

Nepalese Commerce Secy tells DCCI

Land link thru' India can promote Dhaka-Kathmandu trade

By Staff Correspondent

Bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Nepal would expand further if the land link between the two countries, through India, can be opened and the existing transportation problem is solved.

This was observed by the visiting Nepalese Ministry of Commerce Secretary D P Pandey at a meeting with members of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) at the Chamber Conference Room yesterday (Wednesday).

Presided by DCCI President A T M Wazuliah, the meeting was also attended by Nepalese Commerce Ministry Under-Secretary S M Sreshtha and members of DCCI.

"There are a lot of prospects for expanding bilateral trade between the two countries, but the transportation problem is a bottleneck and if can only be overcome if the transit border points can be opened," Pandey said.

The Nepalese government, he said, has requested the government of India to allow the opening of the border entry points and enable Bangladesh and Nepal to use the road and rail links of only about 46 kilometers.

"We are very keen to divert our export-import trade through Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh has provided us with transit facilities, even for commodities from India," the Nepalese civil servant pointed out. A transit agreement exists between the two nations since 1976.

Nepal imports urea fertilizer and newsprint from Bangladesh. It is importing 45,000

metric tons of urea from Bangladesh this year and is interested to procure as much as 1.5 lakh tons, he said, but transportation problems are posing an effective barrier in that trade.

As for example, he added, Nepal imported 50,000 tons of urea from Bangladesh in 1991, but because of the same problems the consignment had to be diverted through the Calcutta port to ensure timely delivery.

BSFIC asked to submit comprehensive action plan

State Minister for Industries Lutfur Rahman Khan directed the BSFIC authority to immediately prepare and submit a comprehensive action plan on cost-control and cost-minimisation in different managerial and operational areas of each of the 16 sugar mills so that the corporation could reach the breakeven point in near future.

The State Minister was addressing a special meeting of the officials and executives of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation on implementation of plans and policies for restructuring and development of the sugar industry here yesterday, says a press release.

Secretary, Ministry of Industries A H M Abdul Hye, Additional Secretary of the ministry Ataul Karim, Chair-

Nepal is interested to export pulses, vegetable seeds, fruits and other items to Bangladesh, he said. Nepal is a big exporter of pulses and could annually export about 20,000 tons to Bangladesh.

He also expressed an interest to supply boulders from Nepal for the construction of the Jamuna Bridge.

During his visit here the Nepalese Commerce Secretary discussed with his Bangladesh

counterpart and also the railway secretary. "We have discussed about the problems and concurred on the need to make some sort of arrangements to reach the consignments on time and the Bangladesh government is keen to help us through rail transport."

Nepal sought concessional tariff rates from Bangladesh for its pulse exports and also a re-evaluation of the tariff valuation for the product under the SAARC spirit, he pointed out.

Providing a detailed description of the economic and trade liberalisation steps taken by Nepal, Pandey said "We do not have any restrictions rather we welcome your technology, capital and help in developing our economy."

Earlier, during his address the DCCI president urged joint efforts to diversify trade between the two countries and further cooperation between the chamber bodies.

Wazuliah pointed out that the trade flow between the two countries has not developed up to the desired level over the years and even the existing volume of trade is unstable.

Bangladesh exported Taka 7.13 million worth of goods to Nepal and imported Taka 11.65 million worth of goods from Nepal during 1992-93 while the figure stood at Taka 17.9 million and Taka 4.43 million in 1991-92, and Taka 5.64 million and Taka 4.84 million respectively in 1990-91.

Later, the meeting was followed by a lively discussion and a vote of thanks was delivered by DCCI Vice President Jamal Haider.

US sees gloomy prospects of global economy

WASHINGTON, Nov 24: The Clinton administration issued a report Wednesday with a gloomy picture of global economic prospects and called on Japan and Germany to do more to end their current slump, reports AP.

The report by the Treasury Department said the United States, Canada and Britain were in firmly established recovery but that prospects in Japan and continental Europe remained discouraging.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said the report underscored the urgent need for Germany and other nations in Europe to cut interest rates further and for Japan to fulfill pledges it made six months ago at the economic summit in Tokyo.

Bentsen called on all countries to meet a December 15 deadline for world trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. He said agreement would provide a critical boost to global growth by opening new markets and encouraging trade.

Good demand leads tea prices to remain firm

By Staff Correspondent

Good demand led most tea prices to remain firm at this week's auction sale held in Chittagong on Tuesday last.

According to a Unity Brokers market report, prices for most varieties of tea were sustained at around last levels following a good export and internal demand at this sale.

However, there were some withdrawals in the leaf section where sellers were unwilling to meet the market. Dust was the strongest feature of the sale due to the active participation of the internal loose tea buyers and the packeters.

Major export buyers at the sale were Russia, Poland, Jordan and Pakistan.

Withdrawals at the sale stood at 27 per cent of the offerings as against last week's 26 per cent.

In the leaf category, a total of 22,782 packages were offered at the sale. Of which, the export buyers purchased 49 per cent while the local traders accounted for 22 per cent of the sale and the remaining 29 per cent was withdrawn.

In the dust category, 2,671 packages were offered at the

auction, of which, the internal buyers brought 72 per cent while the export buyers purchased 10 per cent and the rest 18 per cent remained unsold.

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

CTC: Bold brokers met good demand and sold at around last prices. Smaller types were an irregular market and were firm to occasionally easier by upto paisa 0.50 and selective internal lines sold at between Taka 51.00 and Taka 55.00 per kg.

GREEN TEA: 200 packages were offered and these met with a good general demand. FYH sold at Taka 56, and Taka 57.50. YH's sold at Taka 56 and 59.50 and Hyson sold at Taka 58.30 per kg.

DUST: 2,671 packages on offer met strong demand at mostly dearer rates. Clean powdery types often inclined by taka one and two per kg the next tea auction sale would be held in Chittagong on November 23 and total offerings would consist of about 21,000 packages of leaf and another 3,000 packages of dust.

Inspection of Indian airbus fleet begins

NEW DELHI, Nov 24: India's two national carriers, Air India and Indian Airlines, started checking their airbus fleet Tuesday following the forced landing of an Indian Airlines airbus last week, reports AFP.

The inspection of the 10 airbus A300 planes belonging to Indian airlines, one of the world's largest regional airlines, and the three airbus A300 B4S of Air India would be completed in two days, the news agency quoted officials as saying in Bombay.

The enquiry was ordered by the civil aviation head H S Khosla, after an Indian Airlines craft made an emergency landing in a ricefield near the southern city of Thirupathi after the plane's flaps malfunctioned.

All 247 passengers and crew escaped unhurt but senior pilot captain RP Bhalla was grounded while a probe was carried out.

Bhalla said a "freak phenomenon" had caused the crash. "Everything went wrong when the flaps in an extended landing configuration got stuck and did not retract," he said.

Govt fails to firm up spending in public investment

By Inam Ahmed

The domestic resource mobilisation of the government, so far, seems to be on the right track with target achieved almost to the mark.

However, despite this encouraging resource mobilisation, government has failed, as yet, to firm up its spending in

public investment. According to sources, the internal revenue collection for July-October period of this fiscal year turned out to be Taka 2626.02 crore. The amount was more than 99 per cent of the target.

This year's collection for the period was Tk 72 crore higher than last year's amount for the same period.

But on the project spending side, the implementation rate, like the previous year, is still trailing much behind the target.

Sources said, some of the ministries have not been able to use more than 60 per cent of the target.

The scenery matches with the Finance Minister's latest remark at a press briefing that there has been no shortage of counterpart money in project implementation.

Collection in customs duty, the biggest source of revenue income, surpassed its target by 4.5 per cent and stood at Tk 963.74 crore during July-October period. The amount was Tk 856.90 crore on the corresponding period last year.

This increased collection was mainly due to the gradual increase in imports and productions," said a source in the Finance Ministry.

Value Added Tax (VAT) collection from imports, however, dropped by about Tk 19 crore from the target and stood at Tk 523.66 crore. It was even Tk 47 crore less than last year's collection for the same time.

But VAT collection from the local production drastically fell short of the target by about Tk 103 crore to Tk 286.77 crore. Last year's collection for the same period was Tk 253 crore.

"Pillages of VAT in the local production still occur," a source in the National Board of Revenue said. "The NBR's manpower and logistics are not still strong enough to cope with the situation."

There was a huge leap in supplementary duty collection. It surpassed the target by Tk 90 crore to Tk 389 crore. Last year's collection was Tk 263 crore.

The excise duty collection was Tk 36.19 crore against the target of Tk 46 crore.

Supplementary duty collection increased to Tk 26.30 crore from the target of Tk 6.55 crore. Despite such ups and downs in the revenue sub-sectors, the income tax collection remained almost stable at Tk 361 crore.

Seoul may allow 20,000 illegal foreign workers

SEOUL, Nov 24: South Korea, concerned about acute labour shortages in factories, will consider allowing some 20,000 migrant foreign workers to be hired legally next year, government officials said Monday, reports AP.

All foreigners illegally working in South Korea have been ordered to report and leave by a December 15 deadline, triggering complaints from small businesses that rely on illegal aliens to keep down labour costs.

Labour Ministry officials said some foreigners would be allowed to stay on, but others would be ordered out.

Public resentment against illegal workers has grown in South Korea, with many blaming them for increasing crime and rising overall unemployment.

Government officials estimate more than 58,000 foreigners — mostly from China, the Philippines and other less developed Asian nations — are working in South Korea with tourist visas.

About 5,000 foreigners are employed officially as technical trainees, and the number would be increased to 20,000 next year, Labour Minister Rhee In-je said last week.

New OPEC President

VIENNA, Nov 24: Qatar Oil Minister Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah was named President Tuesday of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) until the next ordinary conference, a source close to the organisation said, reports AFP.

The Qatar minister, who was OPEC Vice-President, succeeds Jean Ping, the Gabonese minister.

Libyan Oil Minister Abdalla Salem El-Badri was named Vice-President, the source said.

US provides refugees in ex-Y' slavia with \$ 30 m

WASHINGTON, Nov 24: The United States has provided 30 million dollar to help refugees in former Yugoslavia, especially in Bosnia-Herzegovina, face the hardships of winter, the State Department announced, reports AFP.

"With the onset of winter... there is an urgent need to provide support to the programmes of the international agencies and non-government organisations working in the former Yugoslavia," spokesman Michael McCurry said in a statement issued Monday.



D P Pandey (1st-L), Secretary, Nepalese Ministry of Commerce, addressing a meeting of DCCI members at the Chamber's conference room yesterday. Also seen in the picture are DCCI President ATM Wazuliah (M) and Nepalese Ministry of Commerce Under-Secretary SM Sreshtha. — Star photo

5 pc Pak govt jobs for women

ISLAMABAD, Nov 24: Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto ordered government departments on Tuesday to reserve five per cent of government jobs for women, reports Reuters.

"The Prime Minister... directed that in future five per cent of government jobs be reserved for women," the statement said.

At present there is no job quota for women, who are poorly represented in the civil service despite pledges by successive governments to give special consideration to women seeking employment in competition with male candidates.

On Monday, Bhutto's month-old cabinet called for the creation of a separate women's police force to guard against frequently-alleged police violence against women.

US House okays \$ 1b to make jobless payment

WASHINGTON, Nov 24: Ending weeks of delay, the House of Representatives sent President Clinton a bill Tuesday to provide jobless Americans more unemployment payments, reports Reuters.

The House gave the bill Congress's final approval 320-105. Clinton has promised to sign it into law.

The one billion dollar measure provides 13 weeks of extra benefits to the long-term unemployed in states with the highest unemployment and seven weeks of extra benefits in other states.

Most likely, only Alaska, California, West Virginia and Puerto Rico will qualify for the 13-week programme.

The programme will permit anyone to receive emergency

benefits starting as late as February 5, with the final benefits expiring in the spring.

The Clinton administration has said the about 250,000 workers a month use up their benefits, meaning the programme is expected to help more than one million workers.

One of the problems that delayed passage of the bill was its financing provisions.

In the final version, the measure is financed in part by a programme requiring states to identify jobless workers who are unlikely to be able to get their jobs back.

Special resources, paid for by funds that have already been appropriated by the federal government for job development, will be used to help those people find jobs.



Sajid Hossain (M), President, Bangladesh Computer Society, addressing a press conference on the occasion of BCS Computer Show '93 at Hotel Purbani in the city yesterday. Moin Khan (left) and Mostafa Jabbar also seen. — Star photo

BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিলায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রপতির প্রতীক

The Managing Director, Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd, Tarakandi, Sarishabari, Jamalpur hereby invites sealed tender on C&F (C), Chittagong basis under any suitable financial source in two envelope system for importation of 1500 kgs POTASSIUM NITRATE against Tender Enquiry No JFCL/FP/AMMONIA/1.09/35 dated 17.11.93. The tenders will be received up to 11.00 AM on 05.01.94 and be opened on the same day thereafter. Tender documents containing detailed terms and conditions will be available on payment of Tk 300/- (Three hundred) in cash (non-refundable) from the office of the (i) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and (iii) Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd on all working days. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of tender.

BCIC 1153-20/11 DFP (BA) 10575-21/11 G-1622

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয় কর অফিস-৩, ঢাকা

দরপত্র আহবানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-৩সি-১৮/৯৩-৯৪ তারিখঃ ০৬-০৮-১৯০০ বা/ ২০-১১-১৯৯৩ ইং কর কমিশনার, কর অফিস-৩, ঢাকার অফিসের জন্য একটি নতুন সর্বশেষ মডেলের জীপ সরবরাহের জন্য এমোটো, মিটসুবিশি, ইসুজু, ডাইহ্যাটসু, নিশান, সুজুকী প্রস্তুতকারী কোম্পানীর স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত বালাদেশী একক এজেন্ট এর নিকট হইতে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র আদায়ী ০২-১২-৯৩ ইং তারিখে সকাল ১০ঃ৩০ ঘটিকার সময় নিম্নাঙ্ককারীর কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাজে জমা দিতে হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১১ঃ০০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের সামনে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন দরপত্র খোলা হইবে।

দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শ্রেণিসংক্রমণ/শর্তাবলী নিম্নরূপঃ

- ১। ১৬০০-৪০০০ সিসি গ্যাসোলিন (পেট্রোল) চালিত জাপানী কোম্পানী কর্তৃক প্রস্তুতকৃত।
২। ৫-৯ আসন বিশিষ্ট ৪ (চার) চাকার চালিকাশক্তি সম্পন্ন ও ৪-৬ সিলিন্ডার বিশিষ্ট ইঞ্জিন।
৩। দরপত্রের সহিত মোট মূল্যের ৩% হারে আনুমানি যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হইতে ফেরৎযোগ্য ব্যাংক ডাফট/পে-অর্ডার নিম্নাঙ্ককারীর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হইবে।
৪। দরপত্রদাতাকে রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও বীমা খরচসহ দর প্রস্তাব করিতে হইবে।
৫। জীপ গাড়ীর সহিত একটি অতিরিক্ত চাকা ও টুল কিটসহ বিক্রয়োত্তর সেবার ১ (এক) বৎসরের নিশ্চয়তা দিতে হইবে।
৬। কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ৭ দিনের মধ্যে গাড়ী সরবরাহ করিতে হইবে অন্যথায় কার্যাদেশ বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।
৭। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করিতে পারিবেন।

মোঃ আবুল হোসেন মিয়া উপ-কর কমিশনার সদর (প্রশাসন) ও সদস্য সচিব বিভাগীয় চেম্বার কমিটি কর অফিস-৩, ঢাকা। DFP (G) 19336-21/11 G-1620

Tender Inviting Notice

- 1. Tender No. 2 of 1993-94
2. Name of Work
3. Estimated cost
4. Earnest money
5. Time allowed
6. Eligibility of Contractor
7. Name of office where tender documents will be available
8. Name of Officer receiving the tender
9. Last date of selling of tender
10. Date of receiving tender
11. Date of opening the tender

Liaquat-Al-Faruque Executive Engineer Cox's Bazar O&M Division WDB, Cox's Bazar PANI-218/93-94 DFP (G) 19290-21/11 G-1619