



## Bangladesh Women Investment Forum formed

Bangladesh Women Investment Forum (BWIF) was formed at a meeting in Dhaka recently, reports BSS.

A five member committee was constituted at the meeting, presided over by Mehruun Hussain following are the members: convener Mehruun Hussain, co-convenor Asma Hossain, secretary Raushan-Are Begum, joint secretary Laila Mobin and Treasurer Johra Rahman.

A press release of BWIF yesterday said that the aim of the forum is to create awareness among housewives and professional women about the investment opportunities available in the country especially in the share market.

## BJMC units' production efficiency up

Production efficiency of the state-owned jute mills has been increased by seven per cent the last three months through proper maintenance, reports UNB.

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah disclosed this while reviewing the progress in productivity of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation run units at the BJMC headquarters yesterday.

The minister said the price trend of jute and jute goods in the world market was on the rise. "Now we have to ensure timely supply of our goods to the buyers for better marketing in future," he told the meeting.

Hannan Shah also hoped that the earnings of BJMC through sale of products would be increased by Tk 50 crore over last year's income.

Participated by the elected combined bargaining agents (CBA) presidents and secretariats of 35 jute mills, the review meeting was also addressed by BJMC Chairman Montruiddin Ahmed.

Among others, CBA leaders Rehanuddin Rehan and Abul Khayer Khwaza of Adamjee Jute Mills, Motahar Hossain of Khulna zone and Mohabbat Hossain of Chittagong zone spoke on the occasion.

## New Board of Directors of Sadharan Bima

The Board of Directors of Sadharan Bima Corporation was reformed by the Ministry of Commerce recently, says a press release.

Members of the newly reformed Board of Directors are — Tabarak Husain, Former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh — Chairman and Director, M M Murshid, Managing Director, Sadharan Bima Corporation — Director, Rashed Maqsood Khan, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry — Director, Karam Ali (Hotel Agrabad), Chittagong — Director, Akmal Yousof, New Elephant Road, Dhaka — Director, Azad Ruhul Amin, Additional Secretary Ministry of Commerce — Director and Prof. Lutful Haq Chowdhury, Dhaka University — Director.

## Emirates, DNATA voted best in Gulf, ME

Travellers and key business executives of the Gulf and Middle East, have cast their votes for Emirates and DNATA as the "Best Airline Serving the Middle East," and the "Best Travel Agency in the Middle East," respectively, in the annual Arab Travel Awards organised by Bahrain-based Al Hilal Publishing Group, says a press release.

The awards are the result of poll conducted by Travel and Tourism News (TTN), the flagship travel trade paper of the Al Hilal Group, among 60,000 respondents across the Gulf and Middle East.

This is the fifth year that Emirates and DNATA have topped the polls, a convincing indication of the Group's consistent performance.

Maurice Flanagan, Group Managing Director of Emirates received the award on behalf of Emirates, from Ronnie Middleton, Managing Director of the Al Hilal Group, during a ceremony held at the JW Marriott Dubai on December 13. Keith Longstaff, Senior General Manager DNATA Agencies, accepted the award on behalf of DNATA.

# Chhatak Cement output rises by 30pc in 5 months

Chhatak Cement Factory has set a production target of 2,10,000 metric tons during the current fiscal year 1995-96 as against actual production of 1,47,020 MT during 1994-95, says a press release.

The factory has produced 73,105 MT of cement during the first five months of 1995-96 in comparison with 56,306 MT during the corresponding period of 1994-95. This indicates an increase of 30 per cent.

The factory earned a profit of Taka 46 lakh in 1994-95. Furthermore, it contributed Taka 936.13 lakh to the national exchequer in the form of duties and taxes.

The factory has recently completed its BMRE with foreign exchange finance from Asian Development Bank (ADB) and France.

The State Minister for Industries, Lutfor Rahman Khan, recently visited the factory to see for himself its work.

He urged the personnel of the factory to optimise ce-

ment production to attain national self-reliance and save foreign exchange.

The minister urged them

to make fullest use of the BMRE undertaken at a huge investment both in foreign exchange and local currency.

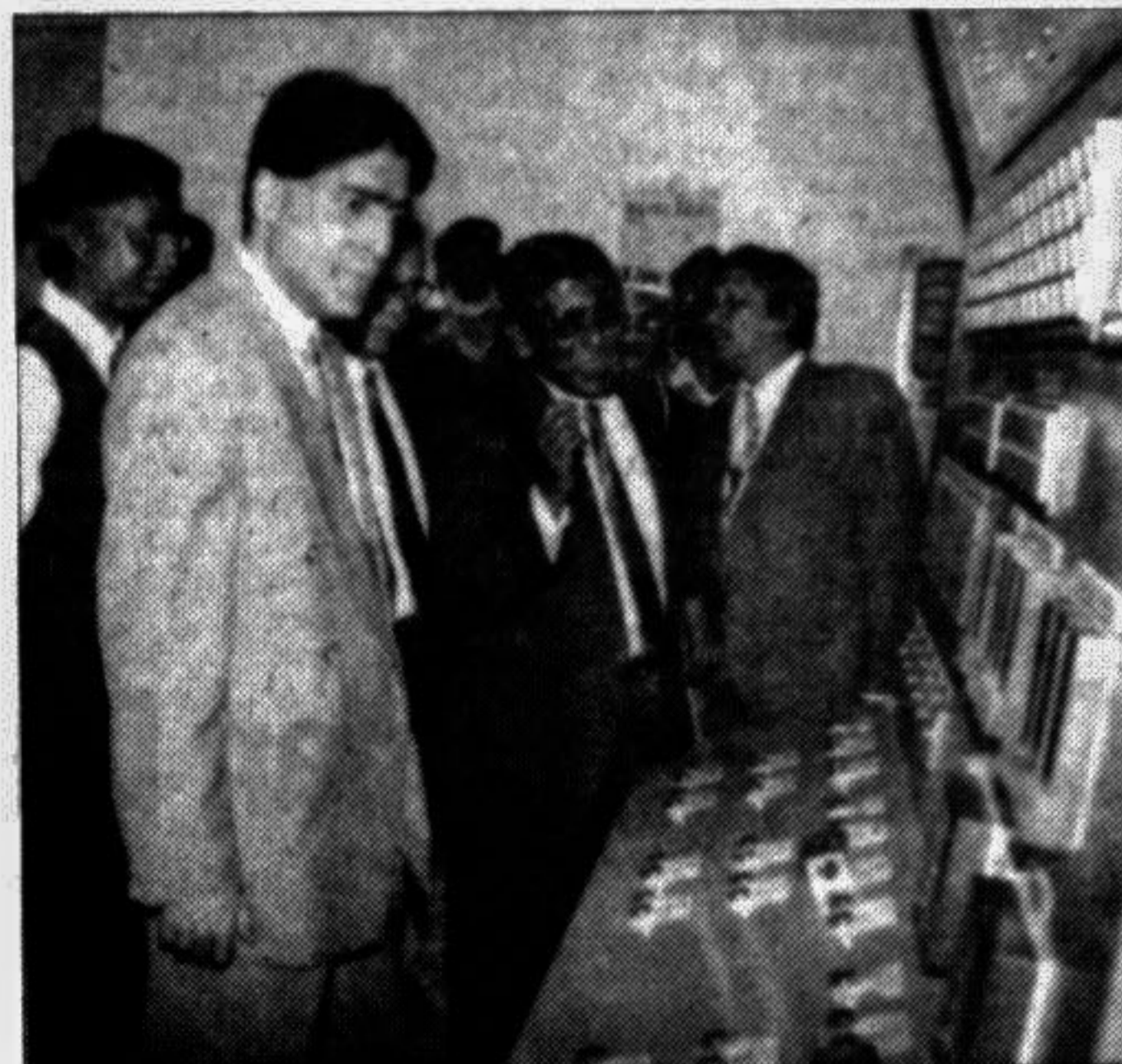
Lutfor directed the factory management to work with honesty and dedication and ensure optimum utilisation of the installed capacity. None will be allowed to shirk responsibility in this regard.

The minister advised the BCIC authority to ensure availability of adequate power for the production process. He directed the earliest solution to Rope-way problem for augmenting the supply of limestone matching the production target.

He also reviewed the operating performance of Takerghat Limestone Project located at Tahirpur under the administrative control of Chhatak Cement Factory.

This mining project located at Takerghat in the district of Sunamganj extracted 28,022 MT limestone during 1994-95.

AIM Nazmul Alam, Chairman, BCIC and M Siddiqur Rahman, Director (P&I), BCIC, were present during the visit.



State Minister for Industries Lutfor Rahman Khan visited Chhatak Cement Factory on Thursday.

## Dollar rises against leading units in NY

NEW YORK, Dec 23: The US dollar rose against leading currencies Friday as the market's shifting sentiment on federal budget negotiations turned positive, reports AP.

President Clinton and his Republican opponents in Congress negotiated the budget at the White House Friday, prompting hope that the stalemate would soon end.

The dollar also drew strength from rising stocks and bonds early in the day. Foreign investors interested in buying US securities need dollars to do it.

The dollar finished with a strong gain against the Japanese yen and closed slightly higher against the German mark.

In New York trading abbreviated for the Christmas holiday, the dollar was quoted at 102.70 Japanese yen, up from 101.79 late Thursday. The dollar was worth 1.4380 German marks, up from 1.4377 on Thursday.

The mark was supported by a comment from Guntrum Palm, an influential Bundesbank official that indicated another interest rate cut in Germany may not be forthcoming soon.

After Palm's comments,

the German government said preliminary western German inflation numbers showed prices 1.4 per cent higher from a year earlier in the 30 days ended in mid-December. The inflation numbers were in line with economists' expectations.

Signs of higher prices, particularly in inflation-wary Germany, can discourage interest rate cuts that might overheat the economy. But if inflation is under control, the Bundesbank might see room to ease interest rates further.

The German central bank cut two interest rates by 0.50 percentage point a week ago. Lower interest rates generally weaken a currency as traders look for countries where currencies pay higher yields.

The dollar wavered against major currencies during the day in New York where volume was thin, allowing individual trades to have an exaggerated effect on the price.

It was higher in the morning, helped by strength in overseas trading, then turned lower after noon before turning up again.

The British pound was quoted at 1.5400 dollars down from 1.5417 dollars Thursday.

## Massive programme for rabi crop farming in B'baria

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 23: A massive programme has been taken up throughout Brahmanbaria district to bring one lakh 38 thousand hectares of land under rabi crop cultivation during the winter season, reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 90,200 hectares of land will be brought under boro, out of which 86,000 hectares will be under high yielding variety (HYV) and the rest under local variety.

The source said that under this programme a total of 16,000 hectares of land would be brought under cultivation of wheat, 2,600 hectares under potato, 18,400 hectares under mustard, 6,400 hectares under pulses, 1,500 hectares under sweet potato, 100 hectares under maize, 500 hectares under ground nut and 2300 hectares under winter vegetables.

Meanwhile the agriculture extension department has also taken up programme to set up 747 demonstration plots including 417 field crop demonstration plots, and 330 homestead demonstration plot. Moreover 220 other demonstration plots in different areas of the district will also be set up.



A nine-day Jamdani exhibition organised by Bangladesh Handloom Board began at Shilpakala Academy art gallery in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Gulf Air chief earns honorary fellowship

Salim Bin Ali Assiyabi Gulf Air President and Chief Executive has been awarded honorary fellowship by the London-based European Marketing and Promotion Association, says a press release.

The fellowship is in recognition of his position in business and his outstanding contribution to international trade and development. It recognises the success and progress made by Gulf Air in commercial aviation in the Arab world and internationally under the management of Assiyabi.

The award was presented by Prof Dr Abdul Aziz Mohd Al Tarib, a Yemeni expert and international advisor on Administrative Development and Chairman of the Gulf and Yemen Chapter of EMPA.

## Tea prices low in London

LONDON, Dec 23: Tea sold in weekly London auctions was at a seven-year low during 1995, because of high production in Kenya and sluggish demand, the London Tea Brokers Association said Friday, reports AP.

The 1995 average price — calculated following the last auction of the year on Monday — was 1,036 pounds (1,824 dollars) per metric ton, compared with 1,192 pounds for 1994.

This year's price was the lowest annual figure since 1,008 pounds per metric ton in 1988.

Despite these low prices, traders said the market has picked up recently because high-quality tea from India is in shorter supply than expected.

## Italian parliament okays budget for '96

ROME, Dec 23: The Italian budget for 1996 was approved by the Upper House of Parliament Friday, following its passage earlier in the day in the Lower Chamber, a parliamentary source said, reports AFP.

Its passage paved the way for the resignation of Prime Minister Lamberto Dini's administration. He had told parliament he would leave office once the key bill was approved.

The text of the finance bill was passed by the Senate late Friday by a vote of 136 to 59, with no abstentions.

Senators had already approved it on November 21, but they had to vote on it again after Deputies in the Lower House introduced amendments.

Its passage ended weeks of political wrangling with rightist parties opposed to Dini's caretaker government threatening to scupper the bill.

The budget is designed to cut Italy's huge public debt from 130 trillion lire (81.25 billion dollars) this year to 109.4 trillion lire (67.9 billion dollars) by the end of 1996.

## OOIL to buy 2 new container vessels

Orient Overseas (International) Ltd (OOIL) yesterday announced that it placed an order with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries for two new 4968-TEU post-Panamax container vessels scheduled for delivery in late 1997, says a press release.

This is part of the company's fleet replacement plan which is in line with the expansion of the company and the implementation of Global Alliance services.

The design of the vessels will be similar to the six sister container ships to be delivered by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Samsung Heavy Industries in 1995 and 1996. As the new ships are being delivered, some existing vessels will be gradually phased out and sold.

The new and modern fleet will provide our customers with better services by offering improved efficiency, reliability and transit times. OOIL is represented in Bangladesh by its General Agents Omnitrans International Limited.

## Moscow third expensive city in world

GENEVA, Dec 23: Moscow prices have shot up and the Russian capital now ranks just behind the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Osaka in the cost of living for expatriates, according to a study published Wednesday, reports AP.

For people shopping for Western-quality products, Moscow has become even more expensive than the traditionally pricey Swiss cities of Zurich and Geneva.

Most cities in North and South America remain relatively cheap, the survey said. Asuncion, Paraguay, for example, tied with Minneapolis, Minnesota, with a ranking of 87.

Dhaka also tied with Houston and Lusaka with a ranking of 90.

The survey is based on a basket of 155 products, including food, alcohol, clothing, transport, sports and leisure and home entertainment. It does not include housing or schooling.

The report is published twice a year by a private Geneva-based consultancy, Corporate Resources. It uses New York as a base of 100 to calculate the cost of living for government workers and company executives posted abroad.

Tokyo remains the world's most expensive city with an index of 202 - twice as high as New York. Osaka follows with 190.

Moscow, eighth in the previous survey, moved up to third with an index of 142. It is now classed as the most expensive European city, just ahead of Zurich at 141 and Geneva at 140, thanks to substantial hikes in dollar prices at Western-style supermarkets and for other services.

At the bottom of the scale are Mexico City and Monterrey, Mexico, with an index of 75 and 74, respectively. This was partly due to the devaluation of the peso, the report said. Lagos, Nigeria, was also at 74.



Emirates and DNATA have again received Arab travel awards being voted the "Best Airline Serving the Middle East," and the "Best Travel Agency in the Middle East." Maurice Flanagan (L), Group Managing Director of the Emirates Group, seen with Ronnie Middleton, Managing Director of Al Hilal Publishing Group and Keith Longstaff, Senior General Manger DNATA Agencies.

**Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd**  
(A Company of Petrobangla)  
Pathantuly, Sylhet

Dated: 14-08-1402 BS/28-11-95

"গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন  
এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান"— প্রধানমন্ত্রী

### Tender Notice

1) Sealed tenders under two-envelope system addressed to "Managing Director, Jalalabad Gas" are invited from first class/'A' category contractor firms enlisted for civil construction works during current financial year of Petrobangla & all its companies, all govt., semi-govt. & autonomous organisations, for the undermentioned work:

Sl No	Name of work	Price of tender	Amount of earnest money	Time limit for completion of work
1.	Construction of officers quarters, Shahjibazar, Habiganj (double-storey building containing four units of 1000 sq ft).	1,000/-	2.5% of quoted rate	240 days

2) Intending contractors can purchase the tender schedule from the undermentioned places from 17 December 1995 to 2nd January 1996.

A) Cash Section, Jalalabad Gas, Barkatia Super Market, Amberkhana, Sylhet.  
B) Company's Liaison Office in Dhaka, Sector No 4, Road No 20 B, House No 5, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka.  
C) Accounts Department, Petrobangla, Petrocentre, Plot No 3, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.  
D) Accounts Department, Titas Gas T&D Co. Ltd, Titas Bhaban, 11, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.  
E) Accounts Department, RPGC LBSEC Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.  
F) Accounts Department, Bakhra Gas System Ltd, Head Office, Champapur, Comilla.  
G) Accounts Department, BGFL, Head Office, Court Road, Brahmanbaria.  
H) Accounts Department, Sylhet Gas Field Ltd, Chiknagui, Sylhet.  
I) Accounts Department, BAPEX, HBFC Building, Purana Paltan, Dhaka.

3) Tenders will be received in the tender box kept of the above offices (from B to I of paragraph 2) & the Office of the Deputy General Manager (Planning) & Deputy General Manager, Administration, Jalalabad Gas up to 11-00 AM of January 10, 1996 and opened on the same day at 11-15 hours simultaneously at all the places in presence (if any) of the tenderers. In case the office remained closed under unavoidable circumstances, tenders will be received and opened on the next working day at prescribed time.

4) Intending tenderers shall have to submit in a separate envelope under Technical Proposal necessary certificates that they are capable of satisfactorily fulfilling all the undermentioned terms & conditions.

A) (i) Certificate from the organisation under which the contractor firm has been licenced/renewed for the current year.  
(ii) Certificate to the effect that there is working minimum 2 (two) years' experienced graduate Civil Engineer or 5 (five) years' experienced Diploma Civil Engineer in the contractor firm and will remain in the supervision of the project during the project tenure.  
B) Attested copy of work order, as the case may be of (Govt/Semi-Govt/Autonomous organisations), to the effect that the firm has done building construction work worth Taka 30,00,000/- (thirty lakh) in total during the past 3 (three) years, should be attached.  
C) Necessary certificate from scheduled bank on facility of receiving loan of minimum Taka 5,00,000 (five lakh) should be submitted.  
D) Statement of bank transactions during the past 3 (three) financial years (1994-95, 1993-94, 1992-93) and necessary authorisation letter to verify the bank statements later by the company, should be submitted.  
E) Current year Income Tax clearance certificate, current trade licence & VAT registration certificate. All submitted certificates should be in original copy or attested by an officer not below the status of Executive Engineer.  
F) List of own machines used in construction work, such as — Mixer machine vibrator, Form-work etc should be submitted and should be able to use these machines during construction work.  
G) Such contractor firms as have been engaged in work at different sites of Jalalabad Gas should submit certificate stating "progress of work satisfactory" from Deputy General Manager (Planning) with the tender.

5. On the prescribed date of receiving tender, the technical proposal receiving committee will open the tenders in presence (if any) of the tenderers and these proposals will be evaluated later on. Financial proposals of only those contractor firms who may be considered technically competent will be evaluated later on.

6. In case any document furnished is found to be false, 5% (five per cent) of the earnest money will be deducted and the incumbent's proposal will be treated as cancelled outright.

7) Earnest money should be submitted with the Technical Proposal in favour of Managing Director, Jalalabad Gas.

8) Drawing of the construction works may be seen at the office of the Manager (Construction), Jalalabad Gas, Barkatia Super Market (2nd floor), Amberkhana, Sylhet during office hours. Other necessary information and terms & conditions are given in the tender document.

9) Intending contractors are advised to inspect the project site for submitting tender after clearly comprehending local material labour/skilled labour, transport facility, condition of carrying goods, necessary facilities for completing the work & other responsibilities, especially the matter of completing the work within the prescribed time.

10) Jalalabad Gas and T&D System Ltd. reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-31439-17/12  
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Managing Director