

Winter vegetables scarce, prices high

Star Economic Report
Price of essentials in the city market are still high although some of the items showed slight downward trend.

Although the winter season is about to set in, winter vegetables are still scarce. Vendors said the flood have devastated the winter harvest.

They expressed the fear that winter vegetables may remain dearer this season. A few vendors are seen selling tomato, cauliflower and cabbages. But the quality of the commodities are not good.

Among the normal time vegetables, pata, bitter gourd and kakrol price ranged between Taka 20 and 24. Potato sells at Taka eight, only a fortnight ago it was sold at Taka 7.50. New potatoes are sold at Taka 10 a kg.

Tomato is sold at Taka 60 a kg. The price remained constant for about 15 days. A small sized cabbage can be bought at Taka 6 a piece. Cabbage price has slightly come down. Beans, another winter cuisine is selling at Taka 40 a kg. Barball and reddish are sold at Taka 16 a kg.

Prices of other essential remained almost unchanged in the market.

WB mission meets Sircar

A World Bank mission led by Paula T Valad, Senior Project of the bank had a meeting with Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar at the latter's office in Dhaka on Thursday, according to an official handout, reports BSS.

They discussed matters relating to Female Secondary School Assistance Project of the bank.

The minister was apprised that the project is being designed to apiece parity in enrollment of girls and boys in secondary education through increasing enrollment of girls.

Initially the project will cover 123 upazilas and all upazilas of the country will be brought under the project later.

BCIC units' output fall

Star Economic Report

The total output by the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) in the first quarter of fiscal 1991-92 fell in terms of value by about Taka six crore compared with the corresponding period of last fiscal year. The Corporation units manufactured products worth Taka 278.38 crore during July-September, 1991. The figure was Taka 284.92 crore during the same period of 1990.

Sources said the hamper of production in Ghorasal Urea Fertilizer Factory due to a mishap resulted in the lower amount of production in monetary terms. However, BCIC

achieved 90 per cent of its target during the first quarter of this fiscal year.

During the first quarter of 1991-92, at least six units of BCIC recorded higher production than last fiscal. These are natural gas fertilizer factory, Chhatak Cement Factory, Chittagong Chemical Complex, Kholnour Battery Manufacturing Company, Ujala Match Factory and Bangladesh Insulator and Sanitaryware factory.

The sales of BCIC also fell during the first quarter of 1991-92 than the same period of last fiscal year. BCIC sources said the Ghorasal Urea Factory is responsible for the lower

sale and foreign currency earning. The sales during the period was Taka 308.71 crores while it was Taka 319.41 crores for the same period last fiscal year. The foreign currency earning was Taka .62 crore for July-September, 1991, while it was Taka 20.47 crore for the corresponding period of 1990.

BCIC sources said sales of cement, ddt, caustic soda, safety match, toothpaste, powder and other toiletries, insulator wares, bleaching powder and sap fertilizer increased during the first quarter of this fiscal year than the corresponding period of last year.

Export earning rises by 13 pc

A consultative meeting on export-import was Thursday held that despite various odds, export earnings during the last fiscal year increased by nearly 13 per cent than that of the earnings of the previous year, according to an official handout, reports BSS.

The meeting, held at the Secretariat with Commerce Minister M K Anwar in the chair, was informed that though import of consumer and intermediate goods in the first two months of the current year declined slightly, import of industrial raw materials

year. He reiterated the determination of the present democratic government to remove all problems in import trade to attain self-reliant economy.

The export earning is the first two months of fiscal 1991-92, recorded a growth of 6.4 per cent than the same period of the previous year, the meeting was told. The meeting was also informed that import in the POL sector rose by 53 per cent during the period, the handout said.

The Commerce Minister urged all concerned to come forward with appropriate suggestions to meet export and import targets of the current

year. He reiterated the determination of the present democratic government to remove all problems in import trade to attain self-reliant economy.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Chambers of four divisions and members of garments, jute, leather and frozen food associations.

Commerce Secretary Nazem Ahmed Chowdhury, ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, senior officials of concerned ministries and departments and representative of nationalised banks were present.

World sugar imports to decline

NEW DELHI, Nov 1: World sugar imports are likely to decline further by three per cent in 1991 from 27.3 million tons in 1990 as a result of an output rise in major importing countries themselves, reports Xinhua.

The latest report 'Food Outlook' by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that sugar production in the period of 1990-91 will be 113.1 million tons against the output of 108.1 million tons in the preceding duration, due to increased output in India, Guatemala, Poland and the United States.

Meanwhile, world sugar consumption in 1991 is likely to go up by 1.5 million tons above the 1990 level to 109.5 million tons, the report says.

In Eastern Europe and Africa, it says, imports have been constrained by paucity of foreign exchange while in some west Asian countries purchases were curtailed due to the Gulf war.

Exports from Cuba and Brazil will be lower because of limited supplies, but shipments from Australia, EEC and Thailand are likely to rise.

It points out that the changes in demand for and supply of sugar have led to the recent fall in world sugar prices.

50 agri projects of Tk 347cr implemented in '90-'91

The Ministry of Agriculture had implemented 50 projects at a cost of Taka 347 crore and 71 lakh with a foreign exchange component of Taka 159 crore and 33 lakh in the last financial year, reports BSS.

This was disclosed at a review meeting of the annual development plan of the Ministry of Agriculture held Thursday at Bangladesh Secretariat with Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-Ul-Haq in the chair.

Of the projects, nine had been implemented under Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation, five under Agriculture Extension

Department, five under Agriculture Research Institute, two under Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council, one under Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, two under Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, one under Cotton Development Board, one under Soil Resources Development Institute, seven under direct supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and the rest 17 projects under other organisations under the Ministry of Agriculture.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of the on-going projects which are being implemented by various organisations under the Ministry of

Agriculture during the current financial year.

Of the 35 projects for the current year, different aspects relating to seed development project, seed certification project, baring project, agriculture rehabilitation project for the southern districts, national small irrigation project, agriculture support services project and isolated coconut project at Ramu were discussed in the meeting.

Agriculture Secretary KM Rabbani and senior officials of the ministries of Agriculture and Planning and heads of different organizations under the Ministry of Agriculture were present in the meeting.

Miyazawa sees Japanese economy in downturn

TOKYO, Nov 1: Prime Minister-Designate Kiichi Miyazawa is in agreement with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) view that the Japanese economy is in a downturn, MITI Vice-Minister Yuji Tanahashi told a news conference, reports Reuter.

MITI expects Miyazawa to take a flexible approach to economic policy, Tanahashi said.

Pak-Lanka trade increases by 26pc

ISLAMABAD, Nov 1: Trade between Pakistan and Sri Lanka registered an increase of 26.1 per cent in fiscal 1990-91 over 1989-90, according to official statistics available here yesterday, reports Xinhua.

The trade volume between these two South Asian nations in 1990-91 stood at 110.6 million US Dollars as against 87.7 million Dollars during 1989-90.

significant increase of 48.5 per cent, but Sri Lanka's exports to Pakistan showed a decrease of 5.2 per cent.

Major items of exports to Sri Lanka during the year under review were cotton textiles, dried fish, cotton and cotton yarn, rice, cement, leather, footwear and medicaments while rubber, copar, broomsticks, coconut, betel leaves, spices, aluminium and tea were major items from Sri Lanka.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Berthed, **ETD, Berth No., L-Port call, L-Agent. Lists various ships like Banglar Shobha, Rafah, Altair Ace, etc.

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, **ETB, **ETD, Berth No. Lists ships like Infinity, Hang Tone, Loyal Birds, etc.

Vessel at Outer Anchorage

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Ready on, L-Port, L-Agent. Lists ships like Shan Yin, Shong Rim, Lachang Jiang, etc.

Vessels Due to Outer Anchorage

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, **ETA, L-Port Call, Local Agent. Lists ships like Portatissa, Marine Three, Al Tabith, etc.

Mongla Port

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Berthed, **ETA, **ETD, L-Port, L-Agent. Lists ships like Shan Yin, Hraska, Concorin, etc.

* Berthed = Vessel at Port Jetty
** ETD = Expected Time of Departure
*** ETA = Expected Time of Arrival
** NA = Not Available
** ETB = Expected to Berth
Source : Aquamarine Limited

National housing policy soon

Speakers at a seminar in Dhaka Friday underscored the need for a national housing policy suiting to the hopes and aspirations of the people, reports BSS.

They said that the policy should be realistic keeping in view the needs of the people of all strata living in both the urban and the rural areas.

Organised by the Research Cell of the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh and Diploma Engineers Association of housing and settlement directorate the seminar on 'housing problems and solutions : Bangladesh context' was held at the Technical Teachers Training College auditorium in Dhaka.

Inaugurating the seminar as the chief guest Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah said the government was committed to frame a national housing policy which would be finalised soon. He sought advice and cooperation of the professionals in framing and implementing the policy.

He emphasised the need for an united and coordinated efforts of all concerned in solving the housing problem and said the government wanted to discuss with the professionals in this regard with an open mind.

Presided over by the Planning Commission Member, M. Serajuddin, inaugural session of the seminar was also addressed by UNDP Assistant Resident Representative Putu M. Kamayana, and Institute of Diploma Engineer (IDE) President Safuddin Sarker.

Senior research fellow of BIDS Dr. Ataur Rahman presented a paper at the seminar, while, Chief Engineer of Housing and Settlement

Directorate Ashok Kumar Barua and Urban Development Director Anil Chandra Das were the discussants.

Serajuddin said a draft national housing policy had already been made which would be placed before the Planning Commission within a fortnight for approval. A final decision would be taken by the government in this regard, he said.

He said in the Fourth Five-Year Plan rural and urban housing had been considered separately both from economic and technological points of view.

He said the government was also thinking and discussing about the introduction of a housing code considering the availability of land and financial constraints.

Referring to house building loan given by Grameen Bank, he said this was the best approach made so far for rural housing. But this needed more evaluation as the loan repayment was not as good as in other sectors, he added.

Kamayana said UNDP had proposed for a joint committee consisting of the government and representatives from different international and UN fund giving and development agencies to review the present situation in this sector and suggest future action programmes to improve the situation.

Safuddin Sarker suggested to make the rural house building materials cheaper and available to the people as it would encourage them to build their own houses. He criticised Grameen Bank for unnecessary spending on research and said they could rather go for production of RCC pillars and other construction materials.

Asia, Pacific growth to rise in '92

MANILA, Nov 1: The prospects for world economic growth will improve considerably in 1992 but output this year will be depressed, experts at an Asian Development Bank (ADB) meeting said, reports Reuter.

"They agreed in general, that world output growth for 1991 would be rather depressed as a result of the dramatic decline in output in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, combined with slower growth developed countries," ADB said in a statement.

But the participants from 21 countries to the bank's fourth Asian economic outlook workshop forecast a revival in the world economy in 1992, which will be led by the Anglo-Saxon economies.

These countries, which include North America, the UK, and Australia, are 'anticipated to register positive rates of growth as opposed to the negative rate recorded in 1991,' the statement said.

Asian economies are seen posting aggregate gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6.2 per cent in 1991, slightly above the 6.0 per cent achieved in 1990.

environment. "As the recovery in the US economy sets in more firmly and world income and trade growth 'accelerate, the economics of the Asian-Pacific region will face better growth prospects in 1992,' the statement said.

Growth in South Asian countries, including India, would rise to 4.7 per cent in 1992 from 3.6 per cent this year, due to sweeping policy reforms currently underway to liberalise the economies and give a larger role to the private sector.

China is forecast to show GDP growth of 7.0 per cent though no comparative figure was given.

Edward Chen, Professor at the University of Hong Kong, said China and the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) would continue to benefit from foreign investment.

"With the possibility of a peaceful settlement to the Cambodian question, Indochina countries should be able to attract an increasing amount of foreign direct investment inflows," he said in a paper presented to the workshop.

Southeast Asia experts will give further forecasts for their economies by the end of the four-day workshop tomorrow.

Market Prices of Listed Shares and Debentures with Dhaka Stock Exchange

At the close of trading on October 24 and October 31, 1991.

Large table with columns: Company, EV/ML, October 24, October 31, 1990-91 (High/Low), and various share/stock names like Gwalia Jute, Islam Jute, Jute Spinner, etc.