

US retail sales hit Bangladesh RMG exports: IMF

UNB, Dhaka

Plunging US retail sales are leading to reduction in garment export orders as the global economic crisis has now started hitting Bangladesh, which had showed some initial resilience, like other low income countries (LICs) in Asia.

It is also causing a severe compression of profit margins through aggressive price reductions by Bangladesh and a few other countries in the region, said a new IMF study released in Washington yesterday.

"After showing initial resilience, LICs are starting to feel the impact of the global economic crisis," said the May issue titled 'Global Crisis: The Asian Context' of the IMF's Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and the Pacific.

The report said commodity exporters were first to take the hit, as the fall in export prices weakened external and

fiscal positions while slowing growth in more advanced countries is beginning to show up in lower tourist arrivals and spending.

Slowing regional growth is reducing low-skilled employment opportunities in emerging markets and developed countries with detrimental effects on remittances, the report added.

As a result, the growth forecasts for Asian LICs have been marked down relative to the April 2008 Regional Economic Outlook, albeit less so than for emerging markets, reflecting the lower degree of sophistication of exports in LICs.

About policy interventions to face the challenges, the report said policymakers in LICs face a difficult trade-off between supporting growth and employment and safeguarding macroeconomic stability, in particular, the presence of highly vulnerable groups and large development needs must be weighed against stubbornly

high vulnerability.

"Asian LICs face equal challenges, and strides toward reducing poverty made during the global boom are now clearly at risk," it said.

"The currency depreciation may have little effect in boosting exports when trading partners are contracting," the report said.

It said government revenues are coming under strain. The low and narrow revenue base faced by most LIC governments leave them vulnerable to a reduction in trade and turnover taxes, and in some cases lower tax payments by a few large multinationals operating in their countries.

In the absence of additional sources of finance, it added, domestically financed public investment programmes are coming under pressure.

The report said the decline in food and fuel prices have reduced inflationary pressures in many LICs and liquidity conditions have tightened.



Indian media agency top official in town

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Satyajit Sen, managing director of Zenithoptimedia, a leading media agency in India, arrived in Dhaka yesterday, says a press release.

Sen, during his stay in Bangladesh, will meet the telecom and consumer product clients to enhance business relationships.

He has a wealth of experiences in planning over his 19-year career, across diverse categories from telecom, financial and automobiles to FMCGs which include service brands like American Express, Aviva Life Insurance, Vodafone, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd to corporates like Nestle, Hyundai, Dabur, Reckitt Benckiser, Glaxo Smithkline, Procter & Gamble, LG Electronics, Suzuki.

US reviews trade preferential schemes

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The new US administration is reviewing its trade preferential schemes to make it more effective for the poorest countries, US Trade Representative Ronald Kirk said.

The international trade minister was speaking at a meeting in response to a request by Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Bhattacharya called for duty free-quota-free market access for all exports from the Asian least developed countries, says a press release.

Bhattacharya called on Kirk at his office along with a group of high-level trade negotiators from developing countries on Tuesday.

In his exchanges, Bhattacharya urged the US trade establishment to provide meaningful support to the low-income countries that have demonstrated success in using international trade for economic growth and poverty alleviation.

Kirk maintained that the conclusion of the WTO nego-



Ronald Kirk, middle, US trade representative, poses with Debapriya Bhattacharya, 3-L, distinguished fellow of Centre for Policy Dialogue, and other global trade negotiators, at his office in Washington DC, on Tuesday.

tations have become particularly important in the face of global economic crisis. He however drew attention to the need to reflect on the Doha agenda as it failed to deliver results in the last eight years.

The team was further informed that a number of schemes, including generalised system of preferences (GSP) and African growth and opportunity act (AGOA), providing preferential market access to various developing countries, are coming up for mandatory review and extension.

Besides, Bangladesh, the visiting trade negotiators included representatives

from Chile, Egypt, Mexico, Senegal and Uruguay. Senior Counsels of the USTR, Peter Cowhey and Matt Rohde were also present.

The US trade minister also appraised the visiting group about President Barack Obama's commitment to conclude Doha trade talks of the WTO at an early date.

Moreover, the meeting also disclosed bilateral free trade agreements with Panama, Columbia and South Korea are awaiting approval of the US Congress. The "fast track authority" of the US president will be solicited from the US Congress as soon as new trade agreements will be ready.

Adoption of 3G tech stressed to boost broadband

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Ericsson Bangladesh Limited, one of the leading telecom vendors, said yesterday the country should go for 3G (third generation) technology as soon as possible to accelerate the growth of broadband market.

Officials of the Swedish telecom equipment maker said WiMax (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access) and 3G technologies should hit the market at the same time to ensure a fair competition among the operators.

"Introducing 3G technology will be a milestone on the road towards making a digital Bangladesh by 2021," said Giles Vincent, vice president of marketing and communications for Ericsson South East Asia.

He said Bangladesh will lag behind in technology development if it does not introduce 3G soon as some of its neighbours such as Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal have already launched 3G.

He was presenting a keynote paper on "Digital Bangladesh: Accelerating development with mobile broadband" at a programme organised by Ericsson Bangladesh in Dhaka.

Issuance of 3G licences has become a crucial talk in the telecom industry as government awarded WiMax licences last year, but any good news for awarding 3G licences is yet to come.

Mobile phone operators have been seeking 3G licences for the last few months, saying both the 3G and WiMax technologies should be launched together to

ensure a level playing field.

However a debate on which one -- 3G or WiMax -- would be the best in terms of providing services is surfacing on the market.

"Let the people decide what the best technology is," said Vincent.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) is yet to finalise the 3G licensing guidelines although it had a commitment to launch 3G technology by March 2009.

As per the BTRC's earlier announcement, three licences would be issued among the six mobile operators. But the Tk 215 crore hefty licence fee for WiMax settled by an auction last year has become a cause for concern among the prospective 3G licensees.

"3G licences should be

awarded in a way that matches the WiMax licensing process. The price level should be the same," said Arun Bansal, managing director of Ericsson Bangladesh.

He said the operators are ready to introduce 3G although telecom business is on a downward curve now. But the market is completely ready for 3G, he added.

3G is the third generation of telecommunication hardware standards and general technology for mobile networking, superseding 2.5G. Bangladesh's mobile operators now offer 2.5G technology to the 44 million customers.

Ericsson provides communication services and manages networks that serve more than 250 million subscribers around the world.

Pak team talks textile venture

STAR BUSINESS DESK

A Pakistani textile delegation, led by S Muhammad Aasim, met yesterday the leaders of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at the trade body's office in Dhaka.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed various possibilities of investment and joint ventures in the textile industry and importing materials from Pakistan for the Bangladeshi garment industries, according to a press release.

The BGMEA side was led by its Vice President Faruque Hassan. It raised various problems that the association members face while importing textile products from Pakistan.

The meeting concluded with the decision to exchange of visits from the two countries to sort out problems and improve trade relations.

US private sector cut 491,000 jobs in April

AFP, Washington

The US private sector shed 491,000 jobs in April, fewer than expected by analysts, a survey by payroll firm ADP data showed Wednesday, signaling the prolonged recession may be easing.

The April figure was much lower than the 708,000 job cuts in March and the 645,000 expected by most analysts and the smallest private payrolls decline since October last year.

The data came a day after Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke said that the US economy, which plunged into recession in December 2007, could rebound later this year.

"All statistics released recently point to a less pronounced deterioration in the labor market in April," said Natixis bank economist Marie-Pierre Ripert.

ADP said the service-providing sector shed 229,000 jobs while the goods-producing sector cut 262,000 jobs.

Large businesses, defined as those with 500 or more workers, saw employment decline by 77,000, while medium-size businesses with between 50 and 499 workers shed 231,000 jobs.

Employment among small-size businesses, defined as those with fewer than 50 workers, declined 183,000.

"The employment declines among medium-

and small-size businesses, indicate that the recession continues to spread beyond manufacturing and housing-related activities to almost every area of the economy," ADP said.

The government's last weekly jobless claims report on April 30 said new claims for unemployment benefits fell far more than expected.

The Labor Department said the number of initial claims in the week ending April 25 fell to a seasonally adjusted 631,000 from the previous week's 645,000, a level revised up by 5,000.

The 2.2 percent decline in new claims was more than double the 1.0 percent forecast by most analysts.

The weekly initial claims data, a snapshot on the labor market, has shown new claims above the 600,000 level for nearly three months as the country grapples with a severe recession.

The four-week moving average, which smooths out volatility, fell to 637,250 new claims, compared with a revised 648,000 in the preceding week.

Economists are divided over whether the weekly initial claims, which have doubled since the recession began in December 2007, have peaked.

The department is to publish April unemployment and payrolls data on Friday.

In the March report, unemployment rose to a 25-year high of 8.5 percent.

“কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি”

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন

‘কৃষি ভবন’

৪৯-৫১, দিলকুশা বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০
(নিয়োগ ও কল্যাণ বিভাগ)

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশনের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল	পদ সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী ৬৮০০-১৩০৯০/-	১০টি	কৃষি/পানি সম্পদ/ভূমি/যান্ত্রিক/সিভিল প্রকৌশলে কমপক্ষে ২য় শ্রেণীর স্নাতক ডিগ্রি।
২।	সহকারী পরিচালক (কৃষি) ৬৮০০-১৩০৯০/-	০৩টি	কৃষি/কৃষি অর্থনীতি বিষয়ে কমপক্ষে ২য় শ্রেণীর স্নাতক ডিগ্রি।
৩।	উপ-সহকারী পরিচালক (কৃষি) ৫১০০-১০৩৬০/-	৫০টি	কৃষি বিষয়ে কমপক্ষে ৩ বছর মেয়াদি ডিপ্লোমা (কমপক্ষে ২য় শ্রেণী)।

আবেদনের নিয়মাবলী/নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলী:

- ১। অগ্রাধিকার প্রার্থীদের সাদা কাগজে (১) নাম, (২) পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, (৩) মাতার নাম, (৪) বৈবাহিক অবস্থা, (৫) জন্ম তারিখ, (৬) ৩১-০৫-০৯ খ্রিঃ তারিখে বয়স, (৭) স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, (৮) বর্তমান ঠিকানা, (৯) জাতীয়তা, (১০) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা (ক. ক্রমিক নম্বর, খ. পদবি/পদ, গ. বোর্ড/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নাম, ঘ. পাসের সন, ঙ. প্রাপ্ত শ্রেণী/বিভাগ, চ. প্রাপ্ত মোট নম্বর/জিপিএ), (১১) অভিজ্ঞতা, (১২) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর নম্বর এবং তারিখ উল্লেখ করে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- ২। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে বিভিন্ন শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সার্টিফিকেট ও মার্কশীট, কর্মরত প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে নিয়োগকারী কর্মকর্তা প্রদত্ত অভিজ্ঞতার সার্টিফিকেট, সম্ভবিত্ব তোলা ১ম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ছবি এবং প্রথম শ্রেণীর সরকারি কর্মকর্তা প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র ও নিজ এলাকার ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভার চেয়ারম্যান/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের কমিশনার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত স্থায়ী নিবাস সংক্রান্ত সনদপত্র জমা দিতে হবে। সাক্ষাৎকারের সময় সকল মূল সনদপত্র উপস্থাপন করতে হবে।
- ৩। সরকারি আদেশ মোতাবেক মেধা, জেলা, মহিলা, মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও অন্যান্য কোটা পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করা হবে। প্রার্থী মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র অথবা কন্যা হলে আবেদনপত্রের সাথে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা মাতা/পিতার মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সার্টিফিকেট (উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক জারিকৃত) এর সত্যায়িত ছায়াছবি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। উপজাতীয় সম্প্রদায়ভুক্ত প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট হতে প্রাপ্ত সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ৪। সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীদেরকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে নির্দিষ্ট সময়সীমার মধ্যে আবেদন করতে হবে। অগ্রিম কপি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- ৫। আবেদনকারীর বয়স ৩১.০৫.২০০৯খ্রিঃ তারিখে অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর হতে হবে। মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যার জন্য সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর। এসএসসি সনদপত্রের তিথিতে বয়স গণনা করা হবে। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- ৬। আবেদনপত্রের খামের উপরে স্পষ্টাক্ষরে পদের নাম ও জেলা উল্লেখ করতে হবে এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/উপজাতীয় প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে খামের উপর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/উপজাতীয় শব্দটি লিখতে হবে।
- ৭। নিয়োগ নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীকে লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদেরকে মৌখিক সাক্ষাৎকারের জন্য আমন্ত্রণ জানানো হবে।
- ৮। পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়সূচি উল্লেখপূর্বক প্রবেশপত্র যথাসময়ে প্রার্থীকে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের বর্তমান ঠিকানায় প্রেরণ করা হবে। পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- ৯। আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে বাংলাদেশ কৃষি উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন এর অনুকূলে প্রত্যেক পদের জন্য সোনালী ব্যাংক, কৃষি ভবন শাখা/নাশানাল ব্যাংক, দিলকুশা শাখা/জনতা ব্যাংক, মতিঝিল কর্পোরেট শাখা, ঢাকা এর উপর যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা মূল্যের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (অফেরতযোগ্য) দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ১০। প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন স্থানে চাকুরী করতে প্রস্তুত থাকতে হবে।
- ১১। সকল পদের পদসংখ্যা প্রয়োজনবোধে হ্রাস বা বৃদ্ধি করা যেতে পারে।
- ১২। আবেদনপত্র আগামী ৩১/০৫/০৯খ্রিঃ মধ্যে সচিব, বিএডিসি, কৃষি ভবন, ৪৯-৫১, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ এ ঠিকানায় অবশ্যই পৌছাতে হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। অসম্পূর্ণ ও বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

এবিএম সিরাজুল হক
সচিব
বিএডিসি, ঢাকা

কৃতক: ৪৫৫
তারিখ: ২০১০

France's economy doing better than neighbours: Minister

AFP, Paris

France is doing better than its European neighbours when it comes to weathering the economic crisis, Economy Minister Christine Lagarde said Wednesday.

She cited European Commission forecasts showing the French economy would shrink by three percent this year compared to 5.4 percent in Germany.

"The French economic model is clearly resisting better for 2009 than many other countries, neighbours, friends and competitors, which are being hit much harder by the international crisis," Lagarde told a parliament commission.

On a broad range of indicators such as inflation and unemployment, France is faring better than the eurozone average, she argued.

The French government expects the economy to shrink by 2.5 percent this year but is banking on a

turnaround in 2010.

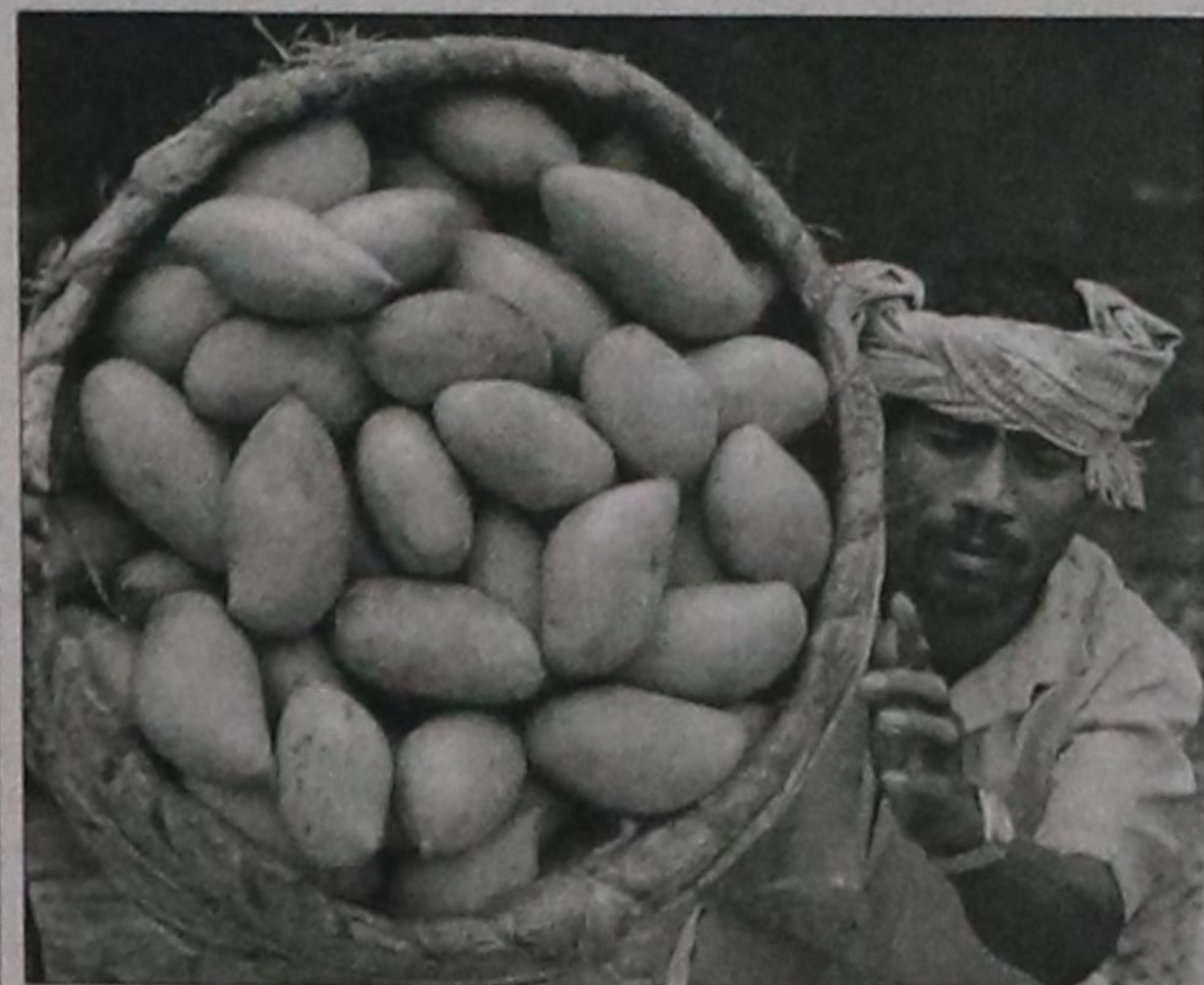
French economic activity picked up slightly in April compared to March, suggesting the recession in France was starting to bottom out, the research group Markit said.

It said an index covering the manufacturing and service sectors and compiled by company purchasing managers rose to 43.8 points last month from 40.2 in March.

While the April reading was the highest in six months, it was still well below 50 points, a level that signals an expansion in activity.

Jack Kennedy, a Markit economist, nonetheless said the worst of the recession in France appeared to be over, with growth declines likely to slow during the second quarter.

But he added that demand remained fragile and that lay-offs were showing no sign of easing.



Indian labourers load mangoes onto a truck for supply to other parts of the country at a makeshift wholesale mango market in Bangalore on Tuesday. Hundreds of trucks filled with mangoes are graded and sent to retail markets in southern and western India. India is the largest producer of mangoes in the world and accounts for nearly 50 percent of the world production of the fruit.

Uttara Bank's new DMD

STAR BUSINESS DESK



Uttara Bank Ltd has recently promoted one of its assistant managing directors, Abu Ahmed, to deputy managing director, says a press release.

Ahmed started his banking career with Uttara Bank as a probationary officer in 1977. He was promoted to general manager in 2005 and assistant managing director in 2008.

He performed in various capacities, such as heads of different zones and divisions of the bank.

The World's Tallest Test Tower Opens

Hyundai Elevator Co., Ltd. has completed the world's tallest (205m) test tower for ultra high-speed elevators, "Hyundai Asan Tower" and its "Chung Mong-hun R&D Center". Their ceremony of the completion was held at Icheon Headquarter in Gyeonggi Province on April 15, 2009.

Hyundai Elevator Co. has completed a 205-meter tower to test its elevator cars. It is the tallest elevator test tower in the world. The tower, located in Icheon, Gyeonggi, was named "Hyundai Asan Tower" after the pen name of the late Chung Ju-yung, the founder of the Hyundai Group, and the laboratory on the structure's first floor was named the Chung Mong-hun R&D Center after the former chairman of the conglomerate who died in 2003.

Hyundai Elevator held the completion ceremony participated by 300 guests including governor of Gyeonggi-do Kim moon-soo, Icheon city mayor Joh Byung-don, Hyundai Group chairwoman Hyun Jung-eun and Hyundai Elevator CEO Song Jin-chul at Hyundai Elevator's headquarter office located in Icheon city.

"Hyundai Asan Tower" is now the world's tallest elevator-testing tower measuring 205 meters in height beating Mitsubishi's elevator-testing tower of 173 meters followed by 169 meter Fujitec and 157 meter German Thyssen Krupp. Hyundai elevator testing tower constructed at the cost of US\$ 56.3 million in 14 months. Now it is the world's tallest tower which has broken all the previous world record.

The Korean tower is now equipped with three elevator cars that move up and down at 600 meters per minute and two that travel at 420 meters per minute. Two cars set to move at 1080 meters per minute, the world's fastest pace, will be added in September.

Information Source : Report published in the JoongAng Daily and Maeil Daily Economy, Korea on 16 April, 2009.

