**General Election will be held in 3rd week of December: Chief Adviser**

Chief Adviser Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed reaffirmed that general election would take place in the third week of December 2008. He said this during his nationally televised address to the nation on 12 May 2008.

The other major highlights of the address were:

1. The long-running ban on indoor politics all across the country will ease from Tuesday, 13 May 2008.

2. The government will start dialogue with political parties, starting on May 22, 2008. The Chief Adviser's Office will send out invitation letters to political parties from Tuesday, 13 May 2008.

3. The government will either relax or suspend certain relevant provisions in the emergency powers rules to facilitate electioneering and create a proper context for the polls.

4. Ahead of elections, the government will form a national charter with the opinions of all related parties, which is meant to bring a qualitative change to government and politics in post poll Bangladesh.

**Bangladesh enjoys inter-faith harmony: Foreign Adviser**

Adviser for Foreign Affairs Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury told the new envoy from Vatican Apostolic Nuncio Joseph Marino that Bangladesh is a country where "total inter communal harmony..."
prevails and members of different faiths live side by side in peace.” The Adviser made this comment when the Vatican envoy called on him at his office in Dhaka on 4 May 2008.

Dr Iftekhar Chowdhury pointed out that a recent survey by Global Peace Index, an independent think tank described Bangladesh as the most peaceful country in the region.

The Foreign Adviser also praised the Catholic community in Bangladesh for their contribution to social development, particularly in the field of education.

The Papal Nuncio told the Foreign Adviser that he had brought with him the blessings of “the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI who considers Bangladeshis as good friends.”

He thanked Dr Iftekhar Chowdhury for the support and cooperation the Vatican had received from Bangladesh in the international arena and was pleased to learn that the Foreign Adviser was decorated by Pope John Paul II with a Knighthood of the Order of St Gregory the Great.

Source: BSS, Dhaka.

Bangladesh Cultural Show enthralls Washington, DC Audience

Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC participated in the Embassy Open House programme on May 17, 2008 as part of Cultural Tourism DC’s new annual celebration of international culture showcasing Washington DC’s embassies and cultural organizations.

Throughout the day, Bangladesh Ambassador M. Humayun Kabir, along with other officers of the Embassy greeted the visiting guests from all around the USA, including tourists from around the world.

Launching the cultural event of the day, Ambassador Kabir highlighted the important aspects of Bangladesh’s unique historical and cultural heritage as well as the contribution of Bangladesh toward strengthening global peace and prosperity. He also gave an account of Bangladesh’s creativity and diversity while consciously nurturing an egalitarian society. With regard to Bangladesh-US relations, Ambassador Kabir informed the audience how both Bangladesh and the United States share the values of peace, democracy, pluralism and freedom, which have provided the solid foundation of bilateral relationship. The guests enjoyed a series of cultural shows highlighting Bangladesh’s rich cultural heritage. Renowned local Cultural Groups Droopod and Jago Art Center enthralled the guests with the colorful display of their musical and dance talent. Particularly, the musical presentation with penetrating narration of our evolution from the Language Movement through the glorious war of liberation to the present day touched the heart of the audience. DC Bangla School put on a short fashion show and decorated ladies and girls with henna painting. The guests were also hosted with Bangladeshi cuisine.

Day long activities also included a visual tour on Bangladesh and its heritage, the UN peace keeping missions of Bangladesh’s forces, paintings from renowned Bangladeshi artists, among others. Events also included special musical concerts and film screenings.

Over three thousand guests visited the Embassy during the event.

It is important to see Bangladesh moving according to the road map of democracy: Richard Boucher

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard A. Boucher went to Bangladesh on May 8, 2008 for a two-day official visit. During his visit, Mr. Boucher met the Chief Adviser Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, Army Chief General Moeen U
Ahmed, Foreign Secretary M. Touhid Hossain and a number of other senior government officials.

U.S. State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism Ambassador Dell L. Dailey and US Ambassador to Dhaka James F. Moriarty joined Mr. Boucher during his official talks with Foreign Secretary Mr. Touhid Hossain. They discussed bilateral issues during their meeting, keeping the United States’ focus on Democracy, Development and Denial of space to terrorists. Assistant Secretary Boucher reiterated U.S. support for the Caretaker Government’s commitment to stick to the electoral roadmap and hold free, fair and fully participatory elections by the end of this year. Mr. Boucher also said Washington was working with the government of Bangladesh to help overcome many challenges for development and democracy in Bangladesh. Mr. Boucher also briefed the Foreign Secretary about U.S. food and development assistance. The Coordinator for Counterterrorism discussed counterterrorism issues and explored various ways to expand the cooperation between the U.S. and Bangladesh in this field.

U.S. State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism Ambassador Dell L. Dailey also had a positive and productive meeting with Home Adviser Maj General(Retd.) M.A. Matin. During this meeting, Ambassador Dailey discussed ways about how the law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh and the U.S. could further cooperate to address the challenge of terrorism on a larger scale. They also discussed the current state of anti-terrorism assistance (ATA) programs in Bangladesh, which are funded by the U.S. Department of State. In his meeting with Law Adviser A.F. Hassan Ariff, Ambassador Dailey discussed a range of bilateral legal issues. The Law Adviser briefed the Ambassador on the status of pending legislation in Bangladesh that would strengthen laws on money laundering and terrorist financing. Mr. Dailey emphasized the importance of passing this legislation to ensure that Bangladesh has the legal tools it needs to fight terrorism and tackle other financial crime.

US government announced $40 million in food aid

The United States Government is donating an additional $40 million dollars worth of food aid to Bangladesh in two parts. There is $30 million to be distributed over a three-year period that would target school children throughout the country via a school feeding program. The additional $10 million is emergency food aid. This donation showed the commitment of the US government to support universal primary education policy of Bangladesh. The programme will benefit approximately 350,000 school children throughout Bangladesh by providing a 75 gram packet of fortified biscuits each day to primary age school children. The goal of the program is to increase primary school enrollment, attendance and reduce dropout rates. Additional objectives are to improve the attention span and learning capacity of students by alleviating short-term hunger. It is hope that this will provide a means and an incentive for children to stay in school so that Bangladesh can prepare the next generation of leaders. The primary beneficiaries of the new $10 million emergency food aid will be those still struggling to recover from the devastating effects of Cyclone Sidr.

These latest donation reflect commitment of the US government to help build a brighter tomorrow, even for Bangladesh’s most vulnerable citizens.

10 RMG units are rewarded

The government of Bangladesh has selected top 10 garment units, which have developed worker-friendly production environment and ensured labour rights in compliance with global standards and local laws. Owners of the selected factory received achievement awards — Best Workers’ Friendly Factory in the year 2008 — from the government at a ceremony coinciding with the May Day.


The factories complied with labour laws regarding wages and all other required facilities. Moreover, the Ministry investigators found workers in the factories happy with their employers. ‘We found Workers’ Participatory Committees (WPCs) in all the factories,’ an official of the Ministry of Labour and Employment told New Age. WPC is a forum of workers that acts like a trade union.
Ministry officials said they collected a short list of compliant factories from the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association and conducted investigations before selecting the best ones. Labour rights activists lauded the government’s initiative.

Culture  Heritage  Tourism

11th North America Nazrul Conference held in Washington DC

The Eleventh North America Nazrul Conference was held on May 24-25, 2008 at the Shady Grove Campus of the University of Maryland. This conference coincided with the 109th birth anniversary of the legendary rebel poet. Organised by the Bangladesh Association of America, Inc., (BAAI), a community organization of Bangladeshi-Americans living in greater Washington area, the conference offered a good forum for the researchers, singers, poets and dancers from North America to pay their respect to poet Nazrul and to discuss the various aspects of his immemorial creative literary work.

In his remarks as the Chief Guest of the Conference, M. Humayun Kabir, the Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA said that Nazrul was perhaps the strongest source of inspiration for shaping the national identity of our people, and even today he remains the powerful icon for waging our struggle against any undesirable attempt to impose oppression. He mentioned that our national commitment to internalize the visions of Nazrul is reflected through the initiatives undertaken by the government and members of the civil society, various cultural groups at home and abroad to celebrate such occasion with due respect and fervour. He opined that we could pay our best respect to him if we rededicate ourselves to the cause of establishing peace, and building just, inclusive and democratic society, where all can enjoy the equal opportunity to liberate their minds and harness their full human potential. While urging the Bangladeshi Americans not to deviate from our cultural moorings, he underscored the need to familiarize our cultural icons by associating the Americans with such programmes.

Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Chairperson of the Conference Committee and Engineer M. Musharrraf Hussain, the convenor and President of BAAI also spoke on the occasion. Mr. Wahed Hossaini, the co-coordinator of the conference read out the message conveyed by Mr. Ronen Sen, Indian Ambassador to the United States. Dr. Kyoki Niwa, a Nazrul researcher from Japan, presented a key note paper to enlighten the Nazrul enthusiasts about the relevance of Kazi Nazrul Islam in the present context on the second day of the Conference.

Vocalist Leena Taposhi Khan from Bangladesh and Ms. Sabiba Mahboob from New Zealand and renowned artists from Canada and USA enthralled the audience with their performances. On the opening day, Virginia-based Dhroopad, Maryland-based Bangladesh Christian Association, Virginia-based Bangladesh Association of Hampton Road and Shoukhin of New Jersey staged cultural performances to entertain the audience. On the second day of the event, a Seminar was held where the speakers talked about the multi – dimensional aspect of Nazrul’s works emphasizing that his work should be studied in its totality.

Each day, over four hundred people attended the event. The conference ended with a renewed pledge to preserve Nazrul’s works and ideals. It may be mentioned that the Third North America Nazrul Conference was held in Washington DC, in 1994.
Members of Congress host reception to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month


Senator Barbara Mikulski, Senator Ben Nelson, Congressman Mike Honda, Congressman Chris Van Hollen were among the attendees at the reception. Senators and Congressmen were hugely appreciative of the contributions have been and are being made by the members of Asia Pacific community.

Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Deputy Chief of Mission of Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC appreciated the role of expatriate community in making US a truly diverse society and gratefully acknowledged the contributions made by Bangladesh Diaspora in strengthening Bangladesh-US relations. He made this comment during his deliberation in the ceremony. Mr. Anis Ahmed, who has recently been appointed as a Commissioner for the Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific, introduced Mr. Belal before the audience. During cultural part of the celebration a dance performance by a young girl from Bangladesh captivated the audience.

Asians are the third largest minority group -- and the second fastest-growing group -- in the United States, according to the Census Bureau, which predicts that Asians will increase from 5 percent to 8 percent of the total population by 2050. In addition to approximately 14.9 million foreign-born and native-born citizens -- or 5 percent of the U.S. population -- who claim Asian heritage, there are another 1 million Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. The Library of Congress states that the month of May was chosen because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843.

Bangladesh Embassy put up stall at Muslim Bazaar in Washington DC

Bangladesh Embassy ladies led by Mrs. Rokeya Kabir, wife of Bangladesh Ambassador to US participated in a fair organized by the Muslim Women’s Association of Washington DC on 10 may 2008. The event was organized with the aim of bringing the Muslim community organizations and Embassies on a single platform so as to project Islamic culture and heritage to the mainstream American people. Traditional food, dress, handicrafts, jewelleries, and other cultural items were presented to highlight the diversity and creativity in the Muslim world to the DC residents.

A number of Embassies representing Muslim countries in USA like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Egypt, Palestine, Yemen, Jordan, Turkey and some other Muslim organizations in DC set up stalls at the fair. Bangladesh dresses, handicrafts and food specialties attracted attention of great number of visitors during the event.

Asian and Pacific Islander heritage month celebrated in Washington DC

Every May, the Washington DC Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) coordinates the city's Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) Heritage Month celebration. This year, OAPIA has organized a series of community events to celebrate APIA Heritage Month. These events are organized to bring area residents together to celebrate cultural diversity and recognize the contributions of Asian Pacific Islander Americans to the District. As part of this year’s event, Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC participated in a cultural exhibition held on May 10, 2008 in Washington DC. This particular event was organized with a view to promote the culture, heritage and tourism opportunities of the participant countries. Among others, the exhibition was also participated by different Embassies including India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, South Korea, Indonesia, China, Singapore, Japan, Cambodia, Vietnam and Fiji. Ms. Suuhyun Jolie Koo, Director of the OAPIA welcomed the participants and visitors on the day. Bangladesh Embassy displayed some artifacts, musical instruments, handicrafts, posters on tourism and some exportable items of Bangladesh. A large number of visitors from Washington metro area visited the exhibition in a festive mood. They took interest on various items displayed by the
Bangladesh Embassy. The Embassy representatives enlightened the visitors on our culture, tradition and about the prospective investment environment in Bangladesh. Being the first time participant in the event, the Embassy endeavored its best to project the image, cultural heritage and tourism and investment potentiality in Bangladesh.

TRAVEL GUIDE

Rangamati - the Lake District

Rangamati is a district in South-eastern Bangladesh. It is arguably one of the most picturesque tourist destinations in Bangladesh, ringed by numerous hills and situated right on the sparkling waters of Kaptai Lake. The colorful lifestyle and culture of the indigenous people signifies their inherent love for nature and their intimate bond with the hills, forests and rivers. Rangamati’s majestic natural beauty is most attractively manifested in the rainy season – trees become greener, waterfalls are in full flow, and the river Karnaphuli is full to the brim.

What can you see there …

The Tribal Museum, adjacent to the Tribal Cultural Institute, displays valuable objects and articles depicting the socio-economic, cultural and historical traditions of different tribes. Tribal handicrafts and handloom textiles are attractive items to buy because of their varied colors and exquisite designs. The Shuvalong waterfall is another attraction for its romantic beauty amidst a vast stretch of green hills and forest surrounded by a serpentine lake. Tourists will also enjoy traversing the Hanging Bridge over the Kaptai Lake, a vantage point to look down and see beautiful lake flowing right beneath you. This bridge leads to another hill over the canal close to the Parjatan motel. The man-made Kaptai Lake, spreading over 680 sq. km of crystal-clear water was formed by damming the Karnaphuli River, and has a picturesque hinterland of large hills and panoramic forests. A cruise on the calm waters of the lake can be a memorable experience. The Chakma King’s Palace is worth a visit.

Among other places of interest, Rajbon Bihara Pagoda, located on a hilltop, attracts a large number of devotees who come for the religious occasion known as “Kathin Chivar Dan”. Pedantingting, 5 km from Rangamati town at the mouth of the Shuvolong Channel, is an enchanting island resort located in the middle of the magnificent Kaptai Lake; with a beach frontage all around. The restaurant there is quiet and clean, with an adjacent leisure park where tourists may enjoy the blue waters of the Lake and the lush green of the hills. The restaurant has some delicious tribal-style dishes to offer. While visiting Rangamati, tourists may also go shopping at the Kalpataru Shilpaniketan, an ivory handicrafts center in the town.

How to get there …

Option 1: From Dhaka to Chittagong by air. From Chittagong to Rangamati by bus.

Option 2: Travel all the way from Dhaka to Rangamati by bus.

From Dhaka (the Capital of Bangladesh) you can take travel to Chittagong by air. Then drive to Rangamati, which would take about two and a half hours. For travel from Dhaka to Chittagong you can avail Biman Bangladesh airlines. This is their schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DEPARTURE</th>
<th>ARRIVAL</th>
<th>FLT NO</th>
<th>ACFT</th>
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<td>CGP 1845</td>
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<td>4,7</td>
<td>DAC 0850</td>
<td>CGP 0925</td>
<td>BG633 F28</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Days of Operation: [All timings shown are in local times]

1 = Monday  2 = Tuesday  3 = Wednesday  4 = Thursday  5 = Friday  6 = Saturday  7 = Sunday  +1 = Arrival next day  +2 = Arrival after 2 days

The one-way approximate fare will be Bangladesh Taka 3,075 and for round trip its Taka 6,250.

For the trip by bus from Dhaka to Rangamati or Chittagong to Rangamati there are a number of good
and comfortable bus services. Also, there are offers of package tours by tour operators. For accommodation at Rangamati you have options such as the Parjatan Motel operated by Bangladesh National Tourism Organization.

For more information you may visit the following websites:  
www.bangladeshtourism.gov.bd,  
www.bimanair.com,  
www.bdholidays.com,  
www.bengaltours.com

**BUSINESS                            TRADE                          DEVELOPMENT**

**Government announces incentive package for sending more foreign remittance**

The Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment of the Government of Bangladesh announces a new policy through a recent notification to provide special civic facility for Non Resident Bangladeshis (NRB) remitting foreign currencies. A complete view of the above notification can be found in the following website www.probashi.gov.bd under the heading “Notices and Circulars.” The Economic Wing of the Embassy can also be contacted (phone: 202-244-4639) for further details. The new incentive package is expected to boost foreign remittance through established banking channels and promote the expatriates’ welfare.

**Highlights of the special incentives:**

- Special immigration counter and customs clearance for incoming and outgoing passengers at the airport,
- Cabin with other facilities in the government hospitals will be given on priority basis,
- Special attention will be given for safety of families and their property by respective police stations,
- Priority will be given to their children for admission in educational institutions,
- Priority will be given (against applicable quota) to expatriates in allotment of land by RAJUK or other government agencies
- Priority will be given during registration or mutation of land or building,
- Entitlement to use VIP lounge and special handling at airport,
- Fast track customs clearance at the airport.

**Two Categories of beneficiaries:**

The above benefits will be provided on the basis of following categories;

Category A: Those who would remit US $10001 or above in a given year  
Category B: Those who remit US$5000 -100,000 in a given year

**Eligibility:**

To get the privileges in a given calendar year, remittance of a minimum of US$5000 to Bangladesh through established Banking Channels during the immediate past financial year is required. Evidence of money transfer to Bangladesh has to be submitted.

An applicant will be disqualified on the following grounds:

- If found a loan or tax defaulter,
- If convicted by a Court of Law and unless a period of five years has elapsed since his or her release from such conviction or if declared persona non grata
- For providing any false or incorrect information. A candidate will lose the privileges at any stage of his/her award for such information and will be considered as
disqualified from future eligibility if proof of falsehood or submission of incorrect information is discovered at a later stage.

Application:

Applications will be received in respective Embassies from 1st-30th July of every year.

Bangladesh Trade Show in US on August 15-17, 2008

Non-resident Bangladeshis will organize a trade show in New York by the name ‘Made in Bangladesh Trade Show’ which will showcase diversified local products on August 15-17, 2008. The First Multipurpose Services (FMS), a New York-based business promotion organization, managed by non-resident Bangladeshis, and Mattra, a local advertising agency will arrange the show.

The organizers at a press conference at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel recently said the ‘Made-in-Bangladesh Trade Show’ would be held at Pavilion Exhibition Hall at Manhattan. ‘If products’ diversity and event’s density is considered, it will be the largest and a unique single-country trade show for Bangladesh in the USA,’ said Anisur Rahman Mahmud, chief executive officer of Mattra.

Hossain Jabber, president of the FMS, observed that although Made-in-Bangladesh readymade garment are exported to the USA, market promotion for Bangladeshi products is needed to be improved. ‘Exporters and other stakeholders should work together to build up positive image of Bangladesh in the USA and utilize scopes for maximum value addition on their business,’ he suggested.

FMS and Mattra executives told journalists that at present Made-in-Bangladesh readymade garment are quite familiar in the USA, where huge markets remained uncultivated for many other products from Bangladesh. They said beside RMG exporters the show will invite Bangladeshi exporters of home textile items, ceramic products, melamine products, handicrafts, furniture, leather and leather goods, recycled glass items, jute goods, processed foods and spices.

They also invited Bangladeshi businesses engaged in real-estate business, tourism and hospitality services, banks, insurance and shipping companies. The organizers said some 109 stalls and five pavilions would be installed for the exhibitors. They informed journalists that seminars and cultural shows would be arranged on the sideline of the trade show. The press conference was attended, among others, by Afzal Hossain, managing partner of the Mattra, and Raghib Ahshan, event manager of the FMS.

BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT

BEPZA signs $1.2b investment deal in 10 months

The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) has signed record level investment agreements with parties worth $1.2 billion during the past 10 months up to April of the current fiscal 2007-08.

Export Processing Zones (EPZ) in Bangladesh have become attractive destinations for foreign investment over the recent years. Investors from countries like US, Japan, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan are taking increasing interest to relocate their factories here mainly because of various fiscal incentives, low production cost and duty free access to some major global markets. In view of the growing demand and paucity of industrial plots, BEPZA has decided in February this year to set up two more EPZs - one at Feni and the other at Munshigonj to be called the Meghna EPZ. The net investment inflow to the country’s EPZs over the past 10 months stood at $265 million compared to 152 million during the last fiscal 2006-07 and $112 million over the previous 2005-06.

The eight EPZs are now producing over 50 famous global brands like Nike, Reebok, Adidas, JC Penny, Wal-Mart, K-mart, Konica, Minolta, Nikon, Fuji, Olympus camera lens, Abu Garcia golf shafts, Sony mobile parts and automobile parts for vehicles like Nissan, Mitsubishi and Hino. BEPZA now offers in built, ready to start model factory to investors who want to start business immediately.

Source: The New Age, Dhaka.
Ford eyes 20pc market share in Bangladesh:
Car prices to be competitive

The US auto giant Ford Motor Corporation has appointed the AG Automobiles Ltd as its dealer in Bangladesh recently, eying 20 per cent market share of new car sales in Bangladesh in phases within next five years. The AG Automobiles will launch Ford Motor products at the local market in the middle of next June and compete with the prices of Japanese vehicles those grabbing the major market share now.

Officials of the AG Automobiles informed that they would launch Ford’s Ranger Pick-Up series in first phase, Everest and Explorer Jeep series by next six months, and Focus and Kuga series of compact family cars and SUVs later. The industry people said the Ford’s Ranger Pick-Ups would invite competition to Hilux of Toyota, the top selling new Pick-Ups in Bangladesh.

Third Bangladeshi private airlines spreads wing beyond border

Best Air, the third Bangladeshi private airlines launched flight on the international route on 25 May 2008. The 118-seater Boeing-737-200 aircraft of Best Air carrying 71 passengers spread wing on the sky from Zia International Airport and landed at the Bangkok Subarnavum International Airport of Thiland, in the afternoon. The Best Air will operate flights on the Dhaka-Bangkok route on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Syed Mohammad Zobaer, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism inaugurated the international flight of Best Air at the Zia International Airport. Ambassadors of Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Iran attended the inaugural function and flew to Bangkok in the maiden flight.

The Best Air chairman stressed the need for growth of tourism industry in the country and said the airliner would operate flights aiming to attract the foreign tourists to the country by offering ‘Destination Bangladesh’ package.

Adidas eyes potential market in Bangladesh

Global sports goods marketer Adidas Group is going to enter the Bangladesh market by opening at least three franchises in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet soon.

Thus far, the Apex Group had worked as the sole distributor for Adidas in Bangladesh. About 4,000 pairs of Adidas sports and jogging shoes were sold annually at their retail outlet dedicated for the brand. Trade experts observed that growing number of high-salaried private sector executives in the country and entrepreneurs could be potential targets for brands like Adidas.

Italian companies eye textile machinery market in Bangladesh

The Italian manufacturers of textile machinery are expanding their businesses in the growing Bangladesh market which they consider as one of the most potential markets in Asia. As part of the endeavour, representatives of 10 leading manufacturers of Italian textile machinery recently
visited Bangladesh and held a technology seminar recently in Hotel Sonargaon, Dhaka.

In 2007, Italian exports to Bangladesh stood at 31 million euro. Of the amount, textile machinery, including finishing equipment, export figure was worth 41 per cent while spinning machinery export figure was worth 35 per cent. Italian manufacturers are not only interested in selling their products to export-oriented textile mills, they also want to supply machinery to the manufacturers who produces cloth for local market, according to the Italian Trade Commission.

Representatives of the Italian machinery companies — Avantec, Corghi, Corino, Crosta, Jaeggli, Marzoli, Obem, Reggiani, Smit, Unitech and Jaeggli-Meccanotessile – will focus on their modern machinery products in Dhaka seminar.

Chittagong scientists invented anti-diabetic tea

A group of scientists of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) invented the herbal tea from leaf extracts of local tree named Jarul. It would help insulin-dependent diabetic patients reduce their insulin intake. The research was conducted at BCSIR research institute in Bangladesh's southeastern city, Chittagong.

Azad Khan, president of Diabetic Association was quoted as saying that since the tea is extracted from nature, it has no side effect and it might be helpful for diabetic patients.

He said, "Diabetes has spread in the world like an epidemic and developing countries are the worst victims of this disease. An estimated 6 million people in Bangladesh now have diabetes."

The diabetic patients who are dependent on insulin injections might benefit from the herbal tea as the recommended use of the tea could lower sugar level in their blood through insulin secretion from their pancreas and thus lower their insulin intake requirement, said experts.

The herbal tea might also help reduce obesity, the experts added.

Prof. Dr. Choudhury Mahmood Hasan, Chairman of BCSIR, said herbal drug is safe and effective and it has gained approval across the globe, securing a market share of 62 billion U.S. dollars.

Fame Pharmaceuticals company will market the herbal tea under the brand name of DiabeNo.

PHOTO GALLERY

Embassy Open House on 17 May 2008

Fair organized by DC mayor’s office and Muslim Bazaar Fair at Islamic Center, DC

If you need any further information or have any suggestions or if you do not wish to receive this web journal, please email: webjournal@bangladoot.org or drmonwar@yahoo.com

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