

DHAKA THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1994

Vietnam to ban import of 2nd-hand consumer goods

HANOI, Mar 30: Vietnam will ban imports of second-hand consumer goods to protect the environment and people's health, a trade ministry official said yesterday. Vietnam did not want "to be a garbage can for used consumer goods," the ministry official told Reuters. He said the ministry had decided to ban imports of used goods including clothes, vehicles of fewer than 12 seats, motorbikes and electronic items starting April 1. Used clothing, imported mostly from other Asian countries or by Western aid agencies, had caused skin diseases, he said. The second-hand cars tended to have a short life by the time they reached Vietnam, making the country almost as much a dumping ground as a market. Vietnam already bans imports of cigarettes, fireworks, right-hand drive cars, pornography, drugs, weapons.

Top Japanese business leaders call on PM and express interest

TOKYO, Mar 30: Leaders of top business houses and members of the Japanese business community today met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, showing interest in opportunities created for investment in Bangladesh, reports BSS. The leaders of Japanese manufacturing and business houses called on the Prime Minister separately and in groups at the Royal Akasaka Palace, where she is staying, and also at the Tokyo Kaikan, where she inaugurated the seventh meeting of the Japan-Bangladesh Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation. The Prime Minister explained the sweeping reforms underway in Bangladesh commensurate with its recently adopted free market economic policy and called upon the Japanese investors to go for investment in the country in suitable sectors. Several Japanese groups as well as associations of industries and business houses said that they would encourage their members to go for investment in Bangladesh. Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Prime Minister's special envoy M Morshed Khan were present when the Japanese groups called on the Premier. Among those who called

were the chairman of the Mitsubishi Corporation, chairman, Taichi Corporation, the Obayashi Corporation chief, a delegation of the Japan Frozen Food Association led by its acting president Yamada, the chairman of Chiyodo Corporation, a delegation of the Japanese federation of construction companies led by its chairman, Sotomi. A delegation of the Chemical Association of Japan led by the president of the Mitsui Corporation Sawamura, the president of Jaida S Yufu, president of Toyota Engineering I Arita, president of Nichimen Tanaka, a delegation of the Japanese leather and leather goods industries association led by its president Eiji Haruta and the president of KAFCO also called Begum Zia. The president of Jaida said that they were going in Bangladesh in a big way. He said Jaida's investment in Bangladesh in the joint collaboration framework in a composite textile mills totalled 52 million dollars. He, however, said that the project though outside the EPZ area deserved EPZ facilities. He said it would be the largest textile mills under joint collaboration in the whole of South Asia. He said that under the recent policy changes in Bangladesh the project qualified for the Export Processing Zone facilities as a hundred per cent export-oriented composite textiles project. Haruta of the Japanese Association of Leather and Leather Goods Industries said Japanese leather goods industries welcome relocating in Bangladesh as export from Bangladesh was more convenient.

EU's trade deficit shrivels

BRUSSELS, Mar 30: The European Union's trade deficit with the rest of the world shrivelled in the first nine months of last year as exports surged and imports shrank, the European Commission's statistics office said yesterday, reports Reuter. Eurostat said the deficit plunged 70 per cent to just 14.2 billion European currency units (ECU) (16.3 billion US dollars) over the period from 47.1 billion ECUs (54.2 billion US dollars) in the first nine months of 1992. "Total EU exports to the rest of the world rose by 8.3 per cent between these two nine-month periods while imports fell by 1.8 per cent," it said. "This led to the deficit falling from 47.1 billion ECUs to 14.2 billion" it said, adding that all EU members except Greece notched up a mainly export-led improvement in their trade.

24-member trade team leaves for Japan Apr 9

A group of 24-member leading entrepreneurs will leave here for Tokyo April 9 on a two-week visit under a Japanese government's entrepreneurial development promotion programme for the developing countries, reports BSS. The Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) under the Japanese ministry of international trade and industry has sponsored the programme in cooperation with Bangladesh AOTS Alumni Society (BAAS) and Chattergram AOTS Alumni Society (CAAS). The group, headed by Maj Gen (Retd) K M Abdul Wahed, Chairman of Khan Apparels Limited, will attend the entrepreneurial programme from April 11 to 22 aimed at acquainting the Bangladeshi industrialists with the latest Japanese technology, quality control concept, manufacturing system and management planning. The programme also includes visits to a good number of successful model of small and medium scale industries in Tokyo and other important cities. The AOTS organised a function at its Dhaka office yesterday in honour of the participants which was addressed, among others, by Katsumi Hara, Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) representative in Bangladesh, Moynul Hasan, BASS president and Chairman of the selection committee and Dr AKM Moazzem Hussain, AOTS representative in Bangladesh and member secretary of the selection committee. Katsumi Hara, speaking on the occasion, said backed by government's import promotion policy JETRO has set up import promotion centres in six major cities.

Manila, Hanoi may barter goods soon

HANOI, Mar 30: The Philippines could soon start importing Vietnamese rice in exchange for fertiliser as a way of boosting the declining trade between the two countries, an official accompanying President Fidel Ramos said here Tuesday, reports AFP. The two sides have signed a protocol to expand trade and bartering of goods following several years of decline in trade, which sank to just 47.9 million US dollars last year. Members of a business delegation travelling with Ramos are to sign six agreements Wednesday in Ho Chi Minh City on trade worth 120 million dollars a year and the establishment of several joint ventures. The two sides may also begin a swap next year of rice for fertiliser.

German economics minister to visit India

BONN, Mar 30: German Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt will visit India April 5-8 and will sign a bilateral agreement on investment guarantees, his ministry announced here yesterday, reports AFP. Rexrodt, to be accompanied by a delegation with a score of members, will chair the first session of the German-Indian economic commission, together with Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh.



Mujibul Haq (M) Chairman of Bangladesh Tobacco Company addressing a press conference at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday. Seen from (L to R): RA Majumder, Corporate Affairs Director, Raymond Accorda, Managing Director, G Mainuddin, Leaf Director, K H Sattar, Marketing Manager and head of finance Alastair Young. — Star photo

BTC shows upbeat trend

By Staff Correspondent

For the Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC), the depression of the 1991 seems to be over and the years of consolidation of business have come ushering in new investments and entrance into the international market. All the indicators of the company's health show upbeat trends and the company directors and the chairman looked with new optimism at its post annual general meeting (AGM) press conference as the BTC is about to undergo a massive modernisation programme that would improve its production capacity. The gross turnover of BTC reached a record Taka 8878 million in 1993 and after de-

ducting Tk 6476 million excise, supplementary duty and VAT, the net turn over stands at Tk 2402 million. In 1991, the company suffered a loss before taxation of Tk 17 million but in 1993, BTC earned a profit of Tk 467 million before taxation and its profit figure after, taxation stands at Tk 299 million. All these exciting figures boiled down to one underlying meaning for the shareholders that they would be getting more dividends. The amount of dividend also rose from a low of only Tk 30 million in 1990 to Tk 220 million in 1993. For individual share holders, this meant a Tk 5.50 dividend on each share with a face value of Tk 10 each, or a 55 per cent dividend.

The shareholders' funds in BTC increased from Tk 918 million in 1989 to Tk 1024 million in 1993 and the return on shareholders' funds also shot up from 18.14 per cent in 1992 to 29.20 per cent. Return on net assets also perked up from 24.14 per cent in 1992 to 32.81 per cent in 1993. Despite this encouraging performance, BTC's sale witnessed a drop by eight per cent mostly in the lower and middle brands. However, the increased earning came from the international brands. The government should reduce excise on cigarettes.

Russia won't be a 'rubbish dump' for inferior imports

MOSCOW, Mar 30: The Russian government will revise certain recent import duty increases but will not permit Russia to become a "rubbish dump" for low-quality products, Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin said yesterday, reports AFP. Speaking after a meeting with US Commerce Secretary Ron Brown on the second day of Brown's official visit to Russia, Chernomyrdin said the revisions would primarily affect contracts agreed prior to the increase, according to the Itar-Tass news agency. Since March 15 import taxes on dairy products have gone up by 15 per cent, while taxes on some cars have gone up as much as 46 per cent. Many local politicians and businessmen in Russia had criticised the rises. Chernomyrdin said the government did not want to "harm relations between Russian companies and their foreign partners." But Chernomyrdin expressed concern at the number of low-quality products finding their way into the Russian market which daily cause incidents of poisoning.

Dateline Sirajganj—part II

Grameen Bank facing problem in running handloom project

By Sohail Manzoor

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 30: Despite its strong institutional base, the Grameen Bank has been facing severe problem in running its handloom project due to the lack of policy decision by the government to salvage the sector. The Grameen Bank, one of the leading NGOs of the country, initiated the project in the area in 1992 with a view to utilising the potentials of the sector by providing technical and financial supports to the weavers. The bank brought some 1876 handloom units under its control and provided the weavers with necessary inputs and expertise for producing quality products. It has also been marketing the products at home and abroad by purchasing those from the weavers. The local garment industries are still using the imported fabrics for producing the ready-made garments in their factories although fabrics of similar quality are being produced in the handloom units under its project. At present the popularly known "Madras check" of India is being used in the local garment factories although the Grameen Bank has its "Grameen check" of similar quality and almost similar price in the local market. There are also allegations that entrepreneurs of some garment factories are importing more than their required fabrics from abroad and selling those in the local market illegally at a very low price. Some officials of the Grameen Bank said the government should take immediate measures to check such unfair trade to salvage the handloom units. The government should also allow duty-free import of yarn for the handloom units to bring down the production cost, they observed. The officials said the Indian fabric is low priced because the textile units of the country have the advantage of purchasing yarn at a very low price from the local cotton industries. The government can also encourage setting up of cotton mills here by introducing special credit programme to help reduce the production cost of the local textile industries and the handloom units, they added. The officials informed that out of a total of 1867 handloom units brought under the Grameen Bank project, only 150 units are in operation at present. These units are not capable of utilising full strength for producing quality fabrics, on account of receiving specific orders from the buyers. They informed that the bank has at present 84 designs of fabrics, of which only 16 designs are being utilised. The local officials of the bank often have to face agitation by the weavers for providing work and reactivating all the units being controlled by the bank. The government is so reluctant towards the sector that a Services and Facilities Centre of the Handloom Board in Shernagar of the Sirajganj district has been lying idle for about three years. The centre, which was set up in 1991 at a cost of Taka 5 crore, is supposed to provide financial, technical and marketing assistance to the handloom units of the densely weaver-populated area. The main reason, for the delay in starting the operation of the centre as stated by one of the total three staff, is the lack of fund. The other reasons mentioned by the official include delay in handing over the project by the contractor and delay in setting up two more machines — the pressure dyeing machine and the drier.

Notice Inviting Tender

1. Tender Notice No.	19/1993-94
2. Name of work	Emergency repair and maintenance of flood embankment at different location under Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project (FAP-8B) during the year 1993-94. Total Group-23.
3. Estimated cost	(a) Maximum Tk. 4,17,945/- (Taka four lacs seventeen thousand nine hundred fortyfive) only. (b) Minimum Tk. 1,25,398/- (Taka one lac twenty five thousand three hundred ninetyeight) only.
4. Cost of tender document	Tk. 400/-
5. Available of tender document at (up to 5-4-94 & 6-4-94 during banking hours)	The tender documents with schedule, terms & conditions will be available at: a) Janata Bank, WAPDA Branch, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. b) Sonali Bank, WAPDA Branch, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. c) Sonali Bank, Ramna Branch (Secc), Dhaka.
6. Eligibility of contractor	C & 'D' Class contractors of BWDB.
7. Earnest money	a) Tk. 2% (two and half per cent). b) Tk. 1% (one per cent) fixed deposit holder.
8. Receiving & opening date of tender	Receiving on 5-4-94, 6-4-94 during office hours and up to 12-00 hours on 7-4-94. Opening on 7-4-94 at 12-30 hours.
9. Where tender document will be received	a) In the office of the Superintending Engineer, Dhaka O&M Circle, WDB, 156/157, Motijheel C/A, Rupali Sadan, 3rd floor, Dhaka. b) In the office of the undersigned. c) In the office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka O&M Division-II, BWDB, 54, Motijheel C/A, Elite House, 6th floor, Dhaka.
10. Address of advertiser	Executive Engineer, Dhaka O&M Division-II, WDB, 156/157, Motijheel C/A, Rupali Sadan, 3rd floor Dhaka.
11. Other information	All information will be available in the office of the advertiser.

PANI-540/93-94
DPF(G) 5653-23/3
G-622

Executive Engineer
Dhaka O&M Division-II
WDB, Dhaka.

ADB okays \$48b capital hike

MANILA, Mar 30: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) board approved today a 100 per cent general capital increase, to nearly 48 billion dollars, to meet the financial needs of a booming region containing most of the world's poor, reports AFP. The ADB board of directors' approval of the capital hike, with a paid-up portion of two per cent, marked the end of a dispute between the United States and Japan over future operations of the Manila-based lending institution. ADB President Mitsuo Sato said he was "pleased and encouraged" by the board's action, which came five weeks before the 54-member bank's governors gather for an annual meeting in the French resort city of Nice in early May. The governors — finance minister and member country central bank chiefs — still have to discuss and approve the increase, but this is largely a formality. Sato said the increase would give the bank "adequate financial capacity to respond to the growing and varied needs of the Asian and Pacific region." The ADB's membership now stretches from the South Pacific Islands to Central Asian Republics which once belonged to the Soviet Union. Led by powerhouse China, developing members of the ADB posted a collective growth rate of about seven per cent in 1993 — more than four times the world figure — and are forecast to continue setting the pace for years to come. But more than 800 million Asians are still submerged in poverty in the region, mostly in populous China and South Asia. The bank's main donors, Japan and the United States, had clashed over the proposed capital hike at the last ADB annual meeting in Manila in May 1993, with Tokyo and borrowing members arguing strongly for a 100 per cent increase. Washington, hampered by domestic budgetary problems and supported by European donors, had demanded an inquiry into how the bank's money had been spent in the past. The two chief donors each hold 13.3 per cent of voting power in the ADB, with Japan traditionally given the bank presidency. The other key donors are Britain, Canada, France and Germany. In an apparent concession to US concern about wasted resources, the bank has hunched "spring cleaning" to reorganize staff and weed out bad projects, conceding it had granted too many loans because of an "approval culture." The unions shut down all of Nigeria's 18 fuel reserve depots Tuesday to block plans to privatize management of the depots. Their statement said workers would resist any move to lease the depots to private oil companies.

American consumer confidence in economy hits four-year high

NEW YORK, Mar 30: American consumer confidence in the economy hit a four-year high in March, a sign that the United States is headed for a "reasonably vigorous economic expansion," the Conference Board said Tuesday, reports AP. The business research group said consumers expressed more positive views about the present, but seven more upbeat expectations about coming months, in a widely followed monthly survey of consumer sentiment. Economists noted the numbers had risen despite publicity about the Whitewater affair that has dogged the Clinton administration. The allegations of Clinton impropriety in pre-presidential land dealings, which have unsettled financial markets, evidently aren't playing a role in how consumers are behaving. But economists who follow the Conference Board data said rising interest rates and a fading stock market could blunt consumer confidence.

Salman F Rahman re-elected Aushadh Shilpa Samity President

The Annual General Meeting of the Bangladesh Aushadh Shilpa Samity was held at the office of the samity on Wednesday, says a press release. The following were unanimously elected to the Executive Committee for '94-95 period. Salman F Rahman President, S H Chowdhury Vice President, Miah Abdulla Wazed Vice President, Dr Momenul Haq Secretary General, S M Shofiquzzaman Treasurer. Members are: Mizanur Rahman Sinha, Aminul Islam Lasker, Abdur Rouf Khan, Shaif Ahmed Chowdhury, A G M Shamsul Kamal, Nazibuddin Ahmed, B H Chowdhury, M A Karim, and Masud Malik.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর

ঢাকা গণপূর্ত বিভাগ নং-৪, ঢাকা

দরপত্র আহবানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-৩৭৪/১৯৯৩-৯৪

১। এতদ্বারা নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য গণপূর্ত অধিদপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত বিশেষ ১ম শ্রেণী ও ১ম শ্রেণীর ইমারত ঠিকাদার/ফার্ম এবং গণপূর্ত অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা জোন, ঢাকার তালিকাভুক্ত ২য় শ্রেণীর ইমারত ঠিকাদার/ফার্ম, ঢাকা গণপূর্ত সার্কেল-১, ঢাকা এর ৩য় শ্রেণী ইমারত ঠিকাদার/ফার্ম এবং অত্র বিভাগের ৪র্থ শ্রেণী ইমারত ঠিকাদার/ফার্ম এর নিকট হইতে ২৯১১ নং ফরমে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে যাহা নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী এবং নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, ঢাকা গণপূর্ত বিভাগ নং-৩, ইডেন ভবন, গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, মেডিক্যাল কলেজ গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, ঢাকা কর্তৃক ৬/৪/৯৩ ইং তারিখের বেলা ১২.০০ টা পর্যন্ত গৃহীত হইবে এবং এদিনই বেলা ১২.১৫ মিনিটে ঠিকাদারগণের উপস্থিতিতে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী ও সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী কর্তৃক খোলা হইবে। প্রত্যেক সীলমোহরকৃত টেন্ডার কভারের উপর কাজের নাম লিখিতে হইবে। যে সমস্ত ঠিকাদার/ফার্মের জাট নিবেদন সার্টিফিকেট নাই তাহাদের নিকট দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

২। কাজের নাম ও ঢাকা জিলাপাড়া মালীবাগ সমাজ কেন্দ্রের সীমানা প্রাচীর পুনঃ নির্মাণ কাজ। আর্থিক কবর ১৯৯৩-৯৪ ইং।

৩। প্রাকল্পিত ব্যয় ৪ টাকা ১,৮৯,৪৪৬/-

৪। জামানতের টাকা ৪ টাকা ৩৭১১/-

৫। কার্যাদেশ দেওয়ার তারিখ হইতে কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময়সীমা ৪ ৬০ (ষাট) দিন।

৬। ক্রমিক নং-৪ এ বর্ণিত জামানতের টাকা নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, ঢাকা গণপূর্ত বিভাগ নং-৪, ঢাকা এর ব্যবহারে প্রতিষ্ঠান সঞ্চয়পত্র/বোনাস সঞ্চয়পত্র/পাঁচ কবর মেয়াদী বাংলাদেশ সঞ্চয়পত্র/সেভেনি সঞ্চয়পত্র/নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস ও নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, ঢাকা গণপূর্ত বিভাগ নং-৩, ইডেন ভবন গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, মেডিক্যাল কলেজ গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, ঢাকা হইতে ক্রয় করা যাইবে। টেন্ডার খোলার নির্ধারিত তারিখে কোন টেন্ডার ফরম বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

৭। কাজের আইটেমের তালিকা বিদ্যমান বিবরণী ইত্যাদির টেন্ডার ফরম সেবিয়া নেওয়া যাইতে পারে এবং প্রস্তুত মূল্য (অফার/মোটা) প্রদান করিয়া ৫/৪/৯৩ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত বাংলাদেশ সরকার/বোনাস সঞ্চয়পত্র/নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস ও নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, ঢাকা গণপূর্ত বিভাগ নং-৩, ইডেন ভবন গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, মেডিক্যাল কলেজ গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, ঢাকা হইতে ক্রয় করা যাইবে। টেন্ডার খোলার নির্ধারিত তারিখে কোন টেন্ডার ফরম বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

৮। নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী কোন কারণ দর্শনাতে বাস্তবিকভাবে যে কোন টেন্ডার বা সকল টেন্ডার গ্রহণ বা বাস্তবিক করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ তোহাফুল হোসেন
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
ঢাকা গণপূর্ত বিভাগ নং-৪, ঢাকা

বিজ্ঞপ্তি (নি) ৫১০৫-১৬/৩
৩-৩১