


**SANYO**  
Family Size Microwave Oven  
Tk. 16,950  
Free Cooking Book



# The Daily Star BUSINESS



**HYUNDAI**  
CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

DHAKA SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1995

## BR to introduce luxurious coaches in Dhaka - Ctg route

Bangladesh Railway, under its better customer service programme, will introduce luxurious reclining chair-coach on its Dhaka-Chittagong route inter city Mohanagar Urmi and Mohanagar Godhuli trains from October 2, a railway press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Initially reclining chairs will be introduced in one first class and three 'Shovan' class coaches in each of the inter-city train and gradually this facility will be extended to all the inter-city train services across the country.

Under the new facilities, well decorated 54 and 64 seats will be installed in each of the first class and 'Shovan' class coaches. The fare of the first class and Shovan class reclining chair coach will be Taka 250 and Taka 150 respectively. The existing normal fare of the Shovan class is Taka 100.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed is expected to inaugurate this new services at a simple function at Kamalapur Railway station at 3 pm on October two.

## 'Entrepreneurs should take steps to boost agri exports'

Development partners, scientists and the private sector entrepreneurs should take strong initiative to boost the country's agricultural exports, reports UNB.

Food and Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan viewed this while participating at a discussion on "Increasing and Sustaining Productivity of Agriculture in Bangladesh" at BARC auditorium yesterday.

Mannan said that production per unit area increased manifold during the last few years, but strikingly the yield of major crops like rice, wheat, pulses and oilseeds had either stagnated or declined.

The minister assured of the government's commitment and full support for making the country self-reliant by enhancing agricultural output.

Mannan also called for taking the advantages of modern technologies like genetic engineering, bio-technology, irrigation, introduction of stress-tolerant crop species, non-traditional commodity research etc for developing agriculture.

"We have tremendous market potentials of many agricultural items especially vegetables and fine quality rice," he added.

Referring to finite land resources, he gave emphasis on optimum use of vast manpower as well as exploring the world market for various agricultural products in view of worldwide free trade and economic situation.

## SCB, CPA, port users hold meet in Ctg

Shippers' Council of Bangladesh (SCB), Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and port users held a meeting Thursday in Chittagong Port Authority's Conference room in Chittagong to review the latest congestion situation at Chittagong Port, prospects and progress of steps taken by Chittagong Port Authority, Customs, Food Department and others concerned for removing the congestion, says a press release.

Chairman, Shippers' Council of Bangladesh M R Ali represented the SCB while Member (Finance), AMM Shahadat Hossain and its senior officials represented the Chittagong Port Authority.

Md Rezaul Karim, Senior Vice-Chairman, SCB, Md Amirul Islam, EC Member, SCB, SM Fazul Haque, Acting President, BGMEA, AFMA Asad, Chairman, Bangladesh Steamer Agents Association, representative of IPB Conference, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Shipping Lines/Agents, Railways also attended the meeting and spoke on the congestion.

The meeting expressed deep concern at the prevailing congestion and its slow rate of improvement which are causing delay in ship's berthing hampering speedy flow of exports and imports including garments and higher shipment cost.

## LDCs urge global community Come out meaningfully to resolve economic problems

NEW YORK, Sept 30: Negotiations are continuing at the inter-government review meeting here on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed countries with LDCs urging the global community to come out more meaningfully to resolve their economic problems, reports BSS.

Bangladesh, as the coordinator of the LDCs, in playing a pivotal role in the both formal and informal meetings of the review meeting which opened here on September 26. The two-week long meeting is reviewing the progress made on the Programme of Action adopted at the Paris meeting in 1990.

In 1971, international community recognised the existence of a category of countries whose distinctness lies not only in the profound poverty of their people but also in the weakness of their economic, institutional and human resources, often compounded by geo-physical handicaps.

These countries are particularly ill-equipped to develop their domestic economies and ensure an adequate standard of living for their populations largely because of several handicaps which they inherited.

The United Nations held a meeting in Paris in 1981, which adopted Substantial New Programme of Action

### UAE named DHL's top performing country in ME

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) recently beat 15 other countries to be named DHL Worldwide Express' top performing country in the Middle East, says a press release.

DHL General Manager Ken Pascoe received the prestigious Golden Flyer Award at the company's Middle East employee award ceremony from Regional Managing Director of DHL, Ken Allen.

(SNPA) for the LDCs. In 1990, the UN held a review meeting on SNPA in Paris and adopted the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s.

The current inter-government meeting at the United Nations here is taking place to assess the progress of Programme of Action halfway through the decade.

Several matters like the domestic resources, external resources, aid modalities and aid effectiveness and external indebtedness of the LDCs are coming in for thorough discussions at the current inter-government review meeting on the LDCs numbering 48.

The ODA debt, other official bilateral debts, debt and the multilateral institutions and development funds, commercial debt for the LDCs are being reviewed at the present meeting.

Strengthening economic and technical cooperation between LDCs and other developing countries is also coming up for the discussions.



American Express Bank Ltd. Dhaka held a reception in honour of Francis X Stankard, Vice-Chairman and Member of the Board of Directors, American Express Bank Ltd. New York, who is on a 3-day visit to Bangladesh to meet with clients and employees. Latifur Rahman (R), Managing Director of the Transcom Ltd. seen exchanging pleasantries with him. David T Kaveny (M), Executive Director and Regional Head of American Express Bank Ltd. is also seen in the picture. — Star photo



To settle a death claim, Azizul Huq, Vice President of Delta Life Insurance Company, seen handing over a cheque for Taka 4,04,000 to the wife of late P R Badal, a policy holder of the company, at the Preetam Bhavan recently.

## Govt should reform wages to benefit vast labour-force: WB

The World Bank has suggested that the government initiative towards reforming labour wages be aimed at benefiting the vast labour force in informal sector, reports UNB.

"Public policies have not helped poor workers who are unaffected by regulations and protective legislation," said a recent World Bank report on labour market policies and higher employment.

Government interventions in the labour market are usually based on a desire to improve income distribution. But, they often have the opposite effect, says the report.

Labour regulations protect less than 10 per cent of the total 59 million work-force who have regular formal employment, but hurt poor informal and rural workers whose chances for obtaining better jobs are reduced.

Citing an example, the WB report said national minimum monthly wage of around

Tk 900 in formal sector has lowered rural or informal sector wages by around 2.5 per cent in real terms.

This occurs because the higher costs discourage the expansion of formal employment and more people look for informal work in rural areas, depressing the already low rural wages.

Referring to government intervention in Food for Work Programme, the WB said this type of intervention has a positive impact on poverty and income distribution.

### Taiwan on strong credit worthiness list

TAIPEI, Sept 30: Ratings Agency Standard and Poor's Inc reaffirmed Friday Taiwan's "AA-Plus" rating on its long-term foreign currency credit and an "A-1 Plus" on its short-term credit, reports AFP.

Instead of trying to legislate higher wages or special privileges for different groups of workers, this programme provides work to under-employed rural labourers who are among the poorest in society.

The WB advised the government to consider expanding the Food for Work programme and introducing other types of programme that target the truly needy informal workers.

Good government policies help in Bangladesh's workers size those opportunities, the report said adding that government should aim at encouraging private savings and investment and expanding export.

The government should ensure that labour market interventions benefit all workers and not just the lucky few who happen to have modern sector jobs, the WB report added.

## CEPZ target to export \$ 260m goods in '95-96

CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) authority set a target to export goods worth 260 million US dollars in the 1995-96 fiscal.

According to officials sources, in '94-95 fiscal CEPZ exported products worth 186.978 million US dollars.

The exported goods were electronics, golf shafts, padding, computer disks, textiles, ready-made garments, territowels, zippers, artificial flowers, steel chain, leather products and sports wear.

### CSIF meet held

CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: The second general meeting of Chittagong Stock Investors Forum (CSIF) was held at the seminar room of the Institute of Engineers on Friday, reports UNB.

Presided over by its Chairman AKM Shamsuddin, the meeting was addressed, as special speaker, by Vice President of Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) Abul Kaves Chowdhury, member of CSE Nurul Islam.

General Secretary of CSIF SM Jasimuddin, Local ICB representative M Mansoor and some members of CSIF also spoke on the occasion.

Guest speaker A K Chowdhury said the dream and idea of commercial capital will become a reality with the functioning of CSE in October 16 next. He said CSE will be the model of stock market in true sense of the term.

### Workshop on PR for Singer executives held

Singer Bangladesh Ltd coordinated a two-day workshop organised by Rapport Bangladesh Limited at a city hotel on Wednesday and Thursday, says a press release.

The workshop was designed for senior, mid and junior level executives of the company to keep them abreast of the importance of Public Relations in the business world.

A brief about Public Relations was delivered by Mosharrar Hossain, Managing Director of Rapport Bangladesh Limited before leaving the floor to the key speaker Rita Bhimani, a renowned consultant and trainer from Ritom Communications, India.

She successfully conveyed the multiple parameters of Public Relations and its importance to the Singer participants wherein exchange of ideas and views enlightened the occasion.

The Managing Director at the certificate giving ceremony at a local restaurant on Thursday stressed that each employee must develop Public Relation skills as they are the ambassadors of Singer to uphold the corporate image.

## Public, pvt sector participation to develop seed industry stressed

Participants at a discussion here yesterday underscored the need for united efforts by the public and private sector organisations and the financial institutions to develop the prospective seed industry in the country, reports BSS.

They observed that the foreign entrepreneurs could invest in joint venture projects in this sector in Bangladesh and earn a good profit through local sale and export following government liberalisation of export policy.

The participants also observed that the growers in Bangladesh were willing to pay very high price for quality seeds but the industry did not grow here due to lack of infrastructural facilities like processing, packaging, identification and storage of seeds as well as financing.

Hosted by the Agrobusiness and Technology

Development Project (ATDP) at its project office at Uttara the discussion on "the status of seed industry of Bangladesh" was participated by the representatives of both the private and public sector organisations and financial institutions.

A three-member team from the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) headed by Mark S. Condon attended the workshop as guests while chief of party of ATDP Dr. Ronald P. Black presided.

Dr. Black hoped that this discussion would help development of cooperation between the seed traders of Bangladesh and the United States to mutual benefit.

Appreciating the market-oriented seed policy of Bangladesh Condon said the future of seed industries in Bangladesh depend on the participation of local small

and medium seed companies. In his overview on the status of seed industry in Bangladesh Crop Diversification Project (CDF) consultant Tim Ekin said 95 per cent of the seeds used in Bangladesh are retained by the farmers themselves. He said to develop seed industry in the country, this retaining of seeds should be converted to the farmers purchasing capacity.

Referring to the prospect of seed industry in Bangladesh he said with the completion of Jamuna Bridge the northern part of the country could be turned into a crop basket.

Termining the prospect of hybrid seed in Bangladesh as "excellent" he said research and technical management was a big issue in plant breeding programme here where a handful of people were engaged in research, a less number were engaged in quality seed production and a large number of people were engaged in seed distribution.

Representative of the Agricultural Ministry Assistant Seed Technologist Rezaul Karim said the government was supporting development of private sector seed industry by making policy and structural adjustments and renting the BADC godowns to the private companies at minimum price.

## BSC earns Tk 20cr in 3 months of this FY

CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) has earned about Taka 20 crore in the first three months of the current fiscal year (FY).

This is an increase of over 12 crore taka compared with the corresponding period of previous fiscal year.

According to official sources, BSC made the earning by carrying cargo on UK/Continent/Africa route. In this route national flag carrying vessels carried 75,260 MT of cargo during July to September of 1995-96 fiscal as against 27,462 MT of cargo carried during the same period in '94-95.

They pointed out that 95 per cent space of the vessels was utilised in the first three months from July of the current fiscal year while only 76 per cent space was utilised during the same period a year before.

Banglar Kallol, Banglar

### ADB assistance to China

MANILA, Sept 30: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said today it had approved 386.9 million dollars in three loans and two technical assistance grants to China, reports AFP.

The Manila-based institution said two loans, totalling 320 million dollars, and a grant of 740,000 dollars, would go to expressway projects in Hebei and Liaoning provinces.

A 1.19-million-dollar grant will be used for improving soil and water conservation capabilities and land use and tenure policy in Fujian, the ADB added.

### Rice burglary in Hong Kong!

HONG KONG, Sept 30: An unemployed labourer was arrested yesterday following a rare rice burglary, a police spokesman said, reports AFP. The man, identified only as Yiu, 40, was apprehended in a shop western district on Hong Kong island by patrol officers as he was attempting to stick a knife into a bag of rice.

According to police sources, the man said he had been out of work for several months and decided to steal the rice due to intense hunger.



M R Ali, Chairman and Md Rezaul Karim, Senior Vice-Chairman, Shippers' Council of Bangladesh and A M M Shahadat Hossain, Member (Finance), Chittagong Port Authority, are seen at a joint meeting on port congestion situation held on Thursday in the conference room of Chittagong Port Authority.



Picture shows the Chairman & Managing Director, Singer Bangladesh Limited, giving away the certificates to the participants.