21ST BANGLADESH
BUSINESS AWARDS

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DHL

'Logistics sector needs a fillip'

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh would have to go a long way to raise its logistics sector up to the level of that of comparator countries such as India and Vietnam, said a top industry official.

Md Miarul Haque, managing director of DHL Express Bangladesh, says it is good to see Bangladesh improving in the overall LPI (Logistics Performance Index) of the World Bank from a ranking of 100 in 2018 to 88 in 2023.

The question is whether it is enough to remain competitive. "Maybe not. When we see Vietnam at 43 or India at 38, it seems that we have definitely a long way to go," Haque said.

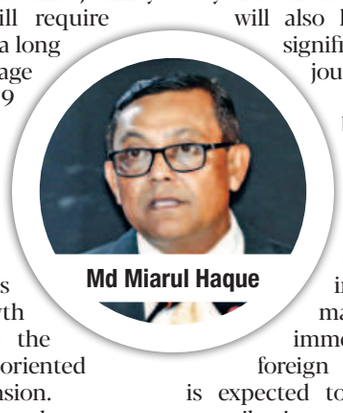
"And the significant improvement is never possible without a huge thrust specifically when more than 15 ministries and 20 agencies are involved in the logistics decisions."

He spoke at the Bangladesh Business Awards 2022 in the capital on October 17.

According to the senior executive, Bangladesh has a commendable growth history and is on its way to graduating from the group of least-developed countries.

The government has set its sights on transforming the country into a high-income nation by 2041.

"Our past development record and future prospects and potential together indicate that this journey is possible. This will require sustained growth for a long period at an average high rate of around 9 percent," Haque said.



Md Miarul Haque

He thinks the industry will be the lead sector driving growth acceleration.

Bangladesh's Vision 2041 projects robust export growth of $300 billion on the back of export-oriented manufacturing expansion.

"Of course, readymade garment exports will continue to lead the way. But diversified export products will also have to complement significantly in this growth journey."

Since industry will be the driving force fueled by export-led manufacturing expansion and diversification, competitiveness in the international market is also of immense importance and foreign direct investment is expected to play a larger role contributing at least 3 percent of GDP compared to the current level of around 1 percent only.

"Increased level of FDI would also be desirable from the perspective of improved management, new technology, expertise, and greater market access, thus helping us improve on our competitiveness."

Haque said they are proud to meet the thresholds for graduating from the LDC group but it does not come without additional challenges.

Only the potential loss of preferences in some of key markets may lead to 9 percent to 11 percent additional duty, which will impact the competitiveness unless ways to offset that negative impact to remain competitive are found.

"This is where logistics sector development can play a big role," he said.

World Bank's recent study indicates that efficiency in the logistics sector can be a big opportunity for cost reduction of 7-35 percent depending on the sub-sector.

Citing example, he said air cargo handling capacity needs to reach 1.14 million tonnes per year from the base level of 0.38 million tonnes.

Haque said although Bangladesh is a bit late in recognising the importance of the sector, focus from the very top of the government has already brought a huge momentum in the last couple of months in terms of developing the National Logistics Development Policy.

PAST WINNERS OF BANGLADESH BUSINESS AWARDS

AWARD	ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR	BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR	OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS	SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT	BEST JOINT VENTURE	BEST FINANCIAL INSTITUTION	LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD	LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD
1st	Concord Engineers and Construction Ltd, SM Kamaluddin, Managing Director Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh) Ltd, Feroz Rahim, Managing Director	Samson H Chowdhury Chairman, Square Group	Salina Akhter, Proprietor, Aakor					
2nd	Otobi Ltd, Nitin Kundu, Chairman	Anisur Rahman Sinha, Chairman, Opex Group	Rehana Kashem, Proprietor, Satraang					
3rd	Micro Electronics Ltd, Hasina Doula, Managing Director	Syed Manzur Elahi, Chairman, Apex Group	Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, Chairman, Adcomm Ltd		Ola Ree, Managing Director, Grameenphone Ltd			
4th	M M Ispahani Ltd, Mirza Ali Behrouze Ispahani, Chairman	Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, Chairman, PHP Group	Monjulika Chakma, Proprietor, Bain Textiles		Shafiq Uz Zaman, Managing Director, Coats Bangladesh Ltd			
5th	Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Abdul Muktadir, Managing Director	Kazi Zaheedul Hasan, Managing Director, Kazi Farms Group	Selina Quader, Proprietor, Agroconcern	Sanjiv Mehta, Chairman & Managing Director, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd				
6th	BRB Cables Industries Ltd, Md Mozibar Rahman, Chairman	Fazlur Rahman, Chairman, City Group of Industries	Hasina Newaaz, Proprietor, Orchid Printers	Kihak Sung, Chairman, Youngone Group Bangladesh				
7th	ACME Laboratories Ltd, Mizanur Rahman Sinha, Managing Director	Md Nasir Uddin, Chairman, Pacific Jeans Ltd	Jinet Fatema, Proprietor, Jahan Metals Ltd			Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd, Md Yeasin Ali, Managing Director		
8th	Bengal Plastic Industries Ltd, Morshed Alam, Chairman	KM Rezaul Hasanat, Chairman & Managing Director, Viyellatex Group	Nilufar Farooq, Proprietor, Ikebana					
9th	Meghna Group, Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, Chairman	Abdul Monem, Chairman & Managing Director, Abdul Monem Ltd	Sabrina Islam, CEO, Reflections			Brac Bank Ltd, Muhammad A (Rumee) Ali, Chairman		
10th	Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Tapan Chowdhury, Managing Director	Md Saiful Islam, Chairman, Western Marine Shipyard Ltd	Kaniz Almas Khan, Managing Director, Persona Hair and Beauty Ltd			Pubali Bank Ltd, Helal Ahmed Chowdhury, Managing Director	Nasir A Choudhury, Managing Director, Green Delta Insurance Company	
11th	BSRM Group, Alihussain Akberali, FCA, Chairman	Major General (Retd) Amjad Khan Chowdhury, CEO, PRAN-RFL Group	Tanya Tazeen Karim, Architect & Co-founder, Tanya Karim NR Khan & Associates			Eastern Bank Ltd, Ali Reza Iftekhar, CEO & Managing Director	Md Matiul Islam, Chairman, IIDFC	
12th	Advanced Chemical Industries Ltd, M Anis Ud Dowla, Chairman	Anwar Hossain, Chairman, Anwar Group of Industries	Sharmin Hossain, Chairman, Fresh and Safe Agro Ltd			Prime Bank Ltd, Md Ehsan Khasru, Managing Director	Mahbubur Rahman, President of International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh	Late MA Samad, Bangladesh General Insurance Company
13th	DBL Group, Abdul Wahed, Chairman	Nasir Uddin Biswas, Chairman, Nasir Group of Industries	Masuda Islam, Chairman, Protina Home Made Foods			IDLC Finance Ltd, Selim RF Hussain Managing Director & CEO		
14th	Habib Group, Yasin Ali, Managing Director		Tania Wahab, Managing Partner, Karigar			Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation, Quazi M Shariful Ala, Managing Director		Laila Rahman Kabir, Kedarpur Tea Co
15th	Walton Group, SM Mahbubul Alam, Director	Muhammed Aziz Khan, Chairman, Summit Group	Rubana Huq, Managing Director, Mohammadi Group			Mutual Trust Bank, Anis A Khan, Managing Director		
16th	Meghna Group, Mostafa Kamal, Chairman	Engineer Kutubuddin Ahmed, Chairperson, Envoy Group	Luna Shamsuddoha, Founder & Chairman, Dohatech New Media			The City Bank Ltd, Mohammed Shoeb, Chairman	Harunar Rashid Khan, Chairman, Monno Group	
17th	Renata Limited, Kaiser Kabir, Managing Director	M Anis Ud Dowla, Chairman, ACI Group	Afsana Asif Shoma, Managing Partner, Asix			Pioneer Insurance Company Ltd, Tapan Chowdhury, Chairman		
18th	Runner Group, Hafizur Rahman Khan, Chairman	Azam J Chowdhury Chariman, East Coast Group	Quamrun Nahar Zahir Ananta Apparels Limited			IPDC Finance Limited Mominul Islam - Managing Director & CEO		
19th	Snowtex Group, SM Khaled, Managing Director	Abdul Muktadir, MD and Chairman of Incepta	Rupali Chowdhury, Managing Director of Berger Paints Bangladesh			Dutch-Bangla Bank, Abul Kashem Md Shirin, managing director		
20th	Pran-RFL Group, Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, Chairman and CEO	MA Jabbar, Managing Director of DBL Group				bKash, Kamal Quadir, CEO.		