

Container handling at Ctg port rises

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 26: Handling of containers at Chittagong port during July to October (94-95) marked an increase of over 90 per cent compared with the same period of last fiscal year (93-94), official reports said.

In the first four months of current fiscal year Chittagong port handled 73,623 TUs (TFU means twenty feet equivalent unit) up from 55,802 TUs handled during the corresponding period of previous fiscal, according to port reports.

In July to Oct/94-95, the handled containers include 36,126 TUs of import goods and 37,497 TUs of exports while during the same period of previous fiscal, import goods containers were 26,739 TUs and exports 29,063 TUs respectively, reports said.

Chittagong port authority this fiscal year targeted to handle 200,000 TUs containers.

In 93-94 containers handled at Chittagong port recorded at 175,000 TUs as against 150,000 TUs handled in 92-93, showing, and increase of 25,000 TUs, port reports added.

According to port officials, 40 (forty) per cent of total annual cargo handled by this port, based on the river Karnaphuli close to Bay of Bengal, are carried by container vessels mostly from Singapore, Colombo, Russia, Japan and India.

Transportation of goods through containers ships has become now a global trend over a decade, mostly preferred by consignees for safety and security reason, officials informed.

Banque Indosuez executive in city

The Chairman of Hong Kong-based Bangladesh Fund and Banque Indosuez Executive, Bruno Georges Picot, arrived in the city yesterday on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh, says a press release.

During his stay, Bruno will meet govt executives, business leaders and stock exchange members.

The Bangladesh Fund is an investment company established to enable persons who are not residents in Bangladesh to invest in securities listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

The Fund intends to raise between 20 and 35 million US dollars for investment in companies operating in or with significant interest in Bangladesh through buying equity securities and equity related instruments listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

The Bangladesh Fund is managed by Indosuez Asset Management Asia Ltd, a Banque Indosuez Group Company based in Hong Kong which provides investment management services on the Asia-Pacific Stock Markets.

Bruno Georges has been in the investment banking division of Banque Indosuez since 1952 in various capacities including Head of new equity issues, mergers and acquisitions and Executive Vice-President in charge of the securities department, brokerage and portfolio management activities. He is a Director of Indosuez Asset Management Asia Ltd.

BKB to disburse Tk 30.35 cr loan at Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Nov 26: Bangladesh Krishi Bank of the district has taken up a programme to disburse Taka 30.35 crore as loan among the farmers in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

According to bank sources, the loan is being disbursed to enable the farmers to buy necessary agri inputs, cattle fattening, livestock, dairy farm, poultry and pisciculture.

Meanwhile, Taka 5.48 crore has already been disbursed through the 13 branches of the bank.

A total of Taka 67 lakh has been disbursed for purchasing 267 cows for cattle rearing as against Taka 4.48 lakh in the last year.

The bank realised Taka 2.46 crore outstanding loan in the current fiscal which was Taka 19 lakh more than that of the last year.



B Georges-Picot, Chairman, Banque Indosuez, Luxembourg and Chairman, The Bangladesh Fund, called on M Morshed Khan, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister yesterday. C K Hyder, Director, The Bangladesh Fund (extreme L), and J-P Raynaud, Country Manager, Banque Indosuez, Bangladesh (extreme R) are also seen.

ESCAP for strong regional ties in human resource dev

The ESCAP member countries at a two-day deliberations at Bangkok, Thailand, gave a call to strengthen regional co-operation in human resources development, reports UNB.

The call was given at the concluding ceremony of the meeting of panel of eminent persons on human resources development in Asia and the Pacific, held on November 24-25, according to a message received here yesterday.

State Minister for Planning Dr Moyeen Khan, MP, was representing Bangladesh at the meeting of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Dr Moyeen Khan highlighted the programmes including poverty alleviation and human resources development (HRD) taken up by Bangladesh

government and urged the developed countries to allow excess workers to their markets especially in "production sector" in addition to "service sector".

"Developed countries should reconsider the issue of trans-migration of workers from the developing countries," the Bangladesh State Minister said.

He said with the adoption of the "free market economy" in Bangladesh small and medium scale ventures are being encouraged to generate productive employment in the rural areas of the country.

Referring to the transfer of technology from the developed to the developing countries Dr Khan informed the panel about the Bangladesh Prime Minister's recent decision to assign

a Ministry in the government exclusively to deal with the development of science and technology of the country.

In the context of a large unemployed population in the developing countries, Dr Khan said, the absence of an appropriate system to train, equip and employ the invaluable human resources, the idea of HRD would continue to remain an illusion.

He also emphasised on the importance of evaluation of a "civil society" for creating an appropriate environment for HRD.

Chaired by former Prime Minister of Thailand Anand Panyarachum, it was also attended by ministers from India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Fiji, and Secretary General of ASEAN, SAARC and representatives from UN agencies.

Pak current account deficit reduced

ISLAMABAD, Nov 26: Pakistan's current account deficit has been reduced by half, a top government official said, reports AFP.

The deficit has come down from 3 billion dollars to 1.7 billion dollars, or from 7.1 per cent to 3.5 per cent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product), Vasin Ahmad Jaffarey told a news conference.

He said the budget deficit had been brought down from 8.6 per cent to 5.8 per cent of GDP and the growth in money supply had been reduced.

Jaffarey, Financial Adviser to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said Pakistan's economy had "moved forward" in almost every sector during the first year of the present government, which took office in October 1993.

The government has pursued a programme of "economic reform and stabilization" with the aim of creating a

"solid base" for long-term growth, he said.

The country's forex reserves, which had slumped to a few hundred million dollars in 1993, are now estimated at more than 3 billion dollars.

Jaffarey admitted there had been some "disappointments," one of the main being the current inflation rate of "slightly above 12 per cent."

Recounting the reforms undertaken by the government, he said the rupee was made convertible on current accounts. Restrictions on many foreign exchange transactions were removed and the private sector allowed to borrow from abroad.

Foreign investment in July-September 1994 was 161 per cent higher than last year's corresponding quarter, he said, adding that tariff reforms have made the economy more open to global trends.

Yeltsin for economic 'offensive' in '95

MOSCOW, Nov 26: President Boris Yeltsin gathered several hundred legislative, regional and industrial leaders in the Kremlin on Saturday to give an upbeat prognosis on Russia's economy and try to win their help, reports AP.

"Until now, the Russian economy has remained in crisis. Now, we are close to over-

coming that stage," Yeltsin told the assembly, which will discuss ways to meet the targets of the government's draft 1995 budget.

"In 1995, we'll start an offensive. We will complete financial stabilization and move on to creating conditions for economic revival and growth."

Parliament already is challenging the proposed budget, and government officials expected some sharp criticism at the Kremlin conference.

After Yeltsin's opening speech of several minutes, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin spoke for about half an hour, providing more of the figures and arguments supporting his draft budget. Acting central bank Chairman Tatyana Paramonova also addressed the group, and Economics Minister Yevgeny Yasin was to speak.

Yeltsin said that although Russia's industrial slump continues, inflation was considerably lower in 1994, and savings grew.

Chernomyrdin said prices were expected to rise at most 2.9 times in 1994, compared to a nine-fold increase in 1993 and 26-fold in 1992.

He said that despite a sharp drop in the rouble's value in October, inflation was 15 per cent that month and is expected to be 12 per cent to 13 per cent in November. Earlier in the year, inflation was as low as four per cent monthly.

Rajshahi Jute Mills earns Tk 8 lakh profit in Oct

RAJSHAH, Nov 26: After suffering a prolonged loss Rajshahi Jute Mills has earned a profit of Tk eight lakh in the last month, reports UNB.

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah disclosed this while visiting the mill yesterday morning. State Minister for Establishment, Barrister M Aminul Haque was along with the minister.

Hannan Shah said the mill has turned into a profitable concern by dint of pragmatic government policy.

The mill has a target of producing 6400 metric tons of hessian and sacking in the current fiscal. The 239-loom mill is now producing on an average 22 metric tons hessian and sacking per day, said an official handout.

Call to exempt export-oriented industries from hartal

By Staff Correspondent

Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of United Commercial Bank Ltd and Member of the Executive Committee of the FBCCI, in a statement yesterday urged the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina to exempt the export-oriented industries from hartal scheduled on December 7 and 8.

Zafar said the exemption is necessary for unhindered production specially before the end of yearly quota and also for accelerating growth of the national economy.

Tk 3 lakh disbursed among landless women in Rajshahi

RAJSHAH, Nov 26: Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah has said government was keen to provide all possible assistance for making the country's womenfolk self-reliant, reports UNB.

He urged the women community to get themselves involved spontaneously with the activities of NGOs like ASA in a view to achieving their individual betterment and alleviating suffering.

The Minister was addressing a loan distribution function of Association for Social Advancement (ASA) here today (Saturday) at Tanore Thana Parishad premises as chief guest, said an official handout.

He distributed a total of Tk 3 lakh among 150 landless women of the thana.

State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haq speaking at the function as special guest said the present government had emphasised on the need for transforming the huge population into a skilled human force.

The function was addressed, among others, by Chief Executive of ASA Shaiful Haq Chowdhury, Central Coordinator Enamul Haque and Social Worker Shish Muhammad.

ASA also organised a similar loan distribution programme at Godagari Thana in the district on Friday. Jute Minister Hannan Shah was present as chief guest.

ASA, forming in 1978, has been engaged in different development programmes for improving the socio-economic condition of the rural poor and neglected people.

Latam summit calls for free trade zone

WASHINGTON, Nov 26: The United States, Canada, Latin American and Caribbean nations have agreed to cut trade barriers to make the hemisphere a free-trade zone, according to documents from the upcoming summit of the Americas.

Negotiators from the 34 nations attending the summit agreed to create a free-trade zone stretching from the Yukon to Tierra Del Fuego and

an economic "action plan" to implement it, according to documents obtained by AFP.

Both texts form part of the final declaration that leaders will sign at the summit of the Americas in Miami, Florida on December 9-11.

Representatives from the member states will wrap up the final drafts a statement on democracy when they meet next week.

China's inflationary pressure may ease next year

BEIJING, Nov 26: Experts at a UN-sponsored international conference have forecast that China's intense inflationary pressure will ease next year as the fall-out from structural reforms dissipates, a report said Friday, reports AFP.

Some 100 Chinese and foreign experts and officials attending the conference on "Rapid economic growth and stable development in the Asia-Pacific region" in southern Hainan province blamed structural price adjustments for continuing high inflation.

The People's Daily said. Retail prices rose 27.7 per cent nationwide in October over the same month last year, despite government efforts since mid-1993 to cool the economy and slow inflation.

The experts pointed to big increases in the state-purchasing price of grain and cotton, a rise in the factory price of crude oil and the loosening of controls on the prices of petrol, steel products and coal as the main factors on the prices of petrol, steel products and coal as the main factors fuelling inflation.



Lyonpo Tashi Tobiyel, Ambassador of Bhutan to Bangladesh, called on Md Nurul Abedin, Chairman, BIWTA to discuss matters of mutual interest at the latter's office in the city on Thursday.

Move to develop forestry

The government has embarked on a new methodology for development of forestry under which Tree Bond or Certificate will be issued for generating funds for planting and maintenance of trees, reports UNB.

This was announced by Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain inaugurating a six-day training workshop on "Agroforestry for the Degraded Sal Forest" in the BARC auditorium yesterday.

He said people as well as NGOs and financial institutions can participate in this people-oriented self-sustained programme by purchasing the Tree Bond/Certificate, and in return the purchaser will get ownership of certain number of trees at maturity.

The financial return against each bond/certificate is expected to be in lakhs. To start with, such programmes will be undertaken in the three hill districts of the country, the minister told the function.

"I think agroforestry intervention can also be provided in such programmes for making it economically more sustainable and environment-friendly."

The workshop was organised by National Agroforestry Working Group of BARC and Forest Department and sponsored by Asia Pacific Agroforestry Network (APAN). Some 30 people from the government and NGOs are participating in the workshop.

Member-Director of BARC Dr Z Karim, Chief Conservator of Forests M Muzammel Hossain, Assistant Chief Conservator of Forest (Development & Planning) AKM Fazlul Haq, Convenor of National Agroforestry Working Group and BARC Member-Director Dr SM Ruhul Amin and Assistant Chief Conservator of Forest (Extension) Sunil Kanti Bose also spoke at the inaugural session.

The minister said all NGOs and government extension agencies should come forward to expand the agroforestry system at all possible sites to get the maximum output from every inch of land of this country on sustainable basis.

Belarus President vows to reverse price control measures

MINSK, Belarus, Nov 26: Under pressure by the International Monetary Fund, President Alexander Lukashenko pledged on Friday to reverse his order that cut down staple food prices — as soon as his government builds a safety net for the poor, reports AP.

"In December, we will be capable of returning to a consistent policy of liberalising prices in accordance with the programme adopted earlier," he said on national television.

Belarus, a country of 10 million located between Russia and Poland, has been slow to introduce free market reforms, and has been plagued by soaring inflation and falling industrial output.

Authorities adopted a programme of liberalising prices earlier this fall, a condition required by the IMF for giving Belarus a total of 700 million dollars in loans.

China's largest oil field to produce 52m tonnes to 2000

BEIJING, Nov 26: China's oldest and largest oil field, Daging, will continue to produce at least 52 million tonnes of crude oil annually until 2000, Xinhua news agency reported yesterday, says AFP.

Output at the 34-year-old oil field, in northeastern China's Heilongjiang province, will hit 56 million tonnes in 1995, the agency quoted a comprehensive study as showing.

Last year, the field accounted for 55.9 million tonnes of China's total crude oil output of 144 million tonnes.

Daging has produced more than 50 million tonnes for the past 19 years, in 11 of which output surpassed 55 million tonnes, but the extraction of oil from the old field is becoming increasingly difficult.

China is expected to become a net crude oil importer in the near future, with Daging's output levelling off as demand for energy soars amid rapid economic growth.

The prospect has sent China's oil authorities scrambling to explore for major new fields.

The country's biggest hope lies in the inhospitable far northwestern Tarim basin, which has proven reserves of some 300 million tonnes. Foreign experts are, however, cautious about Chinese claims that the region will be the next Middle-East.

BIBM seminar

A seminar on "Money and Capital Market in Bangladesh" will be held at Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management today at 10 am, reports UNB.

Chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission is expected to inaugurate the seminar, said a press release here yesterday.



বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌ-পরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষ

১৪১-১৪৩, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌ-পরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষের প্রকৌশল বিভাগের তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হইতে নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজগুলির জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র আগামী ০৫/১২/১৯৯৪ ইং তারিখে বেলা ১২০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, ঢাকা সার্কেল, বাজানৌক, ঢাকা এবং নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, বাজানৌক, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এর অফিসে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তবায়ন করিতে হইবে এবং এদিনই বেলা ১২-১৫ঃ সময় টেন্ডার দাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে। দরপত্রে মানসামর্থিক কাগজপত্র প্রত্যহ অক্সিজেন চলাকালীন সময়ে (দরপত্র খোলার দিন ব্যতীত) পাওয়া যাইবে। কাজের পক্ষে বর্ণিত বায়নার টাকা ব্যাংক ডাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে যে কোন তফসিল ব্যাংক হইতে দরপত্রের সহিত সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে। ১নং কাজের জন্য ৪০০/- (চারশত), ২নং কাজের জন্য ৩০০/- (তিনশত) এবং ৩নং হইতে ৮নং কাজের প্রতিটির জন্য ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা (অফেরামোঘ্য) নগদ জমা দিয়া কর্তৃপক্ষের হিসাব বিভাগ টাকা/নারায়ণগঞ্জ হইতে তফসিল সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকেই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার সর্বময় ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

| ক্রঃ নং | কাজের নাম | প্রাক্কলিত ব্যয় | বায়নার টাকা | কাজের সময় সীমা |
|---------|--|------------------|--------------|--|
| ১। | নারায়ণগঞ্জ ডেক কর্মী প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের প্রশিক্ষণ তত্ত্বাবধায়ক ও ছাত্রাবাসের অফিসার্স ও টাফ কোয়ার্টারের বাৎসরিক সংরক্ষণ ও মেরামত কাজ। | ১২,০০,৩১২/- | ১৫,১০০/- | জরুরী কাজ সমূহ ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে এবং বাকী কাজ ৩০শে জুন '৯৫ইং পর্যন্ত চলিবে। |
| ২। | গৌরগঞ্জ টোল অফিস এলাকায় নির্মিত ৪র্থ শ্রেণীর কর্মচারীদের আবাসিক বাসস্থানের, জানালার গিল, ট্যালেট, সেপটিক ট্যাংক, সুয়ারেজ লাইন, চিউব ওয়েল স্থাপন ইত্যাদি সম্পূর্ণ কাজ। | ১,০১,৮৯৭/- | ১৩,৩০০/- | ৪৫ (পঁয়তাল্লিশ) দিন |
| ৩। | নাগঞ্জ ডেক কর্মী প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের ওভার হেড ট্যাংক, পানি সরবরাহ লাইন এবং ব্যাংক প্রটেকশন মেরামত কাজ। | ১৯৪,৯৬০/- | ১২,৪০০/- | ৪৫ (পঁয়তাল্লিশ) দিন |
| ৪। | কাঠপট্ট লক্ষ্মাবতীর কাঠের জেট ও পাকা সংযোগ রাস্তা বর্ধিতকরণ সহ বাৎসরিক মেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ কাজ। | ১৮২,১৯৩/- | ১২,১০০/- | জরুরী কাজ সমূহ ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে এবং বাকী কাজ ৩০শে জুন '৯৫ইং পর্যন্ত চলিবে। |
| ৫। | নাগঞ্জ রিজার্ভ বেইজের কর্মচারীদের আবাসিক ভবনের ট্যালেট, অভ্যন্তরীণ রাস্তা ও সীমানা প্রাচীর পুনঃ নির্মাণ ও বাৎসরিক সংরক্ষণ ও মেরামত কাজ। | ১৭৫,১৮৫/- | ১১,৯০০/- | — |
| ৬। | নাগঞ্জ টার্মিনাল পদ্মের ২টি স্টীল গ্যাংগুয়ের স্টিল মেম্বর ও কাঠ পরিবর্তনসহ বাৎসরিক মেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ কাজ। | ১৬৫,২১২/- | ১১,৭০০/- | — |
| ৭। | নাগঞ্জ নদী বন্দর এলাকায় ৬,৭ ও ৯ নং ঘাটের জেটির বাৎসরিক সংরক্ষণ ও মেরামত কাজ। | ১৫৯,৭০০/- | ১১,৫০০/- | — |
| ৮। | ১৯৯৪-৯৫ইং সনের নাগঞ্জ নদী বন্দর টার্মিনাল ভবনের বাৎসরিক মেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ কাজ। | ১৫৬,৯৬৮/- | ১১,৫০০/- | — |

আবুল কাসেম
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী
বাজানৌক ঢাকা সার্কেল, ঢাকা।