



M Morshed Khan opens MFA seminar in Ctg

Garment industries will have to survive thru' quality improvement

CHITTAGONG, Aug 13: Manzar Morshed Khan, Special Envoy of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said that garment industries have good prospect but they will have to survive through competition by improving and maintaining standard of quality of their products, reports BSS.

Describing garment industries as "employment generating big private venture" he pointed out that Bangladesh as a developing country would have to face many challenges in marketing its products including global competition, restrictions and various other impediments.

Speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of international seminar on "implications of the phasing out of Multifibre Arrangement (MFA)" at a local hotel this morning, he said that absence of high technology, import of textiles, tariff problems, social conditions, environmental

problems had stood in the way of developing garment sector, but concerted efforts would have to be put in to overcome such problems so that bulging garment industries get further boost for economic progress of the country.

The seminar held under the joint auspices of International Trade Centre (ITC) Geneva, Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and Bangladesh Garments Manufacturer and Exporters Association (BGMEA) was presided over by Redwan Ahmad, MP, S M Fazlul Haq, Senior Vice President of BGMEA, Asafuddin, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Anisul Haq Chowdhury, Vice Chairman of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and Entero Hyvarinen, representative of ITC presented papers on the subject.

Morshed Khan called upon the international trade centre to play more effective role in identifying and solving problems of garment sector in developing countries to

enable them to survive global competition. In this connection he said that developed countries were putting restrictions on garment products in some way or other and the ITC would have to come forward to solve the problems faced by garment sector of the developing countries.

He said that garment sector in Bangladesh had the opportunity to train manpower and thus they should also concentrate on development of human resources. He also called for creating world fund for compensating ecological damage wherever such thing happens because of the existence of garment industries. He said, the question of child labour in garment industries should be considered from the prevailing social conditions of Bangladesh and not from any other angle.

Morshed Khan said, "I am very much optimistic about marketing of Bangladeshi products including garments

and I have seen some of our products in foreign markets. Our products will find wider markets when we improve and maintain quality", he added.

Asafuddin in his paper pointed out that there were conspiracies against marketing of Bangladeshi garments in the form of ecological problem, child labour, and discrimination. He called upon the garment exporters to face the challenges by improving and maintaining standard of quality of their products.

Entero Hyvarinen in his paper also identified some problems of the garment sector and the role of ITC in solving those problems.

The seminar was split into three sessions: inaugural session, first session and the second session. In the last two sessions, problems and their solution and prospects of garment industries were discussed by local and international experts.

Women Entrepreneurs

Tasmeema Hossain : Editor, *Anannya* magazine

All housewives are good managers

By Rashda Khan

All housewives are also managers and entrepreneurial skills should come to them naturally, observes Tasmeema Hossain, owner and editor of *Anannya*, a bi-monthly women's magazine published from Dhaka.

She holds that the organisation and running of a household is very similar to that of an office. As a result, women have a lot of experience in management, finances and organisation, she adds.

Hossain started out being a housewife but fate led her into other fields. "Everybody has a desire. I always wanted to do something. As a result I have taken different courses and tried to involve myself in different things," she says.

Her husband's, Anwar Hossain Monju's, political career was another factor that drew her out of the home. "A woman is very adaptable and so she can do many things. Besides doing traditional things, I have also gone to rural areas to campaign on my husband's behalf. And now I am taking care of his factories (a textile and a packaging factory) so he can devote more time to politics," she says.

Her interest in the magazine business grew after some practical experience. She volunteered for a while at an organisation which brought out its own publication. And observed the production of the daily *Ittefaq*, of which her husband is a part owner. "I have learned a lot from my husband's business," she says.

She started *Anannya* in 1988 with two other ladies. "Women didn't have any other platform besides *Begum* (a weekly women's magazine). I saw there was a market and need for a magazine with a modern outlook and which was created with modern technology."

When she first started, her husband treated it like she was doing it out of "shok" (fancy). Others regarded it as another offshoot of *Ittefaq*. "I just let them talk and continued to do what I needed to do," says Hossain.

According to Hossain, vision and viability are the two most important things for a magazine's success. The aim of *Anannya* is to inform people about the things women are doing, how far they have come and where they are.

"There is a social change taking place in Bangladesh, and *Anannya's* job is to reflect this change," she says. *Anannya* is distributed all over Bangladesh.

Anannya was the first magazine to bring Taslima Nasreen on the cover, says Hossain. She says she received many dirty and threatening letters regarding the Nasreen cover and some

have been many extraordinary women in the country's history. For example, Begum Rokeya — a leader in female education, Taposhi Rabeya — a spiritual leader. "Women have fought in wars too. But till recently, a man of lesser capability got preference over a more capable woman," she says. According to Hossain, if given equal opportunity, women would definitely be

the whole of Bangladesh. Now that it's a question of survival, the obstacles are lessening," says Hossain.

Hossain has four daughters. "I definitely want them to succeed in this world and live like all humans should," she says. As a result she is doing her little bit to change the world.

Anannya promotes young women writers and emerging female journalists. "In literature most of the famous writers are men. I am sure women can write too. So I give women writers and journalists preference and an opportunity to get published."

She also adds that *Anannya* does not merely report on issues and news but also follows up on them. For example, their handling of the "Sunset Rule" issue (dealing with regulations regarding the often dark movement of female students of Dhaka University living in the residence halls) consisted of not only letting people know what the rules and the problems were. "We also did a follow up to see how the situation was progressing, what were the views of female students, what was their future plans regarding the changing of the obsolete rules," says Hossain.

Anannya is targeted not only towards women but towards the entire family. Hossain believes that attitudes are built during the growing years and so, for true change to happen the attitudes and perspectives of the entire family must change. However, she emphasises that this has to be a gradual change and cannot happen overnight.

She happily points out that many men also read *Anannya*. "They get to see our side. And their input helps us to see the male side too," she says.

Hossain does *Anannya's* administrative work. She also supervises the advertisement collection, helps plan assignments, keeps tabs on story situations and writes the editorial. Through it all her family and home remain her priorities. How does she manage between her family, *Anannya* and her husband's factories? "I can do a lot together, thanks to the organisational skills I developed when I was just a housewife," she replies, laughing.



Tasmeema Hossain

other stories, but she does not let it bother her. "There are certain forces that try to intimidate. This problem isn't unique to us, it's happening in America as well. But you shouldn't let it stop you," she says.

Hossain believes that it is possible for women to work while keeping the values of Islam intact. She says only a handful of people benefit by using religion to hold women back. According to her, this would not be possible if women were more knowledgeable about Islam. She points out that there

able to stand their ground. Hossain is however, optimistic that a brighter future awaits women. She says society needs everyone's participation. "There is a need and a demand, and more and more women are coming out to fulfill them."

She says that presently there is a global understanding that there can be no development without women. Even Bangladesh is recognising this fact. Many taboo professions are now open to women. "They realise that women's participation is essential for the survival of

Formulation of plan suggested for resource dev of Sundarbans



New Chairman of Rupali Bank

Mohammad Abu Hena, Member, Planning Commission, has been appointed Chairman of Rupali Bank Ltd, says a press release yesterday.

He joined Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP) in 1963 and held various responsible positions. He was appointed as Ambassador to Japan in March 1991 and served there till July, 1992, later in Philippines till December, 1993.

He served as Secretary of the Ministry of Jute, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock till March, 1995. He joined as Member of the Planning Commission at the end of March, 1995.

BOC Bangladesh admits media report on oxygen shortage

BOC Bangladesh Limited regrets that the reports published in some newspapers on the shortage of oxygen in Khulna and Rajshahi divisions during the last few days are by and large true, says a press release yesterday.

The Khulna plant of the company, which is the only plant of the company in North Bengal, developed some mechanical faults during the third week of last month as a result of which it had to be shut down. Immediate arrangements were made to meet the demand of the local customers from alternative sources. These included trucking of cylinders from Dhaka, despatching bulk liquid oxygen from Dhaka and setting up at Khulna of a liquid oxygen storage tank. While doing so, special care was taken to make medical oxygen available in preference to industrial oxygen so that the hospitals and clinics of the above areas do not suffer.

However, in spite of all these arrangements, some shortfall still exists because of difficulties in transportation such as traffic jam at Aricha ghat and product shortage created by a sharp rise in demand in the recent months throughout the country.

The Khulna plant is still under maintenance and BOC Bangladesh hopes production will resume shortly. It will be appropriate to mention here that the country's largest Air Separation Plant with a production capacity of 1000 cubic metres of Oxygen/Nitrogen per hour has been erected by BOC Bangladesh Limited at Rupganj near Dhaka which is expected to go into production early next month. The new plant will nearly triple our present capacity and produce sufficient gas to meet future demand for many years.

Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain yesterday suggested formulation of a viable plan for the integrated resource development of the Sundarbans so that it could be implemented to serve the interest of the nation, reports BSS.

The minister also said that all aspects of the Sundarbans and its ecology should be studied scientifically for sustained development as it is a unique resource from national as well as global context.

Akbar Hossain made this comment at a seminar on the progress of the project "Integrated resource development of the Sundarbans reserve forests" held at the conference room of the forest department at Banbhaban at Mohakhali here.

Conducted with the technical assistance of FAO and UNDP the objectives of the project are to formulate a plan for integrated resource development of the Sundarbans, scientific study of its ecology and other different aspects, development of management practices and suggesting a strategy for sustained development and exploitation of its resources.

Chaired by the minister the seminar was attended by the concerned national and international consultants, forest experts, academicians, chief conservator of forests Dr. Shamsur Rahman and senior officials of the ministry.

Referring to harnessing of sustainable economic resources of the Sundarbans the minister said it provides us variety of timber species and other resources like

PDB Central Zone collects Tk 10 cr revenue

Revenue amounting to Tk 10 crore 4 lac 71 thousand was collected by the 'Central Zone' of Power Development Board (PDB) during the month of July '95, says a press release.

1002 electricity connections were also disconnected for non-payment of outstanding bills amounting to Tk 36 lac 31 thousand in Sylhet Circle and 385 for non-payment of Tk 2 lac 87 thousand in Mymensingh Circle of Central Zone during the same month.

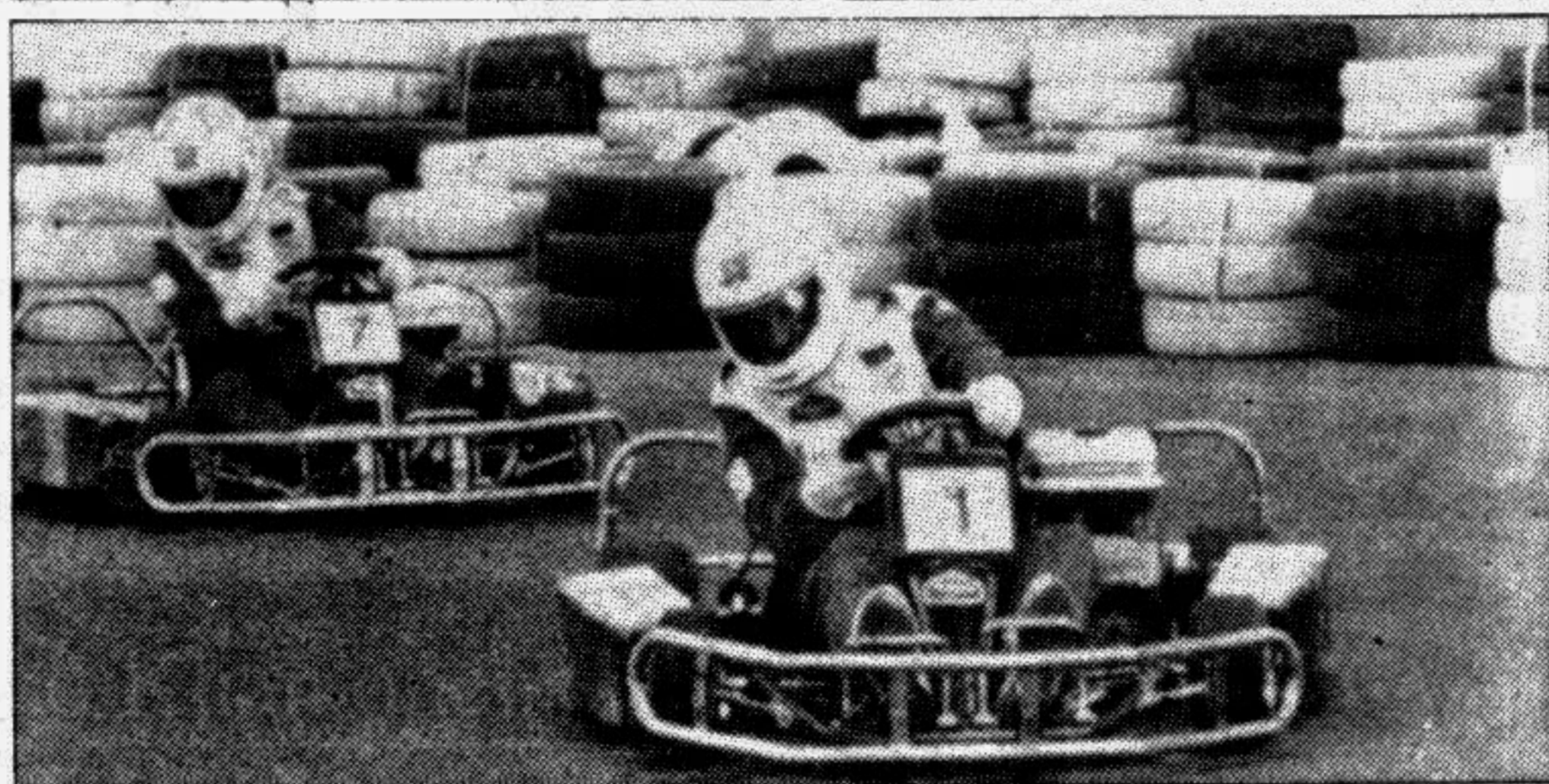
gopata, honey, fish and innumerable wildlives. It also protests us from cyclones, tidal surges and is also an attractive place for the tourists.

Pointing out the improvement of management of the Sundarbans he said to achieve this goal top priority should be given on improvement of security and transportation in the area.

The integrated resource development project started in February 1992 and expected to be completed by the end of September this year. So far Officer-in-Charge (Expatriate) of the project has been changed three times and national project directors five times affecting continuity of the work, an official comment on the report said.

Under the project 18 international and 11 national consultants worked in different disciplines whose contracts ranged from 15 days to 22 months.

Some of the participants at the seminar observed that some of the reports were incomplete, incorrect, unacceptable and against the interest of the Sundarbans itself and the nation as a whole.



For motoring enthusiasts, Arabian Adventures have tied up with Dubai's newest sports facility — the Formula One indoor gokarting track — for regular practice rounds for tourists.

Govt firm to pay fair price to jute growers

GHIOR (Manikganj), Aug 13: Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah yesterday said the government is determined to pay fair price to jute growers, reports BSS.

Addressing a gathering at Ghior thana sadar of Manikganj district here, the minister said the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) has opened 150 jute purchase centres throughout the country to give fair price to jute growers.

The function was also addressed by Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangshad Khondokar Delwar Hossain. Jute Minister and the Chief Whip exchanged views with the jute growers, businessmen and local people about the price and production of jute in the area.

The Jute Minister assured the local people that a BJMC jute purchase centre will be opened at Ghior bazar shortly.

Arabian Adventures new winter programmes

Helicopter tours and indoor go-karting in Dubai are two tour programmes to look forward to this autumn/winter season from Arabian Adventures, the Destination Management Company of Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, says a press release.

From September 1, tourists to Dubai can enjoy scenic helicopter rides around Dubai city, conducted in association with Aerogulf, a local helicopter operator.

The 10-minute rides, for up to four passengers per helicopter, take off and land at Dubai Creek Golf and Yacht Club's helipad. Visitors enjoy bird's eye views of Dubai's city, flying over the Dubai Creek with its dhows (traditional UAE boats) and abras (water taxis), the towering skyscrapers, the old sectors of town and the green expanses of golf courses and parks.

Longer rides covering

Dubai's spectacular deserts, the Fossil Rock or the Hatta Fort Hotel at which visitors can spend the day, can also be arranged. Arabian Adventures organises such special itineraries on request.

For motoring enthusiasts, Arabian Adventures has tied up with Dubai's newest sports facility the Formula One indoor go-karting track for regular practice rounds for tourists.

Formula One, the first indoor go-kart facility in the Middle East, offers 300 metres of track and light-weight, miniature single seater race cars produced by Jordan Karting of the UK.

Computerised lap scoring, timing and race controls, a large video wall display above the track, and the world's largest Scalextric track where visitors can enjoy remote controlled racing of Formula One car models, are the other state-of-the-art facilities offered.

Mir Shawkat off to Mali

Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali left the city for Mali Saturday night on a five-day official visit, reports UNB.

The minister will discuss the possibility of sending Bangladeshi agricultural labourers there on crop sharing basis with the authorities concerned.

BB Deputy Governor visits StanChart Savar EPZ branch

Mahbubur Rahman Khan, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank, yesterday visited Standard Chartered Bank's (StanChart) Savar EPZ Branch. The Deputy Governor expressed his satisfaction at the level of services being rendered by Standard Chartered Bank to its export clients. He, however, emphasised on more "Customer Friendly" approach in banking. He expected that in the changed market scenario bankers should work as Financial Consultant to the customer rather than servicing them traditionally, says a press release.

The Deputy Governor made the comment while celebrating StanChart's one year of service to the enterprises at EPZ area. Dr Joslin Landel Mills, Senior Economist IMF and IMF Advisor to Bangladesh Bank, Forrest E Cookson from Financial Sector Reform Project (FSRP), Syed Ashraf Ali, Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank were also present. Shareq Fahim Haque, StanChart's Account Relationship Manager welcomed the guests.

Fisheries Fortnight begins on Aug 16

80 pc of animal protein in diet supplied by fish alone

A fortnight-long nationwide campaign begins on August 16 for further development of fisheries resources that currently account for 12 per cent of the country's export earning, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the Fish Fortnight '95 at the BARO auditorium.

Fisheries sector contributes 4.2 per cent to the GDP. Directly or indirectly about 10 per cent people are dependent on fish and fisheries-related activities.

About 80 per cent of the animal protein in the diet of the people is supplied by fish alone the per-capita daily fish consumption being at present 25 gram against mini-

mum requirement of 75 gram.

Official sources told UNB that the country has 4.05 million hectares of inland open waters with a high potential of fish production and 0.28 million hectares of inland closed waters in the form of fresh water ponds (0.147 million ha) and brackish water shrimp farms (0.135 million ha) in the coastal region.

The marine waters of the country in the Bay of Bengal are estimated about 48365 sq nautical miles with Exclusive Economic Zone extending upto 200 nautical miles from the base line.

Inland waters of the country are inhabited by

about 258 indigenous and 8 exotic species of fish and 22 species of prawn. The marine waters in the Bay are the habitat of about 475 fish and 38 shrimp species.

In 1993-94 fish output of the country was 1.08 million tons (inland open waters 0.55 million tons closed waters 0.27 million tons and marine waters 0.26 million tons).

In that fiscal year Tk 9209.6 million was earned in this sector by exporting 31.035 tons of fish and fishery products. Some Tk 5266.2 million was earned by exporting 26.109 tons of fish and fishery products in 1990-91.



Mahbubur Rahman Khan, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank, celebrating Standard Chartered Bank's one year of service at Dhaka EPZ, Savar yesterday.