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24 factories of Beximco shut amid liquidity crunch

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Amid a severe liquidity crisis and unpaid labour dues, troubled Beximco Group's Shinepukur Ceramics recently halted operations, bringing the total number of closed ventures of the group to 24.

The group's inability to open new letters of credit (LCs) for raw material imports has forced its factories to halt production since August this year following the political changeover.

The factory closure issue came to the spotlight as workers of the Beximco Industrial Park, which houses numerous factories, took to the streets in Gazipur yesterday for the fifth day in a row, causing long traffic congestion along the Chandra-Nabinagar Highway.

"Banks are unable to solve the LC problem," said Osman Kaiser Chowdhury, director (finance and corporate affairs) at Beximco Group. "Now the government needs to intervene to resolve the liquidity crisis and resume

However, Md Ruhul Amin, a central bank executive director recently appointed as the READ MORE ON B3



Islami Bank to realise Tk 10,000cr by selling S Alam Group's stake

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Islami Bank Bangladesh plans to sell the S Alam Group's stake in the bank to realise dues of around Tk 10,000 crore from the controversial conglomerate.

According to bank officials, the Chattogram-based group and companies associated with it took out around Tk 80,000 crore in loans through 17 branches of Islami Bank since 2015.

Selling the shares will require the bank to get approval from both the Bangladesh Bank (BB) and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), which barred any transfer or sales of the shares held in six banks by S Alam Group Chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam and his family members after the fall of the Sheikh Hasinaled government in early August.

"We will sell the shares owned by the S Alam Group and its concerns by filing a lawsuit to collect Tk 10,000 crore," Islami Bank's Chairman Md Obayed Ullah Al Masud said at a press conference at the Bangladesh Bank yesterday.

Central bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur as well as board members of Islami Bank were present at the press conference.

Masud said that Islami Bank had a Tk 20,000 crore gap between investments and deposits, which was created as the bank paid

INVESTMENTHIGHERTHANDEPOSIT

The bank's investmentnowis Tk20,000crhigher than deposit

AShariah-based bankcaninvest 92% of its deposit

Itaimstorealise Tk 10,000cr by selling S Alam Group's stake

It wants to raise another Tk 10,000cr by issuingnewshares

(A) Islami Bank

S Alam's loans

S Alam Group anditsassociates tookTk80,000cr loansfromIslami Bank

EFFORTS

- Thebankwillinviteformerforeignshareholdersto its board
- ItreceivedTk4,970crfreshdepositssinceanew board was formed
- CurrentaccountdeficitwithBBhasnarrowed

opened by the S Alam Group.

"But S Alam group did not settle its liabilities to Islami Bank.'

The remaining Tk 10,000cr will be raised by issuing new shares, Masud added.

At face value, the shares held by the S Alam Group are worth Tk 1,600 crore, he informed. "However, taking into consideration that

correspondent banks for letters of credit (LCs) each share is trading for around Tk 60 at the Dhaka Stock Exchange, the market value is nearly Tk 10,000 crore.'

At the press conference, BB governor Mansur said the central bank is taking action against individuals, not companies like S Alam Group and Beximco, which are considered national assets.

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Banks asked to ensure smooth exchange of coins

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank has instructed banks in the country to ensure that Tk 1, Tk 2 and Tk 5 coins are smoothly exchanged for paper money.

The central bank issued this directive after learning that although lenders store a specified amount of coins in their vault, they do not exchange them as they misinterpreted a previous instruction to this end.

As such, customers are unable to collect coins from banks as needed,

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yesterday.

previous circular, the Bangladesh Bank instructed banks to store a specified number of coins in each branch to meet the demand from daily normal transactions of the public.

Given the situation, the central bank gave new instructions to store 24,000 pieces of Tk 1 coins, 24,000 pieces of Tk 2 coins and 15,000 pieces of Tk 5 coins at every local and feeding branch.

Also, they were told to store READ MORE ON B3

the Bangladesh Bank said in a circular

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