

JET
WASH ACTION

SANYO
Japan

New Jet Wash technology.
Micro-computer controlled fully
Automatic Washing Machine.

Transfin Trading Ltd.
Phone: 8115307-10, Fax: 8113062

Star BUSINESS

DHAKA TUESDAY MARCH 6, 2001

PRINTRONIX
Line Matrix Printer

* 500 Line Per Minute
* 1000 Line Per Minute
* 1500 Line Per Minute

COMPUTER SERVICES
FOR COMPLETE SOLUTIONS
Tel: 8116215, 9119861

IIFC, IFC, ERD sign MOU on pvt sector power generation

The Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Center (IIFC), International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of Finance Ministry have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote private sector investments in electricity generation and distribution of the same in remote areas, says a press release.

Nazrul Islam, Executive Director & CEO of IIFC, Hafeezuddin Ahmad, Country Manager of IFC, and Dr. Mohammad Zahid Hossain, Deputy Secretary of ERD, signed the MOU on behalf of their respective organisations.

Under the agreement, a feasibility study will be conducted by IIFC to promote private sector investment in electric supply system in the remote areas. IIFC will carry out project commercialisation and development studies, initially in 14 districts identified by the government with assistance from IFC.

On the basis of these studies, IIFC and Power Division, MEMR will execute a Development Services Agreement (DSA) to allow IIFC to carry out the required project framework studies and to assist REB or BPDB to carry out the project development activities.

By studying the proposed sites that could be developed as Remote Area Power Supply System (RAPSS), IIFC will assist REB or BPDB to develop concession bidding documents and carry out a transparent, competitive bidding and evaluation process to select the winning concessionaires.

Course for DBL, EXIM Bank officers ends

An 18-day Foundation Training for twenty two officers of Dhaka Bank Ltd and 4 officers of Export Import of Bangladesh Ltd (EXIM Bank) concluded at the Dhaka Bank Training Institute at Adamjee Court, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, recently, says a press release.

Meanwhile, a 3-day workshop on "Unix Operating System and Existing Banking Software" (Pcbank/M) also concluded on the same day.

Chairman of Dhaka Bank ATM Hayatuzzaman Khan distributed certificates among the participants.

DBL Managing Director AIM Iftikar Rahman, Deputy Managing Director Md. Moklesur Rahman and Shamshad Begum, Senior Vice-president and Principal, also spoke at the concluding session of the course.

Air force chief to quit to join S'pore Airlines

AFP, Singapore

Singapore's air force chief Major General Raymond Ng is to quit the military for a senior role with Singapore Airlines, the defence ministry and the airline announced Monday.

The switch, which has been approved by the republic's President S.R. Nathan on the recommendation of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, will see Ng become Singapore Airlines senior vice president for flight operations.

New GM of Agrani Bank



Kazi Mominul Islam has recently joined Agrani Bank as General Manager.

Prior to his assignment, he was the General Manager in Sonali Bank, says a press release.

Islam started his banking career in the erstwhile Habib Bank Ltd as officer in 1970 after obtaining Masters degree with Honours in Accounting from the University of Dhaka.

He held different positions in the Board Division, Disciplinary and Appeal Division, Personnel Division, Credit Division, Zonal Office, and Corporate Branches of Agrani Bank before being promoted to the post of General Manager in Sonali Bank last year.

He participated in various training programmes related to banking.

MCCI seeks tax slab system for small corporate units

Bank rate cut suggested in budget proposal to Kibria

MONJUR MAHMUD

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has recommended a tax slab system for small corporate units, saying this will encourage the small companies to pay tax.

"Besides, the present tax on publicly limited companies should be 30 per cent and 35 per cent for other companies while it should be 25 per cent for companies having incomes not exceeding Tk 10 lakh," the Chamber said at a meeting with Finance Minister SAMS Kibria yesterday.

A nine-member MCCI team led by its President Latifur Rahman met the finance minister at his office to follow up the Chamber's proposals for the budget for 2001-2002.

Responding to the business leaders' proposals, Kibria said the government was seriously considering reducing tax burden on the lower income group.

The concession trend allowed in the last four budgets would continue in the next budget, Kibria said, adding that the government would give all out support to agro-processing and export-oriented industries.

MCCI said that the highest tax rate in case of dividend income of the individuals should be 15 per

cent. To encourage self-assessment among the private limited companies, the existing restriction should be removed and self-assessment should be allowed if the income shown is higher by 10 per cent, it said.

Earnings from exports should be fully tax-exempted, the Chamber said, mentioning that under the Settled Liability Scheme, there is no provision for refund of tax collected from an importer and the tax rate was increased from 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent. It was recommended that the rate should be reduced to 2.5 per cent.

"We are seriously concerned about the adverse impact of tax on tax on inputs and finished products. Effective rate in the case of inputs goes up by more than 100 per cent and the same on the finished product increases by nearly 400 per cent. Such cascading impact is bound to have an adverse impact and cause tax avoidance," MCCI suggested that all surcharges and supplementary duties on imports should be abolished because they were introduced for certain time frame.

Recommending implementation of three-tier duty structure immediately, the MCCI said it should be five per cent for basic

raw material, 15 per cent for intermediary raw materials and 25 per cent for semi-finished raw materials. If three-tier duty structure is evolved, disputes of the importers with the PSI agencies will be removed, it added.

The existing duty rate on inputs required by agro-processing industries is high compared to the national requirement to encourage agro-processing industries, the MCCI mentioned, suggesting the rate for all inputs of agro-processing industries should be reduced to five per cent.

A number of industries have been suffering due to anomalies in import duties on finished products and the same on components and raw materials such as electric bulb manufacturing industry, the MCCI said. It also recommended that for all such industries, the maximum duty should be 15 per cent instead of the existing 25 per cent (lamp shell), 37.5 per cent (aluminium cap) and 15 per cent (wire) and all surcharges and fees should be withdrawn immediately.

Assesses have been facing untold miseries in getting credit of advance tax paid on imports. This is grossly unfair and the importer should not be held responsible if the amounts are not credited to the customs authorities' accounts.

the chamber mentioned, suggesting that the importer should be allowed the credit on production of bills of entries without waiting for verification. Alternatively, assesses should be allowed to deposit the tax themselves so that they may retain their copy of the challan.

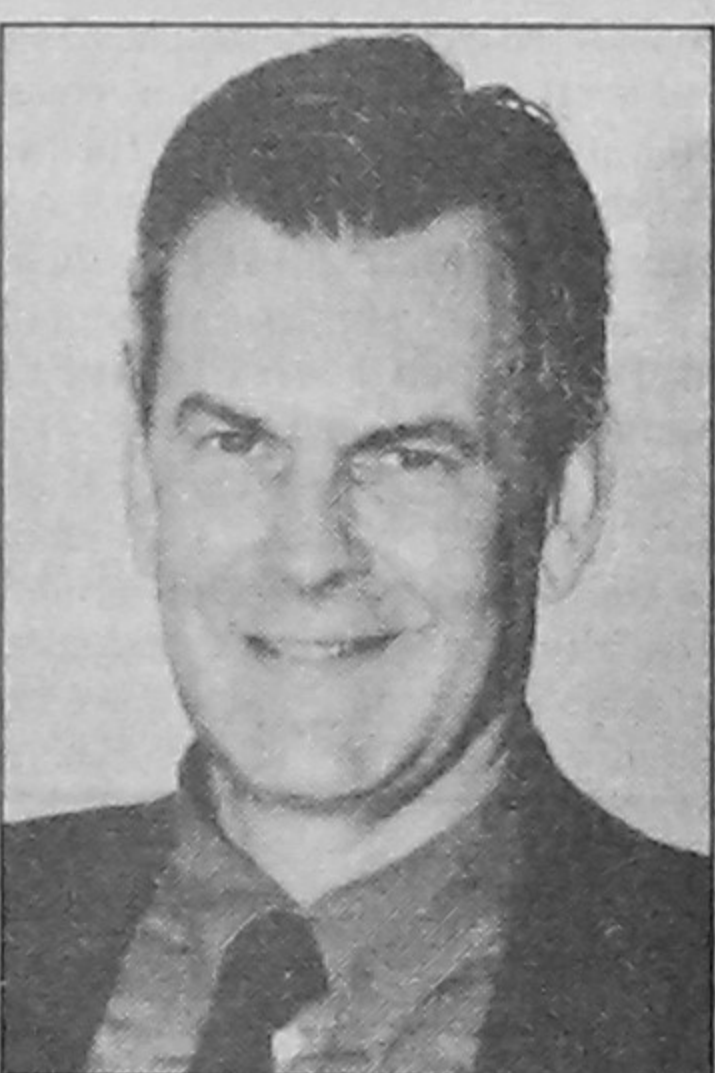
About the process of claiming rebate on inputs, the current system is that the claims for assessment must be submitted within the same calendar month after the goods actually reach the factory or production premises. The MCCI suggested that the time limit should be increased to three months for imported products and 60 days for locally purchased goods.

With the inflation rate at around 3 per cent, there is no justification that the real rates of interest should be as high as 13 per cent to 14 per cent for investments and 16 per cent to 18 per cent for cash credit facilities, the MCCI said. "Further reduction of bank rate should be given serious consideration in view of the continuous decline of the country's capital stock."

MCCI suggested that VAT on importers should be totally exempted as it is done in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Intra-firm export can help countries exploit mutual competitiveness

Nestlé Vice President tells The Daily Star



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Executive Vice President of Nestlé Mxw Garrett observes that Bangladesh and India should exploit their mutual corporate sector competitiveness of intra-company exports.

Talking to The Daily Star during his recent visit to Bangladesh, Garrett, who is also the Head of Asia, Oceania, Africa and the Middle East Zone of Nestlé S.A., said, "We would like to see our Bangladesh plant exporting to India and vice versa. I strongly see a need for regional cooperation like that of the ASEAN to capitalise on our

plant capacities."

To further explain the proposition, he said while Bangladesh can have advantage in some products, India enjoys the same in other goods. So intra-firm export of products of the same group would make better economic sense and ensure full capacity utilisation.

Talking about foreign direct investment (FDI), he said mere setting up of special export zones is not enough to attract foreign capital. "You need to develop an environment where productivity is higher and competitive," he said.

During the interview, Garrett dwelt upon a wide range of issues including global economics, food industry and Nestlé's growth strategy.

Talking about China's WTO entry, he said this is going to be a positive move as the internationally-accepted rules of business will then be established there, China will then definitely be a Mecca for investors.

"But it doesn't mean that Bangladesh will look less attractive because of China's emergence. Bangladesh has certain skills which China definitely lacks. Moreover, China will turn into a big importer with the booming of its economy and Bangladesh should explore this market.

Nestlé has been doing exceptionally well for the last three

years. Against an industry average growth of two per cent, it clocked 4.4 per cent growth in 2000.

"This was possible because of the leadership of our new president and also because there had not been any major crisis anywhere in the world. This helped us achieve uninterrupted implementation of our growth strategies. Every part of the company improved both product-wise and geographically. As a result, the company made a landmark turnover achievement of 81.4 billion Swiss franc."

"Our goal is to continue this growth rate provided there is no major financial turmoil in the world," he said.

When asked if the US economic slowdown is a threat to global economies, he said: "The US downturn is a threat for the global economy. But fortunately, food industry is not as affected as luxury items by any recession. However, people will look for cheaper alternatives and it will be a challenge for us as well."

He said the US recession will have its impact on Asia since this continent has a significant volume of trade with the US.

Talking about the Bangladesh market, he said this is a lucrative one for Nestlé on two counts. First, it has a huge population promising a prospective market. Sec-

ondly, the country has been witnessing a sustained good growth rate, which will increase the demand for processed food products.

At this point, Nestlé Bangladesh Managing Director Aldo Siegrist stated that the biggest challenge for his company is now to widen the distribution network. He hinted that Nestlé now aims at making products available in the rural areas.

Explaining his company's growth strategy, the president said Nestlé now aims to make products affordable for the emerging market consumers. The technique for this is to make smaller product units so that people with lower income can buy them.

The second goal of the company is to go on an extensive marketing drive so that anyone wanting to have Nestlé products can easily get it off the counter of his local shop.

He further said that Nestlé's strong research and development base would also give it the required growth impetus. People are becoming more and more health-conscious because of the various health concerns like the mad cow disease, which is now haunting almost the whole of Europe. In such a situation, Nestlé ensures safety guarantee with quality labelling.

Japan to prepare emergency economic package this week

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japan's ruling coalition aims to compile and emergency package, expected to focus on helping slumping stocks, late this week, a senior lawmaker of the dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said Monday.

Politicians in the three-way ruling coalition have been toiling for weeks to try to assemble measures that could halt a relentless slide in stock prices and revive the economy in a bid to prevent a simultaneous fall in the popularity before an Upper House election in July.

Asked whether the package would be compiled this week, Shizuka Kamei, the LDP's policy chief, said: "Yes, around the 8th or 9th."

Kamei was speaking to reporters after meeting Makoto Koga, the LDP's secretary general, who said last Friday that the emergency package would centre on steps to help to revitalise the fragile stock market and boost the liquidity of the real estate market - a goal of successive governments for years.

It was not clear whether the new steps would require fiscal spending. Japan has relied for several years now on fiscal stimulus to try to jump-start an economy mired in a decade of stop-start growth.

Earlier in the day, Kamei told as senior Bank of Japan (BOJ) official that the central bank should take quantitative easing steps to ease deflationary pressure, sources said.

The senior central bank official responded that the BOJ would study the issue, the sources said. BOJ Governor Masaru Hayami has argued against quantitative easing, or pumping up liquidity in the market by increasing purchases of Japanese government bonds or setting inflation or monetary targets.

But he has also said the central bank would consider monetary steps among a wide range of policy options, prompting speculation in financial markets that the BOJ could take further easing steps.

The BOJ's Policy Board last

Wednesday surprised financial markets by lowering its key overnight money market call rate target to 0.15 per cent from 0.25 per cent, and cutting the official discount rate to 0.25 per cent.

But the move has not silenced political calls for further monetary easing, including quantitative easing, amid growing signs of the economic slowdown.

Those critics appeared to win qualified consideration from a member of the central bank's Policy Board who was quoted in a financial daily on Monday as saying the next monetary step to ease deflationary pressure could include a return to zero interest rates and driving down the value of the yen.

"To lower the overnight call rate further to zero after lowering it to 0.15 per cent requires quantitative easing," said Kazuo Ueda, a former Tokyo University professor and regarded as one of the policy board's dovish members.

"After that, simply expanding the amount of money in the market won't be effective.

Coca-Cola chief quits amid restructuring

AFP, Washington

Coca-Cola president Jack Stahl has resigned from the giant beverage company as part of a shuffle of top management, the company said Sunday.

"As we enter the next phase of our company's growth, it is clear that our new business model demands a new management approach," Coca-Cola chairman Doug Daft said.

Accordingly, Daft said, the company would create four strategic business units - one each for the Americas, Asia, Europe/Africa, and new business ventures - each with its own executive leadership.

"This new structure is what The Coca-Cola Company needs for a new century," Daft said.

The company in a statement Sunday named the heads of the three strategic business units: Jeffrey Dunn for the Americas, Sandy Allan for Asia, and Charles Frenette for Europe/Africa.

Coca-Cola expects to name the head of the New Business Ventures unit soon, the statement said.



The members of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI), led by its President Latifur Rahman, met Finance Minister SAMS Kibria to discuss the Chamber's proposals for the 2001-2002 national budget at his office yesterday.

BB eases import curbs to check price spirals

UNB, Dhaka

To contain price spirals of some commodities, Bangladesh Bank Monday further relaxed temporary import restrictions on the items.

Sudden price rise of essential construction materials, including cement, was phenomenal as per reports received from different parts of the country.

The central bank in a circular Monday said the LC margins for import of the items would now be determined on the basis of bank-client relationship.

Among the dear items are scrape, cement, lift and its spare

parts and poultry medicine, minerals, vaccines and pre-mix.

"We relaxed the restrictions as the price of the items increased suddenly," a senior central bank official told UNB after taking the emergency measure.

He said the temporary import restrictions would be removed ultimately.

Importers still will be required to deposit half the LC value with the LC-opening banks for importing other goods.

Bangladesh Bank slapped LC margins on imports to replenish the country's depleted foreign ex-

change reserves, now showing recovery signs, rising to USD 1.55 billion.

According to the circular, the rate of LC margins for import of industrial goods had been fixed at 30 per cent and of commercial items 50 per cent barring petroleum and petroleum products, capital machinery and imports under back-to-back LC.

Following adverse reaction from the business circles, Bangladesh Bank immediately slackened the import restriction of 30 per cent LC margins on industrial raw material.



Md Abdul Aziz Sarkar, Member (Investment Promotion) of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, and Shiao Haw Chu, Managing Director of M/s Zong Sine Textile Industries Ltd, sign an agreement for establishing a Taiwanese composite textile industry in DEPZ Sunday.

Taiwanese co to invest \$10m in DEPZ

A Taiwanese firm has decided to invest US \$10 million (equivalent to about Tk 55 crore) in the Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ), says a press release.

The company, M/s Zong Sine Textile Industries Ltd, which is a 100 per cent foreign-owned industry, will produce about 100 million yards of synthetic fabric annually.

The fabric will be used to make readymade garments, tents, sleeping bags and umbrella.

This composite textile industry will create employment opportunity for about 800 Bangladeshi nationals.

The company is likely to go into commercial production by the end of this year.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন
প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, অঞ্চল-৬

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

দরপত্র আহবানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের তালিকাভুক্ত টিকাদারগণের নিকট হইতে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং ২৯১১ এ সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। আগামী ৫-১১-২০০১ বাংলা/১৯-৩-২০০১ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় বিভাগীয় কমিশনার ঢাকা, জেলা প্রশাসক ঢাকা, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল প্রকৌশল বিভাগ কর্তৃক দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে। ঐ দিনই বেলা ১২-৩০ ঘটিকার সময় নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী অঞ্চল-৬ এর দপ্তরে উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের/প্রতিনিধিগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হইবে। শতকরা হারে দর অংকে এবং কথায় লিখিতে হইবে, অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের মেয়র মহোদয়ের অনুকূলে যে কোন সিভিল ব্যাংক-এর ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে প্রাক্কলিত অর্থের ৩% (শতকরা তিনভাগ) হারে বায়নার টাকা হিসাবে জমা দিতে হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়ের প্রকৌশল বিভাগ ও হিসাব বিভাগের হিসাবরক্ষক (পোদারের) নিকট হইতে প্রতি সেট দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী, সিভিল ইত্যাদি নির্ধারিত মূল্যের বিনিময়ে (অফেরতযোগ্য) করপোরেশনের চালান মারফত ব্যাংক এ জমা প্রদানকর্তৃত্ব ক্রম করা যাইবে। শর্তাবলী এবং সিভিল ক্রয়ের প্রাক্কলে প্রত্যেক টিকাদারের ১৯৯৯-২০০০ ইং আর্থিক বৎসর পর্যন্ত তাহাদের টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং এবং স্থায়ী জামানত (যদি থাকে) তাহার চালানের মূল কপি অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করিতে হইবে এবং স্থায়ী জামানতের ক্ষেত্রে এক লক্ষ টাকার বেশি হইলে অতিরিক্ত টাকা ব্যাংক ড্রাফটের মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হইবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের অঞ্চল-৬ এর নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (পুর) এর দপ্তর হইতে জানা যাইবে।

কোন দরপত্রদাতা প্রাক্কলিত দরের ৫% (শতকরা পাঁচ ভাগ) এর অধিক/নিম্ন দর প্রদান করিলে দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। সর্ব নিম্ন দর একাধিক পাওয়া গেলে লটারির মাধ্যমে টিকাদার নির্বাচন করা হইবে।

দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে দরপত্রের কোন দলিলপত্র বিক্রয় করা যাইবে না। যে কোন বা সমুদয় দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা করপোরেশন কর্তৃপক্ষের সংরক্ষিত থাকিবে।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাক্কলিত টাকা	বায়নার টাকা	নির্ধারিত সময়সীমা
১।	মোঃপুর কৃষি বাজার তাহেয়ী জামে মসজিদের ৩য় তলা এবং ইমাম কোয়ার্টার নির্মাণ কাজ।	টাঃ ৪০,৪৪,৮৯৯/-	টাঃ ১,২১,৩৪৭/-	১৮০ দিন

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
অঞ্চল-৬
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

ডিসিসি/পিআরডি/৩৭৫/০০-০১
তারিখ-২১/৯