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INVEST IN BANGLADESH

THE RISE OF BANGLADESH'S SEMICONDUCTOR SECTOR

BANGLADESH AIMS TO BECOME GLOBAL SEMICONDUCTOR HUB, PROJECTS $1 BILLION REVENUE BY 2030

IN THIS ISSUE

Bangladesh Investment Development Authority
BIDA

An Evening of Vision and Vibrance The *Stellar Soiree* at BIDA

BIDA hosted a high-profile networking event titled "*The Stellar Soiree*" at the picturesque terrace of its Dhaka headquarter 'Biniyog Bhaban' on January 16, 2025.

The event was led by Mr. Ashik Chowdhury, Executive Chairman of both BIDA and BEZA, and brought together a remarkable gathering of senior government advisors, foreign ambassadors, leading business figures, and local and international investors.

The evening served as a celebration of collaboration and forward-looking strategy in Bangladesh's investment landscape. One of the evening's highlights was a live voting session, where attendees had the opportunity to elect the official logo for the upcoming Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025. Among two creative options, a nature-inspired design emerged as the winner, reflecting Bangladesh's deep connection to sustainability, growth, and resilience.

Adding to the evening's reflective tone, a short documentary on the historic July Revolution was screened, offering powerful context on the nation's enduring spirit and transformative journey. The event concluded on a heartfelt note with a musical performance by BEZA officials, paying tribute to the guests and the shared vision for Bangladesh's economic future.

The *Stellar Soiree* was more than a networking event—it was a symbol of unity and progress, underscoring the collaborative energy driving Bangladesh's rise as a destination for sustainable and strategic investment.

Editorial Committee

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Member : Director, Facilities Management, Secretariat Wing, BIDA
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Editor: Director, Marketing and Communication, BIDA
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Bangladesh 2.0: Investment ecosystem in upgrading

Bangladesh is poised for a transformative leap in its investment landscape, driven by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA). Acknowledging the critical role of a robust investment ecosystem in fostering economic growth and attracting foreign capital, BIDA is implementing a series of strategic initiatives designed to streamline processes, enhance transparency, and promote investor confidence. From regulatory reforms to the development of essential infrastructure, these steps aim to create an inviting environment for both local and international investors. Following are some of the key measures being taken by BIDA to bolster investment in Bangladesh, highlighting their potential impact on the nation's economic trajectory.

Steps to a Brighter Future

One Stop Service Coordination Committee

According to the provision of One Stop Service Rule 2020, BIDA has formed the Central One Stop Service Authority on 5 March 2025. This is in the form of a committee chaired by the Executive Chairman, BIDA with focal point officers of the concerned departments/ organizations as the members. The focal points will work as the first point of contact for the investors and also provide them with necessary advice and assistance. The committee will also formulate SOP for providing services under one stop service system, monitor the progress of applications and speedy disposal of outstanding applications within the stipulated time. It is expected that, the investors now will be able to consult focal point officer of concerned organizations regarding their services and will get solution from a single point within the stipulated time.

Private Sector Investment Advisory Council

BIDA has identified the setting up of a Private Sector Investment Advisory Council (PSIAC) to act as an important interface between the business community and the government, and to provide a structured approach to raising and resolving critical business environment challenges. The ultimate objective of this Council is to develop a favorable investment climate that attracts both domestic and foreign investment and encourages sustainable economic development in Bangladesh. The proposed concept will convene a core group of representatives from the private sector on a quarterly basis. A regular frequency of bringing representatives from the private and public sectors will ensure continuity in discussions and follow-through on action points. Other ministries and agencies relevant for follow up will be gradually brought into the Council.

Collocation of government agencies in BIDA

With the directions of the Inter-ministerial committee to facilitate investment coordination, BIDA has taken initiatives to co-locate in-person liaison officers from high frequency key regulators, namely, National Board of Revenue, Department of Environment and Bangladesh Bank in BIDA Head Quarters in Agargaon with the objective to assist investors directly with on-the-spot advice and support. The services might be available within the next one month.

Streamlining Visa and Work Permit Procedure

BIDA is currently reviewing its visa recommendation and work permit process for foreign nationals and investors in Bangladesh. The objective is to improve speed, efficiency and inter-agency coordination while ensuring compliance to relevant regulations and national security perspectives. An internal review report has recommended several action points including further digitization and BIDA leadership is reviewing these recommendations for its implementation feasibilities.

Capital Repatriation

Repatriation of profits and capital has been a common concern for existing and potential international investors in Bangladesh. BIDA is currently meeting with a cross-section of businesses and banks to understand the challenges involved and devise solutions; wider consultations will be held soon to agree a way forward.

Industry in Focus: The Rise of Bangladesh's Semiconductor Sector

Bangladesh's Semiconductor Revolution: A New Frontier for Growth

Bangladesh is poised to emerge as a key player in the global chip design industry and establish itself as a competitive hub for semiconductor innovation with a growing talent pool, government incentives, and increasing foreign investment. The country is stepping into this industry primarily with IC design and verification services, having the target of initiating testing operations soon. Bangladesh's electronics industry holds immense potential for huge revenue generation in the semiconductor sector. Capturing even a small share of the global market could surpass the country's RMG export earnings in the future.

Semiconductors

- Power almost all sort of electronic devices
- Ultra-small electronic devices made from silicon, germanium, or gallium arsenide compounds
- Tiny electric transistors arranged on a silicon/ wafer form an IC or microchip.
- Memory chips, microprocessors, commodity integrated circuits, and system-on-a-chip (SoC).

Global Semicon Market

Over the last 50 years, semiconductors have become more advanced but gradually tinier in size, making their manufacturing an incredibly complex process. A single silicon wafer can contain billions of transistors, and sourcing high-quality silicon itself is not easy. As demand for semiconductors surges—driven by advancements in AI, IoT, data centers, and green technologies—countries across the globe are aggressively positioning themselves to capture their share. Many global tech giants, however, design semiconductors but choose Asian countries for cost effective production. Factors such as strategic location, skilled workforce, and supportive government policies have helped this region become a key player in semiconductor manufacturing.

Revenue generation

- $544 billion global revenue generated in 2023. 19% growth in 2024. To reach $1.2 trillion by 2030.
- Unprecedented expansion, fueled by innovations in AI, 5G, automotive, and industrial automation to generate $3 trillion in semiconductor-based products, ultimately powering $12 trillion in IT systems.
- 81% manufactured across Asia (Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, China, Japan, and India).
- Bangladesh earns approx. $7 million per year from semiconductor design.

Growth drivers

- Growth in 5G, AI, drones, robotics, IoT, big data analytics, and cloud computing
- Rising demand for fabless chip design and semiconductor R&D services.
- Expansion of global supply chains creating opportunities for new entrants.
- Rising demand for skilled workforce and cost-effective solutions in semiconductor.

Semicon Industry Positioning

Fabless companies	Foundries	Post-fab companies
Designing chips, developing IP, creating software. Rely on others for fabrication, packaging, and testing *Nvidia and Qualcomm.*	Offer fabrication services to fabless companies. *TSMC, Samsung Foundry, SMIC, UMC, and GlobalFoundries.*	(OSAT providers) Post fabrication testing and packaging of chips.

Bangladesh's current strength → **Bangladesh's future potentials**

Opportunities for Bangladesh

With its proven manufacturing capabilities in a number of other sectors like RMG, Bangladesh is well-positioned to diversify its revenue streams and become a major player in the semiconductor sector. The country can position itself as a key service provider to global companies and also develop its own intellectual property (IP) and semiconductor chips. At least 13 local companies are already in the market designing chips for globally renowned companies like Apple. Bangladesh's strength in chip design provides a foundation for growth, attracting international investors seeking skilled manpower and cost-effective solutions.

Growth Strategies for Bangladesh's Semiconductor Industry

Strategic Area 1: Expanding talent pool

Global demand

By 2030, the global semiconductor industry will face a shortage of nearly 1 million engineers

Bangladesh's strength

- Public and private institutions for science and technology can provide more than 200,000 engineers, with B.Sc. and M.Sc. in
  - Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)
  - Applied Physics
  - Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)
- 10,000 industry ready professionals from this large pool can be trained over the next 5 years.

Improvements/ investments needed in

- VLSI courses in bachelor's and master's degree.
- Develop specialized skills in semiconductor technology, design, and manufacturing
- Collaborate with educational institutions to develop specialized courses for industry growth
- Advanced EDA (Electronic Design Automation) tools, and updated course content tailored to the latest semiconductor technologies
- Infrastructure and machinery/ tools in the educational institutes

Expectations

Foreign semiconductor companies looking for a skilled workforce to support their growth in the region, would find Bangladesh's educated and trained workforce appealing, thereby fostering increased foreign investment and technological collaboration in the country

Strategic Area 2: Improving policy framework

Investment support

- Tax exemptions for high-tech industries and export-oriented businesses.
- Foreign investment incentives, including ease of doing business reforms.
- Special Economic Zones (SEZs) dedicated to high-tech industries.
- Grants and funding for semiconductor R&D and skill development programs.

Geographic location

Bangladesh's strategic location between India and China enhances its potential to integrate into diversified global semiconductor supply chains. This proximity facilitates access to raw materials, advanced technology, and expertise, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

Expected improvements

Lower operational costs for semiconductor companies
- Financial support to subsidize costs of chip development tools and fabrication.
- Fiscal support (tax holidays, reduced import duties on essential equipment, utility subsidies)

Promote innovation
- Offer grants and matching funds for R&D.

Create enabling environment for Fab Industries
- Invest in specialized industrial zones with state-of-the-art facilities
- Simplify administrative procedures and provide clear regulatory guidelines
- Further ease the entry and operation of foreign investors and local startups

Establishing a Center of Excellence (CoE) in semiconductors
- Pivotal for developing skilled workforce by enhancing technological prowess
- Hub for advanced research, innovation, and workforce development in semicon technology.
- Combine strengths of academia, industry, and government,
- Drive economic growth, ensure national competitiveness in the global semicon market.

Strategic Area 3: Attracting FDI and national/ international collaboration

Existing motivators

- Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association (BSIA) has 13 members.
- Planning to create 10,000 engineers in Designing, Testing & Packaging with targets of $1 billion in revenue by 2030.
- Plans to extend membership to 60 companies and bring at-least 1 Global Renowned Company in Bangladesh by the year 2030.
- Focusing on workforce development, strategic policy interventions, marketing and branding initiatives, and incentives to attract foreign clients and investments.

Expected improvements

- Join platforms such as US Semicon Alliance to build networks.
- Start marketing & branding of Bangladesh as a serious player in semicon sector.
- Form partnerships with global firms and attract 1-2 JVs with international companies,
- Optimize the networks of NRBs.
- At least 2 anchor investments that demonstrate Bangladesh's potential in semicon

Government Initiative: Semiconductor Taskforce

A national taskforce was convened in December 2024, under BIDA's leadership, to recommend and take forward specific action points that will spur the nascent semiconductor sector in the country. In the first quarter of 2025, this taskforce -comprised of semiconductor businesses, policy-makers, NRB experts and academics -researched, brainstormed, and collectively generated a roadmap for the sector.

To take each of these thematic areas forward quickly while utilizing the best skills available here and abroad, separate sub-groups have been formed. The skills development sub-group has already drafted a comprehensive workforce skills development plan which has components on both short-term certification courses and longer-term degree programs. This plan is being discussed with industry specialists and will be finalized by May. A National Semiconductor Policy is also being considered which will detail out the rules, regulations and eco-system architecture for the sector.

Compiled by: Shah Mohammad Mahboob
Executive Member, BIDA

Contributors: 1. Mohammad Enayetur Rahman
President & CEO of Ulkasemi
2. M A Jabbar, Managing Director of DBL Group
3. Nahian Rahman Rochi, Head of Business Development, BIDA

Face to Face with
Mohammad Enayetur Rahman
President & CEO
Ulkasemi Pvt. Limited

Q: How would you describe the current state of Bangladesh's semiconductor industry in terms of growth, challenges, and global competitiveness?

Bangladesh's semiconductor industry has made notable progress, particularly in IC design and verification, with an increasing number of engineers gaining global recognition. However, challenges remain, including the lack of a comprehensive semiconductor policy framework, insufficient investments in R&D, and the need for better infrastructure to support large-scale manufacturing. The shortage of skilled professionals is one of the biggest hurdles, as global demand for talent exceeds supply. To enhance its competitiveness, Bangladesh must focus on improving its workforce training and developing specialized education programs.

On the global stage, Bangladesh is still in the early stages compared to semiconductor powerhouses like Taiwan, South Korea, India and China. However, with the right policies, investments in R&D, enhanced infrastructure, and a more skilled workforce, Bangladesh has the potential to become a competitive player in the global semiconductor supply chain, particularly as companies look to diversify their supply chains and reduce dependence on a few regions.

Q: How does Bangladesh fare compared to its regional competitors as a destination for semiconductor investment? How can BIDA support this growth?

Bangladesh has several advantages as a destination for semiconductor investment, including a highly skilled, cost-effective workforce and a growing interest in the high-tech sector. However, compared to regional competitors like India and Vietnam, which have well-established semiconductor ecosystems and stronger government support for the industry, Bangladesh is still in the early stages of development. India and Vietnam have successfully built robust semiconductor industries through significant investments in infrastructure, R&D, and talent development. Despite these challenges, Bangladesh is rapidly catching up with its regional counterparts.

BIDA can play a pivotal role in accelerating this growth by streamlining investment procedures, offering targeted incentives for semiconductor companies, and facilitating partnerships between industry and academia. By fostering a collaborative environment, BIDA can help create a sustainable talent pipeline, improve the country's semiconductor infrastructure, and attract more foreign investment. With the right strategic support, Bangladesh can position itself as a competitive player in the regional and global semiconductor market.

Q: How supportive is the current policy environment for the semiconductor industry? Are there specific areas where you would like to see more policy support?

The Bangladeshi government has officially approved the formation of a national taskforce for the semiconductor sector, led by BIDA. This marks a major milestone in bringing together NRB, industry leaders, academia, and government to drive growth in this high-potential industry. The initiative focuses on enhancing Bangladesh's capabilities in testing, assembly, and chip design, paving the way for the country to tap into the global semiconductor market. While these steps are promising, further policy support is essential for long-term success.

Key areas for improvement include a National Semiconductor Policy with clear incentives for investors; increased R&D funding to develop homegrown semiconductor technology; tax benefits for chip design firms to boost local startups; and Infrastructure development for high-tech manufacturing zones. In addition, commercial and economic counsellors in various missions of Bangladesh can play a catalytic role in negotiating with bigger companies to rely on Bangladesh in the semiconductor sector.

Q: What are the first steps needed to flourish semiconductor industry in Bangladesh?

The semiconductor market in Bangladesh is relatively small, requiring stakeholders to consider the global market for growth. A key step in this process is fostering joint-venture initiatives to attract both local and international investors. Additionally, a targeted approach to sales and marketing should highlight Bangladesh's prospects and potential in the sector. Ensuring a favorable return on investment is crucial, particularly as the country continues to produce highly skilled engineers from top technological universities. To facilitate large-scale collaboration, a G2G initiative should be prioritized. Notably, ULKASEMI has already set an example by enabling Bangladeshi engineers to work as an extended office for the U.S. multinational company Intel.

Q: Can you please tell about the base market in the semiconductor industry?

Some of the very crucial issues to be considered include power infrastructure, data security, connectivity, intermediate reliability, internet capacity reliability. Addressing these issues effectively will help build confidence among customers and clients. Besides, the big companies will be interested to come in Bangladesh only when they will get huge resources as well as trained and skilled workforce. Those big companies have the ability to create huge employment opportunities that might engage more than 1 lack engineers and professionals. We can establish specialized curricula to create desired educated youths to fulfill the company needs which will in turn create opportunities for multi-billion dollar market in the semiconductor industry. Besides, a special zone or hi-tech park could also be set up where all the facilities would be available.

Acknowledged Semiconductor Designers in Bangladesh

1. Neural Semiconductor Ltd.
A leading innovator Company

NEURAL SEMICONDUCTOR

Neural Semiconductor Limited (NSL) under the DBL Group is a leading seamless technology related service provider that aims to provide full package of solutions for both VLSL and software services with a vision to build the ecosystem along with.

- Founded in April' 2017 by Mr. Abdul Jabbar, Managing Director
- More than 150 engineers of electrical engineering background
- Working on three key areas like Design for Testability, Physical Design and Software Services
- R&D unit for in-house development and offering wide range of semiconductor design services

Company Strength

NSL as one of the most promising semiconductor industries of the country has been working with the USA, Japan, Greece, Korea and Taiwan, while it is also trying to connect other countries like China. To this end, NSL sought cooperation of BIDA and other government's investment related service providing agencies as steps have been taken to go for very large-scale integration of sponsoring VLSI-design contest.

- **Skill level:** Most of the orders of the company come from the USA. The foreign clients are usually very satisfied with the quality and product served by the Bangladeshi engineers. They are taking benefits of 18 semiconductor labs and academic activities are running in 31 Universities of the country. Chairman of the Intel visited Bangladesh in 2022.

- **Skill upgradation:** To maintain constant skill upgradation, NSL is signing MOUs with different universities including UIV, BRAC University, BUET, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology to strengthen collaboration with them to create qualified and skilled manpower as the target has been set to prepare ten thousand engineers for 60 companies which will have one-billion-dollar market by the year 2030.

- **Utilization of Chips:** Bangladesh was witnessing increased Local Manufacturing in the semiconductor sector and the local firms including NSL have started designing and assembling electronic devices. However, there were a few collaborations with foreign companies for assembling semiconductors and electronic components in Bangladesh. Companies from countries like China, Taiwan, and South Korea explored opportunities to set up local production or assembly plants.

Strategic Future Plan to Access to the Global Market

According to the NSL semiconductor industry might reach 1.3 trillion-dollar market by 2031. There will be shortage of more than 100 million professionals in the semiconductor industry by the year 2030 and Bangladesh can take the advantage in the world market through developing skilled and efficient manpower. Bangladeshi professionals are already working in UK, Singapore and USA, while the engineers will also go to Saudi Arabia to work there on the semiconductor industry.

Opportunities for Collaboration with Global Players

Bangladesh's semiconductor industry has huge potential and opportunities in the world market with country's talented, competent and young engineers. While Bangladesh is far from being a hub for semiconductor manufacturing, there has been a shift towards semiconductor design, with some companies and startups beginning to work on designing microchips for specific applications, such as in telecommunications, automotive, and consumer electronics.

2. ULKASEMI Pvt. Ltd.
Pioneering Bangladesh's Semiconductor Revolution

ULKASEMI is a semiconductor company that offers high quality semiconductor design services for semiconductor OEMs, fabless design houses and electronic system design companies. It is at the forefront of Bangladesh's semiconductor industry, driving innovation, excellence, and global competitiveness. As the country's leading semiconductor design services company, ULKASEMI combines nearly 18 years of expertise with cutting-edge technology to support the development of next-generation flagship products.

- Founded in 2007 with headquarters in Cupertino, California (Silicon Valley) and operations in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Toronto, Canada, and Bengaluru, India, the ULKASEMI today is Bangladesh's number-1 semiconductor design services company.
- Has over 350 employees distributed around the globe and is aggressively expanding.
- Nearly 18 years of experience in semiconductor design service enables ULKASEMI in developing their next generation flagship product lines, such as mobile devices, complex routers/switches, consumer products, storage, microprocessor, and graphics processors.
- The Company's engagement model is equally diverse – all the way from architecture/product specification development to full turnkey projects, or deploying small/large teams around the world to help our clients deliver their latest product fastest to market.

Excellence in Advanced Semiconductor Design and Innovation

ULKASEMI's large pool of IC Layout Design engineers has worked on digital/analog layout from 180 nm up to 3 nm process technologies with its expertise in custom analog/digital layout physical verification, extraction, timing, and signal integrity analysis as well as with Tools/Methodology which includes Synopsys, Cadence, Mentor Graphics. Its engineers and experts are working on custom design components with Physical Design, Foundry Design, Digital Verification and AMS Verification.

Made in Bangladesh' Chip and Future of Semiconductor Innovation

- Domestic champion: With a strong commitment to technological advancement, workforce development, and industry growth, ULKASEMI is pioneering the "Made in Bangladesh" chip and fostering collaborations between universities, industry leaders, and government agencies.
- Reducing brain-drain: ULKASEMI came up with the plan setting a target of creating more than 5000 new jobs in the semiconductor industry and opening new offices in Germany and the Netherlands in order to restrict brain drain from their trained pool of engineers by taking strategies on proper supports and patronization particularly on their financial security.
- Collaboration: Since many aspects of semiconductor manufacturing cannot be done right now in Bangladesh, Ulkasemi is jointly working with the two groups–one led by USA with other nations being Japan, India, South Korea, and Vietnam, while another group is led by China.

Empowering Future Tech Leaders with Innovation, and Excellence.

ULKASEMI has gathered and developed experienced professionals to lead in this sector. The company offers the platform for fresh graduates to develop their skills and unleash their potential to become tech thought leaders. They invite competent engineers to join its family and shape their future. ULKASEMI ensures three elements in its working environment namely equal opportunity, friendly environment and flexibility, while the strategy is to invest in people to ignite their hidden inner quests and potential and mold them into a shape which allows them to represent world class service to the clients. A good number of leading and top positions are held by amazingly talented women through their dedication, hard work and brilliance. Health insurance and Employee Recognition Awards are two other perks of employment in Ulkasemi. So ULKASEMI is the right place for those who love challenges, have passion for working in this industry, and want to work at a company on the cutting edge of Bangladesh's technology industry with expertise from Silicon Valley and around the world.

Special Article: Revolutionizing Data Management at BIDA: A Leap Towards Digital Governance

BIDA has embarked on a transformative journey with its pioneering "Data Archiving System (DAS)" that includes modernizing data management by streamlining, digitizing, and securely archiving industrial project-related information. It aims to enhance service delivery to investors and bolster operational efficiency.

Historical Context and Challenges

The former Board of Investment (BOI) and the current Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) have been providing investment-related services since 1988. During this period, the registration and management of industrial projects were carried out manually, with some services partially online. However, by February 2019, all services transitioned to electronic platforms under the One Stop Service (OSS) system.

Despite these advancements, historical data remains critical for service delivery, especially when verifying previous records for investor services. However, the manual storage of older records has made the verification process time-consuming and cumbersome. Recognizing this, BIDA envisioned the Digital Archiving System (DAS) to digitize historical records and make them accessible through an efficient online platform.

Key Features of the Data Archiving System

- Centralized Archiving: Data from diverse industrial projects and stakeholders is consolidated on a unified platform. This ensures seamless access for both BIDA officials and investors.
- Preservation of Critical Data: As of December 31, 2024, the system has successfully digitized and archived 39,512 manual files. These include industrial project plans, investor profiles, and government approvals, preserving fragile and old documents for future generations.
- Enhanced Accessibility: Using advanced indexing and metadata tagging, the system allows for quick and accurate data retrieval. Stakeholders can access categorized information with ease.
- Automation for Efficiency: By minimizing dependence on manual methods, the system reduces errors, accelerates workflows, and improves service delivery.

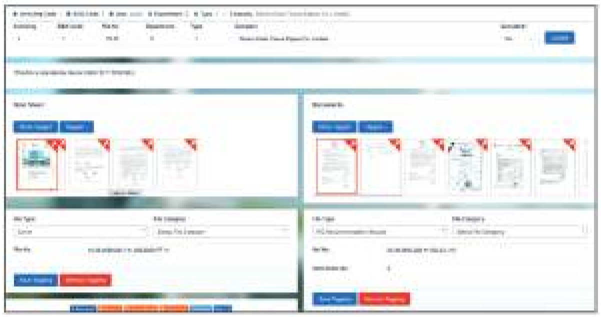
Key Partners

The implementation of DAS involved several strategic steps:

- Scanning and Indexing: Documents were scanned using flatbed and overhead scanners to maintain integrity and were indexed across multiple fields for efficient categorization.
- Secure Data Storage: The archived data was uploaded to a secure server with regular backups to ensure protection and longevity.
- Daily Monitoring and Updates: Regular updates and monitoring ensure the system remains reliable.

The success of DAS is a testament to the collaborative efforts of UNDP's Research and Analytics Unit (RAU) and Business Automation Ltd. UNDP provided financial support and technical guidance. Business Automation Ltd. was entrusted as the consultant for project execution, handling tasks like document scanning and data entry.

Before



After

Milestones Achieved

The system has achieved the following milestones:

- Digital Transformation: Transitioned 39,512 files from manual to digital formats.
- Streamlined Integration: Enabled seamless data integration through IRMS.
- Enhanced Access: Facilitated quick retrieval of archived documents for stakeholders.
- Operational Efficiency: Reduced human errors and operational delays through automation.
- Improved Investor Services: Provided faster and more accurate services, boosting investor satisfaction.

A Vision for the Future

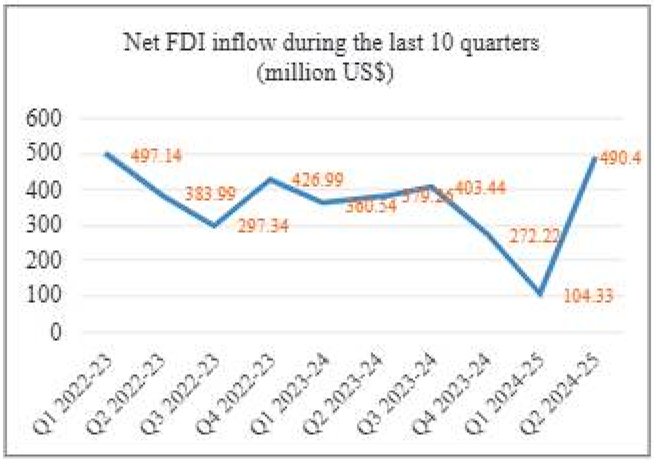
BIDA's Data Archiving System exemplifies its commitment to digital governance. The system not only facilitates BIDA's quick and digital access to older records to complement decison making but also paves the way for other government agencies to adopt similar digital initiatives. This transformation reaffirms BIDA's dedication to a modern, efficient, and investor-friendly services.

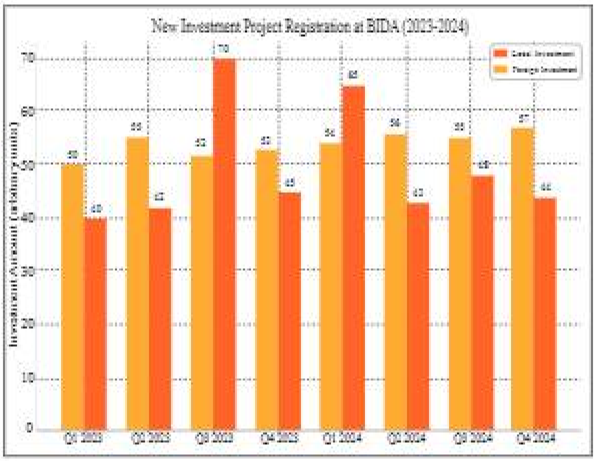
Contributor: Md. Muzib-Ul-Ferdous, Director General (Joint Secretary), BIDA.

Investment Ecosystem Status

FDI Inflow

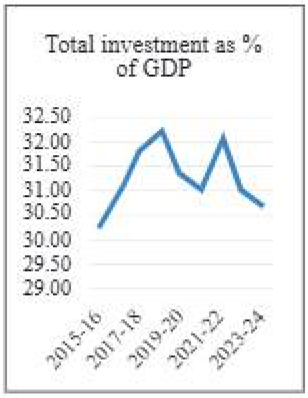
Net FDI inflow during the 2nd quarter of 2024-25 has shown a rebound from what had been a lower dip in the previous two quarters, caused by global conflicts and political events. New project registration data in BIDA had remained stable and is expected to bring further positive growth in FDI inflow.

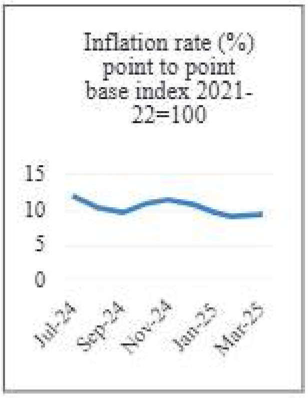


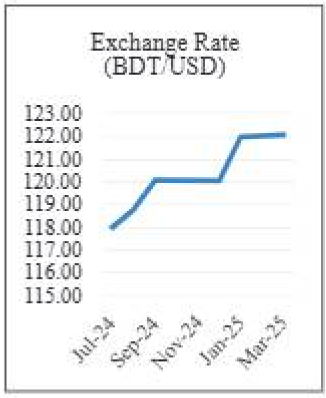


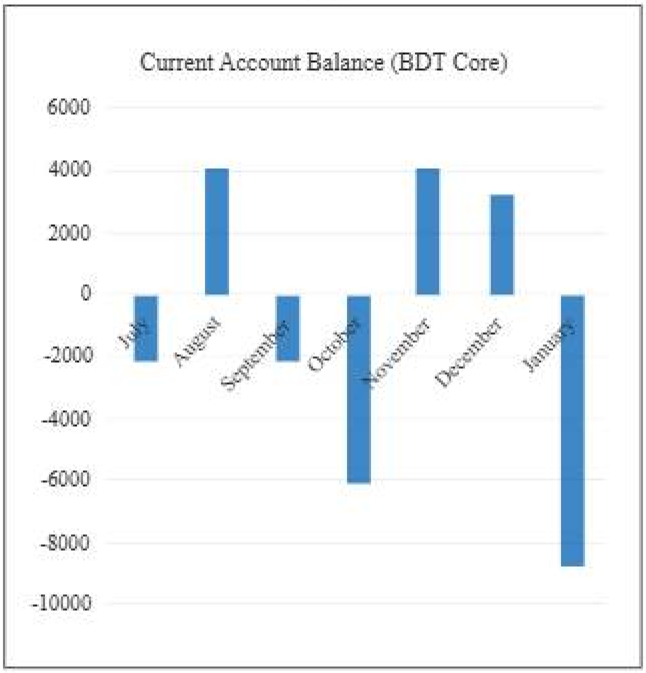
Macroeconomy

Other macroeconomic indicators relevant to investment remain stable and/ or under careful control. Inflation rate is showing symptoms of being tamed while the cxchange rate has largely remained stable for the last two quarters.



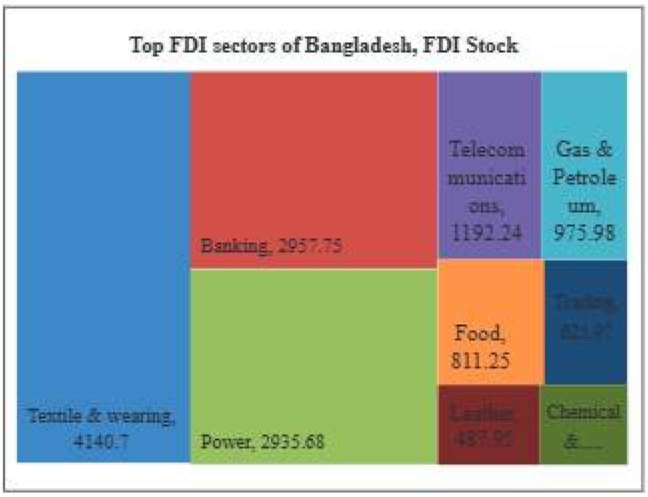






FDI Sectors

In continuation of previous quarter, UK has been the top FDI source for Bangladesh while Textile, Banking and Chemical sectors remain the 3 top sectors of interest by the investors.



Data source: Bangladesh Bank

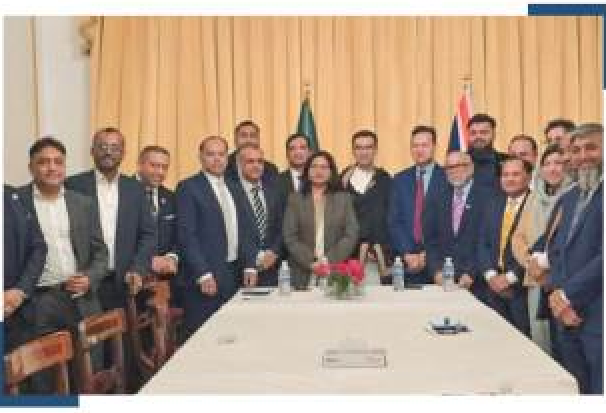
BIDA Events

On January 4, 2025, at the State Guest House Jamuna, a delegation from the UKBCCI led by British MP Rupa Huq met with the Hon'ble Chief Adviser. Also present were the Special Envoy to the Chief Adviser, Mr. Lutfey Siddiqui, and BIDA Executive Chairman (State Minister) Mr. Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun.

On January 8, 2025, Mr. Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun , Executive Chairman (State Minister) of BIDA & BEZA, paid a courtesy call on General Waker-Uz-Zaman, Chief of Army Staff of the Bangladesh Armed Forces. They discussed the investment climate and potential ventures in Bangladesh, emphasizing the importance of collaboration for sustainable economic growth.

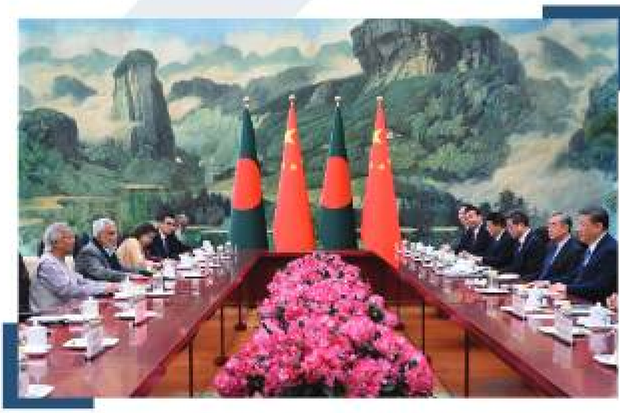
On February 27, 2025, Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, Executive Chairman (State Minister) of BIDA and BEZA, announced the government's plan to establish a private sector advisory council to guide policy improvements for enhancing the business ecosystem. The council, which could be formed mid-year, aims to provide advice on improving the trade and investment climate in Bangladesh, drawing inspiration from similar models in countries like Singapore. The announcement was made during a discussion organized by the Bangladesh German Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Chowdhury Ashiq Mahmud Bin Harun, Executive Chairman (State Minister) of BIDA & BEZA, during his official visit to the United Kingdom from 10 to 13 March 2025, met with UK Investment Minister Baroness Gustafsson of Chesterton CBE as part of a series of high-level meetings aimed at strengthening the longstanding economic partnership between Bangladesh and the UK. Discussions highlighted investment opportunities in education, aviation, and renewable energy, with the UK reaffirming its support for Bangladesh's economic reforms and investor-friendly policies.



Mr. Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun , Executive Chairman (State Minister) of BIDA & BEZA, addresses a business roundtable titled "Investment Climate in Bangladesh: Opportunities and Challenges," held on 11 March 2025 at the Bangladesh High Commission in London. He emphasized the vital role of non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) in the national economy and encouraged increased investment, trade, and remittance flows to Bangladesh.

H.E. Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Advisor of Bangladesh, meets with Ding Xuexiang, Executive Vice Premier of China's State Council, during the Boao Forum for Asia Conference in China on Thursday, 27 March 2025. Mr. Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, Executive Chairman (State Minister) of BIDA & BEZA, was also present at the meeting.



H.E. Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Advisor of the interim government of Bangladesh, meets with Chinese President H.E. Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Friday, 28 March 2025.

H.E. Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Advisor of the interim government of Bangladesh, participates in a photo session following the High-Level Roundtable on "Bangladesh 2.0: Manufacturing and Market Opportunities" held at the Presidential Hotel in Beijing on Friday, 28 March 2025. Mr. Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, Executive Chairman (State Minister) of BIDA & BEZA, was also present.

News Flash

Remittance crosses $2b for sixth month

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh received over $2 billion in remittances in January for the sixth consecutive month, thanks to a disruption in the flow of money through informal channels following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government last August amidst a student uprising.

In January, Bangladeshis working and living abroad sent $2.18 billion in remittances, a building block of Bangladesh's economy and a major enabler of reducing imbalances in the external accounts.

The amount was up 3.4 percent year-on-year.

However, the increase was lower than that in the previous month, as Bangladesh Bank had imposed restrictions on banks from offering high exchange rates to collect foreign currencies.

In December, remittance inflows surged 33 percent year-on-year, according to data from Bangladesh Bank (BB).

Banks were allowed to offer high rates to collect foreign exchange through remittances until December.

Since January, banks have been asked to offer a maximum of Tk 123 per dollar to collect remittances, said a treasury head of a private commercial bank.

For this reason, the growth of remittances slightly slowed, he said, adding that banks now have to maintain uniform rates to collect funds from remitters and exporters.

However, Mati Ul Hasan, managing director of Mercantile Bank PLC, said the remittance inflow in January had followed the usual trend.

Bangladeshi expatriates will send more remittances in the coming months ahead of the holy month of Ramadan and the Eid-ul-Fitr festival, he said.

The country's forex market is now liquid due to the growing trend of remittance inflows in recent months, he said.

Including the January inflow, a total of $15.96 billion had flowed in as remittances since July of fiscal year 2024-25, registering a 24 percent year-on-year growth, according to BB data.

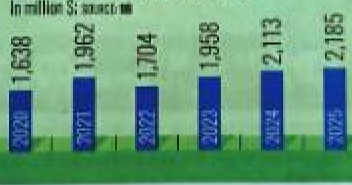
READ MORE ON B3

MONTH-WISE GROWTH OF REMITTANCE IN FY25

In %; SOURCE: BB

REMITTANCE IN JANUARY

In million $; SOURCE: BB

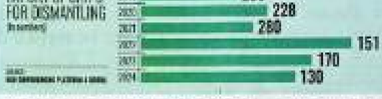


STOCKS & CO.

B4

Bangladesh still top shipbreaking destination

Yet imports fall to 6-year low



Container handling at private ICDs rose 16% in 2024

KDS Logistics retains top spot

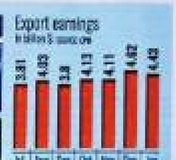
Home textile exports bounce back

Taka devaluation, increased production capacity boost shipment

RMG exports grew moderately in 2024 despite headwinds

Most listed textile firms post profit growth amid challenges

Apparel leads 5.7% export growth in January



Our Points

Bangladesh's investment landscape is entering a new phase defined by greater clarity, sharper ambition, and institutional readiness. At BIDA, this is a time to shape the direction of investment with intention - grounded in resilience, innovation, and inclusive growth.

Few signals are stronger than the rise of our semiconductor sector. What began with niche expertise in chip design is now a national focus. Through the National Semiconductor Taskforce and a strategic roadmap, we are aligning talent, policy, and partnerships to secure Bangladesh's place in future global value chains.

This sense of momentum was evident at the Stellar Soiree - a gathering of public and private leaders aligned around a common goal: to move with purpose and build with vision.

From reforming the One Stop Service to collocating key agencies and building structured dialogue with the private sector, we are making the investment process more seamless, strategic, and forward-looking.

The pages in this newsletter reflect a broader shift - from facilitation to leadership, from systems that respond, to systems that anticipate.

I invite you to read on - not just as a record of what has been done, but as a preview of what lies ahead.

Ashik Chowdhury
Executive Chairman
Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)
Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA)

BANGLADESH INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

BIDA hosts Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025

The Government of Bangladesh is proud to host the Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025, taking place from April 7 to 10, 2025. This landmark event will bring together global leaders, Fortune 500 executives, policymakers, and industry pioneers to explore Bangladesh's exceptional investment potential.

Details on summit events and outcomes

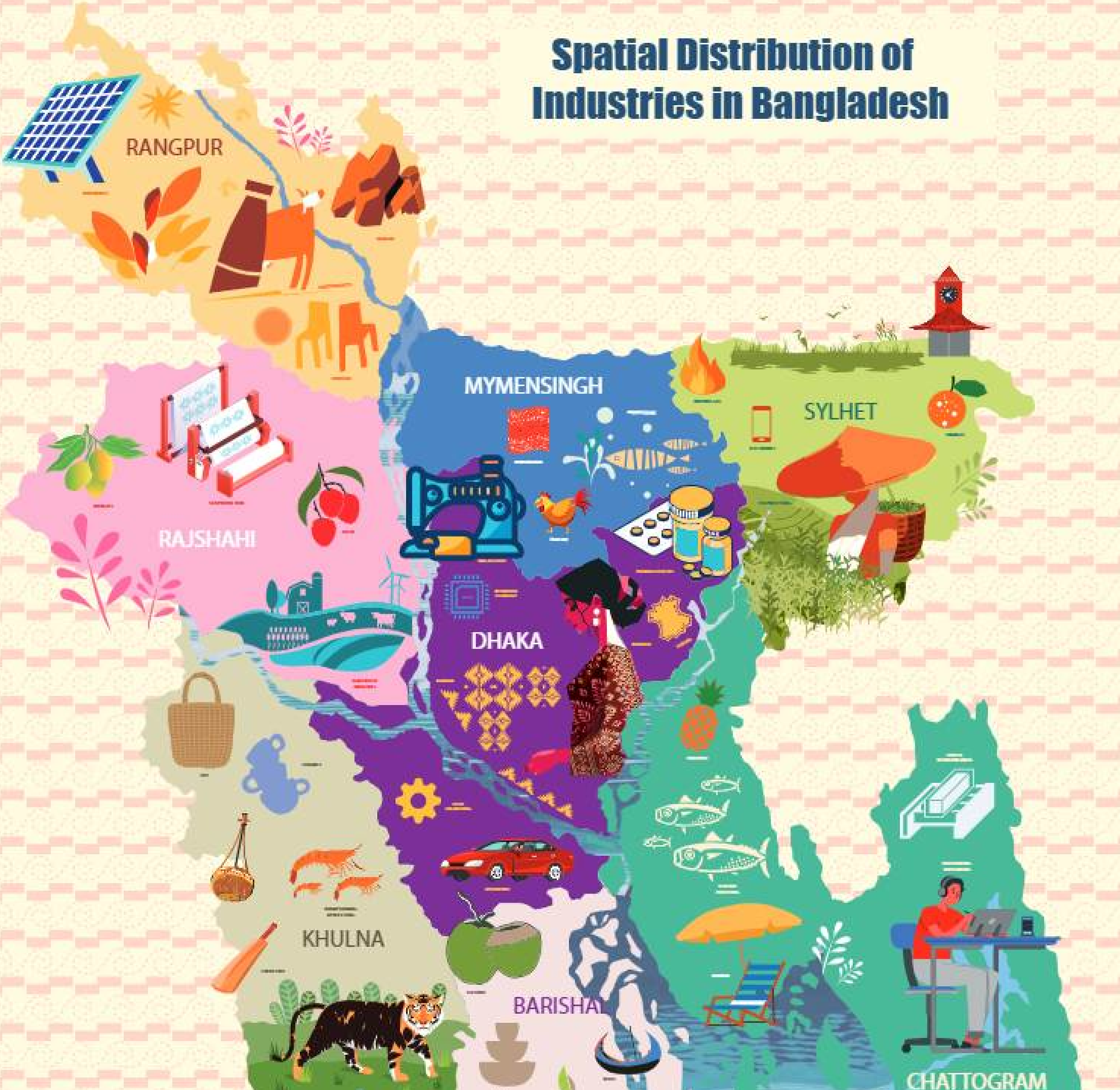
BIDA OSS

BIDA OSS - a single-window platform for availing time bound and real time investor services

Online OSS Service Updates (Up to 31st March 2025)

15,723 Applicant Companies	1,84,161 sevices delivered	134 services of 44 Govt. agencies
79,887 feedbacks	4.5 out of 5 average feedback ratings	4,581 local projects 363 foreign projects 356 JV projects

Spatial Distribution of Industries in Bangladesh



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