

India for quick implementation of SAPTA

NEW DELHI, May 19: South Asian nations were urged Wednesday by regional giant India to bury mutual mistrust and quickly put in place a free trade arrangement to galvanise commercial ties, reports AFP.

Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee said South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA), dismantling business barriers and reducing tariffs between regional neighbours, was an "urgent need for all of us."

Cooperation (SAARC) stand the risk of their voice being muffled in the post-GATT world. Mukherjee told a conference on regional trade.

South Asia should form a common front and help fight off such "unacceptable" protectionism, he said. He hoped that a July meeting in Islamabad to thrash out irritants blocking SAPTA would be successful.

hope would materialise by the end of 1995. SAARC members are now exchanging lists of products for tariff concessions in the first round of trade negotiations.



The asking price of this bull at city's Naya Bazar cattle market for Eid-ul-Azha was Tk one lakh 25 thousand yesterday.

Tk 40 cr Australian assistance for BARI

Australia will provide technical assistance worth 1.8 million Australian dollars (equivalent to Tk 40 crore and 58 lakh) for wheat improvement project of Wheat Research Centre of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institutes (BARI), reports BSS.

Sugar price rises in Pabna

PABNA, May 19: Price of sugar shot up by Tk 10 per kg in the town in last three days due to an artificial crisis, reports UNB.

Deadline for China's MFN approaches US lawmakers take opposing views

WASHINGTON, May 19: Lawmakers took opposing views on what to do about China as a deadline approached on what could be the administration's most crucial foreign policy decision yet, reports AP.

ident could renew "China's favoured trade status. Clinton has until June 3 to decide whether to extend China's most-favoured-nation trade status, which gives it the low tariffs enjoyed by almost all other US trading partners.

former ambassador to Japan. Asked about the mission, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry would only say, "There have been many aspects of quiet diplomacy that we have been pursuing."

Merrill visits Proshika projects

American Ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merrill Wednesday said that active participation of local beneficiaries in the uplift programmes was indispensable for attaining sustainable development, reports BSS.

Tk 3 lakh loan given for welfare of weavers

The 31st parliamentary standing committee meeting of the Ministry of Textiles was held at Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday with State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan in the chair, reports UNB.

creasing production of mulberry sapling, silk yarn and silk fabrics and cocoon production. The meeting was attended, among others, by the members of the committee, Sahidullah Khan Serajul Islam, Abdul Ali Mridha of BNP, Shahjahan Seraj of JSD and A M Riasat Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami and high officials of the ministry.

US wants concrete trade accord with Japan

WASHINGTON, May 19: The United States wants a concrete, credible trade agreement with Japan, going beyond the failures of the past, US Treasury Under-Secretary Lawrence Summers said here Wednesday, reports AP.



Nuruddin Al-Masud, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism, addressed the officers of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation at the corporation's head office in the city on Tuesday. BPC Chairman Abdus Samad Bhuiyan was also present.

Taka steady against dollar

Taka was steady against dollar yesterday as the commercial banks quoted Taka 40.1600 to Taka 40.1700 per dollar, unchanged from the previous level, dealing officers said, reports BSS.

Jt venture in Colombo to build container terminal

SINGAPORE, May 19: Three companies from Singapore, Malaysia and Sri Lanka have set up a six million Singapore dollar (3.8 million US) joint venture in Colombo to build and operate a container terminal, it was announced here, reports AFP.

be operational in the middle of next year, will have a warehouse and a container yard with a capacity of 2,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

US dollar, stocks lower in Tokyo market

TOKYO, May 19: The US dollar slipped against the Japanese yen Thursday, while Tokyo stocks dropped slightly in morning trading, reports AP.

BCC computer project for youths

The Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) has taken up a five-year project to provide computer training for the educated youths at district level with a view to developing human resources, reports BSS.

Phone capacity of Pabna doubled

PABNA, May 19: Capacity of the Pabna Telephone Exchange has been doubled by increasing the number of lines up to 2000, official sources said, reports UNB.

Phone capacity of Pabna doubled

Meanwhile, 400 subscribers of the district town have got fresh telephone connections, out of 900 applied for. The rest of the applicants would be provided with the telephone lines during this month, the sources said.

Mannan opens poultry firm at Mirzapur

MIRZAPUR (Tangail), May 19: State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan has said implementation of agro-based development projects could resolve the country's unemployment problem and build a rural economy, reports UNB.



Suhel Ahmed, Managing Director of the House Building Finance Corporation, speaking at an exchange of views programme with the new borrowers of the corporation at HBFC office in the city yesterday. General Manager of HBFC Abdul Quadir Chowdhury (L-foreground) is also seen in the picture.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, ঢাকা গৃহসংস্থান বিভাগ-১. দরপত্র আহবানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি. এতদ্বারা ১৯৯৩-৯৪ইং অর্থবছরের জন্য নবানুষ্ঠিত গৃহসংস্থান অধিদপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে যোগ্যতা অনুসারে নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজগুলির জন্য বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং ২৯১১-এ সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

ASEAN to fight link between trade and social clauses

SINGAPORE, May 19: ASEAN labour ministers announced their determination here on Tuesday to fight Western demands to give higher wages to workers in return for freer trade, reports AFP.

Sony's profit falls by 57.8 pc

TOKYO, May 19: Sony Corp's group profits plunged 57.8 per cent in the fiscal year that ended March 31 as the high Japanese yen and weak demand in Japan and Europe hurt sales and profitability, the company announced Thursday, reports AP.

Salam opens Milk Vita centre

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Salam Talukdar Tuesday inaugurated a 5000-litre capacity Milk Vita chilling centre at Srinagar (Munshiganj), reports BSS.