

Saudi Arabia pleased with Bangladeshi workers

RIYADH, Mar 30: The high powered Bangladesh labour delegation headed by the Labour and Manpower Secretary Dr Shah Mohammed Farid had fruitful discussion with Saudi Labour and Social Welfare Deputy Minister Yousef Rakub Kintab at the Ministry of Labour here yesterday, reports BSS.

During the two-hour long meeting held in a very cordial and brotherly atmosphere, the two sides had detailed discussion on further expanding co-operation between the two countries in the field of labour. The Saudi side was appreciative of the sincerity, devotion and law abiding nature of the Bangladeshi workforce.

Bangladesh labour secretary apprised his counterpart of his

country's readiness to provide more skilled and unskilled manpower to the kingdom.

During the meeting the labour secretary was assisted by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Faizur Rahman Choudhury, Chairman, Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agent Mosharrar Hossain, Director of the Bureau of Manpower Shakhhat Hossain, Counsellor (Labour), Riyadh, Ataur Rahman and Labour Attache Kamal Uddin Khan.

The Saudi minister was assisted by Director General, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Syed Al Khaldi and senior officials.

The Bangladesh labour delegation earlier had a meeting

with the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs Mohammed Ali Al-Fayez. During the hour-long meeting, the Saudi Minister lauded the role of Bangladeshi expatriate workers in building the Saudi economy.

The Saudi Minister assured the Bangladesh delegation of looking into the welfare of the Bangladeshi workers whom he described as the guest and brother of the Saudi government and the people.

In the evening, the labour secretary attended a reception accorded to the delegation by the Bangladesh Human Resources Development Society based in Riyadh. He listened to the problems being faced by the recruiting agents.

India sets standards for securities market-makers

BOMBAY, Mar 30: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said companies or subsidiaries of financial institutions and banks with net owned funds of at least 500 million rupees will be eligible to be primary dealers in government securities, reports Reuters.

The primary dealers or market-makers in government securities are expected to activate the fledgling Indian debt market.

This is the first time that the central bank has introduced market-makers or primary dealers in government securities.

The RBI said a primary dealer's predominant business must be trading in government securities.

The primary dealers will have to make a commitment to bid for a minimum amount in government securities and

treasury bill auctions during a year, the RBI said in a statement.

The RBI said the market-makers will have to underwrite a pre-determined part of the shortfall in subscriptions.

The market-makers will also have to offer firm two-way quotes for government securities.

The market-makers have been told to achieve an annual turnover of not less than five times of their holding of government securities and ten times in treasury bills.

They also have to maintain a minimum capital standard based on risk-weighted assets.

The RBI will give these dealers an initial authorisation for one year up to March 31, 1996 and will review it every year.

Bangladesh trade fair in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Mar 30: A Bangladesh trade exhibition opened here yesterday with the aim of promoting bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Nepal, reports Xinhua.

Bangladesh is the second largest trade partner of Nepal, only next to India.

Nepal Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari inaugurated the exhibition.

Some 14 business units from Bangladesh are taking part in the five-day fair with over 24 varieties of products on show, including home furnishings, leather goods, jute items, carpets, electrical items, pharmaceuticals, paper and newsprint, fabrics, cosmetics, and handloom textiles.

A similar Bangladesh trade exhibition had been organized here in 1983 which had opened up new areas of trade and commerce between the two countries.

IBM launches OS/2 Warp

IBM Bangladesh officially introduced its 32-bit OS/2 Operating System - Warp Version 3 at a city hotel recently, says a press release.

OS/2 Warp was released in the US at the end of last year and IBM has already sold over a million copies. Warp, which requires only 4 MB of memory, is a 32-bit pre-emptive multi-tasking operating system that is also capable of running existing 16-bit DOS, Windows and OS/2 applications.

At IBM's launch titled 'Warp Fest/95', IBM Bangladesh officially unveiled the new OS/2 Warp package. This was followed by a detailed presentation on OS/2 Warp by Douglas Spencer of the Warp Development Team from IBM Canada.

OS/2 Warp comes in two types of packaging. The first package is for existing DOS/Windows users. To run Windows programmes users must have a copy of Windows 3.x already installed on their computers because this package of OS/2 Warp does not include the Microsoft Windows code. Hence, users that anticipate using Windows applications through this package of OS/2 Warp will have to install Warp over a valid copy of Windows 3.x - either Windows 3.1, 3.11, Windows for Work Groups.

The second package of OS/2 Warp comes with the Win/OS2 code as part of the operating system. This is known as the 'full pack' version of OS/2 Warp. Users can then run their existing DOS/Windows applications without any change to these applications.

According to IBM Bangladesh Warp includes a variety of popular applications in a 'BonusPak' that gives easy access to the internal and other on-line services.

A core component of the BonusPak is 'IBM works,' an

object-based suite of applications for word processing, spreadsheet, database, charting, graphics, report-writing and personal information management (PIM).

Warp also features a PCMCIA 'plug & play' which means it will recognize a number of credit card-sized add-on cards as soon as they are plugged into the system.

OS/2 Warp is now available through IBM Bangladesh and its dealers. OS/2 Warp Base Product is normally packaged on CD-ROM, but for those who do not yet have a CD-ROM drive, Warp Base Product can also be purchased on 3.5-inch diskettes. The CD-ROM Base Product set comes in one compact disc containing the basic OS/2 Warp operating system. The Diskette Edition of the Base Product, on the other hand, consists of a total of twenty-two 3.5-inch diskettes. This edition includes one Installation Diskette, 13 Base Code Diskettes, five Display Driver Diskettes and three Printer Driver Diskettes.

The BonusPak of the CD ROM version includes one CD ROM and the Diskette Version of BonusPak includes fifteen diskettes.

While Microsoft is still readying a 32-bit operating system - 'Windows 95' - that will compete directly with OS/2 Warp, the release date has been postponed again till September 1995 which gives IBM a clear lead in this market.

32-bit operating systems are fast becoming the system of choice for new, more powerful computers containing Intel's latest 486 and Pentium chips. A Pentium, which can process some 120 million instructions a second, becomes more powerful with a 32-bit operating system.

BRIEFS

KOC accepts workers' demands

KUWAIT CITY, Mar 30: The Management of the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) yesterday accepted the demands of the KOC's labour union and pledged to provide better working conditions for the oil workers, a union official told AFP. Hamad al-Hajri said that under an agreement signed by both sides 'the workers will get all their rights'. He said the union had 'completely ended the strike' which lasted a week.

Plan to link GCC banks okayed

DUBAI, Mar 30: Finance Ministers of six Gulf Arab states have approved a plan to link their banks in a regional automated teller network, the UAE Minister was quoted as saying. United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspapers quoted Minister of State for Finance and Industry Ahmed Bin Humaid Al-Tajer as saying that they also approved a unified tariff system applying to re-exporters of foreign goods. He gave no details. Tajer said ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)'s Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar, made the decisions on Tuesday in Riyadh, says Reuter.

Privatisation plan protested in Lanka

COLOMBO, Mar 30: Members of 10 Sri Lankan labour unions on Wednesday demonstrated against government plans to privatise state sectors such as banks, electricity, insurance, telecommunications and estates. They also opposed the privatisation of the state-owned newspaper group, Lake House, reports Reuter.

Scrap OPEC dues system: Jakarta

JAKARTA, Mar 30: Indonesia on Wednesday proposed scrapping the flat-rate dues system of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and replacing it with a contribution based on production. The proposal, which would help developing countries, was made by Mines and Energy Minister IDA Bagus Sujana after a meeting with President Suharto, reports AFP.

Japan-Singapore accord on taxation

SINGAPORE, Mar 30: Singapore's Ministry of Finance said it has ratified an earlier agreement with Japan to avoid double taxation and prevent income tax evasion. The revised agreement takes effect April 28 and have effect on income derived on or after January 1, 1996, says Reuter.

Railway workers go on strike in France

PARIS, Mar 30: Railroad workers began striking Wednesday night, ahead of a major transportation strike expected to cripple air traffic, trains and subways across France. Only one out of four trains were running on major lines Wednesday evening and Paris area trains were even less frequent, frustrating homeward-bound commuters, reports AP.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on March 30, 1995
4-point more fall in index

Star Report

The Dhaka Stock Exchange All Share Price Index fell further by about four points and only nine out of the 71 issues traded gained on Thursday.

The price index dropped to 784.65736 from Wednesday's 788.0651, showing a decline of 3.40774 points, or 0.44 per cent.

The turnovers on the DSE also decreased. A total of 67426 shares worth Taka 10415985.25 changed hands as against 73205 shares valued at Taka 18697652.25.

The changes meant 7.894 per cent and 44.293 per cent decreases in the turnovers in volume and value respectively.

Among the issues traded, losers outnumbered the gainers by 49 to only nine while the share prices of 13 issues remained unchanged.

Bezimo Knitting (Deb), Apex Footwear and Singer Bangladesh were the leading losers on the day.

Volume leaders of the day were: Maq Paper (11680), Ashraf Textile (7000), Eastern Housing (6500) and Eagle Star Textile (6000).

Trading at a glance

Company name	Change (per share)	Number of shares traded
A B Bank	5.00 (L)	34
National Bank	66 (L)	55
Utara Bank	4.73 (L)	462
ICB M Fund	10.00 (L)	200
4th ICB M Fund	0.00 (L)	100
5th ICB M Fund	3.18 (L)	310
6th ICB M Fund	3.58 (L)	600
Bangladesh Lamps	6.50 (G)	120
Eastern Cables	0.05 (G)	1275
Singer Bangladesh	47.04 (L)	95
Asia Bangladesh	0.00 (L)	470
B Autocars	3.36 (L)	20
Quasem Drycell	15 (G)	30
ICB M Fund	3.00 (L)	20
B Thai Aluminium	33 (L)	110
Apex Food	7.86 (L)	210
Bengal Food	10.00 (L)	140
D Vegetable	4.68 (L)	145
Rapon Oil	40 (L)	1000
B Fisheries	7.22 (L)	760
Bengal Textile	2.00 (L)	400
Megha Shrimp Culture	4.37 (L)	1800
BOJ	13 (G)	400
Shah Carpet	18 (L)	400
Apex Textile	78 (L)	7000
Swan Textile	0.00 (L)	55
Singer Textile	3.00 (L)	50
Eagle Star Textile	30 (L)	6000
Tajuddin Textile	0.00 (L)	50
Bezimo Knitting	1.47 (L)	260
Saltan Textile	3.00 (L)	140
Mithun Corp	7.00 (L)	240
B J Yang	6.60 (L)	400
Bezimo Knitting	2.58 (L)	760
ABE Pharma	1.10 (L)	60
ACT Ltd	1.50 (L)	20
Ranula Ltd	0.00 (L)	200
Pharmaco Int	0.00 (L)	200
Progressive Plastic	5.00 (L)	19
Kohinoor Chemical	5.00 (L)	75
Kabirun Chemical	5.00 (L)	440
BCIL	12.83 (L)	110
Wata Chemical	2.00 (L)	60
Beximo Synthetic	5.78 (L)	880
Orion Infusion	5.05 (L)	140
Singer Pharma	6.07 (L)	840
Maq Paper	0.00 (L)	11680
Apex Tannery	77 (G)	65
B B Bank	1.81 (L)	120
G B Bank	66 (L)	50
Monno Ceramic	8.08 (L)	60
Bezimo Knitting	3.00 (L)	2500
Cig Cement	3.00 (L)	310
Apex Footwear	1.11 (L)	6500
Confidence Cement	2.15 (L)	3100
Green Delta	0.00 (L)	10
Ignata Insurance	1.48 (L)	840
Phenix Insurance	1.00 (L)	460
Eastland Insurance	50 (G)	440
Central Insurance	1.68 (L)	200
K Insurance	4.41 (L)	1040
Nepal Insurance	1.00 (L)	2120
B Fisheries (Deb)	0.92 (G)	10
B Knitting (Deb)	44.00 (L)	3
B Synthetic (Deb)	0.00 (L)	3
E Housing (Deb)	100.00 (L)	37

DSE Shares and Debentures

Company	PV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate	100/5	36.00
Tajuddin Textile	100/10	125.00	100/10	125.00
Majumdar Textile	100/10	200.00	100/10	200.00
BANKS (13)				
AB Bank	100/5	180.00	100/5	180.00
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	1045.00	100/1	1045.00
City Bank	100/5	355.00	100/5	355.00
Eastern Bank	100/20	100.00	100/20	100.00
IDLC Ltd	100/20	593.33	100/20	593.33
I.F.I.C.	100/5	160.00	100/5	160.00
Islami Bank	1000/1	1963.33	1000/1	1963.33
National Bank	100/5	108.01	100/5	108.01
Pabna Bank	100/5	100.00	100/5	100.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	73.00	100/10	73.00
U.C.B.I.	100/5	91.00	100/5	91.00
ULC	100/20	413.00	100/20	413.00
Utara Bank	100/5	100.00	100/5	100.00
INVESTMENT (7)				
I.C.B.	100/5	150.00	100/5	150.00
1st ICB M Fund	100/5	1060.00	100/5	1060.00
2nd ICB M Fund	100/5	360.00	100/5	360.00
3rd ICB M Fund	100/5	280.00	100/5	280.00
4th ICB M Fund	100/10	380.00	100/10	380.00
5th ICB M Fund	100/10	270.00	100/10	270.00
6th ICB M Fund	100/10	180.00	100/10	180.00
ENGINEERING (19)				
Afah Automobiles	100/5	270.00	100/5	270.00
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50	76.00	10/50	76.00
Aziz Pipes	100/5	917.00	100/5	917.00
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5	110.50	100/5	110.50
Bangladesh Lamps	100/5	2377.73	100/5	2377.73
B Thai Aluminium	100/10	127.67	100/10	127.67
Bengal Carbide	100/5	875.61	100/5	875.61
Bengal Steel	10/50	20.00	10/50	20.00
Eastern Cables	100/5	187.82	100/5	187.82
Howlader PVC	100/10	66.50	100/10	66.50
Karim Pipe	100/5	126.00	100/5	126.00
Motalex Corp	100/5	72.00	100/5	72.00
Monno Jute Staffers	100/5	900.00	100/5	900.00
Monno Jutes	100/5	1900.00	100/5	1900.00
National Tubes	100/10	123.00	100/10	123.00
Panther Steel	10/50	8.00	10/50	8.00
Quasem Drycell	10/50	20.50	10/50	20.50
Renwick Jajmewar	100/5	75.00	100/5	75.00
Singer Bangladesh	100/5	4852.63	100/5	4852.63
FOOD & ALLIED (26)				
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	65.00	10/50	65.00
Apam Sea Food	100/10	815.00	100/10	815.00
Apex Foods	100/5	1420.00	100/5	1420.00
Atoma Tea	100/5	55.00	100/5	55.00
Bangas	100/5	270.00	100/5	270.00
B D Plantation	400/5	550.00	400/5	550.00
Bengal Biscuits	100/20	190.44	100/20	190.44
Bengal Food	100/5	300.00	100/5	300.00
Bezimo Fisheries	100/10	208.13	100/10	208.13
B.L.T.C.	100/5	700.00	100/5	700.00
B.T.C.	10/50	155.00	10/50	155.00
Cig. Vegetables	100/10	120.00	100/10	120.00
Dhaka Vegetables	100/5	149.32	100/5	149.32
E.I. Camellia	100/5	2200.00	100/5	2200.00
Froglegs Export	10/50	3.28	10/50	3.28
Gemini Sea Food	100/5	52.00	100/5	52.00
Hill Plantation	100/5	850.00	100/5	850.00
Megha Shrimp Culture	100/20	147.26	100/20	147.26
Modern Industries	100/5	314.00	100/5	314.00
N.T.C.	100/5	310.00	100/5	310.00
Rabeya Flour	100/10	7.50	100/10	7.50
Rapon Oil	100/10	7.50	100/10	7.50
Tulip Dairy	100/10	66.00	100/10	66.00
Yousef Flour	10/50	13.00	10/50	13.00
Zal Bangla Sugar	10/50	7.50	10/50	7.50
FUELS & POWER (4)				
Bangladesh Oxygen	10/50	179.50	10/50	179.50
Eastern Lubricant	10/50	14.00	10/50	14.00
National Oxygen	100/10	100.00	100/10	100.00
Padma Oil Co	10/50	105.00	10/50	105.00
TEXTILE (24)				
Ahuj Textile	10/50	NT	10/50	NT
Apex Spinning	100/20	390.00	100/20	390.00
Arbee Textile	100/10	112.00	100/10	112.00
Ashraf Textile	10/50	26.46	10/50	26.46
Bezimo Knitting	100/20	210.00	100/20	210.00
B Dyeing	120/20	212.28	120/20	212.28
Delta Millen	100/20	104.42	100/20	104.42
Desh Garments	100/10	128.00	100/10	128.00
Dulama Cotton	100/10	118.00	100/10	118.00
Dynamic Textile	100/20	107.88	100/20	107.88
Eagle Star Textile	10/50	14.50	10/50	14.50
GMG Ind Corp	10/50	10.00	10/50	10.00
Mia Textile	100/20	107.25	100/20	107.25
Modern Dyeing	100/5	69.17	100/5	69.17
Padma Textile	100/20	421.08	100/20	421.08
Quasem Silk	10/50	6.20	10/50	6.20
Quasem Textile	10/50	9.40	10/50	9.40
Rahim Textile	100/5	105.00	100/5	105.00