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# The Daily Star BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1994

## BRTC incurs Tk 295 cr loss

By Rafiq Hasan

Facing stiff competition from the private buses as well as increasing losses, the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) has been forced to close down most of its inter-district long route bus services.

BRTC sources said, since its inception in 1961, the total loss in this sole public transport sector stood at Taka 295 crore.

Over the years, widespread corruption, mismanagement and lack of responsibility of the workers and employees are the main causes for this colossal loss, they added.

Although as many as 2184 new buses and 1349 trucks were bought in the last two decades, the corporation incurred losses every year until 1993.

After selling out and cancelling the inoperative buses and trucks the total number of BRTC vehicles now stands at only 334. Among these, 127 are buses and 207 trucks.

Except for town services in Dhaka and Chittagong cities the BRTC is now operating its buses on a few inter-district routes only.

According to the sources, 50 double-decker buses are now plying in the two big cities. Among these 46 in Dhaka and 4 in Chittagong.

Among the inter-district routes in which BRTC buses are still operating are Dhaka-Narayanganj, Dhaka-Aricha, Dhaka-Bhauapore, Dhaka-Khagrachari and Barisal-Khulna. Except those routes, some BRTC buses are plying on remote corners where private

bus cannot operate.

"Because BRTC is a public corporation, it has to keep services in some difficult routes for the greater interest of the people," a high-ranking official of the BRTC told The Daily Star.

He said, due to stern action against corruption and mismanagement, the income of the corporation has increased significantly last year. According to him for the first time BRTC made profit of about Taka 2.21 crore during the period from October 1993 to August '94.

Necessary actions have already been taken recently to reduce the loss and make the corporation profitable and viable.

Among the measures, reduction of bus operating cost,

firing corrupt employees, giving force retirement and controlling the labour unrest are the main, the source said. So far, 376 employees have been sacked following allegations of corruption and mismanagement and 1283 have been forced retired.

With a view to decreasing the operating expenditure, the number of manpower per bus has been reduced to 11.64 persons from 18.39 in five years ago. Now the total manpower of the corporation is 2025. Among them 1499 are labours, 435 employees and 99 are officers.

If new buses and trucks are not added in its convoy urgently, BRTC, the only public sector transport corporation, will go bankrupt soon, the source added.

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### SIA enters into computer software

Singapore Airlines Limited, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and Datamatics Limited have agreed to form a joint-venture company to develop and maintain computer software, says a press release.

The company will be based in India.

The decision was taken in Bombay last month following discussions among senior representatives of the three companies — SIA's Director of Management Services, Cheong Kai Mun, TCS's Deputy Chairman, F. C. Kohli and Datamatics Chairman, Dr L S Kanodia.

The joint-venture is expected to be incorporated in the first half of 1995 and will initially concentrate on meeting SIA's development requirements.

## Home market of tea picks up

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 12: Progressive marketing tendency showed by the producers and traders in the backdrop of export markets.

Bangladesh tea producers and traders, now battling for survival, seriously turned their

eyes to home markets by jumping into heavy media campaign from early period of last year.

According to official reports, during July to November 15 of the current fiscal year, the country exported 8.26 million kilograms of tea, down from 8.73 million exported during the corresponding period of previous fiscal.

Moreover, the average auction price of tea also slumped this year. Auction sources said, up to sale no. 29 this season, the average price recorded at Taka 41.82 per kg down from Taka 49.84 per kg during the same number of auctions in the last season.

However, some of the tea companies launched the home marketing through colourful packet tea as a part of their diversified strategy to draw the attention of buyers, sources added.

### Canadian High Commissioner visits DSE

Canadian High Commissioner Jon J. Scott called on Dhaka Stock Exchange chairman Khurshid Alam at Board Room of DSE yesterday, says a press release.

The

During the meeting, Jon J. Scott exchanged views with the Chairman on operational work of the DSE, present position of capital market, privatization process and other related issues.



### New MD of Pubali Bank

Md Qamrul Huda joined as Managing Director of Pubali Bank Ltd on December 10, says a press release.

Before joining Pubali Bank, he was the Managing Director of Eastern Bank Ltd.

Huda started his banking career in 1963 with the then Habib Bank Ltd. In 1967, he joined the then United Bank Ltd which became Janata Bank after liberation. In 1981, he became General Manager and was posted in Janata Bank.

### Aussie trade team to visit India

CANBERRA, Dec 12: Trade Minister Bob McMullan will lead a large Australian business mission to India in mid-February, concentrating on five key industry groups, reports AP.

The Trade Department said it would provide a unique opportunity to get to know key Indian decision makers and Indian business counterparts in mining, minerals and energy, food, agriculture and textiles, telecommunications, power and infrastructure, and services.

## US upbeat after second free trade agreement in a month

MIAMI, Dec 12: The prospect of mammoth free trade zones in Asia and Latin America over the next generation has U.S. officials convinced that a new era of prosperity and opportunity is coming, reports AP.

That was the message delivered by officials at the conclusion of this weekend's 34-nation Summit of the Americas. It came less than a month after the 18-nation Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group summit in Indonesia.

The first step in establishing a hemisphere-wide free trade system begins with negotiations that eventually permit Chile to become a partner with the United States, Mexico and Canada in the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Clinton spoke with relish about the prospect of a free trade area where, within a

decade, the hemisphere's 850 million consumers will be buying 13 trillion dollars worth of goods and services.

That compares with the 12 trillion dollars current gross national product of the Asia-Pacific free market in the making, an agreement Clinton and 17 colleagues from Asia nailed down last month in Indonesia.

After a 27-year hiatus between summits, the delegates assembled here agreed there was a lot of work to be done to strengthen ties. They vowed joint efforts on everything from catching criminals to making the hemisphere cleaner and greener.

The summit produced remarkably few mishaps.

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### Japan, US reach accord on flat glass trade

TOKYO, Dec 12: Japan and the United States have reached final agreement on increasing foreign access to Japan's lucrative flat glass market, Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto announced Monday, reports AP.

The agreement came after nearly six weeks of fine-tuning a general accord announced October 1 on ways to boost foreign access to Japan's 4.5 billion dollars sheet glass market, the world's second-largest.

Hashimoto was speaking to reporters at a hastily arranged news conference. US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor was expected to make a simi-

### Ekran plans to borrow locally to fund \$6b dam project

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12: Listed property firm Ekran plans to borrow locally to fund a 15-billion-ringgit (six billion dollar) dam project which it is widely expected to clinch, company official said yesterday.

"There will be no foreign funds required for the project as there is enough money locally," said Ekran's Executive Chairman, Ting Pek Khing, after the company's Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting here.

Ekran won a contract to do ground works on an environmentally controversial hydroelectric dam in Bakun, eastern Sarawak state, in January 1994.

But its proposal for the 2,400-megawatt power station which it submitted to the economic planning unit is still awaiting approval.

The statement also quoted SBMA head Richard Gordon as saying the former naval airfield in Subic, located 90 kms (56 miles) northwest of Manila, would be fully converted into an international airport by April 1995.

It is envisioned that the APEC delegates would fly directly into Subic which boasts modern infrastructure and recreation facilities and would be far easier to secure than teeming Manila — from their

## Philippines prepares to host '96 APEC summit

MANILA, Dec 12: The Philippines is preparing to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in 1996 at the former US naval base in Subic Bay, the presidential palace said here yesterday.

An official statement said President Fidel Ramos had directed the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) to speed up the construction of an international convention centre and two luxury hotels for the APEC delegates.

He also said all projects must be ready by early 1996.

The SBMA is tasked with converting Subic, once one of the largest US military installations overseas, into a free port and industrial zone. The complex is now one of the Philippines' main investment attractions.

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### China's economy will grow steadily in '95

BEIJING, Dec 12: China's economy will grow steadily and inflation will drop from its current rate of over 20 per cent, an official report said Monday, reports AP.

"Inflation in 1995 is likely to decline notably from this year though it will still be double-digit," senior researcher Yang Qixian was quoted as saying by China Daily.

### Extension of Closing Date of BPDB's International Tender

বিদ্যুৎ বিল নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করুন

The closing & opening date of Tender Enquiry No. Pur-449/94 Dated 11-10-1994 for Speed Tronic Control cards for Baghbari GT Power Station, PDB, is hereby extended up to 8-01-1995 instead of 5-12-1994 due to some unavoidable circumstances.

As such the Tender will be received up to 11-00 AM on 8-01-1995 and will be opened on the same date at 11-30 AM in presence of Tenderer or their representative, if any. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Biddut/Jan-690(4)94-95  
DFP-12613-7/12  
G-1974

Director of Purchase  
PDB, Dhaka

### Section 1. Invitation for Bids BIWTA Invites International Tender

Dated: 30-11-94  
Credit No: 2232 BD  
IFB No:

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of the **Third Inland Water Transport Project (IWT-III)**, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this Credit will be applied, through the **Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA)**, to eligible payments under the contract for procurement of Ball Joints.

2. The Deputy Chief Engineer, Dredging Unit, BIWTA, BIWTA Bhaban (7th Floor), 141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of,

i. Ball Joints for Dredgers 22 Nos.  
ii. Extra seal/packing two for each Ball Joint 44 Nos.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Dredging Unit, BIWTA, BIWTA Bhaban (7th Floor), 141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. CABLE ADDRESS: AUTHORITY; TELEX NO: 64278 BIWTA-BJ FAX NO: 880-2-231072.

4. A complete set in duplicate of the bidding documents for each bid package may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk 1,000/- (Taka one thousand) only or US\$ 25/- (United States Dollar twenty-five) only.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a security of not less than two and half per cent (2.5%) of bid amount and must be delivered to the above office on or before 1100 hours on 12-2-1995.

6. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 1100 hours on 12-2-1995 at the Office of The Deputy Chief Engineer, Dredging Unit, BIWTA, BIWTA Bhaban (7th Floor), 141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

PR-13294  
DFP-12530-612  
G-1978

Deputy Chief Engineer  
Dredging Unit, BIWTA



Samson H Chowdhury and officials of the Square Pharmaceuticals on Sunday celebrated the launching of public offering (shares) by cutting a cake at a city hotel.



### Tender Notice

বিসিআইসির পর্যায় শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক  
Managing Director, Polash Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Polash, Narsingdi invites sealed quotation for supply of Sewing Thread (cotton). Tender will be received up to 11-30 AM on 03-01-95 and will be opened immediately thereafter in the same day in presence of the tenderers (if any). Tender documents will be available on payment of Tk 50.00 only per set (non-refundable) from the office of (i) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha, Dhaka, (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong & (iii) Polash Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., Polash, Narsingdi. No tender documents will be sold on the date of its opening.

BCIC-1268-3/12

DFP-12503-6/12

G-1970