

BIDA NEWSLETTER

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BIDA celebrates the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's Independence



Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus, Principal Secretary to the HPM, addresses BIDA officials during a programme held on Mar 21, 2021 to mark the golden jubilee of Independence

Be responsible and think outside the box if you really want to honor the Father of the Nation, says BIDA chief during a discussion

BIDA celebrated the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's heroic Independence and the birth centennial of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman during a discussion held at its Agargaon office.

"We earned independence through great sacrifice. Today, we are far ahead of Pakistan in all aspects including education, trade, per capita income,

democracy and more. This would never have been possible without independence," said Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus, Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, who graced the ceremony as chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam, highlighted various aspects of the life of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"If we want to really respect Bangabandhu, then building the 'Shonar Bangla' he dreamed of – a land without poverty and exploitation – would be your main responsibility. We, as civil servants, must take on more responsibility, think outside the box to take our country forward," he said.

BIDA officials and staffs took part in the discussion and highlighted the sacrifices of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the freedom fighters, the 3 million martyred men and

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women and the 2 lakh girls and women who suffered oppression during the 1971 war. Officials from BIDA's Divisional offices also participated using a virtual platform.

BIDA discusses summit plans with business leaders



BIDA discusses summit strategies with chamber representatives on Mar 11, 2021.

A preparatory meeting was held in the presence of the Private Industry and Investment Adviser to the HPM Salman Fazlur Rahman MP and BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam at BIDA's Agargaon office on Mar 11, 2021.

BIDA hold talks with private sector representatives as part of its ongoing efforts to organize an international investment summit this year.

The summit seeks to commemorate the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his birth centennial 'Mujib Borsho' by further propelling the phenomenal growth of the Bangladesh economy.

The meeting was attended by representatives of various multilateral and bilateral chambers including the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), who shared ideas on effective ways of reaching out to potential investors and hosting them in Bangladesh. They also provided feedback on countries and sectors that had been targeted for the summit. The representatives of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA), Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) were present.

The two-day summit, which is set to showcase economic resilience and competitiveness and sectoral investment opportunities, will be inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The IFC is co-organizing the summit with BIDA and providing technical support.

BIDA and Standard Chartered to work together to attract FDI



BIDA and Standard Chartered Bank sign an MoU during a ceremony at the BIDA's Agargaon office on Jan 05, 2021.

The public and the private sector need to work together to overcome COVID-19 challenges and leverage new opportunities, says BIDA Chief

BIDA formed a partnership with the Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) as part of its ongoing efforts to attract high-value foreign investments.

The two organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during an official ceremony held at BIDA's head office in Agargaon on Jan 5, 2021.

Bangladesh's vision to become a middle income country by 2024 and a developed one by 2041 largely depends on foreign investments, said BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam. "I believe that our partnership will play a significant role in drawing more foreign investments."

The partnership is expected to leverage the SCB's networks at home and abroad to target high value, hi-technology and high impact investments covering key priority sectors including agriculture, ICT, electronics, light engineering, renewable energy, power and health care.

"Collaboration between the public and the private sector is now more important because we want to overcome challenges of COVID-19 and take advantage of opportunities of new normal," said the BIDA Chief.

The changes across the globe caused by the pandemic highlight importance of building resilience through diversification, said SCB CEO Naser Ezaz Bijoy. "With companies looking to invest in diverse markets to build resilience and leverage available resources and prospects, we have a unique window of opportunity to expand our FDI pool," he said.

Dr. Abdul Hamid, BIDA Secretary, and Enamul Huque, Managing Director and Head of Corporate, Commercial and Institutional Banking client coverage for Bangladesh, SCB, signed the deal on behalf of their respective sides.

BIDA invites Turkish investments in key sectors



OSS Updates



Speakers address the virtual OSS services launching ceremony on Apr 13, 2021.

One Stop Service: 5 new services now available on BIDA's online portal

BIDA raises the number of online investor services from 18 to 47 despite the challenges of the pandemic

BIDA has integrated five more services into its online One Stop Service portal, raising the total number of services to 47¹.

During a virtual ceremony held on Apr 13, the services were officially launched.

New electricity connections from the Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO), Northern Electric Supply Company (NESCO) and West Zone Power Distribution Company (WZPDCO) can now be obtained through the OSS. The National Board of Revenue's (NBR) e-BIN (Online VAT Registration) can also be availed besides 2nd Adhoc Import Registration Certificate (IRC) from BIDA.

BIDA's online One Stop Service portal is the country's first interoperable online platform, which offers e-payment enabled, hassle-free and contactless investor services. Earlier on Mar 15, BIDA's OSS won the Bangladesh Brand Forum's Best Innovation in Public Service award for Innovation in Integration. BIDA, with technical assistance from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), is working to integrate as many as 154 services of 35 agencies as part of its effort to improve Bangladesh's business climate.



A ceremony hosted at BIDA marks the integration of DSCC's Trade License Issuance service with BIDA's online One Stop Service (OSS) portal. DSCC Mayor Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh MP graced the Mar 18, 2021 event as chief guest.

DSCC's Trade License now on BIDA's One Stop Service Portal

Investors can now get a trade license from the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) by applying online on the BIDA's One Stop Service Portal.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh MP launched the new service during an official ceremony at BIDA's Agargaon office on Mar 18, 2021.

"An applicant can now get our trade license sitting at home after submitting all necessary documents online through BIDA's OSS. The fee is also payable online," said the DSCC mayor.

The digitization and simplification of investor services will contribute to a better business climate, he said, as he thanked BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam for facilitating investment services. BIDA will continue to work with DSCC to allow trade license renewal through OSS.

1. The figure represents the latest number of BIDA OSS services as of April, 2021



BIDA signs MoUs with four service providers to integrate their services with the online One Stop Service portal during a ceremony at Dhaka's Agargaon on Feb 11, 2021.

BIDA OSS gets four more partners

BIDA signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with four service providers to integrate another 16 services. The agencies are: Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence Department, the Department of Registration, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority and Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd.

BIDA and its new partners will now work together to integrate the following services: approval of the fire safety licence, renewal of fire safety licence, issuance of no-objection certificate for multi-storey building, land purchase deed, lease agreement registration, advance document, registration of power of attorney, supply of duplicate registered documents, water connection to industrial establishments, water connection to commercial establishments, sewerage connection to industrial establishments, sewerage connection to commercial establishments, allowing installation of deep tube wells at institutional level, land or internet protocol telephone connection or facility, providing high speed broadband internet and virtual private network connection and BD and Bangla domain name registration.

BIDA publishes COVID-19 survey findings

Foreign companies were more insulated from shocks of COVID-19

Total sample size = 2,144 projects

Total responses: 748

Data collected in 4 areas:

1. *Business Operations and Growth*
2. *Availability of Finance*
3. *Supply Chain*
4. *Labor and Employment*

BIDA published the findings of its survey on registered businesses of BIDA. The survey conducted in June last year was a systematic monitoring approach to learn the impacts of the

pandemic on business activities, business confidence and policy expectations. The survey questionnaire and report have been developed with technical support from IFC.

The online survey was able to reach 748 businesses thanks to the BIDA officials who systematically corresponded with respondents. BIDA selected sample by applying "random-sampling" on registered businesses, including 100% foreign, domestic and joint ventures.

Key findings

- Domestic businesses seem to be amongst the hardest hit in COVID-19
- Majority of JVs expected sharp declines in revenue, net income and liquidity over the next 3 months



- 100% foreign companies expressed concern over revenue/ net income losses
- While domestic businesses took the highest hit and a good number of them experienced positive impact, foreign investment showed more resistance
- While majority of businesses experienced supply chain disruptions, 100% Foreign and JV were impacted less

- JV and 100% foreign companies retained more jobs compared to domestic businesses. However, domestic businesses reported higher job creation
- Worker productivity plunged during COVID-19, says majority businesses
- Domestic and JV businesses take lead in demand for stimulus allocation
- Revenue performance during COVID-19 is overwhelmingly negative for majority domestic, 100% foreign and joint ventures
- Despite the adversities of COVID-19, over 90% businesses showed high confidence

BIDA publishes three new sector profiles



The promotional materials are available on BIDA's website

BIDA highlighted investment opportunities in the sectors of Ceramics, Plastics and Leather and Leather Goods in three new sector profiles published in February, 2021.

The promotional materials were developed with technical assistance from the JICA's Promoting Investment and Enhancing Industry Competitiveness Project (Component-1).

So far, BIDA has published 9 sector profiles in partnership with the JICA project. The profiles that were earlier published, and available on BIDA's website, are for pharmaceuticals, automobile, food processing, healthcare, medical equipment and light engineering.

BIDA and JICA is jointly researching investment strategies in the context of COVID-19. Under this, research on investment feasibility of medical devices sector is underway.

Bangladesh is the perfect destination for Chinese investments, speakers say at Showcase Bangladesh



Panelists pose for a photo during 'Showcase Bangladesh' that promoted Chinese FDI on Jan 25, 2021.

BIDA and Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) has hosted a virtual event which showcased the partnership potential between Bangladesh and China and highlighted emerging strategic opportunities in a shifting global landscape.

Held on Jan 25, 2021 the webinar titled 'Showcase Bangladesh' was joined by over 400 delegates representing Chinese public and private sectors, policymakers, investors, bankers and economists, along with prominent leaders from Bangladesh's private and public sector.

BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam delivered the keynote presentation and highlighted opportunities for Chinese investors in RMG, leather, pharmaceuticals /API & medical equipment, software & IT, agro & food processing, agro tools & machinery, electronics, automobile and shipbuilding. "Bangladesh is a rapidly growing economy. At the time of the global pandemic, we had one of the highest GDP growth rates in the region. We are also systematically improving the investment climate for investors," he said.



Speaking on the occasion, SCB CEO Naser Ezaz Bijoy said, “As Chinese firms seek new ports-of-call to expand integration to global value chains, Bangladesh-China partnerships hold a unique promise: deep ties and familiarity of centuries, but new and untapped opportunities. To fully leverage these opportunities, a close partnership between banks, investors and governments will be critical. Today’s summit is our first step to establish the platform for this collaboration.”

Hon’ble Minister of Planning M. A. Mannan MP addressed the webinar as Chief guest. Private Sector Industry & Investment Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister, Salman Fazlur Rahman MP also spoke to the investors. Chinese Ambassador H.E. Mr. Li Jiming, Bangladesh Ambassador to China H. E. Mr. Mahub Uz Zaman, FBCCI President Sheikh Fazle Fahim and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) Executive Chairman Paban Chowdhury also took part in the outreach.

Lin Weiqiang, President, Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh; Zhuang Lifeng, President of Overseas Chinese Association in Bangladesh; Zed Chen, Regional Finance Director, South Asia, Oppo, spoke to the audience about their experience as existing investors.

The programme was implemented as an initiative of BIDA and SCB, which signed an MoU on Jan 5, 2021 to together promote foreign investments.

BIDA, BBF join hands to attract foreign investment



BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam oversees the signing of an MoU with Better Bangladesh Foundation at BIDA’s Agargaon office on Feb 24, 2021.

BIDA has signed an MoU with the Better Bangladesh Foundation (BBF) in a bid to attract more foreign investments in the country.

The first initiative under this partnership inked on Feb 24, will be the organizing of an investment summit between Bangladesh and Italy. The BIDA and BBF will also implement a wide range of programmes to encourage more foreign investments in Bangladesh in coming days.

“I expect the partnership between the BIDA and BBF will play a significant role in drawing more foreign investments,” said BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam.

The BBF in partnership with the BIDA will organize a number of road shows, seminars, symposiums to attract foreign investment, and most importantly, will create a positive image of Bangladesh, said BBF president Masud A. Khan.

Photo Gallery



BIDA pays tributes to language heroes on Jatiya Shaheed Dibosh and International Mother Language Day on February 21, 2021.



Photo: BIDA officials pay a floral tribute at the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence at Dhaka's Dhanmondi to commemorate his birth anniversary on March 17, 2021.



BIDA Head office was illuminated with colorful lights to celebrate the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's heroic Independence and the birth centennial of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



H.E. Enrico Nunziata, Ambassador of Italy in Bangladesh, meets BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam on March 01, 2021 at BIDA office. They discussed an investment summit to attract Italian FDI and trade, which is to be jointly organized with the Better Bangladesh Foundation (BBF).



H.E. Hytham Ghobashy, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, hands over a memento to BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam during courtesy call at BIDA's Agargaon office on Mar 16, 2021.



International Women's Day is celebrated at BIDA's Agargaon office on Mar 08, 2021.



BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam inaugurates a transformer plant by Sylvan Technologies Limited during his tour of Sylhet's Habiganj on Feb 1, 2021.



BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam visits PRAN-RFL's industrial park at Sylhet's Habiganj after joining the inauguration of the contract manufacturing site of P&G Gillette Razor Guard factory.



JICA's Promoting Investment and Enhancing Industrial Competitiveness (PIEIC) Project (Component -01) organizes a seminar, which was chaired by BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam on March 24, 2021.



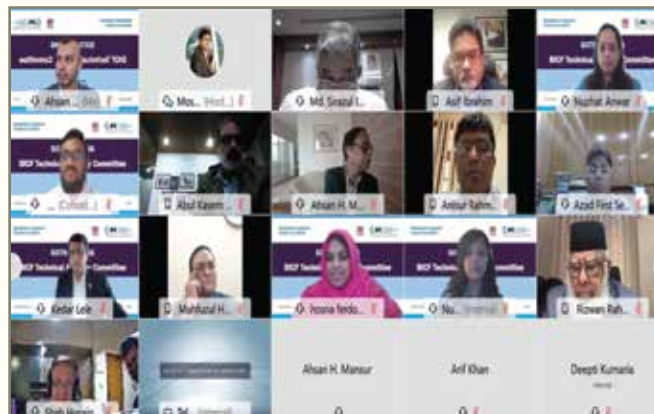
BIDA and UNDP jointly organized the 'National Stakeholder Consolation - Creating Economic Opportunists for All' programme. Mr. Salman Fazlur Rahman MP, Private Industry and Investment Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister joined as Chief Guest of the inaugural Session.



A virtual seminar titled 'Bangladesh-US Trade and Investment Opportunities' was held on March 30, 2021 as part of the celebration of the birth centenary of Father of The Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The event was co-hosted by the Bangladesh Consulate General in New York and US-Bangladesh Global Chamber of Commerce.

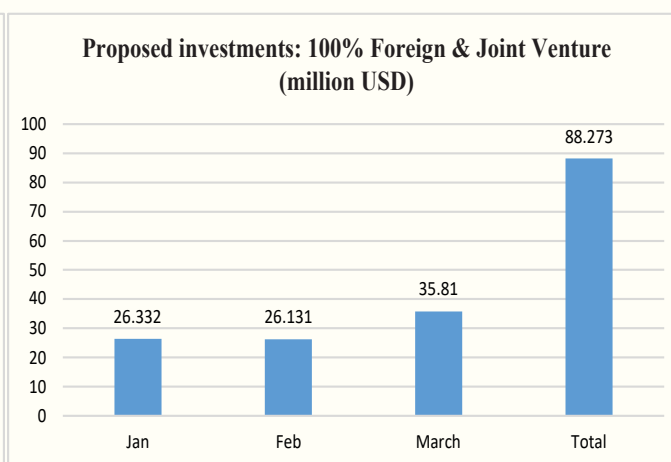
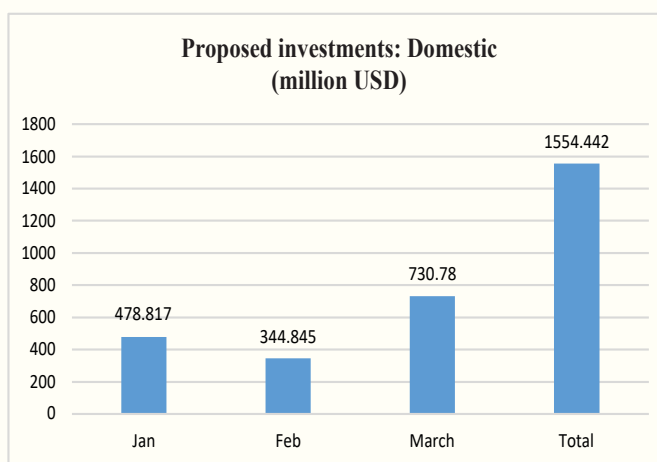
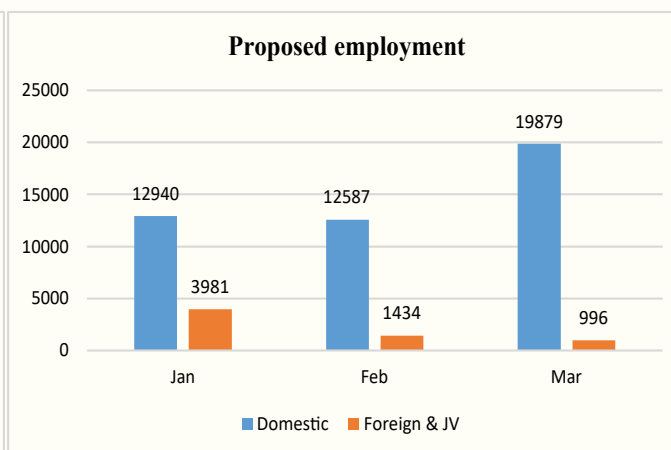
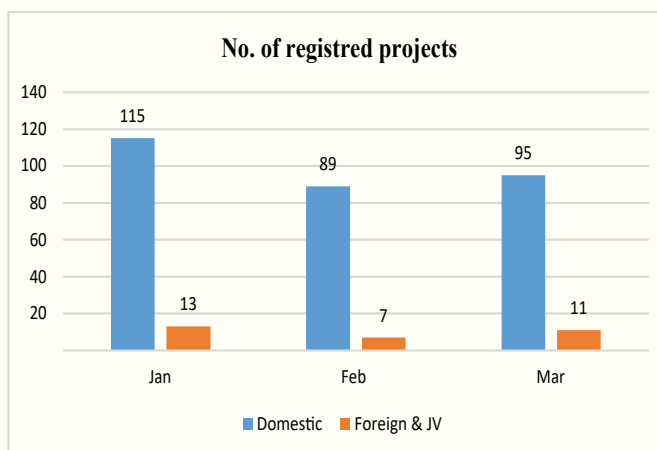


BIDA co-hosted a webinar with Japanese businesses on Feb 2, 2021 along with Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), the Embassy of Bangladesh in Japan, JICA Bangladesh & JETRO. Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus, Principal Secretary to HPM, Bangladesh Ambassador H.E. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Japanese Ambassador H.E. Naoki Ito. Representatives of Honda, Monstar Lab Bangladesh and Bangladesh SEZ Company Ltd. joined the outreach event.



BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam moderates the 6th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of IFC Bangladesh's Bangladesh Investment Climate Fund (BICF) on Feb 24, 2021.

BIDA projects in CY 2021 (January to March)



INVEST IN BANGLADESH



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"WE INVITE YOU TO INVEST IN BANGLADESH.
YOU WILL HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF MY GOVERNMENT."

- SHEIKH HASINA
HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER



Bangladesh Investment
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