

Business

Trading at DSE gets boost

Star Economic Report

Trading at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) witnessed on Monday a big boost. There was about a 250 per cent jump in trade volume to 10,824 from Saturday's 3937.

Trading was closed on Sunday on account of holy Shah-e-Barat.

Advancers dominated trading. Out of 35 traded issues, 26 gained in prices, four declined and five remained unchanged at their previous quoted prices.

The investors' mood reflected a growing confidence, with stocks gaining strength.

Signs of revival in DSE activities are apparently stronger now after the parliamentary elections. Trading is on the rise, with stocks rallying on a modest uptrend.

DSE All Share Price Index, a broad indicator of price movements of all listed stocks, rose further to 345.4724 points compared with Saturday's 344.5764.

Traded stocks valued Taka 509036.50 against Saturday's Taka 238613.00.

Chittagong Cement advanced Taka 8.47 to Taka 157.38 at closing.

Eastern Cables and Bengal Food moved up Taka 3.83 and Taka 3.13 to Taka 95.95 and Taka 183.13 respectively.

Beximco Pharma and Bangladesh-Thal Aluminium gained Taka 2.33 and Taka 2.20 to Taka 162.33 and Taka 87.92.

Pubali Bank and Green Delta Insurance advanced Taka 2.00 each to Taka 98.00 and Taka 108.00.

Bangladesh Autocars, Quasem Drycells, 3rd ICB Mutual Fund, 4th ICB Mutual Fund, 5th ICB Mutual Fund, 6th ICB Mutual Fund, BOIC, United, Renwick Jaineswar, Chittagong Vegetable, Rupan Oil, Zeal Bangla Sugar, Ambee Pharma, Kohnoor Chemical, Eagle Box, Tallu Spinning, Apex Tannery, Beximco and G. Q. Ball Pen moved up within the range between Taka 0.17 and Taka 1.67.

Bengal Food, the lone traded debenture and Rahim Chemical lost Taka 42.86 and Taka 11.00 to Taka 1157.14 and Taka 50.00 respectively.

The other two decliners were Ashraf Textile and Eagle Box. They lost marginally.

Quoted Prices of Traded Stocks

March - 4

Stock Name	TV/ML	Close	Change
Banks			
Pubali Bank	100/5	98.00	(+2.00)
Green Delta	100/5	108.00	(+2.00)
Investment			
3rd ICB Mutual Fund	100/5	154.00	(+0.50)
4th ICB Mutual Fund	100/10	145.00	(+0.50)
5th ICB Mutual Fund	100/10	123.00	(+0.50)
6th ICB Mutual Fund	100/10	91.30	(+0.80)
Insurance			
Green Delta	100/10	108.00	(+2.00)
United	100/10	112.00	(+1.00)
Engineering			
Ambee Pharma	100/5	220.00	un-changed
Ambee Pharma	100/5	114.00	(+1.00)
Ambee Pharma	100/10	87.92	(+2.20)
Ambee Pharma	100/5	95.95	(+3.83)
Ambee Pharma	100/50	8.50	(+0.25)
Pharmaceuticals			
Beximco	100/5	66.20	(+1.20)
Chittagong Veg	100/5	183.13	(+3.13)
Cig Vegetables	100/10	98.00	(+1.00)
Dhaka Veg. Sph	100/5	162.00	un-changed
Rupan Oil	10/100	7.25	(+0.17)
Zeal Bangla	0/50	6.50	(+0.25)
Food & Allied			
Bengal Food	100/5	183.13	(+3.13)
Cig Vegetables	100/10	98.00	(+1.00)
Dhaka Veg. Sph	100/5	162.00	un-changed
Rupan Oil	10/100	7.25	(+0.17)
Zeal Bangla	0/50	6.50	(+0.25)
Fuel & Power			
Chittagong	10/50	60.00	un-changed
Pharma & Chem			
Ambee Pharma	100/5	114.00	(+1.00)
Ambee Pharma	100/5	162.33	(+2.33)
Ambee Pharma	100/5	76.00	(+0.17)
Chemical	100/10	50.00	(+1.00)
Paper & Printing			
Ambee Pharma	10/50	11.00	(+0.50)
Ambee Pharma	10/50	31.80	(+1.11)
Ambee Pharma	10/50	35.83	(+0.44)
Ambee Pharma	100/10	85.00	un-changed
Tallu Spinning	100/10	106.90	(+0.90)
Miscellaneous			
Ambee Pharma	100/5	139.00	(+1.00)
Ambee Pharma	10/100	0.25	(+0.25)
Chittagong	100/5	157.38	(+8.47)
G. Q. Ball Pen	1/50	53.00	(+0.27)
Debt			
Bengal Food	100/1	1157.14	(-42.86)
Market Lot			
** Change: Plus signs mean gain and (-) signs losses.			



With the advancement of science winding of yarn has become very easy with modern equipment, but the technology is yet to reach many a remote village. This woman is winding yarn by an indigenous traditional wooden spool. — Star Photo

Slow progress for toy export market

By Inam Ahmed

About 10 toy industries have so far been sanctioned by Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC). Besides there are several more units, approved or awaiting approval.

But the implementation of toy-making projects has been very slow. Export potentials in toy sector remain still untapped, trade and industries sources say.

Some top toy exporting countries showed earlier keen interests in setting up joint venture projects in Bangladesh, but nothing

concrete has yet come. Members of Toy Council from Hong Kong came here to see the prospect. But the entrepreneurship and the political situation did not satisfy them, sources say.

In 1989, Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) led a world tour of businessmen to tap market for toys. But the outcome was nil mainly due to failure on part of the entrepreneurs.

A promising export market in toys worth millions of Dollars is still open for Bangladesh. But a few entrepreneurs are interested to go for it.

Sources say toy export has become lately a booming business in international scenario. The main markets are in USA and the European Countries (EC). USA alone imports more than 1000 million US Dollars worth of toys each year. The EC market is also about the same size. But the main contestants in these markets are Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea.

Sources say Bangladesh has also the potential to compete in this sector.

Price Barometer: Essentials

March - 4

Item	Unit	Price Range
RICE	(Taka per Kg)	16.00-17.00
Aman Very Fine		
Aman (fine)		14.00-15.00
Pujam		13.00-14.00
Ushi		11.50-12.00
VEGETABLES	(Taka per kg)	
Potato (White)		3.50-4.00
Brinjal		5.00-8.00
Lady's finger		10.00-12.00
Cauliflower / piece		8.00-12.00
Karolla		12.00-14.00
Lalshak		5.00-6.00
Green Banana (Four Pieces)		5.00-8.00
GRAIN	(Taka per Kg)	
Flour		12.00-14.00
Atta		11.00-12.00
Wheat		9.50-10.00
FISH	(Taka per kg)	
Ruhi (big)		75.00-85.00
Hilba		44.00-48.00
Shrimp (big)		100.00-120.00
Singi		60.00-65.00
Koi		75.00-80.00
PULSES	(Taka per Kg)	
Mashur		26.00-28.00
Moogh		29.00-30.00
Chihola		20.00-22.00
Matar		27.00-28.00
Kheari		18.00-20.00
MEAT	(Taka per Kg)	
Beef		Not Available
Mutton		Not Available
OIL	(Taka per Litre)	
Mustard		50.00-54.00
Soyabean		32.00-33.00
Coconut (Colombo)		60.00-64.00
Vegetable Ghee		44.00-52.00
SPICES	(Taka per kg)	
Onion (new)		12.00-14.00
Garlic		30.00-40.00
Chillies		65.00-70.00
Turneric (Round)		40.00-46.00
Green chillies		42.00-50.00
Ginger		14.00-16.00
Cinnamon* (10gms)		3.00-3.50
Candamom* (large)		3.50-4.00
Jhira (50gms)		7.00-7.50
MISCELLANEOUS	(Taka)	
Ghee		220.00-230.00
Sugar		30.00-31.00
Malasses		16.00-18.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Concern over duty on shop towel Dhaka to lose \$ 30 m due to USA quota

Manufacturers and exporters of shop towel in Bangladesh have expressed concern over a recent move by one of the US producers seeking imposition of Counter Balancing Duty (CBD) on export of this item, reports BSS.

If the bid to put CBD on this product succeeded, it will thwart the budding textile industry of Bangladesh, manufacturers sources said in Dhaka on Monday.

Bangladesh will lose an estimated yearly trade worth 30 million US Dollars due to recently imposed quota by the USA on three textile and garment products, including shop towel, the sources said.

CBD is an additional duty, which can be imposed by the government of the importing country on a certain product on request of its local producer, if they think that the manufacturing of the item is being subsidised by the government of the exporting country.

Engr. M.A. Taher, convener of the Quota Administration committee of BGMEA said, the complaint lodged by a US producer with the Department of Commerce to put CBD on Bangladesh shop towel on the plea that it is being subsidised by "our government" is groundless. He alleged that the US government had earlier unilaterally restricted import volume of three Bangladeshi items on similar request even without considering the obligation of the Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA).

Confirming the move of the US producer, an authoritative source in the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) said the government was aware of the matter and everything to protect the national interest would be done. Shop towel industry in Bangladesh is in no way subsidised by the government, the sources added.

The government of the USA on being urged by one of its manufacturers to put CBD on shop towel recently sent a questionnaire to Bangladesh government making queries in this regard. The Bangladesh government has appointed Mr. Michael O'Rourke, an eminent US attorney. For this

purpose and the answers have been submitted. Meanwhile, a US team is likely to visit Bangladesh in this regard, sources said.

Mr. Taher, who has long experience on negotiation with the US side on textile products said, considering the future of Bangladesh's infant textiles industry and its economy hit by the Gulf War. The US government should be very much sympathetic before taking a decision which might obstruct the newly emerged democracy to stand on its feet.

The US government is already planning to increase aid and assistance to many countries, specially those affected by the Gulf War. Bangladesh is one of the worst-hit countries due to the Gulf war.

At present five industries are producing shop towel in Bangladesh. If the CBD is finally imposed on the item, the country will incur a huge loss per year in trade, besides the units will have to be closed down pushing many people out of job, Mr. Taher said.

EC to limit new aid to third countries

BRUSSELS, Mar 4 : The European Commission said recently it wanted to limit new aid to third countries to ensure it had enough cash to meet any unexpected internal costs, reports Reuter.

The 12-nation bloc, which has dug deep into its pockets to support reforming East European countries, former East Germany and three front-line Gulf states, has also pledged help for the Soviet Union, Israel and the occupied territories.

The Commission, the EC's executive, has suggested raising the bloc's spending limits to pay for the new aid and to create a fund for other overseas spending worth 300 million European Currency Unit (420 million dollars) in 1991, which it does not want to exceed.

"Fixing a new ceiling gives member states a clear indication of the extra resources which can in principle be mobilised... for actions in the framework of external policy," the Commission said in a statement.

The fund will in theory cap new overseas spending, including a community contribution to rebuild the Gulf region which the Commission is currently working on.

Defence spending up by \$ 600m Indian interim budget unveiled

NEW DELHI Mar 4: India's minority government unveiled an interim budget today for the new fiscal year, hiking defence spending by more than 600 million Dollars and slashing export, fertiliser and food subsidies, reports AFP.

The interim package would enable the four-month-old government of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar to spend money in the first quarter of the 1991-92 financial year starting April 1, but not to raise taxes.

Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha estimated that the government would spend 61.20 billion Dollars in the new year. Revenue at existing rates of taxation would total 55.67 billion, leaving a deficit of 5.53 billion, he said.

Expenditure on defence was raised from 8.75 billion Dollars in fiscal 1990-91 to 9.36 billion Dollars, a hike of 611 million Dollars.

Subsidies were slashed by 520 million Dollars from 5.3 billion to 4.78 billion in what Mr. Sinha called "our quest for fiscal consolidation".

Mr. Sinha, 51, presented the fiscal package to a parliament emptied of opposition members, who staged an angry walkout in protest against the government's decision to delay the regular budget.

Opposition MPs charged that the government had sacrificed fiscal prudence by postponing the budget, which analysts had expected to bring all-round tax increases to enable the exchequer overcome a deep financial crisis.

"The interim budget means that the exchequer will have only eight months' revenue non a 12-month budget," former Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate said.

Leftist MPs said the government had delayed harsh taxation measures.

The mission, to be led by Trade and Overseas Development Minister Neal Blewett, will include representatives of the opposition as well as government, reflecting the anxiety now being felt here.

Australian trade mission to US

CANBERRA, Mar 4 : Australia is sending a trade mission to the United States to try to "moderate the damage" caused to Australian agriculture by the US Export Enhancement Programme (EEP), Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Saturday, reports AFP.

The mission, to be led by Trade and Overseas Development Minister Neal Blewett, will include representatives of the opposition as well as government, reflecting the anxiety now being felt here.

Manila has \$ 183m payments deficit

MANILA, Mar 4 : The Philippines had a balance of payments deficit of 183 million dollars in 1990, only half as much as earlier reported, the Central Bank (CB) said here Monday, reports AFP.

CB Governor Jose Cuista traced the error to an "honest mistake" by a government institution which he refused to name, spokesmen said.

An earlier CB report put the deficit at 360 million dollars.

Despite the lower figure, 1990 marked the first time in seven years that the country had a negative payments figure.

Austerity in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Mar 4 : President Violeta Chamorro announced Sunday a package of austerity measures aimed at curbing inflation and reviving the country's war-battered economy, reports AP.

The measures include a sharp currency devaluation and big price increases for food staples, utilities and fuels.

Invest at home, Gulf citizens urged

ABU DHABI, Mar 4 : Gulf citizens should concentrate their investments at home and repatriate part of their vast overseas holdings of 670 billion Dollars to help develop the region after the war, a senior Gulf banker said Saturday, reports AFP.

The remarks by United Arab Emirates (UAE) Central Bank Governor Abdul Malik al-Hammar strengthened complaints by Gulf monetary officials about the flight of funds to foreign investment centres.

Dollar closes up in Tokyo

TOKYO, Mar 4: The Dollar rose to a six-week high in Tokyo today, closing 1.10 Yen stronger at 135.35 Yen, reports AFP.

Dealers said the Dollar's strength reflected expectations that the US economy would rebound in the wake of the Gulf war.

Trading was active although spot turnover fell from Friday's 14,159 billion Dollars to 11,824 billion Dollars.

Japan's exports grow

TOKYO, Mar 4 : Japanese exports showed strong growth in January, but were unable to overcome seasonal factors, leaving the nation's current account in the unusual position of being in the red, reports Reuter.

Japan's current account balance—the broadest measure of its trade in goods and services—showed a 33 million Dollar deficit in January against a 559 million Dollar shortfall in the same month a year earlier, the Finance Ministry (MOF) reported on Friday.

January is about the only months in which Japan's accounts with the rest of the world are in the red. For most of the year they show billion-dollar surpluses, but those surpluses are declining overall. Japan's current account surplus for 1990 was 35.79 billion Dollars against 577.16 billion Dollars the year before.

Economists cautioned that January data are usually distorted because of the long holiday period in Japan at the start of the month. The Gulf War also had an impact this year.

Within the overall current account, Japan's merchandise trade surplus grew to 3.01 billion Dollars in January from 1.07 billion a year earlier.

Exports climbed to 21.52 billion Dollars from 18.22 billion Dollars while imports rose to 18.51 billion Dollars a year earlier.

Economists said much of the strong export growth was attributable to the weakness of the Yen in mid-1990 when many contracts were arranged. A weak Yen increases demand for Japanese products

abroad because it reduces their costs in foreign currencies.

The Dollar/Yen rate was 131.40 Yen to the Dollar at the end of January this year against 144.40 at the same time a year ago.

"The effect of currency markets is adding about 10 per cent to the value of exports," said Paul Summerville, Economist at Jardine Fleming Securities Ltd, Tokyo branch.

Although US Economic Growth has been sluggish, demand for Japanese products remains strong in Europe and Asia.

"Export growth has been unusually strong," said Russell Jones, Economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International Ltd.

Imports on the other hand were inflated by the impact of high oil prices.

Call to compensate 40 developing states

LONDON Mar 4 : Six British aid agencies called on the world community on Sunday to compensate about 40 developing countries which suffered severe economic losses due to the Gulf War, reports Reuter.

Citing a report by the independent Overseas Development Institute (ODI), they estimated the direct costs of the conflict to these countries at 12 billion dollars, or between one and 25 per cent of their Gross National Product (GNP).

"In UN relief assessment terms this effect defines each country as facing a natural disaster," said a statement issued by OXFAM one of the six aid agencies and charities.

For several of the worst affected countries, including many in sub-Saharan Africa, the GNP loss was more than two per cent and for the worst hit it was much higher. Jordan's GNP loss was the highest at 25 per cent and Yemen's second at 10 per cent.

Substantial aid has been given to nations directly involved in the war, such as Turkey and Egypt, but many developing countries facing losses have received no help.

The report said the Gulf crisis had put up oil prices with a subsequent increase in transport and freight costs, while the flight of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers had led to a massive loss of foreign exchange remittances.

Gold & Silver

March - 4

Item	Price
Gold (Taka for 11.66 grams)	6,000.00
Tajabi	6,300.00
Gold	200.00
Silver	200.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Hides & Skin

(Wet/Salted)

March - 4

Item	Price (Taka per 100 pieces)
Cow	12,000.00 - 15,000.00
Light	25,000.00 - 30,000.00
Medium	35,000.00 - 40,000.00
Heavy	50,000.00 - 55,000.00
Very heavy	65,000.00 - 70,000.00
Rejected	25,000.00 - 30,000.00
Goat	12,000.00 - 12,500.00
Dog	7,000.00 - 7,500.00
Light & Medium	7,000.00 - 7,500.00
Rejected	3,000.00 - 3,500.00
Sheep	9,000.00 - 10,000.00
BUFFALO	55,000.00 - 57,000.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Dhaka Stock Exchange Market Profile March - 4

134 Listed stocks

26 Gains | 4 Losers | 104 Unchanged

* 104 unchanged stocks include five traded on the day at their previous day's quoted prices.

DSE All Share Price Index = 345.4724

Issued Capital: Taka 44,620,377,190.00

Market Capitalisation: Taka 9,871,961,943.00

Turnover = Taka 509036.50 (Value) 10824 (Volume).

Snippets

Kuwaiti refinery badly damaged

DUBAI, Mar 4 : One of the world's most modern refineries in Kuwait has been heavily damaged and looted by retreating Iraqi troops, Kuwaiti oil officials said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

They said that blazing oil wells and mines were also preventing oil experts from assessing the damage inflicted by Iraq in what the US led allies said was a "scorched earth" policy in Kuwait.

The officials said Mina Abdallah, on the Kuwaiti Coast, whose processing capacity was doubled to around 200,000 barrels per day (BPD) shortly before Iraq's August invasion, suffered heavy damage and ransacking by the Iraqis.

Abu Dhabi lowers oil prices

TOKYO, Mar 4 : Abu Dhabi Monday notified Japanese oil companies that it would lower direct dealing prices of Arabian crude for February shipments by 4.60 dollars a barrel from January to 16.10 dollars, industry sources said, reports AFP.

The 4.60 dollar cut will also apply to other Abu Dhabi crudes, lowering their price below the levels of last July before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Raw Jute

March - 4

White	Tossa	Mashia
Medium 1393	1500	1125
Bot. (B) 1340	1447	1098
Bot. (C) 1206	1286	1045
Bot. (X) 1072	1125	857

* FOB = Freight on board
* Bot. = Bottom

Kutcha bales

White	FOB	FOB
BW SPL	3450	585
BWA	3350	570
BWB	3300	550
BWC	2900	480
BWD	2600	410
BWE	2000	365

White Rejection (WRS) / Tossa Rejection (TRS) :

White/Tossa	FOB	FOB
BT SPL	3500	595
BTA	3450	580
BTB	3400	560
BTC	2950	490
BTD	2650	420
BTE	2100	375

Habitabi Cut Rates

White/Tossa	FOB	FOB
BWR	1650	290
BWH	1300	220
BTR	1750	300
BTH	1400	230
BTR	1250	230

White/Tossa :

White/Tossa	FOB	FOB
BT SPL	1450	235
BWCB	1300	220
BTCA	1600	250
BTCB	1500	235

M