

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1994

**Dhaka, Amsterdam
sign investment
accord**

An Agreement was signed yesterday at Shilpa Bhaban between Bangladesh and The Netherlands for encouragement and reciprocal protection of investment. A H M Abdul Hye, Secretary, Ministry of Industries and R A Vornis, the Ambassador of The Netherlands in Bangladesh signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments, says a press release.

Immediately after signing the agreements, the visiting Netherlands delegation led by F A Engineering, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of Netherlands called on A M Zahiruddin Khan, Minister for Industries, A H M Abdul Hye, Secretary, Ministry of Industries, senior officers of the Ministry of Industries and the member of the Dutch delegations, Chairman of BCIC and BSIC were present during the discussion.

**BSB sanctions
Tk 5.26 cr loan
for two projects**

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank has sanctioned a loan of Taka 5.26 crore for two new industrial projects including a joint venture investment, reports UNB.

It was disclosed at a meeting of the executive committee of the bank, held at its head office here on Monday, said a press release yesterday.

During the tenure of the projects, foreign currency worth Taka 23.58 crore is expected to be earned while Taka 3.23 crore would be contributed to the national GDP.

**Taiwan plans to
lift import ban
on betel-nuts**

TAIPEI, Nov 1: Taiwan plans to lift a decades-old ban on importing betel-nuts, dubbed Taiwanese chewing gum, to prevent overplanting and improve chances of joining the world trade body, the United Daily News reported on Monday, reports Reuter.

Betel-nut production has soared in the past decade, blanketing mountain slopes with plantations that are causing soil erosion, the mass circulation daily quoted agricultural officials as saying.

The cabinet's council of agriculture intends to lift the import ban as part of the island's bid to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and stifle a powerful lobby against imports, the newspaper said.

Agricultural officials could not be reached for comment on Monday, a national holiday in Taiwan.

The small green nut is challenging rice as Taiwan's number one cash crop.

Production was only 30,000 tonnes in 1984 but was 137,000 tonnes in 1993, the paper said. Acreage under crop jumped to 44,000 hectares (108,000 acres) in 1993 from less than 7,000 hectares (17,000 acres) in 1984.

The habit of chewing betel-nuts and spitting out the juice has found a whole new market among young, educated people who, despite doctors' warning that it may cause oral cancer, want to feel Taiwanese.

About two million of Taiwan's 20 million population have taken up the habit, buying from an estimated 50,000 betel-nut sellers in tiny roadside stands.

**Bangladesh, Tanzania to
boost economic ties**

Bangladesh and Tanzania discussed ways to increase bilateral cooperation with particular emphasis on investment and boosting the two-way trade, reports BSS.

The State Minister for Textiles, M A Mannan, who was in the Tanzanian capital of Dar-Es-Salam on Thursday called on the Prime Minister and first Vice President, Ndugo John Malecela, and discussed economic cooperation between the two friendly countries.

On a request from the Tanzanian leader the Bangladesh minister agreed to send a technical team to study Tanzania's cotton and textile industries to identify areas of cooperation.

The textile minister accompanied by a delegation, comprising representatives

from both the private and public sectors, during the second leg of the African tour, also visited three sick textile mills of Tanzania in which efforts are on to bring them to capacity production.

M A Mannan showed interest to send a technical team from Bangladesh to study how the Tanzanians were trying to bring the sick textile units to full production, a message from the Tanzanian capital said.

Bangladesh, Mannan said, could be a potential market for Tanzanian cotton if it was found to be of good quality.

The Tanzanian premier said due to attractive price offered to the farmers cotton production in his country production was expected to increase to 300,000 tons during the coming season from last year's

250,000 tons. He suggested that his country could export from the extra yield to Bangladesh to feed its industries.

As the Bangladesh Jute Minister, M A Hannan Shah, during his last year's visit to Tanzania had assured the Tanzanian government cooperation in the establishment of Export Processing Zone (EPZ) the state minister for textile handed over to the Tanzanian Deputy Minister for Industries a concept paper on Bangladesh export processing zone. The Tanzanian Prime Minister appreciated the gesture.

The Tanzanian Prime Minister informed the Bangladesh Minister that the cotton and textile industry of his country were running 30 per cent below the installed capacity.

**Mongla Cement Factory may
go into trial operation soon**

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 1: Mongla Cement Factory, financed by Bangladesh Shilpa Bank is expected to go into trial operation very soon.

Owned by the Sena Kalyan Sangstha, this will be the only cement plant in his part of the country.

Constructed at a cost of Taka 700 million, the plant is expected to produce 0.4 million tonnes of portland grey cement annually.

The cement plant will not only save foreign exchange worth about Taka 160 million a year but will also contribute Taka 250 million to the national exchequer with employment opportunities for 250 persons.

Its actual construction work started in March 1992 after completion of earth filling work at the industrial belt of Mongla Port.

Meanwhile imported raw

materials are ready to feed the plant for trial production.

Two foreign firms have supplied project machinery and equipments and also constructed two silos — one for cement and another for clinker.

The plant is expected to produce 65 tons of cement per hour. It will be a dust-free one with no environmental pollution, said a spokesman of the MCF.

**'Price of rice, paddy to
be fixed in Aman season'**

The Food Minister Mir Shaukat Ali Monday said that price of rice and paddy in the upcoming Aman procurement season would be fixed keeping in view the interests of the growers, rice mill owners and workers on the one hand, as well as of the common consumers as regards maintaining the price stability within their purchase capacity on the other, reports BSS.

While addressing as chief guest at the North Bengal Rice Mills Owners Association Federation rally at the Vocational Teachers Training Institute auditorium at Bogra, the minister said that a reasonable price of coming aman paddy and rice would be provided to the farmers considering their increased production cost due to drought, in the northern regions this season.

'Chaired by the president of the Regional Rice Mill Owners Association, A Kader Pilot, the rally was also addressed by, among others, General Secretary, K M Laik Ali, and Vice Presidents, Shamsul Haq and Abdul Quddus.

Earlier, by unveiling a plaque, the minister declared open the district 'Khaddya Bhaban' recently built at Bogra at a cost of about Taka seven lakh or seventy five decimals of land.

He assured them of a reasonable price considering the additional production cost.

**Hong Kong will
introduce first
bimetal coin**

HONG KONG, Nov 1: Hong Kong is to replace its 10-dollar banknote with the territory's first bimetal coin to meet public — particularly commuter — demand for higher-value coins, a government spokesman said Monday, reports AFP.

The bimetal coin, with an outer ring of cupro-nickel and an inner core of nickel-brass will be put into circulation Tuesday as current notes are gradually phased out.

The spokesman said the new coins, which usually survive for 20 to 30 years, were more durable than the notes, which have an average life span of about 10 months.

**Floods, storms cost Vietnam
1m tonnes of rice**

HANOI, Nov 1: Floods and storms have destroyed more than one million tonnes of summer rice in Vietnam but reserves from earlier bumper harvests mean production and export targets should be met, a senior official said on Monday, reports Reuter.

About 950,000 tonnes of rice from the current summer harvest had been destroyed in northern Vietnam and nearly 200,000 tonnes in the Southern Mekong Delta, making a total of 1.15 million tonnes lost, the official said.

The losses — bigger than the government has previously disclosed — include about 10

per cent of other crops expressed in terms of 'paddy equivalent'.

'I think we should fulfil our rice production target this year and have summer rice for export,' said Quach Ngoc An, Vice Director of Agriculture Extension in the Agriculture and Food Ministry.

'The loss of about one million tonnes is big,' but thanks to many bumper harvests in recent years, we can bear these losses,' he said.

An cited this year's spring harvest, which was 1.4 million tonnes bigger than last year's and more than matched the amount lost from the summer crop.

The government's production target was 25 million tonnes of rice and paddy equivalent, 22.5 million tonnes of its rice, he said.

Vietnam, the world's third biggest rice exporter, had already exported 1.7 million tonnes by September through normal trading routes and an estimated 300,000 tonnes without licences, mostly across the Chinese border, An said.

This total of about 2.0 million tonnes was the same as the government's export target for the year.

Following the Mekong Delta floods — in which more than 300 people died and damage totalled at least 1.5 billion dong (133 million dollars) — the government has told exporters to extend delivery times if necessary to keep the domestic market stable.

It also banned all unlicensed exports to ensure domestic supplies.



Long-cherished dream of the teeming millions now turned into a reality: pictorial view of the formal inauguration of the country's longest ever bridge called Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge II (Meghna-Gumti Bridge) at Daudkandi yesterday by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. Emblem of the bridge (1), Prime Minister is unveiling the plaque with Communications Minister Oli Ahmed on her right (2) and after formal opening of the bridge, the Prime Minister is seen crossing it over in a motorcade (3).

— Star photo

**Israel to grant
8000 work
permits for
Palestinians**

JERUSALEM, Nov 1: Israel will grant 8,000 work permits for Palestinians over the age of 30 who will be able to return to their jobs from Wednesday, a military administration spokeswoman said, reports AFP.

When the army sealed off the Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank on October 19 after a Palestinian suicide bomber blew up a bus killing himself and 22 others, some 70,000 Arabs were employed in Israel.

All those work permits are now invalid, said spokeswoman Captain Hanne Jeshurun, and Palestinians must apply for new passes.

Some 4,000 permits would be issued for the West Bank and the same number for the Gaza Strip. Applicants must be married and have, previously worked in Israel.

Tone subdued for fall of art sales

NEW YORK, Nov 1: With some exceptions — a circular Monet, a pulpy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol doing Marilyn Monroe — the tone of fall art sales at the two premier auction houses is definitely subdued, reports AP.

Art dealers and even officials at Christie's and Sotheby's are describing the auctions of contemporary, Impressionist and modern art, which begin Tuesday, as routine events with mostly ordinary works.

Shots of excitement are expected from the bidding for Claude Monet's circular canvas of waterlilies and Roy Lichtenstein's comic-strip-like painting of a woman with a tear coming out of an eye.

And, as a legal battle swirls around the worth of Andy Warhol's Marilyn, is sure to generate drama.

'It has been difficult to get much in the way of exciting paintings for sale,' said David Nash, director of

Impressionist and modern art at Sotheby's. 'There are a few. But, on the whole, it's a fairly routine sale.'

Auction houses often get their top quality pieces from estates and, said Nash, 'There haven't been very many major collectors who have died in the last year or so.'

Collectors are reluctant to sell now, he said, because 'They feel inflation is right around the corner.'

A highlight of the contemporary sales is Warhol's 'Shot Red Marilyn,' expected to sell for 2.5 million dollars to 3 million dollars.

The seller, reportedly Masao Waniuchi, a Tokyo-based collector, bought it for 4.07 million dollars at Christie's in New York during the art boom in 1989, the year before a Vincent Van Gogh sold for 82.5 million dollars.

The silkscreen gets part of its name from a 1964 incident when a woman walked into

Warhol's factory in Manhattan and shot a hole through a portrait of the movie star, and three other Marilyn works.

Its sale will be closely watched by Warhol collectors, since the value of his art has been the center of a legal battle involving the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the main beneficiary of the artist's estate and the estate's former attorney, Edward Hayes.

Another Warhol that is likely to generate interest is a silkscreen of O J Simpson, signed by Warhol and by Simpson, the former football star charged with murdering his ex-wife and her friend.

It has been consigned to Sotheby's by Seattle art collector Richard Weisman, who commissioned Warhol to do portraits of several sports figures in 1978. Its presale estimate is 30,000 to 40,000 dollars.

Also at Sotheby's is Lichtenstein's 'I ... I'm Sorry,' expected to sell for two million to 2.5 million dollars. It reportedly is being sold by Holly Solomon, a New York dealer who has had the work in her private collection since 1966.

The Impressionist and modern art sales will feature Monet's 1907 waterlilies from the estate of Alice Tully, the New York philanthropist and arts patron who died last year. Christie's estimate for the painting is 4 million to 6 million dollars.

The evening sales, at which these works will be sold, are expected to bring more than 100 million dollars. With the day sales figured in, the estimate would be more than 140 million dollars.

That may seem like a lot of money outside the rarefied world of art collecting. But for the dealers, collectors and auction houses 100 million dollars is a dispiriting sum, 35 million dollars less than was sold during the sluggish spring evening sales.

**China, ROK sign accord to
develop passenger planes**

SEOUL, Nov 1: China and South Korea signed an accord here on Monday committing them to jointly develop medium-sized passenger planes for the Asian market, reports AFP.

The accord was signed by Shi Wapeng, Deputy Director of China's State Energy and Trade Commission, and South Korean Trade Minister Kim Chul-Su, during Chinese Premier Li Peng's five-day trip to Seoul.

The agreement calls on the two nations to establish a joint venture for the construction of 100-seat passenger planes.

South Korean officials said the two nations agreed to speed up the selection of a third partner for technology ties in the project, which experts here said would cost up to 1.2 billion dollars.

Both sides also did not rule

out the possibility of including other Asian nations as minority equity holders in the project, which has triggered competition between Boeing and other aircraft makers to sell technology, they said.


Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and India have expressed interest in the Sino-South Korean project, they said.

South Korea has yet to work out a detailed plan for a consortium to take up its side of the joint venture because of disputes among domestic firms, which have been in cut-throat competition to become the main contractor.

Samsung Aerospace Engineering Co. has been selected to lead the consortium, but Daewoo Heavy Industries Co. and Korean Air Co. Ltd. (KAL) have called for a larger share.



Dr Forrest Cookson, President of American Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF), speaking at a seminar on 'Foreign Participation in Bangladesh Economy' organised by the ABEF at Dhaka Sheraton yesterday. Sitting from left are: A Gafur, Executive Secretary-ABEF, M Nurul Islam, Vice-President-ABEF, Dr Cookson and C Draper, Senior Industrial Economist-The World Bank, Washington.



ঢাকা ওয়াসা

টেগার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পানির অপচয় বন্ধ করুন।। ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা চুঁবি রাখুন

ঢাকা ওয়াসার তালিকাভুক্ত ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় শ্রেণীর অটোমোবাইলস ঠিকাদারদের/প্রকৃত অটোমোবাইলস কারখানা মালিকদের নিকট হইতে ৬,৪৬,১২৪/- টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দে ঢাকা-ন-২২১৪ এবং ঢাকা-ড-১১৭১ রোমানিয়ান প্রিমিয়ার পানির গাড়ীর ইঞ্জিন ও গিয়ার বাস্তু পরিবর্তন করিয়া মেরামত কাজের নিমিত্তে টেন্ডার আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

দরপত্রসমূহ আগামী ১৪/১১/৯৪ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ টা পর্যন্ত গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐদিনই বেলা ২.০০ টার সময় দরপত্রদাতা বা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিদের সন্মুখে (যদি উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে।

ঢাকা ওয়াসার প্রধান হিসাব রক্ষণ কর্মকর্তার অফিস, ওয়াসা ভবন, ৯৬, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ঢাকা ও ঢাকা ওয়াসার সকল মডস জোন অফিসে টেন্ডারের সিডিউল পাওয়া যাইবে। অন্যান্য বিস্তারিত বিবরণ নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে পাওয়া যাইবে।

ঠিকানাঃ
মিরপুর, ঢাকা
ওয়াসা-জরতঃ-০৪৯/৯৪
DPP-৪৪১৭-২৬/১০
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নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
ওয়ার্কসপ বিভাগ
ঢাকা ওয়াসা