

Govt to upgrade Tripura mission

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to upgrade its diplomatic offices in Tripura, aimed at boosting trade and people-to-people contact with the northeastern region of India.

Foreign ministry officials said the government has also approved plans to upgrade its mission in Agartala to the deputy high commission level. Presently, Bangladesh has a visa office in Agartala, which is headed by a first secretary-level official.

The officials said Bangladesh has targeted to increase its volume of export to Tripura to Rs 300 crore in the current financial year. Trade with Tripura is in favour of Bangladesh now.

In fiscal 2007-08, Bangladesh exported goods worth Rs 84.15 crore to Tripura and imported commodities worth Rs 1.51 crore from the state. Last year, the bilateral trade stood at Rs 166 crore, of which Bangladesh imported items worth Rs 10 crore.

The northeastern Indian states of Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam export commodities like limestone, tea, machine parts, fruits and coal to Bangladesh and import cement, stone chips, bricks, hilsa fish, dry fish, edible oil, readymade garments and furniture from Bangladesh.

In a bid to increase trade with the northeastern states, Bangladesh's deputy high commission in Kolkata recently held camps at Siliguri in West Bengal and

Guwahati in Assam for the visa seekers.

Bangladesh's High Commissioner to India Tariq A Karim, during his recent visit to Tripura, said he had asked the government to set up deputy high commissions at Mumbai, Chennai and Guwahati.

"If more Indians are willing to go to Bangladesh frequently, visa camps would be held in different places in northeast and eastern India more often," said Karim, who was accompanied by Bangladesh's Deputy High Commissioner to India Mustafizur Rahman.

The Agartala visa office, set up in 1974 and upgraded in 1990, is the only Bangladesh mission in northeast India.

EPB now seeks export targets from overseas missions

BSS, Dhaka

The Export Promotion Bureau has taken an innovative plan to seek export target from the country's missions abroad instead of the earlier goal fixed by the authorities concerned.

In doing so, the EPB will send a letter to the foreign affairs ministry to take necessary steps so that all the 44 Bangladesh missions can fulfill the export targets.

Out of the total missions, 21 achieved their respective export targets, while 23 could not do so during July-September of the current fiscal year, according to the latest statistics from the state-run

promotional agency.

"We'll seek suggestions from the missions about the measures and mechanisms needed for boosting export and device ways and means accordingly," Jalal Ahmed, vice-chairman of EPB, told the news agency on Wednesday.

From now on, Jalal said, his organisation and the foreign ministry will work jointly to increase export trade.

Efforts will be made to increase the export volume by synchronising economic and diplomatic relations, he said.

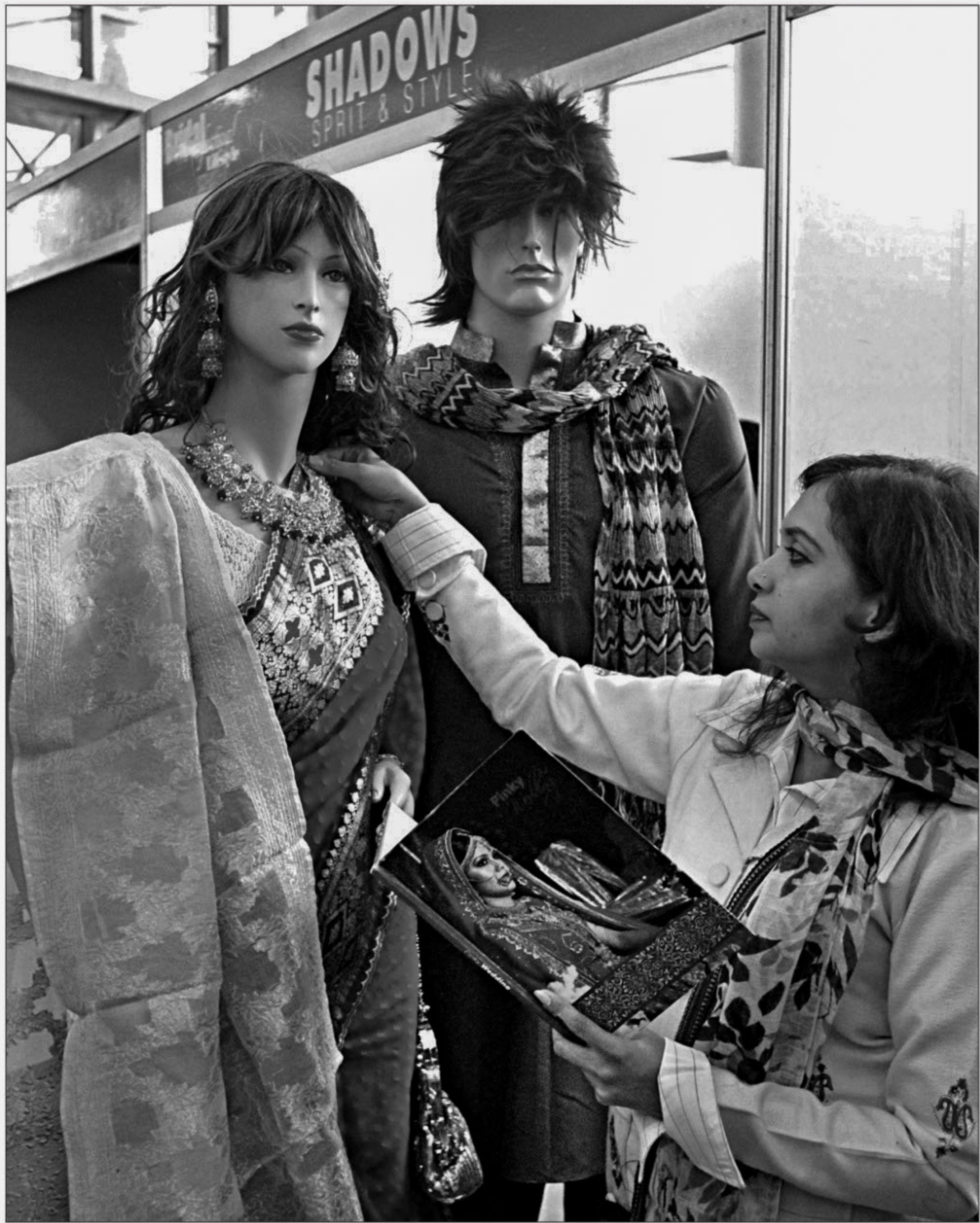
The EPB top official described Brussels, Russia, Turkey and Korea

as potential export destinations for Bangladeshi products.

Readymade garment (RMG) share in export is gradually decreasing and has stood at 77.10 percent this year from 80 percent earlier, he said, adding: "It means that shares of other goods like software and shipbuilding are on the rise."

Commerce ministry sources said a \$18.5 billion export earning target was fixed for the fiscal 2010-11 with a forecast of achieving 14.20 percent export growth.

The actual export earnings in the first quarter of the fiscal was \$5029.05 million, which is 12.33 percent higher than the target of \$4477.00 million.



A stall owner fixes her mannequin's dress at the Bridal Festival and Lifestyle Expo at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. The Weekly Financial Mirror organised the show.



ACI Export Division on Monday assigned Paper Rhyme Advertising Ltd to design packaging materials for its export items. Ahmed Ferdous Mohammad Asif, business director of ACI Foods, and AZM Saifuddin, managing director of Paper Rhyme, were present at the deal signing ceremony in Dhaka.

Efforts on to upgrade country status: BB chief

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman said Bangladesh will be one of the 30 rich countries in the world by 2030. The central bank has taken massive programmes to help achieve the target.

The BB chief said this while addressing the inaugural of the 962nd branch of Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) at Joymontop in Singair upazila, Manikganj yesterday.

Rahman said the central bank and scheduled banks are providing support to farmers, as development is impossible without development of farmers. Private banks plan to disburse Tk 3,000 crore among the farmers this year, he added.

BKB Chairman Khondokar Ibrahim Khaled and Managing Director Mohammad Mokhtar Hossain also spoke.

Khaled said Bangladesh occupies the third most preferred garment product exporting country in the world after China and Turkey.

BKB set up its new branch at Joymontop for the farmers of three unions -- Joymontop, Dholla and Jamirta -- who have earned fame as champion growers of vegetables and crops such as carrot, potato and maize.

Twenty-seven farmers were given Tk 9.43 lakh in agricultural loans at the ceremony.

Seminar points to anti-graft law reforms

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Reforms in law could make it a more effective tool to curb corruption, pointed out a seminar in Dhaka yesterday.

"The anti-graft law, now in place, is flawed and weak, which has made elimination of corruption a task next to impossible," Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on public accounts, told the discussion.

Held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, it was organised by USAID Prohati in association with the offices of Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh and Controller General of Accounts.

The government has to consider making necessary amendments to the existing law so that the state-run anti-graft body, Anti-corruption Commission, is strengthened, suggested the parliamentary body chief.

Khan also stressed raising productivity.

"When there is a system of equal distribution of wealth, there is no corruption, ideally," he said.

James F Moriarty, US ambassador to Bangladesh, said the fight against cor-

ruption requires a strong partnership among government, civil society and media.

"These bodies have to work together on building a foundation for more just and fair governance, and to build demand for greater transparency and accountability within the public and private sectors," he said, suggesting strong leadership to free the society from graft.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jono Foundation -- a non-governmental organisation --, pointed to the urgent need to ensure transparency in public and private sectors.

"There is a tendency to keep information secret. Such mindset should be changed in order to get a corruption-free society," she said.

"Here the right to information [RTI] plays a very significant role in ensuring transparency and accountability," Anam added.

"RTI protects all other rights because familial, social, political and economic aspects of life are shaped by information that is to be available to everyone," the top official of the NGO said.

She also pointed out that in the long run, RTI will help ensure accountability in public fund usage and good governance as well.

Farooq Sobhan, president of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, moderated the seminar, attended by Abdur Razzaque, food and disaster management minister, as chief guest.

Exports to France rise 13pc

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Textile and garments exports to France posted a 13 percent rise in the first 10 months of 2010, compared to the same period last year, said the head of France-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday.

Exports amounted to nearly Tk 8,350 crore in the January-October period, according to statistics provided by SS Kamal, president of the chamber.

Bangladesh imported Tk 710 crore worth of goods in the January-October period, a 7 percent rise from a year ago.

France is the fourth-largest trade partner of Bangladesh, after the United States, Germany, and UK.

The French-Bangla chamber has been organising an annual gala from 1997 to promote the country's prospects for investment. This year's programme will be held at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka on December 11.



Indian cellphone maker Micromax Informatics yesterday opened its first service centre at Bashundhara City in Dhaka. Vikas Sahni, Micromax's general manager (sales) for Saarc countries, and Owahab Khan, country manager, attended the programme.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

"সবাই মিলে দেব কর দেশ হবে স্বনির্ভর"

মিনারেল ওয়াটার, কোমল পানীয়, টয়লেট সাবান ও সিগারেট-এর উৎপাদক, বিক্রেতা ও ক্রেতা সাধারণের জন্য জ্ঞাতব্য

মিনারেল ওয়াটার, কোমল পানীয়, টয়লেট সাবান ও সিগারেট-এর উৎপাদক, বিক্রেতা ও ক্রেতা সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পেশার গুণগত মান বজায় রাখা এবং রাজস্ব আহরণ নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে মিনারেল ওয়াটার, কোমল পানীয় ও সিগারেটে ব্যান্ডরোল সংযুক্ত করা হয়। এ সকল পেশার ব্যান্ডরোলবিহীন উৎপাদন, ক্রয়, বিক্রয় ও বাজারজাত করা আইনত: দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ। নিম্নে উল্লিখিত বর্ণনা ও সাইজ মোতাবেক পেশা যথাযথভাবে লাগানো ব্যান্ডরোল দেখে পণ্য ক্রয়, বিক্রয় ও বাজারজাত করার জন্য সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ সতর্ককণে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পেশার নাম	ব্যান্ডরোলের আকার	ব্যান্ডরোল লাগানোর পদ্ধতি	লক্ষণীয়
১	মিনারেল ওয়াটার	৩০ মি: মি:	কর্কের নীচ থেকে কর্কের উপর পর্যন্ত সংযুক্ত থাকতে হবে, যার দৈর্ঘ্য হবে ৩০ মি: মি:	ব্যান্ডরোলের গায়ে NBR লেখা থাকবে।
২	কোমল পানীয়	৩০ মি: মি:	কর্কের নীচ থেকে কর্কের উপর পর্যন্ত সংযুক্ত থাকতে হবে, যার দৈর্ঘ্য হবে ৩০ মি: মি:	ব্যান্ডরোলের গায়ে NBR লেখা থাকবে।
৩	সিগারেট (স্লাইড এন্ড শেল) (সাধারণ)	দৈর্ঘ্য ১৪০±০.৫ মি:মি: প্রস্থ ১৪±০.২৫ মি:মি:	প্যাকেটের উপর থেকে নীচ পর্যন্ত লম্বালম্বিভাবে সংযুক্ত থাকতে হবে।	ব্যান্ডরোলের গায়ে শাপলা চিহ্নিত এবং NBR লেখা থাকবে।
৪	সিগারেট (হার্ড এন্ড সফট) (বাক্স আকৃতির)	দৈর্ঘ্য ৪৫ মি: মি: প্রস্থ ২০ মি:মি:	প্যাকেটের মুখে এমন ভাবে আবৃত থাকবে যাতে না ছিঁড়ে খোলা না যায়।	ব্যান্ডরোলের গায়ে শাপলা চিহ্নিত এবং NBR লেখা থাকবে।
৫	টয়লেট সাবান	দৈর্ঘ্য ৩৫-৪৮ মি: মি: প্রস্থ ২৫ মি: মি:	প্যাকেটের দুই পার্শ্বের মুখে শক্তভাবে সংযুক্ত থাকবে।	ব্যান্ডরোলের গায়ে NBR লেখা থাকবে।

প্রতিটি ব্যান্ডরোলেই এ্যালুমিনিয়াম ফয়েলের চকচকে অংশ থাকে যাতে NBR শব্দটি স্পষ্টভাবে মুদ্রিত থাকবে। নষ্ট, ছেঁড়া, পূর্বে ব্যবহৃত ব্যান্ডরোলযুক্ত পণ্য ক্রয়, বিক্রয়, বাজারজাতকরণ বা ব্যবহার না করার জন্য সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ সতর্ককণে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। যথাযথভাবে ব্যান্ডরোলের ব্যবহার পেশার মানের নিশ্চয়তা প্রদানের পাশাপাশি রাজস্বের নিশ্চয়তাও প্রদান করে থাকে।

ব্যারিস্টার জাহাঙ্গীর হোসেন
কমিশনার
বৃহৎ করদাতা ইউনিট-মূল্য সংযোজন কর
২য় ১২-তলা সরকারি অফিস ভবন (৬ষ্ঠ তলা)
সেখনবাগিচা, ঢাকা
ফোন: ৯৩৬২৯৬১

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