

**China willing to invest in DEPZ**

China is willing to invest in Dhaka Export Processing Zone, reports UNB.

This was expressed by the visiting President of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, Liu Shuging, during a meeting with the Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), Moazzem Hossain Khan, at Savar on Sunday. Liu Shuging is leading a four-member delegation.

Moazzem Hossain Khan briefed the delegation on the entire gamut of the EPZs of Bangladesh with particular emphasis on various infrastructural facilities and financial incentives offered by the BEPZA to investors.

The Chinese delegation expressed profound satisfaction at the working environment in DEPZ. Later, the delegation visited two industrial units there.

**Chinese team exchanges views with CDRB**

China pursues the socialist pattern of economy which is fundamentally different from the western free-market economic system, the visiting Director of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs Liu Shuging said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Exchanging views at the Centre for Development Research of Bangladesh (CDRB) here, he said Chinese system of socialism is best suited for his country and there should be no illusion that socialism which is the guiding principle for the nation.

Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly, Chairman of the CDRB, welcomed Liu and gave a resume of the activities of the centre.

Answering questions, the Director of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs said his country strives to maintain close relations with all its neighbours because China wants to promote peace and harmony for the welfare and betterment of the people in the region.

**Casual packers allegedly occupy SMC's warehouse**

By Staff Correspondent

Social Marketing Company (SMC) Bangladesh, an organisation involved in the reproductive and nutritional health programmes, has alleged that a section of its casual packers have been illegally occupying SMC's warehouse since April 23, demanding permanent employment.

According to a SMC press release, 17 female casual contractive packers illegally gheraoed its management team on January 7 this year and demanded permanent employment. The management gave them one year contractual job on April 22.

But the workers again took over SMC's warehouse on April 23 and have been demanding permanent employment. SMC said its business did not allow the company hiring additional workforce but management considered the matter on quite humanitarian ground.

The press release said a general diary had been filed with the Cantonment thana in this connection and SMC was going to take legal actions against those workers.

**Int'l seafood fair in city next year**

**Frozen food export earnings likely to increase in '96-97**

Bangladesh can earn Taka 5,500 crore by 2002 by increasing the present quantity of frozen food exports from 34,000 tonnes to 90,000 tonnes, reports BSS.

This is possible by augmenting the per acre production of shrimp from present 250-300 kgs to 1000-1500 kgs through intensive culture of shrimp without harming the environmental balance said Md. Golam Mustafa, President of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association, at a function here Sunday.

He said the country earned Taka 1,300 crore by exporting 34,000 tonnes of frozen foods during the 1995-96 period.

During the first ten months of the current fiscal, Bangladesh earned about Taka 1200 crore which may surpass the last fiscal's level by the end of June this year, he said.

Finance minister Shah AMS Kibria who attended the function as the chief guest urged the shrimp culturists to increase their production to help the country's economy move forward in the process of poverty alleviation.

The government will provide all technical and economic help to this sector in the greater national interest, he said urging all to maintain honesty in the financial transaction.

He also urged the businessmen to remain alert against sickness of their industries or other production units. "I will issue a directive to the banking division to identify genuine sick industries, including those in the frozen food sector, for their proper rehabilitation according to the already fixed formula," he said.

State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Ray, speaking as the special guest, said the government had a broad-based plan for the shrimp culture sector to help increase the exports.

The plan includes setting up service centres in Khulna, training and orientation for shrimp culturists and setting up more hatcheries in the country's economy move forward in the process of poverty alleviation.

He urged the private sector to come forward with larger investment in shrimp production as this sector has proved to be of great potentials for the country's economy.

The association President, referring to the formation of a task force to identify problems in the way of frozen food exports and make recommendations on it, highly praised the government's speedy implementation of its decisions.

Earlier, the association president said they would host an international seafood fair in Dhaka next year with the aim to expand Bangladesh's seafood and frozen food market in the world.

The Secretary General of the association Dr. Afrabuzaman, in a statement read out at the function, said the country would have been able to earn Taka 10,000 crore annually if the plans and programmes as well as production targets under the 2nd, 3rd and 4th five-year plans could be fulfilled.

Bangladesh ranks 7th as the shrimp producing country with an annual production of 30,000 tonnes on an area of 1,40,000 hectare.

limited basis from this year as there would be no effect on the environment if hatchery-based frog production was launched in the country.

Shah AMS Kibria assured the association that the government would look into the matter with the due consideration.

The cell will give full cooperation to the apparel manufacturers in the country, regarding law and order problems, said a BGMEA press release.

The Home Minister Rafiqul Islam assured this at a meeting with the delegation of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

He also said female workers were also facing problems while returning from work places. "Local mastans often tease the girls and women workers," he added.

BGMEA president told the minister that improvement of law and order was necessary to attract foreign investors in the country.

The Home Minister has asked for names of routes which are frequently used by the workers at night.

He has also agreed to set up a 'traffic post' in front of BGMEA premises in the city's Karwan Bazar area.

**Use of private equipment at Ctg Port Stalemate continues**

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, May 5: Despite hectic negotiations, the issue on use of private equipment at Chittagong Port is still hanging, concerned sources said.

The Deputy Minister for Ports and Shipping held a series of meetings with the leaders of Chittagong Port's Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) and port users forum to resolve the problem which destabilized the operational activities of the port for five days till March 19 this year.

But all the meetings reportedly ended without any tangible outcome or clear-cut decision, concerned sources informed.

The Deputy Minister held the last meeting in the capital with the port users forum on April 30 and according to meeting sources, the minister sought more time to announce the decision on use of private equipment at Chittagong Port.

Meanwhile, the convener of port users forum, Kamal Uddin Ahmed, told this correspondent that a fresh ultimatum was issued by him to the authorities during the meeting to announce the decision by May 7.

"Otherwise, we will go for action programmes on the issue of private equipment," he said.

"The government is buying time only in this matter as it does not like to anger the CBA of port fearing further trouble," the convener added.

He said if the decision is not announced on May 7, the action programmes would be declared by the forum through a press conference.

Earlier, the forum gave the ultimatum to the government to announce the decision by April 30, the convener said.

However, the government was supposed to announce the decision by April 15 on use of private equipment already permitted by port authorities.

**Two-day BASC workshop ends**

By Staff Correspondent

A two-day workshop on time management organised by Business Advisory Services Centre (BASC) in association with Oracle Management Services Pvt Ltd, India, held at BASC Training Hall in the city ended Saturday, says a press release.

The workshop covered concept of time management, the problems and effectiveness, managing meetings, individual time improvement plan, delegation of authority, job improvement plan, etc.

Participants from Press Institute of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, National Institute of Mass Communication, Ministry of Information, Shiger Bangladesh Limited, NTAU/Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), Institute of Child and Mother Health, DHL Worldwide Express, Colour Touch, Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd, and Management Consulting Group attended the workshop.

**Govt to set up separate security cell for garment sector**

By Staff Correspondent

The government will set up a separate cell, under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police, to minimise law and order problems faced by the garment sector.

The cell will give full cooperation to the apparel manufacturers in the country, regarding law and order problems, said a BGMEA press release.

The Home Minister Rafiqul Islam assured this at a meeting with the delegation of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

**DESA asked to ensure proper supply of power**

By Staff Correspondent

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Lt Gen. Muhammad Nur Uddin Khan directed the Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) to ensure proper distribution of electricity by following the standard load management approach, says BSS.

He also said female workers were also facing problems while returning from work places. "Local mastans often tease the girls and women workers," he added.

BGMEA president told the minister that improvement of law and order was necessary to attract foreign investors in the country.

The Home Minister has asked for names of routes which are frequently used by the workers at night.

He has also agreed to set up a 'traffic post' in front of BGMEA premises in the city's Karwan Bazar area.

**123 automobiles use compressed natural gas**

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 123 petrol-fuelled automobiles like car, jeep and truck have so far been converted to use compressed natural gas, a cheap and environment-friendly fuel, reports UNB.

The vehicles, of which some 60 ply in the capital city, were converted at Rupanarita Pratikritik Gas Company Limited, a firm established by the state-owned Petrobangla.

It has a conversion workshop at Joarshahara and four fuel stations in different parts of the city have been provided with CNG-refuelling facilities.

The pumps are Sohag Filling Station at Mahakhal, PWD Sports Club Petrol Pump at Asad Gate, Rahman Service and Filling Station at Kalyanpur and Rahman Filling Station at Tikatul.

It costs Taka 20,000 per vehicle to convert a petrol engine to a CNG one, according to a report of Department of Environment (DOE) on the use of the gas.

The report says if a vehicle runs on CNG instead of petrol, the fuel cost reduces by fifty per cent.

CNG is a clean and environment-friendly fuel which does not contain sulphur or lead. CNG-operated vehicles emit less carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide.

As a result, vehicles running on CNG pollute air very little in comparison to petrol and diesel vehicles.

Maintenance cost of CNG-run vehicles is also less, the report claimed quoting statements of owners and drivers of some vehicles converted five months ago.

"CNG is an indigenous fuel. It substitutes import and saves foreign currency," it said, adding that it is a compressed form of natural gas from Titus and T&D Co Ltd.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Lt Gen. Muhammad Nur Uddin Khan directed the Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) to ensure proper distribution of electricity by following the standard load management approach, says BSS.

He also said female workers were also facing problems while returning from work places. "Local mastans often tease the girls and women workers," he added.

BGMEA president told the minister that improvement of law and order was necessary to attract foreign investors in the country.

The Home Minister has asked for names of routes which are frequently used by the workers at night.

He has also agreed to set up a 'traffic post' in front of BGMEA premises in the city's Karwan Bazar area.

**Multi-storey CSE tower to be built**

By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 5: Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) will construct a multi-storey tower at Agrabad, the business hub of the port city, reports UNB.

To construct the tower, CSE has bought 27 gondhas of land, including a two-storey building of 28,000 square feet, in the area.

The tower, where CSE automation project likely to take place, will be a landmark for Chittagong," said CSE President Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury MP at a press conference here yesterday.

He said preparations for setting up of a screen-based trading are in progress and the response from vendors, including those from abroad, for the CSE automation was overwhelming.

"CSE will receive detailed proposals by May 18 and those will be evaluated by a committee," Khosru said adding that the automated screen-based trading will be commissioned by December this year.

Replying to a question he said CSE has been pressing the government for operation of the central depository system (CDS), if necessary, myself will bring a bill in parliament in this regard," Khosru told the newsmen.

He said the country's capital market, which has potentials to grow if provided with the required infrastructure, is still in primary stage.

**Joint investment in GBM region favoured**

By Staff Correspondent

Joint investment by investors from the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) region for economic development of any of the countries within it received ample support during a public opinion survey conducted recently in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The survey found 81 per cent bureaucrats, 91 per cent businessmen, 90 per cent politicians and 81 per cent other professionals in favour of this idea, on the other hand, 84 per cent of urban and rural people — both male and female — are supporting it.

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), an independent research and development oriented think tank, conducted the survey under a multi-stage random sampling procedure during the first two weeks of April.

**Shipping Intelligence**

**CHITTAGONG PORT**

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 5.5.97

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port Agent	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Date of Leaving
J/1	Banglar Kallol	CL	Mong	BSC	3/5	8/5
J/4	Banglar Mookh	Wheat (G) Bunker	Mong	BSC	29/4	5/5
J/6	Sea Concert	Cement	Sing	Bright	21/4	8/5
J/8	Western Progress	Cement	Lans	PSAL	12/4	6/5
J/9	Feng Qing	GL/CL	Bela	BD Ship	2/5	8/5
J/10	Fong Lee	Idle	Col	BD Ship	1/5	10/5
J/11	Georgiy Dimitrov	Cement	Sing	Delmare	20/3	7/5
J/12	Freesia	Cont	Sing	RSL	3/5	6/5
J/13	Banglar Moni	Cont	Sing	BSC	3/5	6/5
CCT/1	Kota Bintang	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	2/5	5/5
CCT/2	Meng Kit	Cont	Sing	AML	4/5	7/5

**Vessels Due at outer Anchorage**

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	L. Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
City of Lome	5/5	Hald	RSA	GL(cont)	-
Banglar Asha	5/5	Mong	BSC	Mihalis-F	-
Tae Chon	5/5	Sing	Cosmos	Cement	-
Mihalis-F	5/5	Sing	BSSC	Wheat(G)	-
Banglar Gourab	7/5	Nago	SSST	CL	-
Altair Ace	8/5	Yang	Everest	CL	-
Fong Shing 10/4	10/5	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Lians Sha 16/3	11/5	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Cal
Fong Yun 1/5	11/5	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Magister (48) 21/4	7/5	Bela	Bdship	CL	-
QC Pintal 26/4	6/5	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Padma 29/4	7/5	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya 28/4	7/5	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Da FU 28/4	7/5	Sing	APL (B)	Cont	Sing
Pagan	9/5	Yang	MTA	GL(Logs)	-
Indian Goodwill	8/5	-	Oil	CL	-
Gul Lin Yang	8/5	-	USTC	C. Clinker (P)	-
Steamers Futura 27/4	9/5	Col	Bdship	Cont	Col
Ultara 28/4	8/5	Baha	Barthi	Cont	Col
Saadi (E/L) 30/4	10/5	Mong	SSL	E/L	-
Dinamarca	9/5	-	Prog	CL	-
Ravidas (48) 23/4	15/5	-	SSL	CL	-
Torin	10/5	Sing	ARL	Scraping	-
Banglar Robi 3/5	11/5	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Vanesa 3/5	11/5	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Susak 4/5	12/5	Col	Barthi	Cont	Col
M. Regina	13/5	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Able Lieutenant (ROR) 24/26/4	15/5	Yoko	BBA	Vehi	-

**Tanker Due**

Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Pactol River	5/5	Sing	ECSL	SRO/MS
Castor	5/5	Sing	ECSL	HSD
Delos	5/5	Mad	TSL	CDSO
Aspilos	9/5	-	KSB	Crude Oil

**Vessels at outer anchorage**

Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Jamaya	-	-	B.Bay	9/1
Orizont	-	Sing	B.Bay	25/2
Jasmini	Wheat(G)	Sing	SSST	4/5

**Vessels at outer anchorage:**

Ready on: Kota Selamat (Cont) Cont Sing Pil (BD) 4/5

**Vessels not ready**

Name of vessels	Cargo	Lans	Jaycee	30/4
Angeliki-R	Cement	Lans	Jaycee	30/4

**Vessels awaiting instruction**

Name of vessels	Cargo	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banglar Sampad	-	BSC	R/A (17/1)
Sanglar Shourabh	-	BSC	R/A (22/4)
Mare	-	Lans	R/A (14/4)
Brunel Eagle	-	K. Dia	27/4
Yan Qing	-	Cosmos	R/A (30/4)
Banglar Kiron	Wheat(G)	BSC	R/A (4/5)

**Movement of vessels for 6.5.97**

OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIFTING
J/8 W Progress	RM/4 Delos	J/11 Kota Selamat To CCT/1
J/12 Freesia	RM/4	Cont Topaz to J/3
J/13 B. Moni	J/10	Fong Lee to CCJ

Above are the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group Dhaka.



Golam Mostafa, Managing Director of Janata Bank, seen inaugurating the relocated Topkhana Road corporate branch of the bank at Meherba Plaza in the city on Saturday. General managers of the bank were present on the occasion.

**Kerala replicates Grameen Micro-credit system**

By Taani Pande

An innovative poverty alleviation programme in Kerala has resulted in the formation of a micro-finance system that targets women on the lines of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh.

"The Informal Bank of the Poor" is a self-help programme which targets the poor women in Kerala. It allows them to save periodically and utilize their savings for loans among themselves," explained P K Gopinathan, coordinator for the programme.

"One of the major advantages of the informal bank is that it provides timely credit at the doorstep of the poor at flexible loan terms," Gopinathan noted, emphasizing, "In this system the small thrift accounts remain safe and the recovery is 100 per cent."

The loans are issued to poor women through a three-tier community structure of Thrift Societies. At the lowest level are the neighborhood groups (NHG) which meet every week to discuss their problems. Above these are the area development societies (ADS) and then the community development societies (CDS).

The programme has now been extended to all the 57 towns of the state. In the Alappuzha district, through three loan accounts and 32 savings accounts, the programme reached 10,304 families and created 5,200 jobs, Gopinathan said.

In the Malappuram district, 100,000 families were brought under the programme and some 20,000 jobs were created, he noted.

**Kibria inaugurates BRSR commercial banking**

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Sh