

Allow free movement of LDC workers

International civil society forum urges developed, advanced-developing nations

Speakers at the international civil society forum in Dhaka yesterday called upon the developed and advanced-developing nations to allow free movement of skilled and less-skilled workers from the LDCs.

factories do not comply with the labour laws.



(From left) Khushi Kabir, co-chair of National Advisory Committee (NAC) of the LDC Forum 2005 and coordinator of Nijera Kori, Faruq Ahmed Siddiqi, commerce secretary, Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of NAC and president of International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh, Reaz Rahman, adviser to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), are seen at the closing session of the three-day 'International Civil Society Forum 2005 for Advancing LDC Interests in the Sixth WTO Ministerial' that ended in Dhaka yesterday.

strongly urged the WTO members to consider the recommendations of identification of needs and priorities, operationalisation of special and

Information and Negotiations Institute, Uganda, co-chaired the working session.

Banking hours in Ramadan

Bangladesh Bank yesterday reshuffled office time and transaction period of the banks for the month of Ramadan.

Thai Airways to fly to Moscow from Ctg

Thai Airways is going to operate three direct flights a week from Chittagong to Moscow from November 1 and this will be the first flight operation of the airline to the Russian capital.

New DMD of Federal Ins Co

Tax ombudsman to be appointed after Eid

Says Saifur

UNB, Dhaka

Tax ombudsman will be appointed after Eid-ul-Fitr under a new law, said Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman while talking to reporters on Tuesday.

and India, but they have not been able to yield any positive result so far.

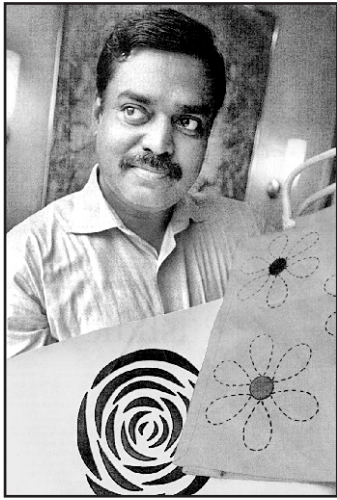
Tata eyes downstream steel assets in Asia

Tata Steel Ltd, India's largest private-sector steel maker, is looking to acquire steel processing assets in other Asian countries as part of a \$23 billion expansion programme over the next 12 to 15 years, a top company executive said yesterday.

Mukherjee did not say which countries Tata Steel was looking to invest in. Through its acquisition of Singapore's NatSteel Ltd last year, the company already has downstream steel processing plants in China and Thailand, he said.

Blazing trail for home textile export

His relatives and friends did not know what Gautam Saha was up to. Why he had been suddenly spending on visits to foreign handicraft fairs in Australia and Germany. Gautam himself was not too sure what he has been up to, only he knew he has been looking for an opportunity -- some clues as to the customers' choice and some unique products.



Gautam Saha shows off products (L); some home textile products of Sristy Hometex Ltd are on display.

Gautam was impressed and came back infused with the new idea.

loose fiber of normal hessian or the knots and signs of bad knitting.

John Lewis of UK, El Corte Inglaeze of Spain and Ide Mobler of Denmark found Gautam's products interesting. All these three asked Gautam to send samples for order.

Gautam and his team, Sristy Hometex Limited, had a long task in hand. Till now they only purchased small quantities of jute fabrics. The time they have to order big, and they need to procure good quality leather, and above everything, they need to recruit more people to produce on time. Gautam did some head hunting and got a few experts from other handicraft firms. He got a good marketer man from one of the country's top ceramic firms. The work started in full swing and then it stopped. To his horror, Gautam found that the leather he had used is not of the proper quality and thickness. It cannot be properly sewed. So, he frantically searched for the correct type of leather and got it done all over again. Finally, the shipment was sent on schedule.

"I have my failures too," says Gautam. "I tried and failed in France, Norway, Canada and the US. But I don't mind because I have my own success story to tell."