

NBP to open branch in city

By Staff Correspondent

The National Bank of Pakistan will open a branch in Bangladesh on June 1 this year.

This will be the 9th foreign bank to operate in the country. Azizuddin, General Manager of the bank and also the country representative here, yesterday told The Daily Star that all preparations have been taken to launch the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) here.

The bank had its existence in Bangladesh prior to independence in 1971. After the war, the then Bangladesh government took over all its assets and liabilities and converted it into the Sonali Bank, which has been the biggest in the country.

Azizuddin said the NBP, a state-owned enterprise, will initially have only one branch at 79, Motiheel and another branch may later be opened, either in Chittagong or in Khulna.

The bank will start its operations with a capital base of Tk 100 million.

"We will be in the market with an open mind and there is no set target for the first year," he said. "The first year will be a testing year and we will then go for a chunk of the market."

The bank will have around 20 to 25 local staff and another two to three from its land of origin.

"I am confident of doing good business here," Azizuddin said when asked about the prospects of yet another new bank when the existing ones are troubled with excess liquidity and where at least four foreign banks are in keen competition.

"We will be strong in correspondent banking because we have 26 branches globally, which is a plus point for us," he maintained.

"We had our existence here before and we have vast experience of working in the South Asian countries. This scope will be an added advantage for our operations. The people might have a soft corner for us," Azizuddin said expressing his optimism.

"Bangladesh offers a good market for banks, especially after the opening up of the economy," he observed. "This is the reason why we have decided to operate here commercially."

Arab League to lift boycott of S Africa

CAIRO, Mar 28: The 22 Arab League states decided here Sunday to lift their political and economic boycott of South Africa ahead of that country's first all-race elections next month, reports AFP.

A resolution passed by the league gave approval to Arab countries to deal with their South African counterparts and backed the consolidation of Arab-African relations.

The boycott has been increasingly ignored by a number of Arab states since apartheid laws were scrapped in June 1991.

Three-day G-15 meet begins in Delhi

Rao urges North to uphold rule of law in int'l trade

NEW DELHI, Mar 28: Fifteen developing countries Monday called for a dialogue with rich nations for greater access to technology and markets, but criticized what they saw as their moves to dominate world trading rules, reports AP.

Opening a meeting attended by six chiefs of state and top officials from nine other countries, Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao asked the world's rich nations to "uphold the rule of law in international trade."

Rao said he feared that trade barriers to be removed under the worldwide agreement of GATT will be replaced by new regulations against poorer countries "in the guise of non-economic concerns."

He was referring to threats by industrial countries to block exports from countries like India and Pakistan where child labour is common, and their use of human rights issues as a factor in their trade policies.

The Group of 15, or G-15, nations from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, are meeting for three days in New Delhi for their fourth summit, at a time when the group's relevance is being questioned.

The G-15 was formed by the Non-Aligned Movement to foster economic cooperation among the poorer nations and speak with one voice at world forums.

G-15 countries have joined regional trade blocs.

The summit was postponed from December because only four heads of government could attend, a further indication of its low priority on their agendas.

Monday's inaugural was attended by President Suharto of Indonesia, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, President Sani Abacha of Nigeria, and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed of Malaysia. Argentina's President Carlos Menem is expected to join later.

Suharto said he had proposed a dialogue with the rich countries grouped as the G-7 when they held their

summit in Tokyo last July. "Though the response was favourable," no talks have opened so far.

"The one-fifth of the world's population which lives in the developed countries controls four-fifths of the world's resources," Suharto said.

The G-15 will be dealing with issues like Western quotas for Third World textile exports, technology transfers and keeping open the markets of richer nations, despite the widening of the European Union and the creation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Delegates also suggested that a revamping of the G-15's functioning was in order to make it more efficient.

India expected to buy 66 Hawks

NEW DELHI, Mar 28: India is expected to buy 940 million pounds worth of British aerospace Hawk, advanced trainer jet aircraft, within weeks, sources close to the Indian defense ministry said here today, reports Xinhua.

The financial aspects are settled and British Prime Minister John Major has been pressed for an early decision, the sources said.

India is expected to sign a contract for 66 Hawks. Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao had discussed the deal with the British leader when he visited Britain earlier this month.

US, Japanese firms discussing cable TV network

TOKYO, Mar 28: Two Japanese and two US companies are discussing plans to join in setting up a cable television network in Japan that could provide multimedia services, one of the Japanese companies said Monday, reports AP.

An official at the major trading house Itochu said the discussions also include Japanese electronics maker Toshiba Corp and US West, a regional telephone company. It would be the first such cable TV venture between Japanese and US companies.

The discussions follow a series of tie-ups or mergers between cable and telephone companies in the United States and Europe aimed at building networks for multimedia, which combines video with the information-processing power of computers.

The Japanese network would be expected to provide such services as allowing viewers to request any available video programme at any time.

The four companies are discussing building about 10 cable TV stations throughout Japan to reach some two million viewers, said the Itochu official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

China, Japan to go for oil resources in PNG

TOKYO, Mar 28: Two mainland Chinese companies and a Japanese corporation will jointly develop oil resources in Papua New Guinea, a daily newspaper said here Sunday, reports AFP.

Papua New Guinea's minerals, energy and science department has given China Natural Petroleum Corp (CNPC), China International Trust Investment Corp (CITIC) and Japan's Marubeni Corp the right to develop an inland oil field near Daru facing the Gulf of Papua, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

Test drilling will start before the end of the year at the 500-square-kilometer (200-square mile) field with commercial basis production scheduled to begin in two to three years, the newspaper said.

The concession is valid for six years.

The daily said that 100 million dollars would be invested for test drilling and one billion dollars for commercial-basis production.

A CNPC survey showed the oil field, west of Port Moresby, to be promising, the newspaper said.

It will be the first time China, whose oil production matches Iran's will embark on such a large-scale oil development project, Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

US, EU pressurise Greece to lift ban on Macedonia

IOANNINA, Greece, Mar 28: Special US and EU envoys will pressure Greece today to back down and lift a crippling trade embargo on the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, reports Reuters.

"Criticism has been expressed against the Greek sanctions. Now, of course, the question is what consequences follow," EU Commissioner for External Affairs Hans Van Den Broek said at the end of an EU foreign ministers' meeting on Sunday.

The ministers met for two days in the heart of the Balkans, about 60 km (36 miles) from the Albanian border, and found time to visit Byzantine Monasteries and Gaza at former mosques in an area which joined Greece after the 1912-13 Balkan wars.

But diplomatic sources said the ministers had no sympathy for Greece in its two-year row with Macedonia, its Balkan neighbour, and Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias was

subjected to a barrage of severe criticism.

Van Den Broek will go straight to Athens from Ioannina to meet Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and express the indignation of Greece's 11 EU partners over the imposition of the Greek trade embargo on February 16.

"Van Den Broek wants to make sure Papandreu understands the deep anger of Greece's partners over the embargo," said one diplomatic source at the foreign ministers' meeting.

Van Den Broek emphasised that Greece's partners would try to help to solve the dispute which has badly destabilised the southern Balkans but Athens must first lift its embargo.

"We believe that Athens should take the first step and that means removing its embargo," said EU President Jacques Delors, noting that the EU Commission judged the embargo illegal.

Vietnam restructuring state-run industries

HO CHI MINH CITY, Mar 28: Vietnam is undertaking a gradual but fundamental restructuring of state-owned enterprises and the bureaucracy that controls them, seeking to complete its transition to a market economy, reports AP.

Thousands of small, financially troubled state owned companies are being combined into larger industrial groups. At the same time, the government is trimming and shifting its oversight.

Government ministries will no longer be directly involved in business planning, says Tran Quan Ngoc, a top official at the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment. That will be left to company managers.

Consolidations, privatizations and failures have slashed the number of state-owned enterprises to about 4,000 from 6,000 at the start of the year and 15,000 several years ago.

said Nguyen Ngoc Phuc, the committee's vice-director of project evaluation. The government's full withdrawal from active management of companies is expected to take another two years.

There are good reasons for a gradual transition. The experience of Russia and other formerly Communist countries show that a sudden switch from an economy controlled by government planners to one guided by market forces can lead to soaring unemployment and plunging industrial production. Just two years ago, the state-owned sector produced 60 per cent of Vietnam's national income.

Vietnam appears poised to become yet another Asian success story. Annual economic growth has averaged seven per cent in the past three years, while inflation has been tamed to single digits.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth No.	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Sils	C.Peat	Sing	Royal	12/3	3/4
J/2	Rattana Naree	Wheat(P)	Sing	Seacom	14/3	29/3
J/3	Jens Munk	GI	Sing	MBL	27/3	1/4
J/4	Kritika Naree	Canola	Vanc	Royal	21/3	31/3
J/5	Feng Ming	Cement	Qing	OTL	17/3	30/3
J/6	Ji Lin	GI	K. Zing	Prog	24/3	4/4
J/7	Banglar Shobha	Idle	Pena	HSC	18/3	30/3
J/8	Amanecida (E/L)	E/L	Mong	OWSL	25/3	29/3
J/9	Jiang Cheng	GI	Sing	BDShip	21/3	28/3
J/10	Dolores	GI	Idle	Seacom	R/A	30/3
J/11	Salem Nine	SSP	SSP	MSA	R/A	30/3
J/12	Tanary Star	Cement	Tuti	USTC	20/2	28/3
J/13	Zang San	Cement	Tuti	Delmure	9/3	31/3
MPB/1	Eponymia	Cont	Sing	CTS	26/3	30/3
OCJ	Arcadia-1	C.Chink	Visa	CSL	13/3	28/3
CSJ	Myohyang-2	Cement	Sing	PSAL	3/3	1/4
ISP	Kalasti	R.Phos	Sing	RISA	23/3	2/4
RM/4	Lamka	MOP(P)	Nilo	Cosmo	13/3	7/4
RM/5	Mauro D'Alesto	HSD	Sing	MSPL	26/3	28/3
DOJ	Academic	SSP	Sing	QCSL	27/12	1/4
DD	Banglar Asha	Repair	ISC	R/A	5/4	
DDJ/2	Loyal Bird	Repair	Mong	Seacom	15/11	30/3
RM/9	Banglar Urm	Repair	COL	ISC	5/3	2/3
CURJ	IOKASTI	Idle	Tutu	Lamund	1/1	30/3

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Setya Pratama	28/3	Sing	MTL	Logs	Sing
Fong Yun/16/3	29/3	Sing	EdShip	Cont	Sing
Astro Jyoti	29/3	Sing	EdShip	Cont	Sing
(Roro) 26/2	29/3	Yang	EdShip	Vehicles	Sing
Petr Starostin	29/3	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
(Cont) 19/3	29/3	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Imke Wehr	29/3	Sing	Aut	Cont	Sing
Banglar Robi	30/3	Mong	ISC	Cont	Sing
Vishva Kundlian	4/4	Sing	SSL	GI	Sing
Pavina-1	1/4	Sing	PSAL	Cement	Sing
Black Whale	30/3	Sing	Prog	GI	Sing
Ultima 19/3	31/3	Mong	RSA	Cont	Sing
Infinity 23/3	1/4	Sing	FSI	Cont	Sing
Banglar Mou	1/4	Sing	ISC	Cont	Sing
23/03	1/4	Sing	EBPL	Steel Cargo	Sing
Baltimar Jupiter	1/4	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Yanbuurko	1/4	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Chandidas	2/4	Cal	SSL	GI/GL	UK Cont.
Banglar Kallol	2/4	Sing	ISC	GI	Sing
Fong Shin 24/3	2/4	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Safina-c-Ismail-2	2/4	Sing	Prog	GI/GL	Karachi
Samudra Raj	4/4	Sing	SSL	GI	Sing
Kota Buana 27/3	4/4	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Andrian	27/3	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Goncharov 27/3	6/4	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Kamaleverett	7/4	Sing	EBPL	GI	Japa. FE
Sound Royal	7/4	Sing	BBA	GI	Sing
San Pablo (Roro)	24/03	18/4	JF	Vehicles	Sing

TANKER DUE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Global Juno	28/3	Belw	TSL	CFO
Assistina	30/3	Belw	BSL	C Oil

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Al Reza (E/L)	E/L	Mong	BSL	27/03

VESSELS NOT READY

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Sea Master-M	Cement	Chin	PSAL	18/03

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Banglar Shourabh			ISC	R/A(23/3)
Banglar Jyoti			ISC	R/A(26/3)
Sokolniki	HSFO	Huan	H&H	R/A(27/3)

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 29-03-94

OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIPPING
J/2 Rattana Naree	J/1 Astro Jyoti	RM/4 Lamda to J/2
J/8 Amanecida	MPB/1 Petr Starostin	J/11 Salem Nine to J/2/8
RM/4 Lamda	MPB/2 Imke Wehr	MPB/2 Khanak to J/9
J/1 Sils	J/13/11 Fong Yun	
	RM/4 Global Juno	
	NB Sea Master	

The above were the Monday's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Summit Level Group for South Asia Cooperation and Development (SACD)



Six leaders of the Group of 15 (G15) developing nations pose at the opening of a three-day summit in New Delhi Monday. From left to right are: Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, Indonesian President Suharto, Indian PM PV Narasimha Rao, Senegal President Abdou Diouf and Nigerian President Sani Abacha.

— AFP photo

Yen, ringgit, Filipino peso, S'pore dollar rise against Greenback over the week

HONG KONG, Mar 28: Tension on the Korean peninsula was upper most in the minds of investors, with several Asian currencies gaining ground against the Greenback, but volatility underscored trade, reports AFP.

JAPANESE YEN: The Japanese currency gained ground to close the week at 105.17 yen to the dollar on the Tokyo foreign exchange market, up 0.91 yen from the 106.08 yen finish a week earlier.

After opening at 105.92 yen on Tuesday following a public holiday, the Japanese currency lost steam over the next two days due to the sale of yen for dollars by investors concerned about the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Korean tension increased after the International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) decided to refer North Korea's nuclear issue to the UN Security Council.

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR: The Australian dollar closed only slightly lower against the US dollar after being swayed by other currencies during the week, finishing at 70.96 US cents from the previous level of 71.03 US cents.

"The Australian dollar was buffeted by swings in the US dollar to yen and deutschmark exchange rates over the past week," said a report by Schroders Australia, but underlying support "remains robust."

On the reserve bank of Australia's trade weighted index, which measures a basket of major currencies, the Australian dollar closed at 53.0 points from 53.3 previously.

HONG KONG DOLLAR: The Hong Kong dollar was largely unchanged, closing the week at 7.245 to the US dollar from 7.285 previously.

The effective exchange rate index was 125.5, compared with 125.8.

INDONESIAN RUPIAH: The Indonesian currency closed the week's trading at 2,141 rupiah, steady on the previously week.

PHILIPPINE PESO: The Philippine Peso made a slight gain to 27.565 against the US dollar from the previous week's 27.590.

MALAYSIAN RINGGIT: The ringgit ended the week slightly higher against the US dollar at 2.7100 from 2.7195 previously.

Dealers said the ringgit, which held steady due to strong commercial demand, could have gone even higher if not for central Bank Negara's support for the Greenback at the later part of the week.

NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR: The New Zealand dollar ended the week in volatile mode, closing at 56.70 US cents against the previous week's 57.25 cents.

At the end of the week it had dropped further but firmed on news North Korea had moved on to military alert.

The US, Australian and New Zealand dollars were stronger, benefitting from their safe haven status," a dealer said.

SINGAPORE DOLLAR: The Singapore dollar strengthened to close the week at 1.5805 against the US dollar Friday from 1.5840 the previous week.

The local unit traded to a low of 1.5872 Tuesday and a high of 1.5786 Friday as the US dollar came under selling pressure against most major currencies.

SOUTH KOREAN WON: The won weakened against the Greenback, gaining 2.2 won, and stood at 809.00 Saturday as compared to 806.80 previously.

TAIWAN DOLLAR: The Taiwan currency declined slightly to close at 26.413 to the US dollar in heavy trading, down 2.8 Taiwan cents from the previous week's finish of 26.385.

THAI BAHT: The official mid-rate was quoted at week's end at 25.28 baht to the US dollar, compared with the previous week's 25.31 baht to the dollar.

The Greenback fell against the baht partly because investors were worried that the whitewater affair might tarnish President Bill Clinton.



The third Annual General Meeting of Beximco Synthetics Ltd was held at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. Seen in the picture are A S F Rahman, Chairman, Salman F Rahman, Deputy Chairman and other directors of Beximco Synthetics Ltd and a partial view of the shareholders.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নিবাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, জনস্বাস্থ্য প্রকৌশল
ভাভার বিভাগ, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।

পুনঃ দরপত্র আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

একমুদ্রা ১৯৯০-৯১ ইং অর্থ বৎসরে বিভিন্ন প্রকারের জন্য দরপত্র বিক্রির ও শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক বিভিন্ন প্রকার মালামাল সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে পুনঃপ্রতিদান প্রকৌশল/প্রকৌশল/সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হইতে বাংলাদেশ সরকার নং ২৯০৮ এ পৃথক সীলমোহরকৃত আবেদন দাখিল করা যাইবে। দরপত্রের বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী, স্পেসিফিকেশন বিল অব কোয়ালিটিস বাংলাদেশ সরকার নং ২৯০৮ এবং অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় নথিপত্রসমূহ নির্ধারিত প্রকৌশলী, জনস্বাস্থ্য প্রকৌশল, ভাভার বিভাগ, ঢাকা/চট্টগ্রাম/খুলনা/নাটোর এর কার্যালয়ে হইতে আবেদন ২/৪/৯৪ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নির্ধারিত মূল্যে (অক্রেডিয়েন্স) করা করা যাইবে। দরপত্রসমূহ নির্ধারিত প্রকৌশলী, জনস্বাস্থ্য প্রকৌশল, ভাভার বিভাগ, ঢাকা/চট্টগ্রাম/খুলনা/নাটোর এর কার্যালয়ে সন্নিবিষ্ট দরপত্র বাকসে আগামী ৩/৪/৯৪ ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২-০০ টা পর্যন্ত একযোগে পুষ্টি হইবে এবং ৪/৪/৯৪ ইং তারিখ সকাল ১০-০০ ঘটিকায়ে তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, জনস্বাস্থ্য প্রকৌশল, ভাভার সার্কেল, ১৯০, আগারবাগ, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয়ে সন্নিবিষ্ট নির্ধারিত প্রকৌশলী, দরপত্রদাতা অথবা তাহাদের মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে যেনি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন। দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হইবে।

কার্য বিবরণী

ক্রমিক নং	মালামালের পরিমাণ/প্রাকল্পিত মূল্য	বাকসের টাকার	দরপত্রের সহিত দেয় মালামালের পরিমাণের	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	প্রিকাঙ্গের শ্রেণী	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা
১।	১৯৯০-৯১ ইং অর্থ বৎসরে সমগ্র দেশে গ্রামীণ পানি সরবরাহ উন্নয়ন বিশেষ প্রকল্পের (২০ কোটি টাকার) -৩ এর অধীন ৩৬ মিঃ মিঃ ব্যাসের জি. আই. পাইপ সরবরাহ।</					