



National Day of Spain



The Daily Star

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His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen of Spain

Spain-Bangladesh economic data

The bilateral relations have at present a very low profile. There are not too many official contacts. In the past they were basically encouraged by the Financial Programme FAD, already cancelled.

There is no institutional framework either. We can only find the Agreement on Economic Co-operation of July 28 1988. By means of it, Spain put at the Bangladesh disposal 85M. US Dollars in the FAD Financial Programme.

The commercial balance in 2007 shows a deficit for Spain of 405.8 M Euro. Imports from Bangladesh reached the figure of 462.03 M. Euro. Basically they include textiles, shoes and leather, as follows:

* Clothes and accessories	305.31 M. Euro
except knitting	110.16 "
* Rest of clothing articles	19.93 "
* Hide and leather goods	13.47 "
* Textile fibres, etc.	2.63 "
* Cotton	2.13 "
* Shoes and related articles	2.10 "
* Ceramics	1.37 "
* Copper and copper products	1.25 "
* Hats their pieces	0.74 "

Exports from Spain recovered to reach 56.21 M. Euro. The main articles are:

* Nuclear reactors, furnaces, machines mechanic artifacts	9.47 "
* Machines, electric and electronic devices	9.18 "
* Chemical and organic products	6.13 "
* Paints and polish	4.36 "
* Precision devices	2.19 "
* Non organic chemical products	0.88 "
* Animal food, etc.	0.85 "
* Pharmaceutical products	0.78 "
* Other chemical products	0.77 "
* Plastic materials	0.68 "

Investments show also humble figures: Spain invests mainly in garments and furs, tele-communications and cement and Bangladesh in textiles and catering.

The following table shows the evolution of our main figures.

Bilateral relations	2004	2005	2006	2007
Spanish exports (M\$)	58.55	46.8	50.68	56.22
Market quota (UNO Statistics)	0.77	0.54	0.53	n.a
Spanish import (M\$)	329.7	365	469.46	462.03
Stock of Spanish investment (ME)	20.4	18.07	n.a	n.a
Spanish investment (Brut in €)	0	0	0	38,890
Spanish investment (Net in €)	0	0	0	38,890
Investment in Spain (Brut in €)	3,840	260	154.90	75,420
Investment in Spain (Net in €)	3,840	260	154.90	75,420
Debt (ME)	5.180	5.897	5.283	4.574
Main exported chapters	The ten main export chapters meant 86.85% of the total exports and were presided over by machinery, chemical and pharmaceutical products, plastics and animal food.			
Main imported chapters	They are basically concentrated in the textile, shoe and leather sectors with the first seven importing chapters that belong to the latter, meaning 98.64% of the total imports. The other chapters have a very small importance, below 0.3% each.			

Ambassador's Message

THE greatest thing after the creation of the World... is the discovery of the Indies." So wrote the chronicler Francisco López de Gómara half a century after the event took place. The arrival of a flotilla of three ships under the command of Christopher Columbus at a small West Indian island opened the Modern Age in which the man became master of the whole wide world. Life of peoples changed from isolation to integration. Mankind became aware of its essential unity, despite the different features of people. History stopped being regional to become universal. This is the main meaning of what happened on the 12th of October 1492.

Today many people in the New World - and not only us - celebrate the anniversary of this arrival. The occasion points out the birth of a new identity as a result of the encounter and melting of the peoples of the American Continent with the Spaniards. For this reason, we began to call that day the "Day of the Race", the union between Latin America and Spain, to become later on the "Day of Hispanidad" - word with no easy translation into English that reflects the fact of belonging to the Spanish community". In United States the celebration is called "Columbus Day" For us it was declared officially our National Day only in 1987, coinciding with the celebration of Our Lady of the Pillar, patron saint of Zaragoza, the site of this year's World Expo.

Not being racial, let alone imperialistic, the "Hispanidad" is a beautiful idea. Moreover, it is one of the foundations that support the historic grandeur of Spain and her not less historic missions. The Day, more than an opportunity for parades and shows which would render it meaningless, we want it to be helpful in letting us think about the needs of its members, about the common language, about their governance, about their debts and about their solidarity underneath and above all. This is nothing old-fashioned, no matter how much it could be discussed. We, therefore, need more than a day. We need the whole of a committed life.

Where comes Bangladesh in this scheme? Spain has been present in many parts of the world. In Asia we have a very special relationship with the Philippines, also included in our Hispanic community. The Manila galleon linked for three centuries Asia with America and Europe. In Spain's activities in Asia we can also observe an encounter back in the Eighteenth Century when Spanish merchants set foot for the first time in Chittagong. This is not an insignificant event. From then on our relations have developed slowly but steadily well until the present moment in which we enjoy very friendly ones.

There are still many things to do for our two countries. We have a considerable amount of trade but there is great potential to grow. H.M. the Queen of Spain has visited this country several times creating great goodwill. Spain cares for Bangladesh and wishes to contribute to the

improvement of the already good conditions of this country. On the other hand, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Professor Muhammad Yunus, has travelled to Spain also several times to inform us, among other things, of the revolutionary micro-credits. Many other fields can also be mentioned, such as cultural relations, education, sciences, tourism and so on.

Last year the resident Embassy of Spain in Bangladesh was created and in April this year I had the privilege to arrive in Dhaka for the first time as the first resident Ambassador of Spain in this wonderful country. You cannot imagine the honour that this appointment has meant for me. And, what a challenge! Yet I was prepared and assisted by many of you. Your warmth, encouragement and support is being vital for the success of our endeavour and I thank you most sincerely for it.

The Honorary Consulate in Dhaka concluded its mission and its members have also been most supportive. My thanks to all of them. Little by little the Embassy is beginning to operate with the help of my new collaborators, very competent people, and now we are in the process of engaging local people to be able to give a positive response and service to both the Spaniards and the Bangladeshis from our new Chancery. We hope to be in full movement very soon. I would like to ask you for a little bit more patience.

One of the tasks performed by my team has been that of organizing for the first time the National Day celebration. We would like to enjoy it very much with all the readers, the authorities and the people and friends of Bangladesh. To all of you, including most especially this newspaper for allowing me to benefit from the generosity of its pages, thank you very much and "feliz Día de la Hispanidad".



Arturo Pérez Martínez
Ambassador of Spain to Bangladesh

Tourist destinations in Spain

SPAIN is one of the world's most popular tourist destinations, having a rich history, outstanding architecture and various landscapes. Although Spain's capital city is Madrid, and the second biggest is Mediterranean Barcelona, among some of the most frequently visited historical places in Spain include: Salamanca, Seville, Cordoba and Granada.

Salamanca

Salamanca was an important Iberian settlement, which was destroyed by Hannibal, the Carthaginian general. The event was held in 217 BC. The city served as the cradle of some exceptional artists such as Alberto Churriguera. His famous work is the Plaza Mayor. The city's great historical and architectural attractions include the Romanesque old cathedral as well as the new cathedral. In addition it is worth mentioning that the University of Salamanca is Europe's most important and oldest universities. The roots of its foundation date back to 1218. This was the time when Alfonso IX of Leon decided to establish a university in the city. The struc-

ture of the "Escuelas Menores" features a great fresco of the zodiac named The Sky of Salamanca.

Seville

The city is the capital of Andalusia, the landscape of which represents a mix of mountains, beaches, vineyards, fields of olive, orange and lemon trees growing between the houses of the well-known courtyards of the region. Seville is one of Spain's central cities. Don Juan de Carmen was the one of the city's glories.

A great architecture of the city is expressed through historical buildings such as the Cathedral of Santa Maria, a gothic-style construction with an outstanding collection of art. It is also the place where the rests of Christopher Columbus and San Fernando lie. Seville is also the city of great monuments and among them one can find the Giralda, the Alcazar Palace (a Moorish building), and the Torre de Oro.

Each year since 1847 the citizens of Seville celebrate the April Fest which follows Easter. The fest was established when women of

Seville put on their best clothes and all the citizens spent their time eating, drinking and dancing sevillanas. Sevillians consider Easter and April Fest to be the two

most important days for the city.

Cordoba

This city is also located in Andalusia. In Cordoba a number

of Moorish relics of the Spanish empire can be found. The most important days for the city. city of Granada was the Moors' final stronghold in the empire. There a well-known expression regarding the city: "it is no greater misfortune than to be blind in



Cordoba

of Moorish relics of the Spanish empire can be found. The most spectacular among the relicts is the Mosque of Spain, which was constructed in the 8th century. The mosque was one of the few Arab masterpieces that remained untouched during the Reconquista (Spanish for Reconquest).

The main feature of the Andalusian city is its old "juderia" found to the northwest of the mosque's high walls. Even today Cordoba is considered to be a Moorish city with quite narrow streets, which are sometimes too narrow for the cars. The majority of such streets are located in the older quarter of the city's center and west.

The forge workings beautify the streets made fully of stone and the silversmiths till today are creating great masterpieces within their factories.

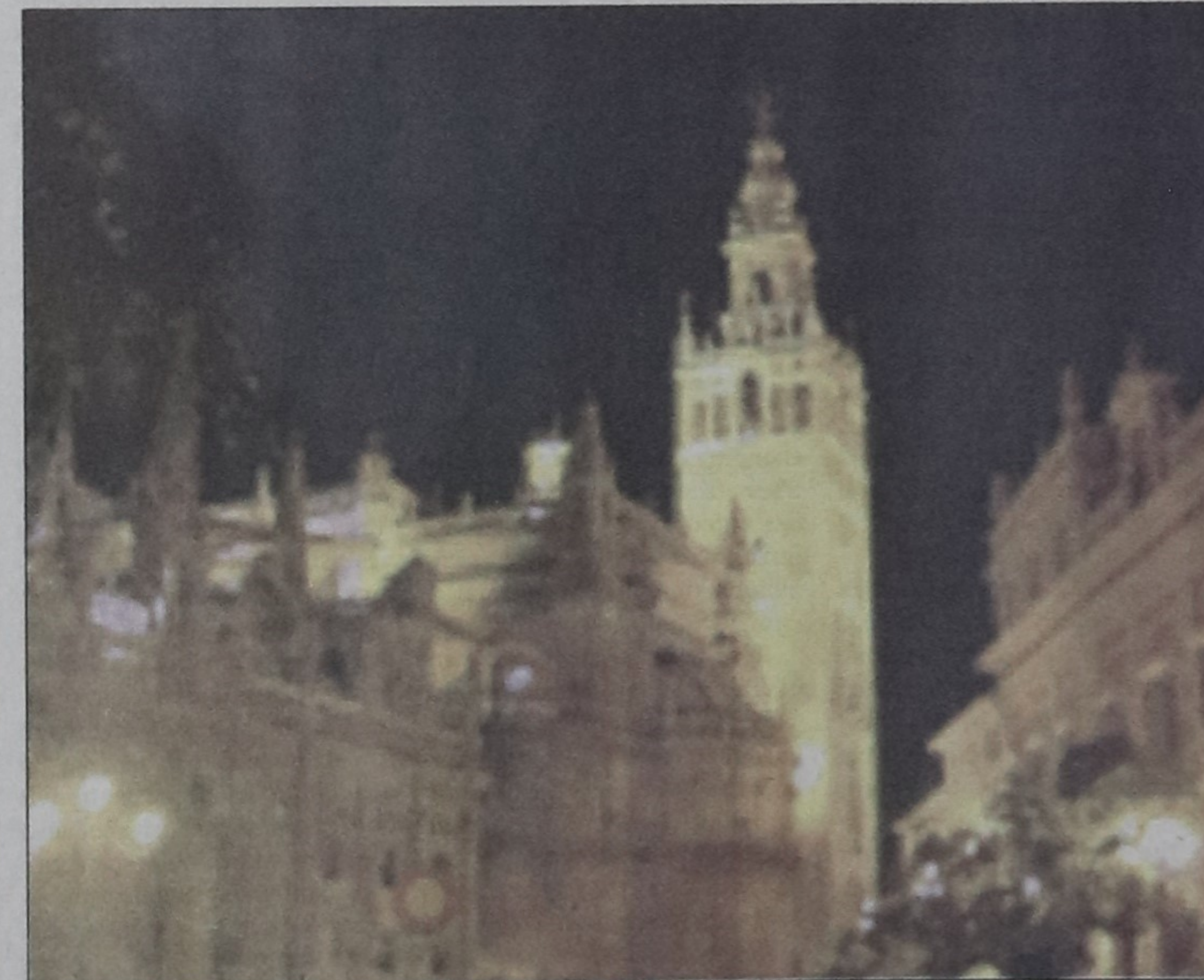
Granada

It is interesting to note that the

Granada". The city is surrounded by the superb gardens of the Generalife, with a big number of fountains and an effective use of water that serves as a source of refreshment during the hot days of summer. A wonderful architecture is highly appreciated thanks to the Cathedral of Granada, which include the tombs of Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile.

The north east of the city is occupied by the Albaicin quarter, this being the oldest region of the city, having narrow cobbled streets and houses built in Moorish style, called carmines. In Granada a popular tourist attraction are the Caves of Sacromonte.

Sierra Nevada Range with its Mulhacen Peak (3,481 meters) allows visitors to practice winter sports during cold weather and aquatic sports in its beaches during the hot days of summer.



Seville



Granada



Salamanca