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Govt sanctions 5,450 MT of wheat under FWP in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Feb 17: The government has sanctioned 5,450 metric tons of wheat for implementing 657 development projects in 12 thanas and three municipal ties of the district under food for work programme (FWP) during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

This was informed at the meeting of District Development Coordination Committee held here at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room with Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah in the chair.

The meeting was also informed that this year 30 lakh 65 thousand saplings has been planted in the district under government, private and individual efforts.

This year Taka 55 lakh 12 thousand has been allocated for development of ideal village project in the district. Two thousand metric tons of wheat have been distributed in 24 unions of the district for implementing food for education programme.

Only in road communication sector, Taka one crore 70 lakh has been sanctioned for improving roads in the district.

The minister reviewed the progress of development activities undertaken by PWD, LGRD, WDB, PHED, roads and Highways Division under Annual Development Programme.

BASIC foundation course ends

A month-long foundation course for the probationary officers of Bank of Small Industries and Commerce Bangladesh Ltd concluded in the city Thursday, says a press release.

Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) conducted the course at the request of BASIC Bangladesh with a view to acquainting the participants with the management functions and human behaviour as well as the problems they have to face in various operational areas of banking in their every day life.

The concluding function was presided over by A H M Nurul Islam Choudhuri, Director General, BIBM, while A A Qureshi, Managing Director of BASIC Bangladesh Ltd, distributed the certificates to the participants.

Noman visits shrimp enclosure in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 17: Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman highlighting the importance of shrimp resource in national economy said government is taking necessary measures to continue its production, reports UNB.

The minister was speaking with the shrimp culturists while visiting the shrimp enclosure at Rampura in Chokoria thana of the district on Wednesday.

He said steps had been taken to lease out the shrimp plots for 10 to 15 years to help build infrastructure in the cultivation areas by the present government.

The Fisheries Minister also gave instruction to the concerned officials to take legal steps against the illegal construction of culverts in the shrimp culture areas.

DSE index falls by 2.98 pc over the week

By Sohel Manzur

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) closed last week with the main index 2.98 per cent down from the previous week mainly due to the fasting month of Ramadan, dealers said.

The bourse ended the week on Thursday with 795.52 points as against 819.95 of the previous weekend after a steady fall in share prices all over the week.

Transactions of shares also fell significantly during the week standing at a total of 351.755 shares and debentures worth 1.66 million dollars, as against the previous week's 627.691, worth 3.79 million dollars.

Share transactions were higher in the previous week due to active buying by some foreign investors in view of the decline in some blue chip shares prices, although it started to fall from the beginning of the fasting month of Ramadan, market operators said.

Market capitalisation of the listed securities started the week Saturday with Tk 39.46 billion after a slight decline from the previous weekend's Tk 39.59 billion. At the close of trading on Thursday it stood at Tk 38.42 billion.

Some of the dealers said a sharp decline in the share price of Bengal Carbide on Sunday (Tk 250 per share) contributed largely to the fall in market capitalisation and the overall market index, although the issue recovered significantly by being sold at Tk 60.56 and 59.19 higher in each share during the following two days.

Besides, the fall in the prices of the scrips like Beximco Infusion, Beximco Knitting (Deb), Apex Footwear, Monno Jutex and Bangladesh Lamps had significant contribution to the declining trend in price index.

ACI Limited, Eastern Housing, Ambee Pharma, Rupon Oil, Chittagong Cement, Meghna Shrimp Culture and Orion Infusion were the highly traded issues of the week.

DSE member Mostaque Ahmed Sadeq said the bourse desperately needs some institutional share investors in the private sector, which could have kept the market all time vibrant. The only local institution in the public sector, Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), is not that active in the secondary market, he added.

He also said there might have some impact of the "Mexico stock market crash" on the DSE that had contributed to the declining trend of the market indicators.

An analyst of the stock market said besides the dull season of the fasting month of Ramadan, the investors might be scared by the possible impact of the recent government decisions on the bourse. They would not go for further investments before watching the market trends, he said.

The government has taken a number of decisions during the last few weeks including introduction of quota system for the small share investors, withdrawal of restrictions on bank loans against share certificates and setting up of a second bourse in the port and commercial city of Chittagong.

A plan to impose restrictions on purchase and liquidation of shares by the foreign investors is also under consideration of the government, which might have greater impact on the market, the analyst said.

Stock brokers and investors were also apprehending a downsizing of the Dhaka bourse through the setting up of the proposed Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), which was announced to be fully operative within six months with the most modern on-screen trading system and the central depository system (CDS), he added.

According to sources, most of the investors in the DSE and the account-holders of the ICB are from Chittagong, those who might be shifting their investments to the CSE after it goes into operation.

Mohammad Omar Farooq, Chairman, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation, seen speaking at a two-day review meeting of BSCIC at its headquarters in the city. The meeting concluded on Thursday.

SB lends Tk 7 cr to 23 industrial projects in 1yr

Sonali Bank has sanctioned in one year an amount of Taka six crore and 89 lakh as credit for 23 industrial projects under the credit guarantee scheme introduced by the government for financing fresh entrepreneurs, reports BSS.

This has resulted in employment opportunities for about 600 people, a Sonali Bank press release said here yesterday.

The projects enjoying finance under the scheme involving 11 industrial projects and 12 agro-based industrial units. It may be cited that five of them have already started production.

Among the sanctioned industrial units, there are one modern press, three knit garments, four garment embroidery factories, two garment accessories factories, one light engineering workshop, four poultry farms, seven dairy farms and one fishery project.

US agrees to pay Italian bank $400m to settle Iraqi loans

WASHINGTON, Feb 17: The US government has agreed to pay 400 million dollars to settle claims by a major Italian bank whose Atlanta branch funnelled 5.5 billion dollars in loans to Iraq in the years before the Gulf War, the Justice Department announced Thursday, says AP.

The money will be paid to settle the Italian bank's claim for more than 450 million dollars resulting from Iraq's default on US government-guaranteed loans with which Iraq bought a wide variety of American farm products.

Iraq defaulted on the loans in August 1990 after it invaded Kuwait. Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, or BNL, which is owned by the Italian government, and nine other banks that helped finance sales of US farm commodities to Iraq filed claims for reimbursement under the Agriculture Department's export-credit guarantee programme.

Now that guarantee programme, known as the Commodity Credit Corp., will pay BNL 400 million dollars.

Some Democratic lawmakers, led by Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez of Texas, have alleged that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein used at least some of the money obtained under the CCC programme to develop Iraq's military and nuclear arsenals before it invaded Kuwait.

Payment of BNL's claim had been held up for several years by a criminal investigation of its Atlanta branch, which funnelled the 5.5 billion dollars in illegal loans to Iraq, the Justice Department noted in a statement.

US-China talks to avert trade war continue

BEIJING, Feb 17: With retaliatory sanctions due to take effect just over a week's time, Chinese and US trade negotiators met Friday for their third round of talks aimed at averting a trade war, reports AP.

Other US officials and executives have stepped up efforts to court Chinese business. But an official report warned Friday that at least one industry — US aircraft makers — could suffer if the dispute over protection of intellectual property is not resolved.

Officials at the US Embassy said Friday that talks would continue all day and perhaps over the weekend. They would provide no details of their contents.

On Thursday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian indicated that sharp difference remained and charged that new US demands "far exceed China's capacity as a developing country and couldn't even be met by the United States itself."

Chinese officials previously have said the demands include asking China to revise its laws to create higher standards of protection.

As long as the United States adopts a "realistic and pragmatic attitude," and treats China with respect, the talks will be a success, Chen said.

China and the United States have been wrangling about intellectual property rights for years. In 1992, China agreed to strengthen its laws that protect these rights. US negotiators have said China has not done enough to enforce the laws.

The United States says piracy of US software, music and movies must be curbed by February 26 or it will put punitive tariffs on more than dlrs 1 billion worth of Chinese exports. China says it will respond with its own sanctions.

China Southwest Airlines Group might have to cancel airline purchase orders worth more than 2 billion dollars with the United States if the trade talks fail to produce an agreement, the official newspaper China Daily reported Friday.

Dutch Ambassador in Bangladesh R A Vornis called on M Anis Ud Dowla, President, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, on Thursday.

Farmers' bank likely in Fiji

SUVA, Feb 17: Consultants from the UN Economic and Social Committee for Asia and the Pacific are studying the feasibility of a farmers' bank in this sugar-producing island state, it was announced yesterday, reports AFP.

The three-week study has been commissioned by the Sugar Cane Growers Fund, said Fund Chairman Gerald Barrack.

In 1984 this fund took over from the cane price support fund and has about 38 million Fijian dollars (28 million US dollars of growers' money under its control.

The notion of a farmers' bank was first mooted in 1992 by the National Farmers Union, a powerful cane-growers' trade union, but it initially failed to get government support.

Cane farmers' indebtedness, believed to exceed 80 million US dollars, has been a major concern with the union.

There are 21,000 registered cane farmers in this Pacific state, largely Indian tenant farmers working four-hectare (10-acre) plots.

Fiji's 1994 crushing season produced 516,589 tonnes of sugar which is expected to bring in revenue of 200 million US dollars.

The two UN consultants are due to submit a report next month, Barrack said.

Canada's debt rating comes under review as budget looms

TORONTO, Feb 17: A US financial company sent a shiver through ministries across Canada Thursday, announcing the nation's debt rating is under review and may be downgraded, reports AP.

The stern warning apparently is aimed at Finance Minister Paul Martin as he prepares to introduce the Canadian budget into the House of Commons and as budget season starts in the provinces.

"Moody's (Investor Service) has jumped the gun by firing a volley across the bow of finance ministries," said Aron Gampel, vice president and deputy chief economist at the Bank of Nova Scotia. "Hopefully it won't sink the ship."

The New York-base Moody's, an influential bond-rating ageney, said Canada's general AAA rating for bonds issued in Canadian dollars and its AA1 rating for bonds in foreign currencies "is on review for possible downgrade."

The agency said there had been some improvements in Canada's overall public sector deficits, both at the federal and provincial level, but said it "is concerned about the medium-term deficit outlook, especially as regards the prospects facing Canada's public sector once the next, inevitable economic downturn occurs."

The announcement caused an immediate drop in the Canadian dollar, knocking it from 71.27 cents to the US dollar Wednesday to 70.80 cents on Thursday.

Martin is struggling to bring Canada's 42 billion dollars (30 billion US dollars) budget deficit under control. The plan is to cut that to 3 per cent of gross domestic product, or 25 billion dollars (17.8 billion US dollar), by 1996-97.

Martin said he was surprised at Moody's action, coming just a few days before a planned federal budget.

"The government realizes that strong fiscal action is required," the minister said in the statement. "We are taking fundamental action in the upcoming budget to meet our fiscal targets and to stabilize the debt to GDP ratio. This will be done largely by cutting expenditures and on the basis of prudent economic assumptions."

GCC ministers to discuss market, gas network

ABU DHABI, Feb 17: The oil ministers of six Gulf Arab states, which control 45 per cent of the world's crude, will meet in Saudi Arabia on Saturday to discuss the oil market situation and a proposed regional gas network, reports AFP.

The ministers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and non-OPEC members Oman and Bahrain will meet in the Red Sea Port of Jeddah for their annual talks on energy issues, officials said.

The ministers, whose countries make up the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), are expected to issue a statement at the end of the one-day meeting calling for cooperation among all producers to stabilise the market and prop up sagging crude prices, the officials said.

Oil prices have remained nearly four dollars below the 21-dollar price targeted by the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) since 1990.

The weakness persists despite optimistic forecasts from OPEC ministers that prices will improve by one to two dollars this year.

Brazil's president proposes opening mining to int'l investors

BRASILIA, Brazil, Feb 17: Brazil's president on Thursday proposed opening mining and other important economic sectors to foreign investors, reports AP.

Six constitutional amendments submitted to Congress by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso would also allow foreigners to invest in petroleum, energy, telecommunications and other key areas.

"They are not timid measures. They have the audacity that the moment demands," Cardoso said in a nationally televised press conference.

The changes must be approved by two-thirds of Congress. Previous attempts to change the 1988 constitution were thwarted by lobbies and nationalistic groups.

Stock analysts, however, said investors had hoped Brazil would simply privatize the government telephone monopoly Telebras and break up the oil monopoly, Petrobras.

But Cardoso brushed off complaints that the proposed changes didn't go far enough. "Those aren't complaints. Those are interests," he said.

The amendments would reduce or abolish privileges for Brazilian companies, allow all companies based in Brazil to compete on equal footing for government contracts, and open concessions for mining, hydroelectric energy and domestic shipping to foreigners.

He noted that currently Brazil gets only 10 per cent of foreign investments in mining in Latin America, despite huge mineral deposits.

The proposed reforms combine with a new concessions law Cardoso signed on Monday which also allows greater privatization.

The president also reaffirmed his commitment to keeping inflation down and said he won't hesitate to take unpopular measures to do it.

"The goal must be maintained," he said.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন
পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প
ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা।

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন।
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের জন্য ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার/প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/প্রস্তুতকারী ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হইতে ফরম নং -২৯১১'তে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। আগামী ২৭-০২-৯৫ ইং/১৫-১১-১৪০১ বাংলা তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার সময় নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐদিনই বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতা অথবা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের মেয়র মহোদয়ের অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংকের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে বায়নার টাকা টেন্ডারের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে। যে সকল ঠিকাদারের ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের ১ লক্ষ টাকা স্থায়ী জামানত জমা আছে তাহারা ১ লক্ষ টাকার অতিরিক্ত বায়নার টাকা পে অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফটের মাধ্যমে জমা দিবেন। নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, পরিকল্পনা ও নকশা বিভাগ/প্রধান হিসাব রক্ষণ কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর হইতে নির্ধারিত মূল্যের চালানের বিনিময়ে (অফেরতযোগ্য) দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী ক্রয় করা যাইবে। যে সকল ঠিকাদার আর্থিক বৎসর ১৯৯৪-৯৫ইং পর্যন্ত ঠিকাদারী ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন করেন নাই তাহারা দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহন করিতে পারিবেন না। এতদসংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী-২ এর দপ্তর হইতে জানা যাইবে।

দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ কোন দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সমুদয় দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ক্র/নং	কাজের নাম	দরপত্র ডকুমেন্টের মূল্য	বায়নার টাকা	সময়সীমা
১।	১টি ফ্যাক্স মেশিন ও আনুষঙ্গিক সরবরাহ ও স্থাপনা কাজ।	৩০০/-	উদ্ধৃত দরের (৩%)	কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তি থেকে ১৫ দিন।
২।	ওয়্যারলেস সেট সরবরাহ ও আনুষঙ্গিক কাজ।	৩০০/-	-ঐ-	কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তি থেকে ১৫ দিন।
৩।	পিএবিএক্স এবং ইন্টারকম টেলিফোন ও আনুষঙ্গিক কাজ ও স্থাপনা কাজ।	৩০০/-	-ঐ-	কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তি থেকে ২০ দিন।

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী-২
পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন
ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা।

ডিসিসি/পিআরডি/৩৮১/৯৪-৯৫
ডি-১৯৮

River Research Instt meet held

Agriculture and Water Resources Minister M Majid-ul-Haq said here Thursday that the government had implemented a number of programmes in the water resources management sector to increase agricultural production, reports BSS.

He was presiding over a meeting of the Board of Governors of the River Research Institute at Bangladesh Secretariat here.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Secretary of the Ministry of Shipping M Waliul Islam, Vice Chancellor of BUET Dr Mohammad Shahjahan and Chairman of the Water Development Board M Majid-ul-Islam attended the meeting.

Majid-ul-Haq said that planned utilization of water resources was necessary in all seasons for production of three crops a year.

He stressed the need for overall development of the water management organisations including raising a trained and skilled manpower for smooth functioning of the organisations.

ROK agrees to tap Uzbek gold, other natural resources

SEOUL, Feb 17: Uzbekistan and South Korea agreed Thursday on the joint development of gold and other natural resources in the former Soviet Republic, a joint presidential statement said, reports AFP.

The agreement was signed by Uzbek President Islam Karimov and South Korean counterpart Kim Young-Sam at a summit during Karimov's official three-day visit here.

The two leaders also agreed to step up cooperation in trade, investment and other areas with joint efforts focused on agriculture, energy, communications, transport, construction and natural resources development, Kim's office said.

Karimov supported South Korea's bid for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council, it said.

For his part, Kim called for Karimov's concern for 200,000 ethnic Koreans in Uzbekistan, promising to aid their economic development and provide consultants and technical training programme.

The two nations established diplomatic relations in January 1992.

'Japan deferring $ 450 m loan to Iran'

WASHNINGTON, Feb 17: Clinton administration officials are encouraged that a strenuous lobbying effort has thus far headed off approval by Japan of a proposed 450 million dollar loan to Iran, reports AP.

The administration has given high priority to isolating Iran but has had difficulty winning broad international support. Germany maintains close ties with Iran and a Russian agreement to provide nuclear reactors and training to Iran is a sore point in U.S relations with Moscow.

U.S officials have pushed hard — thus far successfully — to persuade Japan not to go ahead with the loan, which is the second installment on a power project said to be worth 1.5 billion dollars. Japan says the loan request is still alive.

"The U.S Government is expressing its concerns, and we take into consideration what they say," said Hiroshi Hashimoto, the No. 2 official at the Japanese Embassy.

He noted that the proposed loan would not be earmarked for the Iranian government, but for the Iranian firms carrying out the project in the southern part of the country.

In response to statements by U.S officials that Japan has deferred a decision, Hashimoto said "there is no set period as to when we should decide."

He acknowledged there is a fundamental difference in the way Japan and the United States perceive Iran.

"We believe it is very dangerous to isolate Iran," he said.

The United States believes pressure on Iran is appropriate in light of its perceived quest for nuclear weapons, support for international terrorism and commitment to undermine the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Officials do not believe that an accommodating policy toward Iran will moderate the mullahs who run the country.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Secretary of State Warren Christopher is so intent on reducing Japan's links with Iran that he opened a meeting last fall with Japanese officials by spelling out his priority issue : "I-R-A-N."