

**US co keen to  
invest in  
power sector**

A delegation of US-based Global Market Strategies Inc., led by its Director Richard Gannon called on Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Lt. General (retired) M. Nooruddin Khan at his office here yesterday, reports BSS.

During the meeting the members of the delegation discussed matters relating to setting up power generation plant under private sector in Bangladesh and showed keen interests to invest in this sector.

They also explored the possibilities of investment in gas and petroleum sectors of Bangladesh.

The delegation included Chairman of Al-Muwarrid Bank of Lebanon Sheikh Selim Kheireddin and local representatives of the company.

**Hanil Bank team  
in city**

A three-member delegation of Hanil Bank, one of the leading banks of South Korea, led by its President Lee Kwan Woo arrived here yesterday on a four-day visit, reports BSS.

The Hanil Bank President will call on a number of important persons during his stay in Bangladesh and discuss the possibility of increasing the services of the bank here.

Hanil Bank, a leading commercial bank in South Korea, opened its branch in Dhaka on September 21, this year, said a press release of the bank.

**'Govt trying to  
protect jute  
workers'  
interest'**

CHITTAGONG, Nov 23: State Minister for Jute and Textile AK Faizal Haq said the government was trying its best to protect the interest of the workers and employees, reports BSS.

The government has already formed Wage Commission for the workers and employees. Faizal Haq said while talking with the leaders of workers and employees of different jute mills at the regional office of BJMC here on Friday.

Expressing solidarity with the just demands of the BJMC workers and employees, the state minister said the jute mills would have to be turned into export-oriented instead of depending on subsidy and stressed coordinated efforts of jute mills owners, workers and employees.

Faizal Haq assured that necessary raw materials and capital would be provided so that the jute mills can run smoothly.

Secretary of BJMC Ashraf Ali and Chittagong regional co-ordinator Saidur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

**6-member team  
on handicrafts  
leaves city**

A six-member Bangladesh Study Mission on Handicrafts left Dhaka yesterday to visit three south-east Asian countries, reports BSS.

The mission, led by Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Director A K M Nizamul Alam, will visit different export organisations and production centres in the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand.

Comprising five members from handicraft exporting firms, the mission is likely to contribute to the development of the country's handicraft sector.

The mission is sponsored by ITC/UNDP, said an EPB press release.

**SIA rates high  
in IATA  
ranking**

Among IATA member airlines, SIA is ranked fifth in terms of overall traffic in revenue tonne-kilometres (RTK) carried on international services, says a press release.

The ranking is based on revenue tonne-kilometres (RTK). This is a measure that takes into account the load carried and distance flown on revenue-earning passenger and freighter services. If domestic RTKs are taken into account as well, SIA ranks ninth.

SIA carried more than 10.7 million passengers last year. This places the airline seventh against IATA members, in terms of number of passengers carried on international services. The total number of passengers carried on scheduled international services by IATA airlines was 335 million passengers. British Airways topped IATA's list as it carried 25.35 million international passengers.

SIA retains its sixth position when measured in terms of international revenue passenger-kilometres (RPK) which is based on the number of passengers carried and distance flown on revenue-earning international flights.

**Kibria tells investment seminar at Sylhet  
Entrepreneurs won't have to  
disclose sources of capital**

The government will not disclose the source of invested money and also won't levy tax on industrial investment in order to expedite industrialisation of the country, reports BSS.

A government notification in this regard will be published soon, said Finance Minister SAMS Kibria.

He made the disclosure while addressing as chief guest a seminar on 'Economic Zone Potential for Investment in Small and Medium Scale Industries in Sylhet Division,' arranged in the conference room of Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Sylhet town yesterday.

The government, Kibria said, 'has put emphasis on increasing investment in private sector with a view to alleviating poverty,' the Finance Minister reiterated.

He hoped that the rich people

that the government already had floated some shares of different state-run industries in the share market to meet the demand of investors and the offloading process would be geared up.

About setting up a National Stock Exchange, he said it would help fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the entire population. The government will continue extending all out cooperation towards strengthening private investment.

The government, Kibria said, 'has put emphasis on increasing investment in private sector with a view to alleviating poverty,' the Finance Minister reiterated.

Vice-Chancellor of East-West University Farash Uddin placed the keynote at the seminar.

The minister also informed

that the government will not disclose the source of invested money and also won't levy tax on industrial investment in order to expedite industrialisation of the country, reports BSS.

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