

Taiwan to reduce foreign labour quotas

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Apr 26: Taiwan will cut the importation of foreign construction and factory workers by up to 30 per cent starting July 1 after registering its highest jobless rate in nine years...

The government's reports of Labour said it took a preliminary decision after unemployment hit 2.24 per cent in March. The rise is most acute in the construction sector...

The government sets limits on the percentage of foreigners who can work in any field. The 65 per cent quota in construction likely will be reduced to 50 per cent...

Critics of foreign labour say it slows Taiwan's industrial modernization and takes jobs from Taiwanese.

UN, Iraq need compromise, says Boutros Ghali

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 26: UN Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said on Thursday that talks with Iraq on an oil-for-food plan needed compromise between Iraq's sovereignty and the UN system of control...

Iraq and the UN adjourned talks on Wednesday on a plan that would allow Iraq to sell two billion dollars worth of oil every six months to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian goods...

We have to find a compromise between the principle of sovereignty of Iraq on one side and the control of the UN system of the way we will buy food and humanitarian assistance in exchange for oil...

He said that when he returned to New York next week his representative would resume efforts to resolve the dispute.

The embargoes were imposed shortly after Iraq's troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990. No date has been set for a resumption of the talks...

We don't want to underestimate that we have certain problems but I hope we will be able to overcome those problems and that we will be able to agree a memorandum of understanding...

Iraq has blamed the adjournment on the United States and Britain, which last week proposed changes in the plan that aims to allow Iraq oil to flow for the first time since 1990.

Forecast for world wheat harvest cut

LONDON, Apr 26: The International Grains Council (IGC), a leading monitor, cut its forecast for the 1996 world wheat harvest Thursday and said a recovery in global stocks from current 20-year lows would now be delayed beyond mid-1997...

Even as prices for the world benchmark US Wheat futures soared to historic highs, at around seven dollars a bushel from about 4.50 dollars a year ago, the London-based IGC cited weather damage to US winter wheat crops and reiterated concern about the low level of food stocks...

Now every million tonnes matters, said Bill De Maria, its Assistant Executive Director. What happened to US spring crops now being sown was crucial, he added.

The IGC's latest monthly report slashed its forecast for US wheat production this year by two million tonnes to 61 million. Russia was also seen down - by 500,000 tonnes to 32.5 million.

So the world harvest was now expected to be lower than previously forecast by 2.5 million at 561 million.

But a production forecast for the European Union (EU) was unchanged at 94 million tonnes despite the dry weather in some countries like Germany, France and Britain.

If we get some decent rain, crops can recover very quickly, said De Maria.

The projected world total at 561 million tonnes is up from 55 million last year when there was drought in Russia, Australia and North Africa. But the concern is the level to which stocks have dropped and how soon they will rebuild.

Clinton challenges Republicans to go further Congress passes budget '96

WASHINGTON, Apr 26: Congress passed a fiscal 1996 budget on Thursday but Democratic President Bill Clinton challenged Republicans to go further and resume talks on a broader balanced-budget deal, reports Reuter.

The long-overdue spending bill will quickly be sent to Clinton for his signature by Friday morning, the White House said. Technically many government agencies run out of funds at midnight Thursday, but no interruption in federal activities is expected since the bill will be signed.

The measure passed the Senate without debate on a vote of 88-11 soon after it passed the House 399-25. All votes against it in the Senate were the cast by Republicans. In the house 20 Republicans and five Democrats voted against it.

The compromise budget agreement ended the most protracted budget battle in US history, which left many agencies without assured funding and led to an unprecedented two partial government shutdowns.

It restored about 4.8 billion dollars in funds that Clinton wanted for job training, education, environmental protection and for an additional 100,000 police on the street. The increases were fully paid for by cuts in other areas to keep the plan on track toward a balanced budget.

The White House hailed the accord, seeking to take political credit by portraying Clinton as the bulwark against draconian Republican spending cuts. The President "stopped" them every step of the way, spokesman Mike McCurry said. Clinton said he was pleased

and called on Republican leaders to resume talks with him which broke down in January on how to balance the budget within seven years.

"Our work is not done," Clinton said in an unscheduled statement at the White House. "We should summon this same bipartisan spirit and we should work together to finish the job of balancing the federal budget in seven years."

Senate majority leader Bob Dole placed the chances of a balanced budget this year at 50-50. He said he would be willing to talk to Clinton once the Republicans complete their long-term plan.

"If we put together a good solid budget and the President wants to discuss it, we'll be very happy to discuss it with him," the Kansas Senator said.



The 18th annual general meeting of the National Tea Company Limited was held at Hotel Sheraton on Thursday with Mohd. A. Harris Chowdhury in the chair.

Foreign investment to continue if BJP wins: Vajpayee

NEW DELHI, Apr 26: Indian opposition leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee assured foreign manufacturers of consumer goods yesterday that they would be allowed to remain in India if his party wins power in national polls, reports AFP.

But those firms which did not already have a base in the country and were seeking a slice of its huge market of 900 million people will have to wait if the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) assumes office.

They will continue to function, Vajpayee told the foreign correspondents club when asked what would happen to foreign companies in the consumer sector if the BJP were to dislodge the ruling Congress party from power.

The BJP which swears by the principle of 'swadeshi' or economic self-reliance welcomes foreign investment in infrastructure and hi tech manufacturing.

But it says the lucrative consumer goods market should be kept a domestic preserve to protect local companies from competition.

Those multinational companies who want to contribute to India's development by entering the consumer sector will have to wait, Vajpayee said. The BJP has been at the forefront of opposition to foreign consumer goods flooding the Indian market under a policy of economic openness launched in 1991 ending four decades of semi-socialist policies that shunned overseas investors.

Foreign brand names ranging from ray-ban sunglasses to whirlpool washing machines have entered India amid criticism from some domestic industrial lobbies that they would spell the end of local manufacturers.

Vajpayee said the BJP may use Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, an economist and the architect of the liberalisation, as an advisor if it came to power.

His advice will be available to all future governments including mine, said Vajpayee touted by the opposition party as a potential prime minister. In a light vein, he said Singh, a former bureaucrat, made a better advisor than a minister.



Participants seen attending the first monthly management tea meeting in the city on Tuesday sponsored by Rapport Bangladesh Limited.

Rapport monthly meeting held

The first monthly management tea meeting of Rapport Bangladesh Limited was held at Panda Garden Restaurant on Tuesday, says a press release.

Sultan-uz-Zaman Khan, Chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission, was the guest speaker and delivered a talk on 'Stock Market in Bangladesh: Current and Future Trend'.

In his talk, Khan described the historical evolution of stock market in Bangladesh with reference to stock market development in SAARC countries.

He explained the gradual reforms taken place in economic and securities fields since the installation of democratic Government in Bangladesh.

He mentioned that as of March 1996, a total of 196 companies were being operated in the market. Although the number in 1995 was 201 but due to delisting for various reasons the current number of companies stands at 196 with paid up value of 488 million US dollars having a market capitalisation of 1370 million US dollars.

This has a turn over of seven million US dollars and value of traded securities rose to 27.50 million US dollars. All Share Price Index comes to 805 million US dollars, he added.

Participants who took part in the programme represent Square Pharmaceuticals, Excelsior Shoes Ltd, Jute Spinners Ltd, Noorani Group, Par-tex Group, Karnaphuli Insurance Co Ltd, Reliance Insurance Co Ltd, Heed Handicrafts, National Bank Ltd, John Snow Inc, IDLC, BGIC.

M Mosharraf Hossain, Managing Director of Rapport Bangladesh Limited, summed up the deliberation at the end.

Consumer prices up in Japan

TOKYO, Apr 26: Japan's overall consumer prices in March rose by 0.2 per cent from February and 0.1 per cent year-on-year, but annual inflation rate fell by 0.1 per cent on average from the previous year, the management and coordination agency said Friday, reports AFP.

IFAD to provide \$6.3m loan to Bosnia

ROME, Apr 26: Bosnia-Herzegovina will get a 6.3 million dollars loan and a one million dollar grant to help rebuild stocks of sheep, goats and other animals for meat and milk production under a deal signed Thursday, reports AP.

The deal was put together by a Rome-based UN agency, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, or IFAD.

IFAD said the project will allow the country to build up herds devastated by war. The money will help cover purchase and distribution of heifers, bulls, goats, sheep and rams to some 5,500 small herders, IFAD said.

Besides increasing milk and meat production, the project will also create employment, the agency said.

National Tea Co approves 10 pc dividend

The National Tea Company approved 10 per cent dividend and 10.1 bonus share to its shareholder, reports BSS.

This was declared at the 18th annual general meeting of the company held on Thursday at Hotel Sheraton with Mohd A Harris Chowdhury in the chair.

The shareholders discussed and reviewed the activities of the company including its development programmes and approved the audited account for the year 1995.

This year Muhammad Faizur Rahman has been elected director amongst the A-class shareholders M Nazrul Islam Siddiqui has been renominated as director from the B-class shareholders.

S'pore safest place for business dealing

HONG KONG, Apr 26: Vietnam is the riskiest place in Asia to deal with, while Singapore is the safest, according to a new study published here Thursday, reports AFP.

The report, by the Hong Kong-based political and economic risk consultancy, shows that Singapore leapfrogged Japan in the safe-bet stakes, with both countries given a risk factor less than half those of Vietnam and India, the second most perilous business environment.

Vietnam also headed the report's systemic and socio-political risk table, followed by China.

However, the report said, as with investments in general, it is often the high risks that can provide the best returns.

Although Singapore and Hong Kong offer some of the best economic dynamics in the region in terms of actual performance, it is the higher-risk countries like China, India and Indonesia where the biggest potential for growth and investment opportunities lie, the report said.

EU gives \$1.5m aid to flood victims in Laos

BANGKOK, Apr 26: The European Union (EU) said on yesterday it has provided more than 1.5 million dollars in humanitarian aid to assist flood victims in Laos, reports Reuter.

The EU office in Bangkok said in a statement it has given Laos 1,512,170 dollars in emergency humanitarian aid since January through the European Community Humanitarian Office. Serious floods hit five Loatian province last year, affecting some 400,000 people, almost 10 per cent of the population.



New SIA GM in Bangladesh

Colin Neubronner has taken over as General Manager, Bangladesh of Singapore Airlines recently, says a SIA press release.

Prior to his present assignment he served in Cap Town for two years.

A mechanical engineer by training Neubronner joined Singapore Airlines in 1989.

After his arrival in Dhaka he has introduced several exciting all inclusive SIA holiday packages to seven exotic nations in Southeast Asia.

Bangladesh Railway Engineering Department Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. CE/E/33/96 Dated: 21/4/96

1. Sealed tenders are invited for the works mentioned below from the Registered 'C' Class contractor of Bangladesh Railway Engineering Department (East Zone) having requisite experience.

Table with 5 columns: Group, Name of work, Approximate Cost, Cost of tender document un-refundable, Earnest Money, Requisite experience. Includes details for construction of 4 storied 8 units residential building.

D-414 Addl. Chief Engineer/ Br East/CTG

Bangladesh Open University

বাড়ি # ১৬, সড়ক # ০২, ধানমন্ডি আ/এ ঢাকা-১২০৫

পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের জন্য নিম্নে বর্ণিত পদে বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদেয় অন্যান্য তাতাদিসহ পদের পার্শ্বে বর্ণিত বেতন ছেলে নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তাধীনে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাইতেছেঃ

Table with 4 columns: Post, Salary, Qualification, Remarks. Lists positions like উপ-পরিচালক (পরীক্ষা) and সহ-পরিচালক (তথ্য ও গণসংযোগ).

পদসমূহঃ

- ১। আবেদনপত্র নিম্নলিখিত বিবরণসহ "রেজিস্ট্রার, বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা"-এর বরাবরে সাদা কাগজে লিখিত হইবেঃ (ক) প্রার্থীর নাম (খ) পিতা/স্বামীর নাম (গ) স্থায়ী ঠিকানা (বর্তমান/যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা) (ঘ) জন্ম তারিখ (ঙ) ১৫-০৫-৯৬ইং তারিখে বয়স (চ) জাতীয়তা (ছ) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা (পরীক্ষার নাম, শ্রেণী/বিভাগ, পাসের সন ইত্যাদি স্পষ্টভাবে উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে) (জ) প্রশিক্ষণ (ঝ) দেশে (ঞ) বিদেশে (ধ) গবেষণা (য়দি থাকে) (ঞ) অভিজ্ঞতাঃ (পূর্ব চাকরি পূর্ণ বিবরণ যথা-পদ/পদসমূহের নাম, প্রতি পদে বৈতনিক, চাকরিস্থল, দায়িত্ব ও কর্তব্য, নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম ও ঠিকানা ইত্যাদি স্পষ্টভাবে উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে) (ট) অভিজ্ঞ যোগ্যতা যদি থাকে। ২। আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে প্রতি পদের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত সনদপত্রাদির সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি, সত্যায়িত ছবি এবং লাংক ডাকট/পে-অর্ডার প্রেরণ করিতে হইবে। প্রত্যেক সনদপত্রের অনুলিপি ও প্রার্থীর ছবি প্রথম শ্রেণীর সরকারি সার্ভিসে সত্যায়িত করিতে হইবে। ক) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও প্রশিক্ষণ সূত্রান্ত ও অন্যান্য সকল প্রকার মূল/সাময়িক সনদপত্র (মার্কসিট/সেট্টিমেন্টাল গ্রহণযোগ্য নহে)। খ) সম্পত্তি তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট আকারের ছবি। গ) চরিত্রগত সার্টিফিকেট (সর্বশেষ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধান/প্রথম শ্রেণীর সরকারী কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত)। ঘ) নগরিকত্ব সার্টিফিকেট (নিজ নিজ এলাকার ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/শৌর চেয়ারম্যান/ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার অথবা প্রথম শ্রেণীর সরকারী কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত)। ঙ) মুক্তিযোদ্ধা প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদের চেয়ারম্যানের স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত এবং প্রধান উপদেষ্টা কর্তৃক প্রত্যায়িত মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদপত্র। চ) উপকারী সম্প্রদায়িক গ্রাণ্ডিগনের ক্ষেত্রে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট হইতে প্রাপ্ত সনদপত্র। ছ) আবেদনকারীকে জনতা ব্যাংক, বাউলি ক্যাম্পাস শাখা, পাঞ্জাব-এর বরাবরে বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অনুক্ষে ইলেক্ট্রনিক ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা মূল্যের ব্যাংক ডাকট/পে-অর্ডার (অফেজডযোগ্য) আবেদনপত্রের সহিত পরিষা দিতে হইবে। পোষ্টাল অর্ডার গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না। ৩। উপরোক্ত পদসমূহে আবেদনকারীদেরকে মূল আবেদনসহ (৭)সাত) কপি আবেদনসহ শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার সত্যায়িত সনদপত্রসহ প্রেরণ করিতে হইবে। ৪। উপরে বর্ণিত সংযোজনসহ প্রতিটি আবেদনপত্র "রেজিস্ট্রার, বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, রোড নং-২, বাড়ি নং-১৬, ধানমন্ডি আ/এ, ঢাকা-১২০৫" এই ঠিকানায় রেজিস্ট্রি ডাকে ১৫-০৫-৯৬ইং তারিখের মধ্যে পৌঁছাইতে হইবে। ৫। প্রত্যেক প্রার্থীকে তাহার প্রার্থিত পদের নাম বামের উপর স্পষ্টভাবে লিখিতে হইবে এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বামের উপর "মুক্তিযোদ্ধা" শব্দটি লিখিতে হইবে। ৬। বিভাগীয়/চাকরিতত্ত্ব প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে যথাসময়ে আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণ নিশ্চিত করিতে হইবে। ৭। কৃষা তথা স্ববেলিত/ক্রটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ অথবা ১৫-০৫-৯৬ইং তারিখের পর প্রাপ্ত অথবা নির্ধারিত টাকার ব্যাংক ডাকট/পে-অর্ডার কিংবা উপরে বর্ণিত ব্যাংক ব্যতীত অন্য কোন ব্যাংকে দেয় ব্যাংক ডাকট/পে-অর্ডারসহ দরখাস্ত বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। ৮। দরখাস্তের সহিত দাবিকৃত কোন কিছুই ফেরত দেওয়া হইবে না। ৯। এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের কালসে কর্তৃপক্ষ আবেদনকারীর পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করিতে/তাহাকে প্রার্থিত পদে নিয়োগ প্রদান করিতে বাধ্য থাকিবেন না। ১০। সাক্ষরকারে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টি/ডি/প্রদান করা হইবে না। বিশেষ প্রস্তাবঃ ১। কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারের অভিজ্ঞতা অভিজ্ঞ যোগ্যতা হিসাবে বিবেচিত হইবে। ২। ইতিপূর্বে প্রচারিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রেক্ষিতে যাহারা আবেদন করিয়াছিলেন তাহাদেরকে পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।