

Partex Group's statement disclosing the truth against different news items published in media

Some news items have been published in different media concerning the Partex Group and its sister concerns. We firmly protest against these news items which are not based on facts. Due to these news with spectacular captions, current economic growth, potential industry and thousands of families' interests are being hampered. For this reason, we request everyone to be cautious and responsible in publishing such news. At the same time, we feel it necessary to unveil the real situation against these published news. We would like to express our stand to the concerned authorities and our countrymen.

Partex Group

This large establishment has grown by degrees over the last 40 years, where in its industrial unit more than 15 thousand organized and skilled employees have been working continuously. Today's Partex Group is the outcome of the sincerity, honesty, expertise of employees, along with untiring labour, far-sightedness in business, wisdom and inspiration of the Founder Chairman of the Group, Mr. M. A. Hashem. From the very beginning, objective of Partex Group was to earn foreign exchange through exporting international-standard products, to decrease import dependency, at the same time, to ensure employment to a large number of skilled and unskilled people in the country satiating the demands of local consumers.

Directors of the Group

All the directors of the Group are well reputed in their respective fields. It may be mentioned that the directors of this group are not only achieving goodwill in their business, but also in different social fields. Because of the demand and eagerness of the people of his locality, Mr. M. A. Hashem, the Chairman of the Group, was elected as a Member of Parliament in the last parliamentary election and initiated lots of social welfare works which brought a great popularity for him in his area. He has involved himself as an entrepreneur governor of the board of North South University, founder of University College at Kazirhaat, Diabetes Hospital at Choumohani and many educational institutions too. Moreover, to boost young generation's eagerness in sports, he has given various direct and indirect assistance in sports sector also.

One of the directors of the company, Mrs. Sultana Hashem was rewarded as a 'Ratnagorva Maa'. This was because all her sons who have been working efficiently in the industrial sector of the country got higher and business education in reputed educational institutions at home and abroad. This has not only made them educated in business discipline, but also made them socially responsible, and encouraged them to play their social role. She takes part in social welfare regularly through Chittagong branch of RED CROSS.

Vice-Chairman of the Group, Mr. Aziz Al Kaiser, has been playing an efficient role as a member of The Board of Directors of a Bank. As a Vice-president of Bangladesh Cricket Board, he has assisted the organization to stand on its strong economic base with collective enterprise. Other directors are also contributing in such business, social and cultural organizations. Most of them are in The Board of Directors of various established Banks. They are in the leadership in business organizations too. The leadership of the directors of Partex Group in BTMA, Alumni Association of IUB, IBAIS University and bank, insurance, economic institution, educational institution, social organization, along with various other organizations, proves their popularity and efficiency. Partex Group feels it necessary to inform all the real positions about the information involving various sister concerns of Partex group.

Partex Sugar Mills

Every year about 1 million tons of sugar is imported to meet the domestic requirement in Bangladesh. This costs about Tk. 2,800 crore in foreign exchange. To decrease this dependency on import and to save foreign exchange, Partex Group has established this international standard sugar mill for the first time in Bangladesh. That will definitely play a role in increasing foreign currency reserve. This sugar mill is now in the process of trial production before starting its commercial operations, with the financial support, guidance and direct inspection of 12 well-established national and international Banks and financial institutions.

According to the existing law of the country, BSTI-standard is essential for producing sugar. But it must be mentioned here that the position where the BSTI seal would be placed, the packet design of the product - are all part of the packet design development process, carried simultaneously with the trial production. Partex Sugar Mill applied to BSTI in 2006 for its approval, which is under-process.

Later the BSTI authority collected refined sugar sample in our designed packet carrying BSTI-seal from our sugar mill, to examine its standard of quality. Necessary fee has been deposited for testing the sample. Jointly signed sample packet carrying BSTI seal is also preserved in our factory. BSTI authority has also collected product packet and its design sample. After examining the sample, the BSTI authorities expressed their satisfaction about the quality of our product. In this circumstance, Partex Sugar Mill was awaiting the license from BSTI authority. In the mean time as some sugar was produced in the trial production, it was necessary to be packed in bag for preservation. For this reason, we had to packet the produced sugar in BSTI-sealed trial packet. But for the error in using BSTI-seal in the trial period, Partex Sugar Mill has accepted the penalty imposed by BSTI. It must be mentioned that **this fine was not imposed for the quality of sugar.**

We firmly state that the sugar, produced by Partex Sugar Mill is world-class, quality-standard of which was tested by BSTI earlier.

Danish Condensed Milk

Approximately over the past 20 years Danish Condensed Milk gradually developed as Bangladesh's first import substitute condensed milk produced and marketed locally. From the very beginning the international standard Danish Condensed milk has won the hearts and confidence of consumers at home and abroad. Danish Condensed Milk factory is certified ISO 9001 : 2000 and won the HACCP quality certification. It has to be mentioned here that being an ISO 9001 : 2000, HACCP company, always procures its raw materials from the most reliable sources.

It has also to be mentioned here that the large-scale raw material imports of any huge concern may lead to some 'sweeping' damages in transit during trucking, loading and unloading.

Insurance companies, customs and VAT authorities settle any damage claims after proper survey. For this reason, during the production process damaged raw material is set side for the surveyors marked 'Not for Production'. This is true for all production process companies. A small amount of such 'sweeping' material was also kept at the Danish factory for the surveyors. The media reports regarding the raw materials found in the Danish factory belong to this category set aside as 'Not for Production'.

Raw material imports, transportation and usage constitute different parts of the process in any factory involved in regular production and in the midst of this process, lax of co-ordination does take place despite the best of efforts. Thus, such unexpected situation arises.

No person or consumer has ever expressed dissatisfaction or made allegations against the end product of Danish Condensed Milk. Danish authorities have also never compromised on quality in the past, does not do so at present and will never do so in future as well. This is our firm commitment to all Danish consumers, patrons and sellers.

RC Cola

Reports have been published that low grade sugar is used in the world famous American RC drinks produced here. We would like to stress here that we will never allow the reputation earned over the last 10 years to be hampered in any way. At the time of visiting our factory the amount of sugar found by law-enforcing agency, was bought from legal importer. **It was only by an oversight that copy of the BSTI approval had not been taken for the sugar available at the factory, for which reason it could not be produced on the spot. And for which BSTI authorities imposed fines on us which we have already paid. It must be mentioned here that the fine was imposed for not being able to show the papers, but in no way for low grade sugar.** It is not true that RC uses rotten sugar in production.

We would like to inform our customers that every RC product is produced subject to stringent quality control of RC USA, which is done every month by RC Cola International, USA. Every month samples are sent by courier to RC Cola USA, to ensure that no low standard products can be marketed, and these reports are available with us. It is worth mentioning here that RC Cola Factory is certified to ISO 9001 : 2000 for its high standard.

RC, the choice of millions is committed to marketing only the best by ensuring stringent quality control at every stage of the production process.

Partex Holding

It has come to our notice that reports have been published suggesting that the Partex Holding plot at Mohakhali is situated on wetlands. The reality is that this place has been approved as fit for constructing high-rise buildings by Rajuk (approval no.- Rajuk/design/3C-639/89/398, dated- 6/5/1992. Moreover, the design has also been approved by the Ministry of Industries, reference no.- Shim/Shibi-1/2 S-6/91/182, dated- 30/5/1991. At present there is a temporary structure of Partex Holdings, in favour of which there is a High Court Stay order no.- 9156/2005. As a public notice, a copy of the order of the Honourable Court has been put up at the main entrance.

It must be mentioned here that in response to an appeal by the Honourable Court has given a ruling announcing that this plot is not a wetland and we are in possession of this court order no.- 3, dated- 2/12/04.

Business Syndicate

For quite some time newspaper reports regarding a corrupt business syndicate has sought to implicate Partex Group. Partex Group is in no way involved in such activities and Partex does not support such activities. Partex is an industrial group and is not involved in import business related to open market trading of consumer items of any sort including rice, daal, flour, wheat, sugar etc.

For a long time every enterprise of Partex has been involved in importing quality raw materials and producing quality finished products using the latest technology to supply its valued customers at competitive prices. **Over the past eight years except for meeting the industrial requirements of its own enterprises no raw materials have been imported for trading purposes.** Implicating our name in activities like 'business syndicate' is a travesty of truth. We vehemently protest such reports.

Conclusion

Partex Group has grown over the past 40 years with the sweat and toil of its 15,000 workers, distributors and sales persons. This is not a sudden mushrooming but a large group which is the result of honesty, perseverance and hard work. The way we have contributed to the socio-economic development of the country over the past, will continue into the future as well. **We seek the support of the administration and law-enforcing agencies for the well-being of the country and for earning foreign currency.**

Partex Group is a socially committed company. Our goal is achieving exemplary socio-economic well-being, employment generation, production of healthy high quality products saving foreign exchange. **We one and humbly request all not to obstruct our lofty objectives through publishing unwarranted, exaggerated and imaginary reports.**

Partex Group would like to inform that during the tenure of no past government, has this group tried to gain favour by participating in government, semi-government tender in any irregular way.

We invite the responsible government officials concerned to come and inspect our facilities if they are interested in any of our enterprises.

We assure all of the quality of our products. We wholeheartedly welcome the initiatives of the caretaker government and wish to offer absolute support to their efforts for financial and social reforms.

Partex Group is firmly committed to customer satisfaction through healthy quality products.

PARTEX GROUP