

# Invest in northeast states to cut trade gap

Former Indian minister urges Bangladeshi businessmen

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
A former central government minister of India has called upon Bangladeshi businessmen to invest in northeastern states for mutual benefits of both the countries. A window of opportunities opened after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in January this year, Mani Shankar Aiyar, former union minister for northeastern region development, told a meeting at the Dhaka Sheraton hotel yesterday. India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised the meeting for a visiting Indian delegation, comprised mainly of businesspeople. Mani Shankar Aiyar is leading the delegation that includes more than

30 businessmen from IT, shipbuilding, cement and health care sectors. "I hope there will be a mental breakthrough during the visit to restore the historical economic relationship between Bangladesh and the northeastern region (of India)," said Aiyar, also a member of Rajya Sabha (the upper house of Indian parliament). He was involved in the Liberation War of Bangladesh (refugee management) as a young official. He said the northeastern India had a historical relationship with Bangladesh, but it was broken up during the 1965 war between India and Pakistan. After the war, he said, the northeastern part became isolated with

the rest of India and Bangladesh. Aiyar said the Indian government has earmarked Rs 14 lakh crore or 10 percent of its development budget for a period of 12 years for the northeastern states, which have only 4 percent of India's total population. He said the money is being spent for developing infrastructure and economy of the region so both the foreign and domestic investors do business there. The former minister said the region cannot develop without Bangladesh. Allowing Bangladeshi ports and rivers for India's use will improve the relationship, he added. Bangladesh can reduce the trade gap with India by doing business in the northeastern region, he said.

Trade volume between Bangladesh and India was nearly \$4 billion during 2009-10, of which Bangladesh's export was only \$330 million. President of the chamber Abdul Matlub Ahmad said the Bangladeshi industrialists are matured enough to invest in large economies like India, Turkey and Middle East countries. He requested the government to allow the industrialists to invest in outside Bangladesh. Matlub said some agreements on joint venture will be signed during the visit. Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Rajesh Mitter and a senior official of Nagaland government, Dr KC Nihoshe, also spoke.



Mani Shankar Aiyar, third from right, head of an Indian delegation, speaks at a meeting organised by India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.



Abul Kasem Khan, left, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, receives the fourth Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) Award (in big chamber category) from Ambassador Benedicto V Yujuico, the newly elected president of CACCI, at the 24th conference of the confederation in Colombo, Sri Lanka recently.

## World acclaim for DCCI

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry has won the fourth Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) Award in big chamber category. CACCI President Ambassador Benedicto V Yujuico handed over the award to DCCI President Abul Kasem Khan at the regional chamber's 24th conference at Colombo, Sri Lanka on Tuesday. A total of six selected chambers from five Asian countries took part in the competition, the DCCI boss said at a press meet at the chamber's office in the capital yesterday. "Assessing performance, the juries awarded DCCI with certificate of finalist, award crest and \$2,000 as the best local chamber," Khan added. The evaluation committee assessed the performance of the participating chambers on outstanding services to the member-bodies regarding policy advocacy efforts, training programmes, outstanding services to community and country (trade and investment promotion projects, employment-generation activities and participation in CACCI activities and projects). The CACCI is a regional grouping of apex chambers of commerce and industry, business associations and business enterprises in Asia and the Western Pacific, which has 29 primary members now, Khan said. He said with the international recognition, now the DCCI will enjoy more access to important Asia-Pacific chambers for collective actions.

## New drydock to be set up in Patenga

**BSS, Chittagong**  
A new drydock will be set up for building modern ocean-going vessels on an area of 17 acres of Chittagong Drydock Ltd (CDL) at Patenga in the port city. The process for appointing a consultant has started in line with a decision of the parliamentary standing committee on the shipping ministry, considering huge potential of exporting ocean-going vessels to the world market, CDL officials said here yesterday. They said facilities for building ocean-going vessels up to 10,000 tonne weight were now available at the CDL yard. The CDL authorities want to expand and modernise these facilities and they have already submitted a proposal to the ministry concerned. Enamul Baki, managing director of CDL, told the news agency that the standing committee at a recent meeting recommended establishing another drydock for building ocean-going vessels for exports. The officials said many local and foreign companies have already communicated with the CDL and the shipping ministry, showing interest in investing Tk 150 crore to Tk 200 crore to set up a shipyard on the land under a joint venture. The standing committee at a joint meeting with the shipping ministry recently recommended that the ministry would expand the CDL through the public-private partnership (PPP) rules and it would build new ships for export. The meeting held late last month urged the ministry concerned to take steps on an emergency basis for setting up another shipyard on the CDL land for building and renovating modern vessels. Earlier, a three-member parliamentary sub-committee submitted a report to the standing committee in January this year, and recommended building another drydock in the CDL area. The officials said the possibility of exporting modern vessels by Bangladesh increases as many vessel exporting countries in Asia including China, Vietnam, India, Korea and Singapore stopped receiving orders to build new vessels till 2014. The CDL officials said a plan for setting up a second drydock was taken after the War of Liberation. However, the project was shelved in 1979.

## Stocks pass a breezy week

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Stocks soared last week, powered by the financial services sector that found prices on the rise after better-than-expected half-yearly earnings. A cut in the interest rate on savings certificates by the government also propelled the market. Week-on-week, the benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange -- DSE General Index -- jumped 278.82 points, or 4.53 percent, to 6,432.5. Analysts said the financial services sector that consists of banks, non-banks and life insurance companies was a major market mover, and took up more than 60 percent of the trading volume last week. An important trigger for the euphoria around financial stocks was the release of an unofficial half-yearly operating profit results by banks, BRAC-EPL, an investment bank, said in a weekly analysis. "Most banks have apparently achieved spectacular results, driven primarily by the success in their capital market operations (both profit taking in their own portfolio and trading activities)," it said. "The market took a correct cue that by default, NBFIs and life insurers should benefit from this trend too. This assumption drove up both volume and the prices of financial sector stocks," BRAC-EPL said. A market insider said the government's move on savings certificates' interest rate fuelled the upbeat market,

as many are now turning back into the market instead of investment on savings tools. On July 4, the government cut the interest rate on savings certificates to 11 percent from 12.50 percent. However, the stockmarket regulator -- concerned by the bullish trend -- cut the margin loan ratio in an effort to calm the market. The Securities and Exchange Commission on Thursday directed merchant banks and stockbrokers to provide credit at 1:1 ratio, down from 1:1.5. This is the fourth time in a year that the market watchdog revised the loan ratio. In the previous cases, it was seen that the market declined after the SEC cut the margin loan ratio, and the market advanced after the loan ratio was revised up. The financial sector apart, all other major sectors including energy and power, telecoms and pharmaceuticals advanced during the week. Gainers beat losers 192 to 63 with two securities remaining unchanged on the premier bourse, which traded more than 33.4 crore shares and mutual fund units on a turnover of Tk 10,829.42 crore. The daily average turnover was Tk 2,165.88 crore. Total market capitalisation rose 3.54 percent to Tk 279,636 crore. Titas Gas, the state-run fuel company, topped the turnover leaders with more than 94.81 lakh shares valued at Tk 1,020.56 crore. Other turnover leaders were AB Bank, Beximco Limited,

National Bank and Pubali Bank. National Life Insurance was the largest gainer, which posted a 34.33 percent rise, followed by Progressive Life Insurance, Bay Leasing and Investment, Midas Financing and Prime Islami Life Insurance. AIMS 1st Mutual Fund was the biggest loser, which lost 27.55 percent, followed by Chittagong Vegetable, Sandhani Life Insurance, 5th ICB Mutual Fund and 3rd ICB Mutual Fund. Chittagong stocks also soared last week with the CSE Selective Categories Index jumping 3.55 percent to 12,136.88. More than 3.67 crore shares and mutual fund units traded on Chittagong Stock Exchange on a turnover of Tk 723.94 crore. Of the traded issues, 148 advanced and 57 declined with five remaining unchanged on the port city bourse. National Life Insurance topped the turnover leaders with more than 83,000 shares worth Tk 68.99 crore. Other turnover leaders were Beximco Limited, Titas Gas, Mercantile Bank and AB Bank. Progressive Life Insurance was the largest gainer, which posted 39 percent rise, followed by Monno Fabrics, Rupali Life Insurance, Rahima Food and Daffodil Computers. Popular Life Insurance was the biggest loser, which lost 17.46 percent, followed by Sandhani Life Insurance, Gulf Foods, AIMS 1st Mutual Fund and Monno Ceramic.

## New GM for Sonali Bank



**STAR BUSINESS DESK**  
Shaheda Begum has recently been promoted to general manager of Sonali Bank with a retrospective effect from September 4, 2003. Shaheda was the deputy general manager of the bank prior to the new appointment. She took her banking career as a probationary officer for Sonali Bank after completing her post-graduation in economics from Chittagong University.

## United launches Jeddah flight from July 29

**BSS, Dhaka**  
United Airways has announced its plan to launch a Dhaka-Jeddah flight from July 29. The private airline that stepped into its third year of service started its operation with a Dhaka-Sylhet flight. With its 95 percent stake owned by expatriate Bangladeshis, the airline now looks to fly to Bangkok, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi shortly, particularly out of Sylhet. It is also carrying out necessary feasibility studies for Singapore, Male, Colombo and Jakarta operations. "We are in the process of buying one Airbus 310-300 and three more ATR aircraft by year-end," said Tasbirul Ahmed Choudhury, chairman and managing director of United Airways.



Power Development Board (PDB) signed an agreement with Powerpac to build a quick rental power plant in Keraniganj. PDB Secretary Azizul Islam inked the deal with PowerPac Chairman Rick Haque Shikder in Dhaka on Thursday. (Story on B1)

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Directorate General of Food  
Ministry of Food & Disaster Management  
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka  
Website: www.dgfood.gov.bd

No. DGof/Do/PEP/Parboiled Rice-40/2010-1100 Dated: 06/07/2010

### International Request for Quotation Notice of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice (Package-II) under 2010-2011

International quotation in sealed cover are invited from bonafide traders for supply of 30,000 (thirty thousand) Metric Tons of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice. The particulars of international quotation are furnished below:

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh						
1	Ministry/Division : Ministry of Food & Disaster Management/Food Division.					
2	Agency : Not applicable.					
3	Procuring entity name : Director General of Food.					
4	Procuring entity code : Not applicable.					
5	Procuring entity district : Dhaka.					
6	Invitation for : Procurement of 30,000 MT (75%) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice.					
7	Invitation Ref. No. : DGof/Do/PEP/Parboiled Rse-40/2010-1100.					
8	Date : 06/07/2010					
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>						
9	Procuring method : International Request for Quotation.					
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>						
10	Budget and source of fund : GoB Fund.					
11	Development partners (if applicable) : Not applicable.					
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>						
12	Project/programme code (if applicable) : Not applicable.					
13	Project/programme name (if applicable) : Not applicable.					
14	Package No. : Package-II.					
15	Package name : Package-II.					
16	Notice publication date : 08/07/2010					
17	Document last selling date : 18/07/2010					
18	Closing date and time for submission of quotation : 19/07/2010, Time: 1.00pm (BST).					
19	Quotation opening date and time : 19/07/2010, Time: 2.00pm (BST).					
20 Name and address of the office(s):						
Selling quotation documents : Office Chamber of Director (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.						
Receiving place of quotation : Office Chamber of Director (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.						
Opening place of quotation : Conference Room (Room No. 104-105) 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.						
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional) : Not applicable					
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>						
22	Eligibility of quotation : Necessary papers to be submitted complying the conditions mentioned in the quotation documents.					
23	Brief description of goods or works : 30,000 (thirty thousand) MT. of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice at Chittagong and Mongla on CIF Liner Out at both ends (Cost of the Cargo, Insurance and Freight including stevedoring are on seller's account. Lighterage, if any, is also on seller's account). Single price per MT is to be quoted in US\$ for both Chittagong Port and Mongla Port. Quantity must be supplied 60% for Chittagong Port & 40% for Mongla Port.					
24	Brief description of related services : Not applicable.					
25	Price of tender document (Tk.) : Tk. 5,000 (five thousand) or USD 75 (seventy-five) non-refundable by Pay-Order/Bank Draft drawn in favour of Director General, Directorate General of Food.					
Pack No.	Identification of shipment	Country of origin	Quality & specification	Location	Tender security amount (US\$)	Completion time in weeks/months
Pack-02	30,000 MT (75%) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice on CIF Liner Out term	Any country of the world except Israel	Moisture (maximum) : 13% Broken grain (maximum) : 15% (Rice of size 3/4" and below will be considered as broken and less than 14" broken should not be more than 2%) Foreign matter (maximum) : 0.3% Dead, damaged & discoloured grains (maximum) : 3% in total Radio-Activity (maximum) : 50 Bq/Kg of <sup>137</sup> Cs/ <sup>134</sup> Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC and South-East Asian Country)	Chittagong Port (60%) and Mongla Port (40%)	US\$ 1,65,000 in favour of Director General of Food for 30,000 MT (75%)	40 (forty) days from the date of signing of the contract
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>						
26	Name of official inviting quotation	Md. Abdul Halim.				
27	Designation of official inviting quotation	Director (Procurement).				
28	Address of official inviting quotation	Office Chamber of Director (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.				
29	Contact details of official inviting quotation	Phone: +88-02-9550261; Fax: +88-02-9558067.				
30	Incomplete, conditional quotation and alternate offer shall not be considered. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all quotations partly or wholly without assigning any reason.					

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