

## Dhaka, Yangon discuss trade promotion

YANGON, Oct 31: Bangladesh economic delegation, led by M Akhtar Ali, Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Myanmar delegation, led by U Kyaw Myint, Director General, Ministry of Commerce, discussed economic and commercial development and promotion of border trade between the two countries, reports BSS.

Tofael Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries, Lt Gen Tun Kyi Minister for Commerce of Myanmar and Brigadier Chowdhury Khalequzzaman (rtd), Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar were present at the meeting.

Earlier Tofael visited the Shwedagon Pagoda, the largest and most revered Pagoda in Myanmar. The minister was accompanied by delegation members, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar and officials of the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon.

The minister signed the visitors' book and donated a carpet to the Pagoda.

In the evening, Tofael attended a dinner in his honour and delegation, hosted by Ambassador at the Embassy residence.

The dinner was attended by senior Myanmar government officials, delegation members, officials of the National Bank Limited, officials of the Mission and other invited guests.

## Govt going ahead with reform policy to streamline economy: Faezul

BARISAL, Oct 31: State Minister for Jute and Textiles AK Faizul Huq said the present government is going ahead with its reform policies to streamline country's economy, create job opportunities and make congenial environment for rapid industrialisation, reports UNB.

He said, the present government is determined to make meaningful the country's hard-earned independence and promote the life-style of the common people.

The State Minister was inaugurating the 10th branch of Al-Arafah Islamic Bank Limited in Barisal on Wednesday.

He said the government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had signed the charter of Islamic Development Bank in the country in 1974 and thereby introduced Islamic Management in economic system.

Faezul Huq also said the government of Sheikh Hasina has now been reorganising the banking sector to revamp the country's shattered economy.

The function was also addressed, among others, by Chairman of Al-Arafah Islamic Bank AZM Shamsul Alam and its Managing Director MM Nurul Huq.

## Dragonair joins Lufthansa to provide thru' check-in-service

Dragonair has joined Lufthansa to provide a new thru-check-in service recently, says a press release.

Passengers taking a Lufthansa flight to Hong Kong and travelling on to any of Dragonair's destinations of the same day will be able to obtain the boarding pass for their onward flights at their point of origin. This helps passengers to save time and enjoy a smooth transit on their journey from Germany via Hong Kong to Asia.

Dragonair passengers departing Kaohsiung to Hong Kong and travelling on to Frankfurt by Lufthansa on the same day are also eligible for this thru-check-in service. This service also extends to other European destinations served by Lufthansa.

# \$134.40m ADB loan for power sector likely

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is expected to provide 134.40 million US dollars in loan for the ninth power project in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Official sources said negotiation towards finalising the ADB loan is almost complete and an agreement to this effect is likely to be signed between the bank and Bangladesh in Dhaka by November 10.

A high-level meeting at ERD of the Finance Ministry yesterday discussed the terms and conditions of the ADB loan. Meeting sources said it almost finalised the project to be im-

plemented by July 31 in 2000.

The project envisages construction of 130 kilometres of 230 KV transmission lines from the Meghna Ghat power plant project to Haripur-Comilla and Rampura in the capital city.

It also includes extension of two 230 KV sub-stations at Haripur and Comilla, construction of a 230/132 KV substation at Rampura and a national load despatch centre and installation of associated communication network.

Among other project components are construction of about 280 kilometres of 132 KV,

33 KV, 11 KV and 0.4 KV distribution systems in Dhaka, including connection of 91,000 new consumers.

The project also envisages enhancement of distribution capacity by about 50 MVA with connection for about 22,000 new consumers in the Mirpur area of capital Dhaka.

It has the provision of feasibility studies and detailed engineering for a gas-based West Zone combined-cycle and East Zone open-cycle peak-power projects.

The ninth power project is aimed at evacuation and utili-

sation of power generated from Meghna Ghat project, improvement of the utilisation of power system assets through optimal load despatch.

Its objectives include devolution and separation from PDB of the functions of power generation, transmission and distribution and the corporatisation of transmission as well as devolution and separation from DESA of power distribution in the Mirpur area of Dhaka.

Officials said the project is also designed to prepare power projects for development by the public and private sectors.

## July-Sept export earnings cross target by 3.29 pc

By Govinda Skill

The country's export earnings were about Taka 4,750 crore (1130.98 million US dollars) during the first quarter (July-September) of the current fiscal year with 3.29 per cent higher than what was set for the period. Although it was 9.48 per cent higher than the earnings of the corresponding period of last fiscal year (1995-96).

According to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) statistics, readymade garments, frozen foods, leather and handicrafts were the major exportables during the period but these could not achieve their targets. Although tea, agricultural products, problem and chemical products and knitweaves achieved targets.

Prices of the Bangladeshi products increased in the international market by 2.97 per

cent while export volume increased by 6.51 per cent during the time under consideration. EPB statistics pointed out.

Export target for this period was set at 1,095 million dollars Taka 4,599 crore while the country actually earned 1130.98 million dollars.

Country's traditional export items could not reach their target (132.50 million dollars) and earnings from these items fell by 14.94 per cent. But, the non-traditional items surpassed its target (962.50 million dollars) by 5.80 per cent.

Earnings from some of the exportables were as follows: frozen foods 146.93 million dollars, tea 102.53 million dollars, raw jute 20 million dollars, agricultural products 8.17 million dollars, jute goods 81.49 million dollars, leather

47.04 million dollars, hosiery products 191.42 million dollars, readymade garments 570.89 million dollars.

US topped the import list of Bangladeshi products by importing goods worth about Taka 1,577 crore (375.52 million dollars) that shows 33.20 per cent of our total export earnings.

Country's principal exports to the US are readymade garments (272.94 million dollars) and knitweaves (34.59 million dollars).

United Kingdom imported goods worth 131.82 million dollars followed by Germany 113.37 million dollars and Italy 45.99 million dollars.

Country's total export earnings for the current fiscal year has been fixed at 4380 million US dollar (Taka 18,396 crore).

## Indian chemical merchants due today

An Indian trade delegation is likely to leave Calcutta for Dhaka today on a visit to Bangladesh.

The delegation will be led by the President of Indian Chemical Merchants and Manufacturers Association, Shri Puranjit Mukherjee, says a press release of the association.

The Association is an affiliated body of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.

The delegation will try to further bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India particularly in the field of chemicals, pharmaceuticals and allied industries.

The delegation is expected to meet representatives of various chambers of commerce and industrial associations to promote industrial activity and to establish business ties with their counterparts in Bangladesh.

The visit will be followed by Indo-Bangladesh trade meet organised by the Indian Chemical Merchants & Manufacturers Association.

The delegation has been sponsored by the West Bengal State Export Promotion Board.

## Certificate cases against 3401 farmers filed in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Oct 31: The authorities of different commercial banks filed certificate cases against 3,401 farmers of five thanas during the current fiscal year to recover Taka 6.5 crore outstanding loan, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the authorities have already issued warrant of arrests against some 1,000 farmers.

Police took action against 500 farmers and other defaulting loanees remained absconding to avoid police action, the sources said.

The officials said, some 508 cases were filed with the General Certificate Branch while 2,826 cases with TNO's offices of five thanas till September 30.

Some Taka 27.73 lakh was realised under 119 certificate cases during the time, the sources said.

However, the farmers said they have failed to repay the loans due to their poverty caused by natural calamities like floods, cyclone and drought.

## 2-week spinning course ends

A two-week training course on machinery of spinning mills and production process, concluded at the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC)'s training centre at Savar yesterday, reports UNB.

BTMC Chairman M Anwarul Haq gave away certificates among the 27 successful trainees of a private-sector cotton mill, says a press release.



Colin Neubronner (R), General Manager of Singapore Airlines for Bangladesh, addressing a press conference arranged at a city hotel yesterday on the occasion of the completion of its 10-year operation in Bangladesh. Melvin Lee, Operation Manager of the airline for Bangladesh, also seen. — Star photo

## SIA to introduce daily Dhaka-S'pore flight

By Staff Correspondent

The Singapore Airlines (SIA) celebrates its 10th anniversary of operation in Bangladesh amid promises to further improve and expand its services here.

At a press conference in the city yesterday Singapore Airlines General Manager in Bangladesh, Colin Neubronner, said it began its operation on October 29, 1986 with a twice weekly flights.

"Now we operate six times a week from Dhaka direct to Singapore, as well as twice weekly to Kathmandu," Colin said.

"Our priority now is to introduce a daily Dhaka-Singapore service in the near future to meet the strong growth in passenger and cargo demands," he added.

Colin said by the end of the year, the airline would open a branch office in Motijheel to serve the needs of the travel agents and passengers based in the central business hub.

It would also keep its office open seven days a week instead of six days as well as increase the number of phone lines at its Gulshan office.

Singapore Airlines, considered to be the world's largest operator of the Boeing 747-400 aircrafts, would continue to improve its services for the pas-

sengers from Bangladesh, but it does not plan to cut ticket prices in the near future.

"We do not see the need to drop prices despite our competitors constant fare-discounting in a relatively price sensitive market in Bangladesh," he added. "We are confident of the growth potential of the Bangladeshi outbound market and we expect both our passengers and cargo traffic to pick up strongly early next year."

The Singapore Airlines handles about 2 million KG of cargo from Dhaka each year.

He pointed out that over the last seven months, the number of Singapore Airlines passengers from Dhaka has increased by 10 per cent.

"Our station in Dhaka has performed creditably both at the airport and town office operations," the GM said.

"Singapore Airlines in Bangladesh recognises the importance of building strong relationships with our customers, our business partners and with the local community," he noted.

The airline has on various occasions raised funds for Bangladeshi flood victims, donated to different charity organisations and funded for different sporting events.

## Increase investment thru' savings: Kibria

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria has underlined the need for increased investment through savings to accelerate the pace of economic growth in the country, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a function in observance of the World Thrift Day at the Academy of Planning and Development here yesterday, the minister said that the savings should be increased by practising thrift in one's daily life.

Presided over by Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Resources Division Mohammad Nurul Amin Patwari, the function was addressed also by Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan as special guest and the Director of National Saving Directorate, Shafulah Patwari.

Describing the existing institutional arrangement for

savings as weak, the Finance Minister said institutional arrangement must be made more effective to enable the people to increase their savings.

Kibria asked the concerned organisations to take up newer innovative and production-oriented projects to help increase savings for accelerating the pace of development.

The minister also underscored the need for investing the people's savings properly and in the productive sectors.

He asked the concerned officials to enhance their efficiency for increasing the rate of savings.

The minister said the savings system must be made more simplified side by side with encouraging the people through media.

## Plan to develop Benapole into full-fledged land port

The government has adopted a wide ranging plan to develop the Benapole land port into a modern and full-fledged port keeping the perspective of the future in mind, reports BSS.

Speaking at an inter-ministerial meeting here, Shipping Minister A S M Abdur Rob said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had taken up special initiatives to develop the land port into an international standard so that it might play an important role in the regional communication and trade in the future.

The minister urged the concerned officials to implement the development planning of the port on priority basis.

The meeting was informed that the Communications Ministry had taken up a plan to reestablish railway communication in the Jessore-Benapole route at a cost of Taka 15 crore.

It was further informed that about Taka two crore would be spent in the next two years for the infrastructural development of the Benapole port.

The meeting decided to set up a permanent police camp, a fire station, a complex building for housing custom and immigration offices, banks and quarantine centre at the port, construct a container terminal and develop and computer network for coordinating the activities of all concerned departments stationed in the port.

Shipping Secretary Anwarul Islam, senior officials of Communication, Works and Home Ministries, National Board of Revenue, and Mongla Port Authorities were present at the meeting.

## BIBM course on Islamic banking concludes

A 12-day course on "Islamic banking" was concluded at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) Wednesday, says a press release.

It conducted this course with a view to familiarising the participants with the principles of Islamic banking and Islamic laws and policies in Bangladesh for improving their knowledge and skills in Islamic banking for better performance.

Participants were drawn from different banks and financial institutions.

AHM Nurul Islam Choudhury, Director General of BIBM, chaired the concluding session of the course and distributed certificates to the trainees.

The course contents included different aspects of Islamic banking such as inter-bank transactions, rural financing, deposit mobilisation process, mode of investment of Islamic banking, fund management system, Shariah Council, import and export financing etc.

The course was jointly coordinated by SK Harun-ar-Rashid and KS Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, BIBM faculty members.

## 8 lakh mt of aus paddy produced in 10 S-districts

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 31: Eight lakh metric tonnes of aus paddy have been produced in 10 southern districts this season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, about 1,85,400 hectares of land have been brought under the programme in Jhenidah, Jessore, Magura, Narail, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Chudanga, Kushtia and Meherpur districts.

The sources said, of the total, 1,56,800 hectares of land were cultivated for local variety and the rest 28,600 hectares for high yielding variety (HYV) aus paddy.



Brig Mohammad Shah Jalal, PSC (C), Managing Director of Sona Kalyan Sangstha, seen distributing prizes among the top performing dealers of SK towels and Consol socks at a function held at a local hotel yesterday. — Star photo

## Investors urged to come up with new attitude

State Minister for Jute and Textile A K Faizul Haq yesterday called upon the investors to invest in Bangladesh by taking the opportunity of liberal economic policy, reports UNB.

The State Minister was addressing a seminar on "Fu-Wang Tiles", a 100 per cent Taiwanese invested ceramic tiles manufacturing unit, at a local hotel in the afternoon.

Addressing the function, Faizul Haq said the present government of Sheikh Hasina has introduced a liberal economic policy in the country to meet the demand of present free market economy.

He said there is enough scope for the foreign investors to invest in Bangladesh and called upon the foreign and local investors to come up with new attitude.

Fu-Wang Ceramic Industry, situated at Hotapara in Gazipur district, is a fully automatic

factory equipped with most modern machinery and facilities.

The factory produces 800,000 Sq metre of international standard ceramic wall and floor tiles.

Fu-Wang, which went on production three months ago, had already started marketing its products. The major products of this factory is now homogeneous floor tiles.

Now-a-days, the homogeneous tiles are getting popularity in all over the world because of its many advantages.

Addressing the function, engineer Nurul Aktar of the Factory said due to less porosity the tiles floor can be kept germ and bacteria free and there is no scope for fungus attack.

More than 100 Bangladeshi employees are working in the factory.

## BCCI scandal

### British court releases key figure

LONDON, Oct 31: Britain's high court yesterday released a key figure in the world's biggest banking fraud from prison, saying he had been waiting too long for his extradition to the United States, reports Reuter.

Lord Justice Sir Christopher Rose and Justice Maurice Kay gave the United States 24 hours from Tuesday to appeal against their decision to release Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar, former treasury head at the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

The United States wanted to try Ali Akbar, who has dual British-Pakistani nationality on blackmail charges.

## BCIC Tender Notice

Managing Director, Sylhet Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamganj invites sealed tender from bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers for supply of Hardware materials against Tender No. 22 dt. 20.10.96. Tender documents will be had at Tk. 50/- per set from (a) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha, Dhaka, (b) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong and (c) SPPM Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamganj. Tender with 1% earnest money will be received in the tender box kept in Purchase Department of SPPM Ltd., Chhatak upto 3-00 PM on 18.11.96 and opened immediately thereafter in presence of the tenderers (if any). No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC-1120-27/10/96  
DPP-24509-28/10  
G-1394

**Golam Mostafa**  
Manager (Purchase)  
for Managing Director

## Farmers not being able to sell jute at fair price in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Oct 31: Farmers are unable to sell their jute at a fair price as various jute purchasing agencies in the district stopped buying jute on the plea of fund deficiency at the peak of the jute trading season, reports UNB.

Six jute purchasing centres at Chharmuria usually buy 69,057 quintals of jute but at present are said to be indebted to the extent of Tk. 4,72,76,295 loans.

Of these, Adamjee Jute Mills has a loan of Taka 1,79,24,153, Amin Jute Mills Limited Taka 8,64,200, Peoples Jute Mills Taka 82,71,000, Platinum Jute Mills Limited Taka 7,95,000, Crescent Jute Mills Limited Taka 74,17,000 and Latif Bawani Jute Mills Limited Taka 71,17,000.

### Notice Inviting Bids (NIB)

#### Bid (Tender) No. 2/KWD-II/1996-97-98

**Name of Project: Kurigram Irrigation & Flood Control Project (North Unit) (1st Phase)**

Schedule Bid(s) in BWDB Form No. LCB Type-2 are hereby invited from the enlisted 'A' class contractor(s) of BWDB for the work mentioned below under Kurigram Irrigation & Flood Control Project, North Unit (1st Phase) during the year 1996-97-98.

Sl. No.	Name of work with location	Estimated cost (Tk)	Earnest money 2.50% (Tk)	Token earnest money 1% (Tk)	Cost of Tender documents per set (Tk)	Eligibility of bidders	Date & time of receiving tenders	Date & time of opening tenders	Time allowed (Months)
1	Construction of 3 (three)-vents (1.52m x 1.83m) Bhangamore drainage sluice in Thana-Fulbari, Dist-Kurigram during 1996-97.	79,39,048/-	1,98,476/-	79,390/-	2000/-	BWDB enlisted 'A' class contractor	12.11.96, 13.11.96 during office hours & 14.11.96 up to 12.00 Noon	14.11.96 at 12.30PM	16 (sixteen) months

Tender documents can be purchased from Sonali Bank, Main Branch, Kurigram/Janata Bank, Main Branch, Betpatti, Rangpur/Sonali Bank, WAPDA Building Branch, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka during Bank transaction hours up to 13.11.96. No tender documents will be sold on 14.11.96. The last date fixed for receiving the tender. Further information (if any needed) may be collected from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

PANI-122/96-97  
D-1181

**Raisuddin Ahmed**  
Executive Engineer  
Kurigram WD Division-II  
BWDB, Kurigram