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CEPZ earnings up by 15 pc

Industrial units in Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) earned US dollar 146.5 million equivalent to Tk 600 crore in 1993-94 fiscal year, up by 15 per cent over the previous year, reports UNB.

The enterprises exported goods worth US dollar 127 million during the 1992-93 fiscal year. The cumulative amount of export since inception of the zone stands at US dollar 495.5 million.

Since CEPZ was opened in 1984, it has attracted investment totalling US dollar 123 million — equivalent to over Tk

504 crore.

Goods exported from the CEPZ included electrical and electronics products, computer diskettes, automobile parts, audio and video tapes, camera lenses, textile products, garments, terry towels, footwear, hardware, tents, sleeping bags, back packs, fishing reels, golf shafts and accessories, steel chain, leather bags and gloves, stuffed toys, knitted fabrics and artificial flowers.

Most of those goods went to USA, Germany, Italy, Sweden, France, Canada, Belgium, UK,

Holand, Austria, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, Russia, Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea.

The plants at the export processing zone have employed more than 21,000 Bangladeshi workers.

In CEPZ, 54 industries are now in commercial operation. Of those, 31 are 100 per cent foreign-owned, 13 under joint venture and 10 are owned by Bangladeshis. Another 28 industries are at various stages of implementation.

Japan is the largest investors in CEPZ with 12 of

their plants in operation. Japanese companies have put in about US dollar 40 million in the zone. The next largest investors are South Koreans who invested US dollar 23 million in 11 industries. Hong Kong has 7 and USA 6 industries.

China has 7 and USA 6 industries.

The Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ), located at Savar, went into operation only last year. But within a short time, it has exported goods worth 5.24 million, employed 5,500 people and attracted an investment of US dollar 8.2 million.



Nine best Philips light dealers selected on the basis of a country-wide competition were recently sent to Singapore and Bangkok for a week-long trip at the company's expense. Picture shows the dealers with AS Mahmud, Chairman of Transcom Electronics Limited, Saifur Rahman, Director, AR Chowdhury, Light Manager and Rizwana Nazrul, Communication Manager.

Tea prices fluctuate in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 17: The weekly tea sale held here on Tuesday was marked by fluctuation in prices of different grades of teas, market sources said, reports BSS.

Russia continued to operate on large and clean brokens while other out markets were active for the below, the best and medium types.

Pakistan buyers were less active, as a result fannings and small brokens suffered in prices with heavy withdrawals.

Internal buyers were also much less active.

Large and bold brokens were good market and were steady on last while medium brokens were much easier and

shed by Taka two and Taka three per kg with substantial withdrawals. Smaller brokens met with a fair demand, but again at lower rates of ten by Taka two per kg a fair weight of clean popular types met with a fair demand and realised between Taka 46 and Taka 50.50 per kg.

Primary fannings were a much easier market especially towards the close with prices declining by Taka 2 to Taka 3 per kg with substantial withdrawals. A few lines of grainy popular types were readily absorbed at lower rates ranging between Taka 46 and Taka 51.30 per kg.

There were 19982 chests of tea on offer met with a good demand. Young hyson sold between Taka 95 and Taka 98 while hyson sold at Taka 69.20 per kg.

Four thousand four hundred twenty eight chests of dust on offer met with fair demand with prices generally declining by Taka 2 and more per kg following quality. Only a few lines of good liquorising teas attracted more competition and were sold around last levels.

Small and powdery dust met with a better demand. Loose tea trade lent fair support while the blenders were a little more active.

There were 19982 chests of tea on offer.

Energy Minister says

Food for work programme yielding positive outcome

DAUDKANDI (Comilla), Aug 17: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain yesterday said the present government had attached top-most priority to education sector for alleviating poverty and for human resources development, reports BSS.

Education is the main tool to achieve the target of poverty alleviation and human resources development and overall socio-economic development of the country, the Energy Minister said while paying a visit to different educational institutions in the locality.

The minister was accompanied by the Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Jon J Scott. He briefed the Canadian envoy the method of teaching, infrastructural position and education policy of Bangladesh.

"One of the most crucial targets is the quadrupling of the real value of per capita income of Indonesians," Suharto told parliament.

"To this end, we must have an economic growth rate with an average of over seven per cent annually," he said in his speech on the eve of the 49th anniversary of independence.

Indonesia, which has an annual per capita income of around 670 dollars and has nurtured a booming economy since Suharto took power in the late 1960s, started its second 25-year development plan in April with policy makers optimistic over the short-term outlook.

But the economy, one of the world's fastest growing, is burdened by over 90 billion dollars foreign debt, a fall in non-oil export growth and red tape.

Planning Minister Ginajar Kartasasmita said on Saturday that Indonesia's potentially explosive income gap was widening and likely to worsen if steps were not taken to support small and medium-sized businesses.

Suharto, in one of his major speeches of the year, said in his prepared remarks the government would focus on poverty and building up small businesses.

Workshop on The Road to Cairo:

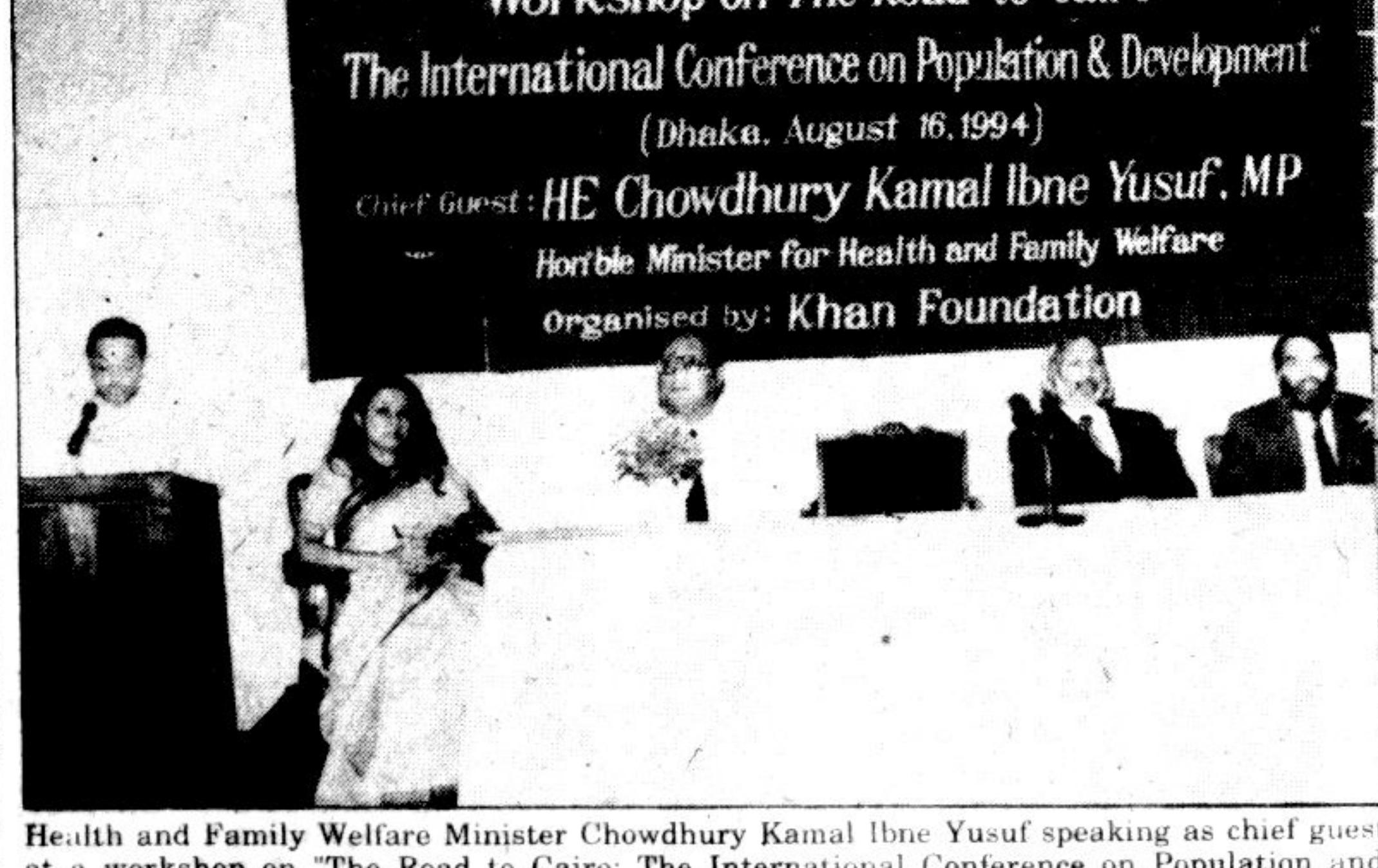
The International Conference on Population & Development

(Dhaka, August 16, 1994)

Chief Guest: HE Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, MP

Honble Minister for Health and Family Welfare

Organised by: Khan Foundation



Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf speaking as chief guest at a workshop on "The Road to Cairo: The International Conference on Population and Development" in the city on Tuesday.

— PID photo

DCC Mayor off to NY

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif left here for New York Tuesday night to attend the international colloquium of Mayors to be held there on August 18 and 19.

Mayor of 85 cities of the world and representatives of different agencies of the United Nations will attend the colloquium.

On return journey, Mayor Hanif will visit United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. He will perform Umrah Hajj at Makkah.

The Mayor is expected to back home on September 1.

A Dhaka City Corporation press release said that during the absence of Mayor Hanif from Dhaka, Nazir Hossain, Commissioner, Ward Number 69 will discharge the routine works of the Mayor's office.

Philippine exports of fruits, nuts drop

MANILA, Aug 17: Philippine exports of fruits and nuts dropped by 2.25 per cent of 184.637 million US dollars in the first half of the year from 188.888 million US dollars a year earlier, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO), reports Xinhua.

In volume terms, shipments also dropped by 0.42 per cent to 739.842 million kilogram (KG) from the year-ago level of 742.963 million kg.

The NSO said the drop in overall income was due largely to lower exports of bananas and pineapple, two of the sector's largest exports, to major markets.

Meanwhile, income from bananas amounted to 112.106 million US dollars or a hefty 61 per cent of total exports. The amount, however, was 0.20 per cent less than last year's 112.331 million US dollars.

The slightly reduced income was due largely to lower imports made by four of the country's five major markets, namely the United Arab Emirates, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong.

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British rail union calls fresh 48-hr strike

LONDON, Aug 17: Rail union leaders yesterday called a fresh 48-hour strike for the August bank holiday week amid warnings that the dispute over pay for signal staff could cause long-term damage to British business, reports AFP.

The announcement of a third 48-hour strike — from mid-day on August 30 to mid-day of September 1 — came on the second day of the current 48-hour stoppage by members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) Union, and as the strike entered its tenth week.

Before then, commuters will face another 24-hour stoppage which is set from mid-day on August 22 and will bring the tally of last day to 13 unless settlement with the separate company that runs the tracks, railtrack, is found.

RMT is demanding a higher wage, while railtrack refuses to agree any sum without linking it to restructuring.

Daily production at the Liao River oilfield, the country's third largest, in Panjin, Liaoning province, has dropped to 37,000 tonnes from 42,000 tonnes since floods hit the region on August 5, Hong Kong's Wen Wei Pao said.

Natural gas output has been cut by 20 million cubic metres (706 million cuft) a day, with economic losses estimated at 500 million Yuan (58 million dollars), the daily said.

No other details were given. Officials at the Ministry of Civil Affairs said they had no information on the closures.

The ministry said floods in China's northeastern provinces, including Liaoning, and Inner Mongolia had killed 128 people and injured 70 in July. More than 522,000 houses were destroyed and nearly 6,000 damaged, the ministry said. About 6.4 million hectares (15.8 million acres) of farmland were affected, with direct economic losses reaching 8.1 billion yuan (942 million dollars).

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