

Foreign aid pledged for relief amounts to \$448m

Star Economic Report

The total amount of foreign aid pledged for relief and reconstruction works in the cyclone affected areas stood at US \$448.23 million as of June 9.

This was stated by State Minister for Relief, Lutfur Rahman Khan, on behalf of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, in reply to a question in Parliament by Mansoor Ahmed, MP, (Sathkira-4) on Saturday.

He said that a total of 35 countries and nine international organisations sent relief materials including food-stuff, medicines, clothes, tents and building materials weighing 25,37,390 kg and 5336 cartons of relief goods. Of this, about 10,98,515 kg and 60 cartons were deposited with the Prime Ministers' relief godown and another 14,38,875 kg and 5276 cartons were given to various NGOs for distribution.

Of the total amount, more than \$344 million has been pledged for reconstruction works in the cyclone affected areas, he said.

In reply to another question from Nurul Islam Moni, MP, (Barguna-2) the State Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister informed that a total of Taka 28,94,18,698.94 was collected in the Prime Ministers' Relief Fund as of 6 June and in addition US \$9.5 million Japanese grant was deposited with the fund.

He said of the total amount, Taka 6,84,85,896.25 and US\$4.85 million out of the Japanese grant has already been spent.

90 markets under DCC

There are 90 markets in operation under the Dhaka City Corporation housing 15,564 shops in the city.

This was stated by Local Government and Rural Development Minister, Barrister Abdus Salam

Talukdar, in reply to a written question by Nurul Islam Moni, MP (Barguna-2) on Saturday.

The Minister informed that the total income of the DCC from the rents collected from these shops every month stands at Taka 29,05,286.39 per month. He said that a total of Taka 105,92,19,445.59 was received by DCC as possession money from these markets over the years.

He also informed that a huge number of cases are pending in the courts regarding irregularities in allotment of the shops.

The list of the 90 markets shows the Sadarghat Hawkers Market to be the oldest one built in 1952, which has 768 shops at present. However, the year of construction of at least 43 markets are not known. It may be noted that between 1985-90 at least 39 markets have been constructed by DCC, according to the list.

Gorbachev invited to meet G-7 leaders

LONDON, June 15: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has been formally invited to meet with Group of Seven leaders 'immediately following the London summit' meeting of the G-7, to be held here in July, Prime Minister John Major said Thursday, reports AFP.

As host of the G-7 conference of leaders of the world's most highly industrialised countries, to be held in London July 15-17, Major said he had sent the formal invitation to Gorbachev on Thursday "after consulting the other leaders in the Group of Seven."

"I have also invited him to stay on at the end of the London summit for bilateral discussions," the Prime Minister told the House of Commons.

A source close to the Prime Minister said the Soviet leader will arrive here the morning on July 17 for a working session with the G-7 heads of state or government immediately after the end of their group session. Western economic aid for the limping Soviet economy will be a major topic at the summit conclave.

India's foreign exchange reserves stabilised

NEW DELHI, June 15: Decline in India's foreign exchange reserves has been halted and the reserves have now stabilised at a relatively improved level, latest estimates available from the Indian Reserve Bank here show, reports AFP.

The reserves, excluding gold and special drawing rights (SDR), stood at 1,320 million dollars as of May 24. They had sharply dropped to 1,253.5 million dollars in the first week of May from 2,050 million dollars a month ago.

Officials attribute the sharp drop to repayment of foreign loans made in two parts in May, and say the effort is to keep the reserves higher than 1,250 million dollars.

The latest release of the bank estimates were preceded by an official confirmation last week of press reports of India having sold 20 tonnes of gold to tackle a worsening exchange crunch.



Export-oriented shoe making industries are flourishing in Bangladesh. From today, we are publishing a series of photographs to show the phase-wise activities from processing to finished products of such an industry located near Shaifpur, Dhaka. The present photo shows leather cutting in progress for shoe-making. —Star photo by Mohsin.

Indicative planning for national uplift stressed

Finance and Planning Minister M. Saifur Rahman Saturday laid emphasis on "indicative planning" for national development to give a broad direction to the economy, reports BSS.

He favoured a broad outline of the economy so that initiative at lower level got necessary encouragement to speed up development. Stressing less reliance on the conventional planning, particularly the model building and similar exercises, the Planning Minister noted that "our development suffered because we are burdened with too much planning."

Inaugurating the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperative (SAARC) planners meet in Dhaka Rahman said for attaining collective benefit, countries in the region should have meaningful cooperation through harmonisation of trade, tariff and taxation policies. At the same time, he said the countries should have a macro-economic policy and political stability which must be forged by good understanding removing the age-old suspicion.

He called for greater investment in education for human resources development to

accelerate the process of peoples well-being in the SAARC countries. He said with the present level of education in the region, excepting Sri Lanka there could be no tangible development.

Dr. Maqsood Ali, while noting considerable progress made during the last few years in various areas of regional co-operation among the member countries, said emphasis had to be laid on improving the quality of life of people in SAARC countries, which constitutes almost one-fifth of global population and most of whom are poor.

Referring to the recent devastating cyclone, Dr Ali said the calamity calls for immediately completing the study on the "causes and consequences of natural disaster and the protection and preservation of natural environment" undertaken by the SAARC Secretariat.

Syed Ahmed in his address of welcome called for taking effective and collaborative efforts for removal of chronic poverty.

The meeting has a number of topics to consider including the outcome of a workshop on poverty alleviation held last month in Delhi.

The last meeting of the SAARC planners was held in 1990 in Colombo.

The planning Minister said, "we are poor, because there are too many planning and too less investment. This process, which did no good, has to be reversed expeditiously."

The Minister said centralised planning did not work in Soviet Union and other East European countries and failed to deliver goods. "Regimentation in the planning must go — a lesson we have learnt from the collapse of the centrally-planned economy", he said.

He said there existed substantial scope in the SAARC member countries for enriching knowledge and experiences for restructuring planning process which would accelerate growth with equity and justice.

He called for greater investment in education for human resources development to

Snippets

World tin stocks fall further

KUALA LUMPUR, June 15: World tin stocks have dipped 13 per cent in the last six months and could fall further, raising prospects of a rebound in prices, the Association of Tin Producing Countries (ATPC) said on Friday, reports Reuter.

ATPC officials said stocks may fall to 36,700 tonnes, equivalent to about two months of world consumption, at the end of this year from 42,500 currently and 49,000 at end-1990.

"Based on the current depletion rate, we are optimistic that the stocks could be drawn down by more than, 12,500 tonnes for the whole 1991," ATPC Executive Secretary Redwan Sumun said at the end of the group's executive committee meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

China's domestic market to grow

BEIJING, June 15: China's domestic market will grow at a normal rate in the latter half of this year as market prices remain basically stable for the entire year, according to a market forecast by the Ministry of Commerce, reports Xinhua.

Statistics from the ministry show that the retail sales volume from January to April increased by 13.9 per cent compared with the same period of 1990. The increase rate remained at a two-digit level even after deducting the portion brought about by the rise in the prices of grain and edible oil in April.

The ministry predicted that during the latter half of this year, the sales volume growth will continue at a two-digit level and remain about 15 per cent higher than the same months last year.

100 firms control 20 pc of state's wealth

TOKYO, June 15: Japan's 100 leading firms outside the financial sector control almost 20 per cent of the country's wealth among them, the Fair Trade Commission reported Friday, says AFP.

The 100 firms, mostly industrial, represent only 0.005 per cent of the country's 1.98 million companies but control 19.4 per cent of their combined total assets, the commission said.

Concentration of wealth was tending to diminish because of a steady growth in the number of companies and a narrowing of the disparities in their size, it added.

Japan's sugarcane output declined

TOKYO, June 15: Japan's production of sugarcane totalled 1,938 million tonnes in 1990, down 26 per cent from the previous year, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said Friday, reports AFP.

The ministry attributed the decline to damage resulting from a series of typhoons that hit Okinawa, Japan's major sugarcane producing prefecture.

G-7 finance ministers meet this month

TOKYO, June 15: Finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations are to meet this month before the annual (G-7) summit in London, a Japanese Finance Ministry official said Friday, reports AFP.

The official said the June 22-23 meeting, requested by Japan, was likely to be held in Paris to coordinate views on aid to Moscow before Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visits London at the end of next month's summit.

Other items on the agenda include monetary policy coordination between the seven nations — the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — and the dollar's recent surge against major currencies. Canada is another possible venue although "Paris is the favourite," the official said.

Soviet oil industry may be in chaos

LONDON, June 15: The Soviet oil industry, plagued by a multitude of problems, could be thrown into chaos, a report by a group of experts from the USSR Academy of Sciences says, reports Reuter.

The industry is starved of investment, lagging in technology, suffering from disruptions in the supply of essential equipment and hampered by social unrest due to sub-standard living conditions in the main producing areas, the report, Soviet energy — an insiders account, said.

Published on Thursday by the Centre for Global Energy Studies, a London think tank, the report identifies key problems in the already struggling Soviet energy sector.

DCC collects Tk 77 cr taxes every year

Star Economic Report

The Dhaka City Corporation collects more than Taka 77 crore in municipal taxes every year and over taka 41 crore is owed in back taxes.

This was stated by Local Government and Rural Development Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, in reply to a written question submitted by Nurul Islam Moni, MP, (Barguna-2) in Parliament on Saturday.

He said that DCC collects a total of Taka 77,02,352.32 in municipal taxes every year, while the Chittagong City Corporation collects 21,65,70,393.55, Khulna City Corporation collects Taka 10,13,94,214.38 and Rajshahi City Corporation collects Taka 5,18,81,023 every year.

He also informed that a total of Taka 41,59,28,336.15 is owed in back-taxes to the DCC, while Taka 13,78,35,312.55 is owed to the GCC, Taka 10,13,94,214.38 is owed to the KCC and another Taka

4,62,36,639 is owed in back-taxes to the RCC.

Cooperative societies defaulting loans

The total amount of defaulting loan owed by the cooperative societies in the country stood at Taka 332,73,53,000 as of April '91.

This was stated by Local Government and Rural Development Minister, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, in reply to a written question submitted by Nurul Islam Moni, MP, (Barguna-2) in Parliament on Saturday.

In reply to another question from Ahmed Matin Khasru, MP, (Comilla-5), the Minister informed that as of March '91 there were 1,18,838 cooperative societies registered in the country. He said that there is a district-wise list of cooperative societies. However, there is no

upazila-wise list available.

According to the district-wise list, Dhaka Division has a total of 36913 cooperative societies with 318 central cooperatives, Chittagong Division has 24,517 including 232 central cooperatives, Rajshahi Division has a total of 32,033 including 258 central cooperatives and Khulna Division has a total of 25,363 cooperative societies including 246 central cooperatives.

He said that the Government has taken various steps to collect the defaulting loans from the cooperatives, which includes organising loan collection conferences, taking legal actions against the defaulters under the Cooperatives Act, filing certificate cases and in special cases filing criminal cases against defaulters and conducting a "crash programme" to collect the loans during 1990-91.

Market Prices of Listed Shares and Debentures with Dhaka Stock Exchange

At the close of trading on June 6 and June 12, 1991.

Company	EV/ML*	1990-91			
		June 6 Taka	June 12 Taka	High Taka	Low Taka
BANKS (Ten)					
AL Baraka Bank	1000/1	740.00	750.00	1135.00	725.00
AB Bank	100/5	180.00	180.00	255.00	135.00
City Bank	100/5	268.00	268.00	275.00	160.00
LFIC	100/5	190.00	190.00	235.00	140.00
Islamic Bank	1000/1	1200.00	1206.25	1210.00	925.00
National Bank	100/5	114.50	114.50	145.00	102.00
Pupali Bank	100/5	110.00	110.00	115.00	90.00
Rupali Bank	100/5	80.00	80.00	130.00	75.00
U.C.B.L	100/5	130.00	130.00	155.00	130.00
Uttara Bank	100/5	214.00	214.00	240.00	193.00
INVESTMENT (Eight)					
LCB	100/5	97.00	97.00	175.00	90.00
1st ICB M.Fund	100/5	422.00	422.00	575.00	405.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	190.00	190.00	220.00	170.00
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5	155.00	156.00	173.00	143.00
4th ICB M. Fund	100/10	141.00	142.00	161.00	133.00
5th ICB M. Fund	100/10	125.75	126.00	142.00	115.00
6th ICB M. Fund	100/10	92.00	90.00	104.00	85.00
ICB Unit Cert.					
Sales Price		132.00	133.00		
R-purchase		127.00	128.00		
INSURANCE (Four)					
Green Delta	100/10	111.00	112.00	117.50	104.00
Proplea	100/10	115.00	115.00	122.00	104.50
United	100/10	120.00AL	120.00AL	120.00	108.00
United	100/10	112.50	113.00	122.00	105.00
ENGINEERING (Nineteen)					
Afrah Automobiles	100/5	202.00	202.00	232.00	194.00
Atlas Bangladesh	1050	36.00	38.00	48.00	35.50
Aziz Pipes	100/5	235.00	235.00	250.00	180.00
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5	104.00	105.00	157.00	104.00
Bangladesh Lamps	100/5	290.00	290.00	365.00	230.00
B.Thai Aluminium	100/10	98.00AL	95.00AL	110.00	75.00
Bengal Carbide	100/5	400.00	400.00	450.00	320.00
Bengal Steel	10/50	18.00	18.00		
Eastern Cables	100/5	84.00	82.00	109.00	75.00
Howlader PVC	100/10	105.00	101.00	122.00	100.00
Karim Pipe	100/5	110.00	115.00	139.00	110.00
Metalco Corp.	100/5	99.00	99.50	113.00	75.00
Monno Staffers	100/5	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Monno Jute	100/5	350.00	350.00	400.00	350.00
National Tubes	100/10	105.46	107.50	137.00	102.00
Panther Steel	10/50	6.00	6.00		
Quasem Drycells	100/5	8.25	8.00	9.30	7.25
Renwick Jajneswar	100/5	66.00	66.00	75.00	40.00
Singer Bangladesh	100/5	1125.00	1125.00	1150.00	1125.00
FOOD & ALLIED (Twenty one)					
AB Biscuit	100/5	200.00	200.00	290.00	200.00
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00
Aman Sea Food	100/5	36.00	38.00	40.00	36.00
Apex Food	100/5	340.00	340.00	340.00	260.00
Arma Tea	100/5	50.00	50.00	52.00	45.00
Bangas	100/5	305.00	305.00		
Bell Food	100/5	142.00	145.00	255.00	140.00
B.L.T.C	100/5	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
B.T.C.	10/50	35.00	35.00	83.00	35.00
Cig. Vegetable	100/5	97.50	97.50	100.00	90.00
Dhaka Vegetable	100/5	133XD	134.23	192.00	130.00
E.L. Cemeilia	100/5	700.00	700.00	700.00	500.00
Frogleg Export	10/50	6.00	6.00	8.00	4.00
Gemini Sea Food	100/5	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Modern Industries	100/5	150.00	150.00XD	150.00	120.00
N.T.C	100/5	265.00	267.00	350.00	220.00
Rabeya Flour	100/100	NT	NT		
Rupian Oil	10/100	7.43AL	7.00	9.25	6.00
Tulip Dairy	100/10	90.00AL	90.00AL	105.00	90.00
Yousuf Flour	10/50	NT	NT		
Zapal Bangla	10/50	8.00XD	8.00XD	10.00	7.40
FUEL & POWER (Three)					
Padma Oil Co.	10/50	40.00	40.00	47.00	40.00
Eastern Lubricant	10/50	14.00	14.00	90.00	46.50
Oxygen	10/50	48.50	50.43		
JUTE (Twelve)					
Ahad Jute	100/10	NT	NT		
Anowara Jute	10/50	NT	NT		
Delta Jute	10/50	8.50	8.50		
Gawasia Jute	10/50	NT	NT		

* EV = Face Value * ML = Market Lot NT = Not Traded, AL = Allotment Letter XB = Ex.Bonus / XD = Ex. Dividend
* Trading was closed on February 21 because of 'Shaheed Day'

Soviet banks gave huge excess loans

MOSCOW, June 15: Soviet officials have discovered that the country's banks granted billions of roubles in excess loans last year, according to the reformist daily Izvestia, reports Reuter.

"In 1990, 21 billion roubles of credit resources were allocated above the amount planned by parliament and the country's leaders", Izvestia said.

At the artificial commercial rate, regarded by many Soviet and foreign economists as inflated, the excess loans involved 12.6 billion dollar.

In an article headlined "spare billions were injected into the economy and nobody knew," Izvestia said the Soviet central bank (Gosbank) did not discover the error until the end of the first quarter of 1991.

The Soviet banking system still runs on carbon paper, not computers. As a result, it took Gosbank several months to process documents showing that actual loans exceeded budget allocations. The newspaper suggested

that the Soviet Union's new commercial banks were to blame for the excess loans.

"If old banks gave money on the basis of credit plans sent to them by higher authorities there could not be any over-spending."

"But commercial banks are directly interested in increasing their turnover because they can earn much more money by getting interest on every credit allocation."