

Call for improving India, Bangladesh connectivity

statesman news service

KOLKATA, 8 AUG: "Connectivity is the most important driver for regional integration," Mr Abul Maal Abdul Muhit, Bangladesh minister of finance has said.

Speaking at the India-Bangladesh Business Conclave: The Way Forward organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Dhaka yesterday, he underlined the need for technology transfer as a means for augmenting competitiveness through trade.

Mr Pankaj Saran, Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, felt the ground level policy implementation rested on actual business engagements, accord-

ing to an ICC statement released here today. Apart from manufacturing, he stressed on the need for driving the healthcare and education sectors in Bangladesh, through committed joint venture initiatives with India.

Mr Anil Razdan, former Union power secretary, said that by the year 2030 Bangladesh would have an estimated power demand of 39,000 MW and improved transmission and distribution lines between India and Bangladesh could promote energy trade in a big way. He called for focus on local manufacturing for stimulating employment generation in Bangladesh.

Mr SVK Reddy, director, Inland Waterways Authority of India,

observed that for the development of inland waterways in a commercial manner, the government ought to take part in it and industry should concentrate on giving cargo for trade.

Mr Matlub Ahmed, president, FBCCI, said that Bangladesh calls for Indian investments in the energy sector. He said that Bangladesh needs investment to the tune of \$10 billion in the energy space alone. He felt the proposed India-Bangladesh Energy Dialogue needs to be expedited. He spoke about the scope for joint venture projects in healthcare between India and Bangladesh, with about 12,000 patients visiting India annually for healthcare services.