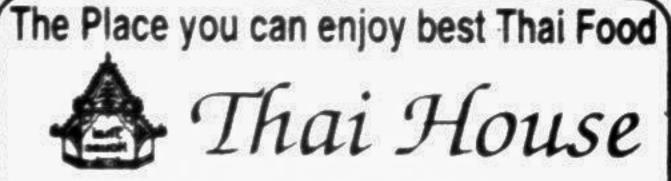


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Accord with ROK company to set up cement plant

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 13: A 17-acre land lease agreement was signed here today between the government and Hyundai Cement (BD) Co Ltd. Seoul for setting up a clinker based cement plant, reports BSS.

With an annual capacity of 300,000 tons, the plant will be built at Meghna ferry ghat un-

der Sonargaon police station. According to district administration sources, Habibur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Narayanganj and Chang Suk Hyung, Managing Director of Hyundai signed the agreement at the conference hall of the

The hundred per cent foreign investment plant initially will meet the domestic demand and in future it will go for export.

The construction work of Taka 80-crore project will start shortly and is expected to be completed by the end of December.

DPRK to import rice from Thailand

SEOUL, Feb 13: North Korea, troubled by grave food shortages, plans to import some 300,000 tonnes of lowgrade rice stocked in Thailand, South Korean officials said today, reports AFP.

Unification ministry officials in Seoul said that North Korea and Thailand completed a provisional agreement on rice sales last week.

North Korea has offered to buy Thai rice in two separate deals- the first 100,000 tonnes on credit and the remaining 200,000 tonnes by barter, they said.

Pyongyang wanted to pay for the first delivery of rice in two years, with the second delivery to be bartered for hot-rolled coil, zinc and cement, they

North Korea also promised to pay 23 million dollars by July 15 for the 100,000 tonnes of rice it imported from Thailand between 1993 and early 1994 on credit, the Yonhap news agency said.

Yonhap quoted government sources as saying that the new rice deals would considerably contribute to solving the North's food shortages.

"This agreement has been made because Thailand's need to export its low-grade rice, for which there is little demand, was met by North Korea's efforts to solve its grave food shortage," an official told Yonhap.

US dollar rises in Tokyo

TOKYO, Feb 13: The US dollar rose marginally against the Japanese yen in quiet trading Monday, reports AP.

The dollar was trading at 98.87 at 3:30 pm (0603 GMT) Monday, up 0.08 yen from its level late Friday in Tokyo but below its late Friday New York level of 98.93 yen.

The currency traded in a narrow range of 0.17 yen as players made small position adjustments ahead of a release Wednesday of US consumer price index figures for January, said a Sakura Bank dealer.

Spot trading totalled 2.6 billion dollars, down from Friday's 5.12 billion dollars.

ইই/এফডি, আরজেড/৯৪-৯৫(১৬)

জেলার নাম খানার নাম

Eid shopping spree in Ctg

CHITTAGONG. Feb 13: Chittagong metropolis has worn a festival look with decorated shopping centres and large number of buyers as the Eid-ul-Fitr is approaching fast. reports BSS.

Though hotels and restaurants remain closed during the day, other markets and shopping centres are open seven days a week. The weekly one and a half days holy days are suspended to facilitate Eid shopping. Almost all shopping centres and markets have been decorated with multi coloured flags, banners, posters and the gates have been erected to welcome the customers.

The merchants and shopkeepers have devised new strategies this year to attract buyers. Eid sale campaign has been launched at different shopping centres ceremonially. Some prominent persons were invited to inaugurate the Eid sale campaigns at different the poor during the Eid shop-

shopping centres. And, as if there is a competition in this connection among the shopping centres.

A visitor going around the metropolis can come across decorated Bipani Bitan (new Market) at the foot of the Court Hill, Chittagong Shepping Complex near Sholashahar. Apollo Shopping Complex at Kazir Dewri, Central Plaza at Nasirabad and Lucky Plaza at Agrabad. These shopping centres are illuminated in the evening.

Eid shopping is yet to gather momentum but the clever ones do not miss the chance for buying this or that as they believe prices of all goods may increase in the last half of the month of Ramadan when there will be unusual rush of buyers at almost all shopping centres.

One can feel a clear demarcation between the rich and ping. The poorer section of the people throng the traditional old markets like Reazuddin Bazar, Bosirhat and Chawk Bazar while the richer section go to fashionable shopping

centres.

Eid shopping may not be a happy occasion for the poorer section of the people because of rise in prices of many commodities. However, the poor and destitutes are not deprived of the joy of Eid-ul-Fitr when they receive zakat and fitra from the affluent section of the people on the eve of this great festival. The rich people do not forget to offer zakat and fitra which go to the hands of the poor and destitutes.

Eid shopping will gather full momentum in the last week of February when government and non-government employees get festival bonus every one will buy something for his near and dear one on

Inflation increases in India

NEW DELHI. Feb 13: Indian inflation has hit a fiscal-year high in an ominous sign for Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's government, which is putting the finishing torches on its annual budget amid crucial polls, reports AFP.

The annual inflation rate, based on the wholesale price index, reached 11.55 per cent in the week ended January 28. provisional figures Sunday

Prices of items ranging from pulses, fish and eggs to cement, leather and machinery were all up, it is the highest provisional inflation rate reported in the fiscal year ending March 31.

The Bombay based think tank. Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy, said prices of both farm commodities and manufactured products were firming up.

The news could not have come at a worse time for Rao's Congress (1) Party government, on the defensive since it was routed in elections in two key states in December.

Elections were held in the western state of Maharashtra on Thursday and Sunday, and five more states in the highly inflation sensitive country will go to the hustings ahead of the budget due in mid-March.

The Congress wash out in December was seen as a sign of popular discontent against rising prices in a low income country where millions struggle for two daily meals and the cost of living constantly goes

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নিৰ্বাহী প্ৰকৌশলীর কার্যালয়

ফ্যাসিলিটিজ ডিপার্টমেন্ট, রংপুর জোম।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আওতায় অত্র জোনে বেসরকারী কলেজের উনুয়ন কাজের জন্য ফ্যাসিলিটিজ ডিপার্টমেন্টের এ-১ শ্রেণীর তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারগণের

নিকট হইতে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং ২৯১১-এর মাধ্যমে সীলমোহরকত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে

দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ ঃ ২৬-০২-৯৫ইং সময় অফিস চলাকালীন পর্যন্ত।

খ। দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণের তারিখ ঃ ২৭-০২-৯৫ইং সময় ১-০০ টা পর্যন্ত।

প। দরপত্র বাক্স খোলার তারিখ ৪ ২৭-০২-৯৫ইং সময় ১-৩০ মিনিটে।

এতদারা বাংলাদেশ সরকারের অর্থায়নের "নির্বাচিত ৩১০টি বে-সুরকারী কলেজের উনুয়ন (জিওবি কলেজে) শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের

প্ৰাৰূপিত মূল্য টাকা

গোবিলগঞ্জ মহিলা কলেজ টাকা ২৫,০০,০০০/- টাকা ৫০,০০০/-

ঃ নগদ টাকা ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য) ৷

জোনের অনুকূলে অবশ্যই দাখিল করিতে হইবে i

কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার অধিকার কর্তপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

Economists blame inflation on the high fiscal deficit of 18 billion dollars the government risked in its 1994-95 budget. boosting spending in a gamble for industrial growth.

The gamble has paid off. and industrial growth is projected to top eight per cent. But it also injected excessive money into the economy.

Sharma gives emphasis on economic reform

Another report adds: India needs to maintain the pace of its economic reform in order that the hard earned benefits of liberalisation are not wasted President Shankar Dayal Sharma said on Monday.

"The momentum gathered by the country through these policies has to be sustained to ensure that the benefits that have started accruing are not frittered away." Sharma said in a speech opening parliament's budget session.

"A combined effort is necessary to strengthen the confidence of investors in our economy and of the people. particularly the underprivileged, in the economic reforms," he told ruling party and opposition MPs.

\$ 2000m World Bank aid for Mexico in pipeline

WASHINGTON, Feb 13: The World Bank says it is ready to commit up to \$ 2,000 million in 1995 to support efforts to restore growth in Mexico following its currency crisis of the last two month, says a USIS press release.

The Bank announced February 9 that its new assistance will focus on three key areas: strengthening the commercial banking sector, protecting the economic well-being of the poorest and most vulnerable members of the Mexican society, and expand-

ing the infrastructure. World Bank and Mexican officials have been working over the past month to determine what priority areas are most in need of immediate assistance.

World Bank Managing Director Richard Frank said.

"These measures are designed to address the shortterm financial crisis and should help to restore confidence in an economy that we believe is fundamentally sound," he said. "It is, however, critically important for the government to continue with the policies and reform programmes which have been the basis for the progress Mexico has made in recent

Frank said that the Bank is reviewing both its current projects and those in preparation to ensure that they take into account Mexico's need for enhanced budget 'austerity.



Prof Md Rezaul Karim, MP (Middle) Chairman, Bangladesh Jute Association, speaking with the delegates of Upak Group of Russia at BJA Dhaka Office Sunday. Md Rezaul Karim (4th from left), Vice-Chairman, BTA, is also seen.

তারিখ ঃ ০৫-০২-৯৫ইং

কাজ সম্পূর্ণ করার

নিৰ্ধারিত সময়

৬ (ছয়) মাস

Zahir opens computer centre at BSCIC

Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan said here yesterday computer is the most important technology in the present competitive world and we have to make the best use of this modern technology for collecting, compiling and processing of data in different sector, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a computer centre at the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) building

He expressed his hope that the officer and staff of the BSCIC would be able to discharge their duties more efficiently by using computer.

Khan directed the BSCIC officials to take necessary measures to start computer train ing course on their own or in collaboration with other organisations, so that a large number of unemployed people can get computer training in order to help solve unemployment problem.

Later, the minister reviewed the progress of the overall performance of the BSCIC in a meeting with the BSCIC officials. The meeting was informed that the BSCIC has established about 13,000 small industries by investing Taka 1,190 crore and 44,000 cottage industries by investing Taka 49 crore from 1991 to

As a result, the BSCIC created about three lakh employment opportunities. The BSCIC has also trained 700 educated unemployed under the selfemployment project.

Among others, industries secretary AHM Abdul Hve. BSCIC Chairman Omar Faroog and senior officials of BSCIC were present

52nd auction of BB Bill held

Eight bids for a total amount of Tk 530 crore were received at the 52nd auction of the 91-day Bangladesh Bank Bill held here yesterday, reports UNB

Out of the bids, six bids were accepted. Face value of the accepted bids was Tk 300 crore, according to Bangladesh Bank press release.

The weighted average price of the accepted bids was Tk 99.72 per Tk 100. The corresponding yield is 1.14 per cent per annum.

DCCI team. meets Zahir

An eleven-member delegation of the newly elected Board of Directors of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) led by its President R. Maksud Khan called on Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan at his office here yesterday, reports BSS.

The delegation gave a memorandum to the Industries Minister.

They discussed about setting up of a data bank to run business more efficiently to cope with the present competitive world. They also discussed sick industries and their revitalisation.

The delegation stressed the need for accelerating the pace of privatisation.

The Industries Minister urged the delegation to put in their best efforts for creating more employment opportunities to resolve the unemployment problem of the country and to play their due role in socio-economic development.

A M Zahiruddin Khan, Minister for Industries, inaugurating the computer training centre at the BSCIC yesterday. AHM Abdul Hye, Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Mohammad Omar Farooq, Chairman, BSCIC and high officials of the corporation were present on the

NAFTA given high marks despite growing pains

Representatives from Canada, Mexico and the United States told a conference on the Latin American market that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has fulfilled its promises despite difficulties and opposition that have surfaced in implementing the accord, says USIS.

Day in and day out for the past 14 months, NAFTA has fulfilled its promise to set and stay the course of economic reform in Mexico," said Luis Rubio, President of the Centre for the Study of Development in Mexico.

Rubio and speakers from Canada and the United States addressed a session February 9 titled Expanding NAFTA: Obstacles and Opportunities " part of a three-day conference on trade, investment and finance sponsored by Forbes Magazine and The Council for the Americas and held at the Fontainebleau Hilton. Rubio explained that

NAFTA was launched principally for political reasons, both domestic and foreign, in Mexico: to reach an understanding with the United States to settle trade disputes and to offer the long-term guarantee of permanence for an unprecedented economic

reform program initiated in the mid-1980s.

The economic program which countered six decades of protectionism in Mexico. led to impressive growth of exports and strove to attract investment, but lacked guaran tees to continue. Rubio said. NAFTA has provided that guar

"Mexico's has been a peculiar case. There has been more opposition to economic reform itself than to NAFTA, but once passed a new reality set in. Every party has jumped on the bandwagon trying to claim benefits for its passage," said Rubio, whose research center is considered among the most important think tanks in

Bill Cavitt, former director of the Office of Canada in the Bureau of International Economic Policy at the US Commerce Department, said the countries "cannot afford the luxury of resting on our

"Trade policy is dynamic, either we are progressing toward free trade or regressing toward protectionism," he said. In his presentation. Cavitt promoted a meeting for trade ministers to take place in late June in Denver, Clorado, as the next step in NAFTA's pro-

Cavitt categorized NAFTA as the baseline, the point of departure" to view free-trading arrangements between industrialized countries and called the recent peso devaluation in Mexico a "setback, not another debt crisis revisited."

He said the process toward open market economies is moving forward fast in the Americas and is charting valuable, though sometimes "untidy" terrain. "The prize is worth the journey in hardships we'll encounter along the way." Cavitt said.

Canadian representative Francois Beaulne, former vice president of the Latin American Division for Canada's national bank, gave NAFTA superlative marks.

"Canada has won a place at the table and is being heard. We are truly grateful," said Beaulne, who replaced Bernard Landry, Canadian vice minister for international affairs, on the

Beaulne said that when free trade talks began, many of them in Quebec, his region of influence, it was thought the economy there would not respond well to open, competitive markets.

Possibility of Sino-US trade war played down

SHANGHAI. Feb 13: Shanghai's business sector played down prospects for a Sino-US trade war today saying that even if this week's trade talks failed. Chinese enterprises are unlikely to be badly hit by US sanctions, reports Following the breakdown of

copyright talks here in late January, Washington announced on February 4 it would slap 100 per cent import duties on a list of 35 Chinese products with an export value of 1.08 billion dollars. The sanctions are to take effect on February 26 if no agreement is reached. China retaliated with its

own list, which included putting on hold negotiations on joint ventures with US automobile manufacturers, before approaching Washington to reopen the negotiation.

The head of the manager's office in Shanghai Silk Import and Export Corp. a company that would be hit by the proposed sanctions, said on past experience Sino-US trade disputes were always resolved. .. Wang Juchi, the Deputy

Manager of Shanghai Plastic Products Corp, said the dispute would be resolved because both sides are sincere." "Our country has initiated

the re-opening of the talks. this shows our sincerity.

Currencies in Asia-Pacific region end week mixed

HONG KONG, Feb 13: Currencies in the Asia Pacific region ended the week with mixed results, with the yen edging up in the absence of fresh incentives, reports AFP.

Australian and New Zealand currencies took a battering. one from nervous investors and the other from an earthquake and political protest. JAPANESE YEN: The yen

But down under, both the

edged up against the dollar in'. Friday. Tokyo in this past week despite the absence of fresh incentives for active buying of the Japanese unit. It stood at 98.79 to the dollar late Friday. up 0.71 from a week earlier.

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR: International investors, unnerved by falling commodity prices, battered the Australian dollar during the week and sliced almost two US cents off its value, analysts said Friday.

The local dollar finished the week at 74.30 US cents. sharply down from the previ-

ous week's finish of 76.06 US SINGAPORE DOLLAR: The

week higher against the US dollar to 1.4515 from 1.4552 previously.

again," an analyst said. HONG KONG DOLLAR: The territory's currency, pegged at 7.80 to the US dollar, closed at 7.7318-7.7328 to the US unit

INDONESIAN RUPIAH: The Indonesian currency closed the week's trading Friday at 2,210 rupiah to the greenback, or two rupiah lower than the previous week's closing.

MALAYSIAN RINGGIT: The ringgit rose 41 basis points to close the week higher against the US dollar at 2.5489 from 2.5530.

Dealers said the local currency gained much buying after having bottomed-out in the previous week.

NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR: Shaken by a big quake and political protest, the Kiwi currency closed Friday worth 63.28 US cents, down from

the 64.08 cents a week earlier. On Monday, while the country was celebrating a national holiday, the Kiwi took a big dive after reports of a mag-

Philippine peso gained slightly closing at 24.811 to the US dollar Friday from 24.859 on

SOUTH KOREAN WON: The won weakened from 783.90 won a week ago to 790.80 won to the greenback Saturday.

dollar advanced slightly to close Friday at 26.315 Taiwan dollars, up 1.5 Taiwan cent from the previous finish of

Thailand's exchange equalisabank official said.

Emirates will fly to Comoros, S. Africa

Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, will launch a twice-weekly service to Johannesburg, South Africa on June 3, with flights going via the Indian Ocean islands of the Comoros, says a press release received here.

The flights will operate ev-

ery Thursday and Saturday, us-

ing an Airbus A310-300 aircraft. The carrier has full traffic rights between the Comoros and Johannesburg. Emirates flights between Dubai and South Africa have been expected for some time,

and will boost business and

leisure links between the two destinations. The Comoros Islands, until now relatively unknown as a tourist destination, are set to receive a massive boost as Emirates flights bring leisure travellers from South Africa

and Europe. The four islands, set midway between Madagascar and the coast of Mozambique, form a tropical island paradise, unspoilt and yet tourist facilities of an international standard are available at Sun International's Le Galawa Beach Hotel at Mitsamiouli on Grand

Comore. Less well known than other Indian Ocean destinations such as the Seychelles and Mauritius, the Comoros offer a wide array of water sports which include superb diving locations and the thrill of whale-watching in the channel between Grand Comore and the neighbouring island of

Emirates flights from many European destinations will connect easily with onward services to the Comoros and Johannesburg, including those from London Heathrow and Manchester. Paris, Nice. Frankfurt, Zurich and Larnaca, plus those from Jeddah, Rivadh, Doha, and Cairo.

Moheli.

Return flights make similarly easy connections to many Middle East, Far East and European destinations

ডিএফপি-৩২৯৪-৯/২ 18-200

७ সময়

ও সময়

প্রতিসেট

চ। বায়নার টাকা

ঘ। দরপত্র দলিলের মৃল্য

ও গ্রহণের স্থান

ঙ। দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান

ছ। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী দরপত্র দলিলে উল্লেখ থাকিবে

মোঃ আৰক্ষাল হোসেন প্ৰধান নিৰ্বাহী প্ৰকৌশলী काञिनिष्ठिक छिभाउँ यन्ड রংপুর জোন।

ঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, ফ্যাসিলিটিজ ডিপার্টমেন্ট, রংপুর, রাজশাহী, দিনাজপুর ও

ঃ নির্ধারিত বায়নার টাকা দরপত্রের সহিত বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসিল ব্যাংক হইতে

পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ডাফট আকারে নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, ফ্যাসিলিটিজ ডিপার্টমেন্ট, রংপুর

বগুড়া জোন অফিস এবং সহকারী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, গাইবান্ধা জেলা।

Beijing to fund world's biggest hydro-electric project

BEIJING. Feb 13: China plans to fund half of the multibillion dollar cost of building the world's biggest hydro-electric project with electricity price hikes and operating profits from a nearby dam, a report said yesterday. according to AFP. The China Daily Business

Internal Trade official Di Jiankai as saying that "every one of the nation's residents is expected to contribute to (fund-raising) efforts." The Three Gorges dam across the Yangtze river is es-

timated to cost 164 billion

yuan (19,7 billion dollars).

Weekly quoted Ministry of

Di said electricity prices nationwide would be upped by 0.4 fen (0.00048 dollars) per kilowatt-hour, while more money would come from the operating profits of the Yangtze's Gezhouba dam that went into operation in 1986. An additional freight capac-

ity of 50 million tonnes would be needed to supply huge Singapore dollar closed the quantities of raw materials.

"Price action is messy and the outlook is uncertain but nitude seven earthquake. the technicals suggest that the PHILIPPINE PESO: The greenback may try to rally

February 3.

TAIWAN DOLLAR: The US

26.3 Taiwan dollar. THAI BAHT: The Bank of

tion fund Friday fixed the official mid-rate at 25.06 baht to one US dollar, compared to the previous week's close of 25.07 baht. The dollar moved within a narrow range as markets awaited Friday's release of the US January producer price index (PPI), a Thai military