

# Tk 4,885 cr LCs for imports outstanding

Star Economic Report

Outstanding Letters of Credits (LCs) for imports of commodities and industrial raw materials valued Tk 4,884.74 crore on March 31, 91, Bangladesh Bank said through a press release on Tuesday.

In all, LCs amounting to Tk 885.91 crore were opened between July and March in current fiscal 1990-91. The amount included all LCs opened under loan, credit, grant, barter, Special Trading Arrangement (STA), cash, Wage Earners Scheme (WES) and Secondary Exchange Market (SEM). In March alone, LCs worth Tk 1014.82 crore were opened.

The detailed import statistics of the central bank showed the outstanding LCs under back-to-back arrangements at Tk 682.39 crore on March 31. The figures for other essential items were:

Taka 259.47 for petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL), Taka 33.96 crore for soyabean oil, Taka 16.38 crore for commercial and industrial oil or rape seed, Taka 84.71 crore for raw cotton, Taka 13.81 crore for pulses (all sorts), Taka 20.61 crore for drugs and medicines, Taka 74.21 crore for pharmaceutical raw materials, Taka 112.69 crore for other chemicals, Taka 30.20 crore for fertilisers, Taka 38.50 crore for synthetic and mixed yarn and Taka 18.85 crore for synthetic or viscose fibre.

The other items in the import pipeline on March 31 were: Taka 18.30 crore for edible refined oil (all sorts), Taka 37.41 crore for powdered milk (fat), Taka 6.15 crore for industrial and commercial powdered milk (Non-fat), Taka 15.39 crore for condensed milk, Taka 2.26 crore for patent and farinaceous food, Taka 9.90 crore for sugar, Taka 184.47 crore for wheat, Taka 11.91 crore for spices, Taka 0.13 crore for salt, Taka 0.23 crore for coconut and Taka 6.60 crore for cotton yarn.

Also in the pipeline on March 31 were cement worth Taka 63.70 crore, c.i. sheet for Taka 42.89 crore, b.p. sheet for Taka 35.80 crore, coal for Taka 10.16 crore, and tin plate for Taka 8.59 crore.

In capital machinery sector, LCs in the pipeline valued Taka 458.31 crore for textiles, leather or tannery, Jute, garments, pharmaceuticals, plastic, printing, electronics, toy, packing and other industries. Other machinery imports in terms of outstanding LCs were worth Taka 604.55 crore.

The outstanding LC position for non-ferrous metal was Taka 12.17 crore. For other iron and steel products, it was Taka 15.85 crore. The value of outstanding LCs was Taka 4.17 crore for irrigation engine and wheel while that of marine diesel engine was Taka 9.54 crore.

Other transportable engines in terms of outstanding LCs valued Taka 2.44 crore. The other items in the import pipeline on March 31 were: Scrap vessel (Taka 22.45 crore), iron and steel scrap (Taka 4.46 crore), tractor, trailers and power tillers Taka 16.84 crore, motor vehicles (car, bus, mini bus, truck and others) Taka 41.16 crore, spare parts of motor vehicles and by-cycle Taka 17.30 crore, tyre and tube, Taka 15.64, computer spare parts and accessories Taka 2.72 crore, electrical components and spare parts Taka 305.50 crore and electronic components and spare parts Taka 16.76 crore.

Import LCs for telecommunication equipment and machinery worth Taka 119.63 crore were in the pipeline on March 31. Besides, paper worth Taka 16.54 crore, paper board valued Taka 3.52 crore and watches, parts and components of about Taka 3.93 crore were in the pipeline. Tobacco valued Taka 5.89 crore remained outstanding in terms of LC opening.

Invisible payments (including service charges, commission, consultancy fees) amounting to Taka 150.31 crore were awaiting settlements on March 31. Outstanding LCs of items categorised as others valued Taka 599.11 crore.

## Saudi coast devastated by oil spill

RIYADH, May 14: The world's biggest oil spill has devastated Saudi Arabia's northeast coast but large areas of the Gulf may have had a lucky escape. Saudi environmentalists said recently.

A combination of hot sunshine and slow moving currents could have protected much of the waterway from up to six million barrels of oil which poured into the sea from Iraqi, Kuwaiti, and Saudi installations and tankers damaged during the Gulf war.

Environmentalists believe the Gulf's high salinity made the oil float on the surface, leaving it to evaporate under the blazing sun.

Meanwhile, Kuwait plans to resume crude oil production for the local market next month at a rate of 50,000 barrels per day (BPD), rising to 120,000 BPD in July.

## Dhaka company appointed as agent of Federal Express

Star Economic Report  
Federal Express, world's largest air express carrier announced on May 1 the appointment of Bangladesh Express Company Ltd as its exclusive service partner in Bangladesh.

The announcement was made through a Federal Express press release by Bob Turner, Regional Manager Middle East and Indian subcontinent.

The press release said, the carrier makes more than 1.5 million on time deliveries of critical documents, packages and freight worldwide daily. The seven billion dollars company employs over 94,000 people world wide.

# Most Ctg industries in public sector reopen

Star Economic Report

A number of public sector industries damaged during the devastating cyclone and the accompanying tidal wave in the Chittagong area have been reopened and are beginning to reach normal production level, while others are waiting to be re-activated within a short time.

According to officials sources, most of these industries sustained extensive damages due to the cyclone and it was feared that it would take at least a period of one month to re-activate these industries.

However, due to the timely actions and all-out efforts of the government and other concerned agencies, many of these industries have been already reopened. The Minister

of Industries personally supervised repair work of these industries in Chittagong. A 30-member government expert team is currently in Chittagong to ascertain the damages caused to the private sector industries in the area.

The Karnafuli Rayon Mills and the Karnafuli Paper Mill have already resumed production and are leading towards normal production levels. The Barabkunda Chemical Company has also resumed operation and production at the Chittagong Urea Factory had been partially restored.

The Chittagong Cement and Clinker Factory was scheduled to resume full production and the Osmania Glass Factory was

also scheduled to resume at least 50 per cent of its production as of Monday. The Chittagong Steel Mills will also resume production of Corrugated Iron (CI) sheets very soon. To meet the immediate housing needs, the steel mills will produce only CI sheets and clinker factory will produce asbestos.

The Chittagong Chemical Complex has also been made operational from May 10. The complex was scheduled to resume production, at least partially, as of yesterday (Monday), according to official sources. Work is underway for necessary repair and renovation work at the TSP complex and production is scheduled to resume by the last week of June.



Wreckage of the buildings housing public sector industries in Chittagong is being cleared by rescue workers. The buildings collapsed following devastating cyclone of April 29. —Star photo

## Moderate rise in share trading

Star Economic Report

Trading at Dhaka bourse witnessed a moderate rise on Tuesday.

In volume terms transactions stood at 6,351 from Monday's 4,461. But in value terms it went down to Taka 3,95,260.00 against the previous day's Taka 4,03,928.00, as most transactions involved lower capitalised issues.

Out of thirty three traded stocks, eighteen lost, six gained and nine remained unchanged at their previous quoted prices. And the All Share Price Index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) declined 2,2638 points to 347.0173 from Monday's 349,2811.

Among the decliners Al Baraka Bank got the major slash. It lost Taka 100.00 to Taka 800.00.

The debenture of Beximco Pharma declined Taka 5.00 to Taka 1720.00.

The Ist ICB Mutual Fund, Bangladesh Autocars and Oxygen lost Taka 10.00, Taka 5.50 and Taka 3.17 to Taka 420.00, Taka 106.50 and Taka 53.50 respectively.

National Bank and Progressive Plastic declined Taka 3.00 each to Taka 115.00 and Taka 45.00.

Saiham Textile and Chittagong Cement declined Taka 2.44 and Taka 2.08 to Taka 83.06 and Taka 140.92.

BGIC Insurance, 3rd ICB Mutual Fund, 6th Mutual Fund, Atlas Bangladesh, Bangladesh Thai Aluminium, Chittagong Vegetable, Rupan Oil, Tallu Spinning and Bata Shoe lost within the range between Taka 0.02 and Taka 1.00.

Islami Bank and AB Bank moved up Taka 11.00 and Taka 5.00 to Taka 1196.00 and Taka 175.00.

Bengal Food, Dhaka Vegetable, Eagle Star and Beximco gained within the range between Taka 0.38 and Taka 0.98.

## Quoted Prices of Traded Stocks

Stock Name	Qty	Close	Change
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	800.00	(100.00)
A.B. Bank	100/5	175.00	(45.00)
City Bank	100/5	278.00	(1.00)
Islami Bank	1000/1	1196.00	(+11.00)
National Bank	100/5	115.00	(3.00)
UCBL	100/5	130.00	(unchanged)
BGIC	100/10	112.23	(+0.02)
1st ICB Mutual Fund	100/5	420.00	(10.00)
3rd ICB Mutual Fund	100/5	154.00	(1.00)
6th ICB Mutual Fund	100/10	90.00	(1.00)
Insurance	100/10	112.23	(+0.02)
Bengal Food	10/50	40.50	(+0.50)
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5	106.50	(5.00)
Dhaka Vegetable	100/10	99.00	(1.00)
N.T.C.	100/5	205.00	(unchanged)
Rupan Oil	10/100	6.00	(+0.50)
Power & Paper	100/5	55.50	(+3.17)
Oxygen	100/5	45.00	(+3.00)
The Bangladesh Paper & Printing	100/10	90.00	(unchanged)
Eagle Star	10/50	34.50	(+0.50)
Saiham Textile	100/10	83.06	(-2.44)
Tallu Spinning	100/10	115.00	(-1.00)
Bata Shoe	10/100	37.40	(+0.38)
Beximco	100/5	9.98	(+0.38)
Chittagong Cement	100/5	140.92	(-2.08)
Osmania Glass	100/5	125.00	(unchanged)
Beximco Pharma	1000/1	1035.00	(unchanged)
Debtors	1714/1	1720.00	(+5.00)

\*FB=Face Value, ML=Market Lot  
\*\* Changes: Plus signs mean gain and (-) signs losses.

### Dhaka Stock Exchange Market Profile

May-14

134 Listed stocks

6 Gains      18 Losers      110 Unchanged

110 Unchanged stocks include nine traded on the day at their previous quoted prices.

DSE All Share Price Index = 347.0173  
Issued Capital=Taka 10,146,289,601.00  
Market Capitalisation = 9,916,109,261  
Turnover = Taka 3,95,260.00 (Value) 6,351 (Volume).

## Price Barometer Essentials

Commodity	Unit	Price	Change
RICE (Taka per kg)			
Amam (Very fine)	1700-1750		
Amam (fine)	1450-1500		
Patani	1400-1450		
Uphit	1300-1350		
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)			
Potato (White)	3.25-3.75		
Brinjal	8.00-12.00		
Lady's finger	8.00-10.00		
Karolla	10.00-12.00		
Lalishuk	5.00-6.00		
Pappa	5.00-8.00		
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	5.00-8.00		
OTHER FOODGRAN (Taka per kg)			
Flour	12.00-14.00		
Wheat	10.00-11.00		
Maize	8.00-8.50		
Sorghum	18.00-20.00		
FISH (Taka per kg)			
Rohit (big)	110.00-130.00		
Katla (big)	90.00-100.00		
Hilsha	45.00-48.00		
Pangas	100.00-110.00		
Shrimp (big)	90.00-100.00		
Singi	70.00-80.00		
Koi	80.00-110.00		
PULSES (Taka per kg)			
Mash	30.00-32.00		
Mashur	26.00-28.00		
Moogh	28.00-30.00		
Chholis	23.00-24.00		
Matar	24.00-26.00		
Kharuri	16.00-18.00		
MEAT (Taka per kg)			
Beef	55.00-60.00		
Mutton	80.00-90.00		
OIL (Taka per Litre)			
Mustard	52.00-56.00		
Soyabean	33.50-34.00		
Coconut (Colombo)	64.00-68.00		
Vegetable Ghee	44.00-48.00		
SPICES (Taka Per kg)			
Onion	12.00-15.00		
Garlic	36.00-44.00		
Chillies	55.00-60.00		
Turmeric (Round)	40.00-45.00		
(Long)	40.00-45.00		
Green chillies	16.00-20.00		
Ginger	20.00-24.00		
Cinnamon* (10gms)	3.00-3.50		
Cardamom* (large)	3.50-4.00		
Jhira (50gms)	7.00-7.50		
MISCELLANEOUS (Taka)			
Ghee	220.00-240.00		
Sugar	27.00-28.00		
Molasses	18.00-20.00		

## Gold & Silver

May-14 (Taka for 11.66 grams)

Gold	6,000.00
Tejpat	6,000.00
Gultra	6,300.00
Silver	200.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

## Hides & Skin

(Wet/Salted) May-14 (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

# Bank of Japan urges govt to employ foreign workers

TOKYO, May 14: The Bank of Japan in an unusual move, urged the government Friday to consider as a matter of urgency the employment of foreign workers to help solve the country's acute labour shortage, reports AFP.

Dependence on foreign labour together with increasing imports of manufactured goods and utilisation of foreign

workers within Japan will have a gradually increasing impact on Japan's labour market, the central bank said.

Concurrent with ongoing globalisation in Japan, increasing the cross-border mobility of labour will become inevitable, it said. The employment of foreign workers is an urgent issue which requires examination from every angle.

The recommendation, contained in a special report on the labour market, echoes similar calls made by various Japanese industry groups and companies particularly small firms which have been hit

hardest by the labour shortage. The call accompanied by suggestions to facilitate hiring women and old people also follows revisions to immigration laws last year. The changes aimed to flush out unskilled workers employed illegally in Japan and, according to the Justice Ministry simplify employment procedures for skilled workers.

Previous legislation provided for foreigners found to be working illegally in Japan to be deported whereas the new laws also include penalties for Japanese employers found hiring unskilled labour.

## Republics begin talks with Kremlin on reform

MOSCOW, May 14: Soviet republics yesterday began talks with the Kremlin on an economic reform package after rallying behind central government efforts to stave off further crisis, the independent news agency Interfax said, reports Reuters.

The central government's anti-crisis programme, approved by the Soviet Parliament a month ago, was the basis of talks between Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shcherbakov and 11 of the 15 Soviet Republics.

Interfax said the Republics were expected to introduce amendments to the draft programme which would be put to the government on Wednesday.

The draft specifies emergency measures to be taken to haul the country out of economic crisis," Interfax said.

The independence-minded Baltic Republics and Georgia stayed away from Monday's talks but they were expected to participate later, it said. Previously, only nine Republics

## Arabs urged to depend on private sector

ABU DHABI, May 14: Arab states should depend more on the private sector to tackle their economic problems, the Arab League's Monetary Chief said yesterday, reports AFP.

Arabs should exert efforts to implement corrective economic policies to cope with the developments of the coming stage, said Osama al-Faqih, Chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

It is important to give the private sector a greater role in economic activity so Arab

states will be able to overcome the adverse effects of the recent events in the region, he told the official Emirates news agency WAM.

Faqih's comments marked the release of the Annual Arab Economic report for 1990, which is prepared jointly by the Abu Dhabi-based AMF and three other Arab League institutions.

Faqih's remarks are the latest in a series of calls on Arab governments to relax controls on their economies to help activate them and overcome current difficulties.

The private sector still provides less than 10 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in some of the 21 Arab League countries despite pledges by officials there to privatise.

In a bid to force privatisation of rich Arab Gulf States said last month a fund they set up to help Arab and other developing nations would focus on the private sector.

## Exchange Rates

SELLING AND BUYING RATES offered by Commercial Banks, for Bank Cheques, B/Cs and Overseas Drafts (ODs)

One Unit of Foreign Currencies (FC) for Taka

FC	Selling	Buying
US Dollar	35.9226	35.4432
UK Pound Sterling	61.9066	61.1638
German Deutsche	20.8610	20.5706
Mark	6.1723	6.0847
Swedish Ryal	9.6101	9.4919
Dutch Guilders	18.5216	18.2003
Pakistan Rupee (AMU*)	1.5169	1.5023
Singapore Dollar	20.2861	20.0154
UAZ Dinar	9.8141	9.6831
Kuwait Dinar	Not available	
Indian Rupee		
AMU	1.7029	1.7463
S. Krover	5.8974	5.7876

\*AMU=Asian Monetary Unit

## Secondary Exchange Market

Wage Earners Fund/Export Performance - Benefit (XPB) Fund

Unit	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 operations of New York market  
Source: Sonali Bank

## Imports/arrivals of Kutchha bales at Narayanagar were five to six thousand mounds while at Daulatpur at four to five thousand mounds. (One mound is equal to 37,32417 Kcs.)

Source: Bangladesh Jute Association

# Polls won't reverse uptrend of Indian economy

BOMBAY (India) May 14: Prices on Indian stock markets have held firm in the last few weeks, apparently because businessmen believe the economy in such a mess it can only improve, no matter who comes to power in this month's elections, reports AFP.

The rest of the country gloomily predicting yet another hung parliament after the May 20-26 polls, the stock markets' defiant note seems to be based on the premise that whoever takes over in New Delhi have to get a strong grip on economic policy, analysts agree.

And they are sure that in doing this the new government will have little option but to follow the liberalisation and privatisation trend started in the mid-1980s, according to S.M. Datta, Chairman of Hindustan Lever Ltd., a Unilever affiliate and India's ninth largest private sector company.

Vijay Kalantari, President of the All India Manufacturers' Association attributes some of the optimism behind the market to early indications that the Congress (I) Party of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi might emerge with a majority.

"The Congress is the best party for Indian business," he said. "It is the only party with an all-India base which can keep the country together."

Zrish Bhasin, President of the Delhi Stock Exchange, concurred.

What has appealed most to businessmen here in the Congress manifesto is its stand on foreign investment which says "the investment and collaboration will be permitted to increase exports and expand production base."

It would be the second such World Bank loan to Hungary.

The National Bank of Hungary (NBH) drew the first tranche of the existing 200 million dollars credit in 1990 and the second tranche in the first quarter of this year.

The structural adjustment loan would help Hungary finance imports as it liberalises its economy along free-market lines.

US company finds gas in Britain

LONDON, May 14: The US oil company Mobil has found "significant" and "very promising" amounts of natural gas at a new site in the British sector of the North Sea, a company spokesman said here Monday, reports AFP.

He said the borehole, located near the present Lancelot Field off the English coast of Norfolk, was producing 19.5 million standard cubic feet (550,000 cubic metres) of gas a day at a depth of just over 9,200 feet (2,800 metres).

"One find of gas doesn't make a new field but it does look significant. We fell it is very promising," the spokesman said.

China's steel production rises

BEIJING, May 14: China produced 22.09 million tons of steel during