

Promulgation of Banking Co Ordinance proposed

Star Economic Report

Banking experts expressed concern that the big defaulters, with huge outstanding loans on their heads, were approaching for fresh loans from other banks.

They said most of the Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs) were not taking any information about the defaulting cases from the credit information cell set up in the Bangladesh Bank.

The NCBs have prepared a list of 100 big defaulters but did not announce their names in public. As such, these defaulters find ample opportunities to go for fresh loans.

Stressing changes in the law, the experts said the proposed Banking Company

Ordinance should be promulgated soon to bring about some reforms in the loan recovery system. The task force should work on the details, banking experts say.

A recent meeting on the power in waiving interests and penalty interests on loans given by the Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs) and other financial institutions. The government has recently tightened the system and reduced the time limit of waiving interest on the industrial and commercial loans.

The bank managements felt that an acceptable compromise could be reached with the defaulters outside the courts in

order to recover the loans. The officials responsible for misusing power of waiving interests should be given exemplary punishment, banking circle contended.

There is no time limit for recovering dues of the banks through decrees announced by the credit courts. The situation will improve if the law in question is amended to recover the overdue within the specified time-frame, the experts noted.

In the NCBs, efforts are lacking in evaluation of the skills of the officers and employees. Due to widespread mismanagement in NCBs, facilities enjoyed by the top bankers are not affected in any

case and as such, inefficiency and corruption are allowed to spread resulting in deep crisis in the banking sector.

On the basis of individual performances, evaluation of each and every officers and employees should be made. Provisions for promotions, rewards and punishments should be made to improve overall condition of the banking sector, the experts noted.

The present system of mortgages to open letters of credit in the NCBs should be reviewed to suit to the present day's needs. Bangladesh Bank will prepare a set of recommendations after examining every pros and cons of the system.

11 m living in poverty in UK

LONDON, Apr 9: Eleven million people in Britain are living in poverty, double the amount seven years ago, according to a study published Monday, reports AFP.

The survey defined poverty as lacking at least one of three basic necessities such as a toilet, bed or refrigerator.

It found 10 million people lived in unheated houses, five million had only one meal a day, and seven million needed warm clothes but did not have enough money to buy them.

Sharp decline in share transactions

Star Economic Report

Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Tuesday witnessed a sharp decline in transactions. There was no buyers support. Advancers and decliners were equal in numbers. But the DSE Composite Index moved up slightly as the advancers involved more trade in volume terms.

Nineteen stocks were traded. Of them seven gained, seven lost and five remained unchanged at their previous quoted prices.

In all 1988 shares and debentures changed hands compared with Monday's 7,666. Traded issues valued Taka 1,59,650.00 against Taka 5,33,050.00 on Monday.

DSE All Share Price Index, which is the broad indicator of price movements of all the stocks, moved up to 355.2986 points against Monday's 355.0725.

Monospool Paper and Monno Ceramic advanced Taka 4.00 and Taka 2.00 to Taka 110.00 and Taka 150.00 respectively.

Beximco Pharma and Rupali Bank gained Taka 1.60 and Taka 1.50 to Taka 175 and Taka 95.00.

Savar Rectortories, Bangladesh Thai Aluminium and 6th ICB Mutual Fund moved up within the range between Taka 0.50 and Taka 1.00.

Pharma Aids declined Taka 2.00 to Taka 198.00.

Bangladesh Autocars, 5th ICB Mutual Fund, Eastern Cables, Quasem Drycells, Rupan Oil and Tallu Spinning lost within the range between Taka 0.01 and Taka 1.00.

Quoted Prices of Traded Stocks

April-9

Stock	Price	Change
Beximco Pharma	175.00	+1.60
Rupali Bank	95.00	+1.50
5th ICB Mutual Fund	110.00	+2.00
6th ICB Mutual Fund	150.00	+2.00
Eastern Cables	99.41	-0.07
Quasem Drycells	107.50	-0.01
Rupan Oil	110.00	0.00
Tallu Spinning	120.00	+1.00
Monno Ceramic	150.00	+2.00
Savar Rectortories	107.50	+1.00
Bangladesh Thai Aluminium	1714/1	1725.00

Survey begins from April 1 Frogleg export resumes soon

By Inam Ahmed

A frog survey has begun from the first of April to consider resuming of frogleg export, sources said.

The survey teams has already been dispersed through out 43 villages of 23 unions. The survey organised jointly by the Forest Department and Wildlife Society of Bangladesh will end on August this year. Earlier, a short survey of two months, September and October, was completed.

Sources said the preliminary survey revealed that number of frogs have slightly increased as a result of ban on frogleg export. However, most frogs are either too small or medium. Expert said large size frog is rarely

found now. They stated that after such more surveys, it could be determined if frog export can be resumed again. However, they said frogs should be cultivated in farms for export rather than caught from the wild.

Sources said frog farming can be very much profitable. The farming of frogs will also create a balance of ecology.

Environment conservationists expressed concern that agriculture would be hard hit if again the frogs become subjected to export. Frogs devour harmful insects and thus help reduce spend on insecticide. They said frogs are a "natural harmless insect killers".

ECNEC discusses three projects

The meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) held in city Tuesday with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, took up three project proposals for discussions, reports BSS.

The projects are related with the installation of radio transmission centres, construction of a bridge and family planning services.

Begum Khaleda Zia, presiding over the ECNEC meeting for the first time, said as people's representatives the new government had the responsibility to remain equal to the commitment it has given to the people. She said the projects should take in such a way that they benefitted the maximum number of people.

Planning and Finance Minister Salfur Rahman, Agriculture Minister Majedul Haq, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Commerce Minister Keramat Ali and concerned officials took part in discussion.



EID SHOPPING: Brisk shopping has started in city markets. These ladies are seen looking for shoes of their choice. — Star photo

Eid shopping: prices higher this year

Star Economic Report

Eid shopping is at its climax in the city with buyers crowding the markets and also those set up on several footpaths.

The markets stay crowded morning, noon and also late into the night as many people prefer shopping at night to escape the scorching heat of the day, which makes the market over-like.

Prices of shoes and clothes have gone up by 10 to 20 per cent this year compared to those of last year.

The rise in the price of clothes was attributed to the rise in the price of yarn.

During the Gulf war an artificial crisis was created in the yarn market, sources said.

Higher labour charges for production during the Eid period have also contributed in this regard.

Those are also being sold at higher price this year with no valid reason for the increases. Smuggled Indian sarrees and other garments have flooded the markets and are being sold openly at high prices.

Local sarrees though better in quality in many cases, are not selling as fast as the Indian sarrees and this, concerned sources said, is due to the fact

that good numbers of saree buyers have a fascination for Indian sarrees.

Jeans, shirts and shoes especially from Bangkok have flooded most of the city's posh markets.

These items are also sold openly and although police activity is noticed at times business goes on as usual.

The markets that have sprung up on the city pavements are mostly crowded by buyers of the lower income group.

Many items sold at higher prices in the city market shops can be bought at much lower prices at the footpath markets.

Snippets

EC emergency aid to Kurds

LUXEMBOURG, Apr 9: The European Commission asked EC leaders to grant some 100 million ECUs in emergency aid to Kurds fleeing Iraq, EC officials said, reports Reuter.

The officials, who asked, not to be named, told Reuters the request by the European Community's executive was included in a paper prepared for a meeting of the 12 heads of government.

The Commission last week granted Kurdish refugees fleeing from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's army towards Iran and Turkey five million ECUs as a first step in emergency aid.

700 oilwells severely damaged in Kuwait

NEW YORK, April 9: Nearly 700 of Kuwait's 1,080 previously productive oilwells were severely damaged during the Iraqi occupation of the Emirate, Kuwait's UN Ambassador Mohammad Abulhasan said, reports AFP.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar released Monday, the Ambassador said there was a continuing danger of explosions from mines bombs and other traps left in the oil sector by Iraqi troops.

Steps to ensure farm work in USSR

MOSCOW, Apr 9: President Mikhail S. Gorbachev authorised republic and local governments on Monday to take emergency measures to make sure farm work is carried out fully this spring, reports AP.

In a decree carried by the official news agency Tass, Gorbachev told the governments to make sure fuel, spare parts and agricultural equipment are provided to farmers. He also ordered building and industrial enterprises connected with agriculture to honour contracts promptly.

Blue chip stocks turn higher

NEW YORK, Apr 9: Blue chip stocks turned sharply higher at the close on Monday, breaking out of a sideways pattern that stemmed from a wait-and-see stand ahead of March inflation numbers due late this week, reports Reuter.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed up 22.03 at 2,918.81 based on unofficial and preliminary data. New York Stock Exchange volume was light at 139 million shares. Gainers led decliners by a two-to-one margin.

Analysts said the Dow Jones index spiked up on buying by programme traders, which was magnified in a thin market.

Saudi Riyal deposits ease further

NICOSIA, Apr 9: Saudi Riyal interbank deposits eased further in a liquid market on Monday, dealers said, reports Reuter.

Business focussed on the short-dates as operators tried to swap excess Riyals for Dollars ahead of the Muslim Eid holiday due to begin next week. Both spot-next and one-month funds eased to six, 5-5/8 per cent from 6-1/8, 5-7/8 on Sunday.

Fixed periods were quoted around 1/16 point lower. One-month was put at six, 5-13/16 per cent, three months at 6-1/4, six per cent and six month at 6-1/2, 5/16 per cent.

The spot riyal was little changed at 3.7503/06 to the Dollar.

Low investment hampers West African development

LAGOS, Apr 9: Nigeria said the 16-nation West African Economic Grouping (ECOWAS) was being hampered by a lack of political will and low investment among other problems, reports Reuter.

Vietnam joins coffee body

LONDON, Apr 9: The International Coffee Organization announced Monday that Vietnam became the inter-government agency's 73rd member country on March 26, reports AP.

Vietnam, which has expanded production rapidly over the past ten years, formally applied to join as the organisation's 51st exporting country last September.

Coffee organization figures show that, with financial help from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Vietnam raised the area planted to coffee from 19,800 hectares (49,000 acres) in 1980-81 (October-September) to 135,500 hectares (335,000 acres) in 1989-90.

EC split over EMU

LUXEMBOURG, Apr 9: European Community (EC) countries remain split over whether to tighten economic conditions for moving towards the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), diplomats said during a meeting of EC Finance Ministers here Monday, reports AFP.

They said Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark, supported by Britain, insisted that more emphasis be placed on aligning EC economies before they could move towards a second phase of monetary union.

This transitional second phase is scheduled to start on January 1, 1994, and is supposed to culminate in single EC currency managed by a European Central Bank within the decade.

German Foreign Minister Horst Koehler said economic convergence, buttressed by fixed criteria to measure it,

had to be a "decisive test" for monetary union. Mr. Koehler underlined Germany's support for the goal of EMU, but added that the weaker EC economies needed an immediate "crash programme" so that they would not block EMU progress.

The diplomats said there was general agreement on a compromise proposal from the Luxembourg presidency to evaluate economic convergence on the way to stage two but without making it an absolute condition of passage.

But this was not good enough for Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark. Some countries such as France said at the time that such a condition was subjective and could be used as a pretext for blocking EMU.

But other countries, most prominently Germany, believe that the value of a single currency would be damaged by

linking it with high-inflation countries.

French Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy said after the meeting that the differences between the two camps would have to be resolved later by EC heads of state.

"A date for phase two of EMU is important because it means a commitment," he said.

Britain, which also preaches economic convergence, is the only one of the EC's 12 members not to have accepted that a single currency is inevitable.

London has proposed that the EC establish a common currency that would run parallel with national currencies until and if it proves its worth as a single currency.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont said this plan for a so-called "hard EMU" had built-in mechanisms for achieving economic alignment.

Govt procures 11,000 tons of wheat

The Government procured 11,000 metric tons of wheat so far out of the current year's targeted one lakh tons under the wheat procurement drive started since March 15 this year, an official handout said in Dhaka Monday, reports BSS.

The procurement was 6,700 metric tons during the same period last year, the handout said.

The objective of the wheat procurement drive is to ensure fair price to the growers and build an emergency stock. The per ton procurement price of the wheat including carrying bonus has been fixed at Taka 220.00.

The drive will continue upto August 31 this year, the handout added.

Objection to US export policy on Iraq overruled

WASHINGTON, Apr 9: A top Commerce Department official said Monday he had objected to the policy that allowed US companies to sell potentially dangerous technology to Iraq but was overruled by others in the Bush administration, reports AP.

But some administration officials involved in export policy later disputed the statements made by Dennis Klose, Undersecretary of Commerce for export administration, before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee.

Klose told a hearing of the subcommittee on international economic policy and trade that the commerce department approved the export licences to Iraq because they were in

accordance with US foreign policy at the time.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was able to use the advanced US technology in building his military machine, but the exports were permitted from 1985 until August 1990 to help Iraq in its war with Iran, during the period, the Commerce Department approved 771 export licenses to Iraq totalling 1.5 billion dollars for dual-use items that have potential military as well as legitimate commercial uses.

In recent months much of the criticism for the exports, which ranged from computers to aircraft to bacteria, has been leveled at the Commerce Department.

SHIPPING GUIDE

Star Economic Report

Following is the list of vessels calling at Chittagong port as per the list of the Marine Department of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA). The list was prepared on the basis of declarations made by the local agents in berthing meeting dates 1/4/1991.

Vessels due at Outer Anchorage:			
Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Local agents	Loading Port
Acadia Forest	12/4/91	ULA	L/Ua.Na.Sa.
Pin Ann Cheng	12/4/91	BRIGHT	-
Fong Yun (Comb)	10/4/91	AML	L/. Sing. Usec
7/3	10/4/91	BBA	L/. Cal. St. Fe.
Nehaj	10/4/91	ULA	-
Roseveert	10/4/91	B. BAY	-
Hua Xia	10/4/91	BSA	L/. Harb. Ports
Gwardia Ludowa	11/4/91	CT	L/. Sing
1/4	12/4/91	CT	-
Frants Bogush	19/4/91	JF	-
Southern Progress	25/4/91	AML	L/. Mom. Mapu
Gold Future	10/4/91	ALAMIN	-
Sea Tern	12/4/91	CT	-
Vamino	12/4/91	ROYAL	-
Barge Anchorer			
Lash Barge - 5 Nos.			

Gold & Silver

April-9 (Taka for 11.66 grams)

Gold	6,000.00
Tejabi	6,300.00
Silver	200.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Hides & Skin

(Wet/Salted)

April-9 (Taka per 100 pieces)

Cow	15,000.00	18,500.00
Light	28,000.00	34,500.00
Medium	40,000.00	48,000.00
Heavy	50,000.00	60,000.00
Very heavy	65,000.00	70,000.00
Rejected	25,000.00	30,000.00
Goat		
Light & heavy	12,000.00	14,000.00
Light	3,000.00	7,500.00
Medium	7,000.00	17,500.00
Rejected	3,000.00	3,500.00
Sheep	9,000.00	10,000.00
Buffalo	55,000.00	60,000.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Exchange Rates

April-9

SELLING AND BUYING RATES, offered by Commercial Banks, for Bank Cheques, (BC) and Overseas Drafts (ODs)	One Unit of Foreign Currencies (FC) for Taka	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	35.9226	35.4432	
UK Pound Sterling	63.4298	62.8735	
German Deutsche Mark	21.3001	21.0034	
French Franc	6.2993	6.3098	
Saudi Riyal	18.8917	18.8298	
Dutch Guilders	1.5551	1.5402	
Pakistan Rupee			
Mark			
Singapore Dollar	20.3628	20.1107	
US Dirham	9.8141	9.6831	
Kuwait Dinar		Not available	
Indian Rupee	1.9255	1.9081	
AMU	5.9180	5.8343	
S. Kroner			
*AMU-Asian Monetary Unit			
SECONDARY EXCHANGE MARKET			
Wage Earners Fund/Export Performance Benefit (XPB) Fund	Buying	Selling	
US Dollar	36.68	36.53	
Sterling	64.44	64.49	
* The rates of Pound Sterling are decided every day, based on the cross-rates of New York market.			
Source: Sonali Bank			

Price Barmeter: Essentials

April-9 (Taka per Kg)

Aman (Very fine)	17.00-17.50
Aman (fine)	14.50-15.00
Pajam	12.00-14.00
Uphi	11.50-12.00
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)	
Potato (White)	3.00-3.50
Brinjal	5.00-6.00
Lady's finger	8.00-10.00
Karolla	9.00-10.00
Lalshak	4.00-6.00
Papa	5.00-6.00
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	5.00-8.00
OVERPOODGRAIN (Taka per Kg)	
Flour	12.00-14.00
Ata	10.00-11.00
Wheat	8.50-9.00
Sud	18.00-20.00
FISH (Taka per kg)	
Rubi (big)	120.00-140.00
Katla (big)	90.00-110.00
Hilsha	55.00-60.00
Pangas	110.00-120.00
Shrimp (big)	80.00-100.00
Singi	75.00-80.00
Koi	90.00-100.00
PULSES (Taka per Kg)	
Mash	25.00-31.00
Mashur	26.00-28.00
Mugh	33.00-35.00
Chikola	22