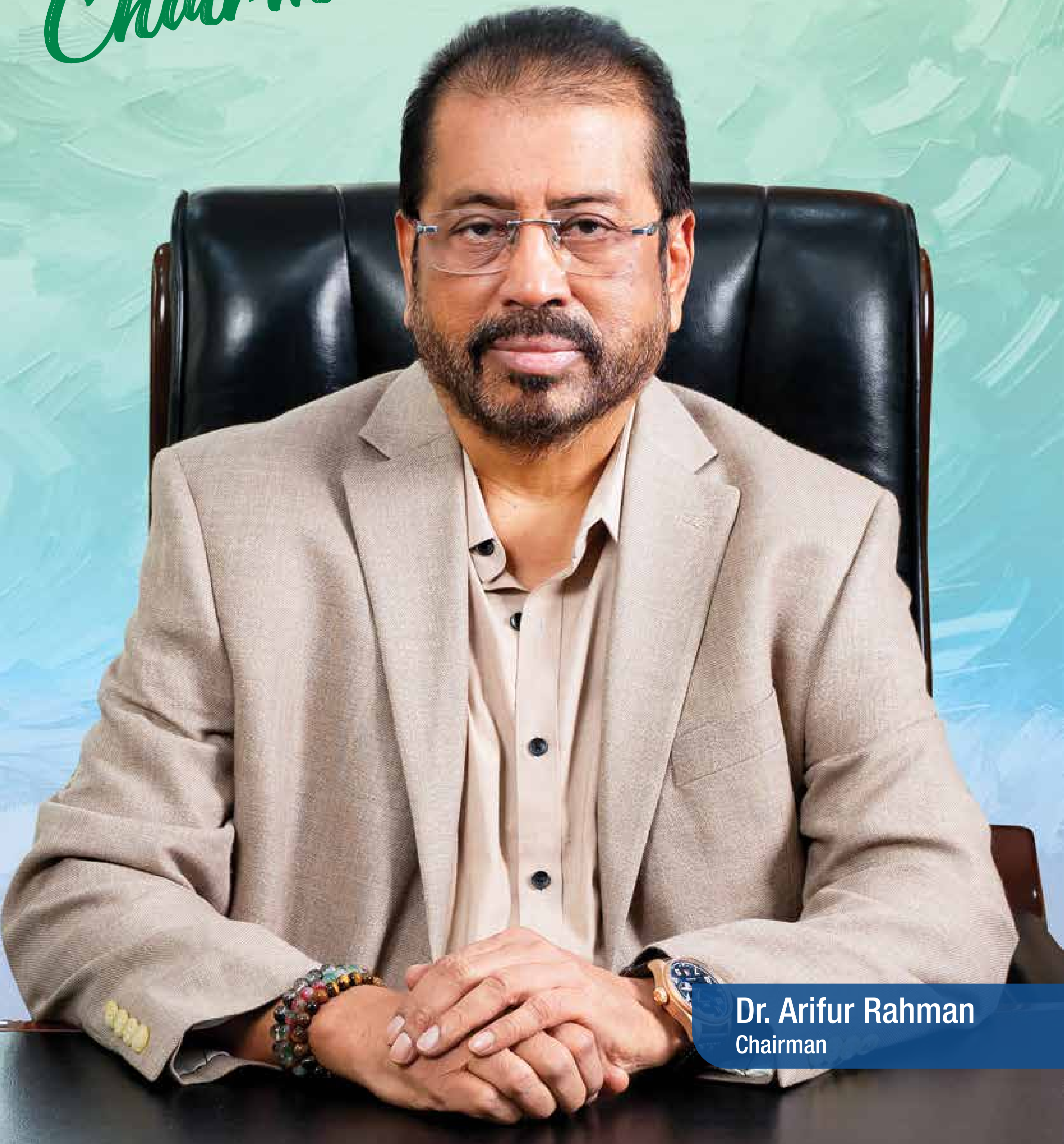
Directors' Report

Message from the Chairman



Dr. Arifur Rahman
Chairman

Dear Valued Shareholders,
Assalamualaikum

It gives me immense pleasure to present to you the Annual Report of The Premier Bank PLC. for the year 2024. I would like to congratulate my fellow Board members, the entire team of the Bank and valued stakeholders. In a year marked by dynamic market conditions and shifting global trends, the Bank has demonstrated resilience, agility and a steadfast focus on growth. Our dedicated team has worked tirelessly to navigate these challenges, ensuring that we continue to offer exceptional services while maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance, operational efficiency and risk management. Our performance this year reflects a wonderful financial foundation and we are optimistic about the future. While challenges persist, we see tremendous opportunities in the years ahead to expand our market presence, introduce innovative offerings and enhance our role as a key player in the banking sector.

Global Outlook 2024

The global economy in 2024 is shaped by a blend of inflationary pressures, geopolitical tensions and technological advancements. While some regions have made substantial progress in growth, others are grappling with economic slowdown. Inflation remains a key issue globally, although there is a gradual decline in many advanced economies. Emerging markets face additional challenges from debt servicing and currency devaluation, particularly in low-income nations.

Considering the current global economic conditions, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) evaluated a global growth rate of 3.2 percent in 2024 and predicted 2.8 percent for 2025. While advanced economies are expected to see a slight acceleration, with growth rising from 1.7 percent in 2024 to 1.4 percent in 2025 (projected). This will be counterbalanced by a modest slowdown in emerging markets and developing economies, as growth stood at 4.2 percent in 2024 and estimated 3.7 percent in 2025.

Eurozone GDP growth is expected to be around 1% in 2025, according to the IMF. This is slightly stronger than the expected global growth rate, but still below last few years. The growth outlook varies by country, with countries like Germany and Italy facing stagnation or mild recession risks, while others like Spain and Ireland show more resilience. Eurozone inflation has decreased significantly from its highs in 2023, with headline inflation dropping to around 3.5% in early 2024 (down from 8.4% in 2022). Core inflation remains higher than the European Central Bank's (ECB) target of 2%, hovering at 4%.

The IMF projects U.S. GDP growth to be around 1.8% in 2025, down from an estimated 2.1% in 2024. According to IMF and World Bank, inflation in the U.S.A. is projected at 3.5% in 2025, slightly down from an estimated 4.0% in 2024. Core inflation (excluding food and energy) is likely to remain persistent at around 4% in 2025.

Asia is expected to maintain a moderate growth trajectory in 2025, driven by resilient demand in India, ongoing recovery in China and steady growth in Southeast Asian countries. The region, however, faces headwinds from global economic slowdown, tightened monetary policies and geopolitical risks. The IMF has projected that Asia's GDP will grow by 3.9% in 2025, slightly lower than previous years, reflecting global challenges and reduced export demand. China's growth is expected to stabilize at 4% in 2025, following a significant slowdown in previous years. On the other hand, India is likely to remain one of the fastest-growing major economies, with a projected GDP growth rate of around 6.2% in 2025.

Economy of Bangladesh at a glance

Bangladesh's remarkable economic growth, driven by robust export industries, a thriving ready-made garment sector and a commitment to sustainable development, has transformed it into a rising success story in South Asia, lifting millions out of poverty and solidifying its status as a model for emerging economies. Bangladesh achieves an economic growth rate of 4.22% in fiscal year 2023-2024, whereas the growth rate was 6.94% in fiscal year 2022-2023 (BBS). Over the past two decades, a healthy demographic dividend, robust exports of ready-made garments (RMG) and resilient remittance inflows have sustained significant economic expansion. This accomplishment has placed Bangladesh among the top economies with the quickest growth worldwide. In its World Economic Outlook 2025 report, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) placed Bangladesh as the world's 35th largest economy in nominal terms and the 24th largest by purchasing power parity. The success story of Bangladesh in eradicating poverty and developing economically is equally inspiring. Bangladesh was one of the world's least developed countries when in 1971, but it has since risen to the level of a lower-middle income country by 2015.

In 2026, it will no longer be considered one of the world's Least Developed Countries (LDCs). BBS estimates that in FY 2023-24, national income per capita was US$ 2,738 and GDP per capita was US$ 2,625, up from US$ 2,749 and US$ 2,643 in FY 2022-23. Like many other nations, Bangladesh faced global economic concerns with remittance, export and import. The central bank's balance of payments reports for FY2023-24 shows a current account deficit of US$ 6.602 billion, reflecting the gap between national savings and investment. Commodity-wise import statistics reveal that in 2023-24, Bangladesh imported US$ 2057.9 million worth of food grains, including US$ 2032.5 million of wheat, highlighting the country's dependence on food imports. The balance of payments data for FY2023-24 indicates that the services account recorded a deficit of US$ 4.229 billion, with service payments amounting to US$ 10.514 billion against receipts of US$ 6.285 billion. In FY2023-24, the country received US$ 23.912 billion in workers' remittances, playing a crucial role in offsetting the current account deficit.

In 2024, The World Bank pledged over US$ 2 billion in new financing to Bangladesh to support reforms, flood response initiatives and improvements in air quality and healthcare. Additionally, the United States committed an extra US$ 202 million in aid for inclusive economic growth. The World Bank's US$ 2 billion financing package represents a strategic investment in Bangladesh's economic future. By tackling key vulnerabilities and promoting sustainable development, this assistance is expected to enhance the country's resilience, improve living standards and accelerate progress toward its long-term economic and social goals. To achieve its vision of achieving upper middle-income status by 2031, Bangladesh must create employment opportunities through a competitive business environment, increase human capital and build a skilled labor force, construct efficient infrastructure and establish an investment-friendly policy environment. Priorities for development include diversifying exports beyond the RMG industry, expanding the banking sector, making urbanization more sustainable and bolstering state institutions, including fiscal changes to produce more domestic money for development. Filling infrastructural deficiencies would boost economic expansion. Bangladesh will be able to continue to build resilience to future shocks if its exposure to climate change and natural catastrophes is mitigated. Transitioning to green growth would contribute to the long-term viability of development outcomes for future generations.

Our Performance Overview

The banking sector in Bangladesh has shown exceptional progress in 2024, marked by robust financial performance, strategic digital advancements and a strengthened role in driving economic growth and stability. While there are significant challenges, such as high NPLs, liquidity shortages and cybersecurity risks, the sector is undergoing a transformation with strong growth in digital banking, increased financial inclusion and greater focus on sustainability. Bangladesh Bank's proactive measures in implementing regulatory reforms, improving the digital infrastructure and fostering financial innovation will likely play a critical role in shaping the future of the banking landscape.

In 2024 the bank's total deposits grew by 9.72% to BDT 347,664 million compared to BDT 316,858 million in 2023. On the other hand, Loans and Advances increased to BDT 331,314 million in 2024, compared to BDT 291,344 million in 2023, with a positive growth of 13.72%, which indicates lower default risk and better credit risk management. A strong credit portfolio is indispensable for a Bank's profitability and financial stability. In 2024, the Bank's total import business amounted to BDT 352,136 million compared to 307,871 million in 2023, while its export business totaled BDT 278,159 million in 2024 compared to BDT 253,862 million in 2023. Our inward remittance stood at BDT 93,829 million in 2024, compared to BDT 100,271 million in 2023. The Bank witnessed a moderate Profit After Tax (PAT) worth BDT 1,341.61 million in 2024 and compared to BDT 4,154.77 million in 2023.

Practicing Digital Banking Strategy

We are practicing digital banking strategy through adopting and integrating advanced technologies to enhance the customer experience, streamline operations and foster innovation. It begins with creating a seamless and secure online and mobile banking environment, where customers can access services such as account management, transactions and financial planning tools at their convenience. The Premier Bank PLC.'s advanced mobile banking solution pmoney, the flagship mobile banking application represents a sophisticated digital platform engineered to deliver unparalleled banking convenience, security and efficiency to its users. As a comprehensive financial tool, pmoney empowers customers to manage their banking needs with precision and ease, leveraging technology to facilitate seamless transactions and real-time financial oversight. Designed to cater to the evolving demands of modern banking, the application integrates a number of features that define the paradigm of digital financial management.

Digital Banking strategies also emphasize data-driven decision-making, utilizing customer insights and analytics to personalize services and improve engagement. Moreover, adopting cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain and automation helps reduce operational costs, mitigate risks and increase efficiency. Successful digital banking practices require continuous adaptation to emerging trends, ensuring that banks remain agile in an ever-evolving technological landscape while meeting customers' growing expectations for convenience, speed and security.

Corporate Social Responsibility

We recognize that a positive banking experience is not just about offering competitive products and services, but about building long-term, trust-based relationships with our customers. By listening to their needs, we are able to tailor solutions that align with their financial goals, whether it's through personalized advice, seamless digital experiences, or responsive customer support. We are committed to ensuring that every interaction, whether in-person, online, or over the phone, is efficient, transparent and beneficial. Our dedication to continuously improving our services, investing in the latest technologies and training our staff means that we consistently exceed customer expectations and foster loyalty. At the heart of our bank's mission is a simple yet powerful belief: customer satisfaction is the key to our success.

Corporate Governance Culture

At The Premier Bank PLC., we are deeply committed to ensuring the highest standards of corporate governance through absolute transparency and accountability in all areas of our operations. We believe these principles are fundamental to the long-term success and sustainability of our organization. To maintain smooth operations and effective oversight, responsibilities are clearly defined among our board members and management team. We place great emphasis on complying with all relevant regulations, guidelines and directives issued by key regulatory authorities such as Bangladesh Bank, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Board of Revenue and other governing bodies. In the field of corporate governance, we strive to set the standard by consistently adhering to best practices and ethical principles, positioning ourselves as a role model within the banking industry.

Acknowledgement

Our performance in 2024 has been consistent across all key metrices. However, we must remain vigilant and adaptable as we navigate through an increasingly uncertain environment. The Board is committed to providing effective oversight, working closely with management to strike the right balance between pursuing growth opportunities and maintaining rigorous risk management protocols. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire Premier Bank team, whose dedication and commitment, under the dynamic leadership of our Managing Director & CEO, continue to drive our pursuit of excellence. I also wish to express my sincere thanks to our regulators, particularly Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission and National Board of Revenue for their ongoing support and guidance, which have been instrumental in our continued success. Finally, I would like to place on record my deepest appreciation to our valued shareholders, customers, business partners and other stakeholders for being loyal to us during challenging times to help us deliver excellence.

Dr. Arifur Rahman
Chairman

চেয়ারম্যানের বার্তা

সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণ,

২০২৪ সালের প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক পি এল সি এর বার্ষিক প্রতিবেদন আপনাদের সামনে উপস্থাপন করতে পেরে আমি অত্যন্ত আনন্দিত । আমি আমার সহযোগী বোর্ড সদস্য, ব্যাংক কর্মকর্তাবৃন্দ এবং সম্মানিত অংশিদারদের অভিনন্দন জানাতে চাই। এই গতিশীল পরিস্তিতি এবং বৈশ্বিক পরিবর্তনের সময়ে প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক স্থিতিস্থাপকতা, তৎপরতা এবং প্রবৃদ্ধির উপর অবিচল দৃষ্টিপাত করেছে।

আমাদের কর্মকর্তাগণ এই চ্যালেঞ্জগুলো মোকাবেলা করার জন্য অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রম করেছে, এবং নিশ্চিত করেছে কর্পোরেট গভর্নেন্স, প্রয়োগগত দক্ষতা এবং ঝুঁকি ব্যবস্থাপনার সর্বোচ্চমান বজায় রেখে ব্যতিক্রমি পরিষেবা প্রদান চালিয়ে যাচ্ছে। আমাদের এ বছরের কর্মদক্ষতা একটি চমৎকার আর্থিক ভিত্তি প্রতিফলিত করে এবং আমরা আগামী বছর সম্পর্কে আশাবাদী। চ্যালেঞ্জগুলো থাকা সত্ত্বেও আমরা সামনের বছর গুলোতে আমদের বাজারে উপস্থিতি বৃদ্ধি, উদ্ভাবনী সেবা চালু এবং ব্যাংকি সেক্টরে মুল প্রতিনিধি হিসিবে আমদের ভুমিকা উন্নত করার অসাধারণ সুযোগ দেখতে পাচ্ছি।

বৈশ্বিক অর্থনৈতিক পরিস্থিতি

২০২৪ সালের বৈশ্বিক অর্থনীতি ছিল মূল্যস্ফীতির চাপ, ভূ-রাজনৈতিক উত্তেজনা এবং প্রযুক্তিগত অগ্রগতির মিশ্রনে তৈরি । কিছু অঞ্চল প্রবৃদ্ধিতে যথেষ্ট অগ্রগতি করলেও, অন্যরা অর্থনৈতিক মন্দার সাথে লড়াই করেছে । মূল্যস্ফীতি বিশ্বব্যাপি একটি মূল সমস্যা হিসেবে রয়ে গেছে । যদিও অনেক উন্নত অর্থনীতিতে তা ধীরে ধীরে কমে আসছে। উদীয়মান বাজারগুলি, বিশেষকরে নিম্ন আয়ের দেশগুলো, ঋণ প্রদান এবং মূদ্রার অবমূল্যায়নের কারণে অতিরিক্ত চ্যালেঞ্জের সম্মুখীন হয়েছে ।

বর্তমান বৈশ্বিক অর্থনৈতিক অবস্থা বিবেচনা করে আন্তর্জাতিক মূদ্রা তহবিল (আই এম এফ) ২০২৪ সালের ৩.২% বৈশ্বিক প্রবৃদ্ধির হার মূল্যায়ন করেছে এবং ২০২৫ সালে তা ২.৮% হবে বলে ধারণা করছে। যেখানে উন্নত অর্থনীতিতে কিছুটা ধীর প্রবৃদ্ধি আশা করছে। ২০২৪ সালে প্রবৃদ্ধির হার ১.৭% থেকে ২০২৫ সালে ১.৪%(প্রাক্কলিত)হওয়ার ধারণা করা হচ্ছে। উদীয়মান বাজার এবং উন্নয়নশীল অর্থনীতিতে সামান্য মন্দার ফলেও ভারসাম্য বজায় থাকবে, যেখানে ২০২৪ সালে প্রবৃদ্ধি ছিল ৪.২% যা ২০২৫ সালেও ৩.৭% এ থাকবে বলে ধারণা করা হচ্ছে ।

আই এম এফ এর মতে , ২০২৫ সালে ইউরোজোনের জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধির হার ১% হবে বলে ধারণা করা হচ্ছে। এটি প্রত্যাশিত বৈশ্বিক প্রবৃদ্ধির হারের তুলনায় কিছুটা শক্তিশালী, তবে গত কয়েক বছরের তুলনায় এখনও কম । প্রবৃদ্ধি দেশভেদে আলাদা হয় ,যেখানে জার্মানী এবং ইতালীর মত দেশগুল স্থবিরতা বা হালকা মন্দার ঝুঁকির সম্মুখীন হয়েছে, সেখানে স্পেন এবং আয়ারলান্ডের মত অন্যান্য দেশগুলো আরও সহনশীলতা দেখিয়েছে। ইউরোজোনের মূল্যস্ফীতি ২০২৩ সালের সর্বোচ্চ পর্যায় থেকে উল্লেখযোগ্য হারে হ্রাস পেয়েছে, ২০২৪ সালের শুরুর দিকে তা প্রায় ৩.৫% এ নেমে এসেছে (২০২২ সালের ৮.৪% থেকে কমে)।মূল মূল্যস্ফীতি ইউরোপীয় কেন্দ্রিয় ব্যাংক (ই সি বি) এর লক্ষ্যমাত্রার ২% থেকে বেশি এবং ৪% এর কাছাকাছি।

আই এম এফ ধারণা করছে ইউএস এর জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধির হার ২০২৫ সালে প্রায় ১.৮% হবে, যা ২০২৪ সালের ২.১% থেকে কম। আই এম এফ এবং বিশ্বব্যাংকের মতে, ২০২৫ সালের ইউএস এর মূল্যস্ফীতি ৩.৫ % হতে পারে যা ২০২৪ সালের ৪% থেকে কিছুটা কম। মূল মূল্যস্ফীতি (খাদ্য ও জ্বালানী বাদে) ২০২৫ সালে প্রায় ৪% এর কাছাকাছিতে স্থির থাকবে বলে ধারণা করা হচ্ছে ।

ধারণা করা হচ্ছে, ২০২৫ সালের এশিয়ার প্রবৃদ্ধির হার মাঝারি অবস্থানে থাকবে যেখানে ভারতে স্থিতিস্থাপক চাহিদা, চীনে চলমান অর্থনৈতিক পুনরুদ্ধার এবং দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব এশিয়ায় স্থির প্রবৃদ্ধি থাকবে। তবে এই অঞ্চলটি বিশ্বব্যাপী অর্থনৈতিক মন্দা, কঠোর মূদ্রানীতি এবং ভূ-রাজনৈতিক ঝুঁকির কারণে প্রতিকূল পরিস্থিতির সম্মুখীন হচ্ছে। বৈশ্বিক চ্যালেঞ্জ এবং রপ্তানী চাহিদা হ্রাসের কারণে আই এম এফ অনুমান করছে যে, এশিয়ার জিডিপি ২০২৫ সালে ৩.৯% হবে যা গত বছরের তুলনায় কিছুটা কম। চীনের প্রবৃদ্ধি আগের বছরগুলোর উল্লেখযোগ্য মন্দার পর ২০২৫ সালে ৪% এ স্থিতিশীল হবে বলে ধারণা করা হচ্ছে । অন্যদিকে ২০২৫ সালে ভারত ৬.২% প্রবৃদ্ধি নিয়ে সম্ভবত দ্রুত ক্রমবর্ধমান অর্থনীতির তালিকায় অবস্থান করবে ।

এক নজরে বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতি

উল্লেখযোগ্য অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি ,শক্তিশালী রপ্তানী শিল্প, সমৃদ্ধ তৈরি পোশাক খাত, এবং টেকসই উন্নয়নের দ্বারা পরিচালিত বাংলাদেশকে দক্ষিন এশিয়ার সাফল্যের গল্পে রূপান্তরিত করেছে, যা লাখ লাখ মানুষকে দরিদ্রতা থেকে বের করে এনেছে এবং উদীয়মান অর্থনীতির মডেল হিসেবে অবস্থান শক্ত করেছে। ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থ বছরে বাংলাদেশ ৪.২২% প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জন করে , যা ২০২২-২৩ অর্থ বছরে ৬.৯৪% ছিল। শক্তিশালী জনসম্পদ, তৈরি পোশাক খাতে ব্যাপক রপ্তানী এবং স্থিতিশীল্ভাবে প্রবাসীদের পাঠানো বৈদেশিক মূদ্রা গত দুই দশকের বাংলাদেশের অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি স্থিতিশীল রেখেছে ।এই অর্জন বাংলাদেশকে বিশ্বব্যাপী দ্রুত ক্রমবর্ধমান অর্থনীতির তালিকায় স্থান করে দিয়েছে। ওয়ার্ল্ড ইকনোমিক আউটলুক ২০২৫ অনুসারে, আই এম এফ বাংলাদেশকে ৩৫ তম বৃহত্তম অর্থনীতি এবং ক্রয়ক্ষমতার দিক থেকে ২৪ তম অর্থনীতি হিসেবে স্থান দিয়েছে। দারিদ্র্য দূরীকরণ এবং অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে বাংলাদেশের সাফল্যের গল্প সমানভাবে অনুপ্রেরণীয়। ১৯৭১ সালে স্বাধীন হওয়ার সময় বাংলাদেশ বিশ্বের স্বল্পোন্নত দেশগুলোর মধ্যে একটি ছিল। কিন্তু ২০১৫ সালে এটি নিম্ন-মধ্যম আয়ের দেশে উন্নীত হয়েছে।

২০২৬ সালে এটি আর বিশ্বের স্বল্পোন্নত দেশগুলোর একটি বিবেচিত হবে না।বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো (বি বি এস) এর হিসেব অনুযায়ী ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরে মাথাপিছু আয় ছিলো ২,৭৩৮ ইউ এস ডলার এবং জিডিপি ছিল ২,৬২৫ ইউ এস ডলার। যা ২০২২-২৩ অর্থবছরে ২,৭৪৯ ইউ এস ডলার এবং ২,৬৪৩ ইউ এস ডলার ছিল। বিশ্বের অনেক দেশের মত বাংলাদেশ প্রবাসী আয়, আমদানী-রপ্তানী নিয়ে অর্থনৈতিক উদ্বেগের সম্মুখীন হয়েছিল। কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের ব্যালেন্স অব পেমেন্ট ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরের প্রতিবেদন অনুযায়ী চলতি হিসাবে ৬.৬০২ বিলিয়ন ডলারের ঘাটতি রয়েছে, যা জাতীয় সঞ্চয় এবং বিনিয়োগের মধ্যে ব্যবধানকে প্রতিফলিত করে। ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরের পণ্য-ভিত্তিক আমদানী পরিসংখ্যান অনুযায়ী বাংলাদেশ ২০৫৭.৯ মিলিয়ন ডলার সমমূল্যের খাদ্য শস্য আমদানী করে,যার মধ্যে ২০৩২.৫ মিলিয়ন ডলারের গম রয়েছে যা দেশের খাদ্য আমদানী নির্ভরতাকে তুলে ধরে। ২০২৩-২৪ সালের ব্যালেন্স অব পেমেন্টের তথ্য অনুযায়ী পরিষেবা একাউন্টে ৪.২২৯ বিলিয়ন ইউ এস ডলারের ঘাটতি রয়েছে, যেখানে ৬.২৮৫ বিলিয়ন ইউ এস ডলারের প্রাপ্তির বিপরীতে পরিষেবা প্রদানের পরিমাণ ছিল ১০.৫১৪ বিলিয়ন ইউ এস ডলার।বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক এর তথ্য অনুযায়ী ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরে ২৩.৯১২ বিলিয়ন ডলার রেমিট্যান্স পেয়েছে,যা চলতি হিসাবের ঘাটতি পূরনে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে।

সংস্কার,বন্যা পরিস্থিতি মোকাবেলা,বায়ুমান এবং স্বাস্থ্যসেবার উন্নতির জন্য বিশ্বব্যাংক ২০২৪ সালে বাংলাদেশকে ২ বিলিয়ন ইউ এস ডলারেরও বেশি অর্থ প্রদানের প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়েছে। উপরন্তু, মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র অন্তর্ভুক্তিমূলক অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধির জন্য ২০২ মিলিয়ন ইউ এস ডলার সাহায্যের প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়েছে। বাংলাদেশের ভবিষ্যৎ অর্থনীতির জন্য বিশ্বব্যাংকের ২ বিলিয়ন ইউ এস ডলারের অর্থায়ন প্যাকেজ একটি কৌশলগত বিনিয়োগের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করে। মূল দূর্বলতাগুলি মোকাবেলা এবং টেকসই উন্নয়নের প্রচারের মাধ্যমে,এই সহায়তা দেশের স্থিতিস্থাপকতা বৃদ্ধি, জীবন যাত্রার মানোন্নয়ন এবং দীর্ঘমেয়াদী অর্থনৈতিক ও সামাজিক উন্নয়ন করবে বলে ধারণা করা হচ্ছে। ২০৩১ সালের মধ্যে উচ্চ-মধ্যম আয়ের মর্যাদা অর্জনের জন্য বাংলাদেশকে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক ব্যবসায়িক পরিবেশের

মাধ্যমে কর্মসংস্থান ও কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ সৃষ্টি,মানব সম্পদ,দক্ষ শ্রম শক্তি বৃদ্ধি,দক্ষ অবকাঠামো ও বিনিয়োগবান্ধব পরিবেশ প্রতিষ্ঠা করতে হবে।উন্নয়নের ধারা বজায় রাখার জন্য অগ্রাধিকারের তালিকায় রয়েছে তৈরি পোশাক শিল্পের বাইরে রপ্তানী বৈচিত্র্যকরণ,ব্যাংকিং খাত সংস্কার, নগরায়ণকে আর টেকসই করা এবং উন্নয়নের জন্য আরও দেশীয় অর্থ উপার্জন করতে আর্থিক পরিবর্তন সহ রাষ্ট্রীয় প্রতিষ্ঠিনগুলোকে শক্তিশালী করা,অভ্যন্তরীন ঘাটতিপূরণ অর্থনৈতিক সম্প্রসারণ ত্বরান্বিত করবে। জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন এবং প্রাকৃতিক বিপর্যয় প্রশমিত হলে বাংলাদেশ ভবিষ্যত প্রতিকুল পরিস্থিতির বিরুদ্ধে অর্থনৈতিক সম্প্রসারণ চালিয়ে যেতে সক্ষম হবে। সবুজ রূপান্তরকরণ প্রবৃদ্ধির দিকে ধাবিত হলে ভবিষ্যতের জন্য উন্নয়নে দীর্ঘমেয়াদি অবদান রাখতে সক্ষম হবে।

আমাদের কর্মক্ষমতা পর্যালোচনা

বাংলাদেশের ব্যাংকিং খাত ২০২৪ সালে উল্লেখযোগ্য অগ্রগতি প্রদর্শন করেছে, যা শক্তিশালী আর্থিক ফলাফল, কৌশলগত ডিজিটাল অগ্রগতি এবং অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি ও স্থিতিশীলতা বজায় রাখতে একটি সুদৃঢ় ভূমিকার মাধ্যমে চিহ্নিত হয়েছে। যদিও মাত্রাতিরিক্ত খেলাপি ঋণ, তারল্য সংকট এবং সাইবার ঝুঁকির মতো গুরুত্বপূর্ণ চ্যালেঞ্জ রয়েছে, তবুও খাতটি ডিজিটাল ব্যাংকিংয়ে জোরালো প্রবৃদ্ধি, আর্থিক অন্তর্ভুক্তির সম্প্রসারণ এবং টেকসই উন্নয়নের প্রতি অধিক মনোযোগের মাধ্যমে রূপান্তরের মধ্য দিয়ে যাচ্ছে। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের গৃহীত উল্লেখযোগ্য সংস্কার, ডিজিটাল অবকাঠামো উন্নয়ন এবং আর্থিক উদ্ভাবনকে উৎসাহিত করার উদ্যোগসমূহ ব্যাংকিং খাতের ভবিষ্যৎ গঠনে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করবে।

২০২৪ সালে ব্যাংকটির মোট আমানতের পরিমাণ ৯.৭২% বৃদ্ধি পেয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে ৩৪৭,৬৬৪ মিলিয়ন টাকা, যা ২০২৩ সালে ছিল ৩১৬,৮৫৮ মিলিয়ন টাকা। অন্যদিকে, ঋণ ও অগ্রিমের পরিমাণ ২০২৪ সালে বৃদ্ধি পেয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে ৩৩১,৩১৪ মিলিয়ন টাকা, যা ২০২৩ সালে ছিল ২৯১,৩৪৪ মিলিয়ন টাকা, অর্থাৎ ১৩.৭২% ইতিবাচক প্রবৃদ্ধি—যা নিম্নমানের খেলাপি ঋণ এবং উন্নত ঋণ ঝুঁকি ব্যবস্থাপনার ইঙ্গিত দেয়। একটি শক্তিশালী ঋণ পোর্টফোলিও একটি ব্যাংকের লাভজনকতা ও আর্থিক স্থিতিশীলতার জন্য অপরিহার্য। ২০২৪ সালে ব্যাংকটির মোট আমদানি ছিল ৩৫২,১৩৬ মিলিয়ন টাকা, যা ২০২৩ সালে ছিল ৩০৭,৮৭১ মিলিয়ন টাকা। রপ্তানি ছিল ২৭৮,১৫৯ মিলিয়ন টাকা, যা ২০২৩ সালে ছিল ২৫৩,৮৬২ মিলিয়ন টাকা। ২০২৪ সালে ব্যাংকের মোট প্রবাসী আয় ছিল ৯৩,৮২৯ মিলিয়ন টাকা, যা ২০২৩ সালে ছিল ১০০,২৭১ মিলিয়ন টাকা। ২০২৪ সালে ব্যাংকটি মোট ১,৩৪১.৬১ মিলিয়ন টাকা কর পরবর্তী মুনাফা (পি এ টি) অর্জন করেছে, যা ২০২৩ সালে ছিল ৪,১৫৪.৭৭ মিলিয়ন টাকা।

ডিজিটাল ব্যাংকিং কৌশল অনুশীলন

আমরা ডিজিটাল ব্যাংকিং কৌশল অনুশীলন করছি যার মধ্যে রয়েছে গ্রাহকের অভিজ্ঞতা বাড়ানো, ধারাবাহিক পরিচালনা এবং উদ্ভাবনের জন্য উন্নত প্রযুক্তি গ্রহণ এবং একীভূত করা। এটি একটি নির্বিঘ্ন এবং নিরাপদ অনলাইন এবং মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং পরিবেশ তৈরির মাধ্যমে শুরু হয়, যেখানে গ্রাহকরা তাদের সুবিধামত অ্যাকাউন্ট পরিচালনা, লেনদেন এবং আর্থিক পরিকল্পনার সরঞ্জামগুলির মতো পরিষেবাগুলি উপভোগ করতে পারেন।প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংকের উন্নত ব্যাংকিং সলিউশন এবং ফ্লাগশিপ ব্যাংকিং অ্যাপ্লিকেশন পি-মানি, যা এটির ব্যবহারকারীর জন্য সহজ ব্যাংকিং সুবিধা, নিরাপত্তা এবং দক্ষতা প্রদানের জন্য তৈরি করা হয়েছে।একটি বিস্তৃত আর্থিক হাতিয়ার হিসেবে পি-মানি তাদের গ্রাহকদের ব্যাংকিং চাহিদা, নির্ভুলতা এবং সহজ পরিচালনা, নির্বিঘ্ন লেনদেন এবং রিয়েল টাইম আর্থিক তদারকির সুবিধার্থে প্রযুক্তি ব্যবহার করে।আধুনিক ব্যাংকিং এর ক্রমবর্ধমান চাহিদা পূরণের লক্ষে ডিজাইন করা অ্যাপ্লিকেশনটি ডিজিটাল আর্থিক ব্যবস্থাপনা দৃষ্টান্তকে সংজ্ঞায়িত করে এমন একটি বৈশিষ্টকে একত্রিত করে।

ডেটা নির্ভর সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ, গ্রাহকের মতামত এবং ব্যক্তিগত পরিষেবা প্রদানের ক্ষেত্রে ডিজিটাল ব্যাংকিং কৌশলগুলো ব্যবহার করা হয়। তাছাড়াও কৃত্রিম বুদ্ধিমত্তা, ব্লকচেইন এবং অটোমেশন এর মত আধুনিক প্রযুক্তি ব্যবহার করে পরিচালন খরচ ও ঝুঁকি কমাতে এবং দক্ষতা বাড়াতে সাহায্য করে। সফল ডিজিটাল ব্যাংকিং অনুশীলনের জন্য উদীয়মান প্রবণতাগুলোর সাথে ক্রমাগত অভিযোজন, গতি এবং নিরাপত্তার জন্য গ্রাহকদের ক্রমবর্ধমান প্রত্যাশাপূরণের সাথে সাথে একটি সর্বদা বিকশিত প্রযুক্তিগত দৃশ্যপট তৈরি করতে হবে।

কর্পোরেট সামাজিক দায়বদ্ধতা

আমরা স্বীকার করি যে, একটি ইতিবাচক ব্যাংকিং অভিজ্ঞতা শুধুমাত্র প্রতিযোগিতামূলক পণ্য এবং পরিষেবাগুলোর মধ্যে সীমাবদ্ধ নয় বরং গ্রাহকদের সাথে দীর্ঘমেয়াদি এবং বিশ্বাস-ভিত্তিক সম্পর্ক তৈরি করা। তাঁদের চাহিদা মত আমরা ব্যক্তিগত পরামর্শ, বিরামহীন ডিজিটাল অভিজ্ঞতা বা প্রতিক্রিয়াশীল গ্রাহক সহায়তার মাধ্যমে তাঁদের আর্থিক লক্ষ্যের সারিবদ্ধ সমাধানে সক্ষম হই।আমরা বদ্ধপরিকরভাবে নিশ্চিত করতে চাই যে,আমাদের প্রতিটি যোগাযোগ কার্যকর, স্বচ্ছ এবং সুবিধাজনক হোক সেটা ব্যক্তিগত, মুঠোফোন বা অনলাইনের মাধ্যমে। আমদের সেবার ক্রমাগত উন্নতি, নতুন প্রযুক্তিতে বিনিয়োগ এবং আমাদের কর্মীদের প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদানের মাধ্যমে আমরা ক্রমাগত গ্রাহকদের প্রত্যাশা পূরণ এবং বিশ্বস্ততা বৃদ্ধি করি। "গ্রাহকদের সন্তুষ্টি আমাদের সাফল্যের চাবিকাঠি" এটি আমদের ব্যাংকের অত্যন্ত সহজ কিন্তু শক্তিশালী বিশ্বাস।

কর্পোরেট গভর্নেন্স সংস্কৃতি

প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক পি এল সি তে আমরা আমাদের কার্যক্রমের সকল ক্ষেত্রে সম্পূর্ণ স্বচ্ছতা এবং জবাবদিহিতার মাধ্যমে কর্পোরেট গভর্নেন্সের সর্বোচ্চ মান নিশ্চিত করতে প্রতিশ্রুতিদবদ্ধ। আমরা বিশ্বাস করি যে, এই নীতিমালাগুলো আমাদের সংস্থার দীর্ঘমেয়াদি সাফল্য ও স্থায়ীত্বের জন্য অপরিহার্য।আমদের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সদস্য এবং ব্যবস্থাপকদের মধ্যে দায়িত্ব ভাগ করে দেয়া হয়েছে যেন পরিচালনা মসৃণ এবং কার্যকর থাকে। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ এন্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড এবং অন্যান্য নীতিনির্ধারক সংস্থা মত প্রধান নিয়ন্ত্রকদের জারি করা সমস্ত প্রাসঙ্গিক নির্দেশিকা এবং নির্দেশনাবলি মেনে চলার উপর জোর দেই। কর্পোরেট গভর্নেন্সের ক্ষেত্রে আমরা ধারাবাহিকভাবে নীতিগুলো অনুশীলন ও মেনে চলার মাধ্যমে মান নির্ধানেরে চেষ্টা করি এবং আমরা ব্যাংক শিল্পের মধ্যে অন্যতম রোল মডেল হিসেবে অবস্থান করি।

কৃতজ্ঞতা স্বীকার

২০২৪ সালে আমাদের কর্মক্ষমতার সমস্ত নির্দেশক এ সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ রয়েছে। তবে, ক্রমবর্ধমান অনিশ্চিত পরিবেশের মধ্য দিয়ে অগ্রসর হওয়ার পথে আমদের অবশ্যই সজাগ এবং মানিয়ে নিতে হবে। পরিচালনা পর্ষদ কার্যকর তদারকি প্রদানের জন্য প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ, প্রবৃদ্ধির সুযোগ অনুসরণ এবং কঠোর ঝুঁকি ব্যবস্থাপনার জন্য   ব্যবস্থাপকরা ঘনিষ্টভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। আমি প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংকের সমস্ত কর্মকর্তাদেরকে আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা জানাতে চাই, যাদের নিষ্ঠা ও প্রতিশ্রুতি এবং ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালকদের গতিশীল নেতৃত্ব যার কারণে আমরা শ্রেষ্ঠত্বের পথে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছি। তাছাড়াও আমি আমাদের নিয়ন্ত্রক সংস্থাদের বিশেষ করে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ এন্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড কে আন্তরিকভাবে ধন্যবাদ জানাতে চাই কারণ তাঁদের চলমান সহায়তা এবং নির্দেশনার জন্য, যা আমাদের অব্যাহত সাফল্যের সহায়ক হয়েছে। পরিশেষে, আমি আমদের মূল্যবান শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণ, গ্রাহক, ব্যবসায়িক অংশীদার এবং অন্যান্য অংশীদারদের প্রতি আমার গভীর কৃতজ্ঞতা জানাতে চাই যেহেতু সবচেয়ে চ্যালেঞ্জিং সময়ে তাঁরা আমাদের প্রতি বিশ্বাস রেখেছেন এবং আমাদের শ্রেষ্ঠত্ব অর্জনে সহায়তা করেছেন।

ডাঃ আরিফুর রহমান
চেয়ারম্যান

Message from the MD and CEO

Mohammad Abu Jafar
Managing Director & CEO

Message from the Managing Director & CEO

Banking sector in Bangladesh is confronted with several key issues. First, the ongoing challenges related to financial inclusion remain significant, with a large portion of the population still lacking access to formal banking services, especially in rural areas. Second, the rise of digital banking and fintech globally has intensified competition and reshaped customer expectations, pushing banks in Bangladesh to modernize their services and infrastructure to remain competitive.

Additionally, the global regulatory environment, influenced by international standards such as Basel III, has forced Financial institutions to focus more on maintaining adequate capital reserves, managing risks and ensuring compliance with stricter regulations. Moreover, the volatility in the global economy, including fluctuating commodity prices, trade wars and geopolitical tensions, impacts the stability of Bangladesh's financial system, especially given the country's dependency on remittances and exports. Finally, the banking sector in Bangladesh must also contend with the growing threat of cyber-attacks and financial fraud, issues that have become more severe as digital banking and online transactions expand. As the global financial landscape continues to evolve, Bangladesh's banking sector will need to balance innovation with prudence, ensuring it is well-equipped to navigate both local challenges and global financial uncertainties.

Global Economy Experiencing Strategic Competition

The global economy, especially in advanced economies, facing slower growth in recent years, largely due to geopolitical instability and conflict, inflation and monetary policy tightening, global debt crisis, climate change and environmental disasters, technological disruption, energy crisis, social and political unrest. In recent times US administration issued an executive order imposing sweeping tariffs on almost all imported products from Canada, Mexico, and China among them 145 percent tariff on imports from China. China increased its tariffs on US imports to 125 percent in recent times, hitting back against US administration's decision to raise duties on Chinese goods and increasing the stakes in a trade war that threatens to upend global supply chains and threatens strategic competition. Beyond tariffs, heightened tensions between the U.S. and China, particularly over issues like Taiwan, trade and technology, leading economic decoupling, trade barriers and reduced global cooperation, which is dampening global economic growth. Ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine continues to have far-reaching impacts on global trade, energy markets and food security. Escalations or prolonged conflicts exacerbating energy price volatility and creating supply chain disruptions.

In 2024, global currency fluctuation was shaped by geopolitical tensions, inflationary trends and shifting interest rates, especially from the US Federal Reserve. The US dollar saw periods of strength due to tighter monetary policy, while the euro experienced mixed performance amid Europe's economic recovery challenges. Emerging market currencies faced volatility as inflation concerns and political instability impacted investor sentiment. Gold, as a safe-haven asset, saw increased demand during periods of currency uncertainty, with prices rising as investors sought stability. The gold market in 2024 remained strong, with geopolitical risks and potential recessions driving higher interest in precious metals as a store of value.

Bullish technological advancements, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI) and automation, posing threat to disrupt labor markets, lead to job displacement and create social and economic inequalities. Industries heavily relying on manual labor or routine tasks could face significant challenges in adapting to new technologies. The increasing digitization of the global economy has heightening the risk of cyberattacks. Large-scale cyber incidents could destabilize financial systems, disrupt supply chain and compromise data security for businesses and governments.

Bangladesh Aiming Sustainable Progress

The outlook for Bangladesh's economy remains positive, though growth may moderate slightly due to global economic uncertainties, inflationary pressures and tighter monetary policies. The IMF projects Bangladesh's GDP growth to slow to around 3.76% in 2025, as the global economy faces challenges like rising interest rates and reduced global trade. Bangladesh to continue growing sustainably subject to structural reforms. This includes diversifying the economy beyond textiles, boosting domestic innovation, improving education and healthcare and investing in green and sustainable technologies.

The Ready-made Garment (RMG) industry has become the bedrock of Bangladesh's economy, contributing about 12 percent to the country's GDP in 2024. With exponential growth over the decades, Bangladesh is the second largest RMG exporter in the world. In 2024, U.S.A imports RMG products totaled US$ 83.71 Billion where the market share of Bangladesh is to US$ 7.40 Billion which is 8.85 percent of total market share. So, Bangladesh has a lot of opportunity for gaining competitive advantage from US market.

Review on Financial Performance

Our performance reflects our ability to maintain balanced growth in the key banking segments to lessen the consequences of income fluctuations in the context of the current climate. The Bank was able to maintain consistent key performance ratios across the business cycles, making it even more financially secure and better positioned in financial sector. The Bank achieved considerable progress on both the budgetary plan and its return despite exceptionally difficult headwinds from domestic market and unavoidable externalities and completed the year with a healthy balance sheet, operating profit and liquidity. At the end of 2024, deposits grew by 9.72% to BDT 347,664 million in 2024, compared to BDT 316,858 million in 2023 and Lending Portfolio increased by 13.72% to BDT 331,314 million in 2024 from BDT 291,344 million in 2023. The operating profit decreased by 1,273.62 million to BDT 7,693.52 million in 2024, compared to BDT 8,967.13 million in 2023. Additionally, the net profit after tax decreased to BDT 1,341.61 million in 2024 from BDT 4,154.77 million in 2023. Inward remittance decreased by 6.42% to BDT 93,829 million, compared to BDT 100,271 million in 2023. In 2024 we have seen a significant positive growth in export and import sector where import stood at BDT 352,136 million in 2024, compared to BDT 307,871 million in 2023. On the other hand, export stood at BDT 278,159 million in 2024, compared to BDT 253,862 in 2023. In 2024, the total assets of the Bank stood at BDT 449,984.38 million in 2024 compared to 414,966.37, representing an increase of 8.44% from December 31, 2023.

Response to Global Crisis and Foreign Exchange Volatility

The Premier Bank PLC. has faced minimal impact due to Global Crisis and Foreign Exchange Volatility. As a trading nation that relies heavily on imports for petroleum and industrial raw materials, many businesses are unable to open LCs because banks are unwilling to do so due to foreign exchange shortages. But, The Premier Bank PLC. moved inversely with the industry. In 2024, at The Premier Bank PLC. total export and inward remittance was BDT 371,988 million on the other hand our import was BDT 352,136 million. Here we had BDT 19,852 million surplus. So, The Premier Bank PLC. was flexible in the foreign-trade based transaction and was able to support customer despite nationwide dollar crisis moment in 2024.

Non-Performing Loan (NPL) Management

The Premier Bank PLC.'s primary business objective is to reduce non-performing loans by preserving quality assets. However, in 2024, the Non-Performing Loans (NPL) stood at 22.92% which was 4.99% in 2023. The Bank has 47 zero NPL branches. The credit approval procedure and policy of the Bank have been designed to uncover and evaluate unanticipated inherent risk so that the asset quality does not worsen over time. In addition, the importance of an early warning system has been underlined so that preventative measures can be taken against assets at risk. To maintain the quality of the bank's assets, branches and the corporate office have reinforced their monitoring efforts and recovery efforts.

Embracing Digital Transformation

The evolution from traditional banking to digital platforms, which has been both gradual and transformative, represents a pivotal advancement in the financial sector, fundamentally altering the way customers engage with financial institutions. In previous years, we established a robust digital infrastructure by launching a diverse array of services—ranging from Internet Banking and mobile applications to ATM services and personalized SMS alerts—thereby ensuring uninterrupted access to banking activities while simultaneously enhancing operational efficiency and promoting sustainability through these initiatives.

We remained steadfast in our commitment to modernize banking solutions by introducing innovative, customer-centric services that not only encompass doorstep banking features such as Quick Account but also simplify utility bill payments. By harnessing advanced digital technologies—including QR codes like Bangla QR, we aspire to streamline processes, reduce operational costs and elevate customer convenience, ultimately creating an intuitive and accessible digital ecosystem in which customers can manage their finances with unprecedented ease. Our core banking system is being upgraded from its older version to a newer version and we are continually embracing new initiatives to increase operational efficiency through automation, the introduction of new service features in existing banking service channels and enhancement of transaction security to provide our customers with a comfortable and dependable banking experience. The bank currently has 136 branches, 67 sub branches and 2,451 employees. The Bank has 25 Islamic Banking Windows, 200 Agent Banking Centers,135 ATMs and 470 POS terminals across the country. This comprehensive approach, which prioritizes financial inclusion and sustained customer engagement, underlines our promise to deliver cutting-edge solutions that are responsive to the evolving needs of the modern financial landscape.

Ensuring Security and Trust

As a cornerstone of enterprise security governance, The Premier Bank PLC. plays a critical role in protecting the institution's technological assets and digital infrastructure. We provide strategic oversight, robust risk management, efficient resource allocation and continuous performance monitoring to ensure that all security initiatives are effectively aligned with the bank's business objectives. We focus on aligning security strategies with regulatory frameworks to protect critical information and systems from unauthorized access, data breaches, service disruptions and other potential threats. In an era where the globalization of information systems presents increasing complexities and sophisticated cyberattacks from hackers and fraudsters grow more frequent, the need for comprehensive security governance is greater than ever.

To enhance resilience and adaptability in today's dynamic threat landscape, The Premier Bank PLC. has prioritized the implementation of an advanced Information Security Management System (ISMS). This system is designed to fortify our technology environment and deliver secure, reliable and innovative banking services. By integrating global best practices with state-of-the-art technology, we remain committed to protecting the trust and confidence of our valued customers, partners and stakeholders.

Ensure Cost-effectiveness

Enhanced operational efficiency and production are necessary for internal change to increase profitability. We must be vigilant, maintain strict cost control and improve our cost effectiveness due to the low margins and high compliance expenses in the banking industry. We intend to concentrate more on cost rationalization in the future days to provide a friendly operational environment, little waste and devoted human resources with a positive outlook to deliver good for the organization.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Since its inception, The Premier Bank PLC. has consistently prioritized social and public welfare over profit maximization. The bank allocates a significant proportion of its annual profits towards conducting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in various areas such as education, healthcare, disaster management, environment and human resource development, among others. In addition, the bank focuses on providing scholarships to deserving underprivileged students, developing infrastructure for educational institutions, providing primary healthcare, community development, financial assistance for medical operations and other social initiatives aimed at uplifting society out of poverty and distress.

In 2024, all employees of Premier Bank PLC. donated a financial relief package worth BDT 1 crore to the Chief Advisers Relief and Welfare Fund to assist flood-affected people in various districts of the country. Premier Bank, as a socially responsible corporate, believes in taking humanitarian action to create a positive impact in the lives of the affected areas. This assistance to the flood victims reflects the bank's commitment to stand by the people in times of need. The bank has also continued to other CSR activities. The provision of funding to educational institutions, the provision of primary healthcare, community development and financial assistance for the medical operations of the poor and numerous other social initiatives undertaken to lift society out of poverty and distress

Significant Priorities We Pursued in 2024

- Promoting financial inclusion for those without bank accounts and continuing to be a leader in including those at the grassroots level through agricultural loans.
- Efficient Capital Planning under the preview of risk return trade-off for smooth expansion of business.
- Ensuring genuine recovery from rescheduled and stay order loans and recovery of written off loans.
- Emphasize on regular monitoring of loan accounts to restrain deterioration to overdue and SMA. Emphasis was given to increase MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise), Agri and Retail loan portfolios to ensure efficient distribution of capital.
- Ensuring prompt resolution of credit requests at the corporate office level and strict oversight to enable the quickest payment from branch level while adhering to all logical sanction terms.
- Liquidity management was the most critical priorities for the year 2024 as in the backdrop of sluggish investment demand but liquid money market arbitrage earning was the main resort of profitability upkeep.
- Mobilizing low cost and no cost deposits throughout the year.

Boosting Profitability and Bottom-

Our results reflect our ability to maintain balanced growth in the key banking segments to lessen the consequences of income fluctuations in the context of the current climate. The Bank was able to maintain or increase the key performance ratios across the business cycles at quarterly rest, making it even more financially secure and better positioned to continue to be a systemically important Bank. The Bank achieved considerable progress on both the game plan and its return despite exceptionally difficult headwinds from regional wars with unavoidable externalities and completed the year with a healthy operating profit, balance sheet and liquidity. The Bank made an Operating Profit of BDT 7,693.51 million, a moderate profit considering global and domestic challenges occurred during the year 2024.

Enhancing Customer Value and Experience

Our customer service was renewed with the zeal of a devoted banking brand as continue to carry on with our performance and transformation. Enhancing the customer experience throughout our retail, corporate and SME segments was our primary emphasis in 2024. To get even closer to customers, we made the decision to build end-to-end customer journeys through the seamless fusion of human and digital transactions. Our team's front and back warriors exhibited empathy and understanding as they examined the data provided by clients to better understand their objectives and difficulties in order to develop more specialized goods, services and experiences.

Our Culture

People orientation starts with a team of 2,451 committed and knowledgeable specialists who guide our strategic goals daily and improve the client experience. No matter what the situation, the majority of our employees stuck to our ingrained dedication to serve and went on to support our customers, communities and stakeholders. The closeness of our workers and the amiable culture we foster, undoubtedly provide us an advantage in the market. Our steadfast dedication to career development opportunities, diversity and inclusion fosters an atmosphere where everyone feels they have an equal chance to fit in and advance their careers.

Human Resources Development

Human resources are the most precious asset and the driving force behind any firm's success in today's dynamic world where each individual defines the organization. The individual and team efforts of an organization's personnel are required to achieve its goals. Each employee plays a crucial role in the organization's efficient operation by bridging the communication gap between the company and its clients. The bank employs a group of youthful, devoted, highly motivated, skilled and committed staff members who work hard to accomplish both organizational and customer goals. A strategic approach towards the effective development and management of human resources is of paramount importance. Our efforts in retraining, re-skilling and redeploying resources are a continuous process that aims to improve the optimization, competency and timing of our operations whilst concurrently gearing our workforce for the future. Skill building in credit, Forex, business development, customer relationship management, marketing of products and services, investment monitoring and recovery, risk management, technology-based banking, branch management, complying with statutory, legal and policy requirements and preventive vigilance received special attention during the year. A training center has been established for enhancing employees through virtual training programs, enabling them to access these services from anywhere. The Bank also often invited its staff members to seminars, workshops and training sessions held by BIBM, BAB, IBRTA and other reputable training organizations.

Consistent AAA Credit Rating

Argus Credit Rating Services Ltd. (ACRSL) awarded PBL 'AAA' credit rating with 'stable' outlook. This milestone achievement is the result of a rigorous review of our financial performance, integrating both quantitative assessments and qualitative insights into our operations. It is indeed a remarkable achievement. We believe this recognition heralds a new chapter of excellence and trust for PBL, promising enduring value for our customers and shareholders.

Acknowledgement

As we conclude, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Board of Directors for their visionary leadership. Their unflagging support has been invaluable during these challenging times. I also acknowledge the support and guidance of Bangladesh Bank and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Our stakeholders, customers and employees have been instrumental in our journey and we are grateful for their trust and loyalty. As we navigate the dynamic economic terrain, our unfaltering commitment to innovation, sustainability and excellence shines brighter than ever. In every situation, we're seizing opportunities and overcoming challenges with agility and purpose. Driven by a resolute passion for success, we're forging a brighter future for The Premier Bank PLC. and the communities we serve.

Mohammad Abu Jafar
Managing Director & CEO

Report of the Board of Directors

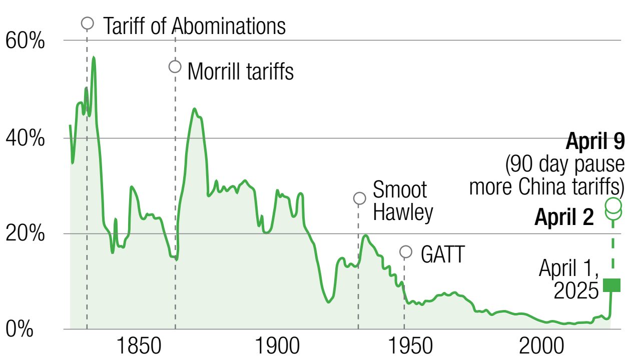
The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome you all the 26th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the bank and present before you the Annual Report along with the Audited Financial Statements for the year 2024. A review and business and financial performance and the underlying forces affecting our business have been pointed out in short.

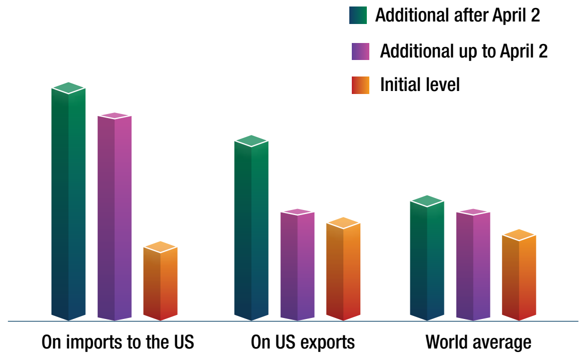
Global Economy

The global economic context has become modestly more favorable since last year, following several years characterized by overlapping negative shocks. Inflation appears to be moderating without a substantial slowdown in key economies, and monetary policy easing has now become widespread. In the next couple of years, deceleration in the two main engines of the global economy, the United States and China, is expected to be offset by firming growth elsewhere, including in many emerging market and developing economies. In all, the post-pandemic global economic expansion is forecast to remain on a steady path. However, the global economy appears to be settling at a relatively low level of growth—one insufficient to foster sustained economic development and catchup in per capita incomes with the possibility of further headwinds from heightened policy uncertainty, growing trade fragmentation, slower than-anticipated progress in reducing inflation, and weaker activity in major economies.

Global GDP Growth

The global economy is at a critical juncture. Signs of stabilization were emerging through much of 2024, after a prolonged and challenging period of unprecedented shocks. Inflation, down from multidecade highs, followed a gradual though bumpy decline toward central bank targets. Labor markets normalized, with unemployment and vacancy rates returning to pre-pandemic levels. Growth hovered around 3 percent in the past few years, and global output came close to potential. However, major policy shifts are resetting the global trade system and giving rise to uncertainty that is once again testing the resilience of the global economy. The United States has announced multiple waves of tariffs against trading partners, some of which have invoked countermeasures. Markets first took the announcements mostly in stride, until the United States' near-universal application of tariffs.





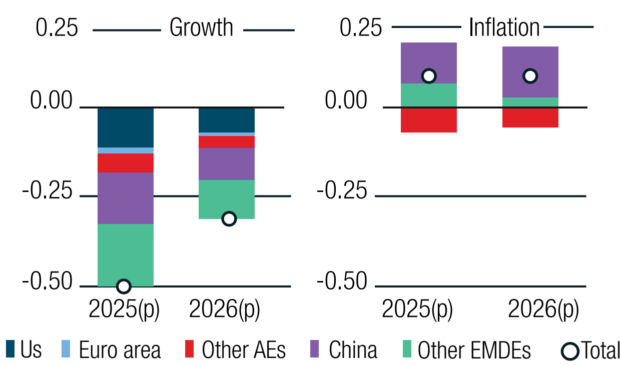
Sources: Haver Analytics; WB & IMF staff calculations

GDP Growth: Forecasting slowdown

The swift escalation of trade tensions and extremely high levels of policy uncertainty are expected to have a significant impact on global economic activity. According to IMF, global growth is projected to drop to 2.8 percent in 2025 and 3 percent in 2026—down from 3.3 percent, corresponding to a cumulative downgrade of 0.8 percentage point, and much below the historical (2000–19) average of 3.7 percent. In the reference forecast, growth in advanced economies is projected to be 1.4 percent in 2025. Growth in the United States is expected to slow to 1.8 percent, a pace that is 0.9 percentage point lower relative to the projection in the last Update, on account of greater policy uncertainty, trade tensions, and softer demand momentum, whereas growth in the euro area at 0.8 percent is expected to slow by 0.2 percentage point. In emerging market and developing economies, growth is expected to slow down to 3.7 percent in 2025 and 3.9 percent in 2026, with significant downgrades for countries affected most by recent trade measures, such as China.

Global GDP Growth

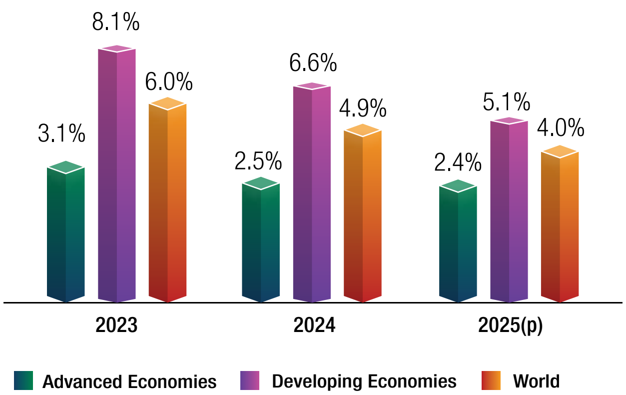
Particulars	2024	2025(p)	2026 (P)
World	3.3%	2.8%	3.0%
Advanced Economies	1.8%	1.4%	1.5%
Developing Economics	4.3%	3.7%	3.9%



Sources: Haver Analytics; WB & IMF staff calculations

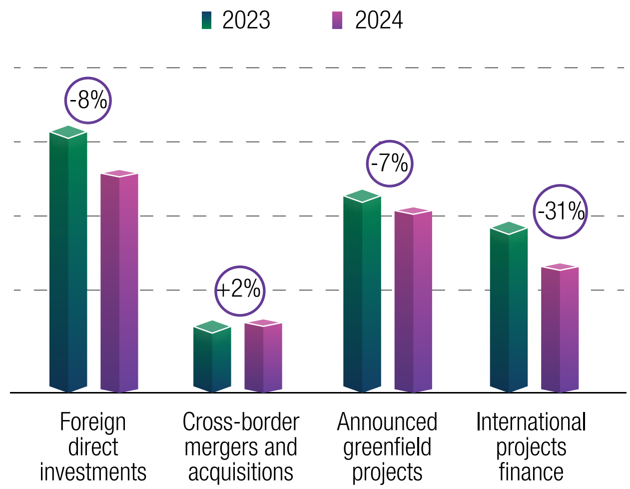
Global inflation is anticipated to moderate

Global headline inflation is expected to decline to 4.3 percent in 2025 and to 3.6 percent in 2026. Inflation is projected to converge back to target earlier in advanced economies, reaching 2.2 percent in 2026, compared with emerging market and developing economies, for which it declines to 4.6 percent over the same time horizon. Compared to the previous prediction the global inflation forecast is slightly higher. For advanced economies, the inflation forecast for 2025 has been revised upward by 0.4 percentage point. Compared with those in the last Update, the UK inflation forecast has been revised upward by 0.7 percentage point and the US forecast by 1.0 percentage point. In the euro area, the forecast is unchanged. Among emerging market and developing economies, the revisions are mixed. In emerging and developing Asia, inflationary pressures are expected to be even more muted, with a downward revision of 0.5 percentage point to 2025 forecasts relative to those in January. In emerging and developing Asia, inflationary pressures are expected to be even more muted, with a downward revision of 0.5 percentage point to 2025 forecasts relative to those in last update. After a series of downward surprises, inflation in China is expected to remain subdued.



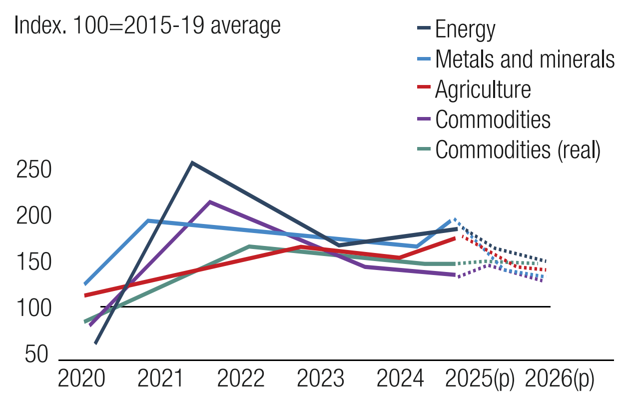
Foreign Direct Investments fell in 2024

According to UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), global Foreign direct investment (FDI) rose 11% to $1.4 trillion in 2024 but fell 8% when excluding flows through European conduit economies, which often serve as transfer points before investment flows reach their final destination. Multinational transactions in conduit economies fueled a 43% surge in developed economies. Without them, flows dropped 15%.FDI to developing countries declined 2%, marking a second consecutive annual fall for the Global South and challenges progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which rely heavily on international project finance. Investments in SDG-related sectors dropped 11% globally in 2024, with fewer projects in agri-food systems, infrastructure, and water and sanitation compared to 2015, when the goals were adopted. FDI is expected to grow moderately in 2025, driven by improved financing conditions and increased mergers and acquisitions (M&A), though risks and investor uncertainty remain high.



Commodity prices are expected to fall

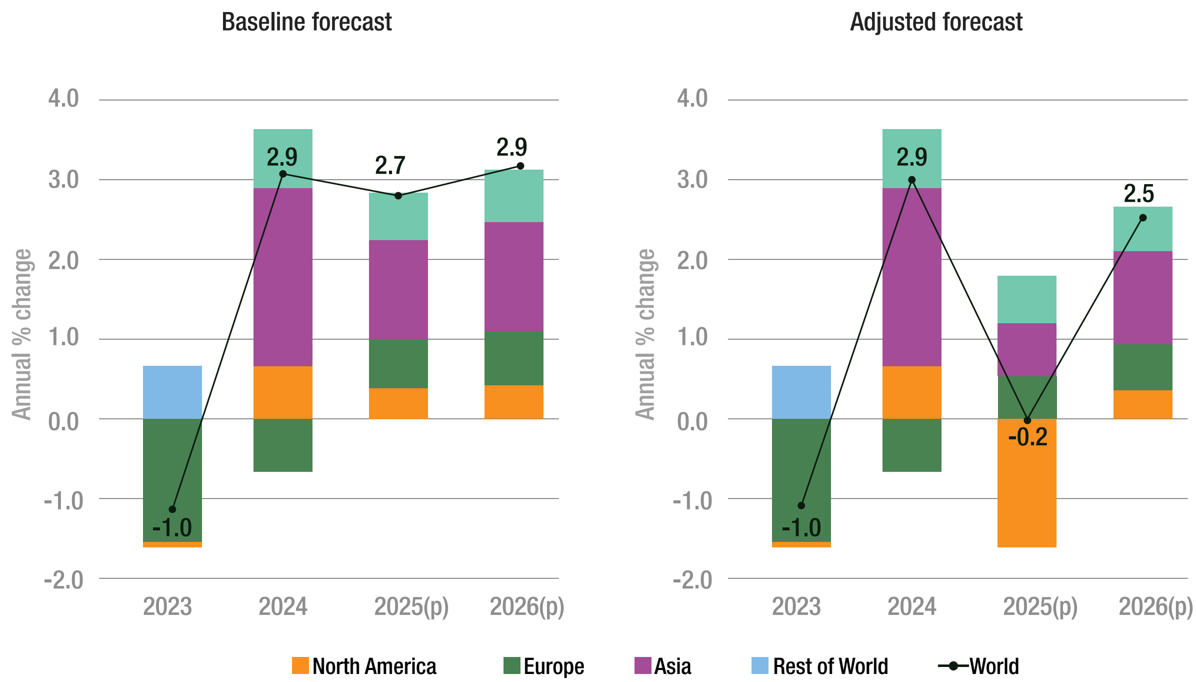
According to World Bank, commodity prices are set to fall sharply this year, by about 12 percent overall, as weakening global economic growth weighs on demand. Commodity prices are projected to decline by another 5 percent, reaching a six-year low. Oil prices are expected to exert substantial downward pressure on the aggregate commodity index in 2025, as a marked slowdown in global oil consumption coincides with expanding supply. The anticipated commodity price softening is broad-based, however, with more than half of the commodities in the forecast set to decrease this year, many by more than 10 percent. The latest shocks to hit commodity markets extend a so far tumultuous decade, marked by the highest level of commodity price volatility in at least half a century. Economic growth prospects could improve if trade barriers are rolled back in a lasting manner, leading to stronger commodity demand and higher prices. Commodity prices could otherwise rise if geopolitical tensions worsen, threatening oil and gas supplies, or if extreme weather events lead to agricultural and energy price spikes



Source: World Bank

High tariff expected to hit world trade

According to World Trade Organization (WTO), global trade has deteriorated sharply due to a surge in tariffs and trade policy uncertainty (TPU). Based on measures in place, including the suspension of “reciprocal tariffs” by the United States, the volume of world merchandise trade is now expected to decline by 0.2% in 2025 before posting a modest recovery of 2.5% in 2026. The new estimate for 2025 is nearly three percentage points lower than it would have been without recent policy shifts, and marks a significant reversal from the start of the year, when WTO economists expected to see continued trade expansion supported by improving macroeconomic conditions. Risks to the forecast include the implementation of the currently suspended reciprocal tariffs by the United States, as well as a broader spillover of trade policy uncertainty beyond US-linked trade relationships. If enacted, reciprocal tariffs would reduce world merchandise trade growth by an additional 0.6 percentage points, posing particular risks for least-developed countries (LDCs), while a spreading of TPU would shave off a further 0.8 percentage points. Taken together, the reciprocal tariffs and spreading TPU would lead to a 1.5% decline in world merchandise trade volume in 2025.



Source: WTO Secretariat estimates.

Bangladesh Economic Overview

Bangladesh, a country known for the resilience of its people, has been looking forward to economical acceleration, export diversification and sustainability. Despite facing massive challenges and global economic shocks, the nation has shown resilience. According to World Bank, the dependency ratio of Bangladesh stands at 53 percent. With over 60% of its population under the age of 35, the nation boasts one of the youngest and dynamic workforces in the world. Beyond numbers, the workforce reflects a unique spirit of inclusivity and that is the gradual progress of women participation in the workforce. A large number of women are dominating industries such as Ready-Made Garments (RMG) and Leather Industry.

Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth of Bangladesh was revised down to 4.2 percent in FY24 from 5.8 percent in FY23. This was the second consecutive year of a deceleration in economic growth and the slowest pace of growth since last five years. The slowdown was driven by a sharp contraction in export growth and subdued investment. Tepid investment activity reflected high inflation and the resulting contractionary monetary policy, higher energy prices, and import restrictions.

On the supply side, industrial growth declined relatively significantly in FY24, and the services and agriculture sectors grew at similar rates in the previous recent years. Growth of agriculture and services is expected to remain subdued and industrial growth is projected to decline further to 1.9 percent in FY25. The agriculture sector faced significant challenges in Q1 FY25, primarily due to severe flooding. In the industrial sector, export growth provided some support, particularly in the ready-made garments (RMG) industry. However, industrial activity outside of the RMG sector remained sluggish.

Inflation averaged 10.6 percent in the first 8 months of FY25 and continued to dampen consumer purchasing power. To reign in inflationary pressure, Bangladesh Bank (BB) continued its tight monetary policy stance in the first three quarters of FY25 and raised the policy rate by 150 basis points to 10 percent since July 2024. Inflation was driven by high food and energy prices and higher import prices as a result of a depreciating taka. Signs of easing price pressures have materialized in Q3 FY25, but BB has signaled its intention to maintain the contractionary monetary policy stance, even in the face of weak economic activity. The real policy rate turned positive only in early of 2025, for the first time since 2020.

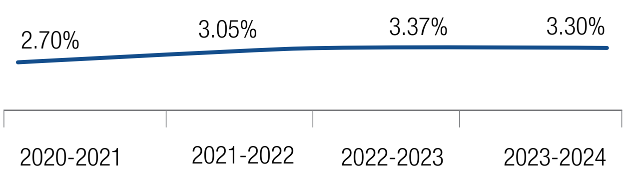
The current account deficit (CAD) narrowed in the first seven months of FY25, bolstered by strong remittance inflows and export earnings. This improvement was driven by a robust 23.6 percent increase in 7 remittances which were driven by the depreciation of the taka and various incentives offered by the government and banks. The narrowing of the CAD helped the overall balance of payment (BoP) deficit to decline to US$ 1.2 billion compared to US $4.7 billion during the same period in FY24. A financial account surplus reflected an improvement in net trade credit, although the net foreign direct investment sharply declined. Following the adoption of the crawling peg exchange rate system in 2024, the exchange rate has remained largely stable. The depletion of foreign exchange reserves has also eased and have stabilized at just under US $22 billion.

Agriculture Sector

Agriculture is the largest job sector in Bangladesh, contributing 3.3 percent of GDP in fiscal year 2023-24 whereas the contribution of this sector was 3.37 percent in fiscal year 2022-23. GDP decreased 0.07 percentage point at agriculture sector in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23 due to de-growth of the dairy, poultry, fishing, aquaculture & agritourism.

Year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Growth rate of Agriculture Sector	2.70%	3.05%	3.37%	3.30%

Growth rate of Agriculture Sector

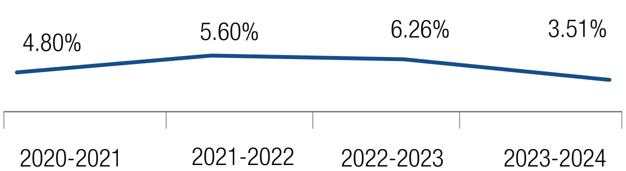


Industry Sector

Bangladesh's economy has seen significant fundamental shifts in recent decades. Bangladesh's Industrial Sector's contribution to the nation's gross domestic product was gradually growing in recent past years. But the overall scenario in the FY2023-24 is comparatively low. The industry sector contributed 3.51 percent to GDP and lowered by 4.86 percentage point from 8.37 percent in fiscal year 2022-2023. The regression in the industry sector has caused by reduced production of Ready-Made Garments industry.

Year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Growth rate of Service Sector	4.80%	5.60%	6.26%	3.51%

Growth rate of Industry Sector

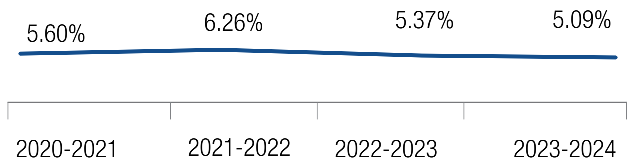


Service Sector

The contribution of the service sector to the GDP is 5.09 percent in the FY2023-24 compared to 5.37 in the FY2022-23. In the service sector GDP deteriorated by 0.28 percentage point in FY2023-24 due to high inflation and economic stagnant situation in the country.

Year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Growth rate of Service Sector	5.60%	6.26%	5.37%	5.09%

Growth rate of Service Sector

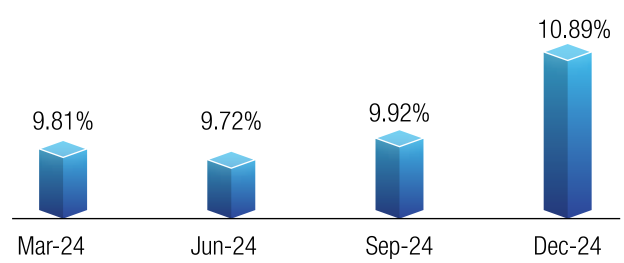


Inflation

Bangladesh has shown a promising sign in the world with its development in last few years but the economy in 2024 faced major challenges, as rampant inflation not only eroded purchasing power but also overshadowed the country's progress in other areas, underscoring the growing struggle to balance development amid rising economic pressures. The inflation rate in Bangladesh reached an alarming average of 10.34 percent in 2024, marking the highest level in over a decade during this year. Inflation hit 11.66 per cent in July, the highest since 2010-11 fiscal year, driven mainly by food prices reflecting the worsening of the purchasing capacity of people. In comparison, the inflation rate stood at 8.56 per cent in 2023, reflecting the worsening situation in 2024.The main reasons of the inflationary pressure are firstly, fluctuations in global commodity markets and the war in Ukraine continued to disrupt global supply chains. Secondly, Bangladeshi Taka depreciated significantly against the US Dollar, exacerbating inflationary pressures. The currency weakened by approximately 10 percent in 2024, making imports more expensive and driving up prices in the domestic market. Thirdly, persistent disruptions in global and regional supply chains and rising domestic demand, particularly during festival seasons.

Year	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24
Inflation Rate	9.81%	9.72%	9.92%	10.89%

Inflation



Export

Exports play a pivotal role in Bangladesh's economic growth, acting as a major driver of GDP, employment, and foreign exchange earnings. The country's economy is heavily reliant on the ready-made garments (RMG) industry, which accounts for more than 88% of total export earnings. The exported goods worth US$ 40.81 billion were made shipments as exports from Bangladesh in 2023-24 against US$

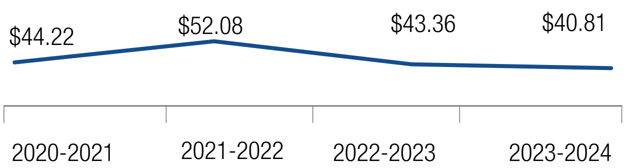
43.36 billion in 2022-23, representing a decrease of 5.9% over the previous fiscal year.

The U.S. topped the list of potential buyers of goods from Bangladesh during the year 2023-24 with an amount of US$ 6.98 billion (17.1 % of the total export). Other major countries in descending orders of magnitude of exports were Germany US$ 4.5 billion (10.9 %), U.K. US$ 4.12 billion (10.1 %), Spain US$ 3.18 billion (7.8 %) and France US$ 2.08 billion (5.1 %).

Amount in US$ Billion

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Export	$44.22	$52.08	$43.36	$40.81

Export



Import

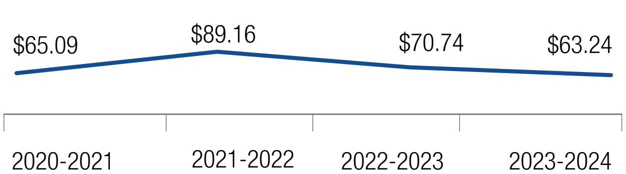
Bangladesh relies heavily on imports for raw materials, capital machinery, fuel, and essential consumer goods, which support key sectors such as manufacturing, energy, and agriculture. While imports help sustain production and infrastructure development, they also pose challenges, particularly in terms of trade deficits and pressure on foreign exchange reserves. Imports recorded at customs during 2023-24 amounted to US$ 63.24 billion compared to US$ 70.75 billion in the previous fiscal year. Out of total imports during the year under review, import shipments for food grains and other commodities were US$ 1.96 billion (3.1 %) and US$ 61.28 billion (96.9 %) respectively.

Among all of the exporting countries, People's Republic of China topped the list of potential sellers of goods to Bangladesh during the year 2023-24 with an amount of US$ 18.09 billion (28.6% of total imports). Other major countries in descending orders of magnitude of imports were: India US$ 8.54 billion (13.5 %), Indonesia US$ 3.54 billion (5.6 %), United States of America (USA) US$ 2.72 billion (4.3 %), and Brazil US$ 2.66 billion (4.2 %), Malaysia US$ 2.09 billion (3.3 %).

Amount in US$ Billion

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Import	$65.09	$89.16	$70.74	$63.24

Import



Balance of Payment

The Balance of Payments (BoP) of Bangladesh, as reported by Bangladesh Bank, has been reflecting a persistent pressure on the current account since last few years, primarily driven by a widening trade deficit and slower growth in remittance inflows. Despite moderate performance in the export sector, import payments—particularly for fuel, food, and capital machinery—have increased significantly, contributing to a negative current account balance. In 2023-24, the current account balance increased by 45.57% (US$ 5.03 billion) compared to 2022- 23 mainly due to the improvement of net workers' remittances (10.7%), a major component of secondary income. In comparison to the US$ 27.38 billion deficit in 2022-23, the trade deficit recorded US$ 22.43 billion in 2023-24. The outflow of trade balance, services and primary income amounting to US$ 22.43 billion, US$ 4.33 billion and US$ 4.32 billion respectively left a deficit in the current account balance in 2023-24 after offsetting the inflow of US$ 24.39 billion as a secondary income.

Remittance

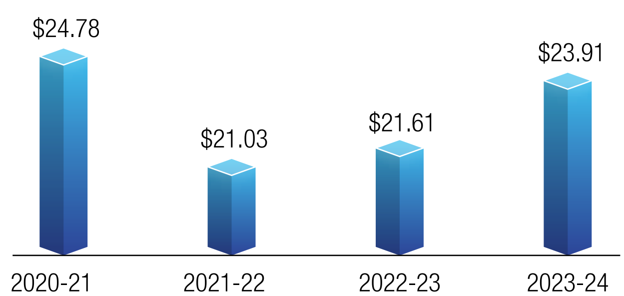
Remittance inflows are a cornerstone of Bangladesh's economic stability, contributing significantly to household income, poverty alleviation, and national foreign exchange reserves. As one of the top remittance-receiving countries globally, Bangladesh benefits from the earnings of millions of migrant workers, primarily in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. The current status of remittance inflow reflects the consistent upward with a slight falling history in the inflows of worker's remittances, reaching the top at US$ 24.78 billion in 2020-21 and drop at US$ 21.61 billion in 2022-23, then rising to a peak at US$ 23.91 billion in 2023-24. The country's dependence on the inflows of worker's remittances has grown steadily over recent years, which plays a pivotal role in stabilizing the economy.

Among all the remittance-earning countries, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) topped the list of remittance-earning countries of Bangladesh during the year 2023-24 with an amount of US$ 4.63 billion (19.4%) Other major countries in descending order were: U.S.A. US$ 2.97 billion (12.4 %), United Kingdom US$ 2.79 billion (11.7 %), Saudi Arabia US$ 2.72 billion (11.4 %), Malaysia US$ 1.75 billion (7.3 %), Kuwait of US$ 1.51 billion (6.3 %), and Italy US$ 1.46 billion (6.1 %).

Amount in US$ Billion

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Remittance Inflow	$24.78	$21.03	$21.61	$23.91

Remittance Inflow



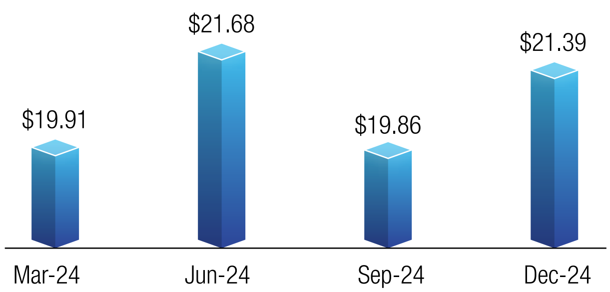
Foreign Exchange Reserve

The inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the last fiscal year declined further. After recording a big jump three years back, the country witnessed a decline in FDI for two consecutive years. Macroeconomic instability coupled with political uncertainty discouraged foreign investors from injecting fresh capital. According to Bangladesh Bank Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) contracted by over 13.23% to US$ 1.27 billion in 2024 from US$ 1.46 billion in FY23. FDI stock in Bangladesh was US$ 18.29 billion at the end of 2024.

Amount in US$ Billion

Particulars	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24
FX Reserve as per BPM6	$19.91	$21.68	$19.86	$21.69

FX Reserve as per BPM6



Exchange Rate

The Bangladesh Taka (BDT) has been declining significantly against foreign currencies- specially the U.S. Dollar over the last few years due mostly to an increase in demand for the greenback to settle import-payment obligations, decline in forex reserves, domestic inflation etc. According to Bangladesh Bank, by the end of December 2024, exchange rate was BDT 120.00 per USD, compared to BDT 110.00 at the end of December 2023. In terms of Euro and GBP it was BDT124.89 per EUR and BDT 150.63 per GBP by the end of December 2024 compared to BDT 122.17 per EUR and BDT 140.78 per GBP by the end of 2023.Bangladesh observes overall approx. 9% depreciation of BDT against US Dollar over the past year.

Interest rate Movement

The difference between lending and deposit interest rates as a measure of banks' intermediation effectiveness has also shrunk significantly. The monthly trends of the weighted average lending and deposit interest rates of all banks indicate that the increase of the deposit rate was more pronounced than that of the loan rate. According to available statistics, the weighted average interest rate on advance increased from 9.34 percent in 2023 to 11.14 percent in 2024. While the rate of weighted average interest rate on deposit increased from 5.36 percent in 2023 to 5.54 percent in 2024.

Particulars	2021	2022	2023	2024
Weighted average interest rate on advances	7.86%	8.05%	9.34%	11.14%
Weighted average interest rate on deposits	4.63%	4.60%	5.36%	5.54%

Banking Sector Outlook

Bangladesh's banking sector faces significant challenges due to long-standing structural weaknesses and emerging risks. The sector has been suffering from high levels of NPLs, low capital adequacy, and operational inefficiencies. Governance issues, regulatory capture, political interference in lending, and related-party lending have worsened the sector's performance and increased solvency risks over the years. Following the government change in 2024 and recognizing the fragility of the banking sector, the interim government and Bangladesh Bank have been assessing vulnerabilities in the sector and identifying the necessary reforms to address them. Multiple initiatives are critical to overcome the challenges and strengthen the sector swiftly. International experiences show that banking crises impose substantial economic costs, and prompt recognition and resolution of banking distress can significantly lower the cost of resolution. To strengthen the banking sector and enhance its resilience, authorities should prioritize: i) enhancing the bank resolution framework, ii) strengthening the deposit insurance system, iii) improving corporate governance and risk management, iv) restructuring state owned banks, v) establishing a robust NPL management framework, vi) enacting a comprehensive bankruptcy law, vii) enforcing banking regulations, viii) implementing an Emergency Liquidity Assistance framework, ix) adopting international best practices in bank regulation and supervision, and x) ensuring the full independence of Bangladesh Bank.

A General Performance Review of The Premier Bank PLC.

A General Performance Review of The Premier Bank PLC.

The Premier Bank PLC. incorporated on 10 June 1999 to carry out all kinds of banking business. The Bank commenced its operations on 26 October 1999 with the prime motto of "Service First". The Bank offers a wide range of depository products, Loans & Advances, Card products and a variety of services to carter virtually for every customer segment. The Product basket is rich in content featuring different types of Savings and Current Accounts, Term and Continues Loans, Personal Loans, Debit/Credit Cards, Internet Banking, Treasury & Syndication Services etc. The Bank has current network of 136 Branches which includes 19 AD Branches & 117 Non-AD Branches including 12 SME/Agri Branches. The Bank also has 67 sub-branches and 135 ATM booths at different locations of the country and a fully-owned subsidiary company named "Premier Bank Securities Limited" (PBSL) with 5 Branches in Dhaka and Chittagong cities. The Bank continued to strive towards building strong relationship with the customers and provide them fast and quality services as well as the best financial solution according to their actual needs. In its long journey, it has been trusted custodians of their money and a true financier of their wants.

Core Banking Activities

The range of banking activities comprises of deposits mobilization, extending credit facilities to corporate and retail businesses, small and medium enterprises, foreign trade business, trade financing, project financing, syndicate financing, commercial paper, lease and hire purchase financing, issuance of local and international credit card, remittance service, Off-shore Banking and so forth. The Bank has both conventional and Islamic Banking in its mode of operations. The services are provided through both traditional and modern IT system.

Products and Services

Premier Bank tries to position itself on a different platform away from its competitors through customizing its products and services. In the advent of growing customers' demand, sophisticated pricing of products is not the single weapon for higher market share.

Review of Financial Performance 2024

The overall performance of our Bank during the year 2024 has ensured value-creation for all stakeholders, including shareholders and customers. In the year 2024, the Bank witnessed decent growth in the field of deposits mobilization, loans distributions, import & export, remittances and other areas. Round the year we have focused our attention on understanding customer expectations and responding through appropriate products and services as well as developing strong relationship with different customer segment.

Operating Income

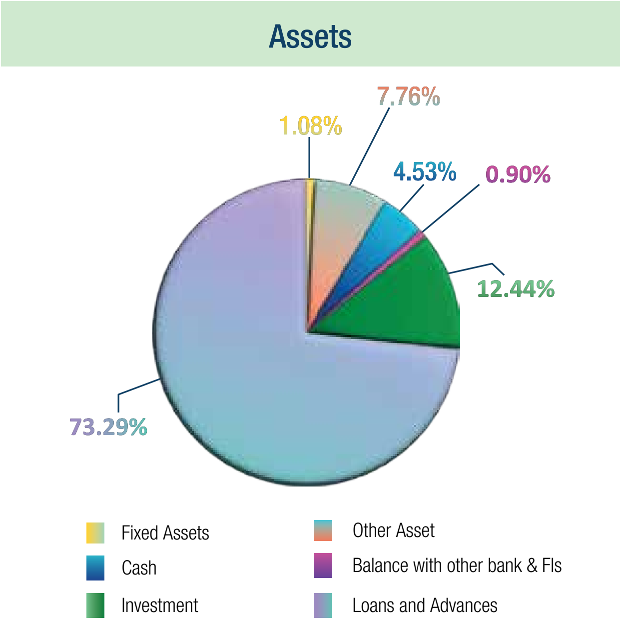
The Bank generated Operating Income of BDT 16,077.26 million in 2024 recording a decline of 8.12% over 2023 in the core banking business. The net Interest Income of the Bank stood at BDT 4,989.75 million for the year 2024. Besides, Income streams from fees, commissions and other operating Income stood at BDT 7,515.47 million. Operating income per employee declined from BDT 6.43 million in 2023 to BDT 5.86 million in 2024.

Operating Expenses

Operating Expenses stood at BDT 8,285.88 million in 2024. Operating cost per employee decreased from BDT 3.07 million in 2023 to BDT 3.02 million in 2024 despite salary, performance related rewards and increase of human resources. Other Operating were associated with system up-gradation, promotional & advertisement activities and Branch-network expansion to improve operational efficiency and enhance customer service.

Assets

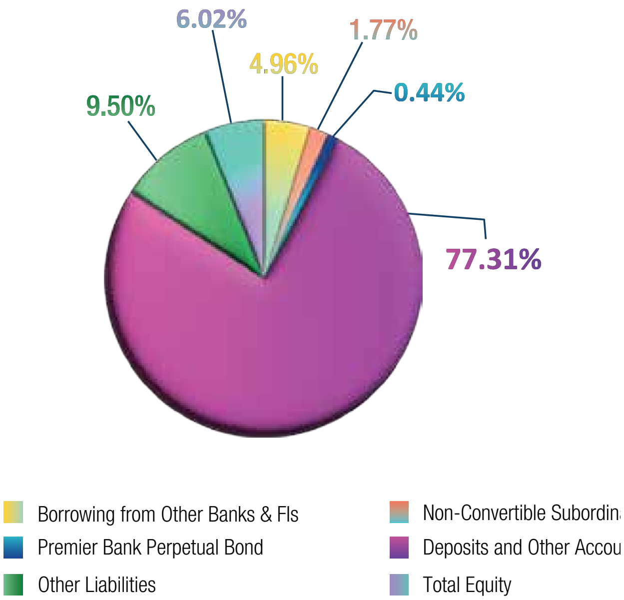
Total Assets of the Bank stood at BDT 449,626.03 million in 2024 against BDT 414,401.58 million in 2023 which was attributed mainly to a growth in the Loans and Advances portfolio. In 2024, Loans and Advances as a percentage of Total Assets stood at 73% in 2024 as compared to 70% in 2023.



Liabilities

Total liabilities and shareholder's equity of the Bank increased to BDT 449,626.03 million in 2024 from BDT 414,401.58 million in 2023 registering a growth of 8.50%. This was mainly due to increase of deposits and making of provision for taxation, loans, advances etc. Borrowings including subordinated bond of banks stood at BDT 30,263.16 million in 2024 against 2023 levels of BDT 38,773.90 million. The ratio of credit to deposit ratio stood at 87.38% in 2024 compared to 80.87% at the end of preceding year.

Liabilities

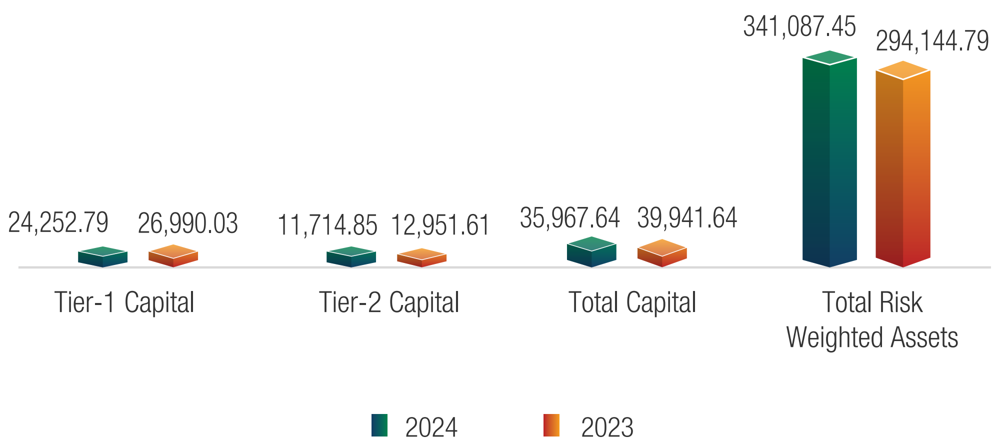


Capital Adequacy

Capital adequacy indicates the financial strength and sustainability of the bank. The Bank actively manages its capital to meet regulatory requirement, current and future business needs and the risks in its businesses. The Bank ended the year 2024 with Common Equity Tier-I and Total Tier-I capital of BDT 22,252.79 million and 24,252.79, Tier-II capital of BDT 11,714.85 million; total Capital of the Bank stood at BDT 35,967.64 million. The Bank's capital to risk weighted asset ratio is 10.54%. Total capital to risk weighted asset ratio (CRAR) of the Bank are as follows

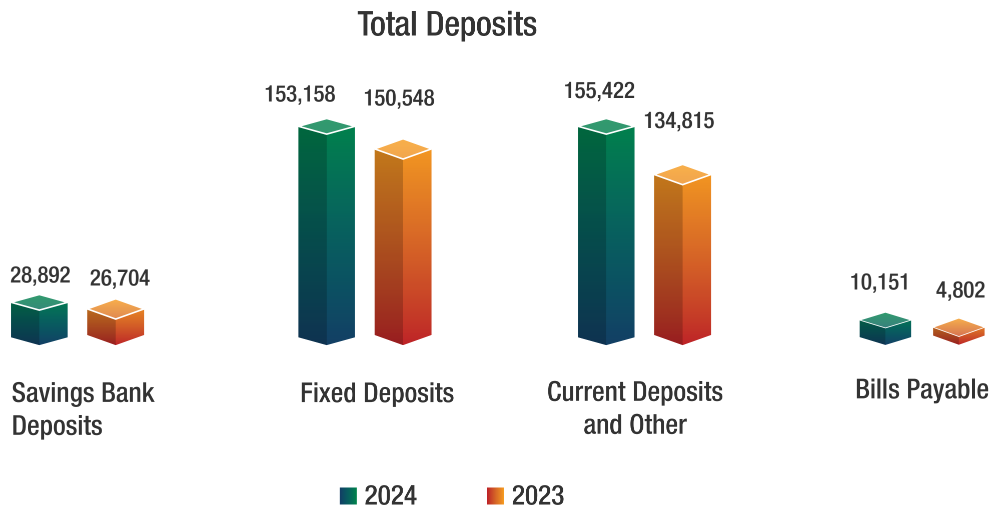
(Amount in BDT Million)

Particulars	2024	2023
Tier-1 Capital	24,252.79	26,990.03
Tier-2 Capital	11,714.85	12,951.61
Total Capital	35,967.64	39,941.64
Total Risk Weighted Assets (RWA)	341,087.45	294,144.79
Capital to Risk Weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR)	10.54%	13.58%



Deposits

Deposit builds up the strong foundation of operating assets of the Bank. It is recognized as the blood of financial institution and gives strength to run the business activities. In pursuit of deposit mobilization, the Bank continued to succeed during the year 2024 with deposit balance of BDT 347,625.28 million from BDT 316,870.34 million in 2023 registering a growth of 9.71%. Our collective efforts in ensuring superior customer services through numerous delivery channels across the country could make it possible. Countrywide Branch Network and SME/Agri. Service Centers with a focus on rural customers have given the lower income segment an access to Online Banking System and opportunity for prompt receipt of remittances. We have wide range of our liability products which include fixed deposit, multiple savings schemes, current and savings deposit, special notice deposit etc. Comparative Deposit Blend of the Bank.



Loans and Advances

The Bank maintains a well-diversified loan portfolio by extending project finance, export finance, SME loans, commercial credit, continuous loans, agricultural credit, house building loan to the deserving clients and staff loan. A wide range of business, industry, service and trade sectors constitute the Bank's advance portfolio.

The credit portfolio of the Bank is composed of Corporate, SME and Retail Products under both conventional and Shariah based terms. Credit activities of the Bank are administered by the Credit Committee at Head Office with delegation of responsibilities grouped into assessment of risks, lending decisions and monitoring functions.

At the end of 2024, credit portfolio of the Bank increased by BDT 40,142.38 million to reach the total of BDT 329,534.65 million against BDT 289,392.37 million in 2023. The growth recorded was 13.87% over the preceding year. Bank's Credit to Deposit ratio was 87.37% percent in 2024.

Dividend

In light of Bangladesh Bank DOS circular no. 01 dated February 7, 2021, as well as Bangladesh Bank DOS circular letter ref. no. DOS(CAMS)1157/41(dividend)/2025-3107 dated May 21, 2025; The Premier Bank PLC. declared No Dividend for the year 2024.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Dr. Arifur Rahman
Chairman