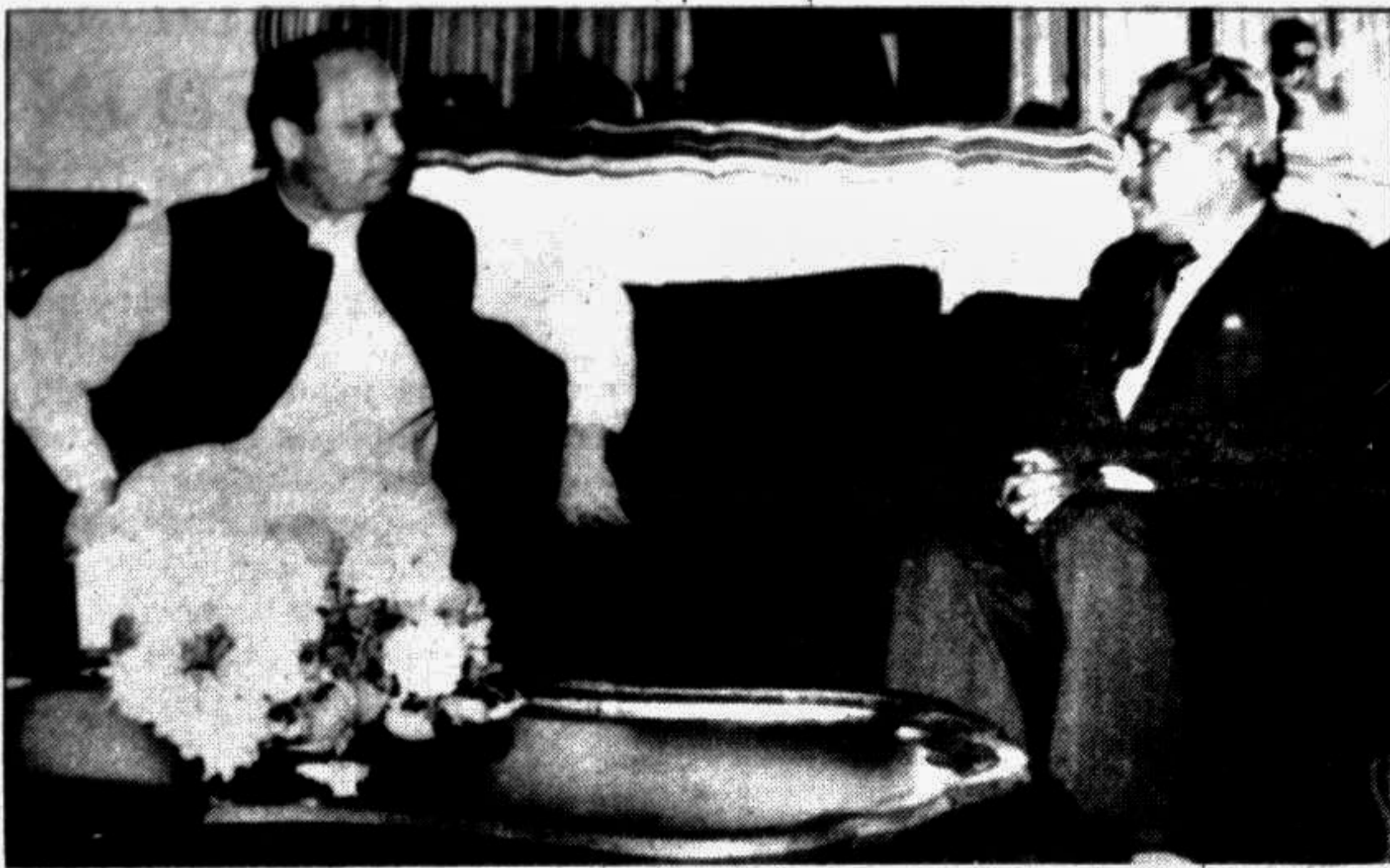


**Seminar on medicinal plants today**

A three-day regional seminar on research trends in medicinal plants, first of its kind in Bangladesh, will commence in Dhaka today (Sunday) under the joint auspices of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, the government and a number of national and international fora, reports BSS.

According to a press release eminent scientists of the regional countries such as Indonesia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka besides those from the host country Bangladesh will participate. The participants include one hundred scientists, bio-medical researchers and leading traditional practitioners from the universities, research organisations, medical colleges and the professional bodies of traditional practitioners.



Commerce Minister MK Anwar called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on his recent visit to Pakistan.

**Bangladesh Bank affairs**

**Star Economic Report**

Demand liabilities of the scheduled banks totalled Taka 5,258.83 crore on November 14, according to the latest statement of affairs by the central bank on the scheduled banks.

The liabilities included Taka 3,928.16 crore as general demand deposits, Taka 128.32 crore as inter-bank deposits, Taka 176.29 crore as inter-bank borrowings, Taka 2.03 crore as borrowing from the non-banking financial institutions and Taka 1,024.01 crore as other demand liabilities.

Time liabilities of the scheduled banks on October 14 totalled Taka 18,854.65 crore. The liabilities included Taka 17,538.61 crore as time deposits, Taka 188.33 crore as inter-bank term deposits and Taka 1,127 crore as other liabilities. The total borrowing of the scheduled banks from the central bank stood at Taka 3,410 crore.

The cash holdings of the banks in Bangladesh totalled Taka 313.80 crore. Their deposits with the central bank amounted to Taka 1972.60 crore. Deposits with other banks in current accounts stood at Taka 116.28 crore. Bills payable on demand and short term amounted to Taka 314.71 crore while investments (at book value) aggregated Taka 2,975.31 crore.

Total credits by the banks in Bangladesh stood at Taka 21,386.59 crore.

**Thrust plan to boost fisheries, poultry and forestry soon**

A high-level committee was formed Saturday to look into the possibilities of further development of fisheries, poultry and forestry sectors, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office on Saturday morning.

The Prime Minister felt that there was tremendous scope of further development of these sectors and said a thrust programme would be taken to improve these potential areas.

Begum Zia stressed proper planning of the fisheries, poultry and forestry for quick return from these sectors which could be treated as resource wealth.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister will represent the Prime Minister's office while Member, Planning Commission (Agriculture section) will act as Member Secretary of the committee.

**Fresh monetary measures adopted**

**Star Economic Report**

Bangladesh Bank yesterday (Saturday) announced further monetary policy measures with a view to stimulating the economy.

According to the new rules, Scheduled Banks will be required to maintain seven per cent of their deposits in the form of cash with the Bangladesh Bank instead of eight per cent, currently in practice. The cut in deposit was aimed at increasing the loanable funds of the banks by nearly Taka 250 crore, according to Bangladesh Bank sources.

At present there is no prescribed minimum L/c margin for industrial imports. L/c margin in such cases is determined by the banks on the basis of banker-customer relationship. However, there is a prescribed minimum L/c

margin of 10 per cent for commercial imports. This minimum L/c margin requirement for commercial imports has now been withdrawn. This means that L/c margin requirements for both industrial and commercial imports will henceforth be determined by the banks on the basis of banker-customer relationship.

Earlier, the bank rate was reduced with effect from November 17, 1991 and banks' lending rates will be lowered with effect from today (December 1) through the announcement of a new Interest Rates Matrix, added the Bank sources.

These measures were adopted to augment the flow of bank credit and help increase production and expand internal and external trade for accelerated economic activities in the country.

The committee comprises Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan, Fisheries, Livestock, and Forestry Minister Abdullah Al Noman, State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain and Secretaries of Fisheries, Land, Irrigation, Road Transport Division, Railway, Chairman of Water Development Board and Director of Fisheries.

Earlier, Col (Rtd) Akbar Hossain MP submitted a presentation on ways and means of development of these sectors by utilising wayside land, beels and haors and other available water bodies.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning A M Zahiruddin Khan, Communications Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed, Minister for Fisheries, Livestock and Forestry Abdullah Al Noman, State Minister for Fisheries, Livestock and Forestry Gayeshwar Roy and Secretaries of concerned ministries.

**Titas Gas realises Tk 54 cr arrears, snaps 397 lines**

By Inam Ahmed

The Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company has realised an amount of Taka 54 crore in arrear bills during a three-month arrear recovery drive from August to October this year. The company also disconnected supply to 397 defaulting subscribers during the period.

According to Titas sources, different government and private organisations still owed the company more than Taka 213 crore till the end of October 1991. This amount included unpaid bills carried over for more than three years.

The huge accumulation of unpaid bills has caused serious fund constraints for the Titas authorities, affecting development, extension and investment projects.

The amount of arrear bills until October of fiscal 1991-92 alone stood at Taka 112 crore, almost three times that for the previous fiscal year, which was Taka 45 crore.

Interestingly, government, industrial and commercial organisations constitute the overwhelming majority of the defaulting clients with domestic consumers making up only about 20 per cent of the defaulters.

High on the list of arrear accumulators is the Power Development Board which owes more than Taka 82 crore with the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) coming second with Taka 10 crore in overdue bills till last October.

The BCIC's arrears, which had stood at Taka 5 crore at the end of August, doubled in

just two months, mainly due to bureaucratic delays at the corporation's end.

Other major organisations which owe Titas Gas and Distribution sizeable amounts are Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation — Taka 5.68 crore, Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation — Taka 1.59 crore, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation — Taka 10 lakh and the Bangladesh Steel and

Engineering Corporation — Taka 64 lakh.

Among non-government subscribers, 91 brick field owners owe the company Taka 7 crore, several glass factories Taka 3.6 crore while another sum of Taka 19 crore is owed by private sector establishments.

Domestic subscribers owe the company an amount of around Taka 42 crore, Titas sources said.

**Lawlessness threatens Europe's poorest state**

TIRANA (Albania), Nov 30: In ramshackle towns, people stay home after dusk for fear of armed gangs roaming the streets. Students demand protection against rapes and killings in their dormitories. Even the Justice Minister was robbed, reports AP.

An overwhelming crime wave threatens to plunge Albania, Europe's poorest country, into anarchy. Crime is rising throughout Eastern Europe as the region shakes off decades of iron-fisted Communist rule, but Albania is among the hardest hit by new lawlessness.

Citizens in the Balkan nation of 3 million people fight for scarce land, scramble for ever more expensive food, and increasingly revert to the old blood feuds that once dominated northern Albania. In one remote village, a man reportedly killed a man and his son

to avenge the theft of a goat.

The police can do little, in part because they lack crime-fighting tools such as fast cars and computers. In addition, the police are despised as instruments of the former authoritarian government of Enver Hoxha.

The police are closely identified with the repressive Communist regime of the very recent past, said Mitro Cela, Editor of the leading anti-Communist newspaper Rilindja Demokratike, or Democratic Revival. Fearing reprisals from organised criminals, they will not intervene to maintain order.

The crimes have been increasing in brazenness as well as number.

Convoys bringing sorely needed foreign food and medical aid have been attacked. Italy sent unarmed soldiers to help distribute its aid package.

**World institute to bring science to people**

PARIS, Nov 30: About 50 scientists, including a dozen Nobel Prize winners, have founded a World Institute for Science that hopes to bring science to the service of the people and offer ethical guidance on scientific progress, the institute announced Friday, reports AP.

The Institute, which includes scientists from 17 nations, was to hold its first meeting this weekend at the prestigious Collège de France.

"The world scientific community can no longer escape its responsibilities before society," says the institute's charter. "It must contribute to the formation of scientific minds, show every one what science is and what it is not" and, above all, "actively watch over the human consequences of the scientific body of work."

French mathematician Andre Lichnerwitz, serving as the institute's first President, said that means the institute is to put science "at the service of society."

The charter lists as initial subjects of concern that which is finally the daily concern of man: demography, genetics, nutrition, computers, as well as nuclear, biology, and the environment.

**UN sanctions against Iraq unlikely to ease**

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 30: The Security Council will almost certainly do nothing to ease its sanctions against Iraq next week when it holds a periodic review of the mandatory curbs against Baghdad, council members said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Nothing warrants changes, Soviet Representative Yuli Vorontsov, who will take over the Presidency of the council on December 1, told Reuter. Western council members also ruled out any easing of the sanctions, imposed shortly after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Under an omnibus resolution adopted on April 3 calling for the scrapping of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction imposing reparations and a range of other measures, the council is obliged to review the sanctions every 60 days but has done nothing so far to modify them.

The next review is due on Monday.

Vorontsov who will be responsible for the council work schedule during December told Reuter the review might be delayed for a day of two for logistical reasons.

**Moscow suggested to seek food, not cash**

MOSCOW, Nov 30: The Soviet Union should seek food, not cash, as a repayment from African countries which borrowed billions of Dollars from Moscow to finance decades of ruinous wars, a Soviet newspaper said on Friday, reports Reuter.

The latest edition of the weekly Moscow News which detailed once secret African debts to the Soviet government said poverty stricken African government would be unable to pay back most debt contracted since the 1960s.

There's no point in even talking about reclaiming two thirds of the debts it said. But nevertheless we can put these to good use.

The Soviet Union is lecturing towards economic chaos and even the most basic foods are in short supply as winter sets in.

The Moscow News said the answer was to accept partial repayment in foodstuffs and other African export products.

It listed coffee, coca, beans, citrus, fruits, bananas, oil seeds, tinned meat and vegetables, wines, leather goods, rubber and mining products as good potential swaps for debt.

With the end of the Cold War, the Soviet Union has gradually disengaged itself from costly sponsorship of socialist government and independence movements in Africa.

Most of these movements have started peace talks with their US backed foes over the past two years.

**Wall Street market shrinks**

NEW YORK, Nov 30: A bright and shining year for the stock market has lost a little of its lustre heading into the waning weeks of 1991, reports AP.

But after a November-long decline in stock prices, many analysts aren't yet ready to conclude that the investment outlook has been severely tarnished.

"The stock market has been hit with the heaviest selling pressure of the year, and further weakness cannot be ruled out," say analysts at the Dow Theory Forecast investment advisory service in Hammond, Ind.

However, with the primary trend of the market still bullish, investors should stay the course with quality stock holdings.

There are still many positive factors which should eventually fuel a rising market. A key point is the interest-rate environment, which is likely to remain favourable.

**Market Prices of Listed Shares and Debentures with Dhaka Stock Exchange**

At the close of trading on November 30, 1991.

Company	EY/ML	1990-91			
		November 21	November 28	High	Low
<b>BANKS (Ten)</b>					
AL Bank	1000/1	1080.00	1060.00	1060.00	725.00
AB Bank	100/5	175.00	177.00	185.00	135.00
City Bank	100/5	270.00	270.00	290.00	178.00
IFIC	100/5	180.00	182.00	202.00	140.00
Islami Bank	1000/1	1210.00	1300.00	1400.00	1000.00
National Bank	100/5	105.00	105.00	125.00	102.00
Pabna Bank	100/5	110.00	100.00	110.00	85.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	95.00	86.00	110.00	68.00
U.C.B.L	100/5	120.00	120.00	138.00	119.00
Utara Bank	100/5	170.00	190.00	230.00	160.00
<b>INVESTMENT (Eight)</b>					
ICB	100/5	93.50	93.50	100.00	90.00
1st ICB MFund	100/5	345.00	345.00	450.00	345.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	153.00	153.00	200.00	150.00
3rd ICB MFund	100/5	132.00	132.00	168.00	130.00
4th ICB MFund	100/10	128.50	128.50	157.00	123.00
5th ICB MFund	100/10	95.81	95.81	139.00	94.00
6th ICB MFund	100/10	67.43	66.00	100.00	59.50
ICB Unit Cert.		115.00	116.00		
Sales Price		110.00	111.00		
Re-purchase					
<b>INSURANCE (Four)</b>					
BOC	100/10	107.50	107.00	127.50	104.00
Green Delta	100/10	114.00	113.00	122.00	104.50
Peoples	100/10	120.00AL	120.00AL	133.00	108.00
United	100/10	132.00	131.00	133.00	105.00
<b>ENGINEERING (Nineteen)</b>					
Atlas Automobiles 100/5		195.00	195.00	220.00	194.00
Atlas Bangladesh 1050		43.00	40.00	49.97	36.00
Aur Pipes 100/5		240.00	240.00	300.00	218.00
Bangladesh Autocore 100/5		97.00	96.00	123.00	86.00
Bangladesh Lamp 100/5		235.00XD	235.00XD	290.00	230.00
B.Thal Aluminium 100/10		250.00	87.40	110.00	75.00
Bengal Carbide 100/5		18.00	230.00	250.00	230.00
Bengal Steel 100/50		97.1218.00	18.00		
Eastern Cables 100/5		103.50	89.50	109.00	75.00
Howlader PVC 100/10		130.00	103.50	122.00	97.00
Karim Pipe 100/5		121.00	130.00	139.00	110.00
Metalex Corp. 100/5		200.00	121.00	153.07	75.00
Monno Staffers 100/5		210.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Monno Jute 100/5		200.00	240.00	210.00	210.00
National Tubes 100/10		210.00	125.00	148.46	103
Passher Steel 10/50		6.00	6.00		
Quamem Drycell 10/50		8.25	8.07	9.30	7.50
Reznick Jayswar 100/5		96.00	84.75	100.00	48.00
Singer Bangladesh 100/5		700.00	700.00	1125.00	700.00
<b>FOOD &amp; ALLIED (Twenty one)</b>					
AB Biscuit 100/5		180.00	180.00	200.00	180.00
Alpha Tobacco 10/50		48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00
Aman Sea Food 100/5		36.00	36.00	40.00	36.00
Apex Food 100/5		400.00	400.00	400.00	270.00
Aroma Tea 100/5		70.00	70.00	85.00	45.00
Bangla 100/5		305.00	305.00		
Bengal Food 100/5		114.49	114.49	255.00	112.00
B.L.T.C. 100/5		480.00	500	480.00	400
Chitragong Cement 100/5		39.00	39.00	83.00	35.00
Cig. Vegetable 100/10		99.00	99.00	117.00	92.00
Dhaka Vegetable 100/5		147.58	152.00	175.00	127.00
E.L. Cerealia 100/5		1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
Fruglex Export 4.50		4.50	4.50	6.75	
Gemini Sea Food 100.00		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Modern Industries 100/5		160.00	160.00	160.00	135.00
N.T.C. 100/5		275.00	280.00	280.00	220.00
Rabeya Flour 100/100		NT	NT		
Rupam Oil 10/100		6.00	6.24	7.50	5.75
Tulip Dairy 100/10		96.00	97.00	105.00	90.00
Yousaf Flour 10/50		NT	NT		
Zed Bread Sugar 10/50		11.90	12.25	15.59	7.50
<b>FUEL &amp; POWER (Eleven)</b>					
Padma Oil Co. 10/50		40.00	40.00	45.00	40.00
Eastern Lubricant 10/50		14.00	14.00	81.50	46.50
Oxygen 10/50		48.00	47.00		
<b>JUTE (Twelve)</b>					
Ahad Jute 100/10		NT	NT		
Anwara Jute 10/50		NT	NT		
Delta Jute 10/50		8.50	8.50		
<b>GANSA JUTE</b>					
Islam Jute 100/5		75.00	75.00	75.00	53.00
Jute Spinner 100/5		95.00	95.00	100.00	93.00
Mutual Jute 100/5		100.00	100.00	100.00	50.00
Northern Jute 10/50		NT	NT		
Shamser Jute 100/5		100.00	100.00		
Specialised Jute 10/50		NT	NT		
Shine Pukur Jute 100/5		92.00	92.00	100.00	92.00
Sonali Arash 100/5		97.00	97.00	97.00	60.00
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS &amp; CHEMICALS (Fifteen)</b>					
Ambec Pharma 10/50		13.50	13.50	15.50	13.50
Bangla Process 100/5		58.00	58.00	68.00	50.00
Beximco Pharma 100/5		182.50	182.00	187.00	149.00
Glaxo 10/50		125.00	125.00	240.00	125.00
ICI 10/50		10.00	10.00		
Kohinoor Chemical 100/5		108.85	112.50	127.55	66.00