

## Beijing keen to boost economic ties with Dhaka

China is keen to further strengthen economic relations with Bangladesh. Chinese Vice Premier Wu Bangguo said upon his arrival here yesterday for a three-day visit, reports UNB.

"Apart from political relation, China wants to make stronger its economic cooperation with Bangladesh," Bangguo told newsmen at Zia International Airport.

He said the China-Bangladesh relations were developing well and hoped that the visit would further strengthen the friendship between the two countries.

Bangguo, one of the Chinese front-ranking leaders, flew in here in the first leg of his trip to five Asia-Pacific nations. The visit will also take him to Vietnam, Kampuchea, Myanmar and Thailand.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad received him at the airport. Foreign Secretary Mostafizur Rahman and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Wang Chungui were present.

Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rab on his way to Calcutta met the Chinese Vice Premier at the VIP lounge and exchanged peascaries with him.

Asked if there is any global strategy behind Chinese President Xiang Zemin's planned visit to the US next week and his trip to other nations in the region, Bangguo said one of the main tasks of his country's foreign policy is to further strengthen relations with neighbours in Asia to mutual benefit.

"China, pursuing a policy of peace, wants to promote friendship with all countries," he said.

## Ctg tea quality improves

CHITTAGONG, Oct 21: The quality of tea, produced in Chittagong tea estates, has improved remarkably in the recent times. Local and foreign buyers will lend active support if the balanced quality is maintained, reports BSS.

This was observed by tea researchers at a testing session held at Uddala Tea Estate under Fattkhnari thana here Sunday.

Held at the sub-centre Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI), Uddala, the session was attended by Chairman of Bangladesh Tea Board Brigadier Makbul Haider.

Organised by Bangladesh Tea Association, Chittagong chapter, the session was presided over by chapter president Alhaj Nasiruddin Bahadur and addressed among others, by Scientific Officer of BTRI Mukul Datta, tea experts Amanat Hossain, Syed Hossain and Doland Das, association leaders Mursheedul Alam Kaderi, Sarwar Kamal Chowdhury, Mreedul Kanti Pariyal and MA Kuddus Sheikh, an association press release said.

Chairman of the Tea Board Makbul Haider said a modern institute for imparting education to the inhabitants of the tea estates will be established and two connecting roads will be constructed at a cost of Taka 1.20 crore.

## FedEx extends internet shipping to 26 more states

Federal Express Corporation (FedEx) has extended its internet shipping service to more countries of the world, says a press release.

The FedEx InterNetShip™ service, is being given to 26 countries in Europe, Middle East, Asia and South America.

Customers in these countries can now prepare shipment documentation for shipments to more than 160 countries using an internet linked personal computer and laser printer.

## Exchange Rates

The following are the Janata Bank's dealing rates (BD Taka for one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 21/10/97.

## Buying

Name of Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight	OD Export Bills
US Dlr	44.4350	44.2519	44.1433
GB Pound	72.0756	71.7700	71.5940
D Mark	24.9363	24.8308	24.7699
FR Franc	7.4370	7.4055	7.3873
JP Yen	0.3661	0.3646	0.3637
CDlr	31.9200	31.7853	31.7073
S Franc	30.0299	29.9026	29.8292

Name of Currency	T.T. & O.D.	B.C.
US Dollar	44.7115	44.7510
GB Pound	73.0986	73.1638
D Mark	25.3385	25.3611
Fr. France	7.5586	7.5653
JP Yen	0.3744	0.3747
C.Dollar	32.4377	32.4666
S. Franc	30.5261	30.5533

Janata Bank's selling and buying rates in cash currency for public:

## Selling

US Dlr	45.2000	44.7000
GBP	72.1000	70.1000
S Riyal	11.9000	11.6000
Uae DH	12.0500	11.6000
KUW DI	146.5000	141.5000

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