

India braces for major industrial strike

NEW DELHI, Nov 28: India braced for a major industrial strike called for later this week by the country's powerful trade unions and their left-wing supporters to protest government plans to privatise unprofitable state-run enterprises, reports Reuters.

The strike, set for Friday, is expected to be the first direct confrontation between Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's government, committed to economic reforms, and the trade unions, who swear by the socialist economy India has been pursuing. The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said Labour Minister PA Sangma held several rounds of

last minute talks with the unions to avert the strike. But union leaders said there was nothing the government had to offer in return. India has unveiled a package of far-reaching reform measures to rescue an economy burdened by a 71-billion-dollar foreign debt and entangled with bureaucratic red tape.

Left parties say the reforms were dictated by the World Bank. PTI quoted the CITU General Secretary MK Pandey as saying the one-day strike had the support of workers from most public-sector enterprises, including banks, airlines and ports.



NEW YORK, Nov 26: Paul Guayante (R) a volunteer with the Gay Men's Health Crisis hands out condoms to a businessman outside Grand Central Station as part of a 10-day action and AIDS education awareness on the streets of New York. The ten days of events mark the 10th anniversary of the epidemic.

Week ends with moderate rise in share trading

Star Economic Report

The week ended at Dhaka bourse with a moderate fall in trading—Thursday.

In all 2,322 shares and debentures changed hands compared with Wednesday's 5,837. Traded issues valued Taka 2,97,043.00 against the previous day's Taka 5,05,920.00.

Decliners and advancers were equal in number. But decliners involved more transactions in value terms. As a result the Composite Index of Dhaka Stock Exchange lost to 295.9360 points from Wednesday's 296.0900. Index is the broad indicator of price movement of all the listed stocks.

Transactions involved fifteen stocks. Of them five lost, five gained and five remained unchanged at their previous quoted prices.

Chittagong Cement and Usmania Glass declined Taka 3.88 and Taka 2.21 to Taka 211.00 and Taka 244.63.

Zeal Bangla Sugar, Dulamia Cotton and Savar Refractories lost within the range between Taka 0.21 and Taka 1.00.

Monno Jute and the debenture of Beximco Pharma advanced Taka 10.00 each to Taka 240.00 and Taka 1660.00.

Pharma Aids moved up Taka 5.00 to Taka 170.00.

Bengal Food and Saitan Textile gained within the range between Taka 0.49 and Taka 0.81.

Modern fisheries development plan stressed

Minister for Fisheries, Livestock, Environment and Forest Abdullah al Noman Wednesday stressed the need for ensuring a modern technology oriented fisheries development programme in the country, reports BSS.

He was presiding over a review meeting on the progress of activities of the fisheries sub-sector held at the conference room of the ministry. Secretary of the Ministry A Z M Nasiruddin, was also present.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the 15 investment projects and six technical projects undertaken in the current year's annual development programme.

It was informed in the meeting that upto October a total of Taka 24.92 crore was released against the total allocation on Taka 116.06 crore, a PID handout said.

Dhaka Stock Exchange Market Profile

November-28

135 Listed Stocks

8 Gains	5 losers	125 Unchanged
125 Unchanged stocks include five traded on the day at its previous quoted prices.		
DSE All Share Price Index = 295.9360		
Issued Capital-Taka 5,39,680,590		
Market Capitalisation = 8,464,205,616		
Turnover = Taka 2,97,043.00 (Value) 2322 (Volume).		

Market Prices of Listed Shares and Debentures with Dhaka Stock Exchange

At the close of trading on November 28, 1991.

Company	EV/ML	Closing Rate	Gawasia Jute	10/50	NT
BANKS (Ten)			Islam Jute	100/5	75.00
Al Baraha Bank	1000/1	1060.00	Jute Spinner	100/5	95.00
AB Bank	100/5	177.00	Mutual Jute	100/5	100.00
City Bank	100/5	272.00	Northern Jute	10/50	NT
LFJC	100/5	162.00	Shamsar Jute	100/5	100.00
Islami Bank	1000/1	1300.00	Specialised Jute	10/50	NT
National Bank	100/5	105.00	Shine Pakur Jute	100/5	100.00
Pubali Bank	100/5	100.00	Sonali Aarsh	100/5	96.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	86.00	PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEMICALS (Fifteen)		
U.C.B.L.	100/5	120.00	Amboc Pharma	10/50	13.80
Ustia Bank	100/5	190.00	Bangla Process	100/5	58.00
INVESTMENT (Eight)			Beximco Pharma	100/5	182.00
ICB	100/5	92.00	Glaxo	10/50	10.00
1st ICB M. Fund	100/5	345.00	ICI	100/5	10.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	153.00	Kohinoor Chemical	100/5	112.50
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5	132.00	Petro Synthetic	10/50	12.50
4th ICB M. Fund	100/10	128.00	Pfizer	100/5	110.00
5th ICB M. Fund	100/10	95.53	Pharma Aids	100/5	170.00
6th ICB M. Fund	100/10	66.00	Pharmaco	100/5	55.00
ICB Unit Cert.			Progressive Plastic	110/5	40.00
Sales Price		116.00	Reckitt & Colman	10/50	240.00
Re-purchase		111.00	Rahman Chemicals	100/10	50.00AL
INSURANCE (Four)			Therapeutics	100/5	51.33
BKIC	100/10	107.00	The Ibrasia	100/10	92.00
Green Delta	100/10	113.00	PAPER & PRINTING (Six)		
Peoples	100/10	120.00	Eagle Box	10/50	38.12
United	100/10	131.00	Monospool	100/5	106.50
ENGINEERING (Nineteen)			Paper Converting	100/5	113.00
Afiab Automobiles	100/5	195.00	Paper Processing	100/10	75.00
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50	40.00	Padma Printers	10/50	50.00
Aziz Pipes	100/5	240.00	Sonali Paper	10/50	50.00
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5	86.00	SERVICE (Two)		
Bangladesh Lamps	105/5	235.00	Bangladesh Hotel	10/50	12.00
B.Thal Aluminium	100/10	87.40	Bd. Service	10/50	NT
Bengal Carbide	100/5	230.00	TEXTILE (Eighteen)		
Bengal Steel	10/50	18.00	Alhaj Textile	10/50	NT
Eastern Cables	100/5	90.00	Arbee Textile	100/10	NT
Howlader PVC	100/10	103.50	Ashraf Textile	10/50	28.00
Karim Pipe	100/5	130.00	Chand Textile	10/50	NT
Metalex Corp.	10/100	121.00	Chand Spinning	10/50	NT
Monno Staffers	10/5	200.00	Desh Garments	100/10	61.00
Monno Jute	100/5	240.00	Dulamia Cotton	100/10	89.00
National Tubes	100/10	125.50	Eagle Star	10/100	36.00
Panther Steel	10/50	8.00	GGC Ind. Corp.	10/50	13.00
Quasam Drycell	10/50	6.07	Modern Dying	100/5	35.00
Renwick Jainzwar	100/5	94.75	Quasam Silk	10/50	5.50
Singer Bangladesh	100/5	700.00	Quasam Textile	10/50	7.75
FOOD & ALLIED (Twenty one)			Rahim Textile	100/5	55.00
A.B Biscuit	100/5	180.00	Saitan Textile	100/10	89.00
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	48.00	S.T.M. (ORD)	100/5	50.00
Aman Sea Food	100/5	36.00	Stylecraft	100/5	100.00
Apex Food	100/5	400.00	Swan Textile	100/5	60.00
Aroma Tea	100/5	70.00	Talhu Spinning	100/10	121.29
Bangor	100/5	305.00	MISCELLANEOUS (Fourteen)		
Bengal Food	100/5	114.49	Apex Tannery	100/5	185.00
B.L.T.C.	100/5	480.00	Azami	10/50	NT
B.T.C.	10/50	40.00	Bata Shoe	10/100	35.00
Cig. Vegetable	100/10	98.00	Beximco	10/100	9.63
Dhaka Vegetable	100/5	152.00	B.S.C.	100/5	50.00
E.L. Camella	100/5	1000.00	Chittagong Cement	100/5	211.00
Frogleg Export	10/50	4.50	G. Q. Ball Pen	10/50	50.00
Gemini Sea Food	100/15	100.00	Himadri Ltd.	10/100	6.00
Modern Industries	100/5	160.00	Milon Tannery	100/5	32.00
N.T.C.	100/5	280.00	Monno Ceramic	100/5	149.00
Rabega Flour	10/100	NT	Phoenix Leather	100/5	90.00
Rupen Oil	10/100	6.24	Savar Refractories	100/5	114.00
Tulip Dairy	100/10	97.00	The Engineers	100/5	100.00
Youmof Flour	10/50	NT	Usmania Glass	100/5	244.83
Zeal Bangla Sugar	10/50	12.25	DEBENTURES (Four)		
FUEL & POWER (Three)			Apex Tannery	1000/1	1080.00
Padma Oil Co.	10/50	40.00	Bengal Food	900/1	950.00
Eastern Lubricant	10/50	14.00	(17% 1992)		
Oxygen	10/50	47.00	Bengal Food	18.5% 1992)	
JUTE (Twelve)			Beximco	2500/1	2190.00
Ahad Jute	100/10	NT	Beximco Pharma	1571/1	1660.00
Anowara Jute	10/50	NT	(17% 1997)		
Delta Jute	10/50	8.50	Quasam Silk	2000/1	1820.00
			(17% 1994)		

** PV = Face Value ML = Market Lot Traded, AL=Allotment Letter NT= Not

Contraceptives' private sector marketing helps to fight AIDS

WASHINGTON, Nov 28: A major program that promotes private sector marketing of contraceptives is helping to slow the spread of AIDS in developing countries, according to US officials, reports USIS.

Officials of the US Agency for International Development (AID) told reporters November 25 that the agency, together with other international donors and private groups, is currently supporting so-called condom social marketing activities in 37 developing countries. The goal is to increase the use of quality low-cost contraceptives for low-income consumers.

Jeffrey Harris, the agency's Coordinator for AIDS Programme, said that three out of four people now infected with the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in the developing world got infected through heterosexual contact. He added that improving access to condoms is seen as a key way to slow the spread of the virus.

"We market condoms like we would market something like coca-cola," he said. "Also, we create lots of little entrepreneurs selling condoms in village markets and making a profit. And because they're making a profit they have an incentive to keep supply lines open and to sell condoms and they do."

Harris said that due to the success of this condom marketing technique, AID has increased its condom shipments to Africa in five-fold in the last three years.

Duff Gillespie, Director of AID's Population Office, said that the agency began supporting contraceptive marketing programs in countries like Colombia, Jamaica and Sri Lanka in the early 1970s to promote family planning.

"When we first started — we had to do a lot of educating of people in host-country governments and businessmen," he said. "Now the concept is one that's very pervasive throughout the developing world."

Tk 203 cr Rly engine unit to start production next January

RAJSHAHI, Nov 28: Work is progressing fast on the construction of the Central Diesel Engine Factory of Bangladesh Railway in Parbatipur, reports UNB.

The factory being set up at a cost of Tk 203 crore is expected to start production next January, official sources said.

The factory will be able to repair at least 19 diesel engines per month and produce 40 per cent of the required spare-parts of rail-engines of the country.

Residential houses for the officials have already been built and construction work of the main factory building, main equipment building and administrative building are going on in full swing.

This will be the first factory of its kind in the country, officials said.

Kerosene like liquid emitting from pond

PANCHAGHARI, Nov 28: Kerosene like liquid has been emitting from a pond at Jampur village in Boda upazila of the district for the last three days, reports UNB.

The tank belongs to Hafizuddin of the village. Water level of the pond has been rising since Monday as the liquid was wobbling out from its bed. Heavy layer of oil has been surfaced on the water.

Boda Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) visited the pond and instructed the officials of Public Health Department to sink a tubewell there on a test basis.

Thousands of villagers have been visiting the spot to see the oil pond.

Tea prices fall further

Star Economic Report

Tea prices declined further at this week's auction sale held in Chittagong on Tuesday last.

According to a Unity Brokers market reports, lower demand led to a further decline in prices and large withdrawals. The market opened at lower rates but continued to decline with the progress of the sale. The auction market opened at Taka 2 below last levels but prices eased further as the sale progressed.

Poland operated for the brokers at reduced strength with Pakistan being active for the better and medium fannings. Local out-station buyers could not attend the auction because of communication disruptions due to the 48-hour blockade by the jute and textile mills workers. This led to less competition for fannings and large withdrawals in the dust category.

Leaf offerings at the sale comprised of a total of 28,851 packages. In the leaf category 42 per cent of the tea on offer remained unsold while export buyers accounted for 45 per cent of the sale and internal buyers bought the remaining 13 per cent.

In the dust category, a huge 55 per cent of the tea on offer remained unsold while export buyers accounted for 25 per cent of the sale.

CTC: Brokers generally eased by Taka to Taka 3 with large withdrawals reported particularly for the plainer types which were often neglected. Only selective lines sold above Taka 30.

Fannings: Fannings were comparatively a much better market although prices eased by about Taka 2 below last

Call to form trade-based Islamic forum

Participants in a seminar on "Issues in the economic cooperation among the developing countries" Wednesday called for forming a trade-based Islamic forum to protect the greater interest of the Muslim countries, reports BSS.

Organised by the Islamic Economic Research Bureau, the seminar was presided over by Dr. Ayubur Rahman of the Economics Department of Dhaka University. M. A. Awwal Sarkar, Deputy Director in the Department of Research, Bangladesh, read out a paper

Call to gear up recovery of loans

MM Nurul Haque, Managing Director, Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) called upon the senior officers of the Corporation to gear up their activities regarding the recovery of due and over dues of the Corporation to generate fund for new investment, says a press release of ICB.

Haque was addressing the conference of senior executives and branch managers of the Corporation on Wednesday at the head office of the Corporation. He called upon the officers to perform their duty with sincerity and honesty. He also instructed them to improve services towards the customers to their satisfaction.

In the conference the overall activities of the Corporation were discussed.

on the occasion, while Prof. Abu Ahmed of Dhaka University and S.M. Ali Akkas, Assistant Director of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), Savar, took part in the discussions.

The speakers observed that though the least developed countries had formed different international and regional forums for cooperation among themselves, surprisingly they had kept away trade and commerce from their area of cooperation.

They said a trade-based forum among the Muslim countries could further promote their economic cooperation as well as protect the mutual interests.

BSCIC sets up 459 units in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Nov 28: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) has set up 459 industrial units in the eight industrial estates in Rajshahi division till June this year, reports UNB.

The units have been set up in Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Bogra Extension, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Sirajganj and Natore industrial towns.

Of the total units, 245 units are now on production, 48 units are under construction and 345 others have closed down with problems, BSCIC sources said.

Complexity of land laws fails to protect landless

State Minister for Land Muhammad Kabir Hossain has called upon the non-government organisations to come forward to supplement government initiatives in rehabilitating the landless people of the country, reports UNB.

Kabir Hossain said, due to the existing complexity of land laws the rehabilitation people could not protect their lands from the clutches of the land-crores.

He was addressing a seminar on "The role of government and NGOs in the rehabilitation of the landless people on khas lands" at the Bangladesh Management Development Centre here Wednesday.

The seminar was jointly organised by the Social Institute, Juba Academy and PRIP/Pact. Executive Director of the Social Institute AB Moaman Ghani read out they key note

speech. Presided over by NGO bureau Director General Shahidul Alam, the seminar was also addressed by Land Secretary Aminul Islam, Editor Daily Janata Sanaulah Nuri and Coordinator of PRIP/Pact Richard Hallway.

The State Minister said government will set up self-reliant ideal villages in a new dimension for making the inhabitants of these villages economically self-reliant.

He said all necessary arrangements will be made to provide them with self-employment opportunity including electricity, communication and marketing facilities.

He also said, the democratic government was committed to establish a exploitation-free society in the country.

Shipping Intelligence

Name of Vessels	Berthed	ETA	ETD	Port	Agent
Al Swamuz	26/11	05/12	J/1	Hong	ASSL
Continent-1	22/11	28/11	J/2	Feng	CLA
Baltic	26/11	01/12	J/3	NA	NA
Orang Berani	24/11	28/11	J/4	Singapore	TSLL
Dekhoda	23/11	27/11	J/5	B Abbas	SSL
Banglar Sampad	24/11	29/11	J/6	NA	BSC
Banglar Maya	24/11	30/11	J/7	NA	AQUA
Shan Yin	26/11	01/12	J/8	Jaka	BDSHIP
Banglar Banat	20/11	28/11	J/9	NA	KSL
Al Tabith	24/11	30/11	J/12	NA	KSL
Atlantic Clipper	17/11	27/11	MPB/1	Cal	BDSHIP
Sykida	23/11	30/11	MPB/2	Aqaba	AQUA
Loyal Bird	20/11	28/11	OCJ	Mong	OWSL
Fuhwo Venture	24/11	28/11			