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DHAKA MONDAY JANUARY 30, 2006 E-mail: business@thedailystar.net

Kuwait asks Opec not to cut oil production

AFP, Kuwait City

Kuwait's oil minister called Sunday on fellow members of the Opec oil cartel to avoid cutting oil production due to high world crude prices.

"I think that now, with such high prices, which have become nearly a record, we (Opec) should not reduce our production, despite the huge surplus," Sheikh Ahmad Fahd al-Sabah told reporters ahead of the cartel's Tuesday meeting in Vienna.

"There is a large surplus of crude oil in the markets, but because of (high) prices, I think Opec should do as it always did -- support prices, markets and supplies," he said.

"I hope that the status quo would be maintained and that Opec would work to stabilise prices," he added.

Iran is expected to push for a cut in Opec production at the meeting amid escalation in its crisis with Western powers over its nuclear programme.

But the cartel's president, Edmond Daukoru of Nigeria, said Saturday that Opec was "not part of the misunderstanding between Iran and the Western democracies."

Malaysia's low cost air hub to take off in March

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's low-cost aviation hub will begin business early March, ahead of rival Singapore's budget terminal to become Southeast Asia's first dedicated no-frills terminal, officials said.

"Definitely, we will begin operating at the new hub before Singapore's budget terminal at Changi," AirAsia vice president Raja Monamad Azmi told AFP Sunday.

Raja Azmi, who is also chief financial officer of the profit-making carrier, said it was preparing to start operations at the new terminal from early March.

Malaysia Airports (Sepang) Sdn Bhd general manager Azmi Murad had said operations at the low-cost hub could begin from March 6.

"We are working on a tentative date of March 6 for the terminal to be fully operational," he was quoted as saying by the Star newspaper Saturday.

\$800m FDI received in 2005

BoI executive chairman tells Ficci meet

UNB, Dhaka

Declaring a bright prospect of foreign direct investment and higher economic growth in the country, Board of Investment Executive Chairman Mahmudur Rahman yesterday said an increased amount of US\$ 800 million was received in FDI.

"In 2005, the provisional FDI inflow was 800 million US dollars while the amounts were US\$ 460 million and US\$ 268 million in 2004 and 2003," he told the monthly luncheon meeting of Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) in Dhaka.

The BoI chief executive also mentioned that every year the country is getting a significant amount of FDI for energy sector. Investment promotion is a long-term process, he observed.

Describing a positive result of the growing amount of foreign capital investment in productive sectors, Rahman said as per Bangladesh Bank statistics, in the

first three months of this fiscal year, the manufacturing and industrial growth was more than 10 percent and nearly 10 percent.

He stressed the need for first-class government infrastructure as essential one for attracting more FDI.

"Impartial administration, dynamic and credible public institutions and transparent policy are the main elements for first-class investment-friendly government infrastructure. Investment decision is not a simple decision for the investors, it is related to many things," he said.

Describing present condition of the country as the best for FDI, he said there are three excellent elements now the country has got-energy resources, excellent bunch of people as workforce and market access.

"But we have to work together irrespective of party affiliation. FDI is not a matter of BNP, AL, JP or any other party-it is a matter of the country," he told his business audience, adding that the country

now needs physical infrastructure, government infrastructure and aggressive promotion around the world for attracting investment.

Replying to the criticisms by some economists about the FDI, he said, "They did not come up with statistics, and statement without statistics is political."

The Ficci president said although the investment climate in the country is favourable compared with most South Asian countries, particularly in terms of its competitive labour costs and flexible labour laws, the cost of doing business in Bangladesh is perceived to be high.

"High costs are reflections of corruption, weak law-and-order, inadequate infrastructure and services and distressed financial markets," he said.

He pointed out the imposition of 10 percent tax at source on royalty, technical know-how fees and technical assistance fees in excess of 2.5 percent of profits by Income Tax authorities created "discontent of foreign investors".

Nat'l furniture fair in April

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

With a view to introducing local furniture to visitors, a five-day national furniture fair will begin in Dhaka in April.

Bangladesh Furniture Industry Owners' Association (BFIOA) in association with Design and Technology Centre (DTC) will organise the third version of the fair at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

K M Akhtaruzzaman, chairman of BFIOA, announced the fair schedule at a press conference in Dhaka on Saturday.

"We are organising the fair to create demand for Bangladeshi furniture," said BFIOA chairman.

Among others, Selim H Rahman, secretary general of BFIOA, was present at the press conference.

India, Vietnam agree to start direct flights to boost trade

VNA, HCM City

Vietnam and India have agreed to start direct flights to promote bilateral trade between the two countries, a trade official has said.

Deputy Trade Minister Tran Duc Minh said the two countries' local airline carriers would conduct a survey to study market potential.

"Indian Airlines and its counterpart in Vietnam have already begun primary market research to determine whether such proposals would be viable," Minh said at a meeting at the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Kolkata, India recently.

"Depending on the outcome of the survey, both companies would decide on the number of flights and their intervals," the New Kerala (India) online newspaper quoted Minh as saying.

"Vietnam like India is an agriculturally-based country. We want Indian companies to invest in sectors like tea, cashew nuts, and fisheries and other marine products," he added.

Nguyen Tan Chan, press assistant for Vietnam Airlines, said the carrier had been considering the possibility of opening direct service to India for the past few years.

General Director of Vietnam Airlines Nguyen, Xuan Hien said two years ago that the southern city of Mumbai, formerly named Bombay, would be the first destination.

41.27pc revenue earned in 6 months of FY06

Saifur tells parliament

BSS, Sangad Bhaban

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that 41.27 percent revenue income was achieved against the total annual target in the first six months (July-December) of this fiscal.

Replying to a question, he said the target of the country's revenue income was fixed at Tk 45,722 crore. Of which, Tk 18,869.48 crore were earned during the period.

Responding to another question,

the finance minister said the contribution of readymade garments to the GDP was 10.69 percent in 2004-'05, which was 10.06 percent in the previous fiscal.

Saifur also said according to the latest statistics, the amount of unrealised agricultural loans was Tk 6,549.77 crore up to November 30, 2005, and that of up to September 30, 2005, was Tk 8,173.40 crore.

He said various pragmatic steps, including formation of a high-powered task force, serving notices to loan defaulters and rescheduling

loans, have been taken to realise the agricultural and industrial loans.

The minister, however, said the bank loans amounting to Tk 536.03 crore were provided for the shrimp exporters in 2004-'05 at an interest rate of only seven percent.

The finance minister also told the House that the International Development Bank (IDB) has so far provided \$2.856 billion while the Asian Development Bank (ADB) gave \$82.213 million dollar to various development projects of the country.

Corporate Bazaar kicks off today

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In a bid to showcase all types of products and services necessary for running a business, a three-day exhibition of corporate houses begins today at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka.

The first-ever show styled 'Corporate Bazaar' will provide corporate solutions for both local and multinational companies, according to a press release.

Global Online Services Ltd (GOSL), a local corporate internet service provider, is the organiser of the exhibition where a total of 40 leading organisations from different industries will showcase their

corporate packages.

The exhibitors cover a wide range of organisations such as telecommunications and IT companies, banks, airlines, office equipment manufacturers & distributors, advertising firms, security service providing companies, hospitals, electronics and power supply companies.

The exhibition will not have small stalls, rather pavilions where visitors can actually view what is on offer, the release said adding that exhibitors can also make business deals at the show.

Business leaders, entrepreneurs, managers, executives and those who belong to the business community and influence decision

making will be benefited from the exposition, the release said.

Any individual will be given a free entry pass upon presenting his or her business card at the entrance to the fair, which will remain open only to corporate visitors from 10am to 9pm.

Several exclusive events for selected professionals will also be held to mark the occasion. The events include a CFO (chief financial officer) gathering, a gathering for merchandisers, an IT managers' meet, and a corporate leaders' meet.

The Daily Star, the Prothom Alo, bangladeshinfo.com, Windmill, ntv and Protishabda Communications are the associated partners of the fair.

Govt spending key to 8pc growth in India

ANN/ THE STATESMAN

India has identified public spending in rural infrastructure and rural employment generation as well as foreign direct investment (FDI) as the key to achieving eight percent growth rate.

Addressing foreign investors at a breakfast meeting organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting at Davos, Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram, Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath and Planning Commission Deputy Chairman

Montek Singh Ahluwalia, said that the government's focus was to first raise resources for capital investment as well as increase savings, open the doors wider to foreign direct investment and make India a major manufacturing hub.

Addressing the meeting, "Audience with India's key Policy Makers", Kamal Nath said the focus was to get incremental FDI, especially into rural areas. He said the big issue for India to achieve the growth rate of eight per cent and above was to address the issue of underemployment and generating purchasing power in rural India, the CII said in a communique from Davos.

Ahluwalia said it was important to review policy issues that held development in rural areas.

Calling for focus on policies that constrain export of agro products, he said there was a need to catch up with China in the area of infrastructure. He also stressed on the importance for quality of water in rural areas for drinking and irrigation.

The Planning Commission deputy chairman said the government was working on primary and higher education to improve the standard.

Responding to a question on India and China, Chidambaram said the two countries were not competing with each other.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Civil Division-I, Kurmitola, Dhaka
Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the undermentioned works as per following terms and conditions:

(1)	Project name (if applicable)	O&M of ZIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka during the year 2005-2006 (SH: Supplying fitting & fixing linted paper at the entry door along the drive way of departure of terminal building) at ZIA.				
(2)	Source of funds	CAAB (Self)				
(3)	Tender package No	CD-1-170/2005-06.				
(4)	Invitation for tenders ref. & date	a) CAAB/W-568(E-3)/P-127/1101, Date: 09-01-2006.				
(5)	Eligibility of tenderers	CAAB enlisted 'B' class (Civil) and above contractor (Civil)/govt./semi-govt./autonomous body's similar nature of contractors.				
(6)	Name and address of office(s) selling tender document	a) PA to Member (Ops. & Plan), CAAB, HQ, Dhaka. b) PA to Chief Engineer, CAAB, HQ, Dhaka. c) PA to Superintending, Civil Circle, Dhaka. d) Director, ZIA, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka. e) Director, CEMSU, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka. f) Executive Engineer, Civil Division-I, Dhaka.				
(7)	Name and address of the office(s) receiving tenders	Office of the undersigned.				
(8)	Name and address of the office opening tenders	Office of the undersigned.				
(9)	Last date and time for selling tender document	22/02/2006 (during office hours).				
(10)	Last date and time for submission of tenders	23/02/2006 up to 12:00 hours. If communication is disrupted on the date of receiving and opening the tender, tenders will be received on the next working day. Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.				
(11)	Date and time for opening of tenders	23/02/2006 up to 12:30 hours.				
(12)	Brief description of goods and services (works and services).					
Lot number	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document in Taka	Tender security amount in Taka	Time for completion in weeks/month	Remarks
A)	Supplying fitting & fixing linted paper at the entry door along the drive way of departure of terminal building	Departure of terminal building	Tk. 250/- (two hundred fifty) (non-refundable)	Tk. 5,000/- (five thousand) only to be furnished in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order/ Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-I, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka	03 (three) days	
(13)	Special conditions	The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.				

AKM Maksudul Islam
Executive Engineer
Civil Division-I
CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

CAAB/PR-95/2006/465
Date: 25-1-2006
GD-181

Jessore farm starts marketing eggs with expiry dates

ABU BAKR SIDDIQUE, Jessore

Jessore-based Afil Agro Ltd started marketing its eggs bearing expiry dates on Wednesday.

At the inauguration of marketing, Sk Afiluddin, proprietor of Afil Agro Ltd, said his farm will help contribute to meeting total demand for eggs in the country.

Afil Agro Ltd started its journey in June, 2004 in Jessore with only 20,000 layer chicks. The number of layers is now 1,20,000.

The farm, where all sheds are equipped with German machinery, now produces 65,000 eggs a day.

Afil Agro Ltd now comprises cow fattening project and broiler farm at Sagarpur village under Jhikargachha upazila and layer project at Ghoragachha village under Sadar upazila in Jessore.

Sk Afiluddin also said a person in a developed country consumes 315 eggs per annum while in Bangladesh a person only takes 18 eggs a year.

Bangladesh produces only 1.35 crore eggs a day, he told journalists.

He also said Bangladesh produces 45 lakh pieces of broiler chickens a week. Afil Agro Ltd produces 22,500 pieces of broiler chickens every week.

US, S Korea to launch free trade talks soon

AFP, Seoul

The United States and South Korea will launch free trade negotiations soon as Seoul has removed a major hurdle to the talks by opening wider its film market, officials said Sunday.

"The South Korean-US FTA (free trade agreement) talks began soon after economy and trade ministers fine-tune a policy through a public hearing," finance and economy ministry spokeswoman Song Kyung-jin told AFP.

Song, however, failed to confirm media reports the politically-sensitive trade talks would be formally launched in the coming week. "We have no fixed date yet," she added.

Seoul may announce the start of negotiations on February 2, Yonhap news agency said last week when Seoul decided to cut by half its protectionist quota for home-grown movies to facilitate trade

talks with Washington.

The quota system, adopted in 1966, forced Korean cinemas to show domestic movies on at least 146 days a year, amid complaints from Hollywood. Seoul promised Friday to cut the quota to 73 days from July 1.

The decision was immediately "lauded" by US Trade Representative Rob Portman, but was also condemned by Korean movie producers, actors and directors as an "anti-cultural coup d'etat."

But South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said in a speech this month that striking an FTA with Washington was a top priority for his government.

South Korea, the fourth largest economy in Asia, is the seventh largest US trade partner. Bilateral trade in the 11 months to November 2005 topped 65 billion dollars, according to Seoul's trade ministry.

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
সভার, ঢাকা।

সমাবর্তন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্বল্পদিনে সকলের অবগতির জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষের নির্দেশক্রমে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আগামী ২০ মার্চ ১৯১২, ২ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০০৬ বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ১১ টায় এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের তৃতীয় সমাবর্তন কেন্দ্রীয় খেলার মাঠে নির্মিত প্যারেলে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য রেজিস্ট্রেশনকারী গ্র্যাডুয়েটগণকে ২৭.১.২০০৬ থেকে ৩১.১.২০০৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতিদিন সকাল ১০-০০ টা থেকে সন্ধ্যা ৬-০০ টা পর্যন্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ক্যাম্পাসের নিম্নলিখিত কাউন্টার থেকে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় প্রদত্ত সমাবর্তন পরিচয়পত্র দেখিয়ে এবং প্রতিনিধিত্ব সার্টিফিকেট ফেরত দিয়ে (ইতোপূর্বে প্রতিনিধিত্ব সার্টিফিকেট উত্তোলন করে থাকলে) সমাবর্তন গাউন গ্রহণ করতে হবে। ইতোমধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রেশনকৃত গ্র্যাডুয়েটদের সেরা বর্তমান টিকানায় ডাকযোগে সমাবর্তন পরিচয়পত্র প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে। গ্র্যাডুয়েটদেরকে তাঁদের বর্তমান টিকানা এবং স্থানীয় ডাকঘরে যোগাযোগের জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া হলো। উল্লেখ্য ডিগ্রি গ্রহণকারীর পক্ষে অন্য কোনো ব্যক্তিকে গাউন প্রদান করা হবে না।

অনুমদ

(ক)	কলা ও মানবিকী অনুষদ ও জীববিজ্ঞান অনুষদের অন্তর্ভুক্ত বিভাগসমূহের ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারীগণ	৩	সমাজবিজ্ঞান অনুষদ
(খ)	গাণিতিক ও পদার্থ বিষয়ক অনুষদের অন্তর্ভুক্ত বিভাগসমূহের ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারীগণ	৩	সমাজবিজ্ঞান অনুষদ
(গ)	সমাজবিজ্ঞান অনুষদের অন্তর্ভুক্ত বিভাগসমূহের ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারীগণ	৩	সমাজবিজ্ঞান অনুষদ।

উল্লেখিত দিন ও সময় ব্যতীত অন্য কোনো দিন গাউন বিতরণ করা হবে না।

আমন্ত্রণপত্র এবং লাগু কপন ৩

গ্র্যাডুয়েটদেরকে সমাবর্তন গাউন গ্রহণের সময় একই স্থান থেকে অনুষ্ঠানের আমন্ত্রণপত্র এবং লাগু কপন সংগ্রহ করতে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

ঢাকা-ক্যাম্পাস বাস রুট ৩

২.২.২০০৬ তারিখ সমাবর্তন উপলক্ষে গ্র্যাডুয়েটদের ঢাকা থেকে ক্যাম্পাসে নিয়ে আসার জন্য সকাল ৮-৩০ মিনিটে নিম্নলিখিত রুটে সমাবর্তনের ব্যানার লাগানো বাস ছেড়ে আসবে ৩:

(ক) প্রথম রুটে সরকারী কর্মচারী হাসপাতাল (ফজলুল হক হলের পাশ থেকে), শাহবাগ, সায়েন্স ল্যাব, কলাবাগান, আসাদ পলি, টেকনিক্যাল, ক্যাম্পাস (৬টি বাস)।

(খ) দ্বিতীয় রুটে সরকারী কর্মচারী হাসপাতাল (ফজলুল হক হলের পাশ থেকে), মালীবাগ, অহাঙ্গামী (বেলপেট মোড়), উত্তরা, আভলিয়া, ক্যাম্পাস (৩টি বাস)।

(গ) তৃতীয় রুটে সরকারী কর্মচারী হাসপাতাল (ফজলুল হক হলের পাশ থেকে), শাহবাগ, ফার্মপেট, লোকেশ্বরী, ১০নং গোলাচকর, মিরপুর-১নং, টেকনিক্যাল, ক্যাম্পাস (৪টি বাস)।

(ঘ) অনুষ্ঠানে শেষে একই রুটে বাস ঢাকার ফিরে যাবে।

আবু বকর সিদ্দিক
ডেপুটি রেজিস্ট্রার (শিক্ষা)
এবং
সদস্য-সচিব, তৃতীয় সমাবর্তন ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটি
ফোন: ৭৭০৮৪৭৮-৮৫/১২০৭

GD-163