

PATA EC  
meet held

The first meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee of the PATA Bangladesh Chapter was held on Saturday with Manzoor-ul-Karim in the chair, says a press release.

The Committee, in order to gear up its activities, decided to enlist more members, hold the installation ceremony of the new committee during the observance of the Tourism Month and appointed an Executive Action Committee with Shahabuddin Ahmed, Senior Executive Director, Unique Tours & Travels as its Convener.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Chairman of BPC, Abdus Samad Bhuiyan, Managing Director of MAAAS Travels & Tours, K A Azad, Managing Director of Hotels International Ltd, Gazi Sadeq, Secretary of the Chapter and Assistant General Manager Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel Shahid Hamid, Director (Commercial), BPC, Major (Rtd) A Basher, Treasurer of the Chapter and Rooms Division Manager, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, K S Alam.

Deng on list of  
best-selling  
authors!

BEIJING, Oct 11: China, praising lavishly the theories of its architect to economic reform, said yesterday 90-year-old Deng Xiaoping could add best-selling author to the list of his many accomplishments, reports Reuters.

There are now more than 30 different editions of Deng's own works with more than 100 million copies in print, the Guangming Daily said.

Great times and great practice call for and create great theories," the newspaper, aimed at China's intellectuals, said in a front-page article. "After correct theories are formed, they have a great use as a guide for practice."

Deng's writings have spawned an industry of explainer and researchers who have published 300 works of their own, the newspaper said.

With rumours swirling about the health of China's paramount leader, the official media has in recent days stepped up reports about Deng and his contributions.

Chrysler Corp  
expects gain

DETROIT, Oct 11: Chrysler Corp's third-quarter profits probably were held down somewhat by the slow launch of its new compact-midsize sedans, but analysts expected Tuesday's report to show earnings increased from last year, says AP.

Chrysler is the first of the Big Three to report July-September profits. In 1993's third quarter, its net earnings were 423 million dollars. Analyst forecasts for this year range from about 450 million dollars to 850 million dollars. "When they get some of their production on the popular models increased, I think they'll have a strong fourth quarter, as well," said David Healy of SG Warburg and Co in New York.

The company has been slowly launching its new Cirrus and Dodge Stratus models, so sales in that large market segment have been below last year's.

Jafar vying for  
FBCCI EC  
membership

Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of the United Commercial Bank Ltd, and Chief Adviser of Janata Insurance Co. Ltd, is contesting for the post of Executive Committee member in the ensuing FBCCI elections, says a press release.

A political personality, Chowdhury is a freedom fighter. He is associated with many social welfare organisations.

Dhaka-Thimpu trade gap  
stands at \$2 cr

By Staff Correspondent

Trade imbalance between Bangladesh and Bhutan stood at 2 crore US dollars something in favour of Bhutan in the last five years.

"Every year we import much more than we export resulting in chronic imbalance, close sources in the Ministry of Commerce said. They said, 'Bhutan imports only those items from Bangladesh which they do not import from India.'

The main item of import from Bhutan is vegetable products and fresh fruits. Other importables are: mineral products, wood, wood articles, and canned food.

According to the sources, Bangladesh imported various commodities from Bhutan worth about 2 crore 22 lakh US dollars in the last five years from 1988-89 to 92-93 fiscal year, while its export earnings from that country stood at only about 86 lakh US dollars, during the period. The total trade imbalance between the two countries stands at around 2 crore 14 lakh US dollars.

Sources said Bhutan is highly dependent on India for its trade activities both import and exports. However, Bangladeshi products, such as raw jute and jute goods, chemical fertilizer, newsprint, readymade garments, frozen

shrimps, and fish, ceramic tableware, knit wear, leather products, and soft drinks have the prospects for exports to Bhutan.

"To reduce the trade gap between the two neighbouring countries Bangladesh held a single country trade fair in Thimpu, the capital of Bhutan, last month, a top official of the Export Promotion Bureau said.

He said all the products put on display were sold out fetching 600,000 US dollars.

Besides, Bangladeshi manufactures received export orders amounting to about 300,000 US dollars from the Bhutanese traders.

## Majid addresses conference in Indonesia

Formulate effective guidelines  
to enhance food security

The Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources M Majidul Haq on Monday called for formulation of effective policy guidelines and a concrete action programme to enhance food security of the Non-Aligned and other developing countries, reports BSS.

Addressing the conference of the ministers for food and agriculture of the Non-Aligned and other developing countries at Bali in Indonesia, Haq said that adoption of an appropriate scheme for increased South-South technical cooperation for food security was also of critical importance.

Haq is leading the Bangladesh delegation at the conference which is reviewing the overall food situation, agricultural production, and existing problems with the objective of formulating a more dynamic food security system for the Non-Aligned and other developing countries.

He said that for a majority of the developing countries, chronic food insecurity cannot be alleviated effectively without strengthening the capacity to produce basic food.

The Agriculture Minister described food insecurity as a complex problem of the developing countries and called for sustainable solutions through development of technologies now in use in agricultural production.

The issue of strengthening food security, the Agriculture Minister said, was a priority programme in Bangladesh.

Haq said that for the development of an effective food security system in Bangladesh the government identified selected policy goals like ensuring adequate domestic supply, securing foodgrains market stability together with price stabilisation, improved accessibility to food to those who need it most, maintenance of

optimal security reserve and operation and maintenance of an efficient structure.

The Agriculture Minister said that Bangladesh achieved the much desired self-sufficiency in various agricultural production because it adopted the persistent policy of planned development.

He said that the action plan under consideration of the current conference by and large contained all the elements that could effectively help mitigate the persistent problem of food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition in the countries concerned.

Haq said that strong political commitment and effective implementation of the strategies and collective action on food security issues would significantly help alleviate the problems of food insecurity and hunger in the Non-Aligned and other developing countries.



AHM Abdul Hye, Secretary, Ministry of Industries, presiding over the review meeting on fertilizer situation held at BCIC Bhaban on Sunday. Waseq al Azad, Chairman, BCIC, is seen among others.

## Pakistan faces energy deficiency

By Anees Parvez

Pakistan is faced with a formidable challenge of overcoming its perennial power shortages which gravely threaten the country's economic future, retard progress and frustrate its welfare targets and keep millions of people farther from even common amenities of modern living. All this appears ironic at times when the contemporary developed world is creating milestones of progress and conquering nature at a breathtaking pace.

Pakistan is an energy deficient country — one of the lowest in the world as far as consumption of energy is concerned. Its per capita energy consumption is less than half of the average for the developing countries — about 1/8th of the world average, 1/25th of developed nations and 1/60th when compared with the energy consumption level of an average American.

The existing energy scenario reflects gloom portending bleak future for a nation of about 121 millions who passionately aspire to rise from quagmire of poverty, ignorance and disease. Pakistan has been experiencing power shortages since early 80's at a rate that ranges between 15 per cent to 35 per cent of system peak demand. The direct and indirect economic losses resulting from shortages — led blackouts are estimated to be between five billion to twelve billion rupees per annum.

According to the World Bank calculation, Pakistan lost almost a billion dollars in productivity last year alone due to loadshedding. The spells of loadshedding have been

steadily increasing in the past few years. A country-wide estimate shows that loadshedding of unusual longer duration this year (1994) will cost the country 50 billion rupees in terms of lost man hours and reduced production in various sectors.

The scourge of loadshedding, besides seriously undermining productive operations entailing huge losses, forcing lay-offs in the private sector industries thereby adding to the number of jobless, disrupting public health operations and oppressing homely peace is blocking inflows of domestic and foreign investment. For energy is one of the vital components of physical infrastructure and its irregular and inadequate availability severely restricts investment prospects.

Pakistan obtains its energy supply from oil, gas, coal, hydel power, nuclear power and LGP which barely covers two-thirds of its needs making the country heavily dependent on oil imports. At present the total installed electricity generation capacity is estimated at 10,012 megawatts out of which 54 per cent is thermal and remaining 46 per cent hydel. The total includes 137 MW nuclear power, turned out by the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP) which set up back in 1972 to date remains the sole nuclear power reactor in the entire Muslim world.

WAPDA makes it a little more than 81 per cent to the total balance is produced by Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC).

The hydel power generation being dependent on seasonal vagaries is not consistent and steady — it varies with the changes in season and dips to 1676 MW when the water level in the dams drops.

Pakistan, thus, needs to augment its power generation capacity by 1500 MW per annum to cover its requirements. It is estimated that if traditional planning approach is followed, a minimum of 7000 MW of generation capacity would need to be added to the system to gradually eliminate the existing shortages by 1998.

Precisely, Pakistan's power generation structure includes: WAPDA 8152 MW (hydel-3761 MW and thermal 4381 MW); KESC 1723 MW (all thermal) and KANUPP 137 MW (nuclear).

According to official analysis, WAPDA regularly loses around 2000 MW or more than 23 per cent of its total generation which includes losses due to faulty transmission and distribution and pilferage.

New forecasts released  
China's economy  
to grow by  
10 pc in '94

HONG KONG, Oct 11: China's economy will grow 10 per cent in 1994 while government efforts to keep urban inflation down will only be partially successful, according to new forecasts released Monday by Salomon Brothers Hong Kong Ltd, says AFP.

The investment banking firm said it had revised upwards its growth forecast from nine per cent for the year based on China's strong overall performance.

Inflation in the big cities would level out between 19 per cent to 21 per cent, up from the firm's previous 18 per cent to 19 per cent prediction, it added.

China's big cities are currently suffering inflation near 27 per cent which the government is dealing with by tightening its monetary policy. "We do not believe that the recent setbacks in the country's fight against inflation have deflected the overall slowing of the economy," said the firm's chief regional economist Andrew Freris.

"Neither have they annulled or reversed the real progress which has been made in pushing forward with opening up the economy ... or in continuing with economic reforms," he added.

Japan to review  
aid programme  
to China

TOKYO, Oct 11: Japan is considering modifying its yen-loan programme to China out of concern over the country's military build-up, a daily here said Monday, reports AFP.

The Asahi Shinbun said Tokyo would partially shift from society and economic infrastructure projects to environmental and agricultural projects in its fourth yen-loan programme starting 1996.

Observers believe this is because Japan wants to reduce the number of projects involving roads and ports, which could be used for military purposes, Asahi said.

Last Friday, Japan joined the United States in leading international protests over China's second nuclear test in four months.

Hiroshi Hirabayashi, director general of the Japanese foreign ministry's economic cooperation bureau, warned that the fourth yen-loan negotiations would be affected if Beijing continued such experiments.

Former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa during his visits to China last March expressed concern over China's increasing military spending.

Under the terms of its official development assistance (ODA), Japan monitors military expenditure of recipient countries to ensure that they are not moving towards the development of mass destruction weapons.



Philips CE dealers selected on the basis of countrywide competition were sent to Bangkok and Manila on a week-long trip. Picture shows the dealers with Obaidur Rahman Khan, Executive Director, Transcom Electronics Ltd and KM Islam, CE Manager.

## Kazi Shafiqul Islam says

FBCCI should play pioneering role  
under changed economic scenario

By Staff Correspondent

Kazi Md Shafiqul Islam, a presidential candidate for FBCCI elections, scheduled to be held on October 17, said the FBCCI needs to play a pioneering role in promoting trade and investment in the country.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Shafiq, who is presently the Vice President of the Federation, said with the changing global economic scenario, the responsibility of this apex body of the country's chambers and trade associations has increased.

The FBCCI has discharged the responsibilities thrust upon it during the last couple of years successfully, although the aspirations were much more than that was accomplished, he said adding in the coming years, it would have to play a greater role expansion of trade and commerce in the country.

Keeping in mind the role of FBCCI under changed circumstances he has a comprehensive plan to form sector based standing committees comprising members of the executive body of the Federation and representatives from the associations to deal with the problems of individual sectors, Shafiq said.

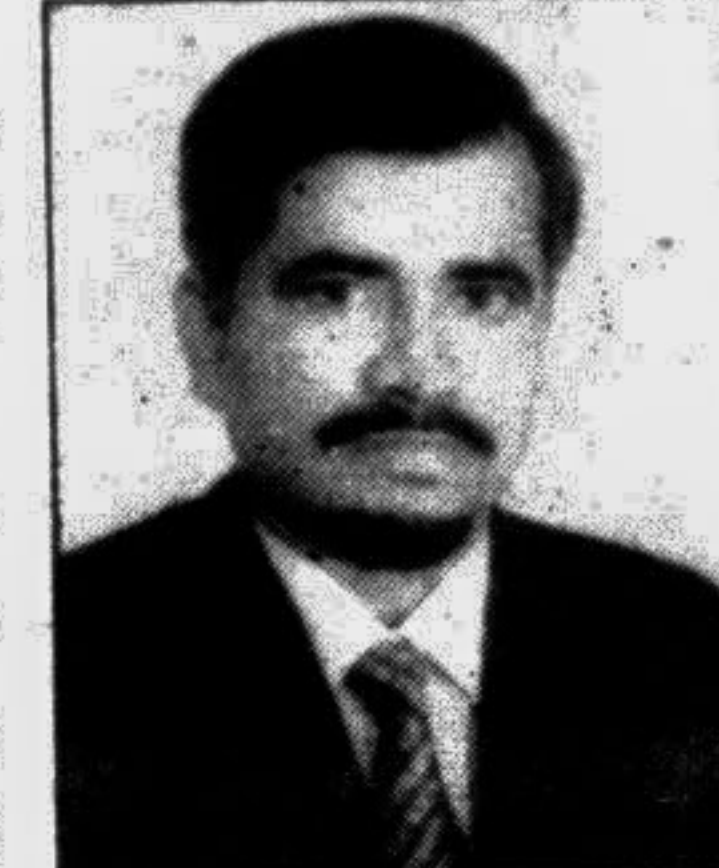
If elected as president, he would make the membership of the businessmen with the concerned associations compulsory to increase the strength of individual trade bodies, he maintained.

Kazi Shafiq, who was the member of the Executive Committee two times earlier, further said he would modernise the FBCCI Secretariat for enabling it to provide greater services to the business community.

He said, despite the country's success in exporting non-traditional items like ready-made garments abroad, there are many things to do on the

part of the FBCCI in exploring markets for the Bangladeshi products.

In this context he also referred to the failure of the country's missions abroad and said the Bangladesh embassies



Kazi Md Shafiqul Islam

can organise single country-fair and negotiate exchange of trade delegations for promoting exports of Bangladeshi products.

The FBCCI Vice President said if elected he would try to remove the anomalies in the trade association rules and reorganise the VAT system through consultation with the government to contain harassment to the businessmen.

He would also take measures to protect the interest of the local industries and make them competitive, Shafiq said adding he would also solve the problems of the sick industries within the earliest opportunity.

Regarding the present economic condition of the country, Shafiq said the country restored stability in its macro-economy but the micro economy is yet to match the stability at macro-level. Still there are problems like lack of infrastructural facilities, bureau-

cratic tangles and political instability that hampering both foreign and local investments, Shafiq said.

If elected, he would take steps to resolve the problems through regular dialogue with the concerned departments, he added.

BIBM course on  
human resources  
management ends

Human resources management helps to achieve higher productivity which is the prime objective of an organisation, Director General of BIBM, A H M Nurul Islam Choudhuri said yesterday, according to a press release.

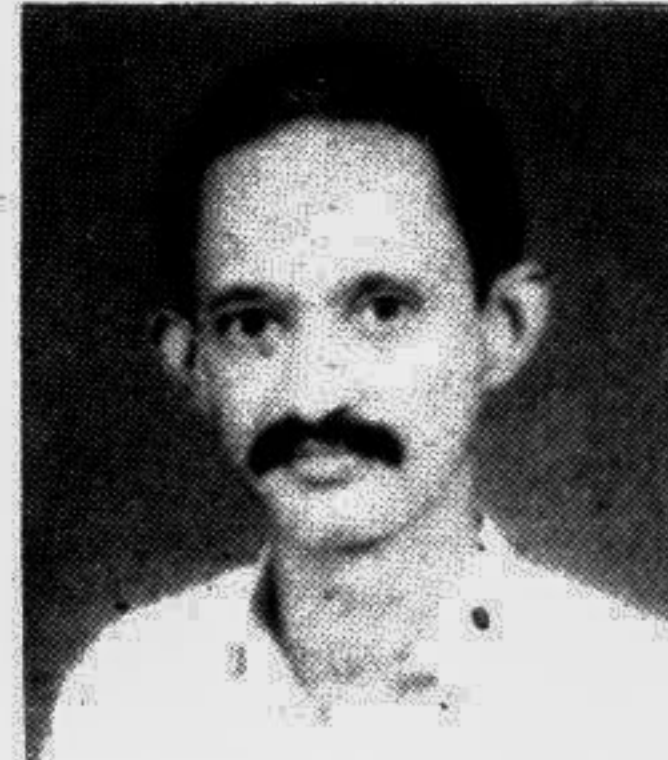
He was speaking at the concluding session of a course on Human Resources Management, conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM).

He said that efficient utilisation of manpower is the pre-condition for running a business effectively.

Choudhuri also stressed the need for proper management of human resources to ensure effective utilisation of modern technology and techniques in rendering of improved banking services.

He expressed hope that the course would enable the participants in discharging their duties and responsibilities more efficiently.

The Director General distributed certificates among the participants. BIBM faculty members Md Abu Bakar and Rasheda Huda were the coordinators of the course, the press release added.

Karim to contest  
FBCCI polls as  
member EC

Md Rezaul Karim will contest for the post of member of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), says a press release.

The election is scheduled to be held on October 17.

He started his career as a business magnet and has been able to establish himself as an exporter of raw jute.

He was a member of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh Jute Association for the years 1989-90 and 1990-91.

He was elected as Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Jute Association for two consecutive terms.

At present he is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Shippers' Council of Bangladesh. Karim worked as the Adviser to Pat Sangram Committee consisting of the raw jute traders and exporters and rendered his untiring services for the solution to the problems of the traders and the exporters.

(The writer, now retired, is an expert of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.)