



DHAKA, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2000

Credit card fraud rises in Europe

LONDON, Sept 30: Visa, one of the world's leading credit card networks said this week that fraud numbers were growing rapidly in European countries, says Reuters.

In a Geneva conference presentation that was made available to Reuters, Robert Littas of Visa's EU Fraud Management unit unveiled the following figures:

Total confirmed fraud losses in the main European markets, including Israel and Turkey, were \$322 million in the year ending in March 2000, up from \$204 million in the same month of 1999. The fraud ratio was the highest in the Netherlands, with 0.33 per cent on an average 0.10 per cent.

In absolute figures, Britain led with total fraud of 155 million dollars, or 0.12 per cent of the total transaction value.

Butterfly training course on cooking on microwave oven ends

The certificate-awarding ceremony of the a three-day training course on Cooking on Microwave Oven by Butterfly Marketing Ltd ended at a city hotel yesterday, says a press release.

Speaking at the function, MA Mannan, Chairman and Managing Director of Butterfly Marketing Ltd said training in cooking on microwave oven will go a long way in creating domestic job opportunities for the educated women.

The training course was conducted by foreign trainers. Mannan said that those who received training, will now be able to make them self-reliant by organising such training centres in their respective areas.

25 trainees took part in the training course conducted by 2 foreign trainers. The Chairman and Managing Director of Butterfly Marketing Ltd distributed certificates among the trainees.

DHL Bangladesh upgrading its communication network

DHL Bangladesh has started to upgrade the communication network between its head office and other centres all over the country by radio-link system, says a press release.

Malcolm Rees, Area Director of DHL South Asia and Indo-China, inaugurated the radio-link system at a ceremony in the city yesterday.

In the first phase, the Motijheel office has been linked with the head office at Gulshan. The radio-link between the two centres ensures that the communication between them is much faster than the existing link through telephone lines.

This enables the Motijheel office to share operational activities with its Gulshan head office, as the two centres are now under the same computer network.

Speaking on the occasion, Rees said: "Our investment in Bangladesh is a reflection of our commitment to customers here. DHL shall always strive to better its service standards and radio-linking the stations is another stride towards that end."

Desmond Quiah, Country Manager of DHL Bangladesh stated that the sharing of the operational activities between the centres would definitely make DHL more efficient and benefit the customers.

BIBM seminar on enforcement of laws on default loans Wednesday

A national seminar on enforcement of laws relating to defaulted bank loans organised by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) will be held on Wednesday at BIBM Seminar Hall, says a press release.

Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, Governor Bangladesh Bank, will act as the seminar chairman while Dr. Muinul Islam, Director General of BIBM, will offer the address of welcome. Md. Liakat Hossain Moral, Faculty Member, BIBM, and Abdul Jalil Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, BIBM, will present the keynote paper on the topic.

The designated discussants are Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, Member Law Commission; S.A. Chowdhury Managing Director, Janata Bank; M. Aminuzzaman, Managing Director, Uttara Bank Ltd, and Barrister Shamim Khaled Ahmed, Advocate Supreme Court. Top executives of banks and financial institutions are expected to attend the seminar.

Sikkim seeks trade, investment links with Bangladesh

From Monjur Mahmud

GANGTOK, Sikkim, Sept 30: The Sikkim government and business leaders have shown their keen interest in trade and investment links with Bangladesh.

The government of Sikkim is ready to extend full support to any Bangladeshi venture, which will prove mutually beneficial to sustainable bilateral trade and economic development, said Shri Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister of Sikkim, at a meeting with the visiting FBCCI trade team to-day.

The Sikkim chief minister told the Bangladeshi business

leaders that his government was now encouraging foreign investors.

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Abdul Awal Mintoo proposed direct trade links between the two countries. "In future, Sikkim would be more important for business and a gateway for Bangladesh to China provided India establishes direct road links with the socialist market economy," Mintoo told the chief minister.

The outgoing FBCCI head is leading a 50-member trade delegation to Bhutan and Sikkim.

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on a seven-day visit that started on September 25. "A four-and-a-half hour drive could link Sikkim with Bangladesh if road infrastructures through Bangladeshi are developed," the FBCCI president added.

Sikkim can also be a very attractive place for Bangladeshi tourists, Mintoo said, adding "Bangladesh has many consumer items to offer to Sikkim while the latter can also explore a potential market for its spices and agro-based products in Bangladesh."

He invited the Sikkim chief minister to visit Bangladesh

and called for his personal initiative to facilitate bilateral trade. The Bangladesh trade team also exchanged views on trade and tourism potentials with Sikkim Chamber President DD Thirani and General Secretary GD Agarwal.

Sikkim is the largest producer of big cardamom in the Indian subcontinent, which is exported to Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

Sikkim Industries Minister Premlal Singh Tamang and Industries Secretary Tashi Denspa were also present in the meeting.

FBCCI election runs out of steam

Money, political blessing still a threat

By Shahriar Karim

Frenetic electioneering by the vice president candidates for the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) election couldn't infuse the usual enthusiasm into the business community as they think the unopposed election of the FBCCI president has dampened the spirit.

However, the three candidates for the vice president post and 41 others for 15 executive committee member posts to be chosen from different trade associations are busy to win voters' support.

Businessmen now apprehend that money and political connection will play an important role in the election scheduled for October 12.

However, some view that such influences would not pay off this time as the general businessmen are fed up with the process to win the FBCCI election.

Earlier, some influential business leaders chose 15 EC members from among the 35 aspirants from the chamber group. This pick and choose process came under criticism by many.

There is now a move by the same clique to pick some favoured 15 from the association group and a vice president, business sources said.

Three candidates, Golam Dastagir Gazi, Mohammad Ali and Khorshed Ali Mollah, representing different trade associations are gunning for the vice

president post. There are 41 others contesting for the 15 EC posts from the association group.

Golam Dastagir Gazi, representing the Rubber Industries Association, has the blessings of the ruling party although Mohammad Ali also tried for government support. Initially some influential business leaders, who are identified as the power brokers in the trade body politics, supported Mohammad Ali. But later they shifted their support to Gazi in line with the ruling party decision.

However, Gazi said he didn't seek any blessing from any quarter excepting the general voters. "I don't belong to any political party. I am a businessman. If the government

supports me, then it is a gift for me."

Although Mohammad Ali, representing the Vegetable Oil Association, failed to win the support of the government camp and some of the influential business people, he could ensure support of the former FBCCI Vice President Qazi Md Shafikul Islam. Islam is known to have a large vote bank under his control.

However, Qazi Shafik, who is also a director of the central bank board, was bitterly criticised by his colleagues in the bank for supporting Mohammad Ali, who is a well-known loan defaulter.

When contacted, Mohammad Ali said that there is nothing to hide about his defaulting to repay some loans to different banks. "I am trying to settle the issue with the respective banks and nobody should use this as an issue in the FBCCI election."

Mohammad Ali and Golam Dastagir Gazi have declared their panel and election pledges through press conferences. However, Khorshed Ali Mollah representing Electronic Manufacturers' Association is yet to declare his panel.



MA Mannan, Chairman and Managing Director of Butterfly Marketing Ltd, gives away certificates to the participants of a training course on 'Cooking on Microwave Oven' at a city hotel yesterday.

- Butterfly photo

Jessore-Benapole rail track maintenance goes private

The contractor company will be responsible for supplying labour and maintaining the track for which they will receive Tk 8.6 lakh yearly, the contract stipulates.

The amount would be less

than the expenditure the BR used to spend in the past for the job, the source said.

However, the engineers of Bangladesh Railways will look after the overall supervision of the maintenance.

This is the first time in three

decades of operational history

of the BR that a decision has been taken to lease out Jessore-Benapole track, once a very important route, a competent source at the Rail Bhawan said.

Under an agreement signed

to effect recently, a private company will look after the track from October 1, 2000.

The leasing for track main-

tenance on an experimental

basis is part of the overall plan

of the BR to involve private

sector in its activities to im-

prove the quality of service and

also to make the organisation

modern and viable.

The BR authorities will pro-

vide necessary materials for

maintenance of the line, while

An agreement has recently been signed between Bangladesh Railways and Indian Railways Board to reintroduce train service between the two countries along the Benapole-Petrapole line. When the train service on this line becomes operational, Jessore-Benapole will be a very busy route.

The process of integration of private sector in the BR activities started in 1997 and till now it remained confined to commercial activities like selling and checking of tickets and on board services like providing attendants in coaches and catering.

At present 10 pairs - four in the Eastern Zone and six in the Western Zone - are being run and the process has almost been completed for operating commercial activities in another 31 pairs.

Because of flooding, the operation of goods train that was supposed to start running between Benapole and Petrapole in India yesterday has been postponed. Once that line becomes active proper maintenance of Jessore-Benapole track will be feasible.

Weekly ReadyCash Prize Winners

The latest draw of the fortunate prize winners took place yesterday at the Dhanmondi office of ReadyCash.

Prizes for New Card Holders

| Prizes | Winners | Card no |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Hertz Rent-a-Car | Halima Akther | 5122 |
| FedEx-Federal Express | Md. Nurul Islam | 5097 |
| Lunch for two at China | | |
| Junction Restaurant | Sarkar H. Rashid | 5137 |
| Lunch for four at Jolly Vee | Md. Sikandar Ali | 5094 |

New ReadyCash cardholders will become eligible for prizes as soon as they make their first transaction. Winners are requested to collect their prizes from Public Relations Manager (PRM) of ReadyCash within 30 days of publishing the winners list by producing their ReadyCash Card transaction vouchers. For details please contact at 8125294-7.

ReadyCash encourages its cardholders to read The Daily Star on every Sunday for a new listing of prize winners.

India increases fuel prices

ter Atal Behari Vajpayee, Home Minister L K Advani and NDA Convenor and Defence Minister George Fernandes.

The minister said import duty on crude oil had been cut from 15 to 10 per cent while similar reductions had been made for other transport fuels.

In the case of diesel, excise duty was reduced from 16 to 12 per cent.

Ram Naik said that the increase in the consumer prices had become inevitable because of the abnormally-high price of oil and oil products in the international market.

India imports 70 per cent of its oil requirement, mostly crude oil, he added.

The crude oil import bill is likely to reach Rs 80,000, the minister pointed out.

Oil prices surge by 58 cents a barrel

LONDON, Sept 30: Oil prices regressed some ground yesterday after slumping heavily when Iraq vowed on Thursday not to disrupt its export sales of more than two million barrels per day (bpd), reports Reuters.

London Brent crude futures closed 58 cents higher at \$29.85 a barrel, having skidded \$1.28 the previous day. US light crude oil futures ended 50 cents higher at \$30.84 a barrel.

Oil prices have been roaming near decade highs above \$30 a barrel and traders feared Baghdad might halt or slow its crude oil exports if a Kuwaiti claim for Gulf War compensation went through this week without any gesture towards Iraq.

But those concerns eased after the five permanent United Nations Security Council powers, in approving a Kuwaiti claim for \$15.9 billion in compensation, agreed to reduce the rate of reparations. Baghdad pays for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

That was enough of a concession to stop Iraq from wielding its powerful

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in two envelope system (Technical Proposal & Financial Offer) are hereby invited for DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF BIMAN HOUSING COMPLEX OF HIGHRISE BUILDING AT ASHKONA, KURMITOLA, DHAKA ON TURNKEY BASIS (i.e. for designing to complete construction of the complex). The Real Estate developers/1st class enlisted contractors of govt/semi govt/autonomous bodies or the joint venture consortium of developers/1st class enlisted contractors/firms who have designed and completed construction in all respect of at least 10 storied RCC frame building having pile foundation of minimum Tk. 15.00 (fifteen) crore in a single work order will be eligible for participating in the tender.

The tender documents with detail terms and conditions will be available from the Cash & Banking Section of Bangladesh Biman Balaka Bhaban, Zia International Airport, Dhaka and Office of the Divisional Commissioner, 12, storied Govt Office Building, Room No. 206, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka on cash payment of Tk. 3000/- (Three thousand) only (non-refundable) per set on all working days from 05-10-2000 to 19-11-2000.

Tenderers shall have to deposit earnest money @ 2.5% (two point five per cent) of the total quoted amount in favour of Bangladesh Biman Corporation in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order alongwith the Financial Offer.

The tender will be received in the office of the General Manager, Project & Works, 3rd floor, Balaka Bhaban, Kurmitola, Dhaka and the office of Additional Divisional Commissioner, 12, storied Govt Office Building, Room No. 303, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka up to 1200 hrs on 20-11-2000 and only the Technical Proposal will be opened at 1430 hrs on the same day in presence of the tenderers (if any) in the office of the General Manager, Project & Works, 3rd floor, Balaka Bhaban, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

Biman Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

General Manager (P&W)



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