

DHAKA TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1994

Formal commissioning of 210 MW Raozan Power Plant likely in Dec

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 31: The 210 MW Raozan Power Plant built at a cost of 133 million US dollars by Chinese experts is likely to be formally commissioned by the first week of December this year.

According to sources, the foundation laying ceremony of another 210 MW power plant (2nd unit) at Raozan costing 120 million US dollars will also be held at the same time.

The Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to grace both the functions simultaneously.

The date for the cere-

monies will be fixed shortly. However, the soil testing for the 2nd unit of 210 MW power plant to be set up in the vicinity of the first unit is almost nearing completion.

The authorities have undertaken this project of another 210 MW power plant to be installed with the financial assistance of China as done in the case of 1st unit in a bid to increase power generation to meet country's need.

The same Chinese firm will be engaged to install the 2nd 210 MW power unit.

The Raozan 210 MW power

plant run by gas, was brought under operation after completion of installation works on July, 1993 and one year guarantee period was also over. But during this operation period, the plant tripped on various occasions due to technical reasons.

But apprehension of further breakdown in power generation in this plant has not yet fully subsided.

Officials claimed that after the capital inspection done recently, the plant was operating almost with full capacity without any fresh breakdown.

Besides, a separate contract was performed for 55 Chinese experts one year overstay for guiding operation and maintenance of the plant in case of further trouble.

An additional amount of Taka six crore will have to be paid to those experts under this separate contract which came into effect on July 30, 1994.

As per initial contract the Chinese operation and maintenance experts were supposed to leave the plant on completion of one year guarantee period.

Country's 10 leading enterprises to take part in S Africa trade fair

By Staff Correspondent

Ten leading garments and jute goods manufacturing firms of the country will participate in the South Africa International Trade Fair.

The fair beginning from November 1 will continue up to November 5 in Johannesburg, capital city of South Africa.

Officials in the fair section of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) of Bangladesh said, capturing markets in African countries is the prime objective to participate in the fair. There are reports that South Africa imports Bangladeshi jute and garments from

third countries like Hongkong and Singapore. Now, are trying to export our goods directly to a number of African countries including South Africa, a high official of EPB said.

According to him, Bangladesh started exporting to South Africa from 1992-93 fiscal year. Bangladesh participated in the South Africa International Trade Fair for the first time in '93 and exported various goods worth 1.18 million US dollars.

In 1993-94 fiscal, export earnings from South Africa rose to six million US dollar.

he added. Among the exported items to the South Africa, jute and jute goods, garments, leather and leather goods, knitwear, handicrafts and ceramic tableware figure prominently.

The exporting firms, which have already made arrangements to participate in the fair, are Eve Garments Ltd, Com-Trade Apparels Ltd, Peoples Ceramic Industries, Rainbow Associates, Barisal Jute Mills Ltd, Trade Fair International Ltd, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, Janata Jute Mills Ltd, Hollywood Garments and Sultana Garments.

BRDB to launch Tk 139cr credit disbursement programme

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has set the target of Taka 139 crore credit for disbursement through development projects for the fiscal year '94-'95, says a BRDB press release.

The target was set against the actual achievement of Tk 88.13 crore during '93-'94 fiscal year.

BRDB reviewed the progress of its development projects at a meeting on Sunday. The meeting was attended by the director general, directors and project directors of the board.

According to the board review the performance during the first quarter of the current fiscal year was significantly better compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

BRDB has a total allocation of Tk 76.05 crore for 13 development projects included in the annual development programme (ADP) for '94-'95. The allocation under the revised ADP for '93-'94 was Tk 58.55 crore.

The meeting resolved to take all necessary measures and make every effort for proper implementation of the projects and full utilization of the allocation.

Call money rate

Dollar was traded in wider range against Taka at the close of interbank trading yesterday, dealers at commercial banks said, reports BSS.

They said Taka was quoted at 40.1530/40.1560 per dollar against the previous 40.1545/40.1560.

The dealers said lenders quoted the call money rates in the range of 1.4 per cent to 1.7 per cent against the yesterday's 1.5 per cent to 1.75 per cent.



Picture shows Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda along with the passengers of the KLM's maiden flight City of Dhaka at the Zia International Airport yesterday morning. — Star photo.

KLM comes to town

By Staff Correspondent

The famous alphabets in the aviation world — KLM — came to Bangladesh yesterday to operate twice-a-week flights between Dhaka and Amsterdam via Dubai.

A Boeing 747 aircraft christened the 'City of Dhaka' touched down at the Zia International Airport at 8:35 am with 250 passengers including some KLM executives and an official delegation from the Netherlands. The commanding pilot of the 265-seater aircraft then hoisted and waived the national flags of Bangladesh and the Netherlands over the cockpit roof as a sign of cooperation and solidarity.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda welcomed the official delegates, KLM executives and other passengers at the airport.

A group of children sang and danced welcoming them. Nazmul Huda told newsmen at the airport that the inauguration of a new airlines' flights indicated Bangladesh was progressing and attracting foreign traffic. It will also open up new arena of international trade, he added.

The Dutch official delegation, headed by Director General of the Foreign Economic Relations Frans A Engering arrived on a four-day business cooperation mission.

Later in the afternoon at Hotel Sheraton, KLM Vice-President for the Middle East

and South Asia Steller said that they should have come to Bangladesh earlier.

"It was a mistake. We should have come earlier," Steller said. After two years of extensive market study, the world's oldest airlines decided to operate from Dhaka considering its market potentiality, he said.

In reply to a question whether Bangladesh's national airlines Biman will be affected by the KLM operation, Steller said: "I don't believe Biman will be affected."

"If there is a high frequency of flights it will be of benefit to both countries and airlines,"

he said. "We are not competing but enhancing each other."

The inaugural flight left Dhaka with 230 passengers at 9:30 am. KLM is one of the world's oldest and largest airlines and have a fleet of 900 aircraft operating in 80 countries. Dhaka is the 155th destination of the 75-year old airlines which also maintain close business links with the Northwest Airlines of the USA in 400 destinations.

KLM hosted a reception at the city's Sheraton hotel which was attended by ministers, diplomats, and high government and civil officials.

China's grain imports to surge by 2000: Experts

BEIJING, Oct 31: China will be forced to import nearly 50 million tonnes of grain annually by the year 2000 to keep pace with rising demand, industry experts were quoted as saying Sunday, reports AFP.

Annual grain demand is expected to top 547 million tonnes by the turn of the century, while domestic output will only be able to account for 500 million tonnes, according to a report by the Beijing Agricultural University.

The report's findings will be especially worrying for the government, which is already predicting difficulties in

maintaining the growth of what imports following this year's devaluation of the Chinese currency and a higher international grain price.

The University's findings are based on conservative annual economic growth of 7.5 per cent over the next six years. If the economy grows at 9.5 per cent — as most experts predict — demand will soar to 570 million tonnes by the year 2000.

However, the University experts warned the government against sticking with its previous policy of striving for self-sufficiency in grain supply.

IATA report says

Airline industry may return to profitability

GENEVA, Oct 31: The airline industry seems to be returning to profitability after several years of heavy losses, an industry group said Monday, reports AP.

"In 1994 a modest profit of one billion dollars is not impossible," Pierre Jeannot, director-general of the International Air Transport Association, said in the group's latest annual report.

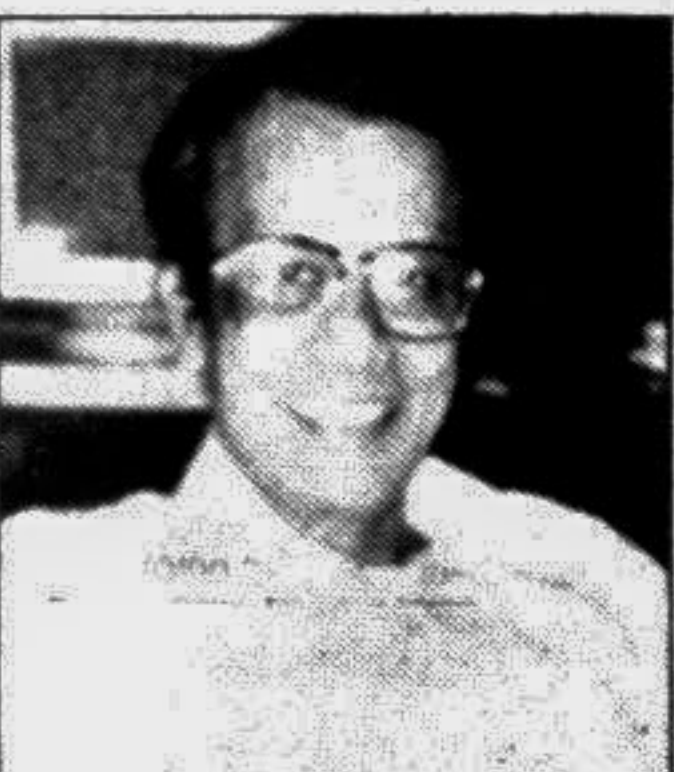
"This would represent a new beginning and give a breathing space, as the painful process of restructuring continues" for the association's 222 member airlines, he said.

But the report said the industry is a long way from regaining a secure financial footing after net losses by IATA members totaled a record 15.6 billion dollars on international scheduled services in 1990-93.

The projected 1994 earnings of one billion dollars would be less than one per cent of the industry's turnover of about 108 billion dollars, Jeannot said.

Still, there was another encouraging trend for the airlines' business: the numbers of passengers is growing faster than the number of airline seats this year.

The unveiling of IATA's latest figures coincided with the association's 50th annual general meeting in Mexico City, Monday and Tuesday.



D H Khan joins as MD of Beximco

D H Khan has taken over as the Managing Director of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Beximco Infusions Ltd, two units of Beximco's Chemical division of which he is currently the Chief Operating Officer, says a press release.

Khan has been associated with the Pharmaceutical industry for the last 27 years.

He held key positions, in several large Pharmaceutical companies before joining Beximco Pharmaceuticals in 1980 as its Marketing Manager.

New FBCCI chief meets Speaker

'Political uncertainty mars country's economy'

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Salman F Rahman yesterday expressed concern over the country's present political situation, reports UNB.

The newly-elected FBCCI chief vented the anguish on behalf of the business community when he called on Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali at Sangsad Bhavan. The businessmen's concern follows tension in politics over the government-opposition standoff on the issue of caretaker government to conduct national elections.

Salman Rahman emphasised the need for peace and a congenial atmosphere for economic development and investment in the country.

"Politics and economy are never isolated," Speaker Razzak Ali replied to the FBCCI President. "If there is political uncertainty, economy of the country is bound to suffer."

All said the present political

problem should be resolved through dialogue and discussion in an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding keeping in view the greater interest of the country.

It has to be addressed with reason and open mind by all concerned, he said. Every patriotic citizen has a role to play in fostering and strengthening democracy, and none should create a situation which can hamper the democratic process.

"We should give supreme importance to the interest of the country and keep it above all petty personal and party interest," the Speaker added.

Referring to the private sector, the Speaker said role and contribution of private sector in overall development of the country is vital.

All called upon the business community to play a dynamic and constructive role for economic development of the country.



Cees Ursem (R), General Manager, KLM airlines, Bangladesh, seen addressing a press briefing at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday. Karel Bram F Steller (M), Vice-President, MESA Region, KLM and Amirur Rahman, Managing Director, KLM, GSA Traveltime, are also seen in the picture. — Star photo.

WFP's food aid to famine victims in six African countries

MAPUTO, Oct 31: An official of the World Food Programme (WFP) said here recently his organization would purchase another 120,000 tons of corn for the famine victims in six African countries, reports Xinhua.

The official said the corn would be bought from Zimbabwe and South Africa and would go to Mozambique, Swaziland, Malawi, Rwanda, Burundi and Angola.

The official noted that the WFP's plans to provide food aid for African famine victims would face problems at the beginning of next year due to the lack of funds.

Market of interbank trading expands

The market size of interbank trading expanded by 15 to 20 per cent during the ten months ending in October of this calendar year compared to the corresponding period of last year, dealers at private commercial banks said here yesterday, reports BSS.

They said the average day's transaction increased to six to seven million dollars during the period from the last year's four to five million dollars.

The dealers said the market had expanded mainly following the deregulation of foreign currency dealing by the central bank.

They said increase of awareness among the customers regarding opening of

letter of credit in respective currencies of the exporting countries had helped in broadening the market size.

The dealers said the active-ness of the interbank traders had also worked as one of the prime causes of the expansion of market size of interbank trading.

They are hopeful that the market will expand more by the end of this calendar year as more deregulation on foreign currency dealing is expected from the Bangladesh Bank.

The dealers said introduction of new market products in the banking sector is in the offing which will certainly expand the market further.

Beijing's domestic auto sales may not reach target

BEIJING, Oct 31: China will not reach its production target of 350,000 vehicles this year, an official report said Monday, reports AP.

Sales of foreign-built vehicles, meanwhile, reached two billion dollar for 150,000 vehicles during the January-August period, the China Daily reported.

China imported 84,000 cars during the eight-month period, compared with 100,000 during all of 1993, the report said.

Japanese-built cars ranked first with 37,600, followed by Germany with 13,900 and the United States with 13,700.

Iran will repair Gulf oil terminal without foreign help

TEHRAN, Oct 31: Iran will repair a major Gulf oil platform without foreign help in a bid to save money, the official Islamic Republic News Agency, (IRNA) reported yesterday, says AFP.

The Abuzar platform, 75 kilometers (50 miles) southwest of the Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf, was badly damaged in the 1980-1988 war with Iraq. Najaf Pezeshkan, head of the state owned marine installation manufacturing and engineering company, told IRNA the project would cost around 120 million dollars and was expected to raise production capacity from 50,000 barrels per day to 200,000.

Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Faridpur PWD Division
Tender No 36 of 1994-95

Memo No. 2781 Dated : 17-10-94/2-7-1401BS

Notice Inviting Tenders

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 from the approved Special Class-I/Class-I sanitary and plumbing contractors of PWD, Class-II sanitary and plumbing contractors of PWD Zone, Khulna for Establishment of 205-bed hospital at Faridpur-Revised 1993 (SH: Sanitary and water supply arrangement to Matron quarter) and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Narail and Rajbari in their respective offices up to 12-00 Noon of 10-11-94. The estimated cost of the work is Taka 1,34,362/- only and the Earnest Money is Taka 2,688/- in TC/PO/BD from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh or Pratirakha Sanchayapatra, Bonus Sanchayapatra, 5-years BD Sanchayapatra must accompany each tender duly endorsed to the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Faridpur. Otherwise his tender shall be declared informal. No tender form, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. will be sold after 9-11-94. The tender paper, schedule of items additional terms and conditions etc, may be obtained from the Office of the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Narail and Rajbari on all working days during office hours on payments of usual charges of Tk 400/- (Taka four hundred) per set of tender schedule and a sum of Tk 25/- (Taka twenty five) per copy of tender Form No. 2911 (Both non-refundable).

Details may be seen from the Office of the undersigned during office hours.

M A Muqtadir
Executive Engineer
Faridpur PWD Division
DPP-8142-23/10
G-1699
Phone No : 3257

Notice of RHD Inviting Tender

Tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No.2911 in scaled cover.

1. Tender Notice : 17/JRD of 1994-95.
2. Name of Work : Carriage of 440 RFT (134.15 M) Bolt connected steel bridge (China) at 11th KM of Jamalpur-Madegonj Road under Jamalpur Road Division during the year 1994-95(From Chittagong Procurement & Storage Division to work site).
3. Estimated Cost : Tk. 3,17,182/=
4. Earnest Money : Tk. 6,344/=
5. Eligibility of Contractor : RHD, General category contractor as per financial capacity and territorial jurisdiction.
6. Time allowed : 10 (Ten) days.
7. Last time & date of receiving tender : 09-11-94 up to 12.30 P.M.
8. Time & date of opening of tender bids : 09-11-94 at 12.45 P.M.
9. Last date of purchasing of tender : 08-11-94 during office hours.
10. Name of offices of availability of tender documents : Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Jamalpur/ Mymensingh/ Tangail/ Kishoregonj/ Netrakona/Planning & Design Division, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka & Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division-I/II/III/IV/Workshop, Jamalpur/Sherpur.
11. Name of offices receive tender bids : Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mymensingh Road Circle, Mymensingh/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Jamalpur & Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Sherpur.

Mohammed Bayazid
Executive Engineer, RHD
Current Charge
Jamalpur Road Division
Jamalpur