



BEPZA Bulletin

A Quarterly Journal of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, October - December 2023, Issue - 68



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BEPZA's new endeavor

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for EPZ Workers

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commercial operation

Message

The 2nd half of the year 2023 was very significant for Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA). This year we received project approvals for the establishment of two new Export Processing Zones (EPZs) namely, Patuakhali EPZ and Jashore EPZ. In the 3rd Quarter of 2023, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) chaired by the Honourable Prime Minister approved the project for the establishment of Patuakhali EPZ as the 9th EPZ of BEPZA. Just after two months, the ECNEC has approved the Jashore EPZ project as the 10th EPZ under BEPZA. We express our sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude to the Honourable Prime Minister for approving the two projects.

The Jashore EPZ project is undertaken at such a time when the Padma Bridge has opened a new horizon for investment in the south and southwestern regions of the country. Strategic location of this EPZ, with connectivity and proximity to Jashore Airport, Mongla Seaport and Benapole Land Port, will make

the project an attractive preference for investment.

We firmly believe that, besides attracting more FDI into Bangladesh, the establishment of these two new EPZs will definitely generate new employment, and boost the country's export earnings. As a consequence, these two EPZs, once operational, will substantially augment the socio-economic advancement of the south and southwestern regions of Bangladesh. Let me assure that, despite the current global economic turmoil and other associated challenges, BEPZA will be able to develop these two EPZs as smart zones with modern infrastructure & facilities within the scheduled time.

In December 2023, BEPZA announced the new Minimum Wage Structure for the EPZ workers. The 'EPZ Minimum Wage Board 2023', formed under Section 65 of Bangladesh EPZ Labour Act 2019, fixed the wage structure based on the consensus of all stakeholders i.e. the workers, the owners and the managements. I thank the members of the EPZ Minimum Wage Board for effectively engaging with the



**Major General
Abul Kalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman
BSP, ndc, psc
Executive Chairman**

stakeholders and providing their opinions & suggestions for finalizing the wage structure. I believe that the new wage structure will sustain the prevailing Workers-Owners-Management harmony in the EPZs.

As we step into the New Year, I like to re-emphasize the commitment of BEPZA in making its EPZs more investment friendly through use of digital technology, introduction of automation—systems in its procedures and team efforts by all stakeholders.

I welcome new investors to choose EPZs and BEPZA Economic Zone (EZ) as their investment destination.



Get ready for a fresh look! This 68th issue of the BEPZA Bulletin unveils a brand-new design, and we're excited to present it to our valued readers. We hope you enjoy the revamped visual experience!

Gearing up for a nationwide economic boost, BEPZA sets its sights on new Jashore and Patuakhali EPZs. These zones will serve as catalysts for regional revitalization in the south and southwest, ensuring balanced growth across Bangladesh. Meanwhile, the BEPZA Economic Zone stands on the cusp of commencing commercial operations, poised to unlock a wealth of potential. Uncover the details of these transformative initiatives in the

October-December 2023 issue.

BEPZA declared a new wage structure for the half-a-million workforce of the EPZs. The minimum monthly wage soars by 56%, marking a significant step towards worker well-being. Dive deeper into this momentous decision and other key highlights in this issue of the BEPZA Bulletin.

This issue also highlights various activities such as overseas drives, dignitaries' visits to the EPZs, investment seminars, WWA elections, visits of the Executive Chairman, and many more.

I appreciate and thank the Executive Directors of the Zones and the Executive Office for their support and cooperation in bringing out this bulletin.

JASHORE EPZ:

BEPZA's new endeavor towards balanced development

BEPZA is going to set up its 11th industrial zone- the Jashore EPZ. It will be sprawling 503 acres under Prembagh Union of Abhaynagar Upazila in Jashore district, the southwest part of the country. This strategic initiative aims to revitalize the economy of this region and accelerate the balanced development of the country.

Jashore EPZ envisions a remarkable transformation- converting the waterlogged Bhabdah Beel, known as "the sorrow of Jashore," into a thriving industrial hub.

The Government approved the Jashore EPZ project, involving Tk 1,678.29 crore, on 09 November 2023 during the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) chaired by Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. ECNEC endorsed the Jashore EPZ project just a few days after the endorsement of the Patuakhali EPZ project as the 9th EPZ (10th industrial zone) under BEPZA to be set up in the coastal Patuakhali district. It reflects BEPZA's commitment to strategically contribute to the socio-economic development as well as play a transformative role in shaping the nation's economic landscape.

According to the project proposal, 400 industrial plots will be prepared for investors

aiming to attract US\$ 2 billion in investment, especially Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The fully operational EPZ is expected to create 1.5 lakh direct and three lakh indirect employment opportunities, contributing US\$ 2.4 billion annually to the country's total exports.

The project is scheduled to be completed by June 2026, and BEPZA has already initiated the process of acquiring land to meet the project's timeline.

BEPZA plans to construct four Standard Factory Buildings (SFB), each six-storied, a four-storied Security Building, a two-storied Mosque, a 10-storied Residential Building, a six-storied Officer's Dormitory Building, and a six-storied Staff Dormitory Building. Additionally, a four-storied Police Outpost Building, a four-storied Customs Building, and a Helipad will be constructed under this project.

It is worth mentioning that a policy decision was made in the 34th Governors' Board Meeting of BEPZA, led by the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 12 November 2019, to establish an EPZ in Jashore district for the socio-economic development of the southwestern region of the country.

JASHORE EPZ AT A GLANCE (PROPOSED)



Area:
503 acres



Industrial Plots:
400 nos.



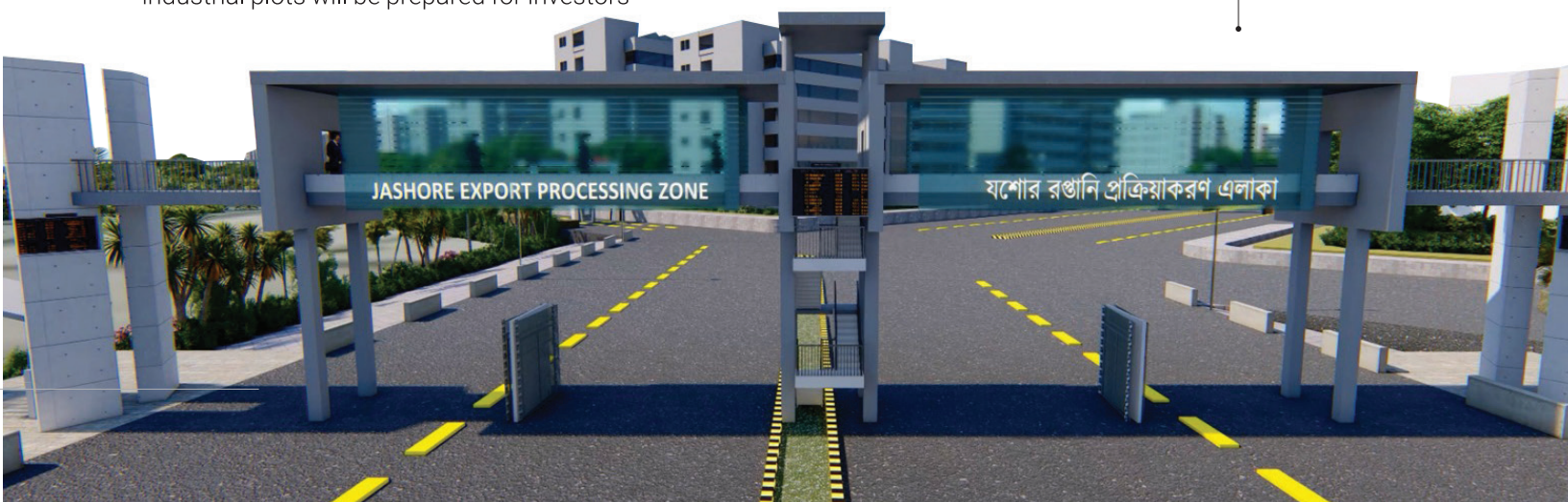
Investment:
US\$ 2 billion



Export:
US\$ 2.4 billion
(annually)



Employment:
150,000 (Direct)



LEASE AGREEMENT WITH BEPZA

Nine companies to invest US\$ 215 million

BEPZA signed lease agreements with 6 foreign & 3 local companies during October-December 2023. These companies will invest US\$ 214.96 million in Mongla, Uttara & Adamjee EPZ and BEPZA Economic Zone (BEPZA EZ) from which US\$ 154.18 million is Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

US\$ 95.23 million in Mongla EPZ

Chinese company Yun Sheng BD Co. Ltd. is going to invest US\$ 89 million in Mongla EPZ to establish a composite (textile, garments and accessories) factory. It will be the first such kind of factory in Mongla EPZ who signed agreement with BEPZA on 4 December 2023. This company will create employment opportunity for 5421 Bangladesh nationals.

CIP Limited, a Bangladeshi company also signed agreement with BEPZA on 15 November 2023 to invest US\$ 6.23 million in Mongla EPZ. They will create employment opportunity for 1550 Bangladeshis to produce bag & luggage items.

US\$ 30.46 million in Uttara EPZ

Chinese company United Spinning & Dyeing Ltd. will set up a Dyed Textile Yarn manufacturing industry by

investing US\$ 28.20 million in Uttara EPZ. Another Chinese company Red Forest Limited will invest US\$ 2.26 million to produce wig and carnival costume in this zone. These two companies will create employment opportunities for 2195 Bangladeshi nationals. United Spinning & Dyeing and Red Forest signed agreement with BEPZA on 20 November and 1 November 2023 respectively.

US\$ 33.7 million in BEPZA EZ

Chinese company Quality Sportswear Mfrs. Ltd. will invest US\$ 11.55 million to produce RMG, Luggage & Fashion Accessories products in BEPZA EZ. Another Chinese enterprise Crescent Hi Tech Co. Ltd. will also invest US\$ 7.6 million in this zone to produce Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients. These two companies signed agreement with BEPZA on 12 December 2023 and 7 December 2023 respectively. They will create employment opportunities for 5387 Bangladeshi nationals.

Vernon & Oliver Furniture Co. Limited will employ 600 Bangladeshis to produce Mattress in BEPZA EZ. In this regard, they signed an agreement on 26 November 2023 to invest US\$ 14.55 million to in this EZ.



Member (IP) of BEPZA and MD of Yun Sheng BD signing the lease agreement in presence of BEPZA Executive Chairman



Member (IP) of BEPZA and Managing Director of Pacific Denimwear exchanging documents after signing the agreement

US\$ 55.57 million in Adamjee EPZ

Pacific Denimwear Limited, a sister concern of Pacific Jeans Group, will set up a Readymade Garments (RMG) manufacturing industry in Adamjee EPZ. This Bangladeshi company signed an agreement with BEPZA on 21 December 2023 to invest US\$ 54.55 million where 7,970 Bangladeshi nationals will be employed.

India-Germany owned company Helsa Icon Bangladesh Limited will also set up a garments accessories industry in this EPZ. They signed an agreement on 15 November

2023 with a plan to invest US\$ 1.02 million and creating employment for 126 Bangladeshi nationals.

Ali Reza Mazid, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA signed all the agreements at BEPZA Complex, Dhaka. BEPZA Executive Chairman Major General Abul Kalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, BSP, ndc, psc witnessed the signing ceremonies. Other high officials of BEPZA including representative of the enterprises were present during the signing ceremonies.

At a Glance

Company Name	Country	EPZ's	Proposed Investment (million US\$)	Proposed Employment (nos.)
Yun Sheng BD Co. Ltd.	China	Mongla EPZ	89.00	5421
CIP Limited	BD	Mongla EPZ	6.23	1550
Pacific Denimwear Limited	BD	Adamjee EPZ	54.55	7,970
Helsa Icon Bangladesh Ltd.	India-Germany	Adamjee EPZ	1.02	126
Quality Sportswear Mfrs. Ltd.	China	BEPZA EZ	11.55	3310
Crescent Hi Tech Co. Ltd.	China	BEPZA EZ	7.6	2077
Vernon & Oliver Furniture Co. Ltd.	China-Malaysia	BEPZA EZ	14.55	600
United Spinning & Dyeing Ltd.	China	Uttara EPZ	28.20	1816
Red Forest Limited	China	Uttara EPZ	2.26	379
Total			214.96	23249

BEPZA

Economic Zone:

Set to start commercial operation

Three Chinese companies, namely KPST Shoes (BD) Co. Limited, Fengqun Composite Material Co. (BD) Ltd., and Kaixi Lingerie Bangladesh Co. Ltd., have constructed factory buildings either fully or partially. They have obtained permanent bond registration, installed machinery, appointed workers, and initiated production on a test and trial basis.

BEPZA Economic Zone (BEPZA EZ), the largest venture of BEPZA, is set to begin commercial operations. As of December 2023, BEPZA signed lease agreements with 26 eager enterprises and some have already commenced construction of their factories, ready to fuel the zone's economic engine.

Three Chinese companies, namely KPST Shoes (BD) Co. Limited, Fengqun Composite Material Co. (BD) Ltd., and Kaixi Lingerie Bangladesh Co. Ltd., have constructed factory buildings either fully or partially. They have obtained permanent bond registration, installed machinery, appointed workers, and initiated production on a test and trial basis. These companies anticipate commencing full-scale commercial production very soon.

BEPZA began development work on the Economic Zone, covering 1,138.55 acres of land at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar in Mirsharai, Chattogram, after the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the foundation stone on 24 January 2018. The initial phase of establishing this economic zone posed challenges due to the area's low elevation from the plains,

rising from the sea.

According to the master plan, BEPZA has completed the construction of its Main Gate, Zone Service Complex Building, Dormitory for Officers and Staff, Residence & Club for investors, Ansar & Security Barrack, and Customs & Security Office Building to enhance services for investors. Additionally, the network for water, electricity, gas, helipad, drainage system, road network, pump house, and other related buildings have been completed. BEPZA has transformed a barren, low-lying land into a suitable investment destination with modern infrastructure and support services.

BEPZA is prioritizing product diversification in approving new projects for BEPZA EZ. According to the plan, 539 plots are set to be developed. BEPZA has prepared 279 industrial plots, and among them, 150 have already been allotted to 26 enterprises.

Noteworthy that the 26 companies, as per agreement, will invest US\$ 529.35 million in the zone, creating employment opportunities for 91,765 Bangladeshi nationals once these enterprises become fully operational.

Development phase of BEPZA Economic Zone is nearing to the completion



Patuakhali EPZ gains momentum

Development of the Patuakhali Export Processing Zone (PEPZ) is accelerating following the government's approval of its Development Project Plan (DPP) last August.

Demonstrating its commitment, BEPZA has already disbursed Tk 262.63 crore for land. This significant milestone was marked on 19 November 2023, when the Project Director of PEPZ Mahammad Shafiqul Islam presented the payment to the Deputy Commissioner of Patuakhali district.

The initial establishment work, including land development, is underway following the approval of the master plan. To assess the zone's progress, Mohammad Tofazzel Hossain Miah, Principal Secretary to the Honorable Prime Minister, visited the Patuakhali EPZ area on 1 October 2023. He toured the proposed zone site and urged the prompt commencement of development work. During this time, he also monitored the master plan of the zone.



PD, PEPZ handing over a cheque to DC, Patuakhali

Member (Engineering) of BEPZA, Mohammad Faruque Alam, also visited the EPZ site to assess the latest situation. BEPZA is putting forth maximum effort to complete the project by June 2026.

Mongla EPZ now 'B' type Zone



ED, Mongla EPZ along with high officials & investors cutting a cake to celebrate the graduation

Mongla Export Processing Zone (MEPZ) has achieved a significant milestone, upgrading its status to a B-type zone. BEPZA Executive Board approved the promotion of MEPZ from C to B type zone in a meeting recently.

The EPZs under BEPZA is categorized as A, B, and C based on their area, investment, and employment. To upgrade a zone from C to B type, the area should be 200-400 acres, investment should range from US\$ 200-500 million, and employment should be between 20,000 and 30,000 people.

The existing area of MEPZ is 302.97 acres. At the end of September 2023, the EPZ attracted an investment of US\$ 202.15 million. Although the employment was 14,000 at that time, MEPZ meets two out of three criteria

(investment and area) to be a B-type zone.

Mongla EPZ has celebrated this remarkable achievement with its investors, employees, and other stakeholders.

It's worth mentioning that MEPZ was established in Bagerhat on 23 May 1998, aiming to ensure the socio-economic development of the southwestern region. The initial journey was challenging, but in recent times, the investment in this zone has gained momentum. The opening of the Padma Bridge widened the scope of investment, reaching US\$ 210 million in December 2023. It is expected that if this trend of investment continues, Mongla EPZ will become an 'A' type zone by 2025.

NEW WAGE STRUCTURE

Minimum monthly wage of the EPZ workers soars to **Tk 12,800**

A monthly minimum wage of Tk 12,800 has been officially established for the estimated 500,000 workers across the eight operational EPZs and BEPZA Economic Zone. After a series of meetings, the Wage Board finalized the wage structure at its fifth and final meeting on 21 December 2023. While the new structure technically came into effect on 1st December 2023, the EPZ workers will begin receiving their increased wages based on the new structure starting January 2024.



BEPZA Executive Chairman as well as the Chairman of the EPZ Minimum Wage Board 2023 and other Members pose after finalizing the wage structure

Formation of Minimum Wage Board

The Government, under section 65 of the 'Bangladesh EPZ Labor Act 2019', formed a board on 09 November 2023 to determine the minimum wage of the EPZ workers. The board, comprised of 11 members from key government entities, including the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Finance, and representatives of EPZ enterprise owners and workers, was led by the Executive Chairman of BEPZA. In the inaugural meeting, an additional seven members, three owners' representatives, three workers' representatives, and one BEPZA official, were co-opted.

Considerations to fix minimum wage

EPZ workers had been advocating for a new pay structure for several months to cope with the rising cost of living. Investors, facing challenges such as reduced export orders and increased costs of raw materials due to unstable global trade and worldwide geopolitical tensions, also underwent critical times. Taking into account various factors, including the wage declared for garment workers outside the EPZs (which is TK 12,500 per month), the board finalized the minimum wage for EPZ workers at Tk 12,800 per month, based on

consensus between owners' and workers' representatives.

56% hike from the previous minimum wage

The new minimum wage is 56 percent higher than the Tk 8,200 set five years ago in 2018. The gross minimum wage of Tk 12,800 is calculated as Tk 6,950 for basic wages, 50% house rent on the basic (Tk 3,475), and Tk 2,375 for medical allowances. 50% of workers in every EPZ enterprise will enjoy a yearly increment of 10% on the basic, while the other 50% will receive 5-10% on the basic wage.

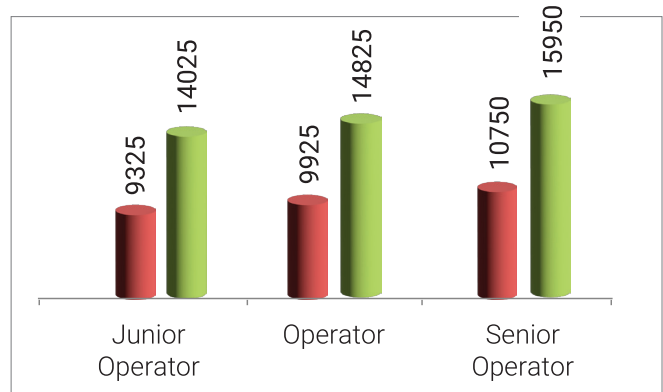
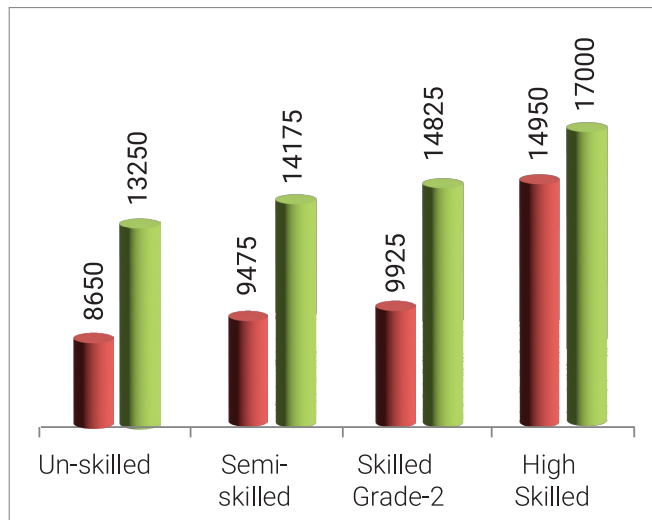
Other benefits:

Workers will continue to enjoy supplementary benefits such as food or food allowance and transport or transport allowance from the enterprises, maintaining the current structure. The EPZ workers are also enjoying free medical services from the EPZ Hospitals and medical centers, which also be continued. In addition to these allowances and services, children of the EPZ workers get daycare services and education opportunities in BEPZA Public Schools and colleges at subsidized tuition fees.

Comparison of wage structure, 2018 & 2023 (in Taka)

A. Wage structure for Garments/ Garments Accessories/Shoe/Shoe Accessories/Leather Products/Service Oriented/Tent & Tent Accessories/Plastic Products/ Toys/Cap & Hats and other related industries

2018
2023



B. Wage structure for Electronics & Electrical Goods/Software/Lens & Glass Products/Metal & Metal Casting/Automobile & Auto Parts/Bi-Cycle/Heavy Industries/Cosmetics/Boat/Golf Shaft/Fishing Equipments and other related industries

C. Wage structure for the workers of Textile/Chemical/Dying/Oil & Refinery/Agro Products/Furniture/Wood & Bamboo Products and other related Industries

D. The wage structure has also risen for Terry Towel/Sweater/Wigs and other related industries. Piece rated workers will get minimum Tk. 13,250 for usual hours of work. Salaried workers of this category will also get a minimum Tk. 13,250.



Half a million workforce of the EPZs will get their wage in new structure from January 2024

BD presents progress of Road Map in ILO

Bangladesh has presented the progress of the implementation of the Road Map and National Action Plan (2021-2026) undertaken by the government to address the issues of the Labor Sector. Hon'ble Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mr. Anisul Haque, MP presented the plan at the 349th session of the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

The Law Minister briefed about labor rights in the EPZs and the progress of the Bangladesh EPZ Labour Rules, 2022. A delegation led by the Minister of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs attended the session held in Geneva, Switzerland from October 30 to November 11, 2023, where BEPZA Executive Chairman Major General



BEPZA Executive Chairman along with head of Bangladesh delegation hon'ble Law Minister pose during a session break

AbulKalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, BSP, ndc, psc, and Additional Executive Director (IR) Md. Nazmul Islam Bhuiyan were present, along with other high-ranking government officials.

In the session, most member states and representatives of the Employers Group appreciated the initiatives and progress made by Bangladesh against the statement provided by the counterpart of the Workers Group.

BEPZA seeks more investment from EU

Seeking a closer economic partnership with Europe, BEPZA's Member (Investment Promotion) Ali Reza Mazid encouraged greater European investment in Bangladesh, focusing on the dynamic Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Economic Zone (EZ) run under BEPZA.

"EPZs of Bangladesh have simplified their procedures, brought several services under the OSS (One Stop Service) umbrella, and introduced lucrative incentive packages for investors to gain optimum return on investment. Come and explore these opportunities by investing in the EPZs & BEPZA EZ," Ali Reza Mazid said in a panel discussion held in Berlin, Germany, on 30 October 2023.

In addition to this panel discussion, he also attended various parallel business sessions while participating in the roadshows organized to showcase the



Member (IP) of BEPZA attends in a panel discussion at Berlin, Germany

investment potential of Bangladesh in France, Germany, and Belgium.

He mentioned that BEPZA, in its EPZs, has noticeably reduced the single-sector dependency on readymade garments (RMG) and added as many as 22 product categories to the country's export basket.

EU investors have the opportunity to invest in products of diverse nature in the existing EPZs as well as the upcoming EPZs to be set up in

Jashore, Patuakhali, and Gaibandha Districts under BEPZA, he added.

It is worth mentioning that the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) organized these roadshows in Paris & Toulouse of France, Berlin & Frankfurt of Germany, and Brussels of Belgium from 23 October to 3 November 2023 to attract investment from the European Union member countries.



Executive Chairman's Zones' Tour

Dhaka EPZ ▲

BEPZA Executive Chairman Major General Abul Kalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, BSP, ndc, psc inaugurated the Commercial Complex of Dhaka EPZ during his visit on 30 November 2023. BEPZA will allocate the floors of the complex to ancillary service providers to facilitate the investors.

Karnaphuli EPZ ▶

BEPZA Executive Chairman directed the officials of Karnaphuli EPZ to expedite the construction works of the shopping complex during his visit on 27 November 2023. Mentionable, KEPZ is constructing a shopping complex adjacent to the zone for the convenience of the investors and workers.



Seminars held to transform EPZs into smart zones

Embracing the future of smart and sustainable business BEPZA is setting its sights on transforming EPZs into thriving hubs, said Ali Reza Mazid, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA while addressing a recent seminar in Chattogram EPZ as Chief Guest. "Good governance is at the heart of this vision," he added.

He mentioned that necessary efforts, such as bilateral meetings with related authorities like Customs, NBR, PM Office, etc., are ongoing to resolve different issues at the earliest possible time. He also expressed his desire to maintain the continuous development of the services provided by BEPZA.

Chattogram EPZ organized a seminar titled 'Transforming Bangladesh's EPZs for a Smart and Sustainable Business Ecosystem for the Future: A Pathway to Vision-2041.' Cumilla EPZ



Member (IP) addressing in front of the investors in Cumilla EPZ

also conducted an investment seminar on 'Transforming EPZs into a Smart Zone: Prospects for sustainable and dynamic investment facilities within the zone' on 27 December 2023.

Executive Director of CEPZ Md. Abdus Sobhan and Executive Director of CumEPZ Abdullah Al Mahub presented detailed topics in the seminars. BEPZA officials, investors, and representatives from different enterprises actively participated in the

seminars. The representatives of the enterprises focused on different issues to be addressed during this time.

BEPZA hopes these interactive seminars will undoubtedly pave the way for transformative changes within EPZs, aligning them with the nation's Vision 2041 and positioning Bangladesh as a global leader in smart and sustainable business practices.

EPZs hold meeting to implement new wage structure

BEPZA has finalized a new minimum wage structure for the workers of the EPZs. Following extensive consultations with both investors and workers' representatives through a series of meetings, BEPZA forwarded the proposals received from both parties to the EPZ Minimum Wage Board 2023. After a thorough review and consensus of both sides, the Board recommended the draft wage structure for implementation.

After finalizing the draft minimum wage structure, the EPZs organized several meetings with investors, HR officials, and other stakeholders to address queries that had arisen among them. Executive Directors of the concerned zones, along with IR



ED (Dhaka EPZ) discussing with the workers representatives to get their opinion

officials, presented the details regarding the establishment of the new wage structure.

The Executive Directors of the zones requested investors to implement the new structure

properly. They also sought everyone's cooperation in maintaining the harmonious relationship among workers, owners, and management prevailing in the EPZs.

Workshop held on Universal Pension Scheme in Dhaka & Adamjee EPZ

The government has initiated the Universal Pension Scheme (UPS) to bring all citizens aged above 18 under coverage for financial security during old age. To inform owners, employees, and workers of the EPZ enterprises about the scheme, the National Pension Authority (NPA) organized workshops in association with BEPZA. Two workshops were held in Dhaka and Adamjee EPZ on 13 and 18 December 2023 respectively.

NPA Chairman Kabirul Ezdani Khan discussed various aspects, including the facilities of the scheme launched by the present government, and requested



NPA Chairman informing the participants on Universal Pension Scheme

everyone to avail the opportunities. The participants expressed their enthusiasm regarding the newly launched pension scheme.

Executive Director of DEPZ Md. Ahsan Kabir, and Executive Director of Adamjee EPZ, Moshuddin Bin

Mesbah presided over the workshops. Sabbir Ahmed, Joint Secretary of the Finance Division, Md. Fiznur Rahman, Director-1 of the Prime Minister's Office, along with other EPZ officials, were present during this time.

WWA Election in EPZs

The workers of three enterprises of Cumilla and Uttara EPZ have elected their representatives of the Workers Welfare Association (WWA) during October-December

2023. The workers of Sri Lankan Western Paper Industries (BD) Ltd. and Bangladeshi Etasia Interlinings Ltd. of Cumilla EPZ elected their new representatives on 18 October and 13 December 2023 respectively. The workers of

Fardin Accessories Limited of Uttara EPZ also elected their desired Executive Council members on 10 October 2023. The elections created a festive mood among the workers.

Vietnamese Delegation

A-26 member delegation including prospective investors from Vietnam Textile & Apparel Association (VITAS) visited Cumilla EPZ on 9 October 2023. They observed the working environment of two renowned enterprises during this time. Prior to that, they attended a meeting with Member (IP) of BEPZA to discuss on investment opportunities in EPZs and BEPZA Economic Zone.



Russian Envoy



The Hon'ble Ambassador of the Russian Federation of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Alexander Mantytsky along with other officials paid a courtesy visit to Chattogram EPZ on 11 November 2023. The Ambassador applauded to see the peaceful working atmosphere and activities of EPZ.

Sri Lankan Envoy

H.E. Mrs. Ruwanthi Delpitiya, Acting High Commissioner of Sri Lanka along with a business delegation representing the Sri Lanka Logistic industry visited Dhaka EPZ on 19 October 2023. The delegation expressed satisfaction to observe the congenial working atmosphere of EPZ.



Planning Commission Member

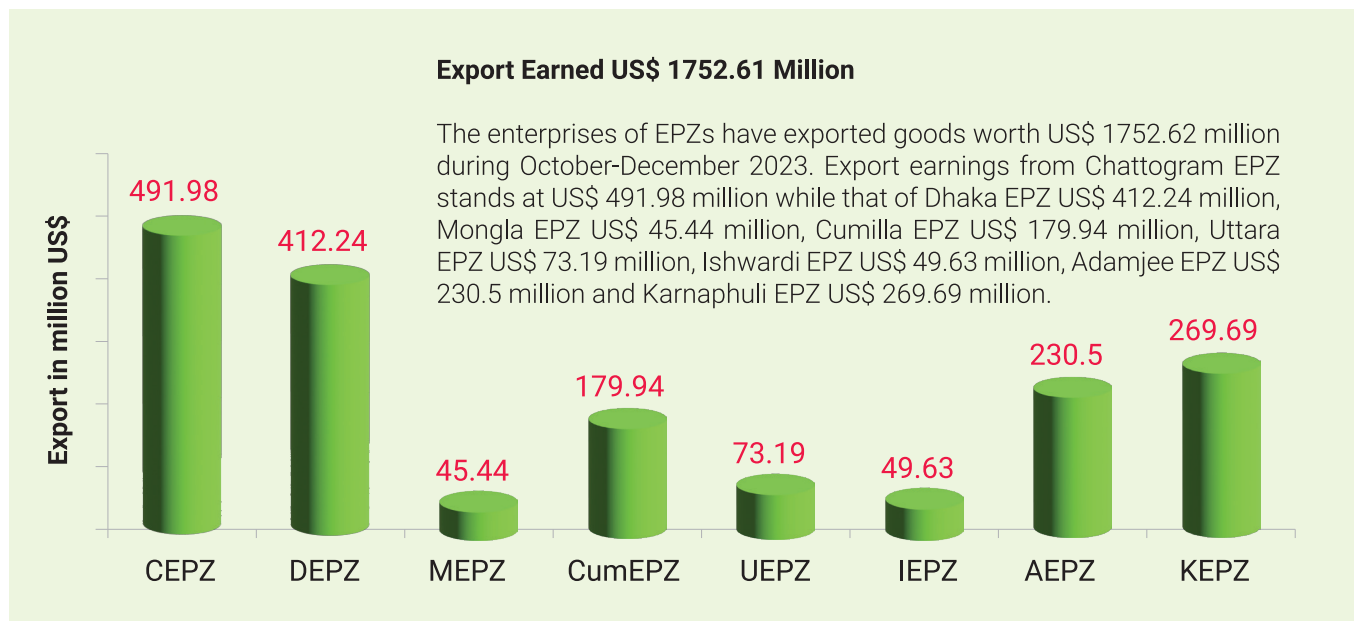
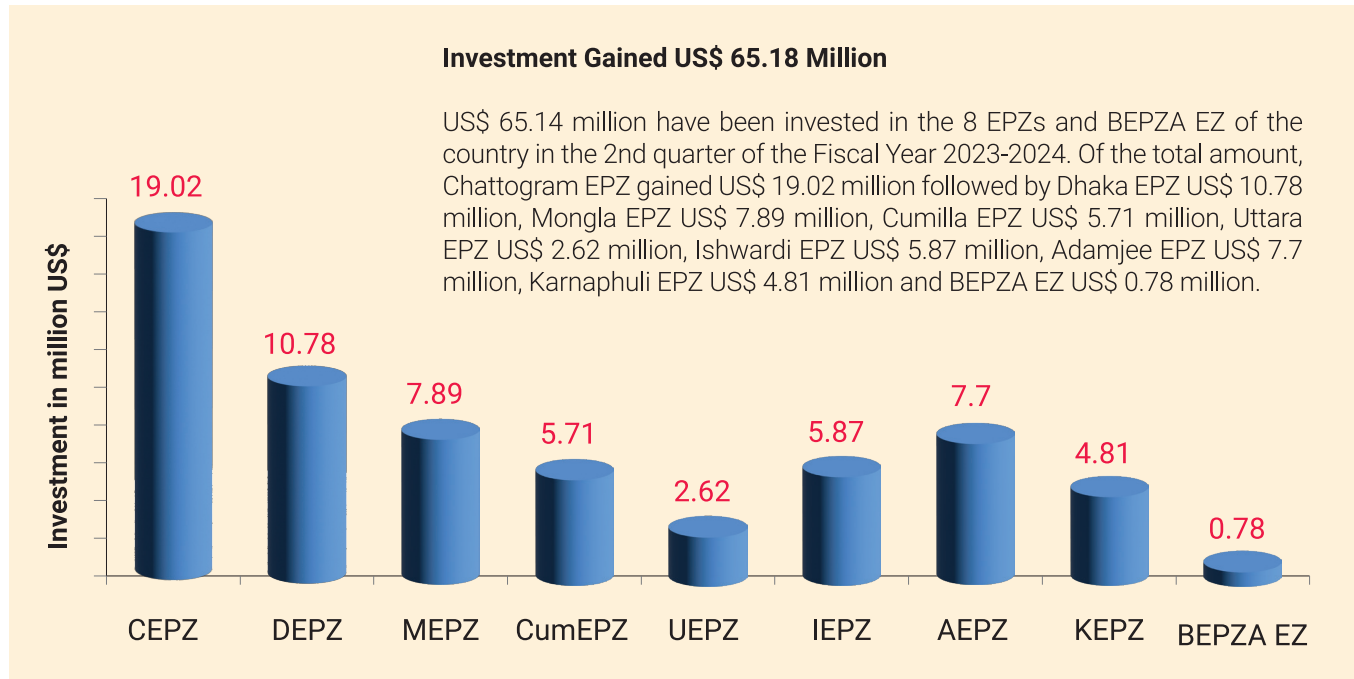
Dr. Mohammad Emdad Ullah Mian, Member, Planning Commission took part in an interactive session during his visit at Uttara EPZ on 5 October 2023. He assured of taking initiatives regarding the issues of UEPZ including establishing Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Khairatnagar rail station.



Rangpur Customs Commissioner

Dr. Nahida Faridy, Commissioner of Customs, Rangpur attended a tripartite meeting held among BEPZA, Customs & Investors at Zone Office during visited Uttara EPZ on 11 October 2023. She listened to the investors and assured to ease the operational issues raised by the investors.

BEPZA, the leading investment promotional agency of the country, has opened a new horizon in strengthening the economic base of Bangladesh by attracting both Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and local investment through its eight EPZs and BEPZA Economic Zone. The authority has already proved itself as one of the major contributors in the economic development of the country. Here, we are highlighting the sectorwise achievement of BEPZA during October-December 2023 period.



New Job Opportunity for 2584 Bangladeshi Nationals

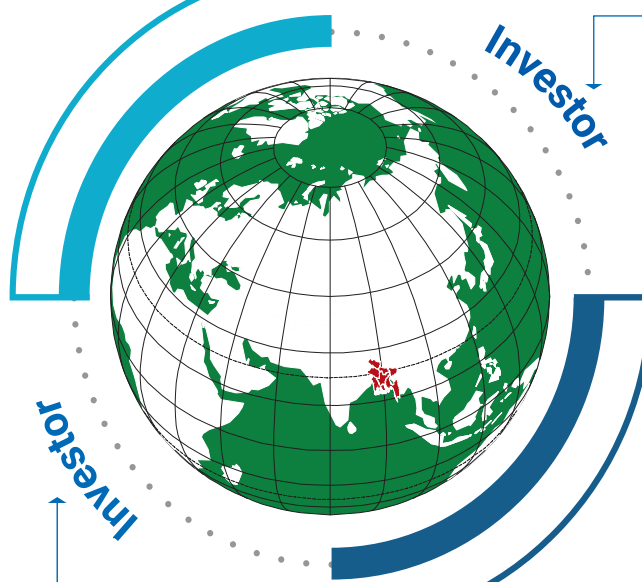
Bangladesh has gone through a major transformation over the last few decades where rural women have taken it upon themselves to create alternative sustainable incomes for their families by working in EPZs. Now, around half a million workers are working in EPZs, among them two-thirds are women. In addition to the existing, 2584 Bangladeshi workers added in the operating industrial units of EPZs. Among them 2387 in Adamjee EPZ and 197 workers are added in Ishwardi EPZ during this period.

Cumulative Scenario

EPZ	Units (Nos)		Export (US\$ m)	Investment (US\$ m)	Workforce (Number)
	Operation	*U/ Imp			
Chattogram	145	10	41,529.16	2,071.58	1,69,898
Dhaka	88	5	35,176.15	1,767.43	76,821
Cumilla	49	4	5,909.31	576.19	43,466
Mongla	32	12	1,198.46	210.04	13,639
Uttara	24	8	2,435.90	237.80	30,442
Ishwardi	22	17	1636.27	256.39	18,199
Adamjee	48	12	8,229.48	734.46	59,054
Karnaphuli	43	6	10,968.22	732.18	70,101
BEPZA EZ	0	27	13.63	0.00	5700
Total	451	101	107,082.95	6,599.70	4,81,677

* Under Implementation

Bangladesh	147
China	105
(Including Hong Kong, Taiwan)	
South Korea	63
Japan	30
India	19
UK	18
USA	17
Canada	10
Sri Lanka	6
The Netherlands	6
Malaysia	5
Germany	3
Pakistan	3



Indonesia	3
British Virgin Island	2
Spain	2
UAE	1
France	1
Belgium	1
Ireland	1
Ukraine	1
Thailand	1
Marshal Island	1
Romania	1
Australia	1
Malta	1
Cayman Island	1
Singapore	1

Garments	144
RMG Accessories	85
Textile	30
Footwear & Leather	24
Knit & Other Textile	22
Electronic & Electricals	17
Tent	15
Plastic Goods	14
Service Industries	11
Metal Products	10
Terry Towel	7
Agro Produces	5

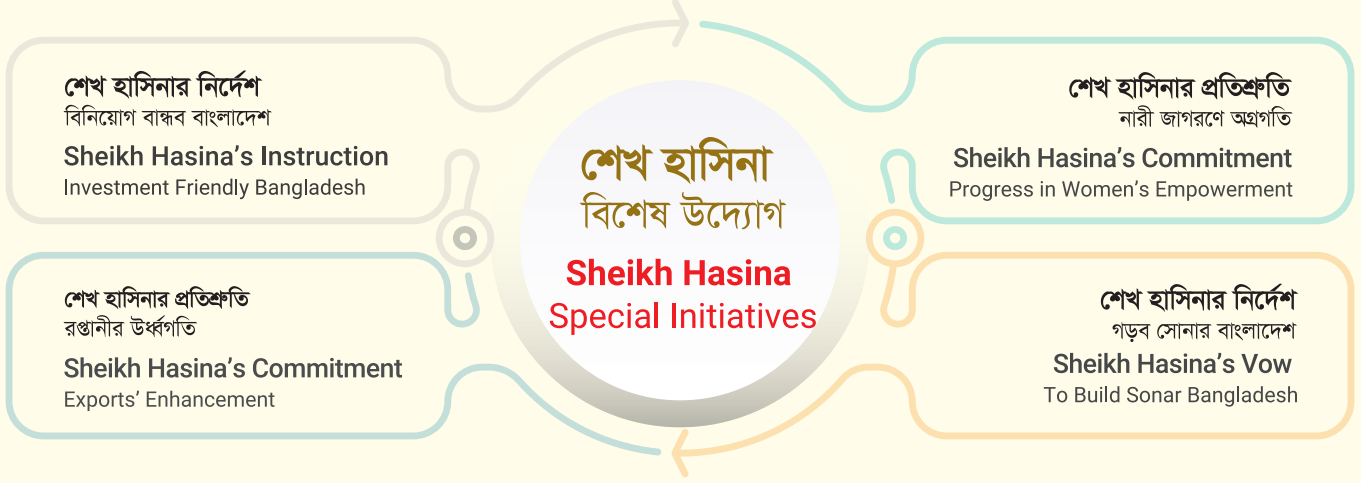


Cap	5
Chemical and Fertilizer	4
Jute Products	4
Luggage	4
Paper Produces	4
Furniture	2
Power Industry	2
Toys	2
Yarn	2
Fishing Reel & Golf Items	1
Shoes Accessories	1
Miscellaneous	36



Product

BEPZA Beacon of Investment



BANGLADESH EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES AUTHORITY
Prime Minister's Office



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