



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits a stall after inaugurating the two-day textile and apparel show, 'TexBangla 2001', at Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

## PM at TexBangla exhibition

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presented a paper on Development of Backward Linkage Industry in the Bangladesh Textile Sector: Promises and Achievements.

In his paper, Dr Bhattacharya showed the growth of textile sector in recent years and its possibilities and suggested some measures for more advancement of the growing sector that can enable Bangladesh to withstand the coming open competition.

The prime minister said the textile sector has definitely an important role in the advancement of economy. At present garment is the main industrial sector in the country.

This sector is fetching 76 per cent of the total export earnings, she noted. Last year, the export earnings in the readymade garment sector crossed 4.3 billion US dollar.

She said the government is pursuing the establishment of garment village outside Dhaka considering the present nature and quantum of the export-oriented industry. There the in-

dustries will be established in such a manner that no worker's life is threatened by electric short circuit or any other accident.

While recognising the contribution of the textile sector to economic growth, the prime minister also noted that the country had to import large quantities of raw material for manufacturing garments that minimises returns on apparel exports.

According to statistics, she said, the quantum of imports in woven garment sector is 60 to 70 per cent of the export earnings in the sector while that of knit sector is 15 to 20 per cent.

"This shows that we have been able to produce 80 to 85 per cent of our demand in the knit sector, but only 15 to 20 per cent of raw materials are being supplied by our local industries for the woven garment sector. As a result, we are importing 80 to 85 per cent of our total demand at the cost of export earnings. We must change the situation."

Hasina said the owners of readymade garments played an important role in export trade, creating an international market of about 5000 million US dollar.

If the BTMA can supply the total demand of yarn and fabric, the member mills can earn 400 million US dollar, which would eventually increase foreign exchange earnings.

The PM said: "Our government has been extending support for the increase in export earnings through local value addition for last few years. We are planning to maximise our value addition in future so that we can retain the entire export earnings from garments in our country."

The prime minister cautioned that during the open competition after 2004, if the country cannot produce textiles for export, our local industries for the woven garment sector. As a result, we are importing 80 to 85 per cent of our total demand at the cost of export earnings. We must change the situation."

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## 'Good governance key to social development'

BSS, Dhaka

Good governance coupled with multi-facet measures aimed at welfare of the people proved a key to economic and social development in several Southeast Asian countries, a seminar was told yesterday.

Speakers at the "wrapping up seminar on Bangladesh-Southeast Asia relations" deliberated on different aspects of the issue at stake. They observed that Bangladesh has a lot to know from the Southeast Asian region where several countries made spectacular progress in recent times in the sphere of economic development.

Participants in the discussions included former foreign secretary Barrister A K Mosharraf, former defence secretary Salauddin Ahmed, Brig (Retd) Shakawat Hosain, Professor Mohammad Muzum of Jahangirnagar University and former civil servant and freelance journalist M A Hannan.

Mujibul Huq said political honesty is a must for establishing good governance in any country. Prof Muzaffar Ahmad said regional cooperation is beneficial for a country like Bangladesh if this country becomes the focal point of such ventures. He said it is also necessary to change the "mindset" to make different regional or sub-regional cooperative efforts successful.

Former cabinet secretary Mujibul Huq presided over the second session and Dr Churai Tapong of Thailand, Professor Mohabbat Khan of Public Service Commission and Professor Razia Banu of Dhaka University, presented their papers.

Their subjects dealt with varied issues ranging from "Governance and development" in Southeast Asia to "Quality improvement in Southeast civil services - lesson for Bangladesh."

Members have been requested to attend the meeting.

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Telex: 632203 BJ, Fax: 880-2-863051

Ref: IPPRD/45/85(2) Dated: 16.5.2001

## Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the reputed printing firms for printing the Annual Technical Reports 1996-98 of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Savar. Tender schedules containing detail terms & conditions may be obtained from 10-6-2001 to 14-6-2001 at a cost of Tk. 450/- (Four hundred fifty non-refundable), from the Accounts Division, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Ganakbari, Savar on written request, showing original Valid Trade Licence, Income Tax and Bank Solvency Certificates and the attested copies of these documents are to be deposited along with the tenders & also with a Pay-Order/Bank Draft of Tk. 10,000/- (Ten thousand) as earnest money in favour of Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Savar, shall be dropped in the tender box kept in the office of the Information, Publication & Public Relations Division up to 1.00 PM on 18-6-2001 and will be opened on the same day at 2.30 PM in presence of the tenderers (if any present).

If for any unavoidable reasons the office remains closed on the scheduled date then the next working day the tenders shall be dropped and opened at the same venue and time.

Atomic Energy Research Establishment reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reasons.

BAEC/SID No 1(2)/94-721

DFP-14052-23/5 G-1004

Md. Habibur Rahman  
Director In-charge  
Information Publication & Public Relations Division



PHOTO STAR  
BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan addresses a rally of the four-party alliance at Muktagan in the city yesterday.

## Holistic approach a must to mitigate arsenic problems

The deliberations of the expert group meeting on arsenic, nutrition and food yesterday brought into sharp focus the need to build a long term preventive paradigm with active involvement of researchers from agriculture, public health, soil sciences and universities.

Prof Gerald pointed out that it is important to understand the impact of arsenic contamination on food though in the organic form it carries a negligible toxicity. Arsenic exposure over long periods has known to exacerbate diarrhea, cramps, anemia, hypertension and respiratory disease, he pointed out while listing the possible implications.

In his presentation that evoked a lively question and answer session, Prof Combs explained the mechanism of arsenic toxicity and its metabolic effects. Among the important factors that are likely to effect retention of arsenic are dietary intake and genetic make up and the ill-effects can be minimised by adding leafy vegetables, fruits, proteins.

In the second presentation, Dr John Duxbury of Cornell University said at present the research work on the impact of arsenic contamination on agricultural and food quality is very scant.

The expert group meeting organised by UNICEF is a step forward not only to help minimise the worst effects of arsenic on children and women but also draws attention to the need for

evolving a holistic approach.

Dr Duxbury called for international cooperation to build national capacity to deal with the issue of arsenic in its totality through workshops, internships and regular exchange of research initiatives.

Dr Duxbury said Cornell University prepared a proposal for enhancing research collaboration with national institutes that is now under consideration with USAID Bangladesh, to study the impact of arsenic contamination on agricultural sustainability and food quality.

There is certainly a genuine

need to assess the impact of arsenic contaminated soil and irrigation water on yields and quality of

rice, wheat, selected vegetable

crops and crop residues used for animal feed, he stressed in his presentation.

The expert group meeting deliberations concluded with formulation of a concerted research and development agenda and clear-cut identification of the future needs to accelerate Arsenic Mitigation Programme that UNICEF is assisting with a range of public and NGO partners.

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No 28/2001

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Tender boxes will be placed at BFCC Gate, Security Gate of Biman Head Office (Balaka Bhaban), Biman Admin Building at Zia International Airport, Biman Poultry Sales & Distribution Centre located at Biman Medical Centre Building, Farmgate, Dhaka. Bidders may drop their tender in any of those boxes.

Schedule of tender along with the terms and conditions may be obtained on request in official letterhead pad from the office of Finance Manager, BFCC, Zia International Airport, Dhaka during office hours on payment of cost of schedule. Any eligible bidder may participate in the tender.

BFCC Management reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tender/tenders and also to change the opening date of the tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. If tender opening day happens to be holiday, the tender will be opened on the next working day at the same schedule time.

DFP-14114-23/5 G-1006

For Biman Flight Catering Centre

MA Mannan Miah

By General Manager, BFCC.

Date: 21-5-2001

Ref: BFCC/HS/TENDER/44/2001/208

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Tender documents will be available during office hours from (i) The Controller of Accounts,

BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilksa C/A, Dhaka, (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A,

Chittagong and (iii) TSP Complex Ltd., Patenga, Chittagong. Tender will be received at (i) TSP Complex Ltd., Patenga, Chittagong up to 11:30 AM on the date mentioned above and will be

opened immediately thereafter in presence of bidders if any. No tender documents will be sold on the opening date. TSP Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tender

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BCIC-1595-21/5/2001

DFP-14176-2