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Bangladeshi firm to export gold jewellery to Dubai

A Bangladeshi firm will export gold jewellery worth 34,500 US dollars to a Dubai-based trading house having marketing network in the Middle East, reports UNB.

Alanker Niketon has already obtained the letter of credit for the export, said a press release of Export Promotion Bureau yesterday.

With this, Bangladesh is going to enter into the highly competitive world market of gold and jewellery, said EPB which had fielded a jewellery marketing mission in November 1996 with the financial assistance of UNDP.

Agrani Bank forms body to refix charges on RMG

A delegation of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) Monday met with the Managing Director of Agrani Bank, Mosharrar Hossain, to discuss various banking problems, including exemption of Acceptance Charge, reports UNB.

BGMEA president Mostafa Golam Qudus who led the delegation requested the Agrani Bank's MD to waive the Acceptance Charge and reduce other bank charges. He said Janata Bank and Rupali Bank had already waived the charge.

The Agrani Bank MD assured the BGMEA delegation of taking similar step if any other nationalised commercial bank had taken decision to waive the Acceptance Charge. He said the bank already formed a committee to refix bank charges.

The MD further said about Tk 251 crore remained outstanding with the Agrani Bank from readymade garment factories causing liquidity problem to the bank. If Bangladesh Bank provides special capital, Agrani Bank will allow those RMG factories to open new LCs (letter of credit), he said.

The BGMEA delegation members also included K M Zaman Romel, Tayebur Rahman and Mostafa Golam Haider. General Manager of Agrani Bank A K M Baset was also present during the meeting, said a BGMEA press release.

Michael Jackson may invest \$100m in Poland

WARSAW, Poland, May 27: Where does Michael Jackson invest his money? Warsaw's mayor said Monday the king of pop is thinking about Poland, reports AP.

Jackson, who kicks off the German leg of his world tour on Saturday, plans to stop first in neighbouring Poland on Tuesday to discuss a major investment, Mayor Marcin Swietnicki told a news conference.

Waldemar Dabrowski, head of the State Agency of Foreign Investment, said the deal could top 100 million dollar — if it goes through.

"It will involve not only artist's money but also his imagination and talent," he said, declining to give details.

However, Dabrowski said, it is "reasonable" to assume that the investment will be connected to the entertainment industry.

Jackson plans to fly over Warsaw by helicopter to view potential investment sites, as well as tour the Royal Castle, meet with high school students and visit a children's hospital.

A meeting with President Aleksander Kwasniewski has not been confirmed yet, Swietnicki said.

Marutomi MD visits Apex Footwear plant

K Tominaga, Managing Director of Marutomi, one of the largest shoe retailer chains, with 1500 stores all over Japan, arrived in Dhaka Monday, says a press release.

He was in Bangladesh on a two-day visit to Apex Footwear Limited — the only supplier of complete leather shoes to Marutomi.

He was accompanied by S Mizuse, President of Mizuse Company, who are one of the largest importers of leather shoes to Japan and the agent of Apex Footwear Limited in Japan.

During their stay, they visited the Apex Footwear Plant in Shafipur and also other installations of Apex Tannery Group in order to find better opportunities for the collaboration.

It is expected that their visit will serve to further strengthen Apex Footwear Limited's position as one of the major exporters of leather footwear to Japan.

Marutomi has been buying leather shoes from Apex Footwear Limited regularly for the past five years.

K Tominaga and S Mizuse met Chairman, Syed Manzur Elahi and Managing Director A K M Rahmatullah, MP, of Apex Tannery Group at their head office in the city.

Norwegian co to set up cement unit near Dhaka

A Norwegian company will set up a cement factory in the south of capital Dhaka, taking the advantage of the country's liberal investment policy, reports UNB.

Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh Hans Fredrik Lehne stated this when he called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

Lehne, the first resident Ambassador of the Scandinavian country in Dhaka, said Bangladesh offers a good climate for investment.

He also appreciated the policies pursued by Bangladesh which is contributing to the stability in the region.

The Prime Minister said her government is trying to maintain and develop relations with

Thai sugar arrives at Ctg Port

At least 14 thousand tons of sugar imported from Thailand, reached the Chittagong Port yesterday, a press release of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) said.

The BSFIC has opened Letter of Credit (LC) to import 1.50 lakh tons of sugar in the fiscal 1996-97.

A total 25 thousand tons apart from yesterday's 14 thousand tons would arrive by mid-June.

all neighbouring countries, including India. In this regard, she referred to signing of the Ganges water-sharing treaty between the two countries.

Referring to recent cyclone in southeastern Bangladesh, the Norwegian Ambassador expressed his sympathy for the affected people.

West Bengal businessmen keen to set up jt venture small industries

By Staff Correspondent

The visiting trade delegation from Federation of Small and Medium Industries of West Bengal have expressed keen interest to set up joint venture industries in leather, leather goods, rubber and food manufacturing sectors.

The interest was ventilated at a meeting with Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation BSCIC at its office Monday.

They discussed the setting up of joint venture industries in small and medium sector and technology transfer.

BSCIC Chairman Abdus Samad led the Bangladesh side while the Indian side was headed by the President of West

The Prime Minister told the envoy that the casualty was less because of the cautionary measures. She stressed the need for more cyclone shelters in the area for protecting the people from cyclone.

Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan was present at the meeting.

Bengal Small and Medium Industries Federation, Salil Dey at the meeting.

The visiting Indian delegation was apprised that there were lot of plots in different industrial estates set up by BSCIC throughout the country where foreign investors could set up industries.

BSCIC chairman urged the Indian delegation to exploit various incentives provided by Bangladesh government to the foreign investors.

During the week-long visit, the delegation met ministers high officials of the government and different chamber leaders.



Picture shows Princess Hitachi with Nilufer Ahmed, wife of Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan at the Bangladesh stall looking at the Bangladeshi handicrafts and potteries at the Asian Ladies' Friendship Society's bazar held at Tokyo recently.

'New economic blocs to help increase foreign investment'

Bangladesh's initiative to form economic blocs would create windows of opportunities to invest for the foreign entrepreneurs, especially the neighbouring countries.

In an exclusive interview with BSS on Monday President of the Federation of Small and Medium Industries (FOSMI) of West Bengal, Salil Dey said "West Bengal wants to avail these opportunities by setting up joint venture of small industries and establishing business relationship with Bangladesh."

He said "We feel that the bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and India has

strengthened further in the recent past, especially with the signing of Ganges water sharing treaty. This has opened up new avenues of cooperation."

Dey, who led a 22-member business delegation of FOSMI to the seven-day visit to Bangladesh from May 20 said, the recent move to form economic bloc comparing Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand and implementation of SAPTA by the SAARC countries were very positive steps to increase economic growth which would encourage the investors to a great extent.

"We are very pleased to see that a very sound congenial investment climate is prevailing in Bangladesh and it has removed barriers and bottlenecks in the way of attracting foreign investment," Dey said and hoped "such steps will obviously encourage the Indian entrepreneurs to invest here."

During the visit, the West Bengal business delegation held a series of meetings with the officials of the government including Industries and Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed, executive director of Board of Investment (BOI) and leaders of different trade bodies in Dhaka and Chittagong to find out areas of investment.

Dey said fruitful discussions were held during the meetings.

Dey said Bangladesh has responded positively and shown

keen interest to set up joint venture footwear and biscuit manufacturing industries and seek support in developing computer software.

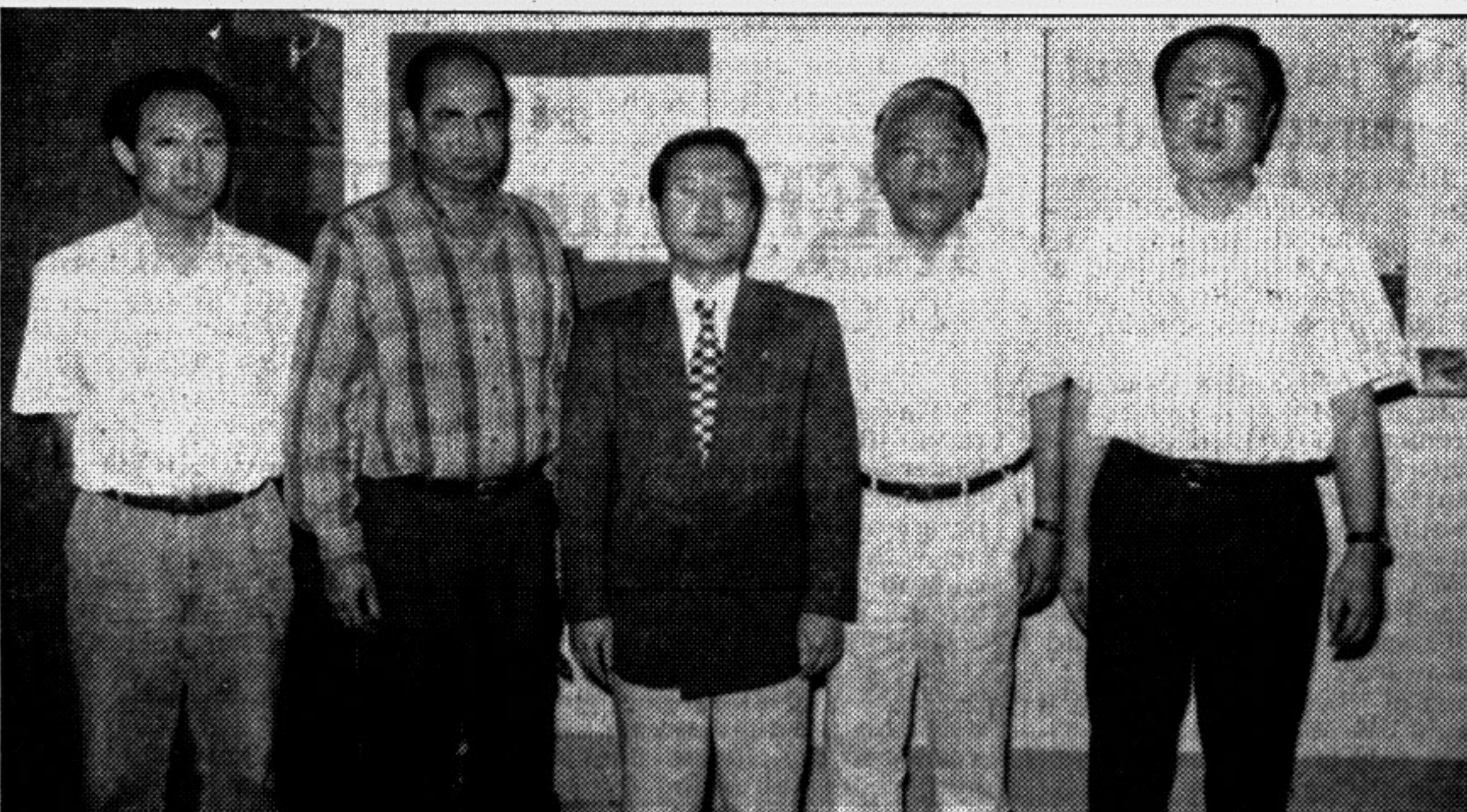
Exchange Rates

The following are the Janata Bank's dealing rate (BD Tk for one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 27/05/97:

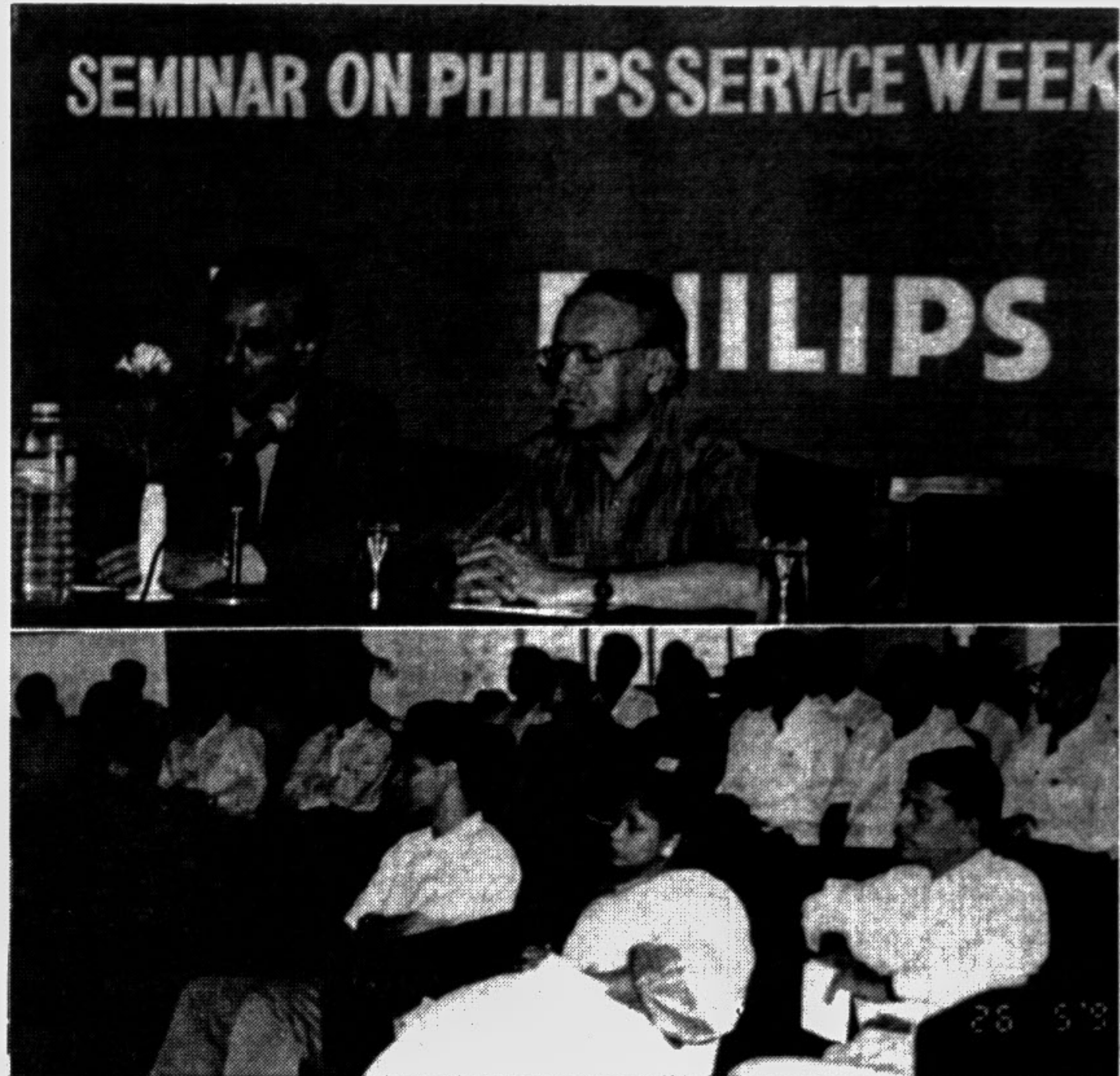
	Buying		
	TT Clean	OD Sight Export Bills	OD Transfer
US Dlr	43.5200	43.3522	43.2386
GB Pnd	70.9851	70.6948	70.5095
D Mark	25.6196	25.5149	25.4480
F Franc	7.5916	7.5605	7.5407
JP Yen	0.3727	0.3711	0.3702
C.Dlr	31.4844	31.3557	31.2735
S Franc	30.9136	30.7872	30.7065

Name of Currency	T.T & O.D.		B.C.
	US Dollar	GB Pound	
US Dollar	43.8120	43.8650	
GB Pound	72.0288	72.1108	
D. Mark	26.0550	26.0846	
F. Franc	7.7174	7.7262	
JP Yen	0.3815	0.3819	
C. Dollar	32.0122	32.0486	
Franc	31.4429	31.4786	

	Selling		Buying
	US Dlr	GBP	
US Dlr	43.8500	43.3500	
GBP	71.0300	69.0300	
S Riyal	11.8000	11.4000	
UAE Dh	11.8500	11.3500	



K Tominaga, Managing Director of Marutomi and S Mizuse, President of Mizuse Company, met Syed Manzur Elahi and A K M Rahmatullah, MP, the Chairman and Managing Director respectively of Apex Tannery Group at the group's head office in the city on Monday.



A S Mahmud, Chairman of Transcom Electronics Limited, addressing the Philips Service workshop at a city hotel recently. Obaidur Rahman Khan, Executive Director, is also seen in the picture.

Philips Service workshop held

A one-day Philips Service workshop was held at a city hotel recently, says a press release.

A total of 29 Philips Service dealers from all over the country attended the workshop.

The seminar was addressed by the Chairman of Transcom Electronics Limited, A S Mahmud, Executive Director, Obaidur Rahman Khan, consumer Electronics Manager and the Service Manager.

The Chairman, in his speech, emphasised on the customer service with the motto 'customer is the king'. He further mentioned that the 'inter-service' should gear up its service standard and prepare itself to meet the challenges of 21st century.

During this service week, Philips is to offer a 10 per cent special discount on the service charges to all its valued customer from June 1 to June 7.

DHL UK launches own web site

DHL International (UK) Ltd has launched its own web site (WWW.DHL.CO.UK) called Red Planet, says a press release.

Offering a taste of the very latest in on-line special effects and features, Red Planet's launch is phase one of a three-stage programme. This is aimed at making DHL's site not only the express industry's most functional web site, but putting it amongst the world's most popular corporate sites.

Tea export up by 31 pc

A total of 53.52 million kgs of tea was produced in Bangladesh in 1996, up by 12.27 per cent than the production of the previous year, reports BSS.

Chairman of the Bangladesh Tea Sangsad A Q I Choudhury said this at the Tea Sangsad's 37th annual general meeting held at Chittagong yesterday, a Sangsad press release said.

It said the export of tea also increased by 30.97 per cent in volume and 20 per cent in earnings in 1996 than those in the previous year.

With Choudhury in the chair, the meeting was attended by the members of the Sangsad, which heard a report from the Chairman on achievements of 1996-97 and plans for 1997-98.

The Chairman of the Sangsad in his report said the tea industry in Bangladesh still lacks much in productivity compared to other tea produc-

ing countries of the world.

"Major development works in the tea sector should continue," he said emphasizing the need for cheaper tea finance from the Krishi Bank, 99 years lease of tea estates lands from the government, steady power and gas supply, foodgrain and fertiliser supply and stable law and order situation.

Choudhury also stressed the need for finance to build infrastructures like roads, bridges, dams and reservoirs in the tea growing areas.

He thanked the Ministries of Commerce and Industries, Food and Agriculture, Home, Land, Energy and Mineral Resources, Labour and Manpower as well as Bangladesh Tea Board, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, district administration and law enforcing agencies for their continued cooperation.

Emirates operates US-Dubai non-stop new Boeing 777

Emirates, the award-winning international airline of the UAE, has operated a Boeing 777 on the first-ever non-stop flight between Seattle and Dubai with the delivery of the fifth Boeing 777 aircraft to join the airline's fleet, says a press release.

The new aircraft, A6-EMH, was delivered to the airline in Seattle and took off for Dubai on Thursday May 15. It arrived in Dubai on Friday May 16, a total flying time of 15 hours and three minutes.

The aircraft was operated by two flight crews. Boeing 777 Training Captain Oscar Martinez was in overall charge of the flight, assisted at the controls by First Officer Dino Paneris, Flight Technical Officer.

On board the aircraft were Emirates' Group Managing Director Maurice Flanagan, Chief Director Airline Tim Clark and Don Foster, Senior General Manager Inflight Services, with VIP guests.

Mike Simon, Head of Corporate Communications, was also on board with a party of 18 international journalists.

On arrival, they were welcomed by Emirates senior managers including Gary Chapman, Chief Director Group Services, Captain Lawrence M Smith, Senior General Manager Projects, and Mohammed Matrar, Senior General Manager Ground Services.

UAE President ratifies budget for '97

ABU DHABI, May 27: United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan has endorsed the federal budget for 1997, allowing ministries to receive specified allocations after they were running on temporary funds, local newspapers reported yesterday, says AFP.

The president ratified the budget for calendar 1997 nearly seven weeks after it was issued by the cabinet and more than three months behind schedule.

Financial sources said the budget was late because of delays in calculating oil revenues and contributions by crude oil-producing emirates.

Mamoon wins Pepsi contest

Al Mamoon of New Eskaton in Dhaka is the lucky winner of 'I Love Pepsi Contest', says a press release.

He won the competition out of 20,000 participants concluded in India recently. Mamoon has already gone to Calcutta to watch the final live of the Pepsi Independence Cup '97.

Iqbal Ahmed, Executive Director, of Bangladesh Beverage Industries Limited, the official bottlers for Pepsi in Bangladesh and Sunil Sood, Country Manager Pepsi Cola International handed over the award to Mamoon, at the office of Bangladesh Beverage Industries Ltd, in the city on Sunday.



Iqbal Ahmed, Executive Director of Bangladesh Beverage Industries Limited, the official bottlers for Pepsi in Bangladesh and Sunil Sood, Country Manager of Pepsi Cola International, handed over 'I Love Pepsi Contest' award to Al Mamoon in the city on Sunday.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 27.5.97.

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Banglar Maya	GI	Cal	BSC	23/5	27/5
J/2	Able Lieutenant (Roro/24)	Vehi	Kaoh	BBA	26/5	27/5
J/4	Green Opal	GI	Sing	Prog	21/5	29/5
J/5	Alkair Ace	GI	Yang	Everett	18/5	27/5
J/6	Ocean Rover	GI	Sing	Fairmax	22/5	29/5
J/7	Grace Marine	GI	Sing	Everett	22/5	29/5
J/8	Padma	Cont	Sing	RSL	22/5	28/5
J/9	Leona	GI	Puss	Prog	22/5	29/5
J/10	Esco Argo	GI	Bang	Prog	20/5	28/5
J/11	Meng Kiat	Cont	Col	AML	21/5	27/5
J/12	Banglar Aasha/Khanak	Wheat (G)	K Dia	BSC	R/A	29/5
J/13	Kota Selamat	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	20/5	28/5
CCT/1	Lian Sha	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	18/5	27/5
CCT/2	Fong Shuir	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	18/5	28/5
CCT/3	Somme (F Naval Ship)	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	26/5	30/5
RM/14	Fong Lee	Repair/	Sing	BSC	R/A	30/5
CGJ	Hae Woo No 2	Cement	Sing	RML	R/A	30/5
GSJ	Mihail F	Wheat (G)	Sing	SSST	R/A	28/5
TSP	Mantis	Repair	Mumb	CGS	R/A	30/5
RM/3	Technat Pioneer	Cement	Sing	PSAL	R/A	02/6
RM/4	Bunga Kesumba	CDSO	Drag	TSI	21/5	29/5
RM/6	Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	-	BSC	R/A	28/5
DDJ	Captain X Kytrakou	HSD	-	ECSL	R/A	27/5
DD	Rafflu	Repair	Mong	KSL	29/4	27/5
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	PSAL	8/6	-
DDJ/2	Mukhtar Avezov	Idle	-	Ancient	R/A	-
CUPLJ	Blue North	Cement	Qing	PSAL	3/6	-

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Socrates	27/5	Vera	Litmond	Sugar (G)	-
Vanessa 19/5	27/5	Sing	RSL	GI	Sing
Ileos Flame	27/5	Sing	AHZ	Cont	-
Vientiane	28/5	Cal	Fairmax	GI (Pulses)	-
Meccia-1	29/5	Jedd	BSC	Passengers	-
Banglar Kiron	29/5	Mong	BSC	Cont	Col
Sicamers Future 17/5	29/5	Col	Cross	GI	-
Penguin	29/5	Mumb	BDSHP	Cont	Col
Jiang Cheng	29/5	S Hal	BDSHP	GI	Chin
Kota Alam 10/5	31/5	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
Dongola	29/5	Adab	Litmond	Fert	-
Ya Muejer	2/6	-	USTC	Sulp	-
Banglar Robi 13/5	30/5	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Sokol	30/5	-	Seacom	M Seeds	-
Al Salma	30/5	Yang	ASLL	GI/GL	Kara
Yin Chuan	30/5	-	Prog	GI	-
M Regina 17/5	2/6	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
Sea Bee	30/5	Viet	OTEL	-	-
Sukarawan Naree	30/5	-	Oil	GI	-
Fong San	31/5	-	seacom	Sugar (G)	-
Prudent Challenger	31/5	-	Seacom	Sugar (G)	-
Sky Sun	31/5	-	Prog	GI	-
Freesia 22/5	1/6	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
QC Teal 25/5	1/6	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Dragon Sentosa 25/5	2/6	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Pukchang	2/6	Kand	Litmond	Salt	-
Banglar Moni 26/5	3/6	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Meng Yang 24/5	5/6	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing
QC Pintail 26/5	5/6	Sing	QCSC	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Cargo
San Giorgio	30/5	Kaki	Seacom	CDSO
Freja Nordie	1/6	Leix	Litmond	Lube Oil

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Ismaya	-	-	B Bay	9/1
Orizont	-	Sing	B Bay	25/2
Mighty Tide	-	-	B Bay	R/A (1/5)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Ready On

Lamphun Navee	Cont	Sing	RSL	24/5
Ultima (Cont)	Cont	Mong	Baridhi	24/5
Nei Jiang	GI	Sing	Prog	24/5
Taecheon	Cement	-	OSmos	R/A (15/5)
George	Cement	Sing	PSAL	