



DHAKA, SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2001

Court bars Reya
Int'l from using
Autofilter's
trademark
Star Business Report

The Dhaka District Judge has issued an ad-interim injunction against Reya International restraining it from using the trademark - OSMO - of Autofilter Manufacturing Company.

The court directives came after the Autofilter Manufacturing Company filed a suit claiming that Reya International was illegally infringing on its registered trademark.

Autofilter had prayed for a permanent injunction and withdrawal of all Reya products traded under the trade mark "OSMO."

The court then passed the order on November 30, 2000. Advocate Dr Shirin Shamim Chaudhury moved the case for Autofilter Company Ltd.

**US firm loses
permission for
Nepal power
project**

KATHMANDU, Jan 13: Nepal's government has withdrawn permission for a US investment group to build a 1.5 billion dollar hydro-electricity project after it failed to supply a bank guarantee in time, officials said Friday, reports AFP.

The Los Angeles-based Eurocent Investment Merchant Banking group had planned to construct the 404 megawatt Arun III hydro project and a smaller 176 megawatt project at Andhikhola.

Permission for the smaller project was also withdrawn after the company failed to pay its bank guarantee for the two projects by the December deadline, a senior official with the Water Resources Development Department said.

Eurocent will be officially informed next week, government sources said.

The US company had planned to build Arun III on its own and the Andhikhola project in a joint venture with Nepal-registered company, Trans-Himalayan Power Development.

The Arun III project was to be situated in Sankhuwasabha district, 165 kilometres (103 miles) east of Kathmandu.

**France revises
down third
quarter growth**

PARIS, Jan 13: France's official statistics office Friday revised down its economic growth figures for the third quarter of 2000 and reported an unexpected fall in consumer prices, reports AFP.

The French economy grew by 0.6 per cent in the third quarter instead of 0.7 per cent as previously reported, said the Institut National de Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques (INSEE).

The growth registered at the third quarter and by extrapolation the amount of economic expansion for the whole year if the fourth quarter remains flat, was slightly revised down to 2.9 per cent from 3.0 per cent.

Despite the slowdown, INSEE said it thought the economy could still grow by 3.2 per cent, as previously forecast.

"We could still make 3.2 per cent, which is what INSEE forecast in its last economic research and what the government expects, all the more so since the estimate for growth in the fourth quarter of 1999 was revised upward," said INSEE head of economic research Michel Devilliers.

Mechanically, we are between 3.1 and 3.2 per cent but 3.2 per cent is still possible because the figures could still move," he said.

He played down the importance of the small downward revision in the third quarter, which was mainly due to weaker-than-expected trade figures.

Company investment was clearly stronger than previously estimated and rose 2.3 per cent in the third quarter compared to the previous forecast 1.6 per cent.

Analysts said the third quarter figures confirmed a slowdown in the economy.

"The growth we have already had comes to 2.9 per cent at the end of the third quarter, which validates our forecast for annual growth at 3.1 per cent, which is liable to be revised to 3.0," said analyst Emmanuel Ferry at Exane.

French growth will lose its leadership over Germany for the first time since 1994," he added.

The figures for first and second-quarter growth were unchanged at respectively 0.6 per cent and 0.8 per cent.

French consumer prices fell by 0.1 per cent in December from the figure for previous month, giving a rise of 1.6 per cent over 12 months. INSEE said.

Govt to formulate laws to check cyber crimes: Jalil

Professionals to be consulted to check hackers

Star Business Report

Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil yesterday said the government is seriously concerned about frauds and forgeries in the information technology (IT) sector and laws will be drafted to check such crimes.

Speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on "Information Security: a National and Institutional Imperative" held at a city hotel, he stressed the need for immediate formulation of an IT policy and cyber laws.

Engineers and IT professionals would be consulted before formulating the IT policy and the relevant laws, he maintained at the seminar organised by Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS).

In his keynote speech, Dr. Rami Prabuddha Ganguli, Head of the Corporate Planning and Information Security Division of Hindustan Liver Lim-

ited, said, "Appropriate national laws to deal with computer related crimes need to be put in place as enforcement features of laws dealing with the tangible world do not always cover the issues of the intangible world."

Fire-walls, access control systems, real-time virus detection and clean-up software, intrusion detection and response devices have to be put in place, he added.

He noted that organisations have to formulate their information security policies and implement them so that a rigorous due diligence process is put in place. Side by side, employees will have to be trained on information security procedures so as to ensure compliance with organisational information security policy.

He also pointed out that information security and cyber

law formulation should find an urgent slot in the government's priorities and that industries, trade associations and professional bodies would play a crucial role in the formulation, implementation of information security as well as in awareness building on the issue.

Information and knowledge are institutional assets and need to be protected against increasing cyber crimes. Several organisations have suffered due to security weaknesses in developing software, the keynote paper said.

Rami suggested that organisations will have to plug the vulnerabilities to take full advantage of the power of networks and knowledge systems and it requires proper designing of IT-based networks by incorporating appropriate security

devices and a management system to monitor and incorporate corrective measures in the quickest time possible.

Addressing the programme as special guest, Yusuf Abdullah Harun, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), said the IT sector needs more attention for it to become a large contributor to the economy.

Presiding over the inaugural session, SM Kamal, President of Bangladesh Association for Software Information Services (BASIS), said his organisation will work toward checking cyber crimes.

BCS President Abdullah H. Kali also addressed the programme while IT professionals, businessmen, executives of different corporate firms participated in the seminar.

OPEC may cut output by over 1.5m bpd: Cartel chief

DUBAI, Jan 13: OPEC president Chakib Khelil has said the cartel is expected to decide to cut oil output by between 1.5 and 2 million barrels per day (bpd) at its Vienna meeting on January 17, in an interview published today, reports AFP.

"Qatar's energy minister is speaking of two million barrels and the Saudi (oil) minister of 1.5 million barrels. There is agreement that the cut will be between these two figures," Khelil told the London-based Arab newspaper Al-Hayat.

Khelil, who is Algeria's energy minister, said the meeting in Vienna would also decide on when the production cut is to take effect and for how long.

"The problem of refined oil products has been resolved, and the United States and Europe should not be worried because there will be no shortage in the first quarter," he said.

For Richardson, who flew into Saudi Arabia on Saturday at the start of a four-nation Gulf tour, a cut of 1.5 million bpd was "too high" and he proposed that 1 million bpd "could be sufficient," according to Khelil.

The United States is in favour of a cut in two stages of half a million barrels each time, the first during the first quarter and the second at a later stage," the Algerian minister said.

But "OPEC fears a repetition

of what happened in 1998, when prices fell to 10 dollars a barrel because stocks were too high and there was a surplus in supply on the markets," explained Khelil.

On Friday, OPEC secretary general Ali Rodriguez said the oil cartel was likely to agree on a cut of between 1 and 2 million bpd.

"Some of them are for a reduction of 1 million bpd, others are for a reduction of 1.5 million bpd, while others advocate a decrease of 2 million bpd. The reduction will be between these levels," he told Abu Dhabi television.

Most members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries have called for a decrease in oil production to offset lower prices as spring approaches in the northern hemisphere.

"Oil prices edged up towards 26 dollars a barrel in London on Friday as the market braced for a hefty OPEC production cut.

British trade minister due in city today

British Trade Minister for Competitiveness Alan Johnson is to visit Bangladesh for three days from Sunday, the British High Commission said here Saturday, reports AFP.

In a statement, it said Johnson, making his first trip to Dhaka, would inaugurate a three-day "UK Trade and Education Fair 2001."

He would also visit southern port city of Chittagong to hold talks with the city's mayor and leading Bangladeshi and British businessmen, besides visiting British-owned industries and establishments, including Shell Cairn and the General Electric Company.

"Bilateral trade between Dhaka and London continued to grow as Britain attached importance on building on the mutually beneficial trading partner," the statement said.

In the first 10 months of 2000, British exports to Bangladesh stood at 61.2 million pounds sterling or Tk 489.6 crore while Bangladesh's exports to Britain amounted to 30.7 million pounds sterling or Tk 2,458.4 crore.

Through the support of the Trade Partners UK, the British government's trade promotion organisation, Northern Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce will bring trade mission to Bangladesh at the end of next month.

This will be his first visit to Bangladesh.

During his three-day visit, Johnson will visit Chittagong on Monday and call on the City Mayor and leading members of British and Bangladeshi business communities.

He will also visit several examples of long term British investment in Bangladesh including Shell, Cairn, GlaxoWellcome and GEC facilities.

While visiting the port city, Johnson will open a revamped British Commercial Information

Centre at the British Council, Chittagong.

On Tuesday, he will meet the British Business Group in Dhaka and attend a launch of the British Government's White Paper on "Eliminating World Poverty: Making Globalisation Work for the Poor" and hold a press briefing.

He will leave for Taipei via Bangkok on the same day, said a British High Commission press release yesterday.

In the first 10 months of 2000, British visible exports to Bangladesh totalled at 61.2 million pounds sterling or Tk 489.6 crore while Bangladesh's exports to Britain amounted to 30.7 million pounds sterling or Tk 2,458.4 crore.

Ola Re, Managing Director of GrameenPhone, Lutfur Rahman, Head of IT of GrameenPhone, Abdus Salam Bhuiyan, Manager of Human Resources of GrameenPhone, and other senior officials of the two organizations were also present on the occasion.

It is perhaps the first time that a Bangladeshi company has implemented an Online Job Application System. From now on, applicants seeking to apply for a position at GrameenPhone will no longer need to mail their resumes.

Instead, they can apply online through the GrameenPhone Web Site (www.grameenphone.com) in a much easier and quicker way.

Through implementing this online system, GrameenPhone has moved another step towards complete automation of all of its important Back Office operations including Human Resource Management and Recruitment.

GP launching online job application system

GrameenPhone Limited, the largest mobile phone operator in the country, is launching a new web site containing information on career opportunities in the company and for sending job applications online, says a press release.

GrameenPhone signed a agreement with [bjobs.com](http://www.bdjobs.com) in this regard recently.

Naila Chowdhury, Director of Human Resources and Customer Relations of GrameenPhone, and AKM Fahim Mashroor, Chief Executive Officer of BDJOBS.COM LTD, signed an agreement on online job application system in the city recently.

- GP photo

UK trade fair begins in city today

The three-day UK Trade and Education Fair 2001 begins at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel today showcasing a wide range of British products and services, says UNB.

Commerce Minister M Abdul Jalil and British Trade Minister for Competitiveness, Alan Johnson MP, will jointly open the annual trade show.

A total of 55 British companies and educational institutions will participate in the fair jointly organised by the British High Commission and British Council.

The participants are from various commercial and education sectors, including banking, oil and gas, agriculture, transport, construction, ceramic machinery, seafood processing, universities and colleges.

Through the support of the Trade Partners UK, the British government's trade promotion organisation, Northern Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce will have talks with Jalil to follow up their meeting last November in London. He will also have meetings with other government representatives.

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Indonesia upbeat on recovery

KOBE, Japan, Jan 13: Indonesia's finance minister on Saturday sounded an upbeat note about prospects for his ailing economy, but warned that his government still had much to do.

Priadi Praptosudarmo, here for a two-day meeting of finance ministers from the 25-nation Asia-Europe Meeting group.

He will also visit several examples of long term British investment in Bangladesh including Shell, Cairn, GlaxoWellcome and GEC facilities.

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Pak oil import surges by 55pc

ISLAMABAD, Jan 13: Pakistan oil import bill surged