

Dhaka to attend ESCAP meeting in Beijing

Bangladesh will participate in the inter-governmental meeting on "Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific" due to be held in Beijing from December 10-16. Foreign Office sources said Tuesday, reports UNB.

Director General (Economic Affairs) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury will attend the meeting being hosted by China in collaboration with ESCAP.

The meeting is expected to recommend measures to further strengthen cooperation among ESCAP countries.

Price Barometer Essentials

December-3

RICE (Taka per kg)	
Amuline	14.00-15.50
Pajon	12.50-13.50
Ufah	13.00-14.00
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)	
Potato(New)	11.00-13.00
Brinjal	8.00-9.00
Peas	8.00-9.00
Karola	15.00-16.00
Lakshad	4.00-5.00
Pyga	5.00-6.00
Green Beans (Four Pieces)	5.00-6.00
OTHER FOODGRAIN (Taka per kg)	
Flour	12.50-13.00
Ata	11.00-11.50
Wheat	8.50-9.00
Suzi	16.00-18.00
FISH (Taka per kg)	
Kuli(big)	100.00-110.00
Kuli(small)	60.00-65.00
Hilsa	24.00-25.00
Pangas	80.00-90.00
Shrimp(big)	60.00-65.00
Singi	60.00-65.00
Koi	60.00-65.00
EGG (Apcon)	
Hen	10.00-10.50
Duck	9.00-9.50
Fim	12.00-12.50
PULSES (Taka per kg)	
Mash	27.00-28.00
Mashur	28.00-30.00
Moogh	20.00-30.00
Chholo	23.00-24.00
Matar	24.00-25.00
Chana	14.00-15.00
Oil (Taka per Litre)	
Mustard	52.00-54.00
Soybean	36.00-37.00
Coconut (Colombo)	75.00-80.00
Vegetable Ghee	45.00-54.00
SPICES (Taka Per kg)	
Onion	18.00-19.00
Garlic	44.00-48.00
Chillies	80.00-85.00
Tumeric(Round)	58.00-60.00
(Long)	60.00-62.00
Green chillies	25.00-30.00
Cumin* (10gms)	10.00-12.00
Cardamom* (large)	3.00-4.50
Jhin (50gms)	7.00-7.50
MILK (Two Ltrs)	
Duo	266.00-267.00
Red-Cow	265.00-266.00
Elden	257.00-258.00
MISCELLANEOUS (Taka)	
Che	220.00-240.00
Salt	7.00-8.00
Sugar	26.50-27.00
Molasses	15.00-16.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Smuggling hits local industry
Sugar sector loses Tk 5 cr

Star Economic Report

Country's sugar sector suffered Tk five crore loss in fiscal 1990-91 as a substantial volume of the output could not be disposed of although the demand was higher than the production.

About 52,000 tons out of a total production of 2.46 lakh tons sugar, a bumper output, was left unsold although the demand stood at three lakh tons in the period.

The volume remained unsold mainly due to cross-border smuggling of low priced sugar in the country, sources said.

Although the lion's share of the smuggled sugar came from India but Burma has become a new source of smuggled sugar recently, sources added.

Smuggled sugar sold at Taka 22 a kg while the locally produced sugar at Taka 25 a kg. The smuggled sugar was cheaper because it did not have to incur tax while there was a duty of Taka 2420 on each ton of local sugar.

The smuggled sugar is cheap also because the production process in India was less expensive than in Bangladesh, sources said. Another reason for low cost was because of lower price of sugar in India. A ton of

Sugarcane in India costs Bangladesh equivalent of Taka 18 to Taka 20 a ton while the present price of sugarcane in Bangladesh is Taka 37.50 a ton. The price may go upto Taka 40 a ton by the end of the

crushing season. Sources said the selling price of local sugar does not also conform with the production cost. The current price of local sugar falls below the production cost.

The sources observed that losses of the country's 16 sugar producing units might further go up during the current fiscal year if measures were not taken to check the smuggling.



Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan speaking to the leaders of Bangladesh Sugar Mills Workers Federation at the ministry Tuesday. Chairman of BSFIC Mr Wasseq Al-Azad was present.

Hides & Skin

(Wet/Salted)

December-3

(Taka per 100 pieces)

Cow	15,000.00	30,000.00
Light	50,000.00	57,000.00
Medium	58,000.00	65,000.00
Heavy	68,000.00	75,000.00
Very heavy	75,000.00	80,000.00
Rejected	22,000.00	25,000.00
Goat		
Big & heavy	8,500.00	9,800.00
Light & Medium	5,500.00	7,500.00
Sheep	3,000.00	4,000.00
Rejected	8,500.00	8,500.00
Buffalo	54,000.00	60,000.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Gold & Silver

December-3

Gold (Taka for 11.66 grams)	
24K	6,100.00
22K	200.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Raise sugar output, urges Minister

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan Tuesday urged the leaders of the Sugar Mills Labour Federation to help establish a dynamic economy through increased production and minimizing the wastage in the sugar sector, reports BSS.

He was addressing a meeting of the Sugar Mills Labour Federation held at the conference room of the Industries Ministry in Dhaka.

The minister stressed the need for timely movement of sugarcane to the mills, strict supervision for gearing up production and increasing the recovery rate through joint efforts of the managements and the workers.

He expressed the hope that both managements and workers would play a positive role in making the sector a profitable one.

France rail plans 4800 staff cut

PARIS, Dec 3: France's state railroad system SNCF, reeling from sinking traffic and a multimillion dollar deficit, announced Monday it would reduce its workforce by 4,800 workers next year, reports AP.

The streaming will be achieved by the retirement of 7,800 workers and the hiring of only 3,000, so none of its staff will actually be fired, according to the newspaper Le Parisien.

The reduction would leave the rail monopoly with 194,000 employees. SNCF predicts a deficit of 778 million francs (dfrs 141 million) next year.

Passengers are choosing other transportation than trains, and lingering effects of the Gulf War — a reduction of holiday travel — are still being felt.

Travel stagnated at 64.5 billion passenger-kilometers in 1989 and 1990.

Self-employment training for women to continue

JIRABO, (Savar), Dec 3: The government will continue appropriate training programmes for the destitute and landless women for self employment generation, reports BSS.

This was stated by State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Mrs Sarwari Rahman at a certificate awarding ceremony at the Agriculture Training Centre for Women here on Monday.

Women's Affairs Department and Organisation for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA), Japan jointly organised the training programme.

Rural Women of different ages were imparted training on poultry farming, fishing, horticulture, livestock, kitchen gardening and other agricultural activities with emphasis on timely application of bio-fertilizer instead of chemicals in the cultivable land for protecting land fertility.

The state minister said the present democratic government was firm to evaluate women's activities and make them self-reliant.

Mrs Rahman called upon the women participants who have completed their month-long training course to use their knowledge and expertise for the welfare of their fellow women.

The meeting was addressed by the Secretary of Women's Affairs Ministry Mr Khondaker Moazzem Uddin Hossain, Executive Director of Swanirvar Bangladesh Mr ABMG Kibria, Director of Women's Affairs Department Mrs Gul Afroz Mahbub, Project Director of OISCA Mr Okamura and Additional Director (Agriculture) of the department Dr Nizam Uddin Al-Hossain.

The state minister later distributed certificates among 25 women trainees.

Mrs Rahman also visited different units of the training centre and activities of agricultural programmes for rural women at Jirabo.

Seminar on DFIs Dec 18-20

By Staff Correspondent

A national seminar titled "Development Financing Institutions (DFIs) of Bangladesh: Policy, Performance, Problems and Prospects" will be held at the Goethe-Institut, Road No-2, Dhanmondi from December 18 through December 20.

The seminar, sponsored by Goethe-Institut, Dhaka, will be organised by the Humboldt Club of Bangladesh, Alumni Association of German Universities in Bangladesh and Carl-Duisberg Samity.

Appeal to stop salt import

CHITTAGONG, Dec 3: Three MPs at a joint press conference Tuesday urged the government to stop the import of salt under Open General Licence (OGL), reports BSS.

They demanded formation of a national salt policy and national salt board.

Mushtaque Ahmed of Awami League from Cox's Bazar Sadar, Mohammad Ishaque of Awami League from Moheskhal-Kutubdia, and Enamul Haq Manju of Jamaat-e-Islami from Chakaria on behalf of the Sarbadaliya Laban Sangram Committee along with MS Jainul Abedin, Coordinator of the committee, addressed the press conference at the Press Club.

Salt producers have been disappointed on the government's decision to import the salt when salt producing season has already started, they said.

Salt producers will be discouraged and five lakh people will also be thrown out of employment and the government incurs a loss of Taka 200 crore by importing salt, they said.

They put forward a seven point-demand which include, immediate reconstruction of coastal embankment, construction of four crossdams on the river Matamohori to facilitate irrigation of about 60,000 acres of land and restoration of

previous rates of salt bed revenue.

They cautioned that if their demands were not fulfilled within the stipulated time, they would go for further movement, which include rally, demonstration and strike on December 5 and a 24-hour hartal in the district on December 9.

Exchange Rates

December-3

SELLING AND BUYING RATES, offered by Commercial Banks, for Bank Cheques, (B/C) and Cheques (C/C) (Dhs)

One Unit of Foreign Currencies (FC) for Taka

FC	Selling	Buying
US Dollar	36.2226	37.7294
UK Pound Sterling	67.7220	66.7798
German Deutsche Mark	6.9489	23.4126
French Franc	6.9489	6.8585
Saudi Riyal	10.2254	10.0925
Dutch Guilder	21.0651	20.7795
Pakistan Rupee (AMU*)	1.5412	1.5284
Singapore Dollar (AMU*)	23.1358	22.8572
UAE Dirham	10.4425	10.3077
AMU	Not available	Not available
Indian Rupee	1.4716	1.4576
S. Kroner	6.4817	6.3959

*AMU-Asian Monetary Unit

Wage Earners Fund/Export Performance Benefit (KFB) Fund

US Dollar	36.60	36.65
UK Pound	66.46	66.51
Saudi Riyal	10.33	10.38
UAE Dirham	10.55	10.60

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

Source: Saudi Bank

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Name of Vessels	Berthed	ETA	Berth No	L Port	L Agent
Al Swamruz	26/11	05/12	J/1	Hong	ASSL
B Kiron	01/12	06/12	J/2	NA	NA
B Baari	01/12	09/12	J/3	NA	NA
Banglar Sampad	01/12	05/12	J/4	NA	BDSHIP
NGS Ranger	30/11	03/12	J/5	Singapore	BDSHIP
Golden Lake	29/11	04/12	J/6	Hongkong	PROG
Banglar Asha	28/11	05/12	J/7	NA	AQUA
Shan Yin	06/11	05/12	J/8	JAKA	BDSHIP
Safina-e-Islam-2	28/11	04/12	J/9	Aqaba	AQUA
K Jespersen	01/12	04/12	MPB/1	Hongkong	AQUA
Ocean Carol	01/12	04/12	RM/5	Singapore	SEACOM
Vivari No 2	23/11	08/12	DD	NA	BSC
Banglar Swapna	11/11	10/11	DDJ/1	NA	BSC
Maritz	22/10	10/11	DDJ/2	Singapore	UNISEA
Shakti-2	24/11	12/12	RM/6	NA	NA
Banglar Jyoti	24/11	08/11	RM/9	NA	BSC

Vessels at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	ETA	ETD	Berth No
Banglar Shourabh	03/12	NA	J/9
Sea Star	03/12	NA	RM/5
Fisso Bayonne	03/12	NA	RM/6

Vessels at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Ready On	L Port	L Agent
Hansa Economist	03/12	NA	BOSL
Ronjoy	03/12	NA	PSAL
Dubai Pioneer	05/12	NA	BEDI
Banglar Shourabh	03/11	NA	BSC
Min Hai You-12		NA	UNISTAR
Tian Shui		Mongla	BdSHIP
Splendor		UAE	JF
Caroli Bay		Tutu	ULA
Alyn		Singapore	ALAMIN
Red Deer		NA	BSL
Kittanning		Singapore	HIL
Sparkle Moon		NA	BSL
Al Reza		NA	AQUA

Vessels Due at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	ETA	L Port	Local Agent
Iron Thrust	03/12/91	NA	DYNAMIC
Boutra	03/12/91	Anna	TSLL
I Yamborenko	03/12/91	NA	CT
Chog Chon Gang	03/12/91	NA	H&H
Karabieverette	04/12/91	NA	EBPL
Fong Shan	04/12/91	Singapore	BDSHIP
Safar	04/12/91	NA	ASSL
Banglar Urmi	05/12/91	Hongkong	BSC
Kota Buana	05/12/91	Singapore	CTS
Sam Houston	05/12/91	Calcutta	ULA
Aghion Oros	06/12/91	Singapore	CT
Optima	06/12/91	Col	RSL
Banglar Gourab	06/12/91	NA	BSC
Seabulk Hope	07/12/91	NA	EBR
Genclik	07/12/91	Mars	BSCS
Al Dora	07/12/91	Colombo	UMAL
Mento	08/12/91	Tamb	OWSL
Ping Yin	09/12/91	Kand	OWSL
Amitle	10/12/91	Kand	TMIL
Anting	10/12/91	Kand	TMIK
Hafez	10/12/91	NA	SSL
Amitle	10/12/91	Rott	ROYAL
New Genlord	12/12/91	NA	BDSHIP
Atlantic Clipper	12/12/91	NA	BDSHIP
Atlanta	13/12/91	Cebu	ROYAL
Ronjoy Choomie	15/12/91	Kand	TMIK
Thomasveretti	15/12/91	NA	EBPL
Kabriverette	23/12/91	NA	EBPL
Johneverette	27/12/91	NA	EBPL

Mongla Port

Name of Vessels	Berth	ETA	ETD	L Port	L Agent
Shan Yin	30/11	NA	NA	Chittagong	ESLL
Vigorous Swan		10/12	NA	China	SGSSA
Gold Future	02/12	10/12	04/12	Chittagong	AGM
Genclik		13/12	24/12	Chittagong	BSC
Safina-e-Najam		20/12	27/12	Chittagong	ATLAS
Safina-e-Islam		03/12	10/12	Chittagong	ATLAS
Langang Jiang		07/12	NA	Chittagong	MARKH
Nang Loy	27/11	NA	NA	China	BRIGHT
Shaplaeverett		15/12	17/12	Calcutta	BOL
Sparkle Moon	01/12	NA	NA	Chittagong	MARKH
Baltik	02/12	05/12	05/12	Calcutta	St Vincent
Sea Rhapsody	02/12	NA	NA	Benakul	BML
Swan Glory		04/12	NA	Benakul	BML
Kamal Everette	06/12	08/12	08/12	Chittagong	EVERETTE
Ronjoy Choomy	07/12	NA	NA	Chittagong	TMIL
Anting	08/12	NA	NA	Chittagong	TMIL
Mento	08/12	NA	NA	Chittagong	OWSL
Chong Ghongang	08/12	NA	NA	Chittagong	MKH
Loyal BIRD	27/11	27/11	02/12	Chittagong	OWSL
Lion of Gulf		04/12	NA	Colombo	SEA COAST
New Genlord	27/11	NA	NA</		