

## Editorial

### Ways for Bangladesh to top its neighbors in doing business

Bangladesh has maintained an inspiring track record on growth and development. In the past decade, the economy and human development went hand-in-hand. Poverty dropped by nearly a third, coupled with increased life expectancy, literacy, and per capita food intake but our size of investment is still a big question. Ranking of Bangladesh in ease of doing business has not shown the reflection of investment climate as very promising.

It is now a fact that higher Doing Business rankings is an image building ingredient associated with attraction of more foreign investment. As an emerging country Bangladesh needs more investment to create jobs, bring in new technologies and processes and have other beneficial collateral effects on the real economy. Unfortunately, in the World Bank report "Doing Business 2016: Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency", Bangladesh stood 174<sup>th</sup> in the ranking of the ease of doing business out of 189 countries due to stalled regulatory reforms. Only Afghanistan (177) comes after Bangladesh amongst South Asian countries. The report shows that many other South Asian countries did much better, for example, Bhutan (71) topped the rankings in South Asia, followed by Nepal (99), Sri Lanka (107), Maldives (128) and India (130). Even Myanmar (167) and Mauritania (168), which were below Bangladesh in the index of the last year, have moved ahead of Bangladesh now.

When we at BUILD looked into all 11 parameters of the report that caused this result, we see, in the "Trading Across Border" parameter, the current position of Bangladesh is 172<sup>th</sup> out of 189 countries where as in Pakistan, it is 169, India 133 and in Sri Lanka it is 90 and this parameter is affected by the number of documents required, number of days spent and the cost involved in the export process. The number of mandatory documents is not clearly mentioned in our policy or manuals. Besides, it is seen that the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in the overall business process is limited and same information is required in different documentation causing duplication and overlapping and most of the documents are completed manually (handwritten or typed). India successfully handled this issue and reduced the documentary needs and raised their rankings in 2016.

While such findings are not good for Bangladesh, instead of fretting and pointing fingers at others, let us look within and find what we are not doing right. Some obstacles that continue to thwart smooth navigation need to be addressed without further loss of time. Forming a functional committee to study and recommend ways to reduce the number of mandatory documents required for export (MOC could take the lead) and the export policy should clearly mention the required documents including automation of all custom houses. BUILD would like to believe that the rankings of Bangladesh in ease of doing business will see rise in the 2017 report for which we need to start working soon.

Ferdaus Ara Begum  
CEO, BUILD

### BUILD's move to Sustainable and Resilient Business



*Representatives from BGMEA, UNDP and BUILD are seen at BGMEA while BUILD Chairman hands over a set of Business Start-up Licenses: A Regulatory Guide to BGMEA President.*

As well as four thematic Working Committees, BUILD has designed another working group in association with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and BGMEA. The working committee is expected to come into force soon. As other working committees have co-chairs from both public and private sectors, mostly by the secretaries of the concerned Ministries and the Chamber leaders, the fifth working committee named Sustainable Business for Growth and Development is designed with co-chairs one from the MoEF and while another one is from BGMEA.

BUILD, BGMEA and UNDP sat down at BGMEA on April 11, 2016 for designing the working group. BUILD CEO Ferduas Ara Begum opened up the discussion on the 5th Working Committee and put light on the scope of BGMEA, UNDP and BUILD to work for sustainable business for growth and development. BUILD Chairman Asif Ibrahim said that BUILD as a PPD platform has been working since 2011 for private sector development and thus unlocking investment potentials for creating more business-friendly investment climate in Bangladesh and we give our maximum efforts in improving the business environment enabling reforms/simplifications of business policy/procedure.

President BGMEA, Md. Siddiqur Rahman explained elaborately on how BGMEA is addressing the issue of labour law, trade union, pollution control and ultimate target for green and sustainable development. He said they are fully aware of the SDG targets and are willing to support the government in all respects. The President in principal agreed to be the Co-Chair and requested BUILD to step up with other processes for formalizing the working group. At the meeting it was decided that BUILD and BGMEA will continue to work together and will extend support each other to work on green low carbon growth, climate change and sustainable development and advance the 5th Working Committee of BUILD.

Khurshid Alam, Assistant Country Director of UNDP Bangladesh said that the private sector needs to continue their business towards a resilient and sustainable green growth to support the government to achieve SDG Goals. Faruque Hassan, Senior Vice President, Miran Ali, Director and Nabila Jamal, Senior Deputy Secretary of BGMEA and Moshaddek Alam, Communication and Advocacy Associate of BUILD were present at the meeting.

## BUILD Submits Budget Proposals (2016-17) to NBR

BUILD handed over a set of budget proposals to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to make tax measures more business-friendly on March 10, 2016. Out of the total proposals, 18 are on income tax and audit, 21 on VAT, 35 on customs and 16 on simplification of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) policy.

BUILD submitted the proposals to the NBR high-ups with a high hope to consider its proposals with due importance. In case of audit, BUILD favoured a "risk-based audit system" and establishment of "a Good Governance and Integrity Unit" in NBR with a target to ensure clarity and bring transparency in the audit system.

At the same time, BUILD recommended for plummeting time to resolve the cases and a guideline for the taxpayers' so that they understand their mistakes ahead of submitting returns.

For proposal on customs, BUILD advocated for simplifying the process of procurement and import of raw materials for domestic industries at the same time support the industries that are producing the same raw materials in the country. The difference between the duty of finished product and raw materials of the same product produced in the country should be justified.

It is believed in respect of the implementation of new VAT & SD Act, 2012, there are a number of issues can be under vigorous attention before educating taxpayers properly. BUILD also preferred for an extended amount of VAT exempted limit and lower rate of VAT in some areas e.g. health and education.

The proposals were research-based and were presented in corresponding working committees and Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

In respect of income tax, BUILD has underscored broader focus for widening tax network with an aim to reduce the overburden of tax on individual entity which will escalate revenue collection and will necessarily mean increasing tax rates. BUILD has examined that, it is not high time for forcing uniform rate of Corporate Income Tax (CIT) for all types of companies rather going for further studies.

In respect of ADR, BUILD proposed to review the role of facilitator and at the same time allowing small entrepreneurs to avail benefits of ADR. BUILD also advocated for eradicating general bottlenecks in the taxation system, people's apathy towards payment of tax, and sufferings of the genuine taxpayers, developing a good relationship between the taxpayers and collectors, lack of adequate manpower with required expertise, weak tax administration structure in terms of close monitoring and application of fair judgment.

BUILD also sent a separate set of recommendations for women entrepreneurship (WE) development with special emphasis on access to technology for the WE and another set for restriction of import of Hazardous Chemicals and in that respect to create awareness about the alternative which has less hazardous impact on human health.

## JICA keen to support Private Sector Development



*JICA Representatives are seen while BUILD CEO presenting a copy of Business Start-up Licenses; A Regulatory Guide to the Director of the Private Sector Development Group Tanaka Shinichi in presence of the JICA Delegation after a meeting at BUILD.*

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is working with the Government of Bangladesh and keen to provide support to the Bangladesh private sector development for keeping the pace with the 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan of the country. A 8-Member Delegation of JICA visited BUILD and had a meeting on April 25, 2016, for understanding how the Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC) is working in the country in collaboration with the government.

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum shortly gave an overview of BUILD and how it has been working for policy simplification for the private sector development since 2011 through PSDPCC and its respective working committees. She also mentioned that the Government of Bangladesh launched PSDPCC on September 12, 2011, and a Policy Coordination Unit (PCU) was also established in the PMO. BUILD as a secretariat of the PSDPCC has been providing all related services and develops reform recommendations which are considered by the PSDPCC for implementation.

The JICA delegation unfolded that JICA will assist Bangladesh in building up its private sector partners, and improving the public policies and systems in Bangladesh. While focusing on trade and investment promotion, the Director of the Private Sector Development Group Tanaka Shinichi briefly discussed the JICA Corporation Program of Private Sector Development in Bangladesh and he said that this program is intended for ensuring the quality control and promote export growth of the industrial product. Another representative of the Private Sector Development Group Jimbo Naomi said that companies interested in foreign investment usually compare the investment conditions of each country to find the most favorable destination and it is necessary for developing countries to realize improvement of the investment environment.

The JICA Delegation was equipped by Nouyuki Naoyuki Maekawa, Sr. Advisor of JICA, Koichi Tanaka, Chief Researcher of GDMC, Ueda Takafumi, Sr. Advisor of JICA, Seiko Yamabe, Representative of JICA, Ken Araki, Consultant of IC Net Ltd. Jimbo Naomi, Asst. Director of JICA and Ahbabul Yousuf Khan, Research Analyst of JICA. The meeting ended with a fruitful discussion on joint collaboration.



### BUILD and BFTI Meeting for Research Collaboration



BUILD Team and BFTI Team are seen at the meeting in the BFTI Conference Room on March 3, 2016 on building relationship between BFTI and BUILD for research and advocacy.

BUILD Team joined a meeting with the Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) to discuss how BUILD and BFTI can join hands in areas of research, policy and advocacy. The CEO of BFTI Ali Ahmed also briefed about upcoming and previous projects, training and overall activities of the organization. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum shortly gave an introduction of BUILD and explained the overall activities of the organization and how BUILD is supporting private sector for unlocking their business potentials as the first ever structured Public Private Dialogue (PPD) Platform. She also added some practical example of reforms implemented by BUILD and how it is benefiting the private sector.

Amitava Chakraborty, Director of BFTI underlined future plans of the organization on how they will expand the training activities and capacity building of the government officers who are posted in the foreign missions and how the institute will meet the growing need of the country in regard to negotiating capacities in different regional, bilateral and multinational agreements. While discussing joint collaboration between BUILD and BFTI, BFTI CEO said, "We are keen to working together in the areas of research, policy and advocacy provided that the BFTI Board agrees". BFTI Chief requested BUILD for exploring suitable training programmes and scouting potential trainees for their programmes which would definitely be helpful for the private sector development.

Officials of BUILD and BFTI also explained their own areas of activities. Mohammad Farhad, Research Fellow; Md. Shoaib Akhtar, Research Associate and Shwarna, Junior Research Associate from BFTI and Moshaddek Alam, Communication and Advocacy Associate; Silvia Zaman and Kanis Fatama, Research Associates from BUILD joined the meeting.

### SME Development Strategy

BUILD provided inputs for the SME policy strategy as an strategic advisory committee member formed for SME development strategy. First consultation with Stakeholders was held on January 14, 2016 and second meeting held on February 29, 2016 Third meeting was held on 4th April 2016 on human resource and women entrepreneurship development for SME. The 4th stakeholder consultation session on institutional, regulatory & coordination framework, SME statistics was held on 27th April 2016 under the chairmanship of secretary (Ministry of Industries). In all this meetings and consultation session, CEO of BUILD Ferdouse Ara Begum was present and put forward opinions on behalf of BUILD to frame up SME development.

### AD Imposed on Hydrogen Peroxide by Pakistan



The meeting is in progress at the Ministry of Commerce.

The Ministry of Commerce held a meeting on Anti-Dumping (AD) imposed by Pakistan on Hydrogen Peroxide on March 24, 2016 and the meeting was chaired by Monoj Kumar Roy, Additional Secretary (FTA), Ministry of Commerce (MOC). He welcomed everyone for joining the meeting and gave a brief overview on the topic and put light on the imposition of AD on Hydrogen Peroxide exporters of Bangladesh (HP) by Pakistan.

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum said that Pakistan has upgraded their Anti-Dumping Ordinance to an Act in 2015 through this, they are capable to impose the dumping duty on the whole industry rather just the company who dumped the goods. She added that our HP industry is very much certain and confident that they did not dump any product to Pakistani market so we should look into this matter and fight against this unfair decision. Shubhashish Bose, Director General (Additional Secretary) of WTO Cell said "our companies do not have any significant share in the international market. Big companies may dump goods to gain the market share, but for the small companies like ours, there is no rationale for dumping".

Amitabh Chakrabarti, Director, BFTI confirmed that no AD will be imposed as all of the factors were in favor of the argument of Bangladesh. He added that before we go for appeal we should look into some matters like if their process of calculation for injury was accurate or not and what was the method used for imposing AD.

Monoj Kumar Roy, Additional Secretary (FTA) suggested the chambers and associations to play an active role in educating their members about trade measures related issues.

### Launching of Bangladesh Trade Portal

On March 13, 2015, Bangladesh Trade Portal was launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce Tofail Ahmed. Sr. Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Program Manager (Bangladesh Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice) World Bank Group (WBG) were present, among others. Bangladesh Trade Portal is a one stop point for information relating to export form and import into Bangladesh hosted by the Ministry of Commerce supported by the WBG. The portal will provide all related information including regulatory and procedural information needed for export and import. BUILD Chairman Asif Ibrahim and CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum were present and spoke on the occasion. The Portal [www.bangladeshtradeportal.gov.bd](http://www.bangladeshtradeportal.gov.bd) will work as the one stop information centre for both local and foreign investors.

#### 4th Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting for SMEs



*The Industries Secretary presides over the meeting at the MOI Conference Room.*

The fourth Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting on Improving Institution, Regulatory and Coordination Framework and Statistics. Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan ndc, Sr. Secretary for Ministry of Industries underscored issues in policy simplification and rationalization of rules and regulations for strengthening cooperation among gap among, BSCIC, BB and SME Foundation. Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD mentioned the importance of SME Act and coordination gap among concerned organizations supporting SMEs and she also requested to acknowledge the contribution of SMEs in the national economy.

#### Meeting with Export Promotion Bureau



*The meeting is in progress at the EPB Conference Room.*

The meeting with the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) was held on March 28, 2016 at EPB Board Room. Vice Chairman (VC) of EPB, Mafruha Sultana welcomed the delegates from BUILD. CEO, BUILD switched on the discussion by presenting the research paper on "Potentials of Investment in the High Priority Sector-A Case of Agro Processing".

The VC of EPB said in terms of agro sector, there is a huge gap between the exporters' and the producers'. The producers often do not get the fair price and the length of middle man is wide. Director, Commodities (C.C), EPB said that the definition of agro-processing would be a complex one and added that if the definition is made in general then about 90% of the agricultural products would fall into the category of agro processing sector.

The CEO, BUILD presented two brief papers on "Ease of Doing Business and Simplification of Export Documentation" and "Policy Simplification for Diversified Jute Products: A Case of Espadrille".

Md. Abdur Rouf, Director, EPB said that BUILD can conduct research on some issues that can really help the private sector, one of them could be fixation of prices of new products. Dr. AFM Manzur Kader, DG 2 of EPB was present as well at the meeting.

#### Collaboration between BUILD and Concern Universal



*The meeting between Concern Universal and BUILD are in progress for discussing possible areas of collaboration for sustainable business and resilience at the BUILD Board Room.*

A 3-member delegate from Cordaid and Concern Universal on April 12, 2016, visited BUILD. Cornelis De Wolf briefly presented Cordaid and its works in Bangladesh and also discussed and explored the domain of possibilities to work in collaboration for the betterment of Bangladesh. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum shortly gave an introduction of BUILD and how it has been working for policy simplification through its working committees and its role as a PPD Platform in Bangladesh. BUILD and Cordaid will join hands in initiating collaboration for policy simplification of agro sector development and impart some training involving Chambers/Association.

#### Meeting with UNCDF and Melinda Gates Foundation for strengthening mobile banking



*Representatives from UNCDF, Melinda Gates Foundation and BUILD attending the Meeting at BUILD Secretariat to discuss joint activities*

BUILD hosted a meeting on March 5, 2016 with representatives from UN Capital Development Fund and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for sharing research, ideas, and opinions regarding mobile banking and other regulatory issues. Feisal Hussain, Sr. Regional Technical Advisor of UNCDF shortly gave an overview of UNCDF and expressed interest in strengthening mobile banking for common people and how to minimize the gap between the formal economy and informal economy in Bangladesh. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum welcomed the delegates to the meeting and gave an overview of BUILD and how it has been working for policy simplification for the private sector development since 2011.

Francesca Cioni, M&E Officer from UNCDF, Sacha Polverini, Sr. Programme Officer of Gates Foundation, Sungah Lee, Sr. Programme Officer from Gates Foundation and Ziaul Hoque Mukta from UNCDF joined the meeting.



## Partner Corner



### MCCI holds pre-budget discussion 2016-2017



MCCI's 2nd Quarterly Luncheon Meeting and Discussion on Budget 2016-2017 on 7 April 2016 at MCCI is in progress in presence of Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Hon'ble Finance Minister as the Chief Guest while Md. Nojibur Rahman, Chairman, National Board of Revenue was the Special Guest.

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry demanded that the government to take measures in the budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017 to address at least six major challenges the businesses are facing now, along with the structural weaknesses of the economy.

The challenges include rationalising the tax structure, currency adjustments, introduction of special category savings bonds for vulnerable groups, strengthening and widening the tax base and automation, equitable treatment to all industries, and financial sector discipline.

There are serious headwinds, both globally and locally, – weak global trade and demand, lower level private investment and poor quality of governance,' said MCCI President Syed Nasim Manzur.

In response, the Finance Minister said there should be incentives for good compliance and behaviour in borrowing.

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry former President Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmad, MCCI Vice-President Akhter Matin Chowdhury and Secretary General Farooq Ahmed, among others, spoke in the meeting.

### DCCI Submits Budget Proposals to NBR



Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) placed budget recommendations for 2016-17 to National Board of Revenue. DCCI President Hossain Khaled handed over the budget recommendations and observations to Chairman of NBR, Md. Nojibur Rahman at the NBR office.

During the discussion, DCCI President Hossain Khaled handed over its recommendations and observations on the upcoming national budget 2016-17 to Md. Nojibur Rahman.

According to the recommendations, the DCCI called upon the government to increase the individual income tax limit from existing BDT 2,50,000 to BDT 3,50,000. It also recommended slashing the corporate tax rate from existing 45 per cent to 35 per cent and proposed to reduce corporate tax rate for merchant bank from existing 37.5 per cent to 35 per cent.

DCCI President also said there are 30 million taxable people in the country whereas only 1.1 million people are under the tax net. He called upon the government to take necessary steps for increasing the tax net rather tax rate. Among others, DCCI Vice President K Atique-e-Rabbani and former President and Director Mohammad Shahjahan Khan were present.

### CCCI holds a pre-budget discussion with NBR



The NBR chairman addressing a pre-budget view exchange meeting with the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) at the Bangabandhu Conference Hall of CCCI at World Trade Centre (WTC) in the port city as the chief guest on April 9, 2016

National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Md Nojibur Rahman said importance is being attached on expanding the area of tax instead of increasing taxes in the upcoming budget for 2016-2017 Fiscal Year (FY). Achievement of sustainable development goal (SDG) is one of the main targets of the budget for switching to 7th five-year plan from the 6th five-year plan, he said.

CCCI President Mahbubul Alam in his speech requested sufficient allocations in budget will have to be ensured for implementing the Karnaphuli tunnel, bay terminal for extension of Chittagong maritime port, Dhaka-Chittagong eight-lane, LNG terminal and coal fired power plant in Moheshkhali in Cox's Bazar, economic zones in Anwara and Mirsaraiupazilas in the district and outer ring road projects.

Members Parvez Iqbal, Md. Farid Uddin and Barrister Jahangir Hossain, Central Intelligence Cell Director General Md. Belal Uddin, Chamber Senior Vice President Nurun Newaj Selim, Vice President Syed Jamal Ahmed were present among others and took part in the discussion.

### 5th T & IWC Preparatory Meeting with SMEF



BUILD CEO presents a set of complimentary copy of 'Business Start-up Licenses' to the MD of, SMEF in presence of SM Shaheen Anwar, GM, Nazeem H. Satter, SMEF.

BUILD delegation led by its CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum had a meeting with Md. Safiqul Islam, Managing Director, SMEF on April 11, 2016. The objective of the meeting was to get inputs of SMEF on the policy studies of BUILD to be presented in the Trade and Investment Working Committee Meeting.

BUILD's Research Associates presented their studies on Agro Processing, Export Documentations, Diversified Jute Products and Export Subsidy Guideline. The discussion areas included definition of agro processing, organic food prospects in Bangladesh, how to simplify export documentation, how SMEs can get cash subsidy for diversified jute products, export subsidy guideline and impact of cash incentives etc. The Managing Director of SMEF said that SMEF will help BUILD in regard to SME developments as well as the research of BUILD.

### Informal Trade Cross Border Trade Practices

Government and business delegates together with the development partners came together in launching Bangladesh Regional Connectivity –Regional Study on Informal Trade Cross Border Trade Practices: India, Myanmar & Bangladesh on April 13, 2016, to discuss the opportunities for Bangladesh to trade goods, services and investments with neighboring countries. Referring to the items of Informal Trade Cross Border Trade Practices, BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum who was a panelist mentioned that Bangladesh Bank has a specific circular for cultivation of import substitutes agro-products such as turmeric, ginger and vegetables for which loans at 4% can be sought.

### Meeting with Surjer Hashi



A Team from "Surjer Hashi" (smiling sun) clinics, a family healthcare programme run by non-governmental organisations meet BUILD CEO on May 3, 2016.

### NTM Diagnosis-Collaboration of Regional Countries



BUILD CEO speaks during the 2nd day of the Dialogue on NTMs.

On the second day of 2-Day dialogue in Dhaka, the speakers on April 4, 2016 noted that South Asian nations, especially the member-states of SAARC, pursue divergent policies and regulatory regimes best suited to competing with one another and unexpectedly contradictory to a regional integrated economy."Due to divergent economic and trade policies among the member-states, there is this extensive 'Sensitive lists' since formation of SAFTA in 2006," said MCCI secretary Shaquib Quoreshi in presenting his keynote on 'Diagnostic work on NTMs in the BBIN Sub-Region'. To overcome the challenge, BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum stressed the need for more cooperation among public and private sectors, especially in formulating data banks as collecting data is quite a cumbersome one.

FBCCI Director Shafquat Haider moderated the first session of Sunday, the second and concluding day of the public-private dialogue, organized by MCCI in association with the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Asia Foundation.

### 2030 Water Resources Group (WRG) Bangladesh Programme

2030 WRG Bangladesh Programme arranged a seminar on "Water Governance and Sustainability Work-Stream Meeting Bangladesh Water Multi-Stakeholder Partnership" on March 21, 2016 at IFC Dhaka Office. This seminar was chaired by Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources. Different delegates from different private and public sectors were also present in this meeting. Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD suggested some policy suggestions to enrich the work stream to move further.

### The Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth-Belt Initiative

A workshop on "The Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth-Belt (BIG-B) Initiative" was held in Dhaka on April 9, 2016 by JICA. On this occasion, Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Secretary, was present as the Chief Guest and Suraiya Begum, Secretary of PMO, FBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmad and Mikio Hataeda Chief Representative of JICA Bangladesh Office were present as Special Guests. The Principal Secretary said the foreign investors find confidence and trust if usable lands are available for setting up industries. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum referred different policies of the Government, which are friendly to the foreign investors, deemed exporters. FBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmed said BIG-B initiative is effective for all over the country. He urged the Japanese investors to invest in waste management, IT, pharmaceuticals, and plastic sectors.

Chief Representative of JICA Mikio Hataeda said Bangladesh is one of the most important investment destinations for investors.



## Reform Implementation

### Simplification of Financing Policies for Women Entrepreneurs

A proposal on “Simplification of Financing Policies for Women Entrepreneurs” was presented in the 4th SME Development Working Committee Meeting and 8th PSDPCC meeting at PMO. Ministry of Industries and Bangladesh Bank agreed all the recommendations placed in the meeting. A definition of Women Entrepreneurs was included in the Industrial Policy 2016 and Bangladesh Bank issued a fresh circular allowing collateral free loan to the amount of BDT 25 lac for women entrepreneurs on January 07, 2016.

### High Priorities Sectors in the National Industrial Policy 2016

Based on impact of trade, jobs, demand, the country's endowments and investment outlook, BUILD initiated the study to identify high priority sectors from the list of the 32 thrust sectors included in the National Industrial Policy 2010 so that those sectors with the highest potential receive proper policy attention. The reform paper was presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> PSDPCC meeting held on 26 July 2012. The SME cell of Ministry of Industries (reference letter of January 27, 2013) informed that these sectors are to be included in the NIP 2016. In the NIP 2016, these sectors have been included as high priority sectors and some policy incentives have also been arranged to develop these sectors.

### Importance of International Commercial Terms (Incoterms)

A proposal on Import Policy Regime: Business to Bangladesh was presented in the 4<sup>th</sup> Trade and Investment Working Committee and 6<sup>th</sup> PSDPCC meeting at PMO. The Ministry of Commerce has agreed all the recommendations placed in the meeting. One of the proposals was the maintenance of the Incoterms by the Importers and ADs to be mandated through policy as it is important for complying with the Trade Facilitation Agreement at the 9<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Meeting in Bali.

The Government has included ‘import through INCOTERMS’ in the Import Policy 2015-18 (Chapter 2, Clause 5).

## Articles of BUILD in National Dailies

### Close industry-academia links key to R&D

<http://print.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2016/04/09/138554>

### Investors shy while banks sit on piles of idle money

<http://print.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2016/03/08/135911>

পর্যটন শিল্পের সম্ভাবনায় খাগড়াছড়ির সাজেকভ্যালি

[www.bonikbarta.com/2016-04-24/news/details/73491.html](http://www.bonikbarta.com/2016-04-24/news/details/73491.html)

আর্থিক অন্তর্ভুক্তিকরণ কৌশল

[www.bonikbarta.com/2016-03-12/news/details/68746.html](http://www.bonikbarta.com/2016-03-12/news/details/68746.html)

## BUILD Scope

### Simplification of Ownership Transfer of BSCIC

Bangladesh, a South-Asian developing country is characterized by very high population growth and scarcity of land. The rapid increase of population is continuously reducing the land-man ratio of the country. BSCIC has in total 27.75 acre area of land for distributing plot to small and medium industries. The allocation of total land was completed during 2006-07. Ownership transfer of industrial plots of BSCIC is an alternative process to increase availability of industrial lands for the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation entrepreneurs. But process of ownership transfer is not clearly spelt out to the entrepreneurs. For that reason, BUILD initiated a study on simplification of ownership transfer of BSCIC industrial land.

### Agro-processing Sector in Bangladesh: Potentialities remain in Organic Food Products

Agriculture in Bangladesh is the largest producing sector of the economy. It comprises 16.33% (Ministry of Agriculture) of the country's GDP and employs around 45% (Business Promotion Council) of the total labor force. Through the development of organic fruits and vegetables, the economy of Bangladesh can grow up. Still Bangladesh has no organic food policy and regulations. BUILD has initiated a study with a view to suggesting some policy recommendations to enhance the export volume of the sector.

### BUILD Supports ERD for – GPED Monitoring Survey

BUILD for the first time as a PPD platform participated in the 2015 Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation Monitoring Survey. BUILD as a focal point provided inputs on Indicator 3: Engagement and Contribution of the Private Sector to Development in different modules which required information from the private sector. There were modules in Indicator 3. In module: 1 BUILD identified few points and in Module:2 BUILD actively participated and answered the questions. The questions in this module were on the readiness of private with the government, finding a potential champion for facilitating the dialogue process, logistical, financing and capacity building instruments for Public-Private Dialogue.

BUILD also attended the ‘Global Partnership Monitoring survey multi-stakeholders dialogue/data validation meeting’ on 28th March 2016, at ERD and replied the questions raised by the participants and the donor representatives in regard to the readiness of the private sector to work with the government.

### IFC and PaCT Joint Meeting for formation of TSP

A meeting of the Stakeholder Working Group (WG) under the Bangladesh Partnership for Clean Textiles (PaCT) project was held at the IFC Resident Office in Dhaka on April 19, 2016. The meeting was attended by the core selected members from the three Working Groups (WGs) of the PaCT Project as well as attendees from the private sector and government bodies. CEO BUILD as Member of the Core group participated and raised several pertinent points.

### ERD outlines future development financing trends



Workshop on Linking Finance and Results to Implement the 7<sup>th</sup> FYP in the context of SDGs organized by the ERD of Govt. of Bangladesh was held at Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka. BUILD Chairman Asif Ibrahim joined the workshop as a designated discussant. Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment Dr. Syed Abdus Samad, UNDP Country Director in Bangladesh Pauline Tamesis, senior representatives from Finance Division, Bangladesh Bank, National Board of Revenue and other relevant government ministries and business chambers were present.

### A Rendezvous with Sazek Valley



The BUILD Team had a 3-Day Excursion from March 17-19, 2016 starting from Sazek Valley (1800 Feet above from the ground) ending with touching all coast and up and down paths along the top of rugged cliffs in and around Khagrochori. Ambitious eco-resorts around Khagrochori are clear signs of confidence in Bangladesh as a tourist destination. It is found that Khagrochori and Sazek can be feed for tourism hub in Bangladesh. BUILD CEO wrote an article in Banik Barta after the visit. [www.bonikbarta.com/2016-04-24/news/details/73491.html](http://www.bonikbarta.com/2016-04-24/news/details/73491.html).

### Bangladesh Investment Summit Held



BUILD Chairman Asif Ibrahim spoke and highlighted investment policy reform successes through Public Private Dialogue Mechanism at the 4th Bangladesh Investment Summit at the Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong on April 25, 2016. DCCI President Hossain Khaled was present as well at the Summit.

### Pohela Boishak Celebration



BUILD Team celebrated Pohela Boishak (Bengali New Year 1423) on April 14, 2016 with a Bangladeshi traditional way at its secretariat with a number of traditional Boishakhi mouth-watering foods and snacks. On this occasion, BUILD Chairman Asif Ibrahim equipped the celebration.



Right information at the rightest moment is a must for sustainable business. BUILD prioritized the access to information and took the challenge to ease business for the first time in Bangladesh. The Business Start-up Licenses-A Regulatory Guide (4<sup>th</sup> edition), a gist of about 300 Business Lienses along with renewal was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, MP in January 2016 at the Bangladesh Investment and Policy Summit organized by the Board of Investment and BUILD. BUILD has also published two sectoral Business Start-up licensing guide books: Fish and Fisheries Business Start-up Licenses: A Regulatory Guide and Pharmaceuticals Business Start-up Licenses: A Regulatory Guide which provide a one stop service for all new and veteran entrepreneurs who are looking for Registration/License/Permission/Approval or Certificate for their respective businesses.

#### What are inside:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Getting Start-up License & Renewal 0 | 0 Step by Step Process Flow              |
| Receiving Utility Permits 0          | 0 Reference to Regulations               |
| Fees and Permission 0                | 0 Detail Information of Issuing Agencies |

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