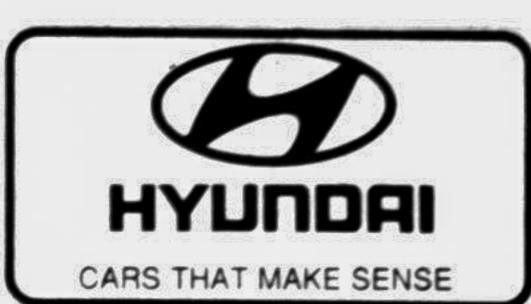
Telephome: 815306-09, 819625-29, Fax: 813062

DThe Baily Star DUSINESS



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. Lin Shuging is leading a four-mem-

ber 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 socialistic 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 China remains stuck to socialism which is the guiding principle for the na-

Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, 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 employ-

According to a SMC press release, 17 female casual contraceptive 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.

আহবান করা যাইতেছেঃ

 $3\frac{1}{4}$ x $4\frac{1}{4}$ (8.5x 10.8 cm)

মাধ্যমে দাখিল করিতে হইবে

DFP-10798-4/5

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(ক) পোলারয়েন্ড মান্টির্সটফ্লাসসহ ক্যামেরা।

উপযোগী যা আমেরিকা/যুক্তরাজ্যের তৈরী

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৪০৩ অথবা ৪০২ ফিলা(ফিলা পি, সি-১০০) ব্যবহার

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

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

555 110

DITTE MAY BEREZ

555 Day

celebrated

ing international brand of

British American Tobacco, cel-

ebrated its birthday around the

555 Day and is celebrated

around the world with a lot of

fun, festivities, and fireworks.

This year Bangladesh again

joined the rest of the world in

celebrating 555 Day. Similar

celebrations are underway in

all the major cities around the

sion, Bangladesh Television

aired a special one hour magi-

cal programme last evening.

The programme was made

available courtesy 555. In addi-

tion selected restaurants

treated its customers to special

video screenings of the magical

programme. These restaurants

were specially decorated to cel-

ebrate 555 Day. In addition a lot

of other colourful consumer

communication activities were

carried out throughout the

In commemoration of the

555 Day, Bangladesh Tobacco

Company Limited hosted a

grand magical celebration

party at a local hotel last night.

Top company officials and dis-

tributors were present on the

একক মূল্য

মোঃ আবু ছাইদ শেখ

সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব

দেখাইতে হইবে

country.

occasion.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়

প্রশাসন শাখা-২

নং-১৩(২)/৯৬/৩৩৮৬-সঃমঃ(প্রশাসন-২) তারিখঃ ৩০-০৪-১৯৯৭ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহের বিষয়ে প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে দরপত্র

স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ে স্বয়ংক্রিয় পরিচয়পত্রে ব্যবহারের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত

আগ্রহী দরপত্রদাতাগণ "৬৫-বিবিধ ননটেক্স রেভিনিউ" খাতে ১৫০/-

সংরক্ষণ করেন। দরপত্তের সহিত ২,০০০/= (দুই হাজার) টাকার

আর্নেষ্টমানি (ফেরতযোগ্য) যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হইতে "সিনিয়র

সহকারী সচিব (প্রশাসন-২) স্বরষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়"-এর বরাবরে পে-অর্ডারের

To mark the unique occa-

globe, says a press release.

world on May 5.

State Express 555, the lead-

Fifth of May is the official

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

shrimp culture areas of the country.

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.

"We thank the minister for commerce and industries as he helped in the formation of a committee recently in this regard which will submit a statement to the government for further development of this vital sector," he said.

Golam Mustafa also thanked • the Finance Minister for the steps he had taken for rehabilitation of the sick industries in the country.

He urged the government to allow export of froglegs on a

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 considera-

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

The Secretary General of the association Dr. Aftabuzzaman. 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.

Two-day BASC

workshop ends

management organised by

Business Advisory Services

Centre (BASC) in association

with Oracle Management Ser-

vices Pvt Ltd, India, held at

BASC Training Hall in the city

ended Saturday, says a press

The workshop covered con-

cept of time management, the

problems and effectiveness

managing meetings, individual

time improvement plan, delega-

Ltd. and Management Consult-

ing Group attended the work-

release.

A two-day workshop on time

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 Associa-

DESA asked to ensure proper supply of power

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

tion that called on him in his

office Sunday. The minister told the team that his ministry had already issued an order not to seize vehicles carrying garment products or its raw materials.

BGMEA president Mostafa Golam Quddus informed the minister that forced toll collections from the truck drivers carrying apparel products were being made on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

He also said female workers were also facing problems while returning from work places. "Local mastaans 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.

123 automobiles use compressed natural gas

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

It has a conversion work-

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

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

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

Maintenance cost of CNGrun 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 Titas and T&D Co Ltd.

Kibria inaugurates BSRS commercial

Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) started its commercial banking activities

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria formally inaugurated the banking activities of the BSRS underlining the need for overcoming the problems in the banking sector for attaining targetted growth rate of the country's economy.

The minister called upon the bankers to carry out their activities through creative and innovative approaches.

presided over by BSRS Chairman Hasnat Abdul Hye while Banking Division Secretary Syed Amir-Ul-Mulk and Managing Director of BSRS Shoyeb Ahmed spoke on the occasion.

The finance minister said the problems in the banking sector could be overcome in many respects and different administrative steps had been taken to make banking sector stronger. He said the faster growth could not be attained unless the banking sector became healthy.

we will be able to attain six per cent growth rate or around at the end of the present fiscal and we are making efforts with determination to attain seven per cent growth rate in next two vears time.

of loans through syndication

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

sources Minister Lt Gen Noor

Uddin Khan at a meeting of the

National Environment Com-

mittee today (Sunday) said six

more CNG-refuelling stations

planning to set up such pumps

on the main highways and con-

vert cars of ministers and gov-

ernment officials in phases, he

ing converted to CNG vessel at

Narayanganj Dockyard. The

conversion at a cost of Taka

1.22 crore is expected to be com-

diesel worth Taka 26.07 lakh

annually while after conver-

sion it will need CNG worth

Taka 16.59 lakh, saving BI-

Company Limited has been im-

plementing a plan to convert

petrol and diesel-fuelled vehi-

cles and water vessels to CNG

that would save foreign cur-

rency worth Taka 200 crore an-

nually.

Rupantarita Prakritik Gas

WTC's fuel cost of 9.47 lakh.

The ferry currently needs

pleted within next four weeks.

A BIWTC ferry "Kakoli" is be-

Besides, the government is

would be opened soon.

The vehicles, of which some

60 ply in the capital city, were converted at Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited, a firm established by the state-owned Petrobangla.

shop at Joarshahara and four fuel stations in different parts of the city have been provided with CNG-refuelling facilities.

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

vehicles.

Energy and Mineral Re-

banking

from Sunday, reports BSS.

The inaugural function was

Kibria said at present there was no political pressure in respect of giving loans. He mentioned that the loan recovery activities had been strength-The finance minister said,

He encouraged disbursement system for big projects.

Multi-storey CSE tower to be built

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

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

"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, I 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.

BUP survey Joint investment in GBM region tavoured

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 support-

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

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L.port	Local Agent	Date of Leaving	
J/1	Banglar Kallol	GL	Mong	BSC	3/5	8/5
J/4	Banglar Mookh V	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	GI/GL	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	Delmure	1/5 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 Kiat	Cont	Sing	AML	4/5	7/5

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	L. Por Call	t Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
City of Lome	5/5	Hald	RSA	GI(cont)	
Banglar Asha	5/5	Mong	BSC	Mihalis-F	
Tae Chon	5/5	Sing	Cosmos	Cement	
Mihalis-F	5/5	Sing	SSST	Wheat(G)	- 2
Banglar Gourab	7/5	Nago	BSC	Ci	
Altair Ace	8/5	Yang	Evereti	CI	or more services
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	CI	
QC Pintall 26/4	6/5	Sing	gcsl	Cont	Sing
Padma 29/4	7/5	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya 28/4	7/5	Sing	Pill(BD)	Cont	Sing
Da FU 28/4	7/5	Sing	APL (B)	Cont	Sing
Pagan	9/5	Yang	MTA	GI(Logs)	
Indian Goodwill	8/5		Oil	CI	
Gul Lin Yang	8/5	₹5	USTC	C. Clinker (P) -
Steamers Future 2	7/4 9/5	Col	Bdship	Cont	Col
Ultima 28/4	8/5	Baha	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Saadi (E/L) 30/4	10/5	Mong	SSL	E/L	-
Dinamarca	9/5	1142	Prog	CI	D 24
Ravidas (48) 23/4	15/5	Sec. 10	SSL	CI	= 3
Torin	10/5	Sing	ARL	Scraping	Seggener 90
Banglar Robi 3/5	11/5	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Vanessa 3/5	11/5	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Susak 4/5	12/5	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
M. Regina	13/5	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Able Lieutenant (RORO/24) 26/4	15/5	Yoko	BBA	Vehi	X

		lanke	Due	en e		
Pactol River Castor Delos Aspilos	5/5 5/5 5/5 9/5	5/5 Sing ECSL I 5/5 Mad TSL (SKO/MS HSD CDSO Crude Oil		
	Ve	ssels at	Kutubd	ia		
Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port		Local agent	Date of arrival	
Iamaya Orizont Jasmini	Wheat(G)	- Sing Sing		B.Bay B.Bay SSST	9/1 25/2 4/5	
MC-CANOCCAL DE LOS CALVOS AND CONTRACTOR AND CONTRA	Vessel	s at oute	r ancho	rages:		
		Ready	y on:			

Pil (BD) Kota Selamat (Cont) Cont Sing Vessels not ready 30/4 Angeliki-R Cement Lans Jaycee Vessels awating instruction R/A (17/1) R/A (22/4) Banglar Sampad BSC Sanglar Shourabh R/A (14/4) Brunet Eagle B.Bay R/A (30/4) Yan Qing Cosmos Banglar Kiron R/A (4/5) Wheat(G

Movement of vessels for 6.5.97 SHIFTING OUTGOING INCOMING W Progress RM/4 Delos Kota Selamat To CCT/1 J/11 Topaaz to J/3
Fong Lee to CCJ Freesia J/13 B, Moni

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

selves," explained P K (একশত পঞ্চাশ টাকা) অফেরতযোগ্য টেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে Gopinathan, coordinator for বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকে জমা দিয়ে মূল চালান নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে the programme. দাখিলপূর্বক উক্ত দ্রব্যাদির সিডিউল ১২-৫-৯৭ ইং তারিখের পূর্ববর্তী যে "One of the major advantages of the informal bank is কোন কার্য দিবসে অফিস সময়ের মধ্যে সংগ্রহ করিতে পারিবেন। দরপত্র that it provides timely credit at আগামী ১৫-৫-৯৭ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২৪০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে স্বরাষ্ট্র the doorstep of the poor at flexible loan terms," Gopinathan মন্ত্রণালয়ের ৩২৬ নম্বর কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেভার বাক্সে দরপত্র দাখিল noted, emphasizing, "In this করিবেন এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১২৪৩০ মিনিটের সময় উপস্থিত system the small thrift accounts remain safe and the re-দরপত্রদাতাদের সমুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্রের বাক্স covery is 100 per cent." খোলা হইবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা

Bangladesh,

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).

An innovative poverty alle-

viation programme in Kerala

has resulted in the formation of

a micro-finance system that

targets women on the lines of

the Grameen Bank of

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 them-

The Informal Bank of the

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-out 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 convenor 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 convenor added. He said if the decision is not announced on May 7, the action

by the forum through a press conference. Earlier, the forum gave the ultimatum to the government to announce the decision by April

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

tion of authority, job improvement plan, etc. Participants from Press Institute of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh programmes would be declared Television, National, Institute of Mass Communication, Ministry of Information, Singer Bangladesh limited, NTAU/Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), Institute of Child and Mother Health, DHL Worldwide Express, Colour Touch, Bangladesh Express Co.



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

"The basic aim is to provide banking credit to rural poor at their doorstep for their consumption, emergency or selfemployment needs," Gopinathan told IANS. Loans are given to meet immediate needs like illness, death, or educational needs as well as for employment-generating activities. Women take up occupations like book-binding and

Recovery is made by collecting a minimum of five rupees from NHG members during the weekly meetings. These deposits are recorded

printing, making fish nets,

pickles, candies, garments and

in a weekly account book maintained by the group and are also entered in the member's passbook. A small fine, as decided by the NHG, is imposed for delayed payments. The accumulated interest margin is the common asset of the groups. The "Informal Bank of the Poor" was launched in 1993 by

the Kerala government in col-

laboration with the Indian gov-

ernment and is supported by

UNICEF and the National Bank

for Agriculture and Rural De-

velopment (NABARD).

puzha district, through three loan accounts and 32 savings accounts the programme reached 10,304 families and created 5,200 jobs, Gopinathan In the Malappuram district, 100,000 families were brought under the programme and some 20,000 jobs were created, he

been extended to all the 57

towns of the state. In the Alap-

tified by the community itself using a poverty index. This index too has been created keeping in mind the local conditions," Gopinathan said. The poverty index covers areas like substandard housing, nonavailability of drinking water, meals per day, number of family members, the level of literacy and social problems.

"In order to avail the loan,

"The poor families are iden-

the member is first required to save up to 25 per cent of the total investment required," he said. The quantum of the loan and the rate of interests are decided by the group in its weekly meetings. No collateral security is required to avail the loans. (Source: India Abroad News

The programme has now