

2-day workshop on jute mills opens tomorrow

A two-day workshop on "Cost Reduction and Quality Improvement in Jute Mills" begins at the International Jute Organisation (IJO) headquarters here on Sunday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Jute and Textiles AK Faezul Huq will inaugurate the workshop at 9 am.

The inaugural session of the workshop will be followed by a series of technical session, said a press release yesterday.

Eighty experts from the IJO member countries — Bangladesh, Denmark, Egypt, India, Pakistan and UK — will take part in the workshop.

The workshop is aimed at sharing the individual experience of professionals of jute industry to ascertain directions for further improvement of technology with particular reference to cost reduction and quality improvement.

FedEx launches APAC homepage

Federal Express Corporation (FedEx) has unveiled its Asia-Pacific (APAC) homepage, a domain on the Internet where customers and interested users can gain access to up-to-date news and information on the 31 markets FedEx serves in Asia, says a press release.

The APAC homepage is accessible through the FedEx web site (WWW.FedEx.com) and has information segmented according to the Asian countries served directly by the company.

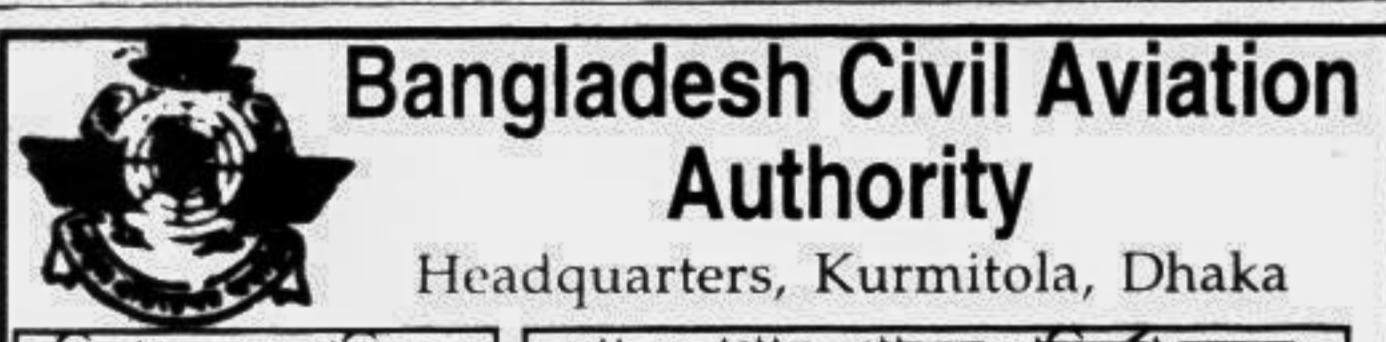
"This is the most comprehensive site for the express transportation industry in this region. Since the roll-out of our web site in the States in late 1994, we have achieved enormous success in communicating electronically with our customers and net users. We are now bringing this technology to Asia which, I believe, provides exceptional benefits to interested users", said Michael Ducker, FedEx senior vice president for Asia-Pacific.

Information is available in Japanese, and there are plans to develop pages in other Asian languages as well. Ducker

Renowned marketing specialist due in city March 19

Ray Jutkins, one of the top marketing trainers and consultants of the world will arrive in the city on March 19, says a press release.

Invited by Rapport Bangladesh Limited, Jutkins will conduct a number of training courses on Marketing and Fund Raising.



4th Time Re-Public Auction Notice

The infrastructures (houses/trees etc) standing on the land requisitioned through LA Case No-1, Bogra STOL Airport Project (except the infrastructure — houses/trees etc on Daag No 726 & 760) will be sold in public auction on as it is where it is basis to interested individuals/firms/contractors. The auction bidding will be held on 24-03-97 at 11:00 AM at Bogra STOL Port, Vill: Baramohar, Mouja: Baramohar, Thana: Kahalu. For details of the auction bidding the office of the undersigned or the site office of the said STOL Port may be contacted. Interested auction bidders can inspect the movable property described in the schedule on the spot by contacting the Sub-Assistant Engineer on duty at the site office, Mr. Shamsul Huq on 24-03-97 during office hours prior to taking part in the auction. Interested bidders may participate in the public auction for one or more items separately or for all the movable property in a lot.

Terms & conditions of auction

- Each auction bidder shall have to deposit 10% (ten per cent) of the price fixed by the authority for each item as security money (refundable) in cash to the Auction Committee through application on the date of auction bidding 24-03-97 by 10:00 AM. On completion of the auction, security money of all other auction bidders except that of the highest bidder will be refunded.
- The highest bidder shall have to pay 50% (fifty per cent) of the total amount immediately on the spot and the remaining amount within the following 3 (three) days. Security money will be forfeited if the 50% (fifty per cent) amount is not deposited immediately on the spot. And the infrastructures will be sold to any one among the bidders present able to pay 50% (fifty per cent) amount of the highest bidder immediately on the spot. On failing to pay the remaining 50% (fifty per cent) amount within the prescribed 3 (three) days, the earlier deposited 50% (fifty per cent) amount will be forfeited.
- On full payment of the bid amount the auction bidder shall be bound to remove the auctioned goods & clear the site within 3 (three) days by contacting the site engineer Mr. Shamsul Huq, Sub-Assistant Engineer, at own expenses. Otherwise, the authority will not be responsible for any damage to the goods.
- The security money will be refunded after complete removal of the goods.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason.

Md. Khursheed Alam Chowdhury
Wing Commander
Director (Aero/ATS)
Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority

Carry reforms in rural financing : WB study

The World Bank has underlined the importance of carrying reforms in rural financing in Bangladesh to achieve the desired growth of the economy, a study said, reports BSS.

It said future of Bangladesh economy which is still rural based lies in the development of farming and farm related activities.

The study prescribes that conducive economic policies and supporting institutions must exist for efficient and cost effective financial service to achieve the desired results.

World Bank Action Note, the outcome of the study said rural sector is central to Bangladesh's development strategy with agriculture to continue to play a pivotal role in rural growth.

The Bank said the reform in rural financing is necessary since the current operating environment "threatens to constrain further development."

The reforms proposed by the bank are devised with a greater vision in mind for rural financial sector. With the reform, the bank hoped the financial services can be accessible to poor

sections of the rural population who currently have no access to such service, especially small and marginal farmers and entrepreneurs.

The visions of the bank is one where farmers have access to credit that allows them to expand irrigated areas to their full potential and to diversify into new and higher valued crops and take advantage of the fisheries, livestock and other non-crop sectors. Accessible and safe saving facilities will also help maximise the growth potential of rural agriculture sector, the study said.

The World Bank said broadly three types of lending institutions exist in the country — the public sector institutions (agriculture banks and nationalised commercial banks), member based institutions like Grameen Bank and NGOs and the informal financial intermediaries like money lenders, traders and dealers.

It opined that currently the rural financial market is fragmented, inefficient and inadequate. Lack of institutional incentives, weak governance and

political interference were cited as the cause of poor functioning of public sector institutions in rural financing.

The built in shortcomings of the member-based institutions is that it is targeted to just one group of the rural population — the poor and mostly women. Besides, it provides mainly short-term credit and do not accept voluntary deposits.

Although the informal financial intermediaries still supplying the much needed service, it is unlikely to support a major growth initiative by themselves, the bank said and added these institutions remain segmented and constrained by limited resources.

The bank suggested that policy and institutional reforms should target the cause of problems — the poor governance, inadequate incentives and weak enforcement for improving the rural financial market and to continue on the path toward realizing rapid rural economic growth. The rural financial market should not be an instrument to achieve social or political objectives.

Focus on consumer credit—4

Prime Bank offers collateral-free loan

By Sharier Khan

Not long ago a middle class service holder had to wait for several years to save a portion of his salary to raise enough fund to buy a TV. But now, with consumer credit opportunities offered by the Prime Bank, one can easily possess a broad range of electronics. The Prime Bank offers collateral-free loans for buying car, station wagon, minibus, motor cycle, cycle, freezer, deep freezer, television, VCR, radio, stereo, air cooler, air conditioner, water cooler, water pump, personal computer, type writer, camera, movie camera, washing machine, furniture, sewing machine, kitchenware, crockery, photo copier, telephone, fax, cordless telephone, cellular phone, pager, telephone answering machine, ornaments, ceiling fan, baby taxi, tempo, generator and other essential commodities.

Since its introduction of consumer credit from April 1995, the Prime Bank had disbursed Tk 18 crore credit among some 4150 clients till December

last. Of this, the outstanding amount stands at Tk 12.24 crore.

"The recovery rate is 100 per cent so far," said Executive Vice President of the Bank Abdur Rab, "all the credit schemes exceed their targets."

Who is eligible for the loan:

To take consumer loans from this bank, one has to be a permanent job holder, aged between 20 and 50, in the following types of organisations: government organisations, semi-government or autonomous bodies, banks, insurance or any other financial organisations, universities, colleges and schools. Executives of established private organisations, doctors, engineers, lawyers, architects, chartered accountants, journalists and other professionals and self financed businessmen are also eligible for loans.

Loans for motor car: For purchasing motor vehicles, Prime Bank gives a maximum of Tk 3 lakh or 50 per cent of the price whichever comes the low-

regular payment of instalments, a personal guarantee from his higher authority or employer or a personal guarantee from an eminent or financially solvent person. In case the client is a professional, he may take his personal guarantee from a senior in his profession or from an eminent or financially solvent person.

The prime bank has appointed a supervisory agency — Peer Service — to supervise loan recovery, product distribution, assessment of clients' loan worthiness etc. This company gets a two per cent commission from the bank on recovery.

The vision of the Bank: "We are planning to increase the budget for consumer credit schemes this year," says the bank's Executive Vice President Abdur Rab who is very hopeful about the prospect of such credit schemes.

"We will also expand the base of the consumer credit schemes which means a larger number of commodities will come under its' purview," he added.

Govt initiatives have partial impact

Share market indicators fluctuate over week

By Rafiq Hasan

The country's capital market saw a mixed trend last week as the major market indicators of the bourses fluctuated remarkably.

The government's initiatives to provide bank's loans to the portfolio investors had partial positive impact on the market.

Though the All Share Price Index of Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchanges fell slightly in comparison with the previous week's position, the share transaction on the floors increased significantly following the declaration of some incentives and guidelines by the Bangladesh Bank for providing commercial loans.

The DSE All Share Price Index declined by 82 points over the week going down to 1523.67 points on Thursday while its market capitalisation lost Taka 607.54 crore declining to Taka 11818.12 crore from the previous week's Taka 12425.66 crore.

On an average, 4.04 lakh shares and debentures valued at more than Taka 12.11 crore were transacted everyday.

were declared by the Bangladesh Bank Governor in the middle of the week.

Under the incentive package, the ratio of loan disbursement to the account-holders of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) was increased and the commercial banks were provided a guideline for giving loan to invest in the capital market.

Following the decision the share price index and transaction volume of both Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchanges witnessed a significant rise.

The CSE All Securities Price Index fell by 16.56 points over the week closing at 684.95 points from 701.51 points previous week.

Its market capitalisation suffered by Taka 92.72 crore declining to Taka 9,341.57 crore from Taka 9,434.29 crore.

The controversy over the DSE circular regarding requirement of *hawala* sheet during the name transfer ended on Wednesday as it was withdrawn by the DSE authority in the face of strong opposition from the kerb market operators.

The angry kerb market traders started demonstration since the beginning of the week and held a number of rallies in front of the DSE building demanding withdrawal of the circular which asked the enlisted companies not to accept any share certificate for name transfer without *hawala* sheet.

Bangladesh Small Investors Federation, a platform of the kerb market traders, gave a 72-hour ultimatum to the DSE authority for total withdrawal of the circular.

The DSE authority deleted the clause of *hawala* sheet requirement from its earlier circular through another circular issued on Wednesday.

Serious panic was created among the investors and persons related to the country's capital market when the DSE All Share Price Index went down to below 1500 mark on Sunday last. The mark was set by the Finance Minister S AM S Kibria as the crushing point of Dhaka share market.

The DSE authority deleted the clause of *hawala* sheet requirement from its earlier circular through another circular issued on Wednesday.

He said the DSE members have already received the circular of the Bangladesh Bank regarding loan facilities and they are preparing to buy shares which will have a positive impact on the market in the future.

Prices of essentials up by 3 pc in 15 months: CAB

By Staff Correspondent

The Consumer Association of Bangladesh (CAB), the lone organisation to protect consumers' interests, has revealed that the prices of essentials except rice and eggs, has increased by 3.82 per cent in the last 15 months.

Prices of milk increased by 9.86 per cent, flour and atta by 5.10 per cent, fuel by 5 per cent and edible oil by 0.79 per cent.

CAB observed that the prices of commodities were increasing each month and the common people were being affected severely.

Prices of fishes, vegetables

and pulses were on the top in terms of price hike. The price of fish increased 17.71 per cent, vegetable by 14.30 per cent and pulses by 10.11 per cent respectively.

Prices of milk increased by 9.86 per cent, flour and atta by 5.10 per cent, fuel by 5 per cent and edible oil by 0.79 per cent.

CAB observed that the prices of commodities were increasing each month and the common people were being affected severely.

Prices of fishes, vegetables

Thailand to buy gas from Myanmar

BANGKOK, Mar 14: The Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) signed a multi-million dollar deal in Yangon yesterday to purchase natural gas from Myanmar's Yetagun offshore gas field, officials of US, British and Japanese oil companies.

The agreement was signed by a PTT senior official and a representative of Myanmar's state-owned Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), radio Yangon said in a dispatch monitored here.

The signing ceremony held in a Yangon's hotel was presided over by Myanma Energy Minister Khin Maung Thein and visiting Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Industry Minister Korn Dabbaransi, the report said.

Yetagun is Myanmar's second-largest offshore gas field located in the Gulf of Martaban in the Andaman sea about 270 kilometers (167 miles) from Thailand.

The 30-year purchase pact is estimated to generate 200 million dollars in revenue annually and would be shared by Yangon and the Yetagun Gas Field Developing Consortium, earlier reports said.

Foreign oil firms involved in the project have been under criticised by Myanma Pro-Democracy Leader Aung Sun Suu Kyi and international organisations monitoring human rights in Myanmar for allegedly propping up Yangon's Military Junta.

Interested contractors are requested to contact the abovementioned offices for detailed informations.

BCI lauds govt decision to import tax-free generators

Sharif M. Afzal Hossain, President of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI), has hailed govt decision to allow duty-free import of generators to minimise power crisis in the country, says a press release on Thursday.

Hossain opined that the generator owner should be allowed to sell the surplus power of the generator to any interested user in the private sector, if required.

He requested the govt. to expedite implementation of the decision to install Burge Mounted power plant without delay.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Public Health Engineering
Nilphamari Division, Nilphamari

Dated: 24/2/97

Tender Notice

PH Nil. 2/96-97

Tenders under separate sealed covers (for each group) are invited from this Directorate's 'A&D' category contractors enlisted/renewed for 96-97 for installation work of 38 mm dia shallow tubewell at different unions of Nilphamari district. Tenders will be received by the Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Rangpur Division, Rangpur, Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Kurigram Division, Kurigram and by the undersigned up to 1:00 PM of 24-3-97/10-12-1403BS and will be opened by the undersigned at 1:00 PM of 25-3-97 before the contractor tenderers (if any) present. No tender will be sold on the date of receiving tender. Tenders can be purchased at the prescribed non-refundable price from the office of the Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Rangpur Division, Executive Engineer, Kurigram Division and office of the undersigned during office hours up to the day before the date of receiving tenders. The work is installation of 55 tubewells in total 6 groups.

Interested contractors are requested to contact the abovementioned offices for detailed informations.

Mohammad Mohsin
Executive Engineer
Public Health Engineering
Nilphamari Division, Nilphamari.

DFP-4756-2/3
G-731

Chittagong and
Odia

পানির বিল নির্মিত পরিশোধ করন</p