

# Body to recover bank loans suggested

Star Economic Report

A high-powered committee to probe cases of unrecovered bank loans has been suggested by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

The FBCCI recommended that steps should be taken to recover outstanding credits only after the proposed committee had finalised its report. It submitted its recommendations to Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed last week.

The federation's recommendations are designed to improve overall economic conditions during the democratic transition period.

It suggested that a committee should be formed to survey the sick industrial units and to recommend measures to bale them out. Sick industries are growing in number, the feder-

ation said.

The FBCCI made strong pleas for reconstituting the Board of Directors for various banks, financial institutions and insurance corporations in the public sector. Representatives from the private sector should be included in such boards, it stressed.

It recommended that the chambers and associations should be consulted before the proposed industrial policy was finalised. It suggested that firm actions must be taken by the government to curb trade union activities which did not conform to the existing labour laws.

The FBCCI recommended that the defunct Directorate of Textiles should be revived and a separate committee with representatives of the garments and textile industries should be formed to help promote and encourage the use of local fabrics by the export-oriented garments industry.

It suggested that imports of salt, sugar, saline and essential items under Special Trading Arrangements (STAs) should be discontinued. Arrangements should be made for allowing their imports by the private sector through public notices by the office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.

It recommended for imports of second-hand clothing through lottery on district-wise quota basis.

# Shares come under selling pressures

Star Economic Report

Shares came under strong selling pressures on Saturday at Dhaka Stock Exchange. Buying support was weak. The prices dipped further.

Dhaka Stock Exchange All Share Price Index which is the broad indicator of market prices of the listed stocks declined to 341.5637 points compared with 342.7413 on the previous day.

Trading took place in 21 stocks. These included four in banking sector, three in investment, two in insurance, five in engineering, two in food and allied, one in fuel and power, two in pharma and chemical, three in textiles and three in miscellaneous.

In all, 5390 shares changed hands against Saturday's 2012. The traded shares were valued at Taka 3,66,155.50 compared with Taka 1,59,682.00 on the preceding day.

Among the traded stocks, 16 were decliners and five advanced while four remained unchanged.

All the traded stocks in the banking sector fell in prices. City Bank suffered most with its price declining Taka seven a share. IFIC, National Bank, and Rupali Bank lost between Taka 3.38 and Taka 1.00.

The other decliners included Third ICB Mutual Fund, Sixth ICB Mutual Fund, Atlas Bangladesh, Renwick Jagnewar, Eastern Cables, Oxygen, Petro Synthetics, Talu Spinning, Bata Shoe, Quasem Silk, Monno Ceramic and Eagle Star.

Ibnsina gained most and advanced Taka five a share. Dhaka Vegetables gained Taka three, Apex Tannery and National Tubes, Taka two each. Chittagong Vegetables rose by Taka one.

Quoted Prices of Traded Stocks January 20

FM/ML	Closing (Taka)	Change* (Taka)
City Bank	100/75	140 (-7.00)
IFIC	100/75	152.82 (-3.38)
National Bank	100/75	111.00 (-1.00)
Rupali Bank	100/10	90.00 (-2.00)
Investment		
3rd ICB Fund	100/75	149.00 (-1.00)
5th ICB Fund	100/10	121.00 (No change)
6th ICB Fund	100/10	91.20 (-1.30)
Insurance		
Green Delta	100/10	107.00 (No change)
People's Delta	100/10	108.00 (No change)
Engineering		
Atlas Bangladesh	100/50	38.00 (-1.00)
Bangladesh Luggage	100/10	78.00 (No change)
AL		1.00 (-0.25)
Eastern Cables	100/5	78.00 (-2.00)
National Tubes	100/10	112.00 (-2.00)
Renwick Jagnewar	100/5	48.00 (-2.00)
Food & Allied		
City Vegetables	100/10	96.00AL (+1.00)
Dhaka Vegetables	100/5	158 (+3.00)
Fuel & Power		
Oxygen	10/50	52.00 (-2.25)
Pharma & Chem		
Petro Synthetic	10/30	13.50 (-0.80)
The Benzene	100/10	80.00 (+5.00)
Textile		
Eagle Star	10/50	33.75 (-0.25)
Quasem Silk	10/100	6.25 (-0.25)
Talu Spinning	100/10	105.00 (-2.00)
Miscellaneous		
Apex Tannery	100/5	145.00 (+2.00)
Bata Shoe	10/100	40.25 (-1.25)
Monno Ceramic	100/5	122.00 (-2.00)
PLY	Face Value	In Taka ML - Market Lot
		Al - Allotment Letter

\* Changes: Plus signs mean gains and (-) signs, losses.

Quoted Prices of Traded Stocks January 20

White	Tossa	Machia	
Medium	1393	1500	1125
Bot. (B)	1340	1447	1045
Bot. (C)	1206	1286	1098
Bot. (D)	1072	1125	857

\* FOB - Freight on board  
\* Bot. - Bottom

Pucca bales	FOB	FOB
Varieties	(Ready)*	(Sight)**
Bangla	Tk. per	\$ per
White	bale*	MT*
BW SPL.	3450	585
BWA	3350	570
IMB	3300	550
IMC	2900	480
IMD	2600	410
IME	2000	355
Bangla Tossa	3500	595
BT SPL.	3450	580
BTB	3400	560
BTC	2950	490
ITD	2650	420
ITE	2100	365

White Rejection (WRS) / Tossa Rejection (TRS):

Liability Cut Rates	FOB	FOB
BWR	1650	270
BWI	1300	200
BITR	1750	280
BITH	1400	210
BCR	1250	210

White/Tossa:

Cutting	FOB	FOB
BWCA	1450	215
BWCB	1300	205
BTCA	1600	220
BTCB	1500	210

Machia

Spl.	FOB	FOB
A	1950	355
B	1900	345
C	1800	330
D	1600	295
SPL Cuttings	1000	175
Ord. Cuttings	900	170
SMR	1125	200

\* FOB ready - Narayanganj  
\*\* FOB sight - Chittagong/Mongla Ports. Indicative Price at which sales may be considered for APC 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. (One manund is equal to 37.3241 KGs)

Dhaka Stock Exchange Market Profile January 20

133 Listed stocks

5 Gains 16 Losers 112 Unchanged\*

\* 112 unchanged stocks include four traded on the day at the previous day's quoted prices.

DSE All Share Price Index = 341.5637  
Issued Capital = Taka 4,602,377,190.00  
Market Capitalisation = Taka 9,760,270,242.00  
Turnover = Taka 366,155.50 (Value). 5390 (Volume)

# Call to close losing industries

Staff Economic Report

Loss-making and economically unviable industries should be closed, participants at the Bangladesh Economic Association's biennial conference said in Dhaka on Saturday.

Participants called for the government to take "hard decisions" on sick industries.

Members of the task force formed by the Planning Commission to formulate policy options for the next government also took part in the discussion.

Mr Habibul Rahman title said only 30 per cent of production capacity in the industrial sector utilized. Incentives should be given to the private sector but with accountability for production.

Dr. Abdullah Farouq, convener of the task force on industrial policy, observed that freeing the private sector from controls and protection is a precondition for efficiency.

Dr. Khalekuzzaman title said foreign investors take out more than they invest. Moreover, transfer of technology did not take place.

Mr Nazrul Islam, convener of the energy task force said steps should be taken to distribute power throughout the country in order to increase production. Losses in the transmission and distribution of energy should be minimised.

Dr Omar Haider of the transport task force said there should be more coordination between ministries.

Mr Shahidul Amin, an engineer pointed out that although the second Five-Year Plan provided for construction of 50,000 homes each year, only 5,000 a year were being built. He suggested that a slum rehabilitation programme be undertaken.

The convener of the agriculture task force, Mr. Abu Abdullah, recommended improvements in transport to help the marketing of agricultural products. He said there was no justification for importing rice, and that although there is consensus about raising productivity in livestock sector, no concrete decisions have been taken.

Professor Moazzem Hossain, convener of the task force on land policy, said mechanisation was needed to increase agricultural production.

Planning Adviser Professor Rehma Sobhan who presided over the three-day discussion meeting, said the drawing and viable policy alternatives would provide the basis for a new political approach to development.

Tokyo ready to ease farm markets

TOKYO, Jan 20: Japan plans no concessions over its closed rice market, Agriculture Ministry officials said here after a report that Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama had said Tokyo was ready to talk seriously about liberalising its farm markets, reports Reuter.

Japan's Kyodo news service reported that Nakayama told U.S. special trade representative Carla Hills in Washington on Monday that Japan is prepared to negotiate the opening of its agricultural markets.

Call money market

Money rates in the call money market during the week ended January 16 ranged from 10.00 per cent to 11.50 per cent says a press of Bangladesh Bank in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

During the same week interest rates offered by the banks on certificate of deposits varied from 10.50 per cent to 13.75 per cent. The bank rate, however, remained unchanged at 9.75 per cent press release added.

Call money market

Money rates in the call money market during the week ended January 16 ranged from 10.00 per cent to 11.50 per cent says a press of Bangladesh Bank in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

During the same week interest rates offered by the banks on certificate of deposits varied from 10.50 per cent to 13.75 per cent. The bank rate, however, remained unchanged at 9.75 per cent press release added.

Managing Director of Jiban Bima Corporation M. A. Majid inaugurating the election of the central committee of Jiban Bima Field Officers' Welfare Association at its head office recently.

# Gulf war may cut aid flow

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

Aid flows to Bangladesh may be cut and remittances from abroad may fall alarmingly as a result of the Gulf war. Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, a senior researcher of the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, has warned.

He said in an interview that a protracted war will deal a severe blow to the economy, because export markets will be reduced while imports will be costlier.

The timing is particularly bad because if the transition to a new administration is not peaceful and smooth, the effects of the war will be magnified.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman pointed out that since donor countries are now at war it cannot be taken for granted that commitments at the

Bangladesh aid Consortium meeting in May will equal the two billion dollars pledged last year.

Iraq's annexation of Kuwait displaced over one lakh Bangladeshis and cut remittance by more than 120 million dollars a year. The war threatens to dislodge another four lakh Bangladeshis from the region and their remittances.

About 60 per cent of the Taka 2,500 crore received in remittances from Bangladeshis in 1989-90 came from Gulf countries. If the exodus continues, barely 2 lakh Bangladeshis will be employed abroad, compared with 7.5 lakh before August 1990.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said that the longer the war lasts, the worse will be the effects

might be forced to become more self-reliant.

Politically, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman believes that whatever the outcome of the war, the US will try to ensure its continued presence in the Gulf, affecting the balance of power in the region.

Any Israeli retaliation against Iraq strikes would change the international situation because the war has religious connotations, he said, and governments in Muslim countries would find it difficult to stick to their present policies on the war.

If a desperate Iraq was able to hit oil fields in Saudi Arabia with missiles the world would be heading for a catastrophe, he added.

on the economy. If it would be a test of the resilience of the economy, and Bangladesh



'Vapa Pitha'—An indigenous and popular vapour cake during the winter has now become a source of income to the poor. There is a good for this winter cake. —Star photo

# Japanese keen to invest

Call to take steps against traders raising prices

A two-day seminar on company-wide quality control began at the Institution of Engineers in Dhaka on Sunday morning with an special emphasis on "transfer of technology" to Bangladesh for its rapid industrial and economic growth, reports BSS.

Mr. Nefaur Rahman Chairman of Chemical Industries Corporation said quality control was the most and indispensable tool for improving and maintaining the quality of manufactured products and at the same time for improving the reputation of the respective firms. "The consumers will buy quality products at high prices but will not buy inferior quality at a less cost," he added.

Chaired by seminar Steering Committee Chairman Moynul Hasan, the inaugural session was also addressed, among others, by AOTS Representative Dr AKM Moazzem Hussain, IEB

Honorary General Secretary Engineer Ruhul Matin and Steering Committee Vice-Chairman Quazi Atiqur Rahman.

Mr. Kenji Okada said, the Japanese entrepreneurs were showing growing interest in industrial investment in Bangladesh. The private entrepreneurs of Japan could play a vital role in transferring technology from Japan to Bangladesh, he said adding already a number of Japanese investors have set up industries in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone. He also welcomed the thrust of Bangladesh government to harnessing and utilizing local resources for economic growth of the country.

Explaining AOTS activities, Dr. Moazzem Hussain said this organisation had already trained 45,000 people, including 500 from Bangladesh in Japan as part of its thrust to transfer higher technology

The President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Saturday urged the affiliated chambers and associations to keep vigilance against traders raising prices of essentials by creating artificial crisis in view of the Gulf war, reports BSS.

Al-haj Mohammad Akram Hossain, who held discussions with the government authorities and reviewed the situation, observed that there was enough stock of essentials in the country, a Federation press release said.

He said there was no reason for the members of public to be panicky over the price hike of essentials in view of the Gulf war.

The FBCCI chief also appealed to the government to take stern measures against any person raising prices of commodities for more profit by creating an artificial crisis, the press release said.

# Israeli inaction boosts Asian stock markets

HONG KONG, Jan 20: Asia stock prices closed on an upbeat note Friday, as the Iraqi missile attack on Israel brought no immediate response from Tel Aviv, reports AFP.

Japanese stock prices recovered in volatile trading after falling sharply on reports of the Iraqi attack, while the Dollar's brief gains in response to the news were quickly crushed.

Turnover shrank to 774 million Hong Kong Dollars (99.2 million US), against Thursday's 925 million Dollars (118.6 million US).

South Korea's bourse soared in a row in heavy trading with the broad-based composite stock price index gaining 25.93 points to 667.35 points as of 4.30 p.m. (0730 GMT).

Trading volume was estimated at 31 million shares, the highest in seven months.



Philippine bourses continued to rally but the head of the Philippines main business group called for energy and Dollar conservation and other measures.

At the larger Manila Stock Exchange, the composite rose 5.8 per cent to hit 665.79 points while at the Suburban Makati Stock Exchange, the composite was up 5.04 per cent to hit 668.15 points.

The Securities Exchange of Thailand (SET) index continued to rise Friday with investors banking on a rapid end to the Gulf war, a SET spokeswoman said.

The index rose by 24.59 points to close at 658.48, after jumping over 51 points on Thursday.

Malaysian share prices closed steadier with the B4-stock Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange composite index up 0.22 points.

# Community participation in rural uplift sought

Staff Economic Report

A five-day seminar on "Development of modules for training on integrated approach to rural development and disaster management in Bangladesh" began in Dhaka Sunday at Hotel Sonargaon, reports BSS.

Organised by the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in collaboration with the United Nations, Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), the seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Hidechiko Sazanami, Director of UNCRD who also presented the key note paper.

The seminar was also addressed by Mr. A.T.M. Shamsul Haque, Director, CIRDAP and Mr. US Srinivasa Raghavan, Administrative Officer of CIRDAP.

The major objectives of the seminar are to identify the problems and prospects and constraints and potentials of integrated approach to rural development and disaster management with community participation.

Inaugurating the seminar, Prof. Sazanami stressed that there should be an integrated approach to rural development and disaster management through widespread community participation in order to create a self-reliant and disaster-resilient society.

The opportunities of income and employment of rural poor must be protected and they must be brought into the mainstream of economic infrastructure development and disaster management activities, he added.

Mr. Shamsul Haque said disaster management was not the job of central governments and planners alone. "It is a comprehensive and strenuous task to be shared by all - central and local governments, NGOs, the community at large and the people affected", he maintained.

# Sharp rise in synthetic yarn price

Star Economic Report

Synthetic yarn prices have shot up in Dhaka and Narayanganj wholesale markets in last two months. Dinar 75 variety sells now Taka 82 a lb against Taka 52 in November.

Dinar 45 variety is up from Taka 58 a lb to Taka 63. The specialised textile mills and power looms mostly use the two Dinar varieties of synthetic yarn for their production.

According to traders, the prices of synthetic a petroleum by-product, are high because of the oil price rise in the international markets. There was no hike in yarn prices between August and November because domestic demand was met from earlier imported stocks.

# US trade deficit falls to \$9.7b

WASHINGTON, Jan 20: The US trade deficit narrowed in November to 9.7 billion dollars because of a smaller oil bill and a decline in total imports, the commerce department said Saturday, reports Reuter.

That was an 11.7 per cent fall from October's revised deficit of 10.99 billion dollars, which was previously reported as 11.6 billion dollars.

Total exports fell 4.0 per cent to 33.62 billion dollars but imports fell more sharply by 5.8 per cent from the October level to 43.32 billion dollars, the department said.

# Exchange Rates January 20

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

FCs	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	35.9226	35.4432
*UK Pound Sterling	69.1392	69.9527
German Deutsche	23.9804	23.6446

Mark

FCs	Buying	Selling
French Franc	6.9551	7.0533
Saudi Riyal	9.4819	9.6101
Dutch Guilders	20.9847	21.2812
Pakistan Rupee	1.6006	1.6160

(AMU\*)

FCs	Buying	Selling
Singapore Dollar	20.3696	20.6452
UAE Dirham	9.8141	9.8149
Kuwait Dinar	Not available	
Indian Rupee	1.9320	1.9508

(AMU)

\*AMU-Asian Monetary Union

SECONDARY EXCHANGE MARKET

Wage Earners Fund/Export Performance Benefit (EPB) Fund	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	36.48	36.53
UK Pound	71.08	71.13

Stirling

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

Source: Sonali Bank

# Snippets

Boeing company to cut 2,000 jobs

SEATTLE (Washington), Jan 20: Boeing company, the world's largest aircraft manufacturer, announced Friday it planned to cut 2,000 jobs this year, mainly through attrition and retirements, reports AFP.

The personnel cuts were to affect its Washington state facilities where most of the company's staff are employed, Boeing officials said in a communique.

As of late 1990, Boeing employed some 190,900 staff around the globe, with 104,500 of them working at the company's pugest sound, Washington - area plants.

# Lloyd opens for business

LONDON, Jan 20: Lloyd's of London insurance market said it kept open for business on Saturday and Sunday for the first time in its 303-year history because of the Gulf war, reports Reuter.

"Underwriters expect to be able to continue as a market to provide adequate cover but individual requirements inevitably require careful attention," a Lloyd's spokesman said.

Lloyd's aims to help policy holders who may want to review their insurance cover during the hostilities.

# Rs 3000 cr IMF credit to India

NEW DELHI, Jan 20: 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.

# Price Barometer: Essentials January 20

Rice	(Taka per Kg)
Amam Vary (fine)	17.00-18.00

Amam (fine)	(Taka per Kg)
Panjam	14.00-15.00
Ufidi	13.50-14.00
VEGETABLES	(Taka per kg)
Potato (White)	5.50-6.00
Brijjal	6.00-8.00
Lady's finger	15.00-16.00
Carilover / piece	5.00-8.00
Karola	18.00-20.00
Lalshak	3.00-4.00
Green Banana (Four Picon)	5.00-8.00
OTHER FOODGRAIN	(Taka per Kg)
Flour	12.00-14.00
Arise	11.50-12.00
Wheat	9.00-10.00
FISH	(Taka per kg)
Rubi (big)	100.00-130.00
Katla (big)	80.00-90.00
Hilsha	65.00-70.00
Shrimp (big)	80.00-90.00
Singi	60.00-70.00
Koi	70.00-80.00
PULSES	(Taka per Kg)
Mashur	32.00-36.00
Moogh	33.00-36.00
Chhola	26.00-28.00
Matar	27.00-28.00
Khesari	19.00-20.00
MEAT	(Taka per Kg)
Beef	50.00-55.00
Mutton	75.00-80.00
Onion	(Taka per kg)
Mustard	52.00-56.00
Soyabean	33.00-33.50
Cocoma (Colombo)	60.00-64.00
Vegetable Ghee	44.00-52.00
SPICES	(Taka per kg)
Onion (new)	12500-14600
Garlic	60.00-65.00
Chillies	60.00-65.00
Turneric (Round)	44.00-48.00
(Long)	40.00-52.00
Green chillies	25.00-30.00
Ginger	16.00-22.00
Cinnamon* (10gms)	3.00-3.50
Cardamom* (large)	8.00-10.00
Jhira (50gms)	6.00-
MISCELLANEOUS	(Taka)
Cheese	220.00-230.00
Sugar	32.00
Molasses	16.00-18.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

# Gold & Silver January 20

Gold	(Taka for 100000)
Tejaha	6800.00
China	6500.00
Silver	200.00

Source