

# Bangladesh envoy sees bright prospects of regional power sector

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India's recent decision to agree in principle to form joint venture in hydro power and gas-based electricity plants in northeastern Indian states will help set up a network of power transmission with Nepal and Bhutan.

This was stated by Bangladesh's High Commissioner to India Tariq Ahmed Karim yesterday while launching a roadshow on business opportunities in the Bangladesh's power sector.

The event, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry at India Habitat Centre here, was attended by leaders and senior officials of Indian businesses and industry.

He said India has agreed in principle for Bangladesh's participation in specific hydro power projects in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Mizoram and smaller gas-based projects in Tripura and West Bengal.

According to Karim, Bangladesh has come forward

to participate in these projects in northeastern states of India to evacuate electricity through a network of transmission lines.

"We are looking at evacuating power from Tripura to Bangladesh and from other northeastern Indian states to northern part of Bangladesh," he added.

All these proposals will get a concrete shape in another three months when a joint committee comprising experts from India and Bangladesh will submit a report.

Karim said Bangladesh would also hold talks with Nepal and Bhutan for import of power from the two Himalayan countries and if fruitful, this would help set up a trilateral or quadrilateral sub-regional architecture for cooperation in the energy sector.

He expressed the hope that West Bengal will see the benefit of cooperation with Bangladesh in the power sector.

Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) Chairman ASM Alamgir Kabir, who made a

powerpoint presentation on future power generation, said tenders would be floated by this month for purchasing 250MW of electricity from Indian private power companies.

This is in addition to an agreement signed here two days ago for Bangladesh's purchase of 250MW from India's state-owned National Thermal Power Corporation at a reasonable price of about Tk 4 per unit, the same as domestic price in India.

The high commissioner said Bangladesh has medium-term and long-term plans for developing its power sector to achieve a double-digit economic growth in the coming years.

Kabir said his country was trying to move away from its overwhelming dependence on limited natural gas reserves to other sources of electricity, including gas-fired and thermal plants, nuclear power and renewable energy like wind and solar.

"Our generation of power is

very much dependent on natural gas. But given the scarcity of gas, we are looking for fuel diversification," he said, pointing out that power generation from gas has already come down from 85 to 77 percent, while the use of liquid fuel has gone up from 9 percent to 17.5 percent.

Kabir said the potential for hydropower in Bangladesh is limited and it has 3.2 billion tonnes of coal. While Barapukuria coal reserve generates 250MW, another 250MW would be added soon, he said.

He said there was a plan to develop coal mines keeping in mind the environmental issues.

According to Kabir, Bangladesh plans to add 13,000MW of electricity in the next five years and "we are going to give emphasis on coal-fired power plants".

He said coal, nuclear fuel and cross-border trade in electricity would play a vital role in future power generation of Bangladesh.

The BPDB head pointed to a slew of power plants and listed a

range of incentives offered by Bangladesh government for private foreign investment in them.

Bangladesh Power Secretary Md Abul Kalam Azad said the importance of power for Bangladesh could not be over-emphasised as the country's economic growth line is projected to reach 8 percent by 2013 and 10 percent thereafter.

He said at present, only half of Bangladesh's estimated 150 million population has access to steady power supply, while the rest get unstable electricity supply. The load-shedding at the peak of summer is 800MW, he pointed out.

Reiterating the government's commitment to involve the private sector in Bangladesh's power sector, Azad enumerated some of the incentives for the investors like income tax exemption and profit repatriation.

Kabir said some of the power plants in Bangladesh have the option of dual fuel in view of shortage of gas.



UCB BANK  
Bazal Ahmed, a director of United Commercial Bank Ltd, inaugurates a branch of the bank at Subid Bazar in Sylhet yesterday. M Shahjahan Bhuiyan, managing director of the bank, is also seen.

## BB chief asks banks to help regional enterprises

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman yesterday stressed the need to take banking services to regional entrepreneurs.

Rahman spoke at the inauguration of the Bangladesh Bank Bhavan in Barisal. The central bank opened its branch in Barisal 22 years ago.

The construction of the new six-storey building on 1.5 acres has been completed at a cost of Tk.35 crore. The construction began in 2005.

Atiur asked the bankers to help enterprises in agriculture, fishing, tourism, shipbuilding and

## Marketing for global good: Hasina

FROM PAGE B1

Kotler, founder of WMS and a professor of International Marketing Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, IL, USA, said the conference would help countries, including Bangladesh, use marketing as a tool for creating a better world for everyone.

The conference will also focus on what corporations can do and what the responsibilities are of the big companies to the rest of society, he said.

The expert said many companies supply products and deliver services maintaining almost the same level of quality, but not all companies win the hearts of the consumers. "What helps a company to stand out and stay in the minds of the public? It is the company that cares for the customers."

Kotler believes that winners are going to be those companies that work on the issues that undermine not only the people but also the products they are concerned with.

"There are many ways for helping people live a healthier life."

Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, secretary general of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, said marketing should be a vehicle for human development.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said, "The inputs and ideas generated through the summit can help us -- the politicians and policymakers in particular -- around the globe to shape societies based on fairness, equity and mutual benefit."

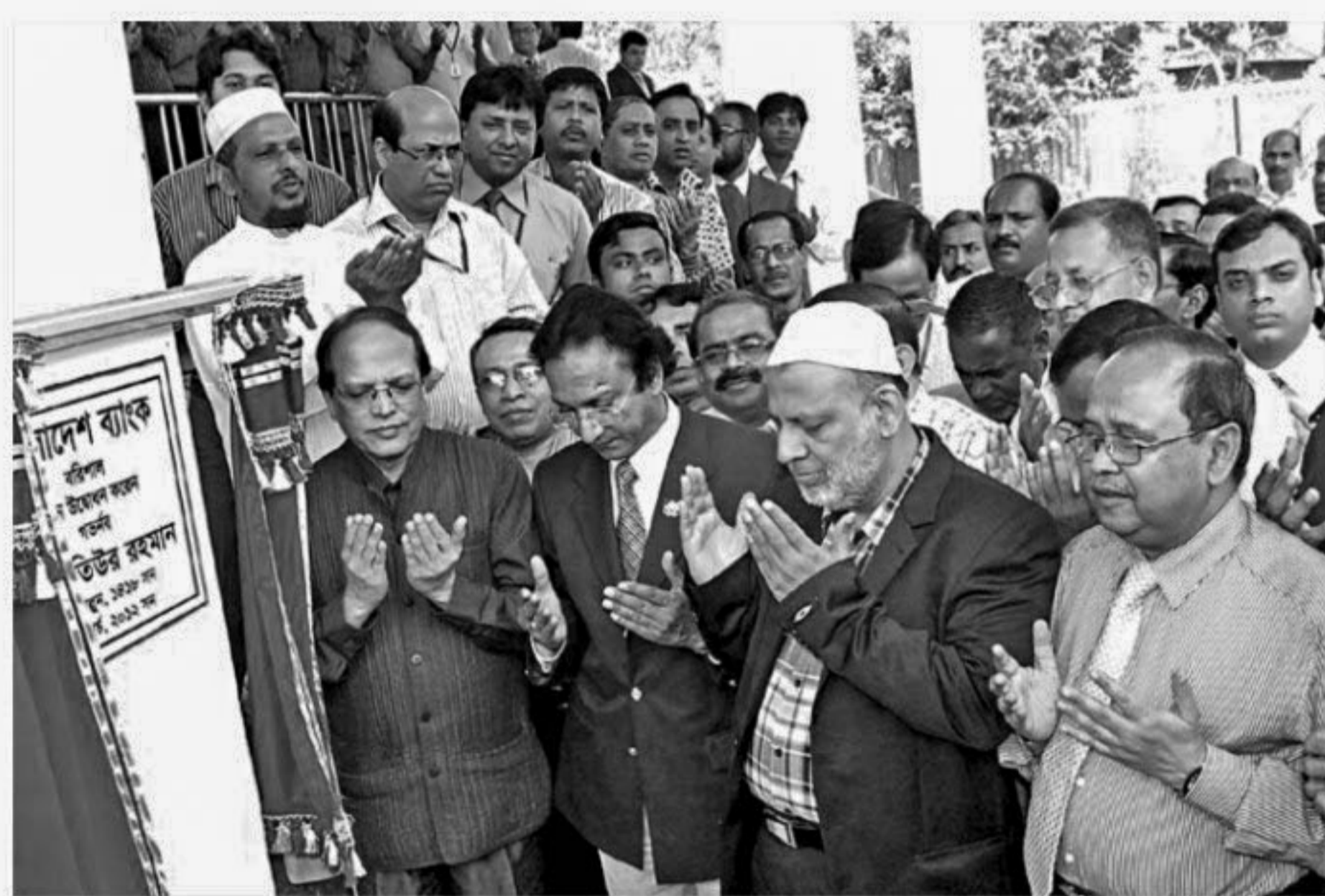
She hopes the new forum would help envision a global order that optimises utilisation of resources, minimises wastage, reduces inequity, but maximises value, utility and satisfaction.

Mostafa Kamal, additional foreign secretary, said the summit would help bridge the gap between producers and consumers, markets and societies and ideas and realities.

Bangladesh has been selected as the host country for the first two editions of the global event, as the country represents the third world and has



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands a cheque for Tk 4.8 lakh to Rashida Kabir Reba, widow of the late Major Humayun Kabir Sarkar at Gono Bhaban on Wednesday. A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bank Asia Ltd, and Anisur Rahman Sinha, a director of the bank, are also seen. The bank will provide financial assistance for 10 years to the family of Sarkar who was killed in a mutiny at the erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles three years ago. This year marked the third payment.



Atiur Rahman, governor of the central bank, prays with others after inaugurating the newly built Bangladesh Bank Bhavan in Barisal yesterday.

## Jute diversified products come into focus

STAR BUSINESS DESK

A workshop of Business Facilitation Unit on jute diversified products was held at the IDB Bhaban in Dhaka on Tuesday.

The BFU is part of a project titled "Jute: an eco-friendly alternative for a sustainable future" undertaken by the Traidcraft Exchange, a UK-based international development charity.

The four-year project, which started in March 2010, aims to promote economic prosperity by encouraging more eco-friendly sustainable consumption and production of jute diversified products (JDP).

The project, co-funded by the European Union and being implemented in partnership with TARANGO, a non-governmental organisation, is a multi-country project being implemented in all over Bangladesh and West Bengal, India.

Under the project, MIDAS is operating the BFU and some of its activities are co-funded by Katalyst.

William Hanna, ambassador and head of delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh, was present at the workshop. Shubhashish Bose, vice chairman of Export Promotion Bureau of Bangladesh, was also present, accord-

ing to a statement.

In his speech, Hanna said increased consumption and continuous demand for new resources are causing severe environmental damage. That is why EU is committed to promoting sustainable consumption and production of resources.

He said at least 500 small and medium enterprises would benefit from the project.

The diplomat hopes the BFU, a one-stop service centre, would be useful to provide the SMEs market access information and help them avail market opportunities.

Shahed Ferdous, country director of Traidcraft Exchange, also spoke on the occasion.

The website of BFU (www.jdpbfu.com.bd) was also launched at the workshop.

The BFU will work as a service centre for producing jute diversified products under the SMEs sector and also provide update and relevant information.

It will offer different services to the JDP SMEs, like, one-to-one solutions, need-based trainings, mentoring, providing update and relevant information.

The JDP producing SMEs can become members of the BFU and avail these services and other facilities at a nominal cost.

## Stocks slip on profit taking

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks ended the week in the negative territory yesterday, driven by investors' profit-taking sell-offs.

The benchmark General Index, DGEN, the indicator of Dhaka Stock Exchange closed at 4,553.76 points, after falling 3.01 percent or 141.64 points.

"Investors placed selling pressure on the prime index to book some profit," said Ahasanul Islam, senior vice president of DSE.

This is not a good sign that prices of all shares will gain or lose within a day, Islam said.

He said investors should consider the companies' fundamentals before buying shares in the market.

Akter H Sannamat, a chartered accountant and market analyst, said a group of investors went for selling shares following the forced sales of merchant banks.

The indicators of the country's economy are good for making long-term investment instead of short-term investment in the market, Sannamat said.

Turnover declined 23.7 percent, compared to the previous day. A total of 1.21 lakh trades were executed, generating Tk 408 crore in turnover, with 9.56 crore shares and mutual fund units traded on the Dhaka bourse.

All major sectors lost prices with non-bank financial institutions posting the largest fall by 4.18 percent. Among the other sectors, power lost 2.92 percent, pharmaceuticals 2.70 percent, banks 2.56 percent and telecoms 2.25 percent respectively.

Of the total 259 issues that traded on the DSE, 16 advanced and 239 declined. A total of four securities remained unchanged.

RN Spinning Mills topped the turnover chart with 48.30 lakh

shares worth Tk 22.37 crore changing hands.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange also declined yesterday. The Selective Categories Index of the CSE lost 216.04 points or 2.51 percent, to end the week at 8,417.75 points.



Shahed Ferdous, country director of Traidcraft Exchange, speaks at a workshop of Business Facilitation Unit at IDB Bhaban in Dhaka on Tuesday. William Hanna, ambassador and head of Delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh; and Shubhashish Bose, vice-chairman of Export Promotion Bureau; also attended the programme.



GM Quader, third from left, the commerce minister and Sunil K Khaitan, second from right, vice-chairman of Khaitan Group of Companies, India, pose for photographs with others at a deal signing ceremony and launching of a new fan in Dhaka on Wednesday.

## NOTICE OF PROTEST WITH CLARIFICATION

Our attention has been drawn to a news item, published in The Daily "JAI JAI DIN" on 18 January 2012 with the heading: **PUBLIC HELP PARTY (PHP)**. We (PHP) like to make it clear for all concerned that our industrial concern PHP is a limited company, registered under the Companies Act 1994 and engaged in manufacturing various types of industrial products. Now formation of so called **Public Help Party (PHP)** has reasonably created confusion in the minds of our customers, dealers, well wishers who are concerned with us.

We therefore, feel it necessary to make it clear to the concerned persons and general public that our company has no connection with the so called **PHP (Public Help Party)** and we are neither aware as of its legal status nor of its purpose and objectives visible or invisible.

The recent employment notice and flat sale notice of the so called PHP published in our national dailies have also created confusion in the minds of general public and Job seekers, who are calling us time and again. We shall not shoulder any responsibility of such employment, non employment or discrepancy in the matter of employment pursuant to such employment notice and / or flat sale notice now or in future.

Our trade name "PHP" is a registered name that we are using from a long past. Every body in Bangladesh refers to our company whenever the trade name "PHP" appears. So using our trade in the manner as it appears in the newspaper shall harm our reputation, prestige and dignity.

The above protest and clarification is also a caution for the general public, to avoid all future complication that may arise due to formation of so called **PHP (Public Help Party)**. It may also be mentioned here that this name, is a registered name under the companies Act, and none can imitate this name since it was allotted in favor of our company as per rules of registration of a company, under companies Act.