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DThe Daily Star DUSINESS



DHAKA THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1998

Aussie assistance to Bangladesh increases

Star Business Report Australian government funding to Bangladesh will rise by nine per cent next financial year, according to Jason Reynolds, First Secretary (Development Assistance) of the Australian High Commission

Leaders of private sector.

representatives of bilateral and

multilateral donors and senior

government officials for the

first time sat together in Dhaka yesterday to discuss ways of speeding up Bangladesh's eco-nomic growth through in-

creased private sector partici-

One of the suggestions from

the meeting was restructuring

the Export Promotion Bureau

(EPB) and the Board of Invest-

tries at the chamber yesterday.

Muhammad Madni was

On the third afternoon of the

finding it difficult to attend his

customers. There were so many

of them queuing to buy glass

four-day Made in Pakistan fair

at Sonargaon Hotel, Madni was

delighted for another reason.

He had already found an agent

to market his products in

glass bangle producers in Pak-

istan. His main target was to

popularise his products here

all of the 54 participants, flew

tional Airline on Sunday, have

found local agents to promote

"People are crowding here to know our products," said Anis

Javaid, director of Wood

Pecker. Javaid's entire con-

signment of wooden furniture

in here by Pakistan Interna-

and he was successful.

their products here.

Madni is one of the 25 major

Not only Madni, but almost

bangles.

Bangladesh.

In the Australian budget released on Tuesday, Australian development assistance to Bangladesh in 1998/99 will be A\$36.4 million compared with A\$33.3 million the previous year, says a press release.

The programme for Bangladesh in 1998/99 includes food aid, the Australian NGO programme, refugee relief, agri-cultural research and new projects in education. The allocation allows for the continuation of the scholarship programme. Around A\$0.75 million will be allocated to funding the activities of NGOs in Bangladesh.

Reynolds said, "Despite the significant budgetary pressure in Australia, the maintenance of funding levels to Bangladesh is a measure of the Australian government's commitment to assist the government of Bangladesh to meet its poverty alleviation goals."

"The budget outcome demonstrates Australia's longstanding commitment as a significant development partner with Bangladesh," he said.

Sonali Bank's programme for women entrepreneurs

Sonali Bank has undertaken an initiative to provide loans without security for the selfemployment of marginal level women entrepreneurs in Dhaka, a press release of the bank said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The loan amount ranging from Taka 50,000 to Taka two lakh will be repayable at simple interest and on easy terms.

Under this programme, 20 women entrepreneurs will be tentatively provided with loans from Dhanmondi Ladies Branch of the bank to assist them in their different activi-

Depending on the success. the programme will be expanded subsequently. A private aid concern MIDAS will co-operate with Sonali Bank in selecting the entrepreneurs at initial stage.

Meanwhile, 10 bank officials have received necessary training to implement the pro-

gramme, the press release said. The activities to be financed to make the programme a success through close supervision include ready-made garments, embroidery shop, departmental store, stationery shop, handicrafts, tailoring shop, fast food shop, book stall and allied trade and industries managable by women.

The programme will be started very soon so that the participation of women in selfemployment activities can be expanded and thus greater opportunities for their participation in national economy can be created, it said. Sonali Bank has taken a

step to open four more ladies branches in Dhaka metropolis to accord greater assistance to women.

The branches will be opened in those areas of Dhaka where women enjoy better transport and communication facilities. the press release added.

Citibank opens in Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, May 13: Citibank announced that it has opened in Ukraine establishing the 100th country in the bank's network and solidifying Citibank's position as the world's leading global bank, says a press release issued on Monday.

Citibank (Ukraine) A K B will serve both global corporations and local Ukrainian companies, focusing initially on cash management, trade and foreign exchange services and short-term financing.

Citibank in Ukraine will begin with \$US25 million in capital and 25 employees.

Citibank Vice Chairman William R Rhodes said, "Our opening in Ukraine is an important step in the bank's expansion strategy within Central and Eastern Europe. Our 100th country represents a significant milestone in Citibank's international banking history, which began in 1902 when we opened our first international office in Shang-

"We are thrilled about this development. Citibank is now even better positioned to help our local customers — both banks and corporates — with their global trade and cash management business," said Citibank's chief executive officer for Bangladesh, S Sridhar.

Citibank's local branch has been in operation for nearly 3 years. During this period the branch has established itself as a very active player in the Corporate Banking business.

Govt, donor representatives sit with business leaders in city

Pledge to support private sector to spur growth

Star Business Report

ment (BOI) and ensuring private sector participation in managing these government agencies. "If these are linked to private sector, then these bodies would be able to perform better. We saw supportive attitude from others (in the meeting)," FBCCI chief Yussuf Abdullah Harun told a press conference after the sadors and CDAs of some donor

countries. Donor agencies also assured help in conducting studies to increase Bangladesh's export meeting with the government base, he told reporters.

Bangladeshis buy bangles, shelwar-kamiz

and furniture but say our *katan* is better

By Govinda Shil

The FBCCI-organised meeting was attended among others by chiefs of MCCI, DCCI, BCI, FICCI, AMEX, DSE, Bangladesh Association of Banks, ERD and Commerce Secretaries, World Bank country director, repre-sentatives of ADB, IFC, Islamic Development Bank, Ambas-

exchang-

The officials from donor countries and agencies had a

the previous day for a mid-year review of Bangladesh economy and aid utilisation.

Previously all sorts of donor support were being channelled through the government and some of them were now coming to private sector, Harun said and added: "We want the process to quicken and broaden."

The FBCCI also suggested that scholarships and training courses offered for the private sector be made available

through the Federation instead of the government.

He said these scholarships and training programmes for private sector are usually processed through the government which were not informed timely. "Due to the delay, sometimes our people cannot participate and others take the opportunity," he said.

He disclosed that a grant agreement was signed a few days back between the World

The Dhaka Stock Exchange

Council yesterday finally

agreed to amend the Settle-

ment of the Stock Exchange

Transactions Regulations,

1997, which would allow the

new one-day trading adjust-

ment settlement system pro-

hibiting short selling and carry

It has also formed a sub-

committee consisting of three

non-broker councillors to mon-

Bank and FBCCI under which the Bank agreed to provide funds for FBCCI and its member organisations for "capacity build up".

"This kind of help to build up capacity is very essential as we don't have any other alter-native. When one speaks of pri-vate sector-led growth, it means the only way to that is to develop the private sector so that it can perform its duty." Harun

velopment (USAID) mission in The study tour is aimed at providing the delegation with a clear understanding of the tar-get food intervention pro-

Egyptian team

arrives tomorrow

A three-member Egyptian delegation will arrive in Dhaka

tomorrow on a three-day study tour, reports UNB.

Amina Ezzat Dawoud Elhadidi,

Under-secretary of Financial

and Administrative Affairs,

Farook A Qader Ayyad, DG of the Department of Wheat and

Wheat Products and Mohamed

Soliman Zidan, DG of Con-

Ministry of Trade and Supply.

sumptive Cooperative under the

The Egyptian officials will be accompanied by Dr Mo-

hamed Omran, an agricultural

economist of United States

Agency for International De-

The delegation members are

grammes in Bangladesh. After the completion of the tour, the officials will provide recommendations on the feasibility of replication of similar programmes in Egypt to improve food security and welfare of the poor.

Share prices,

currencies fall across

Asia

HONG KONG, May 13: Fears of worsening tensions in Indonesia and a variety of local factors drove share prices and currencies lower across Asia on Wednesday, reports AP.

Traders in many markets cited fears that the deaths of six students in anti-government protests the day before would increase instability in Indonesia and drag other markets

In Hong Kong, traders said that weakness in local property prices and the Japanese yen, and high interbank interest rates contributed to the gloom. driving the Hang Seng index down more than 200 points in early trading.

In South Korea, worries that economic reforms were lagging also pushed the markets lower. In Manila, prices drifted lower as investors watched for results from Monday's presidential elections.

Blt Tokyo, the continued weakness of the yen and concerns about the slumping economy sent the benchmark Nikkei stock average lower.

But escalating violence Indonesia appeared to be the single strongest factor dominating Asia's markets. Police fired tear gas on Wednesday to break up a rally by students to mourn those killed in Tuesday's riots. In Jakarta, Matthew Pecot. president-director of PT GK Goh

Ometraco, said market sentiment was "obviously very nega-"The major impact of the

shooting will be that most of the population of the country will support the students' movement," he said.

Jakarta's JSX Composite Index was down one per cent in early trading, and lossers outnumbered gainers 22 to six. The rupiah also tumbled.

Markets in Singapore and Malaysia also fell in reaction to the turmoil in Indonesia.

"Everyone is buying dollars today," said a currency trader at a French bank is Singapore. Traders expect that any weakness in the Indonesian rupiah will spill over to affect neighbouring markets.

Malaysia's Commposite Index was down in early trading, as was the ringgit.

Index opened lower in thin trading. Analysts said investors were concerned that lagging reforms would hurt foreign investor confidence.

Seoul's Korea Stock Price

BB auction

The 93rd auction of the 90-Day Treasury Bill, the 84th

Thirty-seven bids for a total

Of these, eleven bids for a total of Tk 101.60 crore of 30-Day Bill and seven bids for a total of Tk 14 crore of 1-Year Bill were accepted.

The bids offered for the 90-Day and 180-Day Bill were not

But there were some who

were yet to find a collaborator.

Wasimuddin Ghauri was one of

them. "I am still looking a for a

partner for telecom products

manufacturing," he said but added Bangladesh's was still a

small market because of a weak

Muhammad Nasim's prob-

lem was different. When he was

doing fine with shelwar and

kamiz, the popular ladies wear,

his katan saree failed to lure

kamiz varied from Tk 3000 to

Tk 6500 and those for sarees be-

Nasim and Javaid pointed

out that the duty on their gar-

ment and furniture was as high

as 80 per cent. "If this duty was

lowered, we could have done ex-

tween Tk 3800 and Tk 4200.

Prices for Nasim's shelwar-

Bangladeshi women.

results

auction of the 30-Day and the 180-Day Treasury Bills and the 58th auction of the 1-Year Treasury Bill were held yesterday. says a press release.

of Tk 231.10 crore of 30-Day Bill, three bids for a total of Tk 10.50 crore of 90-Day Bill, one bid for Tk 5 crore of 180-Day Bill and forty-eight bids for a total of Tk 305.50 crore of 1-Year Bill were offered.

Textile.

middle class.

cellent."

itor short selling, according to DSE officials. The committee was formed with Dr Khairul Hossain of Dhaka University as the con-Four-day 'Made in Pakistan' ends today

venor and Nurul Amin Patwari, Joint Secretary, ERD and ICAB President Abbas Uddin Khan as members. The DSE at a meeting on

May 3 adopted all changes to the existing regulations excepting the ban on short selling. With the change the members of the bourse would no longer be allowed to sell shares

without having them in posses-

tributing the continuous slide in the market to short selling. "The brokers used to sell shares without having them in their possession which used to result in a selling pressure causing index to slide," an SEC offi-

The regulators have been at-

cial explained. The DSE officials hope that the new change would help restore confidence as trading would be more transparent following the implementation of the change.



DSE finally agrees

to ban short selling

Star Business Report

Air Parabat introduced thrice weekly flights to Ishurdi on Sunday. State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed being presented a commemorative boarding card by Chairman of Air Parabat Air Vice Marshal (Retd) A K Khandaker. Shamsur Rahman (second from left) MP, Anjan Chowdhury Pintu, (extreme left), Managing Director, Square Toiletries Ltd and Managing Director Air Parabat Nadira Alam (third from left) are also seen.

'Sanctions against India to hit US businesses'

A six-member business delegation from Taiwan led by Dr Lee, Cheng-Liang

tives here.

found enjoying.

exhibition.

ing views with the DCCI members to identify areas of cooperation between the two coun-

had already been sold and two

local businessmen showed in-

terest to be Pecker representa-

years Pakistan has organised

such a single-country show in

Bangladesh. Many visitors were

seen speaking in broken Urdu

which the Pakistanis were

The products displayed

ranged from processed food to

carpet to automobiles. The

Karachi-based Export Promo-

tion Bureau has sponsored this

ment, Pakistan's Raja Auto-

cars, producer and distributor

of Italian Vespacar, has already

finalised a deal for a joint ven-

"We will sign an agreement

ture employing 80 local people.

with a local company within a

day or two," said A Majid Khan

senior marketing manager of

In a significant develop-

This is the first time in 27

WASHINGTON, May 13: Imposing economic sanctions against India to punish it for nuclear testing will hurt many US businesses that operate there, but executives and academic experts say it is too early to tell what the impact will be, reports AP.

If other nations join the United States in imposing sanctions then India could face the same economic hardships the international community imposed on South Africa to protest its racial separation policies in the 1980s. World Bank loans might dry up and the US Export Import Bank, which provides political risk insurance to US exporters, could freeze projects awaiting approval.

"The key thing to watch is whether (the sanctions) are multilateral," said John Howard, a director of international policy at the US Chamber of Commerce "if that happens then India and the companies that do business there are in for a rough time."

An official of a consumer products company with world wide operations, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said much would depend on the kind of sanctions imposed. Kelly Kimberly, a spokes-

woman for Enron, said it was "too early to assess any impact" on the US company's power projects in India. "We're monitoring the situation... India is an important market for Enron."

She said Enron's highly publicised 826-megawatt Dabhol power project is 85 per cent complete and is expected to begin commercial operation in December.

Besides power and energy projects, punitive measure against India could put at risk infrastructure initiatives such as building or roads, ports and

bridges that involve US firms. In addition, consumer goods companies such as Proctor and Gamble and Hewlett Packard and auto firms such as Ford Motor Co have sizable operations in India that could be hurt.

Stanley Nollen, a professor of Business at Georgetown University's School of Business. said he thinks impose of sanctions on India will not matter

"Those companies that are already there will remain and those that were looking will have to accept a higher risk factor," he said. "But official lending from governments and international financial institutions could be affected.

The United States is India's largest trading partner and its

largest investor. US State Department figures indicate that imports from India totaled 7.3 billion dollars in 1997 while exports reached 7.7 billion dol-

Raja. He said the local plant

would have a capacity to as-

semble 20 to 25 three-wheelers

a day and would soon become

popular "simply because it is

cheaper than its rival Indian

interested in joint ventures for

spare parts manufacturing. "I

am not interested to go for joint

venture though local producers

are pressing," said Sheryar Ali

Malik of the Malik Auto and

Agricultural Industries Ltd. He

said he got good responses from

the market and that he would

good response. The newly-de-veloped Denim and other Pak-

istani fabrics received plenty of

ply only 5 per cent of your 2.5

billion yard market," said Sar-

dar Asif Mehmood of Zarak

"I will be happy if I can sup-

inquiries.

Textile products also drew a

soon appoint a local promoter.

Local entrepreneurs are also

Under a 1994 US law, non nuclear countries that detonate nuclear devices are subject to denial of US credits and credit guarantees. The law also requires US opposition to such a nation's loan requests to international lending institutions such as the World Bank.

Buying

Buying

1405/1408

Exchange Rates

39.775/39.782 44.05/44.06 38.92/38.98

Currency Selling TT Buying TT Selling BC

American Express Bank Ltd. foreign exchange rates (indicative) against the Taka to clients.

	TIERTSON OF	& (OD	Clean			OD Sight	TT&OD
US	D	46.50)50	45.1100	46.54	50	45.9570	45.8850
GBP 76.4077)77	74.9749	76.47	34	74.7261	74.6090	
DEM 26.2874		374	25.8522	26.3100		25.7664	25.6090	
JPY 0.3490		90	0.3424	0.3493		0.3413	0.3407	
FRF 7.8876		376	7.6620	7.8943		7.6866	7.6246	
SAR 12.4328		328	12.2613	12.4435		12.2207	12.2015	
MYR 11.91		82	11.8170	11.9284		11.7778	11.7594	
AED 12696		966	125190	12.70	75	12.4775	12.4579	
KWD 157.27		709	146.0101	157.40	62	145.5256	145,2977	
QAR		12.8113		12.6294	12.8223		12.5875	12.5678
USD	usance e	export bi	Il buying	rates:		V-Z-Car		
TT Doc		30 Days		60 Days	90 Da	lys	120 Days	180 Days
46.0112		45.7258		45.3415	44.9573		44.5730	43.8045
US d	ollar			ondon Interlas of May 13,	California i printe la comunicación	ed Rate	(LIBOR)	
-0145	Buying	Selling	Currenc	y 1 Month	3 Months	6 Mont	hs 9 Months	12 Months
Cash	45.8850	46.5050	US	D 6.625	5.6875	5.781	25 5.875	5.9375
TC	45.8850	46.5050	GB	P 7.4375	7.4375	7.43	75 7.4375	7.4375
Exch	ange Ra	tes of S	ome As	ian Currencie	es Against	US Do	llars	
Indian Rupee		Pak Rupee		Thai Baht	Malaysian		Indonesian	Korean Won
		- Williams			Ringait		Rupiah	

Amex notes on Wednesday's market Local foreign exchange market was active on Wednesday. Demand for US dollars was moderate and continuing flow of inward remittance kept the pressure off the USD, USD/BDT traded within a range of 46.4470 to 46.4500.

3.9020/3.9220 10400/10500

Call money market was stable and the rate ranged between 8.30%-9.75%. In the international market, the dollar was steady against the yen in late Tokyo trade after an earlier rise in reaction to falling Tokyo stocks. But comments by Japan's senior Ministry of Finance officials and the key Nikkei Index remaining above the 15,000 level discourage aggressive dollar buying. Uncertainty in Asian region made the yen weaker because that would affect business of Japanese corporations there and Japanese banks which invest heavily to the region. In Europe, the UK March wage cost data came higher than forecasted which has helped the sterling to push up against the other currencies.

Nuclear tests India may face problems to get WB loan

WASHINGTON, May 13: India, the World Bank's biggest borrower with 44 billion US dollars of loans to date, may find it harder to win more cash form the lending agency after enraging the world community by conducting nuclear tests, reports Reuters.

World Bank officials, who asked not to be identified, declined to comment directly on whether the sanctions from the United States would hit World Bank plans to approve loans totalling 1.9 billion dollars in coming weeks.

But they said opposition from major shareholders had in the past encouraged the bank to postpone such decisions.

"It's obviously a big issue, but it's hard to speculate," said one official. "Our members will guide us on how to act. We have to see how the United States. Japan and the G7 decide to do

Japan, India's biggest aid donor, said on Tuesday it was considering economic sanctions, including a freeze on loans, although it was not clear if that meant Tokyo would oppose planned World Bank fund-

The issue will be on the agenda at the weekend summit of the Group of Eight industrialised countries - Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States.

India, a founding member of both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund had been due to receive three billion dollars, in this finan cial year, which ends on June

"This is a big year for India," said one official. "The government of India has requested that the bank step up its lending." New loans amounted to 1.5

billion in the financial year

ending June 30, 1997, and some

1.1 billion dollars has already

been approved this year. Three energy projects to-talling more than 500 million dollars are due to be debated on May 26.

The out-going president of Bangladesh Rubber Industries Association, Shafiqur Rahman, presents a crest of the organisation to the FBCCI President, Yussuf Abdullah Harun, at the Association's annual general meeting held at a city hotel yesterday. --Star Photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer

Public Works Division, Satkhira

Tender Invitation Notice No 8 & 9/1997-98

Sealed tenders are invited from different classes of contractors of Public Works Directorate for execution of the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received by the undersigned & all Executive Engineers under Public Works Circle, Khulna up to 12-00 Noon of 20-5-98 and opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers. Tender form will be sold up to office hours of 19-5-98. Tender No Estimated Earnest Time limit Eligibility of contractor Name of work

render No	name of work	cost	money	for com- pletion of work	Eligibility of contractor
8/1997-98	Improvement of Water Supply System, Sanitation & Hygienic condition of Satkhira Sub-Jail (Sub-head: Construction of 5000 gallons capacity overhead tank, surface drain & 2 (two)-seater latrine)		Tk 7,780/-	3 (three) months	Public Works Directorate's special 1st class/1st class Public Works Directorate Zone Khulna's 2nd class, & Public Works Circle, Khulna's 3rd class building contractors/firms.
9/1997-98	-dodo- (Sub-head: Renovation of damaged pan, sinking of two shallow tubewells & renovation of	2,53,774/-	Tk 5,780/-	2 (two) months	Public Works Direc- torate's Special 1st class/1st class & Public Works Directorate Zone,

damaged water supply sys-

DFP-9491-30/4

G-1022

tractors/firms. Rest of the details can be collected from the office of the undersigned & the above offices during office hours.

Muhammad Kazimuddin **Executive Engineer** Public Works Division, Satkhira.

Khulna's 2nd class sani-

tary & plumbing con-