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The Daily Star BUSINESS

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DHAKA TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1995

Int'l data network in private sector likely

As part of diversifying the country's export trade, the government will give cooperation to private sector in exporting non-traditional items — specially data entry services and computer software, reports BSS.

This was told at a meeting on software and high speed data transmission facility held at the Commerce Ministry with Information and Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam in the chair.

The Minister said the government has been actively considering to establish international data network in the private sector. This potential sector will give all co-operation including the facility of providing capital under export promotion fund, he said.

The meeting discussed different aspects of increasing demand for information technology inputs of Bangladesh and infrastructural facility in software sector in world market.

The meeting was informed that T and T Board has established two low-speed transmission for expansion of export of information technology. The board has also taken steps for expansion of data transmission facility to international arena.

The meeting advised the T and T Board to provide electronic mail services and VSAT (very small aperture terminals) facility to private sector. It also underlined the importance of fixing competitive price for software sector.

Private sector has earned 150,000 dollars by exporting software.

Commerce Secretary Mohammad Asafuddin, and representatives of software export organisations attended the meeting.

Aid sought to implement forestry master plan

The government sought necessary financial and technical assistance from donors for implementing a multibillion-dollar forestry master plan without further delay, reports UNB.

Opening a day-long local consultative group meeting on "Forestry Master Plan" at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday, Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain said the Taka 80 billion 20-year plan (1995-2015) was framed for planned, systematic and sustainable development of country's forestry sector.

Referring to worldwide growing realisation of the urgent need of restoring the ecological balance lost through depletion of forest resources, he said the recovery rate in Bangladesh is much slower than developed and many developing countries.

The plan, he said, endeavours to indicate the desirable extent and type of forest cover based on socio-economic, ecological and biophysical considerations and underscores the necessity of determining priorities to cover up depleting finite forestry resource base.

Termining the plan people-oriented, production-oriented and institution-strengthening programme, he said participatory approach of the plan will contribute a lot to poverty alleviation as well as improving the condition of rural poor, particularly women.

The minister said the plan envisaged increased involvement of local communities in natural resource management which in another way will address poverty and unemployment problem.

Environment and Forest Secretary Syed Marghub Morshed said the cumulative effect of squatting on forest land over the last half a century had led to reduction of land under forest cover from

18 per cent in 1947 to about 9 per cent at present.

Listing various environmental complications, he said increased soil erosion, decreased water percolation, rise in day temperature and incipient desertification are some of the inescapable concomitants of deforestation.

The Master Plan recommends a shift from the traditional custodial approach to forest management to the participation of the people in the management of forests, said the secretary. The recently-approved national forest policy is in conformity with the recommendations of the Master Plan.

Eustace A Nonis, Director

of Agriculture and Social Sectors Development (West) of Asian Development Bank, told the meeting that futile battle against deforestation had continued for almost a century in Bangladesh.

Nonis suggested a national movement, involving all forest users and managers, for saving forest resources from depletion.

Demand for forest-based products and commodities can be cost-effectively satisfied through private initiatives which can be encouraged through a decisive policy, and legal, institutional and financial safeguards, he observed.

Major changes in coding, classification system of importable goods soon

Major changes are coming soon in the harmonised system of classification and coding of importable commodities in Bangladesh in line with a global change, according to UNB.

A highly placed source in the National Board of Revenue (NBR) said an amended version of Harmonised System (HS) of classification and coding, taking into consideration the changed pattern in global trade, will come into force in the country from January 1, 1996.

The fresh HS version here will, however, be completely revenue-neutral. "No new concession (in tariff) is being given and no existing concession withdrawn. All the existing duty rates will remain valid in the changed HS version," said the source.

First schedule to the Customs Act 1969 is being changed and all revenue notifications based on existing HS codes will undergo through amendments.

All other related import laws, including the Import Trade Control Schedule of the Ministry of Commerce, will simultaneously require amendments in accordance with the changes in the har-

monised system.

The NBR source said revenue officials were now being provided necessary training to enable them to apply properly the new classification and coding system.

The amendments to the Harmonised System are being brought at the recommendation from the World Customs Organisation (WCO).

Major changes in trading pattern as well as arrival of new commodities in the market as a result of some recent technological breakthrough prompted the WCO to prescribe the overhaul.

The WCO has put forward 393 sets of recommendations — 55 for products in agricultural sector, 70 for chemical sector, 56 for textile sector, 36 for base metals, 75 machinery and 110 in other sector.

"Changes in Bangladesh's Harmonised System are being brought on the basis on WCO guidelines, said the source.

About 150 countries which are signatories to the HS Convention are amending their HS classifications and codes suiting the globalisation of trade.



"Bangladesh-Japan training course on industrial sewing machine technology" was inaugurated at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday by Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam. ABM Kamaluddin Khan, MD, Minhaz Group and Mrs Yukaka Yoshimoto, Attache, Embassy of Japan in Dhaka, are also seen in the picture.

Seminar on Japan-Bangla rural dev study today

A seminar on Japan-Bangladesh Joint Study on Rural Development Experiment (JSRDE) will be held at a Dhaka hotel today (Tuesday), reports UNB.

The seminar under the auspices of Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will present the experiences and findings of JSRDE project implemented so far.

It will formulate an outline of a model for rural development to be implemented in the coming years.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder will inaugurate the seminar at hotel Sonargaon at 9 am, says an official announcement.

Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Md Abdul Hye, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Dr Shah Mohammad Farooq and First Secretary of Japanese Embassy in Dhaka Hideyuki Sakamoto will attend the function as special guests.

Rural Development and Cooperatives Secretary Md Mahe Alam will preside.

Course on sewing machine technology Tokyo can help accelerate industrialisation: Shamsul

Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday iterated the government's firm determination for the rapid industrialisation of the country, reports BSS.

Japan being one of the biggest development partners of Bangladesh could help accelerate the country's industrialisation process through setting up of more industries taking the advantage of the government's liberal industrial policy, he said.

The Minister was addressing as chief guest the inaugural function of a two-week "Bangladesh-Japan training course on industrial sewing machine technology" at Sonargaon Hotel here.

The Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) of Japan organised the training course in Joint cooperation with Pegasus Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company Ltd of Japan and its Singapore Office for Asia.

Minhaz Continental Agencies Ltd, Dhaka office of Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) and Bangladesh AOTS Alumni Society (BAAS).

Pointing out garment industries as the country's

largest foreign exchange earners, the Minister said people involved in this sector should be properly trained for their optimum utilisation. Technology has got no substitute and without it no nation can prosper.

He said people could also be dependent on themselves, provided they received proper training in different fields.

Huroshi Oda, Managing Director of Pegasus, Singapore, Mrs Yukako Yoshimoto, Attache, Embassy of Japan in Dhaka, Kazi Ali Afzal, President of BAAS and Dr AKM Moazzem Hussain, AOTS representative in Bangladesh spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, ABM Kamaluddin Khan, Chairman of the Steering Committee for the course and Managing Director of Minhaz Group gave the welcome address.

The Commerce and Information Minister urged Pegasus Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company of Japan to set up one of its assembling plants in Bangladesh. He said this would be beneficial to each other and further develop cooperation between the two countries.

Tk 1.24cr BKB credit for BSCIC programme

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) will provide Taka 1.24 crore as credit to Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), says a press release.

BSCIC will utilise the money for its Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WEDP).

An agreement to this effect was signed by the Director (Planning and Development) Lt Col (Retd) ASM Waliullah of BSCIC and the General Manager (Planning) Dr Jadob Chandra Shaha of BKB on behalf of their respective organisations in the city yesterday.

The credit will be disbursed among women entrepreneurs in 12 thanas of the country.

Khandoker Ibrahim Khaled, Managing Director of BKB and other senior officials of BSCIC and BKB were present at the signing ceremony. BSCIC launched WEDP in 1982. At present WEDP covers 40 thanas.

So far WEDP has provided about Taka 13.28 crore as credit among 38 thousand women entrepreneurs creating employment generation of about 77 thousand people.

Credit recovery rate is about 95 per cent.

IJO session in city on Nov 27

The 24th session of International Jute Organisation's Committee on Projects will be held here at Sheraton Hotel on November 27, reports UNB.

Chairman of the COP, Indonesian Ambassador Hadi Wayarabi Alhadar, will preside over the session.

Representatives from IJO's five exporting member countries and 23 importing members, including EC, are expected to attend the day-long meet.

Observers from non-IJO countries, international, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations of the member countries will also attend the session.

The committee meeting will review the activities and progress of the IJO projects under implementation, a press release said yesterday.

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES
ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA. PHONES: 894771-9, 894730-4. CABLE: AIRBANGLA TLX: 842649 DABG. BU FAX: 880-2-893028

Stores & Purchase Directorate
Ref: DACPB/INT'L TENDER/016/95/12TH NOVEMBER, 1995

International Tender

Sealed tender is hereby invited for supply of "Hot and Cold Beverage Flask/Jug" for Aircraft from Manufacturers/Suppliers/Local Agents/Indentors to Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Tender schedule with details/specification terms & conditions will be available at a cost of USD 25.00 or BDT 1000.00 per set for which an application in Company's Letterhead Pad addressed to Accounts Officer, Cash & Banking, Biman Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka and Asstt. Manager (Accounts), Cash & Banking, Biman Head Office, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka as well as with Finance Manager, Biman, Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Paris, London, Rome, Amsterdam & New York on Cash Payment (Non-refundable) on all working days up to 19-12-95.

The last date of tender submission in 20-12-95. Biman Management reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tender increase or decrease the quantity of item (s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP-28596-18/11
G-1753
Dy-General Manager S&P (Comm)



A labour delegation from Nepal led by A B Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Labour, met members of the Bangladesh Employers' Association in the city yesterday.

UK trade mission to arrive Friday Bilateral trade growing: Fowler

The British High Commissioner, Peter J Fowler, has described as "very vigorous" the bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Britain which "grew rapidly" in recent times.

In an interview with BSS yesterday on the eve of the second British trade mission's visit to Bangladesh in a year, he said that exports from both the countries, within the bilateral framework, were rising rapidly.

From January to August this year, Bangladesh exported to Britain goods worth 132.6 million pounds, an increase of 33 per cent over the exports for the same period of last year while Britain exported to Bangladesh goods worth 61 million pounds, during the same period, an increase of 61 per cent, British High Commissioner statistics showed.

The British trade mission, which is due to arrive here Friday, will include representatives from the energy, construction, textile, jute, leather and other trading sectors and would seek to build on the success of the trade mission that visited Bangladesh in November last

year.

The British trade mission which visited Bangladesh last year, after a gap of more than ten years, established a wide range of contacts and generated considerable follow up business for the British companies that took part in it.

The balance of bilateral trade, the High Commissioner said, was very much in favour of Bangladesh.

Sustaining the growth of bilateral trade at the current rate and particularly in keeping Bangladesh's exports to Britain growing, he said, would largely depend on consolidation and widening its fragile and narrow export base.

Bangladesh exports to Britain, he said, was dominated by garments and knitwear while Britain's exports by capital investments in Bangladesh.

On the prospects of foreign investments coming to Bangladesh in large scale, the High Commissioner said a wider and more definite pattern of investment was yet to come "but I think it will come".

Bangladesh needs to con-

solidate its export led growth, he said.

He described Britain as a "traditional partner" of Bangladesh in trade and said that some 45 British companies based in Bangladesh were making "one most important segment of British investment here."

Besides, he said, some Hong Kong based British firms were making portfolio investments in Bangladesh's still small capital market.

There was also direct investment from Britain though not much, he said.

Bangladesh's economic prospects, he said, could be brightened by a determined economic, public administration, legal and judicial and social reforms.

He said that the loss making public sector enterprises had to be properly denationalised and without delay.

He said the annual losses, which were almost equal to foreign aid received by Bangladesh could be diverted to social sectors.

He said that an improper denationalisation would serve no purpose.

Minister visits Paribag Canal Project

Housing and Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah visited the Paribag Canal Sewerage Development Project here on Sunday, reports BSS.

During the visit State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Major (retd) Abdul Mannan was with the minister, according to an official handout.

Barrister Rafiq also visited Sabji Bagan, Kakrail, PWD Bhaban and Shilpakala Academy areas where development and beautification work is going on in full-swing.

Meet of Potato Advisory Board held

Minister for Agriculture and Food Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on Sunday stressed the need for easy availability of agriculture inputs to ensure more production in the country's limited arable land, reports BSS.

"Improved seeds, fertiliser and pesticides must be easily available for the farmers so that they can grow more food in our limited cultivable land," he said.

The minister was presiding over a meeting of National Potato Advisory Board at the conference room of the Agriculture Ministry, an official handout said.

The meeting reviewed the stock position of potato seeds, chemical fertiliser and pesticides in the country and expressed satisfaction over it, the handout said.

It also suggested that proper steps be undertaken for diversified use of potato as food.

Agriculture Secretary M. Akhter Ali, representatives of farmers and Cold Storage Owners Association, chiefs of various departments of the Agriculture Ministry and scientists were present at the meeting.

Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
National Broadcasting Authority (Radio) Technical Service
National Broadcasting Administration Building
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
No. Eng/Imp/Population Studio/95-1442 Dated: 16/11/95

Amendment of Tender Notice

The date of receiving the tender (for the work of establishing studios for the 'Population Planning Cell' Project of Radio Bangladesh) invited by the undersigned through this office memo No. Eng/Imp/Population Planning Studio/95-1663 dated 30/10/95 is hereby changed. The refixed date of receiving the tender is now 30 November 1995 in place of 15 November 1995. The last date of selling the tender schedule consequently is now on 29 November 1995.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

This amendment will be treated as a part of the tender document.

DFP-28631-19/11
G-1750
Md Danaz Uddin
Additional Chief Engineer (Dev.)

Ref No. 22.02/1/96 Dated: 20-11-95

International Tender Notice for Supply of Petroleum Products during January-June, 1996

CORRIGENDUM

Reference our International Tender Notice No. 22.02/1/96 dated 6-11-95 published in The Daily Star & Daily Purbakone on 7-11-95, Bangladesh Observer on 9-11-95 & Dainik Bangla on 12-11-95.

All concerned are requested to note the following change:

The figure 84 replaces figure 72 appearing under Clause-7(f)(iv) at Page No. 32 of the tender document No. 22.02/1/96 dated November 6, 1995.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
T/O, Agrabad Commercial Area,
P. O. Box 2052, Chittagong

বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌ-পরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষ
১৪১-১৪৩, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা
ঢাকা-১০০০, নৌ-সংরক্ষণ ও পরিচালনা বিভাগ
নথি নং-এম এম/৩-১৪৩/ তারিখঃ ০৯-১১-৯৫ ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকাহু সদরঘাট নদী বন্দর এলাকায় ওয়াইজঘাটে অবস্থিত পটুন নং-এমপি-৬ এবং এমপি-২৬ নামক পটুন ২ টি অবস্থান স্থলে জ্যাপিং ক্রিলি, ও সেইটিং করার জন্য সরকার অনুমোদিত প্রকৃত ওয়ার্কসম্প/ডকইয়ার্ডের নিকট হইতে দরপত্রের সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত "ডকসিল" মোতাবেক এক প্রস্থ সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র আগামী ২৯-১১-৯৫ ইং তারিখে বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে সরপত্র বাজে গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং উক্ত দিনই বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকার দরপত্রাদাতাদের সম্মুখে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন। খোলা হইবে।

কাজের বিশদ বিবরণসহ দরপত্র তফসিল এবং শর্তাবলী নম্বর টাঃ ৩০০/- (টাকা তিনশত) মাত্র (অক্ষরতথ্যে) প্রদান করিয়া কর্তৃপক্ষের আঞ্চলিক হিসাব অফিস, ১৪১-১৪৩, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ৯ম ভলা, ঢাকা-১০০০ হইতে জমা করা যাইবে। দরপত্র খোলার দিন কোন তফসিল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত দরের ২% শতকরা আড়াই ভাগ হারে বানানার টাকা যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হইতে বিবাহিতক্রিডিট-এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার/ডিমান্ড ড্রাফট/এসডিআ-এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল কিংবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

সিদ্ধান্ত-১৫/৩/৯৫
DFP-28337-15/11
G-1748
নজির হোসেন জুইয়া
মুদ্রা-পরিচালক (নাবিক)