

Canada has provided more than \$1 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since it gained independence in 1971. Assistance has included food aid, railway improvements, energy, agriculture and rural development and flood control and irrigation systems.

"Canada has the expertise and the capacity to provide the help with electric power development that Bangladesh needs," Mr. Clark said. "We have been a close partner in development cooperation in the past and we are committed to continuing to develop strong cultural, economic and commercial relations in the future."