

3.5pc growth rate required to meet the needs

Agriculture's share in GDP falls to 39pc

Contribution of agriculture to the country's GDP has declined from 60 per cent in the first five-year plan to 39 per cent in the third five-year plan period.

A draft paper on national agricultural policy says despite the decline in relative importance of agriculture in recent years, the sector still produces a lion's share of the economy output and employs nearly three-fifths of the civilian labour force, reports UNB.

"Agricultural performance has a major direct impact on important macro-economic objectives like poverty alleviation, employment generation, human resources development and food security."

The policy viewed that the pace of technological transformation in agriculture has accelerated over the years with progressive adoption of modern techniques, inputs and

equipment. "Yet there is a long way to go with only 42 per cent of the cultivated land under IYV and 30 per cent under irrigation. And there is considerable scope for extension of modern technique at the farm level."

It says lack of resources for investment, inappropriate input delivery system, unfavourable output prices and deficient infrastructural facilities limit the level of adoption of new technologies.

"The policy makers of Bangladesh have yet to devise an effective strategy for transforming the traditional small holding rice growing peasantry into modern agricultural entrepreneurs."

It said that our population is going up at the rate of 2.2 per cent per year and then the population of the country will reach more than 130 million by 2000. And if this number

is to be provided with the required calories from domestic sources, production of grains must go up to 25 million tons by the end of this century.

The per capita income of the country has gone, on an average, by a little more than one per cent per annum during the last decade.

"This means that while formulating programmes for self-sufficiency in foodgrain production, we must not only take into account the current level of imports of grains and the rate of growth of population but also the income effect on the demand for grains in the country."

The policy observed that whichever the way that the need for grains estimated in the next decade, the level of domestic output of grains has to go up to about 25 million tons, if we are to become self-sufficient in foodgrains.

"An increase in the level of output of more than six million tons by the year 2000 would call for a rate of growth of foodgrains production of less than 3.5 per cent per year during the nineties". This is substantially higher than the rate of growth of foodgrains output of the last few decades.

The policy paper says this growth rate is not an unattainable goal if all necessary measures are adopted by the government to provide the peasants with modern inputs and credit.

Measures will also have to be taken to reduce crop damage because of floods, droughts and other natural calamities.

The policy measures suggested in this paper are based on the assumption that the government will endeavour to raise the growth rate of foodgrain production by more than 3.5 per cent per annum.

ADB paints gloomy picture of economy

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has painted a gloomy picture of the country's economic performance during the past fiscal year and the first half of the current FY and recommended tighter measures for the forthcoming days.

"While the domestic and international scenario was marked by a certain degree of uncertainty, the lack of progress in a number of areas has resulted in a fairly depressed economic environment," the Bank's 1992-95 Country Programming Mission in its report said.

The Mission visited Bangladesh from January 19 to February 6, 1992 and reviewed "the overall economic performance" for FY 1991 and the first half of FY 1992.

The ADB team held detailed discussions with officials of various ministries, public sector corporations and representatives of leading chamber bodies. The Mission also met officials of major multilateral and bilateral donors in Bangladesh.

"Following the conclusion

of the Gulf War and the return to normalcy on the domestic front, the expectations were that the economy would register a significant revival. Trends in the key economic indicators are, however, not encouraging," according to the report.

The Bank, one of the major soft-term lending agencies, says the economic sluggishness persists marked by an "exceptional low growth in import demand and domestic credit demand."

Policy measures to reactivate the economy, including lowering of bank rate and lending rate and incentives to expedite debt recovery, have not yielded desired results," the Bank in its report notes urging "greater initiatives to enhance aid utilization and quick resolution of outstanding policy issues" to offset the set back in the first half of the current year.

The ADB says Bangladesh managed to maintain macro stability by holding fiscal and external accounts within the stipulated targets, despite a bleak situation resulting from

the Gulf crisis and the April 29, 1991 elemental swoop.

"The macro stability has been however, achieved by a slowdown in the public and private investment," the report commented.

Reviewing the progress of policy reforms in all key sectors, the Bank has shortlisted the 'areas of concerns' which have 'wider implications' and are principal causes for the lack of private initiatives.

The growing local resource constraints leading to the government's inability to provide counterpart local currency fund tops the list of areas of concern. "While tax reforms—including introduction of VAT—have had some discernible impact, there is a continuing need to review other avenues to augment revenues."

The bank advocates 'adequate cost recovery from public services' as the primary agenda for Bangladesh. It also underscores the need for Government to continue pursuing its Three-Year Rolling Plan exercise.

Maintenance and cost overrun is another area of ADB's concern. "The neglect of operation and maintenance of physical and social infrastructure has deteriorated the quality of services. The Government should look into the prospects of mobilising resources at the local level for adequate maintenance of rural, social and physical infrastructure, the Bank suggests."

Termining the Government's industrial policy fairly liberal and comprehensive," the report says there has been 'little evidence' of its implementation.

On industrial relations and labour productivity, the Bank contends that "proposed wage increases, irrespective of productivity considerations, are likely to send wrong signals."

The report sounds highly critical of over employment in different Bank programmes. According to the report, Bangladesh has agreed to look into the over-employment in PME's (Publicly Managed Enterprises) and Bangladesh Railway.

Bangladesh Bank deposits increase

By Staff Correspondent

The deposits of the Bangladesh Bank showed a sharp rise in the first month of 1992. It rose by about Taka 82 crore during the period of January 9 and February 6, according to the latest statement of Bangladesh Bank. The deposits on February 6 stood at Taka 6336.97 crore.

However the balance held outside Bangladesh fell by Taka 79 crore from the record balance a week earlier. The balance came down to Taka 4792 crore from the previous balance Taka 4871 crore.

The notes in circulation increased considerably during the period. It was Taka 3654 crore in the previous week but increased to Taka 3769.40 crore on February 6. Money supply was also much lower at Taka 3665 crore a month earlier.

The liabilities side of the Banking Department remained almost unchanged.

Paid up capital amounted to Taka three crore. Reserve Fund Taka three crore. Rural Credit Fund Taka 164.90 crore. Industrial Credit Fund Taka 51.78 crore. Export Credit Fund Taka 53 crore. Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund Taka 175

crore. Allocation of Special Drawing Rights Taka 91.74 crore. Bills Payable Taka 90.21 crore and other Liabilities Taka 1474.39 crore.

The asset side of the Banking Department showed a fall in government treasury bill holdings in the month. It stood at Taka 364.23 crore from the previous Taka 576 crore.

Other sectors of the asset side showed notes of Taka 54.39 lakh, subsidiary coins of Taka one thousand, other loans and advances of Taka 1211.61 crore. Investments of Taka 441.29 crore, other assets of Taka 1633.50 crore and the external balance.

The asset side of the issue Department shows gold coin and bullion holdings of Taka 83.37 crore, approved foreign exchange holdings of Taka 200 crore, Taka coin holdings of Taka 12.54 crore, government securities of Taka 361.93 crore and internal bills of exchange and other commercial papers of Taka 3139.08 crore.

The liabilities side of the issue Department shows notes held in the Banking Department amounting to Taka 54.39 lakh and the notes in circulation.



HONG KONG: British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with Special Responsibility for Hong Kong, Lord Cathness talks to reporters Monday at the scene where 24 boat people died Feb 3 during the Chinese New Year riot inside the Shek Kong Vietnamese Voluntary Departure Centre. Lord mentioned that contact with the Hanoi government for more boat-people repatriation would continue. —AFP photo

Social, energy sector will get priority for German aid

By Staff Correspondent

Germany will give priorities in the areas of poverty alleviation, basic education, family planning and health, flood protection, energy and rail-ways for future co-operation with Bangladesh.

This was stated in the bilateral mid-term consultations on Bangladesh-German Development Cooperation which took place in Dhaka from March 1 to March 3 between the representatives of two government.

The Bangladesh side was represented at the meeting by Joint Secretaries of Economic Relations Division (ERD), Fatur Rahman Chowdhury and Syed Jamaluddin while the German side was led by Rainer Murbach, Director Southern Asia Division II of German Ministry of Economic Cooperation.

The German side informed the meeting of its policy to give increased importance to private sectors and non-governmental organisations of Bangladesh in the implementation of development assistance.

Executive tips

By Shahabuddin Mahtab

Sycophancy and flattery are the products of degenerate minds. A man of integrity and honesty will never stoop down to that level of meanness.

Sycophants are evil persons but unfortunately they are found in all walks of life: the business houses, the public services and the political arena of the country. Sycophancy is the mother of all evils. It is very harmful to a productive climate.

Sycophants have natural proclivity for back-biting and scandalising things. In public and private sectors, as well as in government departments sycophants often get the upper hand and inflict the greatest harm to the organisations and the country. The senior executives and administrators need to be aware of these dangerous people.

The hard working, sincere and honest people are now being elbowed out in Bangladesh. Whether it is an insurance company or a bank, people with clout and power are able to procure the well paid jobs for their wards and offsprings very easily. Thereafter they push their way to the senior position again with the help of flattery.

As a result, people with merit are often unable to get to the positions of responsibility, which ultimately find expression in frustration and bitterness.

Society and the nation at large is deprived of the services of its talented people in the process as they are not inclined to resort to sycophancy, for personal gains which has pervaded all spheres of our life. The result is the loss of services of our best people. Management loses its efficiency, innovativeness and drive.

Along with the bane of flattery, we have the twin evil of 'isms': districtism, thanatism and even villageism. This is also cutting through the efficiency of public services and private enterprises.

The present age is not of any 'isms' but a challenge to rise to the great heights of efficiency and excellence. Japan is now an economic super power, because, among other things, it has excelled in managerial efficiency in all the sectors. This should be an example for us.

BIWTA dredged 6.28 lakh cubic meters in Sept-Feb

By Staff Correspondent

During the current dry season, a total quantity of 6.28 lac cubic meters have been dredged in the ferry routes and ferry ghats of Aricha, Doulatdia and Nagarbari. The work costed Tk 2.73 crore.

The dredging work started in September '91 and continued till mid February '92, ensuring a minimum draft of 9 to 10 feet.

Pharmaco declares 5 pc dividend for 1990-91

By Staff Correspondent

The 10th & 11th Annual General Meeting of Pharmaco International Ltd, was held on 28th February at 10:00 and 11:30am respectively in factory premises, Chandra, Kaliakoir, Gazipur. A large number of Shareholders attended the meeting which was presided over by the company's Chairman & Managing Director A K M A. Matin.

The AGM declared a dividend of five per cent for 1990-91.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Name of Vessels	Berthed	ETD	Berth	L. Port No.	L. Agent
Pearl One	19/02	07/03	J/1	Bank	CLA
R.Victory	03/03	15/03	J/3	NA	NA
Continent-1	29/02	06/03	J/4	Peng	CLA
Safina-e-Rehmat	29/02	10/03	J/8	Kera	ASLL
Euroliberty	16/02	14/03	J/11	Champ	EOSL
Danilovgrad	02/03	09/03	J/12	NA	NA
NGS Ranger	03/03	06/03	MPB	NA	NA
Sea Rhapsody	29/01	04/03	CCJ	Pada	HIL
Harmony	01/03	08/03	TSP	COL	TSLL
B. Kiron	03/03	05/03	RM/4	NA	NA
Banglar Shourabh	01/03	07/03	RM/6	NA	BSC
Laurel Star	02/02	10/03	DD	Mong	BML
Endurance Sea	02/02	07/03	DDJ/1	Aqaba	UMAL
Banglar Swapna	23/02	05/03	RM/9	Dead	BSC

Vessels Due to Berth

Vessels Name	Berth on	Jetty No
Al. Swamruzi	03/03	J/1
Ivestia	03/03	J/13
Eastern	03/03	J/10
Weser Star	03/03	J/10
Banglar Robi	03/03	CCJ

Vessels at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Ready	L. Port	L. Agent
-----------------	-------	---------	----------

Vessels Ready at Outer Anchorage

NGS Ranger	03/03	SING	BDSHIP
------------	-------	------	--------

Vessels not Ready

Hang Tone	05/03	SING	H&H
Vigorous Swan			AQUA

Vessels Awaiting Instruction

Al Ishrat		Mong	KSL
Banglar Kiron			BSC
Banglar Sapmad			BSC
Banglar Jyoti			BSC
Songrim			RRSA

Vessels not Entering

Alym		SING	ALAMIN
Red Deer		SING	OTL
Ryong Gang	29/02		TSAL
Rajin		MONG	CT
Ornyx			
M Efa		ISTA	SIGMA

Vessels due at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	ETA	L. Port	L. Agent
Banglar Gourab	05/03	Pena	BSC
Georgy Chichertin	05/03		CT
Infinity	06/03	SING	RSL
Fong Yun	06/03	Sing	BDSHIP
Ravidas	07/03		SSL
Ahlers Breeze	07/03	COL	RSL
Mowlavi	08/03		SSL
Mandiri	09/03	SING	RSL
Atlantic Clipper	10/03	CAL	BDSHIP
Andrian Goncharov	10/03		CT
Allissa	11/03		H&H
Kota Buana	11/03	Sing	CTS
Fong Shin	12/03	Sing	BDSHIP
Karabieverett	12/03		EBPL
New Genlord	13/03	Sing	BDSHIP
I Yamburenko	13/03		CT
Petr Strostin	15/03	Sing	CT
Evercheer	17/03	Sing	ED
Grunwald	15/03	MAD	BSA

Note: Berthed = Vessels at Port Jetty. ETD=Expected Time of Departure. ETA=Expected Time of Arrival NA=Not Available. ETB=Expected to Berth.

Source: AQUAMARINE LIMITED

Price Index

March-3

Essentials

Item	Unit	Price
RICE (Aman/fin)	(Taka per kg)	14.50-15.50
Pajon	(Taka per kg)	13.50-14.50
Uthi	NA	NA
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)		
Potato	5.00-6.00	
Brinjal	5.00-7.00	
Karolla	12.00-14.00	
Lalshak	3.00-4.00	
Papa	4.00-5.00	
Green Beans (Four Pieces)	4.00-5.00	
OTHER FOODGRAN (Taka per kg)		
Flour	14.50-15.00	
Alor	11.50-12.00	
FISH (Taka per kg)		
Katibig	150.00-160.00	
Katibig	90.00-100.00	
Hilba	75.00-80.00	
Pungo	125.00-130.00	
Shrimp(big)	90.00-95.00	
Singi	90.00-100.00	
Koi	100.00-120.00	
MEAT		
Beef	55.00-60.00	
Mutton	80.00-85.00	
CHICKEN		
Large	76.00-78.00	
Moderate	80.00-82.00	
Small	84.00-86.00	
TEA		
Dust (Plain)	70.00-80.00	
EOG (Spes)		
Han	11.00	
Duck	11.50-12.00	
PULSES (Taka per kg)		
Mashur	28.00-30.00	
Mough	28.00-30.00	
Chhola	23.00-24.00	
Ahesari	16.00-17.00	
OIL (Taka per Litre)		
Mustard	52.00-54.00	
Soyabean	38.00-39.00	
Coconut (Columbo)	85.00-90.00	
Vegetable Ghee	48.00-50.00	
SPICES (Taka per kg)		
Onion	6.00-8.00	
Garlic	12.00-14.00	
Chillies	70.00-72.00	
Turmeric(Round)	38.00-42.00	

Raw Jute Prices

As of February 25

Item	Price
Rejection	1600
II	
Habitjabi	1200
Bangla	
Cut Ropes	1150
Cutting	
BW Cutting	
A	1250
B	1150
BT Cutting	
A	1500
B	1400
BT Cutting	
A	1700
B	1600
C	1550
C	1450
Sp1 Meshta	
Cutting	800
Ord. Meshta	
Cutting	700
Meshta SMR	900

Remarks: Quality — Normal Condition — Average N'ganj imp—8,000/10,000mids 10,000/12,000mids Market — steady

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on Mar 3, 1992  
Star Economic Report

Depression Intensifies  
Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) came across another more depressing day as the number of gainers came down to only one compared to previous day's two. Losers acted in the same old fashion as they did during the earlier days. Their total number was 12 including one debenture. Six papers were exchanged at their previously quoted prices.  
The depression was coupled when the trading was nearly quartered both in terms of value and volume. Total turnover stood at Tk 313,948 than the previous day's 12,88,585 in value term and it was 5,529 in volume than Monday's close at 21,696.  
Market Capitalisation came down to Tk 8,351,519,792.00 compared to the previous day's Tk 8,390,706,210.00.  
DSE Composite Price Index declined further by 1,370 points and stood at 292.0069 than Monday's finish at 293,3770.

THE DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

Company	FV/ML	Previous day's price	Closing price	Change (absolute)	Change % over previous price
DSE All Share Price Index			292.0069		
Market Capitalisation (Tk)			8,351,519,792		
Turnover(in value Tk)			313,948.00		
In volume			5,529		

Gains (01) Shares:

Eastern Cables 100/5	75.00	75.69	+0.69	0.920
----------------------	-------	-------	-------	-------

Losses (12) Shares:

Reckitt & Colman	10/50	240.00	220.00	-20.00	8.333
Dulamia Cotton	100/10	80.00	74.00	-6.00	7.500
Sonali Aarsh	100/5	97.00	93.00	-4.00	4.129
Cig Cement	100/5	228.94	223.25	-5.69	1.625
Beximco Pharma	100/5	199.00	197.00	-2.00	1.005
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50	34.00	33.00	-1.00	2.941
5th ICB M Fund	100/10	88.00	87.00	-1.00	1.136
Dhaka Vegetables	100/5	113.84	113.00	-0.84	0.737
6th ICB M Fund	100/10	60.88	60.11	-0.77	1.264
Zeal Bangla Sugar	10/50	10.41	10.20	-0.21	2.017
Oxygen	10/50	41.50	41.33	-0.17	0.409

Debenture:

Beximco Pharma	1428/1	1444.00
----------------	--------	---------