

Steps taken to highlight Ctg Port's normalcy abroad, says Manzur

Adviser in Charge of the Ministries of Shipping, Communications, Civil Aviation and Tourism Post and Telecommunications and Housing and Public Works **Sayed Manzur Elahi** today said measures were taken to highlight abroad the normalcy restored in Chittagong Port, reports BSS.

In this respect, he suggested sending a delegation comprising representatives from Bangladesh Shippers' Council, Chittagong Port Authority, BGMEA, FBCCI and BJS to London to tell the world trade bodies that Chittagong Port was now free of congestion and overall activities were now going on in full swing.

The adviser was talking to a delegation of Bangladesh Shippers' Council who called on him at his office here, an official handout said.

Chairman of Bangladesh Shippers' Council Ali led the delegation which included, among others, its Vice-Chairman Md Rezaul Karim.

The delegation referred to the steps taken by the adviser to send a team to Singapore recently for negotiation with shipping line operators there regarding withdrawal of congestion surcharge at Chittagong Port.

They described the step as very fruitful since the shipping line operators agreed to relax for carrying the each 20

duce the surcharge from May 8 next by more than half that was imposed earlier.

The delegation apprised the adviser that the shipping line operators had agreed to slash the congestion surcharge to 75 US dollars from 200 US dol-

feet container and to 150 US dollars from 400 US dollars for carrying the each 40 feet container.

They also said that the shipping line operators had agreed to withdraw the surcharge after May next if the si-

tuation at Chittagong Port further improves.

The Shippers' Council put forward a proposal before the adviser to enhance the existing freight brokerage charge and the adviser assured them of looking into it.



MR. Ali, Chairman, Shippers' Council of Bangladesh, seen presenting SCB Crest to Syed Manzur Elahi, Adviser, Ministries of Shipping and Communications when he along with Md. Rezaul Karim, Senior Vice-Chairman, AB, Siddiqur Rahman, M Zainul Abedin EC members, and SM Matiur Rahman, Secretary-General of SCB, called on him at his office chamber yesterday.

Japan's Matsushita may launch joint venture in India

TOKYO, Apr 23: Japan's Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. expects to launch a joint venture in India in October to produce television sets and audio and video equipment, a company official said yesterday, reports AFP.

Having got the go-ahead from the Indian government, Matsushita plans initial production of 100,000 television sets a year at the venture with Salora International Ltd, the official told a company seminar.

The world's largest consumer electronics maker will have a 60 per cent stake in the venture, with the remainder held by the Indian firm, he said.

Production will start at Salora's plant in the suburbs of New Delhi, he said, adding that a second plant would be built if output needed to be expanded in the future.

US to consider addl debt relief for poorest nations

WASHINGTON, Apr 23: US Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin says the Clinton administration is willing to consider further bilateral official debt relief for a small group of highly indebted poor nations, says a USIS press release.

But he says that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, in moving forward with their own multilateral debt-relief plan for these countries, must pay for such relief with their own resources and not mandate additional contributions from creditor countries.

"Our view is that there are a small number of the poorest nations that do need broad-based debt reduction, even from current levels, if they are going to be viable," Rubin told

reporters April 21 following a full day meeting with the finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial countries.

"We are receptive to considering taking the Paris Club from the two thirds (debt relief) that it is now at to some other number to enable these countries to get back on viable footing," he said.

The G-7 countries are the United States, Japan, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy and Canada. These seven nations are among the members of the Paris Club, an informal group of creditor countries that seek, case by case, to reach a common approach on debt owed their governments.

The IMF and World Bank

have proposed boosting the concessionality of Paris Club reschedulings from their current limit of 67 percent to 90 percent for those countries that can demonstrate a track record of implementing economic reforms, but whose debt service burden is so high and economic situation so difficult that the debt has become a major impediment to growth.

Much of the discussion at the G-7 session and following day meeting of the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee was on how long a track record -- in the range of three to six years -- was needed to qualify for the higher concessionality.

A statement released following the G-7 meeting, Rubin said that when leaders of the G-7 countries meet this June,

More jobs created in US despite layoffs

NEW YORK, Apr 23: More than two-thirds of the US jobs created in 1994 and 1995 paid better than average according to a federal report being released this week. The New York Times reported, according to AP.

Also, despite waves of corporate layoffs, most people losing their jobs are spending less time on unemployment roles than in the past, the Times said, citing the report by the Council of Economic Advisers that is to be released Tuesday.

But the report also found evidence that the rate at which jobs have disappeared has risen slightly, the Times reported in Tuesday editions.

Clinton administration officials also cautioned that the report was focused on a fairly small part of the workforce, the 8.4 million jobs created in the last four years in an economy of 120 million jobs, and that much of its data on layoffs over the last two years is fragmentary.

Despite that, White House officials said the report still builds a foundation for President Clinton's claim that he has presided over an economy that is based more and more on high wage, high skill jobs and not simply the creation of lower-wage service industry jobs.

Material seminar

Exterior Interiors (P) Ltd. held a "Material seminar" organised by the students of the first batch of its Interior Design course in Dhaka recently, says a press release.

The seminar presided over by the Country Manager of the company Tureen Afroz was attended by the representatives of the reputed architectural firms of the country.

They applauded the participation of the students in this field.

Exterior Interiors (P) Ltd. is the only multinational company in this sub-continent on architectural and landscape plan and interior designing.

In collaboration with Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd. it is conducting a one-year diploma course on Interior Design with a remarkable number of students.

Emirates begins flight to Athens from June

Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, confirms the launch of services to Athens, Greece, from June 1, 1996. Athens becomes the airline's 39th destination and its 11th in Europe, says a press release.

Emirates will launch twice weekly flights with Airbus aircraft, going non-stop from Dubai to Athens, and onwards to Frankfurt.

The flights, EK015, will leave Dubai every Monday and Saturday at 0700 hrs, arriving in Athens at 1050. The flights then go onward to Frankfurt.

On the return leg, the flights, EK016, will be operated every Monday and Friday between Athens and Dubai on Mondays, the flights leave Athens at 2015 and arrive in Dubai at 0145 the next day. On Fridays, the flights leave Athens at 1955 and arrive in Dubai at 0125 the next day.

World leaders would take up the quest for global food security at a new meeting in Rome in November.

"Today we are far from that goal. Around 800 million people in the world currently suffer chronic undernutrition, he said.

By the year 2030, the world's population will rise by three billion while the amount of arable land per person will shrink, putting new emphasis on raising yields, he said.

Rich nations warn investors against Mexico-like crisis

WASHINGTON, Apr 23: Rich industrial countries yesterday warned debtor nations and global investors not to expect a free ride in the event of another economic crisis similar to the one that struck Mexico last year, reports Reuters.

Responding to criticism that last year's 50 billion US dollars rescue package for Mexico amounted to 10 leading industrial nations made clear that there would be no place to hide during the next crisis.

One year after Mexico rocked the global financial system in what International Monetary Fund Managing Director Michel Camdessus called the first economic crisis of the 21st century, policy-makers and investors have been holding their breath, warily wondering the second crisis would occur.

Officials are warning investors that times have changed.

"If they (the investors) believe in free markets, they have to live with the risks," US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin told reporters.

One possible flash point, Venezuela, was cooled considerably on Monday when the IMF announced it had finally agreed on an economic package for the troubled country.

Camdessus told reporters the fund had reached an accord with Venezuela on "All

the main" policies for a 1.4 billion US dollars 12-month stand-by loan.

The IMF assistance will be part of a multilateral package for the country that will top 3 billion US dollars. The World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank will also contribute.

The money will support a package of tough austerity measures unveiled last week by Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera to stabilise his country's shaky economy. Those measures included steep rises in subsidised gasoline prices and the scrapping of foreign exchange and price controls.

"This will lay the foundation for the resumption of economic growth," the IMF chief said.

But the deal with Venezuela did not mean policymakers have let down their guard, and officials from industrial nations worked on ways to combat the next crisis before it arose.

The 11-nation group of ten - Britain, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States - already provide the IMF with 25 billion US dollars emergency credit lines through the so-called General Arrangements to Borrow (GAB).

They have asked smaller, up and coming countries to

kick in contributions to a parallel lending facility, called the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB), that the IMF could also draw on in case of economic emergency.

In its communique, the G10 called for an agreement on this enlarged warchest "as soon as possible."

It also alerted bond investors not to expect a free ride in the event of another Mexico-style crisis.

Unlike international banks, bond investors have traditionally been able to count on getting paid when a country gets hit with a cash crisis.

That was the case in Mexico last year. The United States, fearful of the financial fallout from an economic crisis south of its border, put together a 50 billion US dollar rescue package for the country that meant holders of its tesobono debt were fully and promptly paid.

In its communique and a study issued during the IMF and World Bank meetings, the G10 called for investors to accept changes in future bond contract terms to make it easier for cash-strapped debtor nations to work out liquidity problems.

The G10 also warned that the IMF would not penalise debtor countries by holding up loans simply because they were behind on their bond payments and unable to reach agreement with intransigent investors.



Dr. Harry G. Harris (M), senior fellow of the University of California, speaking at a discussion meeting on "New Forms of Public-Private Partnership" presented by the American Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF) at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Monday. Sitting from right are: Md. Matiur Rahman, Chairman-Privatization Board, David N. Merrill, US Ambassador, Dr. Harris, Forrest Cookson, President-ABEF and A. Gafur, Executive Secretary-ABEF.

US ready to consider selling some IMF gold but decision delayed

WASHINGTON, Apr 23: Two leaders of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) argued that it should sell about 2 billion dollars of its 40 billion dollars worth of gold to help reduce poor countries debts, and US Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin said the United States was ready to consider it, reports AP.

But there was no sign Monday of reduced resistance to the idea from its main opponent, Germany. Hans Tietmeyer, president of the German central bank, told the German agency Vereinigte Wirtschaftsdienste (VWD - United Economic Services) that France, Japan and Switzerland are also opposed.

The proposal for the sale was endorsed by Kenneth Clarke, the British chancellor of the exchequer, and Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin.

A decision was put off at least until the annual meeting of the fund in October.

"It should not be a problem," Managing Director

Michel Camdessus, who made the proposal, told a news conference. "But gold is special. Gold captures the imagination. Gold starts debates."

Belgian Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt told said eight to 20 of the most heavily indebted countries would benefit from the sale. Interest on the proceeds - about 100 million dollars a year - would be used to help countries were the burden of debt was considered "unsustainable."

Maystadt chairs the 24-member Interim Committee, the fund's steering group. The fund's gold is held on behalf of all 181 member countries, among which the United States was the biggest contributor.

The US representative did not commit himself.

We are prepared to consider carefully the proposal to invest the profits on a modest proportion of the IMF's gold assets to generate additional income without weakening the institution's financial base," Rubin told cabinet ministers

and other officials on the Interim Committee.

When the IMF acquired much of its gold, it was worth only about 35 dollars an ounce.

Camdessus said at the news conference that selling the gold would be less risky than borrowing on it. Selling it would be only a way of diversifying the fund's assets, he argued.

Maystadt said some governments worried that selling IMF gold would be a precedent and that later sales might be proposed for less defensible purposes. He suggested that those fears might be met by putting a limit on the amount that could be sold.

He emphasized that there is now agreement that there must be action by the fund and its sister organisation, the World Bank, to reduce poor countries' debts to them agreement that did not exist six months ago. Now the debate is only about how to finance the reduction, he said.

ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড
চট্টগ্রাম ক্যান্টনমেন্ট

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধনী

চট্টগ্রাম ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ডের ০৫ই বৈশাখ ১৪০৩ বাঙ্গা/১৮ এপ্রিল ১৯৯৬ইং তারিখের প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে ২নং অনুচ্ছেদের ৩য় লাইনে ক্রমিক নং-২ এর জন্য ক্রমিক নং-৪ (কৃষিক/শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকার জন্য) পড়িতে হইবে। নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।

খোরশেদ আলম চৌধুরী
ক্যান্টনমেন্ট একজিকিউটিভ অফিসার
চট্টগ্রাম ক্যান্টনমেন্ট
দুরালাপনী : ২১১১০৪
জি-৫২১ ২১১০০১/৫৬৭ (সামরিক)

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা

মুদ্রণ সংক্রান্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকের কৃষি ঋণ পাশ বই, রেজিস্টার, খাম ইত্যাদি কাগজসহ মুদ্রণ ও সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে পূর্বঅভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন দেশের ব্যাচনামা ও প্রতিষ্ঠিত বৈধ লাইসেন্স প্রাপ্ত অফসেট মুদ্রণালয়সমূহের কাছ হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

বই, রেজিস্টার, খাম ইত্যাদির নমুনা ডিজাইন, শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী সংক্রান্ত সিডিউল যে কোন দিন অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ, ২৮/১, টয়েনবি সার্কুলার রোড (৪র্থ তলা), মতিঝিল, ঢাকায় পাওয়া যাবে। সিডিউলের মূল্য ৯০০/০০ (নয়শত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)। সিডিউলের মূল্যের সমপরিমাণ অর্ধের পেমেট অর্ডার ব্যাংকের স্থানীয় মুখ্য কার্যালয়সহ যে কোন শাখা হতে প্রধান কার্যালয়ের বরাবরে ক্রয় করতঃ উপরোক্ত বর্ণিত স্থানে জমা দিয়ে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।

দরপত্র আগামী ০৭-০৫-৯৬ইং তারিখ বিকেল ২-৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ, ২৮/১, টয়েনবি সার্কুলার রোড (৪র্থ তলা), মতিঝিল, ঢাকায় রক্ষিত টেন্ডার ব্যাগে গৃহীত হবে এবং ঐ দিনই বিকেল ২-৪৫ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।

সর্বনিম্ন অথবা যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই বাতিল বা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা ব্যাংকের সংরক্ষিত থাকবে।

নং জস-১(৬)/৯৫-৯৬/৩৯৭(৩)
তারিখ ২৩/৪/৯৬ **উপ মহাব্যবস্থাপক**
জি-৪০৩ সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ

World urgently needs to grow more grain: FAO

VERSAILLES, France, Apr 23: The world urgently needs to grow more grain to ease hunger and rebuild stocks from perilously low levels, a United Nations agency said yesterday, reports Reuters.

The warning from the Food and Agriculture Organisation came as grain prices hit records for the third business day running on growing alarm about the state of the American wheat crop.

"This year there is an urgent need to boost world cereal production not only to meet current requirements, which of course grow every year, but also to rebuild cereal stocks," FAO Director General Jacques Diouf told a congress of world farmers.

After three successive annual shortfalls, world wheat stocks have dwindled to 16 per cent of a year's needs, from nearly 30 per cent in the late 1980s. They are now too low to guarantee food security for the third world, aid officials say.

In a message to the International Federation of Agricultural Producers meeting in Versailles to debate world food needs, UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali urged all nations to renew their commitment to defeating hunger.

"Food security is an essential requirement in today's world, we have a duty to conquer hunger and malnutrition," Boutros-Ghali said in a text read to the 60-nation conference.

Diouf said the cushion of spare grain, seen as vital for third world importers, had fallen to its lowest level since a world food conference tried to banish hunger 20 years ago.

World leaders would take up the quest for global food security at a new meeting in Rome in November.

"Today we are far from that goal. Around 800 million people in the world currently suffer chronic undernutrition, he said.

By the year 2030, the world's population will rise by three billion while the amount of arable land per person will shrink, putting new emphasis on raising yields, he said.

Exchange Rates
Sonali Bank

The following are the dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies with Bangladesh Taka as on 23rd April '96. (Figures in Taka)

Name of Currency	Selling T.T. & O.D.	Buying		
		B. C.	T. T. Clean	O. D. Sight Export Bills
US Dollar	1 = Tk 41.9108	41.9505	41.6150	41.4550
GB Pound	1 = Tk 63.5402	63.6403	62.5990	62.3583
D Mark	1 = Tk 27.7784	27.8047	27.2989	27.1939
FRF	1 = Tk 8.2066	8.2144	8.0653	8.0342
C. Dollar	1 = Tk 30.9322	30.9614	30.3859	30.2691
S. Franc	1 = Tk 34.2860	34.3184	33.6779	33.5484
JP. Yen	1 = Tk 0.3963	0.3967	0.3854	0.3839

A) TT (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk. 41.5353
B) Usance Rate.
30 days 40.8792 90 days 40.5498 120 days 40.2203 180 days 39.5614
C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Same as O.D. sight export Bill buying rate.

Indicative Rates (B. Tk. for one unit of foreign currency)

Currency	Selling T. T. & O. D.		Buying O. D. Transfer
	T. T. & O. D.	B. C.	
S Riyal	Tk 11.1099	Tk 10.9626	
UAE Dirham	Tk 11.3434	Tk 11.1930	
Kuwaiti Dinar	Tk 138.8700	Tk 136.9520	
D Guilder	Tk 24.7188	Tk 24.3864	
S Krona	Tk 6.1687	Tk 6.0795	
Malaysian Ringgit	Tk 16.7045	Tk 16.4782	
Singapore Dollar	Tk 29.5154	Tk 29.1065	

Redwan Ahmed (M), President of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), seen addressing a press conference at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday. — Star photo