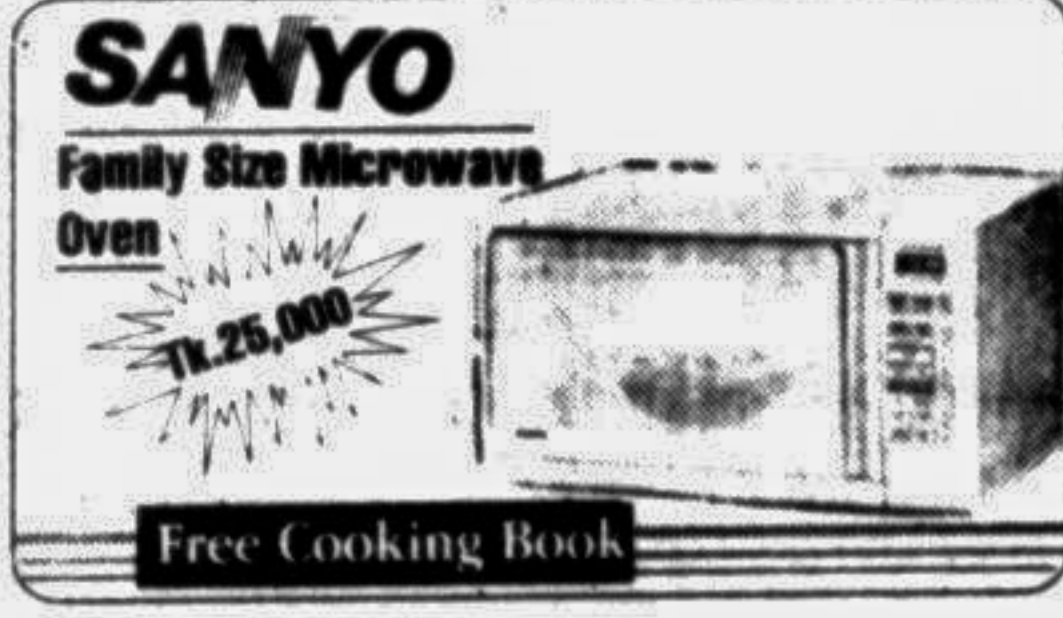
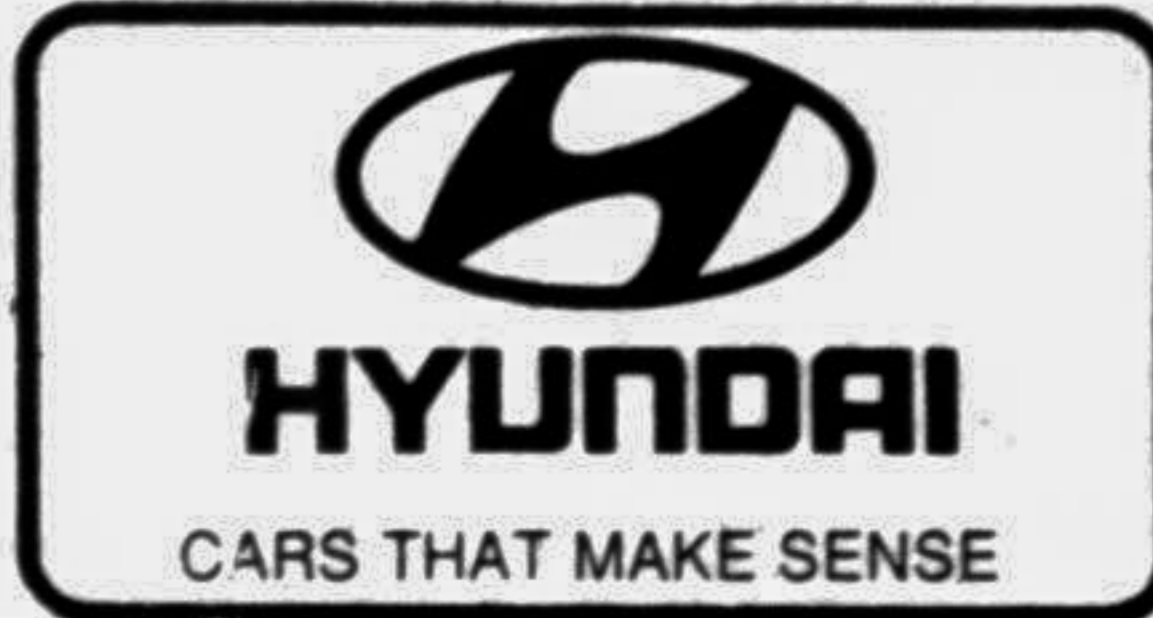


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### Greater role of small farmers from South underscored

A UNDP policy chief has underscored the need for greater representation of the small farmers from low-income countries at major food policy meetings, reports UNB. Assistant Administrator of UNDP Anders Wijkman was speaking at the International Food Policy Research Institute's meeting on "A 2020 Vision for Food, Agriculture and the Environment" in Washington.

"We very seldom see small farmers or ordinary consumers in conferences like this, which, of course, means that their perceptions of the problems and their reality partly is missing", he told the meeting on Thursday.

Wijkman called for more attention to the small farmers, according to a UNIC press release here on Monday.

The UNDP policy chief observed that the well-adapted traditional farming systems suitable to local conditions have long been ignored by the food research community.

He promised that small farmers and their situation will be the main concern of FAO and UNDP in the new partnership on sustainable food security that has been agreed upon recently.

"In most low-income countries lack of adequate food is a problem for a majority of the population," Wijkman said.

He hoped that the future vision of food security could be reached by building better farm advice capacity, providing small-scale credit, investing in food shortage and by providing technical advice to women.

### South African trade union strikes for more power

JOHANNESBURG, June 20: A half-day nationwide strike by the Congress of South African Trade Unions got off to a peaceful start Monday, but extra police were standing by to deter violence, reports AP.

The strike was to demand increased power for unions under a new labour bill now being prepared. The union federation wants centralised negotiations within industries, the right to strike without fear of dismissal and more freedom to organize in workplaces.

Negotiations over the legislation among labour, business and government officials have deadlocked, and COSATU planned "rolling mass action" including strikes, marches and rallies in 27 cities and towns to push home its demands.

During the Monday morning rush hour, commuter taxis were able to leave normally from the Baragwanath taxi ranks in Soweto, seeming to argue that the strike action would be peaceful.

The strike officially was scheduled to start at noon (1000 GMT), but the South African Chamber of Business complained that it would quickly degenerate into a full day off for most workers.

The chamber says the high number of political holidays and frequent work stoppages hurt productivity and competitiveness in world markets.

COSATU was a major ally of the African National Congress in the fight against apartheid.

## Experts say Loss of soil fertility posing threat to food production

Annual depletion of soil nutrients in areas under intensive cultivation ranges from 180 to 250 kg per hectare per year posing an immediate threat to food production.

Soil experts told UNB that the loss of soil fertility, particularly depletion of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium and Sulphur in cultivable land, could result in a catastrophe no less than other forms of environmental degradation.

The nutrient exhaustion, measured by nutrient input and output system, will be real threat to food security and to the lives and livelihood of millions of people of the country, said Dr Z Karim, Member-Director of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.

Dr MMU Miah, another soil scientist of BARC, said a fertile and productive soil is the fundamental resource for farmers and for sustainable farming. The farmer's objective is to attain profitable yields and also maintain the

productivity of the soil.

This implies the need for good stewardship on farmer's part, that is, maintaining a good physical structure, organic content, good aeration, an adequate moisture content, proper phosphate, and an optimal nutrient status, Dr Miah said.

Referring to a UN study, Dr Z Karim said about 10.5 per cent of the planet's most productive soils, an area equal to the size of China and India combined, have been seriously damaged.

The study has also found that about 9 million hectare have been damaged beyond repair or recovery and 1.2 billion hectare of seriously degraded soil can be restored, but at a vast expense.

Describing the situation as 'red alert', Dr Karim said degraded soil will need, among other things, efficient management of nutrients from all sources.

Otherwise, food crisis will be visible in the next 25-30 years for the world's growing population estimated to be 8

### Country exports raw jute worth Tk 281.40 cr in 11 months

The country has exported 15.56 lakh bales of raw jute worth Tk 281.40 crore during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year (1994-95), reports UNB.

It is 4.26 lakh bales more in volume and Tk 69.04 crore more in earning than those of the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

This was disclosed in the 27th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Jute Ministry held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah in the chair.

During the period, the country has also exported 4.31 lakh metric tons of jute goods worth Tk 981.37 crore, said an official handout yesterday.

It was also informed in the meeting that the demand of raw jute and jute goods including carpet, CBC, hessian, twine and sacking in the foreign markets is increasing day by day.

Members of the committee AKM Fazlul Haque and Advocate Khairul Enam, and Jute Secretary AZM Nasiruddin were present at the meeting.

## Privatisation Board sells out 18 state-owned enterprises

The Privatization Board has so far managed to sell out 18 state-owned enterprises since its inception in 1993. This was disclosed by a high official of the board at a seminar recently.

"Among the sold out enterprises there were 7 textile mills, one sugar industry, 3 engineering industries and 7 chemical and allied industries", said Ahsan Ul Hye, Director, Privatization Board, in a paper at the conference on 'Capital market development and privatization'.

The conference was organized by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

He said, most of the sold out industries, either had been handed over to the new buyers or in the process of handing over. Besides another 55 state-owned enterprises are under different stages of privatization process, he added.

The paper, titled "Modalities of privatization: past experience and present policies" also mentioned three major impediments in the privatization process.

Firstly, the response of the prospective buyers to the in-

ternational tenders were poor. None of the established local entrepreneurs had participated in these bids. For the lack of valid bids, tender notices were served quite a number of times, even if valid bids were available, quotations for the highest bids were mostly below the net worth of the enterprise tendered for sale.

Secondly, the Chartered Accountant firms or consultants who were appointed to value the assets and liabilities of the enterprises to be privatized, had to face resistance from the workers and often received very little cooperation from the mill management in collecting information and data. This had greatly delayed the tender process and valuation reports prepared under such duress often lacked credibility.

Thirdly, the enterprises that were selected for sale had mostly worn-out machinery and had also liabilities that were many-folds in comparison to the fixed assets. This also perhaps had kept away the established local entrepreneurs from participating in the tender bids for the state-owned enterprises, the paper said.

The author suggested close coordination between the board and the concerned ministry in order to expedite the implementation of the privatization programme. Without this the pace of privatization will slow down, he added.



Mohammed A Awwal, Director, National Bank Limited, inaugurated the 59th branch of the bank at Subid Bazar, Sylhet on Monday. Kazi Abdul Mazid, Managing Director of the bank also seen in the picture.

### Dhaka takes part in Tokyo Int'l Houseware Show

A three-day International Houseware Show '95 began at Harumi hall in Tokyo yesterday, according to a message received here, says UNB.

Bangladesh is among 24 countries participating in the show, biggest houseware exhibition in the Asia, organised by Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO).

Some handicraft items and garment products were on display in three Bangladeshi stalls and other participating countries including host Japan were exhibiting their goods in 13 stalls each.

Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Small and Medium Industries Organisation, Japan Chamber of Commerce, Import Promotion Organisation and Japan Broadcasting Corporation, are sponsoring the show.



Barrister Tawfique Nawaz became the lucky winner of the door prize for the recently concluded Beijing Festival organised by Dhaka Sheraton. Neo G. Mendez, Managing Director Omnitrans, GSA of Dragon Air is seen handing over a return ticket for two to Hongkong to the winner. Also seen in the picture are: Ashek Elahi, Director Marketing of Dragon Air, Mrs. Nawaz, Dhaka Sheraton's Director Marketing & Sales M H Khan and Public Relations Director Rashida Mohiuddin.

## Analysts say Prospects for global trade deal under agreed rules appear dim

GENEVA, June 20: Prospects for a deal bringing the multi-billion dollar global trade in financial services under agreed rules appear to be dimming, diplomats and analysts said yesterday, reports Reuters.

And they warned that if negotiations failed to bring an accord by June 30, offers for market, openings already tabled would be withdrawn and a key foundation of the 1994 world trade accord would collapse.

"There are still a few days left, but the prospects do not look good at all," said one senior envoy taking part in the negotiations, covering the some 30 members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) heavily involved in the sector.

The United States has already made clear it sees little hope of an accord based on the offers made so far by ma-

jeor developing economies like India, Indonesia, Brazil and South Korea where US firms see a vast potential market.

European Union Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan weighed into the debate on Monday with a warning that the outcome of the talks "will demonstrate whether the world has the courage to unclog the financial arteries of the global market."

In an article in the London Financial Times seen largely aimed at the United States, Brittan said a retreat to bilateral accords — which some analysts suspect Washington prefers — would damage the entire move to free trade under the WTO.

Failure to reach a deal by the month's end, he declared, "would be no minor setback. It is a profound mistake to believe that even the most powerful countries can effectively prise open markets on a

### PTC exempted from income-tax payment

ISLAMABAD, June 20: Pakistan government has decided to exempt Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation (PTC) from the payment of income-tax, super tax and wealth tax after its privatization, reports Xinhua.

The approval was given by the federal cabinet which met here Monday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

According to the decision, the PTC which is being converted into a limited company will remain exempted from taxes for three years after the transfer of its management to a private party.

The approval comes before the transfer of its management to the strategic investor who will purchase 26 per cent shares of the company.

The transfer of its management is to be made before the current calendar year is out.

## Record production of salt in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, June 20: A record production of 11,87,855 metric tons of crude salt was produced in the coastal areas of the district this year, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation sources said the quantity will be 9,51,857 metric tons in refined form.

A total of 41,545 acres of land have been brought under salt cultivation in the coastal areas during the current fiscal year.

BSCIC authorities divided the salt production areas in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong into 12 zones. The zones comprised one in Kutubdia, three in Moheshkhali Island, 4 in coastal areas in Chokoria, 2 in Cox's Bazar Sadar, one in Teknai and one in Banshkhali in Chittagong.

Of the zones, Darbeshkata area is the biggest one which produced 2 lakh 27 metric tons of crude salt on 8,512 acres of land.

The salt production began

in December last year and continued till the onset of rain on May 16, when a tidal surge also hit the coastal belt.

Cultivators said as there was no rainfall for a long period this year, the sunny weather favoured in producing more salt in the region.

The government has set a target of producing 7 lakh metric tons of salt this year against the country's demand of 6.5 lakh metric tons. As such additional two lakh metric tons of salt has been produced in the country this year.

## US proposes ban on 2 Japanese airlines

WASHINGTON, June 20: The Clinton administration has proposed sanctions against Japan Air Lines and Nippon Cargo Airlines over Japan's alleged failure to honour its commitments under a 1952 bilateral aviation agreement, says a USIS press release.

Without resolution of the dispute, the US Department of Transportation announced June 19, the United States will prohibit the two Japanese carriers from carrying any cargo from Japan to the United States that originated in one or more of the following markets: Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

At issue is the request made in February by the United States for Federal Express to begin flights between Japan and Subic Bay, Philippines, which were scheduled to begin May 1. After months of contentious talks, Japan continues to withhold approval for the flights.

**Office of the Chief Engineer**  
University of Dhaka  
Dhaka-1000

### Short Tender Notice

No. 47-7/Engg. Dated: 19/6/1995

**University of Dhaka:** Short notice sealed tenders in Dhaka University form "Tender for works" are hereby invited from the enlisted Contractors (Civil) of Dhaka University for "Supplying fitting fixing and laying R.C.C. pipe and construction of pit in the compound of Physical Education" of Dhaka University at an estimated amount Tk 28,857/34. The tender will be received by the undersigned up to 12 Noon on 24th June 1995 and will be opened on the same day at 12.15 pm in presence of the contractors who may remain present. Contractors will have to deposit as earnest money a sum of Tk 578/- in the form of Demand Draft or Pay Order from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of the undersigned along with the tender. Tender forms, schedule of items of work, special terms and conditions may be had from the office of the undersigned on all working days except on the date fixed for submitting the tender on payment of Tk 30/- (non-refundable) to the Janata Bank, TSC branch, Dhaka University area after showing the necessary enlistment papers endorsed by the undersigned. Contractors should write the name of the works and their firm's name on the envelope clearly.

**Mohammad Ali**  
University Engineer  
University of Dhaka.

D-609

The talks, which only got under full steam this year, have been overshadowed by a US warning that if no deal to its satisfaction was reached by June 30 it would pull out of efforts to shape a multilateral accord under the WTO.

The United States argues that if it is to open up its market in the sector to all the some 130 actual and pending members of the WTO, as it would be obliged to do under WTO rules, it wants more reciprocity, or roughly equivalent treatment from all.

Developing countries, who account for only some 10 per cent of the global market in the sector, say they cannot open up as fast as the big powers would like for fear of seeing their own domestic operators collapse under high-power pressure.

They say that although some countries are offering lower openings than their current practice allows, a key US complaint, these levels will be "bound" or fixed and could not be changed — giving vital stability to foreign firms.

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চতুর্দশ বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা, ১৯৯৫  
**BEXIMCO FISHERIES LIMITED**  
14TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1995



The fourteenth Annual General Meeting of Beximco Fisheries Ltd was held on Tuesday at Sonargaon Hotel with A S F Rahman, Chairman of Board of Directors in the chair. Salman F Rahman, Vice Chairman, O K Chowdhury, Managing Director and other directors attended the meeting.