

**Enclosure 1: Press statement of Finance Minister Abul Maal A Muhith
on the visit to India for the Annual Meeting of the ADB.
11 May 2013**

২-৫ মে, ২০১৩ সময়কালে ভারতে অনুষ্ঠিত এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংকের ৪৬তম বার্ষিক
সভার উপর মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী জনাব আবুল মাল আবদুল মুহিত-এর

প্রেস ব্রিফিং

(১১ মে, ২০১৩, শনিবার, দুপুর- ০১:৩০ মিনিটে)

এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংক-এর ৪৬তম বার্ষিক সম্মেলন ২-৫ মে-তে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। গত বছরেই এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংকের বার্ষিক সম্মেলনে ভারতবর্ষের তদানীন্তন অর্থমন্ত্রী আমাকে দিল্লীর সম্মেলনে একটি বড় দল নিয়ে অংশ নিতে অনুরোধ করেন। তদনুযায়ী এবারে আমাদের প্রতিনিধিদলে কয়েকজন মাননীয় সংসদ সদস্য, কয়েকজন ব্যবসা-বাণিজ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিনিধি এবং কয়েকজন সাংবাদিক নিয়ে দিল্লীতে অনুষ্ঠিত সভায় যোগদান করি। আমরা ২ মে-তে ঢাকা ছাড়ি এবং ৬ তারিখে ফিরে আসি। আমাদের দলের সদস্যদের তালিকা সংযুক্ত। সেখানে নিম্নলিখিত অনুষ্ঠানগুলোতে আমরা অংশগ্রহণ করিঃ

- (১) ২ তারিখে ভারতের অর্থমন্ত্রীর সঙ্গে বাংলাদেশের অর্থমন্ত্রী এবং সরকারী প্রতিনিধিদলের বৈঠক হয়;
- (২) বাংলাদেশের ডেলিগেট এবং ভারতীয় নেতৃস্থানীয় বিনিয়োগকারীদের সমন্বয়ে ৩ তারিখ সকালে Confederation of Indian Industry একটি আলোচনা সভার ব্যবস্থা করেন। যার বিষয়বস্তু ছিল “Boosting Sub-Regional Development through Increased Investment & Trade”। এই অনুষ্ঠানে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের গভর্নর এবং আমাদের দলের সব সদস্য অংশগ্রহণ করেন;
- (৩) ৩ তারিখ অপরাহ্নে সার্ক অর্থমন্ত্রীদের বৈঠক হয়। যার বিশেষ আলোচ্য বিষয় ছিল “Infrastructure Financing in South Asia”। এই সভায় আগামী আগস্টে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য শ্রীলংকায় অর্থমন্ত্রীদের বৈঠক সম্বন্ধে কিছু আলোচনা হয়। এতে শুধু অর্থমন্ত্রী ও অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগের সচিব অংশ নেন;
- (৪) ৪ তারিখ সকাল বেলা এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংকের গভর্নরদের একটি রাউন্ড টেবিল বৈঠকে “Asian Energy Outlook and Issues” নিয়ে আলোচনা হয়। এতেও শুধু অর্থমন্ত্রী অংশ নেন।
- (৫) অতঃপর ৪ তারিখ সকালে এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংকের উদ্বোধনী সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। এতে সব প্রতিনিধিরা অংশ নেন।
- (৬) সেদিন অপরাহ্ন ২:৩০ টায় বার্ষিক সভার Plenary অধিবেশন অনুষ্ঠিত হয় যেখানে অর্থমন্ত্রী বক্তব্য রাখেন। এখানে সব সদস্য উপস্থিত ছিলেন;
- (৭) সেদিন সাড়ে ৪টায় সংসদ সদস্যগণ ভারতের অর্থমন্ত্রীর সঙ্গে এক বৈঠকে মিলিত হন;
- (৮) ৫ তারিখে সকালে নোবেল বিজয়ী অধ্যাপক অমর্ত্য সেন “pragmatic policy for providing essential services by the public sector” বিষয়ে বক্তব্য দেন। এতে বাংলাদেশের প্রতিনিধি দল থেকে শুধু অর্থমন্ত্রী অংশ নেন;
- (৯) ৫ তারিখ সকাল ১০টায় ব্যাংকের সমাপনী সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। এতেও প্রায় সব সদস্য অংশ নেন;
- (১০) ৫ তারিখ অপরাহ্নে অর্থমন্ত্রী ও তার কর্মকর্তাদের সঙ্গে এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংকের প্রেসিডেন্টের একটি বৈঠক হয়।

এছাড়া নিম্নোক্ত সামাজিক অনুষ্ঠানে সব সদস্য অংশগ্রহণ করেনঃ

- (১) ২ মে-তে মাননীয় সংসদ সদস্য জনাব মাদ্দুল ইসলাম বাংলাদেশের সকল ডেলিগেটদের নৈশভোজে আপ্যায়ন করেন;

- (২) ৩ তারিখ সন্ধ্যাবেলা এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংকের প্রেসিডেন্ট সব ডেলিগেটদের জন্য রিসিপশনের আয়োজন করেন;
- (৩) ৪ মে-তে সন্ধ্যাবেলা ভারত সরকারের তরফ থেকে সব ডেলিগেটদের জন্য সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান এবং নৈশভোজের আয়োজন করা হয়;
- (৪) ৫ তারিখ সন্ধ্যাবেলা বাংলাদেশ মিশনের ভারপ্রাপ্ত হাই কমিশনার কাজী মাহবুব সালেহ সব ডেলিগেটদের জন্য নৈশভোজের আয়োজন করেন।

বাংলাদেশের মাননীয় সংসদ সদস্যগণ নিজেদের উদ্যোগে লোকসভার অনেক সদস্য এবং কমিটির সঙ্গে নানা আলোচনায় অংশগ্রহণ করেন। সাংবাদিকবৃন্দরাও নিজস্ব উদ্যোগে অনেক অনুষ্ঠানে অংশগ্রহণ করেন। বাংলাদেশের অর্থমন্ত্রী ৩, ৪ ও ৫ তারিখ প্রতিদিনই সংবাদ মাধ্যমের সদস্যদের সঙ্গে বৈঠকে মিলিত হন।

Confederation of Indian Industry-তে অনুষ্ঠিত সভায় ভারতীয় ব্যবসায়ী নেতৃবৃন্দ অনেক দাবি-দাওয়া রাখেন এবং তাদের একটি বিশেষ দাবি ছিল যে, ভারতের সঙ্গে ভারতীয় মুদ্রায় বাংলাদেশের বাণিজ্যের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ। এবিষয়ে মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী সার্ক দেশগুলোর জন্য অভিন্ন মুদ্রা প্রবর্তনের তার একটি বহু পুরনো প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করেন। তিনি বলেন যে, আমাদের অর্থনীতিগুলোর বর্তমান যে অবস্থা সেখানে ইউরোর নানা জটিল পদ্ধতি অবলম্বন না করেও অভিন্ন মুদ্রা প্রচলন করা যায়। এবং তিন বা ততোধিক দেশ এই প্রস্তাবে রাজি হলে অভিন্ন মুদ্রা প্রবর্তন করা যেতে পারে। এই বিষয়ে সার্ক অর্থমন্ত্রীদের আসরে বাংলাদেশের অর্থমন্ত্রী তার প্রস্তাবটি আলোচনা করেন। সার্ক দেশগুলোতে বাণিজ্য বৃদ্ধির উদ্যোগে এই পদক্ষেপ মূল্যবান ভূমিকা রাখতে পারবে।

ভারতের অর্থমন্ত্রীর সঙ্গে আমাদের দু'দফা আলোচনা হয়। প্রথমেই ভারতীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী নিশ্চিত করেন যে, বাংলাদেশের জন্য যে ঋণ ভারত দিয়েছে তার ব্যবহারে অগ্রগতি সন্তোষজনক। প্রায় ৮০০ মিলিয়ন ডলারের নানা প্রকল্প বা খরিদ চুক্তি সম্পাদন হয়েছে অথবা সম্পাদনার পথে আছে। কোন কোন ক্ষেত্রে সরবরাহ ও বাস্তবায়ন শুরু হয়েছে। ২০০ মিলিয়ন অনুদানের ৫০ মিলিয়ন বাংলাদেশ পেয়েছে আরো ৫০ মিলিয়ন অচিরে হস্তান্তর করা হবে। অতঃপর অন্যান্য বিষয় নিয়ে কথাবার্তা হয়ঃ (১) বাণিজ্য ও বিনিয়োগের কতিপয় বিষয়ে অসুবিধা আলোচিত হয় যেমন letter of credit settlement এ অনিয়ম ও বিলম্ব। এ প্রসঙ্গে Lilliput-এর আমদানিকৃত পোশাকের দেনা পরিশোধের বিষয়েও আলোচনা হয়। এই বিষয়টির আশু নিষ্পত্তি না হলে বাণিজ্য ব্যাহত হতে পারে বলে আমরা আশংকা প্রকাশ করি। (২) মাননীয় মন্ত্রী আমাদের জানান যে, সীমান্তে গুলীগালাজ ও হত্যাও নিয়ন্ত্রণে আসছে। (৩) ভিসা প্রদান নিয়ে কিছু জটিলতা তিনি স্বীকার করেন এবং বলেন যে তার কারণ হলো ভিসাপ্রাপ্তদের অনেকের প্রত্যাবর্তন, হয় বিলম্বিত হয় বা নিবন্ধিত হয় না বলে হিসাব মিলাতে অসুবিধা হয়। (৪) তিনি আগরতলায় সম্ভাব্য খাদ্য ঘাটতি মেটানোর জন্য জরুরি ভিত্তিতে আশুগঞ্জ দিয়ে খাদ্যপণ্য সরবরাহের জন্য সম্মতির বিষয় তোলে ধরেন। আমাদের তরফ থেকে বলা হয় যে রাস্তাঘাট, রেল সংযোগ বা নদী সংযোগ তত উন্নত নয় বলে ট্রানজিট সুবিধা তত ব্যবহার করা যাচ্ছে না। তাই আমরা যোগাযোগ উন্নয়নে জোর দিচ্ছি। অবশ্যি এই বিশেষ বিষয়টি নিয়ে নৌপরিবহন মন্ত্রণালয় ব্যবস্থা নিচ্ছে। (৫) ২৫০ মেগাওয়াট বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ যথাসময়ে জুলাই মাসে সম্ভব হবে বলে দু'পক্ষই সন্তোষ প্রকাশ করে। (৬) দুই দেশের মধ্যে বাণিজ্য উন্নয়নের জন্য উপকূলীয় জাহাজের মাধ্যমে চট্টগ্রাম বা মংলার সঙ্গে ভারতের পূর্ব-উপকূল বন্দরের (যেমন বিশাখা পট্টম) সরাসরি যোগাযোগের বিষয়ে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী জোর দেন। তিনি বলেন যে, এখন বাণিজ্য চলছে সিঙ্গাপুরে গিয়ে ট্রানশিপমেন্টের মাধ্যমে।

(৭) বাংলাদেশের তরফ থেকে বলা হয় যে, আমাদের BSTI'র সনদ ভারতের ISTI কর্তৃক গ্রহণের ব্যবস্থা দ্রুত সম্পন্ন করা দরকার। (৮) ভারতের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী স্থলপথে বাণিজ্য সম্প্রসারণের বিষয় তুলে ধরেন। আমরা আমাদের সীমিত সক্ষমতার কথা ব্যাখ্যা করি এবং এই সুযোগ সম্প্রসারণের সদিচ্ছা ঘোষণা করি। (৯) ভারতের মন্ত্রী Avoidance of Double Taxation-এর চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের প্রতি জোর দেন। এ বিষয়ে আলোচনা চূড়ান্ত পর্যায়ে আছে।

বাংলাদেশের সংসদ সদস্যরা ভারতের মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রীর কাছে নিম্নোক্ত বিষয় নিয়ে আলোচনা করেনঃ- তিস্তা চুক্তি, ছিটমহল হস্তান্তর, সীমান্ত নির্ধারণ, বাণিজ্যে নন-ট্যারিফ বিধি-নিষেধ, ভিসা প্রদানে অনিয়ম ও বিলম্ব। ভারতের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী বলেন যে, ভারতের সদৃচ্ছার কোন অভাব নেই এবং যেসব অসুবিধার কথা বলা হয়েছে সেগুলো নিষ্পত্তির বিষয়ে তিনি যথাযথ মহলকে সচেতন করবেন। তিনি আরো বলেন যে, ভারতের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী যেসব অঙ্গীকার করেছেন তা সবগুলো অচিরেই বাস্তবায়িত হবে এবং দুই প্রধানমন্ত্রীর আসন্ন বৈঠকেই সব নিষ্পন্ন হবে। ভুটান ও নেপাল থেকে বিদ্যুৎ আমদানি ও বাংলাদেশের বন্দর দিয়ে পণ্য সরবরাহ সম্বন্ধে ত্রিপক্ষীয় সমঝোতার বিষয়েও আলোচনা হয়।

সম্মেলন উপলক্ষে “ইমার্জিং মার্কেটস” প্রতিষ্ঠানের তরফ থেকে প্রতিদিন একটি ফ্রোডপত্র প্রকাশ করা হয়। প্রথম দিনের ফ্রোডপত্রে বাংলাদেশের সভ্যরেন বড় ইস্যুর বিষয়ে বিশেষ প্রতিবেদন উপস্থাপিত হয়। দ্বিতীয় দিনের ফ্রোডপত্রে পোশাকশিল্পে সাভার দুর্ঘটনার বিষয়ে একটি প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশিত হয়। এই প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয় যে, এতে বাংলাদেশের রফতানি বাজার খুব সংকুচিত হবে না, তবে বাংলাদেশের পোশাকশিল্পে শ্রমিকদের নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে সরকার এবং শিল্পকে অনেক বেশি যত্নবান হতে হবে। এই প্রতিবেদনে আরও বলা হয় যে, এই দুর্ঘটনা নয় বরং অন্যান্য রাজনৈতিক আন্দোলনই পোশাকশিল্পের ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশে যেতে দিচ্ছে না।

আমি স্থাপনা ধস সম্বন্ধে বলি যে “এটা huge tragedy” এবং আমি অকুস্থানে গিয়ে দেখেছি যে কত বড় সর্বনাশ হয়েছে। আমি আরো দেখেছি যে দুর্ঘটনা মানুষ কি রকম মানবতা ও ভ্রাতৃত্ব বোধে উদ্বেগ হয়ে কি ব্যাপক উদ্ধারকার্য চালাচ্ছে। এ রকম দুর্ঘটনা দেশের ভাবমূর্তি ক্ষুণ্ণ করে এবং তাতে আমদানিকারকরা অন্য বাজারে যেতে চায়। কিন্তু আমি মনে করি না যে এতে serious অসুবিধা হবে।” আমি আরো বলি যে বাংলাদেশে পোশাক শিল্প শক্ত ভিত্তির উপর প্রতিষ্ঠিত এবং তা হয়েছে মাত্র তিরিশ বছরে। বাংলাদেশ এই শিল্পে ভাল করছে এবং এই খাতের উন্নতি দেশে নানা ধরনের ইতিবাচক প্রভাব ফেলেছে। সরকারও দৃঢ়তার সঙ্গে শ্রমিক সুযোগ-সুবিধা সংরক্ষণে ও প্রসারে পদক্ষেপ নিচ্ছে। আমদানিকারকরা তাতে স্বস্তি পাবে। সরকার সবগুলো কারখানা জরিপ করার উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে এবং তাতে তারা পোশাক শিল্প সমিতি ও শ্রমিক প্রতিনিধিদের সম্পৃক্ত করে অতি দ্রুত অসুবিধা শুধরানোর ব্যবস্থা নিয়েছে। তাই আমার মনে হয় তাতে বাজার সংকোচনের সম্ভাবনা কম এবং চূড়ান্ত বিচারে এতে পোশাক রফতানিতে কোন নেতিবাচক প্রভাব পড়বে না, সাময়িক কিছু অসুবিধা হতে পারে হয়তো। তিরিশ বছরে বাংলাদেশ কারখানায় নিরাপত্তা বিধান ও শ্রমিক সুবিধা সংরক্ষণে যথেষ্ট দক্ষতা দেখিয়েছে। অন্যত্র যে কাজে শত বা তদুর্ধ্ব বছর লেগেছে আমরা তা তিন দশকে সম্ভব করে তুলেছি। নিশ্চয়ই আন্তর্জাতিক ব্যবসায়ী মহল তার মূল্য দেবে।

এই সভা চলাকালে জাপানের জাইকার প্রতিনিধিদের সঙ্গে বাংলাদেশের সরকারী প্রতিনিধিদলের একটি আলোচনা সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। এছাড়া সম্মেলন চলাকালে বিভিন্ন সময়ে আমাদের সরকারী কর্মকর্তাদের সাথে কুয়েত ফাভ, ওপেক ফাভ, ফ্রান্সের AFD এবং ইউরোপীয় ইনভেস্টমেন্ট ব্যাংকের কর্মকর্তাদের বাংলাদেশে বিনিয়োগ নিয়ে আলোচনা হয়। এ সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বাংলাদেশে অধিকতর বিনিয়োগের অনুরোধ করা হয়।

এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংকের কর্মকর্তাদের সঙ্গে বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ের আলোচনা এবং সর্বশেষে এডিবি’র প্রেসিডেন্ট নাকাওয়ার সঙ্গে আলোচনায় এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংকের সঙ্গে বর্তমান বছরের কার্যক্রম নিয়ে সন্তোষ প্রকাশ করা হয়। বাংলাদেশ দাবি করে যে, বাংলাদেশের বৈদেশিক সাহায্য ব্যবহারে দক্ষতার সমর্থনে এশীয় উন্নয়ন ব্যাংকের অধিকতর সাহায্য প্রদান করা যথাযথ হবে। বাংলাদেশ আরও দাবি করে যে, ক্যাপিটাল মার্কেট ডেভেলপমেন্ট-এর মত আরও বাজেট সাপোর্ট কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন আছে। আমি প্রেসিডেন্টকে পদ্মা সেতুর বাস্তবায়নে কারিগরি সহায়তা প্রদানের আহ্বান জানাই এবং সে ব্যাপারে মনে হয় যে ইতিবাচক ইঙ্গিত পেতে সক্ষম হয়েছি। এডিবি’র আসন্ন সম্পদ আহরণ সংকটের মোকাবেলার জন্য আমি এডিবি’র নতুন প্রেসিডেন্টকে বিশেষ উদ্যোগ নিতে অনুরোধ করি এবং আশা করছি যে, এর সমাধানে চীন ও ভারত বিশেষ ভূমিকা রাখবে।

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ঢাকাস্থ AP-র বিকৃত প্রতিবেদন, Emerging Market-এ প্রকাশিত দু'টি প্রতিবেদন এবং Daily Star-এর জনাব রেজাউল করিম বায়রনের প্রেরিত প্রতিবেদনের কপি সংযুক্ত।

Enclosure II:	The Associated Press Statement of News, Values & Principles by Farid Hossain and Julhas Alam of Dhaka. 3 May 2013
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May. 3, 2013 11:35 AM ET

Bangladesh official: Disaster not 'really serious'

By FARID HOSSAIN and JULHAS ALAM, Associated Press THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
STATEMENT OF NEWS VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

A woman covers her nose to block out the smell of decomposing bodies as people in the background identify bodies at a makeshift morgue where victims of the collapse of a garment factory buildings are brought Friday, May 3, 2013 in Savar, near Dhaka, Bangladesh. Authorities suspended the mayor of the suburb of Savar, where the building was located, and arrested an engineer who called for the building's evacuation last week but was also accused of helping the owner add three illegal floors to the eight-story structure. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Bangladesh's finance minister downplayed the impact of last week's factory-building collapse on his country's garment industry, saying Friday he didn't think it was "really serious" hours after the 500th body was pulled from the debris.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith spoke as the government cracked down on those it blamed for the disaster in the Dhaka suburb of Savar. It suspended Savar's mayor and arrested an engineer who had called for the building's evacuation last week, but was also accused of helping the owner add three illegal floors to the eight-story structure. The building owner was arrested earlier.

The government appears to be attempting to fend off accusations that it is in part to blame for the tragedy because of weak oversight of the building's construction.

During a visit to the Indian capital, New Delhi, Muhith said the disaster would not harm Bangladesh's garment industry, which is by far the country's biggest source of export income.

"The present difficulties ... well, I don't think it is really serious — it's an accident," he said. "And the steps that we have taken in order to make sure that it doesn't happen, they are quite elaborate and I believe that it will be appreciated by all."

The government made similar promises after a garment factory fire five months ago that killed 112, saying it would inspect factories for safety and pull the licenses of those that failed. However, that plan has yet to be implemented.

Asked if he was worried that foreign retailers might pull orders from his country, Muhith said he wasn't: "These are individual cases of ... accidents. It happens everywhere."

Muhith, a long-time government official from a prominent family, has been criticized for insensitive comments in the past — even by his own party. Last year when thousands of small investors lost their savings and poured into the streets seeking government intervention, Muhith said it wasn't responsible and the investors were at fault.

The official death toll from the April 24 collapse reached 512 Friday and was expected to climb, making it likely the deadliest garment-factory accident in world history. It surpassed long-ago disasters such as New York's Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire, which killed 146 workers in 1911, and more recent tragedies such as a 2012 fire that killed about 260 people in Pakistan and one in Bangladesh that same year that killed 112.

At the site of the collapse, workers carefully used cranes to remove the concrete rubble and continue the slow task of recovering bodies. The official number of missing has been 149 since Wednesday, though unofficial estimates are higher.

"We are still proceeding cautiously so that we get the bodies intact," said Maj. Gen. Chowdhury Hassan Suhwardy, the commander of the area's army garrison supervising the rescue operation.

A government investigator said Friday that substandard building materials, combined with the vibration of the heavy machines used by the five garment factories inside the Rana Plaza building, led to the horrific collapse.

Mainuddin Khandkar, the head of a government committee investigating the disaster, said substandard rods, cement, bricks and other weak materials were used in the building's construction.

About 15 minutes before the collapse, the building was hit by a power blackout, so its heavy generators were turned on, shaking the weakened structure, Khandkar said.

"The vibration created by machines and generators operating in the five garment factories contributed first to the cracks and then the collapse," he said, adding that a final report would be soon submitted to the government.

Police official Ohiduzzaman said Friday that engineer Abdur Razzak Khan was arrested a day earlier on a charge of negligence. He said Khan worked as a consultant to Rana Plaza owner Mohammed Sohel Rana when the illegal three-floor addition was made to the building.

Rana called Khan to inspect the building after it developed cracks on April 23, local media reported. That night Khan appeared on a private television station saying that after his inspection he told Rana to evacuate the building because it was not safe.

Khan, a former engineer at Jahangirnagar University near Savar, said he told government engineers the building needed to be examined further.

Police ordered the building evacuated, but witnesses say Rana told people gathered outside the next morning that the building was safe and that garment factory managers told their workers to go inside. It collapsed hours later.

Authorities also suspended the mayor of Savar, Mohammad Refatullah, for alleged negligence, said Abu Alam, a top official of the local government ministry.

Alam said an official investigation had found that the mayor ignored rules in approving the design and layout of the doomed building. The mayor is from the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, which has criticized his suspension as politically motivated.

The government also effectively suspended Kabir Hossain Sardar, the top government administrator at Savar, following reports that he declared the building safe after inspecting the cracks a day before the collapse. Sardar had close links with Rana. Alam said the government was taking action against everyone involved with Rana and his building.

Rana was arrested earlier and is expected to be charged with negligence, illegal construction and forcing workers to join work, crimes punishable by a maximum of seven years in jail. Authorities have not said if more serious crimes will be added.

The Bangladesh High Court has ordered the government to confiscate Rana's property and freeze the assets of the owners of the factories in Rana Plaza so the money can be used to pay the salaries of their workers.

The minimum wage for a garment worker is \$38 a month, after being nearly doubled this year following violent protests by workers. According to the World Bank, the per capita income in Bangladesh was about \$64 a month in 2011.

Among the garment makers in the building were Phantom Apparels, Phantom Tac, Ether Tex, New Wave Style and New Wave Bottoms.

AP Videojournalist Archana Thiyagarajan in New Delhi contributed to this report.

Associated Press

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Takehiko Nakao

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Capital volatility fears dominate ADB meeting

By Chris Wright, Anthony Rowley and Elliot Wilson

A new round of easing in the US and Europe is set to increase the already heavy volumes of liquidity heading for Asian assets, fuelling concerns about the dangers of inflows into emerging markets.

The European Central Bank cut its headline interest rate by 25 basis points to just 0.5% on Thursday, while its president Mario Draghi said the bank had an "open mind" over introducing negative interest rates on deposits and was "technically ready" for them. If enacted

this could prompt bank funding to enter the capital market to seek returns rather than resting in loss-making deposits.

A day earlier, the US Federal Reserve said it was willing to up the pace of its third quantitative easing programme and could increase the \$85 billion it already spends per month on asset purchases.

These measures follow the aggressive monetary policy easing undertaken by Japan – a move whose impact on Asia was defended yesterday by Japan's finance minister, Taro Aso, to *Emerging Markets*.

"Many people do not understand the reality of deflation," he said. "This is the vital difficulty which we have faced for the last

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Aso: defending monetary easing

Bangladesh to issue maiden dollar bond this year

Exclusive

By Elliot Wilson

Bangladesh is hoping to issue its first-ever \$500 million sovereign bond by the end of the year, the country's finance minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith told *Emerging Markets* in an exclusive interview.

If the landmark dollar-bond issuance goes to plan, a second sale will be launched within the next 12 months, raising a total of \$1 billion in fresh capital for the fast-growing South Asia nation.

"At my level, I have made [the decision],



Muhith: yields 'close to 5%'

but it still needs approval by the prime minister and the cabinet," Muhith said, adding

Continued on page 3

Stops on capital flows can hurt growth: Tetangco

By Phil Thornton

Asian policymakers must take care when using regulatory policies to curb borrowing as they risk crimping economic growth and weakening the ability of

monetary policy to tackle inflation, one central bank governor has warned.

Writing in *Emerging Markets* Amando Tetangco, governor of the Philippines'

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FINAL WORD

AMANDO TETANGCO

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Bangladesh

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that he expected a decision on the sale one way or the other "within the next week".

In a perfect world, he added, "we would like to issue \$1 billion, but because it's the first time we have sold [sovereign debt] it may have to be trimmed down. But I am quite sure that given the current strength of the economy, we will be able to raise \$1 billion over the course of the coming year."

Muhith expects demand for the sale to be vigorous and said the yield would likely be pitched "somewhere close to the 5% mark". "Our current national debt is around \$21 billion," he noted. "The interest on that debt is 1.4%. The country is into the 42nd year of its existence and it has never defaulted. Economic growth has averaged 6% a year since 2001. We are a strong story for investors."

Capital that would be raised from both sales has already been earmarked for the building of Padma Bridge, a vast road-and-rail river crossing linking the southwest of the country to the rural northern and eastern regions.

Questions remain over the timing of the sale. Bangladesh's next general election must take place within 90 days of the expiration of the current government, whose term expires on 29 December. A new prime minister and cabinet may delay or restructure the pending bond sale.

Bangladesh is not the only regional sovereign pushing ahead with landmark debt sales aimed at improving the country's infrastructure. Sri Lanka's economy is motoring along, four years after the end of a bloody 26-year civil war, and demand for investment into multiple sectors has never been higher.

Talking to *Emerging Markets* on the sidelines of the ADB conference, deputy minister of finance and planning Sarath Amunugama said the country was keen to use its public banks to channel capital into major national-development projects.

Three state-run banks - National Savings Bank (NSB), Development Finance Corporation of Ceylon (DFCC) and NDB Bank - would each issue \$1 billion in debt over the next six months, Amunugama said. Only NSB's sale had previously been made public: that issuance would be co-lead managed by Barclays, Citibank and HSBC, with the sale set to be completed this month.

The aim with all three bonds is to build the country by proxy. Rather than issue any more sovereign debt - something Amunugama says the government has "no interest" in doing - financial officials in Colombo are opting to strengthen the country's economic superstructure by issuing debt via leading state lenders.

"Rather than issuing sovereign debt, we are opting essentially to issue bonds aimed at boosting specific industries - sectoral bonds, if you like," the deputy minister said. "The capital raised will focus on urban development, tourism development, and building out our services sector. Banks with good balance sheets are being asked to borrow direct [from local and global investors]."

Long-term finance drought fears loom large

By Anthony Rowley

Governments and central banks should change their monetary and fiscal policies to ensure that long-term finance for projects such as infrastructure or education is still available, experts told *Emerging Markets* on the sidelines of the annual Asian Development Bank meeting.

Some financial experts suggested that the problem is one of governments' and central banks' own making and is a result of record low interest rates discouraging investment and of government borrowing crowding out private lending.

"The [threatened] shortage of long-term finance is tied to the fact that the current system is punishing those who save, while rewarding irresponsible spenders," former World Bank Group senior official and investment banker Ernest Kepper told *Emerging Markets*.

"Unrestrained money printing is undermining confidence in the purchasing power of the currency [investors] receive as repayment. I expect this situation to continue, which will undermine the supply of long-term funds for investment," he added.

William Thomson, a former US Treasury official and one-time vice president and executive director of the ADB, meanwhile suggested to *Emerging Markets* that a "savings crisis" was at the heart of the concern over the long-term investment funding.

This is caused by "underfunded and over-promised entitlements for pensions

and health care in rapidly aging societies and is compounded by the massive borrowings of governments and the zero interest rate monetary policies of central banks", Thomson said.

The threat of a global drought of long-term finance for infrastructure and other projects is looming over this year's annual meeting as the ADB's new president Takehiko Nakao prepares to launch a drive for additional sources of funds to supplement the bank's own resources.

Given the size of the resources gap to fund infrastructure and other needs facing Asia, the ADB "cannot be too ambitious about doing everything by itself," and must maximize its efforts to "catalyze" private capital flows into such investments, Nakao told *Emerging Markets* in an interview before the meeting.

But as the ADB prepares to mobilize extra funds for Asia, other international financial organizations, led by the G20 group of advanced and emerging economies, are searching for global solutions to what they see as a much wider impending crisis of long-term funding.

In Moscow earlier this year, G20 finance ministers mandated a host of international institutions including the World Bank, IMF, OECD, Financial Stability Board and Unctad to study the problem and to report by the autumn.

"Long-term financing for investment, including infrastructure, is a key contributor to economic growth and job creation



Nakao: 'catalyze' private flows

in all countries," the G20 said in February.

Earlier, the Group of Thirty (G30) central bank governors, financiers and others had begun sounding the alarm, suggesting in a weighty special report that sweeping institutional and regulatory reforms were needed to stave off a long-term financing drought.

"Far-reaching reforms in the international financial system will be needed to ensure that rising demand for long-term capital can be met efficiently," G30 chairman and former head of the European Central Bank Jean-Claude Trichet said.

"If such reforms are not undertaken, we will likely face significant shortfalls in finance in coming years," Trichet said, citing multi-trillion dollar needs for financing investment in infrastructure, education, research and development and business expansion.

Capital flows

Continued from page 1

central bank, said it was important that policymakers were "circumspect" in using macro-prudential measures, such as limits on borrowing and lending.

"Macro-prudential restrictions on borrowing may affect expenditures in other sectors and, subsequently, economic output," he wrote. "They may also weaken the transmission of monetary policy by influencing credit supply conditions."

He said it was understandable that emerging Asian nations had used both these tools and capital account measures to manage inflows and to contain the build-up of excesses in specific sectors and in the banking system.

Macro-prudential regulation includes tools such as caps on the loan-to-value and debt-to-income ratios for lenders and borrowers as well as capital reserve and liquidity requirements for banks.

Since 2010, emerging market economies have received more than \$1 trillion of capital inflows a year, with emerging Asia getting about half of those flows.

"While the potential benefits of capital flows are well recognized, the size and volatility of these flows create risks to financial stability. They also present challenges to the conduct of monetary policy,"



Tetangco: communication is important

Tetangco wrote.

So far, he said, Asian countries had "put a premium" on structural reforms to improve the capacity of their economies to absorb capital inflows and divert them towards productive investments.

Meanwhile many countries had embarked on financial reforms aimed at deepening domestic bond and equity markets, developing financial products, and strengthening financial regulation and supervision.

"However, it is important that policymakers are circumspect in the use of macro-prudential measures," Tetangco said. "The nexus between macro-prudential and monetary policies should be duly considered."

He said that restrictions on borrowing could weaken the transmission of monetary

policy by worsening credit supply conditions.

At the same time, changes in interest rates affect the cost of borrowing, which in turn has an impact on the amount that consumers and firms borrow and the types of investments that they make.

"Efficiency dictates that we should have a clear assignment of tools to policy objectives - monetary policy should be focused on ensuring price stability, and macro-prudential tools should be used to manage potential build-up of systemic risks."

He pointed out that if monetary policy and macro-prudential measures worked together to lean against the business and financial cycles, then the impact would be "mutually reinforcing".

Tetangco added that Asian economies should resist the temptation to adopt protectionist policies and should continue to find "multilateral" solutions to the economic challenges posed by capital flows.

"There is a central role for communication and coordination among capital-receiving economies to help ensure that they do not pursue beggar-thy-neighbour policies that would simply re-route the unwanted surges to each other," he said.

His comments came a day after Standard & Poor's raised its credit rating on the Philippines to BBB- from BB+, the crucial cusp between junk and investment grade. Fitch upgraded the country to the same level in March. (see *Final Word*, page 23)

Dhaka disaster 'turning point' for garment industry

By Phil Thornton and Elliot Wilson

Bangladesh must prosecute any factory owners found to be flouting regulations, a global retail pressure group urged yesterday amid growing signs that the country's garment industry may lose out to rivals.

The Ethical Trading Initiative, a global alliance of trade unions and companies including Primark and Burberry, said the tragedy in Dhaka should mark a "turning point" for the industry.

More than 500 people are so far known to have died after a building housing a clothes factory collapsed, making it Bangladesh's worst industrial disaster and sparking anger among both workers in the country and foreign buyers.

Peter McAllister, director of the ETI, told *Emerging Markets* that Bangladesh must enforce its own laws, make sure that it had the resources to ensure buildings were built to appropriate standards and that the factory inspectorate was actively enforcing standards. "They can send a strong signal to others by prosecuting any owners who are found to be flouting the law and who do not remediate the situation," he said.

The scale of the disaster has prompted a frantic response by retailers who have sourced garments from the factory. Companies such as Matalan and Primark have offered financial assistance for the victims.

The United States and the European Union, the largest importers of Bangladeshi

clothes, have both warned they may withdraw preferential treatment that allows duty- and quota-free imports.

As many as 3.6 million people work in Bangladesh's garment industry, making it the world's second-largest clothing exporter after China and bringing in \$12 billion in revenue. However workers earn as little as \$38 a month, prompting conditions Pope Francis likened to slave labour.

"We certainly hear of a lot of anger and frustration from consumer representatives," McAllister said. "Whether this results in people voting with their feet is another question, and it is probably too early to say."

He said the ETI did not recommend boycotts by companies because of the potential negative impact on workers' livelihoods.

But he added: "There is serious concern among retailers, the majority of whom want to see dramatic improvements to the situation. While companies appear willing to give Bangladesh time to improve, they expect to see meaningful change, as they may not want to put their brand at risk for much longer."

Simon Evenett, professor of international trade and economic development at St Gallen University, said the tragedy would affect Bangladesh more than it affected long-term global trade. "The protests in Dhaka compound difficulties for exporters there, as buyers won't tolerate more than two weeks of delays," he told *Emerging Markets*. "Buyers have started switching their



Muhith: defending growth

orders to Bangladesh's low wage rivals. Outsourcing trade will be reshuffled, not cut. To personal tragedy will be added commercial losses."

Sarath Amunugama, Sri Lanka's minister of finance and planning, expressed his sorrow at the tragedy. He said his country "can regain its earlier position [as a major textile producer]."

McAllister said he hoped the collapse would mark a turning point and that there would be "real tangible change in the industry and its approach to the safety and welfare of workers".

Bangladesh finance minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said the factory collapse was "a huge tragedy" but defended the growth in the industry. "We became the second-biggest garment exporter in the world. Some of these plants have problems, and we have had some incidents," he told *Emerging Markets*.

Fears of bubble in EM debt grow

By Chris Wright

Fears are growing of a bubble in emerging market debt as record lower-rated issuance and unstoppable capital inflows dominate the market.

As yesterday's *Emerging Markets* reported, high-yield bond issuance in Asia so far this year has already trebled the full-year total for 2012 to meet the demands of investors hungry for yield.

This ardour, though, is worrying some investors who fear a bubble in emerging market (EM) debt. "I'm told Ukraine has seen the issuance of 10 corporate dollar bonds so far this year, Rwanda's 10-year debut bond came in below 7% yield despite its single B rating, and Nigeria's 2021 dollar bond yields 4%," said Charles Robertson, global chief economist at Renaissance Capital. "What we are now getting very close to is a local currency bond bubble too."

For example, Robertson said that local bond flows into Turkey were \$223 million in January to February 2012, and in January to February 2013, \$4.53 billion – a 20-fold increase in a year. Russian foreign ownership of the local bond market had boomed from almost nothing to 15% within a year, he added, while the yield on the local 10-year bond had dropped to 6.7% in a country with headline inflation at around 7%. "But foreign ownership [in Russia] could double again," he said.

Debt capital market bankers in Asia are split over their views on a market bubble. "What constitutes a bubble?" said one. "Unreasonable valuations and excessive speculative capital? I wouldn't say I see evidence of that."

But others disagreed. "I think there is a risk, certainly," said Rogerio Bernardo, director on the bond syndicate desk at RBS, highlighting the potential of a change in the outlook for rates. "If US Treasury yields start to rise it will put a lot of pressure on fixed-income funds and hurt a lot of portfolios. The bubble is certainly there and we could see a rapid shift away from fixed income assets if base rates are rising."

A separate RBS report, authored by analyst Erik Lueth, argued last month that emerging market 10-year sovereign bonds were overvalued by 5% on average.

In a recent note to clients, Capital Economics' economist Paul Hollingsworth said he expected renewed pressure on dollar-denominated emerging market government bonds because they were vulnerable to a curbing of quantitative easing, concerns about valuations, and increasingly fragile outlooks for near-term economic growth in emerging markets. But he added: "Despite these three factors, we don't expect any sell-off in dollar denominated EM bonds to be dramatic."

Top bank targets Indian rural expansion

By Elliot Wilson

India's leading private lender plans to push further into the country's vast hinterland in search of growth and new customers, the bank's chief executive officer has told *Emerging Markets* in an exclusive interview.

ICICI Bank, which is already well represented in India's leading cities, now plans to plant its flag firmly in the country's towns and villages. "Rural expansion is a big part of our future growth plan," Chanda Kochhar said.

"We plan to expand our distribution network across the country, setting up new branches and inventing new products directly relevant to rural regions." She said one example of this was a systematic push into mobile banking, a service widely adopted in sub-Saharan Africa and which "would slash the cost of banking in rural India".

Boosting financial and economic inclusion – a key theme of the ongoing Asian Development Bank conference in Delhi – is vital in a rapidly urbanizing and increasingly unequal country.

A 2012 Bank of India report found that three quarters of India's 89 million farming households had no access to formal sources of credit. The same report found that 41% of all

Indians remained "unbanked", 61% of whom lived in rural areas. Financial exclusion is highest in poorer northeastern provinces like Assam, Bihar and West Bengal.

Kochhar said that her bank would continue to boost its presence in Indian cities, while continuing to expand its overseas operations. "We want to see growth created across all sectors, from mortgages on the retail side to corporate loans on the wholesale side. Another area we are planning to push further into is banking the country's [growing army of] small- and medium-sized enterprises." ICICI last week posted a 21% year-on-year rise in profit for the quarter ended 31 March, while boosting net interest income by 22%.

While insisting that India's core economic conditions "remained strong", Kochhar pointed to key challenges facing Asia's third-largest economy. Widening fiscal and current account deficits were a growing concern, she said, while infrastructure remained a top priority for India's government and lenders. Many banks have been burned by infrastructure investments in recent years, notably in the country's notoriously chaotic energy industry.

At this point in time, Kochhar said, "it's all about achieving full closure on projects. The problem at the moment is that the last mile of most projects just isn't being com-



Kochhar: need to remove 'roadblocks'

pleted. And that is slowing down the pipeline going forward."

Investors are not the only ones to step back from the infrastructure space. ICICI Bank, one of the most aggressive investors in Indian power plants over the past decade, has no plans to plough money into new power projects going forward.

Kochhar said that attitude was representative of India as a whole. Lenders and investors would return to infrastructure in time, she said, but added: "Clearly at this point in time there is a wait-and-see approach with investors. It's not a lack of long-term belief in India's growth story, but there is [a sense that] we need to get some of the roadblocks [out of the way] first."

**Enclosure IV: Report sent by Mr Rezaul Karim Byron to the Daily Star.
3 May 2013 from Delhi**

Abdul Maal A. Muhith, finance minister Bangladesh, told reporters on May 3 in New Delhi.

“Garment industry earns 77 percent of country's foreign exchange/export earnings. It employs roughly 4 million organized labor force. It's a large industry. The present difficulties -- I don't think it is very serious. It's an accident. We have taken steps in order to make sure it does not happen again, they are quite elaborate.”

I don't think (importers will leave the country.)

“Look at the growth of garment industry. Garment industry is about 30 years old only. It grew up in small shops in unhygienic conditions. Buildings were poorly constructed. We have been changing these overtime. But enforcement is a problem. It's a problem in my country and in your country also. Under these circumstances we have how many fires in the last five years? One or two. How many collapses? One. And there have been other things like strikes etc. From that point of view there is nothing to worry. We have not failed to meet in any sort of their demands... demand for safety, for sanitary & congenial environment, for labour conveniences and salary increase. We are undertaking a survey of all garment factories to ensure safety standard, to ensure that building are well constructed etc. Such a large rescue operation have not been done anywhere in the world in the last ten years. Rescuing 3,000 people alive....

On risk of losing contracts:

“It will have impact we know and we are trying our best to avoid that. But I don't think it is going to be serious. Already some of those who threatened to go away as a result of the fire have come back.”

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Finance
Economic Relations Division
Administration-1
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka
www.erd.gov.bd

Annex-1

No. 09.311.025.02.00.002.2012.310

Date: 10.04.2013

From: Nusrat Noman
Senior Assistant Secretary
To : Chief Accounts Officer
Economic Relations Division, Dhaka.

Subject: **Deputation Order.**

Ref: U.O Note of ADB-III Section, ERD No.09.511.024.04.11.012.2012-138 Date: 07 April 2013

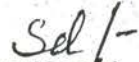
Refer to the above mentioned note I am directed to convey the sanction of the Government of Bangladesh to deputation abroad of the following delegation to attend the 46th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) during 2-5 May 2013 to be held in New Delhi, India:

1.	Mr. Abul Maal A. Muhith, Hon'ble Minister for Finance	Leader of the Bangladesh Delegation.
2.	H. E. Mr. Tariq A. Karim, High Commissioner, Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India	Member of the Delegation.
3.	Mr. Abu Hena Muhammed Mustafa Kamal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Comilla-10.	Member of the Delegation.
4.	Prof. Md. Ali Ashraf, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Comilla-7.	Member of the Delegation.
5.	Mr. A.K.M. Mayeedul Islam, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Kurigram-3.	Member of the Delegation.
6.	Mr. Md.Tazul Islam, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Comilla-9.	Member of the Delegation.
7.	Mr. Muhammad Abdul Mannan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Sunamganj-3.	Member of the Delegation.
8.	Mr. Golam Dastagir Gazi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Narayanganj-1.	Member of the Delegation.
9.	Farida Rahman, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Seat-17.	Member of the Delegation.
10.	Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor, Bangladesh Bank.	Member of the Delegation.
11.	Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Secretary, ERD.	Member of the Delegation.
12.	Mr. Saifuddin Ahmed, Joint Secretary, ERD.	Member of the Delegation.
13.	Mr. Mahbub Hassan Saleh, Deputy High Commissioner, Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India.	Member of the Delegation.
14.	Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman Khan, Minister-Commercial, Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India.	Member of the Delegation.
15.	Mr. A.K.M. Shaheed Reza, Director, FBCCI.	Member of the Delegation.
16.	Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.	Member of the Delegation.
17.	Mr. Mohammed Riyadh Ali, Deputy Managing Director, Intraco Group.	Member of the Delegation.
18.	Mr. Dilip Kumar Agarwala, Managing Director, Diamond World Ltd.	Member of the Delegation.
19.	Mr. Pronab Saha, Planning Editor, Mohona TV.	Member of the Delegation.
20.	Mr. Shyamal Dutta, Editor, Bhorer Kagoj.	Member of the Delegation.
21.	Mr. Mozammel Haque, Chief Editor and Managing Director, 71 TV.	Member of the Delegation.
22.	Mr. Mohammad Ali Arafat, Faculty Member, School of Business, Independent University.	Member of the Delegation.
23.	Mr. Abdur Rahim Harmachi, Chief Reporter, BD News.	Member of the Delegation.
24.	Mr. S. M. Jahangir, Chief Reporter, Financial Express.	Member of the Delegation.
25.	Mr. Rejaul Karim Byron, Senior Business Reporter, Daily Star.	Member of the Delegation.
26.	Mr. Shaikh Md. Rezvi Newaz, Senior Staff Correspondent, Channel I.	Member of the Delegation.
27.	Mr. Golam Parvez, Special Correspondent, ATN Bangla.	Member of the Delegation.
28.	Khondokar Muhammad Abul Hasnath, Senior Reporter, Daily Shamokal.	Member of the Delegation.

Selima Ahmed

Please turn over

2. The terms and conditions are mentioned below:
 - a. The period of deputation including the transit will be treated as on duty;
 - b. The members of the delegation attending the meeting from Dhaka will draw their usual pay and allowances from Bangladesh in local currency;
 - c. All expenses for the Members of the Delegation (except at serial numbers 2, 10, 13 & 14) regarding this visit will be borne from the budget of Economic Relations Division as per existing rules and practices;
 - d. All expenses regarding this visit of the Governor of Bangladesh Bank will be borne from the budget of Bangladesh Bank as per existing rules and practices;
 - e. The High Commissioner, Deputy High Commissioner & Minister Commercial of High Commission of Bangladesh will join the meeting from India. All expenses will be borne by the High Commission Office of Bangladesh as per existing rules and practices;
 - f. The wife of Hon'ble Finance Minister Ms. Sabia Muhith will visit India with delegation. Expenses related to her visit will be borne by the Hon'ble Finance Minister personally;
 - g. The members of the delegation (except at serial numbers 2, 13 & 14) will leave Dhaka for India on 01 May 2013 or on an approximate date and will leave India for Dhaka on 06 May 2013 or on approximate date;
3. This order will be canceled the earlier issued government order no. 09.311.025.02.00.002.2012.211, dated: 05 March 2013.
4. This order is issued with approval of the competent authority.

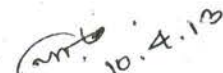

 (Nusrat Noman)
 Senior Assistant Secretary
 Phone: 9119683
 e-mail: sas-admnl@erd.gov.bd

No. 09.311.025.02.00.002.2012.310.1(43)

Date: 10.04.2013

Copy forwarded for kind information and necessary action (Not in order of seniority):

- 1-2. Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division/Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Dhaka.
3. H.E. Mr. Tariq A. Karim, High Commissioner, Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India
4. Mr. Abu Hena Muhammed Mustafa Kamal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Comilla-10, Bangladesh Parliament, Dhaka.
5. Prof. Md. Ali Ashraf, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Comilla-7, Bangladesh Parliament, Dhaka.
6. Mr. A.k.M Mayeedul Islam, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Kurigram-3, Bangladesh Parliament, Dhaka.
7. Mr. Md. Tajul Islam, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Comilla-9, Bangladesh Parliament, Dhaka.
8. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Mannan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Sunamganj-3, Bangladesh Parliament, Dhaka.
9. Mr. Golam Dastagir Gazi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Narayanganj-1, Bangladesh Parliament, Dhaka.
10. Farida Rahman, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Seat-17, Bangladesh Parliament, Dhaka.
11. Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor, Bangladesh Bank. Dhaka.
12. Senior Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dhaka.
13. Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka.
14. Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Dhaka.
15. H.E. the High Commissioner, High Commission of India in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
16. Director General, Immigration and Passports, Dhaka.
17. Mr. Saifuddin Ahmed, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Dhaka.
18. Mr. Mahbub Hassan Saleh, Deputy High Commissioner, Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India (by bag/fax).
19. Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman Khan, Minister-commercial, Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India (by bag/fax).
20. P.S. to Hon'ble Finance Minister, Ministry of Finance, Dhaka.
21. Mr. A. K. M. Shaheed Reza, Director, FBCCI, Motijee, Dhaka.
22. Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka.
23. Mr. Mohammed Riyadh Ali, Deputy Managing Director, Intraco Group, Dhaka.
24. Mr. Dilip Kumar Agarwal, Managing Director Diamond World Ltd. Dhaka.
25. Mr. Pronab Saha, Planning Editor, Mohona TV, Dhaka.
26. Mr. Shyamal Dutta, Editor, Bhorer Kagoj, Dhaka.
27. Mr. Mozammel Haque, Chief Editor and Managing Director, 71 TV, Dhaka.
28. Mr. Mohammad Ali Arafat, Faculty Member, School of Business, Independent University, Dhaka.
29. Mr. Abdur Rahim Harmachi, Chief Reporter, BD News, Dhaka.
30. Mr. S. M. Jahangir, Chief Reporter, Financial Express, Dhaka.
31. Mr. Rezaul Karim Byron, Senior Business Reporter, Daily Star, Dhaka.
32. Mr. Shaikh Md. Rezvi Newaz, Senior Staff Correspondent, Channel-I, Dhaka.
33. Mr. Golam Parvez, Special Correspondent, ATN Bangla, Dhaka.
34. Mr. Khondokar Muhammad Abul Hasnath, Senior Reporter, Daily Shamokal, Dhaka.
35. ✓ Deputy Secretary (ADB-III), Economic Relations Division, Dhaka.
36. Deputy Secretary (Admin-II), Economic Relations Division, Dhaka.
37. P.S. to Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Dhaka.
38. Director, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka.
39. Sr. Assistant Secretary (Budget), ERD, Dhaka.
40. Chief Accounts Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka.
41. Audit and Accounts Officer, Economic Relations Division, Dhaka.
42. Accounts Officer, Economic Relations Division, Dhaka.
43. Concerned file.


 (Nusrat Noman)
 Senior Assistant Secretary



**46TH ANNUAL MEETING
DELHI, INDIA (2013)**

COUNTRY DELEGATION: BANGLADESH.

No.	Title (Mr./Ms.)	Last Name	First Name	Arrival		Departure		Hotel
				Date	Flight No.	Date	Flight No.	
1	ABUL MAAL A. MUHITH (Leader of the Bangladesh Delegation).	MUHITH	ABUL MAAL A.	2/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort
2	Prof. Md. Ali Ashraf (Member of the Delegation).	Ashraf	Md. Ali	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
3	Mr. A.K.M. Mayeedul Islam (Member of the Delegation).	Islam	A.K.M. Mayeedul	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
4	Mr. Md. Tazul Islam (Member of the Delegation).	Islam	Md. Tazul	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
5	Mr. Muhammad Abdul Mannan (Member of the Delegation).	Mannan	Muhammad Abdul	2/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
6	Mr. Golam Dastagir Gazi (Member of the Delegation).	Gazi	Golam Dastagir	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
7	Farida Rahman (Member of the Delegation).	Rahman	Farida	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
8	Dr. Atiur Rahman (Member of the Delegation).	Rahman	Dr. Atiur	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
9	Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad (Member of the Delegation).	Azad	Md. Abul Kalam	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort
10	Mr. Saifuddin Ahmed (Member of the Delegation).	Ahmed	Saifuddin	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
11	Mr. A.K.M. Shahed Reza (Member of the Delegation).	Reza	A.K.M. Shahed	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
12	Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad (Member of the Delegation).	Ahmad	Abdul Matlub	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
13	Mr. Mohammed Riyadh Ali (Member of the Delegation).	Ali	Mohammed Riyadh	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
14	Mr. Dilip Kumar Agarwala (Member of the Delegation).	Kumar Agarwala	Dilip	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
15	Mr. Shyamal Dutta (Member of the Delegation).	Dutta	Shyamal	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
16	Mr. Mozammel Haque (Member of the Delegation).	Haque	Mozammel	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
17	Mr. Mohammad Ali Arafat (Member of the Delegation).	Arafat	Mohammad Ali	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
18	Mr. Abdur Rahim Harmachi (Member of the Delegation).	Harmachi	Abdur Rahim	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
19	Mr. S. M. Jahangir (Member of the Delegation).	Jahangir	S. M.	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
20	Mr. Rejaul Karim Byron (Member of the Delegation).	Byron	Rejaul Karim	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
21	Mr. Shaikh Md. Rezvi Newaz (Member of the Delegation).	Newaz	Shaikh Md. Rezvi	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar
22	Khondokar Muhammad Abul Hasnath (Member of the Delegation).	Hasnath	Khondokar Muhammad Abul	1/5/2013	9W271	6/5/2013	9W272	HILTON, Mayur Vihar