



This lake at the BSCIC industrial estate in Khulna has become a cesspool of sorts as industries continue dumping their waste in the waterbody in absence of a central effluent treatment plant and monitoring by officials. In addition, the area lacks proper roads and drainage system.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

# Khulna BSCIC in dire straits

Poor infrastructure, lack of utilities plague industries

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

An industrial estate of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in Khulna is yet to be fully developed even though more than half a century has passed since its establishment.

The estate is plagued by poor infrastructure, namely dilapidated roads and an inadequate drainage system, while it also lacks sufficient water, gas and power supply, according to local businesspeople.

Besides, the number of sick industries in the area is growing day by day as many entrepreneurs are struggling to pay back loans in face of repeated losses.

As a result, 20 industries at the estate are in dire condition but the BSCIC is unable to take measures for reviving these units due to legal complications, including disputes over land allocations.

Built on 44.10 acres of land in Khulna city's Shiromani area along the Dhaka-Khulna highway, the industrial area was inaugurated on March 8, 1965, with 240 plots available.

The plots were then allocated to 88 entrepreneurs to set up various factories, including food processing, chemical, jute, printing and packaging units.

However, just 59 of these industries are currently operational while 8 are under construction, 1 is awaiting production and the rest are on the verge of permanent closure.

Of the active industries, 15 are food processing units, 22 are chemical units, 11 are light engineering units, 4 are woodworking units and 4 are printing and packaging units while 1 unit produces jute goods.



During a recent visit to the BSCIC area, this correspondent found that at least 15 factories were without any workers and 10 only had gatemen sitting in front.

Also, the estate's entryway is too narrow for big trucks to cross while some of the inner roads have been dilapidated for years.

In addition, there is no central effluent treatment plant or dumping yard in the area.

Hannan Sheikh, an employee of Jute Spinners Ltd, said they have been suffering from a water crisis ever since the main supply line was destroyed, compelling entrepreneurs like him to set up their own pumps.

"There is a natural waterbody in the

estate, but its water has become polluted with industrial waste," he added.

On condition of anonymity, the owner of a unit in the industrial area said BSCIC officials are mainly responsible for the current condition as they do not conduct proper monitor.

He then said some entrepreneurs bought their plots by taking large loans but are failing to pay them back as their businesses incur loss.

"The poor roads and drainage system are mainly hindering development of the estate," said Kabir Ahmed, general secretary of the BSCIC Industries Owners Association in Khulna.

"The old electricity supply line also causes problems while we ourselves are

now trying to fulfil the water demand for our factories," he added.

According to BSCIC sources, an initiative has been taken to develop 300 acres of land inside the estate only for leather industries.

Sheikh Riazul Islam, estate officer of the BSCIC area in Khulna, said work on upgrading the roads, drainage system, water pumps, and electricity supply line has already started.

Islam went on to say that 15 units were closed down as they repeatedly incurred losses and failed to repay their bank loans.

"But the authorities are barred from taking necessary steps to revive the closed units as they are tangled up in cases filed by the banks," he added.

Senior officials of BSCIC say that about Tk 1.06 crore has already been spent for constructing roads and drains between 2016 and 2021. Meanwhile, another Tk 44 lakh was spent for providing water pumps.

Islam went on to say that 12 of the shuttered factories collectively owe the BSCIC about Tk 3 crore as service charge.

Tahera Nasreen, regional director of the BSCIC in Khulna, said eight new industrials units are being built while six of the 15 cases against as many companies has already been settled.

"We are trying to speed up the development of Khulna BSCIC by consulting all industrial entrepreneurs who are here. Along with this, we have taken the initiative to revive all the old and closed industries," she added.

Nasreen then informed that the Planning Commission identified the lack of a proper gas supply as another major reason for the estates inability to operate fully.

## Now you are ready to file your tax return

JASIM UDDIN RASEL

Today Abdul Karim is happy because he is going to complete the tax return form and he will be ready to submit it to the tax circle.

In the fourth step, he discovered his net wealth to be Tk 53.30 lakh. Last year, the amount was Tk 50.20 lakh that he found from the previous year's tax return form. He writes it in serial 12 of the assets and liabilities statement.

The accretion of wealth is Tk 310,000 and he writes the amount in serial 13. Then he will provide his source of funds in serial 16.

He writes shown return income of Tk 810,000 and tax exempted amount of Tk 390,000 which he found out while completing the second step of the income tax return. So, the total amount received during the year was Tk 12 lakh.

Karim's wealth accretion was Tk 310,000 and the rest of the amount of Tk 890,000 was incurred family expenses. His fund inflows and outflows are the same. There is no difference in serial 17.

It is wise to find out the increase in wealth first and then put the rest as personal and family expenditure. Karim follows this process because it is easy to balance the fund.

The last page consists of instructions to fill up the form and the acknowledgement receipt of the income tax return.

First, he reads the instructions and the enclosures. He writes his name, the assessment year and the TIN and also put in the signature.

He writes Tk 810,000 as the total income shown in return and Tk 27,200 as tax paid which he got from serial 08 of the first page of the tax return form.



**Taxpayers should keep a photocopy of the full set of their tax returns. The copy will help fill out the form next year. It will also help taxpayers if their tax file is selected for audit**

Now he will provide the gross wealth Tk 54.05 lakh and the net wealth Tk 53.30. He got both amounts from the fourth step.

So, all is done and he is ready to submit the tax return to the tax circle. But before that, he will deposit Tk 3,200 that shall be paid with return.

Karim's net tax payable amount was Tk 27,200 and Tk 24,000 was deducted by his company during transferring the salary to his bank account. So, the remaining Tk 3,200 has to be paid now.

He will go to the bank for challan and then he will make a photocopy of the full set of the tax return. This copy will not only help fill out the next year's tax return. It will also help him any time his tax file is selected for audit.

The tax office will receive the tax return and will give him the acknowledgement receipt with a seal of the tax office and the signature by the taxman.

This acknowledgement can be shown anywhere if required. According to tax law, there is no requirement to obtain the tax clearance certificate. So, he will not collect this certificate.

The author is lead consultant of Taxpert, an online tax training centre.

## Barvida urges Mongla port not to hike rent

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association (Barvida) has urged the Mongla port authority not to increase the rent for keeping imported vehicles on the port premises amid the ongoing economic slowdown.

They made this demand in a meeting with the port chairman, Rear Admiral Mohammad Musa, at his office yesterday.

Currently, business is not going well as sales are down in the face of higher US dollar prices and difficulties in opening letters of credit (LCs), said Barvida President Habib Ullah Dawn.

The rent was increased a year ago and a further rise would inflate vehicle prices and decrease sales, he added.

He then thanked the port authority for ensuring a security system and operating a joint inventory at the port to prevent vehicle parts from "going missing".

The association also emphasised on ensuring the quick dredging of Pashur river so that ships with large draft could bring in vehicles as imports have been increasing after the inauguration of Padma Bridge.

The association said 70 per cent of the vehicles imported by Bangladesh come through Mongla port, the country's second largest seaport.

Reconditioned car imports surged by more than 75 per cent year-on-year in the July-October period despite ongoing economic uncertainties and government efforts to discourage the purchase of luxury items from abroad.

Dealers imported 8,628 vehicles, mostly sedans and microbuses, between July and October, while it was 4,923 units during the same period last fiscal year, showed data from Barvida.



An aerial view of imported cars at Mongla Port area. The second biggest seaport handles majority of imported cars.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## ISPAB rolls out service to keep data within country

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB) has launched its National Internet Exchange (NIX) service in a bid to keep data within the country.

The NIX is the exchange point for passing internet traffic within the country, according to an agreement among the ISPs.

The service facilitates local content development, encourages local web hosting and reduces latency in domestic traffic, thereby saving international bandwidth and foreign currencies.

Initially, the ISPAB NIX set up four points of presence (POPs), certain areas where ISPs or other authorised users will get access to the NIX.

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