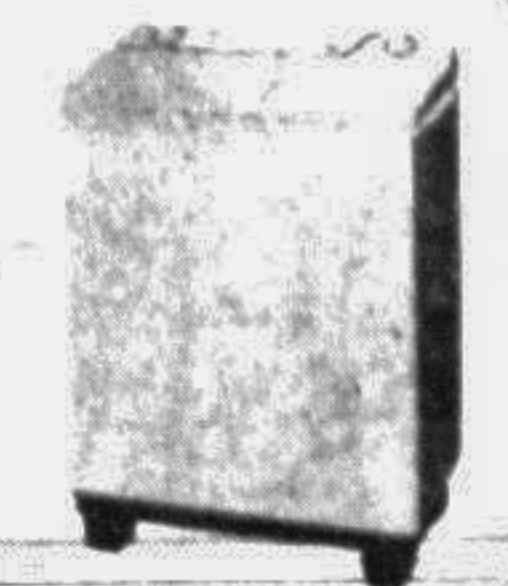



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The Daily Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1996



HYUNDAI
CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

BRDB poverty alleviation scheme in Faridpur, Kurigram dists

BRDB has taken up a massive poverty alleviation programme in 32 thanas of greater Faridpur and Kurigram districts under RD-5 project, says a press release.

The project has disbursed Taka 18 crore 80 lakh during the last 9 months.

Since the inception of the project, a total amount of Taka 53 crore 56 lakh has been distributed among the target group members.

Taka 42 crore 53 lakh has been realized out of the disbursed loan. The percentage of realization is about 99 per cent.

The project has introduced new and innovative action re-

search activities like Cultivation of Grapes, Sunflower, Soybean, Cotton, Fish Culture in paddy fields and practical training of the members in 14 Production Training Centres.

Under the project, one lakh two thousand assetless members, both male and female in 5,000 groups are engaged in different income generating and productive employment activities. These include fish culture in 8 beels and 750 ponds, Cattle Rearing, Poultry, Fruits and Vegetable Cultivation, Bee-keeping, Food processing and Prawn Culture in polders Bamboo and Cane works, Jute bag making etc.

RD-5 Project has also taken up environment development and health programmes through participation of assetless members.

The members have transplanted 2,35,000 saplings beside 222 kilo meter roads. The women members look after the newly planted trees through wage employment. The project has distributed 3465 Hand Tubewells, 4192 Slab Latrines and 1822 Improved Woven. Through project, Activities, employment opportunity of 83,500 man months for 31,000 members, 90 per cent of whom are female have been created. They have earned more than 7

crore Taka through wage generating activities.

The project has completed training of 2,30,000 trainees in different fields including awareness raising, leadership development, income generating activities and skill development. The landless members have accumulated Taka 5.28 crore through weekly savings. The project at a cost of Taka 42 crore 13 lakh 24 thousand is being implemented with the assistance of Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the Government of Bangladesh.

BISF earns Tk 9.56 cr during 1994-95

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Insulator and Sanitary-ware Factory (BISF), an enterprise of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) earned a net profit of Tk 9.56 crore during 1994-95.

This was disclosed at the Annual General Meeting of the BISF held Thursday.

The meeting, presided over by BCIC Chairman Nazmul Alam, reviewed the position of production, sale and profitability of the company.

The BISF produced 2,330 metric tones (MT) of sanitary-ware, 763 MT insulator and 77,309 square metre tiles during the first nine months of 1995-96.

The company has strengthened its marketing position competing with imported sanitary products under the free market economy. As a result, profitability position has registered further improvement and the factory earned Tk 7 crore 50 lakh during first 9 months of 1995-96.

M Akhter Kamal, director finance, BCI and other members of BISF were present.



The first full Board Meeting of International Leasing and Financial Services Ltd. (ILFSL) was held on Monday. It was presided over by its Chairman Motiul Islam and attended by all the directors, including the expatriate directors from abroad.

Jute spinners demand devaluation of currency

The Bangladesh Jute Spinners' Association (BJSJA) Thursday called upon the caretaker government to enunciate a short-term policy immediately to make the shattered national economy more dynamic, reports BSS.

Referring to the massive damages recently inflicted into the national economy, particularly in export trade, the association said that it would not be wise to wait for the next elected government to decide the fate of the national economy.

The association, in the greater interest of revitalisation of export business, suggested a series of measures including immediate devaluation of Bangladeshi currency, extending 10 per cent marketing support against export of jute yarn and exemption of entire interest on the running capital for recovery of the damages.

Besides, the association suggested formation of a "task force" comprising representatives from jute, finance and commerce ministries.

The association also demanded immediate measures against the curse of load-shedding which has a detrimental effect on the production of mills and factories.

Referring to declaration of 10 per cent external market assistance (EMA) against FOB of jute export by India, the principal contestant of Bangladesh in international market, the association said that without special support the Bangladeshi exporters of jute and jute goods could not survive such a situation to protect Bangladeshi interest. The association said that in the previous fiscal year the export volume of Indian jute was 61,000 tonnes and the current year's target is 80,000 tonnes.

Public sector incurs loss of Tk 2,500 cr per year Bangladesh needs to establish more export-oriented industries: Fowler

CHITTAGONG, Apr 26: British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Peter J Fowler said here Thursday that Bangladesh would have to strengthen her private sector and establish more export oriented industries to achieve speedy economic progress, reports BSS.

He also said that the public sector in Bangladesh was incurring a loss of Taka two and a half thousand crore per annum and as such there was need for strengthening private sector.

Fowler said this while exchanging views with members of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the

Chamber House here. He said, Bangladesh should give priority to developing physical infrastructures and manpower, population control, primary education and health services.

He said that Britons were interested in economic development of Bangladesh and several multinational British companies were already contributing towards Bangladesh economy. He said Bangladesh has problems in power sector, but the country has enough stock of gas, a British companies is exploring gas in the Bay of Bengal and more British companies would invest in Bangladesh.

He also stressed the need

for more Bangladesh-India economic cooperation.

The British High Commissioner pointed out that Bangladesh economy had suffered a lot because of political movement. Whoever comes to power through election would have to bear the brunt of massive loss in socio-economic sector of Bangladesh, he added.

Earlier, welcoming Fowler, chamber President Sarwar Jamal Nizam said that Bangladesh had traditional relation with Britain and she had been extending cooperation in economic development of Bangladesh. Nizam also called for more British investment in Chittagong.



Yoji Hamano, General Manager of Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel, accorded warm welcome to Richard Roerig, President of Unocal Bangladesh Limited, with a beautiful flower bouquet on his recent visit to Bangladesh.

A potato worth \$ 550!

HANOI, Apr 26: A giant sweet potato, which was discovered by a Vietnamese farmer three months ago, has been sold to a hotel owner for \$50 dollars.

An employee of the hotel in the central town of Hoi and told Reuters on Thursday that the potato, weighing 85 kg (187 lb), was put on show by its new owner at a local exhibition hall after he bought it in February.

Visitors were charged 1,000 dong (0.09) dollar each for a glimpse.

The potato has since been moved to the hotel, where it now serves as a gimmick to attract customers.

"It's very big," the hotel employee said, "as big as a man."

Eurotunnel's losses double in '95

PARIS, Apr 26: Channel tunnel operator Eurotunnel more than doubled its 1995 net losses to 7,196 billion francs (1.41 billion dollars) against a 3.2 billion franc loss the previous year, it said yesterday, according to AFP.

Turnover for the year was 2,266 billion francs.

The Franco-British company confirmed its objective of a 50 per cent growth in turnover this year. In the first three months of the year turnover was up 140 per cent at 800 million francs, it said.

Eurotunnel's Joint President Patrick Ponsolle said the 1996 figures were "encouraging" and said he was "reasonably optimistic" for the company this year.

Japan's vehicle exports fall

TOKYO, Apr 26: Japan's auto exports have declined for the fourth consecutive fiscal year as cheaper production costs continued to lure manufacturers abroad, an industry association said Thursday, reports AP.

Exports of cars, trucks and buses fell 20 per cent in March from the previous March to 325,734 vehicles, an industry group said Thursday.

The March tally, announced by the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, brought the total for the fiscal year ended March 31 to 3,623,727, down 17 per cent from the previous year.

Matthew Ruddick, an auto analyst at James Capel Pacific Ltd., said Honda Motor Co. in particular has been stepping up production in both the United States and Europe.

He also noted that Japanese automakers have been putting more energy into marketing locally produced vehicles.

Some Japanese automakers — especially Mazda Motor Corp. and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. — have been losing market share in the United States, said Ruddick, adding that the result has been big inventories, causing them to cut production.

World grain prices soar with dwindling food stocks

LONDON, Apr 26: World grain prices lifted higher into the stratosphere here amid renewed warnings about the peril of dwindling world food stocks, reports Reuters.

Traders in Asia hit the keys on the global electronic dealing system to propel benchmark Chicago wheat futures to yet new highs. At 6.85 dollars per bushel, the near month May contract was up almost 40 per cent since January 1.

Kansas City wheat had topped seven dollars on Wednesday for the first time in history. That was almost double values a year ago.

"The lowest US stocks since 1948 and unfavourable weather underpin grain prices," says Zsolt Papp, analyst with UBS global research, in his bank's latest commodities outlook. Strong demand will likely keep supplies tight for the next 12 months.

Cash pinched third world importers haven't had to pay so much, in nominal if not inflation adjusted terms, since the 1970s when catastrophic harvests on its collective farms led Soviet Russia to raid western grain markets.

Analysts say high grain prices may not deliver the kind of inflationary spiral that can accompany surges on the cost of oil. But they may add to hardship among the world's poor.

The obscene scourge hunter persists, said Obaiddullah Khan, an official of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

He spoke at a meeting in Bangkok on Thursday that, coincidentally, threw a spotlight on the plight of almost 500 million malnourished people in the Asia-Pacific region.

Elsewhere on Thursday, the London-based International Grains Council (IGC), an authoritative monitor, prepared a

new report that the grain trade expects will again highlight the danger of dwindling food stocks.

Analysts said these were already low as 1996 began, because of earlier drought in Australia, North Africa and Russia.

Now, the weather has turned foul in the grain basket of the Midwest of the United States, the world's biggest exporter. Fading hopes of recovery in the parched US wheat crop were the factor that drove prices this week. Winder wheat planted last autumn from Texas to Ohio has been battered by drought, winds and a bitter cold. The government said on Monday that 45 per cent of US winter wheat is in poor or very poor condition.

Elsewhere, the European Union studies possible measures to use new and higher export taxes to curb its exports of grain in a bid to keep down internal bread prices. A proposed tax on flour exports would be the first since prices began climbing.

Analysts say it is difficult to find a pattern in how soaring grain prices affect either the global economy or the availability and cost of bread in the shops.

In several poor third world nations, government may need to divert foreign exchange and higher bread prices certainly won't ease the plight of the world's poorest.

But among the big importers, Egypt subsidises street bread prices — and the pinch on the state exchequer may be eased by currently firmer prices for its crude oil.

India has surplus wheat to sell, so it can look for a windfall. Southern Africa also expects a bumper maize crop.

UBS global research also says prices may fall back later this year as less grain is used

for animal feed.

So far as western inflation is concerned, oil prices tend to have the biggest impact among the different commodities.

UBS sees current tight oil supply easing before July. For oil bulls, today's feast may become tomorrow's famine, it says.

For nations that must soon buy grain, the most volatile trading may be yet to come. Japan on Thursday bought 200,000 tonnes of wheat although Jordan postponed a tender this week.

It may have bet that at least the speculative forth could soon be taken off the top of the market. A bout of profit-taking hit Chicago grain pits mid-week. At dizzy heights, prices swung wildly — and may do so again.

"Unbelievable volatility, and choppy," was how veteran Chicago grain trader Vic Lepinsky of Dean Witter Reynolds described Wednesday's trading conditions.

Next Tuesday, May 30, first delivery notices are due against the Chicago May futures contract. The three-week cash delivery period often sees the most wild trading at futures exchanges.

On March 20, in the final minute of trading in the Chicago March wheat contract, prices soared more than 2 dollars a bushel to a record 7.50 dollars as a big grain company scrambled to buy contracts.

Illegal shipment of python skins seized at Moscow airport

MOSCOW, Apr 26: Officials at Moscow's international Sheremetyevo airport seized a large shipment of python skins, a newspaper reported Thursday, says AP.

A total of 48 skins, each about 6 metres (20 feet) long, were found in the luggage of a Ukrainian woman traveling from Kiev, reported the daily Moskovskiy Komsomolets.

It was the largest illegal shipment of snake skins ever to be seized in Russia, the newspaper wrote.

The skins had already been processed, indicating that there is an illegal tanning facility in Ukraine, the report said.

Training programme on leather craft begins

A week-long training programme on leather craft for voluntarily retired workers of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation began here on Thursday, reports UNB.

Adviser for Industries, Commerce, Jute and Textiles Shegufa Bakht Chaudhury inaugurated the training programme at the Bangladesh Jute Research Institute auditorium.

The Jute Ministry has undertaken a two-year programme of a series of such trainings on 25 trades for 8,000 "affected jute mills workers" under the Jute Sector Adjustment Training Programme.

Bangladesh signed an agreement worth Tk 1,000 crore equivalent to 250 dollar with the World Bank on February 25, 1992 for the Jute Sector Adjustment Training Programme.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Shegufa Chaudhury urged the trainees to devote themselves to their new profession to achieve skills and self reliance.

He urged the implementing agency, Centre for Development Research Bangladesh (CDRB), to prepare pragmatic training programmes to meet the need of the trainees and suit the country's socio economic environment.

Presided over by Jute Sec-

retary Safur Rahman, the inaugural function was also addressed by World Bank Resident Representative Owalee Suddat, and consultants M Sirajuddin and Lawre Slee.

In all, 25 workers are taking part in the first training programme on leather craft.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Higher Secondary Education Project
Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education
House # 13, Road # 4, Dhanmondi R/A
Dhaka

Tender No HSEP/Pro-d/Vehicle (ADB)/09/93/1903 Dated: 18-04-96

Re-Tender Notice (2nd Call)

- Sealed tenders are invited by the Programs Director, Higher Secondary Education Project, ADB Loan No. 1123-BAN(SF) under the Ministry of Education from the bonafide firms dealing with vehicles for purchase of 1 (one) Micro Bus (12 Seater) from ready stock for the office of the Programs Support Unit (PSU) of the project.
 - Tender schedule with specifications, terms and conditions can be obtained on submission of a written application and on cash payment of Tk 750.00 (Seven hundred & fifty) only (non-refundable) on all working days from 04/05/96 to 11/05/96 between 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM from the office of the undersigned or from the Ministry of Education (Asstt. Secretary, Section-12, Room No. 1825).
 - Each bid must be accompanied by a bid bond of 2% (two percent) of quoted price in the form of A/C Payee Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank in favour of the "Programs Director" Higher Secondary Education Project, Dhaka.
 - The bids will have to be dropped in the tender box placed in the office of the undersigned or in the Ministry of Education (Asstt. Secretary, Section-12, Room No. 1825) on 12/05/96 from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM and will be opened on the same date at 12:00 Noon in presence of the bidders or their representatives (if present).
 - The bid must be accompanied by the following documents: (a) Trade License, (b) Upto-date Income-Tax Clearance Certificate; (c) Bank Solvency Certificate (d) Satisfactory Performance Certificate from various government/semi government offices/autonomous bodies where the vehicles supplied.
- The authority is not bound to accept the lowest bid and reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity and to accept or reject any or all bids (totally or partially) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Pak trade gap may touch \$3b in '95-'96: Minister

ISLAMABAD, Apr 26: Pakistan's trade gap may touch three billion-dollar in 1995/96 (July-June) due to poor growth in exports and an increase in imports, Commerce Minister Ahmed Mukhtar said here, reports Reuters.

"We would be very close to the target for exports but we will cross the target of imports," Mukhtar said in an interview.

He said the export target of 9.2 billion dollars seemed achievable but imports might exceed 12 billion dollars compared to an earlier budgetary estimate of 10.94 billion dollars bringing the trade deficit to three billion dollars.

The trade gap widened to a provisional 2.69 billion dollar in July-March from 1.634 billion dollars in the year-ago period, Federal Bureau of Statistics said last week.

It said exports rose 4.9 per cent to 5.902 billion dollars in July-March from 5.628 billion dollars in the same year-ago period.

Imports rose 18.3 per cent to 8.592 billion dollars from 7.262 billion dollars.

The major reason for lesser exports is that our textiles that is our main sector is not picking up, particularly the garment industry," Mukhtar said.

He said domestic cotton prices were at par with international prices to which the textile sector was taking time to adjust.

Textiles account for 46 per cent of Pakistan's exports and despite the industry's difficulties they grew to 4.623 billion dollars in the 1994/95 compared to 3.822 dollars in 1993/94.

The increase was largely due to higher unit values rather rising volume.

Mukhtar said the government would have to reinvigorate the industry and even allow some concessions to make it compete with other countries but was presently constrained by conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"We are trying to find out ways and means to make our industry more competitive but are working on a very tight rope because of the IMF and the world bank conditions on reducing our internal deficit," he added.

Pakistan set a budget deficit target of 4.6 per cent of gross domestic product, instead of four per cent sought by the IMF, and cut maximum tariffs to 65 per cent rather than the IMF-agreed 45 per cent, forcing the IMF to stop a 1.5 billion dollars three-year lending programme.

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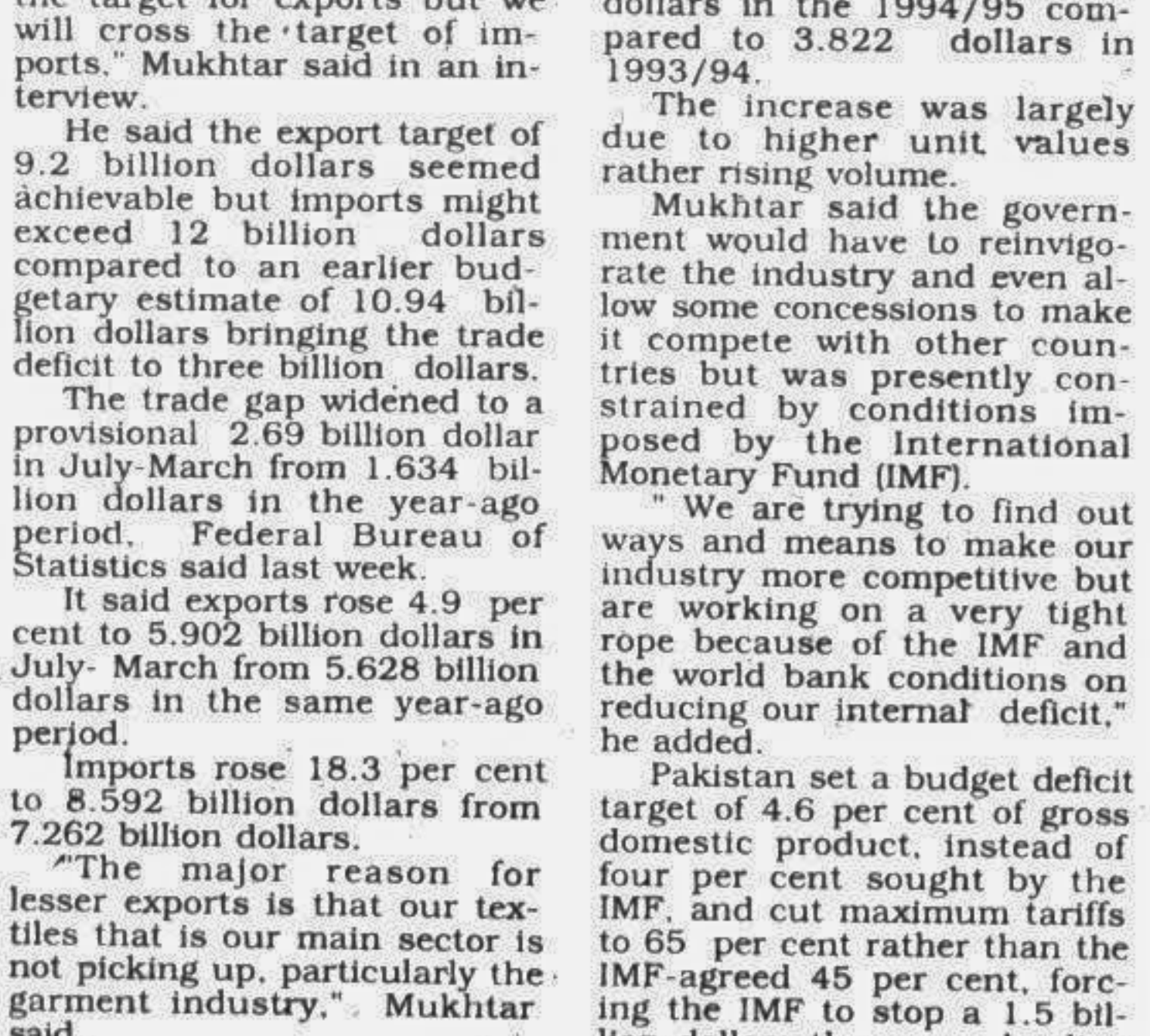
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The 6th board meeting of Phoenix Leasing Company Ltd was held at its head office in the city on Thursday with its Chairman Deen Mohammad presiding.

Phoenix Leasing Co sanctions Tk 136m till April

The Phoenix Leasing Company Ltd has so far sanctioned Taka 136 million till April to help accelerate the country's economic activity, says a press release.

This was revealed at the 6th board meeting of the company held at its head office in the city and on Thursday.

The Chairman of the company, Deen Mohammad, presided over the meeting.

The meeting also took important policy decisions for augmenting business of the company.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়
বাণেশ্বরহাট

সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এছাড়া সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, আর দপ্তরের দপ্তর বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২৬/৯৫-৯৬ এর ফর্ম নং-১ এবং ফর্ম নং-২ এর ক্ষেত্রে ৩য় পাইনে এইচবিবি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন উদ্দেশ্যে "এইচবিবি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন"-এর পরিবর্তে কাল দুইটির প্রকৃতিতে সংশ্লিষ্ট আদেশ "ফ্রাট সোলিং দ্বারা উন্নয়ন" পড়িতে হইবে এবং দপ্তর ক্রমের শেষ তারিখ ৬ দশমিকের তারিখ বন্ধাবসে আগামী ৭-৫-৯৬ইং ও ৮-৫-৯৬ইং নির্ধারণ করা হইল। দপ্তরের অন্যান্য সকল শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর
বাণেশ্বরহাট

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