



The Embassy of Bangladesh  
Stockholm

The Colours of Bangladesh

# Kaleidoscope

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- Photo: Departure-1 by Shahabuddin Ahmed

- Bangladesh succeeds in reducing child mortality
- Norway is investing more in Bangladesh
- Bangladesh & Denmark to develop business partnership

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## First Word

Bangladesh has proudly claimed the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) award during the 65<sup>th</sup> session of UN General Assembly September last. That was for its attaining of one of the MDGs-reducing child mortality. Bangladesh was able to bring down child mortality ratio to a third of what it was in 1990, a target that was set by the UN to be achieved by 2015. Reducing child mortality, I believe, is a sign of improvement in many other related areas such as maternal health, prenatal and postnatal nutrition, child care, health education and general hygiene, disease and epidemic control, medicine and treatment, etc. We believe that this achievement was possible due to Bangladesh's relentless efforts and massive investments in poverty reduction, health care and education. A recent report from ActionAid International Study has ranked Bangladesh 6<sup>th</sup> this year a position no other South Asian country could reach among 28 vulnerable countries in combating hunger. Bangladesh again is close to attaining another MDG by reaching 100% enrollment for primary education. If we consider the statistics of 2008 Bangladesh has

by now crossed 90% enrollment. Bangladesh has also made tremendous progress in achieving gender parity in education. Female to male ratio of literacy has gone up from 0.73 of 1991 to 1.03 in 2008 in regard to the age group of 15-24 years. Bangladesh is on good track towards achieving other MDGs and that too in the face of ongoing global recession, severe negative impacts of climate change, frequent natural calamities and over population setting a example for many other developing countries.

Dear readers, I took over as Bangladesh Ambassador to Sweden last month and got the opportunity of presenting my credentials to the Swedish King on 27 October 2010. I am dedicating all my efforts to strengthen our friendly relations with Sweden and other Nordic countries focusing on the areas of priority of the government of Bangladesh.

I take this opportunity to convey to you my warm greetings.

*A.F.M. Gousal Azam Sarker*  
Ambassador & Chief Editor

## Editor's Note

During this part of the year, we miss the warmth, brightness and beauty of Bangladesh most. To drive away the gloom of Stockholm winter, we have tried to decorate this issue of Kaleidoscope with bright colours of Shahabuddin Ahmed, a celebrated Bangladeshi artist living in France. In addition, we have also included a feature on Mainamati, a popular and should be visited tourist attraction of Bangladesh, which should tempt you to choose as a vacation destination. Mainamati is home to an ancient Buddhist civilization the history of which dates back in 7<sup>th</sup> century. The history coupled with the natural beauty of the area has made Mainamati a unique place to visit.

A special feature on Bangladesh pharmaceutical industry that we have added in this issue would be of interest to many. Bangladesh pharmaceutical industry caters to 96% of domestic demand and is emerging a

high growth export sector with its products finding markets in more than 52 countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

In regard to foreign investment, the news of Dräxlmaier's plan to set a lab in Dhaka for designing interior facilities for top car brands like BMW, Mercedes, and Cadillac is also encouraging and that successfully shows Bangladesh as an attractive investment destination. A leading US business magazine Bloomberg Businessweek in a recent report has identified Bangladesh as one of the world's emerging economies to attract foreign investment. Sustained 5+ percent growth of the economy against a population of 150 million people strongly justifies this claim.

*Khandker Masudul Alam*  
First Secretary

## Hon'ble Prime Minister visits New York

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited New York for attending the 65th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) that held on 23 September 2010. During her visit, among others events she attended the high level plenary on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and meeting on 'Climate Vulnerability and its Impact on MDGs'. Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the UNGA on 27 September 2010.

### **Prime Minister receives MDG award:**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received a UN award during the UNGA in New York for Bangladesh's outstanding achievements in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) particularly that of reducing child mortality. The award was conferred upon Bangladesh and five other countries a day ahead of the MDG conference held in the sidelines of the 65th UNGA. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said, "the award will encourage Bangladesh in strengthening its efforts for achieving all the MDGs by 2015 despite the adverse impacts of the recent global economic crisis and climate change". In her speech on the opening day of a three-day high



*H.E. Sheikh Hasina receives a UN award for achieving one of the MDGs*

level plenary of the UNGA convened by UN Secretary General, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the developed world to demonstrate sincerity



*H.E. Sheikh Hasina addresses at the 65th UN General Assembly*

in their commitment to the MDGs, pointing out that Bangladesh would require US\$ 4.4 billion a year to reach its targets by 2015 deadline. The Prime Minister drew attention of the member states to the sluggish progress of rich donor countries in pursuing their target of committing 0.7 percent of Gross National Income (GNI) annually to developing countries as official development assistance. The Prime Minister urged all UN member states to come together in the spirit of one community in a globalized world for achieving all internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

### **Prime Minister addresses LDC meeting:**

In a breakfast meeting of LDC leaders at the UN Headquarters in New York, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called for enhanced cooperation among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for increasing food production for self-consumption, export and global food security. She said, "it is the time for the LDCs to raise a united call from the group at COP 16 in Cancun in December to adopt a new legal regime under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Protocol to ensure social, cultural and economic rehabilitation of climate change induced displaced and distressed persons."

### **Prime Minister meets South Asian leaders**

At a meeting of the South Asian Heads of ▶▶

► Government to reviewed the climate vulnerability and its impact on MDGs held in the sidelines of the 65th UNGA, Prime Minister warned developing nations against their own exposure to a massive climate refugee crisis, saying that developed nations must come up with pledged assistance to stop the phenomenon through adaptation and mitigation. The demand should be focused on urgent establishment of an 'International Climate Change Fund' and make it immediately operational as was agreed at COP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark, she told. She also urged the developed nations to agree to transfer of green technology to the developing world, saying, unless these measures are taken, it would be difficult to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

### **Prime Minister meets US entrepreneurs:**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the US entrepreneurs to take advantage of the business opportunities

in Bangladesh and invest more in the country for mutual gains and benefits. She said this while addressing a luncheon meeting with the US Chamber of Commerce in New York. The Prime Minister urged the US lawmakers to adopt the New Partnership for Development Act (NPDA) moved by Congressman Jim Mcdermott and allow Bangladesh as an LDC duty and quota free access to American market.

### **Prime Minister on biological diversity:**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged world leaders to do whatever is required for conserving global biodiversity. Addressing a High Level Plenary-Convention on Biological Diversity in New York, the Premier reminded the global leaders that biodiversity was worsening with increasing world population, poor people and poverty, adverse impacts of climate change and mindless exploitation of natural resources in total disregard to the natural environs harboring millions of species. ■



*H.E. Sheikh Hasina with UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon*



*H.E. Sheikh Hasina addresses at the high level UN plenary meeting*



*H.E. Sheikh Hasina with Dr. Anthony Lake*

*For more information about Prime Minister's Office and its activities, please visit the website [www.pmo.gov.bd](http://www.pmo.gov.bd)*

## Foreign Minister calls for Women Empowerment



The Hon'ble Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Dipu Moni attended the Annual Ministerial-level Meeting in "A 1325 Call to Action" in the sideline of UNGA on 25 September 2010. It was Bangladesh, being a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, under whose initiative the UN Security Council adopted the landmark resolution in 2000. The event was organized by the Canadian Government in observance of the 10th anniversary of the UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. **The Foreign Minister emphasized on the development and implementation of appropriate training programs for all peacekeepers-military, police and civilian deployed by the UN for enhancing their capability to address gender issues particularly issues of preventing any sort of violence against women and girls.** Since empowering women entails that they have command over resources and adequate leadership capability for efficient management of those resources, the economic needs of women, and necessity of their engagement internationally in all levels and forms of decision making process is crucial, H.E. Dr Dipu Moni observed. She said that while the former could

be achieved through ensuring their access to and participation in income generating and entrepreneurial activities such as micro-credit, education, vocational training and public health; the latter could be ensured through **recruitment of women particularly at senior level positions of the UN including in the posts of ASGs, USGs and SRSs.**

The Hon'ble Foreign Minister also participated in the 34th Meeting of Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) on Harare Declaration, a Commonwealth institutional set up for establishment and consolidation of democracy. The Foreign Minister observed that the CMAG can only play its effective role as a custodian of democracy if it is equipped with the inevitable prerequisites to exert its authority. She said that there should be well-defined way for the CMAG for timely engagement to prevent a democratic backslide, and definite supportive action at the first credible signs of deviation. **She said that there should be well-defined way for the CMAG for timely engagement to prevent a democratic backslide, and definite supportive action at the first credible signs of deviation, and there should be a sustained support to the institutions of a country at risk.** ■

## Bangladesh Ambassador presents Letter of Credence to His Majesty King of Sweden



The newly appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Sweden H.E. Mr. A.F.M. Gousal Azam Sarker presented his letter of credentials to His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden on 27 October 2010. During the audience, Ambassador has discussed with HM the King issues of mutual interest including development initiatives and challenges of Bangladesh, climate change, conservation, renewable energy and requested for Sweden's continued

support as a long term development as well as trade/ investment partner. Apart from trade and investment, the Ambassador showed interest to focus on cooperation in the areas of renewable energy, technology transfer and industrialisation, higher education and human resources development, technical cooperation in specialised areas (where Bangladesh is in need of capacity building and developing and managing untapped natural resources), institution to institution cooperation, research and development (for diversification of products and professions), and sectors of agriculture, ship building, IT, etc. ■

## Destination: Mainamati

– Home of an Ancient Buddhist Civilization

Bangladesh is a country considerably rich in archaeological wealth, especially of the medieval period both during the Muslim and pre-Muslim rules, though most of it is still unexplored and unknown. The main three archaeological sites of Bangladesh are situated in Paharpur, Mahastangarh and Mainamati.



Mainamati is an exclusive site of ancient Buddhist culture. It was discovered by the British military during the Second World War (1939-1945) in the course of their digging of trench at Mainamati.

Mainamati is also called the *Seat of Lost Dynasties*. About 8 km to the west of Comilla town and 114 km to the south-east of Dhaka, lies the low hills known as *Mainamati-Lalmari*



ridge, once an extensive centre of Buddhist culture. On the slopes of these hills lie scattered a treasure

of information about the early Buddhist civilization (7th to 12th century A.D.). At *Salban*, in the middle of the ridge, excavations laid bare a large Buddhist Vihara (monastery) with an imposing central shrine.

It has revealed valuable information of the rule of the Chandra and Deva dynasties which flourished here from the 7th to 12th century A.D. The whole range of hillocks run for about 18 km and is studded with more than 50 sites. Of the 13 copper plates



Gupta Imitation Gold Coin

recovered from Mainamati excavations, no less than 8 were from Salban Vihara, 4 from Charpatra Mura and 1 from Anada Vihara. Of nearly 400 coins found at Mainamati, 350 were collected from Salban Vihar, which included a few gold coins of the Guptas, Devas and the Khadgas. In contrast to Paharpur where the largest number of stones sculptures ▶▶



Partial view of *Salban Vihara*

## Mainamati - The Home of an Ancient Buddhist Civilization

► and terracotta plaques were found, in Mainamati an astounding number of inscriptions, coins and miniature bronzes have been hauled.

### ***Mainamati Museum:***

A visit to the museum at Mainamati will reveal a wide variety of antiquities, ranging from copper plates, gold & silver coins, terracotta plaques, bronze statues and casket, jewellery, utensils, pottery and votive stupas embossed with Buddhist inscription. Over 150 bronze statues have been recovered, mostly from the monastic cells. There are also bronze and stone sculptures and hundreds of terracotta plaques, each measuring on an average of 9 inches high and 8 inches to 12 inches wide.

The excavations have revealed several kinds of Buddhist religious architecture including the cruciform type, like the *Ananda Vihara* itself. If the Vihara was named after the third Deva king, who, it now seems, had ruled sometime in the middle of the 8th century. Among the cruciform temples, it was the earliest, and perhaps it was even earlier than the ones in *Paharpur*.

### ***How to Reach & Where to Stay:***

Comfortable AC and Non-AC coaches are available from Dhaka to Comilla town. It takes only 2 hours by bus. Once in Comilla it is very easy to go to Mainamati by the traditional vehicle 'rickshaw' or 'auto-rickshaw'. It is also possible to hire a car or microbus from Dhaka to Mainamati.

Many good modern and luxury motels with restaurants are available in Comilla town. Besides, good restaurant facilities are available at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), which is not far from



*The ruins of 7th century Buddhist Monastery*

Mainamati. Prior reservation is advisable to avail the BARD facilities and services.

Interested tourist may contact Bangladesh Parjatan (Tourism) Corporation for detailed information about the visits to the historic place, Mainamati. Several package tours with guides are provided by the Bangladesh Parjatan (Tourism) Corporation. It is just a day's trip by road on the way to Chittagong.

The museum remains closed on Saturdays and on all government holidays. ■

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## Denmark to move on to Business partnership with Bangladesh



During the Hon'ble Prime Minister Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina's visit to New York, on 24th September 2010, Denmark's Prime Minister Mr. Lars Lokke Rasmussen said, **Bangladesh is on the right track. He said, Denmark would enhance its support and financial assistance for Bangladesh for its endeavour in achieving the MDG goals. Denmark would like to move on to business**

**partnership from development partnership in view of Bangladesh's rapid advancement in trade and economic sectors,** he further said. The climate change appeared a major issue in the bilateral talks, while the Danish Premier agreed with H.E. Sheikh Hasina that **the last COP 15 climate conference could not yield the expected results and moreover the developed nations also did little in fulfilling whatever they committed in the climate meet though one year had already passed since the summit.** ■

## Bangladesh leads South Asia in fighting hunger

**Bangladesh has been ranked sixth in combating hunger among 28 vulnerable countries this year,** an ActionAid International study "Who is Really Fighting Hunger" said which published in different national news media of Bangladesh on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

The country - this year's most successful in reducing hunger rate among the south Asian countries - was in the 13<sup>th</sup> spot last year. Brazil, China, Vietnam, Malawi and Ghana are the top rankers in this year's scorecard for tackling hunger. The ranking is

decided on criteria such as hunger trends, legal framework, smallholder agriculture, social safety and gender equity.

**Scoring 44 points, three points more than the last year, Bangladesh (now 6<sup>th</sup>) stands high above its neighbours Nepal (14<sup>th</sup>), India (21<sup>st</sup>) and Pakistan (25<sup>th</sup>) in the global scorecard. "Bangladesh's rank reflects the progress it has made in reducing hunger from 36 percent to 26 percent since 1990," said the research.** ■

## Bangladesh to launch satellite



**Bangladesh will launch a satellite in the space with broadcasting facilities to make information and communication technology more available and upgrade to international standard.** An inter-ministerial meeting was held in this regard at the conference room of the post and telecommunications ministry with its Minister H.E. Raziuddin Ahmed Raju on 14 September 2010.

The meeting discussed technical aspects of launching the satellite, possible expenditure and various issues related to implementation of the project, said an official release. Speaking at the meeting, the post and telecommunications minister said **launching of the country's own satellite is now the demand of the day to expedite implementation of government's 'digital programmes'.** He stressed the need for **quick implementation of the project and said that it would be implemented under public-private-partnership (PPP).** ■

## Bangladeshi scientists make breakthrough invention

A group of Bangladeshi scientists made a breakthrough discovery of how a group of viruses can turn harmless bacteria into deadly cholera causing ones. The finding will have far-reaching global implications in predicting cholera epidemic, and will make it easier to produce preventive vaccine, the chief of the group claimed. Dr. Shah M Faruque, head of molecular genetics at ICDDR,B (the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh) and his research team recently discovered how otherwise harmless vibrio cholerae bacteria turn pathogenic, causing cholera. ■

### Special Focus



## PHARMACEUTICALS

### Bangladesh Marks Progress in Pharmaceutical Industries

“With an annual turnover of about US\$ 500 million, Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Industry is a unique success story. In the land of 150 million people with frequent natural disasters, poverty and many other negatives the Pharmaceutical Industry has grown from strength to strength since the independence of Bangladesh in 1971.

The industry is now making available quality medicines at an affordable price to the millions, which were beyond their reach. Among the 49 LDCs Bangladesh is the only country that is near self-sufficient in pharmaceuticals. Thanks to its pulsating private sector that efficiently utilized all the, available resources from Government initiatives to science in making the sector as one of the most successful in Bangladesh.

**Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Industry now caters to 96% of the countries need of pharmaceuticals.** The remaining 4% comprises of Insulin, vaccines, high-end anti-cancer drugs etc. the production of which are very capital intensive and therefore are not economically feasible for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is basically a Branded Generic market. The industry's major competency lies in formulation. In total more than 230 companies have operations in Bangladesh at present. Out of this about 200 have their

own manufacturing facilities of which 5 are multinationals. It is also active in API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients). 21 different companies now locally manufacture 41 API's.

The industry's inception dates back to the 1950s when a few multinationals and local entrepreneurs started with manufacturing facilities in the then East Pakistan. By 1982 many top ranking multinationals established their manufacturing facilities in this part of the world. Prominent among them were Pfizer, Glaxo, Fisons, Squibb, Hoechst, ICI, May and Baker and Organon.

1982 brought in a substantial change in the Bangladesh Pharmaceutical scenario. During June of that year Drug (Control) Ordinance of 1982 were promulgated at the backdrop of rising cost of medicines and emphasis of the manufacturers in producing low-tech products with negligible or doubtful need. The ordinance sought to bring down the prices of "Essential Drugs", discontinue production of pharmaceuticals of doubtful or negligible utilities and encourage local production of pharmaceuticals. After about 21 years it can now be said that the major objectives of the ordinance are largely fulfilled. ►►

## Bangladesh Marks Progress in Pharmaceutical Industries

► Some of the major achievements of Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Industry so far are:

- Affordability of medicines to the substantial portion of the population: Major epidemics of Bangladesh are Malaria including Dengue, Cholera and Typhoid. Morbidity and mortality from these scourges also reduced substantially over the years in Bangladesh. Increased affordability and availability of medicines has contributions towards this achievement. Bangladesh now has an average life expectancy of 61 years, which is at the top end in the Indian sub continent.
- Near Self-sufficiency in Pharmaceutical manufacturing: Among the LDCs Bangladesh is the only country, which can boast a local pharmaceutical industry, which caters to 96% of the countries need. Over the years role of import has diminished substantially and now stands at about 4% covering mainly Insulin, Vaccines and anti-cancer drugs.
- Strong footing of the local Industry and local entrepreneurs: In 1982 there were about 10 multinationals availing about 80% of the domestic market. The situation is reverse now. Local companies cater to about 80% of the market now and the rest by the multinationals. Local companies continued their expansions and up gradation of their facilities to the international level.
- Export of Pharmaceuticals: After catering to countries need Pharmaceuticals from Bangladesh are now being exported to 52 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Quality Assurance: All the major companies complies to WHO GMP guidelines and Bangladesh's ability to face competition from Developing countries like India, China, Brazil, Turkey etc. in it's export markets is due to Bangladesh Pharmaceutical's strict quality compliance. A few of the top-level

companies are going beyond WHO GMP. With an aim to get into the regulated markets like US, EU countries etc. they are putting up manufacturing facilities of US FDA and UK MHRA standards. Pioneer among them is Square Pharmaceutical's the leader of the industry. Its state of the art and International GMP standard Pharmaceutical manufacturing facility has gone into commercial operation in 2002.

### Points to Ponder

- Annual turnover of about US\$ 500 million.
- Among the 49 LDCs Bangladesh is the only country that is near self-sufficient in pharmaceuticals.
- In total more than 230 companies have operations in Bangladesh at present.
- Pharmaceutical Industry of Bangladesh is a unique example of Private Sector success in the country.

There are still some weaknesses in the Government policy on pharmaceuticals, which are bringing down the performance of the industry and they are:

- Restrictions on manufacturing under license: This has stopped availability of products in Bangladesh from the Multinationals who does not have a direct presence in the country. Due to this Bangladesh is also being deprived of the technology transfer where the major strength of the multinationals lies. With fast changing pharmaceutical manufacturing process these knowledge are important to make the local Industry more efficient in the domestic as well as in the overseas market.
- Adherence to single active products: Due to the advancement of science combination drugs in vitamins, cardiovascular, dermatological etc. are common even in the advanced countries. Local regulatory authority's conservatism in allowing multiple active drugs is depriving the country of recent advancements in pharmaceutical formulation.
- Restrictions on Dietary supplements & OTC products and on their mass media advertisement: These are quite common even in the advanced economies because of research findings. But these are not allowed in Bangladesh. This has created a major scope for illegal import of such ►►

## Bangladesh Marks Progress in Pharmaceutical Industries

- ▶ drugs from the neighboring countries, which are promoted on satellite channels. Local industry is facing undue competition due to this ban.

The government is now aware of these weaknesses and has reviewed the current situation with all concerned. Coming Health Policy is expected to take care of these hindrances with an objective to place the industry on a strong footing. Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Industry's progress so far is praise worthy. It has made the country near self-sufficient in pharmaceuticals, became the 2nd largest contributor to Govt. exchequer is now a major employer of the knowledge based workers, made pharmaceuticals accessible & affordable to the majority of the population and forayed into export markets with success.

The industry can still go a very long way. Some of the areas where it has great potentials are:

- Export of formulation products: The country is already exporting its pharmaceutical to 52 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. With its quality assured products it can and will expand its footing in the existing markets. The reach can be expanded further to newer countries. Most important is the export of Generics to the regulated markets e.g., US, EU countries etc. A few of the local companies have already put in place pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities to comply with standards of US FDA and UK MHRA
- Contract/Toll manufacture: The US FDA/ UK

MHRA standard manufacturing facilities of a few local companies are already in commercial production. Prominent among them is the Industry Leader Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Multinationals companies who outsource their manufacturing job may avail these facilities. Bangladesh is in a position to toll manufacture products maintaining International standards at a cost much below then other such sources.

- Continuation with newer molecules: As an LDC Bangladesh can continue with the patented products up to 2015: This has created a big opportunity to make available NCEs (New Chemical Entities) to the LDCs up to 2015.
- Transfer of Technology and marketing knowledge: With about 45 years of experience in Pharmaceutical formulation and marketing Bangladesh is in a position to share those with both Least Developed and Developing countries where needed.

Pharmaceutical Industry of Bangladesh is a unique example of Private Sector success in the country. After the laudable role it played in domestic market it is now poised to play its role in the international arena. With its continued development and experience in manufacturing and marketing it is sure to repeat its success in the International market as well”.

-Sampson H. Chowdhury

*Chairman, Square Pharmaceuticals Limited, Bangladesh*

### **Pharmaceutical Industry of Bangladesh - present scenario**

With strong government support, Bangladesh is developing a robust manufacturing and technically experienced industrial base in pharmaceuticals. There are exceptional opportunities for life science companies in Bangladesh: a) *Market development opportunities*, b) *Favored access to export markets*, c) *Low tariff and tariff-free agreements*, d) *Favorable regulatory environment*, e) *The World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) agreement permits Bangladesh to reverse-engineer patented generic pharmaceutical products for local sale and export to markets around the world*, f) *Abundant supply of skilled labor*, g) *High quality, low costs for manufacturing*.

**The potential investors would enjoy a range of incentives, mostly in the form of tax exemptions. There is no discrimination in the case of duties and taxes payable by the same type of industry, whether foreign or locally-owned. Foreign investors may set up wholly-owned subsidiaries or joint ventures with local partners. They may also wind up an investment and repatriate the sales proceeds after securing authorization from the central bank.**

*For more information, please visit [www.boi.gov.bd](http://www.boi.gov.bd)*

## Shahabuddin Ahmed - a celebration



“The quintessential Shahabuddin chronicles our times - not in physical terms, but in terms of the passions that drive our times and the tide of history. In him, there is the yearning of an optimist and a celebration of life that looks ahead even as it draws from the past. This defining element is rooted in his first hand experience of the War of Liberation in 1971, when simple joys and a moment of human indulgence meant so much in the midst of the sheer uncertainty of the battlefield. But his protagonists are mundane individuals from the fields and greens across the countryside who took up resistance for freedom and for this familiar space we call home.

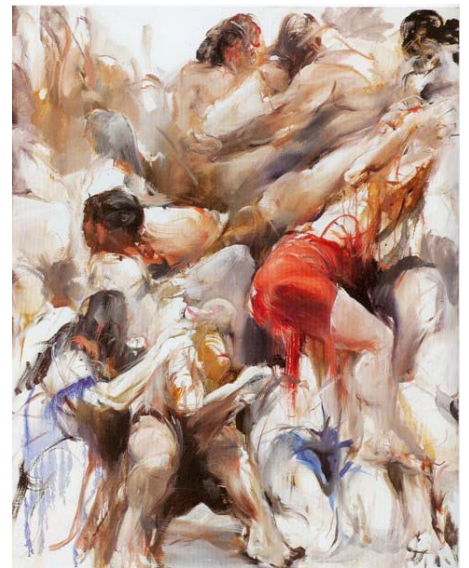
Shahabuddin celebrates life force in the abstract. His images are powerful, indefatigable; these capture forceful motion almost in its rawness. There is a characteristic yearning for dynamism even in his depiction of miniscule human figures - he rouses the physical elements around the human form in awe-inspiring motion.

Shahabuddin sublimates the 1971 experience in the War and the wider human canvas behind it. In this epic, his images have a classical robustness although in their semi-figurative lyrical execution, the images are intensely contemporary. Most interestingly, the images are more often than not faceless - he captures not the expression but the power. He transfers and translates the nuances to what is left undepicted and embellishes the ambience captured outside the image in the textured space. The images he shapes with bold strokes are the protagonists he celebrates - forceful, untiring and invested with power to move the world.

Apart from the images of the freedom fighter, Shahabuddin has done brilliant portraits-extensively of Bangabandhu, but also of Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Bhashani, Mother Teresa and others. Even in the images of Bangabandhu, it is easy to see how these are more than mere portraits. He embellishes Bangabandhu's images with the trappings of history, of our collective ethos and of a pronounced personal attachment to the larger than life persona of Bangabandhu. These are further accentuated by a fascinating blend of celebration and pathos.

Although one perceives an economy of colours in his composition, there is clearly a profuse extravagance in his treatment of the full canvas. He makes blank space speak with as much force as the images. The rambling expanse of the empty space is not accidental, but meticulously created. The white expansive matrix rolls out in fascinatingly detailed texture created laboriously with confident strokes of white upon white on the canvas. And here the images are framed in their nascence and shaped to fullness.”

— Mijarul Quayes  
Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka



Frightened



Power



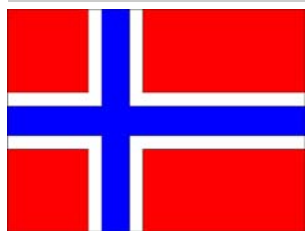
Departure-1



Storm



## Norway keen to invest more in Bangladesh



The Norwegian government has expressed keen interest to invest in Bangladesh's energy, power, shipbuilding and agriculture sectors. The

Nordic country has also showed interest for joint venture with Bangladesh in the sectors of renewable energy and green technology. The outgoing Ambassador of Norway in Dhaka Ms. Ingebjørg Støfring conveyed her country's interests when she paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina on 08 October 2010 at Ganobhaban.

The envoy also expressed Norway's eagerness to increase joint partnership in business and investment as well as exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Bangladesh. Ms. Støfring mentioned that Norway has attached importance to increasing export and import between the two countries along with Norwegian support to Bangladesh's development sector. During the meeting, they discussed various matters of bilateral issues, socio-economic issues, woman empowerment in Bangladesh and Norwegian support to Bangladesh's development sector. Thanking the Norwegian

government for its interests, the Prime Minister urged them to boost their assistances to Bangladesh for rapid development of its infrastructure and socio-economic sectors. Prime Minister requested the Norwegian government to keep a special zone in its International Seed Bank to preserve seeds of local crop varieties of Bangladesh. The Norwegian envoy also assured the Prime Minister of her country's constant assistances to Bangladesh in various fields.

Earlier on 03 October 2010, Norway expressed its keenness to help Bangladesh in development of ship recycling industry. The Norwegian Agency for Development Corporation (NORAD) has expressed their interest in development of ship recycling industry in Bangladesh through a project, said Norwegian Ambassador Ms. Ingebjørg Støfring in a meeting with Shipping Minister H.E. Mr. Shahjahan Khan at office. During the meeting, they discussed issues of mutual interest, including the ship breaking industry in Chittagong, said an official release. The minister requested for increased Norwegian assistance for ship breaking industry, shipping sector and overall development in the country. ■

## Dräxlmaier Dhaka lab to design interior facilities for top car brands



Yet to make cars, Bangladesh is set to enter the global automotive industry by

hosting a Dräxlmaier lab for designing interior facilities for top brands like BMW, Mercedes and Cadillac. World's leading suppliers to auto industry, Dräxlmaier Group decided to set up a state of the art design lab in Dhaka, the company's first in South Asia and 4th in Asia, after Thailand, Malaysia and China.

A five-member Dräxlmaier team led by the head of its

design facilities in Asia visited Dhaka on 07 October 2010. The design lab in Dhaka is expected to go into operation early next year 2011, Bangladesh-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry executive director Mr. Daniel Seidl told the newsmen on 08 October 2010.

At the large and sophisticated Dräxlmaier's lab in Dhaka, he said, engineers would design automobile interiors, wiring and interior equipment using Computer Aided Design (CAD) tools. The company's product lines include interiors, cockpits, ►►



► centre consoles, door panels, auto electric and functionally integrated systems (FIS). The Dräxlmaier Lab, would be a milestone

for Bangladesh, facilitating its entry into multibillion-dollar global automotives market. ■

## Bangladesh next shipbuilding hub



**Bangladesh has the potential of becoming a shipbuilding hub as foreign investors are**

**coming with investments in the sector**, said the chief of a Dutch delegation Mr. Fred Oldenhuizing on 10 October 2010. The country has already proved that it can produce ocean-going vessels with cheap labour, said Mr. Oldenhuizing. As a result, foreign companies are coming either to set up joint ventures or place purchase orders with local shipbuilders, he said.

**“We want to build more ships here,”** Mr. Oldenhuizing told reporters after a business meeting at the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI). Mr. Oldenhuizing, also the president of Bangladesh-Dutch Chamber of Commerce (BDCC), said Dutch entrepreneurs were encouraged to invest in shipbuilding, as Bangladesh has already exported quite a few ocean-going vessels to Germany and Denmark, two

major economies in Europe.

As Bangladesh shipbuilding industry in the rise, the local shipbuilder, namely Western Marine Shipyard signed a contract on 29 September 2010 to build a double-ended ferry for a Danish company, namely Hundested-Rørvig Færgefart. “It is for the first time in 50 years that a Danish owner has placed an order outside Denmark to build such a sophisticated vessel that will ply under the Danish Maritime Authority,” said Md. Sakhawat Hossain, managing director of Western Marine, referring to a maritime report. Designed by Danish naval architect firm Jorgen Petersen AS, the ferry will carry 28 cars and 147 passengers. It will be about 50 metres long with a beam of 11.20 metres and a draught of 2.2 metres. **It is the first time Bangladesh received an order to make a ferry for Europe although the local shipbuilders won contracts before to make multi-purpose vessels.** ■

## BATEXPO-2010

**Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA)** is going to organize the 21st Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exhibition ‘**BATEXPO-2010**’ from 25-27 November, 2010 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh. **BATEXPO** is one of the largest exhibitions in the Asia-Pacific region organized by BGMEA since 1989 as per its trade promotion. This is a unique

opportunity for apparel and other buyers to mingle around the same roof and choose their business partners.

**Business forums, associations, companies, trade bodies and investors of the Nordic countries are welcome to take part in the BATEXPO-2010 in Bangladesh.** More information about the event will be found [www.bgmea.com.bd](http://www.bgmea.com.bd) ■

## Bangladesh titled as ‘Bangladesh Next’

**A country brand titled ‘Bangladesh Next’ was launched in Dhaka aimed at projecting Bangladesh as a potential outsourcing destination for software and IT enabled services in the world.** The

Hon’ble Commerce Minister H.E. Lt. Col (retd.) Faruk Khan introduced the brand in Dhaka on 02 October 2010. Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services (BASIS) took this initiative. ■



## Bangladesh's EPZ ranked 4th best economic potential in global ranking

An Export Processing Zone (EPZ) of Bangladesh ranked fourth as best economic potential in the global ranking and third in the best cost- competitiveness category. The reputed UK-based "Foreign Direct Investment" magazine (FDI) magazine carried out a survey among the world's 700 economic zones this year and ranked Bangladesh's Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) fourth in best economic potential category and third in the best cost-effectiveness category.

This success has clearly manifested that an investment- friendly atmosphere is prevailing in the country, said Brig Gen Jamil Ahmed, executive chairman of BEPZA and hoped that this would help encourage more FDI in Bangladesh. BEPZA has come a long way in the last 27 years since its inception by increasing the volume of investment, diversification of exports, creation of employment opportunities and strengthening of the economic base of Bangladesh, he added. ■

## Standing of Bangladesh Economy

Leading US business magazine *Bloomberg Businessweek* identified Bangladesh as one the world's emerging economies to attract foreign investments. Bangladesh is one of the world's top garment makers and its banking sector is also booming, wrote the New York based business weekly in one of its lead article.

This leading US business magazine Bloomberg Business Week identified Bangladesh as one the world's emerging economies to attract foreign investments being one of the "late bloomers". "It (Bangladesh) is one of the world's top garment makers, supplying H&M,

Zara and so on. Its bank sector is also booming," wrote the New York- based business weekly in a lead article titled "Investing in Frontier Emerging Markets: Your next money-making opportunity is in the last place you'd think to look".

The article noted the Bangladesh's past five years of GDP growth at 27 percent and YTD market growth at 64.6 percent against its population of 156 million to justify its observation as an emerging economy for the investors along with several other countries. ■

## Sweden to Support Bangladesh in Developing Solar Energy



The Swedish government will extend its cooperation to Bangladesh in developing solar energy in a bid to help reduce power shortage. The

newly appointed Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Ms. Anneli Lindhal Kenny said this after presenting her credentials to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in Dhaka on 07 October 2010.

Welcoming the new Ambassador to Bangabhaban, President Zillur Rahman urged the Swedish entre-

preneurs to invest more in Bangladesh taking advantage of various lucrative offers provided by the government to increase the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The President also urged the Swedish businessmen and importers to import more Bangladeshi Products particularly leather goods, jute and jute goods, ceramic, pharmaceuticals and Ready Made Garments.

In reply, Ms. Kenny said she would try her level best to increase Swedish investment volume here as well as to expand trade and commerce cooperation between Stockholm and Dhaka. ■

## IMPORTANT LINKS

### Government Organizations

**Bangladesh Government Website :**

<http://www.bangladesh.gov.bd/>

**Prime Minister's office :**

<http://www.pmo.gov.bd/>

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs :**

<http://www.mofa.gov.bd/>

**Ministry of Commerce :**

<http://www.mincom.gov.bd/>

**National Board of Revenue :**

<http://www.nbr-bd.org/>

**Bangladesh Tariff Commission :**

<http://www.bdtariffcom.org/>

**Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics :**

<http://www.bbs.gov.bd/>

**Bangladesh Bank :**

<http://www.bangladesh-bank.org/>

**Biman Bangladesh Airlines :**

<http://www.biman-airlines.com/>

**NGO Affairs Bureau :**

<http://www.ngoab.gov.bd/>

### Tourism & Media

**National Tourism Corporation:**

<http://www.bangladeshtourism.gov.bd/>

**Hotel and Travel Guide :**

<http://www.bangladesh.com/>

**The Daily Star (English) :**

<http://www.thedailystar.net/>

**The Financial Express :**

<http://www.financialexpress-bd.com/>

**The Daily Ittefaq (Bangla) :**

<http://www.ittefaq.com/>

### Trade, Business & Investment

**Board of Investment :**

<http://www.boi.gov.bd/>

**Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) :**

<http://www.epzbangladesh.org.bd/>

**Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) :**

<http://www.bgmea.com/>

**Export Promotion Bureau :**

<http://epb.gov.bd/>

**Registrar of the Joint Stock Companies & Firms :**

<http://www.roc.gov.bd/>

**Privatization Commission of Bangladesh :**

<http://www.pc.gov.bd/>

**The Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry :**

<http://www.fbcci-bd.org/>

**Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry :**

<http://www.dhakachamber.com/>

**Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry:**

<http://www.chittagongchamber.com/>

**Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry :**

<http://www.ficci.org.bd/>

**Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry :**

<http://www.mccibd.org/>

**Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited :**

<http://www.dsebd.org/>

**Chittagong Stock Exchange :**

<http://csebd.com/cse/start.html>

**Business Information :**

<http://www.bizinfo-bangladesh.com/>

**Bangladesh Yellow Pages :**

<http://www.bgyellowpages.com/>

For More Information on Bangladesh as well as consular, trade, business and tourist information, please visit Bangladesh Embassy website at <http://www.bangladoot.se>

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