

S'pore Port world's busiest in tonnage

SINGAPORE, May 31: Singapore was the world's busiest port last year in terms of shipping tonnage handled but Hong Kong remained top in terms of container traffic, the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) said today, reports AFP. Shipping tonnage to Singapore rose eight per cent to 768.5 million gross tonnes, while the number of vessel calls increased by 13 per cent to 117,723. These increases have enabled Singapore to again clinch the number one position as the world's busiest port, a PSA statement said, adding that growth came despite and economic slowdown in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region. But in terms of container traffic, Singapore ranked second busiest in the world in 1996 with a total of 12.94 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) behind Hong Kong's 13.4 million TEUs, a PSA spokeswoman said. The PSA group, a semi-government body due to be turned into a corporation by the end of this year, reported a six per cent increase in operating income to 2,049 billion Singapore dollars (1.46 billion US) in 1996. The proposed PSA Corporation will be turned into a global company focusing on container terminal operations as well as port development and operation, warehousing and logistics.

Indian business leader opines Economics overtakes politics in S Asia

WASHINGTON, May 31: "There is a new energy that has evolved in the South Asia region despite the political issues that are old," an Indian business leader said at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) May 28 forum on "South Asia: The New Political and Economic Equations," according to USIS. "I am optimistic because I see historic things happening," says Dr. Amit Mitra. "Free trade and preferential trade nations are rapidly forming regional groupings" so that the "second track notion" (economic alliances) is having a greater effect than the "first track" (intergovernmental alliances). Dr. Mitra is secretary general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). He has been closely involved in shaping the Indian Government's economic and industrial policies. Having earned a PhD in Economics from Duke University, he has also conducted several studies on India's economic reform

process, covering a wide range of policy issues as well as specific sectors of Indian industry. Mitra reported that during the past two years and especially since the recent elections in Pakistan and India, economic developments in South Asia are becoming more significant than political considerations in the area. As a result, he said, Indian Ocean Rim countries in South Asia, Africa and East Asia are in the process of forming an economic bloc along the lines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. The newly formed multilateral group, calling the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative, began in March 1995 when the Mauritius Government invited representatives of seven countries to meet and establish a development dialogue. The initial working group included government representatives, academics, and business leaders from Australia, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman, Singapore, and South Africa.

The participants discussed the possibility of regional economic cooperation including shared trade and investment facilitation, cultural exchange, and human resource development. Mitra reported that this group continues to meet regularly to further multilateral cooperation in business and a range of other issues. To further this strategy of developing regional cooperation, the Australian government sponsored the International Forum on the Indian Ocean Region (IFIOR) in Perth, Western Australia in June 1995. The IFIOR was attended by some 122 delegates from 23 countries of the Indian Ocean region. While the IFIOR had no power to make recommendations to any of the participants, the feeling that this was an idea whose time had come was so broadly felt that three significant resolutions were endorsed. The Australian government also announced a grant to establish an Indian Ocean Center.

Italy approves 3-yr budget plan

ROME, May 31: The Italian government on Friday approved its three-year budget plan, avoiding specifying welfare system cuts bitterly opposed by its Communist supporters, says AP.

The 1998-2000 budget outline foresees an adjustment of about 25 trillion lire (15 billion dollars) in 1998 to bring the deficit down to 2.8 per cent of gross domestic product. The figure is a requirement for European monetary union. Premier Romano Prodi has staked his government on meeting the criteria for joining the euro currency. He proposed cutting the deficit with about 15 trillion lire in new taxes and revenues and 10 trillion in spending cuts. At a news conference, Prodi and Treasury Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi made no mention of a framework to reform social spending, as the government had repeatedly promised over the last couple months. Prodi told reporters only that the government is seeking to keep growth in social spending — health and pensions — in line with gross national product.

Private capital flow to developing world hits record high in '96: WB

WASHINGTON, May 31: The current wave of private capital flows to the developing world is likely to continue and could help bring four-fifths of the world's population more fully into the global economy, says World Bank chief economist Joseph Stiglitz, reports USIS. A record 244,000 million dollars in private capital flowed to developing countries in 1996 — six times greater than in 1990 and five times the size of official capital flows. These figures represent a change "that will be remembered not only as an important milestone in the economic history of this century, but as a turning point with far-reaching implications for the next," Stiglitz said at a briefing on the World Bank report "Private Capital Flows to Developing Countries."

The report released Thursday examines the challenges countries face in attracting — and managing — private capital inflows. Its central finding is that private capital flows to developing countries are being driven by complementary forces: advances in communications technology, financial market deregulation, the emergence of investors who are willing to invest internationally, and a growing number of developing countries in which economic reforms have boosted creditworthiness and made markets more accessible to foreign investment. These forces "are still very much at work, and have yet to reach their limits," said the report's principal author, World Bank economist Amar Bhat-tacharya, who predicted that global financial integration would deepen and encompass a growing number of countries. To date, private capital flows to developing countries remain highly concentrated among a few promising economies, including China, Malaysia, Mexico, Thailand, Argentina and Hungary. Sub-Saharan Africa — with the exception of South Africa — receives only about 1.3 per cent of global private capital inflows, according to World Bank figures. Stiglitz said the Bank would thus focus on helping countries adopt and implement the reforms necessary to attract and successfully manage private capital. "Globalisation of world capital markets has raised the rewards for countries that pursue good policies, but may make even more dismal the prospects for those that do not," he said.

Tougher rules on internet access in China

BELING, May 31: China has enacted tougher rules on internet access, requiring all units doing business related to the global computer network to apply for licences, the official Xinhua news agency said on Friday, reports Reuters. Under the new revisions to provisional regulations drawn up in 1996, local units with access to international computer networks would have to meet more criteria to operate, Xinhua said. "All such units to engage in business activities related to international networking now must apply for a licence," Xinhua quoted the revisions, which went into effect from Friday on the order of premier Li Peng, as saying. Such organisations would have to provide data on the nature and scope of their networks and the addresses of their computer hosts, Xinhua said. Access units should provide long-term services to clients or have their licences cancelled, the agency said. Violators of the rules would be shut down and fined up to 15,000 yuan (1,807 US dollars), it said. More than 100,000 people in China had registered to hook up with the internet by the end of 1996. Xinhua quoted figures from the Ministry of Electronics Industry as saying.



Emirates' cargo managers and GSAs pose for the camera with Ram Menen, Senior General Manager Cargo, and Pradeep Kumar, Revenue Optimisation Manager with special responsibility for West Asia and Pacific Rim, during their recent regional meeting in Singapore.

Iraq set to sign oil deal with China

BAGHDAD, May 31: Iraq is set to sign an oil deal with China "very soon," Oil Minister Amer Mohamed Rashid announced yesterday, reports AFP. "We are going to conclude an oil deal with China very soon," Rashid told a press conference here. He added that negotiations between Iraq and Italian oil firms "have also reached a very advanced stage." A high-ranking Chinese delegation is expected in Baghdad in early June to discuss the accord concerning the development of Iraqi oil-fields, an oil source in Baghdad said. In November the Iraqi parliament ratified an agreement with China for the 26-year development of the Al-Ahdad oil field 180 kms south of Baghdad, which has reserves estimated at one billion barrels. Rashid said talks with the Italian energy company ENI "have reached a very advanced stage... but there are still a certain number of issues to be resolved and we hope that can be achieved soon." The Oil Minister visited Italy in April saying an accord between Baghdad and ENI on the exploitation of the Al Nasiriyah oilfield could be signed within weeks. Such an agreement could not be implemented by ENI until after the lifting of UN oil and trade sanctions imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Iraq has said it will need 30 billion dollars to develop its oil resources once the embargo has been lifted. It has already signed an agreement with Russia in March under which Moscow is to invest 3.5 billion dollars to develop the giant Qurnah oilfield in southern Iraq. Russian Energy Minister Pyotr Rodionov said the agreement "did not go against the sanctions" and could go into effect immediately. Rashid also said that studies on the construction of an Iraqi-Turkish gas pipeline have been completed and that he hoped an accord could be reached on exporting natural gas to Turkey within the year. Iraq and Turkey signed a preliminary accord on May 10 on a 2.5 billion dollar project to build a pipeline to supply Turkey with natural gas.

Emirates Cargo Managers meet in Singapore

Cargo Managers from 15 Emirates stations in the West Asia and Pacific Rim region, which represent half of the airline's total cargo business, met in Singapore for their regional conference at which the blueprint for future development of Emirates' air freight business was outlined, says a press release. Managers from Karachi, Dhaka, Delhi, Mumbai (Bombay), Colombo, Male, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila and Melbourne were joined by representatives from GSA companies in Taipei and Tokyo. The meeting was chaired by Pradeep Kumar, Revenue Optimisation Manager with special responsibility for West Asia and the Pacific Rim. Ram Menen, Emirates' Senior General Manager Cargo reported that, by the end (March 31) of the 1996/97 financial year, recovery had been almost complete from the yield erosion which hit the industry during 1996 when yields generally went into "an uncontrollable nose dive".

Unsafe use of pesticides causes health hazard in Third World: FAO

ROME, May 31: The technology used to spray pesticides in most developing countries reflects technical standards of 40 years ago, resulting in pesticide waste and environmental damage, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned in a statement released Thursday. FAO called for the adoption of minimum standards for the safe and efficient application of agrochemicals through good quality equipment and a better training of farmers. According to FAO, farmers and equipment operators have insufficient knowledge about pesticides and correct methods of application. Extension services rarely have technicians with any specialised knowledge of application technology. "In many countries the only specialists offering advice to farmers on application technology, handling and calibration of their equipment are representatives of pesticide companies," said Theodor Friedrich of the FAO Agricultural Engineering Branch. "Many farmers still believe in high volumes, high pressure and high doses, as the most appropriate way to apply pesticides." In many countries, much of the spraying equipment is in extremely poor condition. Friedrich noted. Nozzles are normally not replaced and are even enlarged on purpose to achieve higher flow rates. In Pakistan, according to FAO, about 50 per cent of applied pesticides are wasted due to poor spraying machinery and inappropriate application. Many farmers were not trained in safety aspects and indiscriminate use of pesticides resulted in groundwater pollution. In India, high levels of pesticide residues in food crops, compared to the world average, are reported. According to FAO, this is an indication that pesticides were used in a wrong way. Although India has national standards for spray equipment, which are followed by the major manufacturers, there are still many small manufacturers serving local needs that do not comply with quality standards. In Thailand, farmers so far have paid little attention to the proper use of pesticides, according to surveys. Training on spraying equipment was low. A study in Indonesia reported that 58 per cent of manual spray equipment leaked. In Malaysia, the lack of training, the improper maintenance of spraying equipment and insufficient protective clothing are contributing to pesticide poisoning among spray operators. Pesticide residue in water was primarily due to excess pesticide use by farmers. A report on Vietnam said that the supply of safe spray equipment was limited mainly due to the absence of national legislation and standards and a lack of training of operators. In the Philippines, sprayer leakage is very common. The majority of farmers and equipment operators never receive any formal training prior to their first contact with pesticides and application equipment. In Colombia, flowers are sprayed weekly with up to 6,000 litre per hectare and in Brazil application volumes of 10,000 l/ha in orchard crops have been reported. Application volumes of that kind cause run off and lead to soil and groundwater contamination. For efficient pest control with appropriate technologies less than 10 per cent of these volumes would be more than enough. "Technology allowing safe and efficient application of pesticides exists today and should be part of Integrated Pest Management. However, the application depends on the technical capacity, and the economic and cultural background of a country," Friedrich said. "To improve pesticide application, the introduction of good standard quality equipment and operator training is essential and should be part of Integrated Pest Management." He said that farmers could benefit from safe and more efficient pesticide application, saving large quantities of pesticides and money while achieving better pest control. The commercial sector could earn by providing technology, services and spare parts. FAO has developed "Guidelines for the Basic Requirements for Pesticide Application Equipment" and "Standards for Pesticide Application Equipment" including test procedures.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bureau of Manpower Employment & Training 89/2, Kakrail, Dhaka No ESRL 1197/94/762(155) Dated: 22-5-97/8-2-1404 BS Subject: Notice regarding cancellation recruiting licence It is notified for information of the general public that the following licence of the recruiting agency have been cancelled and entire security money forfeited by the Labour and Manpower Ministry under power vested of Immigration Ordinance 1982. If any body has got any complaint/claim regarding transaction, against the undermentioned agency they are requested to apply to the Director General, Bureau of Manpower, Employment & Training with proper documentary evidence within 15 (fifteen) days of publication of this notice.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Local Government Engineering Directorate, Patuakhali Memo No-LGED/EE/Patua/1-126/96/1775 Dated: 14/5/97 Tender Notice No-36/96-97 Tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 under sealed cover are hereby invited from LGED enlisted class capacity wise and LGED's different projects pre-qualified (renewed for 1996-97 financial year) contractors/contractory firms for implementation of the undermentioned works at Patuakhali District under the Local Govt Engineering Directorate during 1996-97 financial year. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Barisal Division, Barisal; Project Director, RDP-16, LGED Building, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Barguna and Thana Engineer, Patuakhali Sadar and office of the undersigned up to 12.30 PM of 8-6-97 and tender box will be opened on the same day at 1.00 PM.

A) Description of work: Gr No Name of work Estimated cost (Taka) Earnest money (2.5% of the estimated cost) Price of schedule (Non-refundable) Time for completion of work 1) Painting & minor repairing of the Functional Building, LGED, Patuakhali. Tk 2,30,125.74 Tk 5,754/- Tk 300/- 60 days 2) Painting & minor repairing of residential quarters, garage and boundary wall of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Patuakhali. Tk 88,439.36 Tk 2,211/- Tk 100/- 30 days 3) Painting of grill of the boundary wall of LGED Office Compound, Patuakhali. Tk 1,07,119.87 Tk 2,678/- Tk 300/- 60 days B) Terms & conditions: 1) Tender documents can be purchased at the prescribed price in cash (non-refundable) from the abovementioned offices during office hours on all working days up to 7-6-97. 2) Earnest money at the rate 2.5% (prescribed) of the estimated cost must be attached with the tender as advance security by the tenderer through Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the undersigned. Otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled outright. 3) Any kind of sub-letting is not acceptable in contractor work. If any contractor sub-lets to any other after issue of Work Order, then his/her Work Order will be cancelled as well as contractor's past experience licence will be cancelled. 4) Instead of quoting itemwise rate rate, should be quoted on all items together in overall percentage above or below. The rate quoted should be written in figures & words. Only the rate written in words will be considered. Tender with striking off, erasing, overwriting in rate quoting will be treated as cancelled forthwith. 5) Papers of licence renewal (1996-97) and VAT registration should be submitted with the tender. 6) Tender submitted at rate more than 5 (five) per cent below the estimated cost will be treated as cancelled outright. 7) Itemwise rate analysis should be submitted in case of submitting rate at more than 5 (five) per cent above. Any photocopy of rate analysis or with erasing, overwriting is not acceptable. As such, tender without rate analysis or with struck off, erased, overwritten rate analysis will be treated as cancelled outright. 8) If more than one contractor becomes the lowest by submitting the same rate for the same work, then contractor will be selected through lottery. In that case, contractors will be informed of the place, date & time of lottery in due course. 9) If the work is not started within 7 (seven) days of issuing work Order, the earnest money of the contractor will be forfeited & the Work Order cancelled, and new contractor will be appointed. 10) Tenderers must submit work schedule mentioning time limit for each phase of work with the tender, otherwise their tender will be treated as cancelled outright. 11) Tender submitted in Bangladesh Form No 2911 will be treated as first & formal tender. But in case of negotiated rate, formal tender shall have to be executed. 12) No bill will be paid except for satisfactory work supported by laboratory test result and the contractor should bear all expenses of the required number of laboratory tests. 13) Earnest money will be refunded after 1 (one) year from the date of completion of work subject to satisfactory work. 14) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. DFP-12278-22/5 G-1540 Md Anwarul Haq Executive Engineer

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission Atomic Energy Research Establishment Central Engg. Facilities Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka. No. CEF-Admn-7(43)/97 Dated: 27.5.97 Tender Notice Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide manufacturer/suppliers having experience of similar wooden work done in Sc/govt. organisation for manufacturing and supplying of wooden furniture for Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka. Tender document containing the detailed specifications, terms & conditions of work may be had on cash payment of Tk. 400/00 (Non-refundable) from this office on all working days during office hours up to 8.6.97 on written request and prior permission from the undersigned. VAT registration, work experience & bank solvency certificates should be shown before getting permission. If the selling of tender document is not possible on that day due to unavoidable circumstances, the tender document shall be sold on the next working day in same terms & conditions. Tender should be dropped in the tender box alongwith earnest money to Tk. 7,000/00 up to 2.30 PM on 9.6.97 and will be opened on the same day at 2.45 PM in presence of tenderers (if any, who may wish to be present). If the dropping & opening of the tender are not possible on schedule date due to unavoidable circumstances, the same shall be done in the next working day at the same time. No tender document will be issued on the date fixed for opening of the tenders. The authority reserves to itself the right to accept any or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons. BAEC/SID. 1(2)94-211 DFP-12950-28/5/97 G-1537 Director

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH in collaboration with ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (AIT) Offers A One - day Executive Seminar on Competitive Manufacturing : Improving Cost, Quality and Delivery Performance Facilitator : Dr. H. Paul, D.Eng Professor, Asian Institute of Technology Date : 21 June 1997; 9:30 am - 5:30 pm Venue : Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Course fee : Tk. 4,500 ( Including course materials and meals ) Enrollment on first come first serve basis 10% discount for group bookings of 3 and more MAIN ISSUES: Formulating Manufacturing Strategy; Alternative Manufacturing Strategies for Competitive Strength; Integration of Advanced Manufacturing Technology Decisions and Global Perspectives in Manufacturing to Gain Competitive Advantage. Specially designed for senior and mid-level executives in textiles, jute, pharmaceuticals and toiletries, leather, ceramics, apparel industry, metal and plastic, chemical, electric and electronics manufacturing industries. Please contact : Director, ECEC, IUB Hse 3, Rd 10, Baridhara, Dhaka Tel: 9884498, 9881681, 9881917 Fax : 883959