

Foreigners keen to set up plants at Savar EPZ

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan yesterday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that a number of foreign investors have shown interest in setting up industries at the new Export Processing Zone, being set up near the metropolis, reports BSS.

The Minister was making a statement in reply to a call of attention of Treasury Bench MP M Niamatullah on the functioning of the EPZ, being set up at Nabinagar under Savar police station.

He said subject to the availability of funds for development of the zone, about 40 to 45 plots having all infrastructure facilities could be developed and allotted by July next.

Khan said it was expected that by the same time two to three industrial units could also start production.

The Industries Minister further told the House that a number of Korean investors have already expressed their eagerness through their local offices in Bangladesh for setting up industrial plants in the Dhaka Export Processing Zone. He said a Swedish electronics company has already established contact with the BEPZ authorities in this regard and a number of Japanese investors have also shown interest for setting up industries in the zone.

Sick units body talks rice, flour mills' problems

The Select Committee for sick industries in food and allied sector in its second meeting Monday discussed the problems of rice and flour mills with the Presidents and General Secretaries of Bangladesh Rice Mills Association and Bangladesh Major and Compact Flour Mills Association.

The frozen fish units group also attended the meeting. Chief adviser to Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters' Association and a member of the Select Committee, Taher Sobhan led the group.

Convener of the Select Committee and Chairman of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, Waseq al-Azad presided over the meeting. It was also attended by, among other members of the committee, Syed Mussharraf Hossain, General Manager of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, A K M Ziauddin and Director of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries.

G-7's failure shots up \$

NEW YORK, Jan 28: The US dollar rose sharply Monday against other key currencies after major industrial nations meeting over the weekend failed to indicate a preference on exchange rates, reports AP.

Finance ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations met over the weekend in suburban New York but failed to say in their closing communique where they would like to see foreign exchange rates.

Some traders had expected the G-7 ministers would promote a stronger yen to help reduce Japan's bulging trade surplus and to boost US economic recovery.

He said it now appeared the market would try to test how high the dollar may be allowed to go against the yen.

"There will be some tentative testing for the top to see where the tolerance of the central banks will be," he said.

The dollar finished at 125.225 yen in New York, up from 123.525 yen late Friday. It had been quoted earlier in London at 125.35 yen. It finished in Tokyo at 124.57 yen, the same as late Friday.

Egan said there were also some sharp moves by the dollar against the German mark which he attributed mainly to traders jockeying to establish positions in advance of President Bush's State of the Union address set for Tuesday night.

The dollar finished at 1.6105 German mark in New York, up from 1.5950 late Friday.

The dollar was also strong against the British pound. The pound fell to 1.7825 dollar in New York from 1.7955 dollar rate Friday. In London, the pound fell to 1.7770 dollar from 1.8070 dollar rate Friday.

Dollar rates as of 4 pm EST in New York compared with late rates Friday included: 1.4300 Swiss franc, up from 1.4165; 5.4840 French franc, up from 5.4375; 1.2009.25 Italian lire, up from 1.200.50 and 1.17325 Canadian dollar, up from 1.16965.

EC assures more support to Dhaka

The European Community Tuesday assured Bangladesh of increased assistance in food, agriculture, science, technology, education, health and family planning sectors, reports UNB.

The assurance came when Jacques Bailly, the head of delegation in Bangladesh of the Commission of European Communities, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday morning.

The EC head of delegation pointed out that Bangladesh received nearly 50 per cent of the total aid provided by the Community to the Asian countries for socio-economic development of the people.

The Prime Minister thanked the EC ambassador and requested more assistance

from the Community assuring that with the establishment of democratic government aid will be properly utilised for the welfare of common man.

Democracy and human rights to which the European Community attaches more importance, now prevail in Bangladesh, she said.

Begum Zia listed some priority programmes of her government, which included self-reliance in food, education, health and family planning, and industrialisation, particularly setting up of small, medium and cottage industries.

The Prime Minister said the present government is keen on privatisation of industries and provides equal op-

portunities to local and foreign investors.

She said the people are being politically and socially motivated for family planning. A national forum will soon be created to politically motivate women for adopting family planning.

"We're explaining the advantages of family planning to the rural masses and trying to develop womenfolk through education and training."

"We feel if women are engaged in different economic activities it will have an indirect effect on the size of the family", Begum Zia said.

The EC Ambassador mentioned about their assistance for improvement of supply and services of family planning ma-

terials. He suggested that the people should be involved in a bigger way to make the national family planning programme a success.

Referring to the canal digging programme aimed at achieving food autarky, Begum Zia said the irrigation facilities created by the programme will lead to higher yield of agricultural production.

She also requested the EC ambassador to increase the number of scholarships for Bangladeshi students for higher education in the fields of science and technology.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Syed Hassan Ahmed was present during the meeting.

Bangladesh Bank Bill auction results

By Staff Correspondent

Forty-two bids for a total amount of Tk 100.50 crore were received at the 14th auction of the 91-day Bangladesh Bank Bill held on January 27.

Nineteen bids were accepted. Total face value of the bids accepted was Tk 40 crore.

The weighted average price of the accepted bids was Tk 98.03 per 100 taka. The corresponding yield is 8.07 per cent annum, according to a Bangladesh Bank press release.

External balances up further

Star Economic Report

The balances held outside Bangladesh by the Bangladesh Bank rose further by about Taka 162 crore in the week beginning December 26.

The balances now stand at Taka 4763.81 crore. The earlier figure was Taka 4601 crore.

The latest statement on the affairs of the bank shows that the notes in circulation fell

during the time. It stood at Taka 3530.44 crore on January 2 against Taka 3601.34 crore in the previous week.

The Asset Side of the Banking Department showed notes at Taka 93.84 lakh, subsidiary coin at Taka two thousand, Government Treasury Bills Holdings at Taka 505.71 crore, Government's Debtors Balance at Taka 873.61 crore.

Other Loans and Advances at Taka 702.79 crore and Other Assets at Taka 1648.53 crore.

On the other hand, the Liabilities Side shows different deposits at Taka 6203.49 crore, allocation of Special Drawn Bills at Taka 91.74 crore, Rights Payable at Taka 90.26 crore, Capital Paid Up at Taka three crore, Reserve Fund at Taka three crore and other liabilities at Taka 1658.22 crore.

The fund position of the Liabilities Side also shows Rural Credit Fund at Taka 164.90 crore, Industrial Credit Fund at Taka 51.78 crore, Export Credit Fund at Taka 53 crore and Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund at Taka 175.00 crore.

The Issue Department side of the statement shows notes held in the Banking Department at Taka 93.84 lakh.

The Assets Side of the Issue Department shows gold coin and bullion Holdings at Taka 83.10 crore, approved Foreign Exchange Holdings at Taka 200 crore, Taka coinholding at Taka 12.98 crore, Government Securities Holdings at Taka 255.20 crore and Internal bills of Exchange and other Commercial Papers Holdings at Taka 2980.08 crore.

EPB seminar on shrimp culture tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) will hold a seminar on semi-intensive shrimp culture at Hotel Purbani tomorrow Thursday.

Commerce Minister, M K Anwar will inaugurate the seminar while Minister for Environment, Fisheries, Forest and Livestock, Abdullah al Noman will be the special guest.

The ministries and Saudi-Bangladesh Industrial and Agricultural Investment Co Ltd will make audio-visual presentation in the seminar.

Shrimp culturists, producers, Managing Directors of shrimp processing units and the exporters will take part in the seminar.



Lack of parking space at Badamtali market for transports carrying in goods from countryside often causes much inconvenience to both traffic and pedestrians. —Star photo

Raising coconut trees on coastal belt under consideration

CHITTAGONG, Jan 28: Minister for Planning AM Zahiruddin Khan today underlined the importance of formulating an efficient and pragmatic policy on disaster preparedness and management to save the loss of lives and prevent damage to vital infrastructure, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the second phase of the seminar workshop on Development of Modules for Training on Integrated Approach to Disaster Management and Regional and Rural Development Planning (Phase-Three) at a city hotel the Minister said, people at the grass-roots level should be geared for disaster preparedness. Infrastructure should also be built and strengthened to withstand the impact of such

disasters.

Jointly organised by Centre of Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD), the inaugural session was also addressed by ATM Shamsul Haque, Director, CIRDAP, Dr S I Khan, representative of UNCRD, Japan and Dr U Srinivasa Raghavan, seminar Director.

The Planning Minister said any cyclone or storm or tidal surge takes a huge toll of lives as almost seven million people inhabit the coastal plains of Bangladesh.

Stressing the need for training of people living in the disaster prone areas on disaster preparedness and management, the Minister said

special training ought to be given to disciplined forces like army, navy and air force to mitigate the immediate sufferings of the people.

To face such grave natural calamity Khan emphasised the need for plantation of coconut trees on a large scale along the coastal belt to reduce the disastrous impact.

The Minister said, the government was actively considering raising of coconut and mango trees plantation in the coastal belt in order to help alleviate rural poverty as well as to maintain ecological balance. He said people will be associated with the plantation programme.

The Director of CIRDAP in his address of welcome highlighted the importance of holding the seminar workshop in the port city since this city suffered colossal damage in the last cyclone and tidal surge of April 29.

He said the experts taking part in the seminar workshop would also undertake field trips to such areas that often come under onslaught of cyclone and tidal surge.

There are 50 participants from 10 countries of Asia and the Pacific regions taking part in the seminar.

Tokyo shares moderate

TOKYO, Jan 28: Share prices gained moderately on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Tuesday morning, while the US dollar firmed against the Japanese yen, reports AP.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average gained 167.36 points, or 0.79 per cent, closing the morning session at 21,174.47.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port						
Name of Vessels	Berthed	EID	Berth	L. Port No	L. Agent	
Mild	11/01	22/01	J/1	Singapore	CSA	
Northern Novo	19/01	25/01	J/2	BOM	MSA	
Hai Ning	05/01	22/01	J/3	NA	NA	
Continent-1	20/01	24/01	J/4	Pena	CLA	
Loyal Bird	21/01	25/01	J/5	NA	NA	
Este Presco	21/01	25/01	J/6	NA	NA	
Ellie-M	21/01	27/01	J/7	NA	NA	
Knud Jespersen	20/01	23/01	J/8	Singapore	CT	
Al Reza	09/01	24/01	J/9	Mong	AQUA	
Jonathan	18/01	23/01	J/13	NA	SEACOM	
Ellie-M	18/01	22/01	MPB/2	Moro	AQUA	
Banglar Asha	19/01	24/01	CSJ	NA	BSC	
Kang Dong	19/01	24/01	CSJ	Singapore	OSA	
Banglar Shourabh	17/01	24/01	RM/6	NA	BSC	
Fong Yun	06/01	25/01	DDJ/1	Singapore	BDSHIP	
Banglar Sampad	18/01	22/01	DDJ/2	NA	BSC	
Pya-1	12/01	22/01	RM/8	Singapore	OSA	
Banglar Swarna	05/12	30/01	RM/9	NA	BSC	

Vessels Ready at Outer Anchorage			
Name of Vessels	Ready	L. Port	L. Agent
Vishva Pprafulla	18/01	Mad	Sai
Gemini	25/01	Durb	Aqua
Olga	23/01	Kand	Delmore
Aghion Oros	24/01	Ind	Aqua
Reliant	24/01	NA	NA

Vessels Due at Outer Anchorage			
Name of Vessels	ETA	L. Port Call	L. Agent
Fong Shin	22/01/92	Singapore	DBSHIP
Atlantic clipper	22/01/92	Singapore	BDSHIP
Banglar Kollol	22/01/92	Munda	GLOBE
Uberana	23/01/92	NA	JF
Rorjony Choomie	23/01/92	NA	PSAL
Tubuk	23/01/92	Kand	ENCL
Banglar Shobha	24/01/92	NA	BSC
Lilas	24/01/92	NA	PROG
Endurance Sea	24/01/92	Aquaba	UMAL
Songrim	24/01/92	NA	RRSA
Blue Ocean	25/01/92	Cal	TSLL
Optima	25/01/92	Col	RSL
Infinity	25/01/92	Singapore	ULA
Stonewall Jackson	25/01/92	Phuk	ULA
Shalamar	26/01/92	Col	BSC
Vishva Pankaj	27/01/92	NA	SSL
Fong Shan	27/01/92	Tamp	OWSL
Laurissa	28/01/92	Chin	OSA
Eastern Breeze	28/01/92	NA	RRSA
Chong Chon Gang	30/01/92	NA	RRSA
Felicity	30/01/92	Tamp	OWSL
Seabulk Hope	31/01/92	NA	BBA
New Genlord	01/02/92	NA	BDSHIP
Kota Dhana	01/02/92	NA	NA

Chalna Port				
Name of Vessel	Berthed	ETA	L. Port	L. Agent
Tea Chong	22/01	NA	Quingca	Bright
Mild	22/01	NA	Chittagong	Overseas
Continent-1	22/01	NA	Chittagong	BSLL
Marine Three	22/01	NA	Chittagong	BML
Stefan Czaraiecki	21/01	24/01	Calcutta	BSA
Hai Hing	23/01	NA	Chittagong	Triumph
Reliant	23/01	NA	Chittagong	AQT
Shalmar	24/01	31/01	Chittagong	BSC
NGS Ranger	25/01	NA	Chittagong	BSLL
Suhit-1	25/01	NA	W. Sumat	Al-Amin
Royal Bird	25/01	30/01	Chittagong	OWSL
Vishva Pprafulla	25/01	NA	Chittagong	SSL
Sea Rhapsody	26/01	NA	Vizag	HIL
Kang Dong	26/01	NA	Chittagong	Overseas
Vishva Parag	27/01	NA	Calcutta	SSL
Sea Carol	28/01	NA	Vizag	HIL
Banglar Bari	28/01	NA	Chittagong	BSL
Al-Bashir	30/01	NA	India	TMIL
Yom Bun Jin	30/01	NA	DPRK	Greenland
Felicity	05/02	NA	Chittagong	OWSL
Mun Su Bong	05/02	NA	China	Greenland
Gold Future	15/02	NA	Chittagong	AQM

Price Index			
January-28			
Essentials			
RICE (Taka per kg)			
Arora(Rice)	14.00-15.00		
Fajun	13.00-14.00		
Uthi	12.00-12.50		
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)			
Potato	5.00-6.00		
Brinjal	5.00-6.00		
Karola	22.00-24.00		
Lalchak	2.50-3.00		
Papa	5.00-6.00		
Green Beans (Four Pieces)	4.00-5.00		
OTHER FOODSTUFFS (Taka per kg)			
Flour	12.50-13.00		
Am	10.50-11.00		
FISH (Taka per kg)			
Rohit(big)	140.00-150.00		
Kata(big)	90.00-100.00		
Hilaha	64.00-65.00		
Pungo	120.00-130.00		
Shrimp(big)	90.00-100.00		
Sing	85.00-90.00		
Kar	85.00-90.00		
MEAT (Taka per kg)			
Beef	55.00-60.00		
Mutton	80.00-85.00		
CHEESEN (Taka per kg)			
Large	62.00-64.00		
Medium	66.00-68.00		
Small	70.00-72.00		
TEA (Taka per kg)			
Dust (Plain)	70.00-80.00		
EGG (Taka per kg)			
Hen	11.00-11.50		
Duck	10.00-10.50		
Pheasant	11.50-12.00		
PULSES (Taka per kg)			
Mash	28.00-30.00		
Mung	28.00-30.00		
Chickpea	23.00-24.00		
Kharuri	13.00-14.00		
Oil (Taka per Litre)			
Soybean	52.00-54.00		
Mustard	38.00-39.00		
Coconut (Columba)	90.00-95.00		
Vegetable Ghee	45.00-48.00		
SPICES (Taka Per kg)			
Onion	8.00-9.00		
Garlic	18.00-20.00		
Chillies	70.00-75.00		
Turmeric(Round)	44.00-45.00		
(Long)	45.00-50.00		
Green chillies	20.00-22.00		
Ginger	10.00-12.00		
Cinnamon(Slgn)	3.00-3.50		
Cardamom(Slgn)	3.00-4.00		
Milk (Slgn)	7.00-7.50		
MEATS (Two kg)			
Daw	288.00-295.00		
Red-Cow	286.00-287.00		
MISCELLANEOUS (Taka)			
Ghee (one kg)	220.00-240.00		
Salt	6.00-7.00		
Sugar	26.50-27.00		
Molasses	15.00-16.00		

Berthed= Vessel at Port Jetty. ETA= Expected time of departure. ETA= Expected time of arrival. NA= Not available. ETB= Expected to berth.

Source: Aquamarine Limited.

Exchange Rates

Currency	SELLING	BUYING
US dollar	68.9326	68.7087
Poundsterling	69.3327	