

Two-day technical body meet begins

## Joint move to promote SAARC region as tourist destination

A two-day technical committee meeting of tourism officials and experts of the seven SAARC countries began here yesterday to adopt a programme for joint promotion of SAARC region as a tourist destination, reports BSS.

The programme includes joint tour packages, SAARC travel guide, joint tourism promotional film — Nepal and SAARC joint tourism participation in international tourism fairs.

Inaugurating the meeting at Hotel Sonargaon, the Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Dr Muihuddin Khan Alamgir, referred to the glorious historical past of South Asia together with its varied cultural heritage and said linking the region through package tours can no doubt contribute

towards a vibrant inter-regional tourism industry in South Asia.

From the Everest, the roof of the world in Nepal, to the golden beaches of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, Bentola in Sri Lanka, Goa in India, the picturesque valleys of Bhutan, the reefs of the Maldives are all irresistible tourist attractions that South Asia offers, he said and added in such diversities in the region's natural beauty lies its real strength in tourism.

The inaugural function was also addressed by the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Mohammad Ismail Hossain, Director of SAARC Secretariat, Ashoke Atri, and Chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Khondkar Rashidul Huq.

The state minister said that

the present government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attached top priority to development of tourism. Recognising tourism as an industry, the national tourism policy outlines various incentives for investment in the tourism sector.

Earlier welcoming the delegates the Tourism Secretary Mohammad Ismail Hossain, in his speech, said that during the present meeting, the delegates will discuss several aspects of cooperation, such as joint promotion of South Asia as an international tourist destination, exchange of information, transportation, training and investment.

The Chairman of the tourism council of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also been invited to

present his report on regional tourism cooperation.

Presenting vote of thanks, the Chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation described the seventh meeting of the SAARC technical committee first of its kind in Bangladesh as a unique occasion to sit together and discuss and find out ways and means of cooperation for joint tourism development of the SAARC member nations. Moreover this will enhance our knowledge to face the challenges of the coming century, Rashidul Huq added.

The technical committee, among others, will discuss the proposals to be considered by the first meeting of the SAARC tourism ministers schedule to be held in Colombo, next month.



President of Turkey Suleyman Demirel signed the visitors book of Dhaka Sheraton during his stay at the hotel.

## BSB sanctions Tk 90 cr for 3 spinning projects

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) sanctioned a local currency loan of Tk 90.24 crore for three spinning projects after re-appraisal, says a press release.

The approval was given at its 288th meeting of the Board of Directors of BSB, held on Saturday at the bank's head office in the city with Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Chairman of the Board in the chair.

Out of total loan of Tk 90.24 crore, Tk 26.75 crore was sanctioned for a spinning mill at Chaudanga while Tk 27.91 crore and Tk 35.58 crore were sanctioned for two other spinning projects to be set-up at Sreepur and Kaliakoir under Gazipur district.

These projects will create backward linkage to export-oriented knit garments of the country with total employment opportunities for 1973 persons.

Besides, these projects will contribute Tk 55.78 crore to GDP per annum. It is expected that after implementation, these three projects will save

foreign exchange equivalent to Tk 1342.12 crore during their economic life.

## Annual confce of United Insurance branches held

The three-day fifth annual conference of the branches of the United Insurance Company Limited concluded at the company's head office in the city recently, says a press release.

Inaugurated by the Chairman of the Company M Moayedul Islam, the conference was attended by all the branch-in-charge and senior executives of the company.

In his speech Islam said that United Insurance continued to follow the global insurance tradition and appreciated the dedication of the company's staff and hoped that they would continue their effort for the betterment of the company in the days to come.

## IDB team calls on Kibria

The visiting Islamic Development Bank (IDB) mission, led by its Vice President Dr Fuad Abdullah Al-Omar, called on Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria at his office on Saturday, says UNB.

The Finance Minister apprised the mission of the government efforts in poverty alleviation, infrastructure development, foreign investment and exploration of natural resources.

The government has adopted an export-led strategy for achieving a higher rate of economic growth, Kibria said and referred to various incentives being provided by the government for foreign investment.

He said that as a result of the government's liberal policy, a large number of foreign investors was showing interest in the field of energy, industry and other sectors.

## Bangladesh to get Tk 15 cr interest free loan from China

Bangladesh will receive 30 million yuan, equivalent to Taka 15.36 crore, from China as interest free loan for its economic development, reports UNB.

An agreement to this effect was signed between Bangladesh and China at the Ministry of Finance here yesterday.

ERD Secretary Dr AKM Mashur Rahman and Chinese Assistant Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation initiated the accord for their respective government.

The visiting Chinese Vice Premier Luo Gan and Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria were present.

Earlier, the Chinese vice premier and the Bangladesh finance minister held a meeting discussing economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

## Share trading in India dull over the week

BOMBAY, Mar 30: Investors in Indian shares are likely to be cautious and remain on the sidelines over the next two weeks in anticipation of a monetary policy for the fiscal year to March 1998 analysts said, reports AFP.

The 30-share sensitive index at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) shed 66.67 points or 1.78 per cent from the previous week's close to finish Friday at 3,663.53 points.

The broad-based 100-share national index was down 24.17 points or 1.5 per cent from the previous close and finished Friday at 1,584.97 points. BSE was shut on March 24 to mark a Hindu holiday.

Trading was dull through most of the week as investors and speculators did not wish to make fresh commitments ahead of the monetary policy, due on April 15, as well as corporate results expected from April.

Analyst Devesh Kumar at the foreign brokerage Daewoo Securities said no fresh buying commitment was likely until the monetary policy was announced and corporate results started rolling in.

He said share prices were expected to move 'sideways' next week.

"We do not expect any dramatic movements in prices or BSE sensitive index," he said. In trading, Associated Cement Co lost 126.50 rupees to 1,471 rupees. Bombay Dyeing shed 2.75 rupees to 121.75 rupees. Glaxo was down six rupees to 277 rupees, and Reliance Industries fell 2.25 rupees to 285 rupees.

The State Bank of India was down 10.50 rupees to 303 rupees. Tata Engineering re-treated eight rupees to 375 rupees and Tata Steel decreased by six rupees to 177.75 rupees.

## Air cargo agents' supervision over loading process demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Air cargo agents blasted Biman authorities for what they said improper cargo handling and demanded reintroduction of the agents' supervision over the loading process.

"At least Taka one crore loss is feared due to Saturday's rainfall for which Biman is responsible," said Mustaque Ahmed, President of the Association of Air Cargo Agents of Bangladesh (AACAB) at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

He said frequent changes in Biman's policy are seriously hampering the country's foreign trade and the business community is being affected.

AACAB President has criticised Biman's new tariff for cargoes bound for New York

where charges have been increased from Taka 109.25 to 146.50 per kilogram of exportables. The new tariff is awaiting immediate implementation.

"The sudden increase in tariff will shock our importers," he said adding the message is given through an 'internal telex', which can not be conveyed to the importers. Then, "how can we convince our importers?" Ahmed pointed out. He said it is customary that the users know the tariff through Biman's published documents.

Besides, Biman has restricted AACAB's supervision over the loading process. Previously it allowed the cargo agents up to a point to directly have a look on the cargo handling process.

According to AACAB, 62,000 metric tons of goods were exported by last year of which Biman's share was more than 25 per cent.

"Had we been there, we could have taken immediate measures to protect the products from shower," AACAB chief said. He demanded AACAB's further involvement in the process or a secured and safe handling of cargoes.

The other leaders of AACAB, SM Rahman and Mohsin M Alam, accused Biman officials of hiring unskilled labourers to prepare consignments. The daily-basis labourers are not properly trained to take care of the materials.

At Sonargaon hotel on Saturday, ten members of parliament — five each from the government and the opposition sides — who own garments factories and are members of the BGMEA took part in the discussion. BGMEA President Mustafa Golam Qudus was in the chair while Anisul Huq of Mohammadi Group was the moderator.

Khondker Asaduzzaman MP said the garment sector was the worst sufferer due to hartal and suggested that this issue should have a special focus in parliament considering its importance in the export economy.

Alhaj Moqbul Hussain MP urged both the government and the opposition MPs to strive together to remove any problem faced by the garment sector. He also put special emphasis on removal of bureaucratic tangle in this regard.

Mosharaf Hussain MP, a former president of BGMEA, suggested that a parliamentary standing committee should be formed to look after the export-led industries including the garment sector.

He said such a committee would contribute towards building a consensus between the government and the opposition

## Keep garment sector free from political agitation: BGMEA

Leading garments businessmen here described any political programme leading to hartal as disastrous for the national economy, particularly the export-led industries of the country, reports BSS.

The issue must be discussed in the parliament and a consensus should be built as to how to protect the export-led industries including the garment sector from the curse of hartal.

This issue with other factors were discussed at a meeting between Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Economic Reporters Forum (ERF) at Sonargaon hotel on Saturday.

MPs to find out ways for solution to the problems faced by the garment sector.

Fazlul Azim MP stressed the need for a joint move inside parliament to find out causes of hartal and said, "We certainly do not want the politics of hartal, which is detrimental to production in industries including the garment sector."

President and Editor of the Financial Express Moazzem Hussein, the BGMEA President Mustafa Golam Qudus said parliament must be made more meaningful to remove any constraint — political or economic — to allow the trade and business growth independently as per the law of the land.

## Coming AGMs

Company	Book Closure	AGMEG	Date	Venue & Time	Dividend Proposed
National tube	01/03/97-25/03/97	AGM	25/03/97	Factory Premises 11 am	182.15
Eastern Cables	01/03/97-29/03/97	AGM	29/03/97	—	18.5
BD Luggage (Held)	18/02/97-04/03/97	(Half yearly interest)	—	—	10
City Vegetable	20/03/97-28/03/97	AGM	—	—	3R:1 (Pre: Tk 50)
Bengal Biscuit	15/03/97-28/03/97	AGM	28/03/97	Hotel Sonargaon,	18.5
Attab Automobiles	22/03/97-25/03/97	AGM	—	—	2R:1 (Pre: Tk 150)
Beximco (Deb)	25/03/97-10/04/97	(Interest for 12th instalment)	—	—	—
Savar Refractori	20/03/97-21/03/97	AGM	21/03/97	Hotel Sundebaran 11:30 AM	—
Singer BD	27/03/97-16/04/97	AGM	16/04/97	Hotel Sonargaon	75 182
Padma Oil	23/03/97-29/03/97	AGM	29/03/97	—	20
Jute Spinners	24/03/97-30/03/97	AGM	30/03/97	Head Office, House No. 98, Road 9A (New) Dharmad 12 Noon	15
Wata Chemical	01/04/97-09/04/97	AGM	09/04/97	Jasaghar hall, Hotel Pubani 4 PM	25
Pharmaco Int.	17/03/97-30/03/97	AGM	30/03/97	60, Mofejel CA, BOC Auditorium 10 AM	—
BTC	03/04/97-28/04/97	AGM	—	—	30
Anwar Galva	20/03/97-27/03/97	AGM	27/03/97	Party Center Dharmad	—
ULC	02/04/97-29/04/97	AGM	29/04/97	Hotel Sonargaon, 3 pm	22
IDL	05/04/97-13/04/97	AGM	13/04/97	Hotel Sonargaon, 10 am	35 181
IDL	—	EGM	Do	—	—
Reckit & Colman	19/04/97-28/04/97	AGM	08/05/97	—	35
Aziz Pipes	31/03/97-02/04/97	AGM	—	—	182
Besi Inlu (Deb)	10/04/97-30/04/97	—	—	—	1R:1 (Pre: Tk 550)

### PEREGRINE BANGLADESH INDEX

Sunday's market comment

The PBI surged for the third consecutive day by 1.46% to close at 595.26. Market sentiment was positive with 22 gainers over 8 losers. Tripti Industries led the winners list as it added 10.00%. Ten other issues appreciated more than 9.00% including Shine Pukur (+9.99%), Square Pharma (+9.99%) and Apex Food (+9.97%) topped the losers list along with BOC Bangladesh (-9.18%), Singer Bangladesh (-8.27%) and Prime Textile (-7.38%).

### Shipping Intelligence

#### CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 30.3.97

Berth	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local Agent	Date of Leaving
J/1	Ocean-1	Cement/Gl	Cal	Cross	18/3
J/4	Ping Shun	Cement/Gl	Delmu	R/A	4/4
J/5	Al Safi	Gl	S Aust	Psal	13/3
J/6	Chebyabinsk	Cement	CCNL	R/A	5/4
J/8	Aegenssa-1	Wheat/Gl	BSE	R/A	2/4
J/9	Hua Zhuan	Wheat/Gl	Card	Oswl	23/3
J/11	Kota Selamat	Cont	Sing	PI (BD)	23/3
J/12	Tiger River	Cont	Sing	RSL	28/3
J/13	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	27/3
CCT/1	Vanessa	Cont	Sing	RSL	24/3
CCT/2	Banglar Moni	Cont	Sing	BSC	27/3
CCT/3	Fressia	Cont	Cal	BDSHIP	28/3
RM/14	Banglar Kallol	Idle	Male	BSC	8/3
CGJ	Sae Byol	C Clmk	Dado	BMA	27/3
GSJ	Sea World	Wheat/Gl	Hald	Bsl	R/A
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	Psal	7/6
CULJ	Blue North	Cement	QCSL	Psal	3/6
Kalco(U)	New Success	Urea	Sing	Ancl	27/3



ERD Secretary Dr A K M Mashur Rahman and Chinese Assistant Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Yang Wensheng signed an agreement on behalf of their respective governments in the city yesterday under which Bangladesh will receive Tk 15.36 cr from China as interest-free loan.

## 20-pt package for repatriation of Chakma refugees

AGARTALA, Mar 30: The fillip behind the on-going third phase of repatriation of Chakma refugees from Tripura to Bangladesh has been the 20-point package agreed on by the Chakma leadership and Bangladesh, reports PTI.

Under the agreement, the Chakma returnees would be assured of security as citizens of Bangladesh as provided constitutionally and under the law. Each refugee family would be given Taka 15 thousand, two bundles of CI sheet for house building and agriculture.

Each adult refugee would receive five kg rice, (two-and-a-half kilo per minor) each week for nine months, besides four kg dal, two kg soyabean oil and two kg salt per month for each family. Two bundles of corrugated tin sheets would be provided to each family for house construction.

Each farmer family owning land in the CHT after proper evaluation would receive Taka 10,000 for purchasing a pair of bullocks. Each landless family would receive Taka 3000 (three thousand) for buying a cow according to provisions.

The agreement was signed between Bangladesh's director (special affairs) of Prime Minister's Secretariat, SSM Mufaidul Islam, and the President of the Hill Chittagong Refugees Welfare Association, Upendra Lal Chakma, here on March 9.

Besides providing the refugees with two bundles of corrugated tin sheets, they would also be given timber permits for constructing

houses. The general amnesty announced for the CHT would be granted even in cases where arrest warrants were issued and also where criminal cases were instituted.

Agricultural loans would be waived for Chakma refugee families to a maximum of Taka 5,000 per family. Other bank loans, taken by the refugees after due verification, would be waived. Loans, taken by them from the Hill Chittagong Welfare Board, would also be waived.

Those families, who had owned land in the CHT, would have it returned to them. Those, who before fleeing the CHT had been in service, would be reinstated after their cases were reviewed sympathetically under existing service rules.

Qualified young Chakma, young men and women would be recruited in the third and fourth category posts in Chittagong refugees welfare board and the local administration.

Those refugees, who had crossed the age limit for employment, while in camps in Tripura, would be considered for jobs after raising the age limit for them.

Students, who obtained SSC and HSC certificates from educational institutions set up in the Tripura refugee camps, on production of documents, would be allowed to sit for a "special examination." Students among the refugees would be allowed to enroll in colleges and universities.

## Comteq exposition inaugurated

Post, Telecommunications, Housing and Public Works Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday inaugurated 'comteq' exposition '96-97 at Sheraton Hotel here, reports BSS.

Mohammad Nasim, while inaugurating the exposition said, we have to explore the potential of our human resources. He said private enterprises and individual endeavours should assist the government efforts to introduce modern technology in the country.

The exposition, dubbed as 'comteq' '96-97 will remain open for the visitors up to April 1, everyday from 10 am to 8 pm.

Conference and Exhibition Management Services (CEMS), a local private organisation, has organised the exposition which is being participated by 27 exhibitors, said the Chief Executive of CEMS, Ms Mehrun N Islam.

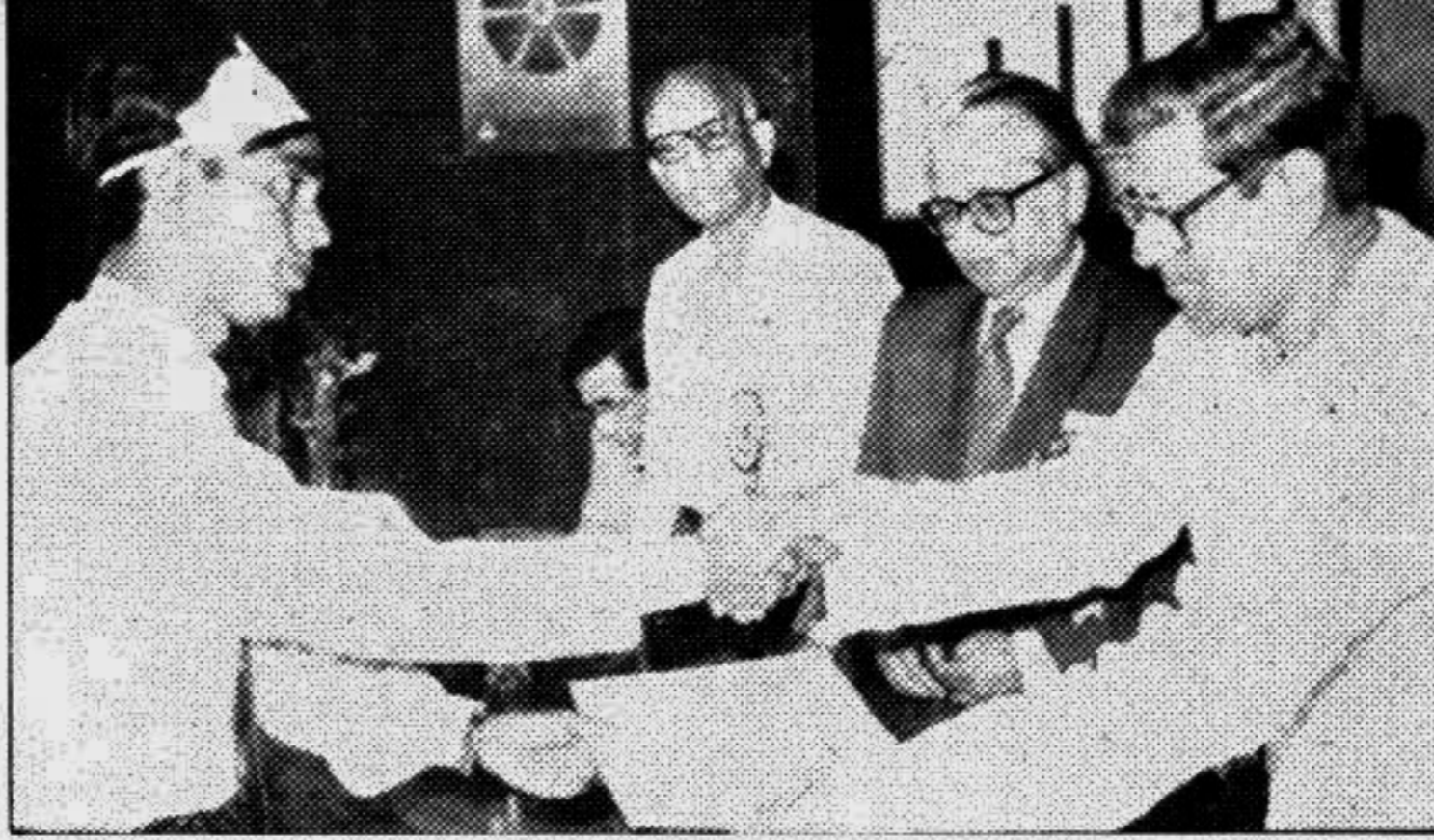
Different brands of computer, intercom, closed circuit television, PBX and cellular phones as well as spare parts of various products and electronics are on display.

## Biggest Japanese coal-mine closes after 124 years

TOKYO, Mar 30: Japan's biggest and oldest coal-mine was shut down today, ending its 124 years history as a symbol of Japan's industrial development before and after World War II, reports AFP.

Some 1,200 employees attend a farewell ceremony at Mitsui Coal Mining Co's Miike Mine in Omuta, Fukuoka prefecture, on southwestern Kyushu Island, after 160 miners finished their last shifts early Sunday, officials said.

"The Miike Mine, the nation's largest and with the longest history, shuts down today," Shintaro Isoda, head of the mine, told the ceremony.



The 10th annual conference of Delta Life Insurance Company was held at the auditorium of BCIC recently. The chief guest of the conference Professor Dr Anisuzzaman distributed prizes among the successful marketing officers of year-end business contest. Kazi Fazlur Rahman, Chairman, and Shafat Ahmed Chaudhuri, MD and Actuary of DLI, are also seen in the picture.



Microsoft Corporation conducted an 11-day training on SQL Server 6.5, Visual Foxpro 3.0 and Windows NT Server 4.0 from March 8 to 18 at a city hotel. The training was organised jointly by Microsoft Corporation India (Pvt) Ltd and Microsoft-authorised distributor in Bangladesh M/s Desktop Computer Connection Ltd. About 160 IT professionals and managers from various organisations including many multinational, NGOs, banks and foreign missions participated in the training programme.

### BCIC Tender Notice

বিস্বাসিস'র পণ্য শিষায়নে জাতীয় অধুগতির পতীক

Tenders in two-envelope system are invited by the General Manager (Purchase), BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, Purchase Department (17th floor), 30-31, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 from bonafide traders & agents for purchase of photocopier. Tender No. Pur-4.1477/96-97 dated 19.3.97. Tender with earnest money at the rate 1% of the quoted value will be received up to 11:00 AM of 10.4.97 and opened immediately afterwards in presence (if any) of the tenderers. Schedule containing rules & regulations of submitting tender and form will be available at Tk 400.00 (four hundred) only (non-refundable) each from (1) Accounts Department, Head Office (3rd floor), BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka, (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong.

No schedule will be sold on the date of opening tender.  
BCIC-222-20/3/97  
DFP-6946-2/3  
G-866

**General Manager (Purchase)**