Kazi Muhammad Zia Uddin FCMA, Additional Director General (ADG), Customs Intelligence & Investigation Directorate NBR, Mr. Apurba Kanti Das, Commissioner of Taxes, NBR, Mr. Jayanta Kumar Podder, Principal & CEO, Podder & Associates, Cost and Management Accountants. Large number of corporate executives including ICMAB members attended the training programs.

"DBC FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 Final Match Enjoyment Fest" with Exclusive Raffle Draw on Entry Coupons & Quiz Competition

The Dhaka Branch Council (DBC) of ICMAB organized “DBC FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 Final Match Enjoyment Fest” with Exclusive Raffle Draw on Entry Coupons & Quiz Competition on July 15, 2018 at ICMAB Ruhul Quddus Auditorium, Dhaka. The Program was presided over by DBC Chairman Mr. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman FCMA. Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA, President of ICMAB, Past Presidents of ICMAB Mr. A.K.M. Delwer Hussain FCMA, Chairman, Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation and Mr. A.S.M. Shaykhul Islam FCMA, CEO In-Charge & CFO, Rupayan Group were present and spoke at the program. Among others Council Members and Past Presidents of ICMAB, Past Chairmen, current office bearers and other council members of DBC and a large number of fellow and associate members of ICMAB were present on the occasion. The function included Prize Distribution followed by dinner.
The Dhaka Branch Council (DBC) of the ICMAB organized a Seminar on “Internal Control and Compliance – A Practical Approach” on July 17, 2018 at ICMA Bhaban, Dhaka. The Program was presided over by DBC Chairman Mr. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman FCMA. Mr. Ahmed Ataul Hakeem FCMA Controller of Examinations-BRAC University and Ex-Comptroller and Auditor General, Government of Bangladesh and Mr. Md. Abdus Satter Sarkar FCA, FCMA, Partner, Mahfel Huq & Co. Chartered Accountants and Principal, A.S. Sarkar & Co. Cost and Management Accountants were present as the session Chairman & Commentator respectively. Mr. Abul Bashar Khan FCMA, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Social Marketing Company (SMC) was present as the resource person. A large number of fellow and associate members of ICMAB were present and actively participated in the program. Mr. Md. Mamunur Rashid FCMA, Deputy Managing Director, Index Group of Companies & Council Member of ICMAB nicely conducted the program.

The Dhaka Branch Council (DBC) of ICMAB organized a Workshop on “Sustainability Reporting & Green Banking - A Conceptual Framework” on July 21, 2018 at ICMAB Ruhul Quddus Auditorium, ICMA Bhaban, Dhaka. The Program was presided over by DBC Chairman Mr. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman FCMA. Mr. Md. Bakhtiar Alam FCMA, Secretary of DBC gave the welcome address. Dr. Md. Salim Uddin FCA, FCMA, Chairman – Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation, Director – Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited and Professor, Department of Accounting –University of Chittagong and Dr. Syed Abdulla Al Mamun FCMA, DBC Councilor & Associate Professor of Finance & Head, SAC, Southeast Business School, Southeast University & Finance expert, G2G SEZ Project, JICA were present as the session Chairman & Commentator respectively. Mr. Md. Touhidul Alam Khan FCMA, Deputy Managing Director & Chief Business Officer, Prime Bank Ltd. was present as the resource person. A large number of fellow and associate members of ICMAB were present and actively participated in the program. Mr. Md. Abdus Satter Sarkar FCA, FCMA, Vice-Chairman of DBC offered vote of thanks. Mr. Shohag Al Mamun ACMA (A-1361) nicely conducted the program.
Discussion Session on “DBC Quran Reading Course”

The Dhaka Branch Council (DBC) of ICMAB organized a Discussion Session on “DBC Quran Reading Course” on July 24, 2018 at ICMA Bhaban, Dhaka. The Program was presided over by DBC Chairman Mr. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman FCMA. Mr. Safiul Azam FCMA, Treasurer of DBC gave welcome address. Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam FCMA, Group General Manager-Finance, Sheltech Group was present as the resource person. A large number of fellow and associate members of ICMAB were present and actively participated in the program.

Leadership Development Program: “Success with Networking & Etiquette”

The Dhaka Branch Council (DBC) of ICMAB organized Leadership Development Program: “Success with Networking & Etiquette” for ICMAB Members on July 31, 2018 at ICMAB Ruhul Quddus Auditorium, Dhaka. The Program was presided over by DBC Chairman Mr. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman FCMA. Mr. Adil Islam, Managing Director & CEO, Meghna Bank Limited was present as the Chief Guest. Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz FCMA, Managing Director; Western Agro Industries Ltd. and Past President of ICMAB was present as the Special Guest. Mr. Najmus Ahmed (Albab), CEO, Lighthouse Bangladesh Ltd, a leading organization on Human Capital Development in Bangladesh was present as the resource person. Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA, Honorable President, ICMAB was present as the Guest of honor. Dr. Syed Abdulla Al Mamun FCMA, Council Member of DBC & Program Coordinator gave the welcome address and introduced the Resource person. A large number of fellow & associate members and Students of ICMAB were present and actively participated in the program. Mr. Md. Abdus Satter Sarkar FCA, FCMA, Vice-Chairman of DBC offered vote of thanks. Mr. Shohag Al Mamun ACMA (A-1361) nicely conducted the program.
On August 02, 2018 DBC organized a “Discussion Session on Finance Act & National Budget 2018-19 and Certificate Giving Ceremony of DBC 6-day Training on Tax, VAT & Customs” at ICMAB Ruhul Quddus Auditorium, Dhaka. Mr. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman FCMA, Chairman of DBC presided over the program. DBC Secretary Mr. Md. Bakhtiar Alam FCMA gave the welcome address. Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Information, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh was present in the program as the Chief Guest. Mr. A.K.M. Delwer Hussain FCMA, Chairman, Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation was present in the program as the special guest. Mr. M.A. Faisal Mahmud, Chief Investment Officer (CIO), LankaBangla Asset Management Company Ltd. was present as the Resource Person. The Chief Guest, Special Guest & Resource Person distributed Certificates among the participants of different organizations. Mr. Shohag Al Mamun ACMA (A-1361) nicely conducted the program. A large number of members & students of the Institute were present in the program.

Three days “Certificate Course on Capital Raising (Equity & Debt) through Private Placement & Initial Public Offering (IPO) – Process, Procedure and Corporate Governance” was organized by the Dhaka Branch Council of ICMAB at ICMA Bhaban, Nilkhet, Dhaka. The program was held on August 09-11, 2018. The program was presided over by DBC Chairman Mr. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman FCMA. The program was moderated by DBC Councillor Mr. Muhammad Nazrul FCMA. In the program, there were five technical sessions. Resource persons of the program was Mr. M. A. Faisal Mahmud, Chief Investment Officer (CIO), LankaBangla Asset Management Company, Mr. Mohammad Hamdul Islam, Managing Director & CEO, Banco Finance And Investment Limited, Mr. Md. Abul Kalam, Director, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), Mr. Noor Ahamed FCA, Managing Director & CEO, Alpha Capital Management Limited, Mr. Muhammad Nazrul Islam FCMA, Managing Director & CEO, Sandhani Life Finance Ltd. and Mr. Kamrul Anam Khan ACMA, Director, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission and Large number corporate executives including ICMAB members attended the training programs.
The Dhaka Branch Council of The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) organized "Career Counselling & Orientation Program for the newly admitted students (July-December, 2018) session at the ICMAB Ruhul Quddus Auditorium, Nilkhet, Dhaka on August 14, 2018. Mr. Asif Ashraf, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Urmi Group was present as the Chief Guest. Mr. A.S.M. Shykhul Islam FCMA, CEO In-Charge & CFO, Rupayun Group & Past President of ICMAB was present as the Special Guest. Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA, Hon’ble President of the Institute was present as the Guest of Honor. Mr. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman FCMA, Chairman of Dhaka Branch Council presided over the program.

The Chief Guest Mr. Asif Ashraf in his speech appreciated the role of Cost and Management Accountants for the economic development of the country. He advised the students to pursue the CMA education with dedication and sincerity. Mr. A.K.M. Kamruzzaman FCMA in his speech emphasized the role of CMA in the context of present and future global economy and competitive business environment. The Guest of Honor Mr. Mohammed Salim FCMA also spoke about CMA profession.

Dr. Syed Abdulla Al Mamun FCMA, DBC Member & resource person presented a paper on CMA education and profession. For the 2nd time in the History of ICMAB, arranged a fully paid 4 nights/ 5 days’ study tour package in Thailand awarded to the best presenter among new sponsored by LankaBangla Finance Limited, a leading financial institution of the country.

Among others Mr. Arif Khan FCMA, Vice President & Chairman, Education Committee, Mr. Md. Mahbub Ul Alam FCMA, Executive Director were present and spoke in the program. A large number of newly admitted students and members of the Institute were also present in the program. Mr. Shohag Al Mamun ACMA (A-1361) nicely conducted the program.
Discussion Program on National Budget 2018-2019


Mr. S. M. Abu Daud, Member, Tax Appellate Tribunal, Chattogram Bench; Chattogram chaired the session while the technical paper on the topic was presented by Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Khan FCMA, Deputy Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance and Secretary of ICMAB. Qazi Meraz Uddin Arif FCMA, Chairman, Chittagong Branch Council of ICMAB presided over the Program.

The paper presenter pointed out different important issues related to National Budget 2018-2019 and explains major changes made in Tax Law through Finance Act 2018. He also discussed subsequent challenges for achieving different targets incorporated in the budget.

The Session Chairman thanked CBC for organizing the program. He supplemented some budget related matter and emphasizes on internal revenue generation and its adequate use to achieve overall national goal.

A large number of Fellow & Associate members of ICMAB of Chittagong Branch participated in the program. The whole program was conducted by Mr. Md. Moazzam Haider FCMA, Chairman, CPD, Training & Workshop Committee.

Career Counseling for CMAs’

Khulna Branch Council (KBC) of ICMAB arranged a seminar on Career Counseling for CMAs’ on 29 August 2018 at 07:00 pm at ICMAB Khulna Branch, CMA Bhaban, Sonadanga, Khulna. Mr. Md. Kausar Alam FCMA, CFO and Company Secretary of Shun Shing Group delivered speeches on how to make a better career and its’ sustainability as keynote speaker. The program was presided over by the Vice-Chairman of KBC, Prof. Sheikh Ziaul Islam FCMA while Mr. Azizur Rahman ACMA, the Treasure of KBC delivered the welcome speech. Vote of thanks was offered by the Secretary of KBC, Mr. K. M. Neamul Hoque ACMA.

A good number of fellow & associate members and students of Khulna Branch actively participated in the program.
Mr. Mohammad Nazrul Islam, FCMA (Enrollment No. F-710) has recently obtained the Chartered Management Accountant (CMA) degree of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) of United Kingdom and Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) of the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA). He sat for the Gateway exam in May 2014 and secured top score under Management Accountant Gateway Exam in Bangladesh. He qualified the Strategic Case Study exam in November 2017 and admitted as Associate Member of CIMA and CGMA in April 2018. He is a Fellow member of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) and a Fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB). He has done his Bachelor and Masters of Business Administration (BBA & MBA) in Accounting and Information Systems from University of Dhaka.

At present, he is working as the Corporate Financial Controller of Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh) Limited. Before Rahimafrooz, he worked in Rahman Rahman Huq, Chartered Accountants (KPMG in Bangladesh) as Manager, Audit and Advisory Services. He is also an Adjunct Faculty Member of Daffodil International University, Southeast University, ASA University and Jahangirnagar university.

Mr. Md. Mashudur Rahman FCMA achieved the SILVER MEDAL

Mr. Md. Mahsudur Rahman FCMA, FCA participated in the International Natural Bodybuilding & Fitness Championship which held on 4th August 2018 in Singapore. He achieved the Silver Medal (1st Runner up) in Masters Category.

Earlier Mr. Mahsud participated International competition held in Srilanka, Japan and China. He obtained Bronze Medal in the Asian Bodybuilding Championship in Japan. He was awarded Mr. Bangladesh in three consecutive years including Gold Medal the Bangladesh games.

At present Mr. Mahsud is serving as Chief Compliance & Audit Officer with Rahimafrooz Group. He is active in sports.
The 6th Annual Sustainable Development Conference-2018 was held at Bangkok, Thailand from July 11-13, 2018. Scholars, corporate representatives, government agencies’ representatives, Bankers, NGO representatives and other individuals and organizations from around the world participated in this global conference. The specialists & researchers on across the world presented their papers as speakers from more than 25 countries including USA, Canada, Thailand, Italy, Bangladesh, Finland, India, Malaysia, Philippines, the Netherlands, Japan, Turkey, China, Korea, Czech Republic, Taiwan, Hungary and Sweden.

The conference has underscored on green technology, renewable energy and environmental protection related issues towards achieving the agendas of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Md. Touhidul Alam Khan, FCMA presented as speaker representing Bangladesh a paper titled: “Sustainability reporting towards sustainable development in banking sector: Bangladesh Perspective” on special invitation of the organizer of this international conference. He is the Deputy Managing Director & Chief Business Officer and Head of Sustainability Reporting Committee (SRC) of Prime Bank Ltd. He is also the fellow member of Institute of Cost & Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) and first Certified Sustainability Reporting Assurer (CSRA) in Bangladesh.