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EMBASSY OF THE  
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## **Press Release**

**15 September 2013**

### **Bangladesh High Level Power and Energy Delegation's visit to the World Bank**

An eight-member high-level delegation from Bangladesh headed by Dr. Tawfiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury, BB, Hon'ble Adviser to the Prime Minister visited the World Bank (WB) Headquarters in Washington, DC during 9-13 September 2013 to conduct a strategic dialogue with regard to the energy sector of Bangladesh. The delegation included Mr. Monowar Islam, ndc, Secretary Power Division; Mr. Md. Wahid Hossain, Economic Minister, Embassy of Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, DC; Mr. Mohammad Hossain, Director General, Power Cell; Dr. Mohammad Hussain Monsur, Chairman, Petrobangla; Brigadier General Moin Uddin, Chairman, Rural Electrification Board; Dr. Salim Mahmud, Member, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission; and Dr. Syed Masum Ahmed Choudhury, Deputy Secretary, Energy & Mineral Resources Division.

The World Bank team was led by Ms. Julia Bucknall, Sector Manager, South Asia Sustainable Development Energy.

The Bangladesh delegation had a number of meetings with various departments of the World Bank Group (WBG). During the interaction, they had opportunities to underline the significant progress that Bangladesh has made during last five years in the power and energy sectors. The World Bank has been found to be very keen in investing in these particular sectors.

The meetings enabled Bangladesh side to have a clearer understanding of the WB products and instruments, and the global best practices.

The Bangladesh delegation underscored that in order to achieve the goal of providing electricity to all the citizens of Bangladesh by the year 2021 as set out in Hon'ble Prime Minister's signature policy commitment *Vision 2021*, the government is putting much efforts in diversifying the production of power by incorporating coal-based generation, importing hydro-electricity from

neighbouring countries, importing Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and enhancing current gas output through increased Exploration and Production (E&P) activities etc.

Bangladesh sought support from the World Bank in the generation, transmission and distribution (T&D) of energy including gas, LNG, coal and hydropower. WB's cooperation was also solicited in achieving energy efficiency; widening the access to modern energy solutions; and developing renewable energy including solar and wind energy.

Other specific areas of suggested cooperation with WB include the Bank's investment in rural electricity; LNG Terminal, wind and coal power plant based on ultra/super critical technology, regional arrangement regarding hydropower; and exploration of gas. Possible additional financing for Siddhirganj Power Plant, repowering of Ghorashal Power Plant (Unit 4) and Bangladesh's participation in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline were also in the agenda.

It was agreed that the WB energy team will coordinate with WBG partners (MIGA, IFC, SEGOM, FSU) and deliver a response on the next possible course of action of the Bangladesh Government on different initiatives discussed during the week.

Hon'ble Adviser, accompanied by the CDA, a.i. of the Embassy of Bangladesh and the other members of the delegation, also met with Congressman Mr. Wayne Edward Whitfield (R-KY) when both the sides discussed development of energy sector in Bangladesh and possible cooperation from the US side in this regard.

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