

### Bangladesh to export products worth \$1m to Saudi Arabia

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh bagged orders worth Taka one million US dollar at the solo exhibition of Bangladeshi goods at Jeddah held on February 24. The items ordered were handi-crafts, cosmetics shoes, biscuits and frozen food.

The Saudi importers will take the products of Jahanara Cottage Industries, Mousumi Industries, Excelsior Shoes, Alauddin Food Industries, Cox's Bazar Sea Food and Conception Sea Food, says in Export Promotion Bureau press release.

The first consignment of the shoes has already been shipped to Jeddah. The fair revealed that there exists a good market for Bangladeshi goods in Saudi Arabia.

### Ministers exchange views on bilateral trade

The visiting Bhutanese Minister for Trade and Industry Lyonpo Om Pradhan called on the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, at the latter's secretariat office in Dhaka Sunday, reports BSS.

The two ministers discussed about the various ways and means for augmenting the volume of trade between the two neighbouring countries.

It is noted that the import from Bhutan to Bangladesh amounted to 6 million dollar whereas the export from Bangladesh to Bhutan was about 158 thousand dollar only. Both the ministers felt that concerted efforts should be made by both sides to raise the volume of trade as well as to develop it further. The possibilities of export of motor spirit (petrol), Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and urea to Bhutan were discussed and both the ministers agreed to look into the possibilities.

The Bhutanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Karma Dorjee and A W Choudhuri, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources were also present.

## Farmers need efficient market mechanism

An effective marketing channel has to be developed by eliminating middlemen's manipulation to streamline agriculture and ensure fair price to farmers, experts said, reports UNB.

The government has identified the disarray in the sector and is reportedly working on an agriculture policy to bring farming under a modern system.

Success of a production programme depends on the price received by the farmers. Director of Agriculture Marketing Department Dabir Uddin Ahmed told UNB Saturday.

Farmers need advice about what crops to grow and to what extent, Ahmed said, because they are usually interested in growing traditional crops and hesitant to grow new ones.

They also need necessary directives for their activity in post-harvest period when existing trade and marketing channel in some localities cannot absorb their produce.

He also stressed the need for advising the farmers on quality production and proper drying, cleaning, sorting, grading, packing and storing of crops for better preservation.

Citing an example of preservation lapses, he said only 25 per cent of potatoes are cold stored and rest stored in farmers' premises.

Underlining proper market information, he said small farmers needed information on

current price in the "nearest local market, nearest assembly market and terminal market".

They should also know the price trend, country's production situation, import and export, he viewed.

If farmers know the price at the nearest assembly or wholesale market, they can very well bargain with "farias" and "beparies". For lack of information, farmers after sell their crops at the price dictated by the farias or beparies, the official said.

He said innumerable middlemen had found their place in the marketing channels of different produce and were eating up the benefit depriving producers.

He cited some other causes for which farmers are not getting fair price of their produce, including lack of improved transportation, handling, loading, unloading and packing system in local hats and bazars.

Ahmed stressed maintenance of close contact between growers and officials of participating agencies and assessment of the area sown and possible size of the crops for taking necessary steps for disposal of the produce at reasonable price.

Officials concerned should visit local markets and gather information on farmer-level price, arrival, transportation and other problems faced by the farmers in disposal of their crops to take necessary steps

for solving the problems, he said.

Director of the Crop Wing of Agriculture Extension Department AKM Glasuddin Milky also laid emphasis on a dynamic marketing mechanism. "Farmers are being deprived of fair price of their produce owing to lack of a better marketing system."

Price of HYV rice comes down to Tk 150 per maund against the production cost of Tk 200 in harvesting season. Jute growers are also bound to sell their produce, the 'golden fibre', at Tk 160 to 170 per maund against an estimated production cost of Tk 250.

He suggested that the government should be in control over the market and fix prices of crops, with punitive provision for those violating price rules.

The government has to develop "buffer stock" system to keep in stock surplus crops in season and improve management system to face crisis period, he said.

He also suggested disbursement of soft-term loan for small businessmen and farmers and development of transportation system for packing up agricultural marketing.

Member-Director of BARC Dr Moniruzzaman laid emphasis on chemical processing for preservation of crops to ensure fair price.

"For international market, we need quality production and better preservation."

### Malaysian activists threatening tropical timber export

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 8: A group of Malaysian activists is campaigning in Japan for a ban on imports tropical timber from Malaysia and elsewhere by the year 2000, Malaysia's Science, Technology and Environment Minister Law Heng Ding said, reports Reuter.

The 12-member "SOS Sarawak Campaign Committee" had already influenced some local councils in Japan to ban the use of tropical wood in their municipalities, the national Bernama news agency quoted him as saying.

Western environmentalists says loggers are destroying the rain forests and threatening the future of Nomadic tribes people in the East Malaysian State of Sarawak, a major exporter of tropical timber.

"A few local authorities in

Japan have even passed resolutions to ban such usage." Law said, speaking yesterday after a week-long visit to Japan.

"As a result of the campaign by the group and other international environmentalist groups, the import market of all tropical wood in Japan has been reduced by one-third," he said.

Law said the government knew who the activists were but added: "It is too early to say what action will be taken against them as well have to determine if they have broken any law."

Japan is the world's largest importer of tropical wood, buying largely from Malaysia.

Law said the group had intensified its lobbying before the United Nations Earth Summit in Brazil in June.



A German delegation for development cooperation visited MIDAS (Micro Industries Development Assistance Society) on March 3 1992. The delegation discussed the role of MIDAS for development of entrepreneurship in the small industries sector. They also discussed the possibilities of cooperation through MIDAS GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) and KFW (German Credit Institution for Development). Mohamoodul Haq, Executive Director of MIDAS is seen with the delegation.

### Shipping Intelligence

#### Chittagong Port

Name of Vessels	Berthed	ETD	Berth	L Port No	L Agent
Al Swamroz	04/03	20/03	J/1	NA	NA
R Ruby	04/03	05/03	J/2	NA	NA
E Victory	01/03	15/03	J/3	Sing.	PSAL
Continent-1	29/02	08/03	J/4	Peng	CLA
Banglar Mamata	26/02	08/03	J/7	Kara	BSC
Safina-e-Rehmat	29/02	10/03	J/8	Kara	ASLL
Weser Star	04/03	05/03	J/10	Sing	BDSHIP
Euroliberty	16/02	14/03	J/11	Champ	EOSL
Danilovgrad	02/03	09/03	J/12	Sing	BSC
NGS Ranger	03/03	06/03	MPB/1	Sing	BDSHIP
Izvestia	04/03	07/03	MPB/2	NA	NA
P One	19/02	07/03	CSJ	Bank	CLA
Banglar Asha	26/02	-	GSJ	-	BSC
Harmony	01/03	08/03	TSP	Col	TSLI
B Kiron	03/03	06/03	RM/4	-	BSC
Banglar Shouabih	01/03	07/03	RM/6	-	BSC
Laurel Star	15/02	10/03	DD	Mong	BML
Endurance Sea	02/02	07/03	DDJ/1	Aqaba	UMAL
Banglar Swapna	23/02	10/03	RM/9	Dead	BSC

#### Vessels Due to Berth

Vessel's Name	Berth on	Jetty No
Banglar Robi	05/03	GSJ/DDJ/2

#### Vessels at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Ready	L Port	L Agent
Vessels ready at outer anchorage			
Vessels not ready			
Hang Tone	-	Sing	H&H
Vigorous Swan	-	-	Aqua
Vessels awaiting instruction			
Al Ishrat	-	Mong	KSL
Banglar Sampad	-	-	BSC
Banglar Jyoti	-	-	BSC
Songirm	-	-	RRSA
Vessels not entering			
Alyn	-	Sing	Al Amin
Red Deer	-	Sing	OTL
Ryong Gang	29/02	-	TSAL
Rajin	-	Mong	CT
Ornyx	-	Ista	Sigma
M Efas	-	-	-

#### Vessels Due at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	ETA	L Port Call	L Agent
Infinity	06/03	Sing	RSL
Ravidas	10/03	-	SSL
Ahlers Breeze	07/03	Col	RSL
Georgly Chicherin	08/03	-	CT
Fong Yun	08/03	Sing	BDSHIP
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
Karabieverett	12/03	-	EBPL
Fong Shin	13/03	Sing	BDSHIP
New Genlord	13/03	Sing	BDSHIP
I Yamburenko	13/03	Sing	CT
Peter Strotin	15/03	Sing	CT
Grunwald	15/03	Mad	BSA
Evercheer	17/03	Sing	ED
Grunwald	15/03	Mad	BSA
Banglar Coutreb	18/03	Para	BSC

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

### Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Bank's BC selling and TT (C). OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on March 8, 9 and 10.

Currency	SELLING	BUYING
US dollar	38.9326	38.7087
Pound sterling	66.8852	66.5506
DM	23.3559	23.2066
FF	6.8749	6.8317
S Riyal	10.4067	10.3469
D Quilkers	6.4437	6.4013
S Kroner	23.5114	23.3762
Singapore Dollar	10.6364	10.5753
UAE Dirham	NA	NA
Kuwaiti Dinar	NA	NA
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.5026	1.4959
Pak. Rupee (AMU)	1.5694	1.5620

Authorised dealers will apply TT clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladeshis working abroad. NOTE: AMU - Asian Monetary Union.

### Tea export hit by global recession, tough competition

From Nurul Alam in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Mar 8: Tea exports recorded a fall over the past six and half months period of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

According to reports received from Bangladesh Tea Board, 16.99 billion kgs of tea were exported during July, 1991 to January 15, 1992. During the corresponding period of last fiscal year, it was 16.87 million kgs.

Export earning during the current fiscal period recorded Taka 89.99 crore against Taka

102.37 crore of the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

Tea broker sources attributed lack of interest of foreign buyers in Bangladesh tea to the fall of export.

Target for tea export was set at 30 million kgs, for 91-92 fiscal year while it was at 28 million kgs in the fiscal 90-91.

Tea prices also marked a fall during the current season.

The average price of tea was Tk 57.51 per kg, during current season against Tk 60.22

per kgs of the last season.

According to a Tea Board official prices fell due to the global economic depression. Besides, Bangladesh tea faces a tough competition from Kenyan and Sri Lankan teas which attracts foreign buyers most. Problem of shipping is also aggravating the problem of tea export from Bangladesh, trading sources said.

Pakistan once a major buyer of Bangladesh tea, now purchases most it requirement from Sri Lanka and Kenya at competitive prices, the sources added.

## G-15 prepares to outline own vision of a new world order

By Chakravarthi Raghavan  
Special to Daily Star

GENEVA: The Group of 15 (G-15), the summit level group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation, is to issue over the next few weeks a document outlining its vision of a new world order and a call for renewal of the North-South dialogue.

A draft text of the G-15 position paper, revised in the light of the discussions and conclusions at the meeting of the G-15 Foreign Ministers here, is to be sent to the capitals for comments, and then finalised and presented to the Heads of States, the Foreign Minister of Senegal, Djibo Ka, told a press conference here recently. He said the final paper would be publicly released soon after.

As the host country for the 1992 summit of the G-15, Senegal with India (as host for the 1993 summit) and Venezuela (as 1991 summit host) form a 'trioika', a mechanism for administration between summits, with meetings of sherpas or personal representatives of the Heads of States and of foreign ministers of the 15 held from time to time as needed.

In outlining the broad themes of the document, Ka said the G-15 statement or paper would stress the need for the renewal of the North-South dialogue for a new world order and the readiness of the G-15 to hold discussions on this with the Group of 7 industrialised countries.

The sherpas of the G-15, Ka added, would be quite ready to meet with the sherpas of the G-7 to inform them of the G-15's analysis of the world situation and the new world order and create a basis for dialogue.

Asked whether the G-15 had not been seeking such a dialogue since their first summit at Kuala Lumpur in 1990 to no avail, and what leverage or method the G-15 would now bring to promote such a dialogue, Ka said the G-15 had not given up hope of a meeting between the G-15 and the G-7 for promoting a renewed North-South dialogue.

But the call for the dialogue was only a small part of the position paper on the new world order, he said, adding that the document dealt much more with other matters and issues including South-South cooperation.

At their second summit meeting at Caracas last November, the Heads of States/Governments discussed a draft position paper prepared by their sherpas and mandated their foreign ministers to prepare a final version of the paper to be issued as their vision of the new world order.

The meeting in pursuance of this mandate was attended by four Foreign Ministers (Algeria, Egypt, India and Senegal), a Minister of State from Jamaica and by senior officials or permanent representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

#### Responding to a Changing World

The document, Ka indicated, contained an analysis of the current global situation with a positive assessment of the evolution towards increasing democratisation within states, the vanishing, if not vanished, East-West confrontations and the general easing of tensions and movements towards cooperation.

The end of the Cold War, the G-15 draft suggests, should lead to a more positive dialogue, solidarity and cooperation and not to confrontation, whether military or ideological.

At the same time, we felt that if we are not careful even this positive trend might leave the developing countries on the sidelines since the dialogue and cooperation is more North-North and East-West rather than North-South, Ka noted.

With the general trend towards complete disarmament, as a result of various agreements, the G-15 also felt the need to look at development of systems, even if it was premature to

think of the peace dividend, he said. The G-15 felt that the UN and the system as a whole should play a more active part in finding a solution to issues of peace and cooperation, a process which required taking into account each country's development and treating all countries with equal dignity and status.

Democracy, human rights, development and talk about a peace dividend would remain illusory if these issues were not covered within these principles, he said.

The G-15 draft, Ka said, would also cover the issues of multilateral trade negotiations in the Uruguay Round and the problems of the commodity sector and trade.

#### Strengthen UNCTAD

It also indicated the need for consolidating and strengthening the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as an international forum where all countries could meet through their representatives and exchange their experiences on an equal footing and draft joint strategies and solve whatever problems they had in common.

The document also dealt with the problems of regional integration - in Africa, Asia, Latin America and elsewhere - and the issues of environment and sustainable development and in the perspective of the forthcoming 'Earth Summit' at Rio de Janeiro.

The document, Ka said, concluded by addressing the question of North-South dialogue and commending it to the G-7 industrialised countries.

The promotion of North-South dialogue, Ka added, was one of the reasons for the setting up of the G-15.

The document also expressed its views on foreign debt and the foreign ministers had decided to convene a group of experts, perhaps in May, to look at the problem in all its complexity and examine it in line with our responsibility.

The G-15, Ka added in response to questions, wanted to strengthen UNCTAD and restore its original ambition. "It is the only forum where we have a chance of being heard," he said.

Ka was asked whether the talk of a North-South dialogue and meeting between the G-15 and G-7 was not a case of one side desiring it and the other not showing any interest.

"We have not given up hope," Ka declared, adding that in any event this reference to dialogue and suggestion for a meeting with the G-7 was only a small part of the G-15 document.

The G-15 as such had not so far met with or sought a meeting with the G-7, though four of the G-15 (India, Venezuela, Egypt and Senegal) had even before been trying to promote a dialogue and meeting and, on the occasion of the French tricentenary and the G-7 summit then, had at the instance of President Mitterrand met with the G-7 heads, Ka said.

The Caracas summit, and the earlier Kuala Lumpur one, had addressed specific projects and issues of South-South Cooperation, the raison d'être for the G-15.

Important progress had been made in a number of areas, Ka said, notably the statutes for the trade centre, exchange of information on trade and technology matters, the project for solar energy, human resources development and agricultural cooperation. But he added that it was too early for these initiatives to show results.

About the South's fears on diversion of aid and trade and investments to the East, Ka said the countries of the South and the G-15 did not understand how the emergence of new countries in the East and the tremendous interest created could make people forget the millions of men and women living in poverty and needing development in the South. - Third World Network Features

## Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on Mar 8, 1992

Star Economic Report

### Hopeless Trading!

Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Sunday virtually saw no trading at all. It was very unusual to witness such inactivity. Business on the day was hopeless. The floor saw no gainer but a lone loser, National Bank. Two papers traded at their previously quoted prices.

Figures in both volume and value declined sharply. A mere 270 papers valuing Tk 12.535 traded against Saturday's 915 issues valuing Tk 61,570. Transaction in terms of market capitalisation also declined, totalling Tk 8,277,306,765.

The DSE composite Price Index however gained 0.225 points and stood at 289,4120.

#### THE DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE All Share Price Index	289.4120
Market Capitalisation (Tk)	8,277,306,765
Turnover (in value Tk)	12.535
In volume	270

Company	FV/ML	Previous Day's Price	Closing Price	Change (absolute)	Change (% over previous price)
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Losses (01)  
Shares:  
National Bank 100/5 103.67 102.33 -1.34 1.292

Traded at previously quoted prices (02)  
Shares: Oxygen, Pharma Aids.

#### SHARES & DEBENTURES LISTED WITH DSE

Company	FV/ML Tk	Jute Spinner	100/5	95.00
<b>BANKS (10)</b>				
AL Baraka Bank	1000/1	1090.00	100/5	105.00
AB Bank	100/5	188.00	100/5	100.00
City Bank	100/5	265.00	100/5	100.00
IFJC	100/5	183.00	100/5	93.00
Islami Bank	1000/1	1810.00	100/5	100.00
National Bank	100/5	102.33	100/5	105.00
Pubali Bank	100/5	102.00	100/5	100.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	90.00	100/5	197.00
U.C.B.L	100/5	123.00	100/5	125.00
Uttara Bank	100/5	158.00	100/5	100.00
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS &amp; CHEMICALS (15)</b>				
Ambee Pharma	10/50	11.75	100/5	95.00
Bangla Process	100/5	95.00	100/5	100.00
Beximco Pharma	100/5	197.00	100/5	100.00
Glaxo	10/50	125.00	100/5	100.00
IC I	10/50	10.00	100/5	76.00
Kohinoor Chemical	100/5	76.00	100/5	17.17
Petro Synthetic	100/5	110.00	100/5	110.00
Pfizer	100/5	130.00	100/5	150.00
Ph				