

Highlights

- Apparel Summit to build brand image of BD
- A Training Course to enrich environment of EPZ
- JETRO Lauds the working atmosphere in EPZs
- Two Ministers' visit in Karnaphuli EPZ
- Chittagong EPZ Launched Cleaning campaign
- Pacific Jeans of CEPZ got HSBC Export Award
- Canada offers duty free benefits to BD
- World's Eyes on Bangladesh
- WWA of EPZs acting as Trade Union
- EU Praises efforts on factory safety
- Growth Trends & Cumulative Scenarios of EPZs



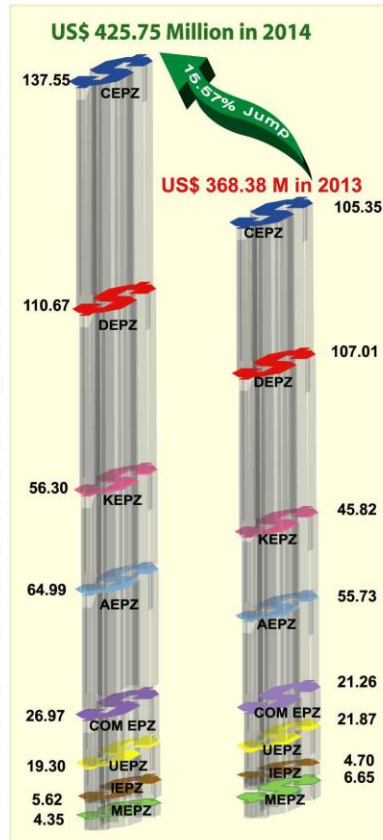
BEPZA Bulletin

A Quarterly Journal of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority October-December, 2014 Issue



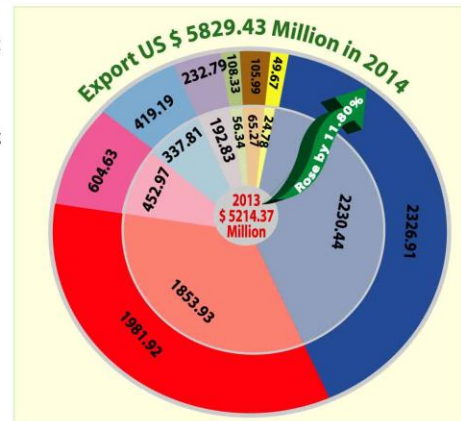
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority has gained a healthy growth in investment during 2014 calendar year. It has been mounted by 15.57% compare to the previous year 2013. BEPZA made this remarkable growth in investment during the first year of the present government after swearing in of the honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her second straight term as Premier of Bangladesh government. She is also the Chairperson of BEPZA Board of Governors.

US\$ 425.75 million actual investment has been made in 2014 by the operational and under implementation units of 8 EPZs under BEPZA. It was US\$ 368.38 million in 2013 which shows a 15.57 percent increase. From January-December 2014 Chittagong EPZ has achieved US\$ 137.55 million, Dhaka EPZ US\$ 110.67 million, Karnaphuli EPZ US\$ 56.30 million, Adamjee EPZ US\$ 64.99 million, Comilla EPZ US\$ 26.97 million, Uttara EPZ US\$ 19.30 million, Ishwardi EPZ US\$ 5.62 million and Mongla EPZ US\$ 4.35 million. The cumulative investment stands at US\$ 3401.46 million up to December 2014 whereas it was 2975.71 million till December 2013.



Apart from the investment, export earnings of EPZs enterprises have increased significantly. It has jumped by 11.80 percent in 2014 compare to the previous year. Export volume was US\$ 5829.43 million during January to December 2014. It was US\$ 5214.37 million in 2013.

In 2014 Chittagong EPZ has exported goods worth US\$ 2326.91 million, Dhaka EPZ US\$ 1981.92 million, Karnaphuli EPZ US\$ 604.63 million, Adamjee EPZ US\$ 419.19 million, Comilla EPZ US\$ 232.79 million, Mongla EPZ US\$ 108.33 million, Ishwardi EPZ US\$ 105.99 million and Uttara EPZ US\$ 49.67 million. The cumulative export stands at US\$ 42,930.36 million till December 2014 whereas it was 37100.93 million till December 2013.



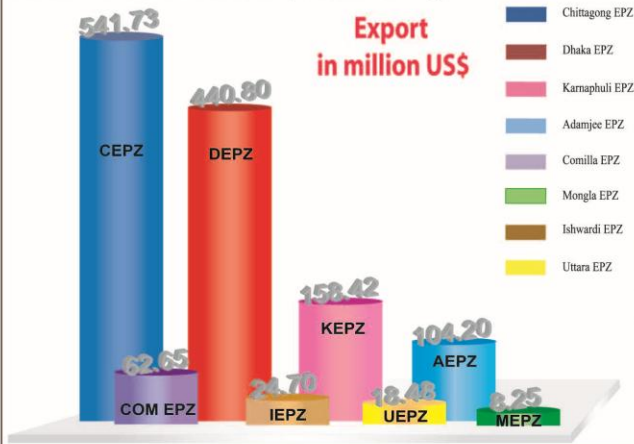
Meanwhile, contribution from the EPZs to the total national export is also boosting every year. It was US\$ 5525 million in 2013-14 fiscal year which was 18.30% of national export. This contribution is growing every year.

Enterprises of EPZs under BEPZA have created new employment opportunity for 23,904 Bangladeshi nationals in 2014. The cumulative employment stands at 4,05,166 persons till December 2014. It was 3,81,262 up to December 2013. Furthermore among 437 no. of operating industries in 8 EPZs 12 new units became operational during 2014 calendar year.

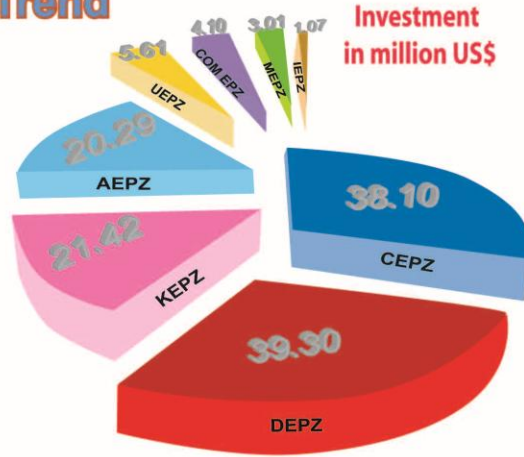


Export Earnings US\$ 1359.20 m

The enterprises of EPZs have exported goods worth US\$ 1359.20 million during last 3 months of 2014. Export earnings from Chittagong EPZ stands at US\$ 541.73 million while that of Dhaka EPZ US\$ 440.80 million, Karnaphuli EPZ US\$ 158.42 million, Adamjee EPZ US\$ 104.20 million, Comilla EPZ US\$ 62.65 million, Mongla EPZ US\$ 8.25 million, Ishwardi EPZ US\$ 24.70 million and Uttara EPZ US\$ 18.48 million, .



Growth Trend



Investment Gained US\$ 132.88 m

US\$ 132.88 million have been invested in the 8 EPZs of the country during October-December, 2014. Of these total amount Chittagong EPZ gained US\$ 38.10 million followed by Dhaka EPZ US\$ 39.30 million, Karnaphuli EPZ US\$ 21.42 million, Adamjee EPZ US\$ 20.29 million, Comilla EPZ US\$ 4.10 million, Mongla EPZ US\$ 3.01 million, Ishwardi EPZ US\$ 1.07 million and Uttara EPZ US\$ 5.61 million.

Publisher's Pen

We are blissful to publish all our achievement to inform to the people, stakeholders as well as the existing & prospective investors of BEPZA by this bulletin. BEPZA is marching ahead by contributing positively to the economy & socio economic development of the country.

In the lead news we emphasize our growth of investment and export in 2014. The current issue tinted national page with Apparel Summit and Environment Training of BEPZA. This journal is also carrying the regular pages with different matters.

Due to the investment friendly policy of present government, various countries have shown their interest to invest in Bangladesh. Honorable Prime Minister has sought investment to world's giant leader during the ASEM summit. Malaysia and Bhutanese Prime Ministers are also keen to invest in Bangladesh. Now world's focus is on Bangladesh for their next investment destination. In this perspective we have ornamented the exclusive page on this matter.

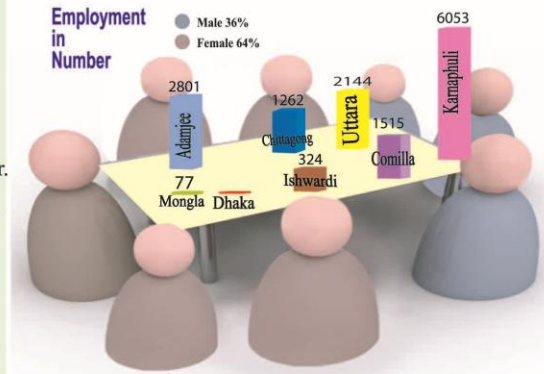
This bulletin also highlights EU comments on workplace safety, Commerce Minister's statement on TU in EPZ, Pacific Group of CEPZ Awarded by HSBC, Cleaning Campaign in CEPZ, IM, Japan lauds DEPZ & two Minister's satisfaction on KEPZ.

We are getting nice cooperation from the zone as well as from other department of the Executive Office for publishing this bulletin. We are thankful to them for providing relevant updated information. This bulletin is published timely under supervision and combined efforts of Public Relations Department.

PRD

14176 New Employment

Operating enterprises of EPZs created new job for 14176 Bangladeshi nationals during last 3 months of 2014. Among them, 1262 in Chittagong EPZ, 77 in Mongla EPZ, 1515 in Comilla EPZ, 2144 in Uttara EPZ, 324 in Ishwardi EPZ, 2801 in Adamjee EPZ and 6053 in Karnaphuli EPZ. However there is no addition in Dhaka EPZ.





Apparel Summit to Build Brand Image for Bangladesh



‘Bangladesh is now a good place to invest. The government has taken several initiatives including increasing power production, establishing exclusive economic zone and exclusive garments village in Munshiganj to attract foreign investors. The investors take the advantage to invest in Bangladesh’. The Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon all the stake holders of RMG sector during inauguration of the first ever 3-days apparel summit in Dhaka on 7 December 2014. She also added that ‘We hope the world’s top apparel buyers will be with us, because to them, the garments produced in Bangladesh were the best and cheaper’. Dhaka Apparel Summit-2014 was completed with the aim of drawing a roadmap on reaching US\$ 50 billion RMG export landmark by 2021, on the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh by addressing the challenging factors to reach the milestone.

This summit highlights the recent progress in fire and electrical safety and sound working environment at factory units, which helping the global partners to come out from their wholesale perception that all garment factories of Bangladesh depict the real picture of Rana Plaza. It also focused the initiatives taken to ensure a sustainable development for RMG sector. Now, Bangladesh is known across the globe as the maker of best and quality products. The organizers said, ‘It is the high time to send message to the global partners about recent progress relating to the workers’ safety to belie the wholesale negative perception about the RMG sector’. The summit successfully discussed the present business and investment trend, global sourcing dynamics and potentials for Bangladesh, priority issues to support the growth potentials, compliance issues, prudent commercial diplomacy and political stability, supportive policies and coordination between different government agencies, product and market diversification, resource efficiency and its social, financial and economic benefits, environmental health and safety, global agenda on environment. (Source: Daily Observer)



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates Dhaka Apparel Summit-2014 on 7 December



BEPZA Chief inaugurates environmental training program as a Chief Guest

Training Program to enrich Environment of EPZs

BEPZA has inaugurated three weeks training program to enrich environment of EPZs in collaboration with the Military Institute of Science & Technology (MIST) on 28 December 2014 at MIST, Mirpur. This training program was organized under the Capacity Building project of BEPZA supported by World Bank.

‘This training program will be educative and valuable to meet up environmental management skills and performance of industrial operations in different EPZs’, Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, Executive Chairman of BEPZA disclosed this during the inaugural ceremonial as a Chief Guest of this training program.

He also added that 38 Officers including Environment Counsellors of BEPZA will undergo this intensive training program on various issues of environmental management. Such awareness and capacity building training will definitely facilitate institutionalization of environmental compliances across the EPZs. This fruitful training program will absolutely enhance the knowledge of our BEPZA officials, which has a great impact for progressing environmental sector in EPZs of Bangladesh.

General Habib said, BEPZA recognizes the need to monitor and enforce environmental compliance at different types of industries in 8 EPZs of the country. This program was conducted to train the officers of BEPZA to improve their environmental management skill and performance of industrial operations in EPZs. He also mentioned that the primary objective of an EPZ is to provide special industrial enclave where potential investors would find a congenial investment climate, free from all sort of cumbersome procedures and vision of BEPZA is to build a stronger and economically prosperous Bangladesh.

Maj Gen Md. Siddiqur Rahman Sarker, hdmc, psc Commandant of MIST congratulates BEPZA to include environmental training under their capacity-building project. He expressed happiness for the contribution of MIST in development of EPZs through this training program. Mohd. Abdur Rahman, Member (Engineering), A.K.M. Mahbubur Rahman, Member (Finance), Mrs. Nazma Binte Alamgir, General Manager (Public Relations), Mr. Md. Jillur Rahman, DGM (Maintenance) from BEPZA and Ms. Sharlin Hossain & Mr. CK Veeresh, Consultant SASFP of World Bank were also present at the inaugural ceremony.



JETRO Lauds the working atmosphere in EPZ

Japanese Business Delegation praised the investment friendly working atmosphere and the operational activities prevailing in the EPZs. A-50 member Japanese business delegation headed by Mr. Soi Hi Yoshimura, Executive Vice President, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) expressed their appreciation during visit in Adamjee EPZ on 17 November 2014. Mr. Kei Kawano, Country Representative, JETRO Bangladesh was accompanied the delegation. Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, Executive Chairman of BEPZA mentioned Bangladesh EPZs as the 'Bonanza for Investors' and urged to Japanese business group to invest more in EPZs for producing diversified items.



The Executive Chairman of BEPZA urged to Japanese Businessmen to invest more in EPZs

BEPZA Chief informed the delegation about the overall scenario of EPZ. The Executive Chairman said that BEPZA strictly maintain the various compliance issues, building code, fire-fighting safety etc. The delegation also went round a Japanese garments industry Maruhisha Pacific Ltd. during their visit in Adamjee EPZ. They observed the production system of the factory and appreciated the uninterrupted investment friendly working atmosphere prevailing in the zone.

IM Japan Satisfied on DEPZ

International Manpower Development Organization (IM Japan) expressed deep satisfaction on the peaceful production oriented working environment of Dhaka EPZ. This was disclosed by a 3-member delegation led by Mr. Kazuo Tsubota, Managing Director of IM Japan during visit on 10 December 2014. GM, Dhaka EPZ briefed them about the role and contribution of BEPZA. He also urged the delegation to take initiative a project in BEPZA for skill and manpower development of workforce of the country. Later the delegation visited a Japanese company YKK Bangladesh Pte. Limited.

Two Ministers' Visit in Karnaphuli EPZ

Minister of Housing

Housing & Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain praised the congenial investment climates prevailing in KEPZ during his visit on 18 October 2014. General Manager of KEPZ welcomed the Minister. Mr. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA highlighted business opportunities of BEPZA. He inaugurated South Korea-Hong Kong venture Gesinha Outdoor Ltd. & South Korean company Campha Outdoor Ltd. Both are producing tent & camping goods.

State Minister of Labour

Mr. Mujibul Haque Chunnu, State Minister for the Labour and Employment Ministry expressed his happiness over the working environment of EPZ during his visit in KEPZ on 25 November 2014. GM, KEPZ informed him that BEPZA is strictly monitoring worker's wages, rights and compliances matter. The State Minister said, 'I am very glad that EPZs maintain peaceful investment climates which lies on uninterrupted production oriented working atmosphere'.

New Member Engineering in BEPZA



Mr. Abdur Rahman, Joint Secretary, Government of Bangladesh joined Bangladesh EPZ Authority (BEPZA) as member (Engineering) on 30th October, 2014. Mr. Abdur Rahman was Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Youth and Sports prior to joining BEPZA.



Chittagong EPZ Launches Cleaning Campaign

'To keep your environment clean, maintain a healthy and effective working atmosphere' in this perspective, Chittagong EPZ launched a cleaning campaign on 20 December 2014. Chittagong Metropolitan Police, Industrial Police, CEPZ fire station, Ansar and the local residents were jointly participated in the operation.

This initiative has started through distribution of free garbage bin and cleanliness utensils. It will inspire the investors of EPZ's as well as local people's to keep clean his area. Mr. Abdul Jalil Mondol, CMP Commissioner & Mr. Ahsan Kabir, General Manager, CEPZ inaugurated the cleaning operation at the Bay Shopping Complex at CEPZ. Mrs. Najma Binte Alamgir, General Manager (Public Relations), BEPZA attended as special guest and investors of the CEPZ were also present in the program.



Pacific Jeans Group of CEPZ Get HSBC Export Excellence Awards



Finance Minister AMU Muhith, RB Governor Mr. Atiqul Kabir, HSBC Bangladesh CEO and all Winners pose in exporters awarded by HSBC

Pacific Jeans Group, one of the leading garments manufacturers of Chittagong EPZ, has been honoured HSBC Export Excellence Award, 2014 in EPZ enterprises category. Mr. Syed M. Tanvir, Director, Pacific Jeans received the award from Finance Minister Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith at the '5th HSBC Export Excellence Awards' ceremonial on 31 October in Dhaka.

HSBC started the awards in 2009 divided RMG and textiles exporters into two categories as these sectors account for a majority of the country's exports. This year Epyllion Group, DBL Group, Picard Bangladesh Ltd, AgroKagri Commodities

have also awarded by HSBC along with Pacific Jeans for the leadership in promoting the country and contributing to its sustainable national growth. This is the third "HSBC Export Excellence Award" for this group. (Source: The Daily Star)

Canada offers duty-free benefits

Canada has offered Bangladesh a wider package support for maximizing trade opportunities out of the already-granted free market access to the North American country. The Trade Facilitation Office (TFO) of Canada informed the Bangladesh High Commission in Ottawa that the market-access facility to Bangladesh has been further extended by including more features in the trade-support program to help augment the volume of its export to Canada.

Bangladeshi High Commissioner Mr. Kamrul Ahsan said, "Bangladesh has been confirmed as a priority country for a 5-year trade-facilitation program". Under the trade-facilitation program Bangladesh will receive web-based Canadian market-access services, matchmaking with Canadian importer and promotion activities for trade representatives based in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Besides, Bangladesh will also receive market-entry studies for priority country exporters, a responsive trade-development facility to provide technical assistance related to Canadian market access and training program for new trade representatives based in Canada.

The Envoy also informed that the government of Canada has already confirmed Bangladesh's continuation of enjoying General Preferential Tariff (GPT) for the period from January 2014 to December 2023. Bangladesh mainly exports knitwear, woven, textile articles, head-gear, fish and seafood and footwear to Canada. Garments and textile products accounted for over 90% of Canada's merchandise imports from Bangladesh. (Source: The Financial Express)

BD is a major player in denim- Dutch Envoy

'Bangladesh is a major player in denim worldwide. The country might be a one-stop source for denim products for international vendors and retailers'. This optimism was expressed by Mr. Gerben de Jong, Ambassador of the Netherlands during the inauguration of the Denim Expo held on 11 November 2014 in Dhaka. Such an expo is a message to world that Bangladesh is a place for garment business.

The exposition was organized by Denim Expert Ltd. of Karnaphuli EPZ to showcase denim products to the global business community. 50 companies, 18 from Bangladesh and the rest from 14 other countries, were participated in this fair. The Dutch Ambassador also said, Bangladesh made promises to improve workplace safety, labour rights and present responsible business behaviour. Much progress has been made in fire and building safety in the country in the last one year, he added.

25 factories of Bangladesh produce about 20 million yards of denim fabric a month with Tk 6,500 crore investments. Companies from Germany, USA, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey, Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Brazil & Thailand were participated in the expo. Bangladeshi company supply denim to major retailers & brands including H&M, Uniqlo, Levis, Nike, Tesco, Wrangler, S. Oliver, Hugo Boss, Puma, Primark, JC Penney, C&A, Tommy Hilfiger, Walmart, M&S, Calvin Klein, Diesel, Gap & G-Star. (Source: The Daily Star)

Sri Lanka keen to invest in Bangladesh

A 12-member businessmen delegation lead by the acting High Commissioner of Sri Lanka A G Abeysekera showed keenness to invest in Bangladesh. They expressed the interest in two separate Business Match-Making sessions held with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) on 28 October 2014. Sri Lankan High Commissioner met with the leaders of FBCCI and DCCI to share business ideas of their respective sectors.

A G Abeysekera said: 'A good number of entrepreneurs eager to invest in Bangladesh especially in RMG accessories, education, IT, electric cables and food processing.' FBCCI President Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has undertaken several fast track projects to attract FDI and Bangladesh with its eight Export Processing Zones (EPZs) is trying hard to establish five Special Economic Zones to promote foreign investment. (Source: Dhaka Tribune)

World's Eyes on Bangladesh

4 Country show interest to invest in BD at ASEM Summit

Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina projected her country as an ideal spot for international investment and called upon European countries including Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and Greece to invest in Bangladesh. The call was made when prime ministers of the four European countries exchanged views with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina separately on the sidelines of the 10th ASEM Summit on 17 October 2014 at Milan.

Italy will invest in various sectors
Praising Bangladesh's readymade garment sector, the Italian Prime Minister Mr. Matteo Renzi said, the country could become a 'global hub' and assured continued support for this sector's development. Renzi has assured Sheikh Hasina of encouraging his country's entrepreneurs to invest in various sectors of Bangladesh as the country has been maintaining an open investment policy.

PM sought Swedish investment in Shipbuilding
Sheikh Hasina met Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lovven at the Bangladesh Meeting Room of Milan Congress. She sought more Swedish investment in Bangladesh particularly in Shipbuilding. She also discussed on blue economy in Bangladesh.

Netherlands assured to participate in development projects
Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mr. Mark Rutte has assured Sheikh Hasina of participating in more development projects of Bangladesh.

Highly appreciating Bangladesh's tremendous success in socioeconomic development, the Dutch Prime Minister expressed optimism that Bangladesh is going to be one of the next 11 members in terms of achieving economic prosperity.

Greece requested to avail investment facilities of BD
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged Greece to invest in Bangladesh by availing its congenial investment facilities. She also requested her Greek counterpart for taking more steps to ensure welfare of Bangladeshi expatriates who are in Greece. At the end Greek PM praised that Bangladesh is marching ahead under the dynamic leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

(Source: Daily Observer)



Bangladesh : Capitalist Haven

Bangladesh is a haven for capitalists as it is the most free-market and trade-friendly country in South Asia, according to the two survey reports released by Pew Research Center of USA. A report released on September 2014 focused on beliefs about trade and another released on October looked at inequality as well as beliefs about capitalism and the market.

The first survey dealt on findings from a global public opinion conducted in 44 countries, among which Bangladesh emerged as the world's second most supportive of a free market economy. Public opinion in Bangladesh greatly favours open trade, believes trade, creates jobs and leads to better wages and sees foreign investment as a net positive.

Alyssa Ayres, a senior fellow for India, Pakistan and South Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) said, "We hear much more about India's post-reforms tiger economy, but Bangladeshis are eight percentage points more supportive of the free market than India (72 per cent) and eighteen percentage points more supportive than Pakistan (62 per cent)."

Vietnam was the only country with higher levels of support with 95 per cent of respondents supportive. The next three countries most supportive of the free market were South Korea, China and Ghana.

In addition, in comparison to the two other South Asian countries included in the survey India and Pakistan, Bangladesh once again exhibited higher levels of approval for trade and foreign investment.

'The Bangladeshi economy has benefited greatly over the last two decades from an export-oriented push at the entry level of the manufacturing space-garments. Bangladesh is now the world's number two garment exporter, just after China. Despite known problems with workplace safety and labor rights in this sector, its more than 5,000 factories employ some four million Bangladeshis, mainly women, and the sector has significantly boosted Bangladesh's economy', the report said. (Source: Dhaka Tribune)

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina invites Malaysian investors

"We are revisiting our entire investment facilitation regime to simplify processes. We are looking at our legal frameworks in attracting further foreign investments." The Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said this in a Dialogue on investment and trade opportunity in Bangladesh. She has signed four deals with the Malaysian government on different issues during her three-day visit to Malaysia on 03 December 2014. In an effort to pursue foreign investment from Malaysia Prime Minister told Malaysian entrepreneurs that her government in Bangladesh is reviewing the country's investment facilitation system for reduce to bare bones for foreign investment.

Sheikh Hasina expressed hopes that Malaysian investors would reconsider Bangladesh a competitive destination in the Asia-Pacific region, given her government was creating as many as 18 Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

She added that in the process of deepening connectivity across Bangladesh, changed production patterns, industrial concentrations and value chains have great prospects to benefit Bangladesh.

She uttered, "In spite of our limitations and a low level of economic development, Bangladesh offers advantages and incentives that should merit entrepreneurs due consideration". (Source: UNB)

Bangladesh-Bhutan ink deal on 90 items duty-free export

Bhutanese Prime Minister Mr. Tshering Tobgay paid a three day official visit to Bangladesh in response to invitation by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 06 December 2014. A team of top Bhutan businesspersons were accompanying him during this visit.

Bangladesh and Bhutan inked a deal on trade that would allow the two countries duty free access to 90 of each other's products. Commerce Minister Mr. Tofail Ahmed and Bhutan's Economic Affairs Minister Mr. Norbu Wangchuk signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay witnessed the agreement signing ceremonial at the Prime Minister's Office on 07 December.

The signing ceremony over, Tofail Ahmed said the two countries would now enjoy duty-free export of 90 items between the countries by this agreement. Furthermore he said Bangladesh and Bhutan would also sign a preferential trade agreement so that both countries could export items from their countries without any hindrance.

(Source: Inbnews24)



12 member Bangladesh delegation led by the Commerce Minister including BEPZA Chief attended the Sustainability Compact meeting in Brussels

WWA of EPZs acting as TU : Commerce Minister

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said currently trade unionism is allowed in the form of Workers Welfare Association and they are working as Collective Bargaining Agents (CBA) in the EPZs. He added that the EPZs workers had been enjoying their lawful rights through the WWAs. Commerce Minister stated it would not be possible to allow traditional trade unions in the EPZs' factories as the investors were assured of not allowing any TU there. He also told the reporters at a press conference regarding the outcome of the Sustainability Compact follow up meeting which held on October 20, 2014 in Brussels.

Tofail said, there was no provision of trade union activities when the EPZs were established in the country. He explained that if traditional TU is allowed inside the EPZs, the investors would leave from the zones leading to jobless of millions of workers. 'If it happens, millions of workers will be jobless,' he added.

Meanwhile, till December 31, 2014 total 396 enterprises are eligible to form WWA out of 437 operating enterprises. Among them, 293 has completed referendum where 218 voted 'yes' to form WWA and 75 voted 'no'. 217 have elected their representatives who are actively performing as CBA of the respective factories (Source: UNB).

EU Praises Efforts on Factory Safety



The European Commission lauded Bangladesh's progress in efforts to ensure workplace safety in the garment sector. The commission urged the government to effectively implement the labour law, which was amended in parliament on July 2013 allowing full freedom of association of the workers at the factory level.

The statement was issued in a meeting held in Brussels on October 20, 2014 to review the progress made under the Sustainability Compact. Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman, Executive Chairman, BEPZA attended this follow up meeting as a part of 12 member Bangladesh delegation which was led by the Commerce Minister Mr. Tofail Ahmed.

Laszlo Andor, European commissioner for employment, social affairs and inclusion, said there has been much progress since the Rana Plaza building collapse in 2013. Andor said the labour law has been amended to strengthen freedom of association, collective bargaining and occupational health and safety. New trade unions have been created and more labour, fire and building safety inspections have been carried out, he added.

The commission said issues requiring particular attention include better guarantees for freedom of association, protection of workers and trade unions from intimidation or discrimination, and ensuring that all workers have the same rights, including those working in Export Processing Zones. Commerce Minister Mr. Tofail Ahmed highlighted the county's progress in workplace safety at the meeting. He disagreed to add the issue like EPZ Act and EPZ Trade Unionism in the compact.

Mentionable, the Sustainability Compact is an agreement, which was signed by the European Union, Bangladesh, the US and the International Labor Organization (ILO) aiming to ensure the worker's rights and safe working environment in the RMG factories. It was adopted in Geneva on July 8, 2013, following the Rana Plaza Collapse. After the follow up meeting held on October 2014, a future review will come in 2015 (Source: The Daily Star & website).



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



IHPL donating symbolic ambulance key to Member (IP), BEPZA

Industrial Hand Protection Donates Ambulance to CEPZ Hospital

Industrial Hand Protection Ltd., a Canadian garments industry of Chittagong EPZ has donated an ambulance to CEPZ Hospital as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Mr. Hussain Kassam Managing Director of Industrial Hand Protection handed over the symbolic key of ambulance to Mr. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA and Mr. Ahsan Kabir, GM, CEPZ on 27th November, 2014. After that, they tour around the hospital, observed the conditions and discussed how to improve hospital facilities.

ECM's Viewfinder



The Executive Chairman of BEPZA Major General Mohd Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, made a number of calls on in his office and sightsee the EPZs. He had drawn up several meetings regarding investment, working environment, compliances issues and so on. General Habib exchanged views about skill and manpower development of the EPZs workforce in a meeting with Mr.Kazuo Tsubota, Managing Director, International Manpower Development Organization (IM Japan).

Ms. Karen Curtis, Chief, Freedom of Association Branch, ILO met with BEPZA Chief to share compliances issues in EPZs. She also discussed regarding workplace safety and further development of the workers. Executive Chairman ensured her that core strength of BEPZA is 'Workers-Management-Owners' harmonious cohesive relationship.

Three member delegation of Thai Film Industries Public Co. Ltd. visited EPZ and also called on the Executive Chairman of BEPZA. In the discussion meeting they have shown keen interest to invest in EPZs. Thai head of delegation Mr. Amnard Kittikrairit notified to BEPZA Chief that the main purpose of their visit was to know the overall activities particularly potential business opportunity in EPZs of Bangladesh.

The Executive Chairman tour around in EPZs to see the overall enduring projects, eco-friendly services and climates prevail in EPZs. He took interest particularly on working atmosphere, green zone transformation process in EPZ. He physically examined Mill-2 and Asrayan project in Adamjee EPZ. During his visits General Habib also participated in tree plantation program. He also went around construction site, Sub-station & Mosque at AEPZ. Furthermore BEPZA Chief observed the environment pollution protection steps maintaining through Central Effluent Treatment plant (CETP) at COM EPZ and also visited Ishwardi EPZ to see the working climate and development work.



Beginning with BEPZA



Mr. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA and Mr. Lu Zhenyu, Managing Director of Hua Xin Industrial Co. Ltd. shaking hand after signing the agreement. Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, Executive Chairman, Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman, Member (Engineering), AKM Mahbubur Rahman Member (Finance), Mr. AZM Azizur Rahman, GM (Investment Promotion) and Mrs. Nazma Binte Alamgir, General Manager (Public Relations) of BEPZA are seen in the signing ceremonial picture.

UK & China to Invest US\$ 10 m in Dhaka EPZ

British & Chinese company M/s. Fuli Industrial Ltd. is going to set up a lingerie manufacturing industry in Dhaka EPZ. This company will invest US\$ 10 million for setting up their plant with annual production capacity of 3.16 million of different type of lingerie. Fuli Industrial Ltd. will create employment opportunity for 2980 Bangladeshi nationals. An agreement to this effect signed between Mr. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA and Mr. Ngan Hung Tak, Chairman of Fuli Industrial Ltd. on 24 December, 2014.

BD RMG Unit to Invest US\$ 8.54 m in Com EPZ

Bangladeshi company M/s. Baridhi Garments Ltd. will invest US\$ 8.54 million to establish a readymade garments industry in Comilla EPZ. This venture will produce annually 4.3 million pcs of various RMG products like Jacket, Bottom and shorts. 3000 Bangladeshi nationals will get employment opportunity in this factory. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (IP) of BEPZA and Miran Ali, Director of Baridhi Garments Ltd. signed the agreement on 13 October, 2014.

Indian RMG Plant to Invest US\$ 14.66 m in DEPZ

Indian company M/s. Croydon-Kowloon Designs Ltd. will invest US\$ 14.66 million to establish a readymade garments industry in Dhaka EPZ. This company will produce annually 5.4 million pcs of all kinds of pants. Croydon-Kowloon company will create employment opportunity for 2,265 Bangladeshi nationals. On 24 December, 2014 Mr. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA and Mr. Prakash Nagraj, Managing Director of Croydon-Kowloon Designs Ltd. signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

China to Invest US\$ 36 m in Mongla EPZ

Chinese company M/s. Hua Xin Industrial Co. Ltd. will invest US\$ 36 million to establish a Jute & Cotton Textile and Jute based Furniture manufacturing industry in Mongla EPZ. In this regard on 13 November, 2014 Mr. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA and Mr. Lu Zhenyu, Managing Director of Hua Xin Industrial Co. Ltd. inked the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Hua Xin Industry will produce annually 15,000 tons of Jute Yarn, 6 million sq. meters of Jute & Cotton Cloth and 10,750 sets of Jute based furniture. This fully foreign owned company will create employment opportunity for 1755 Bangladeshi nationals.

Aamra Group to Invest US\$ 2.05 m in Com EPZ

Bangladeshi company M/s. Aamra Support Services Limited will invest US\$ 2.05 million to establish a garments accessories & embroidery industry in Comilla EPZ. This factory will produce annually more than 57 crore pcs of various garments accessories like hang tag, poly, cartoon & embroidery. Aamra Support Services will create employment opportunity for 187 Bangladeshi nationals. An agreement has signed between Mr. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA and Mr. Syed Farhad Ahmed, Managing Director of M/s. Aamra Support Services Limited at BEPZA Complex, Dhaka on 31 December, 2014.

Chinese Zipper Industry to Invest US\$ 8 m in MEPZ

Chinese company M/s. HM Zipper (BD) Co. Ltd is going to set up a zipper manufacturing industry in Mongla EPZ. This company will invest US\$ 8 million for setting up their plant with annual production capacity of 3480 tons of zipper, 2850 tons of polyester sewing thread and 1900 tons of embroidery thread. The accessories will be used specially for luggage and bags. 720 Bangladeshi nationals will get job opportunity in HM Zipper (BD) Co. Ltd. An agreement to this effect signed between Mr. Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (IP) of BEPZA and Ms. Zha Kaili, MD of HM Zipper (BD) Co. Ltd. on 08 December, 2014.

Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, Executive Chairman, Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman, Member (Engineering), AKM Mahbubur Rahman Member (Finance), Mr. Md. Shawkat Nabi, Secretary, Mr. AZM Azizur Rahman, General Manager (IP) and Mrs. Nazma Binte Alamgir, General Manager (PR) of BEPZA were present at the signing ceremony.



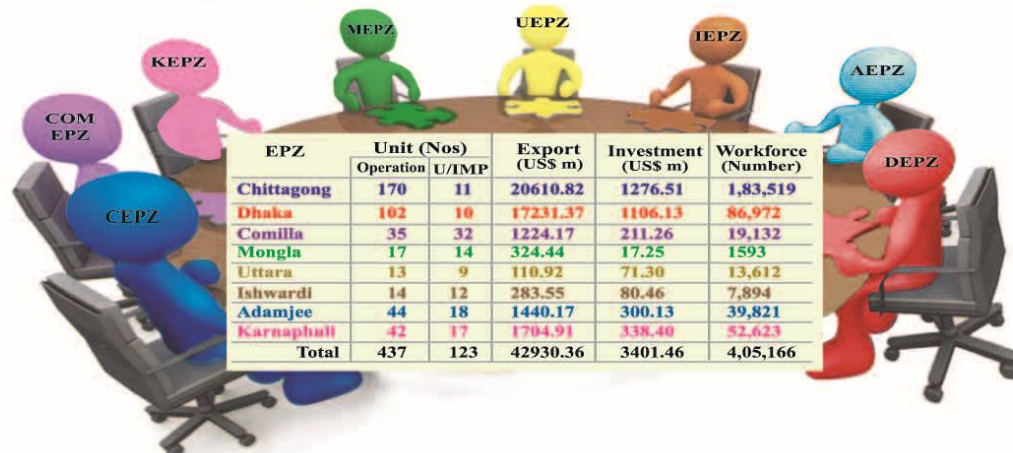
Cumulative Scenarios of EPZs



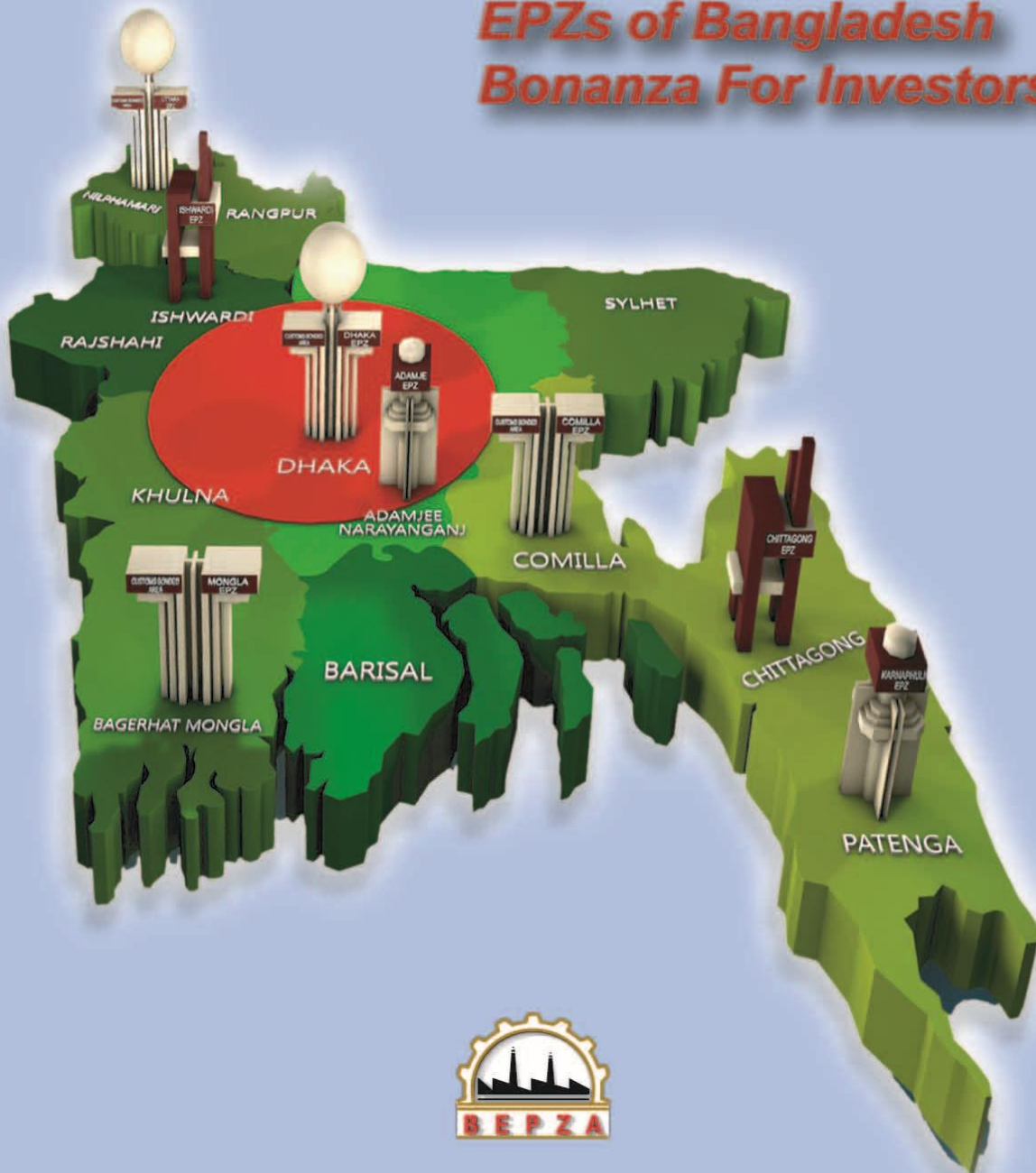
Bangladesh	127	Indonesia	2
S. Korea	73	Spain	2
China	31	Denmark	2
Hong Kong, China	24	Belgium	1
Taiwan, China	25	Ireland	1
Japan	23	Ukraine	1
India	21	Panama	1
USA	17	Sweden	1
UK	13	Marshal Island	1
Malaysia	9	UAE	1
Pakistan	7	Romania	1
Sri Lanka	7	Australia	1
Germany	6	Malta	1
The Netherlands	5	Cayman Islands	1
Canada	5	Kuwait	1
Italy	5	Turkey	1
British Virgin Island	4	Mauritius	UIMP
Singapore	3	Oman	SNC
France	3	Portugal	JV



Garments	105
RMG Accessories	85
Knit & Other Textile	37
Textile	40
Footwear & Leather	29
Terry Towel	18
Electronics & Electrical	16
Plastic Goods	15
Metal Products	13
Agro Products	9
Jewellery	1
Tent	10
Service Industries	7
Cap	5
Chemical	5
Furniture	3
Ropes	2
Power Industry	2
Paper Products	3
Fishing Real & Golf Items	1
Sports Goods	1
Toys	1
Miscellaneous	29



EPZs of Bangladesh Bonanza For Investors



Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority

BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road# 6, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Phone : 880-2-9670530, 9675489, 9675410, 9672969, 9613461, 9614332, PABX: 9613467, 9613459
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

Published by Public Relations Department