

US is a partner for Bangladesh's growth, official says

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States will continue to be a partner of Bangladesh's economic growth through trade and investment, US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Designate Thomas Shannon said yesterday.

"We are already one of Bangladesh's largest foreign investors and our two-way trade has grown steadily, to more than \$6 billion," he said.

The potential of Bangladesh's garment industry is the envy of much of the developing world, he said at a seminar on the US-Bangladesh relationship and global issues at Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

That is why it is important to build a strong and respected "Brand Bangladesh" where workers' rights and safety are protected, Shannon said.

Empowered workers are better positioned to ensure their own safety and are more productive -- which means greater efficiency, larger output, higher profits, and most importantly, higher standards of living and more inclusive economic growth, according to Shannon.

Bangladesh has long been a leader in regional connectivity, and can become a top economy in South Asia, a manufacturing powerhouse and a hub for the movement of goods and people among the countries of South and Southeast Asia, he said, underscoring the recent coastal shipping agreement with India and motor-vehicle agreement among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal.

Bangladesh had been able to double its export in the past years in the region and it is a 'gateway' to Southeast Asia's market of \$2.5 trillion and home to over 600 million

consumers, he said.

The US is an enthusiastic supporter and implementer of the vision that will help the Indo-Pacific economic corridor initiative, Shannon added.

Economic connectivity is the key to regional prosperity, and allows for greater stability and opportunity for the American economy as well, he said.

"By 2050, Asia will comprise 50 percent of the global GDP and it is clear that we are at the beginning of an Indo-Pacific century. And the US as a Pacific nation will play its part in this."

He said the US would manufacture, trade and promote the norms and rules that helped the global growth in the past 65 years.

On restoration of Bangladesh's trade benefit, he reiterated the US's position that more needs to be done to restore the generalised system of preferences.

China industrial output rebounds after stimulus

AFP, Beijing

China's industrial production surprised Saturday with its best showing since June, the latest indication that government stimulus measures may be driving a mild recovery in the world's second largest economy.

Output at factories, workshops and mines increased 6.2 percent last month from a year ago, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, the first increase since August and a significant jump from October's figure of 5.6 percent.

The figures, which came on robust production of automobiles, synthetic fibres and non-ferrous metals, were higher than the 5.7 percent increase forecasted by economists in a survey by Bloomberg News.



Shakila Zafar, a singer, cuts a cake to open an outlet of Vibes, an Indian slimming, beauty and laser centre, at Bikalpo Tower in Dhanmondi, Dhaka on Friday. Ankur Jain, Indian partner of Vibes, and Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Bangladeshi partner and Goodwin Group chairman, were also present.

IMF must stay, Grexit risk not over: EU bailout chief

AFP, Athens

Greece cannot remove the IMF from its economic bailout, the head of the EU's rescue fund said Sunday, adding that the possibility of a Greek eurozone exit remains if reforms are neglected.

"There has to be a financial contribution because the IMF, according to the ESM Treaty and to the agreement in the July summit, should be part of the programme also financially," Klaus Regling, head of the European

Stability Mechanism, told To Vima weekly.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras last week argued that the global lender's participation was "not necessary" in the country's third bailout, highlighting the International Monetary Fund's "unconstructive" position in demanding tough reforms and guarantees.

But Regling warned Sunday: "If the IMF decides not to participate it could be a big problem." "My assumption is that the IMF will participate," he said, adding that the contribution "is likely to be small."



Rubel Aziz, chairman of City Bank, introduces the City Bank American Express Gift Card, at a programme on Thursday. Sohail RK Hussain, managing director, was also present.

Steps against traders of cooking oil not fortified with vitamin A

FROM PAGE B1

The law also prohibits import, sales, marketing and display of unfortified edible oil.

Officials of Bangladesh Edible Oil Ltd, whose brands include Rupchanda and Meizan, said they were the first company in the country to have complied with the law from day one.

"Besides, we have carried out awareness programmes for retailers about the law," said Shoeb Md Asaduzzaman, head of sales and marketing of the company.

Fortifying all kinds of edible oil sold in Bangladesh might not be easy for the government.

About 60-70 percent of the edible oil is non-branded, according to FBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmad.

If they are spared, the initiative of fortifying bottled and branded edible oil with vitamin A will not yield the desired result, he said at the workshop.

The importers who buy non-branded oil from abroad have to be included in the initiative as well, Ahmad added. Companies must have their brands tested at the BSTI, according to rules. If the brands pass the tests, companies will mention it on the label of the bottles saying they are fortified.

Brands with fortified oil will have BDS 1769 on their label, while non-fortified ones will have BDS 909.

In Bangladesh, vitamin A deficiency has been documented as a public health problem since 1960s and has been identified as the single most important preventable cause of night blindness in children.

Over the past 25 years, Bangladesh has been implementing a national vitamin A supplementation programme targeting children of 9-59 months of age.

Among other factors, vitamin A supplementation has contributed to the progress made in millennium development goal 4: reduction of infant and young child mortality -- and to a significant reduction of severe forms of vitamin A deficiency.

To complement vitamin A supplementation and increase its intake among mothers, children aged 6-8 months, older children and all other population groups, the need for a sustainable approach that increases dietary vitamin A ingestion in Bangladesh cannot be overemphasised, according to the Unicef. Fortification of staple foods is a highly efficient and cost-effective way to address micronutrient deficiencies at scale.

In case of vitamin A, edible oil is the most cost-effective food vehicle, said the UN agency that assisted Bangladesh in formulating the law.

It said malnutrition in Bangladesh exists in all age groups but the most vulnerable are infants and young children, as well as adolescents and pregnant and lactating women.

Bangladesh poised to be the next Asian Tiger

FROM PAGE B1

If policies are not designed well, corruption and leakage can take place, he warned.

"Economic progress does not depend only on economic policies. Good monetary and fiscal policies can also help. But it also depends on human minds."

Basu also lauded the increase in foreign exchange reserves (\$26.5 billion) and said it should increase further.

ADB gives additional loan to expand water resources project

FROM PAGE B1

The project was approved in 2005 and has renovated dilapidated infrastructure and established participatory water management planning and management system with livelihood improvement supports, according to the statement.

"We have seen considerable benefits in the project pilot areas of Narail and Chenchuri Beel already, with rice production nearly doubling and fish production rising 30 percent," Higuchi said.

"This new financing will allow replication of the success of the project across nine nearby subproject areas, covering 84,000 hectares, and extending benefits to additional 470,000 people."

In each of the new subproject areas,

support will be given to enrol farmers into water management organisations to help them better operate and maintain the water infrastructure, and develop integrated water management plans. The expanded project will also support the development of skills for members of water management organisations to help them increase the productivity of their agriculture and fishing activities and enhance their livelihood opportunities.

On the infrastructure side, funds will be used to renovate or build gated water retention structures and flood embankments, and to re-excavate clogged drainage and irrigation canals. The expanded project is expected to be completed in June 2022.

Japan rolls out \$1.11b in loans for six projects

FROM PAGE B1

The loans will strengthen private building such as garment factories, transfer relevant technology and introduce seismic-proof building for the first time in Bangladesh.

Under the project, loans will be disbursed, through financial institutions, to owners of private buildings, such as the garment factories and 12 fire stations in Dhaka will be reinforced with retrofitting technology.

The headquarters of the Fire Service and Civil Defence will also be constructed with Japanese technology.

The upazila governance and development project will receive 12.09 billion yen.

The new fund came after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe committed to providing up to 600 billion yen or Tk 40,000 crore in additional assistance to Bangladesh in the next four to five years.

Abe made the commitment during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Japan in 2014.

Masato Watanabe, Japan's ambassador to Bangladesh, and Mohammad Mejbahuddin, senior secretary of the Economic Relations Division, yesterday signed an "exchange of notes" in Dhaka yesterday.

Later, Mikio Hataeda, chief representative of the JICA country office, and Mejbahuddin signed a loan agreement.



Durand Mehdadur Rahman, deputy managing director of Uttara Motors, poses at the unveiling of Discover 150 F Motorcycle, at the company's showroom in Eskaton, Dhaka. Kazi Imdad Hossain, executive director, was also present.



Major General Md Abdul Quadir, commandant of the Military Institute of Science and Technology; Sayem Ahmed, chairman of Dutch-Bangla Bank, and KS Tabrez, managing director, pose at the signing of an agreement on Thursday. Students can now use e-directors to clear the university's admission and tuition dues with DBBL Nexus debit card, DBBL mobile banking account, and MasterCard and Visa cards.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Agriculture

Integrated Agricultural Productivity Project (IAPP)

Project Management Unit (PMU)

Sech Bhaban (Level-6), 22, Manik Mia Avenue, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Phone: +88 02 9103924, 9104668, Fax: +88 02 9104668

E-mail: iappbadc@yahoo.com

Memo No: IAPP/BADC/2015-16/443

Date: 10/12/2015

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders have been published through e-GP Portal.

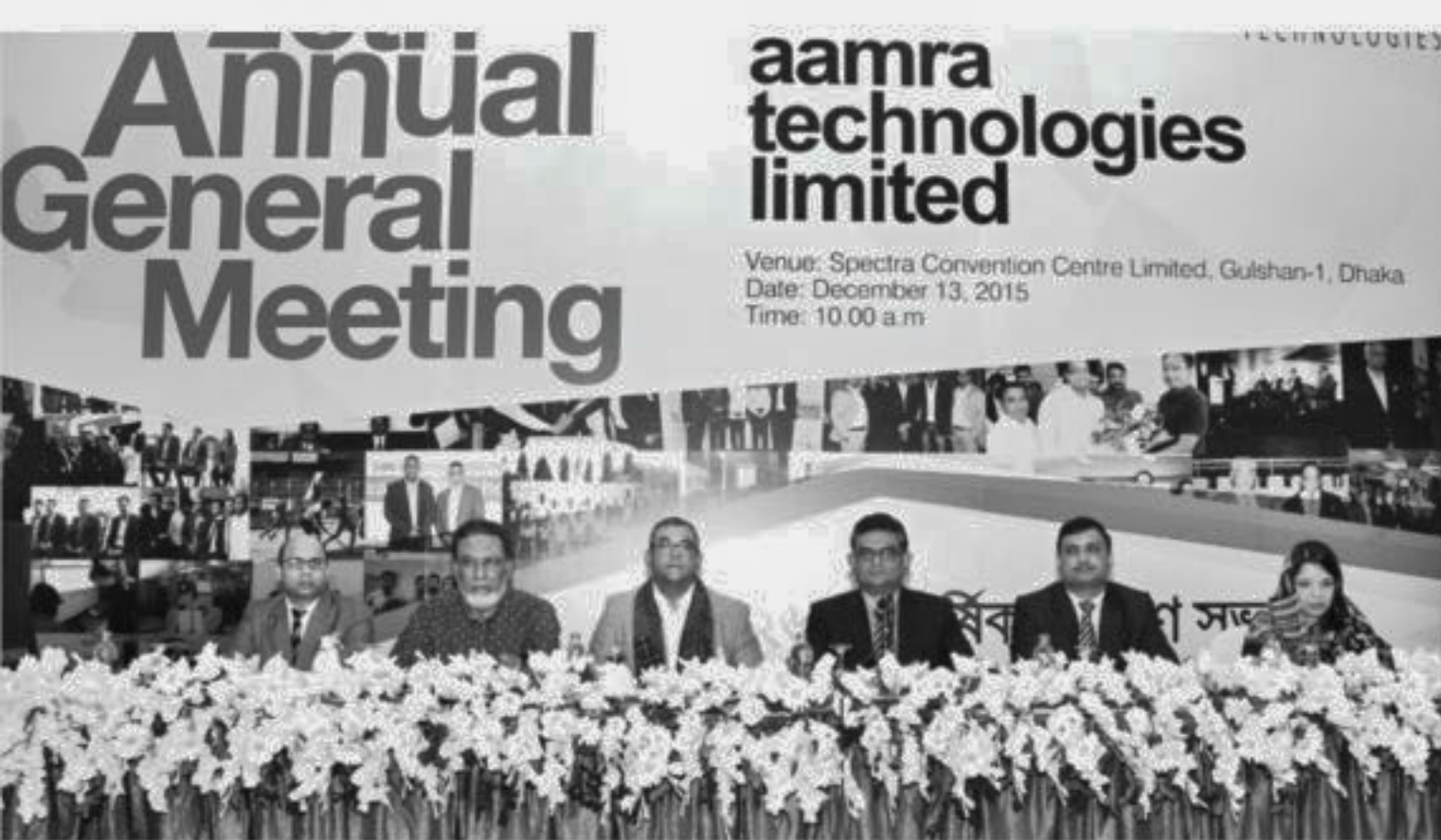
Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	Tender submission deadline
1	39461	WD-11; Lot-03	Re-excavation of pond/water body for rain water harvesting in Rangpur/Nilphamari districts (Re-invitation)	22.22.15; 2.00pm
2	40450	IAPP/BADC/2015-16/e-GP/GD-13	Supply and commissioning of 70ft head 2 cusec submersible pump with 25 hp electric motor and related accessories for rehabilitation of existing inoperable DTW in Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat & Kurigram districts	31.12.15; 2.00pm

The interested persons/firms/contractor may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tenders. These are online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-3857

Project Director (Joint Secretary)
Integrated Agricultural Productivity Project (IAPP)



Syed Faruque Ahmed, chairman of Aamra Technologies, presides over the company's 26th annual general meeting in Dhaka yesterday. The company announced 10 percent cash dividends for fiscal 2015. Syed Farhad Ahmed, managing director, was also present.



KM Abdul Wadood, president of the governing body of Bangladesh Bank Adarsha High School; Mostafa Kamal, headmaster; Mohammad Mostafa, operation manager at First Security Islami Bank's Motijheel branch; and Md Shafiqul Islam, manager for SureCash at FSIBL, pose at the signing of an agreement in Dhaka. Guardians of the school's 4,500 students can now pay fees through mobile phones.