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The Daily Star BUSINESS



HYUNDAI
CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

DHAKA SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1995

Essential Drugs Co makes profit

Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), a state-owned pharmaceutical company, has earned a pre-tax profit of Taka 5.42 crore during the last financial year, registering an increase of pre-tax profit of 27 per cent over the previous year, reports BSS.

EDCL, the only Public Limited Pharmaceutical Company, having its 100 per cent share owned by the government, earned pre-tax profit of 4.27 crore in 1993-94, a press release said.

The pre-tax profit increased as the company's production and sale rose. Against production and sale of goods worth Taka 38.35 crore and Taka 35.33 crore respectively in 1993 and 1994, the company produced and sold essential drugs and medicines worth Taka 43.02 crore and Taka 42.78 crore respectively in the fiscal year.

All categories of employees of EDCL were exerting their efforts to produce quality drugs at reasonable prices for meeting the MSR (Medical and Surgical Requisites) of the government and to share in implementing the policy of "health for all by the year 2000," the press release added.

Income-generating programme in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, Nov 10: A massive income-generating programme was launched in the district on Thursday, reports UNB.

Lalmonirhat Gano Shikkya Samity has undertaken the programme styled as "Lalmonirhat District Socio-Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation Programme" to alleviate poverty of about two lakh poor families.

Under the programme the distressed families will be provided with loan for taking income generating activities. Some 20,000 workers have been employed to work at district, thana, union and ward levels to provide and monitor the loan.

Int'l airline passenger traffic rises by 8pc

GENEVA, Nov 10: International airline passenger traffic rose by eight per cent in the first nine months of 1995 and freight traffic by 11 per cent, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said yesterday, reports Reuters.

In its monthly statement, IATA said both passenger and freight traffic showed growth of nine per cent in September.

World Bank okays \$53m loan to Bangladesh

WASHINGTON, Nov 10: The World Bank Thursday said it approved a 53 million dollar loan to Bangladesh to help the government rebuild and strengthen coastal embankments in the natural-disaster-prone coastal belt around the Bay of Bengal, reports Reuter.

Over the last 125 years, more than 40 major cyclones have hit the coastal belt, with the 1991 cyclone alone killing more than 140,000 people, destroying 864,000 homes and damaging another 774,000.

Since resources must be

diverted to provide immediate relief to the affected population and to restore damaged or destroyed facilities, these natural calamities also exact a heavy economic toll, the bank said.

The bank said coastal embankments have been poorly maintained and were breached in many locations in 1991. If they had been in better condition, the damage would have been much less severe, it said.

The new project will finance the rehabilitation of existing embankments along the coastal belt

from Teknaf on the southeast tip to Sharankola at the southeast border of the Bagerhat district.

It will also include the construction of new embankments in areas where the existing embankments are subject to erosion.

The bank said the project would benefit about 1.2 million people or 200,000 families living in the project area.

The loan, extended by the International Development Association, covers about 65 per cent of the total project cost of 87.8 million dollar.

Tk 2cr youth training centre in Feni

FENI, Nov 10: A centre to impart training to the youths has been set up at Phulgazi thana of the district at a cost of Taka 2.02 crore, reports UNB.

The centre with an administrative building and separate training and student auditoriums has been constructed on five acres of land under the supervision of the Youth Development Directorate.

Officials said unemployed educated youths from different Feni, Noakhali, Chandpur, Lakshimpur and Khagrachhari districts would get field-level training facilities at the centre.

Meanwhile, a three-month long training course for youths began at Feni Youth Training Centre on October 31.

One hundred unemployed educated youths, including women, from Feni, Noakhali, Chandpur, Lakshimpur and Khagrachhari districts are taking part in the course.

New BEA office-bearers

Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Electrical Association (BEA) formed an executive committee comprising 21 members recently.

Siddiqur Rahman, SM Nurul Islam and Kazi Nural Islam were elected chairman, senior vice-chairman and vice-chairman respectively.

The members of the executive committee are among others Md Ramiz Uddin, ABM Ershad Hossain, Abdul Latif, Mahbub Hasan Sarkar, Rezaur Rahman Sikder, Khalilur Rahman, Md Nazim Uddin Manik, Abu Zafar Siddique, Mir Gias Uddin Ahmed, Md Anwar Hossain, Abdur Rashid, Sakayet Ullah, Md Ishak Mirdha, Md Nurun Nabi, Dilip Chand Dugar and NS Kader.

The outgoing chairman of the association Rezaur Rahman, presided over the meeting.

Mosharraf tells IFC director \$3b needed in power sector by next 5 yrs

The visiting Director of the Asia Department of International Finance Corporation (IFC), an affiliated body of the World Bank, Peter Cock, called on Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain at his Secretariat office on Thursday, reports BSS.

The Energy Minister apprised the IFC Director of private sector participation in power and gas sector of Bangladesh.

The Minister said Bangladesh needs about three billion US dollars in power generation sector by the next five years to cater to the ever increasing demand of electricity and another four billion US dollars by the year 2005.

"It is not possible to provide such huge amount of money by the government alone and that is why, the government has opened up power generation sector for private investment," he said.

Dr Mosharraf Hossain said,

Bangladesh has so far signed ten memorandum of understanding (MOU) with different foreign companies. Final negotiations for the installation of private power plants is now underway, he said.

Turning to private participation in gas sector the Energy Minister said, the government is also encouraging private investment in the gas sector to explore the country's vast untapped gas sources. He further informed, three multi-national foreign companies have been going ahead with exploration drive under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) to discover new gas resources.

Negotiations are also being held with some other foreign companies, he said.

Appreciating the government's efforts to augment the energy resources Peter Cock said, the IFC is very much keen to assist the private initiatives in power generation and gas exploration drives of Bangladesh.

India plans to export 12000 tons of sugar

NEW DELHI, Nov 10: The Indian government plans to export 12,000 tons of sugar at the end of this year or early next year as sugar prices in the international market are picking up, says Xinhua.

India has already contracted sugar export for 300,000 tons mainly to Asian markets including Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, official sources said here.

India has already made its presence in the international markets and does not need to go all out at this moment. The domestic production levels are strong and out of the total export commitment for 1995-96, contracts have been booked for one third amount, said a leading commodity broker.

India is likely to go slow on exports in the coming weeks until the international prices at the London futures markets begin to pick up. Exporters can afford to wait for some more time, a London-based broker said.

Lanka to set up commercial courts

COLOMBO, Nov 10: The Sri Lankan government has decided to set up commercial courts in view of increasing complexities in relation to legal aspects of commerce and trade, official sources said here, reports Xinhua.

The legal enactment in this regard, the high court special provisions bill, has already been presented to the parliament and the second reading and the debating of the bill will be taken up in January next year.

The purpose behind the move is to have commercial courts on an island wide basis so that specialisation in required in this regard, the sources said.

According to the sources, company law and corporate affairs have become increasingly complex and senior judges experienced in commercial law will be appointed to these new courts.



Swiss journalists, UCEP officials visiting Singer plant at Hemayetpur in Savar.

UK envoy sounds upbeat note about ensuing trade visit

The planned visit by a 40-strong British trade mission to Bangladesh later this month is indicative of Britain's growing interest in the country, according to sources in the diplomatic and business circles here.

Undeterred by the country's political problems, the largest ever British mission — and the second to visit Bangladesh in a year — will explore opportunities for investment as well as trade, keeping in view long-term perspectives.

In an exclusive interview with UNB, Peter J Fowler, the British High Commissioner in Dhaka, sounded an upbeat note about the forthcoming visit, describing it as an 'important follow-up of last year's trade mission. "It was so successful that we wished to maintain the momentum."

The trade mission, to be

led by Peter Lee, Managing Director of Mott MacDonald International, is scheduled to arrive here on November 24 on a week-long visit, including a trip to the port city of Chittagong.

It will include some major firms, which were previously not involved in Bangladesh, as well as those already got here. Besides, there will be some representatives from the UK Department of Trade and Industry.

Listing some redeeming features of the country's economy, Fowler said: "Bangladesh economy is certainly opening up to encourage trade and more investment."

"Bangladesh in recent years has made great progress in achieving macro-economic stability... there is a great opportunity now to break into a higher ground of economic growth," said the envoy.

UCEP officials visit Singer plant at Savar

A group of journalists attached to Swiss Parliament and Under-privileged Children's Educational Programmes (UCEP) officials visited the Singer Audio and Video Plant at Hemayetpur in Savar recently, says a press release.

During the visit, they saw for themselves how Singer transformed fresh female recruits to skilled human technical resource.

These female recruits are having vocational training particularly from UCEP. The journalists also gained experience in different aspects of factory operation.

DHL to handle parts for Gulfstream

DHL Worldwide Express in Bahrain has won a third-party contract to operate a parts facility on behalf of Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, says a press release.

Under the agreement, the US executive jet manufacturer will warehouse and distribute parts from DHL's Express Logistics Centre located at Bahrain International Airport.

The facility will provide immediate turnaround of parts, with shipments being dispatched on scheduled flight and DHL's own intra-Middle East network of services.

DHL will also be required to provide distribution beyond the Middle East to Africa and parts of Asia. The Contract calls for the ability to dispatch parts 24-hour a day, 365 days a year.

DHL buys B727s for Asian network

DHL International has bought four B727-200 Advanced from Mexicana, which will all be converted to full freighters. The aircraft, which are scheduled for completion by February 1996, will be based in Manila and operated by Continental Micronesia on DHL's regional express network, says a press release here.

New executive at Hotel Agrabad

Mohammad Aziz Ahmed Chowdhury has joined Hotel Agrabad in Chittagong as Manager-Guest Relations, says a press release.

Prior to his present assignment, he served as manager in different private organisations.

OPINION

Value-added services policy

By Samudra E. Haque

The contribution of the private sector in providing state of the art, high technology data communication services for the general market should be recognised, and welcomed as having played an enabling role in the development of Bangladesh. The private sector should be allowed to continue their research and development, with applicable legal and experimental licences/regulations (if needed) such that more advanced technology may be introduced in the country.

This also implies that in the future, BT&T should take active steps in attempting to use locally available or marketed technology without first searching for commercial, international solutions.

In this regard, it is necessary to point out that our neighbouring countries have successfully demonstrated proper development in this area by having joint-ventures in telecommunications projects including some very significant indigenously developed rural switching exchanges.

The overall development of data communication networks cannot succeed unless all involved establish a framework of co-operation together, viz., the excellent co-operation between private

and national service providers already existent in the United Kingdom, Singapore, and to a large degree within the United States between all commercial/federal communication service providers. Therefore the Bangladesh T&T Board in its new role as an operator in Bangladesh should strongly consider establishing formal liaisons with the existing service providers very soon.

The standards and practices used by the private sector in their business/commercial projects should not be forced to be linked anyhow by the Bangladesh T&T Board, except for those specific situations where the private sector needs to interface with the BT&T communications network infrastructure. This exclusion should also extend to any agreement of tariff for customers, agreement of tariffs between service providers and end-to-end or third party traffic rights.

Eventually, Bangladesh needs to be connected on large scale with many data communication networks outside the country, such as Internet, AT&T EasyLink, Compuserve etc. some of these data networks will be available only through subscription and commercial joint-ventures, and most of

their operating companies amongst them would not be willing to sell or market their services through a government owned venture such as the new BT&T operating company.

This is proven by Singapore Telecom's own private venture into network services Singnet as they could not (or perhaps did not) be attached to commercial services world-wide which later established formal liaisons with other private sector firms in that region. Since it is too much to expect that the BT&T will successfully, commercially be able to provide common network connections to all of the desired networks internationally, there should exist the capability for private sector companies to be permitted to seek out ways to connect their own companies to those networks, perhaps by international data connections, in a just and economic manner, in their order to be able to act as their gateway to services.

The role of BT&T should in this case be the communications technology enabler, and consequently should not be the regulator or monopolistic service provider.

(The author is Managing Director of PraDeshta Limited)

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division, Shariatpur Notice Inviting Tenders Tender No.11 (Eleven) 1995-96

1. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from different classes of approved Bldg. contractor/firm as shown in group list for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Barisal/Patuakhali/Bhola/Barguna/Pirojpur/Jhalakati/Madaripur/Gopalganj up to 12:00 Noon of 21-11-95 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of the tenderers who may like to be remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.

Group List					
Gr No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed for completion of work	Eligibility of contractor/firm
Gr No.	I). Constn. of 23 Nos Sarkari Shishu Paribar in Bangladesh one at Shariatpur SH:- Constn. of boundary wall around the Sarkari Shishu Paribar (north side & east side part) at Shariatpur.	Tk. 5,95,471/-	11,910/-	95 (ninety five) days from the date of issue of work order	All classes of approved Bldg/contractor/firm as per their financial limit of PWD
	II)-do-do-do-do-SH: Constn. of boundary wall around the Sarkari Shishu Paribar (south side & east side part) at Shariatpur.	Tk. 7,19,148/-	14,384/-	110 (one hundred ten)	--do--do--

Contract documents consisting of BD Form No.2911 notice inviting tender schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and the office of the Executive Engineer under PWD Circle, Barisal on payment of usual charges of Tk. 400/- (Tk. Four hundred) (non-refundable) per set of the notice inviting tenders schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. and a sum of Tk.25/- (Twenty five) (non-refundable) per copy of tender Form No. 2911 during office hours on all working days. The tender form will be sold up to 20-11-95.

Md. Fazlul Haque
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Shariatpur.

DFP-27049-2/11
G-1661

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
বিদ্যুৎ বিল নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করুন

কাজের/সরবরাহের বিবরণঃ

খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এবং সোনাডাঙ্গা কেডিএ আবাসিক এলাকা (ফেজ-২) এর 'জমা ভিত্তিক' কাজের জন্য ১১/০৪ কেডি লাইনের ফিটসে সরবরাহ কাজ। ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতাঃ বৈদ্যুতিক লাইট ফিটসে সরবরাহ-এ অভিজ্ঞ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের তালিকাভুক্ত বৈদ্য সরবরাহকারী/এবিসি বৈদ্যুতিক ঠিকাদারগণ। প্রাক্কলিত ব্যয়ঃ ৪,৮৭,৭৭৪/৬০ চার লক্ষ সাতাশি হাজার সাতশত চুয়ত্তর টাকা তেমাটি পয়সা) টাকা। দরপত্রের মূল্যঃ ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)। ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে উপ-পরিচালক, হিসাব, আঞ্চলিক হিসাব দপ্তর, বিউবো, খুলনার অনুকূলে। দরপত্র প্রার্থিত্বন ও তারিখঃ অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, বিতরণ, পশ্চিমাঞ্চল, বিউবো, খুলনা/তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, খুলনা বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ সার্কেল, বিউবো, খুলনা/অসীমী ব্যাংক, ২৫, সাদা ইকবাল রোড, খুলনা হাইট এগার্মী ২৯-১১-৯০ইং পর্যন্ত। গৃহণ ও খোলার তারিখঃ ৩০-১১-৯০ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা একে এদিন বেলা ১২-৩০ মিনিট। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য সকল যাবতীয় নিয়মাবলী অবশ্যই পালন করিতে হইবে।

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
বিক্রম ও বিতরণ বিভাগ-৪
বিউবো, খুলনা।

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