

DHAKA, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2001

**Bank holiday
on October 1**

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Bank and all scheduled banks will remain closed on October 1 on the occasion of the 8th parliamentary election, said a press release Thursday.

**NCB branches to
remain open
Saturday**

BSS, Dhaka

The branches of nationalised commercial banks (NCB) handling election fund will remain open on September 29, a Bangladesh Bank press release said Thursday.

The press release said the branches will remain open so that the Returning Officers or Assistant Returning Officers can withdraw money from banks for election purpose.

**ECNEC approves
Tk 114.24cr
four projects**

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) Thursday approved four projects involving Tk 114.24 crore, including Tk 35.60 crore in project aid.

The approval was given at an ECNEC meeting at the conference room of NEC with Vice Chairman of the committee and Finance, Jute and Textiles Advisor M Hafizuddin Khan in the chair.

The projects include installation of seven 132/33 KV grid sub-centre capacitor banks, reinstallation of Jessore-Benapole branch line, a flood rehabilitation project under damaged RMRP-3 and strengthening the Shipping Ministry for developing internal naval security and maritime environment management.

Besides, reports were submitted in the meeting on rural development projects, extension of the agreement of advisory organisation in implementing the Madhyapara Hard Rock Project and irregularities in construction of veterinary hospitals at the district-level.

ECNEC members and advisors of different ministries Sayed Monjur Elahi, Major Gen Moinul Hossain Chowdhury, Abdul Mueed Chowdhury and A K M Amanul Islam Chowdhury attended the meeting.

Secretaries of different ministries and departments and members of Planning Commission were also present.

**2nd AGM of
First Security
Bank held**

The 2nd annual general meeting of the First Security Bank Limited was held at a city hotel recently, says a press release.

Sarwar Jahan Maleque, Vice-Chairperson of the bank presided over the meeting.

The bank earned a profit of Tk 16.6 million and achieved deposit of Tk 1539.6 million as on December 31, 2000.

Up to 31st August 2001, the bank's profit figure stood at Tk 48 million while its deposit reached at Tk 2444.4 million.

All the sponsor-shareholders, directors, advisor R A Howlader and managing director Md Sarwaruzzaman Khan were present in the meeting.

**Malaysia aims
to find new
export markets**

AP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia will try to find new export markets in the United States and Southeast Asia to offset the worsening economic downturn following the terrorist attacks in the United States, a top trade official said.

The Malaysian government this week slashed its growth forecast for 2001 to around 2 per cent in anticipation of a global slowdown made worse by the attacks. Electrical goods and components are Malaysia's main export and the United States its biggest customer.

International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said Malaysia would try to develop new US markets away from the east and west coasts, and aimed to double its exports to Southeast Asian countries. She did not give a timeframe.

Speaking to reporters late Wednesday, Rafidah said that 25 per cent of Malaysia's total exports currently went to Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, countries.

National poultry policy needed for proper sectoral growth

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A national poultry sector development policy should be formulated immediately to fulfil the need of private entrepreneurs and non-government organisations and increase the present growth of the industry, experts said.

"Frequent outbreaks of diseases in rural areas are one main constraint for poultry development in the country. The annual economic loss due to diseases is tremendous which is around 60 per cent of the total value of poultry," said Professor MA Latif, former head of Poultry Science Department of Bangladesh Agricultural University and President of World's Poultry Science Association-Bangladesh, told The Daily Star.

In the early stage of poultry sector development in the country, the main emphasis was given to direct technology transfer in various forms including introduction of exotic, high production breeds, he said. Livestock development strategies were designed mainly to maximise production without any consideration to long-term socio-cultural and environmental implications. As a result, poultry sector development was not satisfactorily introduced.

Specialised poultry disease investigation centres need to be established at Savar, Gazipur, Chittagong, Bogra and Faridpur. The present disease investigation centre of the Department of

Formulation of a national policy and forming a regulatory body for implementing the policy may help the industry sustain as well as increase the growth rate and turn the poultry industry into an export-oriented business, said Quazi M Embadal Huque, Director General of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI).

To develop the sector export-oriented, hygienic factors are most important ones in broiler processing, he said, adding that due to lack of a national policy, the poultry industry is running in an unorganised way and there is no control on various poultry related activities. On the other hand, poultry insurance system should be introduced.

Poultry breeding is a prospective avenue to reduce unemployment, poverty and malnutrition and needs a special and comprehensive approach.

The emerging poultry sector has received attention of the investors in the last decade and is undergoing remarkable changes. But it is yet to gain the industrial scale of operation.

Specialised poultry disease investigation centres need to be established at Savar, Gazipur, Chittagong, Bogra and Faridpur. The present disease investigation centre of the Department of

Livestock needs to be modernised for specialised disease investigation.

Besides, annual growth of the poultry sub-sector is around 20 per cent and the demand for poultry feed is going up with the increase of commercial poultry production. There should be a regulatory body to look after feed standardisation and quality control, he said. A feed testing facility is required in and around poultry farming zones.

Currently there are about 80 hatcheries in the country with 0.625 million parent stocks, producing 72.80 million commercial day-old chicks in 1999.

The local hatcheries produced about 11.80 million layers and 61 million broiler day-old chicks in 1999-2000, about half of the present demand for commercial farming. About 70,000 different-size farms have been established in the country. Of them, 20 per cent has been rearing 1,000 to 50,000 birds and the rest are small-scale having 100 to 1,000 birds each.

Most of the poultry farmers in Bangladesh do not have enough technical know-how to obtain maximum output from their investment.

The country's annual per capita egg consumption is 0.8 kg while poultry meat consumption is 1 kg.



President Shahabuddin Ahmed speaks at the inauguration of the new plant of Square Pharmaceuticals Limited at Kaliakair in Gazipur on Thursday. Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Advisor of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs and Civil Aviation & Tourism, Brig. (Retd) Professor Abdul Malik, Advisor of Health, Family Welfare and Religious Affairs, Tapan Chowdhury, Managing Director of Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd, and Samson H Chowdhury, Chairman of Square Group, are also seen in the picture.

Square Pharma's new plant to enhance country's image

President tells inauguration function

BSS, Gazipur

district on Thursday.

Adviser Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmad and Adviser Brig. (Retd) Abdul Malik also addressed the inaugural function with chairman of the Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd Samson H Chowdhury presiding.

Adviser Rokia A Rahman was, among others, present on the occasion.

The president appreciated the initiative for setting up this plant and expressed his firm hope that Square in Bangladesh would be able to expand its export bases to the developed countries including the United States.

"It is needless to say that this factory will greatly enhance the image of Bangladesh in the world market as an exporter of highly sophisticated and technical products like pharmaceuticals," he said while inaugurating the Square's new plant at Kaliakair under Gazipur.

The permit would apply until October 20, when the board would convene to discuss granting formal authority, he added.

Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific Airways, and Air Philippines have all filed petitions to raise fares by six dollars, Arcilla said.

PAL president Avelino Zapanta

said on Wednesday that the flag

carrier intends to pass on passen-

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following the suicide hijacking of US

jets, which were used to attack the

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Civil Aeronautics Board executive

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