

### Tk 1,651 cr revenue shortfall due to Gulf war

**Star Economic Report**  
The total national revenue shortfall stands at Taka 1651 crore due to the adverse effects of the Gulf war in the country's economy, the Minister of Finance and Planning, Md. Saifur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad in reply to a question on Thursday.

He said that the growth rate will be reduced by nearly one per cent because of Gulf crisis. He said that the Government spent Taka 38.31 crore as special expense to repatriate Bangladeshis from Kuwait and Iraq and Taka 24 crore worth of Kuwaiti currency was purchased from the returnees.

Thus, adding the national revenue shortfall of Taka 637 crore, the estimated export shortfall of Taka 428 crore and the remittance shortfall of Taka 586 crore the total national revenue shortfall stands at Taka 1651 crore, he added.

He said that the Government managed the situation by implementing austerity measures to cut down expenses for all non-development projects, by reducing the use of imported goods including petroleum products and by increasing the price of petroleum.

### Sharp decline in share trading

**Star Economic Report**  
The week ended at Dhaka bourse on Thursday with a sharp decline in share transactions. In volume terms it went down to 2,842 from Wednesday's 4572.

But the downtrend of the Composite Index of Dhaka Stock Exchange was halted with advancers dominating trading.

The index, which is the broad indicator of price movements of all the listed stocks, stood at 349.4341 points from Wednesday's 349.3546.

Traded issues valued Taka 1,87,035.00 against the previous day's Taka 2,99,862.00. Transactions involved eighteen stocks. Of them ten gained and eight lost in prices.

Islami Bank moved up Taka 15.00 to Taka 1185.00. The Ibsina gained Taka 5.00 to Taka 90.00.

Bengal Food and Chittagong Cement advanced Taka 2.00 each to Taka 195.00 and Taka 137.00 respectively.

BGIC Insurance, Green Delta Insurance, United Insurance, 5th ICB Mutual Fund, Tallu Spinning and Apex Tannery moved up within the range between Taka 0.25 and Taka 1.00.

Beximco Pharma, the lone traded debenture declined Taka 4.00 to Taka 1731.00.

G.G. Ball Pen and Dhaka Vegetable lost Taka 2.00 and Taka 1.27 to Taka 58.00 and Taka 144.00 respectively.

Atlas Bangladesh, 4th ICB Mutual Fund, Eastern Cables, Zeal Bangla Sugar, and Beximco declined within the range between Taka 0.25 and Taka 1.00.

### Quoted Prices of Traded Stocks

May-9			
Stock	Price	Change	Change %
<b>Banks</b>			
Islami Bank	1000	1185.00	(+15.00)
Investment	1000	125.00	(+1.00)
4th ICB M Fund	1000	142.00	(+1.00)
5th ICB M Fund	1000	125.00	(+1.00)
ICB	1000	112.50	(+0.50)
Green Delta	1000	115.41	(+0.86)
United	1000	121.00	(+1.00)
<b>Engineering</b>			
Atlas Bangladesh	100	40.00	(-1.00)
Eastern Cables	100	75.00	(-1.00)
Food & Allied	100	195.00	(+2.00)
Bengal Food	100	144.00	(-1.27)
Dhaka Vegetable	100	9.00	(-0.25)
Zeal Bangla Sugar	100	9.00	(-0.25)
<b>Pharma &amp; Chem</b>			
The Beximco	1000	90.00	(+5.00)
<b>Textile</b>			
Tallu Spinning	1000	116.00	(+0.50)
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
Apex Tannery	100	144.00	(+0.25)
Beximco	100	9.75	(-0.25)
Chittagong Cement	100	137.00	(+2.00)
G.G. Ball Pen	100	58.00	(-1.27)
Beximco	100	1731.00	(-4.00)

\*FV=Face Value, ML=Market Lot  
\*\*Change: Plus sign means gain and (-) sign losses.

# Breakdown in telelink hits trade

Star Economic Report

Telecommunication disruption poses problems for the business community in Dhaka, Chittagong and other places.

Overseas communication for trade and industry has become difficult. Talibabad satellite earth station at Kaliakoir near Dhaka through which international telecommunication links are now maintained is not capable of coping with the demand because of its limited capacity.

The country's main satellite station at Betunia 10 kilometres off Chittagong city, is inoperative since April 30, following the devastating cyclone in the coastal belt.

Betunia satellite itself is unhurt by the cyclone but its main link with the 87-metre high transmission tower at Nandankanan in the very heart of the port city is snapped. The tower was ramaged by the cyclone, disrupting international telecommunication and direct dialling arrangements between Chittagong and other places this has also

snapped transmission of television programmes to the port city and its adjoining areas.

The people in the cyclone-battered areas in Chittagong and its nearby places remain this outside the national television network.

T&T (Telephone and Telegraph) authorities have made makeshift arrangements through Power Development Board (PDB) Tower at Paharali near Chittagong for maintaining miniscule telelinks with the capital city. Only limited

### Call money market

Money rates in the Call money market during the week ending on Wednesday ranged from 10.00 per cent to 12.00 per cent. During the same week interest rates offered by the bank on Certificate of Deposits varied from 9.00 per cent to 14.00 per cent. The bank rate, however, remained unchanged at 9.75 per cent.

trunk call arrangements and tele facilities have thus been made operative.

Out of 280 channels which were in operations between the port city and Dhaka before the cyclone, only eight links (that too under trunk call system) operate now. Telex facilities are also only partially operational.

T&T Board said, telecommunication network Dhaka and 50 countries is in tact. But subscribers complained that the situation "remains still worse".

There were 450 ISD (International direct dialling) sets in operations at Chittagong before the cyclone. The ISD system is now totally disrupted following the demolition of the microwave tower at Chittagong. There are 24,000 telephone subscribers in the port city. And, a good number of the sets are now out of order.

The disruptions and dislocations to the telecommunication network alone at

Chittagong, will entail a monthly revenue loss of Taka 40 million for T & T Board.

Our Chittagong correspondent Nural Alam reports: The T&T authorities have dismantled the damaged tower at Nandankanan to assess how many sections of the tower including its antennas could be set right and how many would have to be replaced. There were 19 antennas at the tower with one of them meant for use by Bangladesh Television.

Preliminary assessment showed that replacement of the microwave tower, built in the sixties by Lencurp Company of the USA, might involve between Taka 50 million and Taka 60 million. At least, six months will be needed for its complete replacement.

However attempts will be made for some repair works to make the telecommunication network somehow operational network before its replacement. That will also take not less than two months and may involve Taka ten million.

# Foreign consulting firms paid \$ 129m during TFYP

Star Economic Report

There are 150 registered local consultancy firms in the country, however, no roster of foreign consulting firms are maintained. They are short-listed when a project comes up for consideration, Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman, told the Jatiya Sangsad in reply to a question on Thursday.

The foreign consultants were paid a total fee of 129 million Dollars during the Third Five Year Plan (1985-90), while local consultants were paid 9.56 million Dollars during the same period. The corresponding figures for the Second Five Year Plan (1980-85) were 108 million Dollars and 8.1 million Dollars respectively, he said.

In reply to another question, the Minister said that Bangladesh has signed agreements for receiving Taka 1640.6 crore (\$460.842 million) as project aid for the fiscal year 1990-91. The countries and organisations which have committed aid till March of this year for the current fiscal year include Denmark, Finland, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Asian Development Bank,

the European Economic Community, the United Nations Development Fund and the Islamic Development Bank, he added.

In reply to separate question, the Minister said that the foreign aid component of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the current fiscal year budget is 63.8 per cent. He said that the foreign aid component of the development budget primarily comes in the form of project aid. The total amount of project aid received between July '90 and February '91 is about 56.6 per cent of the total development budget for 1990-91, while between July and December of last year 66.1 per cent of the development budget expenditure was in the form of project aid, he informed the House.

The government accepts loans from different countries at different annual interest rates, of which the average annual interest rates for soft loans is about 1.9 per cent, he said in reply to another question.

The Minister also informed the House in reply to another question that the total amount of foreign loans received between January '72 and March '91 stands at Taka 26441.86 crore (\$11176.599 million). Of the total amount, Taka 2963.64 crore (\$1391.381 million) was given by the United States of America. Out of total amount of aid received, Taka 1006.39 crore (\$762.557 million) was given as food aid. Taka 9366.49 crore (\$4105.615 million) as commodity aid and Taka 16068.98 crore (\$6308.427 million) was given as project aid (the dollar to Taka exchange rate has been calculated according to the existing rate of a particular year), he said.

### FBCCI's plea to keep prices of essentials normal

Al-haj Mohammad Akram Hussain, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Thursday appealed to businessmen to keep the prices of essential commodities normal and static at this critical hour of natural calamity, reports BSS.

### Taiwan to hold trade fair in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, May 9: A Taiwan trade body will hold a trade fair here later this month with China among its target markets, its organiser said Tuesday, reports AFP.

No invitations were sent to Taiwan or Chinese government officials, "but we would welcome anyone who wishes to come," said Kenneth Lai, who runs the local office of the Taipei World Trade Centre.

The organisation is understood to have backing from the Taipei government, although Lai said it preferred to be called a private-sector entity. "We hope to attract international buyers through the fair... and among them mainland China," Lai told a press conference.

Indirect trade between Taiwan and the mainland via Hong Kong last year was worth a total of nearly four billion US Dollars.

Forty-two Taiwan companies will take part in the four-day, 1.3 million US Dollar event starting May 22 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Lai said, "Hong Kong and Singapore each carry their own advantages, but Hong Kong is geographically closer to Taiwan."



Partial view of the Chittagong Port damaged by the devastating cyclone of April 29. —Star Photo

# Ctg Port fully operational

Star Economic Report

CHITTAGONG, May 9: The country's main sea port is fully operational now.

The navigational channel is "absolutely safe" for handling vessels up to seven metre draft during the day light hours, Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) told The Daily Star.

Shortly the CPA will open the port for the maximum permissible limit during the day time, said Capt Amirul Islam, Deputy Conservator of the port.

The port suffered extensive damages to its property, installations, sheds, equipment, jetties and crafts because of the devastating cyclone and tidal bore on the night following April 29 and in the early hours of April 30.

According to CPA sources, the equipment loss of the port will be about Taka 140 crore. Total loss including equipment and physical infrastructure is to the tune of Taka 350 crore.

The CPA submitted a programme for repair and rehabilitation works of the port to the Ministry of Ports and Shipping.

The port operation remained suspended after the cyclone until May 4. A large number of vessels and crafts were sunk in the river. Navigational buoys were either destroyed or displaced. The port authority took prompt actions to identify and locate wrecks in the main navigational channel.

Following this, it declared the port open with a trial run on May 5. And now it is fully operational for vessels up to seven metre draft during day light hours only.

Asked when the operations of the port during the night hours would begin, the sources said that marking channels were displaced by the devastating cyclone. As soon as such channels are restored, the port will be operational at night, the sources said.

About the salvage operations, the CPA sources said, "we do not know what exactly happened in the upstream." Such operations will begin after completion of all necessary formalities including floatation of tender documents and selection of party or parties are complete along with funding arrangements.

### Snippets

#### Siberian miners' strike continues

MOSCOW, May 9: Siberian coalminers leaders failed to decide on Tuesday whether to call off a nine-week-old strike despite Monday's deal handing control of the mines to Boris Yeltsin's Russian Federation, reports Reuters.

"After long debate they decided to wait until they could see it (the transfer accord) with their own eyes, feel it with their own hands, see the signatures at the bottom and the seal," strike Committee spokesman Nikolai Pitomstev said by telephone from Kiselevsk. "People are afraid of being cheated one more time".

#### 2 models of personal computers soon

TOKYO, May 9: IBM Japan Ltd said Tuesday it would launch two new models of personal computers over the next six weeks as part of its plan to promote standardisation in Japan's personal computer market, reports AFP.

The Japanese unit of the US computer giant also announced plans to develop a high-performance operating system for users in Japan and cut domestic prices on related software and hardware by as much as 62 per cent.

#### Cambodian rubber output up

CHUP (Cambodia), May 9: The country's rubber output has almost reached pre-civil war levels and there is room to expand beyond the current 50,000 hectares (123,500 acres) under cultivation, officials say, reports AFP.

Some 30,000-35,000 tonnes is exported, bringing in 15 million to 20 million Dollars and making rubber the most important export for Phnom Penh government, said Mao Chnsamnon, Permanent Deputy General Director of the Kampuchea Export Import Company, or KAMPEXIM.

#### Hoesch's profit to decline

DORTMUND (Germany), May 9: The German steel group Hoesch said Tuesday its profits in 1991 would fall because of weak sales and rising costs following a downturn in 1990, reports AFP.

Consolidated operating profits in 1990 dropped by almost 15 per cent to 440 million German Marks (about 260 million Dollars) from 517 million Marks in 1989, Financial Director Hero Brahm said.

Consolidated sales in 1990 rose by five per cent to 12,570 billion Marks from 11,973 billion Marks. The company recommended an unchanged dividend of 10 Marks per share.

#### Kuwait's 93 wells capped

AHMADI (Kuwait), May 9: Firefighters tackling hundreds of burning or gushing wells in Kuwait's sabotaged oilfields are making speedy progress, raising hopes that the Emirates pollution nightmare could be largely over in months, report Reuters.

A total of 93 wells had been capped as of Tuesday morning and a Western economic analyst said two-thirds would be brought under control by the end of August, according to the present schedule.

#### European air traffic recovering

BRUSSELS, May 9: European air traffic has started to recover slowly since hostilities in the Gulf ended, but it is still running below last year's levels, the Association of European Airlines (AEA) said on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Passenger and freight traffic in March was 14.3 per cent down from last year, compared with a 23.9 per cent decline in February, figures provided by AEA's 22 member airlines showed.

#### Japan to import silk from China

TOKYO, May 9: Japan is to halve its imports of raw silk from China for the New silk year beginning from the previous year's 40,000 bales to 20,000 bales, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said Wednesday, reports AFP.

Japan's new import quota of raw silk and silk products was agreed on at bilateral talks held in Beijing late April, Ministry officials said. During the talks, the Japanese side proposed the sharp cut in Japanese imports of Chinese raw silk because of a slump in demand. Japan agreed to keep import quotas for silk products at the same level as the previous year in order to secure a stable supply from China, they said.

# Malaysia discovers natural rubber

KUALA LUMPUR, May 9: Malaysia's Rubber Research Institute has discovered a process to reclaim natural rubber from the waste and rejects of latex products factories, Bernama news agency said Tuesday, reports AFP.

The amount of rubber waste discarded by latex products factories last year was more than 5,000 tonnes, Bernama quoted Ahmad Farouk Ishak, the Controller of the Malaysian Rubber Research and Development Board, as saying at a ceremony to transfer the technology to a private company.

The reclaimed material has a rubber content of more than 97 per cent, Farouk said, adding that the innovation could also eradicate pollution problems stemming from the disposal of the waste by conventional means.

Adpol Sdn BHD, the company given the rights to the process, is a joint-venture between local businessmen who hold 51 per cent of the equity and BG Tyres of the United States which holds the remaining 49 per cent.

The company is investing six million Malaysian Dollars (2.18 million US) in a factory here to produce reclaimed rubber, mainly for export to North America, Japan, South Korea and Western Europe.

Reclaimed rubber is expected to be between 30 and 35 per cent cheaper than natural rubber, Adpol Director Ash Muthana said.



Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Chittagong was battered by severe cyclone of April 29. —Star Photo

# BADC loses Tk 50 cr

Star Economic Report

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has suffered a loss of about 50 crore Taka in the cyclone and tidal surge of April 29.

The losses were due to damages caused to corporation's offices, godowns, agricultural inputs and equipment in affected coastal districts, BADC sources said. The amount of loss is based on preliminary estimate while a detailed report on damages is being prepared.

Some officials of BADC, who visited coastal areas after the cyclone, said damage to the agricultural sector was colossal and in most of the coastal belt the loss of standing crops was 80 to 100 per cent. "Steps for immediate agricultural rehabilitation was urgently needed," an official said.

Sources believe Aus and Transplant Aman can be cultivated in the affected areas in this season to overcome the losses. But this will require support from the government.

BADC has already engaged 15 pumps in Maheshkhali, Sandwip, Hatiya, Chokoria and Kutubdia for removing saline water from agricultural lands, but these are not sufficient to meet the need. For the procurement of more pumps and

other inputs like fertilisers and seeds, BADC will require about 150 crore taka.

BADC authorities have estimated that 40,000 tons of urea and another 40,000 tons of 151 will be required for increased production of crops in the cyclone affected areas.

### Exchange Rates

May-9			
SELLING AND BUYING RATES, offered by Commercial Banks, for Bank Cheques, (DC) and Overseas Drafts (ODs)	One Unit of Foreign Currencies @Coi for Taka		
	Selling	Buying	
US Dollar	35.9226	35.4432	
UK Pound Sterling	62.0141	61.2703	
German Deutsche Mark	20.9400	20.8485	
French Franc	6.1855	6.1009	
Saudi Riyal	9.6101	9.4919	
Dutch Guilder	18.5887	18.3311	
Pakistan Rupee (AMU)	1.5233	1.5087	
Singapore Dollar	20.3251	20.0539	
UAE Dirham	9.8141	9.8831	
Kuwait Dinar	Not available		
Indian Rupee	1.7730	1.7564	
AMU	5.8496	5.7669	
S. Kroner			
*AMU-Asian Monetary Unit			
SECONDARY EXCHANGE MARKET			
Wage Earners Fund, Export Performance Benefit (XPB) Fund	Buying	Selling	
US Dollar	36.48	36.53	
UK Pound Sterling	63.00	63.05	
* The rates of Pound Sterling are decided every day, based on the cross-rates of New York market			
Source: Sonali Bank			

### Gold & Silver

May-9	
Gold (Taka for 11.66 grams)	
Tejgabi	6,000.00
Guinea	6,300.00
Silver	200.00

### Hides & Skin

May-9	
(Wet-Salted)	
(Taka per 100 pieces)	
Cow	12,000.00 - 13,000.00
Light	30,000.00 - 32,000.00
Medium	30,000.00 - 35,000.00
Heavy	50,000.00 - 52,000.00
Very heavy	55,000.00 - 60,000.00
Rejected	22,000.00 - 24,000.00
Goat	
Big & heavy	12,000.00 - 13,000.00
Light & Medium	6,000.00 - 7,000.00
Rejected	3,000.00 - 3,500.00
Sheep	9,200.00 - 9,500.00
Buffalo	55,000.00 - 56,000.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

### Raw Jute

May-9			
Kutcha bales			
FOB * Narayanganj/Daulatpur Varieties (Tk. per 100 Kg)			
	White	Tossa	Meshta
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			
Pucca bales FOB (Sight)**			
Varieties	(Ready*)	Tk. per	\$ per
<b>Bangla</b>			
White	bale*	MT*	
BW SPL	3450	585	
BWA	3350	570	
BWB	3300	550	
BWC	2900	480	
BWD	26		