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# The Daily Star BUSINESS

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## 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 BSFIC 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 official 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.

## ঢাকা ওয়াসা টেগুর বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পানির অপচয় করেন ।। মানহোলের ঢাকনা ছুরি রেখ করুন

ঢাকা ওয়াসার তালিকাতৃত ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় শ্রেণীর অটোমোবাইলস টিকাদারদের/প্রকৃত অটোমোবাইলস কারখানা মালিকদের নিকট হইতে ৬,৪৬,১২৪/- টাকা বায় বরাদে ঢাকা-ন-২২১৪ এবং ঢাকা-ড-১১৭১ রোমালিয়ান প্রিমিয়ার পানির গাড়ীর ইঞ্জিন ও গিয়ার বাক্স পরিবর্তন করিয়া মেরামত কাজের নিমিত্তে টেগুর আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

দুরপতনমূহ আগস্ট ১৪/১১/৯৪ হইবে এবং এন্দিনই বেলা ১২.০০ টা পর্যন্ত শহুর করা হইবে এবং এন্দিনই বেলা ২.০০ টার সময় দুরপতনাত বা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিদের সন্তুরে যদি উপস্থিত থাকেন খোলা হইবে।

ঢাকা ওয়াসার প্রধান হিসাব রক্ষণ কর্মকর্তার অফিস, ওয়াসা ভবন, ১৮, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এণ্টিনিউ, ঢাকা ও ঢাকা ওয়াসার সকল মডেল জেন অফিসে টেগুরের সিভিল পাওয়া যাইবে। অন্যান্য বিস্তারিত বিবরণ নিম্নোক্তকারীর অফিসে পাওয়া যাইবে।

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মিরপুর, ঢাকা  
ওয়াসা-জ্ঞত-৩৪১/৯৪  
DFP-8439-26/10  
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এ. কে. এম. সিরাজুল ইসলাম  
নিবাহী প্রকোশলী  
ওয়াকেলপ বিভাগ  
ঢাকা ওয়াসা

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.

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.

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 dismally sum. 35 million dollars less than was sold during the sluggish spring evening sales.

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