

Prices of essentials fluctuate

Star Economic Report
Prices of essentials in the city markets on Friday fluctuating trend. Some commodities registered a sharp rise in price while prices of others slightly went down.

Most of the spices showed no change in prices. Onion sells at Taka 15. Previously the price was Taka one higher. Garlic price remained unchanged at Taka 42. Ginger price also did not vary. It was selling at Taka 16.

However, prices of soyabean went down by Taka two per kg. It sells at Taka 36. Sugar price also remained unchanged.

On the other hand, powder milk became dearer this week. Retailers said the price of a large tin of powder milk rose by Taka five. A large tin of Dano milk was selling at Taka 265. Price of Red Cow was also the same. Other brands of powder milk also showed similar upward trend.

In the vegetable market, prices were also fluctuating. Prices of cucumber and brinjal was higher. Cucumber sells at Taka 10 a kg. Previously the price was Taka eight. Brinjal sells at Taka 10. The earlier price was Taka eight. Other vegetables like patal, karala, barbati and new potato showed fall in prices by two to four Takas.

However, the fish market was still high. Supply of fish was sufficient in the market, the retailers said. But prices of fishes were about 10 to 20 per cent higher than last week.

Japanese business confidence suffers further setback

TOKYO, Sept 6: Japanese business confidence suffered further setbacks in the three months to August although the outlook is still relatively favourable, the bank of Japan said Friday, reports AFP.

The central bank said the diffusion index for major manufacturers in its quarterly short-term economic survey of enterprises fell from 36 points in May to 27 points in August, below the expected figure of 30 points.

The index, which lists the percentage of respondents with a favourable outlook minus those with unfavourable forecasts, also fell for small to medium-size manufacturers

Good administrator must be a good decision-maker

By Shahabuddin Mahtab

If the work of a senior administrator or a mid-level executive is analysed we will find that an administrator is constantly faced with problems, for which he has to find a solution. In other words, the work of an executive consists in problem solving. The two connotations, decision making and problem solving, are complementary.

The first and the most important aspect of decision making is the identification and recognition of the problem clearly. This identification can be compared to a diagnosis by a physician. Once the healer is able to find out the exact nature of the ailment, his treatment becomes meaningful.

Concurrently with the identification of the problem we must have the objective

before us. All decisions have to be related to the objective in mind. If the objectives are changed, the decisions are also required to be altered.

Once the problem is identified, the next step is to collect all relevant information and to obtain advice from others, if necessary. A trained administrator must have the capability of deciphering the information that is made available to him.

Once the relevant information has been obtained by the administrator, he should be able to formulate the various alternative solutions to the problems in hand. He has then to measure both qualitatively and quantitatively, the merits of each solution. He has to take into consideration the possible consequences of his particular

decision. Once decision has been taken, the next would be its firm implementation. If an executive hesitates at this stage, the very success of his decision will be at stake, and he would not be able to inspire the confidence of his subordinates.

Now we may look for the qualities of a good administrator. He must be a good decision-maker, and should have the ability to find out solutions to difficult problems. In one of his talks, Shaful Azam defined a good administrator, as the one who has 'the ability to look at problems with a view to a constructive solution'. Azam further elaborated his point by saying that all decision made by an executive officer of the government relate either to

human beings or to government resources, such as land, machineries, buildings, etc. In either of the two cases, the welfare of the society is dependent on the good decisions of an administrator.

Another trait, if not the primary one of an administrator, is decisiveness. In many cases, it has been that many brilliant students have failed to make their grad in life because decisiveness was lacking in their character and career.

A bad decision maker always tries to 'Pass the Buck', or in other words, passes the 'wet babies' to others. There was a saying on the table of President John F. Kennedy which stated 'the buck stops here'.

A government officer may

end his service career by taking too few decisions. He may either kick the problem upward, or send back the problem below. This is done only at the expense of foregoing all the good qualities the constitute an able man and a good administrator. According to Chester I Barnard, 'the making of decisions, as everyone knows from personal experience, is a burdensome task, offsetting the exhilaration that may result in correct and successful decision, and the relief that follows the terminating of a struggle to determine issues is the depression that comes from failure or error of decision and the frustration which ensues from uncertainty'.

Unhappily, what Barnard has said applies very much to the situation in Bangladesh.

The uncertainties are so great that a civil servant feels shaky to take a decision. We may however add here that if one believes in real living and his own capacity as a good human being, it will be in his own interest to take decisions to the best of his abilities. The rest may be left to the dispensation of the Almighty Allah. In this connection, we may go through Hazrat Ali's (Ri) classic letter addressed to Malik Ashtar, the Governor-designate of Egypt.

The government servant is expected not only to take good decisions but also timely ones. Failure to do either of these often results in public sufferings. A feeble minded administrator has no place in a poor country like ours.

US company to pay \$190 m civil claims

WASHINGTON, Sept 6: Unisys Corp. agreed to plead guilty to criminal charges for its involvement in defense fraud and pay as much as 190 million Dollars in civil claims, sources involved with the case say, reports AP.

An Attorney representing Unisys planned to appear in Federal court in Alexandria, VA, Friday to enter the guilty plea on behalf of the nation's third-largest computer manufacturer.

Under the settlement, the company agree to pay as much as 190 million Dollars following nearly two years of negotiations with the Justice Department, said government and private sources, who spoke Thursday on condition of anonymity.

As part of the deal, Unisys will accept criminal responsibility for its role in the massive Pentagon procurement scandal that has resulted in convictions of more than 40 defense consultants, businessmen and government officials.

The deal is subject to the approval by U S District Judge Claude M Hilton, who was hearing the case. Five defense contractors have pleaded guilty to a variety of criminal charges stemming from their efforts to illegally obtain confidential bid information submitted to the Pentagon by competitors.

Defense subsidiaries of Unisys, which was formed by the 1986 takeover of Sperry Corp a major part in the scandal.

More than dozen former Unisys executives or consultants have pleaded guilty to various charges and are cooperating with the slush fund to bribe government officials and make illegal campaign contributions.

Among other things, Gardner admitted arranging for Unisys to purchase at an inflated price the resort condominium of Melvyn Paisley, an assista retary.

Paisley plead guilty to bribery charges in June, admitting that he helped manipulate one bidding competition to help Sperry obtain a share of a lucrative weapons contract.

When Paisley left the Pentagon in 1987, Unisys hired him as a consultant and within a month paid him.

A total of 20 persons were killed and 243 others injured in different accidents in the Ghorasal Urea Fertilizer Factory (GUFF) during the last 20 years, according to statistics presented at a seminar in Dhaka on Friday, reports BSS.

A General Manager of the GUFF Taibur Rahman in his paper on 'sources of hazards in urea fertilizer plants and their prevention' said one person was killed in 1972, five in 1974, one in 1990 and 11 were killed in the latest accident on June 20 this year.

He said, a number of accidents of varying intensity occurred in his factory every year which were more or less common in other factories also. But, he said, the two massive accidents in 1974 and 1991 in GUFF were due to faulty manufacturing design of the plant.

Quoting the investigation committee report published earlier, he said the accident this year occurred due to faulty manufacturing design and the use of sub-standard materials and equipment by the Japanese contractor. These materials and equipment were manufactured by a non-enlisted Italian firm. This accident killed 11 persons, injured 36 others and caused loss of Taka 250 crore, he said.

Jointly sponsored by the Institute of Chemists and Chemical Technologists (ICCT) and German Cultural Centre the three-day seminar on 'Safety in chemical industries and environmental prevention' began Thursday. The second

20 killed in Ghorasal urea plant in 20 years

Faulty design, sub-standard equipment cause of accidents

technical session of the seminar Friday was presided over by the Chairman of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) Dr Waliurrahman.

BCSIR Member Dr M Eusuf, Managing Director of Chittagong TSP Complex Jamil Islam, and Prof. K. Ikhtiyar Omar of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) also presented papers at this session.

Taibur Rahman said an accident occurred in the GUFF in 1990 causing fire in the natural gas condensate due to lack of coordination and the language problem of the Chinese contractor.

He said in 1985 the carbondioxide feed line in the urea reactor of Fenchuganj Fertilizer Factory was blown up by an explosion due to lack of preventive maintenance.

All the speakers in the seminar suggested creation of awareness for necessary safety and preventive measures and their effective implementation to ensure safety and security of the personal involved and properties and protection of environment of the plant areas. They observed that idle, old

and trouble-making persons were transferred to the safety and fire sections where they showed minimum interest to learn and follow the rules and regulations.

Managing Director of Chittagong TSP Complex Jamil Islam said phospho gypsum, a waste of the plant, now turned out to be a resource as it is used by the farmers to make up deficiency of phosphorus in the soil.

He said last year they suffered a loss of Taka 16 crore by selling fertilizers, but earned Taka nine crore selling 1.05 lakh tons of phospho gypsum. He hoped that this year 1.5 lakh tons of phospho gypsum would be sold, still having a back log of about 7 lakh tons.

He said though it was essential to wear safety shoes in the plants the workers did not follow it instead they preferred to take the cost of the shoes in cash. Similarly, it was forbidden to use synthetic clothes inside the plants, but the workers prefer them due to high cost which was borne by the company.

Dr M Yusuf of BCSIR said, we are in a vicious circle of

poverty, and pollution and to come out of it industrialisation is a must. He said energy was the primary requisite for industrial growth, but 76 per cent of industrial energy in Bangladesh came from biomass leading to deforestation and depletion of biomass.

He suggested stoppage of this trend through increased efficiency and resource recycling.

Prof Ikhtiyar Omar said since industries in Bangladesh were all the primary, stage the policy for adoption of affluent standards should be lenient in keeping with Bangladesh situation.

He suggested reduction of the size of the National Environment Advisory Board and inclusion of government, non-government and private representatives working in this field.

He said in the industrial strategy so far efforts had been made to harvest from the environment without transformation or altering its carrying capacity. This constrained the resource base, he added.

Prof Omar said Bangladesh should avoid import of waste generating industries and look into environmental aspects at the design stage of a plant.



Italian Minister for Foreign Trade and Commerce Dott. Vito Lattanzia having talks with Bangladesh Ambassador in Rome Waliur Rahman at a dinner recently.

6 joint venture projects with Italy under study

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Six joint venture projects between private entrepreneurs of Bangladesh and Italy are now under active consideration of the two governments.

Informed sources say trade relations between the two countries have expanded over the years. In March last year, three agreements on Technical Cooperation, Avoidance of Double Taxation and Investment Guarantee were signed between Bangladesh and Italy. A cultural agreement will also be signed shortly.

In 1987, Bangladesh's export to Italy was US \$70 million. In three years' time, it increased to about US \$170 million in 1990. This year the export figure could be as high as US \$200 million.

Major items of export from Bangladesh to Italy are hides and skins, frozenfish, garments and specialised textile products, handicrafts, silk and jute products. Bangladesh imports from Italy mainly machineries and spares, electrical and telecommunication equipment, pharmaceutical and chemical products and automobiles and spares.

Italy has so far pledge economic assistance to Bangladesh to the tune of US \$91 million. After the floods in 1987 and 1988, Italy provided 150 motor cycles, 15 ambulances and other relief materials like cranes and Bailey bridges etc. The work for Dinaipur-Panchagar road for which US \$30 million was provided as post flood rehabilitation grant will commence soon.

Last year Italy for the first time provided substantial amount of food aid grant outside bilateral assistance programme and this food aid grant is going to be increased this year, the sources said. After the restoration of a truly democratic government in Bangladesh under the lead-

ership of Begum Khaleda Zia, Italy has become full member of Aid to Bangladesh Consortium Club from this year.

The multilateral aspect of the functions and responsibilities of the Bangladesh Embassy in Italy relate to representations, reporting and negotiations in respect of four UN Food and Agricultural Organisations in Rome. Since the membership of FAO in 1974, Bangladesh received assistance in the form of emergency relief, technical assistance and investment promotion. So far Bangladesh received FAO assistance for more than 80 projects financed under Trust Fund as well as FAO Technical Cooperation Programme.

Bangladesh has been a major beneficiary of the World Food Programme for the Food for Works Programme and the Vulnerable Group Development projects.

Bangladesh's Ambassador to Italy Waliur Rahman had been to Chairman of the Governing Body of the WFP during 1987-88.

Bangladesh enjoys highest priority in the International Fund for Agricultural Development IFAD's lending programme. Till date, Bangladesh received IFAD's highly concessional loan for 10 projects of an amount of about US \$200 million. Another Special Assistance Programme for post cyclone rehabilitation for an amount of 15 million dollar has been pledged by IFAD.

In the frame work of ever increasing economic trade and commercial relationship between Italy and Bangladesh, the potential for increasing the two way traffic between Italy and Bangladesh is unlimited, the sources said.

Japanese co. to develop oilfield in Iran

TOKYO, Sept 6: The state-owned Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. (JPEC) said Friday it had agreed with National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC) to explore and develop an oilfield off the northern coast of the strait of Hormuz.

The Japanese company, 64 per cent owned by the Government, is to invest 100 million Dollars initially to explore the area around April 1992 and hopes to start commercial production as early as 1997, JPEC officials said.

It is the first joint oil project between Iran and foreign firm since the Iranian revolution in 1979.

Hatchery gets recognition as industry

The Government has recognised 'hatchery and pisciculture' as an industry, an official handout said Thursday night, reports BSS.

The Government has also taken measures to include it from now on under 'hatchery and pisciculture' sub-sector in the investment schedule, the handout said.

Market Prices of Listed Shares and Debentures with Dhaka Stock Exchange

At the close of trading on August 29 and September 5, 1991.

Table with multiple columns: Company, EV/ML, August 29, September 5, High, Low. Rows include BANKS, INVESTMENT, INSURANCE, ENGINEERING, MISCELLANEOUS, PAPER & PRINTING, SERVICE, TEXTILE, MISCELLANEOUS (Foreign), and FUEL & POWER.

Sales-Purchase-Tender & Employment News

- Employment: 1) The Advertiser, GPO, Box No 3597, Dhaka requires (a) 'PAPS' to Managing Director... 2) Dhaka University invites applications for the post of UD Assistant... Tender: 1) Amin Jute Mills Ltd. Solahshahar, Chittagong invites sealed tenders for purchase of (1) Hard and accessories... 2) Printing and Stationary articles... 3) Executive Engineer, Dhaka University invites sealed tenders in Dhaka University for supply of packing boxes... 4) Bowe Jute Mills Ltd. Madanganj, Narayanganj invites sealed tenders for purchase of (1) Hard and accessories... 5) Executive Engineer, Chittagong 0 8M Division-1 BWDB, Chittagong invites applications for 'A' class contractor of BWDB for pre-qualification of contractor for protective work by stone on both bank of Sangu river... 6) Superintending Engineer, Chittagong University invites sealed tenders from A & B category enlisted contractor of this University, Govt, Semi-Govt and other autonomous Organisation for 1st phase work of hill cutting, construction of drain and road work from turning of Shamsun Nahar (Now) Hill to South East residential quarter and construction of water tank on the roof slab of six blocks of Suhrawardy Hall.