

New chairman of Islam Group

By Staff Correspondent

Manzurul Islam, son of late industrialist Zahurul Islam, was made the new chairman of the Islam Group of Companies yesterday by the vice-chairmen and directors of the Group.

Earlier, a condolence meeting was held at the conference hall of Islam Group in Motijheel with Azharul Islam, Vice-Chairman of the Group, in the chair.

Other vice-chairmen, directors, officers, staff and employees attended the meeting to mourn the sudden death of Zahurul Islam. Islam died on October 19.

Shafiqul Islam, Kamal, Manzurul Islam, Fakhruul Islam and Hafizur Rahman spoke on the occasion. A munaajat was also offered, seeking divine blessing for the salvation of the departed soul.

Taiwan to allow 30000 more foreign workers

TAIPEI, Oct 23: Taiwan plans to allow an additional 30,000 foreign nationals to work in various manufacturing companies and factories here to meet increased demands for manual labourers, the Central News Agency (CNA) reported yesterday, reports AFP.

The foreign workers will be allowed in before the end of this year, making it the largest quota of foreign workers for the manufacturing sector to be approved by the Council of Labour Affairs (CLA) since Taiwan opened its job market to foreign labourers in 1991, the CNA said.

The CLA will also examine to what extent other sectors are not using their full quotas with a view to giving the unused portion to the manufacturing sector which has been worst hit by the shortage, it said quoting an unnamed government source.

Local firms have applied to import 649,000 foreign workers since 1991, of which 360,000 have been approved by the CLA. Of this quota only 180,000 foreign workers have actually been brought in.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, Medical College PWD Division, Segunbagicha, Dhaka

Notice Inviting Tenders

Tender Notice No 19/95-96

- Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from all Class Bldg Contractors/Firms of Public Works Department for the under mentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division No III/IV & Eden Building Division, Dhaka in their respective office chamber up to 12.00 Noon of 05-11-95 and will be opened on the same day at 12.15 PM in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain superscribed on it. No tender form and schedule will be sold to the contractors/firms who has no VAT Registration.
- Name of work : Providing MS Grill at Shaheed Dr Shamsul Alam Khan (Milon) Shamadhi Shoudha at DMC Compound Dhaka. (Ch to-138 Health & Population Control-13-KA-Works Rehabilitation).
- Amount of : Tk 1,50,152/-
- Estimated cost : Tk 3,004/-
- Earnest money : Tk 3,004/-
- Time allowed for completion of the work from the date of issue of work order is 30 (thirty) days.
- Earnest money amounting to Taka as shown in Sl. No 4 in Pratikranya Sanchay Patra or 5 years BD Sanchay Patra or Bonus Sanchay Patra duly pledged in TC or BD from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Medical College Division, Dhaka must accompany each tender. Fixed deposit holders with this department are entitled to submit tender without depositing Earnest Money but they must quote reference to that effect on the body of respective tender at appropriate place of form No 2911 enclosing certificate from the concerning Executive Engineer with whom the deposit is lying issued not earlier than 90 (ninety) days from the date of receiving of tender stating the amount of deposit.
- Tender form No 2911 together with schedule of items special terms & conditions specification etc can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and the office of the Executive Engineer Dhaka PWD Division No.III/IV/Eden Building Division, Dhaka upto 04-11-95, during office hours on payment of usual charges and no tender will be sold on the date fixed for opening of the tender.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md. Mohsin Farroque
Executive Engineer
DFP-25723-19/10
G-1564
Medical College PWD Division
Segunbagicha, Dhaka

Demonstration programme suspended

Implement decision to ease Ctg Port congestion immediately : BGMEA

without break everyday to facilitate round the clock delivery of containerised cargo with special emphasis on garments raw materials and products.

On a suggestion from the BGMEA delegation a decision was taken at the meeting authorising the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) to henceforth open less-loaded Containers (LLCs) on the fourth day after unloading from ships even if a single consignee was present and others were not available during the first three days (after unloading) or at the time of delivery, said the press release.

Usually less-loaded containers contain goods of four consignees while full-loaded containers contain the goods of a single consignee.

According to the decision, said the press release, the Chittagong Port Authority would not be liable for any inconvenience caused to the consignees due to this action.

The press release said that the Benapole land port would also function round the clock to provide speedy service.

The press release said that direct telephones with Dhaka would be installed at Mongla Port and also at Benapole land port by the port authorities.

It said that the Mongla Port Authority (MPA) and the authorities at the Benapole land port would arrange the serial of trucks properly for the benefit of importers and exporters.

The State Minister, while

talked to the delegation, urged the business community to take initiative to keep the ports free from the purview of the hartals in "greater national interest" as hartals had seriously hampered Bangladesh's external trade.

Shahjahan Siraj said that the government was quite keen to protect the interests of the garments sector, the earner of the lion share of Bangladesh's foreign exchange earnings.

He assured the BGMEA delegation to provide "top most priority" in loading garments products and unloading of garments raw materials at Chittagong Port as well as Benapole land port.

The BGMEA handed to the minister a three-point memorandum.

The delegation includes five government officials and five leading businessmen of the country.

Besides K Ebisawa, President of Sanko Optical - a Japanese company in Chittagong Export Processing Zone, will also join the Bangladesh delegation.

The G-BOC is an annual international business-oriented event being held every October since 1990. It aims at creating new business opportunities and providing latest business information.

This year delegations from about 37 countries are likely to participate in the G-BOC.

"Bangladesh's participation in the G-BOC is considered a big step to enhance the business relation between Bangladesh and Japan", a high official in the Japanese embassy here said yesterday.

Bangladesh delegation will hold a seminar titled "Emerging Industrial Location at Bay of Bengal" on October 25 at the G-BOC premises.

According to the information available here, about 81 Japanese companies have already applied for participation in the seminar.

Bangladesh delegation leader Tawfiq Elahi Chowdhury, ex-president of the FBCCI Mahabubur Rahman and



Anjan Chowdhury, Director, Square Toiletries Ltd, inaugurated the distributors' conference of Square Centre at Mohakhali in the city Sunday. Top executives of the company SK Das and Ms Sarwat Ahmad are also seen in the picture.

Australia warns against Bosnian Serb tax

CANBERRA, Oct 23: The self-styled Bosnian Serb republic is trying to illegally "tax" Serbs living in Australia, the government said yesterday, reports Reuters.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said a scheme is being promoted through Serbian language media in Australia on behalf of the Bosnian Serbs for the taxation of "Serbian citizens" or persons with some connection with the Serbs republic.

"Australia does not recognise (the Serb republic) and its laws cannot be enforced in Australia," it said in a statement.

"Any proposed tax on Serbian citizens or former citizens living in Australia cannot be regarded as a legitimate tax of a foreign government," it said.

Furthermore, any such tax or attempts to send to the Bosnian Serbs any funds raised would breach sanctions imposed by the United Nations, breaking Australian law and attracting heavy penalties, the department said.

ICB announces 7.5 pc dividend for '94-95

The 19th annual general meeting of the shareholders of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh was held yesterday at its head office under the chairmanship of Sardar Sakhatat Hussain Bakul, MP, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the corporation, says a press release.

The shareholders approved a dividend of 7.5 per cent for the fiscal 1994-95 out of its net profit of Tk 3.77 crore.

The corporation had earlier declared dividends of 50, 40, 27, 41, 28 and 18 per cent of First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth ICB Mutual Fund respectively and Tk 17.50 per unit on ICB Unit Fund for the year 1994-95.

During the year 1994-95, the corporation sanctioned financial assistance of Tk 24.88 crore as against Tk 6.85 crore in 1993-94.

During 1994-95 ICB disbursed an amount of Tk 4.42 crore. The cumulative disbursement by ICB as on June 30, 1995 stood at Tk 91.57 crore. During the period, 10 projects settled their loan liabilities under project rehabilitation facilities.

During the same period, 9132 accounts with total deposit of Tk 23.37 crore were opened under the Investors Scheme which was 295 per cent higher than that of previous year.

An amount of Tk 50.67 crore have been invested in listed securities on behalf of the accounts, showing an increase of 671 per cent. The cumulative investment made through these accounts stood at 146.71 crore.

The net sale of units during the year was Tk 66.77 crore. The cumulative net sale of unit up to June 30, '95 amounted to Tk 288.83 crore.

The ICB floated 7th Mutual Fund of Tk 3.00 crore during the year.

MNA chief sacked in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Oct 23: Indonesian Transport Minister Haryanto Danutirto has ordered the sacking of the head of Merpati Nusantara Airlines (MNA) after the state owned airline refused to lease locally-built aircraft, a local newspaper said, reports Reuters.

Media Indonesia newspaper said Danutirto had ordered the Director of state-owned Garuda Indonesia, Merpati's parent company, to replace Ridwan Fatarudin after he refused to lease 16 CN-235s from PT Arthanusa because they were too expensive.

A Merpati spokesman declined to comment on the report.



Sharu S Rangekar, an eminent management expert from India, conducted a day-long training programme on 'Higher management skills' organised by Rapport Bangladesh Ltd. at Sonargaon Hotel on Saturday.

EU to allocate new funds for Eastern Europe

SOFIA, Oct 23: The European Union said today it would allocate new funds totalling 50 million ECUs (60 million dollars) for investment in environmental projects in ex-communist Eastern and Central Europe, Reports Reuters.

"The time has come to move the focus to the investment stage. There is a legacy of 50 years of neglect to be set right in the state of the environmental infrastructure in central and eastern Europe," EU official Tom Garvey told a new conference. Garvey heads the EU delegation to a major three-day environment for Europe conference which started in Sofia today.

Nearly 700 delegates, including environment ministers and top bankers, are attending the conference, whose main aim is to help the ex-communist countries tackle their deep-rooted ecological problems.

Rice price spiral — a potentially alarming development for Myanmar's junta

YANGON, Oct 23: The upward spiral of rice prices is a potentially alarming development for Myanmar's military rulers who took power in 1988-89 when high prices were fanning political dissent, reports AFP.

More than one million tonnes were exported in the year up to March, the highest level since British colonial days, when Myanmar was the region's rice bowl. But this has come at a huge cost in the domestic price of rice," a resident of Yangon commented.

In less than 18 months, the price of pawns quality rice has soared from 55 kyats to 90 kyats for one pui (4.6 pounds), the local measure, residents say. One US dollar equals six kyats at the official rate, or about 110 kyats at the market rate. Government officials contend there is enough rice for domestic consumption and blame speculators for the price surge, but other sources say shortages are driving the price higher.

Farmers are not reaping the benefits, as about one-eighth of all rice harvested in Myanmar goes to the government by quota at officially-depressed prices, according to estimates by international organisations.

Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi says the issue is one frequently raised with her by people from Yangon and the countryside. "There are many farmers who cannot afford to eat two meals of rice a day," she said in a recent interview.

Part of the shortfall can be explained through inflated production figures presented by low level officials who hope to please their superiors, several sources said.

This was implicitly confirmed by Tin Oo, Secretary-2 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), who last month stressed the need to compile "correct data" on agricultural output.

Lieutenant General Chit Swe, Forestry Minister and acting agriculture Minister, spoke recently of a bright future for Myanmar's rice exports, which are the country's leading legal source of foreign exchange.

In the fiscal year up to March, 1996 Myanmar expects to improve its white rice exports by another 50 per cent, to 1.5 million tonnes Chit Swe said in a speech marking world food day.

"In the near future, we will be able to export three million tons of white rice, the highest record in pre-war days," he said.

But foreign experts see a danger in the drive to boost

Bangladesh team off to Japan

G-BOC begins today

By Rafiq Hasan

K Ebisawa will address the seminar, highlighting different aspects and advantages of foreign investment in Bangladesh.

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries (OCCI) is also arranging a press conference for Bangladesh delegation which is likely to be held on October 25.

The other members of the delegation are: EPB Vice-Chairman Anisul Huque, Bangladesh Ambassador in Tokyo Rashed Ahmed, Commercial Councillor Abdul Mazid, ex-president of the FBCCI Mahabubur Rahman, Executive member of DCCI Mohammad Yunus, Council Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Alhaj Samsul Huque Mollah, Sugar Merchant Association President Moslem Uddin Ahmed, Nasrul Hamid Chairman Hamid Fashion Ltd, Abuhammad Niper, Managing Director of Orbit Enterprise of Chittagong, and GM Kamal Ali, President of Bangladesh Periodical Publication Council.

After participation in the G-BOC, the delegation will move to Tokyo and visit the Single Country Bangladesh Fair in Tokyo. The fair is scheduled to begin from November 1.

Besides, another three private companies from Bangladesh will participate in the G-BOC.

These companies have booked a stall jointly at the G-BOC to display their products and contact the foreign buyers and investors, the Embassy sources said.

These are: Oasis Private Ltd, Canban International and M R Knitting Mills.

BIBM workshop on 'Banking for women' ends

A three-day workshop on "Banking for Women" conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) concluded in the city yesterday, says a press release.

A H M Nurul Islam Choudhury, Director General of BIBM, presided over the concluding session.

In his speech, he underlined the importance of increasing share of women in banking sector, because they constitute about 50 per cent of the total human resources of the country.

He remarked that professional women bankers are very much conscious of their duties and they are also efficient in disbursing and realising credit. In this connection he said that both male and female customers hold a positive attitude towards quality of services rendered by women bankers.

Dr Bandana Saha and Md Liaquat Hossain Moral, BIBM Faculty members and the co-ordinators of the workshop, also spoke on the occasion.

The workshop highlighted the status of women employees in banks, attitude of bankers and customers towards women employees in banks, accessibility of women customers in banking services, specially in credit, existing credit programmes for women engaged in economic activities.

A total of 27 participants from different banks and NGOs attended the workshops.

The Director General of BIBM distributed certificates among the participants.

Saddam increases rations of flour, cooking oil

BAGHDAD, Oct 23: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has ordered an increase in rations of flour and cooking oil to help Iraqis survive the effects of UN economic sanctions, official newspapers said today, according to AFP.

The move came one year after Baghdad cut quotas of flour, oil, rice, sugar, and tea unable to make up a bad harvest through imports, which require hard currency that is in short supply.

Iraqis will see their monthly rations of flour rise from six kilograms (13.2 pounds) to seven kilograms (15.4 pounds) and rations of oil increase from 625 grams (22 ounces) to 750 grams (26 ounces), newspapers said.

Rationing has become vital for Iraqis since UN sanctions were imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The value of the dinar, worth 3.2 dinars at the official rate, has fallen dramatically to the rate of 2,500 dinars to one dollar on the black market.

To buy all the products provided under the rationing system, Iraqis would each have to pay 18,000 dinars per month, or more than three times the average Iraqi salary. A ration card costs two dinars.

Saddam Hussein's government has also agreed to buy rice and corn at higher prices to encourage peasants to increase the area of cultivated land, the newspapers said.

Indonesia plans to buy trained elephants from Thailand

JAKARTA, Oct 23: Indonesian forestry authorities plan to buy 12 trained elephants from Thailand to help capture roaming wild herds in Sumatra, news reports said today, according to AFP.

The Thai elephants, bigger than those in Sumatra, would be used to help round up the wild animals, said Haryanto Sukoco, head of the Lampung-based agency for the conservation of natural resources, in the Jakarta Daily.

The captured elephants would then be trained at the way Kambas elephant training school in Lampung province.

Wild elephants in several Sumatran provinces have caused increasing damage on settlements and plantations on the rim of forests.