

IFIC Bank branch opens at Madhabdi

Star Economic Report
The 37th branch of the International Finance Investment and Commerce Bank Ltd (IFIC Bank Ltd) was inaugurated Monday at Madhabdi Bazar under Narshingdi district at a simple ceremony.

Rezaul Karim, Senior Executive Vice-President and Abdul Hannan, Executive Vice-President, IFIC Bank Ltd, also attended the function.

Moderate rise in share trading

Star Economic Report
Dhaka bourse witnessed a moderate rise in share trading Tuesday.

In all 7,326 shares and debentures changed hands compared with Monday's 4,940. Traded issues valued Taka 4,19,265.00 against the previous day's Taka 2,83,563.00.

Decliners dominated trading. And the Composite Index of Dhaka Stock Exchange lost to 292.8963 points from Monday's 293.1725. Index is the broad indicator of price movements of all the listed stocks.

Transactions involved thirty-one stocks. Of them fourteen lost, ten gained and seven remained unchanged at their previous quoted prices.

The debentures of Beximco Pharma and Apex Tannery declined Taka 10.00 and Taka 5.00 to Taka 1650.00 and Taka 1050.00.

National Tubes and Atlas Bangladesh lost Taka 12.19 and Taka 5.17 to Taka 112.81 and Taka 42.00.

Eagle Box and Howlader PVC declined Taka 3.50 and Taka 2.00 to Taka 21.50 and Taka 103.00.

Bangladesh Autocars, Quasem Drycells, Rupan Oil, Kohinor Chemical, Ashraf Textile, Quasem Silk, Chittagong Cement and Monno Ceramic lost within the range between Taka 0.15 and Taka 1.00.

The debentures of Bengal Food and Quasem Sil advanced Taka 5.00 and Taka 0.83 to Taka 950.00 and Taka 1810.83.

Dhaka Vegetable gained Taka 3.70 to Taka 144.55.

BIGC Insurance, 5th ICB Mutual Fund, 6th ICB Mutual Fund, United Insurance, Zeal Bangla Sugar, Pharma Aids and Usmania Glass moved up within the range between Taka 0.09 and Taka 1.00.

HK investors invited to set up joint venture

HONG KONG, Oct 29: The State Minister for Textiles Major (ret'd) M A Mannan, heading a 7 member Bangladesh textile delegation, arrived here Sunday after concluding an official visit to China, reports BSS.

W K Chan, Managing Director of Yang Tzekian Garment Mfg Co Ltd and Chairman of the Hong Kong Exporters' Association hosted a banquet in honour of the state minister and his entourage on Sunday.

Kenneth Yeung, Executive Director of Hong Kong Textiles Council, some executives of Yang Tzekian Garment Mfg Co Ltd and the High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Hong Kong also attended the banquet.

The State Minister briefed them about the new liberal industrial policy of the government and the excellent investment environment with attractive incentives for foreign private investors in Bangladesh. He also told them about the fast growth of the garments industry in Bangladesh and the bright prospect of setting up composite textile mills and textile finishing mills (including dyeing and printing) in the country. He invited the Hong Kong entrepreneurs to avail of the opportunities and come forward to set up joint venture or 100 per cent ownership projects in Bangladesh.

The Hong Kong businessmen responded with positive enthusiasm and said that they would visit Bangladesh within the next two months to explore the possibilities in this respect.

The State Minister and members of his entourage also visited the Island Dyeing and Printing Co Ltd, one of the four largest textile finishing factories in Hong Kong. The

Director and General Manager of the Japanese Hong Kong Joint Venture Company Iztaru received the delegation. The minister and the members of his entourage expressed keen interest in setting up similar factories in Bangladesh on joint venture basis and exchanged views with the factory authorities regarding possibilities of their active collaboration in this respect. Factory authorities responded enthusiastically and the two sides agreed to continue to explore the possibilities.

The State Minister visited the Bangladesh High Commission here, instructed the mission to make further efforts to establish contacts with appropriate authorities in Hong Kong and Taiwan. He also told the commission to take appropriate steps to attract more Hong Kong and Taiwan investors in Bangladesh.

Exchange Rates

October-29

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

One Unit of Foreign Currencies (FO) for Taka

FCs	Selling	Buying
US Dollar	37.8226	37.3318
UK Pound Sterling	64.7501	63.9894
German Deutsche	22.2551	21.9573
Mark		
French Franc	6.5211	6.4343
Saudi Riyal	10.1184	9.9871
Dutch Guilders	19.7507	19.4842
Pakistan Rupee	1.5293	1.5147
(AMU)*		
Singapore Dollar	22.5076	22.0182
UAE Dirham	10.3332	10.1991
Kuwait Dinar		Not available
Indian Rupee		
AMU	1.4621	1.4483
S. Kroneer	6.1127	6.0285
AMU-Asian Monetary Unit		
SECONDARY EXCHANGE MARKET		
Wage Earners Fund/Export Performance Benefit (XPB) Fund		
US Dollar	38.34	38.39
UK Pound	65.66	65.71
Saudi Riyal	10.26	10.31
UAE Dirham	10.47	10.52

* The rates of Pound Sterling are decided every day, based on the cross-rates of New York market.
Source: Sonali Bank

Dhaka Stock Exchange Market Profile

October-29

135 Listed Stocks

10 Gains 14 Losers 121 Unchanged

121 Unchanged stocks include seven traded on the day at its previous quoted prices.
DSE All Share Price Index = 292.8963
Issued Capital=Taka 5,439,680,590
Market Capitalisation = 88,369,588,063
Turnover = Taka 4,19,265.00 (Value) 7,326 (Volume).

Market Prices of Listed Shares and Debentures with Dhaka Stock Exchange

At the close of trading on October 29, 1991.

Company	EV/ML*	Closing Rate	Garvita Jute	10/50	NT
BANKS (Ten)			Islam Jute	100/5	65.00
AL Baraka Bank	1000/1	760.00	Jute Spinner	100/5	95.00
A.B Bank	100/5	155.00	Mutual Jute	100/5	100.00
City Bank	100/5	280.00	Northern Jute	10/50	NT
LFJC	100/5	177.00	Shamser Jute	100/5	100.00
Islami Bank	1000/1	1190.00	Specialised Jute	10/50	NT
National Bank	100/5	105.00	Shimr Pukur Jute	100/5	100.00
Punjab Bank	100/5	95.00	Sonali Aarsh	100/5	96.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	82.72	PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEMICALS (Fifteen)		
U.C.B.I.	100/5	120.00	Ambee Pharma	10/50	14.50
Utara Bank	100/5	171.00	Bangla Process	100/5	58.00
INVESTMENT (Eight)			Beximco Pharma	100/5	185.40
ICB	100/5	92.00	Glass	10/50	123.00
1st ICB M.Fund	100/5	345.00	ICI	100/50	10.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	153.00	Kohinor Chemical	100/50	100.00
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5	135.00	Petro Synthetic	10/50	12.00
4th ICB M. Fund	100/10	130.00	Pfizer	100/5	110.00
5th ICB M. Fund	100/10	99.97	Pharma Aids	100/5	180.50
6th ICB M. Fund	100/10	68.00	Pharmaco	100/5	53.00
ICB Unit Cert.			Progressive Plastic	110/5	46.00
Sales Price	115.00		Reckitt & Colman	10/50	240.00
Re-purchase	110.00		Rahman Chemicals	100/10	49.00
INSURANCE (Four)			Therapeutics	100/5	40.00
BIGC	100/10	108.00	The Ibrastra	100/10	92.00
Green Delta	100/10	115.00	PAPER & PRINTING (Six)		
Peoples	100/10	120.00	Eagle Box	10/50	21.50
United	100/10	125.00	Monospool	100/5	106.00
ENGINEERING (Nineteen)			Paper Converting	100/5	113.00
Alfab Automobiles	100/5	202.00	Paper Processing	100/10	106.00
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50	42.00	Pedima Printers	10/50	50.00
Asit Pipe	100/5	247.00	Sonali Paper	10/50	50.00
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5	90.42	SERVICE (Two)		
Bangladesh Lampe	105/5	265.50	Bangladesh Hotel	10/50	12.00
B.Thai Aluminium	100/10	90.00	Bd. Service	10/50	NT
Bengal Carbide	100/5	250.00	TEXTILE (Eighteen)		
Bengal Steel	10/50	18.00	Alhaj Textile	10/50	NT
Eastern Cables	100/5	81.00	Arbee Textile	100/10	NT
Howlader PVC	100/10	103.00	Ashraf Textile	10/50	28.25
Karim Pipe	100/5	138.00	Chand Textile	10/50	NT
Metalex Corp.	100/5	118.00	Chand Spinning	10/50	NT
Monno Staffers	10/5	200.00	Deah Gortons	100/10	62.00
Monno Jute	100/5	210.00	Dulamia Cotton	100/10	84.00
National Tubes	100/10	112.81	Eagle Star	10/50	35.00
Penather Steel	10/50	6.00	GMC Ind. Corp.	10/50	13.00
Quasem Drycells	10/50	8.05	Modern Dyeing	100/5	40.00
Rezwick Jajcewar	100/5	75.00	Quasem Silk	10/50	50.00
Singer Bangladesh	100/5	990.00	Quasem Textile	10/50	8.00
			Rahim Textile	100/5	57.00
			Saltham Textile	100/10	78.00
			S.T.M. (ORD)	100/5	50.00
			Stylecraft	100/5	100.00
			Swan Textile	100/5	60.00
			Tallu Spinning	100/10	116.71
FOOD & ALIRED (Twenty one)			MISCELLANEOUS (Fourteen)		
A.B Biscuit	100/5	180.00	Apex Tannery	100/5	171.00
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	48.00	Aramit	10/50	NT
Amam Sea Food	100/5	36.00	Bata Shoe	10/100	37.28
Apex Food	100/5	330.00	Beximco	10/100	9.50
Aroma Tea	100/5	75.00	BSC	100/5	45.00
Bango	100/5	305.00	Chittagong Cement	100/5	174.00
Bengal Food	100/5	121.00	C. Q. Ball Pen	10/50	50.00
B.L.T.C.	100/5	440.00	Himadri Ltd.	10/100	NT
B.T.C.	10/50	40.00	Milon Tannery	100/5	33.00
Cig. Vegetable	100/10	100.00	Monno Ceramic	100/5	147.00
Dhaka Vegetable	100/5	144.55	Phoenix Leather	100/5	90.00
E.L. Camella	100/5	700.00	Savar Refractories	100/5	113.00
Frogging Export	10/50	4.50	The Engineers	100/5	100.00
Gemini Sea Food	100/15	100.00	Umaria Glass	100/5	178.27
Modern Industries	100/5	160.00	DEBENTURES (Four)		
N.T.C.	100/5	280.00	Bengal Food	900/1	950.00
Rabeya Flour	10/100	NT	Bengal Food	(18.5% 1992)	
Rupin Oil	100/100	5.75	Beximco	2500/1	2275.00
Tulip Dairy	100/10	93.00	Beximco Pharma	1571/1	1640.00
Yousuf Flour	10/50	NT	Beximco Pharma	(17% 1997)	
Zeal Bangla Sugar	10/50	12.50	Quasem Silk	2000/1	1810.83
			Quasem Silk	(17% 1994)	

** FV = Face Value ML= Market Lot NT= Not Traded. AL=Allotment Letter



Mujibur Rahman, State Minister for Finance, inaugurating a two-day workshop on "Value Added Tax (VAT): its acts, rules book-keeping/assistance" organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) under the assistance of ZDH (Germany)/Technonet Asia (Singapore) on Tuesday at the Dhaka Chamber Conference Room. Masudur Rahman, (third from left) Acting President, DCCI and Ismail Hussain Miah, (extreme left) Vice-President, DCCI are also seen.

VAT simplifies complicated tax system to benefit people'

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman said on Tuesday that the Value Added Tax (VAT) had been introduced in the country to simplify the existing complicated tax system to benefit the people in general and trade and commerce in particular, reports BSS.

The VAT was also intended to mobilise greater amount of domestic resources to finance development projects, the State Minister said. He, however, assured that any discrepancy in the way of its implementation would be corrected.

The State Minister was inaugurating a two-day workshop on VAT at the conference room of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI). Organised by Small Scale Enterprises Development Cell of DCCI with technical cooperation of German Federation of Small Business and Crafts and Technonet Asia Partnership Project, the workshop is being attended by 23 executives of private business houses.

Referring to the various complaints raised by different quarters on VAT, the State Minister said, as a democratic government we honour the opinion of the people and we have already released a number of goods and commodities from its (VAT's) jurisdiction.

He admitted that since people were not conversant with the new system, some confusion arose in the initial stage of the implementation of VAT.

Chaired by Mr. Masudur Rahman, Acting President of DCCI, the inaugural function was also addressed by Moniruzzaman Chowdhury, Chairman BSCIC, Md. Yunus, former President of DCCI Ali Ashraf, Convenor, Standing Committee on Seminar and Symposium and Director, DCCI and S. Zakir Hossain, Secretary of the chamber.

Lauding the efforts of the DCCI in increasing greater public awareness about the new tax system and disseminating information on VAT, the State Minister hoped the workshop would help the business community to understand the VAT clearly.

The State Minister said the government was considering to withdraw VAT from some more items for peoples welfare. He asked the DCCI to come forward with concrete proposal with rational suggestion.

In his welcome address, Masudur Rahman said members of trade and industrial community were not against the new system in principle. He, however, added that there should have been extensive training to build up general awareness and effective measures to avoid complication and misappropriation in tax collection. "VAT should not impose extra burden on the consumers who are already burdened with inflation and high price of essentials," he added.

Zakir Hossain said, the business community did not welcome VAT for certain pre-conditions were not fulfilled before introducing it suddenly. He mentioned that DCCI reacted sharply for sudden introduction of the new system. He thanked the authorities for withdrawing VAT from 32 items following realisation of faults.

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Hides & Skin

(Wet/Salted)

October-29
(Taka per100 pieces)

Cow	14,000.00	-	28,000.00
Light	48,000.00	-	53,000.00
Medium	58,000.00	-	63,000.00
Heavy	65,000.00	-	70,000.00
Very heavy	75,000.00	-	80,000.00
Rejected	22,000.00	-	25,000.00
Goat			
Dig & heavy	8,500.00	-	9,000.00
Light & Medium	6,100.00	-	7,300.00
Rejected	2,900.00	-	3,600.00
Sheep	8,000.00	-	8,500.00
Buffalo	52,000.00	-	57,000.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing



Rezaul Hakim (extreme left), Managing Director of National Life Insurance Company handing over a cheque of Taka 2,07,600.00 to the nominee in settlement of a death claim of late Nurul Islam Dala Mia of Syhet. Zafarullah Chowdhury, Vice President of the Company is also seen.

S Korea's deficit hits record high

SEOUL, Oct 29: South Korea's customs-cleared trade deficit hit another record high of 11.08 billion Dollars in the period January 1 to October 25, compared with a 4.56 billion deficit a year earlier, preliminary trade ministry figures show, reports Reuter.

Fob exports for the first 25 days of October were 4.26 billion Dollars while CIF imports totalled 5.71 billion, resulting in a 1.46 billion Dollars shortfall.

Severe liquidity crisis hits private jute mills

Star Economic Report
The private sector jute mills are on the verge of closure due to severe liquidity crisis, says a Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) source.

The present distressed position of the private sector jute mills can be attributed to abnormal rise in wages and other allowances, increase in power rate and other input costs etc. resulting in steep rise in cost of production vis-a-vis sales/export prices, the source said.

In the international markets, there is a declining trend in the prices of jute goods and their demands due to various competitors. As a result of the negative gap between cost of production and sales prices of jute goods, there has been complete erosion of liquidity position, for which the private sector jute mills are unable to engage in productive activities without urgent financial assistance from the Government.

This position was brought to the notice of the Government and again by BJMA.

The BJMA sources said the present plight of the private sector jute industry was not their own making. Various Government decisions concerning significant increase in costs of production under several heads had to be implemented by the private jute mills for obvious reasons. The public sector jute mills are being provided with financial assistance by the Government with the view of tiding over the present liquidity crisis. But the private sector jute mills, in spite of repeated representations, have not yet been provided with any assistance from the Government, the sources claimed.

Presently, private sector jute mills, for want of finance, are unable to purchase much needed raw jute, make payment of salaries and meet other costs of various inputs.

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BCSIR leases out process for tooth powder production

Star Economic Report
The process for production of tooth powder developed by Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) has been leased out to a local entrepreneur for commercial production.

An agreement in this regard has been signed between BCSIR and M/s. Palmolive Limited, 3 Naya Paltan Azampur, Dhaka at the committee room of BCSIR on Tuesday morning.

According to the agreement, the entrepreneur has to go into production of this process within one year. This kind of quality tooth powder is able to bleach teeth and make gums strong. Cost of a bottle containing 100 grams tooth powder has been fixed at Taka 12.00.

& 6,00,000 ADB grant to promote vegetable production

MANILA, Oct 29: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Monday announced it will grant 600,000 Dollars in technical assistance to improve vegetable production in South Asia, reports AFP.

The grant will be used to partly finance the South Asia vegetable research network linking Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Philippines-based ADB said in a statement.

It said there was need to increase the production of vegetables in South Asia to improve the region's nutrition status and provide higher income for farmers.

Dependence on foreign aid to be reduced to 52 pc

The current Furth-Five-year Plan proposes to bring down the dependence on foreign aid to 52 per cent, Planning Minister M.A. Zahiruddin Khan informed the Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Embankment to protect shrimp projects

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 29: Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has taken up a scheme to construct a 740-kilometre embankment to protect the shrimp cultivation projects in Cox's Bazar district, reports BSS.

An official source said, 32,876 metric tons of wheat had been allocated for the implementation of the scheme. The work of the embankment will start within a month.

Shrimp projects in the district were badly affected by the recent flood. With the construction of the embankment shrimp cultivation projects in 16,000 hectares will be saved from flood.

Replied to a question from Abul Hasan Chowdhury (AL-Tangail), he told the House that reduction in dependence on foreign aid constituted a major objective of the government and every possible effort was being made towards that direction.

The Minister, however, said self-reliance was a long process and the issue had to be seen in that perspective.

Khan, giving an account of dependence on foreign assistance during the five-year plans since the independence of the country, said reliance on foreign aid was 71.9 per cent in the First Five-year Plan (1973-78) and it came down to 60.5 per cent in the Second Five-year Plan (1980-85).

The Minister said dependence on foreign aid increased in the Third Five-Year Plan (1985-90) and rose to 88.80 per cent.

\$321m health service project goes into operation soon

A 321-million-dollar project goes into implementation shortly for improving health services and containing the population boom in the country, reports UNB.

Outlines of the Fourth World Bank Population and Health Project beginning in January were presented at a conference of medical experts, researchers and policy makers in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Dr. Philip Gowers of World Bank demonstrated the project structure of the five-year (1992-96) project at the first annual scientific conference of ICDDR,B on the concluding day today.