

Livestock sector neglected: Study

Lack of proper realisation of the contribution of the livestock sector to the national economy is mainly responsible for its neglect, according to a study conducted by an economic expert, reports UNB.

The study report on the livestock sector in Bangladesh was put before a seminar on livestock held at the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) at Savar Sunday.

Dr Jahangir Alam who conducted the study said this sector had been contributing 6.5 per cent to the GDP on the basis of value addition created through the production of milk, meat, eggs and hides and skins. This estimate excludes the value addition created in the form of draught power provided by cattle, buffaloes and the dung used as fuel and manure.

Including those additions a 1989 study put the sector's share to GDP at 13.2 per cent. "Most of our people are not aware of how the development of this sector will promote the development of other sectors," Dr Alam, head of Economics Division of BLRI said in his report.

Crop production may be increased significantly with the adequate supply of draught animal power and an increase in domestic milk production can improve the balance of payment position by reducing the import of powdered milk, he said.

Likewise, a substantial increase in the supply of animal protein can make the national health programme a success. A clear understanding of

those linkages and interdependencies is necessary for prioritising development programmes in the livestock sector.

There is lack of effective demand for livestock products in the rural areas. Poor farmers buy tobacco or cigarettes instead of milk. They have the impression that milk is not a poor man's diet.

The absence of a constant pressure group against inappropriate policy decisions is another reason for neglect of the livestock sector, the economist commented.

The low productivity of the local breeds of animals and birds is an important constraint to future development.

High productive foreign breeds normally do not have adequate resistance against

diseases prevalent in Bangladesh and they do not thrive well in our environment. And therefore suitable breeds of animals and birds have to be developed in our country through selection, cross-breeding and upgrading, the paper suggested.

In the context of extensive crop production and subsequent decrease in animal feed availability, thrust is needed for identification of unconventional fodder crops and better utilisation of crop residues.

The key-note paper by Dr Alam also said that since hides and skins had been a major source of foreign exchange earnings, a careful study should be undertaken to improve processing and quality control before export.



POTATO FIELDS UNDER PEST ATTACK: A farmer spraying pesticides on potato fields in Louhajang. Potato cultivation may suffer set back if adequate and timely measures are not ensured to curb the attack which may spread in other regions also.

Dollar loses to European currencies

NEW YORK, Feb 4: The dollar closed weaker against European currencies in quiet trading, as the mark benefited from a wage compromise for German steel workers, reports Reuters.

The Mark strengthened across the board. It was all on the back of the less-than-disastrous wage settlement," said John McCarthy, chief dealer for ABN/AMRO Bank. Germany's IG Metall Union said its wage committee approved a compromise deal which would raise wages for about 130,000 steel workers by 6.4 per cent.

The dollar closed at 1.5993/00 mark, down from the opening of 1.6055/65 mark and Friday's finish of 1.6110/20.

As for the German wage compromise, traders looked at the agreement in several different ways. The union had sought a 10.5 per cent pay raise, so the result was not a worst-case scenario for inflation and the prevention of a strike would presumably help the economy and hence the mark.

Sterling closed at 1.7960/70 dollar up from the opening of 1.7910/20 dollar, and the Australian dollar at 75.15/20 US cent, down from 75.30/35 cent. The US dollar ended at 1.4250/60 Swiss francs, down from the opening of 1.4307/12 francs, and at 1.1750/55 Canadian dollar, up from 1.1732/37 dollar.

Yen

AP from Tokyo adds: Share prices recovered some of their early losses during morning trading Tuesday, while the US dollar firmed against the Japanese yen.

The 25-issue Nikkei Stock Average, which was down some 300 points early in the session, closed the morning session at 21,958.11 points, down 181.48 points, or 0.81 percent. On Monday, the average rose 116.54 points or 0.53 percent.

Venezuela oil industry intact despite coup bid

CARACAS, Feb 4: Venezuela's state-owned oil company said all oil facilities were untouched by the attempted coup and production would continue as before, reports Reuters.

Everything is under control. The coup attempt never affected any of the installations," Petroleos de Venezuela spokesman Angel Cardenas told Reuters in an interview.

Job quota for women to be strictly maintained

The 15 per cent job quota for women announced by the government will be maintained strictly in the government services, reports BSS.

This was decided at the second parliamentary standing committee meeting on women's Affairs Ministry held at the Sangsad Bhavan Tuesday with the State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman in the chair.

The meeting also decided to collect the updated statistics on the vacant posts for female employees of all classes in the government services soon.

The meeting decided to establish women's affairs offices in all districts and upazilas and start their function soon.

Women's affairs offices are presently functioning at 22 districts and 136 upazilas.

The State Minister stressed the need for increased efficiency of women officials and employees for running the offices.

Mohammad Abdul Wazed Chowdhury MP, Osman Gani Khan MP, Shangkari Gobinda Chowdhury MP, Shaheda Sarkar MP, Begum Halima Khatun MP and K. M. Hossain, Secretary Ministry of Women's Affairs were present in the meeting.

Petroleum engineering lab at BUET opens

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain Khan said Tuesday the present democratic government was determined to develop the natural resources sectors for the prosperity of the nation, reports BSS.

He was speaking at the opening ceremony of the newly installed laboratory of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering Department of BUET which was developed under the auspices of the University of Alberta-BUET Institutional Linkage Project.

Presided over by Prof. M. Shahjahan, Vice-chancellor of BUET, it was also addressed, among others, by Steve Gibben, Head of Aids, Canadian High Commission, Dr. Fred Otto, Dean of Engineering Faculty, University of Alberta (UOA), Dr. George Ford, Professor Emeritus of UOA, DR. Bob Schmidt and Prof. A.M.M. Saffullah, project managers of the Linkage Project.

Meanwhile, about 2.5 crore Taka was needed to set up the laboratory and the total amount for the project was provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Post-graduate degree course on petroleum and mineral resources engineering will begin at BUET from 1993.

BUET will provide necessary lab facilities to Petrobangla for testing its samples and Petrobangla will not send abroad its samples for testing.

SADMC opens workshop on disaster management

By Staff Correspondent

South Asian Disaster Management Centre (SADMC) of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) began a four-week workshop on disaster management at Bangladesh Meteorological Department premises in Dhaka Sunday.

Prof R.L. Southern attended the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest and MH Khan Chowdhury, Director, Bangladesh Meteorological Department as the guest of honour while Prof Dr M. Alimullah Miyan presided.



Prof. Dr. M. Alimullah Miyan delivering his presidential speech at the inaugural ceremony.

Asylum seekers in Switzerland up by 16 pc

BERN, Feb 4: The number of people seeking asylum in Switzerland rose 16 per cent last year to a new high of 41,629, authorities said Monday, reports AP.

One-third of the requests were from Yugoslavs. Sri Lankans were the next largest group, accounting for 18 per cent, followed by Turks with 10 per cent.

The Federal Refugee Office said 1,158 people were granted asylum as refugees in fear of persecution in their own countries, while a further 14,029 were allowed to stay for "humanitarian reasons."

Switzerland, with its relatively liberal asylum laws, is host to about 108,000 people who want refugee status. More than 27,000 of these have been given political asylum. Nearly 62,000 requests are still pending.

The number of asylum seekers is a constant source of public debate in a country which has a population of only 6.7 million. Political parties with an anti-immigrant message gained sharply in last year's national elections.

Iraqi oil sale not in sight

NICOSIA, Feb 4: An agreement between Saddam Hussein and the United Nations on a partial resumption of Iraq's oil exports, the country's economic lifeline, is still a long way off, the Middle East Economic Survey reported Monday, says AP.

The respected oil industry Newsletter, published in Nicosia, noted Baghdad is in the end likely to accept the main provisions of the UN resolution allowing the limited easing of sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Name of Vessels	Berthed	EID	Berth	L Port No	L Agent
Banglar Kallol	22/01	04/02	J/1	Munda	BEC
Prabu Puni	23/01	01/01	J/3	Col	SEACOAST
Latarisa	29/01	01/02	J/5	China	CSA
Mistar	24/01	07/02	J/6	Singapore	MSA
Banglar Shobha	28/01	05/02	J/7	Pena	BEC
Shalmar	31/01	01/01	J/8	Col	BEC
Banglar Asha	30/01	04/02	J/11	NA	BEC
Fong Shan	30/01	NA	MB/1	Singapore	BDSHIP
Prince Shaul	22/01	02/01	GCJ	Apia	LMAL
Lisa	24/01	03/02	GSJ	Singapore	PROG
Sea Rhapsody	29/01	10/02	TSP	Singapore	OSA
Kang Dong	19/01	05/02	RM/4	Singapore	OSA
Pacific Diamond	28/01	31/01	RM/5	MAD	ECSL
Fong Yun	06/01	03/02	DDJ/1	Singapore	BDSHIP
Banglar Kiron	25/01	05/02	DDJ/2	NA	BEC
Olga	25/01	01/02	RM/8	Kand	DELMURE

Vessels Ready At Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Ready	L Port	L Agent
Alpha nova	31/01	Singapore	PROG
Songrim	03/01	Kand	PRSA
Tabuk	01/02	Kand	SEACOAST
Virginia	31/02	Pode	LTL
Gemini	02/02	Durb	AQJA
Eastern Breeze	04/02	Singapore	RRSA
Ryong Song	05/02	NA	NA
Loyal Bird	05/02	NA	NA

Vessels Due At Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	ETA	L Port Call	L Agent
Atlantic Clipper	31/01/92	CAL	BDSHIP
New Genlord	31/01/92	Singapore	BDSHIP
Weaver Star	01/02/92	Singapore	BDSHIP
Calypso	01/01/92	NA	PROG
Ronjoy choomic	02/02/92	NA	PSAL
Chong Chon Gang	02/02/92	NA	RRSA
Knud Jerspersen	02/02/92	NA	CT
Ronjoy Victory	03/02/92	NA	PSAL
Felicity	03/02/92	Tamp	OWSL
Vishva Pankaj	03/02/92	NA	SLSL
Ryong Gong	04/02/92	NA	BRIGHT
Safina-e-Islamati-2	05/02/92	NA	ASLL
Andrian Gorcharov	05/02/92	NA	CT
Seabulk Hope	05/02/92	NA	BFA
Fong Shan	06/02/92	Singapore	OWSL
Infinity	07/02/92	Singapore	RSL
Nags Ranger	09/02/92	Singapore	BDSHIP
Tanta	12/02/92	NA	NISHAT
Petr Starostin	14/02/92	NA	CT

Chalna Port

Name of Vessel	Berthed	ETA	EID	L Port	L Agent
Shalmar	24/01	31/01	Chittagong	BEC	
Sea Carol	28/01	NA	Vizag	HIL	
Banglar Baant	28/01	NA	Chittagong	BEL	
Al-Baahir	30/01	NA	India	TMIL	
Yom Bun Jtn	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	AGM	

Note: Berthed = Vessel At Port Jetty. ETD = Expected Time of Departure. ETA = Expected Time of Arrival. N.A = Not Available. ETB = Expected to Berth.

Source: Aquamarine Limited.

Raw Jute Prices

As of February 4

Kutcha Bales FOB	HT	Price
Narayanganj/Daulatpur	Rejection	1600 255
Varieties (Tk. per 100 Kg)		
White	Habijabi	1200 220
Tossa Meschia	Bangla	
Mid. 1099	Cut Ropes	1150 220
Bot. (B) 1018	Cutting	
Bot. (C) 911	BW Cutting	
Bot. (X) 831	A	1250 210
	BW Cutting	
	B	1150 190
	BT Cutting	
	A	1500 245
	B	1400 225
	BT Cutting	
	B	1700
	Special	1600
	A	1550
	B	1450
	C	
	Spl Meshta	800
	Cutting	
	Ord. Meshta	700
	Cutting	
	Meshta SMR	900
	Cutting	

Note: *FOB = Freight on board. Bot. = Bottom.

Pucen Bales	FOB	FOB	Price
Variety	(Ready)	(Sigh)	
	Nganj	Mongla	
	Tk per	Cg	
	bale	\$ per	
		M/T**	
Special	3000	555	
A	2800	530	
B	2600	425	
C	2350	395	
D	2150	365	
E	1950	335	

Remarks: Quality - Normal. Condition - Average. Nganj imp - 8,000/10,000mids. Daulatpur - 10,000/12,000mids. Market - steady.

** Indicative prices at which sales may be considered for EPC registration. Dollar prices shown above are without selling commission.

Price Index

February-4

Essentials	Price	Vegetable Ghee	Price
RICE		SPICES	(Taka Per kg)
Ararati(fine)	14.50-15.00	Onion	9.00-10.00
Pujan	13.50-14.50	Catic	15.00-18.00
Uda	14.00-15.00	Chillies	70.00-75.00
VEGETABLES	(Taka per kg)	Tumeric(Round)	44.00-45.00
Potato	5.00-6.00	(Long)	45.00-50.00
Brinjal	5.00-6.00	Green chillies	16.00-20.00
Karola	22.00-24.00	Chungana(50gm)	3.00-3.50
Lalchul	2.50-3.00	Curdama(50gm)	3.00-4.00
Papa	4.00-5.00	Jhira (50gm)	7.00-7.50
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	4.00-5.00	MILK (Two kg)	
OTHER FOODSTUFF	(Taka per kg)	Dano	287.00-288.00
Flour	12.00-13.00	Red-Cow	285.00-286.00
Ata	10.50-11.00	MISCELLANEOUS	(Taka)
FISH	(Taka per kg)	Ghee (one kg)	220.00-240.00
Rubi(big)	140.00-150.00	Salt	6.00-7.00
Katol(big)	95.00-100.00	Sugar	26.50-27.00
Hilsha	68.00-70.00	Melasses	15.00-16.00
Pungo	125.00-130.00		
Shrimp(big)	90.00-100.00		
Singi	80.00-85.00		
Koi	85.00-100.00		

Hides & Skin

(Wet/Salted)

(Taka per 100 pieces)

MEAT	Price	Cow	Price
Beef	50.00-60.00	Light	17.00.00 - 35.00.00
Mutton	80.00-85.00	Medium	56.00.00 - 63.00.00
CHICKEN		Heavy	64.00.00 - 71.00.00
Large	62.00-64.00	Very heavy	72.00.00 - 78.00.00
Moderate	66.00-68.00	Rejected	79.00.00 - 85.00.00
Small	68.00-70.00	Qaid	29800.00 - 33.000.00
TEA		Big & heavy	94.00.00 - 11000.00
Dea (Plain)	70.00-80.00	Light &	
ROO (Spice)	12.00-13.00	Medium	7900.00 - 8000.00
Ham	11.50-12.00	Rejected	3500.00 - 4000.00
Duck	10.00-10.50	Sheep	9300.00 - 9700.00
Fur	11.50-12.00	Buffalo	52000.00 - 60000.00
PULSES	(Taka per kg)		
Mashur	28.00-30.00		
Mooch	28.00-30.00		
Chhola	23.00-24.00		
Khaner	14.00-15.00		
OIL	(Taka per liter)		
Mustard	52.00-54.00	Gold	(Taka for 11.66 gram)
Soybean	37.00-38.00	Tejabi	NA
Cocunut (Colombia)	90.00-95.00	Gulana	9400.00
		Silver	900.00
		Source: Department of Agriculture Marketing	

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on Feb 04, 1992

Business falls further

Star Economic Report

On Tuesday, business further fell both in volume and value at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). Transaction in volume fell from 12,066 to 7,310 which valued Tk 389,420 against Monday's Tk 596,254.

Gainers were fewer than the losers as books closed for the day. There were only eight gainers against 13 losers. Five issues were traded at previous day's quoted price. The only debenture paper in the day's business was Beximco which shed Tk 10.00 to close at Tk 2200.00.

The DSE Composite Index lost 0.2177 points and was down to 297.7712.

Tul