

NBL reduces lending rates further

National Bank Limited has once again reduced its lending rates, says a press release.

The new rates will take effect immediately.

The lending rates have been reduced with a view to expanding agricultural, industrial and commercial activities in the country.

The new rates are: marketing of fertilizer — 13.50 per cent, large and medium industries — 14 per cent, small and cottage industries — 9 to 12 per cent, working capital — 14 per cent and export — 10 per cent.

Depending on customer-banker relationship, the bank may further reduce interest rate in exceptional cases.

To encourage timely repayment, the bank has in some cases, agreed to give interest rebate.

Call money rate

Money rates in the Call Money Market during the week ended on Wednesday ranged from 1.50 per cent to six per cent, reports UNB.

During the same week, interest offered by the bank on Certificate of Deposits varied from five per cent to 8.25 per cent, said a Bangladesh bank press release yesterday.

The bank rate, however, remained unchanged at 5:50 per cent.

'Don't borrow money to play stocks'

BEIJING, Nov 3: A man executed last week for the first murder in a Chinese brokerage advised his countrymen during an interview hours before his death not to borrow money to play the stock market, reports Reuters.

Do not repeat my mistake, An Gang was quoted as saying by the China Securities News.

An 31, was executed on Saturday for killing a clerk and wounding four people during a robbery in a brokerage in Shenyang in northeast China on October 24.

"I did not intend to kill," he said in his final interview, published by the newspaper on Wednesday.

"I planned to use the gun to frighten people, take the money and put the gun back. But when I heard the alarm go off I was frightened and started shooting without thinking."

He said borrowing to play the market was his biggest mistake. An, who worked in the reform through labour bureau, borrowed 20,000 yuan (2,350 dollars) from relatives, but lost 7,000 (825) dollars in the market.

He decided to attempt the robbery after they demanded their money back.

My message to Chinese stockholders is that the market here is still developing. You will make money and lose it. That is normal. Do not have false pride or be worried about losing face.

An also apologised to his seven-year-old son.

My greatest anguish is toward my son, to whom I say sorry," he said. "The loss of your father will be a very bad psychological blow. I have no reason to ask anyone to forgive me. I hope what I did was a lesson to everyone."

BSCIC plans to set up 3 shrimp culture estates

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) plans to set up three shrimp culture industrial estates in Cox's Bazar district at a cost of about Taka 50 crore.

"We have completed all formalities to set up the estates and now it awaits final approval of the government," a high ranking official of the BSCIC told The Daily Star.

He said the decision to establish some shrimp culture industrial estates in the vast coastal area of the country was taken at the fourth meeting of the cabinet sub-committee on industries late last year.

According to the decision, BSCIC conducted primary survey in the coastal area and proposed to set up six industrial estates only for intensive shrimp culture. Of the proposed estates, four are in Cox's Bazar and one each in Khulna and Satkhira districts. "Due to non-availability of government khas land, we have dropped three projects from the proposal," the source said.

The proposed three projects will be established at Kawardla-1 and Kawardla-2 area in Chokoria thana and Jailar Dip in Teknaf thana.

These estates will be set up on government khas land, and each will take five hundred acres land.

The source also said that under the project, each plot for semi intensive shrimp culture would be made on one acre land and the land would be leased primarily for 20 years. The period will be extended gradually.

The money will be spent only for providing infrastructural facilities to the farmers.

According to the source, to boost the production of high quality shrimp in the country and to earn more foreign currency by exporting shrimp abroad are the main objects of these projects.



Commerce Minister M. Shamsul Islam inaugurated a 3-day trade show ComTeq 94, organised by Conference and Exhibition Management Services at Dhaka Sheraton in the city yesterday.

Bonn seeks Dhaka's proposals for developing jute goods

Bangladesh and Germany discussed in Bonn on Monday cooperation in improving the quality of jute products, reports BSS.

The Jute Minister, ASM Hannan Shah, met the German Minister for Environment, Prof Dr Klaus Topfer, to discuss possible cooperation also in marketing environment friendly jute fibre products in the German market, a message from Bonn said.

Prof Topfer said that there was tremendous interest

among the German public in using jute shopping bags in place of plastic shopping bags and assured the Bangladesh minister of Germany's fullest cooperation in further developing the jute fibre products and their marketing in Germany.

Dr Topfer requested the Bangladesh Jute Minister to convey specific proposals and suggestions in which Germany could assist Bangladesh in developing its jute products.

The German minister suggested that the Bangladesh minister could send such proposals and suggestions through the Bangladesh embassy in Bonn.

The Jute Minister, who is leading a three-member Bangladesh delegation, explained the problems and prospects of jute and goods made out of it as environment friendly fibre products with multiple uses.

He sought technical and other assistance from the Federal Republic of Germany in improving the quality of various jute products.

Prof Topfer responding to him said that Germany was going to amend the packaging legislation to ensure that the environment friendly fibre of jute did not face any marketing difficulty in his country.

Prof Topfer also assured the Bangladesh minister that there would be no discrimination against jute or any natural fibre in the German market.

Describing jute as the symbol of environment the German minister said that he would also be ready to support Bangladesh in his capacity as the chairman of the UN commission on sustainable development.

Dr Topfer said that he would be very glad if Germany could assist Bangladesh in this field on which about 20 million people in Bangladesh were directly or indirectly dependent.

The Jute Minister explained the various economic reforms and economic development efforts undertaken by the Bangladesh government under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Hannan Shah congratulated Prof Topfer on the reelection of the ruling Christian Democratic Union Party under the leadership of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

He conveyed thanks and appreciation of the government and the people of Bangladesh for the help and assistance Germany had been rendering towards development efforts of Bangladesh since its independence.

The German minister accepted an invitation from the Jute Minister to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.



Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman, United Commercial Bank Ltd and Member, Executive Committee of the FBCCI, speaking as chief guest at the fifth installation ceremony of Rotaract Club of Lalbagh held at Bishwa Shahitta Kendra in the city on Wednesday.

China deserts turn sand into precious resource

BEIJING, Nov 3: China, turning a historic problem into a potential resource, said on Wednesday it was pioneering a profitable new industry — sand, reports Reuters.

The sand industry has been advocated by noted scientist Qian Xuesen, who said ten years ago that the Gobi Desert is also a land resource and every effort should be made to put it into fuller use, the official Xinhua news agency said.

"Since then, a lot of enterprises have been set up to make good use of desert sand and to improve the living standards of the residents in the area," it said.

Centuries of tree-cutting, overgrazing and poorly

planned agriculture have led to widespread desertification across northern and western China. Nearly 16 per cent of China's area is desert — about 1.5 million square km (579,000 sq miles) sandstorms cause 4.5 billion yuan (526 million dollars) in losses each year, the report said.

Xinhua said the northern province of inner Mongolia, which contains one — third of China's growing deserts, had taken the lead in the commercial and industrial use of sand and helped to curb desertification in the process.

In the eastern part of inner Mongolia, ample resources of silicon sand had been used to make many kinds of products.

Salman calls on Zahir

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Salman F. Rahman called on Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan at his office here yesterday, reports BSS.

During the meeting, the Industries Minister said, the present government had been continuing about efforts to accelerate the pace of economic development and increase production. He said, the government had taken massive reform programmes to help grow the private sector in the country. The Minister urged the business community to play their due role for the industrial development.

Salman Rahman said, FBCCI would come forward to contribute to the nation's development efforts by helping in ensuring more investment and maintain a necessary peaceful situation. He said steps would be taken to strengthen the FBCCI to supplement the government's efforts in flourishing the private sector in the country.

Li visits ROK's Hyundai auto plant, shipyard

SEOUL, Nov 3: Chinese Premier Li Peng toured Thursday South Korea's largest auto plant and shipyard as part of his continuing push to expand economic ties, reports AP.

It was Li's second tour of an auto plant in three days, with South Korean automakers vying for a piece of China's untapped auto market, expected to explode in coming years.

Li, who arrived Monday with some 45 business leaders, has made economic ties the top agenda item for his five-day visit.

"We hope that Hyundai will be given the opportunity to participate in various market openings and reforms being promoted by China," Chung Sae-young, chairman of the Hyundai group, told Li in Ulsan city, 280 kilometers (175 miles) southeast of Seoul.

The Hyundai Motor Co. plant and the Hyundai Heavy Industries shipyard are affiliates of the huge Hyundai conglomerate.

After the tour, Li lunched and held talks with Chung, as

well as with Chung Ju-young, Hyundai's founder, who has visited China several times in the past few years.

Hyundai Motor Co., with an annual production capacity of 1.2 million vehicles, is striving to push open China's auto market by investing in an assembly plant there.

Timed with Li's visit to Ulsan city, another Hyundai affiliate announced Thursday the signing of a ground-breaking deal to export 200 sports utility vehicles this year.

Previously, all auto sales were based on barter, with the South Korean side promising to make a counter purchase, a Hyundai Precision and Industry Co. official said.

Hyundai said it hopes to export as many as 5,000 of its Gallopers by the end of 1995.

Tuesday, Li visited the Daewoo Motor Co. plant outside Seoul.

Daewoo, South Korea's third largest carmaker with annual capacity of 700,000 vehicles, has also shown interest in building a passenger car assembly plant in China.

US expects airline agreement with nine European states

WASHINGTON, Nov 3: US officials expect to reach agreement within several months with nine smaller West European nations for wide open competition in the aviation business, reports USIS.

Each country's passenger and cargo airlines would be allowed unlimited access to cities in the other countries, to fly as often as they liked to the other countries participating in the agreement and to cooperate in sales and marketing programmes, according to Department of Transportation officials.

Two department officials briefed reporters on the details of the negotiations, also outlined by Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena in a speech in Chicago November 1 before the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Pena described as "a major breakthrough" the decision between the United States and the nine European countries — which remain unidentified — to begin negotiations in a few weeks on "free trade in aviation services."

He said he hoped that the agreements expected to be reached with the nine would encourage other European, Asian, Latin American and African countries to talk about free trade in aviation.

The advantage of free trade, he argued, would be a greatly expanded market for passenger and cargo business.

Patrick Murphy, Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Aviation, said the agreement reached two years ago with the Netherlands is a model of what the administration is seeking around the world.

Under that agreement, Northwest Airlines in the United States and KLM in the Netherlands have been able to offer better service to customers and have increased their market share and profits.

Officials from the United States and the nine European countries will begin negotiations in a few weeks. The nine are meeting among themselves to forge a common approach to

the United States, Murphy said.

"We've not set a timetable. But we're talking about months, not years," he said.

Some of the nine are members of the European Community (EU). Some approached the administration and said they were interested in talking about free trade in aviation and others were sought out by US officials.

Murphy acknowledged in a reply to a question that an agreement would put pressure on other countries in the EU to negotiate free trade arrangements with the United States.

Free trade is the announced aim in the draft of the US International Aviation Policy Statement released by Pena as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the International Civil Aviation Organization and in fulfillment of a commitment he made in January.

Murphy said new arrangements could include agreements to liberalize just an aviation sector.

China, UK to sign accord today on financing HK's new airport

HONG KONG, Nov 3: Britain and China will sign an agreement Friday on financing Hong Kong's new airport, it was announced today, reports AP.

The two countries have been locked in three years of often acrimonious talks over the 20.3 billion US dollar project.

"The British and Chinese sides agree to hold an airport committee meeting in Hong Kong on November 4 to sign an agreed minute concerning the overall financing arrangements for the new airport and airport railway," said a brief statement issued by the Hong Kong government.

Vatican attaches strings to UNICEF money

VATICAN CITY, Nov 3: The Vatican gave its yearly symbolic contribution to UNICEF on condition it doesn't fund programmes that violate Church teaching, Vatican Radio said Wednesday, reports AP.

Archbishop Renato Martino told the radio that the Vatican gave 2,000 dollars to UNICEF to pay only for prenatal and infant nutrition and children's respiratory and intestinal health programmes.

The condition was imposed "to reassure Catholics that their contributions will not be used for any programmes that contradict the moral teaching of the church," Martino said.

The ANSA news agency reported that the Vatican and UN agency are negotiating to prevent Church money from going for artificial birth control, which the Church forbids.

The Holy See waged a vigorous battle at the UN Conference on Population and Development against abortion, birth control and other issues it saw as threatening to the family.

The Vatican has observer status at the United Nations.

Marshall Islands agrees to accept nuclear waste from Japan

TOKYO, Nov 3: The Marshall Islands Republic in the South Pacific has agreed to accept nuclear waste from Japanese electric power companies, a daily said here today, reports AP.

According to the Asahi Shimbun, a Marshall Islands official told the Japanese Science and Technology Agency that the republic was ready to store nuclear waste on some of its uninhabited islands.

The official announced his country's readiness while Japan and South Pacific countries held a seminar here in October to discuss the use of nuclear energy.

A document obtained by Asahi showed that the Marshall Islands government proposed in February to start a feasibility study building facilities to store foreign nuclear waste.

The document noted that the post-cold war international community faced difficulties in storing nuclear materials.

Japan has no nuclear weapons but has more than 40 nuclear reactors in operation.

Notice Inviting Tender of RHD
Sealed Tender in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited

1. Tender Notice No: 26/EE/MPD/1994-95 Eng.
2. Name of work: Earth work in Angaria bridge approaches and Road embankment at 14th KM of Madaripur-Shariatpur-Bhedarganj road under Madaripur Road Division during the year 1994-95 Eng. (Ch to 266 Development (Feeder Road)).
3. Estimated cost: Tk 8,61,376/-
4. Earnest money: Tk 17,228/-
5. Time allowed for completion of work: 40(forty) days with effect from the date of work order.
6. Eligibility of contractor: "A" to "C" class General category contractor of RHD and "D" class General category of Faridpur Road Circle, Faridpur.
7. Name of offices where tender documents will be available: Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur/Faridpur/Gopalganj/Planning & Design Division Barisal/Planning Division, Sarak Baban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Madaripur/ Shariatpur/Bhanga/Asst Engineer, RHD 1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Madaripur.
8. Name of office where tender will be received: Addl Chief Engineer, RHD, Barisal Zone, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Faridpur Road Circle Faridpur/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Monitoring and Evaluation (P&D) Circle, Sarak Baban, Ramna, Dhaka Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur.
9. Last date of selling of tender document: 12-11-94 Eng/28 7-1401 Beng during office hours
10. Last date and time for receiving of tender: Upto 12-30 PM on 13-11-94 Eng/29-7-1401 Beng.
11. Last date and time of opening of tender: At 12-45 PM of 13-11-94 Eng/29-7-1401 BS.

Md Khorshid Alam
Executive Engineer, RHD, (CC)
Road Division, Madaripur.

DDP-8747-30/10
G-1722



Protesters from the group, Robin des Bois, wearing elephant masks, demonstrate at the South African embassy in Paris on Wednesday against the country's pending request before the ninth reunion of the Washington Convention to re-open the international trade in ivory. The Convention will be held in Florida, USA from November 7 to 18.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Production & Distribution of ORS for the Control of Diarrhoeal Disease
46, Tejguni Para Airport Road, Dhaka
Memo No. HS/NORP/ORS/2T-1/Glucose/94-95/11968 Dated: 27-10-1994

International Tender Notice
Production & Distribution of ORS for the Control of Diarrhoeal Disease (Code No. 12-113-057-9197) Head No. 254-Health Care Development Investment B-1 (67) (GOB) and ORS Production & Distribution Cell. Head 138-A-Health Services-2-(Cha)-MSR invites the following tender:
"Purchase under Cash foreign exchange" or "Local currency".
Tender No. Health/ORS/2T-1/Glucose-Citrate/94-95/001 & 002 for supply of 482,00 tons of Glucose Anhydrous and 72,00 tons of Tri-Sodium Citrate. Price of each tender form is 750/- (seven hundred fifty taka) per set (non-refundable). Tender will be opened on 7.12.94 at 12.00 P.M. in this office of Production & Distribution of ORS, 46, Tejguni Para, Airport Road, Dhaka. Tender forms will be available for sale from 05.11.1994 to 4.12.1994 at office hours from 8.30 AM to 1.00 PM in this office (Cash Section) on cash payment.
Tender should be dropped in the tender box with one Kg sample within 12.00 Noon as the tender box will be closed at 11.30 AM kept in this office on the date and time of opening of tender mentioned above. Tender will be rejected without sample.
Local producers of Glucose Anhydrous and Tri-Sodium Citrate are also eligible for bidding.

Md Shafiqullah Patwary
Deputy Secretary (P. Imp.)
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare & Project Director
Production & Distribution of ORS for the Control of Diarrhoeal Disease
46, Tejguni Para, Airport Road, Dhaka

DDP-8837-30/10
G-1721