

# PUBLIC HEARING ON GARMENT

## Fixes for factory troubles

Labour leaders, development partners roll out a broad recipe; Mozena says worker rights key to GSP retention

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Labour leaders, rights activists and development partners yesterday recommended a raft of measures, including mandatory trade union at garment factories, to make workplaces safer and improve the living standards of workers.

The recommendations came at a public hearing organised by the parliamentary standing committee on the labour and employment ministry at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

It was attended by representatives of the International Labour Organisation, the European Union, the UK, Canada, garments owners, buyers, labour leaders, labour rights-oriented nongovernmental and volunteers' organisations.

They emphasised making trade union mandatory at the factories because it is the only way to let workers speak for their rights. The buildings housing garment units should be strong enough to withstand the pressure of machineries placed on factory floors, they said.

They stressed the need for more than one exits. The factory owners must not be allowed to set up showrooms on the stairways or put goods or products obstructing smooth movement of workers, according to the participants. Goods must not be kept scattered across the factory floors, they said.

The owners must make sure the stairways are full of light and air; there should not be any generator on the upper floors of factories; and the roads leading to the factories

# Private investment hits record low

Political uncertainty and slow global recovery blamed

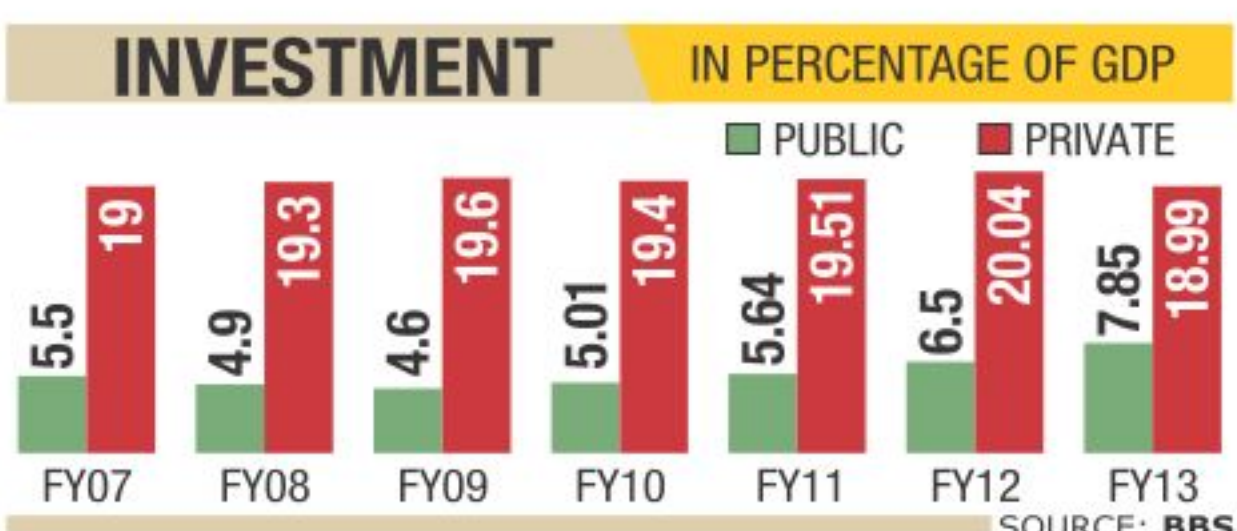
REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Private sector investment compared to GDP fell to a six-year low this fiscal year due to political uncertainty and a slow recovery in the US and Eurozone economies.

The amount declined by 1.05 percentage points over the last fiscal year and stood at 18.99 percent of gross domestic product in the current fiscal year, according to provisional estimates of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

The ratio was 20.04 percent last year and 19 percent six years ago.

However, the overall investment rose slightly due to a boost in public investment, but the share of private investment is higher, at 71 percent, in the total investment.



The estimates on investment were made on the basis of available data of the first seven/eight months of the current fiscal year and the trends for the rest of the months.

The investment-GDP ratio is already very low in Bangladesh and the fall in private sector investment this year has created concern among policymakers.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith at a pre-budget discussion on Friday said the investment-GDP ratio has been hovering around 24 percent and 26 percent and it has become difficult to increase it.

"We are continuously facing the problem related to investment. We have been thinking how investment can be increased," the finance minister said.

Private sector investment is showing a downtrend as the investors have taken a cautious stance due to political uncertainty, Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue, told The Daily Star.

READ MORE ON B3



Albrecht Conze, German ambassador, speaks at a press briefing at The Westin Dhaka yesterday, when six foreign chambers in the country issued a joint statement on the political situation and RMG sector of Bangladesh. Story on page 1

# Regulator moves to curb illegal VoIP calls

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The telecom regulator is examining how international incoming calls enter Bangladesh bypassing different internet gateways or internet service providers.

Sunil Kanti Bose, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, said they have launched a drive to track down the routes of such calls to rein in the illegal use of voice over internet protocol (VoIP).

He said the regulator has already checked the systems of private mobile operators Grameenphone, Banglalink and Robi and state-run Teletalk and Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd.

"The job is yet to complete," he said.

He said the people who generate illegal VoIP calls use newer technologies. So the regulator is also purchasing new equipment to do the job more effectively.

Another BTRC official said the number of authorised international incoming calls went down drastically in recent times as most of such calls come through illegal channels.

He said the mobile operators are the final destination of the international calls, both the legal or illegal ones, and so the regulator has decided to observe the call movement of the operators.

At the same time, the regulator is keeping an eye on the internet service providers and internet gateways, the BTRC official said, asking not to be named.

Analysts said the illegal calls come through internet and are routed to the operators through SIM box, which is a device of multiple SIMs and can handle multiple calls.

READ MORE ON B3

# Allow trade union for own good: analysts



Analysts take part in a roundtable -- Readymade garment industry: problems and relevant thinking -- organised by Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik, at the National Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Apparel makers have to introduce trade unions in their own initiative, as an effective union is a must to resolve workers' unrest, experts said yesterday.

"A responsible trade union is good for any organisation. But garment workers cannot form it due to several obstacles by the owners," said Former Cabinet Secretary Ali Imam Majumder.

The owners have to come forward to form the union by removing all the hurdles and workers will facilitate the initiative, he said at a roundtable.

Majumder's comment came at a time when the cabinet has approved a ceiling to form a trade union in a recent amendment to the Bangladesh Labour Law 2006.

A representation of at least 30 percent of the workers in a factory will be required to form a trade union and the initiative has to come from the workers, according to the draft.

The roundtable styled 'Ready Made Garment Industry: Problems and Relevant Thinking' was organised at the National Press Club by Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan) that works for good governance.

Factory owners will not have to call upon the law enforcement agency to resolve unrest over simple reasons if there is a responsible labour leader in the factory, said Majumder.

M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to the caretaker government, said the government lacks transparency and accountability at every level of administration.

"The authorities should have detained the local UNO (upazila nirbahi officer) and other officials concerned after the deadly building collapse in Savar. They, however, didn't do so. As a result, these types of accidents may happen again in the future," said Khan.

The Savar incident would not have happened had the engineer was responsible; when it comes to discharging duties and responsibilities, everyone has failed, he said.

"We, the civil society members, are guilty as well because we have always commended the clothing industry despite its numerous problems," said Khan.

READ MORE ON B3

# GREAT CAREER STARTS HERE



Eastern Bank Limited the "Employer of Choice". We are recognized for combining the wide range of products, fully online and most up to date technological solutions and service excellence. EBL markets Corporate Banking, Consumer Banking, SME Banking, Investment Banking, International Trade, Foreign Exchange and Syndication Services through a network of 67 branches, 160 ATMs and 40 Kiosk in major cities/towns of the country. As EBL expands its business countrywide so we require more leaders to fulfill our commitments that we have made to our valuable customers.

At EBL we don't offer job, we shape career

Head/Deputy Head of Medium Plus, Deputy Head of Medium Business/ Small Business and, Senior/ Relationship Manager, SME Banking

## Prime Responsibilities

- To achieve set targets in terms of Sales volume and number of accounts (both Asset & Liability) of the value center across the channel
- To lead a team of Relationship Managers
- To increase SME customer base
- To achieve revenue target of the center
- To have control over cost and maintain cost/income ratio
- To manage existing portfolio health
- To help in recovering bad portfolio of SME banking
- To develop Sales strategies for specific product channels
- To plan for attribution and make necessary arrangements so that required numbers are maintained
- To monitor the quality and completeness of applications source by the Relationship Managers/Sales Executives-Asset
- To ensure that unethical/illegal practices are discouraged and discipline in the team is maintained
- To follow and maintain the compliance of all norms and policy of the state/Department/BB or any other competent authority

## Qualification & Other Competencies

- Graduation in any discipline (preferably in business; i.e. MBA/BBA) from reputed universities
- Minimum 5 years experience preferably in sales/business/credit department in bank
- Experience in managing professional zone or to lead a team of 7 or above
- Strong knowledge in banking/financial services/SME Products/Compliances
- Experience of working in a centralized process & real time online banking will be an added advantage.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, public relationship, team building & people management skills
- Good command over English language and computer
- Geographic mobility and flexibility

Eastern Bank Limited offers excellent career opportunities with most competitive salary and benefit packages.

## Application Procedure

Apply online through [www.ebl.com.bd/career](http://www.ebl.com.bd/career) on or before May 30, 2013

Only short-listed candidates will be communicated. Candidates will be treated strictly on merit and any sort of persuasion will result in disqualification.



Special offer

for MBA and M.Com(Acct.) Holders

[www.cimaglobal.com/Bangladesh](http://www.cimaglobal.com/Bangladesh)

+8801771778944

CIMA

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

সারাদেশে এমটিবি'র

৮৬টি শাখায়

পবিত্র হজ্জের টাকা

জমা নেয়া হয়

MTB CONTACT CENTRE

16219 or 9604016219

[www.mutualtrustbank.com](http://www.mutualtrustbank.com)

মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.

your bank on us