

FBCCI seeks Vietnam help to reach Laos, Cambodia mkts

UNB, Hanoi

FBCCI yesterday sought assistance from Vietnam to reach Bangladeshi products to Laos and Cambodia through the Vietnamese seaports.

FBCCI (Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry) President Abdul Awal Mintoo made the request when he led a business delegation in talks with Vietnamese Minister for Planning and Investment Nguyen Bich Dat and Vice Minister for Industry Do Huu Hao.

"Since Laos is a landlocked country, we seek your assistance to market our products in Laos through the Vietnamese seaports," he told the ministers.

The FBCCI chief, who is leading a

business delegation to Southeast Asian countries, also sought co-operation from Hanoi for taking its products to Cambodia over the Vietnamese territory.

The Vietnamese ministers and the leaders of FBCCI in the meetings observed the political relations between the two countries had always been excellent.

"The two countries always maintained very good political relations, but economic relations should be enhanced further," said Do Huu Hao.

Said Mintoo: "For the sustainability of good political relations, it should be based on economic co-operation."

He hoped that the economic ties between the two countries would get a

boost following the establishment of Vietnam's embassy in Dhaka recently and the expected visit of Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong next year.

With massive industrial growth in Vietnam, the Vietnamese Industry Minister offered co-operation in the sector. He also sought assistance from Bangladesh in capacity building in private sector management.

Chiefs of different planning organisations as well as state-run corporations in textile, chemical, minerals, tobacco, engine and machinery, industrial and electrical equipment, and footwear industries were present.

Bangladesh Ambassador in Hanoi Ashraf-ud-Doula attended the meetings.

The Bangladeshi businessmen and entrepreneurs also had one-to-one talks with the heads of different corporations and companies.

They will hold extensive talks with the Vietnamese Chambers of Commerce and Industry leaders as well as government policy planners in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city over the next couple of days.

With the government emphasising a "look east" policy, the business delegation will also visit Cambodia.

Earlier, they had a meeting with Singapore Business Federation in Singapore where Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Moshred Khan urged the Singaporean investors to invest in Bangladesh.

CNG refuelling station set up with support of Rahimafrooz

A CNG refuelling station and conversation workshop has been set up with technical support of Rahimafrooz CNG Ltd, a concern of Rahimafrooz Group, at Tejgaon in Dhaka.

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain formally inaugurated the filling station -- Super CNG Filling Station on Sunday, says a press release.

Rahimafrooz Group Chairman Afroz Rahim, Chief Executive Officer Feroz Rahim and Director Niaz Rahim were present at the inauguration function.

Rahimafrooz will provide full technical support and one year backup service to the station, the release added.

China confirms order for 30 Boeing jets

APB, Chicago

The Boeing Company said Wednesday that it had concluded a deal to sell 30 Boeing 737 jets to five Chinese carriers in a transaction worth an estimated 1.7 billion dollars based on the planes' list price.

Air China, Hainan Airlines, Shandong Airlines, Shenzhen Airlines and Xiamen Airlines will take delivery of the new generation single-aisle jets in 2005 and 2006, according to a Boeing statement.

"Adding these 737 airplanes to our current fleet of 672 airplanes will help Chinese airlines meet their rapidly growing networks and accommodate the rising demand from our passengers," said Zhang Guobao, vice chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission, in a ceremony at the US Commerce Department in Washington.

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Prof Yunus said it is not possible for the central bank to supervise the NGOs credit programmes. "This is why we discussed setting up of micro-credit

banks -- each having one to two branches."

The minister pointed out that different NGOs are charging different interest rates on micro-credit while medium entrepreneurs do not get loans.

"Therefore we want to bring the micro-

credit programmes of the NGOs under a composite policy."

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