GROWTH TRENDS

Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority has a success story with a new dimension to increase the volume of investment, diversification of export and thereby, employment generation which strengthening the economic base of Bangladesh. BEPZA has achieved a remarkable growth in Investment, Export and Employment during the last 04 financial years.

Investment

Since 2008-09 Fiscal Year to 2011-12 Fiscal Year US$ 1.02 billion investment has been made in BEPZA. Figure shows there is a positive growth in terms of actual investment made in the EPZs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>Actual Investment In M US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>148.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>221.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>313.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>339.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1022.51</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Export
During 2008-09 to 2011-12 fiscal years the enterprises of EPZ exported goods worth US$ 13.31 billion which was around 17.24% of the last 04 years national export. With the increase of export, the contribution of EPZs to the total national export quantum is also mounting every year.

Export mounting
US $ 13.31 Billion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>Export In M US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>2581.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>2822.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>3697.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>4210.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13312.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employment
Employment pattern of EPZs shows that BEPZA have been making a vital role for poverty emancipation in view of socio economic improvement of the energetic youth force through employment generation. 1,21,722 Bangladeshi nationals have directly employed in the previous 04 financial years.

Job Flourishes
1,21,722 nos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>Employment (Nos)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>16394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>28064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>43666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>33598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,21,722</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INVESTMENT CLIMATE

Doing Business in Bangladesh

- The World Bank has ranked Bangladesh 20th out of 187 countries for Investor Protection, making it the best in the South Asian region. (Doing Business, Published by IFC).
- "Doing Business 2011" ranked Bangladesh in the 107th position in terms of Ease of Doing Business, among 183 countries. The ranking recognizes Bangladesh as one of the easier locations for doing business in South Asia.
- According to the rating based on 39 indicators grouped in 10 categories, Bangladesh is a better business location than India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Afghanistan.
- In case of starting business, Bangladesh is ranked in 79th position.
- In case of arranging credit, Bangladesh is ranked in 72nd position.
- In case of payment of taxes, Bangladesh is ranked in 93rd position.
- In case of protecting investors, Bangladesh is ranked in 20th position.
- According to UNCTAD report Bangladesh secured 15th position in the WIR ranking in 2010 with the country receiving $910.33 million, while the ranking was 24th in 2008.
Investment Protection
The Foreign Private Investment (Promotional and Protection) secures all foreign investment against expropriation, nationalization and ensures fair and equitable treatment.

FPIA
The Foreign Private Investment (Promotional and Protection) Act, 1980 secures all foreign investment.

MIGA
Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) provides Security under international law.

ICSID
International Center for the Settlement of Investment Dispute (ICSID) provides Arbitration facility.

WIPO
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) safeguards Copyright interests.

OPIC
Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)'s Insurance and Finance programmes operable.

GSP and Other Stimulus
As a Least Developed Country, Bangladesh enjoys tariff and quota free access under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to the 27 EU countries for all its products (apart from arms and armaments) provided that they satisfy the EU rules of origin. These stipulate that manufactured products have to be “Sufficiently worked or processed” in the exporting country in order to qualify as having originated there. Bangladesh also enjoys tariff-free access for exports of manufactured products to the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and other developed countries under their respective Generalized Systems of Preferences.

Bangladesh will also benefit from membership of the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), which commits India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and other South Asian countries to reduce its tariffs on a wide range of products. When SAFTA will come into force at the end of 2012, investors in Bangladesh will enjoy duty-free access to India and other member countries. Furthermore, Bangladesh belongs to the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) and therefore enjoys reduced tariffs on exports of certain goods to China.

Offshore Banking Unit (OBU)
Offshore Banking Unit (OBU) refers to an international foreign currency based banking facility involving non-residents. A non-resident is a person, bank or firm who resides outside Bangladesh. Non-residents also include Bangladesh nationals who reside abroad. Offshore banking units can carry on their activities of deposit taking from and lending to international enterprises or investors without conflict with the domestic fiscal and monetary policy. So, offshore banking is international banking kept separate from domestic banking with freedom of functioning.

OBU play an important role to satisfy the banking needs of the industries operating in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) of the country extending all sorts of credit facilities; with the growing demands for banking facilities due to establishments of more industries in the EPZs. Avenues have been created for the local banks to earn substantial amount of foreign exchange by operating OBUs. The OBUs are entitled to obtain deposits as well as borrowing from abroad and are free to extend credit facilities to the industries in the EPZs. OBUs help the local banks to serve the needs of their customer who set up A-Type industries in the EPZs. OBUs are free to accept deposits from outside Bangladesh and borrow abroad. They are also free to make advances / investments abroad and also make permissible transactions with industries in the EPZs. OBUs may be located both in the EPZs or any other convenient location outside. Even existing branches of banks may be allowed to operate such units through a completely separate counter. At present, BEPZA has permitted 31 Banks for setting up of OBUs.
Package of Incentives

Fiscal
- 5 years Tax holiday period; first 02 years 100% exemption, next 02 years (3rd and 4th Year) 50% exemption and rest 01 years (5th Year) 25% exemption
- Exemption from income tax on salaries of foreign technician for 3 years (Projects approved before March 22, 2009)
- Duty free import of raw materials, machinery, equipment and construction materials
- Duty free export of finished goods
- Relief from double taxation
- Exemption from dividend tax for tax holiday period
- Duty free import of two / three vehicles for A & B type industries subject to certain conditions (Projects approved before March 22, 2009)
- Full repatriation of profit, capital and establishment

Non-Fiscal
- No ceiling on foreign investment, 100% foreign ownership permissible
- Enjoys GSP benefits in EU countries, Japan, Australia, USA, Canada, Norway etc.
- Foreign currency loan from abroad under direct automatic route (OBU facilities)
- Non-resident Foreign Currency Deposit (NFCD) allowed for 'A' type industries
- Operation of FC account by 'B' and 'C' type industries allowed
- 100% backward linkage raw materials, accessories are allowed to sell for export oriented industries inside and outside EPZs
- Receiving and offering Sub-contracting with export oriented industry are allowed both inside and outside EPZ
- 10% sale of finished products except garments, defective finished goods and surplus raw materials to Domestic Tariff Area is allowed
- Enjoys MFN status
- Import and export on CM/CMP/CMT basis allowed
- Import from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) and 10% export to DTA allowed
- Intra / inter zone sub-contracting and transfer of goods allowed
- Sub-contracting with Export Oriented Industries inside and outside EPZ allowed
- No UD (Utilization Declaration), IRC (Import Registration Certificate), ERC (Export Registration Certificate) and Renewal of Bond license required

One Stop Facilities
- BEPZA offers One Window Same Day service
- Simplified Project Approval procedure
- Work Permits issued by BEPZA
- Import and Export Permits issued by BEPZA within the same day through automation system
- Customs clearance at the factory site
- Investors are required to deal only with BEPZA for Investment and all other operational needs

Support Services
- Business- Bank, Courier, Post Office, C&F Agent, Shipping Agent, MTO etc.
- Administrative- Customs Office, Police Station, In-house Security, Fire Station, Public Transport, Medical Centre, Warehouse / Godown, Dormitory, Day Care Centre etc.
- Others- Restaurant, Health Club, Investors Club, Recreation Centre, School and College, Sports Complex, Exclusive Telephone Exchange, Electricity Sub Station, Business Centre, Anglers Club etc.
BEPZA has allowed to setting up hi-tech eco-friendly service oriented industries in order to ensure maximum protection for the environment. The investors have found these projects truly rewarding, and the return on their investment from such projects is also encouraging.

**Power Plant (PP)**

BEPZA has executed the power supply agreements with six private companies for producing and supplying of 290 Megawatts electricity to the enterprises in 06 EPZs. As per the agreements, the companies are allowed to supply and sale their extra power to the national power grid after meeting the demand of the EPZ enterprises. Thus, the power plants in the EPZs are contributing to the national economy by meeting up the demand of electricity outside the EPZ areas. A Bangladeshi company has already started to provide electricity to the enterprises of Chittagong and Dhaka EPZs. BEPZA has also taken initiatives for setting up power plants in other EPZs.

**Water Treatment Plant (WTP)**

A Bangladeshi company has set up two Water Treatment Plants in Adamjee and Comilla EPZ. Another company is going to set up a Water Treatment Plant in Chittagong EPZ. However, BEPZA with the help of a Govt. organization named Rural Development Academy (RDA) treats the saline water collected from the Karnaphuli River / underground and then supply fresh water to the enterprises in Karnaphuli EPZ. BEPZA welcomes WTP projects in the EPZs to be set up as the service oriented industries.
Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP)

BEPZA is aware about the environmental issues related to manufacturing industries. The authority has already taken steps to introduce 3 Central Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in 5 EPZs to ensure maximum protection for the environment. Moreover, the process of approval of projects for setting up of Two Central Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in two EPZs is also under process. These Central Effluent Treatment Plants will treat the industrial effluents of the EPZ enterprises as the service oriented industries. The CETP projects in Chittagong and Dhaka EPZ are in operation and in Comilla EPZ is under implementation stage.

A Bangladeshi owned Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) is under implementation stage in Chittagong EPZ. This company will invest US$ 6.01 million and plan to treat 45,000 cubic meters of liquid effluent in the zone, establishing an ETP in a 17,586.61 sq meter area. Aside from the environmental improvement, the plant will create employment opportunities for 230 Bangladeshi nationals.

A Singapore-Bangladeshi joint venture company has established a CETP in Dhaka EPZ. The company invested US$4.793, with the aim of treating 15,000-43,000 thousand cubic meters of liquid effluent per day in the Dhaka EPZ industries. 35 Bangladeshi and 7 foreign nationals got Employment opportunities in this plant.

Another CETP is under implementation in Comilla EPZ owned by Bangladesh. The company will invest US$4.87 million, with the aim of treating 5,475 thousand cubic meters of liquid effluent per day in the Comilla EPZ. Employment opportunities for 33 Bangladeshi and 7 foreign nationals will be created.

Inland Container Depot (ICD)

A Bangladeshi company in Chittagong EPZ has been providing Inland Container Depot (ICD) services to the enterprises inside and outside EPZ. This company is working as a service oriented industry in CEPZ. At present, 203 labours are working in this plant. Another joint venture company in CEPZ also providing Inland Container Depot (ICD) services to the enterprises inside and outside EPZ.
DIGITAL BANGLADESH
A MODERNIZATION CONCEPT

Digital Bangladesh is a computerized avenue, a modern concept, a new dream of advance technology. Bangladesh is now resounding with the aim of achieving digital Bangladesh. It is a wonderful vision that is dreamt by the present government and the literate class for the technological development of Bangladesh. Digitalization has become in the new era of information technology. We can now learn in an instant what is happening in the farthest away corner of the world.

The use of information and communication technology has been playing a pivotal role in the 21st century due to globalization. The government has declared the "Vision 2021" which targets establishment of a resourceful and modern country by 2021 through effective use of information and communication technology, a "Digital Bangladesh".

The philosophy of Digital Bangladesh comprises ensuring people's democracy and rights, transparency, accountability, establishing justice and ensuring delivery of government services in each door through maximum use of technology with the ultimate goal to improve the daily lifestyle of general people. Government's "Digital Bangladesh" includes all classes of people and does not discriminate people in terms of technology. Hence, government have emphasized on the four elements of "Digital Bangladesh Vision" which are human resource development, people involvement, civil service and use of information technology in Business.

BEPZA Digitalization

To become the active partner of "Digital Bangladesh", BEPZA has streamlined its activities by reducing reliance on paper documentation. BEPZA is now working to automate three priority processes: the acceptance, screening and approval of applications for import permits, export permits, and sub-contract permits. The objectives of the project are: a 30% reduction of the processing time for the three permits; the elimination of physical paper between the user and the processor; and, the facilitation of statistical data collection and information with regard to these three processes. Ultimately the automation will ensure timely services to the existing and potential investors. Chittagong is first EPZ to become automated with Dhaka following suit. To ensure overall automation BEPZA has set up Video Conferencing between the zones, LAN and WAN connectivity and powerful Wi-Fi zone in BEPZA Complex. BEPZA has a dynamic website including e-book system to facilitate the viewers all kind of BEPZA publications, press release and current events.

BEPZA's Website: www.epzbangladesh.org.bd has been awarded with the "Runner UP" position in the rating of World Free Zone Competition held in Hyderabad, India.
The present working environment and wages of the workers have been improved significantly in the EPZs of Bangladesh. Considering the increase of living cost of the workers the minimum wages structure for the EPZ work forces has been revised. The government has enacted EWWAIR Act, 2010 to ensure the rights and welfare of the EPZ's workers. The EPZ enterprises pay their workers and employees' wages & salaries in US Dollar rate, which is more than the prevailing wages & salaries rates outside the EPZs. As per BEPZA Instructions I & II, other benefits for the workers include conveyance allowance, house rent, medical allowance, festival bonus, provident fund and overtime benefit.

**Cohesive Team Works**

EPZs are operating with the objectives of industrial friendly atmosphere, Harmony Bridge linking Owner, Workers and Management and amicable cohesive team works, which is the core of strength in EPZs. Side by side Workers Welfare Association functioned peacefully for right and welfare of EPZ workers According to government Act the Executive Chairman of BEPZA has authority to arrange meeting regularly with owner, management and workers to ensure labour welfare and peaceful working environment.

**Wages**

The EPZ enterprises also pay wages and other benefits regularly to the workers. The minimum wages structure for EPZs workers have been re-fixed by increasing from 34% - 93%. Minimum wages for helper is US$ 48 which gradually increased up to skilled workers its minimum US$ 109 and more. Workers of EPZs are getting their wages almost 30% more in comparison with outside of EPZs and in other benefits they are obtaining free lunch or lunch allowances and transport allowances, night allowance, production bonus, uniform, provident fund, maternity benefits, earned leave etc.

**Compliances**

93% remarkable compliance issues have been achieved in all EPZs and BEPZA is seriously trying to attain 100% compliance. BEPZA has appointed 90 Social and Environment Counselors for all EPZs to ensure the compliance issues and to mitigate the disputes of the labours. Workers compliance issues has been ensured, some of these are Service Contract 92%, Forced Overtime Works 100%, Child Labour 100%, Upgrade Overall Working Environment 90%, Grievance Procedure 93%, Freedom of Association 84% already been achieved.
WWA Election

Government has enacted "The EPZ Workers Welfare Association and Industrial Relations Act, 2010 (Act no 43 of 2010) to ensure the rights and welfare of its workers. Among the operating enterprises of 8 EPZs, 308 enterprises are eligible for WWA election to implement this act. Meanwhile, 246 industries have already been completed their referendum in EPZs.

Collective Bargaining Agent

According to the Workers Welfare Association and Industrial Relations Act 2010, section 37 (1), the Worker’s Welfare Association unit shall be the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) for that industrial unit. It may be mentioned that, 154 WWA/CBA of EPZs operated their function independently and fairly. All CBA are responsible for signature to collective bargaining paper for labour appointment, wages, working hours, promotion and other facilities.

Skill Development

Some enterprises of EPZs send their local workers and technicians for overseas training. This provides the trainee a scope to be acquainted with latest technology. Through this training process, technology transfer has been taking place. So far, 400 EPZ workers have taken foreign training. Apart from that, foreign technicians working the EPZ enterprises also provide on-the-job training for the local workers and technicians. Though these trainings, the local workers' knowledge on recent international technology and skill has been further developed.

Working Environment

The working environment in the enterprises of the EPZs is quite satisfactory. BEPZA is ensuring welfare and social responsibilities of its workers which include security, fire and police station etc. The frequency and the number of fire incidents in the enterprises of the EPZs is quite low compared to other factories situated outside EPZs. BEPZA regularly arranges fire fighting training programs for the enterprises in the EPZs. As a result, there have never been any incidents in the EPZs, which caused injury or death to the workers. BEPZA ensures that most of the factories in the EPZs maintain the international standards in terms of working environment for the workers.
Corporate Social Responsibility

BEPZA ensures that the EPZ enterprises fulfill their Corporate Social Responsibilities to the people of Bangladesh. BEPZA regularly monitors on health and hygiene of the workers is properly maintained in the factories. The EPZ enterprises take care about their workers cultural, manners and talent related issues. They also take initiative to improve the livelihood of the community people around the EPZs.

Medical Centers

BEPZA has its own Medical centers for providing free medical services to the workers or employees of the enterprises in every EPZ. Apart from that, 107 EPZ enterprises have set up their own special medical centers. BEPZA is motivating the other operational enterprises to set up medical facilities for the workers.

Day Care Centers

There are 75 day care centers for the children of women workers in the enterprises of EPZs to ensure the workers’ welfare. The working mothers of these enterprises are now stress-free, as their children is staying near their working place. BEPZA is striving to set up day care centers for the other enterprises as well.

Training Centre and Dormitory for Female Workers

BEPZA has established two training institutes in the Chittagong EPZ and Dhaka EPZ to provide training for the workers working in the EPZs. The Government has decided to construct dormitories and training centers in different EPZs for the female workers in the EPZs.

Educational Institutions

BEPZA has set up educational institutions, such as, schools & colleges in the EPZs for providing good education for the children of the employees working in BEPZA as well as EPZ enterprises. BEPZA closely monitor that the students get quality education in these institutes. BEPZA also provide subsidy to these schools & colleges so that children of the poor employees can afford the cost of getting education in these institutes in comparatively low expense.
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

A large number of female workforces are working in EPZs, the percentage of female workers stands at 64%. Every year an increasing number of young girls and women are joining the productive workforce of EPZs and BEPZA is playing a fundamental role for women empowerment. For this success BEPZA has achieved international award.

Furthermore, BEPZA has taken “Northern Areas Reduction of Poverty Initiative (NARI)” project to facilitate employment opportunities for vulnerable women particularly from the Northern part of Bangladesh. Unaided women will get technical and life skill training through this project. 10,800 women from poverty prone remote areas like Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhath will be trained by BEPZA. NARI project will be implemented through construction of training center and dormitories with an area of 15 acres of land owned by BEPZA. This project is enduring in 3 EPZs viz Dhaka, Ishwardi and Kamalpuri each structure containing 5 acres of land. Successful executions of NARI project resulting unemployed and underprivileged women will be turned as skilled workforce and positively contribute radically to national economy. NARI project is being accomplished by BEPZA having financial support from International Development Association (IDA) under Labour and Employment Ministry with the estimated costs of 3262.7 million taka.

Henceforth, the trainees will also receive life skill training such as adjustment to city life, savings and remittances, safety and security, rights and responsibilities at the workplace, finding appropriate housing, contract negotiation, health & hygiene and others. Under this project female workers will be given accommodation, training and provided employment in various industries operating inside EPZs.
Recognition

The performance of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority is very encouraging; as a result of outstanding success BEPZA has already got much recognition from the different parts of the world.

IFC Award
BEPZA-
★ Bangladesh EPZs has achieved the 2nd Runner-Up Position in IFC CEO Gender Award for playing momentous role for Women empowerment among the 27 nominees within IFC Regional.

The Financial Times of London, FDI Magazine Survey Reward
Chittagong EPZ-
★ 9th position for FDI Global Free Zone of the Future 2012-13
★ 3rd Best Cost Competitive Zone in the World
★ 4th in the Best Economic Potential for 2010-11 among the 700 economic Zones in the world

Annual Report 2011-12
CHITTAGONG
Export Processing Zone

Established: 1983
Location: South Halishahar, Chittagong

Key Distance

3.10 kms from the Chittagong Sea Port

5.50 kms from the main Business Centre in Chittagong

7.21 kms from Shah Amanat International Airport, in Chittagong
Quick Look on CEPZ

Zone Area : 453 acres
Industrial Plots : 502 Nos
Standard Factory Buildings : 15 Nos (measuring 65,809 square meters)
Utility Services : Water-Chittagong WASA and own supply network through treatment plant. Gas-Bakhrabad Gas Systems Ltd. Power-Private sector power generator and back-up by PDB.

Industries : 167 in Operation
12 under Implementation

Cumulative Data : Investment US $ 960.23 Million
Export US $ 15,062.60 Million
Employment 1,76,274 Persons
### Operating Top 10 Investors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Investment (US$ 000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Titas Sportswear Industries Limited</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>Garments</td>
<td>57,109.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngone (CEPZ) Limited</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>Garments</td>
<td>44,253.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mamiya-OP(Bangladesh ) Limited</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>Fishing Reel &amp; Golf</td>
<td>32,414.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Universal Jeans Limited</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Garments</td>
<td>29,278.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youngone Sports Shoes Ind. Limited</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>Footwear &amp; Leather</td>
<td>25,427.82</td>
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<td>Pacific Jeans Limited</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Local</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Power Gen. &amp; Distribution Co.</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Power Industry</td>
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<td>Sanko Optical Co. (BD) Limited</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>Electronics &amp; Electrical</td>
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<td>Premier Towels (BD) Limited</td>
<td>Canada &amp; USA</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>Terry Towel</td>
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<td>Kenpark Bangladesh (Pvt.) Limited</td>
<td>UK, Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>Garments</td>
<td>19,875.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Sector

- Garments
- Garments Accessories
- Electric & Electronics Items
- Golf Shaft & Fishing Reel
- Knitting & Textile
- Automobile Parts
- Metal Products
- Camera Lens
- Mobile Parts
- Terry Towel
- Footwear
- Bi-cycle
- Ropes
- Tent

Annual Report 2011-12
DHAKA
Export Processing Zone
Established: 1993
Location: Savar, Dhaka

Key Distance
35 kms from Dhaka city centre
25 kms from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka
304 kms from Chittagong Sea Port