

**Youths to get 'Mishuk' on easy terms**

TONGI, Dec 17: Industries Minister Mr Shamsul Islam Khan Sunday said that specific programme would be taken for selling 'Mishuk', an engine tricycle, on easy instalments among the jobless young people of the country, reports BSS.

He made this announcement while visiting the Atlas Bangladesh Limited at Tongi Industrial Area.

The Minister said present government has been trying its best to create job opportunities for the unemployed by carrying out rapid industrialisation in the country.

He expressed the hope that 'Mishuk' selling programme in instalments among the jobless youth would open new job opportunity for them. He ordered the Atlas Bangladesh authority to take all necessary steps for making the programme a success.

The Minister went round the different sections of the factory and enquired about the overall activities of the factory. He expressed his satisfaction over the present Honda selling performance of the factory. The factory had earned a profit of Taka 2.47 crore during the last fiscal year.

**Call money rates**

By Staff Correspondent

Money rates in Call money market during the week ended December 11 ranged from 10.25 per cent to 11.50 per cent. During the same week interest rates offered by the bank on Certificate of Deposits varied from 10.00 per cent to 14.00 per cent.

The bank rate, however, remained unchanged at 9.25 per cent, a Bangladesh Bank press-release said Tuesday.

**Proper evaluation of enterprises a must before privatisation: French expert**

By Staff Correspondent

Popular support, strong political will and an uninhabited access to information are central to a successful implementation of privatisation policy in a country, observed a French economic expert.

Criteria are not common for all countries, Alain Remy, the Financial Counsellor of the French government for South Asia, told the members of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries (DCCI) yesterday.

Remy, based in New Delhi, referring to French experience privatisation, also stressed the need for careful evaluation of cash unit to be divested both for the profit of the government and for the business community who would invest in the unit. Highly qualified advisors are needed for the assessment of the enterprises, he said.

France appointed a national commission to carry out these tasks and invited open tender to make the offers competitive, when it went for privatisation in 1987, Remy said. France had opted for nationalisation in 1982.

He said that privatisation of both industrial and financial sectors should be carried out simultaneously.

If the banks are not run under strict discipline, the genuine entrepreneurs would lack adequate fund to undertake economic ventures, he said.

Remy said that the privatisation policy should go hand in hand with the deregulation of domestic market. A monopolistic state in the market should be done away with to attain the ends of the privatisation policy, he added.

The French Counsellor said

that there must be an 'exit policy' in the privatisation process meaning that the surplus labour must be cut down and the losing and non-viable units could be closed down.

This step is important both politically and socially and calls for a broader political and public consensus, he said.

Presided over by DCCI President Mahbubur Rahman,

the discussion was participated by French Ambassador in Dhaka Serge Degallax, Acting Trade Commissioner of France Francois-Xavier Flamand and Dhaka University Prof. Alimullah Mian.

Remy also commented, 'the foreign investors should have the guarantee to get rid of the surplus labour force after they invest in privatised

units.' He said reform of the stock market was also essential for the privatisation process.

The French Counsellor suggested that the state interference in the production process be kept to a minimum for the smooth running of the units. He however, said social defence and utility sectors should not be privatised.



Remy speaking at the talk.

**'Provide better information to French investors'**

Star Economic Report

The balance of payment between Bangladesh and France is now in favour of Bangladesh. Bangladesh exports twice as much as it imports from France.

The Acting French Trade Commissioner, Francois Xavier Flamand on Tuesday stated this at a talk on the Franco-Bangladesh commercial relations at the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI). He said the balance of payment was favourable for France in 1987.

The French Trade Commissioner said that garment exports from Bangladesh to France had taken a significant proportion in the recent times.

He stated that export value of jute, leather and frozen food in 1987 was only 150 million franc while it now stood at 500 million franc.

Flamand, however, said that French investment in Bangladesh was still quite low. He added that information on the prospect of investment in Bangladesh should be disseminated to French business community to enhance the investment volume. He mentioned that a non-double taxation agreement had already been signed between Bangladesh and France to induce investment.

Speaking on the French and to Bangladesh, Flamand said Paris increased its emergency

food aid from 17,000 tons in 1987 to 20,000 tons in 1991. He mentioned that France was also giving project aid in the fields of telecommunications, transport and power sectors. He revealed that the total annual aid increased from 30 million US dollar in 1980 to 50 million in 1991.

Earlier French Ambassador Serge Degallax in his introductory speech said that France was keen to promote trade with LDCs because 'trade is better than aid'.

He said that a workshop on introduction to French market will be held in Dhaka and Chittagong in the future. He stressed the need for frequent exchanges of business delegations for a better trade.

**ADB suggests gas price hike**

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has advised the government to increase the gas tariff by 20 per cent by March 31 next year, reports UNB.

A review mission of the Bank comprising of CS Chung, Sr. Project Engineer, and M Sawaki, Financial Analyst also proposed that a new gas tariff structure should be developed in the country.

The mission which visited Bangladesh in the first week of November extended the recommendations in their findings and discussions with the government officials and gas sector companies.

The Bank earlier proposed a weighted average of 20 per cent increase in gas tariff with effect from July 1 this year.

A 18 per cent price increase was mentioned in the

last budget proposal but could not be implemented following disapproval by the parliament.

The gas tariff increase earlier proposed by the Bank should be realised by the Government of Bangladesh as soon as possible but not later than 31 March, 1992, the report stated.

Referring to the issue of system loss by the gas companies particularly by Titas Gas, it suggested various measures to reduce the losses.

These include identification of exact magnitude of system losses, incorporation of category of losses in financial statements, submission to the Bank time-bound and monitorable action programme and status report on the action programme.

**Help assured for more Islamic insurance cos**

Planning Minister Zahuruddin Khan Sunday said the Muslim world had immense potential to build its economy in a planned way, reports BSS.

The Planning Minister called for establishing more Islamic insurance company here and assured all possible assistance.

Presided over by Mir Quasem Ali, the gathering was also addressed by Assistant Professor of Dhaka University Dr Ataur Rahman and the Chairman of the proposed Dhaka Islamic Taqaful (Insurance) Company Ltd, Abul Khair Mohammad Yahya.



K Habibur Rahman, Executive Vice President, Eastern Insurance Co Ltd handing over a cheque for Tk 16 lakh to MA Samad, DGM of Rupali Bank Ltd against the claim of Ashraf Textile Mills Ltd. Chairman of the mill Alhaj Abdul Wahab was present.



Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar opening the 55th branch of Islami Bank at Bangabandhu Avenue Sunday. —PID photo

**Exchange Rates**

(Valid for Dec 18)

SELLING AND BUYING RATES, offered by Commercial Banks, for Bank Cheques, (B/C) and Overseas Drafts (O/D)

One Unit of Foreign Currencies (FCU) for Taka

FCU	Selling	Buying
US Dollar	38.5326	38.0375
UK Pound Sterling	70.2731	69.4674
German Deutsche Mark	24.4807	24.1508
French Franc	7.1515	7.0570
Saudi Riyal	10.3037	10.1713
Dutch Guilder	12.7269	12.4356
Pakistan Rupee (AMU*)	1.5625	1.5376
Singapore Dollar	23.3743	23.0740
US Dollar	10.9272	10.3919
Kuwait Dinar	Not available	
Indian Rupee	1.4903	1.4761
AMU	6.7031	6.6112

\*AMU=Asian Monetary Unit

SECONDARY EXCHANGE MARKET

Wage Earners Fund/ Export Performance	Benefit (X/P)	Fund
US Dollar	38.04	38.73
UK Pound	70.57	70.02
Saudi Riyal	10.34	10.39
US Dollar	10.57	10.62

The rates of Pound Sterling are provided based on the cross-rates of New York market

Source: Small Bank

**Price Index**

Essentials

December-17

RICE	(Taka per kg)
Aman(Im)	14.00-15.50
Paon	13.00-14.00
Uthi	15.00-14.00
VEGETABLES	(Taka per kg)
Potato(New)	7.00-8.00
Brinjal	5.00-8.00
Karola	14.00-16.00
Lalchok	2.00-3.00
Pepya	5.00-6.00
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	5.00-6.00
OTHER FOODSTUFFS	(Taka per kg)
Flour	12.00-13.00
Atte	10.00-11.00
FISH	(Taka per kg)
Rohu(big)	125.00-140.00
Katla(big)	90.00-100.00
Hilsha	
Pangas	115.00-120.00
Shrimp(big)	80.00-90.00
Singi	45.00-50.00
Koi	60.00-70.00
EGG (Apex)	(Taka per kg)
Hen	10.00
Duck	9.00
Fim	11.00

**DSE Prices**

At the close of trading on Dec 15, 1991

Company	FV/ML Tk
BANKS (10)	
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1 1070.00
A.B Bank	100/5 177.00
City Bank	100/5 270.00
PLC	100/5 180.00
Islami Bank	1000/1 1300.00
National Bank	100/5 104.25
Rupali Bank	100/5 100.00
U.C.B.L	100/5 120.00
Utara Bank	100/5 190.00
INVESTMENT (06)	
ICB	100/5 95.50
1st ICB M.Fund	100/5 345.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5 153.00
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5 132.00
4th ICB M. Fund	100/10 125.00
5th ICB M. Fund	100/10 92.00
6th ICB M. Fund	100/10 65.00
ICB Unit Cert.	
Re-purchase	116.00
Sale Price	111.00
INSURANCE (04)	
BGC	100/10 104.50
Green Delta	100/10 113.00
Peoples	100/10 120.00
United	100/10 127.00
ENGINEERING (19)	
Ahaz Automobiles	100/5 185.00
Ahaz Bangladesh	10/50 40.00
Aziz Pipe	100/5 246.00
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5 70.00
Bangladesh Lamps	105/5 235.00
B.Thal Aluminium	100/10 85.00
Bengal Carbide	100/5 230.00
Bengal Steel	10/50 18.00
Eastern Cables	100/5 89.00
Howlader PVC	100/10 100.00
Karim Pipe	100/5 130.00
Metalex Corp.	100/5 120.00
Monno Staffers	10/5 200.00
Monno Jutea	100/5 240.00
National Tubes	100/10 121.87
Panther Steel	10/50 6.00
Quasem Doyce	10/50 8.25
Renzwick Jaineswar	100/5 92.00
Singer Bangladesh	100/5 700.00
FOOD & ALLIED (21)	
A.B Blacut	100/5 180.00
Alpha Tobacco	10/50 48.00
Aman Sea Food	100/5 36.00
Apex Food	100/5 450.00
Aroma Tea	100/5 70.00
Bargy	100/5 185.00
Bengal Food	100/5 113.50
B.L.T.C.	100/5 500.00
B.T.C.	10/50 39.00
C.T. Vegetable	100/10 97.50
Dhaka Vegetable	100/5 140.00
E.L. Camellia	100/5 1000.00
Frogleg Export	10/50 4.50
Gemini Sea Food	100/15 100.00
Modern industries	100/5 160.00
N.T.C.	100/5 280.04
Rafay Flour	10/100 NT
Rubpa Oil	10/100 6.30
Tulip Dairy	100/10 95.00
Young Flour	10/50 NT
Zed Barilla Sugar	10/50 12.25
FUEL & POWER (03)	
Padma Oil Co.	10/50 40.00
Eastern Lubricant	10/50 14.00
Oxygen	10/50 47.00
JUTE (12)	
Ahaz Jute	100/10 NT
Dhaka Jute	10/50 NT
Delta Jute	10/50 8.50
Ganges Jute	10/50 NT
Islam Jute	100/5 75.00
Jute Spinner	100/5 95.00
Mutual Jute	100/5 100.00
Northern Jute	10/50 NT
Shamser Jute	100/5 100.00
Specialised Jute	10/50 NT
Shine Jute	100/5 92.00
Sonali Aarsh	100/5 96.00
PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEMICALS (15)	
Amber Pharma	10/50 13.75
Bargy Pharma	100/5 58.00
Beximco Pharma	100/5 200.00
Class	10/50 125.00
IC I	10/50 10.00
Kohinoor Chemical	100/5 102.60
Petro Synthetic	10/50 12.50
Pfizer	100/5 110.00
Pharma Aids	100/5 165.00
Pharmaco	100/5 53.00
Progressive Plastic	110/5 40.00
Rockitt & Colman	100/5 240.00
Rahman Chemicals	100/1048.00AL
Theoreticals	100/5 50.00
The Ibrasia	100/10 92.00
PAPER & PRINTING (06)	
Eagle Box	10/50 31.70
Monosopul	100/5 104.50
Paper Converting	100/5 113.00
Paper Processing	100/10 75.00
Padma Printers	10/50 50.00
Sonali Paper	10/50 50.00
SERVICE (02)	
Bangladesh Hotel	10/50 12.00
Bd. Service	10/50 NT
TEXTILE (18)	
Alhaj Textile	10/50 NT
Arbee Textile	100/10 NT
Ashraf Textile	10/50 28.14
Chand Textile	10/50 NT
Chand Spinning	10/50 NT
Deah Garments	100/10 61.00
Dulamia Cotton	100/10 85.00
Eagle Star	10/50 25.00
GMG Ind. Corp.	10/50 13.00
Modern Dying	100/5 35.00
Quasem Silk	10/50 3.50
Quasem Textile	10/50 8.00
Rahim Textile	100/5 38.00
Saihan Textile	100/10 76.00
S.T.M. (ORD)	100/5 50.00
Styelaah	100/5 100.00
Swan Textile	100/5 60.00
Talfo Spinning	100/10 118.85
MISCELLANEOUS (14)	
Apex Tannery	100/5 200.58
Aramit	10/50 NT
Bata Shoe	10/100 34.50
Beximco	10/100 9.25
BSC	100/5 50.00
Chittagong Cement	100/5 204.
G. G. Ball Pen	10/50 50.00
Ibmadril Ltd.	10/100 6.00
Milon Tannery	100/5 27.00
Monno Ceramic	100/5 138.10
Phosco Leather	100/5 90.00
Savar Refractories	100/5 113.00
The Engineers	100/5 100.00
Umaria Glass	100/53 230.15
DEBENTURES (04)	
Apex Tannery	1000/1 1060.00
(17% 1992)	
Bengal Food	900/1 945.00
(18.5% 1992)	
Beximco	2000/1 2100.00
Beximco Pharma	1571/1 1685.00
(17% 1997)	
Quasem Silk	2000/1 1665.50
(17% 1994)	

**Hides & Skin**

(Wet/Salted)

December-17

(Taka per 100 pieces)

Cow	Light	Medium	Heavy	Very heavy	Rejected
15,000.00	30,000.00	50,000.00	58,000.00	66,000.00	75,000.00
Goat	Light & heavy	Medium	Rejected	Sheep	Duffale
8,500.00	9,800.00	6,500.00	3,000.00	8,500.00	5,400.00

**Gold & Silver**

December-17

(Taka for 11.66 grams)

Gold	6,200.00
Tejahi	6,100.00
Gumta	6,100.00
Silver	300.00

**Shipping Intelligence**

Chittagong Port

ETA, ETD, Berth, L Port, L Agent

Name of Vessel	Berthed	ETA	Berth	L Port	L Agent
Ronjoy Choomte	07/12	20/12	J/1	NA	PSAL
Sea Star	13/12	22/12	J/3	NA	OML
Bora	12/12	22/12	J/6	NA	NA
Amittie	12/12	22/12	J/7	NA	NA
Banglar Gourab	10/12	19/12	J/8	Peng	IBS
Infinity	13/12	16/12			