

SAARC tourism meeting in Colombo today

COLOMBO, Sept 4: Tourism officials from seven South Asian countries will begin a two-day meeting here Tuesday to focus on joint promotion and closer cooperation. Sri Lanka's Tourism Ministry said, reports AFP. Officials from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will take part in the meeting, the ministry said Monday. "It will explore the ways and means of mutual cooperation and for the promotion of investment (in the tourism sector) in the region," a ministry statement said.

Dollar lower in Tokyo

TOKYO, Sept 4: The US dollar was lower against the Japanese yen at mid-afternoon Monday, reports AP. There was a rumour that Japan's central bank was checking rates after the dollar fell below 97.00 yen, but traders said there was no evidence that the central bank stepped into the market to buy the dollars. Traders said they expected considerable stop-loss sell orders at 96.80 yen if the US currency fell that low. Trading remained quiet and volume thin ahead of the Labour Day holiday in the United States Monday. At mid-afternoon, the dollar was trading at 96.88 yen, down 0.80 yen from Friday's close and also below its level in late New York trading Friday of 97.55 yen.

SAS opens first route to India

COPENHAGEN, Sept 4: Denmark's prime minister will inaugurate a new SAS route between Copenhagen and New Delhi, the Scandinavian Airlines System said Monday, reports AP. Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen will travel Tuesday aboard the first SAS Boeing 767 flying to New Delhi, where he will begin and 11-day official visit.

Seminar on fisheries at BARC Capture fisheries squeezing

Poverty, overfishing and environmental degradation are squeezing capture fisheries which now account for less than 50 per cent of the sector's total annual output of nearly 10 lakh tons, reports UNB. This observation was made yesterday at a day-long seminar on "Fisheries Research Dissemination" at BARC auditorium which was jointly organised by Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra and Bath University of United Kingdom. Fisheries and Livestock Secretary A H Mofazzal Karim said the decline should be halted immediately and the quantity of capture fisheries increased to meet protein demand of country's 120 million people. "Traditionally, we are fish eaters, not fish culturists. We are devouring fish of all kinds," Karim said and emphasised creating awareness and involvement of cross-section of people in enforcing government's rule regarding fish population preservation. Highlighting various efforts taken by the government to enhance pisciculture, Karim said two ongoing projects funded by the World

Bank and Asian Development Bank were yielding positive result in the development of capture fisheries. Director General of Fisheries Department Md Liaquat Ali said the quantity of capture fisheries in rivers and floodplains had declined to 50 per cent from about 70 per cent in early sixties. The Production of capture fisheries was only four lakh tons in 1990 against more than seven lakh tons in 1960. Ali said and attributed the declining trend to overfishing and environmental degradation. In his presentation on "the assessment of policy and management options in inland capture fisheries," Dr Allister McGregor said fisheries were overexploited and the degree of overexploitation would increase as population grows. Dr McGregor said the open-access nature of fisheries is a major reason for their overexploitation. Active management by government to control overexploitation could augment fish output. In his observation in Bangladesh, Dr McGregor said fisherfolk are a uniform group who could all benefit

from government management of the fishery. Fisherfolk are among the poorest in the community, so action to improve their incomes will reduce poverty. Dr McGregor said fisherfolk is one cause of overexploitation as they cannot afford to reduce their current effort to achieve future benefits. The British expert said the government needed to look at how this decline could be halted or even reversed, taking account not only of the importance of maintaining fish yields but also the need to provide employment and maintain the incomes of vulnerable social groups. The total area available for capture fisheries in rivers and floodplains is about 4,047,316 hectares, of which 1,031,563 hectares are river estuaries, 114,161 hectares beels, 2,832,792 hectares floodlands and 68,800 hectares a large reservoir called Kaptai Lake, he said. There are also ox-bow lakes in the southwestern region of the country known as baor, which have a total water area of 5,488 hectares, he added.



Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain, during his week-long visit to the Philippines, called on Fidel V Ramos, President of the Philippines, at the Malacanang Palace in Manila on August 29. — PID photo

Employment rises in US

WASHINGTON, Sept 4: The US civilian unemployment rate slipped 0.1 percentage point to a seasonally adjusted 5.6 per cent in August as the number of jobs went up strongly, according to USIS. The US Department of Labour reported September 1 that nonfarm payroll employment increased 249,000 in August after a gain of only 6,000 in July. "Since March, monthly payroll job growth has averaged 100,000 per month, much slower than in 1994 and 1993," the report said. "Unemployment has changed very little in recent months." Both the unemployment rate and the number of persons unemployed, 7.4 million in August, have changed little since spring. More than half of the jobs gained in August came in the services sector. A significant increase in local government employment reflected a tendency among more school systems to open earlier, before September. "Manufacturing employment was about unchanged in August, after a particularly sharp decline in July and smaller losses in the prior three months," the report said.

Saudi Arabia begins repairing Tapline

AMMAN, Sept 4: Saudi Arabia has begun repairing a pipeline that could carry Jordanian oil to end Jordan's dependence on supplies from Iraq, diplomatic sources said, reports Reuter. The pipeline, the Trans-Arabian Pipeline (Tapline) that Saudi Arabia shut five years ago to punish Jordan for siding with Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, could be ready for use before mid-September, one diplomat said. A spokesman for ARAMCO, the Saudi state owner of the pipeline, said "like any other facility, it undergoes routine maintenance." But he said any decision on shipping oil was up to the government. The pipeline from Saudi Arabia has two pumping stations, both in Saudi Arabia. The extension of the line through Syria and Lebanon, originally built to carry oil to Sidos on the Mediterranean coast, was closed years ago. It was not known if the Tapline would be put to immediate use — limited shipments also could be sent to 'test' the line — but a rehabilitation of the pipeline would raise a possible treat to Iraq's vital trade links with Jordan.

Jordan. Jordan has been virtually the only legal trade partner for Iraq since the United Nations slapped sweeping economic sanctions on Baghdad after President Saddam Hussein's occupation of Kuwait. Iraq now ships about 75,000 barrels of oil and oil products to Amman daily. Although Iraqi oil exports are banned under UN sanctions, the United Nations has not halted the sales to Jordan because it has had no other sources since Saudi Arabia closed the pipeline in September 1990. Saudi Arabia was supplying about 40,000 barrels a day before the closure and Jordanian officials said the Tapline, which connects directly to Jordan's refinery north of Amman, could provide a maximum of 70,000-80,000 barrels per day to Jordan. The United States has sought an end to the Iraq-Jordan oil trade and a US mission to the Middle East this month discussed the possibility of Saudi and Kuwaiti oil supplies for Jordan.

Vietnam raises rice export tax

HANOI, Sept 4: Vietnam's Ministry of Finance has just raised tax rates for rice exports to two per cent, an official said today, reports AFP. An official from the tax office of the finance ministry said that from September 16 the organisations authorised to export rice would have to pay an export fee of two per cent against a one per cent tax which has been applied since July 10, 1995. The government had previously not charged a fee for rice exports, he said. Many companies have been rushing to buy rice for the lucrative export market in recent months, despite government regulations limiting rice exports, aimed at maintaining reserves. Exports have caused sharp price rises, which began in the Mekong River delta immediately after the harvest. Vietnam exported around two million tonnes of rice last year, becoming the third largest rice exporter in the world, behind the United States and Thailand. In the first seven months of 1995 — before the government imposed the export limitations — the country sold nearly 1.5 million tonnes of rice abroad, according to official statistics.

Wood lauds self-reliant model of ASA

The World Bank Vice President Joseph Wood has lauded the self-reliant model of ASA. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, E R D Secretary Lutfullah Majid, Country Representative of World Bank Pierre Landell Mills, President of ASA Governing Body Fr R W Timm, Chief Executive of ASA Md Shaifiqu Haque Choudhury, Chairman of PKSF Nazrul Islam, Managing Director of PKSF M M Ziauddin and officials of the district administration were also present. They all visited some schemes of ASA's Income Generation Programme.

Tung-OOCL Scholarship Fund announced

Global transportation giant OOCL and charitable trust Tung Foundation announced the creation of a joint scholarship fund of approximately six million Hong Kong dollars (780,000 US dollars) annually for a series of educational scholarship programmes beginning this year, says a press release. In Hong Kong a total of 18 scholarships for one year duration are planned to be awarded annually for the next three years. The scholarships will be distributed equally between three of the most recognized universities in Hong Kong — the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the City University of Hong Kong.

ally to four universities for the next three years. The universities chosen for the scholarships are Fudan and Jiaotong Universities in Shanghai and Qinghua and Beijing Universities in Beijing. A separate scholarship programme has also been established for Hangzhou University in Zhejiang province. The Tung-OOCL Scholarship Fund will also sponsor post graduates or teaching staff at each university to attend exchange or MBA programmes in Hong Kong and overseas universities. This programme will also continue for three years with four new scholarships being awarded each year. Selection will be based on academic performance, potential contribution as a member of the community and the financial need of the students. Both OOCL and the Tung Foundation shall be involved in the selection process. A Tung-OOCL Scholarship Committee will be established to monitor and guide the policies of scholarship programme.

India negotiating \$1.3b loan from World Bank

NEW DELHI, Sept 4: India is negotiating its single largest 1.3 billion dollar infrastructural loan with the World Bank for the telecommunications, power and transport sectors, a financial daily reported today, says AFP. The Business Standard said the loan was expected to be clinched soon. The fresh application surpasses the 700 million dollar loan extended by the World Bank in April for India's financial sector. The World Bank has an active participation in New Delhi's infrastructure sector, which was opened up for global capital after the sweeping free-market reforms initiated in 1991.

শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয় ইয়ার বুক ১৯৯৪-৯৫ মুদ্রণের দরপত্র আহবান

শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয় ইয়ার বুক ১৯৯৪-৯৫ মুদ্রণের জন্য দেশের প্রতিষ্ঠিত মুদ্রণ ও প্রকাশনা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। ইয়ার বুকের মৌলিক বৈশিষ্ট্যবলী হচ্ছে আকার ৮"X১১", পৃষ্ঠার সংখ্যাঃ ১৫০ (আনুমানিক), পৃষ্ঠকের সংখ্যাঃ ৭০০ (সাতশত), কাগজ (অভ্যন্তরীণ) ১২০ জিএসএম গ্রাম আর্ট পেপার, প্রচ্ছদঃ এমালেক্স বোর্ড ২৮০ জিএসএম, ছবিঃ চার রং, সংখ্যা ২৫টি, বাঁধাইঃ জুস, কম্পোজঃ কটো কম্পোজ, চার্ট/ডায়গ্রাম-৮টি।

দুই খণ্ডে প্রস্তুত অনুসরণের মাধ্যমে এই ইয়ার বুক মুদ্রণের জন্য প্রেস/প্রকাশনা প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচন ও মুদ্রণ ব্যয় নির্ধারণ করা হবে। আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের সর্বাধুনিক ছুঁড়িও, গ্রাফিক কম্পিউটার, এয়ারব্রাশ ইত্যাদি, অসোকর্টিভ ম্যানি-এ অভিজ্ঞতা ও প্রাসংগিক সুবিধাদি থাকতে হবে অথবা অন্য কোন খ্যাতিনামা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে এই ইয়ার বুক মুদ্রণে উল্লেখিত সুবিধাদি পাওয়া যাবে তার প্রত্যয়নপত্র সংযোজন করতে হবে। দক্ষ সার্বজনিক ডিজাইনার থাকতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের সংশ্লিষ্ট বহুজাতিক বা সমপর্যায়ের কোম্পানীর জন্য উন্নতমানের ক্যালেন্ডার, বার্ষিক প্রতিবেদন, ব্রসিউর মুদ্রণে দীর্ঘ অভিজ্ঞতা এবং এতদসংক্রান্ত সত্যায়িত কাজের নমুনা, কভার, ডিজাইন ব্যবহারিতব্য কাগজ ও অন্যান্য কার্যবিত আর্থিক ও স্পেসিফিকেশন সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্রসিউরের পূর্ণাঙ্গ মডেল/ডামি সংযোজন করতে হবে। যে সমস্ত মুদ্রণ প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রস্তাবিত ইয়ার বুক কার্যবিত মানের মডেল/ডামি উপস্থাপন করবে শুধুমাত্র তাদের অর্থনৈতিক প্রস্তাব খোলা হবে এবং তৎসঙ্গেই কার্যবিত প্রদান প্রসঙ্গে সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করা হবে। নির্ধারিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের দায়িত্ব ও কর্তব্যের পরিধি টি ও আরঃ শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়, কর্পোরেশন ও সংস্থাসমূহ হতে ইয়ার বুক প্রকাশনা সম্পর্কে সংশ্লিষ্ট সর্বাধিক তথ্য ও বিষয়বস্তুর সমন্বয় ও সামঞ্জস্য বিধান এবং সঠিক প্রেক্ষিতে যথাযথভাবে বিন্যাসকরণ, তথ্যগত/ভাষাগত/কাঠামোগত সংগতি (Uniformity) নিশ্চিতকরণ, অর্ধবছর প্রচ্ছদ সংযোজন, প্রয়োজনীয় অসোকর্টিভ, চার্ট, ডায়গ্রাম, গ্রাফ ইত্যাদির ব্যবস্থাকরণ ও সঠিক আর্থিক সন্নিবেশিতকরণ, এবং মুদ্রণ সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় কার্যবলী সুদৃঢ়ভাবে তদারকিকরণ এবং সমস্ত স্পেসিফিকেশন অনুযায়ী ইয়ার বুক মুদ্রণ ও সরবরাহকরণ। কার্যবিত প্রাপ্তির ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে মুদ্রিত পুস্তক সরবরাহ করতে হবে। অনুমোদিত যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হতে উদ্ধৃত কোটেশনের শতকরা ২.৫০% হারে বাংলাদেশ কেমিক্যাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রি কর্পোরেশন-এর ব্যবহার পে-অর্ডার জমানত হিসেবে দরপত্রের সংশ্লিষ্ট দাখিল করতে হবে। সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আগামী ১৬ই সেপ্টেম্বর '৯৫ তারিখে বেলা ১১ ঘটিকায় বিসিআইসি'র জনসংযোগ বিভাগ (৮ম তলা) বিসিআইসি ভবন, ৩০-৩১ দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০-এ রক্ষিত বাক্সে জমা দিতে হবে যা ট্রেনিং দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন। বেলা ১১.৩০ মিনিটে খোলা হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

বিসিআইসি ৯২৮-৩১/৮/৯৫  
DFP-21416-2/9  
G-1303

'NAFTA fails to live up to promises'

WASHINGTON, Sept 4: The North American Free Trade Agreement has failed to live up to the promise of creating more jobs for Americans made by President Bill Clinton and corporate backers of the trade pact, a public interest group said, reports Reuter. "Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, a group founded by consumer advocate Ralph Nader, said very few of the promised jobs materialised and that thousands of US workers lost their jobs due to the trade agreement that links the United States, Canada and Mexico. A study released by the group, which strongly opposed the 1993 trade pact, said that very few corporate advocates kept their promise that they would hire more American workers if Congress approved the trade agreement. The group charged that some of the companies that promised to hire more people, laid workers off instead. The group said US toy manufacturer Mattel stated during the NAFTA debate that the trade agreement would support US jobs. Yet 520 workers at Mattel's fisher price facility in Medina, New York were

Iran exports gas-oil for first time

TEHRAN, Sept 4: Iran has begun reaping the benefit of major investments, boosting petrochemical exports by more than 40 per cent this year and exporting gas-oil for the first time, reports AFP. Since the start of the new Iranian year on March 21, the country has managed to export 200,000 tonnes of gas-oil while up until last year it was forced to import the product, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh said. The minister, quoted by the official Irna News Agency, said the "unexpected" export had been realised after lowering domestic consumption through a price hike of oil-products by 100 per cent in March. Gas-oil is the only refined oil product that Iran imported up until this year in large quantities.

Iran's carpet export drops

TEHRAN, Sept 4: Iranian carpet exports, the country's main source of hard currency after oil, have dropped sharply amid tough government regulations on exports and currency exchange, reports AFP. The Customs Department says 400 million dollars of carpets were exported during the first four months of the current Iranian year, down from 600 million dollars for the same period last year. Total sales last year reached 1.8 billion dollars. But many experts believe sales are even lower, with carpet exporters claiming the trade has all but stopped because of measures introduced by the government in May and imposed almost overnight. The new regulations require carpet exporters to repatriate all their foreign earnings within six months and exchange their earnings at the state bank at the maximum official rate of 3,000 rials to the dollar, 25 per cent lower than the black market prices for the green-back. "Even if all goes well, from transportation costs to marketing, exporters will lose an average of 20 per cent," Assadollah Fazeli, a major carpet dealer, told AFP. "No one wants to export carpets under such circumstances. We have no choice but to wait and see what happens." Dozens of merchants participating in a carpet fair in Tehran this week echoed his words. "This is a turning-point for our carpet exports," said one participant, Ali Akbar Tavakoli. "We have worked for

Japan's corporate income edges up

TOKYO, Sept 4: Japanese corporate income edged up 0.7 per cent from a year earlier to a combined 12,734 billion yen (143 billion dollars) in the year to March, the first upturn in five years, tax authorities said today, reports AFP. The National Tax Administration Agency said Tokyo Electric Power Co. Inc. topped the list of 2,530 companies capitalised at three billion yen or more, reporting income of 321 billion yen, up 16 per cent from a year earlier. Buoyed by strong electricity demand and the yen's appreciation, power companies accounted for five of the top 10 slots. Tokyo Electric, the country's top income earner for the first time in eight years, replaced Toyota Motor Corp, which had ranked first for six years. The leading carmaker ranked second with declared income of 262 billion yen, down 11.4 per cent. Chubu Electric Power Co Inc. moved from seventh to third place with income jumping 44.22 per cent to 156 billion yen. Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Ltd ranked fourth.



World Bank Vice-President Joseph Wood seen speaking at an opinion exchanging session organised by ASA at Bhairabganj Bazar in Moulvi Bazar on Sunday.

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BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

The Managing Director, Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd, Tarakandi, Sarishabari, Jamalpur hereby invites sealed tender on C&F(C), Chittagong basis under any suitable financial source in two envelope system for importation of 500 M.Tons Paraformaldehyde(Solid) against tender enquiry No. JFCL/FP/UREA/1.32/87 dated 27-8-95. The Tenders will be received up to 11:00 AM on 27-9-95 and be opened on the same day thereafter. Tender documents containing detailed terms and conditions will be available on payment of Tk. 1,000/- (one thousand) (Non-refundable) in cash from the office of the (i) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and (iii) Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd. on all working days. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of tender.

BCIC 936-31/8/95  
DFP-21408-2/9  
G-1301