

## Bengal Fine Ceramics sets \$5m export target in '95-96

SAVAR, Aug 29: Bengal Fine Ceramics (BFC) Ltd, a pioneer in manufacturing tablewares, stonewares and porcelain products, has set an export target of US dollar five million in 1995-96, reports UNB.

"We have diversified the range of products and discovered a wider market abroad. We are encouraging export outlook," said R Mowdud Khan, Managing Director of the company.

He said the BFC has already been exporting to countries like USA, Canada, UK, and EU countries and recently got a good market in South Africa.

In 1994-95, the company exported products worth US dollar 2.5 million. It also enjoyed upto 35 per cent of the domestic market. "The demand for our wares in the local market is increasing."

He said the special features of the BFC products, developed through continuous research and innovative

designs and display in the international fairs, created a position in the world market.

Mowdud said that the company has taken up a US dollar three million expansion plan to increase production keeping in view the growing international demand for stonewares.

The BFC factory at Savar, established with Dutch financial support, went into production in 1985. The plant employs nearly 500 workers, 50 per cent of them female.

BFC's present output is 7.5 million pieces of assorted tablewares per annum.

"The basic features of our products are that they are band painted and the designs are either under-glaze or in-glaze for which all colours are 100 per cent permanent and shiny," said Mowdud.

The company uses local clay from Durgapur in Mysore district as well as some quartz stones from Sylhet. The local raw materi-

als constitute 40 per cent of the total requirements.

A team of foreign diplomats, including the Head of Delegation of the European Commission, the Chief of the World Bank Mission in Bangladesh, and Ambassadors of Italy and Belgium and the High Commissioner of Canada, while visiting the factory on Monday appreciated the quality, design and standard of BFC products.

"It looks wonderful. I think their stoneware products would get a niche in the European market if the quality is maintained," said Michael Drury, Head of the Delegation of European Commission.

He showed interest in various range of BFC products during the visit to the factory.

The diplomats also praised the working atmosphere at the BFC factory. "Such ideal environment is good for maintaining quality of the products," said World Bank mission chief Pierre

Landell-Mills.

Raffaele Miniero, the Italian Ambassador, said he was impressed by the quality and designs of the BFC products, "specially the stonewares which are high demand in our country."

The envoy said he would explore the possibility whether Italy could enter into joint venture in the ceramic sector in view of the qualitative improvement in Bangladesh.

"The production seems to be well-organised. There is good prospect for good exports to France," said Bertrand Desruelles, the French Trade Commissioner in Dhaka.

Canadian High Commissioner Jon J Scott said that the BFC products could be marketed in Canada where stonewares were in good demand. "I am pleased to learn that the company has already started exporting to my country."

## Ramos praises macro-economic stability in Bangladesh

President of the Philippines Fidel V Ramos yesterday praised the macro-economic stability achieved by Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He stressed the need for increasing the trade volume and strengthening bilateral relations between Bangladesh and The Philippines.

The Philippine President made the comment when energy and mineral resources minister of Bangladesh Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, now on an official visit to The Philippines called on Filipino president at his Malacanang Palace in Manila, according to official handout here.

During the discussion, the energy minister apprised the Philippines President of the present development trend of the national economy of Bangladesh and its future prospect. He also apprised the President of the potentials of bilateral trade between the two countries.

"There is enough prospect of boosting bilateral trade between Bangladesh and The Philippines," Dr Mosharraf Hossain said adding "Philippines can import raw jute, jute goods, jute carpets, tea and leather from Bangladesh and Bangladesh can import cement, sugar, coconut oil and acrylic plastic sheets from Philippines."

## Ataur reelected Chairman of Islami Bank

Commodore (ret'd) Mohammad Ataur Rahman has been reelected Chairman of the Board of Directors of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, says a press release.

Fahad Abdullah Al-Rajhi representative of Al-Rajhi Company for Industry and Trade, Saudi Arabia and Mohammad Younus have also been reelected Vice Chairman of the bank and Executive Committee has been reconstituted under chairmanship of Mir Quasem Ali, representative of Bangladesh Islamic Centre.

The election was held at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the bank with Commodore (ret'd) Mohammad Ataur Rahman in the chair.

Earlier, a 15 per cent dividend was declared for the year 1994 in the 12th annual general meeting of the bank held at BCIC auditorium.

Bader Abdul Mohsin Al-Mukhaizeem, representative of Kuwait Finance House; Sheikh Abdul Wahab A Al-Houti, representative of the Ministry of Awqaf & Islamic Affairs, Kuwait; Mohammad Mosharraf Hussain; Mohammad Abdullah; Prof Mohammad Fazle Azim and M Mufizul Huq, representatives of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh have been reelected Directors of the bank and Md Eskander Ali Khan has been elected new Director of the bank in the annual general meeting.

## French Finance Minister steps down

PARIS, Aug 29: France's sacked finance minister, free marketer Alain Madelin, officially stepped down on Monday leaving the conservative government to begin an uphill struggle to regain its credibility with sceptical financial markets, reports Reuter.

In all, 37 participants from various banks and financial institutions attended the course.

The concluding session of the course was chaired by the Director General of BIBM, AHM Nurul Islam Choudhuri.

Choudhuri stressed the need for such course for efficient credit management in banks and financial institutions. Choudhuri strongly felt that the course was tailored to the needs of the time to resolve the problems that the bank are facing in respect of management of credit.

He urged the participants to apply their newly acquired knowledge and expertise efficiently and thus ensure better management of credit in their respective institution.



Additional Secretary of ERD M Fazlur Rahman and Counsellor of Canadian High Commission and head of Aid, CIDA signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for Phase-III of the Rural Maintenance Programme (RMP) in the city yesterday.

— PID photo

## Rly cuts fares for all classes from Friday

The Bangladesh Railway has reduced train fares for the passengers of Inter-city, Mail and Express trains, with a view to make the service useful, reports UNB.

The reduced-fare, will be effective from September 1, said a press release today (Tuesday).

The economy fares will be applicable to the passengers of the Air Condition (AC) and First Classes of Inter-city, Mail and Express trains, and Sulov classes of the Inter-city trains.

New fares according to the announcement: Taka 580 and Taka 370 for AC and First classes of Dhaka-Chittagong, which were Taka 680 and Taka 460 respectively. The fare of Dhaka-Sylhet AC-class, has been fixed at Taka 340 from Taka 420.

Accordingly, fare for the First-Class of Dhaka-Noakhali has been reduced to Taka 195 from Taka 240 while passengers travelling in the First-Class of Dhaka-Mymensingh route have to pay Taka 100 instead of Taka 120.

On the other hand, Taka 295 has been fixed for the First-Class passengers of Dhaka-Rangpur route instead of Taka 365, and the fare for same class Dhaka-Dinajpur

route has been fixed at Taka 330 instead of Taka 410. The fare for the First class of Dhaka-Bogra train, has been fixed at Taka 260 from Taka 325.

Besides, the fares of Sulov classes of Upokul, the Padma and Jamuna of Dhaka-Jagannathganj, Titumir, Barendra, Rupsha, Kabadak, Shah Niamat Ullah, Padma and Jamuna, and Teesta of Western Region, have been reduced by 20-30 per cent.

## Essentials dear in Magura

MAGURA, Aug 29: Prices of essentials have shot up due to the inclement weather and incessant rain for the last few days in the district, reports UNB.

According to local people, per kg green chilly is being sold at Taka 60, masur dal at Taka 50, rice at Taka 15-16, atta at Taka 12, onion at Taka 15, red chilly at Taka 120.

Meanwhile, per kg hilsha fish is selling between Taka 100 and Taka 120, fish fry between Taka 80 and Taka 90, beef between Taka 60 and Taka 70, mutton between Taka 100 and Taka 120. Prices of various vegetables have also shot up.

## Shipping Times' first founding anniversary celebrated

The first founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Shipping Times, a fortnightly journal on air, sea inland transportation, finance and tourism, was celebrated at Sonargaon Hotel in the city on Monday, says a press release.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Major (Rtd) Abdul Mannan and KLM Bangladesh General Manager C Ursem were chief guest and special guest respectively at the function which was presided over by Abu Yousuf, Editor of the journal.

The minister has praised it as a specialized news paper and he highlighted that such a paper can play vital role in the economic development of the country.

C Ursem said "We both KLM and the Bangladesh Shipping Times took the decision to start one year ago in the Bangladesh market. The Bangladesh Shipping Times is interested in the shipping and air lines industry and KLM interested in the Shipping Times and their customers. It is a kind of cross fertilising."

Abu Yousuf said: "We have an intention to arrange seminars and workshops with professionals who are directly or indirectly linked with the transportation industry as we felt the suggestions of professional experts are necessary for the development of the country."

Distinguished persons who addressed the function are Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, President, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist, Dr Anwar Hossain, Professor, Institute of Business Administration, DU, Ismail Ali Haqiqi, Area Manager, Gulf Air and Farruque M Masud, Assistant Editor of the Bangladesh Shipping Times.

## Share prices close higher in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, Aug 29: Share prices in Hong Kong closed solidly higher Tuesday after a long weekend holiday, reports AP.

The Hang Seng Index, the market's key indicator of blue chips, rose 72.50 points, or 0.8 per cent, closing at 9,152.89. On Friday, the index had gained 22 points.

The Hong Kong market was closed on Monday because of a public holiday, marking the end of the World War II.

Turnover, slipped to 2,396 billion Hong Kong dollars (307 million US Dollars), down from Friday's 2,620 billion Hong Kong dollars (335 million US dollars).



A team of foreign diplomats visited the Bengal Fine Ceramics Factory at Savar on Monday — Star photo

## Spanish fishermen steps up protest campaign

ALMERIA, SPAIN, Aug 29: Spanish fishermen yesterday stepped up a protest campaign against the slow pace of talks between Morocco and the European Union (EU) over fishing rights, fishermen's organisations said, reports AFP.

Fishermen in Almeria and Malaga, southern Spain, met at the ports Monday to blockade lorries en route to and from Morocco on board ferries, while those in Algeria plan to step up action from Tuesday.

In northwest Galicia they pledged to start another series of demonstrations which in the past have often ended in traffic chaos.

Some 600 Spanish fishing vessels normally departing in Moroccan waters have remained in port since April 30.

## EAEC will not split APEC: Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 29: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad Defended Monday his proposal for a caucus among East Asian Nations, saying it would not split the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, reports AFP.

Drawing a parallel with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) encompassing the United States, Canada and Mexico, Mahathir said the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) would also be a grouping within APEC.

"Hence, there is nothing to fear from the EAEC," Mahathir said as he opened an Asia-Pacific management consultants conference here. "EAEC is intended to promote open regionalism and will be transparent."

The EAEC, first mooted by Mahathir in December 1990,

has already been accepted as an initiative by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which groups Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and newcomer Vietnam.

But the EAEC proposal, meant to be a consultative forum grouping Japan, South Korea, China, Hong Kong and ASEAN as its core members, has not taken off mainly due to indecision in Tokyo about membership.

It has also met stiff opposition from Washington, which sees it as a budding trade bloc.

Japan, the US and ASEAN are all members of the 18-member APEC.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, after talks with ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Brunei earlier this month, said Tokyo

wanted the consensus of the APEC forum before making a decision on joining the EAEC.

"There is nothing to fear from the EAEC. It is intended to promote open regionalism and will be transparent," said Mahathir on Monday.

"Open regionalism will not result in trade blocs. The ASEAN proposal for the EAEC should be viewed positively. EAEC is not exclusionist," said Mahathir, who recently slammed Japan for finding fresh "excuses" to stall its formation and claiming it was bowing to pressure from the United States.

## BIBM course on credit management concludes

An 18-day training course on Credit Management, conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), was concluded yesterday, says a press release.

The course aimed at developing expertise of the bank officials on credit planning and monitoring mechanism at the branch as well as controlling office level and to acquaint the participants with modern techniques of Lending Risk Analysis, follow-up and recovery of credit.

In all, 37 participants from various banks and financial institutions attended the course.

The concluding session of the course was chaired by the Director General of BIBM, AHM Nurul Islam Choudhuri.

Choudhuri stressed the need for such course for efficient credit management in banks and financial institutions. Choudhuri strongly felt that the course was tailored to the needs of the time to resolve the problems that the bank are facing in respect of management of credit.

He urged the participants to apply their newly acquired knowledge and expertise efficiently and thus ensure better management of credit in their respective institution.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
পরিচালকের অফিস  
রাজশাহী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল  
**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
১৯৯৫-৯৬

রাজশাহী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে ১৯৯৫-৯৬ আর্থিক বৎসরে এম.এস.আর সামগ্রী সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে অত্র হাসপাতালের এবং কেন্দ্রীয় ঔষধাগার, ঢাকা-এর সংশ্লিষ্ট গ্রুপের তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান/সরবরাহকারী/টিকাদারের নিকট হইতে অনুমোদিত তফসীল সীলমোহরকৃত বামে নিম্নে উল্লিখিত গ্রুপের দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্রের নিয়ম ও শর্তাবলী সংশ্লিষ্ট টেন্ডার বই প্রতিটি (অফিস/কেন্দ্রীয়) নির্ধারিত মুঠো রাজশাহী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালস্থ সোনালী ব্যাঙ্ক হইতে এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের কাগজে প্রকাশের পর হইতে আগামী ১৫ই সেপ্টেম্বর/৯৫ দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সকল গ্রুপের দরপত্র পাওয়া যাইবে এবং ১৭ই সেপ্টেম্বর/৯৫ ইং তারিখে দরপত্র রাজশাহী মহানগর পুলিশ কমিশনারের কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাসে সকাল ১১-৩০ টার মধ্যে ফেলিতে হইবে এবং একই দিন দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকায় অত্র হাসপাতালের পরিচালকের কার্যালয়ে দরপত্রাদানের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র পর্বদ কর্তৃক খোলা হইবে। ছুটির দিন ও অনির্ধারিত দিন কোন দরপত্র বই বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

ক্রম নং	এম. এস. আর গ্রুপসমূহ	গ্রুপ	দরপত্র বাহির মুদ্রা
১।	সকল প্রকার ঔষধ সামগ্রী	"ক" গ্রুপ	৳ ৭৫০/=
২।	পাণ্ডা, ব্যাডজ এবং প্রায়জরকৃত কটন	"খ" গ্রুপ	৳ ৭৫০/=
৩।	হাসপাতাল এর যন্ত্রপাতি, সার্জিক্যাল সরঞ্জামাদি গ্রাস ও স্ববায়ু সামগ্রী ইত্যাদি।	"গ" গ্রুপ	৳ ৭৫০/=
৪।	লিনেন বিছানাপত্রাদিসহ অন্যান্য সামগ্রী	"ড" গ্রুপ	৳ ৭৫০/=
৫।	প্যাথলজিক্যাল রি-এজেন্ট কেমিক্যাল, X-রে ফ্লিম সামগ্রী ইত্যাদি।	"ঘ" গ্রুপ	৳ ৪০০/=
৬।	আসবাবপত্র ও অন্যান্য (টিলের)	"চ" গ্রুপ	৳ ৪০০/=

টেন্ডার বই প্রাপ্তির স্থান: সন্ধ্যা

১। সোনালী ব্যাঙ্ক মেডিকেল শাখা, রাজশাহী। সকাল ১০-০০ ঘটিকা হইতে ২-০০ টা পর্যন্ত।  
বৃহস্পতিবার ঐ হইতে ১২-০০ পর্যন্ত।

পরিচালক  
রাজশাহী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল

DFP-20677-26/8  
G-1274

**Essential Drugs Company Limited**  
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka-1208

### Local Short Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide suppliers/firms for supply of the following item:

Schedule No and Date	Description	Earnest Money	Cost of Schedule	Last Date & Time of Receiving	Date & Time of Opening
Engg/L-T/1070/95-96 Dated: 22-08-95	Supply of Reconditioned/ New Air Compressor (As per Tender Schedule)	2.5%	Tk. 100/00	20-09-95 at 11-00 AM.	20-09-95 after 11-15 AM.

Tender schedule containing specifications and terms & conditions may be obtained from our Accounts Deptt. on cash payment of Tk. 100/00 per set (Non-refundable) during office hours on all working days except Friday & Saturday.

DFP-20692-26/8  
G-1275

**Md. Harun-Al-Rashid**  
General Manager (Commercial)  
for Managing Director.