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Gasoline crisis in 16 N-dists

NAOGAON, Jun 6: Gasoline crisis in 16 northern districts of the country has reached its peak following the suspension of diesel lifting from depots since Monday, disrupting traffic and irrigation activities, reports UNB.

Fuel distributing companies in the districts stopped lifting diesel from depots to realise their demand for increased lorry fare.

Rajshahi Division Diesel Oil Distributors Tank Lorry Owners Association and Northern Tank Lorry Labour Union have put forward the demand.

Meanwhile, the situation aggravated further as a section of filling station owners stopped selling patrol saying that their stock ran out.

Local people said most of the filling stations in the region have hung signboards read: 'No Patrol.' But allegations are there that they are selling the fuel behind the door at exorbitant prices.

They are allegedly charging additional Taka 5-6 per litre.

China frees its oil industry

BEIJING, Jun 6: China has pegged its oil prices to the international market at the risk of endangering 'the survival' of Chinese producers, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday, says AFP.

The decision taken on June 1 by the State Development Planning Commission took effect Friday, it said.

'This is a final move to free China's oil industry from the planned economy,' the report said.

In recent months, the Chinese oil industry found itself struggling to cope with a wide gap between domestic crude oil prices and those on the international market — the national price remained fixed at 18 dollars a barrel while market prices tumbled below 12 dollars.

This imbalance provoked a strong increase in imports, often illegal, by Chinese refiners.

The drop in national prices resulting from the policy risks making it difficult for domestic oil companies to compete, as the production costs are higher than those of overseas giants.

'Survival will be all the more difficult for Chinese oil companies because they have to deal with domestic oil market and price pressures as well as facing intense competition from multinationals,' Xinhua said.

China, a net oil importer since 1993, absorbed 33.8 million tonnes of foreign crude oil last year, a 49.4 per cent increase over 1996.

Domestic production totalled 160 million tonnes.

Foundation course for JBC officers opens in Khulna

A 20-day foundation training course for junior officers and assistant managers of Jiban Bima Corporation has begun at Khulna Jiban Bima Corporation, says a press release.

The course arranged by Bangladesh Insurance Academy will end on June 25.

28 participants are attending.

The Academy has also started an underwriting course 'for officers of the corporation at Bangladesh Insurance Academy Bhaban in Dhaka.'

About 30 officers from Jiban Bima Corporation and different life insurance companies will participate the course.

Tofael urges LDCs

Get ready to secure zero tariff access

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed has urged the least developed countries (LDCs) to organise themselves to realise their rightful demands, particularly in securing duty-free market access and opening up trading opportunities, reports BSS.

The minister said this while briefing the permanent representatives of LDCs to the United Nations in New York on Friday, according to a message received here yesterday.

He hoped that in the upcoming substantive session of the ECOSOC the LDCs will take united initiative for the implementation of the preferential treatment for LDCs.

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Anwarul Karim Chowdhury chaired the meeting.

Referring to the mandate of the seventh annual ministerial meeting of LDCs at the UN last year Tofael said Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had carried out this mandate given by the ministers of 48 LDCs.

While explaining the role of Bangladesh as a coordinator of LDCs, Tofael referred to the letter written by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to British Prime Minister Tony Blair prior to the G-8 summit in Birmingham on May 17 last. This was in response to a mandate given to her by LDCs at the seventh annual ministerial meeting in New York, he said.

Tofael drew attention of the permanent representatives to the final outcome of the Birmingham summit and said all the proposals of Sheikh Hasina had been positively reflected there.

He said the announcement provided for duty-free access for the goods from LDCs, mostly on an autonomous basis, undertook to help LDCs to make markets of industrialised countries more attractive to foreign capital flows, recommended the OECD to propose a text by 1999 to unite aid to LDCs and supported speedy implementation of High Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative of the international financial institutions.

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Austerity drive in Pakistan

Punjab ministers decide to work without salary

LAHORE, Pakistan, June 6: All 18 ministers in Pakistani province of Punjab have decided to work without salary as the country tries to slash expenditure in the aftermath of nuclear tests, officials said yesterday, reports AFP.

The legislators in the Punjab assembly numbering around 250, have also surrendered 50 per cent of their salaries and medical allowances, they said.

The News Daily quoted Punjab chief minister Shahbaz Sharif as saying the ministers made the decision voluntarily following an austerity drive launched by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Pakistan has been placed under economic sanctions by the United States, Japan and other countries, after it responded to five nuclear tests by India last month with six of its own, saying it had to restore the strategic balance.

Sharif has launched a 'national self-reliance fund' and appealed for donations by his countrymen.

The government plans to check wasteful expenditure, tighten measures against tax evasion and speed up recovery of billions of billions of dollars in loans owed to public sector banks.

Vietnam's economy may grow by 7 pc

HANOI, Jun 6: Vietnam's economy is expected to grow at only 6.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent in the first six months of 1998, down from 9.1 per cent for the same period a year earlier, a senior government official says, reports AP.

Nguyen Tan Dung, first deputy prime minister and a member of the powerful Politburo, told local reporters Friday that the country is coping with problems and challenges much greater than predicted earlier this year.

BRUSSELS, Jun 6: A European employers' group urged European Union leaders yesterday to push ahead with budgetary convergence and carry out structural reforms to improve the jobs outlook, reports Reuters.

The call formed part of the message of the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederation of Europe (UNICE) to a European Union summit to be held in Cardiff, Wales June 15-16.

The presidents of UNICE's 33 member federations met on Friday in London, where they elected Georges Jacobs, Chief Executive of Belgian Drugs and Chemicals Group UCB (UCBET, BR), as UNICE's new president, the group said in a statement.

UNICE said the presidents called on EU leaders who will meet in Cardiff in 10 days to 'continue the process of budgetary convergence and to implement the structural and economic reforms necessary for improving the employment situation.'

'Short-sighted initiatives especially in the areas of tax or social policy will only endanger the recent progress made in improving the competitive situation in Europe — we should use the current favourable economic climate as the basis for strengthening the foundations of a more competitive Europe,' outgoing UNICE President Francois Perigot said.

Manzoor ul Karim, Chairman of Prime Insurance Company Ltd, hands over a fire claim cheque for Tk 5,88,47,422.00 to Jong H Han, Chairman of Swan Lon Co at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on Thursday. Tae Kyo Han, Ambassador of South Korea in Bangladesh, and M A Shah, Managing Director, S R Chowdhury, Dy Managing Director and M A Khaleque, Executive Director are also seen.

TOKYO, Jun 6: Asian-style corporate management must be ditched, a leading Taiwanese company chief said yesterday, in the presence of once-revered Japanese and South Korean business leaders, reports AFP.

Morris Chang, President of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd (TSMC), delivered the death notice in a debate here at the fourth conference on 'the future of Asia.'

'The so-called Asian-style corporate management has to change fundamentally,' said Chang, speaking before leading representatives of the Japan-South Korea management model — NEC Corp, Chairman Tadahi Sekimoto and Daewoo Group Chief Kim Woo-Chong.

TSMC, created by Chang in 1987, the founding father of Taiwan's microelectronics industry, is seen by analysts as an example of the new-style Asian corporation.

It has one focus, making semiconductors, and a return on capital of more than 30 per cent.

The management style is American, with the accent on initiative, individual responsibility and transparency, somewhat different from the group culture of major Japanese and South Korean firms.

TSMC does not follow the so-called Asian-style corporate management, said Chang, an MIT graduate who started his career with US giants Texas Instruments and general instruments.

Yen hits 7-year low against dollar in London

LONDON, Jun 6: The yen fell to its lowest level against the dollar in seven years Friday afternoon on the London forex market, after publication of some strong US employment figures, reports AFP.

The dollar was up in early afternoon to 139.89 yen against 139.15 before release of the US data and 138.35 yen Thursday evening.

The dollar also rose against the mark, to 1.7761 marks from 1.7694 just before the figures and 1.7643 marks Thursday evening.

The dollar benefited from a larger rise than expected in US job creations in May, while the unemployment rate remained unchanged, all this refueling speculation that the federal reserve might tighten monetary policy.

The yen was under pressure after rumours of political scandals in Japan, but operators remained cautious, fearing concerted intervention in the yen's behalf next week in connection with a meeting of G-7 officials.

Fish production falls in Magura

MAGURA, Jun 6: The production of fish in the district is on the decline.

Fish like kot, magur, puti, ruhi, katla, soil, boal etc are not available here during the summer season due to lack of water in water bodies.

Most of the rivers, beels, canals, haors in the district are dried up almost fully during the summer season.

A group of fishermen attributed the production fall to unplanned embankments, random use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers and indiscriminate fishing especially in the rainy season.

Local experts told this correspondent that about 80 to 85 per cent people in the district were not getting necessary protein due to lack of fish.

On the other hand, a large number of people related to fishing became jobless.

Employers urge EU Carry out reforms to improve job situation

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Jamdani manufacturers warn against reducing incentives

Star Business Report

Jamdani manufacturers have urged the government to increase incentives to keep up the pace of export of the traditional product.

They are worried after news that the government is considering reducing 'alternative support', now 25 per cent, extended to the industry. They say it should rather be raised to 35 per cent.

They told a conference yesterday that Jamdani products would lose international market and that the entire industry would suffer a big blow 'leaving by weavers in deep water if the incentive is reduced.'

'Jamdani manufacturers and exporters are utterly disappointed and frustrated at the news', said convener of Bangladesh Jamdani Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BJMEA) Rezaul Haq Chowdhury. He read out a written statement at the press conference.

'The entire industry will be destroyed and the poor weavers will turn to be day-labourers, if the incentive is reduced.'

They also set forth a six-point charter of demands aiming at amicable solution of their problems.

They said that the government should continue the incentive to support the industry for harnessing the export and to save lives of around 15 thousand weavers working in the industry.

'The Jamdani products are prospective export items to lessen the imbalance trade gap with India,' said Rezaul Haq.

The country now earns around Tk 8.5 crore per month by exporting Jamdani. 'A total of Tk 26 crore came from the export of Jamdani products only between February and April this year.'

They claimed that Jamdani apparels including sari, punjabi, three-piece, decoration piece and scarf had a huge market especially in India, Middle East, USA, UK and some other countries of the world.

Demanding incentives for the unregistered weavers — those who own less than 20 looms — the BJMEA leaders said that the export of Jamdani products would be increased if they were also given the incentives.

They also demanded increase of the time span for getting remittance from present 120 days to 180 days.

The manufacturers also alleged that they are being deprived of the LC facilities from the commercial banks. They argued that the weavers, like the garments sector, should be provided with the LC facilities.

They also urged the law enforcing agencies to come forward to check terrorism and

contain the eroding law and order in the Jamdani producing areas including Naopara in Ruppain.

BJMEA President Munir Hossain, member secretary Zahurul Haq, members MA Wazed and Kamal Sarkar and president of Bangladesh Tanti League Khagendra Chandra Debnath among others were present at the press conference.



Leaders of the Jamdani Manufacturers and Exporters Association tell a press conference that the industry will suffer if government doesn't continue its support.

— Star photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
Census and Enumeration, 2001 Project
3/2, Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka
No-BBS/CEN/Collection-1/98-Administration-88 Dated: 30/5/98

Tender Notice

Two-enveloped sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide supplier firms for purchase of paper, photocopier, microbus, Micro computer (with OCR), Line printer, Aerial photograph, map coverage and Modem, Multi-media Software and Satellite imagery etc. for use in the work of Census and House Enumeration Project 2001 under Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. Tenders will be received at the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned till 12 Noon of 14/6/1998 and will be opened the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of the intending participants in the tender (if any).

Terms and conditions

1. Attested copy of up-to-date renewed trade licence, attested copy of certificate of up-to-date income tax return of the firm and 2.50% of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft on savings certificate as the earnest money in favour of the undersigned will have to be deposited along with the tender (non-refundable).
 2. Schedule containing the description of goods can be collected from the abovementioned office during office hours on payment of Taka 750.00 (seven hundred and fifty) (non-refundable) after the publication of the tender notice.
 3. No schedule will be sold on the day of opening tender.
 4. Separate and total price of the goods will have to be mentioned in figures and words.
 5. No incomplete tender will be accepted.
 6. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.
 7. 4 copies of bill and 4 copies of chalan will have to be submitted by supplying goods within 5 (five) days of getting work order.
 8. Cheque for money for the bill submitted will be paid after audit of bill by the Chief Accounts Officer, Statistics Division, CGA Bhaban, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka.
- DFP-12323/1-6-98
Md Hamidul Haque Bhuiyan
Project Director.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Customs House, Chittagong Ref. No. S-4/148/Admin/98 Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide computer supplier firms for purchase of computer & accessories (as per schedule) for Essaikuda (Speed) Project of Chittagong Customs House. Tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned on or before 12:00 Noon of 15-6-98, which will be opened on the same day at 12-30 PM before the tenderers present (if any). Earnest money at the rate 2.5% (two & half per cent) of total quoted amount should be submitted (refundable) with the tender in the form of Pay Order/DD from any scheduled bank in favour of Commissioner of Customs, Customs House, Chittagong.

Schedule consisting rules & regulations/terms & conditions of tender can be collected from Administration Section of this office by paying the price Tk 700.00 (Seven hundred) only (non-refundable) through Treasury Challan at Sonali Bank, Customs House Branch, Chittagong during office hours from 7-6-98 to 14-6-98. If, under any circumstance, the office remains closed on the date of submitting tender, then tender can be submitted on the next working day. The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender or part thereof without assigning any reason.

Md. Nasir Uddin
Joint Commissioner of Customs
for Commissioner of Customs
Customs House
Chittagong
DFP-11973-27/5
G-1281

Asian-style corporate management in doubt

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Do not rely on foreign advice to solve economic ills: Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Jun 6: Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Saturday once again exhorted Malaysians not to rely on foreign experts to solve their country's economic ills, reports AP.

Countries that have turned to outside advice have all experienced economic turmoil, the outspoken leader said in a speech at the National Palace to celebrate the birthday of Malaysia's king.

Their reliance on foreign expertise only brought these countries political instability, massive unemployment, surging bankruptcies and escalating inflation, he warned.

Mahathir said all this could happen in Malaysia if more pressure was imposed on the ringgit and the local stock exchange. But he said the government had taken several measures to revive the nation's economy.

He said the people's faith and confidence in the government were vital because not all the government's measures could be publicly announced.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Public Works E/M Division-6 2nd 12-storied Govt Building Segunbagicha, Dhaka

Tender Invitation Notice No 75(1997-98)

Memo No-6-3/1987 Dated: 21-5-98/7-2-1405BS
Tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 under sealed cover are invited from Public Works Directorate's special first class and E/M Works enlisted first class/second class contractors for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the office of the Public Works E/M Division-4/5/6 and Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka during office hours up to 12-00 Noon of 15-6-98 and will be opened on the same day at 12-30 PM in presence of the tenderers or their representatives (if any). Tender schedule form and terms & conditions can be purchased on payment of usual price Tk 425/- (four hundred twenty-five) only (non-refundable) from the Public Works E/M Division-4/5/6 and Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka during office hours up to 14-6-98. 2% (two per cent) of the estimated cost as earnest money must be submitted with each tender through Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-6, Dhaka. Authority of this office reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason. Contractor himself or his attested letter bearer representative can purchase tender on production of registration book with necessary papers. Participant in the tender must submit certificate consisting TIN with the tender.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed
1)	Repairing of burnt, out of order 56" ceiling fan of building Nos 1 to 60 & Tin-shed TSTPTSB within Govt Staff Quarters at Paikpara, Mirpur.	1,61,169/-	3,224/-	15 (fifteen) days

Md Nurur Rahman
Executive Engineer
Public Works E/M Division-6
Dhaka, Phone No-414608
DFP-11804-26/5
G-1280