

Nasim tells Jatiya Sangsad

Govt plans to build flats for limited income groups

The government has an ambitious plan to construct housing flats for limited income groups and even destitutes in Dhaka city and its adjoining areas, reports UNB.

Replying to a supplementary question from Prof Shahidul Islam (BNP), Works Minister Mohammad Nasim told Parliament yesterday that the government had decided to build the flats on khas lands.

The flats will be built with local and foreign assistance for the limited income group people and those who live in slums in subhuman condition, he added.

In reply to Haji Mohammad Selim, he said there were 6,406 abandoned houses in Dhaka city, located in Mirpur, Pallabi, Mohammadpur, Kotwali, Sutrapur, Labagh, Gulshan, Cantonment, Uttara, Demra, Sabujbagh, Tejgaon, Ramna, Dhan-

mondi and Narayanganj. Of the abandoned houses, 2,300 were sold out and 180 were on the selling list.

BRTC not to be privatised

The government has no plan to privatise the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), Communications Minister Anwar Hossain told Parliament.

Replying to a question from M Ahsanul Haq Mollah (Kushtia), he said the BRTC has been running with operating profit since October 1993 after incurring an average annual loss of Tk nine crore in the previous years.

The BRTC registered an operating profit of Tk 2.75 crore till May of fiscal 1996-97, the minister said.

He also informed the House that 1,888 people are now working in the corporation. Of them, 93 are officers, 273 employees and 1,422 workers.

Size of rail line to be increased

BSS report says: Communications Minister Anwar Hossain yesterday said in the Jatiya Sangsad that Bangladesh has a total of 2,706.01 kilometres of rail lines and there are plans to increase the size.

Replying to a question from A B M Abul Kashem (AL-Chittagong), the Communications Minister said the setting up of new rail lines in Dinajpur district and re-establishment of the lines in Jessore district are going on.

Besides, the government has plans to set up new rail lines at Gazipur, Tangail, Sirajganj, Narasingdi, Kishoreganj, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Khulna and Bagerhat.

Replying to another question from Joyanal Abedin Hazari (AL-Feni), regarding the setting up of double-line on the Dhaka-Chittagong railway route, the minister said, the double-line is existing on 120 kilometres out of 320 kilometres and the government has plans to complete the double-line on the remaining parts of the line.

The feasibility study for setting up 64 kilometres double-line between Tongi and Bhairab Bazar was made under German assistance, he said.

Hossain said the project needs taka 200 crore, including foreign currency of Taka 76 crore.

ADB to work as facilitator in SAARC region

NEW DELHI, July 3: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will work as facilitator in the SAARC region to bring about multi-lateral economic cooperation, reports PTI.

"We are currently exploring viable projects, once they are identified and agreements reached among member-nations, ADB will extend financial assistance," ADB's Resident Representative Shigeko M. Asher said.

ADB has conveyed this policy decision to SAARC governments on many occasions including at the foreign secretaries' conference in Kathmandu in April this year.

"We will like to see the response and initiative from governments," Asher said.

"ADB is planning to make studies for identifying viable projects," she said, adding governments should also take initiatives for identifying areas of cooperation.

Initially ADB would extend financial assistance for technical studies of the identified projects and later provide loans for implementation, Asher said.

Hong Kong handover China-Malaysia trade unaffected

KUALA LUMPUR, July 3: China-Malaysia trade should not be affected by Hong Kong rejoining China, International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said Thursday, reports AP.

She said this assurance was given by a Chinese delegation led by Vice Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Li Guohua during talks in Kuala Lumpur.



Chairman of Prime Textile Spinning Mills Limited, Alhaj M A Awal, presided over the eighth AGM of the company in Narayanganj recently.

Consumers to face higher tea prices this year: FAO

ROME, July 3: World tea production reached record level of 2,691,000 tons in 1996 and was three per cent (about 75,000 tons) higher than in 1995, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reported Tuesday, according to a press release.

Since global output for 1997 is expected to be lower and demand is likely to remain stable, consumers will face higher world tea prices.

In Sri Lanka and in most tea producing countries of Africa, extremely dry weather adversely affected crops, particularly in Kenya where production in the first quarter was about 37 per cent lower than in the same period in 1996, FAO said.

The Organization announced its figures and analysis in a paper prepared for the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea in Bali, Indonesia, 2-4 July 1997.

According to FAO, in 1996 harvests were larger in almost all major tea producing countries. In India, production increased by 4 per cent to set a new record of 778,900 tons. In Africa, Uganda reported an increase of 26 per cent, Malawi of 8 per cent and Zimbabwe of 6 per cent. Due to drought in Tanzania production was about 16 per cent lower.

World tea exports rose by about 2.6 per cent to 1,105,000 tons last year. With 244,200 tons Kenya became, by a small margin, the world's leading tea exporting country. Similarly, Sri Lanka's exports increased from 235,700 tons in 1995 to 244,000 tons in 1996.

A major expansion in exports by 21 per cent to 96,000 tons was recorded by Indonesia. In spite of a record harvest, exports from India declined by 6 per cent to 154,000 tons, reflecting rising domestic consumption and a significant de-

cline in its international market share. Exports from China, mainly green tea, declined slightly from 171,700 tons to 169,600 tons in 1996.

World tea imports were larger in 1996 (1,108,500 tons) than in 1995 (1,066,700 tons). Total imports by developed countries rose by nearly 5 per cent in 1996 to 612,800 tons. The shipments to the world's largest importing country, the United Kingdom, recovered by more than 9 per cent, to 148,500 tons. This rise did not, however, signal a fundamental change in the UK's downward trend in consumption.

Total imports by developing countries rose from 484,300 tons to 495,800 tons in 1996. However, FAO voiced particular concern about the decline in import demand in major developing countries in recent years. In 1994-96, imports by developing countries were about 4 per cent lower than in 1991-93 as shipments to the Islamic Republic of Iran slumped by 46 per cent and to Saudi Arabia by 19 per cent.

Import demand in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) rose slightly from 160,700 tons to 162,800 tons in 1996. In the Russian Federation, tea consumption is currently estimated at 143,061. In the longer run, FAO expects Russia's per capita consumption not to be much higher. However, Russians are expected to drink more high quality tea than in the past.

Tea production and exports contribute to achieving food security in many countries, FAO said. In 1994/95 tea exports generated 55 per cent of total agricultural export earnings in Sri Lanka and 33 per cent of Kenya. In most of the major tea exporting countries tea is mainly produced by smallholders.

The eighth annual general meeting (AGM) of Prime Textile Spinning Mills Limited held on June 28 declared 20 per cent final dividend out of which 15 per cent interim dividend has already been paid.

The AGM held at the factory premises in Narayanganj was chaired by Chairman Alhaj M A Awal which was largely attended by the shareholders of the company.

Awal informed the meeting that despite severe electricity problem and political uncertainty the company has been able to achieve a sales volume of Tk 54.27 crore which is 15.16 per cent higher than the previous year's. Due to some unavoidable circumstances which was beyond the company's control the implementation of unit-II was delayed.

But the commissioning of the unit is now complete and trial production has started. To ensure captive power supply the company has installed three more generators in addition to the existing two. Also to ensure gas supply

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company with the company's joint participation has constructed a dedicated gas line for the project.

The chairman expressed optimism that once the unit-II starts full scale operation, the contribution in terms of supply to the export-oriented knitwear will increase.

He also pointed out that from the last few years' performance it has been proved that yarn of PTSM is of world class. As a result of which the demand for yarn of the company is going up.

He declared in the meeting that the company has earned a net profit of Tk 6,02,79,335 for the financial year ended on June 30, 1996, which is virtually the profit of the unit-I.

He sincerely hoped that with the full-fledged operation of both the units the company's profit volume will increase in the years to come. He pledged to make all efforts to achieve planned target in the future years.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT									
Berth position and performance of vessels as on 3. 7. 97									
Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	Call agent	Local agent	Date of arrival	Date of leaving			
J/2	Banglar Mamata	Cl	Male	BSC	25/6	4/7			
J/6	Vientaine	Cl	Cal	Fairmax	23/6	6/7			
J/7	Guang Ming	Cl	Dali	Prog	25/6	10/7			
J/8	Da Fu	Cont	Sing	Apilb	30/6	7/7			
J/9	Melinao Satu	Cl	Busa	Prog	24/6	4/7			
J/10	Won Pu	C Clink	Col	Delmure	2/7	8/7			
J/12	Kota Selamat	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	R/A	4/7			
J/13	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	27/6	7/7			
CCT/1	Lamphun Navee	Cont	Sing	Rel	27/6	6/7			
CCT/2	Banglar Robi	Cont	Sing	BSC	30/6	5/7			
CCT/3	Qc Pintail	Cont	Sing	QCSL	23/6	4/7			
RM/14	Banglar, Shobha	Repair	Kara	BSC	26/5	7/7			
TSP	Ya Mujer	Supp	Sarja	USTC	3/6	6/7			
RM/5	Dignity	Hed	Just	BSC	28/6	4/7			
RM/6	Firas-1	Cement	Sing	Jaycee	25/6	8/7			
DOJ	Banglar Shourab	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	8/7			
DD	Barge Jamuna-v	Repair	Chand	Karna	R/A	8/7			
DOJ/1	Tansary Star	Idle	Rapa	PSAL	8/6/95	-			
RM/8	Banglar Kiron	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	7/7			
RM/9	Penguin	Repair	Mumt	Cross	31/5	5/7			
SM/10	Tug Isabel Strom	Chand	Outch	Karna	R/A	-			
	Tug Nicoline	-	Chand	Karna	R/A	-			
	Tug Jamuna-1	-	Chand	Karna	R/A	-			
	Survey Boat Merinj	-	Chand	Karna	R/A	-			
CUFLJ	Blue North	Cement	Qing	PSAL	8/6	30/7			
Kafo(A)	Banglar Asha	Whetgit	-	BSC	R/A	5/7			

Vessels due at outer anchorage									
Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading				
Dolphin-51	5/7	-	JF	For Scraping	-				
Yu Han	5/7	Sing	USTC	Cement	-				
Grigoroussa	3/7	Long	Jaycee	Cement	-				
Standwear	4/7	Dali	Litmond	C Clink	-				
Mashakti	4/7	Kara	USTC	C Clink	-				
Tiger Sun	4/7	Ying	Prog	Cl	-				
Steamer Future	7/7	Col	Bdship	Cont	Col				
Orion	8/7	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col				
Peng Qing	7/7	Sing	Cross	Caracases	-				
Al sumrus	6/7	Sing	Bdship	Cl/Gl	Chin				
Padma	7/7	Sing	BSL	Cont	Sing				
Freedom K	6/7	Sing	USTC	Cement	-				
Sokol	7/7	Haid	Seacom	M Seed	-				
Fong Yun	7/7	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing				
Qc Teal	7/7	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing				
Andhika	-	-	-	-	-				
Tarunaga	12/7	Yang	Everett	Cl	-				
Meng Kiat	8/7	AML	AML	cont	-				
Meng Yang	8/7	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing				
Lian Sha	8/7	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Cal				
Kota Bintang	8/7	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing				
M Regina	8/7	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing				
Sea harvest	9/7	Sing	Oil	Cl	-				
Sky Moon	9/7	-	Prog	Cl	-				
Banglar Moni	11/7	Sing	Bac	Cont	Sing				
Sea Elegance	10/7	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing				
Diligence	-	-	-	-	-				
Container	11/7	-	Baridhi	Cont	Col				
Fong Lee	17/7	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Col				
Able Lieutenant	28/7	-	BBA	Vehi	-				

Tanker due:									
Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading				
Mentura	3/7	Sing	Seacom	CDSO	-				
Nidia	4/7	Mina	MSTPL	HSD	-				
Aspiros	8/7	-	BSL	C Oil	-				
Assusip	7/7	-	QCSL	HSD	-				

Vessels at Kutubdia				
Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Outside Limit				
Ismaya	-	-	B Bay	9/1
Orizont	-	Sing	B Bay	25/2
Mighty Tide	-	-	B Bay	R/A
Ena Supply-1	-	Sing	B Bay	R/A
Vessels at outer anchorage				
Kota Pusaaka	Cont	Sing	PI (BD)	30/6
Vanessa	Cont	Sing	RSI	1/7
Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	Bdship	1/7
Kuanyin	D Peas	Wale	Litmond	1/7
Bela	HSD	Mine	MSTPL	2/7
Chosun Hope	GI	Lian	OWSL	25/6
Ocean-1148	GI	Cal	Cross	29/6
Arktis Meridian	E Cargo	Sing	Katna	2/7
Freesta	Cont	Sing	RSI	2/7

Vessels at outer anchorage									
Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival					
Kota Pusaka	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	30/6					
Vanessa	Cont	Sing	BSL	1/7					
Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	Bdship	1/7					
Kuan Yin	D Peas	Wale	Litmond	1/7					
Bela	HSD	Mina	MSTPL	2/7					
Chosun Hope	Cl	Lian	OWSL	25/6					
Ocean-1148	Cl	Cal	Cross	29/6					
Arktis Meridian	E Cargo	Sing	Katna	2/7					
Freesta	Cont	Sing	BSL	2/7					

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

China, ROK, Indonesia largest Asian borrowers: BIS

BASEL, Switzerland, July 3: South Korea, Indonesia and China were the largest Asian borrowers in the second half of 1996 as regional demand for credit remained buoyant, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said in a report issued here today, reports AFP.

In contrast, Thailand, besieged by speculative attacks on its currency and a gaping current account deficit, experienced a drying-up of financing, the BIS said.