



BIDA NEWSLETTER

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Signatories and witnesses representing the Security Services Division of MoHA, CCI&E, CDA, DESCO and BPDB pose for a photo with BIDA chief Md. Sirazul Islam after the signing of five MoUs during a ceremony at Dhaka's Hotel Amari on Jan 15, 2020.

One Stop Service: Five MoUs signed to integrate 11 new services

BIDA strengthens Bangladesh's single-window platform for easy, fast and transparent investment entry

BIDA has signed MoUs with five more government agencies to pave the way for integration of 11 new investor services with its online One Stop Service (OSS).

The MoUs were signed with the Security Services Division (SSD) of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports (CCI&E), Chattogram Development Authority (CDA), Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO) and Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) during a ceremony organised in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) on Jan 15.

BIDA's OSS currently provides 18 G2B, data-enabled services from four agencies -- BIDA,

the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC), the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the Sonali Bank. The work to integrate the trade license service of Dhaka North City Corporation, Dhaka South City Corporation and Chattogram City Corporation is in progress.

"We are dedicated to the delivery of effective and efficient One Stop Service as part of our overall effort improve the investment climate of Bangladesh," said BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam. "These services are integral for starting a business, so by strengthening the OSS we can provide easy, fast and transparent entry of investment into Bangladesh".

"I am thrilled because the five agencies with whom we have signed MoUs have taken many significant steps for digitization. The OSS integration process will start immediately, so these 11 new services can be made available within the shortest possible time. We are working closely with our partners to deliver a total 154 services of 35 agencies through the OSS," said the BIDA chief.

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Pranesh Ranjan Sutradhar, Chief Controller, CCI&E, Md. Munim Hassan, Joint Secretary (Immigration-1), Security Services Division, MoHA, Tahera Ferdows Begum, Secretary, CDA, Saiful Islam Azad,

Secretary, BPDB and SM Zamil Hussain, Deputy General Manager (Company Secretariat), DESCO signed the MoUs on behalf of their organization.

BIDA's One Stop Service

The five MoUs signed on Jan 15 will pave the way for the following 11 services:

Service	Agency
1. Security Clearance	Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs
2. Issuance of Import Registration Certificate (IRC)	Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports
3. Issuance of Export Registration Certificate (ERC)	
4. Renewal of Import Registration Certificate (IRC)	
5. Renewal of Export Registration Certificate (ERC)	
6. Issuance of Land Use Clearance	Chattogram Development Authority
7. Plan Approval	
8. Large & Specialised Projects Clearance	
9. Issuance of Occupancy Certificate	
10. New electricity connection	Bangladesh Power Development Board
11. New electricity connection	Dhaka Electric Supply Company

The following are the existing services of BIDA's online OSS.

Service	Agency
1. Name clearance of new company	Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms
2. Company Registration	
3. e-Tin Registration	National Board of Revenue
4. e-VAT Registration	
5. Industrial Project Registration	Bangladesh Investment Development Authority
6. Foreign Commercial Office Permission (New)	
7. Foreign Commercial Office Permission (Extension)	
8. Foreign Commercial Office Permission (Amendment)	
9. Foreign Commercial Office Permission (Cancellation)	
10. Visa Recommendation (New)	
11. Visa Recommendation (Amendment)	
12. Visa on Arrival	
13. Visa on arrival (Amendment)	
14. Work Permit (New)	
15. Work Permit (Extension)	
16. Work Permit (Amendment)	
17. Work Permit (Cancellation)	
18. Remittance Approval	



Discussion to celebrate Victory Day organised at BIDA's office on Dec 19, 2019. The Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman Fazlur Rahman joined the event as chief guest.

“Let's work harder for Shonar Bangla”

BIDA holds discussion to celebrate Victory Day-2019

BIDA has to develop an ideal investment climate that can take economic development to the next level and create ‘Shonar Bangla’ – a prosperous land of equality and opportunities -- as envisioned by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman Fazlur Rahman made the statement while addressing a discussion organized by BIDA to celebrate Bangladesh's Victory Day-2019.

In accordance with the government's adopted theme, the discussion was titled ‘the internalization of the spirit of the Liberation War for building Shonar Bangla and the optimal utilization of digital technology’.



The Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman Fazlur Rahman addresses BIDA officials and trade body representatives at BIDA's Victory Day discussion on Dec 19, 2019.

“The people who grabbed power after the brutal assassinations of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members never wanted Bangladesh to be self-sufficient,” said Salman Fazlur Rahman, who

joined the discussion as chief guest. “But in just ten years, the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has re-shaped the economic landscape of Bangladesh.”

She has set the nation's economic targets in Vision-2021 and Vision-2041, and has been laying the infrastructural foundation necessary for achieving those goals, he said. “This includes the development of physical infrastructures like economic zones as well as the nationwide digital infrastructure. “BIDA has to shoulder the responsibility of ensuring the growth of private investment, which is what Bangladesh needs in order to reach the next level. If we truly want to enjoy the fruits of our Liberation, we must work harder,” said the prime minister's adviser.

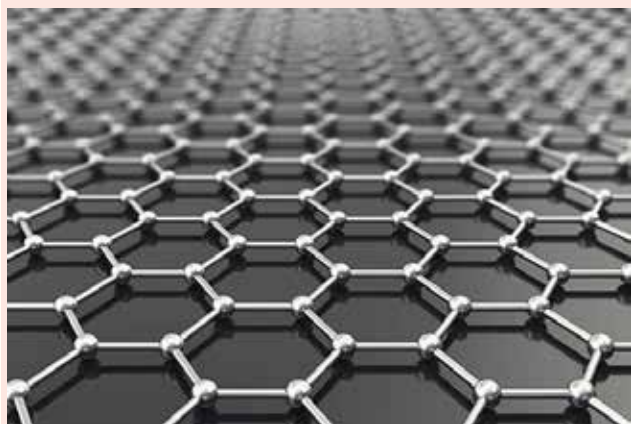
“There were many people who had mocked the policy of Digital Bangladesh, but now it's success can be seen everywhere,” said BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam. “As an investment destination,



Bangladesh is facing competition, BIDA will ensure the use of digital technology for gaining a competitive advantage.”

BIDA's discussion, held in its head office in Agargaon, was joined by special guests Md. Nojibur Rahman, erstwhile PMO principal secretary, Public Private Partnership Authority CEO Alkama Siddiqui and FBCCI Vice-president Hasina Newaz.

Feature story



Graphene opens up new opportunities for investment

Graphene scientist presents investment ideas in BIDA-organised meeting with potential stakeholders

Simply put, graphene is a single atomic layer of graphite, a material found in everyday objects like pencils and batteries.

But graphene has distinct properties -- it is one million times thinner than human hair, 200 times stronger than steel and 40 times stronger than diamond. The commercial uses of this nano-technology product are endless, and so are the investment opportunities.

It was first isolated from graphite in 2004 by Professor Andre Geim and Professor Kostya Novoselov. The extraction of the two-dimensional crystal later earned the researchers from the University of Manchester the Nobel Prize in Physics.



Dr. Nazmul Karim

On Dec 24, 2019, BIDA had the honour of hosting Dr. Nazmul Karim, an associate professor at the University of West England, who researched the diverse uses of graphene with Professor Novoselov. A

graphene scientist and a global expert in textile technology, Dr. Karim is working as on developing scalable and cost-effective next generation wearable electronics, functional fabrics and smart textiles.

The discussion also attended by representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Textile and Jute, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, Access to Information (A2i), DCCI, MCCI and FBCCI.

In his presentation, Dr. Karim showed that graphene is a high-quality conductor of electricity and heat, non-flammable, nontoxic, flexible, transparent, impermeable and while also being affordable. Graphene can contribute heavily to growth of the economy and investment as it can be applied to creation of membrane in the bio-medical field, electricity production and storage, composition and coating, said Dr. Karim. It can be used to create non-flammable textile and remove pollutants from rivers, lakes and ponds.

While responding to questions from the meeting participants, he said textile made using graphene is not harmful to human skin and graphene can be sourced from Sri Lanka and Australia as a raw material. There were also discussion on production cost, raw product cost, profitability and its potential impact on the market.

Considering the application of graphene in textile, a pilot project may be developed, said Ministry of Textile and Jute Secretary Lokman Hossain Mia. It was also decided that initiatives will be taken to create awareness of this product among all government and private stakeholders.

BIDA Bulletin



Mujib100.gov.bd

Mujib Borsho

BIDA has taken initiatives for hosting series of events to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Bangladesh's graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status. BIDA has proposed the initiation of the Bangabandhu Investment Award and is working to prepare a guideline for the award. BIDA will also organise the Bangabandhu Memorial International Investment Summit, for which a committee has been formed. BIDA also plans to organize programmes at regional levels – involving partners such as the EU, ASEAN and OIC -- to celebrate the Father of the Nation's historic birth centennial and LDC graduation.

PM's Adviser joins Executive Council meeting

The 67th meeting of BIDA's Executive Council, chaired by BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam, was joined by the Prime Minister's Private

Industry and Investment Adviser Salman Fazlur Rahman on Dec 30. He heavily recommended that the much-needed guideline for repatriating remittance, royalty and technical fees be finalised as soon as possible. The adviser appreciated BIDA's proposal to host a Bangabandhu Memorial International Investment Summit and the Bangabandhu Investment Award as part of overall celebrations for Mujib Borsho - 100th anniversary of the birth of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Among other matters, the meeting also discussed BIDA's ongoing preparations for holding roadshows in China, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, USA and Canada in the current fiscal. The adviser appreciated the roadshows plans and recommended that roadshows be held in South Korea, UK and in EU countries during the coming fiscal.



Leading stakeholders of the automobile sector in Bangladesh convene for a view-exchange at BIDA office on Jan 7, 2020.

The future of automobile: BIDA holds view-exchange on electric vehicles

Global automakers faced with climate change, rising oil prices and fears of future shortages of energy are shifting gears to develop state-of-the-art electric vehicles. Research suggests that engines than run on fossil fuel are 70 percent efficient, whereas the engines of electricity-run vehicles are 98 percent efficient. As Bangladesh works to diversify its growth, it should immediately consider strengthening the foundation for production and use of electric vehicles, said BIDA chief Md. Sirazul Islam in a view-exchange joined by top representatives of Nitol Group, Rangs Group, Navana Group, Anwar Group, Pragoti Industries, ACI Motors, PHP Automobiles Limited, Energypac, Ifad Group, Walton Hi-Tech Industries and many more on Jan 7. There was a presentation provided on behalf the Innovation Lab of the A2i project. Several participants expressed interest in manufacturing electric vehicles while discussing constraints concerning registration of such vehicles. Following the meeting, BIDA decided to form a committee to identify investment opportunities for electric vehicles and make necessary recommendations. BIDA will also urge the Ministry of Bridges and Road Transport to create a

policy for electric vehicles and organize discussions among Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Bangladesh Automobile Manufacturing Association, NBR, A2i's Innovation Lab and the Ministry of Industries.



Huawei officials at BIDA chief's office on Jan 6, 2020 for talks on establishing an ICT Academy in Bangladesh.

Huawei plans ICT Academy in Bangladesh

Huawei officials have met BIDA chief Md. Sirazul Islam on Jan 6 to discuss plans to set up of an 'ICT Academy' in partnership with a Bangladeshi engineering university and transfer of ICT knowledge to Bangladeshi students. The Bangladesh government is focused on measures to promote high-value investment and the creation of employment based in knowledge and technology for the 2.3 million new Bangladeshi graduates who enter the job market each year. Huawei has around 900 ICT academies in more than 70 countries which were formed out of partnerships between the Chinese tech giant and local academies. Through the partnership, the academy delivers Huawei ICT technologies training, encourages students to get Huawei certification, and develops talents with practical skills for the ICT industry and the community.

NCMID meeting

The National Committee for Monitoring Implementation of Doing Business Reforms (NCMID), chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, had its 4th meeting on Dec 22. Among the discussion agenda was BIDA's online One Stop Service (OSS) for investors. It was decided that each ministry will use its own funds to create Application Programming Interface (API) to integrate their services with the OSS. BIDA will track progress by holding individual meetings with all agencies responsible for reporting reforms for World Bank's Doing Business report. The Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser, Executive Chairman of BIDA, senior secretaries and secretaries representing the Prime Minister's Office, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division, the Power Division, Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Local Government Division, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of Land, Security Services Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Law and Justice Division were among others present in the meeting.



BIDA-funded lounge for investors at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Mitsubishi eyes assembly of new models, larger vehicles

Mitsubishi Motors is interested in assembling new models of vehicles in Bangladesh as part of its future business operations. A delegation from Mitsubishi Motors Corporation discussed several plans with BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam during a meeting on Dec 5. "We are interested in future business operations in Bangladesh, and more knowledge of the policy situation here will help the development of our plans," said Vice President Tatsuo Sato, who was heading the delegation. Mitsubishi Motors is interested in assembling new models along with larger vehicles with state-run Pragoti Industries, he said, adding that the Japanese carmaker is also considering manufacturing Mitsubishi cars in Bangladesh as part of a long-term vision.



Mitsubishi Motors Vice President Tatsuo Sato heads a delegation to meet the BIDA chief at his office on Dec 5, 2019.



Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman Fazlur Rahman cuts the ceremonial ribbon to inaugurate the Chameli BIDA Lounge on Jan 27.

BIDA sets up lounge for investors at Dhaka airport

BIDA has set up a lounge at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in an effort to provide ease to investors travelling in and out of Bangladesh. The Chameli BIDA Lounge – formerly known as the Chameli lounge -- will provide round-the-clock airport services to investors through automated systems and staffers assigned to help investors through all the processes of entry and departure including immigration and swift handling of luggage. The state-of-the-art lounge was inaugurated on Jan 27 in the presence of the Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman Fazlur Rahman, Md. Mohibul Haque, Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam and Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Nihad Kabir. The lounge will be handed over to Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh following which it will be fully operational.



BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam delivers the keynote address at China-Bangladesh Investment Promotion and Matchmaking Conference in Dhaka's Westin Hotel on Dec 2, 2019. Courtesy: Xinhua

BIDA co-hosts matchmaking event for Chinese investors

Bangladeshi and Chinese investors have joined the 'China-Bangladesh Investment Promotion and Matchmaking Conference' held in Dhaka on Dec 2. BIDA co-hosted the event with the Department of Outward Investment and Economic Cooperation (OIEC) of China's Ministry of Commerce. Paper presentations were made by top government officials of BIDA, BEZA and PPP as well as representatives of renowned Chinese businesses on potential cooperation in four arenas: investment & energy, industrial park and smart city, infrastructure and financial support. In his key-note address, BIDA chief Md. Sirazul Islam said, "Chinese investors are starting to make powerful contributions in our diverse promising sectors and we invite China to drive the growth of these sectors." In FY 2018-19, the growth of the power sector was driven mostly by Chinese investment, as was also the case in financial year before that. On the sidelines of the event, the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronics Products (CCCME), and the Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh (CEAB), who were organisers of the event, have signed agreements for cooperation.



Top representatives of UK-based IM Power Plc and TenBroeke pose for a photo following a meeting at the BIDA chief's office on Nov 28, 2019.

UK companies propose project integrating power & railway

UK-based companies of IM Power Plc and TenBroeke Ltd have proposed an integrated initiative involving the development of Bangladesh's power and railway sectors during a meeting with BIDA chief Md. Sirazul Islam on Nov 28. The two businesses proposed to form a joint venture to set up a 2 x 500MW plant at Payra port using imported LNG and to set up a transmission line between Payra, Dhaka, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar. A portion of the power produced will be used to electrify a railway track between Payra and Dhaka, besides being fed to the national grid. "Bangladesh has reached sufficiency in power generation, but its integration with transmission and transport infrastructure has the potential to transform the south-west region," said the BIDA chief. An independent power producer can do more than just provide power by making sure that markets can use power, said IM Power Chairman Gordon J. Dickie. "In other countries, we have put in desalination plants for fresh water and established extensive transmission lines to make sure that the power can go to where it is needed. IM Power Plc and TenBroeke Ltd will submit a complete proposal at the beginning of 2020.



BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam, H.E. Canadian High Commissioner Benoit Préfontaine, Canada Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CanCham) President Masud Rahman pose for a photo after a dinner at the high commissioner's residence on Nov 25, 2019.

BIDA to step up for Canadian investment

Bangladesh is ready to take concrete measures to attract more investment from Canada, BIDA Executive Chairman Md. Sirazul Islam has said. BIDA is planning a roadshow in Canada to promote opportunities and build a positive image for Bangladesh, he said during a dinner hosted by H.E. Canadian High Commissioner Benoit Préfontaine at his residence on Nov 25. The High Commissioner discussed potential for Canadian investment in Bangladesh's infrastructure, agro-processing, medical services/training, education and more. The High Commissioner also explored the possibility of investment through Canada Pension Plan (CPP) fund, one of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds, worth over \$409.5 billion (Canadian dollars). "BIDA is working to enhance its efforts of promoting investment opportunities. If Canadian investors feel there are barriers, we will identify and resolve these problems while providing all necessary support," said BIDA chief Md. Sirazul Islam.



HSBC Bangladesh CEO and British Business Group (BBG) Chairman Francois de Maricourt, BIDA chief Md. Sirazul Islam and H.E. UK High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson interact with BBG members during a breakfast meeting on Nov 26, 2019.

Ease of Doing Business: BIDA to work with BBG

A representative from the British Business Group (BBG) will systematically work with BIDA's team dedicated to Ease of Doing Business initiatives. BIDA will also organise a full session on Doing Business with all BBG members, according to a decision taken during a breakfast meeting co-hosted by the BBG and H.E. UK High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson on Nov 26. During the meeting, BIDA chief Md. Sirazul Islam thanked the UK government for supporting initiatives to improve the investment climate of Bangladesh. "To reach double-digit ranking in World Bank's Doing Business index by 2021, we are aiming for the low-hanging fruits in terms of reforms. We are coordinating efforts to improve policy framework and investor services," he said. "In terms of FDI net inflow, the UK stood third with US\$358.85 million at the end last fiscal. We would urge UK to allow their investments to go over a billion in net inflow," said the BIDA chief while briefing the BBG members. HSBC Bangladesh CEO Francois de Maricourt, also Chairman of the BBG, was present along with top representatives from Standard Chartered Bank, Unilever, GSK, Reckitt Benckiser, Marks & Spencer and KPMG. Deputy Trade Commissioner Rhiannon Harries, visiting from Delhi, was also present at the event.

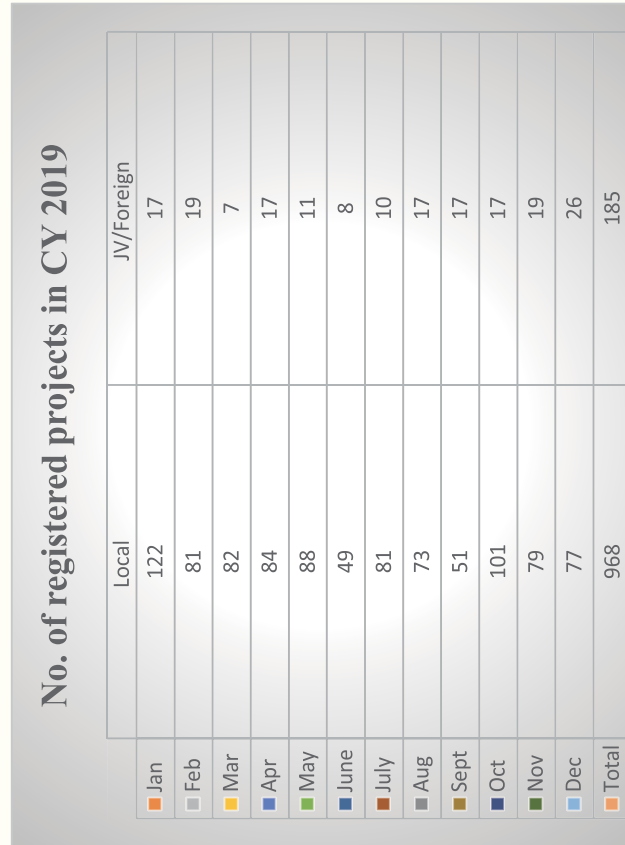
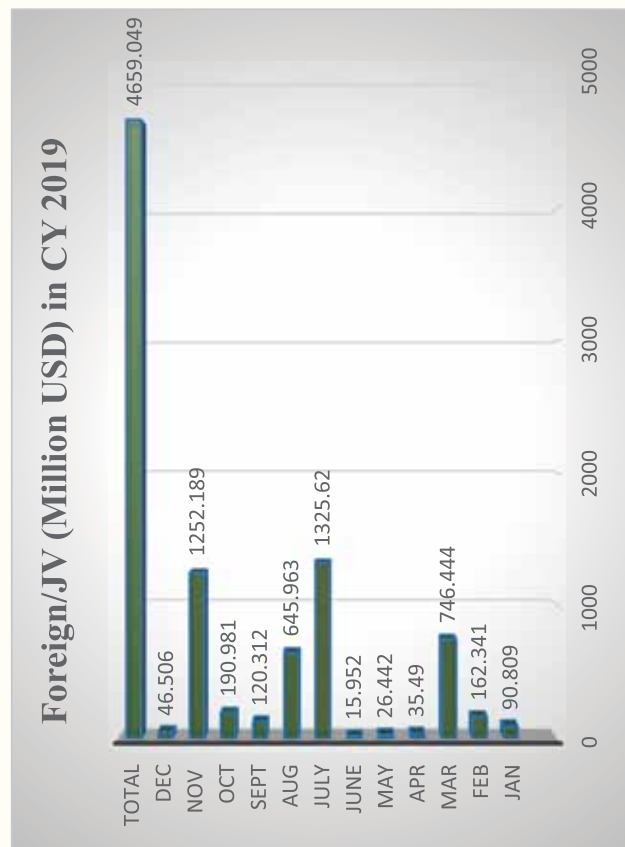
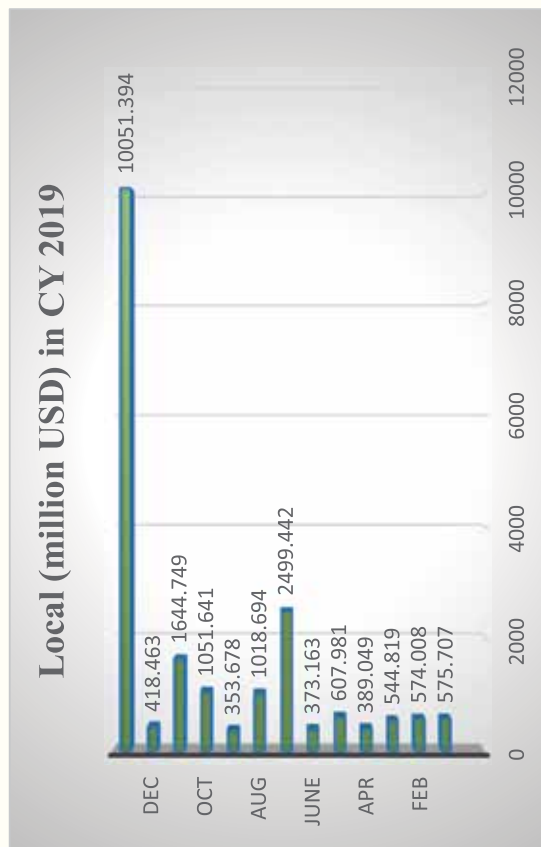


Access to credit is one of the major challenges facing new entrepreneurs. The office of the deputy commissioner of Gopalganj has facilitated access to credit by organizing a meeting between local banks and promising ESDP graduates.

Four ESDP graduates secure credit for business

Four graduates of BIDA's Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Project (ESDP) will get bank loans to start their businesses in agro-processing, light engineering and distribution. The office of the Deputy Commissioner of Gopalganj organized a coordination meeting on Nov 24 during which several entrepreneurs presented their business proposals to local bank managers. The Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Uttara Bank Ltd and Janata Bank Ltd expressed the interest to finance the business ideas of Sohag Molla, Noman Mahmud, Animesh Gain and Al-Amin Sheikh with loans ranging from Tk 15 lakhs to 30 lakhs. Since its launch in 2019, the ESDP has provided training to 5,000 aspiring entrepreneurs across Bangladesh. Of them, 438 entrepreneurs have started new ventures while 557 expanded their existing business. The project aims to provide theoretical and practical knowledge on investment processes, facilitate access to credit and provide mentorship to 24,000 men and women with innovative business ideas.

BIDA projects in CY 2019





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INVEST IN BANGLADESH



STABLE DEMOCRACY
THE NEXT ASIAN TIGER
HIGHEST FDI GROWTH
FOCUS ON INFRASTRUCTURE
100 SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES
COUNTRY-WIDE HI-TECH PARKS
CASH INCENTIVES UP TO 20%
ONLINE ONE-STOP SERVICE
STRONG LOCAL MARKET
NO DOUBLE TAXATION

5 TO 10 YEARS OF TAX HOLIDAY
INSTANT STARTING OF BUSINESS
POWER CONNECTION IN 28 DAYS
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT IN 60 DAYS
IMPROVING BUSINESS CLIMATE
SKILLED WORKFORCE
DUTY/QUOTA-FREE
ACCESS TO EU MARKET
EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES
TARIFF CONCESSIONS

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

- SHEIKH HASINA
HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER



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