# Non-residents allowed to invest in shares

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman said on Tuesday that under the new exchange control policy, non-residents including Bangladeshi ones, would be allowed to invest in shares through stock exchange and sale proceeds of such would be repatriable in free foreign exchange.

The Minister was briefing newsmen at his office at Shere-Banglanagar. He said shares will be issued in favour of nonresidents and they will be allowed to transfer shares without prior permission of Bangladesh Bank. Permission of the Comptroller of Capital Issue will be enough in this regard, he added.

The industrial units will now be allowed to borrow from abroad at interest rates even upto two per cent above LIBOR (London Inter Bank Rate) within the overall limit

#### **\$ 180m World** Bank loan for health care

WASHINGTON, June 11: The World Bank said on Monday that it approved a 180 million-dollar loan for Bangladesh to make contraceptives more available and to improve health care for mothers and small children, reports Reuter.

The low-cost loan, which carries no interest rate and is for 40 years, will help support a 601.4 million-dollar project by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning in Bangladesh.

"The objectives of the ... project are to reduce fertility. lower... mortality in children under five, improved maternal care to ensure safer deliveries...enhance the nutritional status of women and children and improve the effectiveness...of family planning and health services," the Bank said

Other contributors to the project include Canada, which is giving 40.3 million dollars, the European Community, 47. million dollars, Germany, 51.6 million dollars and Norway. 33.2 million dollars.

#### Thin trading at DSE

Star Economic Report Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) witnessed a thin trading on Tuesday.

Only 889 shares and debentures changed hands compared with Monday's 2,801. Traded issues valued Taka 75,735.00 against Monday's Taka 2,74,510.00.

Decliners were more in number. But advances involved more transactions in value terms. As a result DSE All Price, which is the indicator of price movements of all the listed stocks moved up to 291.6650 points from Monday's 291.6217.

Transactions involved thirteen stocks. Of them three gained, six lost and four remained unchanged at their previous quoted prices.

Quasem Silk , the lone traded debenture, advanced Taka 5.00 to Taka 1600.00.

Usmania Glass and Rupan Oil moved up Taka 1.00 and Taka 0.67 to Taka 133.00 and Taka 7.17 respectively.

Bangladesh Autocars, 4th ICB Mutual Fund, 6th ICB Mutual Fund. Bangladesh Thai Aluminium , Dhaka Vegetable and Tallu Spinning declined within the range between Taka 0.01 and Taka 1.00.

#### Quoted Prices of Traded Stocks

Coconut (Colombo) June -11 Vegetable Ghee SPICES 126.00 unchanged Cinnamon\* (10gms) B That Aluminium Cardamom\* (large) Jhira (50gms) 100/5 150.00 unchanged 10/100 7.17 (+0.67) MISCELLANEOUS 100/5 (113.00) 2000/1 1600.00 Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Star Economic Report

set by the Ministry of Finance, the Minister said.

UNB adds: Explaining relaxation in maintenance of foreign currency (FIC) accounts, the Minister said Bangladeshi wage earners who maintain non-resident FC accounts or education FC accounts would be allowed to retain the account initially for a period of five years from the date of their return horne instead of the exiting period of

Similarly, he maintained,

#### Banking holiday tomorrow

Star Economic Report

Bangladesh Bank announced on Tuesday that all transactions of scheduled banks and the central bank would remain closed on Thursday.

A press release issued by gladesh Bank said that the bank holiday would be on announced of the public holiday announced by the Government. The budget for 1991-92 will be presented by Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman to the Jatiya Sangsad 10-day (Wednesday).

Bangladeshis who work and earn abroad but do not maintain any non-resident FC account will also be allowed to open so within six months of

their return to the country. Bangladeshi residents who have been abroad will be allowed to open foreign currency account after their return with the amount brought in by them and would get interest in the rate determined by the Bangladesh Bank, he said. They will be allowed to transfer accounts whenever the desire.

Customs clearance would, however, be required while bringing more than 1,000 US

Limit of foreign exchange for private travel has also been raised from 1,200 US dollar to 1,500 dollar. In case of travel to SAARC countries, the limit has been extended to 400 dollar for travel by air and by land road to India, the limit has been refixed at 150 dollar.

Foreign companies will henceforth be allowed to remit their profit without prior permission of the Bangladesh Bank.

Also, prior permission of Bangladesh Bank will no longer be required for opening LC on FOB basis.

### Ban on wet-blue leather export likely to go

Star Economic Report

Minister for Industries Shamsul Islam Khan told the Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday that the Government was actively considering lifting of the ban

on export of wet-blue leather. Replying to a question, he said the decision about the matter would be announced before the coming Eid-ul-Azha.

Meanwhile, the Industries Minister in a written reply to question by Nurul Islam Moni informed the House that the number of approved industrial units, owned cent per cent by the foreign investors and also those set up under joint ventures, totalled 221. Of them fully foreign owned industrial units number 37 and the rest have been set up under joint ventures, he added.

The Minister said that foreign investors had set up 33 units with cent per cent equity in Chittagong Export Processing Zone. Joint venture

Price Barometer:

RICE

Paijam

Aman (Very fine)

VEGETABLES

Green Banana (Four Pieces)

OTHER FOODGRAIN

Potato(White)

Lady's finger

Lalshak

Wheat

FISH

Ruhi(big)

PULSES

Chhola

Khesari

MEAT

Beef

Mutton

Essentials

June - 11

(Taka per kg)

16.50-17.00

14.75-15.50

12.50-13.50

13.00-13.50

3.50-4.00

16.00-18.00

10.00-12.00

12.00-14.00

6.00-8.00

6.00-8.00

8.00-9.00

12.00-14.00

10.00-11.00

17.00-18.00

(Taka per kg)

140.00-160.00

100.00-110.00

110.00-130.00

85.00-100.00

100.00-120.00

100.00-130.00

30.00-32.00

26.00-28.00

28.00-30.00

22.00-24.00

26.00-28.00

16.00-18.00

55.00-60.00

80.00-90.00

52.00-56.00

36.00-37.00

70.00-74.00

50.00-52.00

15.00-16.00

40.00-48.00

60.00-70.00

46.00-52.00

46.00-52.00

16.00-20.00

24.00-28.00

3.00-3.50

7.00-

(Taka)

220.00-240.00

27.00-27.00

18.00-22.00

(Taka Per kg)

(Taka per kg)

(Taka per Litre)

(Taka per kg)

58.00-60.00

8,00-8.50

(Take per leg

(Taka per kg)

in Chittagong Export Processing Zone suffered a total of Taka 148.28 crore because of the recent cyclone.

units in the zone total 21, he

He told the House that the

foreign-owned industrial units

#### US bank reform plans under fire

WASHINGTON, June 11: An influential US Congressman has raised strong objections to proposals which would allow banks to offer securities and insurance products and also break down barriers between banking and commerce, reports Reuter.

John Dingell, D-Mih, who chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said the reforms could have adverse effects on the economy and the safety of banking system.

#### NGOs asked to take clearance before drug distribution

by Inam Ahmed

Government have ordered the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to take clearance from the Drug Administration Directorate before distributing medicines coming for the cyclone vic-

The decision was taken as drugs banned under the drug policy were found to be coming as part of aid from different countries.

Meanwhile, the medicine aid coming for government distribution is being sorted out at the health and central medical store for banned items.

The banned items will be later destroyed, government sources said.

Sources said the banned medicines which were spotted are Furazolin, Lemotil and Lurysal-Fortex. These items were sent from Pakistan and Thailand, they said. The first two medicines are for diarrheas. But these medicines have harmful effect. The last one is cough syrup.

Meanwhile, Drug Adm inistration sources said different NGOs are bringing medicines which are not pressingly necessary. Oral saline is one of those items. Sources said as the country can produce enough ORS to meet up demand, the money spent on the import of ORS could be used for bringing other emergency medicines.

#### China pressing ahead with reforms: WB

WASHINGTON, June 11 China is pressing ahead with needed financial and economic reforms, having stabilised the economy since it "heated up in 1988," a senior World Bank official said Monday, reports

Attila Karaosmanoglu, World Bank Vice-President for Asia, who has just completed a tour of China and Japan, told journalists that after "the Chinese economy heated up in 1988, in 1989 they (the Chinese) had to take certain measures which they did."

The country's exports increased and inflation came under control, said Mr. Karaosmanoglu. On the industrial front, the

Chinese authorities had ended the differentials between what are known as official prices, free market prices and negotiated prices for two key prod-



TIGRE (Ethiopia): Young children await food relief in a small village in the province of Tigre June 8. Emergency food relief is getting into parts of the country now that war has ended. United Nations report that 3 million Ethiopians are in danger of starving this year. -AFP photo

# Industrial sector loses Tk 1,335 cr due to cyclone

Star Economic Report

Total losses in the industries sector by the cyclone and tidal surge of April 29 stood at Taka 1334.76 crore. The amount included the losses of Taka 202.91 crore in the public sector industries and Taka 1334.76 crore of those in the private sector.

This was disclosed by Minister for Industries Shamsul Islam Khan in the Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday during the question hour.

Replying to a question by Nurul Islam Moni, the Minister said that 13 industrial units in the public sector and 5882 units (880 large and medium scale industrial units and 4942 small and cottage industries units) in the private sector suffered losses because of the cyclone and tidal surge.

Answering a supplementary question, Shamsul Islam Khan said that the Government received assurances from Saudi Arabia of a portion of the 106 million dollar Saudi grant for utilization for rehabilitation of the cyclone-damaged industrial units. Besides, discussions are being held with the World Bank and Japan for funding arrangements for rehabilitation of the damaged industries, he

The Minister told the House that most industries ucts - steel and cement - that suffered losses and dam- Taka 992 crore during the said Mr. Karaosmanoglu. | ages because of the cyclone same period, he added.

were operational. The rest of the units will soon resume production, he added. Replying to another ques-

tion by Sardar Saughawat Hossain (Bokul), the Minister said that the revised cost estimate for Jamuna fertiliser project was Taka 1223.29 crore and the project would be completed on schedule by December 1991. Answering a supplementary,

he said that the Jamuna fertiliser project would have a production capacity for 1000 ton per day. The Government has a proposal to raise the capacity to 1500 ton per day, he added. He told a questioner that the work for gas transmission line to the fertiliser project site was in progress and would be completed in time.

Shamsul Islam Khan told the House in reply to a question by Md Asaduzzaman that there were 41,449 workers on employment with different public sector industrial enterprises under ministry of industries, on an annual average rom March 24, 1982 to November 30, 1990. The related units sold their manufacgoods worth Taka 13,944.00 crore during the period under report. The expenditures on account of wages for the workers stood at

nation of Rajiv Gandhi have so

Exchange Rates

June - 11

SELLING AND BUYING RATES, offered by

Commercials Banks, for Bank Cheques, (BCs) and

Selling

35.9226

59.9892

20.2781

5.9861

9.6101

18.0018

1.4997

20.1926

9.8141

1.7095

6.6398

Buying

35.4432

59.2631

19.9962

5.9042

9.4819

1.4854

17.7527

19.9231

9.6831

1.6930

5.5628

Fund

Not available

One Unit of Foreign Currencies (FCs) for Take

far not been borne out.

Overseas Drafts (ODs)

UK Pound Sterling

German Deutsche

French Franc

**Dutch Guilders** 

Pakistan Rupee

Singapore Dollar

\*AMU-Asian Monetary Union

Wage Earners Fund/ Export

Performance Benefit

rates of New York market

Source: Sonali Bank

SECONDARY EXCHANGE MARKET

The rates of Pound Sterling are

decided every day, based on the cross-

Gold & Silver

June - 11

(Taka for 11.66 grams)

6,000.00

6,300.00

Saudi Riyal

**UAE** Dirham

Kuwait Dinar

Indian Rupee

S. Kroner

US Dollar

**UK Pound** 

Gutnea

US Dollar

#### ILO confce to talk employment generation

Star Economic Report

The on going 78th International Labour Conference in Geneva will discuss the application of modern agricultural technology and new methods of biogenetics which, according to an ILO report, hold a promise of easing poverty, improving incomes and stimulating employment. A press release issued by

the ILO office in Dhaka said, the Conference will also consider suitable measures to take, at national and international levels, to maximise the employment possibilities offered by these new technologies and to minimise the dangers that they entail, particularly for workers' health. Biogenetic manipulation could improve agricultural yields, thus helping to feed millions more, without adding to social inequalities or harming the · regard to whether to cut the environment. The Conference will further

consider and monitor the application of ILO Conventions and Recommendations - giving special attention, this time, to standards on human resource development and paid educational leave.

Priority areas for ILO action set out in the 1992-93 programme are defence of human rights and application of international labour standards. equality between men and women at work, employment promotion, improvement of conditions of life and work in the rural and informal sectors. and protection of the environment.

#### Oil demand will rise, says Subroto

SALAMANCA (Spain). June 11: OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said on Monday he was optimistic demand for oil would revive and prices would head towards the organisation's 21-dollar reference price towards the end of the year, reports Reuter. Predicting an oil price up-

turn in the third quarter, he said OPEC had prepared a mechanism to ensure Iraqi and Kuwaiti exports do not flood the market once they resume sales curtailed by the Gulf cri-"Once their combined ex-

ports reach the equivalent of the expected increase in demand for OPEC oil, we would call a meeting to decide action," Subroto told Reuter. He said Kuwait and Iraq had

agreed to notify the OPEC Secretariat, and thereby member countries, once they intended to resume substantial sales.

#### Raw Jute

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

White Tossa Meshta Medium 1313 1420 1125 1098 1367 Bot. (C) 1125 1206 1045 FOB = Freight on board Bot. = Bottom

(Ready)\*

(Sight) \*\*

	2.1 (C. 2.2.)	
Bangla	Tk. per	\$ per
White	bale*	MT*
BW SPL.	3350	555
BWA '	3250	530
BWB	3100	480
BWC	2700	430
BWD	2400	380
BWE	2000	350
Bangla Tossa	8	
BT SPL.	3400	565
BTA	3350	540
BTB	3200	490
BIC	2750	440
BID	2450	390
BTE	2100	360
White Reje	ction (WRS	1/

#### Hides & Skin (Wet/Salted)

June - 11

10,000.00 — 12,000.00 25,000.00 - 28,000.00

- 8,200.00 KGs.) Source : Bangladesh Jute Association -- 56,000.00

#### June - 11 eign banks would eliminate Bot.\* (B) 1259 short-term credit lines to'In-Bot. (X) 991 dia after last month's assassi-

Pucca bales FOB

Varieties

Tossa Rejection (TRS) Habijabi, Cut Ropes

1600 SPL Cuttings 1000 Ord. Cuttings 900 SMR

(Taka per100 pieces)

30,000.00 - 35,000.00 40,000.00 - 45,000.00 Very heavy 50,000.00 - 55,000.00. 18,000.00 - 20,000.00 Rejected 10,000.00 - 12,006:00 Light & Medium 5,000.00 - 5,200.00 Rejected 2,600.00 8,000.00

55,000.00

# BWR 1700

295 175 200 FOB ready = Narayanganj

\*\* FOB sight = Chittagong/ Mongla Ports. Indicative Price at wihch sales may be considered for EPC registration. The \$ prices are exclusive of any selling commision. O. D. (Sight nontraditional/applicable to export bills). One \$ =

Tk. 35.4956) • MT = Metric Ton Imports/arrivals of Kutcha bales at Narayangani were five to six thousand mounds while at Daulatpur at four to five thousands mounds. (One manund is equal to 37.32417

# Snippets

Aquino may veto debt ceiling provision

MANILA, June 11: The Philippines will try to all pos-sible concerns by its official and commercial creditors over a proposed ceiling on foreign debt in talks with them next week, Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia said, reports Reuter.

The Congress passed on Thursday the 1991 National Budget, which included a provision for a ceiling on debt payments equivalent to 20 pct of export earning in 1989. Aquino has said she would veto the provision.

Japan's monetary policy at delicate stage

TOKYO, June -11: Japan's monetary policy is now at a delicate stage, especially with official discount rate, a top Japanese businessman said reports Reuter.

Because there are still some rubles, or inflated asset prices, in the economy, "we are not in a situation where we can see a rate cut today or tomorrow, Gaishi Hiraiwa, Chairman of the Japan Federation of Economic Organisations (Keidanren), told reporters. Japan's discount rate, now at six pct, has not been changed since August, 1990.

#### IDB seeks to boost exports among states ABU DHABI, June 11: The

Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is seeking to boost the exports of its 44 members by guaranteeing export credits, its Chairman said here yesterday, reports AFP. "We have prepared a plan to

guarantee export credits among Islamic countries, Ahmed Mohammad Ali told the official news agency WAM during a visit to the United Arab Emirates. He said it would be dis-

cussed by finance ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) at a meeting in Istanbul in October.

#### EC bid to block money 'laundering'

LUXEMBURG, June 11: **European Community Finance** Ministers yesterday adopted a series of measures to block the "laundering" of illicitly-acquired money in the single European market from 1993, diplomatic sources said, reports AFP.

The directive, which has the force of a European law, requires banks to ask the identity of any new client, and of anyone who is not a regular client carrying out an operation involving more than 15,000 European Currency Units (ECU), 17,000 dollars.

#### G-7 officials discuss meeting with Gorbachev

LONDON, June 11: Officials from the Group-of-Seven (G-7) industrialised nations met in Britain over the weekend to discuss arrangements for the G-7 summit and an associated meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, reports Reuter.

British Government officials said the so-called "Sherpas" meeting discussed the mechanics of the July 15 to 17 summit in London. The Finance Ministry and other of ficials had now returned to brief their respective governments on the summit planning and proposals to invite Gorbachev to London.

#### Inflation under control in Indonesia

JAKARTA, June 11: Inflation will not rise as a result of next month's salary rise for Indonesia's civil servants, Finance Minister Johannes Sumarlin said, reports Reuter.

"The government expects inflation will remain at an acceptable level of below double digits in the 1991/92 financial year (which started in April)," he said.

Analysts have expressed concern the 15 pct wage increase for government workers from July could aggravate inflation, currently running at an annual nine pet.

#### Zurich gold ends at highest level

ZURICH, June 11: Gold surged five dlrs, propelled by Middle East and technical buying, to close at its highest level since January 29, reports Reuter.

The metal finished at 371.90/372.40 dirs an ounce, up from Friday's closing 366.90/367.40. "The conditions are very

good for a moderate gold rally. People are having to buy to cover short positions, there is good technical support and we're seeing renewed interest in the Middle East," said one trader at a medium-sized Swiss Bank.

#### Dhaka Stock Exchange Market Profile June - 11

134 Listed stocks · 3 Gains 6 Losers 125 Unchanged

125 Unchanged stocks include four traded on the day at their previous quoted prices. DSE All Share Price Index = 291.6650 Issued Capital=Taka 10,146,289,601.00 Market Capitalisation = 8,334,403,008

Turnover = Taka 75,735.00 (Value) 889(Volume).

# Riyadh to borrow \$2.5 b from banks

RIYADH, June 11: Saudi Arabia is seeking a loan from local banks. Finance Minister Mohammad Abalkhalil said in a report published Monday, with informed sources putting the amount to be borrowed at 2.5 billion Dollars, reports AFP.

But Abalkhalil played down the extent of financial difficulties the country faced as a result of the Gulf war. Saudi Arabia, during the

conflict turned to the interna-

tional financial market for similar infusions of funds. Quoted by the Saudi Arabian Daily Asharq Al-Awast, Abalkhalil said seeking national loans was "a common prac-

tice." The effects of the Gulf crisis on the investment sector in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were now under control and confidence had

slowly returned, he stressed. Abalkhalil said renewed confidence could be seen in "requests for investment authorisation and the flow of money in the banks which has overtaken the rate of last Au-

He was referring August 2, when Iraq invaded Kuwait,

prompting Arab and western businessmen and bankers to transfer their capital out of the

region. In May, banking sources in London said Riyadh had signed on with a group of 20 international banks for a loan worth

4.5 billion Dollars. Despite its increased oil production to fill the gap created by the halt in Kuwait and Iraqi exports, Saudi Arabia faces major financial needs. notably in light of the war effort and its promise to pay the United States 13.5 billion Dollars towards defraying military

deployment costs. The Saudi government in December decided to suspend the state budget for the fiscal

Abalkhalil said the crisis had hastened the need for the creation of a common market in the Gulf, adding that the GCC countries "had similar

year 1991 because of the Gulf

economies and can attain this goal." The economies of the GCC states - grouping Saudi Arabia. Kuwait, the United Arab Emi-

rates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain,

## India faces serious economic crisis

WASHINGTON, June 11: India is facing "one of its most serious crisis of recent times" as it struggles to fill a large financing gap and keep payments on foreign debt up to date, a senior World Bank official said on Monday, reports Reuter.

"Although India (has).... up until now managed to meet its external obligations....there is very major pressures on its balance of payments," World Bank Vice President Attila Karaosmanoglu told a news conference. He said the country is fac-

ing difficulties raising funds from abroad after its credit rating was downgraded by US ratings agencies. India has vowed not to

rescheduled its 70 billion dollars in foreign debt but diplomats and analysts said it will be hard-pressed in the next few months to come up with enough cash to make good on

that pledge. Fears that expatriate Indians would pull their money from the country and that for-



Mohammad Faizullah, Additional Secretary in Charge of Ministry of Social Welfare and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Agrani Bank signing the Balance Sheet of the Bank for the year 1990 after approval of the same by the Board in its meeting held on Sunday. Ghulam Mohammad, Managing Director (Current Charge) of the Bank is on his right.