

# Task force to be set up soon to study GATT accord

A task force will be set up soon for best exploitation of the GATT accord with special attention to local industries. Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam said here yesterday, reports UNB.

Islam said that the task force comprising local and foreign experts would study the general trade agreement and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to see how best the country could benefit from the accord.

Some 140 countries have signed the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) accord recently at Marrakesh in Morocco. World Trade Organisation, to be set up soon, would supervise the accord after its implementation from next January.

Inaugurating a seminar on "Free Market Policies and Their Impact on Bangladesh Economy," the commerce minister termed GATT as a part of free market economic system and stressed that the

country should utilise the treaty.

"We should be integrated with the globalised system. The country has to make separate agreements with 140 countries if it does not abide by the accord."

In this context, the minister stressed the need for further expansion and diversification of export which made a commendable advancement in last few years compared to other neighbouring countries.

FBCCI president Mahbubur Rahman, DCCI president A Rob Chowdhury and vice president Sazzat Jumma also spoke at the inaugural function of the day-long seminar, organised by DCCI at its auditorium.

Referring to the government's various measures towards economic liberalisation, the commerce minister said more steps should be taken for the success of free market economy.

Islam called on the busi-

nessmen to improve the quality of products and maintain stable price for the benefit of general consumers.

FBCCI president Mahbubur Rahman said the country is now at the doorstep of a weak public sector and an active private sector as the result of the economic and financial measures carried out during the last few years.

"Bangladesh should frame up strategy conforming with the reality of the country's socio-economic context following the signing of general agreement," he observed.

The FBCCI president said the developed world is protecting its interest through market mechanism and "it has become imperative to protect the interest of our own industry."

"We want free market economy, but we want an ethical practice in the market," Rahman said.

About the country's present economic situation, DCCI

president A Rob Chowdhury said the government should be ready to provide every kind of assistance to create a congenial environment for the flourishing of local industries.

He also stressed the need for an integrated strategy for economic development.

The DCCI president made a pointed reference to hartal and strike and said the Opposition should pursue alternative programmes to realise their demands.

DCCI economic consultant Dr C A F Dowlah presented the key-note paper based on a recent survey on the country's economic situation at the first working session presided over by Dhaka Stock Exchange chairman Khurshid Alam.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Jamal Uddin Ahmed was the guest of honour in the session. Former DCCI president M Yunus and Holiday editor A Z M Enayetullah Khan took part in the discussion.



M Shamsul Islam, Commerce Minister (3rd R), inaugurating a seminar on "Free Market Policy and Its Impact on Our Economy" as chief guest, organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) yesterday at its auditorium. A Rob Chowdhury (3rd L), President, DCCI, Mahbubur Rahman (2nd R), President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FBCCI), Sajatuzz Jumma (2nd L), Sr Vice-President, DCCI, Md Sirajuddin Malik (Extreme R), Vice-President, DCCI and A S M Quasem (Extreme L), Convenor, Seminar and Symposium Standing Committee are also seen the picture.

## ECNEC approves Tk 1,032cr project

The government yesterday approved the second road rehabilitation and maintenance project (RRMP-II) at a cost of over Tk 1,032 crore including a foreign exchange component of Tk 476 crore, reports BSS.

The approval was given at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council held at the cabinet conference room with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

Under the project, 170-kilometre roads will be reconstructed and rehabilitated in greater Rajshahi and Rangpur districts. It also aimed at periodic maintenance of another 2,000 kilometres of roads in greater Khulna, Jor

Barisal and Rangpur districts.

Of the total amount, the World Bank will provide Tk 619.50 crore for the project scheduled to be completed by 1998-99. The remaining expenditure of Taka 412.62 crore will be met from the government's own resources.

Under the project, 170-kilometre roads will be reconstructed and rehabilitated in greater Rajshahi and Rangpur districts. It also aimed at periodic maintenance of another 2,000 kilometres of roads in greater Khulna, Jor

Barisal and Rangpur districts.

The government is consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The Bush administration began to stimulate energy efficiency through legislation that created efficiency standards for electrical appliances, gave tax incentives for renewable sources of energy and required federal and state motor vehicles to switch to natural gas and other alternative fuels.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.

The US policies are consistent with agency objectives," she said.

The IEA was formed by 23 industrialized countries after several Middle Eastern states stopped oil sales to industrialized countries during the Egyptian-Israeli war of 1973.

The agency encourages cooperation among its members to promote energy security.