

BRIEFS

ROK food freighter leaves for DPRK

SEOUL, June 25: A South Korean freighter left for a historic trip to North Korea today, carrying 2,000 tonnes of rice, after a day's delay at the North's sudden request, television reports said. The freighter Sea Apex, flying the South Korean flag, sailed from the northeastern port of Donghae in drizzling rain at 0818 GMT after a televised ceremony chaired by South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo. The vessel is scheduled to enter North Korea's Rajin Port Monday, reports AFP.

India's tea output may rise by 1m kgs

NEW DELHI, June 25: India's tea output this year is expected once again to fail to reach the record it had set in 1993. The production and consumption of tea in India for the year 1995 have been estimated at 745 million kgs and 605 million kgs respectively, according to a research paper prepared by the Indian Tea Association (ITA) on the production and export scenario in 1995. India registered a record tea output of 758 million kgs in 1993. The estimated tea production this year is about 745 million kgs, one million more over 1994, reports Xinhua.

New US proposal in auto talks

TOKYO, June 25: The United States has proposed a new set of compromise measures in a bid to resolve differences with Japan over car trade, the daily Mainichi Shimbun reported yesterday. The new US proposal centres on promises that Washington would not impose sanctions even if Japanese automakers failed to meet voluntary "numerical targets" for buying foreign-made car parts, Mainichi said. The proposal was first aired at meetings between Japanese and US officials during the Halifax Group of Seven summit and formally submitted during the current talks in Geneva, Mainichi said, reports Reuter.

Japan's cos may sue US if ban imposed

TOKYO, June 25: Japan's two leading carmakers, Toyota Motor Corp and Nissan Motor Co Ltd, will file a complaint with the US Court of International Trade (CIT) if Washington goes ahead with planned trade sanctions, a major daily said yesterday. Toyota and Nissan will seek the court's assessment of damage they would incur from the sanctions, which would take the form of 100 per cent tariffs on Japanese luxury cars, and demand compensation, the Mainichi Shimbun said. Honda, the No 3 carmaker, is also considering the step, reports AFP.

French co to build hotel in Myanmar

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US urged to let China join WTO

BEIJING, June 25: To repair damaged bilateral relations, a Chinese government trade expert is calling on the United States to let China join the World Trade Organization, an official report said Sunday.

"What we want to see is action instead of lip service," Zhou Shijian, Vice President of the International Trade Research Institute, a government think tank, told the English-language China Daily. The US opposition to China's membership in the WTO, the Geneva-based agency overseeing global trade, has been affecting Sino-US ties, Zhou said, reports AP.

Agri-minister opens two-day workshop USAID to provide Tk 16.08cr for maize cultivation

Maize cultivation can play a key role in transforming traditional agriculture into commercial farming because of its multiple use and economic benefit, said Agriculture Minister M. Mamidul Haq, reports UNB.

Crop diversification has emerged as a priority because Bangladesh has approached self-sufficiency in rice, and maize cultivation can play vital role in this regard, the minister said while inaugurating a two-day workshop on "National Maize Promotion" at BARC auditorium yesterday.

Maize is used in the preparation of nutritious foods, as animal feed and fodder and in several industrial products. From agro-ecological consideration maize can be grown all over Bangladesh, he said.

Referring to a study, the minister said an improved cropping pattern (Maize-T Aman-Potato) with inclusion of maize gave 271 per cent higher net return over existing farming pattern.

Stressing the need for improving marketing network to ensure fair price of produce, the minister referred to USAID cooperation in maize cultivation with assistance of Tk 3.45 crore and Tk 12.63 crore in two phases.

Agriculture Secretary M Akhtar Ali, USAID Mission

Director Richard M Brown and BARC Executive Vice-Chairman Dr M S U Chowdhury also spoke at the inaugural session. Director (Research) of BARC Dr S M Elias presented key-note paper.

Oli opens Prime Bank's branch in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, June 25: Communications Minister Oli Ahmad inaugurated the second branch of Prime Bank at Khatun Gonj Commercial Area here this morning, reports BSS.

The inaugural ceremony was addressed, among others, by the Chairman of Prime Bank Limited Dr R A Gani, Managing Director Lutfar Rahman Sarker, President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries Sarwar Zaman Nizam.

Opening the branch, the communications minister said the present government would welcome more investment in the private sector for speedy economic uplift of the country.



The 57th meeting of the Board of Directors of Bank of Small Industries and Commerce Bangladesh Limited was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Dr A M M Shawkat Ali (C), Secretary, Ministry of Industries and the Chairman of BASIC. The board approved balance sheet and profit and loss account of the bank for the year 1994.

Bangladesh receives \$ 2,85,12005 spot orders from 19 trade fairs

By Staff Correspondent

141 trade organisations took part in these fairs. Of them, 8 were government-owned and 133 private organisations.

According to EPB sources, about 498 trade enquiries were also received at the fairs.

Bangladesh organised single country fairs in Moscow

from 16 to 20 September '94, in Thimphu from 10 to 18 September '94, in Kathmandu from 27 March to 1 April '95 and in Yangon from 15 to 21 March '95.

The International Trade Fairs in which Bangladesh participated during the period are: the 5th Islamic Trade Fair in Tehran from 16 to 20 July '94, the International Menswear Fair, Cologne from 5 to 7 August '94, Paris International Trade Fair from 17 to 20 September '94.

Malaysia International Trade Fair in Kuala Lumpur from 4 to 9 October, Sial International Food Fair in France from 23 to 27 October '94, International Trade Fair in Santiago from 28 October to 6 November '94. South Africa International Trade Fair in Johannesburg from 1 to 5 November '94. Dubai International Trade Fair in UAE from 16 to 20 November '94, India International Trade Fair

in New Delhi from 14 to 27 November '94, Bahrain International Trade Fair from 1 to 9 December '94, International Household Fair in Chicago 15 to 18 January '95, International Shoe and Leather Fair in Las Vegas from 21 to 24 February '95. Boston International Sea Foods Fair from 14 to 16 March '95, the Import Fair in Berlin from 26 to 29 April '95 and Tokyo International Trade Fair in Japan from 28 to 30 April '95.

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In his speech, he said that priority will be given to those areas where revenue collection was satisfactory.

TANGAIL, June 25: Gopalpur Pourashava recently announced a budget of the 2.76 crore for the financial year 1995-96, reports BSS.

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A Bangladeshi construction firm — Shams Overseas Limited, a unit of Shams Group, has recently obtained an extra high voltage 500 KV power transmission line construction contract worth 21.5 million Malaysian ringgit jointly with a subsidiary of state-owned Malaysian Mining Corporation, reports BSS.

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