

Bangladesh trade team to visit 5 African states from Oct 23

A 9-member Bangladesh trade delegation led by the State Minister for Textiles Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan leaves here for five African countries on October 23, reports BSS.

He will be on a two-week official visit to Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

During visiting these countries, the State Minister will meet his counterparts, high officials and dignitaries for exchanging views on promotion of bilateral trade and business. The members of the delegation will also explore possibilities of setting up joint venture industries in the visiting countries.

The other members of the delegation are Major General Harun Ahmed Chowdhury, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, Nurul Wahab Khandaker, Chairman Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), Dr Mohammed Rashiduzzaman, General Manager BJMC, S Moazzem Hosain, Director Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), Shamsur Rahman, Managing Director Trexim Limited, Mohammad Mosharrar Hossain, Managing Director York Garments Industries Ltd, Asadul Haq, Director Minar Textile, and Zakiuddin Ahmed, Managing Director Zaki-Mosharrar group of industries.

Move to remove complications in loan disbursement, realisation

The government is taking a decision regarding distribution of rights of the lending institutions on the assets of the borrowers to remove complications in loan disbursement and realisation.

According to official sources, the complications arise as the lenders of term loan and working capital of the same project are the two different institutions.

According to the existing rules, the first charge on the assets of the borrower remains in favour of the institution which provides term loan to the entrepreneurs and the second charge on the assets goes to the lender of working capital of the project.

In that case, the lender of working capital has to take no objection certificate from the

original financier of the project for obtaining a second charge on the assets.

But, if for any reason the project becomes sick, the original financier of the project is entitled to sell the fixed and floating assets of the project without any permission from the other lending institution.

This has been discouraging the banks to provide working capital to the borrowers who took project loans from other institutions.

According to sources, the working capital for any industrial unit is sanctioned against its pledged assets and hypothecation. The pledged assets remain under the control of the banks, but the hypothecation remains with the en-

trepreneur. When the industry turns sick for any reason, the bank has to face problems in realising the loans against the hypothecation.

According to an official of the Finance Ministry, the rights of a project financier on the assets of the borrower remain the same until repayment of the entire amount of loan with interest, although a portion of the rights can be transferred to the lender of working capital with the repayment of some instalments.

The Finance Ministry is taking decision on that matter, the official said, adding this would help remove the hesitation of the banks in providing working capital to such projects and at the same time would ensure quick recovery of loans.

Barisal traders call on Biswas

A 15-member trade delegation of Hazi Mohammad Mohsin Hawkers Market Samabay Samity of Barisal called on President Abdul Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Talking to them, the President urged the businessmen to increase income generating activities, set up more cottage industries and avail the loans being provided by the government on easy terms.

The delegation, led by President of Barisal district BNP Prof Mohammad Abdur Rashid, apprised him to various problems of the market, including lease of the market land and its management.

President Biswas asked them to complete necessary formalities for taking lease of the land and submit it to the proper authority. He assured the delegation of looking into the other problems.

Dhaka to take part in Dubai trade fair

Bangladesh will take part in the Dubai International Trade Fair.

The five-day fair will be held from November 16.

Eight leading garments, handicrafts and leather goods manufacturing firms will participate in the fair under the auspices of the Export Promotion Bureau.

"There is a good market for Bangladeshi products in the Arab countries. But our commodities are not available in the markets of those countries. So the consumers of our products, mainly the Bangladeshi workers living in the Arab countries, are bound to buy the same items coming from our neighbouring countries", EPB sources said.

By participating in this fair, the exporters of the country will be able to exhibit their products and contact Arabian importers, the sources said.

According to the EPB data, Bangladesh earned 74.83,000 US dollars by exporting various goods to the United Arab Emirates in the 1992-93 fiscal year. Among the exportables, vegetables, readymade garments, frozen fish, leather, fruit, tea, handicrafts, raw jute, and cosmetics are main.

The exporting firms expected to participate in the fair are: Sharif Melamine, Avenues Corporation, Uttama Handicrafts, Mighty International, Uttaran Enterprise, H N Specialised Silk Mills Ltd., Crown Leather Products, and Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation.

Gunmen rob two banks in Japan

TOKYO, Oct 20: In a nation where bank robberies are relatively rare, gunmen made off with a total of 31.25 million yen (320,000 dollars) in two separate raids in Japan Thursday, shooting a bank employee in the thigh in one, reports AP.

In late morning, a middle-aged man fired several shots at a bank employee, dragged the wounded man from his car and drove away. Police said the car was carrying four metal cases of cash that the employee, Yasuji Tajiri, 55, had collected for deposit from Bank of Fukuoka customers in a shopping area.

The cases were gone when the car was found later in an underground parking lot in the city, Kurume, about 900 kilometres (563 miles) southwest of Tokyo. Police said the cases had contained 11.25 million yen (115,200 dollars).

Four hours later, a man held a female employee at gunpoint, had 20 million yen (204,800 dollars) stuffed in a bag and escaped from a Juyo Bank branch near Mito, 100 kilometres (63 miles) northeast of Tokyo, police said.

No one was reported injured in the day's second bank robbery.

In August, in Japan's biggest robbery involving a bank, two men seized 541 million yen (5.54 million dollars) from a van of a Bank of Fukuoka branch in Kobe, about 450 kilometres (270 miles) west of Tokyo.

Moyeen Khan meets IRRI DG

State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan called on Director General of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Manila on Wednesday, according to message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

Different aspects including further collaboration between IRRI and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institutes (BARI), and issues related to training programme for agricultural scientists from Bangladesh came up in the discussion.

Dr Moyeen gave an outline of agriculture related activities in Bangladesh and informed him of the contribution of agriculture sector, which contributes about 42 per cent to the GDP of the country.

He also highlighted the success of the present democratic government in food production by achieving almost self sufficiency in crop production.

He also visited the biotechnology division of IRRI and suggested that collaborative research could be taken up by IRRI and BARI to initiate newer species of rice to suit the need of time.



Philip Flood, Director-General of Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) and ERD Secretary Lutfullah Ma'jid signed a memorandum of understanding on behalf of their respective sides in the city yesterday under which Bangladesh will receive Tk 31 crore food aid grant for the current fiscal year from the Australian government. — PID photo.

US trade deficit drops 13pc

WASHINGTON, Oct 20: The US trade deficit dropped nearly 13 per cent to 9.74 billion dollars in August, even though Japan's exports to the United States hit record highs, the Commerce Department said yesterday, reports AFP.

The deficit narrowed, however, because US exports jumped 9.3 per cent to hit a record on major increases in sales of commercial aircrafts, machinery, computer chips and cigars. Sales totalled 43.88 billion dollars.

The Commerce Department put the July trade gap at a revised 11.79 billion dollars in July, the second highest since the index was created the initial figures was 10.9 billion dollars.

Analysts had predicted a deficit of 9.8 billion dollars for August.

The US trade deficit with Japan was 5.8 billion dollars largely on a deficit in the auto sector.

High-level UK trade team arrives in Nov

Britain will send a high-level trade mission to Bangladesh in mid-November to explore trade and investment opportunities in the country, reports UNB.

The 27-member mission will have representatives from some 18 companies, trade bodies and government departments in UK, including those from energy, transport, construction, textile, and financial services sectors.

A British High Commission press release yesterday said the mission, first of its kind in years, is expected to visit Bangladesh from November 12 to 15. It is being sponsored jointly by the British High Commission in Dhaka and the Department of Trade and Industry in London.

During their stay here, members of the mission are scheduled to meet with ministers, senior officials and leading trade bodies, including the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce.

Besides, to expand non-aid trade relations between the two countries, delegation members will make calls to pursue their own particular business interests with agents and other interested Bangladeshis organisations.

Some 45 companies from UK, including several big multinationals, have been active in Bangladesh with a number of them having significantly raised their capital investments in recent years.

According to an unofficial statistics, Britain's direct for-

BRDB takes up Tk 102 cr poverty alleviation project

The Bangladesh Rural Development Board has taken up a massive poverty alleviation project at an estimated cost of about Taka 102 crore, says a press release.

The board, in addition, will provide about Taka 43 crore as credit.

The project covers 82 thanas of greater Rajshahi, Pabna, Kushtia and Jessore districts.

The project, known as the Rural Poor Cooperative Project (RPCP) is being aided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The implementation of the project which began in full swing in 1993-94 is expected to be completed in 1997.

According to the BRDB, the project aims at mobilizing 205,000 assetless (bitiyaheen) people and organizing them into 8200 co-operative societies, assisting in their social development through training and other inputs and providing them with credit for income generating activities.

So far 1750 Bitiyaheen Samabaya Samity, with about 36,000 members, have been formed. Over 65 per cent of the members are females, belonging to Mohilla Bitiyaheen Samabaya Samity.

About 20,000 members have been trained for social development and various income generating activities.

Efficient use of uplift funds by govt eulogised

The efficient use of development funds by Bangladesh government has earned the acclaim of its development partners, the Hong Kong based 'Far Eastern Economic Review' made this observation in its October 20 issue while evaluating the economic performance of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The magazine says 'The government implemented 94 per cent of its annual development programme — a record performance. A year earlier, the success rate was 84 per cent. Domestic funds are accounting for a larger share of the programme. Between 1990 and 1994, the local portion of ADP financing rose to 35 per cent from nearly zero. For the current year domestic contribution is expected to reach about 38 per cent.'

The journal noted that reforms pursued by the government had helped stabilise the economy and make productive use of increased revenue receipt. Improved tax collection has helped produce a budget surplus of Taka 30.4 billion in the fiscal year 1993-94, which is 50 per cent more than the previous year. The government's reform programme has led to reduction in current account deficit and a lowered inflation rate of around two per cent.

"Such fiscal health has earned good marks from the donors and paved the way for direct foreign investment," the journal remarked.

It noted that the GDP grew by five per cent in the last fiscal year and the growth target for 1994-95 has been set at six per cent. The multilateral agencies insist that the coun-

Dollar up in Tokyo

TOKYO, Oct 20: The US dollar higher against the Japanese yen Thursday, while prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange gained in light trading, reports AP.

The dollar closed at 97.63 yen, up 0.02 yen from Wednesday's Tokyo finish and above its overnight New York close of 97.28 yen.

After opening at 97.43 yen, it ranged between 97.40 yen and 97.65 yen.

Early in the session, the dollar kept its bearish sentiment from Wednesday's New York trading but recovered on short-covering from its lower opening in Tokyo, traders said.

British Rail to cut 1500 white-collar jobs

LONDON, Oct 20: British Rail (BR) said on Wednesday it would cut 1,500 white-collar jobs before privatization scheduled for the end of next year, reports AFP.

The company told trade unions it wanted to achieve most of the redundancies through voluntary departure. The cuts are designed to streamline BR's administrative operations.

The jobs would be trimmed from regional centres of British Rail Infrastructure Services (BRIS), which is responsible for maintenance of the track and employs about 30,000 people.

Vietnam permits Taiwanese firm to build \$32m tourist resort

HANOI, Oct 20: Vietnam has granted a licence to a Taiwan-based company to build a 32-million dollar tourist resort in the central city of Danang, a report said yesterday, according to AFP.

Taiwan Ryder Co. will contribute 60 per cent of the total capital of the project, with the rest in the form of land provided by the Vietnamese, Hoa Vang Commercial Co., of Quangnam-Danang province, the Vietnam news agency said.

The project is the biggest to be licensed to date in Danang, the largest city in the centre of the country and potentially a major tourist destination investment in the city by foreign partners has reached more than 200 million dollars, the report said.

The beach resort and recreation centre is to be built on 15 hectares (36 acres) of land in Hoa Vang, just outside Danang city. No other details of the project were available.

Several other projects, including a 25.5-million-dollar scheme by a US firm to build a four hotel resort and golf centre at China beach, are under consideration.

Tourism has proved to be the fastest growing sector of the Vietnamese economy, with more than 20 per cent growth predicted for next year.

Banana sales split Europeans, Americans

Their position is strongly supported by Germany, a fierce opponent of the EU protectionism: Germany is particularly fond of the cheap fruit from the Latin America. From some 3.6 million tonnes of bananas imported into the EU each year, Germany takes nearly all of the 2.7 million tonnes of dollar bananas.

But the German government recently lost a case to at the European Court of Justice challenging the quotas.

Faced with mounting pressure on their economic survival, Caribbean producers are launching a diplomatic offensive to end the banana war. A mission led by the prime ministers of Caribbean banana producers is in Europe to meet government officials from France, Germany, Greece and Britain, the president of the Commission and the president of the European Parliament.

Ken Laidlaw writes from London

But they are not bargaining from a position of strength. The storms mean they could lose a large share of the European market to their Latin American competitors.

Any attempt by Europe to introduce amendments to the banana quotas in order to accommodate the shortfall in imports from the Windward Islands will be seized upon by its opponents as an opportunity to renegotiate the system.

St Lucia, the largest producer, has been hit hardest by the storms. "All our banana, coconut and cattle production has been lost", said John Compton, St Lucia's prime minister.

Tietmeyer urges new govt

Apply plans to reduce public deficit

FRANKFURT, Oct 20: The President of the Bundesbank Hans Tietmeyer urged Tuesday the new German government to apply its plans to reduce the public deficit, reports AFP.

Tietmeyer told the Wall Street Journal that the previous administration had laid the ground-work of an ambitious programme to reduce deficits and it was important that this should now be transformed into concrete measures.

The role of the Bundesbank regarding monetary stability had not been changed by the election at the weekend, Tietmeyer said.

The election returned Chancellor Helmut Kohl to power at the head of a conservative administration.

Tietmeyer said that public deficits run up by the federal state, by the regions and by local authorities had to be reduced resolutely.

He also said that steps should be taken to increase flexibility in the labour market. This was a task for legislators but also for employers and workers, he said. Workers bore much of the responsibility for finding solutions to the problem of unemployment.

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-15

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local and foreign currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers/Dealers/Indentors (Not necessarily enlisted with DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Air Force:

Sl. No.	Description of Items	Selling Date	Opening Date	Currency
a.	Vest Cotton White Interlock Qty-80,000 Ea	03-11-94 to 16-11-94	17-11-94	Local
b.	Tie Black Polyester (Airmen) Qty-4,000 Ea			
c.	Net Mosquito Polyester Khaki (Airmen) Qty-10,000 Ea			
d.	Hand Held Metal Detector Qty-01 Ea	27-10-94 to 05-11-94	06-11-94	Foreign/Local
e.	Film Pan-F-ILFORD for Gun Camera, Qty-225 Roll	27-10-94 to 22-11-94	24-11-94	Foreign

2. Tender schedules with detail specifications will be available on payment in respective value (Non-refundable) on any working day between 0800 hrs to 1200 hrs. The tenders will be opened on the specified date at 1000 hrs in presence of the bidders (if present).

ISPR/MISC/94/1901
DFP-7574-17/10
G-1623

Flight Lieutenant for Director General

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়
ফার্মসিলিজ ডিপার্টমেন্ট, শিক্কা মন্ত্রণালয়
ঢাকা জেন, ১৭, আউটার সার্কুলার রোড, রাজবাড়ি, ঢাকা।

সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সূত্র: অত্র অফিসের পর বারক নং-৮৬৯৪/৩/এফ, ডি/ডি, জেড, তাং-০৩/১০/৯৪ইং।

অত্র অফিসের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৯/এফ, ডি/ডি, জেড/১৯৯৪-৯৫ইং, তাং-০৩/১০/৯৪ইং অনুসারে আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্র নিম্নোক্ত সংশোধনী অন্তর্ভুক্ত করা হইয়াছে। এম পং-০৩ (তিন) এবং ০৪ (চার) এর ক্ষেত্রে মন্তব্যের কলামে উল্লেখিত পুঞ্জ দরপত্র-এর স্থলে নতুন দরপত্র পড়িতে হইবে। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।

মোঃ ফজলুর রহমান
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
ফার্মসিলিজ ডিপার্টমেন্ট
ঢাকা জেন, ঢাকা।

DFP-7963-20/3
G-1623