



Bangladesh Investment
Development Authority



BIDA NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF BANGLADESH INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

October-December 2020 • Issue no. 11

BIDA celebrates Victory Day 2020



BIDA Bhaban decorated with lights on the occasion of the nation's Victory Day on Dec 16, 2020.

BIDA officials joined a discussion on the nation's Victory Day 2020 on Dec 21. BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam chaired the discussion at BIDA's Agargaon office.

A minute of silence was observed at the beginning of the discussion. On Dec 16 in 1971, Bangladesh was born as an independent country under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the cost of supreme sacrifice of three million people and the honour of nearly two lakh of women.

Chief Guest Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus, Principal Secretary to HPM, joined the discussion through a video link. "Today, as a nation, we are at a turning point. We have marked the golden jubilee of our independence and the birth centenary of our nation's father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," said Dr. Kaikaus.



BIDA officials joined a discussion on the nation's Victory Day 2020 on Dec 21 at BIDA conference room.

BIDA chief Md. Sirazul Islam said, "We are eternally grateful to Bangabandhu and our freedom fighters. In order to truly respect our heroes, we must join hands to achieve Bangabandhu's dream of Sonar Bangla, which is a land peace, equality and prosperity. For this we have to face our challenges and move forward."

Executive Member Nabhash Chandra Mandal, Director General Ziaul Huq, Director Md. Shah Alam, Director A.K.M. Benjamin Riaz, Assistant Director Abu zer Gifary Tamal, Assistant Md. Monirul Islam and driver Mr. Md. Safar Ali delivered speeches at this programme. The discussion was moderated by Deputy Director Umme Rumana Tua.

All officials and staffers of BIDA joined the programme. Officials from BIDA's divisional offices also participated using a virtual platform.

One Stop Service: 41 investor services now available online



Salman Fazlur Rahman MP, Private Sector Industry and Investment Adviser to HPM, inaugurates 6 new OSS services during a ceremony at BIDA's Agargaon office on Dec 31, 2020.

Forty-one investor services are now available on BIDA's online One Stop Service portal.

As many as 20 data-sharing and e-payment enabled services were added to the portal in two ceremonies held in December.

A total six services – three services from the Department of Environment and one of each the Bangladesh Power Development Board, Dhaka Power Distribution Company and the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports -- were integrated with the OSS on Dec 31, 2020

Salman Fazlur Rahman MP, Private Sector Industry and Investment Adviser to HPM, officially launched the services during a ceremony held BIDA's Agargaon office.

Earlier, during an online ceremony at Dec 10, 2020, twelve services of the Department of



Fourteen new OSS services are launched through an official ceremony on Dec 10, 2020.

Environment and one of each from the Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC&F) and BIDA were added to the OSS.

Investors can now get an electricity connection within 18 days of application. An environment clearance certificate can now be availed between a week and 45 working days, based on the trade category, which is one third of the time previously required.

The OSS aims to provide hassle-free, transparent and contactless investor services. The OSS system is equipped with real-time monitoring to ensure the swift processing of files. BIDA is working to integrate as many as 154 services from 35 agencies with the OSS with technical assistance from the International Finance Corporation.

BIDA to facilitate South Korean investments in new sectors

South Korea, which pioneered investments in Bangladesh's RMG sector, is diversifying its FDI focus.

South Korean businesses exploring opportunities in various Bangladeshi sectors will receive all-round support, BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam has said.

He made the commitment during a courtesy call made by His Excellency Lee Jang-Keun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, at BIDA's Agargaon office on Oct 25, 2020.

"South Korean companies are performing really well in our economy. We wish to facilitate more businesses from South Korean, including small and medium enterprises," said the BIDA chief.



His Excellency Lee Jang-Keun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, is greeted by BIDA chief Md. Sirazul Islam at BIDA's office on Oct 25, 2020.

Investments from South Korea are changing, said H.E. Ambassador Lee. “Korean investments were at first focused on RMG. But it is diversifying into finance, construction, electronics, trading and more.”

The trade volume between Bangladesh and South Korea should be boosted beyond the current \$3 billion, he

said. “The current figure demonstrates that we have to work more to increase this volume. Honourable Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon’s visit to Dhaka last year is a testament of our readiness and willingness to work together,” he added.

The South Korean PM’s landmark visit in July, 2019 was marked by the signing of three deals, which included an MoU between BIDA and Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) for strengthening cooperation in the area of investment.

Korean businesses can add more value in RMG, ICT and electronics as well as in automobile and auto parts manufacturing, health-tech, light engineering and agro-processing, said the BIDA chief.

“Korean SMEs can also explore opportunities in life sciences and personal products, taking advantage of our large domestic market and rapidly rising consumer demand,” he added.

As the country’s apex investment promotion agency, BIDA will form an active partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea for cooperation in investment promotion and facilitation, he told the ambassador.

Kim Choel-san, Deputy Chief of Mission, and Jong Won Kim, Director General of KOTRA, were present in the meeting along with BIDA directors -- Shah Mohammad Mahboob (Registration & Incentives Foreign Industry) and Ariful Hoque (Registration & Incentives/Commercial).

Nordic countries eye large projects in key sectors



H.E. Ambassador of Denmark Winnie Estrup Petersen, HE Ambassador of Sweden Alexandra Berg Von Linde and H.E. Ambassador of Norway Espen Rikter-Svendsen visit BIDA office on Nov 5, 2020.

Nordic countries are eyeing a stronger trade and economic partnership with Bangladesh.

H.E. Ambassador of Denmark Winnie Estrup Petersen, HE Ambassador of Sweden Alexandra Berg Von Linde and H.E. Ambassador of Norway Espen Rikter-Svendsen conveyed the message during a meeting with BIDA chief Md. Sirazul Islam on Nov 3, 2020

During the meeting, they discussed Bangladesh's investment climate, services provided during Covid-19 and future plans of the country.

Swedish businesses are interested in Bangladesh's agriculture and food industry, said H.E. Swedish Ambassador Alexandra Berg von Linde. Bangladesh has a large market and the purchasing power of the people increasing day by day.

Norway has a big investment in Bangladesh's telecommunications sector and is interested in large investments in green technology, solar energy, jute, and jute products here, said H.E. Norwegian Ambassador Espen Rikter-Svendsen. H.E. Danish Ambassador Winnie Estrup Petersen also spoke of her country's interest in increasing investments in Bangladesh.

7th NCMID meeting: Doing Business reforms accelerated



The 7th meeting of the National Committee for Monitoring Implementation of Doing Business Reforms (NCMID) was held virtually on Dec 6, 2020.

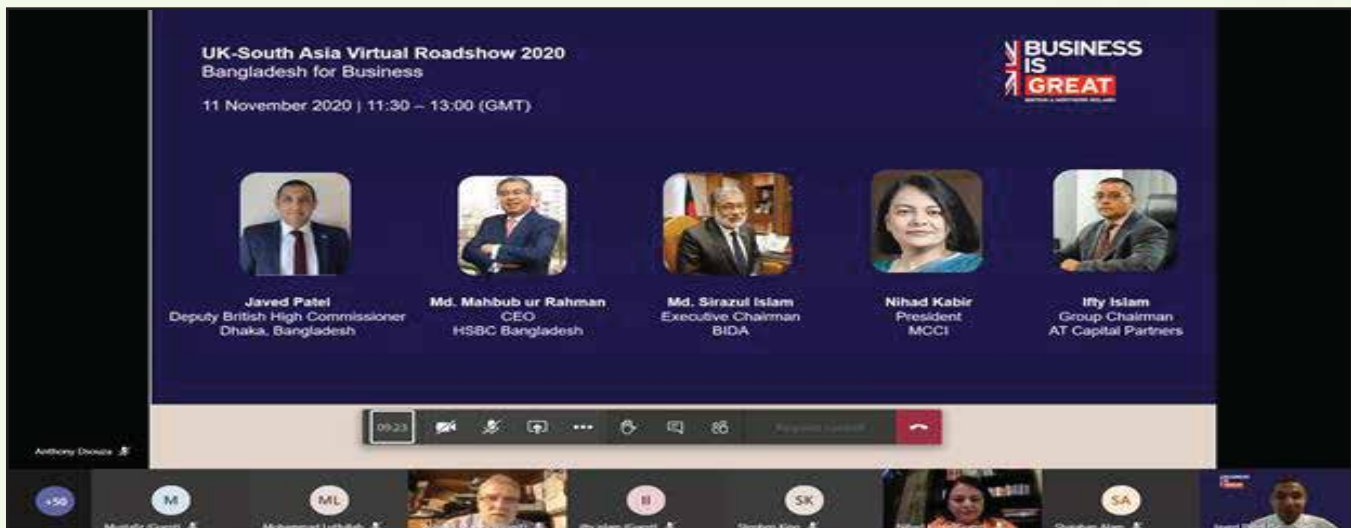
NCMID is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam, who has been expediting crucial reforms for improving Bangladesh's business climate. During the meeting, NCMID members - the ministries, departments and agencies – talked about their efforts to speed up and simplify procedures for investors.

In a landmark move, time needed for land mutation has been reduced to 7 days. The two-tier process for providing electricity connections in 7 days has been initiated. Faster digitisation of G2B services and integration with BIDA's One Stop Service for simplified starting of business was also a major focus.

Trade licence, electricity connections can soon be obtained through the OSS. The draft Secured Transaction Act was discussed, which is set to establish a Moveable Collateral Registry. Several more reforms under various Doing Business Indicators were discussed in the meeting. Officials of IFC, which provides technical assistance to BIDA, were present in the meeting.

As the lead agency coordinating Doing Business reforms, BIDA is driving efforts to achieve double digit ranking for Bangladesh in the World Bank's Doing Business index.

BIDA joins UK – South Asia Roadshow



BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam spoke to UK businesses participating in the UK – South Asia Roadshow held on Nov 11, 2020.

The roadshow organized by the UK Department for International Trade (DIT) and the British High Commission included Bangladesh for the first time.

BIDA chief talked about the bold steps taken by the Bangladesh and UK government to create opportunities for FDI and trade. “Bangladesh wants to be considered as an integral part of UK’s post Brexit policy,” he said.

Beyond manufacturing, UK investors can explore Bangladesh’s growing service industry. health and healthtech, education and EdTech, FinTech and infrastructure, which are highly promising arenas. Bangladesh is working to emerge as an ideal export hub and it will also host academic collaborations for researching technology.

Photo gallery



Salman Fazlur Rahman MP, Private Sector Industry and Investment Adviser to the HPM, is handed copies of the Bangladesh Investment Handbook: A Guide for Investors by BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam.



Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus, Principal Secretary to the HPM, is handed copies of BIDA's Annual Report 2019-20 by BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam on Oct 25, 2020.

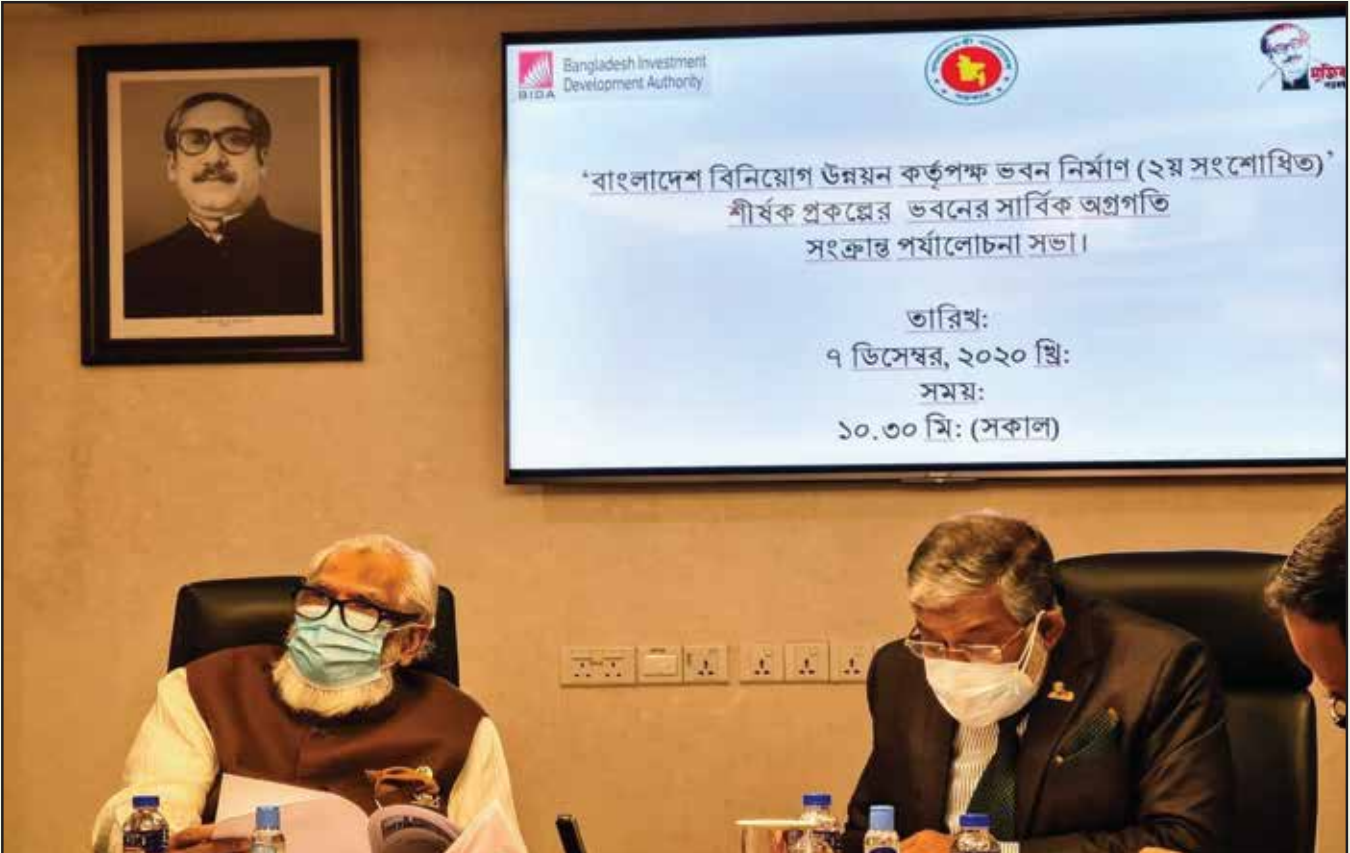
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Md. Tofazzel Hossain Miah, PMO secretary, is handed copies of BIDA Annual Report 2019-20 by BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam on Oct 25, 2020.



Salman Fazlur Rahman MP, Private Sector Industry and Investment Adviser to the HPM, chairs a meeting to check the progress of the project to build BIDA's office building in Agargaon on Dec 7, 2020.



BIDA officials led by Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam observe a minute of silence during a Victory Day discussion held on Dec 21, 2020.



BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam hands over prizes to the winners of an essay competition organized on the occasion of the nation's Victory Day 2020.

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H.E. Guner Ureya, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Bangladesh made a courtesy call on BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam on Nov 4, 2020.



Her Excellency Ambassador of Switzerland Nathalie Chuard and BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam discuss opportunities to promote and facilitate more Swiss FDI at BIDA office on Nov 3, 2020.

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BIDA organizes a day-long training workshop for newly-appointed commercial counselors of Bangladesh embassies. BIDA chief Md. Sirazul Islam presided over this workshop attended by commercial counselors headed to Brussels, Los Angeles, Myanmar, Tehran, South Korea, Kunming on Oct 11, 2020.



BIDA officials attend to Bangladesh's digital booth at the Annual Investment Meeting organized with the patronage of the Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in October, 2020.

List of investor services available on BIDA's Online One Stop Service (OSS) Portal

<https://bidaquickserv.org>

(From December 31, 2020)

No.	Agency	Service
1.	Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC)	1. Name Clearance; 2. Company Registration; 3. Registration of Foreign Companies (Branch/Liaison/Representative Office).
2.	National Board of Revenue (NBR)	1. e-TIN Registration.
3.	Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)	1. Industrial Project Registration; 2. Office Permission (New); 3. Office Permission (Extension) 4. Office Permission (Amendment); 5. Office Permission (Cancellation); 6. Visa Recommendation (New); 7. Visa Recommendation (Amendment); 8. Work Permit (New); 9. Work Permit (Extension); 10. Work Permit (Amendment); 11. Work Permit (Cancellation); 12. Visa on Arrival; 13. Visa on arrival (Amendment); 14. Remittance Approval; 15. 1st Ad Hoc Industrial IRC Recommendation.
4.	Sonali Bank Ltd.	1. Online Payment.
5.	Election Commission Secretariat	1. Verification of applicant's national identity.
6.	Security Services Division	1. Security clearance in favor of foreign nationals.
7.	Chattogram Development Authority	1. Land use clearance

8.	Department of Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environmental site clearance (Red); 2. Environmental site clearance (Orange-A); 3. Environmental site clearance (Orange-B); 4. Environmental site clearance (Green); 5. Environmental clearance (Red); 6. Environmental clearance (Orange-A); 7. Environmental clearance (Orange-B); 8. Environmental clearance (Green); 9. Renewal of environmental clearance (Red); 10. Renewal of environmental clearance (Orange-A); 11. Renewal of environmental clearance (Orange-B); 12. Renewal of environmental clearance (Green); 13. EIA approval; 14. TOR approval 15. Zero discharged approval.
9.	Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports	1. Issuance Industrial IRC
10.	Bangladesh Power Development Board	1. Electricity connection.
11.	Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC)	1. Electricity connection.

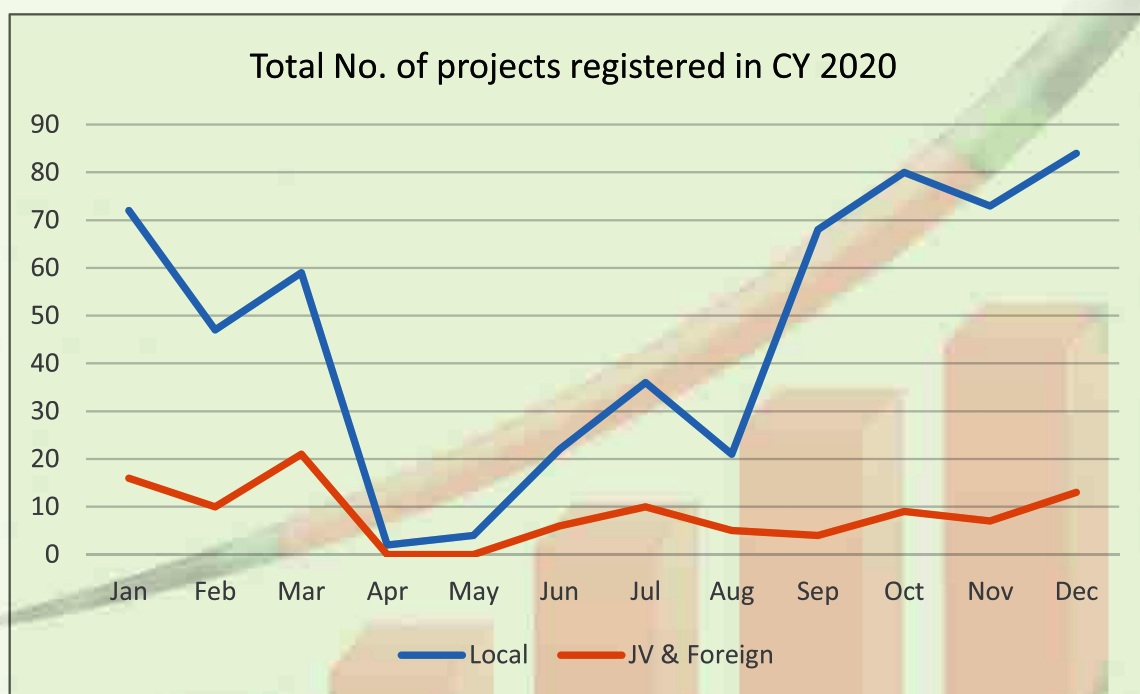


Fig-1: Proposed Local, 100% Foreign and Joint Venture investments in CY 2020 (in million BDT)

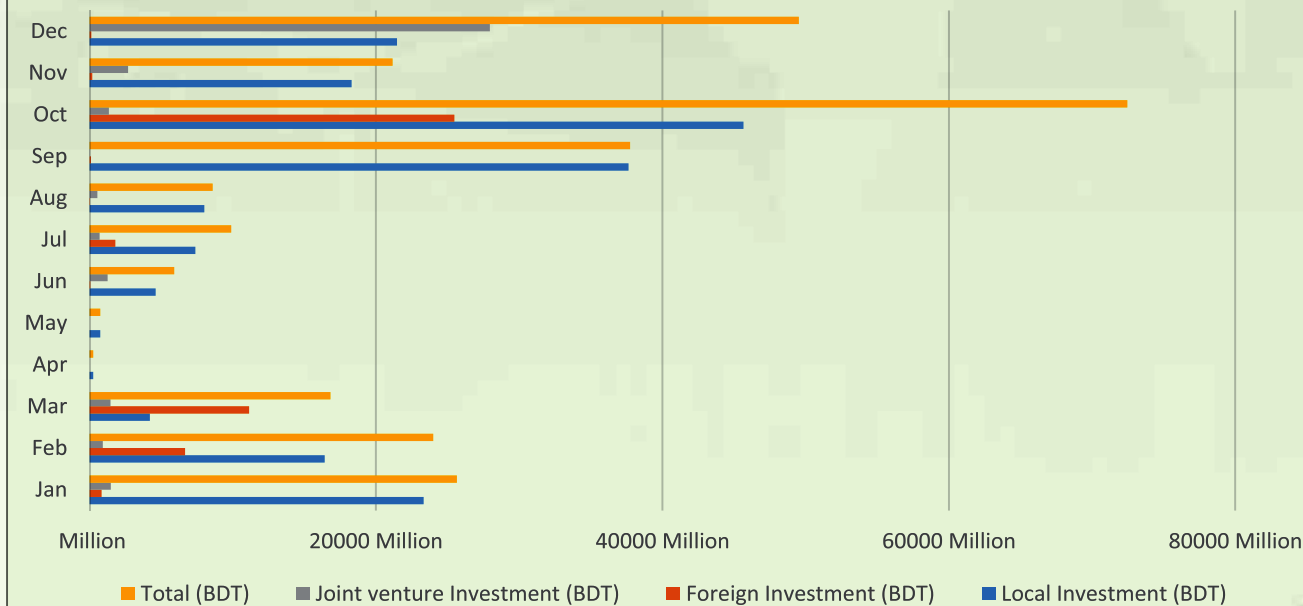
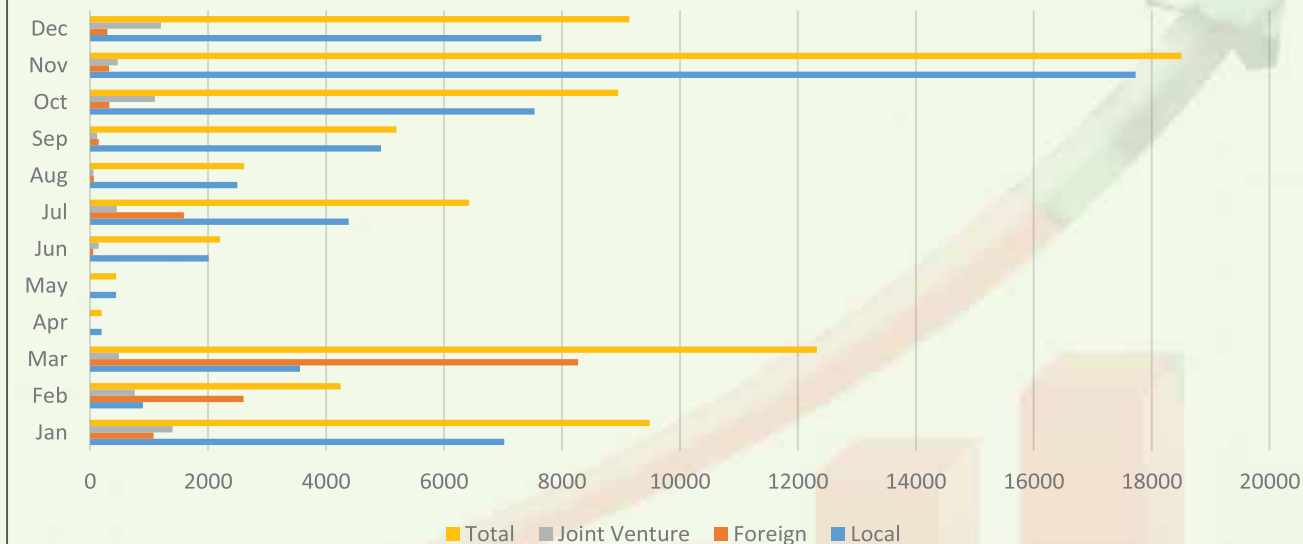


Fig-2: Proposed employment in CY 2020



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