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Press Release

Swiss Ambassador's visits LFMEAB Factory

The Honorable Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh H.E. Dr. René Holenstein visited Picard Bangladesh – one of the members of Leathergoods And Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB) - in Savar on Sunday, 23rd December 2018.

Mr. Md. Saiful Islam, the President of LFMEAB and Managing Director of Picard Bangladesh Ltd., welcomed Ambassador Holenstein to the factory and informed him about the progress that has been made in the Bangladeshi leathergoods and footwear export industry in terms of compliance and growth. During this time, President of LFMEAB highlighted beyond compliance initiatives of LFMEAB under which 83% of the total workers are protected under the Group Life Insurance coverage, ensured health insurance for more than 50% of eligible member factories, 70% workers have been examined under the communicable diseases screening program, all the eligible factories are providing day care facilities, tuberculosis (TB) screening tests programs for workers, regular free eye sight testing, contagious disease testing, and free sanitary napkin distribution among female workers, and Community School etc.

After very informative conversation, the Ambassador toured the factory and had exchanges with the beneficiaries of an initiative supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) implemented through the Center of Excellence for Leather skill Bangladesh Limited (COEL). This initiative trained 10,000 apprentices in the Bangladeshi leather industry through on-job training. It further trained 6157 women and 6615 individuals under the 'disadvantaged' category.

Swiss Ambassador expressed his appreciation to LFMEAB for hosting the delegation and briefly touched upon areas for development and cooperation that could strengthen the sector, which in turn would enable Bangladesh to further expand its exports to the European markets.

Thank you for your coordination.

With Thanks & Regards

Kazi Roushan Ara
Executive Director