

KIB hails govt
to provide funds
for agricultural
development

Krishibid Institution of Bangladesh (KIB) Saturday hailed the government decision to provide funds to the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors and incentives for livestock development for three years, reports UNB.

In a press statement, KIB President Dr M Ayubur Rahman and Secretary General Javed Iqbal also thanked the government for its decision to allow private sector import of medicines and inputs for livestock and poultry on soft terms.

They urged the government to grant soft loan of two lakh taka to the jobless agri-graduates against their certificates to set up agricultural, livestock and poultry farms and nursery.

Some 2,000 agri-graduates are now unemployed in the country, they said.

China, S'pore jt
venture to build
industrial park

BEIJING, Feb 27: China and Singapore have agreed to develop a high-tech industrial park in Suzhou, East China, the People's Daily said today, reports Reuters.

The deal was signed on Saturday by Vice-Premier Li Yang and Singapore senior minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Under the agreement, both sides will help Suzhou city government and a Singapore consortium to form a joint venture to develop the industrial park, the newspaper said.

The area for the first phase of development is eight square KM (three square miles) aimed at what the paper called high-tech and service industries. It did not give details.

No sale of gold
from Russia
this year

MOSCOW, Feb 27: Russia has sold no gold on world markets so far this year and its central bank is not authorised to do so independently without approval from President Boris Yeltsin and government, a senior gold industry official said.

"So far this year, there were no sales of gold from Russia," Yuri Kotlyar, deputy head in charge of gold at the State Precious Metals Committee, told Reuters.

"Besides, the central bank has no authority to sell gold independently on external markets."

Central Bank Chairman Viktor Geraschenko helped to push world gold prices lower this week when he said that Russia might be compelled to sell gold to finance its soaring budget deficit.

But yesterday Russia had no plans to destabilise world markets by selling large amounts of gold, a move he said would weaken its own position as an exporter.

Kotlyar dismissed Geraschenko's remarks. If the central bank wishes to sell gold, it's necessary that its wish coincides with the wish of the head of the government and the president.

Russia wants to be
GATT member
this year

KORNBERG, Germany, Feb 27: Russia wants to become a member of the world trade body GATT this year and create a free-trade zone with the European Union by the end of the decade, a senior European official said on Saturday, reports Reuters.

European Commission Vice-President Henning Christophersen said Russian officials expressed these views at a meeting of Group of Seven Finance Ministers and central bank governors at Kronberg near Frankfurt.

"They would like to participate in GATT," he told journalists. "They would like to join up by the end of the year."

Members of the "General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) pledge to provide mutual trade benefits to all participants, a condition that kept Moscow out of the Geneva-based group when it was the capital of a communist state with a centrally planned economy.

Total quality control can help
boost export potentials: Experts

Experts at a seminar here yesterday emphasised the need for appropriate human resources development in the area of Total Quality Control (TQC) for rapid industrialisation and boosting export potentials for any country, particularly the developing one, reports BSS.

"For a country like Bangladesh it has no option but to go for TQC to enter the international competitive market for its industrial products," the local and foreign experts told the seminar on "total quality control for small and medium-scale industries."

They said promotion of industrial quality control was the main factor for continued survival in today's global open market competition.

The one day seminar was organised by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) in cooperation with the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) of Japan, Bangladesh AOTS Alumni Society (BASS), the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers & Commerce and Industries (FBCCI).

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Dr M Shahjahan, president of IEB and Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and

Technology (BUET) as the chief guest. Katsumi Hara, Jetro representative in Bangladesh and Moynul Hasan, President of BAAS also spoke. Dr A K M Moazzin Hussain, AOTS representative in Bangladesh later on behalf of the organisers, presented souvenirs to the chief guest and the Japanese experts.

Sixty persons including managing directors, general managers, production managers and engineers engaged in the production and management of small and medium-scale industries participated in the seminar, held in the IEB auditorium.

Moriji Miyata, president of Miyata Hi-Meq Ltd and an expert of TQC conducted the technical session of the seminar.

Miyata, who is also the winner of the Japan top quality control medal of "deming prize" will conduct another seminar in Chittagong on March 1 where about fifty participants will take part.

Dr M Shahjahan, in his speech, said total quality control concept, first developed and spread in Japan, was now recognised in other countries across the world including the USA for its usefulness in contributing to the improvement of quality products.

In open market economy, he said, we had to be always very careful about TQC to sell our products even in Japan in 1950s and 60s TQC was not strictly maintained, he said.

Dr Shahjahan hoped that the conduct of the technical session by the Japanese resource person with vast experience would be beneficial for the participants and they would apply practically the acquired knowledge on TQC in their respective industrial units.

The IEB president also cited some of the problems of the local enterprises including fund constraints and dependence on import-based raw materials.

Katsumi Hara, in his welcome address, said Jetro had been promoting balanced and harmonious foreign trade and investing in multilateral projects for more than thirty years with all the countries, especially the developing ones.

Jetro has also been making strenuous efforts to promote the transfer of technology and investment from Japan, this TQC seminar, he said, could also be cited as one of the activities of Jetro, a non-profit organisation, to transfer the Japanese technology to a developing country like Bangladesh.

Hara said Jetro Dhaka would invite three experts on different fields from Japan and send two trainees from Bangladesh to Japan during the next financial year.

He hoped that the participants would be highly benefited from this seminar conducted by Miyata who had been in several overseas countries to conduct such seminars. The expert, in the technical session, specially dealt with quality, cost, delivery and service which he said, were the main criteria to penetrate into world market.

Hara also mentioned the joint Jetro overseas investment (cooperation) scheme and said, it promotes the industrialisation and economic development of targeted countries through the promotion of direct investment and technology transfer from Japan. Since its establishment in 1986, this scheme also includes Bangladesh, he said.

Moynul Hasan said Bangladesh was now gradually coming up in the industrial sector, particularly in small and medium-scale industries.

This seminar, he hoped, would be of great interest and generate enthusiasm among the participant in respect of TQC.

Portugal gives
\$34m assistance
to Angola in '93

LUANDA, Feb 27: Portugal in 1993 poured a total of 34 million US dollars into Angola, to build cooperation projects with Angolan enterprises, the Angola National News Agency reported, says Xinhua.

The report quoted Portuguese Secretary of State for Cooperation Brisoa E. Galea as saying recently his country remained in the forefront of assistance to Angola and other Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa.

In an interview with a Portuguese newspaper, Galea said some non-governmental Portuguese groups had launched a donation campaign dubbed "Africa miga" (Africa friends) for the war victims in Angola and Mozambique.



Dr Khondker Mosharrat Hussain, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, speaking at a high level meeting on progress-implementation of annual development programme under the ministry at petrocentre in the city yesterday. Energy Secretary M Faizur Razzak was also present.

Borrowing on world capital markets
increases by 33 pc in '93

PARIS, Feb 27: Borrowing on world capital markets soared by one-third to a record 811 billion dollars last year, with a rush of securities issues by Asian and Latin American countries boosting developing nations' market funding to an all-time high of 84 billion dollars, the OECD said today, reports AFP.

Overall borrowing rose by 33 per cent from 610 billion

dollars in 1992, marking the sharpest year-on-year increase since 1986, and activity is likely to remain brisk in the period ahead, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said.

The spectacular expansion stemmed from a 150 billion dollar rise in borrowing by OECD countries and vigorous recourse to the markets by dynamic Asian economies and

Latin American countries led by Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, according to an OECD survey of financial market trends, published three times a year.

Almost all market compartments showed strong growth in 1993, with new net borrowing, after redemption of securities and refinancing of bank loans, reaching an estimated 340 billion dollars

against around 240 billion a year earlier.

Bond markets, which have taken a beating in the past month, led the field with gross issue at an all-time record of 481 billion dollars, an increase of 147 billion over the 1992 level.

The survey reported sharp advances in Floating-Rate Notes (FRN) and equity-linked bonds.

Beach sand heavy mineral resource of Bangladesh

By Dr. Badrul Imam

face. Average concentration of heavy minerals in the placer sand bodies is 20 per cent. Because of dark colour of the heavy minerals, these deposits tend to stand out in blackish tone within a light grey-yellow background of the normal coastal sand masses.

The grain size of the heavy mineral sand particles are fine to very fine. The total reserve of the eight valuable and economic heavy minerals (ilmenite, Zircon, Rutile, Garnet, Magnetite, Leucoxene, Kyanite and Monazite) in all the 17 deposits so far discovered has been estimated to be 1.762 million tons. The monetary value of this reserve as per present price is estimated at about 1300 crore taka.

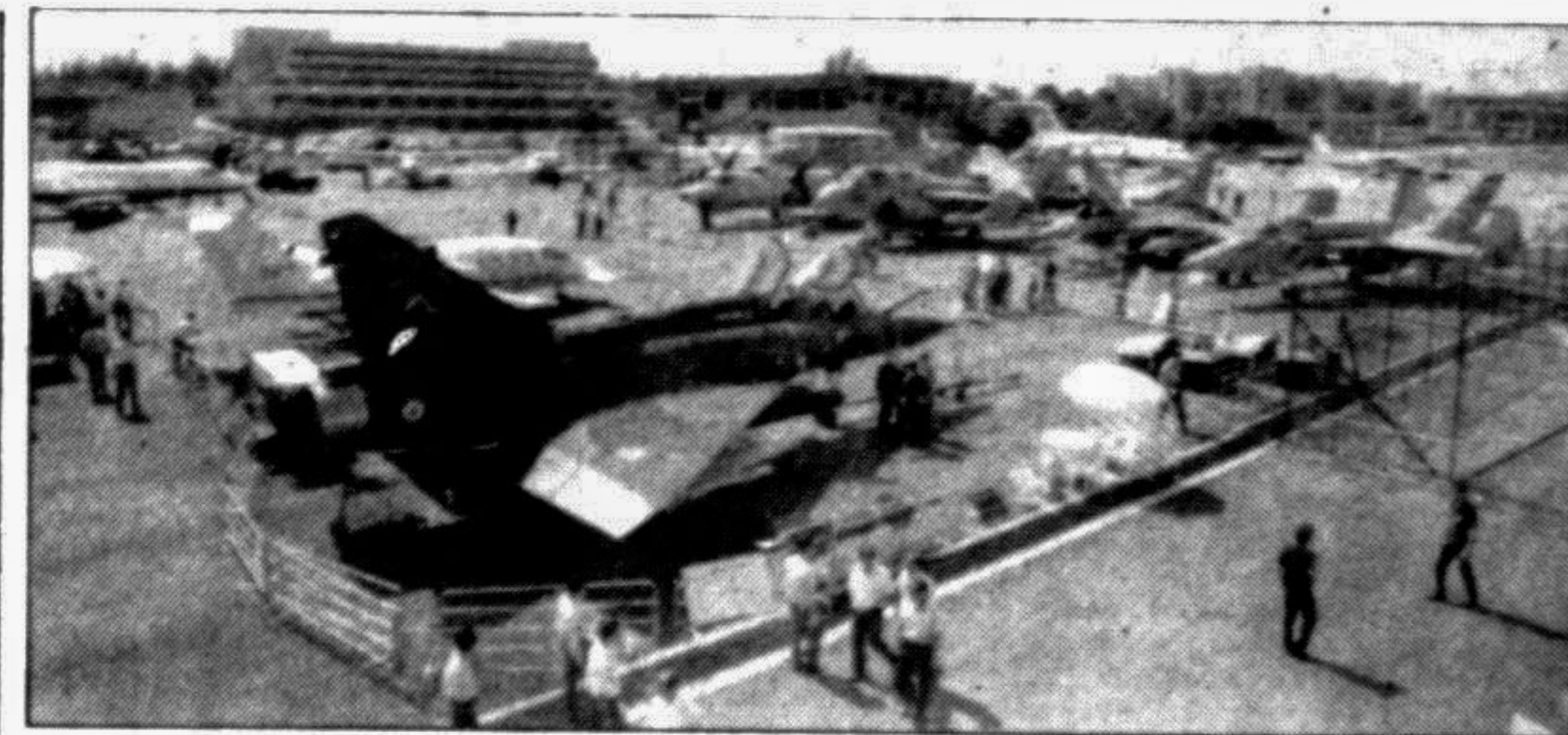
Valuable Heavy Minerals	Quantity (in thousand tons)
Ilmenite	1,025
Garnet	223
Zircon	158
Leucoxene	97
Kyanite	91
Magnetite	81
Rutile	70
Monazite	17
Total valuable minerals	1,762

The four biggest reserves of the heavy minerals are located in Cox's Bazar, Silkhali, Moheshkhali Island (seven individual heavy sand deposits

are located in Moheshkhali Island) and Teknaf coast. The most abundant mineral in the placer sand deposits is ilmenite - an iron titanium oxide mineral. The total amount of ilmenite present in the discovered deposits is about 1025,000 tons of which

243,000 tons are in Moheshkhali Island, 161,000 tons in Cox's Bazar, 173,000 tons in Silkhali and 163,000 tons in Teknaf. Ilmenite is an important metallic mineral valued as a source of titanium, as raw material in paint industry, leather processing industry, manufacturing radiation protection shield and manufacturing welding electrodes. The present requirements of ilmenite could be met by the exploitation of the available reserve in the beach sands.

Two other most valuable minerals Zircon and Rutile have reserves of 158,000 tons and 70,000 tons respectively. Zircon is used in ceramic industry, in producing electrical insulators, in foundry facing works and as source of zirconium which is used in nuclear reactor. About 100 tons of zircon is reportedly needed annually in Mirpur Ceramic Industry and Bangladesh Insulator and Sanitary ware factory. Rutile, used in paper mill, in pigment industry, in welding rod coating, is also valuable as a source of titanium metal.



SINGAPORE: Visitors walk past a French Mirage 2000 jet fighter (C) recently displayed at the Asian Aerospace '94, the largest aerospace show in Asia, with 935 companies from 37 countries participating.

BADC to distribute Aus
seeds among farmers

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has undertaken an extensive programme for distribution of Aus seeds among the farmers and dealers throughout the country during summer season, says a press release.

Locally produced high yielding varieties of 500 metric tons certified Aus seeds will be distributed under this programme.

The quantities and the varieties of Aus seeds are 4 M Tons of BR-1, 18 M Tons of BR-3, 430 M Tons of BR-14, 8 M Tons BR-21, 7 M tons of BR-24, 23 M Tons of BR-26

and 10 M Tons of Hashi Kolmi.

The seeds are produced in the BADC's Seed Multiplication Farms as well as by the contract growers of BADC under direct supervision of seed experts. Those seeds are scientifically processed and stored in BADC's Seed Processing Centres.

The Aus seeds are being sold directly to the farmers at fixed price from the BADC's Thana Sale Centres "on first come first serve basis" and also to the dealers at a fixed commission from the BADC's Regional Sale Centres.

Taiwan to comply
with IMF forex
requirements

TAEPEI, Feb 27: Taiwan will comply with foreign exchange requirements of the International Monetary Fund as part of its bid to enter the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, a senior government official said Saturday, reports AP.

Vice Economics Minister Hsu Ke-sheng said Taiwan will agree to comply with IMF's requirements after the United States presents details of a special agreement concerning government control on foreign exchange rates it wants Taiwan to sign.

Land revenue collection falls

State Minister for Land Mohammad Kabir Hossain told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that collection of land revenue from July 1 to December 1993 in the current fiscal year stood at Taka 23.73 crore, reports BSS.

Replying to a question by Khan Tipu Sultan (AL), the minister said collection of land revenue during this period is Taka 3.92 crore less than the revenue collected during the same period of 1992-93 financial year.

He informed the House in reply to a supplementary question that the government had not only exempted land revenue on 25 bighas of holdings but also exempted other local taxes on them. He said the government would take measures if there was any specific case of irregularity in this regard.

The State Minister for Land, replying to a question by Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury (JP) said the government had taken in hand 144 ideal village schemes in 77 thanas of 36 districts in 1993-94 financial year.

Replying to a supplementary question, he said the ideal village scheme taken up by the government were welfare-oriented while the cluster village programme of the previous government was solely publicity based. He said the schemes were being taken on the basis of availability of khas lands in different parts of the country.

Mohammad Kabir Hossain, in reply to a question by Kazi Keramat Ali (AL), said out of

the total 2376 acres of arable khas land in Rajbari district, 1883.77 acres had been leased out to 3005 landless peasant families.

1,05,478.97 acres of Khas land in Khulna Div

State Minister for Land Mo-

US budget deficit runs lower than last year

WASHINGTON, Feb 27: In the first four months of the current fiscal year, the US government budget deficit was running 15 per cent lower than during the same period a year earlier, reports USIS.

The Treasury Department announced February 23 that the deficit for October-January was 76,442 million dollar, compared with 90,648 million dollar in the first four months of the preceding fiscal year. Accounting for most of the change were decreases in Social Security, health care and defence spending.

The government ran a surplus in January 1994 of 15,613 million dollars as a result of quarterly tax payments on the revenue side and a shift into December of Social Security payments on the spending side.

The Clinton administration predicts that in fiscal year (FY) 1994, ending September 30, 1994 the government will have a deficit of 165,130 million dollars down from its earlier estimate of 258,748 million dollar.

hammad Kabir Hossain yesterday said that there was 1,05,478.97 acres khas land in Khulna division.

Replying to a question of Jamaat-e-Islami member Gazi Nazrul Islam at the Jatiya Sangsad, the state minister gave the district-wise breakup of khas land: in Khulna 17570.35 acres, Bagherhat 4316.21, Satkhira 25392.52, Narail 5981.62, Magura 4519.36, Jhenidah 3324.08, Chuadanga 6628.54, Meherpur 3863.14, Jessore 13480.06 and Kushtia 20403.09 acres.

Kabir Hossain, however, said that information regarding illegal occupation of khas land could not be collected.

BPC motels' expenditure higher than income

Expenditures in running the eight motels of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) were Taka 62.29 lakh higher than income during last fiscal year (1992-93).

Replying to a question of Atif Hossain Gollandaz (AL), the State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan said that the income from eight BPC motels was Taka 184.06 lakh against expenditures of Taka 246.35 lakh in 1992-93 financial year.

The state minister said that in 1991-92 the income was Taka 183.43 lakh while expenditures were Taka 246.35 lakh.

The BPC motels were situated at Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Bogra, and Rangpur.

US policy against
shipping toxic
waste to other
states likely

WASHINGTON, Feb 27: A new U.S. policy against shipping toxic waste to other countries will be announced next week, Congressman Rep. Bill Richardson said Friday, reports AP.

"I am confident that the Clinton administration will shortly announce a policy consistent with the provisions of the Towns bill," he told a news conference.

Richardson was referring to legislation proposed by fellow Congressman Ed Towns that would ban dangerous waste exports to the Third World in six months and to industrial countries in five years.

Richardson said the new policy should put the administration on record for an immediate ban on shipping waste anywhere except Mexico, Canada or the 24 industrial countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

(The author is a professor of the Department of Geology, Dhaka University.)