

# Singapore to host South Asian Diaspora Convention

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The South Asian Diaspora Convention, first of its kind, will begin on July 21 in Singapore to bring together intellectuals, business leaders and policymakers to celebrate the success of the diaspora spread worldwide.

The Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), an autonomous research organisation under the National University of Singapore, will organise the three-day event at Resorts World Sentosa in the city state also to discuss some of the pressing needs South Asians face today.

The purpose of the hallmark conference is to focus on the varied issues confronted by the large South Asian Diaspora, numbering over 20 million across continents, said organisers.

They say Singapore is an established commercial and business hub of the world and also rapidly emerging as a centre

of excellence on intellectual issues. The idea is to bring together the key and significant representatives of South Asian extracts in Singapore from different parts of the world to interact with one another.

Speakers will comprise successful achievers in different fields such as industry, academia, media and literature. The discussions are likely to result in productive outcome in various spheres.

Top Singapore leaders such as elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew, President SR Nathan, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong will attend the event on the first day.

The speakers include Richard Armitage, former deputy secretary of state, USA, Dr HAN Seung Soo, former prime minister of South Korea, Shahid Javed Burki, former finance minister of Pakistan, Minoru Makihara, senior corporate advisor of Mitsubishi

Corporation, Piyush Gupta, chief executive officer of DBS Group Holdings Ltd & DBS Bank Ltd, Singapore, Sohail F Rahman, chairman of Beximco Ltd, Bangladesh, and Dr Tahmima Anam, a Bangladeshi writer and novelist.

The gathering is expected to provide opportunities for networking for the purposes of trade and commerce as well. This is particularly so given the fact that many South Asians have been successful business achievers in different host communities.

Ambassador Gopinath Pillai, also the chairman of ISAS, told The Daily Star yesterday: "It is being held against the backdrop of rise of Asia. This is also the first time a South Asian Diaspora comprising representatives of all South Asian countries is being brought together under one umbrella."

"I am delighted that renowned young Bangladeshi English author Tahmima Anam

is one of the speakers at the event. She symbolises the success of the younger generation of South Asian Diaspora," he said in an email.

Pillai also said serving as a business hub, Singapore would provide the delegates a conducive and congenial environment to network and discuss topics of mutual interest.

The project is an exercise in translating into reality a proposal by the city-state's president Nathan, for "linking the diaspora" of the sub-continent for meaningful interactions.

The ISAS is also keen to utilise the planned convention to position Singapore as the springboard for global linkages among these people.

The convention would be opened to the captains of trade and industry, academics, and the general public from India and other South Asian countries. This would correspond to

Singapore's perspective of the South Asian diaspora as a highly inclusive group of people.

As cricket and the South Asian diaspora go together, efforts are on to arrange a T20 match as part of the inaugural convention, which could feature regular players from several South Asian countries.

Over 20 top international and local business celebrities will share their experiences at the convention to make it a world-class conference.

Moderators include Prof Kishore Mahbubani, dean of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore; Tommy Koh, ambassador-at-large of the ministry of foreign affairs in Singapore; Girija Pande, chairman of Tata Consultancy Services, Asia Pacific, and Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, senior research fellow of ISAS and a former caretaker government adviser of Bangladesh.



DBBL  
KS Tabrez, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank, inaugurates the bank's 98th branch at Keraniganj in Dhaka yesterday.

## Senior StanChart officials due today

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Philip Cracknell, global head of capital markets for Standard Chartered Bank, is expected to arrive in Dhaka today for a one-day official visit, the bank said in a statement yesterday.



Philip Cracknell

He will be meeting senior officials of the bank during his visit, the statement added.

Based in Hong Kong for last 24 years, Cracknell is responsible for worldwide capital markets business for Standard Chartered Bank. He was the chairman for three years and a founding member of the Asia Pacific Loan Market Association.

Hiren Singharay, managing director and regional head of syndications for Europe, Africa and South Asia, and Charles Corbett, managing director and



GRAMEENPHONE

Grameenphone and Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL) have recently signed a deal to share their inter-operator revenue for international calls. Taimur Rahman, director of corporate affairs of Grameenphone, and Abu Sayed Khan, managing director of BTCL, attend the cheque handover ceremony at Easkaton in Dhaka.



DWCCI

Naz Farhana, seated centre, president of Dhaka Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, attends a press meet to announce the chamber's future programmes, at National Press Club in Dhaka on Monday. The chamber will organise a fashion show and a fair in the last week of July to showcase products made by destitute women.

## Committee recommends reforms to CPA board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The advisory committee on Chittagong Port yesterday recommended extending the board of the port by including four part-time members to streamline management, said Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan yesterday.

Part-time members will come from four ministries -- shipping, finance, commerce and home affairs. They will join the existing five-member board of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), said Khan, after presiding over a meeting.

Khan reasoned that foreign ports have part-time members to help with the administration.

The five-member board comprises a chairman and four members.

The committee also recommended setting up a 25-storey observation tower with a one-stop service centre and providing two patrol ships for the Bangladesh Coast Guard East Zone to prevent pirate attacks.

Extension of the proposed marine drive under capital dredging project up to Agrabad area, construction of a convention centre, a training centre for workers and a river commission are also part of recommendations.

The minister said the port administration and its efficiency have improved in the last few months while the new decisions would help increase the capacity further.

CPA Chairman Commodore M Anwarul Islam moderated the meeting.

## Liquidity hope cheers stocks

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks returned to the black yesterday as investors went for fresh buying amid a hope that the market may get much liquidity after a go-ahead to undisclosed money.

The benchmark general index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DGEN, advanced 40 points or 0.67 percent to close at 6,165.

On the port city bourse, the selective categories index, CSCX, went up 71 points or 0.66 percent to end the day at 11,095.

The recent government initiative of allowing undisclosed money for investing in the stockmarket also boosted investor confidence and pinned hope for much liquidity, said a market insider.

The government should offload shares of state-owned enterprises as early as possible, he added.

Prof Salahuddin Ahmed Khan, a former chief executive officer of the DSE, said the decision of allowing black money in the stockmarket has created a 'psychological push' for the market.

"Now we should wait to see how much undisclosed money is invested in the market," said Khan.

The market started the day with a positive tempo, gaining 25 points in the first five minutes of the four-hour trading session on the DSE.

The prime index of the Dhaka bourse took a few nosedives at the beginning but rose again due to a buying pressure amid profit taking.

All the major sectors recorded gains. Banks dominated the yesterday's gains and went up 1.53 percent. The sector represented 35 percent of the total turnover value and among the top-ten issues, six were banks.

Grameenphone, which repre-

sents the telecommunication sector, advanced 0.68 percent, chemical and pharmaceuticals gained 0.62 percent and cement 0.80 percent, while the fuel and power lost 0.48 percent and non-bank financial institutions 0.26 percent.

Of the total 257 issues traded on the DSE, 175 advanced, 68 declined and 14 remained unchanged.

ONE Bank topped the turnover leaders with 54.58 lakh shares worth Tk 28.21 crore changing hands.

The other turnover leaders were Social Islami Bank, City Bank, MI Cement Factory, Beximco, National Bank, Islami Bank, Malek Spinning Mills, United Commercial Bank and United Airways.

First Security Islami Bank was the biggest gainer of the day, posting a 7.94 percent rise.



MERCANTILE BANK

Md Abdul Jalil, chairman of Mercantile Bank, hand a 52-seat bus to Prof AKM Sayedul Haque Chowdhury, vice chancellor of Noakhali Science and Technology University, as part of the bank's corporate social responsibility recently. AKM Shahidul Haque, managing director of the bank, was also present.



CHEVRON

Obaidullah Al-Ejaz, external affairs manager of Chevron Bangladesh, attends the inauguration of a shed, constructed by the company, at Aushkandi roundabout near Bibiyana Gas Plant in Habiganj recently.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার		
সিনিয়র জেল সুপারের কার্যালয় ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার পাট-১, কাশিমপুর, গাজীপুর		
পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি		
০১	মন্ত্রণালয়	ঃ শ্রমস্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২	এজেন্সী/সংস্থা	ঃ কারা অধিদপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা।
০৩	প্রকিউরিং এনটিটি ও জেলা	ঃ ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার পাট-১ ও ২, কাশিমপুর, গাজীপুর।
০৪	দরপত্রের নাম	ঃ ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার পাট-১ ও ২, কাশিমপুর, গাজীপুর এর ০১-০৭-২০১১খ্রিঃ হতে ০১-১২-২০১১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত সময়ের জন্য খাদদ্রব্য সরবরাহের ২য় বাবের পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি।
০৫	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	ঃ ডিটিএ-০২/২০১১।
০৬	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বারত ও তারিখ	ঃ পিডি/ডিটি-৬৫/২০১১/৮৪৭(২) তারিখঃ ২১-০৬-২০১১খ্রিঃ।
০৭	দরদাতাদের নূনতম যোগ্যতা	ঃ দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত শর্তনুযায়ী।
০৮	বাজেট ও ফাট প্রাপ্তির উৎস	ঃ জাতীয় রাজস্ব তহবিল।
০৯	দরপত্র আহবান পদ্ধতি	ঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
১০	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ঃ ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার পাট-১, কাশিমপুর, গাজীপুর ও কারা উপ-মহাপরিদর্শক, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয়।
১১	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিরকের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বদিন বেলা ২-৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ১। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, গাজীপুর, ২। জয়দেবপুর থানা, গাজীপুর এবং ৩। ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার, পাট-১, কাশিমপুর, গাজীপুর এর প্রধান ফটকে রক্ষিত বাব্দে। ১৪-০৭-২০১১খ্রিঃ বেলা ৯-০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৩	দরপত্র বাস্তব উন্মুক্ত করণের সময়	ঃ দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৪	মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সভা অনুষ্ঠানের সময়	ঃ ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার, পাট-১, কাশিমপুর, গাজীপুর এর সিনিয়র জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়, ১৪-০৭-২০১১খ্রিঃ বেলা ২-৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৫	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মৃত্য	ঃ ঢাকা ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) মাত্র।
১৬	জামানতের পরিমাণ	ঃ টাকা = ২,০০,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ) মাত্র।
১৭	দরপত্র অনুমোদনকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	ঃ কারা মহাপরিদর্শক, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা।
১৮	সরবরাহের মেয়াদ	ঃ ০১-০৭-২০১১খ্রিঃ হতে ০১-১২-২০১১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত।
১৯	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে	ঃ দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত শর্তনুযায়ী।
২০	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	ঃ সিনিয়র জেল সুপার, ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার পাট-১, কাশিমপুর, গাজীপুর।
২১	দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী জানার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট কারা কর্তৃপক্ষের দপ্তরে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।	
২২	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র বাতিল/গ্রহণ করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

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