



EDITORIAL

National Industrial Policy emphasised logistics as an important sector

We all know that the role of an industrial policy is significant for sustaining the growth of an economy. A modern industrial policy needs to focus more on the service sector and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) than the traditional manufacturing sector.

Since independence, Bangladesh has crafted several policies for industrial development, starting with the first one in 1973 related to the nationalisation of the industrial sector. Gradually, Bangladesh entered into a more liberalised industrial regime. Gradual changes in industrial policies went for market economy-oriented manufacturing-based export-led industrialisation, where export diversification, CMSME, and ICT became important.

On 29 September 2022, the Ministry of Industries (Mol) issued a gazette announcing National Industrial Policy 2022. The policy's objective is to increase industrial sector contribution to 40 per cent from the present 35 per cent by 2027. Also, it seeks to establish diversified export-oriented industries, create a conducive environment for the cottage, micro, small and medium industries, and attract more local and foreign investments.

The policy is essential as Bangladesh is graduating from LDC in 2026 when

Bangladesh will lose preferential market access. Thus, we will need to enter into productivity-driven competitiveness rather than market-driven competitiveness. The new policy has effectively addressed the post-graduation challenges and announced support to the private sector to work together to deal with these challenges.

The industrial policy has included a five-year action plan to ensure efficient growth in the manufacturing and service industry. Apart from that, eight new chapters have been included in the policy of which expansion of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) with suitable technology is a timely one. BUILD's SME Development Working committee, which the Mol Secretary co-chairs, recommended including a chapter on 4IR. The policy addressed the need for investment in R&D for future economic growth and included a new chapter on R&D.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), 87 per cent of the labour force is employed in the informal economy in Bangladesh. Recognising the informal sector entrepreneurs is essential to facilitate them to grow. Therefore, the development of the informal sector is one of the significant inclusions. The policy revealed that a national informal sector database would be formulated in the next five years.

Till now, the export earnings of Bangladesh have been heavily dependent on readymade garments (RMG). Considering the importance of product diversification, the new policy facilitated the start-ups so that start-ups could get access to funds and other opportunities.

Working together with the PMO, BUILD advocated through its Logistics Development Working Committee (LIDWC) to include the logistics sector as an export-diversified and priority sector, along with 21 sub-sectors of logistics, which have been included in the policy.

Logistics cost is among the highest in Bangladesh, and the sector is not appropriately defined. BUILD is working

on a Logistics Development Policy in collaboration with MOI and PMO with an objective to achieve the targeted vision of the industrial policy, 8th FYP and Perspective plan.

Increasing competitiveness in the port for achieving export diversification is very much dependent on the improved logistics sector. The logistics industry is divided into several sub-sectors, all of which must converge for the private sector to benefit from improved road, rail, water, and air connections and swift exchange of products and services.

BUILD appreciates all the new inclusions and reforms in the newly issued Industrial Policy. We hope this new policy will pave the road for the private sector to contribute to the sustainable growth of the economy. In November 2022, a workshop titled "Logistics Development Best Practices: Global Experiences" will be held to gather inputs from leaders and experts working in these sectors. The discussion will focus on country experiences and case studies, which will aid in developing an effective policy for the country. ■

Ferdaus Ara Begum
CEO, BUILD

Ninth T&IWC meeting of BUILD

The Ministry of Commerce has endorsed the proposal of Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) for issuing trade licences for up to five years instead of one-year renewal culture to improve the ease of doing business.

BUILD produced the proposal at the ninth Trade and Investment Working Committee (T&IWC) meeting. Ministry of Commerce and BUILD jointly organised the meeting at the Bangladesh Secretariat on 28 September 2022. Tapan Kanti Ghosh, Senior Secretary to the Ministry of Commerce and Md Saiful Islam, President



of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), co-chaired the working committee meeting.

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum said that we had studied the City Corporation Ideal Tax Schedule 2016 and Municipal Taxation Rules and saw no legal bar in issuing trade licences for five years.

Echoing the proposal, Mohammed Nora Alam Siddique, Joint Secretary of the Local Government Division, said it could be implemented for municipalities and city corporations. However, we need to review if Union Parishad can issue it under its present status.

Addressing the event, Tapan Kanti Ghosh, Senior Secretary to the Commerce Ministry, said that we need to focus more on the recommendations of the previous meeting, which are yet to be implemented. Following the call of non-RMG sectors, we can formulate the sectoral sub-contracting rules, and we will engage with the National Board of Revenue to increase the de-minimis value.

Taking part in the discussion, MCCI President called for introducing NID as the singular document for trade licence issuance following global practices.

Referring to BUILD's study on Improved Business Environment and Simplification of Company Registration Process, BUILD Chairperson Nihad Kabir suggested formulating a policy for availing certified copies from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC&F). The fill-up process of Model AOA (Article of Association) and MOA (Memorandum of Association) can be simplified to make the company registration process business-friendly.

Citing the process of issuing a sub-contracting order, Mohammad Hatem, Executive President of BKMEA, said that we need more engagements and consultations with the regulators before formulating any trade policies to ensure private sector representations.

Mentioning the proposal of BUILD for establishing dedicated scanners for agro products in all ports, Dr Sayed Rafiqul Amin, Director, Plant Quarantine Wing, Department of Agricultural Extension, said that the Civil Aviation Authority had established terminal scanners which are not fully equipped for covering all agro

items. Therefore, we need more specialised scanners for agro products and proper coordination with the relevant agencies for export growth.

He further said that we had formed a committee to conduct a need analysis for establishing a National Plant Quarantine Authority; he added that a committee had been formed to analyse the importance of establishing the proposed authority.

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum delivered the presentation on "Trade Licence-Needs Rationalisation and Simplification", urging the government to issue trade licences for a maximum of five years as per the need of the businesses and reduction of renewal fees. The study also highlighted a digitalised trade licence (TL) issuance and renewal process, including an online payment system, a single unified and simplified Trade Licence Form (Bilingual format) for all city corporations/union parishad, municipalities, revisiting discriminated fees, and resolving additional permission requirement from the local regulatory authority which was endorsed in the meeting.

The Commerce Secretary requested BUILD study the Union Parishad Rules and support MOC and LGRD to formulate a uniform policy for all trade licence issuers.

BUILD CEO also made another brief presentation titled "DFQF Market Access to China-Policies and Measures Maximise the Benefits" and said that BUILD analysed the top 20 exporting items from Bangladesh to China, its status in the 98% DFQF list and how export can be increased and out of 294 (8-digit HS code) exported products from top 20 (2-digit HS code) analysed items, 194 products are in the DFQF list. Realising the importance of the topic, Sr. Secretary suggested having a detailed discussion on this topic shortly with BUILD and other concerned chambers.

Commerce Secretary thanked BUILD for producing these vital policy papers for reforms and informed that government is also seriously thinking about simplifying and renewing necessary business start-up licences. In this respect, private sector points of view are highly appreciated.

Representatives from MoC, RJSC, DAE, EPB, SME Foundation, CCI&E, BEIOA, BKMEA, BGMEA, BFTI, BASIS, LFMEAB, DCCI, USAID, DSCC, among others, spoke in the meeting. ■

Workshop on internal resource mobilisation and tariff rationalisation

BUILD Chairperson Nihad Kabir attended the national workshop titled "Internal Resources Mobilisation and Tariff Rationalisation in Bangladesh" on 3



September 2022. The Ministry of Finance organised the event. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr Ahmad Kaikaus spoke at the workshop as the chief guest, presided over by Senior Secretary of the Finance Division Fatima Yasmin.

FBCCI President Md Jashim Uddin, BGMEA President Faruque Hassan, BIDS Director General Dr Binayek Sen, and PRI Chairman Dr Zaidi Sattar spoke. BUILD Chairperson and BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum raised several pertinent issues for tariff rationalisation to face LDC graduation challenges. BUILD Chairperson especially emphasised separating tax policy preparation and tax collecting body so that more discipline in revenue collection can be ensured.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder, National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem, and Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce Tapan Kanti Ghosh spoke as panellists. Convenors of the three study groups formed under this sub-committee placed the main recommendations at the workshop. ■



Groundwork meeting on upcoming workshop on National Logistics Development Policy

BUILD trustees met on 13 October 2022 to review preparations for the upcoming "Formulating National Logistics Development Policy for Bangladesh: Experience from Global Good Practices" workshop scheduled on 16-17 November 2022.

BUILD Chairperson Nihad Kabir presided over the meeting and urged for developing an efficient and responsive logistics infrastructure management system in the country.

MCCI President Md Saiful Islam, former BUILD Chairperson Abul Kasem Khan, MCCI Secretary General Farooq Ahmed and BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum joined the call at MCCI Gulshan Office. ■



Stakeholder consultation on private sector engagement in climate actions

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has undertaken a project titled "Background Paper and National Stakeholder Dialogue on Private Sector Engagement in Climate Actions: Focus on Private Sector Investment in AFOLU Sector" to prepare a background paper to focus on private sector MSMEs engagement in climate actions and investments in Bangladesh and organise a National Stakeholder Dialogue to catalyse private sector investments in the AFOLU, specifically Food Processing, agro-machineries, Livestock, and Fisheries sector.

In line with this, the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University, Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD), and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) organised a Stakeholder Consultation Workshop titled "Stakeholder Consultation (Livestock and Fisheries) on Private Sector Engagement in Climate Actions: Focus on Private Sector Investment in AFOLU Sector" on 4 September 2022 from 9 am to 1 pm at NEC-2 Conference Room, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Sher-e Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. The chief guest of the workshop was Kabir Ahamed, Joint Secretary, Wing Chief (UN), ERD, and the chair was Dr Ainun Nishat, Professor Emeritus and Advisor of C3ER, Brac University.

The workshop's purpose was to understand better how MSMEs in the livestock and fisheries sectors were involved and their knowledge about climate change adaptation, climate finance, and climate change policy. Thus, it would help to prepare a background paper to focus on private sector MSMEs' engagement in climate actions and investments in Bangladesh and organise a

national stakeholder dialogue to catalyse private sector investments in the AFOLU sector.

S. M. Mahub Alam, deputy secretary of ERD, said that the people involved in the livestock industry, small-scale businesses, and SMEs are unaware of the impacts of climate change on their businesses. He requested the businessperson to understand climate change and its implications because, though the negative consequences cannot be noticed immediately, they will face the effects soon. He gave an example of the vast carbon dioxide emission in meat production because of the food chain of cows and what initiatives should be taken for that. The alternative approaches can create a different business sector, such as producing seaweed to use as a substitute meal for livestock and fisheries.

Dr Dwijen L. Mallick, Senior Fellow and Director, BCAS, presented the introductory presentation explaining the project objectives on behalf of Dr Ainun Nishat. He added that if climate change vulnerability is measured correctly, Bangladesh would be in a much worse rank. Because of climate change, seasons, rainfall characteristics, and temperatures have changed – these negatively impact fisheries and livestock.

Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO of BUILD, discussed the impact of climate change on the private sector. She discussed the role of the private sector, how they could adopt the green pathways to mitigate the effects of climate change and how we can take adaptive measures to reduce the loss and damage. She also briefly outlined the project objectives, methodological framework, and several financing schemes available to adapt to climate change stakes. She gave a brief on the policy mapping exercise and a software-based exercise to know if the participants had issues getting results. ■



Sixth meeting of tariff rationalisation at NBR

BUILD CEO attended the sixth meeting by the study group on Internal Resource Mobilisation and Tariff Rationalisation Committee of the LDC Graduation Core

Committee. The committee has specific terms of reference to address the challenges of tariff rationalisation, reduce SD and RD, keep local industries' interest intact and propose a Tariff Rationalisation Policy.

The meeting discussed specific issues of tax rationalisation to make the policy WTO compliant, keeping the private sector's interest as it is. ■



Workshop discussing Sylhet's economic growth

Speakers at a workshop in Sylhet have called for reaping the full potential of local agriculture, tourism, and geographic location to enhance the region's economic growth.

Simultaneously, they have called for creating a business-friendly environment for the non-resident Bangladeshis to attract investment from the NRBs. Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP) of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) organised the workshop styled "Local Level Stakeholders Consultation on Inclusive, Smooth and Sustainable LDC Graduation" in collaboration with the district administration of Sylhet as well as the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

ERD Secretary Sharifa Khan graced the occasion as chief guest. At the same time, the President of the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Tahmin Ahmed, attended the event as a special guest. Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, Md Mozibor Rahman, chaired the workshop. Notably, Bangladesh met all the criteria for graduation from the LDC status during the triennial review of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) of the United Nations in 2018 and 2021.

Consequently, CDP recommended Bangladesh for LDC graduation with a five-year-long preparatory period. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has duly endorsed the recommendation. Subsequently, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has taken note of Bangladesh's graduation recommendation during its 76th session held in November 2021. The country is set to leave the list of LDCs by 2026 after

enjoying a preparatory period of five years.

The Government of Bangladesh is attaching the highest priority on ensuring smooth and sustainable graduation with momentum. It has formed a National Committee on LDC Graduation (NCG), headed by the Principal Secretary to the Honourable Prime Minister, involving all the relevant Ministries and organisations from both public and private sectors. Seven thematic subcommittees have been formed under the guidance of the NCG to address various core issues related to graduation. The United Nations recommend that a graduating LDC prepare a national smooth transition strategy (STS) during the preparatory period in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders. The 9-member Subcommittee on STS, led by the Secretary ERD and co-led by the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, is tasked with formulating the STS. ERD has undertaken a project called "Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP)" to identify the impacts of graduation, to provide necessary capacity-building supports and other necessary supports to the relevant ministries as well as to promulgate this historic achievement at home and abroad by producing various research papers and publications related to graduation.

In this context, ERD, with support from SSGP, has been organising a series of workshops at the local level to sensitise the grassroots level stakeholders regarding the process and opportunities of LDC graduation as well as to discuss how the local level stakeholders can be involved in the process of ensuring smooth and sustainable LDC graduation.

ERD Secretary Sharifa Khan termed LDC graduation a matter of pride for the country. Recalling that Bangladesh had been able to tackle various global challenges in the past successfully — she hoped that Bangladesh would similarly be able to maintain the development momentum even after the LDC graduation.

In his speech, the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, Md Mozibor Rahman, said that awareness building and sensitisation about LDC graduation at the grassroots level would help make the country's development process more inclusive and sustainable.

President of the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tahmin Ahmed, emphasised on necessary training and skill enhancement of the local population to prepare the country for LDC graduation. Additional Secretary of ERD and the Project Director of SSGP, Farid Aziz, delivered the welcome remarks of the event. In his welcome remarks, Aziz emphasised sensitising the local private sector representatives, especially the export-oriented industries, about the opportunities to be created by LDC

graduation in the country. Component Manager of SSGP, Md Anwar Hossain, delivered a presentation titled "Inclusive, Smooth and Sustainable LDC Graduation: Challenges and Way Forward" during the workshop.

Chief Executive Officer of BUILD, Ferdaus Ara Begum, delivered a presentation titled "Participation of Private Sector and other Stakeholders at Sub-National Levels for Graduation with Momentum: Strategy Going Forward". Speakers at the workshop highlighted the process of LDC graduation and its impacts on Bangladesh. They emphasised productivity enhancement and diversification of local industries (e.g., agriculture) and export sectors in the context of LDC graduation. The workshop also discussed the effective role that all stakeholders can play in creating a more business-friendly environment for women entrepreneurs as well as small and medium enterprises.

Upazila Chairman of Sylhet Sadar, Alhaj Ashfaqur Ahmed, Managing Director of Baraka Power Ltd., Fahim Ahmed Chowdhury and Associate Professor of the Department of Architecture of Shahjalal Science and Technology University, Subrata Das, also spoke during the workshop. Officials from ERD and SSGP, officials from the district administration, as well as representatives from the private sector and civil society, participated in the workshop.

BUILD CEO presented a paper titled "Sub-national Level Stakeholders' Participation in LDC Graduation — Strategy for Going Forward". The paper highlighted the potential sectors of Sylhet for new business development and how to prepare the private sector to face the challenges of LDC graduation. ■



Discussion on textile competitiveness platform

A meeting between Faruque Hassan, President, BGMEA, and BUILD representatives was held on 6 October 2022 at the Office Premise of Urmi Group at Gulshan. Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD, Md Mehedi Hasan, Sr. Research Associate, BUILD, and Md Shafat Hossain, Research Associate, BUILD, attended the meeting. The objective of the meeting was

to discuss the formation of the Textile Competitiveness Platform (TCP) – a proposed multistakeholder platform to advocate alternative pathways for the readymade garments (RMG) sector to remain competitive in the global apparel market, particularly in the post-COVID era.

Faruque Hassan shared the story of the formation of the Partnership for Cleaner Textile (PaCT) programme and his extensive involvement with this programme. He said, in general, at a knit factory, they would use 300 litres of water for dyeing 1 kg previously; now, it has been reduced to 100 litres. Some of the factories used 120 litres in the past. Now, their water use has been reduced to 80 litres. The central fact is that we are not helping the factories that use 400 litres of water because they are not working for the big brands. Ferdaus Ara Begum said that under the PaCT programme of IFC-WBG, we founded the Textile Sustainability Platform (TSP) as a public-private dialogue platform. It was an effective platform which worked closely with the government for policy simplification. BGMEA as the co-chair of TSP, was incredibly supportive of the TSP and PaCT agenda. In the second phase of TSP, three studies on textile sustainability, foreign direct investment (FDI), and financing.

Responding to BUILD CEO's concern, Faruque Hassan said textile has the potential to attract FDI. He said that Bangladesh has no factory that produces elastic yarn. There are many spinning mills, but there is no elastic yarning factory. Taiwan and Korea are pioneers in producing elastic yarn. They have the technology to produce elastic yarn. We are consuming a considerable amount of elastic yarn. We are now importing this elastic yarn from Vietnam, China, Taiwan and Korea. Korean companies have invested in the Vietnamese elastic yarn sector. We are going to Korea on 22 October 2022 to discuss manufactured fibre and elastic yarn. Elastic yarn can be a good sector where we can attract foreign investors.

Ferdaus Ara Begum urged for identifying FDI potential sectors. According to her, these key sectors should be covered in Bangladesh Bank's industrial policy and associated policies. Otherwise, they will not get supportive funds. BUILD CEO sought support from the BGMEA research team for identifying the potential sectors.

Faruque Hassan agreed with the BUILD CEO. He said he would connect the BUILD researchers with the BGMEA researchers to work together to prepare policy recommendations for the RMG stakeholders. As a neutral organisation, he noted that BUILD could raise policy issues with the relevant government authorities.

Faruque Hassan agreed with the proposal of BUILD CEO regarding the

formation of TCP. He also said that BGMEA would provide the necessary support for TCP.

BUILD handed over a report titled "Implementation Status of the Recommendations Put Forward by the Series of Dialogues by IFC and Key Challenges to Implementation for Textile Competitiveness and a Consolidated Report on the Dialogues and Discussions Held Under the Textile Sustainability Platform (TSP) Project".

Faruque Hassan asked for a summary of today's meeting and said he would try to discuss it with the BGMEA researchers. He expressed his hope to fix a focal point for TCP after the discussion with them. At one point in his discussion, the BGMEA president said, I hope TCP's activities will not contradict with others' programmes.

At the time of presenting the Business Licencing Guidebook published by BUILD, Ferdous Ara Begum said that her team wanted to prepare the same licencing guidebook for RMG. In response to the BUILD CEO's proposal, Faruque Hassan asked for a concept note and formal proposal from BUILD. ■



Meeting with HTPA, a2i, and BASIS on re-skilling required for 4IR&ICT

A follow-up of the third meeting of the 4IR&ICT Working Committee regarding Skilling and Re-skilling for concerned persons and organisations was held on Tuesday, 21 September 2022. The meeting tried to take stock of what type of skilling and re-skilling programmes are going on and what more can be suggested.

Ferdous Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD, Bikarna Kumar Ghosh, Managing Director Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authorities, Abu Bakar Siddik, Programme Assistant, a2i, and Enamul Hafiz Latif, Joint Secretary (Research Fellow), BASIS were present in the meeting.

Bikarna Kumar Ghosh, Managing Director of Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, said Bangladesh's fragile economy had been converted to a middle-income country (MIC) by the able leadership of the honourable PM. Capacity building and

skill development activities are moving ahead in her direction. By 2041 Bangladesh will be transformed into a SMART country embracing 4IR and ICT. Technology-level training in Digital Service and Employment Training Centre will be established in the next two years in every Upazila. Basic IT education needs to be ensured in primary education. Policy formulation is needed to saturate start-ups to get those benefits in the Hi-Tech Park. About 6 lac freelancers are now in the country, but entrepreneurship is limited. The present target is to create about 1 lac entrepreneurs in the coming year. Hi-Tech Park has a database of those competent people, and they can offer the right skills.

Siddik Ahmed from a2i gave a short presentation on their study on re-skilling programmes in some selected sectors. He referred to their skill development study commissioned in 2019, where they found that 55 lakh people will lose their job by 2040, and some new emerging jobs will be created.

Enamul Hafiz Latif from BASIS has given different frontier-based training in cyber security, IoT, simulation, visualisation and digital twin, blockchain, etc. There is space for a joint collaboration with the government (HTPA, a2i) and international organisations for training. ■



Meeting with the MoI Secretary

BUILD team led by Ferdous Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD, met Zakia Sultana, Secretary, Ministry of Industries, at her office on 22 September 2022 to have a discussion as well as on the concept note for the workshop titled "Formulating National Logistics Development Policy for Bangladesh: Experience from Global Good Practices".

BUILD CEO informed that the workshop aims to present good global practices in formulating the proposed National Logistics Development Policy and gathering expert opinions from national and international sectoral specialists, stakeholders, public sector representatives, and development partners. She briefly described broad and specific objectives as well as the draft agenda of the two-day workshop.

In continuation, Secretary thanked BUILD for producing the framework of the NLDP as well as the concept note and tentative agenda of a two-day workshop on logistics policy formulation based on the best practices.

She pointed out that to ensure the comprehensiveness of the concept note as well as the workshop, a core committee could be formed where all the issues will be finalised. She expressed her determination by stating that by the next six months, MoI will formulate the draft NLDP based on the framework of the policy prepared by BUILD. She recognised that the NLDP would be the first-ever private sector-led policy in the history of Bangladesh. To make the policy as comprehensive and holistic as possible, the two-day workshop will be the best tool to have the opinion of public and private sector stakeholders, sectoral experts from the domestic and international arena, academia, development partners, etc., she added. ■



Programme at the Japanese embassy

HE Ito Naoki, Ambassador of Japan, organised a programme to congratulate Md Abul Kalam Azad, Former Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, for receiving the award, "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star", from the Emperor of Japan on 7 September 2022 at 7 pm at ambassador's residence at Baridhara.

BUILD CEO Ferdous Ara Begum attended the programme. Md Abul Kalam Azad acknowledged the contribution of BUILD in supporting the business activities of Bangladesh and Japan during his tenure as Principal Secretary at PMO. ■

BUILD CEO attended CPD's web portal launching event

BUILD CEO attended as a panel speaker at the event titled "Launching Web Portal on Setting Up Factories: Licencing, Certificate and Registration" by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) on 2 October 2022 at the Hotel Westin.



BUILD has been publishing the *Business Start-Up Licences: A Regulatory Guide* since 2012 to provide a critical source of information regarding licence, permit, approval, certificate, registration etc. It is working on the sixth edition of the licence book now and aspires to gradually incorporate all other possible licencing requirements in its subsequent editions.

In her remarks, BUILD CEO said, “it would be a brilliant addition if a step-by-step method and a time frame could be supplied. Also, the desk-to-desk journey needs to be mentioned. The flowchart could include the responsible authorities for issuing the licence or certificates for the factories and establishments and the inspection and re-inspection process of the responsible authorities”.

“In the process map, business process reengineering is another critical area. The flow chart of CPD has given the requirements of the documents nicely. However, the order of the document can be given some importance; a synchronisation system could be there, but the web portal only shows the required documents for availing licences”.

“The procedure of obtaining licences is complicated by the fact that there are a number of undocumented conditions that must be met. Since this online portal is solely concerned with the development of factories for specific industries, its scope is limited. As a result, it is possible that this may not be beneficial to all of the stakeholders. She suggested that the inspection tab be made more specific for the various stakeholders in order to make it more user-friendly for business owners and entrepreneurs”.

“In addition to the registration for environmental and social responsibilities, opening a factory in any of the targeted industries (including RMG, leather, food processing, and pharmaceuticals) necessitates the completion of a substantial number of business-related forms and paperwork and obtaining of additional licences and certifications”.

“Last but not least, in order to get licences and certifications, businesses almost always need assistance from intermediaries. It is possible that some of this information may come in handy. If the applicable acts, regulations, or laws in the editorials may be of use to the reader, licences are often granted under such provisions”.

REFORMS

4IR activities in the NIP

BUILD presented a policy paper titled “Industrial Policy 2016: CMSMEs in Bangladesh” at the 7th Meeting of the SME Development Working Committee (FSDWC) of BUILD, which was held on 7 February 2021 and was co-chaired by K. M. Ali Azam, Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh and Mahbubul Alam, President, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI). The paper proposed one recommendation in regard to 4IR and ICT issues that need to be adequately taken in the policy in a separate chapter so that this sector can flourish and get relevant policy benefits announced by the government.

The Ministry of Industry added the “Expansion of 4IR Friendly Technology” chapter in the National Industrial Policy (NIP) 2022 and also included 4IR-related activities in the special development industry list in NIP 2022, where AI, blockchain, IoT, big data analytics, advanced robotics, 3D printing, augmented reality (AR) were added as components of 4IR.

Sectoral recognition logistics in the NIP

Ministry of Industries has included logistics as the export-diversified and priority sector in the National Industrial Policy (NIP) 2022. Along with that, a list of 21 logistics sub-sectors is included in the NIP. This implementation has been treated as a milestone achievement of the Logistics Infrastructure Development Working Committee (LIDWC) of BUILD, which is co-chaired by the Senior Secretary of the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) and the Chairperson of BUILD.

SCOPES

Study on skilling and re-skilling for 4IR

To enjoy the benefits of the fourth industrial revolution, more importance will be given to the creation of skilled human resources than natural resources. Strategic plans will be implemented to rapidly accelerate the use of advanced technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, such as IoT, blockchain, robotics automation etc. BUILD initiated an action plan for the 4IR&ICT action plan under the purview of 4IR&ICTWC. Re-skilling for concerned persons is one of the core actions under the proposed action plan for adopting 4IR in Bangladesh. The objective is to exploit the opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution, which will create skilled human

resources suitable for this industrial revolution. For this purpose, effective changes will be made in the education system. The scope is to work with the particular industries and associations where re-skilling is needed and can work with them to achieve targeted assistance and coordinate with BHTPA, a2i, Associations and academia to brand the skill and re-skilling projects that the government has initiated.

Scope of reviewing the Light Engineering Industry Development Policy

Mol has announced the “Light Engineering Industry Development Policy 2022”. In collaboration with Mol, BUILD has initiated a study on the “Review of Light Engineering Industry Development Policy”. The scope of the study includes (but is not limited to): Mol, BUILD, and the other relevant stakeholders will work in close collaboration to review the Light Engineering Industry Development Policy so that the businesses of the light engineering sector can play a more vital role in the face of upcoming economic challenges.

ARTICLES

অভিযাত মোকাবেলায় সরকারি বেসরকারি উদ্যোগ দরকার [Government and private initiatives are needed to deal with the crisis] • Bonik Barta cutt.ly/buildconnect225-01

Keeping the Bangladeshi pharma industry robust post-LDC graduation • *The Business Standard* cutt.ly/buildconnect225-02

Pharma sector preparation in upcoming IP regime • *The Daily Observer* cutt.ly/buildconnect225-03

With great growth, comes a great need for a national logistics development policy • *The Business Standard* cutt.ly/buildconnect225-04

লোডশেডিং : আমাদের বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবস্থা [Load-shedding: Our electricity system] • Bonik Barta cutt.ly/buildconnect225-05

Abolition of minimum value and graduation from LDC • *The Daily Observer* cutt.ly/buildconnect225-06

Sustainability after graduation • *The Business Post* cutt.ly/buildconnect225-07

PTPR for advanced digitalisation in Bangladesh • *The Daily Observer* cutt.ly/buildconnect225-08

National logistics policy for Bangladesh • *The Financial Express* cutt.ly/buildconnect225-09

PTPR for advanced digitalisation and FDI for Bangladesh • *The Business Post* cutt.ly/buildconnect225-10

PARTNERS' CORNER



DCCI Seminar on port logistics and trade

An efficient port logistic system is the demand of time right now, said the speakers at the seminar titled "Efficient Port Logistic Management and Trade Competitiveness of Bangladesh" organised by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) held on 19 September 2022 at DCCI auditorium. Md. Mostafa Kamal, Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was present as the chief guest. The seminar was chaired by Rizwan Rahman, President, DCCI.

Mostafa Kamal, Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, said that besides Chittagong and Mongla ports, Payra port is coming soon. Recently Abu Dhabi port has shown their interest in working in Bangladesh's port sector in any area. Regarding logistic improvement, he said that the government has recently invested a lot to make our ports more functional. He also stressed that professional people in this sector are needed for better output. He said that as a regulatory authority, there could be an ICD authority in the country.

DCCI President Rizwan Rahman said port logistics management is essential to international trade competitiveness. With the consistent enhancement of the capacity, the Chattogram port has been recognised as the 64th world's busiest port. If the infrastructural capacity of Chattogram port is increased, our cost of doing business will be reasonably lower, resulting in efficient trade lead time and investment surge. Considering the growing importance of port-led trade, efficient port development, including logistic capacity, container handling, storage and relevant hinterland infrastructure and transport connectivity, are essential to strengthen the operational efficiency of our supply chain system of cross-border trade.

Dr M. Masrur Reaz, Chairman, Policy Exchange of Bangladesh, presented the keynote paper. He highlighted that Bangladesh is ranked 100 overall in the

logistics performance index and 102nd in the logistics quality and competence index. Moreover, Bangladesh has one of the highest logistic costs globally. Modern ports enhance regional connectivity and global markets, ICDs and industrial zones. He said the absence of a national logistics strategy, complex regulatory system, sound policies, and limited private sector participation are some challenges for efficient port logistic management. Later he said that the country needs a national logistics policy. DCCI Senior Vice President Arman Haque gave the concluding remarks. ■



MCCI Workshop on industrial solar system

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), in collaboration with Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), organised a workshop titled "Installation of Industrial Rooftop Solar System" at the MCCI office in the capital's Gulshan vicinity on Wednesday. Md Habibur Rahman, Secretary of Power Division and Director, IDCOL, graced the event as the chief guest. Habibullah N. Karim, Vice-President of MCCI, attended the event as the special guest, reports BSS.

The event was chaired by Sharifa Khan, Chairman of IDCOL and Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD). Secretary Md Habibur Rahman pointed out that the industrial rooftop solar system could be an excellent defence against global warming being embraced worldwide, especially by the high carbon-emitting nations. IDCOL made a presentation on the financial and technical aspects of the rooftop solar system. Two rooftop solar project sponsors of IDCOL also shared their experiences with the audience.

Finally, audience members were divided into groups for discussion, followed by a question-answer session. Industrial rooftop solar system produces electricity that could be cheaper than that of the national grid. It also reduces the carbon footprint of businesses.

Surplus electricity produced can quickly be sold to the national grid. With an installed and approved rooftop solar system of

29-megawatt peak (MWp) and 65 MWp, respectively, IDCOL was targeting 300 MWp of the rooftop industrial solar system by 2025. Business community members attended the event. ■



CCCI Workshop on the one-stop service platform

Participants shared perspectives on services and investment aftercare from the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) one-stop service portal developed in partnership with the Chattogram Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

The workshop was attended by Additional Divisional Commissioner Dr Prakash Kanti Chowdhury, BIDA Executive Member Moshina Yasmin, Chattogram Chamber President Mahbubul Alam, and BIDA Executive Member Abhijit Chowdhury, among others, and was held at the Bangabandhu Conference Hall.

Moshina Yasmin, executive member of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), said BIDA worked tirelessly to provide various online services to investors without interruption. So far, she added that they had connected 58 services from 19 service providers to the online one-stop service portal. She also outlined the features of the online portal that would benefit investors and asked them to utilise the services offered by this website to support the successful continuance of this programme.

Mahbubul Alam, President of the Chittagong Chamber, said that a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the two organisations to connect with this platform to provide various services to the members of the Chittagong Chamber and that the system integration work was ongoing.

Chittagong Division Additional Commissioner Dr Prakash Kanti Chowdhury, who chaired the workshop, said that the one-stop service portal, which was launched to provide various services to investors online, and the Investment After Care Unit, which was formed as part of their post-investment support activities, is a commendable initiative. ■



Meeting with Chatham House at the BUILD office on 6 October 2022. ↑



An event titled "Towards a Transformed and Revitalised Trade and Economic Partnership with EU" was organised by Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID) on 29 September 2022. BUILD Chairperson and CEO were present as panel speakers. ↑



Meeting with the IDG team at the BUILD office on logistics cost on 18 October 2022.



An event titled "Identifying Priorities and Generating Consensus — Guidelines and Background Information for Working Groups and a Plenary Session on Production Transformation Policy Review (PTPR) of Bangladesh" was organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) Development Centre with the financial contribution of the EU. The PTPR is being carried out in the framework of the OECD initiatives for Policy Dialogue on Global Value Chains (GVCs), Production Transformation and Development. The meeting was held at InterContinental on 18 October 2022. BUILD CEO attended the programme to discuss the priorities of Bangladesh. ↑



At the workshop entitled "Man-Made Fibre for Moving Up the Value Chain of RMG in the Context of LDC Graduation", which took place on 4 October 2022 at the NEC Conference Room of the Planning Commission, BUILD CEO delivered a presentation. M. A. Mannan MP, the Hon'ble Minister of the Ministry of Planning, was in attendance as the chief guest. Sharifa Khan, the Secretary of the Economic Relations Division, chaired the discussion and served as the session's moderator. ↑



BUILD CEO attended the event titled "National Policy Dialogue on Sustainability Reports by the Private Sector in Bangladesh: Expectation and Experience", held on 29 October 2022 at the Brac Centre Inn in the capital. BUILD CEO raised several aspects of sustainability reporting connected with SDG implementation needs awareness among private sectors. She echoed the concerns of other policy experts when she said that during the forthcoming LDC transition, environmental compliance and labour rights are two issues that would significantly influence Bangladesh's access to global markets. Reporting on sustainability will be very crucial in order to realise this objective. ↑

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