

ESCAP experts, BCI team talk institutional uplift Study on industrial sickness stressed

Star Economic Report

The ESCAP experts and Bangladesh Chamber of Industry (BCI) delegates on Monday discussed the needs for institutional development in the chamber and to provide appropriate advice to expand the horizon of its activities.

Mr. Lee Gilbert, Regional Adviser on Technology Transfer and Development and Mr. T. Miyake, Expert on Systems Analysis of ESCAP visited BCI from June 8 to June 10 and discussed with the President, Director and members on various issues.

Both the teams stressed the need to undertake a study for industrial sickness which constitute the major hurdle for rapid industrialisation in the country.

During the course of three-day discussions, Mr. A.M. Subid Ali, President, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI), Mr. Sharif M. Afzal Hossain, Senior Vice-President, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI), Prof. Mazharul Islam, Brig. Mohammad Masud Ali Khan, Lt. Col. (Retd) Quazi Salim Uddin, Mr. Rahimul Hogue, Mr. Golam Dastagiri Gazi, Directors, BCI and Mr. Munjur Morshed, Member, BCI took part.

Mr. G.L. Narasimhan, Country Director, UNIDO along with Mr. John R. Walker, Managing Director, Glaxo Bangladesh Limited also took active part in the discussion. Mr. Narasimhan dwelt at length on the Indonesian experience to combat the evils of corruption while Mr. Walker underscored the need for improved industrial relation as key factor to make the industrialisation programme a success.

Moderate fall in share trading

Trading at Dhaka bourse witnessed a moderate fall on Monday.

In all 2,801 shares changed hands compared with Sunday's 4,000. Traded issues valued Taka 2,74,510.00 compared with the previous day's Taka 2,61,641.00.

Decliners dominated trading. And the Composite Index (DSE) went down to 291.6217 points from Sunday's 292.5367.

Index is the broad indicator of price movements of all the listed stocks.

Transactions involved seventeen stocks. Of them eight lost, four gained and five remained unchanged at their previous quoted prices.

Rupali Bank and Bangla Process declined Taka 8.00 each to Taka 77.00 and Taka 60.00.

Monno Ceramic and Beximco Pharma lost Taka 5.00 and Taka 4.06 to Taka 140.00 and Taka 170.00 respectively.

Islam Jute, 6th ICB Mutual Fund, Quamem Silk and Tullu Spinning declined within the range between Taka 0.30 and Taka 1.05.

Al Baraka Bank gained Taka 10.00 to Taka 750.00.

Atlas Bangladesh, Metalex Corp and Chittagong Cement advanced within the range between Taka 0.30 and Taka 0.77.

Quoted Prices of Traded Stocks

Stock	10/10	10/10	Change (Taka)
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	750.00	(+10.00)
Rupali Bank	100/10	77.00	(-8.00)
Bangla Process	100/5	60.00	(-8.00)
Beximco Pharma	100/5	170.00	(-4.06)
Kobruno Chemical	100/5	72.00	unchanged
The Irbana	100/10	90.00	unchanged
Quamem Silk	10/100	6.00	(-0.30)
Tullu Spinning	100/10	112.00	(-0.99)
Miscellaneous	100/5	147.77	(+0.77)
Monno Ceramic	100/5	140.00	(-5.00)

* FV=Face Value, ML=Market Lot
+ Changes: Plus signs mean gain and (-) signs losses.

Dhaka Stock Exchange Market Profile



122 Unchanged stocks include five traded on the day at their previous quoted prices.

DSE All Share Price Index = 291.6217

Issued Capital=Taka 10,146,289,601.00

Market Capitalisation = 8,333,164,301

Turnover = Taka 2,74,510.00 (Value) 2,801(Volume).

Nepal to get 30,000 tons Indian fertilizer

KATHMANDU, June 10: India has agreed to supply 30,000 metric tonnes of chemical fertilizers to meet an acute shortage in Nepal before the start of paddy planting season, the state radio announced Sunday, reports AFP.

Of the 30,000 metric tonnes, 20,000 metric tonnes will be urea fertilizer and remaining 10,000 tonnes diammonium phosphate fertilizer, the state radio added.

A failure to purchase fertilizers had led to acute shortages ahead of the monsoon planting season, a spokesman for the agriculture input corporation said.

Farmer has been flocking to Kathmandu to buy fertilizer, which was previously distributed locally through the government appointed dealers.

"Chemical fertilizers were made available during the Panchayat rule though we had to pay a little more than the government's fixed price."



TEHERAN: President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (R) and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim meet shortly after the latter's arrival on June 9 for a three-day official visit, the first by a West European head of state since 1979. The leaders are expected to discuss economic cooperation; annual trade between the two countries is running at 460 million Dollars, and around 1,500 Iranians are currently studying in Austria. — AFP photo

Currency dealers focus on crisis management

MADRID, June 10: The Gulf war and the collapse of Drexel Burnham Lambert have concentrated the minds of senior currency dealers gathered here for their annual Congress on what to do when Forex payment flows are blocked because of a crisis, reports Reuter.

The Association Cambiste Internationale (ACI) has set up a working party to investigate ways of handling breakdowns in the payments system. "The committee is looking at ways of ensuring better use of capital and minimising risks by reaching agreement on both netting and master agreements in foreign exchange," said David Clark, ACI Secretary General.

One of the problems facing the ACI working party is how to define a crisis — though the problems posed by the collapse of Drexel Burnham and the difficulties associated with the freezing of payments from Kuwait during the Gulf conflict.

"Under a mechanism to be decided upon we would declare a crisis and then all market participants could follow the same rules," said Rolf Willi, a Dresdner Bank AG Senior Manager and President of the German Forex Club who heads the working party.

Gulf crisis brings end to OPEC quota violations

ABUDHABI, June 10: Oil quote violations within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting States (OPEC), a common practice in the 13-nation Organisation in recent years, seem to have come to an end — due largely to the Gulf crisis, reports AFP.

"We don't see any major quote violations now, said a Gulf oil official. Why because the Gulf crisis has removed the need for such violations."

The official, who requested anonymity, said OPEC's main quota busters, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), were no longer in a position to violate their quotas, for totally different reasons.

Kuwait's oil sector has been crippled by the Iraqi invasion while the UAE has not what it has sought for years, he said.

The UAE is currently producing 2.3 million barrels per day (BPD), far more than its pre-invasion quota of 1.5 million BPD.

The increase was in line with an OPEC agreement to raise output to make up for the halt of Iraqi and Kuwait supplies after Baghdad's troops invaded the Emirate last August.

The UAE's present output is close to capacity but there are plans to boost capacity by about one million BPD to meet an expected rise in world demand during the 1990s.

Kuwait also violated its quota after its demands for a higher share were turned down.

OPEC states have often accused the two countries of depressing prices by violating their quotas. Such violations were among the reasons cited by Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait.

Rehabilitation of the Kuwaiti oil industry may take years, a Gulf-based oil executive said, referring to the hundreds of Kuwaiti oil wells set ablaze by Iraqi troops as they retreated in February.

Even when its production fully comes back on stream, demand for OPEC oil is expected to be higher by then. I don't think major quota violations will be possible, he said.

Oil analysts said the recent rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran, now the second largest producer in OPEC, would also help curb violations.

According to UAE Oil Minister Yusef Ibn Omir Ibn Yusef, world demand is expected to increase by between 800,000 and 900,000 BPD annually during the 1990s because of high world economic growth.

While output in several independent producers is declining, the rise in demand will mainly benefit OPEC, especially its heavyweight producers in the Gulf, oil sources said.

That explains the intensive Gulf plans to raise output capacity, one source said. Their failure to face growing demand could largely push up prices, which in turn will hurt the economies of industrial states.

US economy crawls out of recession

WASHINGTON, June 10: The US economy shows signs it may be crawling out of recession a little earlier and more vigorously than expected, but analysts doubt whether recovery will be robust, reports Reuter.

We are not talking about a roaring recovery. There are still drags on this growth, said economist David Cohen at the Belmont, California, Consulting Firm MMs International.

An official employment report on Friday showed a broad range of industries had resumed hiring in May after an 11-month hiatus.

Price Barometer Essentials

Commodity	Unit	Price
RICE	(Taka per kg)	
Aman (Very fine)		16.50-17.00
Aman(Fine)		14.75-15.50
Pajon		12.50-13.00
Uthi		13.00-13.50
VEGETABLES	(Taka per kg)	
Potato(White)		3.50-4.00
Brinjal		16.00-18.00
Lady's finger		11.00-12.00
Karolla		12.00-14.00
Lalshak		6.00-8.00
Papa		7.00-9.00
Green Banana (Four Pieces)		8.00-9.00
OTHER FOODGRAIN	(Taka per kg)	
Wheat		12.00-14.00
Amo		10.00-11.00
Wheat		8.00-9.50
Suzi		17.00-18.00
FISH	(Taka per kg)	
Rubi(big)		140.00-160.00
Katla(big)		100.00-120.00
Hilsha		60.00-65.00
Panga		100.00-125.00
Shrimp(big)		900.00-100.00
Singi		100.00-120.00
Koi		100.00-130.00
PULSES	(Taka per kg)	
Mash		30.00-32.00
Matar		26.00-28.00
Mugh		28.00-30.00
Chhole		22.00-24.00
Matar		26.00-28.00
Kharai		16.00-18.00
MEAT	(Taka per kg)	
Beef		Not Available
Mutton		Not Available
OIL	(Taka per Litre)	
Mustard		52.00-56.00
Soyabean		36.00-37.00
Coconut (Colombo)		70.00-74.00
Vegetable Ghee		50.00-52.00
SPICES	(Taka Per kg)	
Onion		15.00-17.00
Custic		40.00-48.00
Chillies		60.00-70.00
Tumeric(Round)		44.00-48.00
" (Long)		44.00-48.00
Green chillies		16.00-20.00
Ginger		24.00-28.00
Cinnamon* (10gms)		3.00-3.50
Cardamom* (large)		3.50-4.00
Jhira (50gms)		7.00-
MISCELLANEOUS	(Taka)	
Ghee		220.00-240.00
Sugar		27.00-27.00
Molasses		18.00-20.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Libyan bid to end isolation from West

LONDON, June 10: Muammar Gaddafi is trying to end Libya's isolation in the West but responses so far have veered from cool rebuff to warm embrace, exposing a rift in western attitudes to the man once derided as a mad dog.

Gaddafi's overtures this week, driven by economic imperatives and, according to some diplomats, a wish to be viewed as an elder statesman, neatly illustrated this division.

Britain on Thursday rejected Tripoli's compensation offer for the death of a policeman shot from the Libyan embassy in 1984 and demanded concrete signs it has renounced support for terrorism and the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in particular.

Italy, by contrast, issued a joint statement with Libya on Wednesday condemning chemical weapons after talks between Gaddafi and Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

The two sides pledged to intensify political and economic cooperation, including projects aimed at reclaiming desert areas and exploiting energy sources. Libya is a former Italian colony.

This is a turning point which should allow the start of correct relations, not only with us but with the whole of Europe, an Andreotti spokesman said.

Gaddafi has several reasons for wanting better western ties.

The huge supplies of arms he once got from Eastern Europe have dried up, and his Soviet military advisers have gone.

The sanctions imposed in 1986 by then-US President Ronald Reagan, who called Gaddafi the mad dog of the Middle East and severed diplomatic ties, are hurting Libya's oil industry, which accounts for 95 per cent of overseas earnings.

Gaddafi clearly wants to encourage Europe to boost investment in the Libyan economy, recently liberalised after widespread discontent at shortages in state-controlled shops.

US still world's biggest debtor state

WASHINGTON, June 10: The United States is still the world's biggest debtor nation, but it's not nearly as deep in the red as first thought, new figures released by the US Commerce Department on Sunday show, reports Reuter.

The figures, which attempt to value the United States' overseas assets at current prices rather than at the prices at which they were bought, show the United States anywhere from about 200 billion dollars to more than 380 billion dollars better off in 1989 than originally reported.

But the United States was still in the red that year, the latest for which statistics are available, by hundreds of billions of dollars.

Right-wing economists have long argued that the Commerce Department's old calculation of the United States' net international investment position painted an excessively gloomy picture.

That is because those calculations valued US overseas assets at the price at which they

Gold & Silver

Commodity	Price
Gold	6,000.00
Tejbat	6,000.00
Outsua	6,000.00
Silver	200.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Hides & Skin

Commodity	Price
Cow	10,000.00 - 12,000.00
Light	25,000.00 - 28,000.00
Medium	30,000.00 - 35,000.00
Heavy	40,000.00 - 45,000.00
Very heavy	50,000.00 - 55,000.00
Rejected	18,000.00 - 20,000.00
Goat	
Big & heavy	10,000.00 - 12,000.00
Light & Medium	5,000.00 - 5,200.00
Rejected	2,600.00 - 2,800.00
Sheep	8,000.00 - 8,200.00
Bullalo	55,000.00 - 56,000.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Exchange Rates

Commodity	Price
US Dollar	35.9226
UK Pound Sterling	59.9892
German Deutsche	20.2781
Mark	
French Franc	5.9961
Saudi Riyal	9.6101
Dutch Guilders	18.0018
Pakistan Rupee	1.4997
(AMU*)	
Singapore Dollar	20.1926
UAE Dirham	9.8141
Kuwait Dinar	Not available
Indian Rupee	1.7095
AMU	6.6398
*AMU-Asian Monetary Unit	5.5628

SELLING AND BUYING RATES, offered by Commercial Banks, for Bank Cheques (BC) and Overseas Drafts (OD)

One Unit of Foreign Currencies (FC) for Taka

FC	Selling	Buying
US Dollar	35.9226	35.4432
UK Pound Sterling	59.9892	59.2631
German Deutsche	20.2781	19.9962
Mark		
French Franc	5.9961	5.9042
Saudi Riyal	9.6101	9.4819
Dutch Guilders	18.0018	17.7527
Pakistan Rupee	1.4997	1.4854
(AMU*)		
Singapore Dollar	20.1926	19.9231
UAE Dirham	9.8141	9.6831
Kuwait Dinar	Not available	
Indian Rupee	1.7095	1.6990
AMU	6.6398	5.5628

SECONDARY EXCHANGE MARKET

Commodity	Price
US Dollar	36.48
UK Pound	60.94

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

Source: Sonali Bank

Snippets

US, Japan to lend \$750 m to Peru

LIMA, June 10: The United States and Japan will lend Peru a total of 750 million dollars to cover part of its outstanding debt with international lending institutions President Alberto Fujimori said yesterday, reports AFP.

Peru is 2.1 billion dollars in arrears to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the International Development Bank.

African, European FMs to meet in Tripoli

BENGAZI, June 10: Libya said Foreign Ministers of the Maghreb states would hold a meeting with four European Foreign Ministers in Tripoli, reports Reuter.

The Libyan news agency JANA said the Ministers would discuss political and economic issues of common interest and work on boosting cooperation between countries in the region.

Saudi rial deposit rates steady

NICOSIA, June 10: Saudi rial interbank rates were steady in a typically dull market with most operators sidelined due to the European weekend, reports Reuter.

Spot next and one week were quoted at 5/5/8, 3/8 p.c. One-month was put at 6-13/16, 11/16 three-months at 6-1/16, 15/16 and six-months at 6/3/8, 1/4.

Aid not on agenda of meeting with Gorbachev

TOKYO, June 10: British Prime Minister John Major told Japan that financial aid to the Soviet Union will not be on the agenda at a planned meeting between world leaders and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, officials said, reports Reuter.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu received a letter from Major on Thursday night which said Gorbachev will be invited to London to attend a meeting separate from the economic summit there in mid-July, Finance Minister Yutaro Hashimoto told a news conference.

The message in the letter was that financial aid to the Soviet Union will not be discussed in London, and the Soviets will not be a part to the summit, Hashimoto said.

Devaluation of Dinar ruled out

KUWAIT, June 10: Kuwait's Central Bank Governor ruled out a devaluation of the Dinar in remarks published on Friday despite the curtailment of oil revenue caused by Iraqi sabotage, reports Reuter.

Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al-Saud Al-Sabah's remarks appeared aimed at widespread speculation in the Gulf that the Dinar, the symbol of one of the wealthiest nations in the world, would have to be devalued because of the stoppage of oil exports.

The Governor acknowledged speculation that "the exchange rate of the Dinar will fall by a large percentage in the near future" but said "these expectations are built on an incorrect base."

Taiwan imports 9,919 kg gold

TAIPEI, June 10: Taiwan imported 9,919 kilograms (349,882.8 ounces) of gold in May, 56 per cent more than in April and much of it from the Soviet Union, the Finance Ministry said Saturday, reports AFP.

It said the Soviet Union — which has no formal relations with Taiwan — exported 1,000 kilograms (35,274 ounces) of gold to the island in May, compared with 486 kilograms (17,143.2 ounces) in January through April.

Gold bars accounted for 97 per cent of all May gold imports.

Local gold dealers said the Dragon Boat Festival, a major Chinese holiday which falls on June 15, was helping to boost buying interest.

Shares go on steady slide in Bombay

BOMBAY, June 10: Shares on Indian stock markets went on a steady slide in nervous trading this week with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) sensitivity index losing 59 points to close at 1,248 Friday, reports AFP.

The National Index shed 29 points to close at 620. Market analysts gave several reasons for the slide, agreeing that the major dampening impact came from the disclosure this week of India's decision to sell 20 tonnes of gold in Zurich to raise badly needed foreign exchange for debt-servicing payments.