



Leaders of eighteen Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries attend the meeting in Manila yesterday

DAKA MONDAY NOVEMBER 25 1996

Bangladesh team in US to reclaim jute market

A five-member Bangladesh delegation held discussion with the importers of jute and jute-goods in California, USA, on Saturday in order to reclaim the fibre market, reports UNB.

Led by Jute Secretary Abdul Hannan, the team in the meeting discussed the prospect of reestablishing Bangladeshi jute in the California market, according to a message received here yesterday.

The jute traders referred to their attachment to the jute family of Bangladesh and expressed their eagerness to purchase Bangladeshi jute goods under all circumstances.

The importers, however, stressed the need for competitive price.

BEXIMCO donates Tk 2 m to UNICEF's programme

The BEXIMCO Group has donated a Tk two million to the UNICEF's 'MOU Schools for Former-Child Workers' programme, reports UNB.

Chairman of BEXIMCO group ASF Rahman handed over the cheque at a simple ceremony here yesterday.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh David N. Merrill, Deputy Chairman of the group Salman F. Rahman, Deputy Representative of UNICEF Dr Manica Sharma, ILO representative in Bangladesh Paul Bailey and AR Sinha of BGMEA were present.

The MOU Schools for Former Child Garment programme resulted from the pioneering agreement between the BGMEA, ILO and UNICEF.

It aims to resolve the twin challenges of employment of children in Bangladeshi's garment industry as well as the lack of access to education for children.

The programme provides for schools and stipends for former child garment workers, thereby improving their skill levels and future livelihood opportunities. At the same time, garment buyers will be assured that Bangladeshi garments are child labour-free.

2 Sonargaon Hotel executives attend conference in Malaysia

Two department heads from Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel have attended a 5-day human resources conference in Malaysia recently, says a press release.

The conference, organised by Pan Pacific hotels and resorts, was inaugurated by the President of the hotel, Ichigo Umehara.

Executives from 12 Pan Pacific hotels and resorts in the Pacific rim attended the conference.

Azam Sultan Chowdhury, Human Resources Manager, and Ms Zulfa Asaf, Education and Development Manager, represented Sonargaon Hotel.

The conference started in the Pan Pacific Hotel at Kuala Lumpur, then shifted to Pan Pacific Resort, Pangkor Island, and concluded in the beautiful Golf resort of Pan Pacific Glenmarie.

Mahathir slams APEC for coercing economies into freeing trade

VESTMENT AMONG THE GROUP.

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He also charged that APEC was paying too much attention to market liberalisation and ignoring development cooperation, which he said was an important pillar of the forum.

Responding to a question from the floor on the issue, Mahathir said: "there is too much of emphasis on level playing fields but nothing ... of the size of the contestants."

"Imagine Malaysians playing American football, a game which they don't know. But they keep on saying that there should be no problem because the field is very flat," he said.

Mahathir said that as APEC comprised economies of different levels of development, "it would be unrealistic and

grossly unfair to coerce particularly the less advanced member economies to undertake liberalisation measures at a pace and manner beyond their capacity."

He said it was understandable that business executives from APEC economies were becoming impatient with the slow rate of progress in lowering tariffs and wanted political leaders to share their sense of urgency.

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