

The Paily Star DUSINESS

DHAKA FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1996

HYUNDAI

CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

Airfreight expert presents findings

Horticulture exports from Bangladesh face problem

The country's exporters of the horticulture products are facing serious problem due to lack of adequate space on Biman flights, an airfreight expert said yesterday, reports

Presenting his findings and recommendations at a briefing session on "The potentials of the Bangladeshi airfreight industry to support horticulture exports" M A Alim said sometimes it so happened that threefourths metric tons of horticulture products were off-loaded from the Biman flight due to lack of space.

Held in the conference room of the Export Promotion Bureau, the briefing session was the follow-up of the May 20 conference on "Horticulture export from Bangladesh", jointly organised by the Export Promotion Bureau and Agro-based Industries and Technology Development Project.

Alim said the Bangladeshi exporters were very often compelled to send their products by other airlines by paying higher freight charges.

of the off-loaded consignment was put in on sale in local markets at a lower price and the rest was just thrown away.

Alim said had there been storage facilities provided by Bangladesh Biman, off-loaded consignments could have been sent by the next connecting

The airfreight industry expert recommended allocation of more cargo space for the carriage of horticulture products. Alim said packaging mate-

rials meeting international standards were not produced in Bangladesh and so the exporters had to package export consignments in traditional packaging. He suggested that the packag-

ing materials should be produced and manufactured in Dhaka to ensure packaging of international standard. Alim said Bangladesh cur-

rently exported over 15,000 metric tons of vegetables and fruits per year to cater to the needs of a large number of ethnic population of the South

Asian Sub-Continent residing in Middle East and the United Kingdom

Referring to trolley crisis at the Zia International Airport he said that the packages were stacked three to four times due to an insufficient number of trollevs.

Alim recommended that the Biman should develop cold storage facilities in the interest of exporting a large quantum of horticulture products. He suggestions also included increasing of more trolleys, sanctioning of loans on easy terms to the growers of horticulture products and exporters by the Krishi Bank, developing of export villages in the areas close to the capital Dhaka and maintaining of classification and gradation

of horticulture products. Presided over by Ronald P Black, country chief of International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC), the briefing session was addressed, among others, by Abdur Rahim Khan, Director of Export Promotion Bureau and Oqba, Director of Bangladesh Biman.

tion United Front government

took office in June, said further

reforms were on the cards to

make the country's markets —

buttressed by a 200-million-

strong middle-class - even

Honey production

in Madaripur

decreases

Honey production in the greater

Faridpur district has decreased

considerably due to unplanned

Shariatpur district had abun-

dance of honeycombs and there

were honeycombs at the forest

areas of Madaripur, Gopalganj.

But, the local elite said, in-

experienced and unskilled

honey collectors indiscrimi-

nately cut honeycombs destroy-

ing those and driving away the

decreased due to decline in the

The number of honeycombs

Farmers suggested formula-

- AFP/UNB photo

tion of law and policy to prevent

indiscriminate destruction of

Sources said 5-7 years ago.

collection, reports UNB.

Rajbari and Faridpur.

honey bees.

number of bees.

honeycombs.

MADARIPUR, Sept 12:

more attractive.

British Airways to acquire remaining shares of TAT Airlines

British Airways has confirmed its decision to exercise its option to purchase the remaining 50.1 per cent of the share capital of its French partner TAT European Airlines. says a press release.

British Airways acquired 49. 9 per cent of TAT in January 1993 with an agreement to purchase the balance by April 1

Bob Ayling, British Airways' Chief Executive, said: "French law now allows us to own 100 per cent of TAT. Accordingly we are acquiring the remaining shares in the airline as originally agreed.

'We intend now to take further steps to improve TAT's profitability and prepare the airline for the changes that are taking place in the French aviation market.

We wish to express gratitude to Michel and Rodolphe Marchais for their contribution since British Airways first invested in TAT three years ago." Marc Rochet, previously Chairman of AOM and Aero-

maritime, is to be appointed

Minister Tunky Aribowo, refusing to elaborate.

General Ajit Singh.

solve the dispute.

Rice and sugar are the only

A solution will be announced

very soon after that in-

formation is received, said In-

donesian Trade and Industry

JAKARTA, Sept 11: South-

reports AP

dispute over rice trade bones of contention in

Goal of free trade area on track

ASEAN ministers fail to resolve

East Asian trade ministers ASEAN's goal to create an ASEAN Free Trade Area by failed Wednesday to resolve a dispute over opening up the rice trade in the region, but said the By then, it wants more than bigger goal of setting up a free 90 per cent of tariffs in the trade area is firmly on track. member nations - Indonesia Singapore, Malaysia Thailand

The row in the Association the Philippines, Brunei and of South-East Asian Nations is Vietnam - reduced to a maxiover Indonesia's refusal to mum of five per cent. lower tariffs on rice and sugar Most members are even willby a deadline of 2010. It aims to ing to advance the target date to protect its market until 2020.

The Philippines also has made The mood is very positive. the same demand for rice. Everybody wants to see progress After two days of fruitless made not only by the target date negotiations by their senior ofbut even earlier," Singh said. ficials, the ASEAN trade minis-"We definitely are quite

happy with the progress ters also failed to find an answer, said ASEAN Secretaryachieved," Singapore Trade Minister Yeo Cheow Tong said at a joint news conference. He As an interim solution Singh said, his office will prosaid 88 per cent of products vide more information on the would be within the five per rice trade, which could help cent tariff range by 2000.

It is generally acknowledged that the rice and sugar row will have little impact on the progress of AFTA

Indonesia, ASEAN's biggest member, and the Philippines say cheaper imports will wreck their domestic markets and

jeopardize the livelihoods of

millions of farmers. Philippine Trade Secretary Cesar Bautista said earlier that rice has always been a politically sensitive commodity in many countries.

In fact it can bring down governments," he said.

"Just like in any other agro sector, too much opening will cause instability." he said. adding that the Philippines must be allowed to "liberalize at a reasonable pace for one commodity and one commodity

Thailand, a major rice exporter, has been the most upset at the Indonesian and Philippine position.

But in line with ASEAN's policy of keeping a united front the Thai minister said Wednesday he is satisfied with the interim solution.

ASEAN, with a total trade of 700 billion dollars and a population of 400 million, is the world's fourth largest trader after the United States

EC allocates 75000 tonnes of wheat to Bangladesh

The European Community (EC) has allocated 75,000 tonnes of wheat, worth about Taka 85 crore to Bangladesh. reports BSS.

A shipment of 25,000 tonnes of wheat is expected to reach Chittagong Port by the end of this month while the remaining 50,000 tonnes are to be delivered in October, and November, an EC press release said

here yesterday. These quantities will be divided equally between the Vulnerable Groups Development (VGD) programme and conventional targeted rural-development programme and conventional targeted rural-development programmes.

These programmes are being implemented with the collaboration of ministries of food, relief and disaster management. women and children's affairs. local government, rural development and cooperatives, fisheries and livestock and land.

The world food programme has planned and will supervise and monitor the development activities which this allocation

will support.
The EC delivered a total of 225,000 tonnes of wheat to Bangladesh during 1995-96 financial year, the press release

UCBL executives elected

The United Commercial

Bank Ltd has elected Md Ja-

hangir Alam Khan Chairman and Sultana Hashem Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the bank, says a press Haji Younus Ahmed has

elected Chairman of the Executive Committee of the bank. They were all elected at a meeting of the Board of Direc-

tors held at its office in the city on Tuesday Md Jahangir Alam Khan is a enowned industrialist.

He is the Chairman and Managing Director of JK Fabrics Ltd and JK Textiles Ltd. Sultana Hashem is the Chairman of the Partex Group and a renowned industrialist.

He is the Chairman and Managing Director of Younusco

In a recent meeting of the

Board of Directors of Janata In-

surance Company Limited Aziz

Al-Kaiser and Gamrun Nahar

were unanimously elected

Chairman and Vice-Chairman

respectively of the Board of Di-

rectors, while Md Nazrul Islam

Khan was elected Chairman of

the Executive Committee of

Janata Insurance Co Ltd, says a

an industrial entrepreneur and

the Managing Director of Dan-

ish Condensed Milk (BD) Lim-

ited and Deputy Managing Di-

rector of Partex Group of Indus-

tries. He is also the 1st Vice

President of Lions Club of

Dhaka Oriental and Member of

Vice-Chairman Qamrun Na-

Dhaka Club and Gulshan Club.

har, wife of late Humayun Za-

hir, is the Vice Principal of

Dhaka Mahila College. She is

also the Managing Director of

Ananta Properties Ltd and

Bimpex Ltd and associated with

various philanthropic organi-

man Md Nazrul Islam Khan did

his MSS in Economics from

Chittagong University. Besides

a Director of M/s J K Fabrics

and J K Textile Mills Ltd he is

also the proprietor of M/s

WTO urged to

eye dairy,

sugar accords

think-tank yesterday urged

member countries of the World

Trade Organisation (WTO) to

At the same time, European

move towards formal agree-

GENEVA, Sept 12: A global

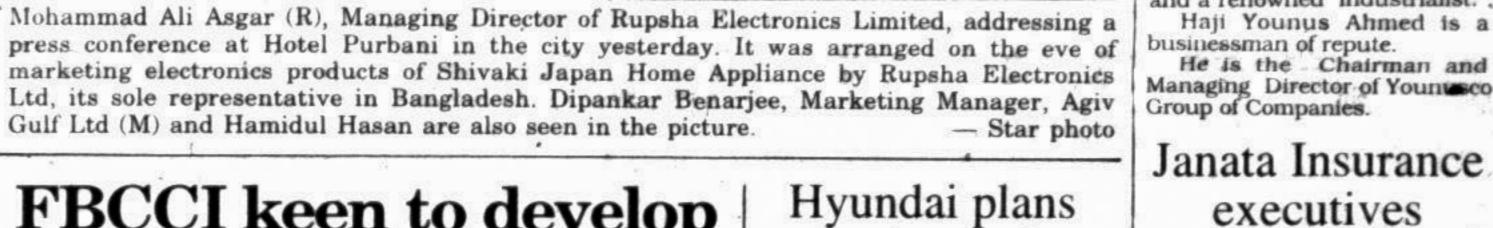
Tayseer Enterprise.

Executive Committee Chair-

Chairman Aziz Al-Kaiser is

press release.

zations.



FBCCI keen to develop trade links with India

Gulf Ltd (M) and Hamidul Hasan are also seen in the picture.

GUWAHATI, Sept 12: The tween Dhaka and Guwahati. Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has evinced keen interest in developing stronger trade links with India, specially in the cement and power sectors of the north-eastern re-

gion, reports PTI. President of FBCCI, Salman F Rahman said here Tuesday. that the organisation was seriously looking at cement from limestone and was also keen to import power from coal, which was abundant in the region.

Trade in items like granite and bamboo, besides food items could be carried on by the two countries and with the political relations improving, the business community on both sides should take advantage of the

Urging for a more reciprocal trade relation. Rahman said that the current trade imbalance should be corrected and Bangladesh should get free access to the Indian market as was the case of Indian goods in his country.

The trade imbalance, he said, was high with India's exports in Bangladesh worth over 1.2 billion dollars, while the export to this country was a meagre 72 million dollars an-

nually. Rahman, leading a 32-member delegation of the FBCCI, officials and journalists of the country on a visit to Meghalaya and Assam, emphasised the need for a direct air link be-

He said that the visit was the first high level contact between the business communities of the two countries and provided a chance to know their respec-

tive areas of functioning. The purpose of the visit was to identify the potential area where the two countries could cooperate with each other.

PATUAKHALI, Sept 12: About 35,000 acres of land in Barguna district remained uncultivated in the current season due to water-logging, reports

According to local farmers they could not prepare seedbeds and produce aman crops as a vast tract of low land was under water for a long time.

Water Development Board and Agriculture officials admitted that aman cultivation in the district suffered set back due to

Farmers have urged the au-

Hyundai plans to relocate its Canada plant to India

SEOUL, Sept 12: South Korea's Hyundai Motor Co plans to relocate its idled auto plant in Canada to India, which it sees as a growing market, reports

"We're in the final stage of resolving financial and other problems related to the relocation," a Hyundai official said Thursday, requesting anonym-Hyundai's auto plant in

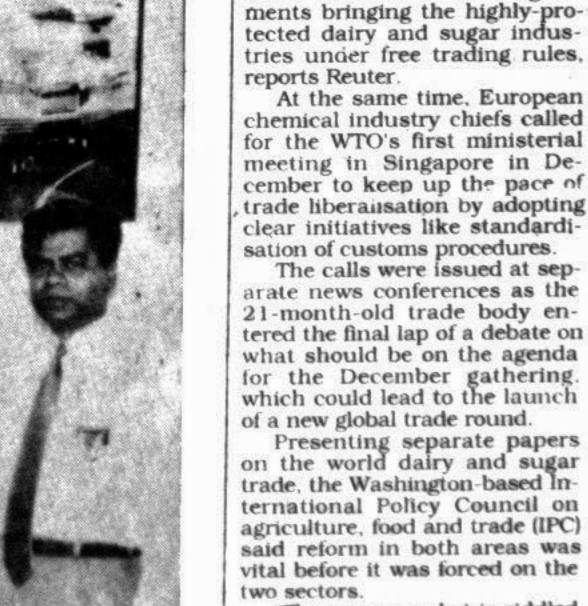
Bromont, Canada, built in 1989 with a rated annual capacity of 100,000 "Sonata" models, has been shut down since 1994 because of a lack of demand in North America.

After trying to sell it for two years, Hyundai has finally decided to relocate the 400 million dollars facility to India, where it plans to build a new auto plant, the official said.

The largest South Korean carmaker announced plans in June to build a 100,000-unit auto plant in India's Tamil Nadu province by the fall of 1998. Work on it is scheduled to begin in October.

Hyundai officials said their India plant will produce mainly subcompact "Accent" cars with an engine size of less than 1,500

Hyundai Motor is a subsidiary of the giant Hyundai group, South Korea's no. 2 conglomerate.



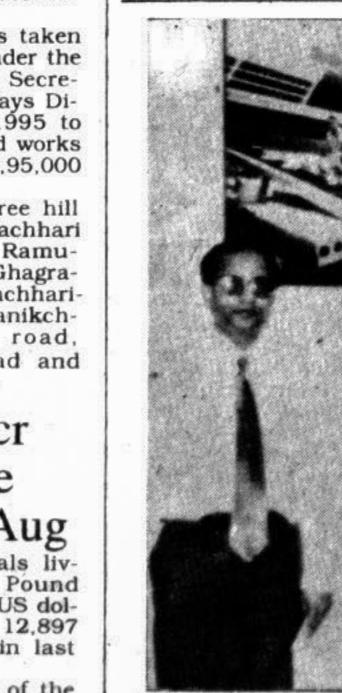
The sugar market is riddled with distortions because of protection, including expert subsidies and quotas, and a more rational and liberalised system would bring huge benefit to the world economy," said IPC sugar specialist Sir Michael Fanklin.

35000 acres of land remain uncultivated in Barguna

water-logging. Besides, acute scarcity of

fodder has compelled the farmers to sell their cattlehead.

thorities to take immediate measures to remove water logging and enhance aman production.



remittance received in Aug Bangladeshi nationals living abroad remitted Pound



By Staff Correspondent A five-day national tripartite training programme on industrial relation for officials of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower, employees and trade unions at a local hotel concluded vesterday.

The closing ceremony was addressed by Dauduzzaman Chowdhury, joint secretary, Ministry of Labour and Manpower and ILO Dhaka office Director Paul J Bailey

The ILO director said that the information provided by the participants would be used to conduct this programme on a more practical level in the next round on training mediators scheduled for mid-level offi-

cials in early 1997. He hoped that some of the participants would be able to use the training manual materials and training methodology to mount similar training programmes for their own con-

straints.

Earlier, the 5-day training programme was inaugurated by the Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan.

During the training programme, elaborate discussions were held on different industry related issues like "the main elements of industrial relations" lessons from labour relations in other Asian countries, globalisation and industrial relations and "labour disputes and their settlement"

Paul J Bailey director ILO. A Sivanthrian, specialist on industrial relations from new Delhi. Auret van Heerden, specialist from Geneva, Dauduzzaman Chowdhury, Ministry of Labour and Manpower and Mollah Golam Sarwar were the main resource persons at the

programme. 5-yr plan taken up to construct 15 roads in 3 hill districts

BANDARBAN, Sept 12: A five-year plan was taken again in the fiscal 1995-96 to construct 15 roads in three hill districts which were left incomplete during the last 11 years, reports UNB.

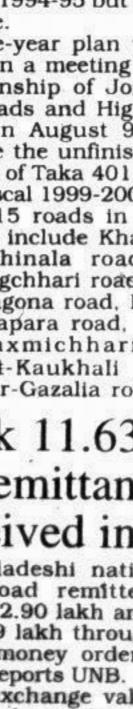
An official source said schemes were taken first under a plan for the development of 554.68 km roads in the fiscal 1984-85 and the development works were progressed at the cost of Taka 267,38,28,000 upto the year 1994-95 but was left incomplete.

A five-year plan was taken further in a meeting under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary. Roads and Highways Division, in August 9, 1995 to complete the unfinished works at a cost of Taka 401,92,95,000

by the fiscal 1999-2000. The 15 roads in three hill districts include Khagrachhari and Dghinala road, Ramu-Naikhongchhari road. Ghagra-Chandragona road, Panchhari-Tamakkapara road, Manikchhari-Luxmichhari road, Ranirhat-Kaukhali road and Aziznagar-Gazalia road.

Tk 11.63 cr

Starling 2.90 lakh and US dollar 23.29 lakh through 12,897 foreign money orders in last month, reports UNB.



The exchange value of the money orders in local currency was over Taka 11.63 crore. which was paid to the payees and dependents of the remitters living in different parts of the country.



A K M Jahangir Alam DHL Sales Executive receiving a certificate from the chief guest, Anselm A Quiah, Managing Director, Homebound Group after completion of "Focus on yes" training conducted by Showket Hossain, Country Sales & Marketing Manager. Desmond Quiah, DHL Country Manager spoke at the concluding ceremony as a special guest and Md Ashrafuzzman, H R Manager was also present on the occasion.



that the government was de-

where there is such a large

market under one system of

law, accounting, taxes, under

one set of rules?" he asked some

500 government officials and

foreign and domestic business

The Harvard-educated

awyer, a proponent of India's

sweeping 1991 economic re-

forms which ended more than

four decades of quasi-socialistic

market fetters, said liberali-

sation was "happening" daily

"See India not in a freeze

frame but in a motion picture as

thing are happening every day."

he told delegates on the second

day of the "destination India"

summit, aimed at luring in-

"We have placed on top of the

agenda issues which were con-

sidered unthinkable two to

three years ago like opening of

the insurance sector disinvest-

ment in the public sector and

deregulation of interest rates in

erate speed and taken the

Agence France Presse (AFP) Chairman and Managing Director, Jean Miot (L), and Michael

Bloomberg, President and Founder of Bloomberg, pose for photographers in front of the

Palais Brongniart in Paris on Wednesday. AFP joined forces with Bloomberg, the American

multimedia company and supplier of financial news, to launch an innovative French-

"We have moved with delib-

vestment to India.

the banking sector.

termined to press ahead with its economic liberalisation programme, reports AFP. India already offered the world's best market for investors, he added. "I ask you to look at India. Is The deal reportedly calls for there any other part of the globe

The EU's Monetary Commit tee reached the outline accord late Monday, said sources close

senior treasury and central bank officials from the 15 EU nations. Sensitive details still have to be resolved at a higher level. They include the size of fines to be paid by nations infringing

the deficit level, the mechanism

for payment and how quickly sanctions kick in. EU finance ministers will consider these problems Sept 20-21 in Dublin. The ministers are under pressure to approve a package for EU leaders to en-

the Irish capital. However, monetary sources. speaking on condition of anonymity, said final details of the pact probably won't be set-

12: European monetary offi cials have agreed the outline of a "stability pact" to ensure nations keep budget deficits under control after the introduction of a common EU currency, officials said Wednesday, reports

sanctions to be imposed on nations that allow their deficits to creep above 3 per cent of gross domestic product after the introduction of the EU currency scheduled for Jan 1, 1999.

to the committee, a grouping of

dorse at December summit in

tled until next year.

language television channel.