

## Highlights

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# BEPZA Bulletin

A Quarterly Journal of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, April-June, 2014 Issue

## Cambodia Appreciates the Potential Role of BEPZA for Economic Progress

Cambodia congratulated the achievement of Bangladesh EPZ Authority in contributing to the economic development of Bangladesh. This was expressed by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, during his visit in Dhaka EPZ, Savar, on June 16, 2014.

*"I appreciate the potential role of BEPZA in attracting foreign investment & boosting export, thus contributing in the economy of the country"*- he commented.

A 27- member Cambodian high power delegation along with Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Ministers from different Ministries and government officials accompanied the Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen during the visit.

BEPZA rolled out red carpet to warmly receive the Cambodian Prime Minister in Dhaka EPZ. Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, the Executive Chairman of Bangladesh EPZ Authority in the welcome speech said that, BEPZA has successfully traversed a long way of 30 years. EPZs started its journey in 1983 from Chittagong, then Dhaka EPZ in 1993. Later Mongla EPZ in 1999, Comilla EPZ in 2000, Uttara and Ishwardi EPZs in 2001 were established. Afterwards, Adamjee and Karnaphuli EPZs were set up. Now BEPZA is prominent as a brand in the global market.

Major General Habib highlighted the ever increasing success scenarios of EPZs in investment, export and employment. In the speech he mentioned Bangladesh EPZs as the 'Bonanza for Investors' and said that investors from 37 countries have invested in the 8 EPZs of the country.

He uttered, under the direct supervision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh the government has enacted EPZ Workers Welfare Association and Industrial Relations Act, 2010 to ensure the rights and welfare of EPZ's workers. As directed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina the wages of the EPZ workers have been increased twice in the last 5 years considering the living cost and social status of the workers.



Industrial friendly peaceful investment climate is the main attraction of EPZs and the key strengths of EPZs are amicable cohesive teamwork & harmonious relations among Worker-Management-Owner, he added.

BEPZA Chief mentioned, Cambodia is our true friend since independence. Stating there is no Cambodian investment in the EPZs, he requested Cambodian investors through the Cambodian Prime Minister to invest in the EPZs of Bangladesh.

He also hoped that Cambodian entrepreneurs will come forward to invest in any suitable sector in the EPZs which will pave a trade relation between the two countries.

Major General Habib said, Cambodian PM's visit in Dhaka EPZ is a proud privilege for BEPZA. He hoped, this visit will play a significant role in building future investment relationship with BEPZA as well as between Bangladesh and Cambodia which will become a grand success.

Prime Minister Hun Sen went round M/s YKK Bangladesh Pte Ltd., a Japanese Zipper manufacturing company along with members of the delegation. He keenly observed the production system of the industry and praised the operational activities of the company.



## Growth Trend

### Export earnings \$ 5525.30 M

The enterprises of EPZs have exported goods worth of US\$ 5525.30 million in 2013-14 fiscal year. It was US\$ 4856.68 million during the same period of the previous fiscal year; this shows an increase of 13.76 %.

In the FY 2013-14 the industries of Chittagong EPZ has earned US\$ 2261.61 million, Dhaka EPZ US\$ 1937.52 M, Karnaphuli EPZ US\$ 526.85 M, Adamjee EPZ US\$ 386.23 M, Comilla EPZ US\$ 209.41 M, Mongla EPZ US\$ 77.28 M, Ishwardi EPZ US\$ 93.16 M and Uttara EPZ US\$ 33.22 M.



### Investment jumped to \$ 402.58 M

US\$ 402.58 million actual investment was achieved in 2013-14 fiscal year by the operational and under implementation enterprises of 8 EPZs. The investment inflow increased by 22.53% during July'13 - June' 14 compared with that in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. It was US\$ 328.53 million in 2012-13 fiscal year.

In 2013-14 FY US\$ 109.46 million has been gained in Chittagong EPZ, US\$ 125.79 M in Dhaka EPZ, US\$ 44.67 M in Karnaphuli EPZ, US\$ 73.75 M in Adamjee EPZ, US\$ 23.39 M in Comilla EPZ, US\$ 17.27 M in Uttara EPZ, US\$ 3.15 M in Ishwardi EPZ and US\$ 5.10 M in Mongla EPZ.

### Publisher's Pen

We are trying to give a new shape in the every issue of BEPZA Bulletin. This endeavor is continued in this issue.

Current Bulletin is carrying the regular pages with different matters and new get up which reflects the activities of BEPZA in the last three months. We have also tried to give a brief about the growing trend of investment, export and employment of recently ended fiscal year 2013-2014.

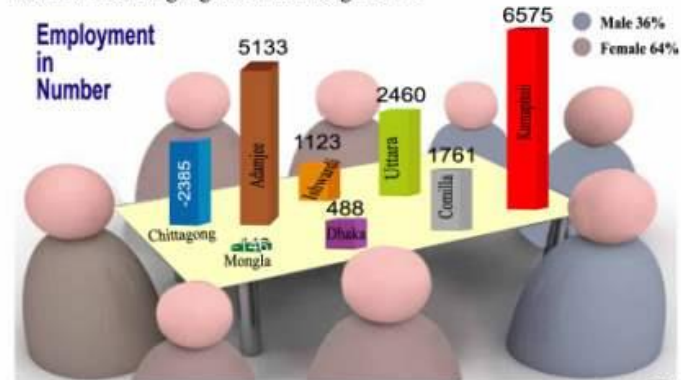
Cambodian PM's visit in Dhaka EPZ has been given a lead coverage in this issue. BEPZA - JETRO MoU ink ceremonial ornamented the exclusive page. Photo Story in Extra page contains a quick look on visits including important personalities call on with BEPZA Chief. This issue highlighted PMO & BEPZA MoU signs to implement vision 2021, working atmosphere & workplace safety in EPZs. Furthermore FDI status & financial benefits for industries also focused in this Bulletin.

We are thankful to the GM of every zone and IP division of Executive Office for their extended cooperation to publish this bulletin. All supports helped Public Relations Department to publish this bulletin timely.

Public Relations Department

### 17540 Job Creation

17540 Bangladeshi workers got job opportunities in the operational industrial units of EPZs in 2013-14 fiscal year. Among them 488 persons added in Dhaka EPZ, 1761 in Comilla EPZ, 2460 in Uttara EPZ, 5133 in Adamjee EPZ, 6575 in Karnaphuli EPZ and 1123 in Ishwardi EPZ. No addition in Chittagong EPZ and Mongla EPZ.





## PM Announced dedicated Taskforce for Japanese Investment



The Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced constitution of a dedicated Taskforce in favour of the Japanese companies to do their business conveniently in Bangladesh at a seminar titled "Investment and Business Opportunities in Bangladesh" on 27 May 2014 in Tokyo, Japan. Sheikh Hasina uttered, "I believe that the present state of our bilateral relations calls for conclusion of a 'Comprehensive Partnership Agreement' between Bangladesh and Japan. She said, I hope all of you would extend your support on this for



*Bangladeshi delegates led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended a seminar on investment promotion in Tokyo, Japan*

furthering our mutual interest that includes increasing trade and investment. She also mentioned that Japan extended its unflinching support to rebuilding and economic development of the war-ravaged country after the independence.

PM urged Japanese business leaders to invest more in Bangladesh as the country has sound macroeconomic management, liberal investment policies and friendly business climate. She added, Bangladesh has been growing steadily despite the recent global economic crisis, and become the second largest apparel exporter in the world, a testament to the country's economic strength. Sheikh Hasina also expressed, Bangladesh is offering the most liberal investment opportunities in South Asia that allows 100% foreign equity with unrestricted exit policy; easy remittance of royalty; repatriation of profits; legal protection against nationalization; corporate tax holidays to encourage foreign investors, skilled workforce are available at competitive wages. She further said, "We highly value the Japanese investment, 40 plots in the EPZs will be reserved exclusively for the Japanese investors." PM added leading Japanese business houses have established connections in Bangladesh. It is heartening that companies like NTT DOCOMO, KDDI, YKK, UNIQLO, Mitsubishi, Itouchu, Mitsui, SEIYU, MARUBENI are building business with Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina thanked Japanese investors for choosing Bangladesh as one of their next destinations for doing business.



## Bangladesh offers Industrial Zone to Chinese Investors



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed to allocate a separate Industrial Zone for the Chinese investors. This was offered in 9th China-South Asia Business Forum on 7 June 2014 at Kunming, China. She said, our existing EPZs are also attractive for investment and China is one of the major investors in EPZs. These would be of interest to the Chinese investors for whom we are also considering allocating a separate Economic and Industrial Zone in Bangladesh.

PM also sought, apart from involvement in infrastructure development and energy capacity building Chinese participation in joint ventures or individual investment in pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, shipbuilding, agro-based industries, textiles, ceramics, leather, manufacturing, development of HR, design and planning in highly valued added sectors.

Prime Minister mentioned our young, industrious and energetic huge workforce with very competitive and affordable wages; Bangladesh's strategic geographic location also makes its exports accessible to a huge market of 3 billion consumers of South and South East Asia and China. She included that, recently Bangladesh has a pulsating trade, established manufacturing industries, undertaking human resources development, vibrant private sector, infrastructure building; a sound macroeconomic management, robust banking and financial sector increase in the flow of remittances and FDIs. PM urged the businessmen of the South Asian countries to come forward and invest in Bangladesh.

## Bangladesh an increasingly attractive FDI destination: UNCTAD

Inflows of foreign direct investment into Bangladesh rose 24 % year-on-year to \$1.6 billion in 2013. It was disclosed worldwide at the 'World Investment Reports 2014', conducted by the UNCTAD. Report shows that Bangladesh is placed as a distant second favoured investment destination in South Asia after India. Secretary General of UNCTAD expressed "Bangladesh is an increasingly attractive destination for FDI in the 6th session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission of UNCTAD at Geneva. The Investment Policy Review (IPR) reflects the desire of Bangladesh to build a successful investment framework and policy environment that attracts not only foreign investors, but also promotes domestic private sector development".

It is both surprising and inspiring to note that FDI in the country showed a steady growth over several years. This trend of FDI only reveals that, despite strong presence of certain formidable stumbling blocks, Bangladesh is still a dream investment destination for foreign investors. Bangladesh has achieved a significant progress during the last decade. UNCTAD's recommended, if effectively implemented, could help improve the investment environment, boost the levels of investment, bolster inclusive economic growth and foster sustainable development.



## PMO & BEPZA Ink MoU on Performance Management to implement Vision-2021



*Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Senior Secretary, PMO & Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, the Executive Chairman, BEPZA signing MoU. Dr. S.A. Somad, Executive Chairman, Bof & Mr. Abduh Sobhan Sikder, Principal Secretary, PMO witnessing the ceremonial at PMO on 30 June, 2014.*

To implement vision-2021 Prime Minister's Office and Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Performance Management to evaluate the qualitative and quantitative activities of BEPZA for the fiscal year 2014-15. Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Senior Secretary, PMO and Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, the Executive Chairman, BEPZA signed the MoU at Prime Minister's Office on 30th June, 2014.

To ensure institutional accountability, transparency, proper use of public resources, uphold the organizational success in a quantitative way and improvement of the organizational efficiency in public sector as a tool of performance management; government has taken initiative for the first time in the country to introduce performance agreement system in different ministry/department with their respective departments/agencies. As part of this initiative, the vision, mission, objectives and activities of the organizations have been reviewed in detail and according to this the most

important Key Performance Indicators (KPI) have been determined to achieve the objectives of the organization. To achieve the KPI targets of FY 2014-15 BEPZA has signed the MoU with PM Office. Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) is playing its role as facilitator of this performance contracting. However, to make Bangladesh a middle income country is one of the goals of the government by implementing Vision-2021. One of the prerequisites of this goal is to establish good governance in every sphere of administration.

### 5 GM Promoted in BEPZA

First time in BEPZA two lady officers got promotion to GM rank, which inspired the women empowerment in the country. Mrs. Nazma Binte Alamgir, the only lady GM of BEPZA performing in Public Relations Department and Mrs. Nafisa Banu the first female posted as Chief Accounts & Finance Officer.

#### Bangladesh EPZ Authority Promoted Five General Manager in April, 2014



Nazma Binte Alamgir, Nafisa Banu, Akhter Alam Mostafi, Md. Mehboob Ali, Ahsan Kabir

Three other newly promoted GM are Mr. Akhtar alam Mustafi, Mr. Md. Mehboob Ali and Mr. Ahsan Kabir are serving in Uttara, Adamjee and Chittagong EPZs.

Another two officer Mr. Md. Tanvir Hossain and Mr. Golam Farooque got promotion as DGM posted in different Zones.

### MoE pleased on working climate in EPZs

Mr. Mojibul Haque Chunnu, State Minister of Labour & Employment Ministry expressed his happiness over the working environment of EPZs during his visit in Dhaka and Ishwardi EPZs between 5-8 April, 2014.

GM, DEPZ informed him that BEPZA is strictly monitoring worker's wages, rights & compliances matters. The State Minister said, "Garment workers are not getting the benefits of their increased wages due to the exorbitant accommodation costs. I am satisfied to see the maintaining supervision environment of EPZ". Later, he went a round of Japanese factory M/s YKK Bangladesh Pte Ltd. and appreciated the production oriented congenial atmosphere of the factory.

### USA satisfied over peaceful working atmosphere in EPZ

USA expressed deep satisfaction over the peaceful production oriented atmosphere prevailing in EPZ. This was expressed by Ms. Fatema Z Sumer, the United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Affairs during her visit to Karnaphuli EPZ on 06 May, 2014. She was accompanied by the US Ambassador to Bangladesh Mr. Dan W. Mozena.

GM, KEPZ briefed the delegates' about success scenario of BEPZA. The delegates visited Kenpark Bangladesh Apparel (Pvt) Ltd. and Park (BD) Company Ltd. The US delegation praised the uninterrupted production oriented peaceful working atmosphere and the harmonious relationship existing between the workers and the management in Karnaphuli EPZ.



*The Deputy Assistant Secretary, USA along with the US Ambassador to Bangladesh observing Park (BD) Company Ltd. in KEPZ*



## 17 New Industries to invest US \$ 156.07 M in the FY 2013-14



*BEPZA & Bangladesh Seiko Electronic Products Co. Ltd. exchanging lease documents. Executive Chairman, Member (Engineering), Member (Finance), Secretary, and GM (Public Relations) of BEPZA are seen in the Photo*

Uttara EPZ and M/s. Glen Stationary (BD) Ltd. will set up a ballpoint pen industry in Chittagong EPZ. Japanese company M/s. Bangladesh Seiko Electronic Products Co. Ltd. will establish an electrical and mechanical parts industry in Mongla EPZ and M/s Bestec BD Ltd., a South Korean company will set up in RMG plant in Karnaphuli EPZ.

**4 Joint Venture Units:** Four joint venture companies will invest US\$ 42.98 million with job opportunities for 13,142 Bangladeshi nationals. M/s. Choice Asia Industry Ltd., a China-Pakistan-Bangladesh tri-venture plant will manufacture a tooth brush & ball pen in Mongla EPZ. Mauritius-Bangladesh company M/s. Ananta Apparels Ltd. will set up a RMG unit in Adamjee EPZ. Hong Kong-Bangladesh owned M/s. Euro-A Zipper Co. (BD) Ltd. will invest in garments accessories plant in Adamjee EPZ and M/s. SOS Outfitters Ltd., a Hong Kong-USA-Bangladesh tri-nation venture will produce woven & knit apparels in Karnaphuli EPZ

**05 Bangladeshi Venture:** Five Bangladeshi RMG companies will invest US\$ 36.14 million. Among them M/s ARL Apparels Ltd. will be in Karnaphuli EPZ, M/s. Arrow Jeans (Pvt.) Ltd (Unit-1) in Chittagong EPZ, M/s. Renaissance Barind Ltd. in Ishwardi EPZ, M/s. HASFAB Wear Ltd. and M/s L Z Fashion Wear Ltd. will be in Dhaka EPZ. 9151 Bangladeshi nationals will get employment opportunity in these factories.

BEPZA has sanctioned 17 new industries during July 2013 to June 2014 with total proposed investment of US \$ 156.07 million. Out of these, 8 are fully foreign owned, 4 under joint venture and 5 local venture.

**8 FDI Plants:** Eight fully foreign owned companies are going to invest US\$ 76.95 million in EPZs. Among them 6 from China, 1 from Japan and 1 from South Korea. They will create employment opportunity for 15,450 Bangladeshi nationals.

Among the Chinese companies M/s. Charming Trim & Packaging (BD) Ltd. will set up a RMG Accessories industry in Dhaka EPZ, M/s. Tianye Outdoor (BD) Co., Ltd. will established two Tent & Bag manufacturing units in Comilla and Ishwardi EPZ, M/s. Asia Spinning and Textile Mills Ltd. will be in Ishwardi EPZ, M/s. Kin Selection Products Manufacture (BD) will produce leather items in

### Bangladesh gets duty-free access from 49 countries

Commerce Minister informed the Parliament that some 49 countries have given duty-free access to Bangladeshi products in their markets. 28 EU countries, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Japan, Turkey, Canada, Russia and Belarus have allowed various products under the GSP to Bangladesh. Meanwhile he said some countries imposed embargo for certain specific goods under this duty free access i.e. Arms and Military Equipment, RMG, Poultry, Egg and Dairy products.

Furthermore, South Korea has given duty-free access of 4,820 products under the Preferential Tariff for LDC and China 4,788 products under Duty-Free Treatment Grants. India gives duty-free access of all products except tobacco and drugs under the SAFTA, while other SAARC countries have given such facilities under the SAFTA and SAPTA. Thailand has allowed duty-free access of 299 products under BIMSTEC and Malaysia 297 products (Source: Dhaka Tribune).

### Tax holiday for industries be extended to 2019

Finance Minister AMA Muhith proposed to extend tax holiday to June 30, 2019 from the existing June 30, 2015 for the industrial and infrastructure sectors and to reduce corporate tax on non-listed companies to 35% from 37.5%. He made this proposal for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Under this tax holiday extension scheme, 10% tax rebates for industrial entities set up in the least developed areas. Only the industries which are not enjoying current tax holiday will come under this tax cut scheme. The same (20% rebate) has also been offered to industrial units willing to shift to least developed areas from developed areas. Various steps have been taken to give impetus to new industrial venture for boosting investment and employment opportunities.

(Source: New Age)



### BB relaxes foreign loan rules for enterprises in EPZs

The central bank has relaxed foreign exchange regulations allowing all industrial units in EPZs to borrow medium and long-term loan from overseas sources. Under the relaxed regulations, industrial units in the EPZs will submit borrowing approval applications and related documents as per Proforma of the Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Transactions (GFET, 2009 edition), through their nominated authorized dealer banks for onward referral via the BEPZA to the Bangladesh Bank (BB). According to an instruction the borrowing proposals forwarded to the BB by the BEPZA will be scrutinized at the Foreign Exchange Investment Department (FEID) of the central bank and disposed of with decisions at the governor's level. The instruction also said the decisions will be communicated simultaneously to the BEPZA, the applicant EPZ units, and their authorized dealers concerned (Source: Financial Express).

Exclusive

## BEPZA-JETRO signs MoU to give highly value the Japanese investment

BEPZA  
Bulletin  
April-June, 2014



Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to give highly value the Japanese investment.

In presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina this MoU signed at the JETRO headquarter in Tokyo, Japan on May 27, 2014. "We highly value the Japanese investment," Prime Minister said, 40 industrial plots in the EPZs will be kept reserve exclusively for the Japanese investors. She hoped that Japanese Investors would respond positively to the gesture and would be our partners in business activities, sharing profits and prosperity as we journey to the future. She added Bangladesh is one of those countries, which was most benefited from Japanese trade, investment and technological cooperation.

Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, Executive Chairman of BEPZA and Mr. Kei Kawano, Country Representative, JETRO Bangladesh signed the MoU on behalf of their own organization. It was signed during the Prime Minister's official visit to Japan and she is also the Chairman of the BEPZA Board of Governors. BEPZA Chief General Habib accompanied the PM as a member of the delegation during her four days official visit to Japan.

### BEPZA keep reserve SFB and Plots for Japanese investors

- 20 Plots in Mongla EPZ
- 10 Plots in Ishwardi EPZ
- 10 Plots in Uttara EPZ
- 01 Factory Building in Adamjee EPZ
- 01 Factory Building in Comilla EPZ

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According to the agreement, JETRO and BEPZA will assist jointly for facilitating Japanese investors, mainly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), both high-tech and labour intensive to set up their industrial establishments in EPZs. In this regard BEPZA will provide special facilities to Japanese entrepreneurs in allotting 40 industrial plots at Ishwardi, Mongla & Uttara EPZ and Standard Factory Building at Adamjee & Comilla EPZ since there is no vacant industrial plot.

Furthermore, JETRO will disseminate information on the investment opportunities in EPZs among the existing and potential Japanese investors. At the same time they will support Japanese business delegation to visit in EPZs. JETRO will support BEPZA to find out and select good Japanese companies.

Henceforth, both the organizations will maintain direct communication / hotline to discuss issues related to Japanese investment in EPZs.

Among others Ms. Midori Matsuhashi, Minister of State for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and Mr. Hiroyuki Ishige, Chairman & CEO of JETRO were present during the MoU signing ceremony.

Meanwhile around 36 Japanese enterprises are in the EPZs of Bangladesh. Out of them 26 are in operation and 10 others are in the implementation stages with actual investment US\$ 297.408 million. 11,435 Bangladeshi nationals and 57 foreign nationals are working in these enterprises. However, 77 Japanese are also working in the various enterprises of EPZs.

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## BEPZA Positively Ensures Peaceful Working Environment for EPZ's Workers

Bangladesh EPZ Authority positively ensures peaceful working environment maintaining the human and legal rights of its workforces. Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, Executive Chairman, BEPZA confidently delivered this statement during his speech in 103rd International Labour Conference at Geneva, Switzerland. BEPZA Chief attended as member of the Bangladesh delegation to ILC between 6-12 June lead by Mr. Md. Mujibul Haque, State Minister of Labour & Employment along with Mr. Mikail Shipar, Secretary of this Ministry.

General Habib in his speech focused on the matters related to EPZ's workers, their compliance issues including rights and laws of labours. BEPZA always tries to sustain congenial working atmosphere giving the highest priority on workers' safety and rights, he added. BEPZA Chief also said in the last 5 years, wages of the EPZ workers has been increased twice; first in 2010 and finally in 2013. The minimum wages is now US\$ 70 with 10% annual increment on basic including medical, food and transport allowances.

Highlighting the workers' safeguard BEPZA Chief assured that EPZ's workers have the freedom of association. The government has enacted EWWAIR Act, 2010 to ensure the rights and welfare of EPZ's workers. A high-level core committee is working in preparing a separate and complete 'Bangladesh EPZ Labour Act, 2014' which will come into effect very soon, he added. General Habib said that BEPZA has 45 Industrial Relations officers and also appointed 60 Social and 30 Environment Counselors who inspects the labor related issues regularly. He also informed BEPZA has strong fire fighting team led by a Fire Consultant in every EPZ who arranges regular fire fighting drill to build awareness. Regarding building safety he mentioned building code is strictly monitored by the Engineering Department of BEPZA.



BEPZA Chief Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan focused on workforce safety, rights, compliance issues including peaceful working atmosphere of EPZs in 103rd ILC at Geneva



### BEPZA Chief examines working atmosphere in EPZ's Factories

BEPZA very strictly maintain peaceful working atmosphere in EPZs by monitoring the workplace conditions, workers' rights and compliance issues. Officers of BEPZA and even the BEPZA Chief frequently visit factories to observe the working environment.

As a part of this, BEPZA Chief recently visited some factories of EPZs to physically examine the working conditions of the workplace. He went on a round of different floors and talked with workers to get their feedback on the working atmosphere including other compliance related issues.



BEPZA Chief observing Forgesam (BD) Ltd. in CEPZ

### Reduce Duty on safety equipment good news for Workforces

The government is set to drastically cut duties on safety equipment imports to make them more affordable to garment makers. This will help facilitate to improve the conditions of the factories as well as workforce safety. Finance Minister AMA Muhit proposed to reduce this duty while presenting the budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year. He also proposed to allow RMG sector to import materials of prefabricated buildings without duties.

The duty on imports of the safety equipment was one of the key issues the US raised at the inaugural meeting of the Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement (TICFA) that concluded on 28 April. Presently, Bangladesh on an average imposes 154 percent duties on the imports of fire equipment such as fire doors, emergency lights and sprinklers. It will be brought down to 15 percent, which will be actually in the form of Value-Added Tax (VAT) (Source: Daily Star).

### US & EU Lauds Progress in RMG Reforms

The United States (US) and the European Union (EU) praised the government for the progress on last one year to ensure workplace safety and workers rights in the apparel sector after the Rana Plaza disaster.

A joint statement of the US Department of State, the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of Labor stated that in the last year Bangladesh Government has made progress in some important respects.

Citing specific references, the statement also stated, 'Bangladesh has allowed over 140 unions to register, permitted re-registration of a leading labor rights non-governmental organization that had been stripped of its registration, agreed to an ambitious plan for safety inspections and factory-level monitoring and remediation across the garment sector in collaboration with the ILO, begun the hiring of new labor inspectors and conducted preliminary safety inspections'.

Meanwhile, the EU Trade Commissioner in another statement praised the initiatives taken by the government to improve workplace safety in the RMG sector. The statement said that they have seen significant progress in these areas. It also added that more must be done in workers safety and rights in RMG sector including EPZ to continue preferential access to the EU market (Source: Daily Sun).

# Photo Story



Mr. Abdus Sobhan Sikder, Principal Secretary, PMO appreciated to see uninterrupted production climate of EPZ while he visited Op-Seed Co (BD) Ltd. in CEPZ along with BEPZA Chief Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, pec, on 05 April, 2014.



Executive Chairman of BEPZA delivered a flourishing success scenario of EPZs including progress of GSP action point and compliances issues while Mr. Dan W Mozena, US Ambassador-Bangladesh paid a courtesy visit at BEPZA on 3 April 2014.



Mr. Kei Kawla, JETRO Country Director and BEPZA Chief Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, had a meeting on 27 April, 2014 at BEPZA Complex regarding bi-lateral interest on investment and also to increase Japanese investment in EPZs.



Mr. Baki Srinivasa REDDY, Country Director, ILO called on Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, the Executive Chairman, BEPZA to conversed about rights, rules and regulations, labour law of EPZs' workforces at BEPZA office on 17 April, 2014.



Mr. Timothy Ryan, Regional Program Director of Asia of the Solidarity Center, Washington DC discussed about Industrial Relations in EPZs while he met with Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, Executive Chairman, BEPZA on 22 June 2014.



A delegation led by Ms. Mara Burr, Deputy Assistant, USTR for South & Central Asia, USA discussed with BEPZA Chief Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan regarding labour and compliances matters in EPZs during their visit in Chittagong EPZ on 26 April, 2014.



## Beginning with BEPZA

### Chinese Pen Industry to Invest US\$ 7.29 M

M/s. Glen Stationary (Bangladesh) Ltd. is going to establish a ballpoint pen manufacturing industry in Chittagong EPZ. This 100% Chinese owned company will invest US\$ 7.29 million for setting up their plant with annual production capacity of 150 million pcs ballpoint pen. Glen Stationary company will create employment opportunity for 518 Bangladeshi nationals.

An agreement to this effect signed between Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority and M/s. Glen Stationary (Bangladesh) Ltd. in Dhaka on 27 April, 2014.



*BEPZA & Glen stationary (BD) Ltd. exchanging documents after signing agreement, BEPZA Chief, Member(Finance), Member(Engineering), Secretary and other high officials observing the programme*

Mr. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA and Mr. Yao Chang Yin, Managing Director of Glen Stationary (Bangladesh) Ltd. signed the agreement on behalf of their own organizations. Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, Executive Chairman, Mr. Khandakar Aktaruzzaman, Member (Engineering), Mr. AKM Mahbubur Rahman Member (Finance), Mr. Md. Shawkat Nabi, Secretary, Mr. AZM Azizur Rahman, General Manager (Investment Promotion) and Mrs. Nazma Binte Alamgir, General Manager (Public Relations) of BEPZA were present at the signing ceremony.

### BD Apparel Unit to Invest US\$ 4.03 M in IEPZ

Bangladeshi Company M/s. Renaissance Barind Limited will invest US\$ 4.03 million for setting up a apparel industry in Ishwardi EPZ. This company will produce 6 million pcs all types of shirt. 1757 Bangladeshi nationals will get employment opportunity in Renaissance factory.

An agreement to this effect signed between Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority and M/s. Renaissance Barind Limited in Dhaka on 27 April, 2014. Mr. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA and Mr. ARM Shahidul Haque, Director of M/s. Renaissance Barind Ltd. signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organization. Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, Executive Chairman, Mr. Khandakar Aktaruzzaman, Member (Engineering), AKM Mahbubur Rahman Member (Finance), Mr. Md. Shawkat Nabi, Secretary, Mr. AZM Azizur Rahman, General Manager (Investment Promotion) and Mrs. Nazma Binte Alamgir, General Manager (Public Relations) of BEPZA were present at the ceremonial.

### BD RMG Plant to Invest US\$ 3.976 M in DEPZ

M/s. HASFAB Wear Ltd., a Bangladeshi company is going to set up a readymade garments industry in Dhaka EPZ. This company will invest US\$ 3.976 million for setting up their plant with annual production capacity of 3 million pcs of all types woven items (Tops, Shirts, Blouse, Jacket, Cargo pants, Shorts) and knit items (Polo & T-Shirt, Camisole, Shape wear and ladies intimate garments). 1029 Bangladeshi nationals will get employment opportunity in HASFAB Wear factory.

Mr. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA and Mr. Monirul Islam Khan, Managing Director of M/s. HASFAB Wear Ltd. signed the agreement in Dhaka on 19-06-2014. Mr. Md. Shawkat Nabi, Secretary, Mr. AZM Azizur Rahman, GM (Investment Promotion) and Mrs. Nazma Binte Alamgir, GM (Public Relations) of BEPZA were present in the programme.

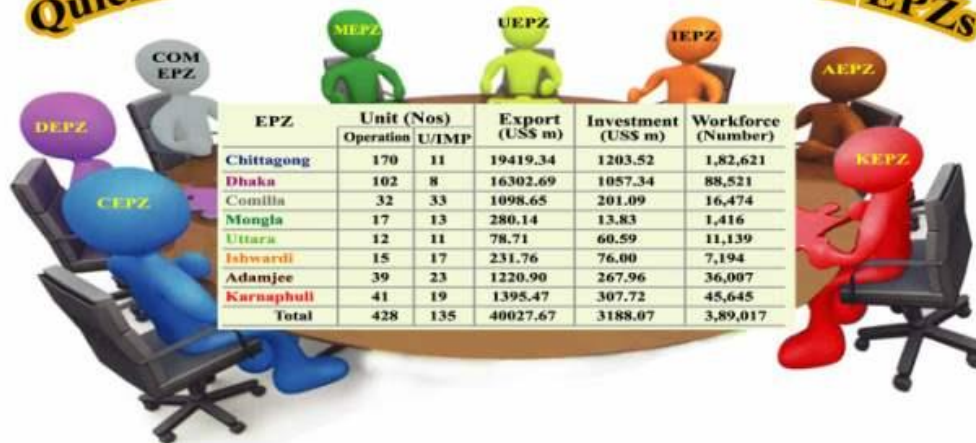
### US\$ 5.50 M Investment in BD Garments unit

M/s. L Z Fashion Wear Limited will establish a Bangladeshi readymade garments industry in Dhaka EPZ. This company will invest US\$ 5.50 million for setting up their plant with annual production capacity of 40 million pcs of fleece shirt, cargo pant, casual trouser, vest, shorts, jackets & skirt; 2.4 million dozens embroidery and 3.6 million dozens screen printing. 1316 Bangladeshi nationals will get employment opportunity in this factory.

Mr. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of Bangladesh EPZ Authority and Engr. Md. Urul Haque, Managing Director of M/s. L Z Fashion Wear Ltd. signed the agreement in Dhaka on 29 May, 2014.



## Quick Look on Cumulative Scenarios of EPZs

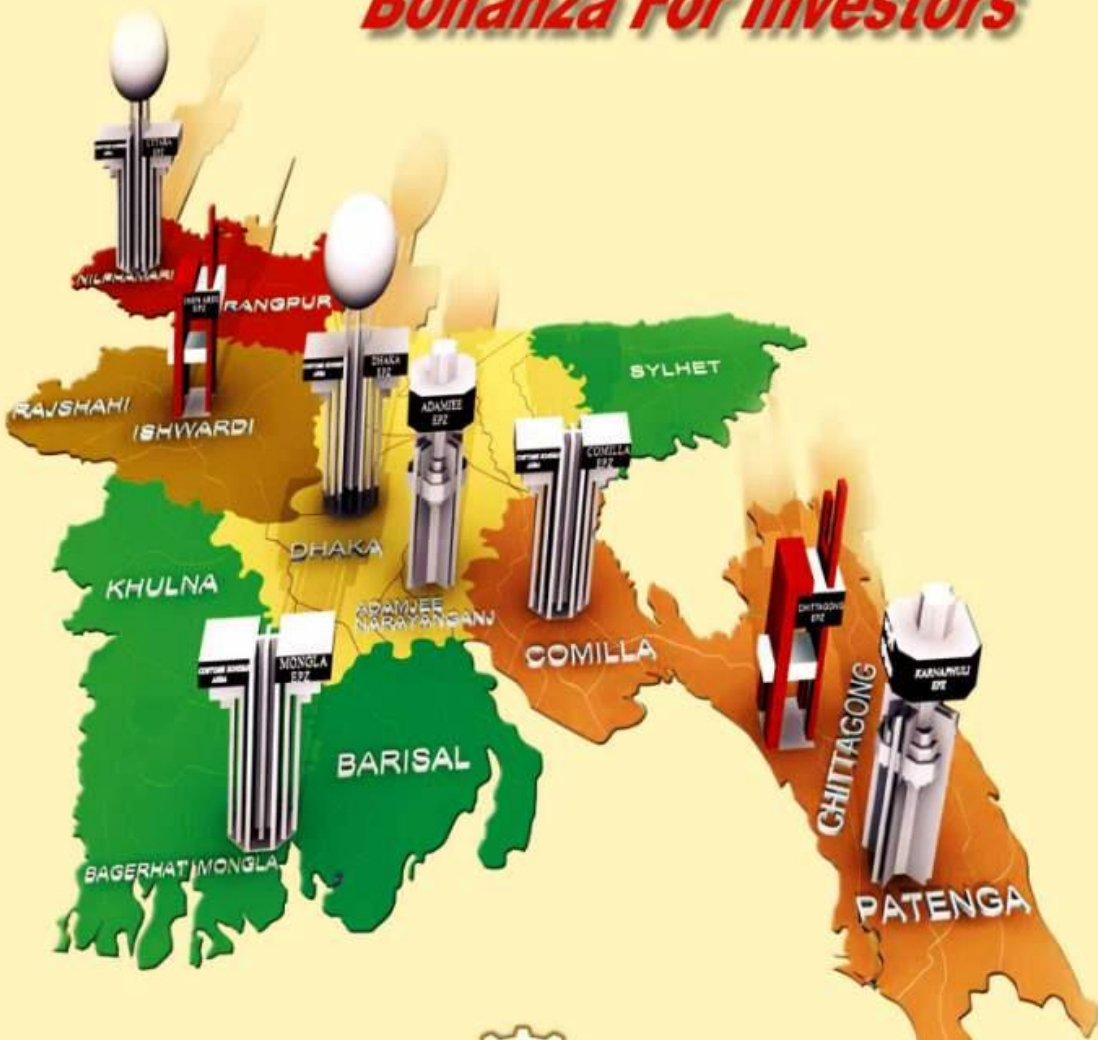


Bangladesh	127	Singapore	3
S. Korea + N.Korea	71	France	3
China+Hong Kong	52	Indonesia	2
Japan	26	Spain	2
Taiwan, China	25	Denmark	2
India	21	Belgium	1
USA	17	Ireland	1
UK	18	Ukraine	1
Malaysia	9	Panama	1
Pakistan	7	Sweden	1
Sri Lanka	6	Marshall Island	1
Germany	6	UAE	1
The Netherlands	5	Romania	1
Canada	5	Thailand	1
Italy	5	Australia	1
British Virgin Island	4	Malta	1
		Cayman Islands	1

## Products



# ***EPZs of Bangladesh Bonanza For Investors***



## **Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority**

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