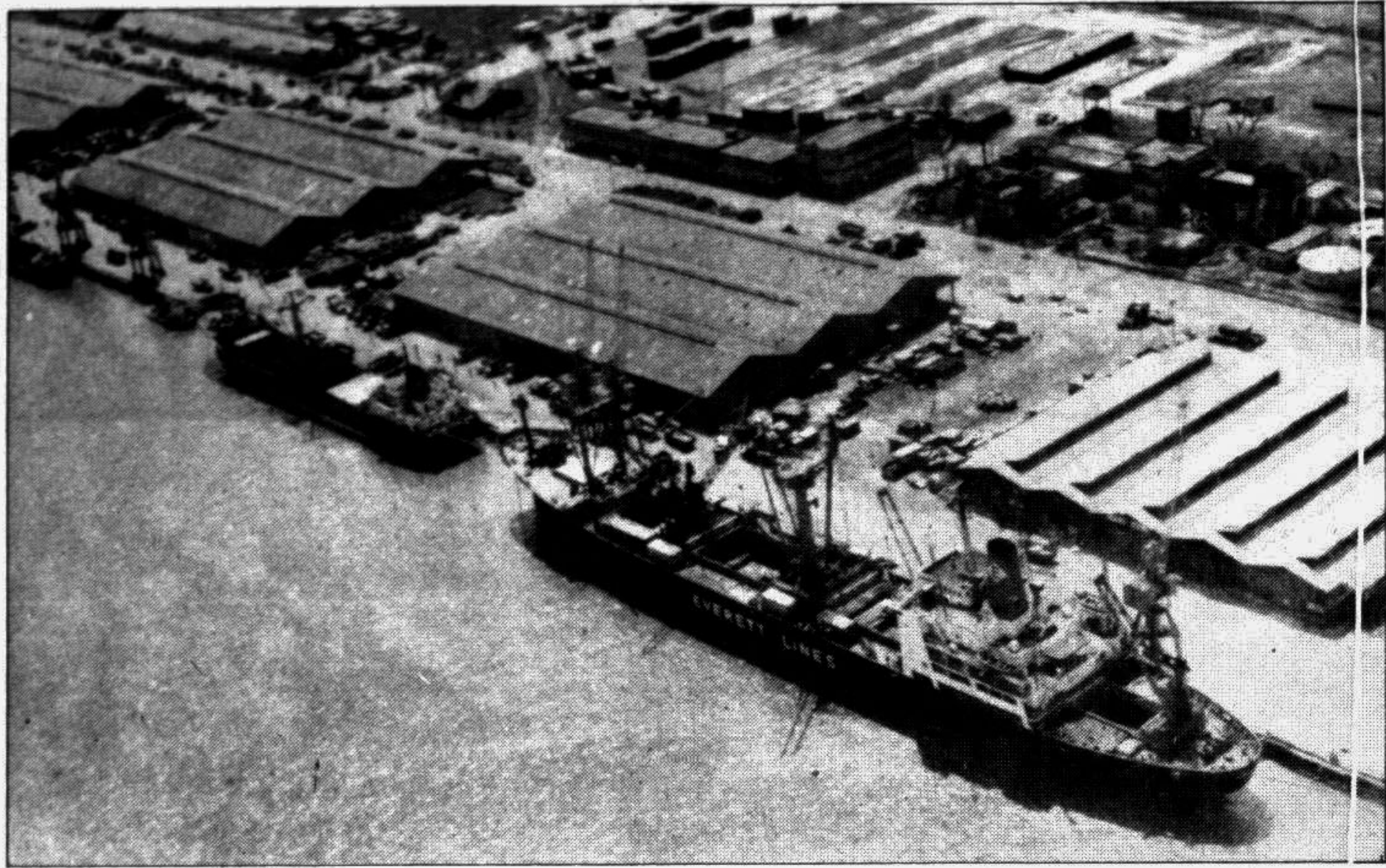


DCCI call to resist hoarding

Star Economic Report
Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries (DCCI) President Mahbubur Rahman has called upon the business community to resist unfair means like hoarding to increase prices of essential commodities taking advantage of present crisis following the cyclone and tidal surge.



Chittagong Port resumes operation.

-Star photo

Heavy damage to ship breaking industry

Star Economic Report

Damages caused to the ship-breaking industry following the unprecedented cyclone and tidal bore were colossal. Preliminary assessment of loss in this sector was estimated at Taka 150 crore.

The Ship Breakers Association has classified the damages and destruction to this sector into three main heads. Firstly — the ships awaiting breaking at the sea shore have been subjected to severe onslaught of the cyclone and tidal bore and were floating in precarious condition.

and sea shore adjacent to the yard have been washed away. Loss on this account tantamounts to several crores of Taka, the Association said.

Thirdly, the infrastructure of each yard has been shattered beyond any comprehension.

The Association source said huge capital will be needed to restructure and rehabilitate this essential physical infrastructure. Preliminary loss in this sector of the industry was estimated at Taka 150 crore.

It said actual loss can only be ascertained after completion of final loss assessment report from the individual ship breakers, the Association further said.

Secondly, Bangladesh Ship Breakers Association said, the copper, bronze and iron plates, sheets and broken pieces of ships stored or stacked in the yards, godowns

India's trade deficit soars

NEW DELHI, May 16: India's foreign trade deficit soared to more than 5.3 billion Dollars in the 1990-91 fiscal year, with higher imports offsetting export growth, official figures released here Wednesday showed, reports AFP.

The deficit for the year ending March 31 represented a 1.5 billion Dollar increase over the trade gap in the previous financial year, according to the director-general of commercial intelligence and statistics.

Imports in 1990-91 (April-March) hit 21.58 billion Dollars, a 13.1 per cent rise over the previous year, and exports earned 16.2 billion Dollars.

Week ends with sharp fall in share trading

Star Economic Report
The week ended Thursday with a sharp decline in trading. In volume terms it went down to 1,456 from Wednesday's 4,904. Traded issues valued Taka 67,685.00 compared with the previous day's Taka 3,75,350.00.

Decliners dominated trading. And the Composite Index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) went down to 345,964.1 points from Wednesday's 346,288.2.

The index is the broad indicator of Price movements of all the listed stocks. Transactions involved twelve issues. Of them six lost, three gained and three remained unchanged at their previous quoted prices.

Among the decliners Al Baraka Bank got the major slash. It lost Taka 50.00 to Taka 750.00.

Pharmaco, Bangladesh Thai Aluminium and 4th ICB Mutual Fund lost Taka 4.00, Taka 3.00 and Taka 2.00 to Taka 42.00, Taka 96.00 and Taka 140.00 respectively.

National Bank and Beximco declined Taka 0.50 and Taka 0.12 to Taka 114.50 and Taka 9.76.

Usmania Glass, Tallu Spinning and Green Delta Insurance moved up Taka 2.40, Taka 1.00 and Taka 0.17 to Taka 127.40, Taka 117.00 and Taka 116.17 respectively.

Quoted Prices of Traded Stocks May-16

Table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Change. Includes Al Baraka Bank, Pharmaco, National Bank, etc.

Price Barometer: Essentials

Price Barometer: Essentials table listing prices for RICE, VEGETABLES, OTHER FOODGRAIN, FISH, MEAT, OIL, and MISCELLANEOUS.

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

GATT blames US, EC for trade talks deadlock

GENEVA, May 16: The United States and the European Community are both to blame for the standstill in world trade talks, and must make the first moves to restart them, the head of the GATT trade forum said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

In a rare outburst, Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), likened US and EC tactics at the 108-nation Uruguay Round of talks for freer world commerce to a dialogue of the deaf.

"Trade relations across the Atlantic... are as bedeviled by accusations, self-righteousness, mutual misunderstanding and the inability to distinguish special-interest pleading from the general public good as seems possible," Dunkel said.

No reason to cut OPEC output: Riyadh

WASHINGTON, May 16: Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said he expected global demand for OPEC crude oil to increase during the year and thus there was no need to cut production ceilings, reports Reuter.

"I see no reason why the OPEC ceiling should be lowered," he told CNN's money-line television programme, adding, "if anything they should be increased."

He also said the kingdom would oppose giving Iraq an extra quota share when OPEC ministers meet in June to decide on the new production level for the second half of 1991.

"We have heard that Iraq will ask for an extra quota share," Nazer said, "but as far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, Saudi Arabia will not give part of its quota to anybody."

Nazer said that if anybody deserves an extra share it is Saudi Arabia since it has the largest potential to produce oil.

OPEC Secretary-General Subrot said on Tuesday OPEC had room to produce an extra 700,000 barrels per day (BPD) in the third quarter from its current 22.3 million BPD to meet any rising demand.

Oil export terminal for Iran in Pakistan
AFP from Islamabad adds: Pakistan has invited Iran to build an oil terminal at

Foreign investors can repatriate credit from Poland

LONDON, May 16: There will be virtually no restriction on foreign participation in the privatisation process in Poland, Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz told British business leaders here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Balcerowicz told nearly 300 business leaders assembled by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) to discuss investment possibilities in Poland that a new foreign investment law on its way through the Polish Parliament would enable foreign investors to repatriate capital and profits fully, minimise bureaucracy in the formation of joint ventures with state enterprises, and end the requirement for foreign investors to obtain permission to establish themselves in Poland.

Although according to the minister, Poland is in the lead among Central European countries as far as private sector development is concerned, it has lagged behind in terms of attracting foreign capital.

The Association urged the government to immediately assess the real extent of loss in the ship-breaking industry and take effective steps to rehabilitate the ship-breaking industry for greater national interests.

US, Japanese units in CEPZ resume operations

Star Economic Report

Two American and two Japanese industries in Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ), affected by the recent cyclonic storm and tidal-bore, have resumed production, Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) said in a press release on Thursday.

The industries are Miniplo Electric Company and Dream Regency Garments and Sonar (Cotton Mills) of the USA.

Two other South Korean factories are expected to resume production early next week. The remaining affected industries are likely to restart by the end of this month.

Water, electricity, gas and internal telecommunication facilities in CEPZ have been restored within one week after the severe cyclonic storm and tidal wave which damaged the zone extensively, the BEPZA said.

The Board of Investment (BOI) said on Wednesday it received till Monday reports of losses, worth Taka 110.98 crore from 67 industrial units in Chittagong district.

The Board earlier sent ten survey teams to Chittagong division and five sub-teams to Khulna division to assess the extent of losses and damages caused by the devastating cyclone.

The preliminary reports from Khulna division showed that there was no major industrial units there, BOI said.

The Board stated that it had completed surveys of 200 industrial units in Chittagong division and reports on the damaged were being compiled.

It would make appropriate recommendations to help overcome the problems facing the affected industries after a complete report on industrial loss in the cyclone-battered areas is available, BOI added.

Third World agrees to limit textile exports

GENEVA, May 16: Third World textile producers said on Wednesday they would accept a 17-month extension of an international agreement limiting their exports, but only if richer nations imposed no new restrictions during the period, reports Reuter.

The 22-nation International Textiles and Clothing Bureau (ITCB) will put forward the condition at a meeting in Geneva on Thursday to discuss the future of the multi-fibre arrangement (MFA), an official at the ITCB secretariat here said.

The MFA, an umbrella accord allowing industrialised nations to limit cheap textile imports from developing countries through a series of bilateral agreements, expires on July 31.

Its extension for a further period will be considered at a meeting on Wednesday of the textiles committee of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Phasing out of the MFA, covering about half the world's 177 billion dollar textile trade,

and bringing this sector fully under GATT's trade rules, is a major objective of the Uruguay Round negotiations for freer world commerce.

But the 108-nation talks have been stalled since failing to meet a December 1990 deadline to conclude a package of trade accords, and GATT is now forced to decide the MFA's immediate future, trade officials said.

A communique issued after a meeting of the ITCB in Bali, Indonesia, which ended last Saturday, proposed extending the MFA from August 1, 1991, to December 31, until the date of implementation of the result of the Uruguay Round, whichever is earlier.

But it added extension was subject to the condition that "the importing countries shall refrain from introducing any new restriction under the MFA during the extended period."

ITCB members are Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Macao, Maldives, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uruguay, Yugoslavia.

UK jobless poll issue electoral peril

LONDON, May 16: John Major, out of work after leaving school at the age of 16 and turned 'down for a job on the buses,' knows what it is like to stand in the dole queue, reports Reuter.

More than 30 years on, unemployment could be a major factor deciding the outcome of the next British general election.

The Prime Minister's predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, proved that mass unemployment was no barrier to power, leading the ruling Conservative Party to sweeping election victories in the 1980s when the jobless total was almost three million.

Pollsters say shifting social trends and a scything recession mean that Major ignores the plight of Britain's growing army of unemployed by his

Call money market

Money rates in the Call money market during the week ended May 15 ranged from 10.25 per cent to 12.00 per cent. During the same week interest rates offered by the bank on Certificate of Deposits varied from 12.00 per cent to 13.50 per cent. The bank rate, however, remained unchanged at 9.75 per cent.

Gold & Silver

Table with columns: Metal, Price. Includes Gold, Tejabi, Guinea, Silver.

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Hides & Skin

Table with columns: Type, Price. Includes Cow, Goat, Sheep, Buffalo, etc.

Exchange Rates

Table with columns: Currency, Selling, Buying. Includes US Dollar, UK Pound, German Deutsche, etc.

Snippets

Blanket ban on tobacco ads
STRASBOURG, May 16: The European Commission on Wednesday proposed a blanket ban on tobacco advertising across the 12 nations of the European Community from the start of 1993, reports Reuter.

Copyright protection for computer programmes

BRUSSELS, May 16: The European Community (EC) has finalised standard copyright protection for computer programmes to overcome 'vast illegal piracy', EC's Executive Commission said here Wednesday, reports AFP.

A commission spokesman said EC foreign ministers had on Tuesday approved standard regulations which should be in effect by 1993, as soon as they had been taken up in the law of the community's 12 members.

Industrial output in Italy falls

ROME, May 16: Industrial output in Italy fell by 6.6 per cent in March compared with the level in March 1990, the national statistical institute said here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The sharp downturn was expected to strengthen demands by industrialists for the government to boost the economy.

A budget austerity programme, approved by the government on Saturday and which led to a one-point cut in the discount rate on Sunday, was greeted with skepticism by most industrial leaders.

Saudi banks see profits

RIYADH, May 16: Saudi Arabia's seven foreign joint venture banks see a year of solid earnings, building on first quarter results which showed a performance remarkably unaffected by the Gulf crisis, reports Reuter.

Bankers say domestic business is shaking off bad memories of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, bank liquidity is high, and lending opportunities abound.

"It's fair to say we are a bit surprised with the situation," said the managing director of one of the banks.

PIA domestic fares likely to rise

ISLAMABAD, May 16: The government is considering a 20 per cent hike in domestic fares on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) in the next financial year, a Federal Minister said recently, reports AFP.

The last fare increase on domestic routes, by 10 per cent, was in November 1989. Minister for Food and Agriculture Majid Malik told the national assembly that PIA had suffered a loss of 427 million rupees (about 18 million dollars) during the period from July, 1990 to March, 1991 due to the Gulf war.

OPEC needs \$120b by 1995

SINGAPORE, May 16: The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will need to invest at least 120 billion US dollars by 1995 to meet anticipated demands in oil, its Secretary General, Subrot, said Monday, reports AFP.

"To meet the needs of the developed and industrialised oil countries, we should have to increase capacity to 33 million barrels a day in order to operate a safety margin of 82-85 per cent utilization," Subrot told International Herald Tribune editors at a conference here.

Japan to maintain tight credit policy

TOKYO, May 16: Bank of Japan Governor Yasuhiro Mieno reiterated here Tuesday that the central bank would maintain its tight credit policy to head off inflation, reports AFP.

The price stabilization is the key to stable economic growth, the central bank chief told a meeting of business leaders. Wholesale and retail prices in Japan are at a "high level" which was never seen in the recent years, Mieno said. "We cannot relax precautions against prices," he said, adding that companies were trying to raise their commodity prices citing higher production costs caused by a labour shortage.

Dhaka Stock Exchange Market Profile May-16. 134 Listed stocks. 3 Gains, 6 Losses, 135 Unchanged. Includes DSE All Share Price Index = 345,964.1 and Market Capitalisation = 9,886,013.061.