

### EEC, Holland lend Tk 18 crore for income generation

A Tk 18-crore loan project has been taken up to boost income-generating activities for the have-nots and marginal farmers in 14 northern districts under the joint auspices of European Economic Community (EEC) and the Netherlands government, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) and Sonali Bank will supervise the implementation of the five-year project designed for 3,996 villages of 14 northern districts, according to an agreement signed at the BRDB office in Dhaka Wednesday.

Managing Director of Sonali Bank and Director General of BRDB signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations, a press release said.

EEC representatives were present on the occasion.

The project includes deep tube-well management, paddy husking, small trade, treadle pump operation, paddy cultivation, bamboo works, live-stock and poultry production, horticulture, fish net making and socks making.

### Cooperation pact with Switzerland signed

Bangladesh and Switzerland Tuesday signed agreed minutes following conclusion of the annual review meeting on bilateral development cooperation, reports UNB.

Joint Secretary at the Economic Relations Divisions (ERD) F R Chowdhury and Swiss Charge d' Affaires in Dhaka Albert Mehr signed the minutes on behalf of their respective government, says an official handout.

Switzerland provides assistance to projects and programmes in Bangladesh, mainly in rural infrastructures and poverty alleviation sectors.

Education, Health and Family Planning sectors are also emphasised as part of the strategy for human resources development in providing Swiss assistance to Bangladesh.

The four priority sectors indicated by the Swiss side are agriculture and food security, rural infrastructure, small scale and cottage industry, and health and family planning. The most important project, expected to be launched in agriculture sector, is the "Shoshiya Gudun Rin Prokopa" (credit for farm products warehouse) involving a grant of about 5.5 million US dollar.

### FM seeks Belgian help to popularise jute, jute goods

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman who arrived in Brussels from Paris Tuesday had a meeting with his Belgian counterpart Mark Eyskens, reports BSS from Brussels.

The Foreign Minister sought cooperation or Belgium in launching a movement to popularise jute and jute goods which are environmentally friendly.

He pleaded for unrestricted export of Bangladesh garments which he said would not only benefit Bangladesh's economy but would help sustain employment of a large number of country's women population.

The Minister said the cooperation of industrially developed countries like Belgium was imperative to counter lobbying of the powerful manufacturers of synthetic items who have gone all out to discredit jute and jute products.

He informed Eyskens about efforts of the Government of Bangladesh to restore democracy in letter and spirit particularly because of the people of Bangladesh after nine and a half years of struggle brought about the change.

Referring to the natural calamity including the last cyclone the Minister said the government was determined to improve the living conditions of the people with its limited resources.

### Indian chamber chief to talk on small industries Feb 22-23

By Staff Correspondent

The Director General of Marathi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, India, Dr HR Sabate will deliver a lecture on his experience in relation to small and medium industries development at the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) premises in Dhaka on February 22 and 23.

The industrialists of the country and the executive committee members of FBCCI will meet him at the FBCCI.

## Facilities for container ships at Chittagong Port need of the hour

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Feb 20: Chittagong Port faces a new challenge amid global trend of switch-over from bulk cargo vessels to container ships.

Officials concerned of Chittagong Port fear that it may miss most of the world trade unless, it is fully provided with required equipments and other logistic supports to cope with the global use of container ships.

Chittagong Port, the major port of the country, lacks Gantry crane, Shore key cranes and other costly logistics which are needed to handle container ships comfortably, said the port officials with a note of concern. They mentioned that the available facilities and equipments were mainly suitable to serve bulk cargo ships.

The sources said that if the port was not readjusted and

re-equipped to meet the rising trend of containerisation, foreign container ships would be diverted to the ports in the neighbouring countries, causing a negative impact on our revenue income.

It is worth noting that the Chittagong Port handles more than 80 per cent of our import and export cargoes. A senior port official told this correspondent that the authority had already identified the problem and was negotiating with the World Bank for finances to purchase the required logistics so that the Port would not lag behind the ports of neighbouring countries.

Director (Traffic) of Chittagong Port Mohsin Sarkar said that the ongoing project of MPB (Multi-Purpose Berths) with back-up facilities

was expected to be completed by the end of 1992 which would enable the port to handle about 1,50,000 (one lakh fifty thousand) containers yearly.

"We have already commissioned the first phase of the MPB last September, which accommodate preliminarily about 50,000 (fifty thousand) containers but we are looking forward to turning Chittagong into a full-fledged container port in near future to cope with the rising trend of containerisation," Sarkar said.

Shipping agency sources said that more and more container liners were showing keen interest in using Chittagong Port but it was yet to be updated fully to meet international needs. About 1200 vessels call at Chittagong Port annually and if facilities could

be expanded more ships are likely to call at the port, sources said.

Chittagong Port is presently operating in over-capacity following the rapid increase of traffic, said the sources. History of Chittagong Port dates back to fourth century before Christ. Yemen and Arab traders of Babylon in ancient times used to trade with Greece and Macedonia and in the East with India, Java, Sumatra and China. They used to call at the Indian ports of Surat, Coching, Tamralipta and Chittagong.

According to the famous historian Toilemi, Chittagong was one of the finest ports in the Near and Far East at that time. Malayan history also bears that the greatest sailor Buddha Gupta sailed from Chittagong to Malaya in 4th century BC.

### Dutch envoy, DSE Chairman talk capital market issues

By Staff Correspondent

Netherlands Ambassador H Gajentaan discussed the situation prevailing in the country's capital markets, Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) in particular, with the DSE Chairman Aminul Islam Khan and other functionaries on Tuesday.

The discussion took place when the Ambassador visited Dhaka Stock Exchange. Commercial Secretary of the Netherlands Embassy Raelof C Buffinga accompanied him. They also went round the office and trading hall of DSE.

### New GM for SIA's Dhaka office

by Staff Correspondent

Thia Hui Juat has taken over as the General Manager of the Singapore Airlines (SIA) operations in Bangladesh with effect from January 12, 1991.

Prior to this assignment he served the airlines at its Frankfurt office in Germany.

### CNN news on board

SIA added CNN news bulletins to its inflight news service on all flights departing Singapore from January 1, 1992.

ITN World News, meanwhile, continues to be provided on flights from Europe, North America and South-West Pacific.

SIA thus becomes the first airline to offer passengers separate news programmes on in-board and outbound flights on all routes except Asia.

### Award

SIA Cargo has won an award as one of 1991's Quality Carriers among passengers and cargo airlines.

This was one of 15 categories in an annual "Quest for Quality" survey conducted by America-based transport magazine Distribution.

Thirty-five passenger/cargo carriers were rated by a representative sample of more than 3000 shippers in the US in five performance areas.

These were on-time performance, equipment and operations, value, customer service and sales staff. The award winners had to excel in all five areas.

## Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port					
Name of Vessels	Berthed	ETA	Berth	L. Port	L. Agent
Songrim	17/02	29/02	J/1	Kard	RRSA
Black Banri	14/02	21/02	J/2	Mong	SSL
Black Whale	17/02	21/02	J/3	Hong	PROG
Banglar Kallol	26/02	27/02	J/6	Hunda	BSC
Paerl One	19/02	26/02	J/7	NA	NA
Lok Vivek	15/02	27/02	J/9	Kard	OWSL
Euroliberty	16/02	24/02	J/10	Champ	EOBL
Ivestiva	18/02	22/02	J/13	Sing	CT
Mu Du Bong	18/02	25/02	MPB/2	Padu	PSAL
Sea Rhapsody	29/02	24/02	OCJ	Padu	HIL
Panormos Bay	19/02	27/02	TSP	NA	NA
Ronjay	09/02	27/02	RM/4	Col	PSAL
Na Mu Hu	18/02	20/02	RM/5	Sing	ECSL
Endurance Sea	02/02	29/02	DD1	Agaba	UMAL
Tanta	15/02	01/03	RM/8	Dead	BSC
Banglar Swapana	05/02	28/02	RM/9	Dead	BSC

Vessels Ready at Outer Anchorage			
Name of Vessels	Ready	L. Port	L. Agent
Not Ready			
Ronjay Victory	18/02	Sing	PSAL
Waiting for Instruction			
Maritz Star		Sing	DELMURE
Al Ishrat		Mong	KSL
Banglar Asha			BSC
Banglar Sampad		Mong	BSC
Banglar Jyoti			BSC
Ronjay Chomic		Mong	PSAL
Not Entering			
Alyn		Sing	Alaminin
Red Deer		Sing	OTL
Ryong Gang	20/02		PSAL

Vessels Due at Outer Anchorage			
Name of Vessels	ETA	L. Port	L. Agent
Dooyang Frontier	19/02/92	Aust	LAMP
Rajin	20/02/92		LAMS
Fong Yun	21/02/92		BDSHIP
Infinity	21/02/92		RSL
Q He Cheng	21/02/92		BDSHIP
Banglar Mamata	22/02/92	Kara	BSC
Qing He Cheng	21/02/92		BDSHIP
Petr Starostov	24/02/92	Sing	CT
Infinity	22/02/92	Sing	RSL
Andrian Goncharov	22/02/92	NA	CT
Green Sland	23/02/92		KARNA
Pearl One	18/02/92	Sing	CLA
Hang Loy	17/02/92	NA	H&H
New Genlord	20/02/92	Sing	BDSHIP
Safina-e-Rahmat	25/02/92		ASLL
Sun Flower	17/02/92	Sing	TSLL
Kamaleverett	24/02/92		EBPL
Fong Yun	20/02/92	Sing	BDSHIP
Al Swamruz	27/02/92	NA	ASLL
Eastern Ruby	23/02/92		BBA
NGS Ranger	26/02/92		BDSHIP
Fong Shin	26/02/92		BDSHIP
Harmony	29/02/92	Ariaba	TSLL
Thiers Brezee	1/3/92	Col	RSL

Mongla Port				
Name of Vessels	Berthed	ETA	L. Port	L. Agent
Shalmar	24/01	31/01	Chittagong	BSC
Sea Carol	28/01	NA	Vizag	HIL
Banglar Banri	28/01	NA	Chittagong	BSL
Al-Bashir	30/01	NA	India	TML
Yom Bun Jin	30/01	NA	Dprk	GREENLAND
Felicity	05/02	NA	Chittagong	OWSL
Mun Su Bong	05/02	NA	China	GREENLAND
Gold Future	15/02	NA	Chittagong	AGM

NOTE: Berthed= Vessels at Port Jetty. ETA= Expected Time of Departure. ETA= Expected Time of Arrival. NA= Not Available. ETB= Expected to Berth.  
Source: AQUAMARINE LIMITED.

### Dhaka-Ankara accord on air transport

An air transport agreement between Bangladesh and Turkey was concluded Wednesday in Dhaka, reports UNB.

The Memorandum of Understanding on the negotiation has been reached following two-day's of discussions between the two sides, says a press release.

Air Commodore Azharul Haq, Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority and leader of the visiting five member Turkish delegation Dr Yildirim Saldiraner, Deputy Director General of Civil Aviation Ministry of Communication initiated the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.



Azharul Haq and Dr Yildirim Saldiraner initialing the agreement.

## Italy will give \$91m soft loans

By Staff Correspondent

Italy will provide soft-term loans to Bangladesh to help gear up its development process, Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Claudio Pacifico said on Wednesday.

Briefing newsmen at the Embassy Chancery, Ambassador Pacifico said that his country would provide soft loans to Bangladesh with an interest rate of about 1.2 per cent and payable in 20 years in parallel to the grant assistance already being provided.

He said that bilateral relations between the two nations gained "special momentum" following the setting up of a joint commission between Bangladesh and Italy recently. Under a protocol of understanding signed by the Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Claudio Lenzi in Rome earlier this month, Bangladesh would receive grant assistance of about 91 million US dollar

from Italy for the next three years starting 1992, he said.

He also pointed out that the recent awarding of the 70 million US dollar Biman maintenance contract to Al Italia added a new dimension to the bilateral relations.

The Italian aid package to Bangladesh consists of two components dealing with humanitarian aid and economic development assistance.

He said under the agreement, \$23 million would be provided as post-cyclone rehabilitation assistance in the field of health and agriculture.

Another \$30 million would be allocated for the reconstruction of Dinajpur-Panchagar road, \$23 million for modernization of Zia International Airport, \$1.5 million for the design and feasibility study of Rupaha bridge and \$3.5 million for Chittagong Power Distribution Project.

"We hope that this pro-

gramme will trigger a new type of economic and industrial cooperation in the form of joint ventures between the two countries, and some of these projects can be financed and encouraged by the Italian government by providing soft loans," he said.

Ambassador Pacifico observed that the existing links between the two nations needed to be consolidated and could be further improved.

He said that a number of joint venture projects in the fields of textiles, garments and leather were presently being considered by private Italian investors.

Noting that balance of trade between the two nations is in Bangladesh's favour to the tune of \$200 million, he said that there was considerable scope for expanding export of local products to Italian market as it was one of the biggest in Europe.

The Ambassador informed that a meeting of the joint cultural commission would be held soon to finalise the cultural agreement between the two countries.

The Italian Embassy would organise an exhibition on Cristopher Columbus and works of Italian painters at the National Museum next month, he further informed.

He said that a scientific cooperation programme between the two countries was also being finalised which would provide for Italian scholarships to Bangladesh students for higher education and training.

Cooperation in the fields of archeology and monument restoration would also be established, Ambassador Pacifico said and added that financing of a school for training people for restoration works was also being considered.

## Japanese keen on jute projects

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of Japan-Bangladesh Commercial Economic Cooperation Committee said that they would participate in research activities and joint venture projects on the development of diversified use of jute, according to an official message received from Tokyo.

They said this during a meeting with the visiting Bangladesh Minister for Jute A S M Hannan Shah in Tokyo on February 17.

A private sector business corporation showed interest in a jute pulp factory in Bangladesh for producing paper. The proposals would be discussed further at the expert

market study and exchange of experts business delegations etc.

The minister expressed his strong belief that Bangladesh jute products by their quality and competitiveness would be able to meet the demand of the Japanese market and the taste of Japanese consumers.

On February 18, the minister met Watanabe, Vice Minister for Environment and exchanged views on the development and uses of jute products as a hygienic and environmentally sound alternative to synthetic materials.

He sought Japanese cooperation for further research and

development of diversified uses of jute.

The Japanese Vice Minister recognised the importance of jute products in environmental protection and assured his ministry's full support in the promotion of jute and jute products.

The same day, the Bangladesh jute delegation held a discussion with the leaders of Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

Expressing the view that there was sufficient scope for expanding the jute market in Japan, the minister urged the Japanese business community to increase their imports from Bangladesh to help reduce the huge trade gap between the two countries.

He also laid emphasis on increased Japanese investments in Bangladesh, particularly in the sector of export-oriented industries.

Ambassador Mohammad Abu Hena was present during these meetings.

## High demand boosts tea price

By Staff Correspondent

Strong export and internal demand led most tea prices to move upwards, often sharply, at this week's auction sale held in Chittagong Tuesday last.

According to a Unity Brokers market report, strong all round demand led to substantially dearer rates for most categories.

Buyers for Russia, Poland, Iran and the Continent lifted the bulk of the brokers whilst the local traders lent useful support for the fannings.

Withdrawals at this sale stood at 32 per cent against 44 per cent at the previous auction sale.

In the leaf category, 15,262 packages were on offer at the sale along with 393 packages of new season teas. Export buyers accounted for 31 per cent of the sale while internal traders fetched 38 per cent and the remaining 31 per cent was unsold.

In the dust category, 5,418 packages were offered along

with 115 packages of new season teas. Of the total, internal buyers purchased 50 per cent of the teas on offer while export buyers accounted for only 13 per cent of the sale and the rest 37 per cent was withdrawn.

Following is the category-wise market performance report prepared by Unity Brokers:

**CTC:** All brokers were well received at much dearer rates than the last sale and prices often inclined by Taka 3 and Taka 5. Selective best lines sold between Taka 45.50 and Taka 47.50 with a few lines selling above these rates.

Fannings were also a strong market and prices for the better types often increased by upto taka six. Medium gained between Taka three and Taka four while the plainer types were also dearer. Fibrous secondaries were often neglected. Selective popular lines sold between Taka 48 and Taka 51.80

with a few lines selling above this rate.

**New Season:** New Season brokers sold between Taka 37 and Taka 41.90 while the fannings realised between Taka 36 and Taka 39.80.

**Dust:** Price for cleaner and powdery types increased sharply while secondaries were often neglected. New Season teas sold between Taka 35.50 and Taka 47.40.

**Green Tea:** 858 packages were offered at the sale and these were all withdrawn without registering any bids.

The next weekly tea auction sale (No. 43) will be held on February 25 next. Total offerings at the sale will comprise of about 9,000 packages of Leaf and 4,000 packages of Dust.

The Unity Brokers market report notes that, henceforth, cleaner CTC teas are likely to receive premium prices with the majority of the offerings in the next three end of season sales.

### Fresh incentives offered to foreign investors

Industries Minister Shamul Islam Khan Tuesday said the government has offered some concrete incentives and facilities for attracting the foreign investors to invest in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a newly built Bangladesh-German joint venture food industry at Ghulshan in Dhaka.

The Industries Minister said the new industrial policy of the BNP government had created positive response among the foreign investors to invest in Bangladesh.

**Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd.**  
(A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla)  
"Titas Gas Bhaban"  
105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
Kawran Bazar Commercial Area  
Dhaka-1215  
Phones : 232200, 232172, 258462, 812135-42  
আপনার ও দেশের স্বার্থে পরিবার ছোট রাখুন

### International Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed Re-Tenders are invited from the bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers for supply of Gas Pipeline Materials/Equipment as listed below under Cash Foreign Exchange.

S1. No.	Tender No.	Items with description	Bid Closing Date.	Cost of Tender Document
1.	PD.2312/356-FIT (RTNDR)	BUTTWELDING FITTINGS, COMPRESSION TUBING FITTINGS & GASKETS.	29-3-1992	TK. 750.00 or US\$ 21.00

2. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from :

Manager (Purchase)  
Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co. Ltd.,  
"Titas Gas Bhaban"  
105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
Kawran Bazar Commercial Area  
Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh  
Telex : 642689 TGNC BJ  
Cable : TITAS GAS, DHAKA.

3. Tender Documents may be purchased by any interested bidder or their authorised representatives upon payment of US\$ 21.00 or Tk 750.00 (Non-refundable) from Accounts Department of the Company at the above address from 09.00 hrs. to 13.00 hrs. on all working days with effect from 19-02-1992. Those who purchased tender documents against earlier Tender No. PD. 2312/356-FIT dated 23-03-91 may collect tender documents against this case free of cost. No document will be sold on the closing date.

4. All bids accompanied by a bid security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order or Bank Guarantee of 2% of bid amount issued from any scheduled bank located in Bangladesh or from any reputable bank abroad, must be delivered to Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd., Dhaka on or before 11-00 hrs. of dt. 29-03-1992. The bids will be opened on the same day at 11-15 hrs. in presence of bidders, if any. Should this day happens to fall on any holiday, bids shall be opened at the same hours on the 1st subsequent working day.