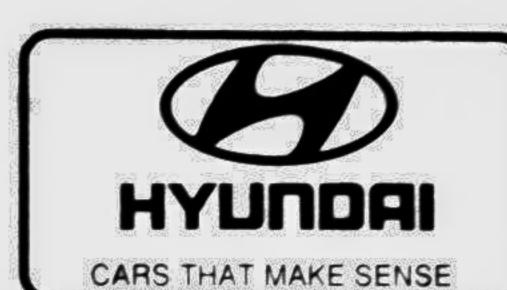


The Paily Star DISINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY, NOVEMBER



Sonali Bank raises interest rate on deposits

Sonali Bank, the country's largest nationalised commercial bank, has raised its interest rates on different types of deposits, reports BSS.

The enhanced rates came into effect from November 1

As per new rates, interest on savings deposits, which was 6.75 per cent per annum, has

been increased to 7.5 per cent. For term deposits-fixed deposits, the interest rate has been raised by point 0.5 per cent to 0.75 per cent. Fixed deposit for a period of three months and above, but below six months will now have interests at the rate of eight per cent against previous rate of 7.5 per cent. Such is the rate of enhancement of interests for fixed deposits up to two years and above, but below three years.

For three years and above but maximum five years, the interest rate of Sonali Bank will now be 9.50 per cent against 8.75 per cent that existed till the change, the press release added.

Oil cos in India raises fuel price for int'l airlines

NEW DELHI, India, Nov 6: Oil companies in India have raised the price of aviation fuel for international airlines. which could hurt the profits of the carriers, a newspaper said Wednesday, reports AP.

State-run oil suppliers recently began charging two dozen international airlines 261.53 dollars a kiloliter for turbine fuel, a 30 dollars increase. The Economic Times newspaper_reported. Domestic airlines pay double that amount, it said

Foreign airlines such as Lufthansa pick up 10 million kiloliters of fuel every month from New Delhi, it said

A hike of even one cent a kiloliter could mean a loss of millions of dollars for the air line, it quoted an unnamed official of Cathay Pacific as saying.

BAU to produce bio-fertiliser for production" of beans, pulses

MYMENSINGH. Nov 6: Use of bio-fertiliser in scientific cultivation has proved effective in the production of beans and pulses, a recent research of Bangladesh Agricultural Uni versity (BAU) said, reports UNB.

The Soil Science Department of BAU has decided to produce 10 tons of bio-fertiliser for cultivation of beans and pulses throughout the country. The department has already distributed seven tons of biofertiliser to different areas for experimental use.

The Soil Science Department started a research in 1969 with bacteria that accumulates nitrogen from the air. The research on bacteria for producing nodule at the roots of beans was in progress since 1977.

Later, another research at field level under the supervision of Prof Shamsul Huq of Soil Science Department succeeded in producing bio-fertilizer using peat soil.

Under the Integrated Soil Fertility and Fertiliser Management Project with the financial assistance of DANIDA the Agriculture Extension Department had started setting up of demonstration plots in the field

So far 1,621 plots were set up since 1994-95 to 1996-97 fiscal year in ground nut, soybean and pulse fields.

The researchers said the use of bio-fertiliser increased production between 25 and 200 per cent depending on the type of

Japan may use toreign rice as food aid for other countries

TOKYO, Nov 6: Japan said on Tuesday it was considering using foreign rice, which it is obliged to import under a world trade pact, as food aid for other countries, reports Reuter.

Agriculture Minister Ichizo Ohara said the idea of sending foreign rice back overseas as aid was being considered as a way to reduce excessive domestic grain stocks.

But an official at the Australian embassy in Tokyo charged that this would be against the spirit of the 1993 Uruguay Round world trade agreement under which Japan igreed to open up its rice mar-

"The thing is, we're now buying unnecessary rice," Ohara told reporters, "should we dump the imported rice in the sea?" "There's nothing wrong with re-exporting foreign rice to poor

countries. Ohara said Japanese rice would be included in the scheme, "but foreign rice should be a top priority.

Board of Directors, was present as the chief guest. All General He said the agriculture and Managers, head office execuforeign ministries would start tives and corporate branch technical discussions on the managers were present in the Conference.

Contribution of reforms, strong agri output

Bangladesh, 3 other economies in S Asia may grow to 6.6 pc in '96

Economic reforms and strong agricultural output in Bangladesh and other South Asian countries including India. Nepal and Pakistan would contribute to a rise in average economic growth to 6.6 per cent in 1996 and 6.3 per cent in 1997. compared to 5.9 per cent in 1995, reports AFP.

This was the forecast of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Asian Economic Outlook vesterday.

But Sri Lanka, plagued with political problems, is expected to suffer a downturn in economic growth to 3.6 per cent in 1996 and 5.0 per cent in 1997, from 5.5 per cent in 1995, Pernia said.

report follows a workshop of

couple of days.

ADB experts on recent macroeconomic developments. Rapid economic growth in Southeast Asia is expected to

slow in 1996 and 1997. The ADB's Asian economic outlook forecasts average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan would fall to 6.2 per cent annually in 1996 and 1997, compared to 7.4 per

cent in 1995. The decline was attributed to tighter monetary policies and other issues including a slump in the global market for semiconductors and electronics. said ADB economist Ernesto

Pernia. Singapore would suffer the The Asian economic outlook biggest individual fall in GDP growth with 6.5 per cent and 7.0

SECURITY REASONS: Situation at a bank branch at Dhanmandi yesterday where

thousands of prospective investors flocked to submit their applications for initial public

offerings. This has been disrupting normal transactions in those branches for the last

work with USA's Duff and

Phelps Credit Rating Company

(DCR). Rating Agency of

Rashid told The Daily Star that

the CRISL, was trying to fulfil

work once it fully complies

with the rules and regulations

Rating Rules 1996, a publicly

trading company is bound to get

itself rated by a credit rating

company before issuing deben-

tures, right shares or shares at a

A declaration about such

rating has to be given in the

public prospectus or in the right

share offering document. We

have plants to introduce rating

of companies which intend to

ficial, adding that investors

might get some guidance for in-

rating grades like "AAA" for

very sound companies or "A" for

this correspondent that if had

there been a rating company in

the country, prices of shares of

not have jumped so radically.

some "paper" companies might

adequate sound companies.

The CRISL might introduce

Jamal Uddin Ahmad told

float IPOs, said another SEC of-

for operation in the market.

set by the SEC," he said.

the Commission's conditions

Malaysia (RAM) and DCR-VIS

SEC Chairman Dr. Harunur

"We will permit CRISL to

According to SEC's Credi

Rating co may start

By Govinda Shil

of Pakistan.

premium.

vestment.

operation soon

A credit rating company is

likely to start operation in the

capital market in December

this year to evaluate perfor-

mances of the listed companies

pany sources and officials at

the Securities and Exchange

Information and Services Lim-

ited (CRISL), first of its kind in

the country, would rank and

rate debentures, commercial

papers, bonds, mutual funds,

ordinary shares and debt in-

of a rating company, SEC offi-

cials said, such a company

would build transparency and

help make dealers in the capital

companies are now needed for

correct projection of the com-

panies listed with the stock ex-

Jamal Uddin Ahmad, the ex-

ecutive chairman of CRISL, told

The Daily Star that the com-

pany was maintaining liaison

with some of the reputed rating

companies of the world to de-

velop business and operational

rating company in Bangladesh

must have collaboration with

an internationally reputed

rating company. CRISL offi-

cials said that it would jointly

According to the SEC, any

SEC officials feel that rating

markets accountable.

Describing the importance

The proposed Credit Rating

Commission (SEC) said.

struments.

changes.

strategies.

with the stock markets, com-

per cent growth in 1996 and 1997 respectively compared to 8.9 per cent in 1995, it said.

Hong Kong would experience a slight improvement from 4.6 per cent GDP growth in 1995 to 4.8 per cent and 5.0 per cent in 1996 and 1997.

However, the slowdown "will not stay. It is not an effect of aging," Pernia said, adding that growth in Asia remained the fastest in the world. China's growth would de-

cline from 10.2 per cent in 1995 to 9.5 per cent annually in both 1996 and 1997. This was a sign that the Chinese economy "is making its"

another ADB economist, Dilip

Southeast Asian countries.

— Star photo

Square Pharma

earns Tk 10 cr

profit in 6 months

By Staff Correspondent

cals Ltd has earned net profit of

Tk 10 crore during the current

half year operation ending

September 30, says a press re-

yearly accounts of the company

showed that the company's

sales during the period stood at

Tk 79.84 crore against Tk 70.46

crore during the corresponding

greater increase of 25 per cent

due to economy of scale and op-

erating cost control measures

by the management, the press

a new product namely Metered

Dose Inhaler which is presently

imported from abroad.

exchange of the country.

The company is soon adding

This will save huge foreign

Square has also started trial

production of basic chemicals

such as Diclofenac Sodium in

taken implementation of the

composite textile subsidiary.

initially with the spinning unit

which is due to start production

by early 1997, the press release

The company has under-

its chemicals plant at Pabna.

release added.

The recently published half

lease of the company.

period of previous year.

The Square Pharmaceuti-

legendary soft landing," said

meanwhile, would average 7.3 per cent growth in both 1996 and 1997, down from 8.1 per cent in 1995, the report said.

Thailand's economic growth was forecast at 6.6 per cent in 1996 and 7.0 per cent in 1997, down from 8.7 per cent in 1995.

Indonesia's growth is forecast to decline to 7.8 per cent and 7.7 per cent in 1996 and 1997 respectively from 8.1 per cent last year, while Malaysia's GDP is expected to grow 8.5 per cent in 1996 and 8.0 per cent in 1997, compared to 9 5 per cent m 19**9**5.

Other Southeast Asian countries, such as Cambodia, Laos and the Philippines would experience higher growth rates, the report said.

77 plots of M'ganj **BSCIC** estate alloted for 66 industrial units

By Staff Correspondent The all 77 plots of Munshi gant BSCIC Industrial Estate have been alloted to entrepreneurs for establishing 66 industrial units under chemi

cal engineering, food and allied

and textile sectors. The plots are on 13.23 acres of land at a cost of Taka 3 91 crore, says a press release of the BSCIC.

It was projected that about Taka 16.80 crore will be in vested in the estate creating job opportunity for more than 1740

ranged a two day long En trepreneurship Development Programme" at Munshiganj. The programme was inaugu

On the occasion BSCIC ar

rated by the BSCIC Chairman Abdus Samad on Monday A total of 65 entrepreneurs who got land allotment in the estate attended the training

programme. Addressing the meeting BSCIC chairman advised the entrepreneurs to attain their goal through hardwork and

He hoped that the en trepreneurs would play significant role in industrial devel-

Forex reserve \$2016m, JS told

Finance Minister S A M S crore), reports BSS.

Replying to a question by BNP member Fazlul Azim, he said the amount of the reserve on June 30, 1991, was 880,80 million dollars (Taka 3147.97

tion from Zainal Abedin Hazari (AL) Kibria said the cabinet has recently approved a draft bill for reorganising the Bangladesh Commerce and Investment Limited (BCI) as a bank which will be produced before the

He said after the approval of the parliament, BCI will start

said that the allocation for religious affairs sector has been increased by 13.5 per cent during the current fiscal year com-

Quantity of gas reserve at Salda field to be determined in two weeks

Star Report

The quantity of gas reserve of the Salda gas field in Kasba thana, discovered Monday, is expected to be determined within the next two weeks, according to reliable sources.

The only hydrocarbon exploration unit of the Petrobangla, Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company Ltd (BAPEX) discovered the 20th gas field of the country in Salda area near the border after four months of operation in that

"The exploratory team was more or less sure that gas would be available there. Because, Indians have already discovered a gas filed just across the border there and now extracting gas. said a source. The Kasba region is rich with hydrocarbon con-

The sources pointed out that after the beginning of drilling at the Salda exploratory wel from July 19 the BAPEX ex perts have confirmed existence of recoverable gas in its lower

The experts have finished drilling up to 2511 meter on October 18 and after analysing samples of sand of that depth they declared the discovery Monday

The budget for this exploration was around Tk 30 crore and the BAPEX used its out tools and expertise in it.

The BAPEX experts are now extensively testing the soil of the exploratory well collected from different levels to determine the reservoir.

An appraisal well will soon be drilled within 1.5 km of the

CHITTAGONG, Nov 6

Weekly tea sale held here on

Tuesday was marked by im-

proved demand for all grades of

tea with prices mostly in favour

of the sellers, market sources

Both export and internal

buyers were more active at the

sale. Good liquoring brokens

and fannings were well sought

after and were mostly dearer.

Buyers for Poland, Russia,

Pakistan and Afghanistan were

in the market. Loose tea trade

and major blenders of operated

with quite a strong demand at

firm to slightly dearer rates.

Medium brokens met with more

demand at fairly steady rates

while smaller brokens were

once again a good market and

were mostly dearer following

Bold and large brokens met

said, reports BSS.

more actively.

Demand for all grades

of tea improves in Ctg

exploratory well to determine the extension of the gas filed

"It would take two weeks to primarily confirm the quantity. But to determine the amount of recoverable gas. which is usually around 60 per cent of the total reserve, it would take another few

months, another source said.
This is the second discovery of gas filed by the BAPEX and the third by all exploratory teams working in Bangladesh in the last 12 months. BAPEX experts struck the 0.40 trillion cubic feet gas field in Shahbazpur of Bhola in November last year. It was followed by British company Cairn Plc's discovery of the one trillion cubic feet reservoir in the Bay of Bengal in January last.

"The success ratio of discovery of gas fields in Bangladesh is very high," said an energy expert, adding since 1910, some 55 wells have been drilled, of which gas was found in 20

"This discovery will definitely reinforce the enthusiasm of the leading oil companies to invest in Bangladesh in terms of exploration and development of gas fields," he added.

Bangladesh now has a proven reserve of around 11

trillion cubic feet of gas.
The BAPEX has also scheme to begin another exploration near the Bakhrabad gas field very soon. In addition, US company Occidental will drill an exploratory well in Sylhet and British company Cairn two wells in Chittagong region within the next few months.

fairly good demand. Best types

were fullyfirm to occasionally

dearer while mediums declined

by Tk 1 per kg. Powdery types

were easier, buyers for loose tea

There were 20,157 chests and

SCB executive

meets Finance

Minister

David Loretta, Chief Execu-

tive. Institutional Banking

Group of Standard Chartered

Bank (SCB) met Finance Minis-

ter SAMS Kibria at his office

yesterday, says a press release.

Banking of SCB, Bangladesh

were also present in the meet

In the meeting the Finance

trade and blenders were active.

2000 gunny sacks on offer.

Tk 588cr plan for rail-link with Maddhyapara, Baropukuria

RAJSHAHI Nov 6 Bangladesh Railway has taken up a Tk 588 crore programme to establish rail-link with Maddhyapara Hard Rock and Baropukuria Coal Mines, reports UNB.

Railway sources said Tk 531 crore would be spent to purchase railway engines and wagons while Tk 57 crore for construction of the railway tracks.

Under the project 16 kilometre of combined broad gauge and metre gauge, 10 kilometre of broad gauge and 11 kilometre of metre gauge railway tracks would be laid besides construction of 21 bridges.

The sources said 11 engines and 325 wagons for metre gauge and 4 engines and 173 wagons for broad gauge would be procured under the programme.

Preliminary work for laying the railway line has already started and the government so far allocated Tk 10 crore for the project which is expected to be completed by 2020. Under the project, railway

track would be extended from Bhabanipur in Parbatipur and Baropukuria via Maddhyapara and Fulbari which would link the Hard Rock and Coal Mines. Two yards would also be set

up at the two mine sites. Arrangements would be made to load a minimum 50 wagons at the two mine sites

General Manager of Railway

West Zone Mohammad Hossain

told UNB that the railway link of the project would be established by setting up two branch lines making Parbatipur a transit point. Broad gauge and metre gauge are being combined for 16

kilometre to enable extracted coal and rock to be despatched to both Eastern and Western zones of the country. The GM said they have urged

the concerned authorities to set up banks and hotels for the

New MD of ICB chests, 824 gunny sacks and 70 bags of dust on offer met with a

Sirajuddin Ahmed Chowd hury joined as Managing Director (Current Charge) of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) on Tuesday. an ICB press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Prior to his present assignment he worked as Deputy Managing Director of Agrani Bank and Managing Director (Current Charge) of Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha.

He held various important positions of different organisations including Bangladesh Krishi Bank and Investment Corporation of Bangladesh as General Manager.

ICAB announces scholarships for CA students

Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) will award merit scholarships to bonafide Bangladeshi nationals desirous of studying chartered accountancy in Bangladesh or currently serving articled studentship from 1 July 1996 onwards with firms of Chartered Accountants in the country and fulfilling certain requirements. says a press release.

The Institute of Chartered

Applications in prescribed forms and closed envelopes marked 'Scholarship', must reach the Institute latest by 30th November 1996. The scholarships, of Taka

1.000 and Taka 750 each per month, will be sponsored by A F Mujibur Rahman Foundation. Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd. Philips Bangladesh Ltd. Transcom Ltd, Beximco Ltd, Banque Indosuez, Pacific Industries Ltd. Fisons (BD) Ltd. Duncan

Brothers (BD) Ltd. Bangladesh Oxygen Corporation, Lotus Kamal, Green Delta Insurance Co Ltd. Bengal Shipping Lines. GEC (BD) Ltd, Progati Insurance Co Ltd. RRH Associates, Bata Shoe Co (BD) Ltd, KZ Islam FCA. Kazi Aminul Huque FCA and Yussuf A Harun FCA.

Students holding minimum graduation degree and having at least two first divisions up to Master's degree but not below second division/class in any public examination, are eligible to apply for the scholarships. The scholarships are ex-

pected to continue up to three years but not beyond the period of articleship where applicable, subject to satisfactory performance of the awardees in CA Examinations and availability of funds.

The scholarships will be in addition to the usual monthly allowance paid by practicising chartered accountants (Principals) to whom the applicants maybe/are attached as articled students.

Applications in prescribed

forms may be obtained from the Institute's office at Chartered Accountant Bhaban, 100, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 or the Honorary Secretary, Chittagong Regional Committee ICAB, HBFC Building (3rd floor), 1/D Agrabad C/A. Chittagong.

Govt must implement deal with IMF on stalled loan: Leghari to cough up more to buy palm

ISLAMABAD, Nov 6: Pakistani President Farooq Leghari said on Tuesday that new caretaker government must fully implement an accord with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the revival of a stalled 600 million US dollar standby loan, reports Reuter.

He said in nationally televised speech that interim Prime Minster Meraj Khalid's government must restore the confidence of international institutions and markets in Pak-

"For this, the agreement reached with the IMF will have to be fully implemented," Legh-Last week, the IMF an-

nounced it intended to disburse two delayed tranches, worth

Pubali Bank Regional Managers' confce held The third Regional Man-

agers' Conference of Pubali Bank Limited was held yesterday at its head office with Md Qamrul Huda, Managing Director, in the Chair, says a press EA Chaudhury, Chairman,

about 80 million dollar each, of the 600 million US dollars standby loan after approving an economic stabilisation package put together by ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government.

Leghari dismissed Bhutto and her government in the early morning hours on Tuesday, and named Khalid as caretaker Prime Minister ahead of general elections set for next February. Pakistani and IMF officials

expected to endorse technical changes to a draft letter of intent on Wednesday in pursuance of last week's accord. It would then have to be cleared by the caretaker government and IMF management before the IMF decision on whether to release thetwo delayed tranches of the

SE Asian traders observe situation

Another report from Jakarta says: South East Asian commodity traders said on Tuesday they were keeping a close eye on the political situation in Pakistan following the sacking of prime minister Benazir Bhutto but emphasised that they were not unduly worried.

Traders said the Malaysian palm oil market was more sensitive to devaluations in the Pakistani currency than to political developments there. "Rupee devaluation means that Pakistani importers have oil and this may affect their buying programme," a trader in Kuala Lumpur said. Pakistan is a significant importer of palm oil from both

Indonesia and Malaysia. Some traders even predicted the political instability could even lead to increased con-

sumption of tea in Pakistan.

the biggest single buyer of the commodity from Indonesia. "In times of trouble, people in price-sensitive countries such as Pakistan drink tea. When there is a war, armies basically run on tea," the head of an Indonesian tea trading house told Reuters. "When there

was a Soviet presence in Afgh-

anistan, Russia imported a hell

of a lot of tea."

Saudi Dy Finance Minister meets Kibria

Deputy Minister for Finance and National Economy of Saudi Arabia Dr Abdel Aziz called on Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria at his office here yesterday, reports UNB.

Dr Abdul Aziz, who is also the Chairman of Saudi-Bangladesh Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company Limited (SABINCO), discussed various matters relating to bilateral and mutual interest with Kibria.

told the Jatiya According to the report Sangsad that the amount of sales has increased by 13 per foreign exchange reserve on cent during April-September October 27, 1996, was 2015.86 1996 in comparison to that of million dollars (Taka 8.537.16 the corresponding period of The net profit showed still

crore). Replying to another ques-

Sangsad in this session.

operating as a bank. The Finance Minister also

pared to the last year's.

competition. Popular types also Minister was apprised of SCB's sold well between Tk 46/30 and global business as well as its operations in Bangladesh. * Tk 51/80 per kg. The Finance Minister dis-There was more demand for cussed present government's infannings at generally firm terest in streamlining country's rates. Good liquoring types banking sector as well as better however, were a stronger feapositioning for attracting forture and were dearer of ten by 50 eign direct investment, which is paisha per kg. Popular types critical for Bangladesh, he obwere also stronger at higher served. rates selling between Tk 46/50 and 54/00. Geoff Williams, Chief Execu-A total of 150 chests of green tive and Mamum Rashid, Head of Treasury and Institutional tea on offer met with a very

strong demand and prices moved up sharply young hyson sold at 61/50. Some 2752



Conference '96 at a local hotel yesterday.

Indian Finance Minister sees no economic slowdown

ment is uncertain, distribution

of funds is ad hoc and fiscal

member of the Congress gov-

ernment that ran the country

from 1991 until earlier this

year, argued India would still

achieve a seven per cent growth

But Chidambaram, a former

discipline week," it said.

rate this year.

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: Indian Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram launched a robust defence of his policies here yesterday, denying the country's economy was facing a slowdown in growth, reports AFP. Chidambaram's remarks came a day after the Congress (f)

ing they lacked direction. The Congress's decisionmaking body, the central working committee, said that industrial growth had declined in the last five months and export performance was poor. "The flow of foreign invest-

party attacked his policies, say-

months to July. expected to touch a new peak after a sharp downfall in

"The agricultural sector is

well" and had charted a growth of 11.7 per cent for three

lent results," he added.

He said the manufacturing Chidambaram, who quit sector was doing "extremely Congress and is now a leading member of the united front government, said he would keep the fiscal deficit to five per cent of gross domestic product by the end of the fiscal year to March

growth last fiscal to March.

Corporations such as Tata

Steel. Reliance Industries and

Bajaj Auto have reported excel-

the sense of confidence that the

economy will do well and is in

"I give to the people of India