 Highlights

- BD Reaches Out to Global Leadership
- PMO & BEPZA Signed APA 2016-17
- BD Ready & Hungry for Investment
- FDI to Bangladesh Almost Double
- BD among Top-10 FDI Hotspots
- Workshop on Safety Awareness
- Cabinet Secy. Praises EPZs
- EC's Dynamism in Frame
- WB Lauds BEPZA
- Achievement of BEPZA
- Seminar to Promote 3 EPZs
- Live on Bangla New Year 1423
- Promotional Campaign Abroad
- Cumulative Performance of EPZs
- BD Denim Producers Eye 3rd Position
- Tangible Progress Made in RMG Sector
- Labour Rights are well Protected in EPZs
Publisher's Pen

We try to illustrate some events directly or indirectly related to BEPZA in every issue of BEPZA bulletin. This endeavour has been continued and we designed this issue with some of our events, data, achievement etc. including some national topic which upholds our country’s dignity to the world. From this issue we have extended the size of our BEPZA bulletin by adding four pages.

Bangladesh is marching forward on the development highway overcoming the constraints. Along with our economic development we are getting ready for global leadership. Participation of Bangladesh in two recent International Summit and Forum is declaring this statement. We have decorated our exclusive page with this matter.

In this issue, we made lead story on the fourth Bangladesh Investment Summit, Asia, which was held in Hong Kong. The Xtra page is ornamented with some pictures on celebration of Pohela Boishakh by BEPZA family.

Besides, Cabinet Secretary’s praise on EPZs’ success, World Bank’s Country Director’s trip to DEPZ, training for skill development, motivational and awareness campaign on natural & man-made disasters, news on seminars to promote Uttara, Mongla & Ishwardi EPZ and other news placed in various pages of this journal. We have ornamented our new activities page on the Executive Chairman’s Dynamism.

We are thankful to all departments of Executive Office and Zone Offices as well for their nice support which helped PR Crew to publish this bulletin timely. 

Public Relations Department

Welcome to New Entrepreneurs in EPZs

Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority welcomes the new five entrepreneurs who signed lease agreement with Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA during April-June, 2016. Among them, four entrepreneurs will invest in Ishwardi & Mongla EPZ and one in Chittagong EPZ. The enterprises are:

**Indigenous Source Limited:** This Bangladeshi company is going to set up a knit garment manufacturing unit in Ishwardi EPZ. They will invest US$ 9.67 million and create employment opportunity for 1000 Bangladeshi nationals.

**Denim Studio Limited:** Bangladeshi denim company will set up their plant with an investment of US$16.832 million in Ishwardi EPZ for producing garments items. They will create employment opportunity for 969 Bangladeshi nationals.

**GL Grape Bangladesh Co. Limited:** This is a South Korean Tent and Bag manufacturing company and now operating in Chittagong EPZ. However, this company will invest US$ 5.6 million in Mongla EPZ to expand their business where 1460 people will be employed.

**Dong Yung Co. Limited:** This South Korean company will invest US$ 9.37 million to set up readymade garments plant in Mongla EPZ. They will create employment opportunity for 1765 Bangladeshi nationals.

**Loyaltex Limited:** This Bangladeshi company is going to invest US$ 11.13 million for producing tent, sleeping bag and garments. 3000 people will get job opportunity in this plant.
Bengladesh: Ready and Hungry for Investment

Bangladesh holds all the key elements to be the most lucrative destination for foreign investors in the Asia Pacific region as China and other rising economies are becoming costlier for doing business. Foreign investors can take advantage of the country's favourable atmosphere, macro-economic stability, demographic dividends and the expanding domestic market. Policymakers and private sector leaders of the country made this appeal at the Fourth Bangladesh Investment Summit, Asia, held on April 26, 2016 in Hong Kong.

“Never before, Bangladesh was so well prepared to absorb talent, technology and investment from outside. Never before the country was so investment hungry as it is today,” Finance Minister Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said in his speech at the summit. The necessary conditions for taking off the Bangladesh economy have been created, he added.

“I can assure you that the environment for doing business will be even better in the coming days. We are open to you, to your ideas, innovations and enterprises.” He said that the attitude is making the country dream of becoming a developed country by 2041.

Dr. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, the Prime Minister’s Adviser on Power, Energy & Mineral Resource invited foreign entrepreneurs to invest in gas & coal-based power projects.

Referring to different international agencies' forecasts on Bangladesh's economy, Mr. Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, said in the summit: “Bangladesh is clearly the preferred next stop for the sourcing caravan.”

Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, State Minister for ICT, said, “ICT is a potential area to invest in and now is the best time to do so. The government is planning to set up 12 Hi-Tech Industrial Parks around the country where investors will get complete repatriation and tax benefits, he added.

Over the last six years, Bangladesh consistently recorded progress on various socio-economic indicators, including GDP growth, per capita income, food production, job creation and women's empowerment.

The average GDP growth was at 6.4% per capita national gross income rose by 9.7% each year, inflation rate came down to 6.1% at the end of March this year from almost a double-digit figure six years ago. Foreign exchange reserves rose to $29 billion from $7.5 billion six years ago.

The country used to produce only 11.1 million tons of food grains in 1972, but now produces 38.2 million tons, while arable lands declined 6% during the period.

Major General Mohd Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, Executive Chairman, BEPZA participated in the summit as a speaker. He delivered a power point presentation on ‘Investment Opportunities in the EPZs of Bangladesh’ and answered the questions of the participants.

This summit was organized to highlight Bangladesh's macro-economic fundamentals, growth sectors, the investment outlook and the associated challenges. Representatives from prominent global financial firms including some investors of EPZs like Mr. Ranjan Mahtani, Chairman of Epic Group, Sayed Faruque Ahmed, Chairman of Aamra Companies attended the event.

Standard Chartered Bangladesh and City Bank sponsored this daylong conference which was supported by the Board of Investment of Bangladesh. Source: The Daily Star
Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) and Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) have signed Annual Performance Agreement for the fiscal year 2016-17. These two offices have signed the APA in presence of Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Secretary of PMO in order to make Bangladesh a middle-income country by implementing Vision-2021. Ms. Suraiya Begum, ndc, Secretary, Prime Minister’s Office and Major General Mohd Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, the Executive Chairman, BEPZA signed the agreement on behalf of their organizations at the conference room of PMO on June 28, 2016.

The institutions other than BEPZA under the PMO i.e. BOI, BEZA, PPP Authority and NGO Affairs Bureau have also signed the APA for the FY 2016-17. This agreement has been signed for the third time to encourage the bodies under PMO to ensure an efficient, effective & dynamic administrative system through establishment of good governance at all levels of administration and to evaluate the qualitative and quantitative activities of the organizations. Mentionable that, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on June 30, 2014 for the first time on the above mentioned purposes.

As per the progress report of the APA of 2015-16, the organizations under the PMO able to achieve 92.86% target in the first nine months of the FY. BEPZA leads the way among the organizations achieving 99.65% target. BEPZA set 48 performance indicators against the five strategic objectives like promotion of investment, boost up export, employment & workers welfare, improvement of services and transfer of technology for the APA of 2016-17 FY. The number of indicator was 47 in the FY 2015-16 and 26 in the FY 2014-15.

As a tool of performance management government has taken initiative to introduce performance agreement system in different ministry/department with their respective departments/agencies to ensure institutional accountability, transparency, proper use of public resources, uphold the organizational success in a measurable way and for the improvement of the organizational efficiency in public sector. As part of this initiative, the vision, mission, objectives and activities of the organizations has been reviewed in details and according to this, the most important performance indicators have been determined to achieve the objectives of the organization. In view of performance indicators, the activities and targets of organization have been determined. Annual Performance Agreement (APA) will create obligation to the organizations to achieve the targets.

Among other Mr. Md. Abdul Halim, Director General, GIU, Mrs. Quamrun Naher Siddiqua, Director (Innovation), GIU, Mr. Abdur Halim Molla, Member (Investment Promotion), Mr. Md. Shawkat Nabi, Secretary and Mrs. Nazma Binte Alamgir, General Manager (Public Relations) of BEPZA were present in the signing Ceremony.

Bangladesh witnessed a “historically high level” of growth in Foreign Direct Investment in 2015, crossing the figure $2 billion mark, according to World Investment Report. ‘Rising FDI in labour-intensive manufacturing inflows to Bangladesh jumped by 44% to $2.23 billion, a historically high level,’ the report said.

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>In $ million</th>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>44,208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td>Iran</td>
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FDI INFLOW IN 2015

World Investment Report 2016 was released jointly by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Board of Investment, Bangladesh in Dhaka on June 22, 2016. This high growth has been attributed to political stability, higher return of investment, less risk of investment and reinvestment of earnings.

During the last year, Bangladesh witnessed the highest FDI of $2.23 billion, which is 44.10% or $684 million higher compared to $1.55 billion of 2014. In South Asia, Bangladesh is ahead of all countries except India which was the 10th largest FDI recipient country that received $44 billion in 2015, said the report. The report stated that the total inflows to South Asia increased by about 22% to $50 billion, which was driven by India & Bangladesh that received investment of $2.23 billion and $44 billion respectively.

According to the report, country’s power, gas and petroleum sector have received highest FDI of $574 million followed by textile and wearing $443 million, telecommunication $25 million and banking $310 million. In 2014, the FDI receipt of power, gas and petroleum sector was only $50 million. FDI in the textile and garments industries remains strong in Bangladesh, as does FDI in power generation, the report stated. Source: Dhaka Tribune
Cabinet Secretary Praises EPZs’ Success

The Cabinet Secretary Mr. Mohammad Shahifur Alam praised BEPZA’s effort to facilitate FDI in the remote northern districts contributing to poverty alleviation and economic development. He made this comment during visiting Uttara EPZ on June 18, 2016 with Divisional Commissioner of Rangpur and DC Nilphamari.

Mr. Tanvir Hossain, General Manager, Uttara EPZ briefed the dignitaries on overall scenario of BEPZA as well as UEPZ. The team took a trip around the zone and made a stopover at M/s. Ventura Leatherware MFY (BD) Ltd. They had a very positive impression about the company. The Cabinet Secretary thanked BEPZA officials to become a role model for good management to others.

New Member Finance in BEPZA

Mr. Zillur Rahman, ndc, Joint Secretary, Government of Bangladesh joined BEPZA as Member (Finance) on April 20, 2016. Before joining BEPZA Mr. Zillur Rahman, one of the BCS 1984 batch officers, was Project Director of Digital Land Management System Project in the Ministry of Land.

WB Lauds Activities of BEPZA

Mr. Qimiao Fan, World Bank Country Director to Bangladesh lauded on industrial activities and implementation process of World Bank’s supported project in BEPZA during his visit in Dhaka EPZ on May 15, 2016.

Md. Abdus Sobhan, General Manager, DEPZ and Ashraful Kabir PD, Capacity Building Project of BEPZA focused on the overall activities of World Bank funded project.

TRAINING For Skill Development

Public Private Partnership
PowerPoint Presentation
Citizen’s Charter
Manners and Etiquette
Fire Detection

BEPZA organized a training program on Public Private Partnership to enrich the details knowledge of its employees. Officers from Executive office as well as Zone Offices participated this program on May 15, 2016 at BEPZA Complex.

Public Private Partnership

BEPZA arranged a PowerPoint Presentation training program to enhance the presentation skill of the officials on May 3–4, 2016 at BEPZA Complex. Officers from different departments of BEPZA took part in this fully computer based training program.

Citizen’s Charter

BEPZA and Governance Innovation Unit of PMO jointly organized a training program titled ‘Effective use of 2nd Generation Citizen’s Charter for Developing Public Service’ for Grade-10 BEPZA officers on June 13, 2016 at BEPZA Complex, Daca. DG & Director of GIU and Member (Finance) & Secretary of BEPZA were present in the training program.

Manners & Etiquette

To be fit with the modern corporate world, BEPZA arranged a training program for its new and mid-level officers on Manners and Etiquette at Executive Office, Chittagong and also Dhaka EPZ in the month of May, 2016.

Fire Detection

BEPZA arranged a training program on Fire Detection System and its operation at BEPZA complex on June 22, 2016. Staffs of different department, Caretaker, Security Guards and Drivers of the Executive Office participated in this training program.
EC’s Dynamism in Frame

1. Major General Mohd Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, Executive Chairman, BEPZA formally inaugurated the BEPZA Residential Area for the employees of BEPZA in Uttara, Dhaka on April 24, 2016.

2. BEPZA Chief observed the process of Water Treatment Plant at Karnaphuli EPZ on May 10, 2016. Chief Engineer of BEPZA, GM of Chittagong & Karnaphuli EPZs accompanied him during inspection.

3. Executive Chairman of BEPZA distributed prizes among the winners of Annual Sports & Cultural Program of BEPZA Public School & College, CEPZ on May 11, 2016. Mr. Md. Khorshed Alun, GM of CEPZ, Mr. S.M. Akhter Alam Mostafi, GM of KEPZ and Principal of the college were present in the Sports & Cultural program.

4. BEPZA Chief commenced the Officers Dormitory at the residential area of Chittagong EPZ on May 11, 2016. General Manager of CEPZ along with other high officials of the zone were present in the ceremony.

5. Major General Mohd Habibur Rahman Khan, Executive Chairman of BEPZA looked around the Paintings and Photography Exhibition of the BEPZA Public School & College of Chittagong EPZ on May 11, 2016 at the school premises.

6. Mr. Masahiro Asada, President of Koha Co. Ltd. along with Mr. Takashi Kuwazawa, Managing Director of Op-seed Company of CEPZ and Mr. Ataul Haque, Director, OP-seed met with BEPZA Chief on May 04, 2016. They talked on various operational issues.

7. Major General Mohd Habibur Rahman Khan gave a crest to honour Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President of FBCCI while he called on BEPZA Chief to discuss various business related issues on April 20, 2016.

8. Executive Chairman of BEPZA physically examined the activities of Environment Laboratory for Central ETP in Chittagong EPZ on May 11, 2016.

9. A delegation of ILO led by Ms. Elizabeth Faith Onuko, Minister Counselor of Labour of the Permanent Mission of Kenya to the UN along with Mr. Srinivas B. Reddy, Country Director of ILO met with BEPZA Chief on April 20, 2016.

10. A Doa Mahfil and Iftar Party was organized on June 26, 2016 at the BEPZA Complex, Dhaka. Major General Mohd Habibur Rahman Khan, Executive Chairman, three Members, Secretary and employees of all levels of BEPZA including some foreign & local investors of the EPZs attended the Iftar Party.
Bangladesh has been placed among Asia Pacific’s top 10 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) hotspots. The other Asia Pacific FDI hotspots are China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, India and Sri Lanka. Over the next decade, the Asia Pacific is forecast to be the fastest growing region of the global economy that offers the biggest potential gains for FDI.

IHS Inc. the leading global source of critical information and insight announced the findings from its study on Asia’s top ten FDI hotspots at the company’s Global Economic and Country Risk conference in Vienna.

It added that amongst the other South Asian economies, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are expected to show rapid growth over the next decade. “Despite political turbulence, Bangladesh has made considerable economic progress over the past decade, with average annual GDP growth exceeding 6.5% per year since 2006. Bangladesh has emerged as an attractive location for FDI into low-cost textiles, clothing and footwear manufacturing because of its relatively low-wage costs compared to coastal China.”

“The Asia Pacific region will grow at an average annual rate of 4.5% per year, boosted by rapid growth in consumer spending in China, India and Southeast Asia,” said IHS Asia Pacific Chief Economist Rajiv Biswas. “For the Asia Pacific region, a key long-term growth driver will be China’s ‘One Belt, One Road’ initiative”, Mr. Biswas added. Source: Dhaka Tribune

FDI from Delhi to Dhaka Jumped over 45% Last Year

The net inflow of Foreign Direct Investment from India to Bangladesh crossed $100 million level for the first time last year. Bangladesh Bank said the net FDI from the neighbouring country stood at $102.7 million in 2015, 45.5% up from $70.6 million in 2014.

The gross inflow of FDI from India was $114.13 million last year. As $11.43 million was disinvested in the same year, the net inflow stood at $102.7 million. The central bank data also showed that financial and textile sectors shared almost 50% of total Indian FDI last year. Meanwhile, in an interview with The Hindu Business Line, published on June 15, 2016, Dr. Mashur Rahman, Economic Affairs Adviser of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said that Bangladesh should take a more focused approach to attract Indian FDI and take full advantage of the recent cooperation overdrive between the two nations. Mentionable that, Bangladesh and India have signed Memorandum of Understanding for several mega projects during the visit of Indian Prime Minister in June 2015. The country hopes that the FDI will increase more in the coming years. Source: The Daily Observer

Bangladesh Denim Producers Eye Third Global Position

By the year 2021, Bangladeshi denim producers aimed at achieving the third largest position in the globe as denim exporting destination after the USA and Italy. The country has already become the second largest RMG exporter globally after China. The denim producers are expecting to achieve $7 billion export target by 2021 when the country’s total RMG export is targeted to reach $50 billion landmark.

Many entrepreneurs including a number of largest business groups are willing to set up denim fabric plants across the country. According to the statistics of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), the country has witnessed a 8% increase in denim jeans export in 2015. In the EPZs of BEPZA there are some big denim producers who are contributing a huge amount in denim product export.

Denim market research report said, the use of denim is on the rise worldwide and that is why its growth in Bangladesh would be 300% in the next 10 years, while the global growth would be between 8% and 10%. According to the industry insiders, the industries are producing 360 million yards of fabric per year to meet 45% to 50% of the total annual demand.

According to the industry insiders, some local denim factories are producing high quality fabrics. Earlier they used to produce per yard of denim fabrics by $2; now they are producing the same by $6.

Workers are manufacturing high quality Denim products in EPZs of Bangladesh

Already, the industry achieved 15.53% growth by exporting denim products worth Euro 932.86 million to the EU in 2014. Among the global players in the $60 billion denim market, Bangladesh lags behind China, the US, Italy and some Latin American countries.

Bangladesh is the second largest denim products exporting country, especially jeans to the EU, while it is holding the third largest position in the USA market. The country supplies denim products to major retailers and brands including H&M, Wrangler, S. Oliver, Hugo, Levi’s, Uniqlo, Nike, Tesco, Boss, Puma, Primark, JC Penney, C&A, Tommy Hilfiger, Inditex, Walmart, M&S, Calvin Klein, Diesel, Gap and G-Star. Source: Daily Sun
Bangladesh Reaches Out to Global Leadership

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met with Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe on the sidelines of the G7 Summit. Various issues like economic cooperation, development and collaboration in global arena were discussed in the meeting. The two countries agreed to take the bilateral partnership to a new height, which took shape after the PM Sheikh Hasina’s visit to Japan in 2014. During this official bilateral meeting, Mr. Abe assured Bangladesh that Japan would fulfill its commitment to provide $8 billion to Dhaka. Mr. Abe also assured Sheikh Hasina of further releasing the rules of origin to promote trade and business between the two countries. Highly appreciating Sheikh Hasina’s contribution to G7 Summit Mr. Abe told “Your intervention and contribution the G7 leaders said the discussion which ultimately helped us in our key components of the outcome elements.”

Dhaka-London to Work Together

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met with world leaders at the outreach meeting of G7 Summit, discussing with heads of states from G7 members and from six other developing countries on how to ensure economic growth.

Prime Minister met with British Prime Minister David Cameron on the sidelines of G7 outreach meeting in Nagoya. The issues of bilateral trade and investment deals dominated in the meeting. British Premier expressed his country’s willingness to be part of Bangladesh’s success stories. He highly praised the development model of Bangladesh. The two leaders discussed various global issues and agreed to work together.

Bangladesh is marching forward on the development highway overcoming the constraints. The country has attained significant success in economic growth in comparison with many other countries during the last couple of years. We have attained over 6% growth constantly over the last few years. As a result of stable economic growth, Bangladesh has graduated to the status of lower middle income country. We have set goal to be a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed nation by 2041. We are now in right track which reflects by our various successes. These achievements are attributable to the courageous and visionary leadership of the Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh is getting recognition of this success in the global forum. Participation of Bangladesh in two recent International Summit and Forum is declaring that Bangladesh is getting ready for global leadership, Tokyo’s invitation to Dhaka for the G7 outreach meeting is a reflection of Bangladesh’s significant role in various spectrum of socio-economic development among developing countries. On the other hand, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended as Chief Guest at the opening ceremony of the ‘Global Women’s Leaders Forum’ conference in Bulgaria, which reflects the increasing confidence of the world to Bangladesh.

G7 2016 ISE-SHIMA Summit

The 42nd summit of the Group of Seven (G7) industrialized countries held on May 26-27, 2016 at Nagoya, Japan. The annual summit brings together the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States. Chairied by Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe, global leaders discussed issues related to the global economy, investment, trade, refugee crisis, climate change and energy, fight against terrorism, foreign policy and development. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended G7 outreach meeting by the invitation of Tokyo. In this meeting, she called on the developed countries, including the G7 nations, to be more generous in transfer of technology, mobilizing resource and building capacity of the poor countries to overcome the challenges of implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the interaction with the leaders of major world economies on the sidelines of the G7 summit, she urged the world leaders to put emphasis on women in policy and politics and dignity of women and society as well as health issues to achieve universal health coverage. The Prime Minister pointed out her government’s stride to provide quality health service at grassroot level saying that investment in health sector has a long-term impact on development. She also called for giving priority on women’s participation and empowerment at national level, their financial emancipation and their rights and dignity in the society. She had a good interaction with world leaders including US President Barack Obama, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the UN Secretary General and IMF Head after the meeting. It was the second time since 2001 Sheikh Hasina was invited to take part in G7 outreach meeting, visibly in recognition of her capable leadership to move the country forward at a very crucial time.

Collaborate for Women’s Development

Not only as Prime Minister of Bangladesh but also as one of the influential global leaders, Sheikh Hasina joined the ‘Global Women’s Leaders Forum’ conference in Sofia, Bulgaria. As the keynote speaker of the conference she urged the global community to work together to create a safer environment for women and girls alongside empowering them as agents of social transformation. “Let’s today renew our commitment to make this world a better place for all, a better place for women, where we can live with dignity, free from all fear. Join me in saying: We Can Do It!” Sheikh Hasina said. Referring to the adoption of a transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in New York last year, the Premier said, the new development agenda gave a strong emphasis that on gender equality and empowerment of women. Expressing her strong commitment to establish gender equality in Bangladesh, she said, “I’m committed to breaking all barriers to achieve equality of men and women. Mentoring Bangladesh as the second largest exporter of readymade garments in the world, the PM said that women represent 85% of the nearly 4.5 million workforce in that crucial sector. Participation of women is also growing in other sectors and professions, such as the civil service, the judiciary, armed forces, elite security forces and in other technical professions. Sheikh Hasina said, “Bangladesh is perhaps the only country in the world today that has got women as its Prime Minister and Leader of the House, Deputy Leader of House, Leader of the Opposition and the Speaker.” She expressed her personal gratitude to UNESCO for honouring her with the UNESCO “Tree of Peace” Award, which was given for promoting girls’ education and empowerment.
Labour Rights are well Protected in EPZs: Commerce Minister

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said the government has revised the labour law to protect the rights of workers more effectively. Labour rights in the EPZs area are well protected. ‘Workers at the EPZs are enjoying all the facilities as per the labour law; they are getting higher salary than the non-EPZ workers. They are also getting the opportunity to bargain with the owners through the Workers Welfare Association (WWA). No labour rights are being violated here,’ he added. The Commerce Minister made the remarks at a view exchange meeting with a delegation led by Ms. Elizabeth Faith Onuko, Minister Counselor of Labour of the Permanent Mission of Kenya to the UN at the Commerce Ministry on April 17, 2016.

Referring to the report of a survey conducted by Democracy International, Tofail said the EPZ workers are satisfied with their wage structure and the working environment in the factories of EPZs.

Pointing out the unionism in other countries Mr. Ahmed said, “The execution of labour law in Bangladesh is better than in China as there is no labour union. The US has labour unions in 7% private and 35% public-sector factories. But the government is allowing the workers to form unions in the EPZs once at least 30% of workers at a factory apply to exercise their rights through forming a union, said the minister. Source: Daily Sun

The Harmony Bridge Linking Workers-Management-Owners
The Key Strength of EPZs

Workshop on Safety Awareness in UEPZ & MEPZ

A workshop on “Fire Safety and Earthquake Rescue including Evacuation Process plus Occupational Health and Safety” held in Uttara EPZ on April 12, 2016 with a view to create awareness among the mid-level management of the different enterprises of UEPZ.

In the opening speech, Mr. Md. Tanvir Hossain, GM of Uttara EPZ narrated the objectives of the workshop to the participants. He informed that to survive in the fiercely competitive global market up gradation of safety standard is a must. To obtain brand orders and to get optimal output from the production units maintaining health & hygiene is importance. The more we are aware of the overall safety issues the better we are positioned in the global competition, he added. Resource person from private sector was invited as Mentor. There were about 50 participants from various enterprises of Uttara EPZ attended in the workshop.

Tangible Progress Made in RMG Sector:
European Commission

The European Commission has said that an active engagement of the EU, Bangladesh government, and other partners concerned has resulted in tangible progress in the garment sector after the Rana Plaza building collapse. “A number of labour rights are better protected in Bangladesh today than they were two years ago. The building and workplace safety have also improved,” Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Mariame Thyssen and Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmstrom jointly issued the statement in Brussels.

The Bangladesh Sustainability Compact opened a dialogue and supported exchanges with stakeholders including trade unions, employers, buyers and NGOs in the EU, as well as in Bangladesh. As a partner in the Bangladesh Sustainability Compact, the EU - together with the government of Bangladesh, the ILO, and the governments of the US and Canada - regularly assesses progress labour rights issues and ensuring worker safety and health in the Bangladeshi garment sector. Source: The Daily Sun

A workshop on creating awareness & what to do during natural (earthquake, cyclone, tornado etc.) and man-made (fire & electric incident etc) disasters jointly organized by Mongla EPZ and Fire Service & Civil Defence, Bagerhat in MEPZ on May 05, 2016. Mr. Md. Mahmud Hasan, GM of Mongla EPZ said that Bangladesh has been gradually being capable of combating & preventing any disaster. BEPZA is well concerned about creating awareness on natural and man-made disasters. That’s why it has been providing training to it’s employee.

Md. Manikuzzaman, Deputy Assistant Director, Fire Service & Civil Defense, Bagerhat was the Key Speaker of this workshop. He focused on the matters to be taken during natural and man-made disasters. Investors, representative of the enterprise, some foreign technicians of different industries of MEPZ attended the workshop and drill.
Seminar to Promote Uttara, Mongla & Ishwardi EPZs

The EPZs have organized investment promotional seminars in their respective zones to attract more investment in Uttara, Mongla and Ishwardi EPZs located in Northern & Southern part of the country. Through these seminars, BEPZA wants to focus on the three EPZs to the potential and existing investors. The seminars commonly illustrated the advantages & facilities provided for those three EPZs such as, seven years tax holiday, reduced rate for land and standard factory building, logistic support, connectivity with sea, rail, road and air and future facilities.

Adamjee EPZ organized a seminar where Mr. Zillur Rahman, ndc, Member (Finance) of BEPZA requested the investors to act as an ambassador by developing entrepreneurs’ keenness of their countries to invest in EPZs of Bangladesh. He made this appeal before the investors while addressing the seminar on June 05, 2016. Mr. Md. Ashraful Kabir, GM of AEFPZ said Kwun Tong Apparels Ltd & Epic Garments Ltd-two enterprises of AEFPZ have been expanded their business in Ishwardi EPZ and, also invited existing investors of AEFPZ to invest in Uttara, Ishwardi & Mongla EPZ.

Comilla EPZ organized a seminar on May 16, 2016 to attract more investment in those three EPZs. Mr. Md. Mehboob Ali, GM of Comilla EPZ welcomed the investors of the enterprises of Com EPZ, representatives of Comilla & Brahmanbaria Chamber. The guests commented such type of seminar gave them an opportunity to know in details about BEPZA particularly Uttara, Mongla & Ishwardi EPZ. Nazma Binte Alamgir, GM (PR) was present there.

Mongla EPZ arranged the seminar on April 04, 2016. Mr. Md. Mahmud Hasan, GM of Mongla EPZ focused on overall success scenarios of EPZs. He urged the entrepreneurs to avail the opportunity to invest in the 50 vacant plots of MEPZ, as well as in the Uttara & Ishwardi EPZ. Mrs. Nazma Binte Alamgir, GM (PR), BEPZA drew the attention of the guests presenting comparison between these three EPZs & other EPZs and future possibilities of those EPZ.

Uttara EPZ organized a seminar on May 11, 2016 focusing the investment potentials and distinctive advantages of Uttara EPZ as well as Mongla & Ishwardi EPZ. Md. Tanvir Hossain, GM of Uttara EPZ briefed on advantages like extended tax holiday period, availability of easily trainable workforce with less migration, future connectivity with China and market access opportunities in neighbouring countries.
Promotional Campaign Abroad

Investment Seminar in Japan

A 46 member delegation headed by Dr. Tawfiq-e Elahi Chowdhury, Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Advisor to the Honourable Prime Minister attended ‘Bangladesh Investment Seminar Japan 2016’ between 13-15 April, 2016 at Osaka and Tokyo. These seminars were organized by the Board of Investment and Bangladesh Embassy in Japan in collaboration with BEZA, PPA, JETRO and JICA to attract more Japanese investment in Bangladesh.

BEPZA team led by Major General Mohd Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, Executive Chairman along with Abdus Sobhan, GM, Dhaka EPZ and Ali Istiak Chowdhury, Assistant Manager took part in those seminars to uphold the prospects of investment in the EPZs of Bangladesh.

IORA FTZ Meeting in Iran

Mr. Abdul Halim Molla, Member (Investment Promotion), BEPZA and Md. Tanvir Hossain, GM of Uttara EPZ attended the 1st Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Free Trade Zones (FTZ) authorities meeting held in Chabahar Free Trade Zone (CFZ), Iran from 19 to 20 May, 2016.

They focused on the incentives and opportunities of EPZs of Bangladesh. Besides the promotional program, they exchanged views with different member countries on determining common ground for mutual cooperation and knowledge sharing.

The meeting had representations from India, Oman, Mauritius, Malaysia, Indonesia, Tanzania, UAE and several other member countries along with dialogue partners like Japan, Germany and South Africa.

The member states aimed to provide a fast track of information for enhancing trade through the IORA Free Trade zones, provide new opportunities and make use of the potential advantages of the Blue Economy through the IORA FTZ. They also decided to connect to Centers of Excellence for better management of FTZ in the IORA region.

OIC Trade Fair 2016 in Saudi Arabia

A two member BEPZA team combination of Mr. Abdul Halim Molla, Member (Investment Promotion) and Mr. Md. Shawkat Nabi, Secretary participated OIC Trade Fair 2016 in Riyadh, KSA during 22-24 May, 2016. They highlighted the investment opportunities in EPZs of Bangladesh to attract Saudi Arabian investors.

The BEPZA delegation exchanged views on investment climate in Bangladesh with Director General of Saudi Development Fund and also attended promotional seminars. Mr. Abdul Halim Molla focused on overall success scenarios of EPZs. He also described package of incentive offered by BEPZA and urged to invest in the Export Processing Zones of Bangladesh.
BEPZA has celebrated Pohela Boishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year, amid much enthusiasm and traditional festivity. The employees of all levels working in the Executive office along with some local & foreign investors joined the program held at BEPZA Complex. At first, traditional Bengali cuisine with dessert was served as lunch which was followed by a cultural program.

After having scrumptious lunch, the Executive Chairman of BEPZA Major General Mohd Habibur Rahman Khan welcomed everyone to enjoy the cultural show. He wished ‘Shuvo Noboborsho’ to everyone. The Executive Chairman thanked Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for introducing the New Year’s allowance for the first time in the country. He hoped that next year BEPZA would celebrate the Pohela Boishakh at more large scale.

Cultural program was started by Rabindranath Tagore’s famous song “Esho Hey Boishakh Esho Esho...”. Member (IP) Mr. Abdul Halim Molla recited a self-composed poem on Boishakh and Mr. Mosaddeque Ali, Member (Engineering), sang a Rabindranath Tagor’s song. Everyone really enjoyed the program.

Like Executive Office, the EPZs under BEPZA also celebrated the Pohela Boishakh with festivity. Karnaphuli EPZ arranged Boishaki Fair where different departments of the zone set up various food stalls. Uttara EPZ arranged procession, Horse ride, Kite flying and Boishakhi fair where foreign technicians working in the zone joined with enthusiasm. The other EPZs also organized colorful programs where the officers along with their family members attended.
Achievement of BEPZA in 2015-16 FY

BEPZA has gained a sound growth in export & employment in the last fiscal year. Export escalated by 9.21% and employment increased by 7.94% in 2015-16. BEPZA got US$ 404.36 million investment in the same FY.

US$ 6676.32 million Export

In the last fiscal year BEPZA achieved a notable success in Export. Goods worth US$ 6676.32 million have been exported from the enterprise of EPZs in 2015-16 fiscal year. It was US$ 6113.49 million in the previous fiscal year 2014-15.


New Employment Created 33,551 nos.

The enterprises of BEPZA created job opportunities for 33,551 Bangladeshi nationals in 2015-16 fiscal year. The figure was 31,084 in the previous fiscal year. Among them 6154 persons have been employed in Chittagong EPZ, 3330 in Dhaka EPZ, 15 in Mongla EPZ, 2522 in Comilla EPZ, 6368 in Adamjee EPZ, 7124 in Uttara EPZ and 8306 in Karnaphuli EPZ. No addition in Ishwardi EPZ. 4,53,652 Bangladeshi nationals are working in eight EPZs of the country as on June 2016.

US$ 404.36 million Investment

US$ 404.36 million actual investment has been made by operational and under construction enterprises of eight EPZs under BEPZA during 2015-16 FY whereas it was US$ 406.35 million in the previous fiscal year. The investment is little bit decreased due to scarcity of land in the most lucrative EPZs located at Dhaka & Chittagong region. BEPZA is trying to meet up the growing demand of the investors by vertical expansion of the factory buildings and motivating the prospective investors to go over the Uttara, Mongla & Ishwardi EPZ which are situated at the northern & southern part of the country.

In the last fiscal year goods worth US$110.71 million exported from Chittagong EPZ, US$ 80.63 million from Dhaka EPZ, US$ 60.51 million from Karnaphuli EPZ, US$ 54.70 million from Adamjee EPZ, US$ 30.18 million from Comilla EPZ, US$ 33.53 million from Uttara EPZ, US$ 15.11 million from Ishwardi EPZ and US$ 18.98 million from Mongla EPZ. The cumulative investment stands at US$ 3998.78 million by June 2016 in the eight EPZs of BEPZA.
Cumulative Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EPZ</th>
<th>Unit (Nos)</th>
<th>Export (US$ m)</th>
<th>Investment (US$ m)</th>
<th>Workforce (Number)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operation</td>
<td>U/IMP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chittagong</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24222.81</td>
<td>1466.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20484.03</td>
<td>1222.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comilla</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1681.61</td>
<td>254.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongla</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>439.07</td>
<td>41.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttara</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>355.50</td>
<td>114.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ishwardi</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>434.76</td>
<td>96.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamjee</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2251.19</td>
<td>371.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnaphuli</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2928.50</td>
<td>433.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>52817.48</td>
<td>3998.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COUNTRY

- Bangladesh 136
- S. Korea 74
- China 37
- Hong Kong, China 27
- Taiwan, China 25
- Japan 31
- India 22
- USA 17
- UK 17
- Malaysia 9
- Pakistan 8
- Sri Lanka 8
- Germany 6
- The Netherlands 5
- Canada 5
- Italy 5
- British Virgin Island 4
- Singapore 3
- France 3
- Indonesia 2
- Spain 2
- Denmark 2
- Belgium 1
- Ireland 1
- Ukraine 1
- Panama 1
- Sweden 1
- Marshall Island 1
- UAE 1
- Romania 1
- Australia 1
- Malta 1
- Cayman Islands 1
- Kuwait 1
- Turkey 1
- Mauritius UIMP
- Oman SNC
- Portugal JV

PRODUCT

- Garments 115
- RMG Accessories 89
- Knit & Other Textile 35
- Textile 40
- Footwear & Leather 33
- Terry Towel 18
- Electronics & Electricals 17
- Plastic Goods 15
- Metal Products 13
- Agro Products 10
- Tent 10
- Service Industries 9
- Cap 6
- Chemical 6
- Furniture 3
- Paper Products 3
- Sports Goods 2
- Ropes 2
- Power Industry 2
- Fishing Real & Golf Items 1
- Jewelry 1
- Toys 1
- Miscellaneous 30
EPZs of Bangladesh Bonanza for Investors

Success in Last 7 Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>2002-08</th>
<th>2009-15</th>
<th>Growth %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Export Growth</td>
<td>187.47%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Growth</td>
<td>147.76%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Growth</td>
<td>123.29%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Growth</td>
<td>44.14%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BEPZA-JETRO sign MoU in presence of the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

The Honourable Prime Minister inaugurates Central Effluent Treatment Plant in Comilla EPZ

Secretary, PMO & Executive Chairman, BEPZA sign APA in presence of the Honourable Prime Minister

Principal Secretary, PMO giving Honouring Certificate to BEPZA Chief for accomplishing the KPI targets

Attainment in 2015 - 16
- Investment escalated US$ 404.36 million
- Export flourished US$ 6676.32 million
- Employment generated 33,551 nos.
- New industry became operational- 16

Achievement in Last 7 Years
- Investment gained US$ 2238.51 million
- Export earned US$ 31724.72 million
- Employment created 2,33,117 persons
- New operating industries 160 nos

Cumulative Scenarios of BEPZA
- Operating Industries- 461
- Investment- US$ 3.99 billion
- Export- US$ 52.81 billion
- Employment- 4,53,652 nos.
- National Export Contribution -19.50%

Core Strength of EPZs
- Workers-Management-Owner Synergy
- Collaborative Teamwork
- Peaceful Working Environment
- Industry Friendly Atmosphere
- Congenial Investment Climate
- Ease of Doing Business

Workers Welfare in EPZs
- Set a milestone in women empowerment
- Ensures workplace safety plus compliance & welfare
- Assured benefits, medical service & childcare
- Wages & other benefits increased twice in last 7 years
- Guaranteed 10% annual increment on basic

BEPZA Welcomes Investors from all over the World

Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road# 6, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Phone: 880-2-9670550, 9675489, 9675410, 9672969, 9613461, 9614332, PARX: 9613457, 9603459
Fax: 880-2-9661849, 9673020, 9668472, E-mail: chairman@bepza.org, member-ip@bepza.org, gm-ip@bepza.org, gm-pr@bepza.org, info@bepza.org, Website: www.epzbangladesh.org.bd
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