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OPPORTUNITY BANGLADESH

2009 Edition

www.bangladesh.org.sg

Contents



Editor's Note

Opportunity Bangladesh - 2009 brings with it a double celebration. First it commemorates the 38th National day and secondly the return of democracy following the recent elections.



07

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Message from the Hon'ble President

On the occasion of the great Independence and National Day. I convey my heartfelt greetings and felicitations to the countrymen living at home and abroad.



Message from the Hon'ble Prime Minister

Today is the 26th March, the great Independence and National Day. At the very first hour on this day in 1971, the greatest Bangalee of thousand years, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh.



Message from the Hon'ble Foreign Minister

To write about one's country is an extremely demanding task. To write about a people, stretches the mind's reach. To write a Message about Bangladesh on the day of her birth overwhelms the mind and soul.



Message from the Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs

On the eve of the celebrations marking the 38th Anniversary of our Independence and National Day of Bangladesh, let me convey my warmest greeting, and congratulations to all our fellow countrymen both at home and in abroad.



Message from the High Commissioner

Today we celebrate the 38th anniversary of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. On this auspicious day I join the nation to pay my tributes to the martyrs and the valiant freedom fighters who made supreme sacrifices for the liberation of our country and thus giving us an opportunity to stand in the comity of the nations with dignity and pride.





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Contents



- 16 Bangladesh Quick Guide
- **17** Your Guide to Investment
- **19** Seminar on Trade and Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh held in Singapore
- **20** New Dimension in Apparel Sourcing: Challenges & Opportunities for Bangladesh

- **22** Ship Building Industry of Bangladesh and its Export Possibility
- **25** Tribal People of Bangladesh and their Cultural Heritage: Preservation and Development
- 27 The Sundarbans
- **30** Tourist attractions in Bangladesh
- 32 Photo Feature

Publisher Sun Media Pte Ltd Editor-in-Chief Nomita Dhar Editorial Assistants Carol Kraal, Param Kaur Sub Editor Neha Anil Editorial Board Noor-E Helal Saifur Rahman, Yasmin Sultana, Khandaker Shafiquzzaman Photo Contribution High Commission of People's Republic of Bangladesh Marketing Director Manjeet Singh Usma Design Dilipkumar Kanagaraj Marketing & Sales Oh Jia Wei, Wong Yu Ting Photographers Mustafa Ali Danny, Tibor Magyar Printer Image office

Editorial Office Sun Media Pte Ltd, 20 Kramat Lane #01-02 United House(S)228773. Tel: (65) 66735 2972 / 6735 1907 / 6735 2986. Fax: (65) 6735 3114 E-mail: admin@sunmediaonline.com URL: www.sunmediaonline.com

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MICA (P) 045/03/2009

This publication has been prepared by the High Commission for The People's Republic of Bangladesh in Singapore commemorating the 38th Anniversary of Independence and National Day.

All correspondence regarding advertising and editorial should be addressed to SUN MEDIA PTE LTD 20 Kramat Lane, #01-02 United House Singapore 228773.

Opportunity Bangladesh is published by **Sun Media Pte Ltd**. This magazine is published by the High Commission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Singapore. The opinions, pronouncements or views expressed or implied in this publication are those of contributors or authors. The information-contained herein has been made available by the Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore, however, it does not necessarily reflect the official position of the Bangladesh authorities nor their agents or representatives. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of all the information contained in this publication, the publisher cannot be liable for loss incurred in any way whatsoever by any company or person relying on the information contained herein. The aim of this publication is to guide and provide general information. Advice should be sought before taking action on specific issues.

Congratulations and Felicitation to the Government and the people of Bangladesh on their 38th National Day

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Congratulations to the Government & People of Bangladesh on their 38th National Day



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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Opportunity Bangladesh - 2009 brings with it a double celebration. First it commemorates the 38th National day and secondly the return of democracy following the recent elections.



Upon assuming office the Prime Minister Honorable Sheikh Hasina reiterated that "I have just assumed a very big responsibility," and "My main goals will be to bolster law and order in the country and to curb rising inflation". An important step in this direction was the appointment of the current 31-member cabinet that includes many new faces and is youth dominated.

Home to 150 million people, Bangladesh also presents a huge market. At the same time, while considering market expansion, political stability

is one of the major considerations for an investor and the new government aims to work diligently on these endeavours.

The government has started its five year tenure on a firm footing. Therefore, now is an appropriate time for international businesses to be part of many development projects that the government intends to embark on. It is on this platform we bring forth to Singaporean investors and businessmen an overview of what Bangladesh has to offer.

Although the global economic scenario is that of uncertainty and gloom, it still makes business sense to source products that are competitively priced. Bangladesh offers many products that can be shipped easily, considering the fact that Bangladesh is just three-and-a half hours of travel time by air and is also well connected by sea.

In the current economic scenario, keeping the cost of production low is yet another priority. Foreign investment in the country's Export Processing Zones (EPZs) more than doubled in six months from July to December in 2008. EPZs are export- oriented industrial compounds where investors can enjoy business support services, solid infrastructure and incentives. And so we present a feature on these investment havens in EPZs in Bangladesh. Bangladesh with its many Economic Processing Zones offers ready facilities with simplified regulations to make relocation easier.

Yet another factor that is of utmost importance is an affordable and easily trainable workforce. In Singapore, we can see proof of this as more than 1,00,000 Bangladesh nationals contribute in their own special way in building the Island nation.

Bangladesh has also witnessed rapid development in industries such as Information Technology (IT), one of the fastest growing sectors in the economy, Singapore companies can explore outsourcing opportunities in this sector.

Bangladesh is indeed a land of opportunities waiting to be discovered. We hope that this issue will provide you a glimpse into what awaits your entry into this market.

See you in Bangladesh!

NOMITA DHAR Editor-in-chief Bangladesh is indeed a land of opportunities waiting to be discovered. We hope that this issue will provide you a glimpse into what awaits your entry into this market.





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Message from the Hon'ble President



On the occasion of the great
Independence and National
Day, I convey my heartfelt greetings and felicitations to the countrymen living at home and abroad.

The historic Independence Day is a glorious day in our national life. We achieved our Independence over a nine-month-long armed struggle and sacrifice of life. On this solemn day, I recall with utmost respect and pay my deep homage to the martyrs of the liberation war who made supreme sacrifices for achieving the Independence in 1971. I pray for the salvation of those immortal souls.

On this memorable day, I remember with profound respect the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who proclaimed the country's independence on the 26th of March, 1971. Responding to his clarion call people from all walks of life participated in the war of liberation and snatched the Independence. I also recall with deep respect the four-Natonal Leaders; valiant freedomfighters and organizers who rendered their dedicated efforts and enthusiastic support that accelerated our great victory. The freedom fighters are regarded as the greatest sons of the soil and their supreme sacrifices will be always remembered in the history of our independence.

One of the prime objectives of our hard-earned Independence was to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh. Bangabandhu's cherished dream was to turn the country into 'Sonar Bangla' (Bengal of Gold) which is yet to be fulfilled. Keeping that in mind, the Government has been rendering untiring efforts in materialising the objectives of Independence. With the span of time, we have achieved some significant progess both in the national and international arenas. Despite attaining the progress, we have to go a long way for attaining the cherished goals of Independence. I believe continued democratic process and united efforts from all are imperative in this regard.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the democracy is re-established and the People's Government has been formed through the ninth Parliament. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina the daughter of Bangabandhu has declared the 'Charter for Change' vis-a-vis 'Vision 2021' for beaming at the common mass. I am confident our country would be a happy and prosperous 'Sonar Bangla' through materialising the 'Vision 2021' – Inshallah.

On this great Independence Day, I urge all Bangladesh people, living at home and abroad, to work unitedly imbued with the spirit of War of Liberation to expedite economic self-reliance and democratic advancement.

Khoda Hafez. May Bangladesh Live Forever.

H.E. MD. ZILLUR RAHMAN

Honourable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message from the Hon'ble Prime Minister



Today is the 26th of March, the great Independence and National Day. At the very first hour on this day in 1971, the greatest Bangalee of thousand years, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh. Under his undaunted leadership, the independence of our beloved motherland, Bangladesh, was achieved through a 9 month bloody war and supreme sacrifices of 3 million martyrs, agonies of two lakh women and sufferings of millions of people.

On this memorable day, I pay my deep respect to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the War of Liberation. I recall with deep gratitude the greatest hero of our national freedom struggle, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I pay tributes to the four national leaders and the valiant freedom fighters. I recall with deep gratitude those who lost their near and dear ones, who were subject to inhuman torture and repression and the freedom seeking people in achieving the independent and sovereign Bangladesh. I also recall the overt and covert support and cooperation of the friendly foreign countries and their citizens in attaining our long-cherished independence.

On the occasion of the great Independence and National Day, I convey my best wishes and congratulations to the countrymen as well as all Bangalees living abroad.

On the eve of the Independence Day, I call upon the countrymen to remain alert against the concerted evil activities of the anti-liberation, communal, autocratic and identified reactionary forces. The anti-liberation forces are still desperate to nudge their claws aiming at shedding blood. Like the past, they are still engaged in plotting designs and hatching conspiracies to obstruct the national progress and advancement. I urge the people to unite to resist their evil acts.

The Independence earned through the bloody war is the noblest achievement in our national history. The spirit of Liberation War would have to be spread everywhere to make this glorious achievement meaningful and sustainable. Equally important is to ensure justice, good- governance and higher living standard for our people. To achieve the objective we have to work with highest sincerity and honesty being imbued with the spirit of Liberation War and patriotism.

Our government is committed to establishing the values of the Liberation War and fulfilling the election pledges. We are also committed to building a "Golden Bengali" free from poverty, hunger and illiteracy as dreamt by Bangabandhu. Retaining the true history of the War of Liberation in our hearts, we would have to go ahead to achieve the objective of 'change' through building a Bangladesh free from corruption, malgovernance, terrorism, hunger and poverty.

I am looking forward to realising that spirit of great Independence and National Day is reflected in all our activities.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh live forever.

H.E. SHEIKH HASINA

Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Leadership



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placed a floral wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmodi



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placed a floral wreath at **National Mausoleum**



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the Cabinet meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting of the National Economic over the 103rd NICAR meeting Council (NEC) at the NEC conference room

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided

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Message from the Hon'ble Foreign Minister



To write about one's country is an extremely demanding task. To write about a people, stretches the mind's reach. To write a Message about Bangladesh on the day of her birth overwhelms the mind and soul. Her people, past, present and future invoke the finest, the best and the forever. When Bangladesh entered the international comity of States on 26 March, 1971, she proclaimed herself as a rightful member of that comity. She announced that she was born of pain and suffering and a human struggle for liberation; that such liberation had come after her existence for thousands of years as a nation, now as an independent Sovereign Republic. She poured forth her identity, from her people, of a language and literature, of her music, culture and values and gave to the world a distinct Statehood hitherto unrecorded in the streams of history.

Her Founding Father had declared her to be "Sonar bangla" (Bengal of Gold). Her people claimed their rightful place amidst independent and Sovereign States. She spelled forth that she would be national, socialistic, democratic and secular and would create a society free from exploitation in which the rule of law, rule by and under the Constitution, fundamental human rights and freedom, equality and justice would prevail and be secured for all her citizens. She declared the Supremacy of the Will of her people so that she may prosper and make her full contribution towards international peace and cooperation in keeping with the progressive aspirations of mankind.

In the 38 years since that date when she so proclaimed herself, she has grown and evolved, stood the test of times, of encroachments and aberrations, of the forces that challenged her, her people's identity, her future and her leaders. She has demonstrated repeatedly that her Sovereign Will and her Republican character may not be stayed, suspended or abrogated by any whim or extra-Constitutional "doctrine of necessity". She has demonstrated her innermost and innate characteristics, of a State to be served by her people and in the service of her people. Bangabandhu's "Sonar bangla" has restated her fundamental principles, that of a tolerant and a peaceful society within and among a human fortress against detractors and bigots. She has spoken in her elections on 29 December, 2008 that she is the mistress of her own destiny the kind of life she wishes to have, namely, a democratic and secular society however harsh this path and process might be.

On this auspicious day, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, it is my privilege and opportunity to call upon the Foreign Ministry itself in Dhaka and our missions abroad in dedicating themselves to nation building, consolidating Statehood and projecting the real Bangladesh to the world.

I recall with pride, the role of our expatriates for their immense contribution in different spheres of our national life. I particularly recognize and salute Bangalees living abroad who, through their sweat and toil, have generated earnings and remitted their income which in turn, have met our valuable foreign exchange requirements. Our expatriate brothers and sisters are our real goodwill ambassadors who will speak and deliver our nation's pride and achievements.

I take the liberty and opportunity to reaffirm our purpose and will to achieve victory against hunger and poverty and usher in a quality of life consistent with human dignity. The dream of Bangabandhu, the Father of the Nation to achieve a "Sonar bangla" is the task of every citizen. Under the leadership of our Prime Minister, Jono Netri Sheikh Hasina, the nation has resurrected itself to Statehood embodying and exercising Sovereign Will towards the achievement of that dream.

I congratulate and felicitate Bangladesh and its entire people living at home and abroad.

H.E. DIPU MONI, MP

Honourable Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Our Warm Wishes to Bangladesh for 38 years of Independence



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38th Anniversary of National Day Of Bangladesh

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Message from the Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs



On the eve of the celebrations marking the 38th Anniversary of our Independence and National Day, let me convey my warmest greetings, and congratulations to all our fellow countrymen both at home and in abroad. $26^{\rm th}$ March is a day to commemorate – to remember the dead and to honour the living.

On this auspicious occasion, let me recall with deep gratitude the contribution of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for his indomitable spirit – that transcended the boundaries of race and religion, of faiths and of fraternities – culminating in the freedom of our nation from the bondages of foreign occupation and economic oppression.

On this auspicious occasion, let me recall with sincere respect the contribution of our national leaders who took upon their shoulders the responsibility of steering the nation to its destiny at the darkest of hours in 1971.

On this auspicious occasion, let me remember, without any doubt and with profound reverence, our valiant freedom fighters who laid down their lives at the altar of freedom without asking 'why' or 'what they would get' in return. Let me recall those who suffered the most – the wounded and the tortured-together with their families. Words cannot be sufficient to venerate the supreme sacrifices these brave individuals-both men and women – made for the sake of an ideal. Let me recognize this day that as a nation, or for that matter, as a Government, we have done little to value the contribution that these individuals and families made to the country that we live in, and for that matter, to the flag that we fly today.

26th March is a day to celebrate. This day is to celebrate the fulfillment of promise in the offing for a thousand years... and to celebrate the renewal of that promise. This day is to celebrate the premise of freedom...and to celebrate the birth of a nation. Let me congratulate the Fighting spirit of my countrymen – constantly battling the merciless odds of nature and cruel intentions of vested interest groups. Let me congratulate our expatriates' community for their role in the development of our country. We salute the tireless efforts rendered by our expatriates – working for away from home – for the betterment of lives here in Bangladesh.

The 26^{th} day of March is a day to unite...to unite once again for a cause.

Let this 26th day of March, and mark the year Two Thousand and Nine, be the day to unite, for delivering Bangladesh from the clutches of poverty, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, and ignorance. Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the present Government and my Ministry will always be with you.

H.E. DR. HASAN MAHMUD, MP

Honourable State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



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Message from the High Commissioner



Today we celebrate the 38th anniversary of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. On this auspicious day I join the nation to pay my tributes to the martyrs and the valiant freedom fighters who made supreme sacrifices for the liberation of our country and thus giving us an opportunity to stand in the comity of the nations with dignity and pride.

The main spirit of our nine-month struggle for independence was to establish a democratic and prosperous Bangladesh free from deprivation and exploitation. We as a nation during last 38 years are continuing our efforts towards materialising those dreams.

2009 will be particularly remembered in our national history as a year of returning to democracy. On 29 December 2008 Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina won the parliamentary election with a landslide victory and formed her government on 6 January 2009. The newly elected government apart from its firm commitment to ensure food, clothes, education, health services and shelter for everyone, has also promised to ensure a more business friendly environment in Bangladesh which has already the most liberalised trade and investment regime in South Asia. The Hon'ble Prime Minister in her Vision 2021 statement envisions a digital Bangladesh by 2021, the golden jubilee year of our independence, where she calls for efficient and effective use of modern ICT in all spheres of the society emphasizing the overall development of the common people.

The new government in Bangladesh takes over at a time when global economy is facing its most serious recession in decades. Fortunately, due to prudent economic policies of the government our economy is left largely unhurt. It registered a growth of 6.2 percent in 2007-2008 financial year. In the 2008-2009 financial year we are again hopeful of achieving a growth of over 6 percent. Apart from GDP growth our country's other key macroeconomic variables have shown minimal fluctuations in recent months. To keep up the momentum of the growth, government has announced several stimulus packages to protect the economy from global recession.

Bangladesh and Singapore are two brotherly countries. The two countries enjoy sound political and economic ties since the establishment of the diplomatic relations in 1972. Singapore is now home to thousands of Bangladeshis. Singapore is also an important trading partner of Bangladesh. Trade between the two countries has been steadily increasing over the years. Bilateral trade between the countries increased from S\$1.2 billion in 1998 to S\$1.9 billion in 2008. In 2008, Singapore exports amounted to S\$1.76 billion which comprised mainly refined petroleum products, apparel and textile machineries, electric and electronic components, telecommunication equipments, computers, chemicals and other machineries. On the other hand, Bangladesh exports to Singapore rose from US\$24.53 million in 2001-2002 to US\$123 million in 2007-2008. The main Bangladeshi exports to Singapore are textiles and apparels, steel products, rice, chilled vegetables, seafood, copper and jute products.

Singapore is also a leading investor in Bangladesh with net investments of over US\$500. In order to draw more investment from Singapore and to give an idea to the Singaporean and Singapore based foreign entrepreneurs on the trade and investment environment in Bangladesh, the Bangladesh High Commission in collaboration with Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and International Enterprise Singapore hosted a seminar on 17 February 2009. Around 110 local and foreign investors and traders participated at the seminar. This was a follow up of the 19 June 2008 seminar on the same subject jointly organized by the High Commission and Singapore Business Federation.

High level visits and greater government to government interactions at different levels have also helped to further strengthen and expand the excellent existing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

On this happy occasion I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government and people of Singapore for enabling this High Commission to function smoothly by extending their full support and cooperation. I also extend my warmest greetings and facilitations to all Bangladeshis living in Singapore.

H.E. KAMRUL AHSAN

High Commissioner for The People's Republic of Bangladesh in Singapore

15

BANGLADESH - Quick Guide

Bangladesh is a small country with great potential for industrial advancement and economic growth. Its large domestic market offers attractive investment opportunities. Here are essential facts:



OFFICIAL NAME The People's Republic of Bangladesh GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION It lies between 20° 34' and 26° 38' North Latitude and 88° 01' and 92° 41' East Longitude BOUNDARY On three sides- East, North and West-India. South-East Myanmar. South-Bay of Bengal AREA 147,570 sq km TOTAL DISTRICTS 64 CAPITAL Dhaka OTHER MAJOR CITIES Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet & Barisal

GOVERNMENT

Parliamentary form of government. The President is Head of the State, while the Government is headed by the Prime Minister

POPULATION

140.6 million (Projection in 2007)

RATE OF POPULATION (2006) 1.41percent

GDP (2007-08) US\$ 78.54 billion / 541919 billion taka

GDP GROWTH (2007-08) 6.21 percent

PER CAPITA GDP / GNI (2007-08) US\$ 554 / US\$ 599

SECTORAL SHARE OF GDP (2007-08) Agriculture 16.23 percent. Industry 17.77 percent, Service 66.00 percent

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH (2007-08) 6.87 percent

NATIONAL SAVINGS (2007-08) 29.23 (as percent of GDP)

DOMESTIC SAVINGS (2007-08) 20.08 (as percent of GDP)

TOTAL INVESTMENT (2007-08) 24.16 (as percent of GDP)

- GOVERNMENT (2007-08) 5.01 (as percent of GDP)
- **PRIVATE (2007-08)** 19.15 (as percent of GDP)

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (2007-08) US\$ 779.7 million

NO. OF EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE (EPZ) 8 - FACTORIES IN EPZS (DEC 2007) 264 (both local and foreign)

- TOTAL INVESTMENT IN EPZS (DEC 2007) US\$ 1262.15 million

EXPORTS FROM EPZS (2007-08) US\$ 1084.58 million

EXPORT (2007-08) US\$ 14.11 billion

EXPORT GROWTH (2007-08) 15.87 percent

CONTRIBUTION OF EXPORT TO GDP (2007-08) 18 percent

CONTRIBUTION OF EXPORT TO IMPORT BILL (2007-08) 65.23 percent

IMPORT (CIF) (2007-08) US\$ 21.63 billion

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVE (29-05-2008) US\$ 5335 million

NRB REMITTANCE (JUL 07- MAR 08) US\$ 5649 million

LITERACY RATE (2006) 52.5 percent

LIFE EXPECTANCY (2006) 64.5

LABOUR FORCE (2005-06) 4.95 crores

EXCHANGE RATE US\$ 1 = 69.00 Taka, € 1 = 100.00 Taka

MAJOR EXPORTS

Ready-made Garments, Knitwear, Frozen Food, Leather and Leather Products, Jute and Jute Products, Tea, Ceramics, Textile, Fabrics, Home Textile, Chemical Products, Light Engineering Products including Bicycle, Handicrafts, Agro-based Products

MAJOR IMPORTS

Capital Machinery, Machinery parts, Petroleum Products, Food Grains, Cement, Milk powder & Baby Food, Edible Oil

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

Country is divided into six Administrative Divisions. These are Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet. Each Division is divided into districts

BUSINESS HOURS

The official working hours in Bangladesh are from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm from Sunday to Thursday. Friday and Saturday are weekly holidays

LANGUAGE

Bangla-Official Language, English-Second language and widely spoken

BEST TOURIST SEASON

October - March

PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST

Dhaka, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Kaptai, Rangamati, Khagrachari, Bandarban, Kuakata, Bogra, Khulna, the Sundarbans, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Comilla

AIRPORTS

Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Jessore, Rajshahi, Saidpur, Barisal and Cox's Bazar Talibabad (Dhaka), Betbunia (Rangamati)

Sources: Bangladesh Economic Review 2008, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, Export Promotion Bureau & Bangladesh Bank.

Your Guide to INVESTMENT



BUSINESS SET UP

Implementing a 100 percent foreignowned or joint venture industrial project in Bangladesh is a rather simple process. It involves 5 major steps.

A QUICK GUIDE FOR INVESTORS

Information Search

Once an investor intends to do business in Bangladesh, the first thing is to have sufficient and reliable information on the investment and business climate, opportunities, competitive strength etc of the country. This could be collected from a number of agencies like:

BOI: The most reliable and state of the art information source in the Government.

GOB Agencies: Other sources of the Government of Bangladesh like Ministries and trade related offices.

Missions: Direct queries to the Bangladesh Missions in the country of the investor would also result in reliable information. Diplomatic Missions of the intending country could also be a dependable source of information apart from joint business councils and chambers between the countries.

Chambers: Chambers can provide real experiences of existing investors. These include FBCCI, FICCI, ICC, DCCI, MCCI, BCI, CCCI and other regional chambers.

Associations: Business associations of the country could also provide specific information related to the respective industry.

International Organisations: UN bodies like the World Bank, UNCTAD, UNDP, WTO, IFC, MIGA, FIAS and other international organisations could also be a trustworthy source.

Consultants: Independent business consulting firms and consultants provide professional services and assistance.

Websites: A number of independent websites on Bangladesh hosted in different locations. The keyword searches on the internet are 'Bangladesh Investment', 'Bangladesh Business', 'Bangladesh Profile', 'FDI Bangladesh'.

BOI official website is www.boi.gov.bd

EFFECTIVE VERIFICATION

Upon analysis of the collected information and initial decision to move forward, the investor requires to visit Bangladesh to have physical verification. He could either visit independently or ask BOI to arrange the visit. However, to make the visit more meaningful and effective, BOI recommends the investor to contact them and make use of the welcome service.

VISA APPLICATION

Business travellers may request for visas with a year's duration and multiple entries. Bangladesh issues the following categories of business visas:

- Single-entry for 3 months
- Single-entry for 6 months
- Multiple-entry for 6 months

- Multiple-entry for 1 year
- Multiple-entry for 5 years
- Multiple-entry for work period

Extensions of each of the above are also permitted.

Landing Permit On Arrival

Foreign investors and businesspersons could avail LP/VOA from Dhaka's Zia International Airport for a maximum of 30 days under the following conditions:

- The foreign investors are identified on the basis of certification from Board of Investment (BOI)/ Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), Ministry of Industries. Officials from the BOI are on duty round-the-clock to facilitate certification of the relevant documents to get VOAs/ LPs.
- Foreign businesspersons who are directly associated with import of Bangladeshi products are identified on the basis of the certificate by the relevant associations of exportcommercial/industrial oriented organisations or the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) or the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). The certificate shall include Tax Identification Number (TIN) of the respective local commercial/ industrial organisations.

Issuance of LP/VDA include:

- The period of LP/VOA cannot be extended;
- The LP/VOA applicant shall have an endorsement of US\$500 in the passport/ in cash;
- The LP/VOA fee will be determined on a Reciprocity Policy with the respective countries;
- The applicant shall have return air ticket;
- The applicant shall utilise same port for entry and departure. Also please contact the Bangladesh Mission in your country.

BOI ASSISTANCE

On arrival in Bangladesh, investors could avail in-depth counselling from the BOI. Professional investment and business counselors provide cordial assistance through over-the deskmeeting at BOI office, attending phone, by e-mail and fax and express mail. They also assist in company formation.

STARTING UP

Various Types of Companies:

Business in Bangladesh may be carried on by a company formed and incorporated locally or by a company incorporated abroad but registered in Bangladesh. The incorporation or registration is done by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSCF). Under the provisions of the Company's Act 1994, companies could be classified in following categories:

1. Limited Companies

- Company Limited by Shares
 - i) Public Limited Company and
 - ii) Private Limited Company
- Company Limited by Guarantees

2. Unlimited Companies

Unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantees may or may not have share capital.

i) Public Limited Company

A public limited company is an entity that



a. may issue invitation to the members of the public to subscribe the shares and debentures of the company through a prospectus which complies with the requirements of the Companies' Act 1994 and the Securities and Exchange Commission Act 1994 as amended from time to time,

b. has a minimum of 7 members, but there is no maximum limit,

c. has at least 3 Directors and

d. may be a private company converted into a public company.

ii) Private Limited Company

A private limited company is a business entity that

a. restricts the rights to transfer the shares,

b. limits the number of its members to minimum 2 and maximum 50, excluding the persons employed in the company, c. prohibits any invitation to the public to subscribe for the share or debentures of the company and

d. entitles to commence business from the date of its incorporation.

Incorporation Options for Foreign Investor:

Incorporation options to a foreign investor include:

- Setting up a 100 percent foreignowned company in Bangladesh;
- Setting up a joint venture with a Bangladeshi company/ investor;
- Establishing the company's place of business in Bangladesh;
- Setting up a branch or a subsidiary of a foreign company in Bangladesh;
- Setting up a Bangladeshi company or participate in a Bangladeshi company already formed.

REGISTERING YOUR COMPANY

To register a company with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSCF), a promoter has to undertake the following:

Step 1: Selection of the Company Name

The name should not be identical with or closely resemble the name of an existing company. An application in plain paper along with required nominal fees is to be submitted to the RJSCF for verification and clearance of the proposed name.

Step 2: Memorandum of Association (MOA)

MOA states the name of the company, whether it is public limited or private limited and the location of the registered office at the company. The MOA should clearly spell out the main objectives, the authorised capital, the division of this capital into shares of fixed amount and liability of its members.

Step 3: Articles of Association (AOA)

The AOA are the regulations governing the internal management of the affairs of the company and the conduct of its business. These articles are subordinate to and controlled by MOA.

Step 4: Registration Application

Prescribed Application Form for registration has to be filled in, signed and submitted to the Registrar of the Joint Stock Companies and Firms. The application should include:

Application form: Duly filled, signed and stamped;

MOA: Duly signed and stamped; AOA: Duly signed and stamped; Registration fees: As applicable. Stamp duty for MOA: Fixed. Stamp duty for AOA: Variable.

For private companies, also required are:

Form I: Declaration on Registration of Company;

Form VI: Notice of situation of registered office or any change therein; Form IX: Consent of Director to Act; Form X: List of persons consenting to be Directors;

Form XII: Particulars of Directors, Managers and Managing Agents and any change therein.

For public companies, also required are:

Form XI: Agreement to take Qualification Share of the propose company.

Form XIV: Declaration before commencing business in case of the company filling a statement in lieu of prospectus.

Upon complete submission of the above, registration is given by the RJSCF. For latest information, please contact the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms or visit

www.registrarofcompaniesbangladesh.com

ESTABLISH PLACE OF BUSINESS

In establishing a place of business of a foreign company, the company has to be registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies as the place of business. Such registration is required in respect of capital issue and obtaining clearance from the central bank i.e. Bangladesh Bank



DPPORTUNITY BANGLADES

18

Seminar on Trade and Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh held in Singapore



Bangladesh High Commission, Singapore jointly with International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and Singapore Business Federation (SBF) organised a seminar on Trade and Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh at the IE Singapore office on February 17 2009.

he first since the recent elections, the seminar invoked great interest among Singapore businesses across a wide spectrum of industries. During the seminar, Tan Poh Teck, Deputy CEO of Singapore Business Federation, delivered the welcome address.

H.E. Ahsan in his keynote speech said, "At this time when a new Government has just been formed under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the seminar will generate further understanding of the new governments priorities and policies among the Singaporean companies to tap the immense potential of Bangladesh in trade and investment."

In his presentation Mr Kabirul Ezdani Khan, Counselor (Trade & Investment Promotion), presented an "Overview of Trade & Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh".

Besides, Captain Sohail Hasan (Managing Director), Nobpac Shipping Private Limited gave an insight into numerous opportunities arising in the shipping sector, "Bangladesh: The Emerging Ship Building Nation".

Mr. Sandeep Hota, Senior Vice President (Cotton Division), Olam International who has been in the Bangladesh market for more than a decade referred to Bangladesh as "Next Asian Tiger" during his presentation on "Engaging Bangladesh Market". Sharing his experience, Mr Hota encouraged the investors and business men to tap on the many opportunities Bangladesh has to offer.

The seminar was co-organized with International Enterprise (IE) Singapore, which is the lead agency under the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Investment spearheading the development of



H.E. Kamrul Ahsan, High Commissioner for The People's Republic of Bangladesh in Singapore

Singapore's external economic interests and Singapore Business Federation is the Apex business chamber that champions the interests of the Singapore business community in trade, investment and industrial relations.

Singapore – Bangladesh Business Ties

Singapore is an important trading partner of Bangladesh. Trade between the two countries has been on the rise over the years. In 2007 Bangladesh was Singapore's 36th largest trading partner and 27th largest export destination. Bilateral trade between the two countries increased from S\$ 1.2 billion in 1998 to S\$ 1.9 billion in 2008. In 2008, Singapore exports amounted to S\$1.76 billion which comprised mainly refined petroleum products, apparel & textile machineries, electric parts, telecommunications equipments, computers, synthetic organic dues, ship/boat structures, etc. Bangladesh exports to Singapore rose from S\$76 million in 1998 to S\$138 million in 2008. The main import items were textiles & apparels, steel products, rice, chilled vegetables, seafood, copper and jute products ■ 19

Apparel Sourcing: Challenges & Opportunities for Bangladesh

The textile and clothing trade always recieves high attention in the world as it satisfies one of the fundamental needs of the human being. Most of the developed nations of the world started their industrial development process with the emergence of this sector. From the Industrial Revolution to the Chinese Development, textile and clothing was the primary sector to boost up the economy and shifted the industrial sector from heavy machineries to high tech technologies.



| BY MD. FAZLUL HOQUE | President, BKMEA

The Transition Period Of World Apparel Sourcing

closer look at the historical development of textile and clothing sector reveals that the apparel business continued to move from the high income countries towards the labor abundant low income countries. This phenomenon is observed in all of the major suppliers of the product such as England, Japan, the USA, Taiwan, Korea, and few European countries. The world is expected to observe yet another change in the apparel sourcing pattern from the year 2008 and onwards. A huge pie in the world apparel export is likely to come out gradually from few major players like China, Turkey and some of the EU countries. Experts' prediction is that the main beneficiaries are likely to be Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Bangladesh and India etc. This probable change in the sourcing pattern can be explained with i) the historical dynamics of apparel production, and ii) the current financial crisis in the developed countries.

The Historical Dynamics of Apparel Production

Although industrial revolution has taken place with the emergence of textile and clothing industry in England, it is not England which dominated this industry over the last few decades, rather the business shifted towards different nations at different periods such as Japan in 50s, USA, Korea, and Taiwan from 60s to 70s. These countries along with Hong Kong and few European countries dominated the textile & clothing business for 20 years. The 90s was very important for clothing suppliers because in that period global apparel sourcing pattern experienced another dimension.

Developed countries lost their competitive edge in apparel business and buyers found them more comfortable with Chinese and other Asian products. China started its legendary journey and increased its divergence in market share with all other suppliers and significantly grows till 2006.

Over last few years, China and Turkey were the major players in the apparel market. China is the number one apparel exporter in the world with 34 percent share in world apparel export. Together China and Turkey contribute about 50 percent of the world apparel trade. But recently, Chinese apparel export to the world declines sharply in the first half of the year 2008 than that of 2007.

Moreover, the new labor law increased the production cost of Chinese apparel up to 40 percent. Yuan apprehension, high per capita income, inflation, etc make the Chinese apparel products less competitive. Consequently, the apparel manufacturers in China have lost their interest in this sector and planning to invest in some other sectors.

Another major supplier, Turkey's textile and apparel companies are facing raising difficulties because of increased labor as well as energy cost. The minimum labor cost in Turkey is more than US \$300 per month which is much higher than any other apparel producing country.

Most of the apparel producer in Turkey believes that they are unable to sur-



Appare	l Manufacturing	Labor	Costs	in 2008

Country	Labor Cost (US\$ / Hour)	
Bangladesh	0.22	
Cambodia	0.33	
Vietnam	0.38	
India	0.51	
China	0.55-1.08	
Turkey	2.44	
Source: Jasin-o' Rouke Group, LLC		

vive in the apparel market under this current situation. They are now concentrating more on the textiles production. With the changing scenario, Turkey is now looking for strategic cooperation with countries like Egypt, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

The Financial Crisis in the Developed Countries

World economic scenario has started to change since early 2007 and its impact on world economies will be obvious soon. A serious economic recession has taken place in USA and very rapidly spreading in the EU, Japan and other developed countries. The present world financial crisis and turmoil in the economy of the developed countries is apprehended to have a big impact in the apparel market & sourcing decision.

Most of all the social and economic turmoil will lead the buyers to buy from cheaper sources. In the short run, there is every possibility of reducing buying of clothing in quantity along with quality all over the countries. It is a general fact that countries with high per capita income generally produce higher value added items and low cost countries are good in basic items. So it is more likely that importers will seek comparatively cheaper sources and the top exporters will go to more capital intensive textiles production leaving the highly labor intensive apparel sector. In the long run, this restructuring may take place in the importing market through adjustment of prices in lower to higher value added items. Restructuring and shifting in the sourcing will take place in order to develop a total balance of all these complex issues.

Opportunities for Bangladesh

Apparel sector gets the uppermost priority in Bangladesh due to its significant contribution to the economic development of the country. At present, 76.6 percent export earnings of Bangladesh comes from this sector. This sector contributed significantly in the socio-economic development through employment generation, increased substantial export earnings, women empowerment, gender equality, improved health & nutrition, reduced child marriage, reduced infant mortality etc. In 2007-08, the export from the RMG sector was US\$ 10.70 billion of which the knitwear sector contributed US\$ 5.53 billion and woven contributed US\$ 5.17 billion.

As Bangladesh mainly produces basic items, the prices always stay in the tolerance level of the customers of the EU, the USA and other developed countries. More over the entrepreneurs are now concentrating more on social compliance improvement, quality, scale of production, skill development of huand Indonesia are growing at a faster rate and also developing their facilities like technological upgradation, training, infrastructural improvement and diversification of their production with huge support from their government.

Secondly, India and Bangladesh are expected to be the other beneficiaries of this trend. The textile and apparel sector is one of the main prioritized sectors for Indian Government. She is investing and concentrating a lot to strengthen this sector. It is predicted that several items eroded from China and Turkey will be shifted to India as it has the capacity like improved infrastructure, technology and raw materials support.



man resources, environment to increase the capacity and efficiency of this sector. So Bangladesh is believed to have the capacity to increase and to adopt with the changing demand of the buyers to become a good choice to source in the revolutionize situation of world apparel sourcing.

Conclusion

There are two aspects of this changing pattern. Firstly, China supported regional sphere including Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia etc. will be benefited through added advantages of Chinese investment in these countries. Vietnam

Bangladesh is supplying at lower price than most of the top suppliers in the playing categories. But its apparel export basket is concentrated only in 4 out of 34 categories in the HS four digit levels. Bangladesh is playing in the ground with only 50% of the total apparel export. Producing and exporting diversified products is required for the, sustainable development of the sector. In addition, Government supports in energy supply, infrastructure development such as: seaport, road telecommunication etc are required to grip the market share that will come out from China, Turkey and other countries



Bangladesh Building ship industry suddenly emerged in the export sector like the appearance of a new star in the Galaxy, By depending on the convenient geographical advantage together with availability of technically knowledgeable personnel, skilled and semi-skilled workers and long past heritage, the ship building industry of Bangladesh has started its journey towards export. This industry is manufacturing row-row ferries, tug boats, fishing trawlers, inland oil tankers etc. catering to the local demand.

Ship Building Industry of Bangladesh and its Export Possibility.

| BY MD. SHAHAB ULLAH | Vice-Chairman, EPB

Bangladesh has ecently successfully exported her first ocean going ship to a high end market like Denmark by competing with Chinese and Vietnamese shipbuilders. Costeffective human resource in comparison with other shipbuilding nations and comparative advantages such as simple importation facility of raw materials, duty free market access for Bangladeshi ship to other countries etc. have encouraged the Bangladeshi entrepreneurs of this sector to come forward in export business. Bangladesh Government has taken initiatives to promote this sector with a view to including a new item in the export basket and considering its huge capability to develop country's multi-dimensional production base as linkage industries which makes

this nation as the next cost effective destination for global buyers dealing in ships, ship machineries, fittings and marine technology.

The history of indigenous shipbuilding in Bangladesh dates back a long time. It is one of the early industries developed in Bengal based on its old business of building boats and sea vessels. Many countries of Asia and Europe regularly bought ships built at Chittagong. World famous tourist Ibne Batuta came to Bangladesh in the 14th century and went back through a wooden ship built in a dock located at Sonargoah near Dhaka. Many such historic ships are being preserved in European museums. Bangladesh is still found inside the Maritime museum of Germany and France. According to the European Traveler Mr. Caesar Frederick, Chittagong port was the best centre of building ocean-going vessels in the middle of the 15th century. In the 17th century, the entire fleet of ships of the Sultan of Turkey was built in Chittagong.

During the Mughal period, Bengal was at the top in building ships and boats. The Mughal Naval force had a huge number of ships built at Chittagong. The British navy also used ships built in Chittagong and in 1805; it used them in the famous battle of Trafalgar. In the first part of the 19th century, the shipyards of Chittagong manufactured ships up to 1,000 tonnages. In Pakistan period, the shipbuilding industry was dominated by public sector enterprises. Khulna Shipyard and Sonakanda Shipyard were established in that period in order to build new ship, repairing and maintenance of worn out vessels etc.

At present the private sector has emerged as the major player. There are dozens of shipyard in Dhaka, Chittagong, Narayangonj, Barishal and

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23

are built. Bangladesh got its first exposure of international shipbuilding in 1979 when the inland shipbuilding was its nascent stage. Japanese shipbuilding giant Mitsui Engineering and Shipbuilding Industry developed the first and the largest joint venture shipyard with High Speed Ship Building and Engineering Co. Ltd. at Fatulrah, Dhaka and were able to build eight grain carriers under international tender floated by FAO according to the International Classification, Recently some shipbuilding Industry including Ananda Shipyard and Slipways Ltd. and Western Marine have come up with all standard building facilities that enabled them to receive export orders. For the first time Ananda Shipyard exported ocean going ships in 2008 to Denmark and Uganda and added the name of Bangladesh in the list of shipbuilding nations. According to the International

Khulna districts where small size ships

According to the International Trade Centre (ITC) calculation based on COMTRADE statistics the world export of ships, boats, and other floating structures (HS Chapter-89) was worth US \$ 106.79 billion in 2007 where the annual growth in value between 2006 and 2007 was 19 percent. Present Status of important world ship building nations are as follows.

Exporters	Value exported in 2007 (US\$ million)	Share in world export (percent)
Republic of Korea	26631.96	24.94
Japan	15522.86	14.54
China	12220.11	11.44
Italy	5980.11	5.60
Germany	4915.01	4.60
Poland	3592.76	3.36
United Kingdom	3332.92	3.12
United States of America	3160.37	2.96
Spain	2829.68	2.65
Netherlands	2772.92	2.60
France	2685.69	2.51
Finland	2352.48	2.20

and about 5 small shipyard involved in new building and repairing are moving towards building ocean going ships by enhancing their yard capacity in order to enter into export business.

At present South Korea is the largest Shipbuilding nation in the world. China is trying to become the world's number one shipbuilders by 2015. The other emerging forces at present are



Stella Maris Exported to Denmark, built by Ananda Shipbuilding

The information published in web page www.worldyard.com on August 2007 shows huge gap between demand and supply of ship in the international shipbuilding market. As a result order books started spiraling and the owners were finding it difficult to get yard to receive order. In the overbooked market, shipyards are signing contracts much in excess of their actual capacity, this will inevitably result in delayed delivery and the owners are well aware of the future. Still they accept the reality and the option of signing now at an overbooked yard is better than not signing at all which encourages the investors of Bangladesh to invest more in shipbuilding industry.

About 11 shipyards are now in different stages of setting up in Bangladesh Vietnam and India. After World War 2 Europe took the lead. This was followed by Japan and then by South Korea. The migration of shipbuilding has already been driven by increase in labour cost, a major input reflecting 30 percent of the total ship construction cost in shipbuilding industry. As one of the densely populated countries of the world with availability of skilled, semi-skilled and easily trainable manpower with long heritage. Bangladesh has come onward and in the meantime succeeded by exporting vessels abroad. Germanischer LLovd, an internationally recognized member of classification society has declared Bangladesh as a shipbuilding and ship exporting nation in SMM Hamburg held on September 23-26, 2008 in Germany.

Shipbuilding is a technology-based capital intensive industry. Everyday the changes taking place in the area of ship types, sizes, speed, construction methods and materials, navigational and communication equipment, parts and off-shore terminals, cargos and cargo handling system etc. are coming. In the developed world it is expected that new innovation are turned Into new products quickly which will totally be on technology based, near future e-navigation shall open the doors to ways of tracking and routing vessels at sea. It may lead us to a satellite-based global vessel traffic management and control system with safety and efficiency. Invention may come up to curb fuel consumption for protecting environmental impacts. Because of free economic environment of the globe the movement of goods will increase incessantly and it will create demand for transportation of goods for global trade where maritime transports perhaps may get preference due to its cheaper and environment friendly nature. It implies that demand for maritime transportations will increase significantly.

Shipbuilding is a highly labour intensive sector involving risky jobs depending on a huge number of backward and forward linkage industries. The safety aspects in the area of new building, repairing and using with environmental safety are important issues of this sector. The competitive elements are prevailing in these key issues of maritime Industries. Human resources deficit countries which include all developed and some developing shipbuilding nations are moving to produce high tech and high valued products based on new innovation for competing highly populated and newly industrialized countries like India, China etc. Most of the experienced shipbuilding nations are trying to create closer co-operation between shipbuilding and equipment industries for reducing the delivery time of new



H.E. Stefan Frowen, EC High Commissioner among the WMS Trained Personnel during his visit in Western Marine Shipyard

building. In this case they are using modern shipbuilding format and enhancing production plan management and organizational cooperation. Considering the overall situation the shipbuilding industries of developed and developing countries are involved to build technology based high valued ship, which provides us with enormous opportunities for low cost small and medium ship in size.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has imposed ban on single hull tanker and passenger vessel. This may be another opportunity for new shipbuilding nations like Bangladesh to penetrate in the market widely.

Backward linkage industry both of hardware and services is the most integral part of this sector. Among them some are low tech, some are high tech and some are highly skilled manpower dependent industries. Though Bangladesh is one of the most populated countries of the world, it is still far behind in skilled manpower due to lack of sufficient infrastructural facilities. Bangladesh has some low tech backward linkage industries related to shipbuilding which have not been approved by maritime classification society, Considering all these aspects Bangladesh may pay attention to necessary support for developing the following sectors as backward linkage industries: 1) Ship's out fittings (furniture, doors, windows, port hole eyes, fair leaders, masts, Ladders, Stairs and gangways, Ventilation ducts and grills, trolley etc.) 2) Safety accessories (Life jackets, Life boats, Life buoys, Survival suits, Rescue nets, Rescue baskets etc.) 3) Marine lighting, 4) Maritime signs, Symbols & Posters; 5) Anchor and Chain, 6) Marin cables, 7) Electrical and electronic items, 8) Pipes, 9) Pumps, 10) Ropes, 11) Angel (equal, unequal and flat), 12) Shipbuilding Plate, 13) Piston rings, 14) Switch gear, 15) Marine spare parts, 16) Marine technology including design, communication and information technology.

The Government has recognized the importance of shipbuilding industry and has paid due attention towards its improvement, in order to develop the sector the Government has declared shipbuilding as a Thrust Sector and accorded green channel facilities of clearing of goods for 100 percent export oriented shipyards. More than 40 ships have been ordered in Bangladesh in three shipyards and that quite a few shipyards are being set as 100 percent export-oriented industry. Bangladesh Government is very keen to extend all possible assistance in this regard so that shipbuilding industry can take off faster, stand firm on its feet and attract a large amount of foreign investment. Export earning of Bangladesh depends on only a few items that keeps the entire export trade vulnerable. But the emergence of the shipbuilding industry can be a mighty and very resourceful addition to the country's total export



Tribal People of Bangladesh and their Cultural Heritage: **Preservation and Development**

| BY MIJARUL QUAYES | Ambassador of Bangladesh to Russia

he rich and varied tribal cultures form a valued component of Bangladesh culture and the Government of Bangladesh attaches special priority to the preservation and promotion of their languages and cultural heritage. It has established three tribal cultural institutes at Rangamati, Birishiri and Dinajpur.

The tribal communities traditionally live in the highlands that relieve the monotonous stretch of the central plains towards the north. northeast and the southeastern fringes of the country. Their distribution in these areas is not even, as most of the communities are in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). They are unique in their way of life, organization, customs, traditions, rites, and above all, their ethnological distinctiveness. More than a dozen tribes live in the Hill Tracts. Of them, the better known are Chakmas, Marmas, Tipras, Murangs, Mrus, Kukis, Lushais, Pankhos, Bonogis, Sales, Rakhains and Tangchangyas.

There are an estimated 12,00,000 tribal people in Bangladesh. In the Hill Tracts alone their number will be around 7,00,000. They continue to live in their traditional habitat away from the urban bustle, each with their own customs and traditions, art and crafts, belief, dress and ornaments, social or-



Bangladesh has been a melting pot of diverse races and peoples and has been a confluence of civilizations. The cultural mosaic of Bangladesh includes an ethnically distinct tribal people of Mongoloid origin. Their customs, tradition and cultural practices are distinct not only from the mainstream plains people but also one community from the other. These communities have proudly, guarded and preserved their heritage over the years.

ganizations and modes of. The Khasias, Pangous and Manipuris have their homes along the hilly frontiers of Sylhet at the foot of the Khasia-Jaintia hills. The Garos, Hajongs, Hodis, Daluis, Mandais and Bunas live at Haluaghat, Sreebordi, Kalmakanda, Barhatta, Birishiri in the vicinity of the Garo hills in greater Mymensingh and in the Sal forests of the Modhupur highlands in the Tangail district. There are also a few scattered settlements of the Santals, Oraons, Hos,

Munda, Palias and Rajbansis in Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bogra and Rajshahi.

Tribal Areas and Development

The Chittagong Hill Tracts became a part of British India after the British occupied it in 1860. Administratively, they brought the region under the Province of Bengal. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation of 1900 instituted a local system of tax collection with the Headmen and Chiefs at the apex. After Partition in 1947, the Hill Tracts came under the jurisdiction of Pakistan. It was brought into the mainstream of Bangladesh life following independence in 1971 and entered into a period of remarkable changes and development. Representatives of the tribal people were elected to the local bodies including the newly created district councils as well as the national legislature. Cabinet ministers were also appointed from amongst them.

25

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26

Since the tribal areas are relatively underdeveloped, special programmes have been undertaken to raise the standard of living of the tribal people. Hill Districts Local Governments in CHT have been vested with increased administrative and financial power relating to 21 subjects. Special efforts have been made for development of the transport and communications system in the region. Schools, colleges and hostels have been built to promote education. Community centers, town halls and other facilities are being developed for promotion of social welfare. New stadiums and gymnasiums have been built for promotion of sports and culture. Heavy as well as small and cottage industries have been and are being set up in the region to improve the economic and social con-

dition of the people. Special

incentives have been provided for the establishment of medium and small-scale industries in the private sector. Hospitals and clinics have been established in the tribal areas. The increased economic activities have generated employment opportunities for the tribal people.

A separate Ministry for CHT Affairs has also been created as the co-coordinating Ministry for implementation of Government policy to accelerate the development process in the region.

Tribal Society

Most tribes live on agriculture with tools that they make and fashion all by themselves. They engage in Jhoom cultivation (slash and bum) sowing an assortment of seeds of rice, vegetable, fruit etc., which are reaped at different times as they ripen. Fishing and hunting are other occupations; some tribes being exclusively hunters. On festive occasions, they wear colourful clothes and get together, sing and dance through the night.

The tribal people are mostly Buddhists and Christians by religion but their ethos is sustained and nourished by the customs and beliefs that have regulated their collective life for ages. Primitive spiritualism and animism still dominate the collective conscience of the tribal society and mould their entire world-view and disposition. The number of primitive nature worshippers is quite large. Be it fear of material loss or disaster, fear of loss of crops or attack by the enemy, of being preyed upon by wild animals in the forest or solitary caves, fear of epidemics and death, of damnation and eternal torment in the hereafter, they always

turn to their animistic deities for protection.

Traditions and customs include rites and rituals and festivities aimed at appeasing the gods and goddesses. Poojas have a great importance in the life of the tribals owing to the belief that favourably disposed divinity can bestow immense good in worldly life. In tribal society religion is inseparably linked with customs and traditions—the rites and rituals being a purifying influence that brings fertility, prosperity and spiritual bliss. Rites and rituals do not always concern the creator and the nature deities but are used as a means also to propitiate evil spirits. The tribal people want certain things to happen in a certain way and their will, simple and ardent as it is, influences their perception and judgment.

Tribal Art and Culture



Tribal art is pervasive in the way of life of the tribes representing their rites and rituals, temples and monasteries, singing and dancing, food and drink, clothes and ornaments and household utensils. The history of tribal art is very old, older in fact than language. The artistic disposition of the tribal people is amply reflected in their agricultural tools and implements. Besides farming implements, domestic tools like spade, axe, sickles for paddy and jute, rope for yoking the herd and butts of their axe and knife all reveal the touch of an artistic frame of mind, simple and unsophisticated perhaps, but full of the joy of life. The occupation of the people always lends a determining factor to art and the nature surrounding it. The Shandus, Pakkhos and Bonjugi tribes of the Hill Tracts live mainly by hunting. Hence hunting tools bear the stamp of their art. They decorate their houses with the horns, heads and skins of the hunted animals.

Most tribal people of Bangladesh weave their own cloth. Their weaving is characterised by exquisite skill and design. Most of the communities excel in making ornaments, mostly of silver and wood, which they wear on their ears and neck. Iron ringlets are also common.

Carving images of the deities is another aspect of tribal art. They

also fashion masks of the deities, decorate the pooja altar with alpana or paste paint and imprint tattoos on their body. They enjoy an exotic cultural life, remarkable for its simplicity and vibrant spontaneity. The diversity of their belief has lent a wide variety in their cult of deity worship, religious celebrations, social rites and ceremonies. Tribal culture as a whole has evolved in different directions and providing rich diversity to our culture. The tribal communities and the Government of Bangladesh are working in concert for the development and preservation of this rich heritage

The Sundarbans

The Sundarbans is the world's largest mangrove forest. It straddles coastal areas of Bangladesh and India. In Bangladesh, it covers an area of 5,77,000 ha of which 4,01, 600 ha is land and remaining 1,75, 400 ha are under the water in the forms of rivers, canals, creeks and estuaries. It is bound in the north by Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira districts, in the south Bay of Bengal, in the west by Raymongal & Horiabanga Rivers and in the east by Baleshswar/Haringhata river of Pirojpur and Barisal district.

t is the natural habitat of the world famous Royal Bengal Tigers, Spotted Deers, Crocodiles, Rhesus, Lizards, Wild boar, Jungle Fowl, Monkey and others, more than 49 species of mammals, 53 species of reptiles, 315 species of birds and 120 species of fishes.

There are about 334 species of trees, Sundri (Heritiera fomes) and Gewa (Excoecsria agallocha) are the two most extensively occurring trees in the forest. The name Sundarbans means beautiful forest. One opinion is that it is named after the principal tree sundri (Heritiera fomes). Another opinion is that its name originated from "Samunder Ban" meaning sea forests. The Sundarbans play an important role in the economy of the southwestern region of Bangladesh by providing raw materials for wood based industries such as fuel wood and pulpwood. Besides there are non-wood forest products like honey, bees-wax, fish, thatching materials, crustaceans and mollusks resources.

The Sundarbans was formed in the 10th century. So far Literature relates that the Mughal period started leasing the forest of the Sundarbans. The Survey was done as early as 1764 by the East India company after the proprietary rights were obtained from the Mughal Emperor, Alamgir II. Systematic management was introduced in 1860s after the establishment of the Forest Department in the province of Bengal, in India.

It was declared a forest reservation in 1875-76 under the Forest Act. The water area in the Sundarbans comprise the freshwater that originates from the Ganges and saline water from the Bay of Bengal. For its extraordinarily diverse wildlife the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO inscribed the Sundarbans of Bangladesh as World Heritage status in its 21st session in 1997. Accordingly the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh declared the Sundarbans as a World Heritage site in 1997.



Common Plants of Sundarbans

LOCAL NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Sundri	Heritiera fames
Gewa	Excoecaria agallocha
Golpata	Nypa fruticans
Keora	Sonneratia apetala
Hogla	Typha elephantine
Dhundul	Xylocarpus granatum
Passur	Xylocarpus mekongensis
Sadda baen	Avicennia alba
Kumba, Kumb	Barringtonia racemosa
Sundri lota	Brownlowia tersa
Kankra	Bruguiera gymnorhiza
Kutum Kanta	Caesalpinia crista
Dagor	Cerbera manghas
Goran	Ceriops decandra
Singra	Cynometra ramiflora
Kewa kanta	Pandanus foetidus
Karanja	Pongamia pinnate
Garzan, Jhana	Rhizophora mucronata
Choyla, Ora	Sonneratia caseolaris
Jhao, Nona-jhao	Tamarix indica

Flora





Sundri

Golpata



Kumba, Kumb

Historically three principal vegetation types have been recognized in the Sundarbans areas. These are Sundarbans east, Sundarbans west and Sundarbans south. The Sundarbans east is dominated with Gewa (Excoecaria agallocha) and Passur (Xylocarpus mekongensis). Nypa palm (Nypa fruticans) is wide spread along drainage lines in this area. Singra (Cynometra ramiflora) and Amur (Amoora cucullata) plants are also available. The Sundarbans west is characterized by dense stands of Goran, sparse Gewa and discontinuous patches of Hantal palm (Phoenix paludosa). The Sundarbans south where there is a relatively moderate salinity is dominated by Gewa species, it is often mixed with Sundri. There are Goran and Passur trees also. In general Sundri and Gewa are dominant in the Sundarbans and discontinuous distribution of Dhundul (Xylocarpus granatum) and Kangra. According to the experts Keora is an indicator species for newly accreted, mudbanks and is an important species for wildlife, especially spotted deer.

Fauna

The Sundarbans is very rich in wildlife. There has been a decline in its number. A total of 425 species of wildlife have been found to occur in the Sundarbans. Of these, 49 species are mammals, 315 are birds, 53 are reptiles and there are 8 amphibians.







Spotted deer

Common mammals of Sundarbans

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Royal Bengal Tiger	Panthera tigris tigris
Spotted Deer	Axis axis
Bucking Deer	Muntiacus muntijak
Wild Boar	Sus scrofa
Monkey	Macaca mulatta
Squirrel	Hystrix hodgsoni
Flying Fox	Pteropus giganleus
Mongoose	Herpestes edwardsi
Otter	Lutra perspiciilata
Plambious Dolphin	Sotalia plumbea
Jackel	Canis aureus
Porcupine	Atherurus macrourus

Flying Fox

Otter

Common reptiles of Sundarbans

SCIENTIFIC NAME
Crocodilylus palustris
aranusbengalensis
V. Salvator
V. Nebuiisus
Python molurus
Batagur baska
Cheonia mydas
Lissemys punctata



Crocodile



Yellow monitor



Green turtle



Toad



Gach Bang



ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Toad	Bufo melanotictus
Tree Frog	Rhacophorus maculatus
Indian Bui Frog	Rana Irigrina
Green Frog	Rana bexadactyia
Gach Bang	Rana temporalis

Common Fish and Fisheries of Sundarbans

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Hilsha shad	Hilsa ilisha
Seabass	Lates calcarifer
Fatty catfish	Pangasius pangasius
Giant Fresh less Water Prawn	Macro brachium rosenbergii
Tiger Prawn	Penaeus monodon
White grunter	Pomadasys hasta
Estuarine less cadfish	Plotossus canius
Silver Jewfish	Johnlus argentatus
Chandona	Hilsa toll
Chapila	Gudsia ohapra
Phatrs	Reconda russelliana
Latia	Harpodon nehe'rsus
Mud crab	Scylla serrata
Giant Oyster	Crassostrea gigas



Seabass



Giant Fresh less Water Prawn



Giant Oyster



Mud Crab

Common birds of Sundarbans

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Pond Horon Paddy	Ardcola grayii
Cattle Egret	Bubulpus Ibis
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
Little Grone	Podicops rufioollis
Spoon Bill	Platalen Leucordia
Crested Goshawk	Accipirgatus trivirgatus
Imperial Eagle	Aouila heliaca
Taaeny Eagle	Aquila rapax
Marsh Harrier	Circus aruginosus
Black Winged Kite	Eianus caoruicus
White to Backed vulture	Cypsnabga lensis
White Billed Sea Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogastor
Pariah Kite	Miivus migrans
Common Kingfisher	Alcedi atthis
Greator Adjutant	Leptoptilos dubius
Spotted Dove	Streptopiia chinensis
Red Turtulo Dove	Stroptopeiia iranquebrioa
Red Turtulo Vove	Streptopelie tranquebarica
Orange breasted pigeon	Treron Bicincta
Refous Tree pie	Dendropi tta vaqabund
Indian Cuckoo	Cuculus micropterus
Koel	Eudynanus scolipacon
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrids
Indian skimmer	Rhynchops albicollla
Maqpie Robin	Copsychus saulari
Tailor bird	Orthtomus sutorius
Shaq	Phalacrocorax fuscicollis
Red Jumgli Fowl	Galius gallus
Yellow fronted pied	Picodes Mahrattensis
Lesser Golden Backed	Dinopium benghalense
Biack throated baya	Ploceus benghalensis
Roserinqed parakeet	Pistta culafinschii
Redvented bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer
Jungle Myana	Aoridotheres fuscus

Rivers and Canals in Sundarbans

There are about 450 rivers & canals in the Sundarbans including the Baieshar in the east and the Raymongal in the west. All the big rivers flow from the north to the south. The Pasur is the largest river. Important rivers that cover about 30% areas of the Sundarbans include Pasur, Baieshar, Raymongal, Shibsha, Chunar, Dobeki, Arpangashia, Arua, Bol, Bhola, Bhangra, Chakni, Suterkhali, Honsharaj, Sela, Bhadra, Churkuri, Harinbanga, Koira, Kunga, Dudmunchi, Firingi, Andermanik, Morjad, Meghura, Dinghimari, etc. The Pasur is the is the deepest and widest. At Hironpoint its width is about 10 km. The Baieshar and Shibsha rivers are also big having width of about 8 and 6 km respectively









Spoon Bill







Finless Porpoise

Greater False Vampire Bat Bengal Fox

Following are the endemic Vertebrate Faunal Species in Sundarbans: (Reserved Forest which has Special Significance to Conservation)

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Greater False Vampire Bat	Megaderma lyra
Flying Fox	Pteropus giganteus
Rhesus Macaque	Macaca mulatta
Ganges River Dolphin	Platanista gangetica
Common Dolphin	Delphinus delphis
Irrawaddy Dolphin	Orcaella brevirostris
Indo-Pacific Humpbacked Dolphin	Sousa chinensis
Finless Porpoise	Neophocaena phocaenoides
Smooth-coated Otter	Lutrogale perspicillata
Oriental Small-clawed Otter	Amblonyx cinereus
Bengal Fox	Vulpes bengalensis
Golden Jackal	Canis aureus
Bengal Tiger	Panthers tigris tigris
Fishing Cat	Pri&nailurus viverrinus
Leopard Cat	Prienailums bengalensis
Jungle Cat	Felis chaus
Wild Boar	Sus scrofa
Barking Deer	Muntiacus muntjak
Axis Deer	Axis axis
Swamp Deer	Cervus duvaucelii
Hog Deer	Axis porcinus
Water Buffalo	Bubaius bubalis
Javan Rhinoceros	Rhinoceros sondaicus
Great Indian One-horned Rhinoceros	Rhinoceros unicornis
Dugong	Dugong dugon
Marsh Crocodile	Crocodylus palustris
Saltwater Crocodile	C, porosus
Olive Ridley Turtle	Lepidochelys olivacea
Green Turtle	Chelonia mydas
Loggerhead Turtle	Caretta caretta
Hawksbill Turtle	Eretmochelys imbricata
Leatherback Turtle	Dermochelys coriacea
Estuarine Terrapin	Batagur baska
Black Mud Turtle	Trionyx nigricans
Roof Turtle	Kachuga tecta
Rock Python	Python molurus
Monitor Lizard	Varanus salvator

29

Tourist attractions in Bangladesh



A picturesque landscape along the sea-beach of Cox's Bazar, an ideal resort for holidaying

COX'S BAZAR

Moheshkhali

An island off the coast of Cox's Bazar. It has an area of 268 square km. Through the centre of the island and along the eastern coastline rises a range of lowhills, about 300 feet high, but the coast to the west and north is low-lying treat, fringed by mangrove jungle. In the hill on the coast lies the old temple of Adinath, dedicated to Shiva. By its side on the same hill is a Buddhist pagoda.

Ramu

This is a typical Buddhist village, about 10 km from Cox's Bazar, on the main road to Chittagong. There are Monasteries, Khyangs and Pagodas containing images of Buddha in gold, bronze and other metals inlaid with precious stones. One of the most interesting of these temples is one on the bank of the Baghkhali river. It houses not only interesting relics and Burmese handicrafts but also a large bronze statue of Buddha measuring thirteen feet high and rests on a six feet high pedestal. The village has a charm of its own. Weavers ply their trade in open workshops and craftsmen make handmade cigars in their pagoda like houses.

Sonadia Island

It is about seven km off Cox's Bazar and about nine square km in area. The western side of the island is sandy and different kinds of shells are found on the beach. Off the northern part of the island, there are beds of window pane oysters. During winter, fishermen set up temporary camps on the island and dry their catches of sea fish.

Saint Martin's Island

Forty eight km from Teknaf St. Martin is the country's only coral island and unspoilt paradise with friendly people. Named Gingira (coconut Island) by the local, the dumb-bell shaped St. Martin, has an area of only eight sq.km from one to four meters above sea level during high tide.

Inani Beach

Inani is within Ukhia Thana, 35 km to the south of Cox's Bazar and a background of step-hill to the east. Inani casts a magic spell on those who step in the streamland. There is a beach of immense blue water. It is a fascinating place for sea bathing.

CHITTAGONG

World War Cemetery

In this well-preserved cemetery, lie burried over 700 soldiers from Commonwealth countries and Japan, who died during the Second World war.

Foy's Lake

Set amidst panoramic surroundings, this ideal spot for outing and picnic is thronged by thousands of visitors.

Ethnological Museum

The ethnological museum at Chittagong stands as a milestone in our national progress. It is a place where ample facilities have been installed to carry

out ethnological research. This museum houses objects of 12 different tribes of Bangladesh and also of many tribes of Australia, India and Pakistan. Visitors have to pay a little amount of entrance fee.

Bayazid Bostami

This holy place attracts a large number of visitors and pilgrims. At its base there is a large pond with several hundred huge tortoises and fishes floating on the water.

Court Building Museum

Situated on the fairy Hill, this building commands on magnificent birds eye view of Chittagong. This had been the second of intense activity during the liberation war in 1971. A museum has been established here.

Patenga Beach

Sandy beach at the meeting place of the roaring sea and the river Karnaphuli.

Sitakunda

It is approximately 37 km away from Chittagong. This is famous for Chandranath Hindu Temple - one of the oldest temples in the subcontinent.



A waterfall at Shubhalang in Rangamati

There is also Buddhist temple having a foot print of Lord Buddha. These places, particularly the hilltops are regarded as very sacred by the Hindus and Buddhist. Shiva Chauturdash (14th) festival is held every year in February when thousands of pilgrims assemble which lasts for ten days. There is also a hot-water spring 5 km to the north of Sitakunda.

RANGAMATI

Tribal Museum

The only Tribal Cultural Museum in the Hill Tracts region was established at Rangamati town in 1978 and run by the Tribal Cultural Institute.







An enchanting view of sun-set on the coral island of St. Martin's

It preserves valuable objects and articles of different tribes depicting their socio-economic, cultural and historical traditions. These include tvpical tribal dresses, ornaments, arms, ammunitions, coins, statues made of gold, bronze and other metals, musical instruments, ivory products, handicrafts, paintings on tribal life etc. Open: Saturday - Thursday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Closed: Friday and Public Holidays.

The Kaptai Lake

The Kaptai lake is a wonderful spot for boating and cruising. Parjatan and private operators offer a number of cruises by mechanised boats. One can go to various scenic spots like Shuvalong, Barkal, Longadu, Marishya, Mainimukh/Kaptai, Peda-ting-ting and other areas by boat from Rangamati.

Kaptai-the lake town

A pleasant and picturesque drive of 64 km from Chittagong brings you to huge expanse of emerald and blue water ringed with tropical forests. It is the famous man made Kaptai Lake (680 sq. km.) From Kaptai along Chittagong road, lies the ancient Chit Morang Buddhist temple having beautiful Buddhist Statues.

BANDARBAN

Ninety two km from Chittagong by metalled road, Bandarban is the district headquarters of the Bandarban



Handicrafts made from sea-shells and corals are abundantly found on sea-beaches

Hill District. It is home town of the Bohmang Chief who is the Head of the Mogh tribe. The Moghs are of Myanmar origin and Buddhists by religion, jovial and carefree by nature.

The moghs are simple and hospitable people. Bandarban is also the home of the Murangs who are famous for their music and dance. Several other tribes of great interest live in the remote areas of the district. The highest peak of Bangladesh - Tahjin dong (4632 ft) is located in the Bandarban district.

SYLHET

an ideal spot.

Madhabkunda

KHAGRACHHARI

About 3 km from Dakhinbagh railway station, there is the famous waterfall of Madhabkunda. It attracts large number of tourists every year. Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation offers restaurant, retiring room, picnic and parking facilities for the visitors there.

Tamabil-Jaflong

Situated amidst splendid panorama, Tamabil is a border outpost on Svlhet - Shilong Road, about 55 km. from Sylhet town. Besides enchanting views of the area one can have a glimpse of the waterfalls across the border from rolling stones from hills. Other places of tourist attractions in Sylhet include Jaintiapur and Haripur Gas Field.

Tourist facilities

The Cox's Bazar Holiday Complex of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation is an ideal tourist resort having comfortable accommodation, catering, sight seeing and other facilities for the visitors. It has a modern star Hotel (Shaibal), three medium priced Motels and three restaurants. There is also a nine-hole Golf Course for the guests and a bar.

Booking may be done at the Tourist Information Centre, Cox's Bazar. Ph: 880-3413274, 3275, 4258, 3211, 4246 or Central Reservation. Head Office. Dhaka. Ph: 880-2-8117855-9/117, 8119192. Fax: 880-2-8126501. E-mail: info@bangladeshtourism.gov.bd

Besides the Parjatan hotels and motels, there exists a large number of both economy and luxurious privately-operated hotels



Congratulations & Salutations to Bangladesh on their 38th Independence day



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