



Nestle Bangladesh Ltd held a launch conference of two new products at its factory site in Sripur, Gazipur, yesterday. Seen in the picture are: (L to R) Plant Manager Richard Jones, Saifur Rahman, Nestle Bangladesh Managing Director Friedrich G Mahler, Chairman Latifur Rahman, Transcom Chairman A S Mahmud and Nestle Bangladesh General Manager Mesbahur Rahman. —Star photo

Bank holiday tomorrow

The Bangladesh Bank and all other scheduled banks will remain closed tomorrow (November 7) on account of National Solidarity Day, says a BB press release.

Tea output up by 2m kgs

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 5: The country's tea production has gone up by two million kgs.

The increase was marked from January to September this year compared with the same period of previous year.

According to official source, in the first nine months this year, tea output rose to 38 million from 36 million kgs of the same period of the previous year.

Tea growers and officials attributed the increase in tea output to better harvests.

Production target of tea this year has been set at 52 million kgs.

There are 156 tea gardens in the country and most of them are located in Sylhet region.

Rabat, Tel Aviv discussing energy projects

RABAT, Nov 5: Morocco and Israel are discussing joint energy projects including the construction of a power station using bitumen deposits in southern Morocco, officials said, reports AFP.

Morocco's national electricity company (one) issued a statement saying it was to commission a feasibility study from the Israeli Pama company for a power station at Tarfaya, southern Morocco.

The project was proposed by one at this week's Middle East economic summit in Casablanca.

Pama is one of several partners in a cooperation agreement about to be concluded, according to an official statement.

Moroccan technicians in September visited Pama installations producing electricity from bitumen deposits at Ruten in Israel's Negev Desert.

Tarfaya power station had a planned production capacity of 75 megawatts.

Nestle Bangladesh launches two new products

By Staff Correspondent

Nestle Bangladesh Limited yesterday launched two new products — Blue Cross Creamer and Nestle Instant Milk — having the same high standards of those produced in Switzerland.

The 128-year old Swiss multinational company has begun a joint venture with the Transcom Ltd and started producing three types of baby foods — Cerelac, Blue Cross Condensed Milk and Nespray Powdered Milk — from January last.

At a launch conference in the Taka 40 grove Nestle factory premises in Sripur yesterday Chairman of the Transcom Limited AS Mahmud told a group of Nestle dealers and distributors that since the independence of the country, no multi-national company bigger than the Nestle had ever invested in Bangladesh.

Nestle invested in Bangladesh because it believes that Bangladesh has a bright future.

It also believes in the development of Bangladesh while most foreign investors look at the negative aspect of our economy," he said.

He pointed out that in the future Nestle Bangladesh would launch diversified food products in the country maintaining its high standards.

"Nestle would never sacrifice its quality because its prime target is to satisfy customers," he added.

Nestle Bangladesh Chairman Latifur Rahman, addressing the conference, said the quality is important because the name of the company is too much valuable to compromise with the product.

Latifur Rahman added that Nestle was the number one food company in the world and it was producing just one type of food in Bangladesh.

Nestle Bangladesh Managing Director Friedrich G Mahler said that the free mar-

ket policy of Bangladesh had opened bigger opportunities to the global business tigers.

Plant Manager Richard Jones said that the production at the Sripur Nestle plant had the same standard of those produced in Singapore and Switzerland. He said, the Sripur production is sent to Singapore for a laboratory test which later okays its quality.

Mahler told The Daily Star that Nestle had factories in over 70 countries of the world while its annual turnover in 1993 was 38 billion US dollars. He added, the turnover target for the year 2000 was 100 billion dollars.

The company began developing the 10-acre Sripur factory site from May '92. The factory is able to expand its production capacity.

The function was also addressed by General Manager of the Nestle Bangladesh Mesbahur Rahman.

New MD of Shine Pukur

A B Siddiqur Rahman has been appointed managing director of Shine Pukur Jute Spinners Limited, a unit of Beximco Group, says a press release.

Before this appointment, he was director of the same Company.

Hanoi's textile exports rise sharply

HANOI, Nov 5: Vietnam's exports of textiles and clothing increased sharply to 400 million dollars in the first nine months of this year, nearly half of it to the European Union, the official Vietnam news agency reported on Friday, says Reuters.

Sales to Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and Russia had also increased, the agency said, quoting a senior official in the Light Industry Ministry.

Asian companies are heavy investors in textile and garment factories, especially in the Ho Chi Minh city area, and the industry is one of Vietnam's main exporters.

The number of textile companies has doubled in five years to about 300, employing 250,000 workers.

Dhaka to get Tk 109cr Danish grant

Bangladesh will receive an amount of 185 million Danish kroner equivalent to approximately Taka 109 crore during the year 1995 from Denmark as grant as per agreed minutes signed here yesterday between the two governments, reports BSS.

The agreement was arrived at on conclusion of two-day annual consultations on Bangladesh-Denmark Development Cooperation held on November 2-3 at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance, an official handout said.

Apart from general evaluation of the status of the existing Bangladesh-Denmark bilateral economic cooperation, on-

going as well as pipeline project under Danish assistance were discussed during the meeting.

Denmark has been supporting projects in some sectors like education, rural development, primary health care, transport, socio-economic infrastructure, water resources including women in development (WID) since Bangladesh's independence.

A K M Rezaur Rahman, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance and Michael Sterjberg, head of department for Asia and the Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed the agreed minutes on behalf of their respective governments.

Engering tells The Daily Star

Encouraging developments taking place in Bangladesh

Frans A. Engering, Director General of the Foreign Economic Relations of the Netherlands visited Bangladesh on a "fact finding mission" from October 31 to November 3. During his stay in Dhaka, he gave an exclusive interview with The Daily Star in which he talked about his impression about Bangladesh's economic potential and future prospects, and also about the changes taking place in Europe. He was interviewed by the Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam and Staff Reporter Anuzzaman. Following is the full text of the interview:

Daily Star (DS): What are the highlights of your visit? What were your impressions about Bangladesh before coming here and what are your impressions after this brief visit?

Frans A. Engering (FAE): One thing became clear from the discussions and my visit that Bangladesh has a great potential for development. 1991 has been a starting point for major economic development. That is only three years ago. This is a very short period. But you look to the government in other countries. The neighbouring countries — they have started at least 10 years earlier. The history is so short still for the new policy. It is remarkable that there are some developments, in such a short time, which are very much encouraging. That's why I think the country is on the move. If it can go on in this new direction, it will be one of the second generation new tiger. Potentials are there.

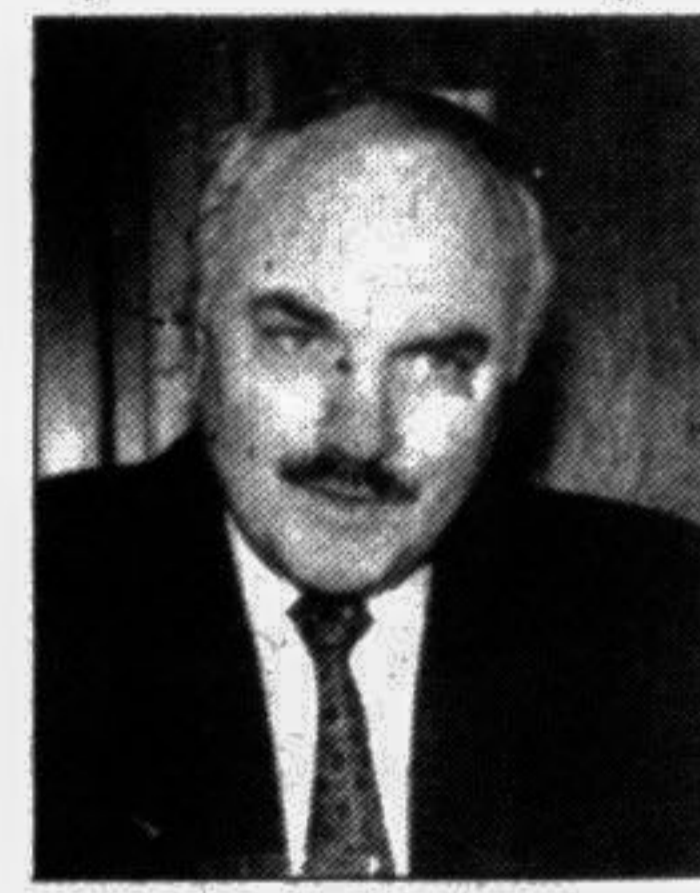
Given that impression, our country's policy should therefore be to make room for contract with this country. We did so in the past with other countries which already went through the development.

We can now shift to a country like Bangladesh to take initiatives to encourage our business sector, to make them aware what is going on in Bangladesh, so they can start their activities in Bangladesh.

DS: Have you identified the areas of cooperation?

FAE: Telecommunications, electricity and energy in general gas are the major areas

where we can participate. We have lots to offer in telecommunications but we have to compete. We are well developed in gas sector. We have our natural gas. In Europe, we are one of the biggest natural gas producers apart from Russia. We have experiences in these sectors. We can also participate in sectors like water treatment. Our



Frans A. Engering

companies are working in river training for the five kilometer long Jamuna Bridge.

Then in certain sector in industries and in certain service sectors, we can participate. Services sector is coming up at the moment in this country. In transport sector KLM has just come. Our banking sector is well developed. So there are lots of areas we can find for mutual benefit.

DS: Did your impressions about Bangladesh change in any significant way because of this visit?

FAE: I have learnt that a lot is going on in this country. It is not a poor country, in any sense of the term. There are business leaders and political leaders who really have a vision, and are trying to implement the vision. Their success can become the platform for further development. The foreign companies also can start their activities by participating in the local activities. The first development has taken place already.

When you look at from very far away, you will see Bangladesh as a poor country. When you come here, you recognise that development taking place.

The country is at the begin-

ning of a new phase, politically, economically in a dynamic region. It is going to develop and it has started on the right track.

DS: What are your views about the new Europe that is emerging? What is the role of your country in the United Europe?

FAE: I am glad to be able to say a few words about that. We are 12 members of the European Union. We have a new treaty of Maastricht signed in 1991. That has started a new phase of integration. Some feel that the new treaty was a bit hasty.

The Maastricht Treaty was a kind of an answer in 1991 to the development in East Europe in 1989. We wanted to become a platform for the new Europe and prepared ourselves for that, and that is why the Economic Community from 1958 until 1991, was enlarged to become European Union.

Economic integration, monetary integration and political union are the three main pillars for the United Europe. We are creating now one monetary union which means at the end of the century we will have one currency for all states participating. The third pillar is political union. Environmental activities are among the new pillars of European integration. Probably we will not be able to integrate all the sectors for all the participants in the same pace. By January next year the United Europe will have 16 member states. We already talked about the next generation and expect about six countries of the former Soviet bloc, the former communist world, to join the EU. I expect in a couple of years, the member states will be 20 or 22. There is likelihood of even more memberships if the Baltic states are included.

The most essential element of European integration is economic integration, which started a couple of decades ago. Now we have an internal free market that is perhaps the largest market in the world.

DS: We from the developing countries sometimes have a feeling that developing countries' products cannot go to your market. Are you building a "fortress Europe"?

I think after implementation of the treaty the volume of trade between the two countries would be double from current 120 million dollars which is still in favour of Bangladesh.

It means that when Bangladeshi company wants to invest in the Netherlands or a Dutch company wants to come to Bangladesh, they can be protected by the treaty. The main elements of the agreement are: 1) Our companies are treated in the same manner as a Bangladeshi company, without discrimination 2) When there are profits in the company it can be transferred to the mother country without any problem. 3) When a government will nationalise a company according to its own legislation there must be fair compensation, and 4) when there are disputes then there is international arbitrator to settle the issue. These are the four main elements.

This must be ratified by parliament in both the countries. It would be treated as an international treaty after ratification. I think it will be beginning of the next year when the treaty will be ratified and implemented.

I think after implementation of the treaty the volume of trade between the two countries would be double from current 120 million dollars which is still in favour of Bangladesh.

Paris Club meet this month

PARIS, Nov 5: The Paris Club of wealthy government creditors will meet in the French capital this month to figure out just how generous they will be in writing off debts for the world's poorest countries, club sources said yesterday, reports Reuters.

One source said some would press for certain actions to have up to 80 per cent of their official debts cancelled — even more than the two-thirds write-off the Group of Seven (G7) major industrial nations agreed at their Naples summit in July.

However, while there is broad agreement among the Club's 18 permanent members on offering more than the present 50 per cent debt write-offs to the poor, there is a lot of hard diplomatic bargaining to do on which countries may be eligible for the most generous terms, he added.

There is also a good deal of technical work to be done.

"If we get an agreement by the end of the year, we'll be happy," another Paris Club source said.

The G7 endorsed a long-standing Franco-British proposal to extend debt reductions for the poorest countries to two-thirds of what was due from the one-half currently on offer.

But some Club members are pushing for an agreement that at least some countries, if not all those currently eligible for the Club's most generous deals — known as Trinidad terms — get even more than that in an effort to try to break the cycle of debt and poverty in the very poorest parts of the third world.

The Chairman of the Paris Club secretariat, French Treasury Director Christian Noyer, told a conference on Latin America on Friday that the Club had been a great success for moderately prosperous debtors but that more effort was needed for the poor.



US President Bill Clinton poses with a model of a McDonell Douglas Md-90 to celebrate a 1.6 billion US dollar trade agreement with China for the purchase of 40 MD80 and MD90 jetliners at Los Alamitos in California, USA, on Friday. President Clinton is in California to campaign for US Senator Dianne Feinstein and gubernatorial candidate Kathleen Brown. —AFP photo

APEC meet in Indonesia Nov 15

US urges China, Malaysia to back liberalisation plan

MANILA, Nov 5: A US official on Friday urged countries like China and Malaysia with reservations about a regional free-trade zone to back a liberalisation plan at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Indonesia, reports Reuters.

Winston Lord, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, told reporters from Washington through a satellite hookup he hoped such countries would drop their objections.

It will be a political state-

ment to give impetus to free-trade and investment," he said. "I hope Malaysia and others would see the value in a statement for a regional free-trade zone."

Malaysia and China had indicated in the past month they would not accept a binding trade deal. But Lord said discussion on a binding time frame to open regional trade by the year 2020 has been overdone.

The United States is confident acceptable wording will be agreed when leaders of the

17-member APEC countries hold their annual summit in Bogor, Indonesia, on November 15.

Australia and Singapore have been among the most active campaigners for a free-trade deal.

APEC groups Australia, the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. Chile will become the 18th member at the summit.

ঢাকা ওয়াসা
টেডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পানির অপচয় বন্ধ করুন। মান্যহলের ঢাকা চুরি রোধ করুন।

ঢাকা ওয়াসার তালিকাভুক্ত ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় শ্রেণীর প্রকৃত কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন যন্ত্রিক ও বৈদ্যুতিক ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে ২,৪৯,৪৮৪/- টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দে বিভিন্ন পানির পাম্প স্থাপিত ৪০টি বিআইএফ স্কোরিন সেটের প্রিভেন্টিভ মেইনটেন্যান্স কাজের নিমিত্তে টেন্ডার আহবান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্রসমূহ আগামী ২১-১১-৯৪ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ টা পর্যন্ত গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ২-০০ টার সময় দরপত্রাদাতা বা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে।

ঢাকা ওয়াসার প্রধান হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তার অফিস, ওয়াসা ভবন, ৯৮, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ঢাকা ও ঢাকা ওয়াসার সকল মডেল জোন অফিসে টেন্ডারের সিডিউল পাওয়া যাইবে। অন্যান্য বিস্তারিত বিবরণ নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে পাওয়া যাইবে।

ঠিকানাঃ এলিফ্যান্ট রোড, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা।
ওয়াসা-জরুরি-৩৫৬/৯৪
ডিগ্রাফি-৮৯৩০-৩১/১০
ফোন-১৭২৯

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
এসওসি বিভাগ
ঢাকা ওয়াসা