# Curbs on car procurement yet to be lifted

By Moazzem Hossain

Automobile sales to government agencies, public sertur corporations and statutory bodies are still confined to three foreign manufacturers and their local agents or distributors. The manufacturers are: Toyota, Nissan and Mit-

Representations made by others, outside this "group of three", to relax government

## Brisk recovery at DSE

Star Economic Report Trading at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) witnessed or Wednesday a brisk recovery with a marked rise in transactions both in value and volume

It was the largest recovery in trade operations at the Exchange in one single day over the lass prinight or more. The bourse was in its most upbeat recent days with most incks rallying ground. This are a good news by itelf for most investors who remained depressed for past

several weeks. In all 24.093 shares and s changed hands debent with Tuesday 3032. Traded stocks involved 27 issue. Of them, 16 gained in prices seven fell and four remained unchanged at their previous enoted rates.

Traded stocks valued Taka 6.80,530.00 against Take 5,80,530,00

All Share Price Index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) rose to 334 1441 points compared with 33.3602 on the previous day. The rise marked the revers'll in downtrend in the index witnessed in an un interrupted sequence from February 5

The DSF index is a broad indicator of price movements of all the listed stocks with the Exchange.

Among the advancers, Quas em Silk d bentures gained most at Taka 50.00 and rose to Taka 1500.00. Beximeo Phar ma went up by Taka 9.39 to Taka 1659 39. National Bank Chittagong Cement and Sonali Aansh advanced by Taka 6.27 Taka 3.54 and taka 3.00

respective Also vor the gainers side Third ICB wutual Fund rose by Taka 2.00 and 5th and 6th ICB Mutual Funds by Taka 1.00 each. Uttara Bank gained Taka 1.50. Others including Bangladesh Thai Aluminium Renwick Jaineswar, Bengal Food, Kohinoor Chemical, Tallu Spinning, Apex Tannery and Apex Tannery (debenture) advarced within the range of Taka 0.12 and Taka 1.00.

Among the decliners, Bang ladesh Lames lost Taka 7.06 to Taka 230:00 Paper Processing fell by Taka 2.00. Dhaka Vegetables, Bangladesh Oxygen. Ambee Pharma. Pharma Aids, and Bata Shoe fell within the range of Taka 0.23 and Taka 1.00

### **Quoted Prices of** Traded Stocks February 13

*FV/ML	Closing	** Changes
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	AND THE RESERVE AS A SECOND SE	
100000000000000000000000000000000000000	V 22-200 (00 cm)	
100/5	201.50	(+1.50)
	react.	11520210
	30,000,000	<ol> <li>以表示内の可でき</li> </ol>
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. "	70/10	88.00
100/10	105 00	unchanged
INCOME TO A	******	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
100/5	230 00	(-7.06)
100/10	76.00	(+1 00)
100/5	51.00	(+1 00)
100		• *
100/5	173.00	T-000000000000000000000000000000000000
100/5	153.00	- (-1 00)
	PRINCES AND	
10/50	51 00	( 1 00)
SAT	. Taranasan	
100/6	75.00	(+3.00)
1000	1000000	1000
The second second	104000000000000000000000000000000000000	
** V-850.00 C/C 600.00 C/C	2 - W. W. W. W. W.	(-0.67)
- 100 at 250 years 1 cm		unchanged
BARRETT TO THE	1	mixima &co
10 May 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 00	(-2.00)
Charles IV.	,	
100/1	0 4. 0	unchanged
	1.	1 2007-2007
940/5	140	(+0.12)
10/100	37.00	. (-1 00
10:100	8.40	unchanged
105/5	139.7	(+3.54
	V // //	<b>R</b>
2012/30/2009/01		The second of th
a Valu	ML .	Market
* 3	16	*
	100	7 × × =
	100/5 100/5 100/5 100/10 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5 100/5	100/5 109.72 100/5 201.50 100/5 145.00 100/10 117.00 100/10 105.00 100/5 230.00 100/5 51.00 100/5 51.00 100/5 153.00 100/5 153.00 100/5 75.00 100/5 75.00 100/5 75.00 100/5 75.00 100/5 75.00 100/5 75.00 100/5 75.00 100/5 75.00

and (-) signs losses

restrictions or curbs on proresement of cars and to open up opportunities for "free and fair business" under competition remain still unheeded.

The local distributors or

agents of Proton Saga. Mazda, Hundai, Fiat and others outside the " group of three" said that their cars were sold to various government organisations and corporations as well as multinational companies, foreign consultants and public sector banks and insurance before the restrictions came into effect. Even today, private organisations and private individuals are buying them . " Our after sale reports only demonstrate customers are fully satisfied in view of quality, comfort, dependability and ready availability of the spare parts", said one such distributor.

The same circles claimed that their models were also price competitive and suitably built for tropical countries like Bangladesh.

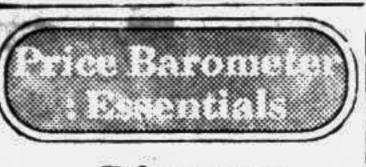
With government purchase of motor ears now limited to only three companies, others have lost the main market in the country. Trading circles said bulk of car sales is in the government sector including sector corporations and statutory budies.

The Establishment Division to which the representations were made by other distributors of cars outside the "group of three" after the fall of Ershad regim is yet to take any decision, according to the ear trading circles.

The restrictions limiting the purchase of cars for three years to four models - Toyota Starlet for 1000 CC and Toyota Corolla, Nissan Sunny and Mitsubishi Lancer for 1000 CC and above - came in December

Under the then orders of Establishment Division, all governmental and autonomous bodies are required to place procurement orders among these four 'standardized marks and models'. The order is effective also for "purchase by donor countries and against any signed contract if no binding be there by the pur-

The system, enforced under this order, is only to be recon-



Febru	ary 13
United (Marchelle)	(Taka per K
erv fine)	17.00-17

14.00-15.00

Aman(fine)

Paijam	13.00-14.00	
Ufshi	11.50-12.5	
VEGETABLES	(Taka per kg	
Potato(White)	4.00-5.00	
Brinjal	5.00-7.00	
Lady's finger	16.00-18.0	
Cauliflower / piece	5.00-8.0	
Karolla	18.00-20.0	
Lalshak	5.00-6.00	
Green Banana (Four P	fieces) 6.00-8.00	
OBERTOOK RAIN	(Taka per Kg	
Flour	12.00-1400	
Atta	11.00-12.00	
Wheat	9.50-10.00	
FISH'	(Taka per kg	
Ruhi(big)	130.00-140.00	
Katla(big)	90.00-100.00	
Hilsha	65.00-70.00	
Shrimp(big)	90.00-110.00	
Singi	60.00-65.00	
Koi	75.00-80.00	
PULSES	(Taka per Kg	
Mashur	32.00-36.00	
Mongh	32.00-35.00	
Chhola	24.00-26.00	
Mator	27.00-28.00	
Khesari	18.00-20 00	
MEAT	(Taka per Kg	
Beef	\$ 50.00-55.00	
Mutton	75:00-80.00	
	Taka per Litre	
Mustard	46.00-50.00	
Soyabean \	32.00-33.00	
Coconut( Colombo)	60.00-64.00	
Vegetable Ghee	44,00-52,00	
SPICES	(Taka Per kg	
Onion(( new)	14.00-16.00	
Garlic	54.00-56.00	
Chillies	65.00-70.00	
Turmeric(Round)	40.00-46.00	
" (Long)	42.00-50.00	
Green chillies	18.00-20.00	
Ginger	16.00-20.00	
Cinnamon* (10gms)	3.00-3.50	
Cardamom* (large)	4.00-5.00	
Jhira (50gms)	7.00-7.50	

haka Stock Exchange **Market Profile** February —13

Sugar

Molasses

Marketing

MISCELLANEOUS

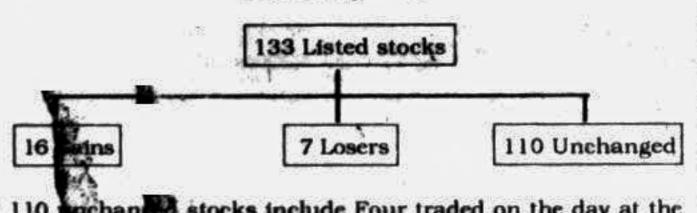
Source: Department of Agricultural

(Taka)

32.00

220.00-230.00

16.00-18.00-



\* 110 trichan stocks include Four traded on the day at the previous day's moved prices. DSE A Share Price Index = 334.1441 Issued apital aka 4,602,377,190.00

Market Capital Sation=Taka 9.54.254.787.00

Turnova = Take 680,530.00(Value) 24093 (Volume).

sidered after three years', if local assembling of the related automobiles is adopted. Then only, "the government may rejustify and take decision ac

cordingly", the order said. The rationale behind the order was for standardisation of automobile models for all government departments and autonomous bodies in consideration of the need "for proper maintenance and repairing and carly availability of spare parts" . But, this is contested by the

aggrieved parties. They said, a huge amount of government funds can be saved if other models are considered for purchase by virtue of price and quality. "Our spare parts are available in plenty and we also provide guarantees for the same", said one such party. Another said. "our spare parts are inter-changeable with those models to which the government has now un reasonably limited its pro curement or purchases". "Div ersification of types of cars for government use would lend healthy competition in terms of price and offer", yet another trading circle observed.

The car market in Bangladesh is otherwise limited because of low demand due to low average per capita income.

Annual imports of cars valued Taka 124.20 million for a total of 6238 units in 1989-90 compared with Taka 11669.37 million for 5848 units in 1988-89, the official figures showed. The above figures are on C&F (Cost and Freight) ba-

In five months up to November 1990, the value of letters of eredits (LCs) for import of cars stood at Taka 223.00 million, reflecting a declining import trend.

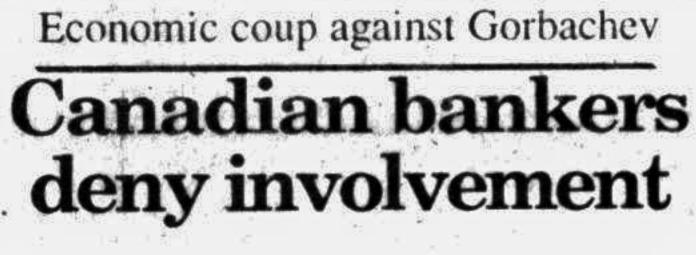
Statistical Pocket Book of Bangladesh 1990, a publication of the official Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). showed that the number of registered motor cars at 28,479 in 1988-89, 27,713 in 1987-88, 26,968 in 1986-87 and 26,279 in 1985-86

## Supply position of essentials satisfactory

A meeting of the Council Committee of Advisers on Emergency Management reviewed on Wednesday the supply position of essential comm-odities which was found to be satisfactory, reports UNB.

The Council Committee noted with satisfaction that prices of some items, such as, pulse and onion were falling gradually, says a PID handout. The meeting also reviewed

availability and supply of petroleum items, particularly, supply of diesel in view of the present 'Boro' season.



Selling baskets to earn livelihood for his family. Cane and

bamboo-required for making baskets are in short supply

the production cost. - By A. K. M. Mohsin.

The price is also high. As such sale price does hardly cover

TORONTO, Feb 13: Canadian bankers on Tuesday denied accusations by Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov that they collaborated in an attempt to overthrow President Mikhail Gorbachev in an economic coup last month, reports Reuter.

Paylov told the trade union daily Trud that he knew of plans to flood the country with

billions of roubles to oust the Soviet leader and do away with Communist rule. He said Canadian. Swiss and Austrian private banks were participants in the scheme.

Bryan Griffiths, Senior Vice-President of Foreign Exchange at the Royal Bank of Canada. the country's largest bank. allegations called the "preposterous."

# Riyadh begins borrowings from foreign banks

RIYADH, Feb 12: Saudi Arabia, strapped financially by the Gulf erisis, has begun borrow ing from foreign banks for the first time, western diplomats

said Tuesday, reports AFP. The diplomats, who requested anonymity said the Kingdom has been forced to divert roughly 48 billion US Dollars, or half its annual na tional income, to war-related spending since Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"This is an immense and very heavy burden," one Western diplomat said.

"And it will only increase as the war extends," he said. adding that there was some displeasure among the Sauli authorities over the size and scope of the financial contributions of Japan and Germany to covering the costs of the war against Iraq.

"The entire Saudi economy has been directed towards supporting the war effort," the diplomat continued, noting that airline, shipping and

postal sérvice have all been disrupted since the war to dislodge Iraqi troops from Kuwait began on January 17.

The diplomates said that the 48-billion-Dollar figure did not include the costs, expected to run into the billions of Dollars, of economic and environmental damage from the unprecedented oil spill in

They said that Sandi Arabia. which ran budget deficits in the 1980s and has spent heavily for decades on major infras-\* tructure projects, had liquid reserves of roughly 10 billion Dollars at the end of 1989.

The vast military buildup in the Kingdom following the Iraqi invasion and the nearly four week-old war forced Saudi Arabia to draw substan tially from the reserves and "current income has been consumed and vastly exceeded. one western diplomat said.

He said the 48 billion Dollars in war-related spending so far included funding for military hardware, maintenance contracts, "burden- sharing payments to the countries which have sent troops to Sandi Arabia and various other expenses.

Saudi Arabia has pledged 13.5 billion Dollars to the United States for the first quarter of 1991 to help offset the costs of the deployment of half-a-million US troops in the Gulf, one western diplomat

The commitment to the United States is currently Saudi Arabia's single largest outstanding pledge, he said

The diplomats said there was a perception among the Saudi government that Japan. Germany, and other European nations "have not made a contribution in proportion to the degree of their interest" in the outcome of the Gulf crisis.

"After all, this concerns the security of the world's oil supply," one diplomat said.



# Tea stocks unsold Shippets

Star Economic Report

Prices for brokens eased further due to limited export enquiries at the weekly ten auction at Chittagong on Tues day. A large quantity of offers at the auction remained unsold In all. 30,874 packages of leaf alongwith 329 packages of old season teas were put on offer.

Bold brokens were generally neglected and mostly remained unsold. All other brokens eased by up to Taka two. Selective lines sold between Taka 47.00 and Taka 51.40. A substantial quantity were with-

Fannings, however, were a strong market with useful support from Iran, Pakistan, and the local traders. Prices often gained by about a Taka to two. A limited quantity sold between Taka 50.50 and Taka

Unity brokers limited in its market report on the auction sale said price levels are now similar to the ones realised in sales in 1988 around this past of the season and tends to fall further.

Orthodox teas at Tuesday auction were all withdrawn. In all, 3,620 packages of Dust were offered. Cleaner

types were firm to dearer by upto Tk two while the fibrous sorts sold at around last rates. Powdery descriptions eased in

There was no interest in Green tea and offerings of 130 packages were all withdrawn.

The next weekly auction (sale no 41) will be held on February 19 in which were oferings will comprise of about 37,000 packages Leaf and 4,000 packages Dust. The

WASHINGTON, Feb 13: Re-

sponding to skyrocketing costs

of the Gulf war, Defence Secre

tary Dick Cheney on Tuesday

authorised the US military

services to exceed spending

approved by Congress for rou-

tine operations such as trans-

Williams said the Defence De-

partment would seek a special

spending supplement for the

war next week, but that the

military could begin running

out of 1991 operations and

maintenance funds before the

what the supplemental request

perts have estimated that the

war is costing the armed ser

million Dollars a day.

operations by March.

their limit.

Tetabt

Very heavy

Big &

Rejected

Overseas Drafts (ODs)

UK Pound Sterling

US Dollar

Fremh Franc

Soud Rival

LA VIII "1"

**Dutch Guilden** 

Paktstan Ruper

Suppore Dolla

AE Dirhum

Kuwatt Dinar

Indian Rupee

\*AMU-Asian Monetary Union

Wage Earners Fund/ Export

SECONDARY EXCHANGE MARKET

Performance Benefit (XPB) Fund

S. Kroner

US Dollar

UK Pound

Source: Sonalt Bunk

Sterling

vices at least an additional 500

could exceed their authorised

2.1 billion Dollars for routine

are authorised to spend 23.9

billion Dollars and 20.5 billion

Dollars respectively for routine

operations and maintenance in

the current year and Williams

gave no indication as to how

close those services were to

of 500 million to one billion

February 13

Source Department of Agricultural Marketing

HIDES & SKIN

(Wet/Salted)

February 13

Taka per 100 pieces)

25,000.00

35,000.00

50,000.00

65,000.00

25,000.00

7,000.00

9,000,00

55,000 00

Source Benerinens & Service of Marketing

February 13

SELLING AND BUYING RATES, offered by

One Unit of Foreign Currenctes (FCs) for Taka

ommercials Banks, for Bank Cheques, (BCs) and

12,000.00 -. 15,000.00

-30,000.00

- 40,000,00

- 55,000.00

-. 70,000.00

-30.000.00

-12.500.00

- 7,500.00

-10,000.00

- 57 000.00

35 9226 35.44:12

71.6658 70.8374

24.4773

9.4819

21.7176

1.905H

6.5039

36.53

24 8256

7.2799

22.0249

21.0332

9.8141

6 6010

36.48

72.82

on the cross rates of New York market

(AMU)1 9244

3,500.00

(Taka for 11.66 grams)

6200.00

6600.00

200.00

With an estimated daily cost

Williams said the Marines

The US Navy and Air force

will be, but some military ex

The Pentagon has not said

extra money was approved.

Reuters.

porting troops, reports

Pentagon spokesman Pete

large offerings in sale 41, one of the highest this season, refleets a substantial carry over stock from the previous sales. Unity Brokers reported.

The auction Sale No. 42 due for February 26. The catalogues closed with the arrivals of February 5.

### Colombo recovers

AFP reports from Colombo. Prices were steady on good demand at this week's Colombo tea auction as the market recovered from the initial shocks of the Gulf war brokers said on February 12.

Low-grown teas sold well following widespread demand from almost all Middle Eastern buyers except lraq, the sec ond-largest buyer of Sri Lankan tea prior to United Na tions Sanctions, Colombo broking firm John Keels Lim ited said. Relatively speaking, the

market has recovered from the initial shock. Of course, you cannot predict what might happen next week, but right now, the market is good. John Keels tea Director Lallith Ramanayake said.

Prices fell sharply and Colombo was forced to withdraw over one million Kilo grams (2.2 million pounds) of tea from the market after war broke out in the Gulf, raising doubts about future sales to that region.

Colombo is one of the world's largest tea exporters and the weekly Colombo tea auction is one of the most im portant in the trade. Some 4.4 million Kilograms 99.68 mil lion Pounds) of tea went under the hammer on February 12.

Dollars, top White House offi-

cials estimate the Gulf war wil

cost the United States and

other coalition countries 40

John Sununu said last month

that President George Bush

expected the United States

would end up paying about 15

The total international sup-

February 13

FOB \* Narayangani/Daulatpur

White Tossa Meshta

1447

1286

1125

1500 1125

1098

1045

857

FOB

(Sight)\*

\$ per

585

570

550

480

410

365

595

580

560

490

420

290

220

300

230

230

235

220

250

345

330

295

175

170

200

Varieties (Tk. per 100 Kg)

\* FOB = Freight on board

(Ready)\*

Tk. per

balc\*

3450

3350

3300

2900

2600

2000

3500

3450

3400

2950

2650

2100

1650

1300

1750

1400

1250

1450

1300

1600

1500

1950

1900

1800

1600

1125

FOB ready = Narayanganj

\*\* FOB sight = Chittagong/

dered for EPC registration.

Mongla Ports. Indicative Price

at witch sales may be consi-

The \$ prices are exclusive of

any selling commission. O. D.

(Sight nontraditional/appli-

cable to export bills). One 8 =

Imports/arrivals of Katcha

bales at Narayanganj were

seven to eight thousand

mounds while at Daulatpur at

six to seven thousands

mounds. (One manuad is equal

SPL Cuttings 1000

Ord. Cuttings 900.

Tk. 35.4956)

• MT = Metric Ton

to 37.32417 KGs.)

White Rejection (WRS)/

Tossa Rejection (TRS)

Habijabi, Cut Ropes

billion Dollars of the total bill.

13.5 billion Dollars.

billion Dollars.

Kutcha bales

Medium 1393

Bot. (B) 1340

Bot. (C) 1206

Bot. (X) 1072

Bot. = Bottom

Pucca bales

Varieties

Bangla

White

BWC

BWD

BWE

Bangla

Tossa BT SPL

BIB

BWR

BWH

BTR

BTH

BCR

Cutting

BWCA

**BWCB** 

BTCA

BICB

Meshta

SMR

White/Tossa

BW SPL

White House Chief of Staff

billion to 50 billion Dollars.

US military authorised

to exceed spendings

## Accord to avert

railroad strike

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13: US Freight Railways and Labour Unions agreed on Tuesday to avert a national rathroad strike for another 60 days because of the Guff war.

The two sides have been trying to negotiate a new contract for more than two years a legal 30 day cooling off period. During which the Unions could not strike and rathroads could not alter existing contracts. was set to expire on Friday. the new agreement extends that period until April 17.

### **Bush urges Fed.** Reserve to lower interest rates

WASHINGTON, Feb 13 President George Bush Tuesday called on the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates for the second time in two weeks in order to stimulate he U. S. economy, reports

it is important that the Federal Reserve sustain strong money and credit growth . . to miligate the current downturn, "said Mr. Bush in the Economic Report of the Pres ident" released Tuesday.

"The Federal Reserve's control of inflation throughout the recent expansion has given to the credibility necessary to mitigate the current downturn significantly without triggering an increase in inflationary expectations,"the report contin-

### Co-financing new money package to Philippines

MANILA. Feb 13: The World Bank or the Asian Development Bank may co-finance a 500 million Dollar new money package to the Philippines along with commercial banks, Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia said here Tuesday, reports AFP.

Mr Cuisia said Manila was turning to the multilaterals because commercial banks were reluctant to release new loans immediately after the agreement of a new credit program with the international Monetary Fund ( IMF ). He said foreign banks had

port for the Gulf campaign in been cool to Mantla's request the first three months of for new money because of their 1991 rose to 36 billion Dollars own financial problems and since late January when Saudi had sought the co-financing Arabia pledged an additiona

#### Kuwait has pledged 13,5 **Australian farmers** billion Dollars and Japan nine revolt over wool

CANBERRA, Feb 13: Ausralian's sheep farmers accused the government on Tuesday of taking away their livelihood by scrapping a scheme fixing the price of woo! reports Reuter.

The government has destroyed its integrity and that of the entire Australian wool industry. Alan Bowman leader of the Farmer's Federation in the State of Victoria told re-He said many of the 90,000

woolgrowers will go bankrupt a view echoed across Australia after the government on Monday ended the scheme setting wool at a minimum 700 cents (540 U.S. cents ) a kilo because international buyers, many believing it over priced. boycotted sales.

### Japan's dairy farmers may be warned

TOKYO, Feb 13 : Japan's Fair Trade Commission may dairy farmers over a of advertisements series placed in newspapers last year claiming that foreign dairy products were contaminated, a Commission official said Tuesday, reports AFP. The official said the Com-

mission may ask the Central Dairy Farming Council to apologise for the advertisements which drew official protests from France and the European Community if they are found to violated commission have rules.

### **ECNEC okays** six projects

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) on February 12 approved six projects involving an expenditure of Taka 1391.16 crore including projert aid of Taka 653.16 erore, reports BSS.

The approval was given at a meeting of ECNEC held in Dhana with Planning Adviser Prof. Rehman Sobhan in the chair. The projects are strength-

ening of Bangladesh Forest Research Institute of Environment and Forest Ministry. System Loss Reduction Scheme and Greater Dhaka Power Distribution Project of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, Third Flood Rehabilitation Project aided by IDA. establishment of Khulna University Project and establishment of two approved universitics under Ministry of Educa-



The Manager's Conference of Pubali Bank Limited, Dhaka North Region held recently as Regional Office premises. The meeting was addressed by Managing Director, Mr. Abul Matin Khan. The photo shows Mr. Abul Matin Khan, Managing Director addressing the Conference. Mr. M. H. Khan, General Manager and Mr. A. F. M. Jamir-ul-Islam, Deputy General Manager, Dhaka North Zone are also seen in the picture.