

# Tea exports up this year

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 18: Tea exports have risen in volume in the first half of fiscal 1990-91.

Over 17 million kilograms (kg) of tea were exported in July-December compared with 12.61 million kg in the same period of the previous year.

Bangladesh Tea Board is optimistic that earnings of Taka 175 crore will be made from exports of 28 million kg in the current fiscal year. Receipts were already Taka 98.41 crore in the first half. Production is expected to reach 44 million kg.

Final figures for the five months to November showed that almost 13 million kg of tea worth Taka 76.79 crore were exported compared with 9.72 million kg for Tk. 58.93 crore in the corresponding period of 1989-90.

Exports rose between July and November despite the loss of the Iraqi market. Sales to Iraq were expected to triple to 3 million kg this year following an agreement signed by a Bangladeshi delegation in Baghdad in May. But hopes were dashed when the UN imposed sanctions on trade with Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August.

Traders say that the slack has been made up by increased imports by Iran (1.38 million kg in the five months to

November compared with 0.29 kg for the same period in 1989), and India, which was a buyer for the first time.

Sales to Holland, Bulgaria and Nepal were also up. Some exports to Iran may have found their way to Iraq, according to a Bangladesh Tea Board official.

Attempts by the Tea Board to renegotiate the Special Trade Agreement with Pakistan, which expired in 1987, have proved unsuccessful, but last year's promotion mission to Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan achieved promising results.

Board officials say that an international seminar aimed at promoting the tea trade will be held in Dhaka soon.

## Japan offers \$5b to US-led forces

TOKYO, Jan 19: Japan will offer an additional five billion Dollars to U.S.-led forces fighting Iraq, the Yomiuri Shimbun, a leading Japanese newspaper reported Saturday, reports Reuter.

Japan pledged two billion Dollars to the multinational force last year and two billion Dollars to states bordering Iraq that have been hit by the economic sanctions.

The newspaper said Hashimoto was expected to announce the new aid figure at the two-day meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, scheduled to begin on Sunday.

On Friday government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said Tokyo had not yet decided how much to offer Gulf forces.

Japan is the only G-7 country without a military presence in the Gulf.

AFP adds: Japan plans to offer at least two billion Dollars in additional aid to forces in the Gulf, government spokesman said Friday.

We extended two billion Dollars even before a war broke out so it is common sense to extend more this time," Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, the government's official spokesman, told a news conference.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe told a separate news conference that the additional support would be "more than two billion Dollars" and that a formal decision would come in "days or weeks but it'll not be months." He said the government would fix the amount after consulting with other countries.

The government has already pledged four billion Dollars to the Gulf forces and two billion Dollars to countries most affected by the crisis, Egypt, Jordan and Turkey.

It has also allocated 22 million Dollars for refugees and said Monday it was ready to provide another 38 million Dollars for the same purpose.

## Exchange Rates

January 19

SELLING AND BUYING RATES, offered by Commercial Banks, for Bank Cheques, (BCs) and Overseas Drafts (ODs) One Unit of Foreign Currencies (FCs) for Taka

FCs	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	35.4432	35.9226
UK Pound Sterling	67.5584	68.3578
German Deutsche Mark	22.9332	23.2584
French Franc	6.7402	6.8339
Saudi Riyal	9.4778	9.6060
Dutch Guilder	20.3463	20.6333
Pakistan Rupee	1.6008	1.6160
(AMU*)		
Singapore Dollar	20.0641	20.3355
UAE Dirham	9.6760	9.8069
Kuwait Dinar	Not available	
Indian Rupee	1.9394	1.9585
(AMU)		
*AMU-Asian Monetary Unit		
SECONDARY EXCHANGE MARKET		
Wage Earners Fund/Export Performance Benefit (XPB) Fund		
	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	36.48	36.53
UK Pound	69.46	69.51

\* The rates of Pound Sterling are decided every day, based on the cross-rates of New York market

Source: Sonali Bank



At the Rowett Reserach Centre outside Aberdeen in Scotland, they are investigating how camelids — Llamas, alpacas and guanacos — can adapt to living in a northern European climate. These animals are highly prized, not for their meat, but for their wool, which in some cases rivals that of cashmere wool in quality. But as you can see here, the camelids have a charm of their own which would make them popular with humans anyway, especially with children. It is hoped that in time they can be used in the tourist industry in Scotland as trekking and specialist zoo animals.

## Work on Sylhet gas plant delayed

# Tk 22 crore may be paid as compensation a day

Star Economic Report

Local opposition to the siting of a World Bank-aided liquefied natural gas plant in Sylhet could cost the government Taka 22 crore a day in compensation to the Italian company constructing the North-South pipeline, according to sources close to the project.

The sources warned that the pipeline was part of the Bank's +50 million Dollars involvement in the energy sector, and serious delays could affect many parts of the programme.

people in the vicinity of the Khalashitla gas field want the plant to be situated there rather than at Ashuganj, the site agreed in the project documents.

Work on the pipeline to which the gas plant will be connected, has stopped while the conflict is resolved.

The Italian company has not yet asked for compensation.

The government is pressing the scheme's opponents to accept the plan. On Friday, a government announcement outlined the benefits of a range of gas projects in the district and said they were important "to fulfill the demands of the people of this region."

It said work on the Ashuganj plant should be started "immediately," and he appealed to people "to extend their cooperation."

Friday, Presidential Adviser Dr Wahiduddin Ahmed added his voice to the persuasion campaign. He emphasised in an interview with BSS that if work on this and other energy projects was disrupted, the country would suffer "a serious economic loss."

He stressed that the site at

Ashuganj was chosen for technical and financial reasons, and was in the overall national interest.

"This is being done following a series of discussions with the World Bank experts and our own experts," he said.

Dr. Ahmed said that other natural gas projects in greater Sylhet district include a 25 million Dollars gas dehydration and natural gas liquid extraction plant at Kailashitla, a 5 million Dollars liquefied natural gas plant to supply greater Sylhet district, a Taka 6.5 crore upgrading of the Kailashitla gas well which will increase output by 50 per cent, and the doubling of the capacity of the condensate fractionation plant at the well.

The projects are being implemented with financial assistance from Britain and the Netherlands, as well as the

World Bank.

He pointed out that three more gas-based projects are planned in the district: a 14 million Dollars gas dehydration and NGL extraction plant at Beani Bazar; a 10 million Dollars glycol dehydration plant and silica-gel plant at Rashidpur; and a Taka 38 crore plan for supplying gas to tea estates and townships in Fenchuganj, Kularaha, Juri, and Rajnagar.

Dr. Wahiduddin Ahmed noted that nine of the 11 gas wells developed under the second gas development project at a cost of about 50 million Dollars were located in greater Sylhet.

Moreover, the setting up of a 90-megawatt (MW) power plant at Fenchuganj at a cost of about \$100 million was now under consideration.

## 'Don't take advantage of war'

Adviser in charge of the Ministry of Relief Advocate B.K. Das asked the officers to maintain strict vigilance so

that the war in the Gulf might not affect our on-going development activities, reports BSS. He was addressing the officers of the Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation at its conference room during his visit to the directorate Thursday.

Advocate B.K. Das said that the opportunists might try to gain under advantage creating disorderly situation in the name of Gulf crisis.

He called upon the officials to remain ever vigilant against such evildoers.

The Relief Adviser requested all concerned to extend all-out cooperation in holding the coming parliamentary elections absolutely free and fair.

## Japan produces 110m tonnes steel a year

TOKYO, Jan 19: Japanese crude steel production grew in 1990 for the fourth consecutive year, up 2.2 per cent from a year earlier to 110.33 million metric tonnes, the Japan Iron and Steel Federation said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The figure was the fifth-largest on record and the first in 10 years to top the 110 million tonnes level, it said. Federation officials attributed the brisk rise to strong domestic demand, particularly from the construction and shipbuilding industries.

Production of ordinary steel rose 2.2 per cent to 90.51 million tonnes or the highest level since 1980, and output of special-purpose steel mainly used by automakers surged 2.5 per cent to 19.82 million tonnes.

## Short war to help end US recession

WASHINGTON, Jan 19: Despite a more subdued mood in financial markets on Friday, private economists said they still believe that a swift victory in the Gulf war would help George Bush defeat his biggest domestic foe, the recession in the United States, reports AP.

Analysts said that the drop in oil prices which has occurred since the war began, if it holds, should return spending power to consumers and businesses and give the Federal Reserve, the U.S. Central Bank, more leeway to reduce interest rates in an effort to fight the recession.

That optimistic view is also held by top officials in the Bush administration and by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

Bush was told by his top economic advisers at a White

House meeting that a short war would clear the way for an economic recovery.

Greenspan, who attended that session, said in an interview that the reaction in financial markets since the U.S.-led assault, with both oil prices and interest rates posting sharp declines, supported the view that a quick victory would reduce the length and depth of the recession.

"The extraordinary decline in oil prices, assuming they stay down, would clearly have a major impact on consumer real purchasing power," Greenspan said in remarks published Friday in the Wall Street Journal.

Lower energy prices reward consumers with more purchasing power and also give the Federal Reserve more room to fight a sluggish economy

## Pakistan assured of Iranian oil supply

ISLAMABAD, Jan 19: Pakistan was assured Friday of "unlimited" supply of crude oil by Iran to meet its requirements, reports PTI.

Federal Petroleum Minister, Chowdhury Nisar Ali Khan said here that he had received a message to that effect on Thursday from the Iranian government.

The Minister told reporters that the country had enough stocks to last for "months."

The Nawaz Sharif Government, which had raised the prices of petroleum products by 42 per cent last November, has so far not announced any decision to either impose further hike in petrol prices or clamp any restrictions on its use.

As news of hostilities in the Gulf broke out, petrol pumps in several parts of Pakistan had gone dry with people going on a panic buying spree.

## Gold & Silver

Gold	(Taka for 1000)
Tejahi	6800.00
Quina	6500.00
Silver	200.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

## HIDES & SKIN (Wet/Salted)

January 19 (Taka per 100 pieces)	
Cow	15,000.00 - 20,000.00
Cal	30,000.00 - 35,000.00
Light	40,000.00 - 45,000.00
Medium	50,000.00 - 55,000.00
Heavy	60,000.00 - 65,000.00
Very heavy	75,000.00 - 80,000.00
Rejected	27,000.00 - 32,000.00
Goat	
Big & heavy	13,000.00 - 15,000.00
Light & medium	7,500.00 - 8,000.00
Rejected	3,500.00 - 4,000.00
Sheep	9,000.00 - 10,000.00
BUFFALO	42,000.00 - 48,000.00

Source: Directorate of Agricultural Department

## US costs \$500m for air attack a day in Gulf

WASHINGTON, Jan 19: The intense air attacks on targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait are costing the United States upwards of 500 million Dollars a day, government and private analysts said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Not even the U.S. Defence Department can yet know the exact financial cost of the initial assault in which 2,107 aircraft sorties were flown against targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait in the first 46 hours of the fighting.

The one reported air combat cost about one million Dollars. Dogfights are very expensive, the analysts said because the fighters carry two to six air-to-air missiles.

Although they are wary of estimating the daily cost of the Gulf war, analysts say an intense ground assault would raise the financial costs to around one billion Dollars a day.

Based on an estimate of 4,00,000 US troops deployed to the Gulf, a short war lasting less than a month and involving primarily air combat and limited ground attacks could cost about 17 billion Dollars, the CBO said.

In this case the United States would lose 3,000 troops, 100 tactical aircraft and 200 tanks.

In the worst case, a longer war with both air combat and repeated ground attacks over six months could cost up to 35 billion Dollars and casualties could reach 45,000 troops.

## Gold prices rise sharply in India

NEW DELHI, Jan 19: With India's stock markets shut down by the Gulf war, investors have rushed into gold and commodities, sending the price of the yellow metal skyrocketing to record heights, reports AFP.

Newspapers predicted Friday that with standard gold closing Thursday at 3,850, up by 100 Rupees, the 10 gram price could well shoot through the 4,000 Mark by evening.

Commodities showed similar spurts Thursday with vegetable oils, grains, pulses and sugar responding to what financial newspapers called "frantic buying" and "stockist tendencies."

Sugar prices rose by 60 Rupees a quintal to touch an all-time high of 919 Rupees on the Bombay market at the Thursday close. Grams and green peas rose between 25 and 75 Rupees a quintal, and groundnut, sesame, soybean and cottonseed of all shot up by between 50 and 130 Rupees, market reports said.

The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), the country's

## Snippets

### Gorbachev's 2 top economic aides quit

MOSCOW, Jan 19: Mikhail Gorbachev's two top economic aides, champions of change to a market system, have in effect resigned over his approval of Soviet army action in the Baltics, sources close to both said on Friday, reports Reuter.

The sources said the two — Stanislav Shatalin and Nikolai Petrakov — regard their signature of a fiercely-worded open letter condemning military violence earlier this week as amounting to an announcement they were stepping down.

### Rs 3000 cr IMF credit to India

NEW DELHI, Jan 19: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected to approve a credit of about Rs 3,000 crore to India under the standby arrangement and compensatory contingency financing facility, reports PTI.

The Board of Directors of IMF is meeting in Washington yesterday to consider and accede to India's request for credit, which it needs urgently to get over the precarious balance of payments situation.

It is now learnt that India may get a credit of SDR 550 million (Rs. 1,430 crore) under the contingency compensatory financing facility, to meet the high cost of crude imports

### \$10m EC help for Gulf war victims

BRUSSELS, Jan 19: The European Community (EC) on Friday offered aid organisations 7.5 million European currency units (10 million Dollars) to help civilian victims of the Gulf war, reports Reuter.

"The community aid is intended to meet the different needs (shelter, food, medical care, medicines, transport etc) of civilian victims of the armed conflict, without discrimination," the EC's executive commission said in a statement.

### Albania applies for WB, IMF membership

WASHINGTON, Jan 19: Albania, the last of Europe's socialist nations to stick to the rigidity of Stalinism, has applied to join two of the world's bastions of capitalism: The World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF), reports AFP.

## Row Jute

January 19

Kutcha bales FOB Narayanganj/Daulatpur Varieties (Tk. per 100 Kg)

White	Tossa	Mechita
Medium	1393	1500
Bot. (B)	1340	1447
Bot. (C)	1206	1286
Bot. (X)	1072	1125
* FOB = Freight on board		
* Bot. = Bottom		

## Price Barometer Essentials

January 19

Rice	(Taka per Kg)
Aman Very fine	17.00-18.00
Aman(fine)	14.00-15.00
Paman	13.50-14.00
Ufashi	12.00-12.50
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)	
Potato(White)	5.50-6.00
Brinjal	6.00-8.00
Lady's finger	15.00-16.00
Cauli flower / piece	5.00-8.00
Karola	18.00-20.00
Lalshak	4.00-5.00
Green Banans (Four Pieces)	5.00-8.00
OTHER FOODGRAIN (Taka per Kg)	
Flour	12.00-14.00
Atta	11.50-12.00
Wheat	9.00-9.50
FISH (Taka per kg)	
Kala(big)	19.00-20.00
Kala(small)	7.00-8.50
Hilsha	65.00-70.00
Shrimp(big)	60.00-90.00
Singi	60.00-70.00
Koi	70.00-80.00
PULSES (Taka per Kg)	
Mashur	32.00-35.00
Moogh	33.00-36.00
Chhola	26.00-28.00
Maor	27.00-28.00
Khasari	19.00-20.00
MEAT (Taka per Kg)	
Beef	50.00-55.00
Mutton	75.00-80.00
OIL (Taka per kg)	
Mustard	52.00-56.00
Soyabean	33.00-33.50
Cocunut (Colombo)	60.00-64.00
Vegetable Ghee	44.00-52.00
SPICES (Taka Per kg)	
Onion(new)	12.00-14.00
Garlic	60.00-65.00
Chillies (dry/good quality)	60.00-65.00
Turmeric(Round)	44.00-48.00
(Long)	40.00-52.00
Green Chillies	22.00-24.00
Ginger	16.00-22.00
Cinnamon* (10gms)	3.00-3.50
Cardamom* (large)	8.00-10.00
Mustard* (large)	6.00-7.00
MISCELLANEOUS (Taka)	
Onion	220.00-230.00
Sugar	32.00
Molasses	16.00-18.00

Source: Agriculture Marketing Directorate

Pucca bales	FOB	FOB
BT SPL	3500	595
BTA	3450	580
BTB	3400	560
BTC	2950	490
BTD	2650	420
BTE	2100	365

White Rejection (WRS)/Tossa Rejection (TRS):	White/Tossa:
Hajiabi, Cut Ropes	
EWB	1650
EWI	1300
BTR	1750
BTH	1400
ECR	1250
White/Tossa:	
Cutting	1450
EWCA	1300
EWCB	1600
BTCC	1500
Mechita	
Spl.	1950
A	1900
B	1800
C	1800
SPL Cuttings	1000
Ord. Cuttings	900
SMR	1125

\* FOB ready = Narayanganj  
\*\* FOB sight = Chittagong/Mongla Ports. Indicative Price at which sales may be considered for EPC registration. The \$ prices are exclusive of any selling commission. O. D. (Sight non-traditional/applicable to export bills). One \$ = Tk. 35.4956

\* MT = Metric Ton  
Imports/arrivals of Kutcha bales at Narayanganj were seven to eight thousand tons while at Daulatpur at six to seven thousand mounds. (Or manund is equal to 37.324) KGs.)

## Dhaka Stock Exchange Market Profile January 19

133 Listed Stocks

2 Gainers	8 Losers	123 unchanged*
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\* 123 unchanged stocks include five traded on the day at the previous day's quoted prices.  
DSE All Share Price Index = 342.7413  
Issued Capital = Taka 4,602,377,190.00  
Market Capitalisation = Taka 9,793,920,442.00  
Turnover = Taka 159,682.50 (Value)  
2012 (Volume)