

# Pakistan cancels licences of 500 plastic bag cos

KARACHI, Aug 28: Pakistan's largest city of Karachi has cancelled the licences of some 500 companies producing polyethylene bags to reduce environmental damage caused by a proliferation of plastic, officials said yesterday. reports AFP.

Manufacturers closed down in the action, however, said the measure, directed by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), would render thousands of people jobless.

Yet officials said the production of plastic bags would also be stopped in other parts of Sind province, of which Karachi is capital.

Another Pakistani province, Baluchistan, has already

banned local production of polyethylene bags.

Fazal Nizamani, director of the environmental protection agency in Sind, said that a recent survey showed the ban enjoyed the support of more than 90 per cent of residents of Karachi, as city of 10 mil.

He said plastic bags added to problems caused by the city's lack of solid waste disposal facilities.

"These bags pollute the environment in several ways, emanating fumes on burning that are a hazard to health," he said.

Doctor Pervaiz Naeem, a prominent environmentalist, said hot food wrapped in plastic bags can be contaminated from chemicals used to make the bags. The tainted food, in turn, can damage nerves or even cause cancer, he said.

KMC officials said plastic bags caused widespread pollution problems, including frequent blockage of sewerage lines.

Plastic bag manufacturers said some 40,000 people were engaged in the production and marketing of the product in Sind alone, with a yearly output of five tonnes.

"The government just cannot render all of these people jobless by imposing a sudden ban," said the owner of a plastic bag company who did not want to be named.

Murayama, 70, accompanied by his daughter Yuri Nakahara, arrived here Friday for a three-day visit. Murayama is on the third leg of his four-nation Asian tour.



The annual conference of the regional heads, Chittagong Division, of Sonali Bank was held at the bank's head office in the city on Saturday. Prof Dr Iqbal Mahmud, Chairman, M Ahsanul Haque, Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director Rafiqul Karim Chowdhury of the bank were present.

## US, Vietnam to hold talks on air service in September

WASHINGTON, Aug 28: A US delegation will go to Vietnam in September to discuss opening air service between the two countries, a US Department of Transportation official says, according to USIS.

"We've had some contacts with the Vietnamese in writing, and now they have agreed to receive a small delegation in Hanoi in September," Patrick Murphy, acting Assistant Secretary of Transportation, said August 25.

In a wide-ranging interview Murphy also discussed US aviation relations with Japan, Europe and Canada.

The Vietnam visit follows from President Clinton's February decision to allow resumption of trade with that country after 20 years.

"It was decided that aviation would be allowed to proceed as one of the first sectors to be normalized," Murphy said, "the thinking being that you need the aviation links for everything else to follow on."

So many US airlines want access to Vietnam, he said, that if the government there decides to allow only few US flights or few US carriers, his department will have to make difficult decisions.

There's.... probably more interest than you would expect the Vietnamese may want to accommodate," Murphy said.

In Japan, he said, some US airlines still face exclusion from the Kansai airport scheduled to open in September to replace the existing Osaka airport. Three airlines with access at Osaka airport — United, Northwest and Federal Express — should receive expanded access to Kansai as a result of private negotiations.

Murphy saw hope from reports that the financially troubled Japanese and French national airlines were seeking business alliances with US airlines. Such an alliance between Germany's Lufthansa and United Air Lines has worked well, he said.



A H M Mofazzal Karim, Commerce Secretary, inaugurated the sales and service centre of different vehicles of Tata run by Nitol Motors in Sylhet recently.

— Star photo

## Labour disputes in ROK cause \$ 1.65 b production losses

SEOUL, Aug 28: Labour disputes at South Korea's major industrial sites have caused production losses of 1.65 billion dollars so far this year and triggered an export bottleneck, the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry said yesterday.

Of a total of 49 strikes reported as of Wednesday 30, including the longest at Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI), which on Thursday announced that the walk out was over, have been settled. Ten remain unresolved.

The ministry has set an ambitious export target of 91.5 billion dollars for the whole of this year.

Hyundai heavy industries, during its paralyzing 63-day strike, missed 343 million dollars in export orders, while its lost sales were put at 630 million dollars, excluding another 210 million dollar lost by its 1,500 contractors and suppliers, said a Hyundai spokesman.

The ministry said production setbacks taken by the HHI and its contractors accounted for 50.5 per cent of total manufacturing losses so far this year.

Meanwhile, the Union of Hyundai Precision and Industries Co, a sister company of HHI, entered the second day of a total walkout Friday demanding to be paid for the 54 days of strike earlier in the year.

Government officials, saying HHI's settlement without government intervention had set a good precedent, expressed the hope that the remaining disputes could be solved without resort to arbitration or police action.

## Tokyo plans to host APEC summit next yr

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28: Visiting Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Saturday told his Malaysian hosts that Tokyo plans to host a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum next year, reports AFP.

"Japan is chairing the APEC's annual meeting next year and would like to have a summit of APEC nations, with the consensus of all," said Japanese spokesman Kishichiro Amae, following Murayama's talks with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

Murayama, 70, accompanied by his daughter Yuri Nakahara, arrived here Friday for a three-day visit. Murayama is on the third leg of his four-nation Asian tour.

## Dubai int'l machinery show begins Nov 26

DUBAI, Aug 28: Japan and other Asian countries will seek to boost their share of the growing machinery market at the oil rich gulf when they participate in an international show in November, reports AFP.

Japan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia and India will be among the key participants in the November 26-29 exhibition of light medium industrial machinery covering oil, construction, farming, communication and other sectors, according to the organisers, Al-Fajr information and services.

More than 200 companies from 22 countries will display their product at the fair, which is staged every two years.

Organisers said they expected more than 10,000 businessmen from the Middle East and other countries to come to the exhibition at the Dubai world trade centre.

"The exhibition constitutes an important opportunity for the participants to increase their sales to the region and present their latest technology in this field," a spokeswoman at Al-Fajr told AFP.

"Large deals were struck during the past exhibitions and more are expected at the coming one. Some exhibitors

will try to find agents in the region."

Taiwan is the biggest Asian participant in the show, sending 34 companies. India has not confirmed the number of its firms but it has reserved a large part of the exhibition area, the spokeswoman said.

Asian states are already strong commercial partners of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the biggest consumer market in the Middle East. Its imports exceed 70 billion dollars a year.

But many of them have launched export drives to grab a bigger share of the market amid strong competition from major industrial powers.

Organisers said there was steady growth in the machinery market in the SCC, which groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Their machinery imports exceeded 16 billion dollars in 1993. They include around 4.5 billion dollars worth of imports by Dubai, a key re-exporter to Iran, India and other markets.

Other participants in the Dubai show include the United States, Britain, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Ukraine, Switzerland and Australia.

## Exchange Rates

Following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on August 28 ad 289.

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	TT & OD	EC	TT	OD
US Dollar	40.3775	40.4085	40.0900	40.0365
Pound Sterling	62.1473	62.1950	60.4374	60.3567
DM	25.9093	25.9292	25.1994	25.1658
F Franc	7.5654	7.5712	7.3587	7.3489
C Dollar	29.7565	29.7793	28.9490	28.7883
S Franc	30.6741	30.6977	29.8302	29.6647
Yen	0.4082	0.4085	0.3929	0.3924
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2939	1.3036	1.2722	1.2531
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3236	1.3315	1.3014	1.2819
Iranian Rial (AMU)	0.0232	0.0234	0.0227	0.0224

Al T. (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk 40.0632

By Usance Rates:  
30 Days DA 60 Days DA 90 Days DA 120 Days DA 180 Days DA  
39.7398 39.4558 39.1718 38.8879 38.3199  
C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk 40.0365  
D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Tk 40.6085

Indicative Rates				
Currency	Selling		Buying	
	T.T. & O.D.	O. D.	Transfer	
S Riyal	10.7665		10.6296	
UAE Dirham	10.9942		10.8539	
Kuwaiti Dinar	135.9970		134.0535	
Singapore Dollar	26.9129		26.5553	
D Guldars	23.4821		23.1720	
S Krone	5.3229		5.2529	
Malaysian Ringgit	15.8343		15.6282	

Note : AMU—Asian Monetary Unit

## Shipping Intelligence

### CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 28.08.94

Berth	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L. Port	Local	Date of	Leaving
No.			call	agent	arrival	port
J/1	Min Jiang	GI	Sing	Prog	25/8	1/9
J/2	Silver Lake	GI	Hong	Prog	26/8	31/8
J/3	Tirgu Secuiesc	P.Iron	Trin	USTC	9/8	5/9
J/4	Lydia-II	Sugar (GI)	Safa	Seacom	12/8	28/8
J/5	Uberty	R.Seed	P.Side	Rainbow	24/8	5/9
J/6	Fulvia	Mop (P)	Ilyc	Lyttom	16/8	3/9
J/7	Dong Fang	Sugar (P)	Kosh	OWSL	7/8	2/9
J/8	Ocean Envoy	Rice (P)	Kara	Karna	15/8	31/8
J/9	Meng Kiat	Cont	Sting	AML	26/8	31/8
J/10	Elang-II	GI (C.R Coils)	CIGA	Seacom	22/8	29/8
J/11	Pelopidas	Wheat (P)	N.Ord	Lytmon	16/8	3/9
J/12	Andrian	Cont	Sing	CT	25/8	29/8
J/13	Goncharov	Cont	Cont	CTS	24/8	30/8
MPB/1	Fong Shin	Cont	BDShip	24/8	28/8	
MPB/2	Iran Elham	Cement	Sing	RSL	25/8	29/8
OCJ	Safa	Repair	Yang	BSL	5/8	31/8
RM/5	Chopin	HSD	Bank	ASLL	3/8	31/8
RM/6	Team Trinta	HSD/MS	Sing	MSPL	25/8	28/8
DOJ	Banglar	Sh	DOJ	MSPL	10/7	29/8
DDJ/1	Continent-1	Repair	OKHA	CLA	12/8	3/9
DDJ/2	Petr Starostin	Repair	Sing	CLA	16/8	1/9
DDJ/3	Banglar Asra	Repair	—	BSL	2/8	29/8
RM/9	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	—	BSL	3/8	31/8
CURJ						