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Islami Bank to enhance paid-up capital

Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. has decided to enhance its paid-up capital from Tk 16 crore to Tk 32 crore, says a press release.

This was decided at a meeting of the Board of Directors in the Board Room of the bank recently.

Presided over by Commodore (Retd), M A Rahman, Chairman of the bank, the meeting was attended by local and foreign directors including Prof. Korkut Ozal of Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

The Board co-opted Engineer Mohammad Al-Khateeb into the Board of Directors of the bank at the vacancy occurring due to the death of Sheikh Fouad Abdulhameed Al-Khateeb.

The meeting also reviewed the over-all performances of the bank and expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved so far and took a number of decisions pertaining to the growth and development of the bank.

Prize and certificate awarding ceremony

Awards and certificates awarding ceremony of the month long foundation training course for the Probationary Officers of the bank was held at Islami Bank Training and Research Academy (IBTRA) recently.

Mohammad Younus, Vice Chairman of the bank attended the function as chief guest. He distributed certificates and prizes among the participants.

US ends ban on Alaskan oil exports

WASHINGTON, Nov 29: US President Bill Clinton ended a 22-year-old ban yesterday on exporting oil from Alaska in a move to boost international trade and tax revenues, the White House said, reports AFP.

Clinton signed the bill approved by Congress earlier this month which also provides new incentives that will stimulate oil and gas production in the United States, a White House statement said.

The ban on exports from the far northwestern state dates back to the construction of the Alaska oil pipeline in 1973 at the height of the oil crisis — a restriction now seen as no longer necessary.

Opponents, however, argue that the bill would sap national oil reserves in order to line the pockets of the oil companies and could cause environmental damage.

The exported oil, which must be shipped by US-flagged vessels, will go mostly to Asian markets and the White House statement said the crude will bring in up to two billion dollars in increased federal, state and local tax payments.

Indonesians blame ACPC for failing to prop up coffee prices

JAKARTA, Nov 29: Indonesian Coffee Producers accused the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) Tuesday of failing to prop up world coffee prices, the official Antara News Agency said yesterday, reports AFP.

"ACPC's failure is partially due to the absence of a strong figure in the association, which makes for their weak bargaining position toward fund managers," said Usman Sudargo, Chairman of the Association of Indonesian Coffee Exporters at an international coffee symposium in Nusa Dua, Bali.

Sudargo said coffee prices slumped to about 2.2 dollars a kilogram, compared to last year's average of four dollars.

Sudargo's comments came one day after Indonesia failed to get the association approval for it to increase coffee exports under the organization's export retention scheme, which requires members to hold a percentage of their production of the world market.

Sudargo said Monday he hoped ACPC "could understand" and "tolerate" future Indonesian policies which may deviate from the association's controls on exports.

The export retention scheme, proposed by Brazil and Colombia, came into force on October 1, 1993 in an effort to boost falling world coffee prices.

Restriction on Benapole port vital reason Raw jute export falls by one lakh bales in five months

By Rafiq Hasan

Raw jute export declined by one lakh 34 thousand bales during the first five months of the current fiscal year compared with the export of the same period of last fiscal year mainly due to restriction on export through Benapole land port.

A total of three lakh 24 thousand raw jute was exported up to November 15 this year against four lakh 68 thousand bales during the same period last year, Bangladesh Jute Exporters' Association (BJA) sources said.

They said raw jute export through Benapole land port remained stopped for last two months because government has imposed a restriction on jute export through the port.

Official sources of the Ministry of Jute said, the government has imposed a restriction on raw jute export to India through Benapole port in August this year to check smuggling and give

some protection to the local jute goods and yarn producers.

Jute good producers at the beginning of the season had apprehended that the raw jute price would go up at an abnormal rate and many jute mills might be closed down due to heavy production shortfall.

"Government has imposed the restriction on raw jute export through land port responding to the appeal of jute good producers to stabilise the domestic market and check smuggling", a high official of the Ministry of Jute told The Daily Star over telephone.

He said the government is reviewing the market situation and restriction will be withdrawn after stabilisation of the market.

The average export price of raw jute during the period of July to November this year was per bale Tk 2,514 while

the average price during the same period of last year was Tk 1,783 per bale.

Exporters said over the last few years jute has been exported to India by road through Benapole. During the last 1994-95 season three lakh 13 thousand 756 bales of raw jute was exported through this land port.

Whereas, only 60 thousand bales of raw jute was exported this year through the port, they said.

According to the BJA, the country earned Tk 82.94 crore in the five months this year by exporting raw jute to different countries of the world while during the same period of last year the earnings were Tk 82.90 crore.

The BJA at a Jute Consultative Committee meeting held last month with Jute Minister S M Hannan Shah in the chair demanded of the government to withdraw the restriction.

BJA vice chairman Rezaul Karim said the minister had assured them of withdrawing the restriction. But any decision in this regard is yet to be taken.

He said due to restriction, raw jute export to India through river route also remained suspended.

Under the bilateral agreement between India and Bangladesh, Indian barge came to Narayanganj port and raw jute was shipped earlier. But this year no barge from India came to Narayanganj for this purpose, he said.

Although the Chittagong and Mongla sea ports, remained open to export but no jute was exported to India through the two ports this year because it is costly for them, Rezaul pointed out.

He said as India was one of the biggest importers of raw jute from Bangladesh, the exporters would be affected adversely because of restriction on export to that country through Benapole port.

Improved demand marks tea auction in Ctg

By Staff Correspondent

The weekly tea sale in Chittagong on Tuesday was marked by improved demand.

Export buyers for Poland, Jordan, Russia and Sudan were active at the sale, market sources said.

According to a report of Unity Brokers Ltd prices in general improved over last levels. Local traders operated with strength for the well-made small broken and better fannings resulting in advancement of prices for these. It added.

In this week's sale, 20,466 packages leaf along with 64 packages of supplement were advertised and withdrawals were low and stood at 17 per cent as against 15 per cent last week.

The next sale is expected to be held on December 5, 1995 at 8:30 am. According to the report, total offerings are likely to be comprised of 17,000 packages leaf and 3,000 packages dust.

Following is the last week's category-wise sale performance:

CTC: Larger broken opened at around last levels but prices continued to improve as the sale progressed, selling between Tk. 47.50 initially to Tk 48.90 later.

Small well made broken were dearer by Tk. 1/2. Plainer types were also little dearer. Selective best lines sold between Tk. 53.00 - Tk. 54.20.

Fannings were generally a dearer market particularly the clean, grainy and good liquoring types and these often inclined by a Taka or more. Lower types appreciated by about 0.50 Taka. Few best lines sold between Tk. 54.00 - Tk. 57.40.

Green Tea: 430 packages were on offer. FYH's sold between Tk. 63.80 - Tk. 64.00. YH's at Tk. 51.50 and the Hysons at Tk. 54.00.

Dust: 3,216 packages along with 45 packages of supplement were on offer. Most prices were firm. Selective best lines often appreciated.

Tea-garden owners to get loans at 9.5 pc rate

Government will provide loans to tea-garden owners at a reduced rate of 9.5 per cent for the development of tea industry, reports BSS.

This was disclosed at the inter-ministerial meeting at Commerce Ministry regarding development of tea industry with Commerce and Information Minister M Shamul Islam in the chair.

The minister said the government would extend all cooperation for expansion of tea market in the world side by side giving loan at a reduced rate.

He referred to various steps of the government for tea production and its export and directed the Bangladesh Tea Board to discharge its duties with utmost sincerity.

Commerce Secretary Asafuddin, Chairman, tea board, Brigadier M Maqbul Ahmed, chairperson of Cha Shamsad, Lalia Rahman Kabir and officials concerned were present.

The meeting discussed various methods to increase tea production and stressed the need for improving the quality of tea.



A three-day computer exhibition organised by Bangladesh Computer Samity begins at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. — Star photo

Oil prices may be \$12-18 per barrel in 10 yrs

DUBAI, Nov 29: Oil prices are likely to remain between 12 to 18 dollars per barrel over the next decade partly because producers are tempted to sell excess capacity, a Shell oil executive said here yesterday, reports AFP.

"We will have to live with that," Ferdinand Berger, Director for Shell International Petroleum Co. Ltd. in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, told the Emirates Economic Forum here.

"It should be between 12 and 18 dollars a barrel over the next decade. There is no reason it should be higher than now."

However, producers can limit the impact of low prices by using technological advances to drive down the cost of extracting oil, according to the executive of the British-Dutch consortium.

The problem is many producers have invested heavily in boosting output capacity and "there are high pressures to use it," Berger said.

He estimated the capacity of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which decided last week to roll over the production ceiling of 24.52 million barrels per day (BPD) for another six months, at 36 million BPD.

The 12-nation cartel pumped about one million BPD in excess of the ceiling in October, with oil industry sources accusing Venezuela of accounting for one third of overproduction.

Malaysia, UAE sign accord to boost trade

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 29: Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) yesterday signed an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation to boost trade and investment between the two countries, reports AFP.

The UAE was represented by visiting Minister of State for Finance and Industry Ahmed Humaid Al-Tajer while Deputy Minister of Finance Wong See Wah signed the agreement for Malaysia.

"With the signing of this agreement today, Malaysia has concluded similar tax treaties with 46 nations around the globe," Wong said.

WFP praises Dhaka's food programme

Bangladesh has a very good record of successfully managing the transition from food for relief to food for development, views a UN body, reports UNB.

The evaluation was presented by Country Director of the United Nations World Food Programme Alan Wilkinson at a conference here on Tuesday.

The three-day inter-agency Trainers' Conference for Food-assisted Development has been organised jointly by the WFP and the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance.

Alan Wilkinson drew attention to two high priorities of the government and WFP in Bangladesh — the poverty alleviation and the creation of gender equity. Because of the self targeting nature of food aid, only those who are very poor and unemployed are prepared to work for wheat.

In addition, Wilkinson said, food aid is usually controlled by women and that gives them control over resources and thereby promotes gender equity. Globally, Bangladesh has been one of the largest recipients of WFP food aid since 1975.

Speaking as chief guest, Planning Secretary Dr Shah Mohammad Farid emphasised the role of food assisted programmes in support of sustainable poverty alleviation efforts of the government.

Now the government has agreed on key institutional changes to strengthen the food-assisted development programmes, Dr Farid said and pointed out the critical role of the Planning Commission in integration of food aid in the national planning process of the government.

Dr Farid assured all those involved of the Planning Commission's active support for the new arrangements.

Referring to the progress made under the important eight-year SIFAD process of institutional strengthening, ERD Joint Secretary A K M Rezaul Rahman said the government currently contributes about one third of the wheat needed for the VGD programme.

Head of WFP Training in Dhaka Younus Khan also spoke at the inaugural session of the conference, attended by 80 trainers from Water Development Board, Local Government and Engineering Department, Department of Forest, Fisheries, Women Affairs, Livestock Services and six NGOs.

Douglas Hurd (R), former British Foreign Secretary, presents the World Travel Market 1995 Global Award to Hans Haensel (M), Emirates' Head of Destination and Leisure Management. Fiona Jeffrey, World Travel Market Exhibition Director, is also seen in the picture.

Chinese delegates meet WTO DG

GENEVA, Nov 29: A high-level Chinese delegation is to open bilateral talks here Wednesday with eight other nations ahead of a working group meeting December 7-8 on China's application to join the World Trade Organization, reports AFP.

The Chinese team arrived here Tuesday and its leader, Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Long Yongtu, met with WTO Director-General Renato Ruggiero.

The delegation on Wednesday will begin meeting representatives from Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India, Mexico, Chile, Colombia and North Korea.

"The Chinese and the Americans will meet the day after the working group session, December 9, said Tongtai Lal, a member of China's permanent delegation in Geneva.

"We want to become part of the WTO as soon as possible," he added, noting China's "very clear declaration" at a summit of Asian and Pacific nations in Osaka November 19.

Beijing pledged to reduce import duties on 4,000 to 6,000 products and to abolish entry quotas on 170 categories of goods.

US Vice President Al Gore welcomed the initiative but said China had more to do before it could join the WTO.

Emirates Holidays receives Travel Market Award

Emirates Holidays, the leisure management division of Emirates, has won the prestigious World Travel Market 1995 Global Award for its contribution to the travel industry, says a press release.

During a ceremony held at Earl's Court in London, former British Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd presented the Global Award to Hans Haensel, Emirates' head of Destination and Leisure Management.

This marked the first major industry award won by the airline's leisure management division, which was launched just two years ago. Emirates Holidays is now the largest wholesale tour operator of the Gulf and Middle East, renowned for its range of tailor-made, quality vacation programmes to 37 destinations around the world.

Bangladeshi cuisine plays important role in UK

"In 1993 sales of Indian restaurant and take away food in the UK amounted to about 258 million pounds (over Tk 1,651 crore) and Bangladeshi cuisine plays an important and growing part in this sector of the food industry," said Food Minister, Angela Browning.

She was speaking in London last week at the launch of the Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs, according to a message received here yesterday.

"Bangladeshi restaurants have been an established feature of the UK for a very long time though I am afraid that a certain geographical imprecision has crept into our common speech; we call them Indian restaurants."

"However, they are described, these restaurants are now very much a part of the fabric of our everyday lives. They are a familiar sight in most high streets today and play a major part in our food industry."

"By our own estimates in 1993 sales of Indian restaurant and take away food

amounted to around 258 million pounds, involving around 5,000-6,000 outlets. Bangladeshi cuisine plays a very important part in the catering sector, which is a substantial and growing part of the UK food industry.

"Our catering sector is huge and outlets range from hospitals and schools to an enormous variety of retail premises such as fast food establishments, ethnic restaurants, snack and sandwich bars. It is estimated that the sector accounts for just under two per cent of gross domestic product rising to two and a half per cent if combined with the hotel industry. Consumers expenditure on eating out and accommodation has grown rapidly and is estimated at around 37 billion pounds in 1994."

Last summer was the 35th anniversary of the Bangladeshi caterers' association which was marked by the launch of the Dine Bangladeshi campaign at the House of Commons.

Sanitation Week '95

Development of Rural Sanitation

Continued from page 9
changed to a water sealed slab latrine. With the assistance of WHO DPHE took up a pilot project and distributed 10,000 improved latrine slabs to rural families by 1964. Later on design of the slab was further improved for installation in subsequent projects.

A large scale sanitation project was undertaken in 1975. DPHE came up with the village Sanitation Project, Phase-1 for implementation during 1975-82 with UNICEF assistance. Under this project a target of supplying free of cost 2,80 lakh sets of latrine, to the families of 620 villages under 62 subdivisions was fixed in addition to installation of latrines in 700 primary schools & other educational institutions. Ultimately 1.36 lakhs of latrine sets were supplied under this project. In the later part of the project period, selling of latrine sets at subsidized price was introduced in lieu of cost free supply.

After completion of this project the experience we had were:

1. Maintenance of latrines supplied at subsidized price, was better than those supplied free of cost.
2. Water sealed trap was found broken by beneficiaries in about 18% cases whereas 82% were found intact.
3. 61% latrines were found maintained by beneficiaries satisfactorily.
4. About 67% latrines were installed within 50 feet of water source and about 90% within 100 feet.

The success of the 1st phase resulted in taking up the 2nd phase of the project with UNICEF assistance from 1982-85 at cost of Tk 1223 lakhs. All the thanas were included in this phase with a physical target of supplying 2.25 lakhs latrine sets. Under this project 1 slab & 5 rings at a subsidized price of Tk 26,163 rural families. Success of this project justified taking up large scale sanitation programme in future. It may be mentioned here that coverage of village sanitation

at the end of the project period was observed to be only 3% of the rural population.

Another large scale village sanitation project was launched with UNICEF assistance for implementation during 1985-95 at a cost of Tk 11509 lakh with physical target of 20.10 lakh sets of latrine. Under this project 540 union production cum selling centers were established, 460 thana centers were established earlier. Out of these 1000 centers, 100 centers have been closed last year.

By June, 1995 about 18 lakh latrine units have been produced under third phase of this programme. During this recent past due to repeated increase of selling price of latrine units under this project, enthusiasm among the rural community declined toward purchase & installation of the same.

This situation has now considerably improved. Last year (1994-95), DPHE sold more than three lakh latrine units throughout the country in from sale centers.

The village sanitation programme of DPHE is a participatory programme involving the poor rural community. Through intensive communication awareness being created the participation of rural population is on increase. The three decade programme of village sanitation project is now gaining momentum.

With the idea of confining excreta in a fixed place duly covered, the pit latrine in an improved form is indirectly encouraged where water seal latrine cannot be afforded by the poor community, it being beyond their purchasing power. The DPHE water seal latrine along with improved pit latrine raised the rural sanitation coverage to 41% & we expect 60% coverage by 1996. It may be mentioned that the third phase of VS Programme has recently been extended to 1996.

WATSAN Committees headed by chairman, Union Parishad under "Social Mobilisation for Sanitation Project" in DPHE are functioning to

promote sanitation & dissemination of messages to the doorsteps of the target population.

We have been striving hard towards achieving a sanitary environment in rural Bangladesh, free of exposed human excreta & this excreta we expect will be properly confined in a fixed place. This is our objective & we expect the same by the year 2000.

An Overview

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private initiative for selling latrine components along with public sector production. The NGO should come forward to take part in the awareness building to encourage local initiative to raise the sanitation coverage and improved personal hygiene practice. The concerted effort will surely lead us to the intended success.

Safe Environment

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technologies including "do-it-yourself" simple pit latrine.

Building on the success, the government is launching the second National Sanitation Week in November 1995 to create further momentum on accelerating sanitation coverage and behavioural change.

By maintaining the current rate of progress and with the concerted efforts of every one from the decision makers to the people of the communities, an excreta-free and safe environment of Bangladesh can be a reality by year 2000. We strongly believe that the task is doable.

All children of Bangladesh have the right to live in a safe and healthy environment. Our effort, today, aims to achieve universal sanitation coverage by the year 2000 which is the present generation's legacy to the next generation of this country for them to welcome the 21st century with a healthy mind and body. As we march towards the 21st century, no children of Bangladesh will die of communicable diseases due to insanitary environment.