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ADB to provide \$ 81m loan

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a loan of US dollar 81 million to Bangladesh, reports agencies.

AFP quoting the Manila-based bank Wednesday said the bank had approved a 31-million-dollar soft loan to improve the water supply and sanitation facilities of nine districts.

The loan will benefit Bagerhat, Dinajpur, Faridpur, Jamalpur, Kushtia, Pabna, Rangpur, Sylhet and Tangail—all centers of economic activity, a bank statement said.

The interest-free loan is payable in 40 years including a 10-year grace and an annual service charge of one per cent.

BSS says: A five-member delegation headed by A M Khan Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation, and Flood Control concluded successfully the loan negotiations with the ADB in Dhaka yesterday for the Khulna-Jessore drainage rehabilitation project.

ADB will provide US dollar 50 million to be repaid in 40 years with a grace period of 10 years at one per cent service charge.

The scope of the project will cover the excavation of the primary and secondary drainage networks, dredging of the river channels, improvement of the drainage regulator and embankment system and strengthening of the communication network.

The project area will include Batia Ghat, Daulatpur, Dumuria and Phultala (in Khulna district), Abhayanagar, Keshabpur, Jessore and Manirampur in Jessore district.

The amount is more than 47 per cent of the annual investment target set for the directorate by the government, a press release said.

This was informed at a review meeting of the directorate with Mohammad Abu Taher, director in the chair.

During the review it was stated that in the month of September, Tk 255.38 crore was invested in various projects of the directorate. The amount of investment in September was more than double the previous year's corresponding month's investment of Tk 116.84 crore, the meeting was told.

30,000-line digital exchange in Chittagong by '95

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Nov 18: A team of French technicians is expected to arrive here soon to install the equipment of a digital telephone exchange in this port city to provide 30,000 fresh subscriber connections, T&T sources said.

The technicians, from the French company 'Alcatel', are expected to begin the installation work from next January.

The project, involving a cost of around Taka 150 crore with a 50 per cent foreign exchange component provided by the French government un-

der a bilateral agreement, is scheduled to be completed by June, 1995. Meanwhile, the stage is set for the work to begin. Recently, survey and other preliminary works have been completed by another team at the city's telephone exchanges here to facilitate the installation of the digital exchange, the first of its kind here.

The plan for a digital exchange to improve telecommunication facilities in this business city, known as the country's commercial capital, was undertaken in line with

the government's decision to meet the growing demand for telephones.

T&T office sources here informed that around 15,000 applications seeking fresh telephone connections had been lying pending for a long time because all the six exchanges in the city are faced with overcapacity load.

Of the six, the exchange No 1 at Nandankon, which has become almost outdated, has been in crying need of repair and replacement for a long time now, T&T sources said.

Following the setting up of the country's first operational Export Processing Zone here, the demand for more telephones has grown dramatically.

The authorities initially plan to give 20,500 digital connections by October, 1994, within ten months of the start of installation works and the rest 9,500 after June, '95 on completion of whole project.

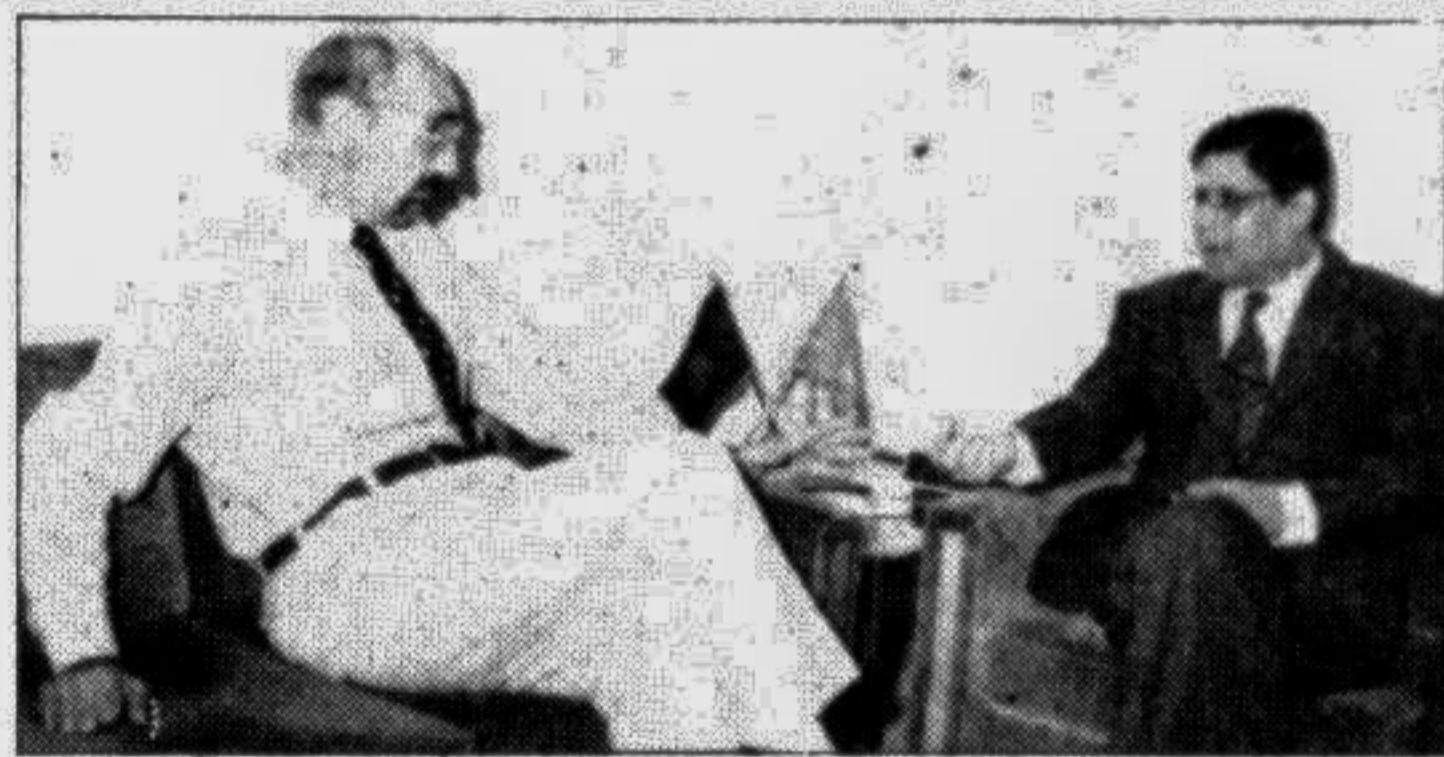
Presently, there are 25,000 subscribers under the six existing exchanges in the city, T&T sources said.

Call money rates range from 2.15 to 8 pc

Money rates in the call money market during the week ending Wednesday ranged from 2.15 to eight per cent, reports UNB.

During the same week interest rates offered by the bank on Certificate of Deposits varied from five to 8.75 per cent.

The bank rate, however, remained unchanged at six per cent, says a Bangladesh Bank press release Thursday.



High Commissioner of New Zealand in Bangladesh Nicholas William Bridge (L) called on the President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry ATM Waziullah at the DCCI office Thursday.

Tata Tea adds 29 pc increase to profit

BOMBAY, Nov 18: India's largest tea company, Tata Tea Ltd, yesterday reported a 29 per cent increase in its net profit during the first half of fiscal 1993-94, reports AFP.

Company Chairman Darbari Seth said profits were 350 million rupee in April-September, up from 270 million rupee in the corresponding period of last year.

"This profit is a record high even through heavy taxes to the extent of 89 per cent eroded profits," he said.

The rise in profits was logged on sales increasing from 1.7 billion rupee to 1.9 billion rupee.

Firming up of tea prices said a sharp turnaround in black tea production contributed to the good results, he said, adding: "The year-end outlook is bright."

Local news reports note that Yokohama is the same port that saw the arrival of US battleships with a trade policy mission 140 years ago.

Commanded by American Matthew Perry, the "Black Ships" came to Yokohama in 1853 in a show of force that made the Japanese government end a centuries-old virtual ban on all foreign trade.

Rice shipments are expected to arrive at other ports from China, Taiwan, and the United States later this year, agency officials said.

Rice growers in California said Wednesday that Japan has bought another 52,500 tons (45,000 metric tons) of American rice, said Ralph Newman Jr, chairman of the California Rice Industry Association.

The first half of a 14,700-ton (13,200 metric tons) order, which Newman said will be the first US rice exported to Japan in nearly two decades, is being loaded aboard a cargo ship this week.

Students forced to ration rice portions

AFP from Tokyo adds: University restaurants in Japan are being forced to ration student rice portions due to Japan's worst post-war rice harvest, the Yomiuri daily said Wednesday.

Ghulam Rahman, Executive Vice President and chief coordinator of the training programme and Mohammed Ali, Executive Vice President and Secretary also spoke on the occasion.



M. Majidul Haque, Minister for Agriculture inaugurated a training course on small scale business development for the unemployed agri-graduates at the Business Advisory Services Centre (BASC) in the city Wednesday.

Mixed results at week's tea auction sale

By Staff Correspondent

Mixed results were evinced at this week's tea auction sale held in Chittagong on Tuesday last.

According to a Unity Brokers market report, bolder brokers were substantially easier as export buyers operated at a lower level at the sale.

Russian buyers operated on a much lower levels with most contracts being almost fulfilled.

However, smaller brokers, fannings and dusts were generally firm to dealer. The major buyers at the sale were Russia, Poland, Pakistan and the local traders.

Withdrawals at the sale stood at 26 per cent of the offerings as against last week's 32 per cent.

In the Leaf category a total of 22,209 packages were offered, of which, export buyers accounted for 42 per cent of the sale while internal traders purchased 30 per cent and the rest was withdrawn.

In the Dust category 2,590 packages were offered at the auction sale, of which, the local traders purchased 73 per cent while the export buyers accounted for only 16 per cent

of the sale and the remaining 11 per cent was unsold. Following is the category-wise market performance report as prepared by Unity Brokers:

CTC: All bolder brokers eased by up to Taka 150 per kg. A large quantity remained unsold as sellers were not willing to meet the market.

Smaller brokers and the best types were firm. Selective lines were dearer and sold between Taka 51 and Tk 54 per kg.

Fannings prices opened at around last levels but levels strengthened and rates were mostly dearer. Internal popular lines sold between Taka 53 and Tk 57.40 per kg.

Green tea: 239 packages were on offer and these sold between Taka 54.50 and Taka 59.30 per kg.

Dust: 2,590 packages were on offer. Most prices were fully firm. Popular lines and well made powdery descriptions were substantially dearer.

The next tea auction sale (No 30) will be held in Chittagong on November 23 and total offerings would consist of about 22,000 packages of leaf and another 2,800 packages of dust.



M Haider Chowdhury, Chairman, National Credit and Commerce Bank Limited seen distributing certificates among the participants in the concluding ceremony of the foundation course on 'general banking'. Fariduddin Ahmed, Managing Director of the bank also seen in the picture.

National Savings investment amounts to Tk 797.95 cr

National Savings Directorate has succeeded in organising investment amounting Tk 797.95 crore in the first three months of the current financial year, reports BSS.

The amount is more than 47 per cent of the annual investment target set for the directorate by the government, a press release said.

This was informed at a review meeting of the directorate with Mohammad Abu Taher, director in the chair.

During the review it was stated that in the month of September, Tk 255.38 crore was invested in various projects of the directorate. The amount of investment in September was more than double the previous year's corresponding month's investment of Tk 116.84 crore, the meeting was told.

Foreign rice enters Japan

YOKOHAMA (Japan), Nov 18: The first major shipment of foreign rice to enter Japan in almost a decade arrived from Thailand Thursday and was greeted by a group of protesters shouting "Protect our staple food," reports AP.

The 7,000 tons of rice was the first batch of emergency imports the government says is necessary to make up for a two million ton shortfall caused by this year's bad harvest.

The Tanjung Pinang cargo ship docked in Yokohama, 33 kilometers (20 miles) south-east of Tokyo at 9 am (0000 GMT), after passing a floating demonstration by domestic growers and others adamantly opposed to imports, said a Yokohama port official.

Television coverage of the demonstration showed about 60 demonstrators on two fishing vessels shouting through bullhorns and flying flags with anti-import slogans. They did not interfere with the passage of the Indonesian-owned ship.

The rice will be used as an ingredient in miso, a fermented soybean paste, and rice crackers after the government's Food Agency checks samples for damage and harmful chemicals, said agency officials Mitsunobu Kurata.

Japanese authorities had the rice fumigated in the ship after it was loaded in Thailand.

Japan bans regular imports of rice for table use on grounds of maintaining a secure supply of its staple food, but it has made occasional exceptions. In 1984, the government allowed in 150,000 tons of South Korean rice to make up for a shortage.

Critics note that the de facto ban has protected politically powerful farmers for nearly four decades, and keeps domestic prices at up to five times the world average.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and other officials have repeatedly insisted that present plans to import 200,000 tons of the staple grain by the end of the year,

and another 900,000 tons by the end of March have no implications for market liberalisation.

But anti-import activists see the measure as an erosion of principles behind the virtual import ban.

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Rice shipments are expected to arrive at other ports from China, Taiwan, and the United States later this year, agency officials said.

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Students forced to ration rice portions

AFP from Tokyo adds: University restaurants in Japan are being forced to ration student rice portions due to Japan's worst post-war rice harvest, the Yomiuri daily said Wednesday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপক-২ (নিঃপ্রঃ) সওজ-এর কার্যালয়
ফিডার রোড উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, পেরপুর।
নিলাম দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৪/এফআরআইপি-২, পেরপুর, সন - ১৯৯৩-৯৪ ইং।

সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের নিলাম দরপত্রের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, ফিডার রোড উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, পেরপুর-এর অধীনস্থ ছুঁকি নং-৬বি, পেরপুর-নকলা-ফুলপুর সড়কের নকলা-ফুলপুর অংশ) উপর ও উহার পার্শ্ব বিভিন্ন মৌজায় অবস্থিত সড়ক উন্নয়ন করে হুমুদলককৃত ও সিঁড়িতে বর্ষিত বিভিন্ন প্রকারের গাছপালা/ঘরবাড়ি ইত্যাদি সীলমোহরকৃত নিলাম দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয় করা হইবে। নিলাম দরপত্রাদ্যে কর্তৃক দরপত্র নিজে উল্লেখিত কার্যালয়সমূহ হইতে প্রতি সেট-এর মূল্য ৭৫/- (পঁচাত্তর) (অক্ষয়তমোশা) নগদ মূল্যে আশী ২৯-১১-৯৩ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) জমা করা যাইবে।

১। নিলাম ডাকের ফর্ম তালিকাঃ

ক্রম নং	সড়কের নাম	অবস্থান	নিলামের বিবরণ	সরকারী মূল্য (সেলভেজ মূল্য) টাকা	বায়নার টাকা (সরকারী মূল্যের, ৫ নং কলামের মূল্যের ২% হারে টাকা)	কার্য সম্পাদনের নির্ধারিত সময় (লিখিত আদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে)
১।	পেরপুর-নকলা-ফুলপুর সড়ক (ছুঁকি নং-৬বি)	৩৩,৭৫০ কিঃমিঃ হইতে ৩৩,৮৫০ কিঃমিঃ পর্যন্ত	ঘরবাড়ি ও গাছপালা	৪৯,৩৪০/-	৯৯০/-	২৪ (চব্বিশ) দিন
				৪৯,৩৭০/-		

* উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদন সাপেক্ষে মূল্য কম বেশী হইতে পারে।

২। বায়নার টাকাসহ নিলাম দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে এবং সীলমোহরকৃত নিলাম দরপত্রের খামের উপর নিলাম দরপত্র দাখিলকারীর নাম ও পূর্ণাঙ্গ ঠিকানা স্পষ্টভাবে উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে। প্রত্যয়ীত নিলাম দরপত্রের প্রতি পৃষ্ঠায় দরপত্রাদ্যে কর্তৃক তীহার নাম ও পূর্ণাঙ্গ ঠিকানাসহ স্বাক্ষর করিতে হইবে।

৩। কার্য সম্পাদনের জন্য নির্ধারিত সময় সর্বোচ্চ নিলাম দরপত্রের যথোপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক অনুমোদনের পর নিলামদরপত্রের লিখিত অনুমতি প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে কার্যকরী হইবে।

৪। বায়নার টাকা অবশ্যই সরকারী মূল্যের উপর ২% (শতকরা দুই ভাগ) হারে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিঁড়িউল ব্যাংক হইতে নিলামদরপত্রের অনুলে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট-এর মাধ্যমে নিলাম দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দাখিলকৃত নিলাম দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য করা হইবে।

৫। যে সমস্ত কার্যালয়ে নিলাম দরপত্র ফর্ম পাওয়া যাইবে তাহার নামঃ নিলামদরপত্র কার্যালয়/প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপক-১ (নিঃপ্রঃ) সওজ, ফিডার রোড উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, টাঙ্গাইল/প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপক-৩ (নিঃপ্রঃ) সওজ, ফিডার রোড উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, ময়মনসিংহ/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সওজ), সড়ক বিভাগ, ময়মনসিংহ/জামালপুর, উপবিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী (সওজ), ফিডার রোড উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, পেরপুর/উপবিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক উপবিভাগ, পেরপুর-এর কার্যালয়।

৬। যে সমস্ত কার্যালয়ে নিলাম দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে তাহার নামঃ প্রকল্প পরিচালক (সঃ প্রঃ প্রকৌঃ) সওজ, উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, সড়ক ভবন, রমনা, ঢাকা/প্রকল্প পরিচালক (তঃপ্রঃ) সওজ, ফিডার রোড উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, চাট্রা বিডিং, পটভদ্রাম, ময়মনসিংহ/প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপক-১ (নিঃপ্রঃ) সওজ, ফিডার রোড উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, টাঙ্গাইল/প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপক-৩ (নিঃপ্রঃ) সওজ, ফিডার রোড উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, ময়মনসিংহ/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সওজ), সড়ক বিভাগ, জামালপুর এবং নিলামদরপত্রের কার্যালয়সমূহ।

৭। নিলাম দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ৩০-১১-৯৩ইং দুপুর ১২-৪৫ ঘটিকা।

৮। নিলাম দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ৩০-১১-৯৩ইং দুপুর ১২-৪৫ ঘটিকা।

৯। নিলাম দরপত্র ফর্ম বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখঃ ২৯-১১-৯৩ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।

ফারুক আহমেদ
প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপক-২ (নিঃপ্রঃ) সওজ
ফিডার রোড উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, পেরপুর।
১৫৪৪

NCCBL course on general banking ends

A fortnight long course on 'general banking' organised by National Credit and Commerce Bank Ltd (NCCBL) concluded yesterday at the bank's Training and Research Institute premises.

The participants were awarded with certificates on successful completion of the course by M Haider Chowdhury, Chairman of the Bank.

The function was presided over by Fariduddin Ahmed, Managing Director of the Bank, says a press release.

M Haider Chowdhury, in his speech as chief guest, said that the trainees are the future hopes of the nation. Therefore they should devote themselves to the task of the economic development of the country.

Fariduddin Ahmed, in his speech, urged the trainees to be particular about their duties and responsibilities.

Ghulam Rahman, Executive Vice President and chief coordinator of the training programme and Mohammed Ali, Executive Vice President and Secretary also spoke on the occasion.

APEC leaders in Seattle

Asian support sought for GATT negotiations

SEATTLE (Washington), Nov 18: The United States sought to rally support Wednesday from Asia in breaking the deadlock in global trade talks as ministers from the region arrived here for a conference aimed at forging improved ties, reports AFP.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said ahead of the 15-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that, "no region has more at stake than Asia in the removal of barriers to global trade and investment."

He urged Asian leaders attending the informal APEC summit this weekend to "join us in pushing for a successful conclusion" of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"If the round succeeds, it will open markets and create jobs around the world. If it fails, however, we will all suffer from the punishing effects of rising protectionism," he told a university audience in Washington.

APEC includes the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian nations or ASEAN: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and

Thailand.

President Bill Clinton is hosting an informal summit on Friday and Saturday involving 14 of the 15 APEC members.

Analysts say Washington is closing ranks with Asia through APEC in a bid to force an end to the impasse with the European Community over farm subsidies, with the December 15 deadline for a GATT agreement less than a month.

But while seeking their support on GATT, Christopher called on Asian countries to crack open their protected markets in exchange for continued American security engagement in the region.

"Asia has asked us to remain engaged in the region, and we will do so. But or the American people to appreciate the benefits of such engagement, Asia's markets must be open to our goods and services," he said.

The United States, which maintains air, naval and ground forces in Japan and South Korea, had a deficit of 50 billion dollar with Japan and nearly 20 billion dollar with China in 1992, which he called "unacceptable."

Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Chinese President Jiang Zemin are taking part in the APEC

summit and are expected to hold one-on-one talks with Clinton to discuss world, regional and bilateral issues, including trade disputes.

APEC members collectively account for half of global economic output and 40 per cent of world trade. US trade with APEC partners totals 128 billion dollar, while trade among all the members is about 500 billion dollar.

On the future of APEC Christopher said a recommendation by a panel of experts to launch a free-trade area in the grouping needed further study, and that Washington did not wish to move too quickly.

The proposal had caused some nervousness among Asian countries, particularly the ASEAN, which are fearful of being swallowed up in a new Pan-Pacific Trading Club.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told journalists before bilateral talks with Christopher that "as a long term goal there is no difference on the principle of free trade" but "we might differ on the pace."

Meanwhile, US Commerce Secretary Ron Brown called on Americans Wednesday to embrace market opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region given

the reduced importance of trans-Atlantic trade.

"National security must be defined in terms of economic security," he told a luncheon on Seattle.

US sticks to its China policy

Reuters report says: Warren Christopher said Wednesday that President Clinton would be unable to renew China's most Favoured Nation trade status unless it made "significant progress" on human rights.

Christopher said the administration was "encouraged by Beijing's recent offer to open its prisons to the international red cross."

"We hope that is a harbinger of sustained progress," he said. Clinton this year made renewal of China's Most Favoured Nation trading status in 1994 conditional on improvement in its treatment of dissidents.

AFP says Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen reiterated Beijing's position that it holds sovereignty over Taiwan in talks with Warren Christopher here Wednesday.

Asked by reporters as he went into the meeting if Taiwan's economic development could be an example for China,

Output rises in BCCI enterprises

The Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation enterprises have produced goods worth of Tk 460.03 crore during the first four months of the current financial year from July this year, says a press release.

This is against Tk 435.42 crore during the corresponding period of last year indicating an increase of Tk 24.61 crore.

The six urea fertilizer factories under BCCI: Jamuna Fertilizer Factory, Urea Fertilizer Factory, Ghorasal, Natural Gas Fertilizer Factory, Fenichganj, Polash Urea Fertilizer Factory and Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Factory jointly produced 6,82,560 MT urea during July-October '93 period as against 6,51,553 MT urea during July-October '92 period indicating 31,007 MT more urea production during the current year.

During the current year up to November 13, 1993 Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Factory exported 67,943 MT urea and Jamuna Fertilizer Factory exported 87,567 MT with total foreign exchange earning of Tk 62.20 crore.

Two Paper Mills of BCCI - Karnaphuli Paper Mill and North Bengal Paper Mill produced 14,325 MT paper during July-October '93 period as against 12,658 MT during July-October '92 period.

The lone TSP Complex of the country produced 50,337 MT Triple Superphosphate and Single Superphosphate Fertilizer, while the actual production during the same period of last year was 44,160 MT.

Khulna Hardboard Mill produced 68.14 lakh square feet during the first four months of 1993-94 as against 46.72 lakh sq ft during the same period of last year.

Usmania Glass Sheet Factory produced 46.96 lakh sq ft sheet glass during July-September '93 period as against 40.97 lakh sq ft during the same period of last year.

Bangladesh Insulator and Sanitaryware Factory produced 799 MT Sanitaryware and 322 MT insulator during the July-October '93 period as against 681 MT and 168 MT respectively during the same period of last year.

Lira Industrial Enterprise at Tongi produced 257 MT PVC Pipe during July-October '93 period as against 88 MT during the corresponding period of last year.

Karnaphuli Rayon and Chemical Company produced 269 MT rayon yarn during July-October '93 period as compared to 173 MT during the same period of 1992-93.

New Chairman of BAFEDA

M Ahsanul Haque, Managing Director of Sonali Bank, has assumed charge of the chairman of the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association (BAFEDA), says a press release.

He has taken over charge from M R Khan who has gone abroad with IMF assignment.

Australia's hope

Another report says: Australia is hoping that Asia-Pacific nations will come up with a package of specific measures to liberalise trade at their meeting this week to give added impetus to the Uruguay Round, a top official said yesterday.

"We hope to seize the opportunity to make a major push for the Uruguay Round," Australian Trade Minister Peter Cook told reporters. "We'd like to dispense with the fine phrases and high rhetoric and do some positive thing."

Some US officials are hoping that the 15-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum will agree to a package of tariff cuts this week.