

## CAB for strengthening market watch system

UNB, Dhaka

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) has urged the government to immediately take necessary steps to strengthen the market monitoring system.

Export to foreign countries would get a boost if the quality of local products could be maintained by strengthening the monitoring system, the CAB leaders said at a meeting with Industries Minister Matur Rahman Nizami at his office on Wednesday.

"It is not possible for an institution like BSTI alone to maintain the quality of local and foreign goods," they told the minister alleging that some dishonest local

manufacturers were openly selling their products without BSTI certification mark.

The CAB leaders suggested that the government make the market supervision system effective with representatives from BSTI, CAB and Public Health Department. They also emphasised formation of a taskforce with representatives from BSTI, IPH, Dhaka City Corporation and CAB to check adulteration in Dhaka City.

The already-amended BSTI ordinance should be placed in Parliament and passed by it, they told the Minister.

The industries minister said the government would try its best to

improve the quality of goods to protect public health. Effective steps would be taken to check adulteration of consumer goods, he added.

Nizami urged the voluntary organisations, including CAB, to work unitedly in this regard alongside the government and asked the CAB leaders to arrange a roundtable to create mass awareness about the harmful effects of adulterated goods.

CAB secretary general Kazi Farooq, Vice-president Advocate M Humayun Kabir and Programme Officer Emdad Hossain, among others, were present at the meeting.

## BGIC declares 20pc dividend

Bangladesh General Insurance Company Limited (BGIC) at its 18th annual general meeting (AGM) held in Dhaka yesterday declared a 20 per cent dividend for the year 2002.

During the year 2002, the company earned a pre-tax profit of Tk 22.84 million and the declared dividend was Tk 14.40 million, which is 2 per cent higher than that of the year 2001, says a press release.

The AGM was presided by M A Samad, chairman and managing director of the company. It was attended, among others, by Vice-chairmen, Ragib Ali and Kalim Sharafi and directors Salim Bhuiyan, Towhid Samad, Abdus Sattar, FMAB Siddique, Saleh Ahmed, Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Mahmud Hassan and MA Moteleb.

The chairman informed the AGM that the construction of BGIC Tower was in progress as per schedule.

## National Housing, Agrani Apartment sign MoU

National Housing Finance and Investments Limited, a non-bank financial institution, and Agrani Apartment Ltd have recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the corporate head office of National Housing in Dhaka.

Under the arrangement, prospective clients of Agrani Apartment will receive faster and superior customer service from National Housing in getting housing loans up to 70 per cent of their apartment prices, says a press release.

Ansar Uddin Ahmed, managing director of National Housing, and ASM Masudur Rahman, managing director of Agrani Apartment Ltd, signed the MoU on behalf of their organisations.

Shabbir Ahmed, deputy managing director of National Housing, Mahabubur Rahman Sakib, director of Agrani Apartment, and other senior officials of both the organisations were also present.



PHOTO: NATIONAL HOUSING

Ansar Uddin Ahmed, managing director of National Housing Finance and Investments Limited, and ASM Masudur Rahman, managing director of Agrani Apartment Limited, exchange documents after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Dhaka recently. Under the MoU, prospective clients of Agrani Apartment will get loan facilities from National Housing.

## CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's foreign trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling		Currency		Buying		
TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer		
58.8800	58.9300	USD	97.9500	57.7798	57.7106	
69.8964	69.9558	EUR	67.3727	67.1748	67.0944	
98.9184	99.0024	GBP	95.9362	95.6544	95.5399	
39.7146	39.7483	AUD	37.8993	37.7880	37.7428	
0.6045	0.6049	JPY	0.4883	0.4869	0.4863	
45.3237	45.3622	CHF	43.9481	43.8190	43.7666	
7.6151	7.6216	SEK	7.4716	7.4497	7.4408	
43.8814	43.9186	CAD	42.5852	42.4602	42.4093	
7.5572	7.5637	HKD	7.4229	7.4011	7.3923	
34.0150	34.0439	SGD	33.1901	33.0927	33.0531	
16.1603	16.1740	AED	15.6507	15.6048	15.5861	

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringit
46.7	57.69	97.23	41.770	7.0036	0.6232	3.80

Local Interbank FX Trading determining the exchange rates of the major currencies. Dollar remained steady against euro due to fall in import related demand for the US as the investors awaited US retail sales data for currency. signs about the magnitude of an expected US interest rate cut later this month.

Local Money Market At 1615 hrs on Thursday, euro was at compared with 12 and 13 per cent previously. interest rate cut later this month.

International Market At 1615 hrs on Thursday, euro was at 1.1745/50, GBP at 1.6726/28 and yen at 117.65/70 against the dollar.

In the international foreign exchange market, interest rate was playing a major role in

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## SHIPPING

### Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 12/6/2003

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Feng Shun Shan(Liner)	GI	Osaka	BDSHIP	6/6	15/6	1075
J/7	Myeik	Rice(P)	Yang	Total	26/5	17/6	1047
J/3	Al Muztuba	Rice(WT(P)	Kaki	CLA	25/5	15/6	336

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Banga Bodor	12/6	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	--
QC Teal	12/6	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya	12/6	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Levantracht	13/6	Sin	MSA	GI	
Banga Bijoy	14/6	Cbo	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Sea-1	14/6	Sing	OTBL	For Demolition	
Presidente Tanaredo Neves	14/6	Fuja	OTBL	For Demolition	
Orient Grace	15/6	--	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Borak	15/6	Pki	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Fellin	15/6	Sing	Immi	GI	--

### Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready					
Dae Gak Bonk	Rice	Kaki	Able		2/6
CSB Chong Nyon Ho	Sug(WT(P)	Kaki	SSTL		8/6
Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)		10/6
Banglar Shikha	Cont	Mala	BSC		10/6
QC Teal	Cont	PKel	QCSL		12/6
Milestone	GI	Yang	Everett		12/6
Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)		12/6

### Vessels not ready

Amanat Shah	Rice (P)	Mumb	CLA		28/5
Erna Oldendorff	WT(P)/Peas	Sing	Mutual		8/6
Pigi	GI(Y Peas)	Rowan	Rainbow		10/6

### Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Banglar Kallol	-	-	BSC	R/A (11/6)
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### Vessels not entering

Trader	C Clink	Cebu	ANCL	7/5
KS Glory	Clink	Krabi	ASLL	2/6
Blue Sea	Clink	Bring	PSAL	31/5
Sailor-1	Clink	Indo	Litmond	3/6
Oranda	Clink	Krabi	ASLL	11/6
Pan Express	Clink	Sing	ANCL	11/6
Alkimos	Gtsp/Map	Aust	CCNL	2/6
Histria Spirit	Scraping	Sing	Resship	7/6
Teeopisiti	Scraping	Sala	OTBL	11/6
Madura Ayu	Scraping	Batt	OTBL	11/6
Kwan Mo Bong	--	--	SSTL	R/A(8/6)



PHOTO: BGIC

MA Samad, chairman and managing director of Bangladesh General Insurance Company Limited, addresses the company's 18th annual general meeting at a local club yesterday.

## STOCK