

Ujala Factory makes record 25.21 cr boxes of match in 8 months

Ujala Match Factory, a public sector enterprise, has manufactured 25.21 crore boxes of match a record production during the first eight months of the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to BCIC sources in Dhaka, Saturday, the match factory, owned by Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), is expected to set a new production record manufacturing 28.80 crore boxes of match by the turn of the fiscal 1991-1992.

The highest annual production of the only public sector match factory was 23.40 crore boxes in the fiscal 1990-91.

The Ujala Match Factory is located at Shyampur in the outskirts of the city.

3 Kuwaiti state investment firms may merge

KUWAIT, Apr 11: Kuwait is considering the merger of three state-controlled investment companies, the first such move planned by the government to revive its troubled financial sector, reports Reuters.

The merger will bring together Kuwait Investment Company (KIC), Kuwait Foreign Trading, Contracting and Investment Company (KFTCIC) and International Financial Advisors (IFA). Badr Abdallah Smett, from KIC and head of a joint committee set up to coordinate merger plans, said the firms would have an initial capital of 130 million Kuwaiti dinars (443 million dollar).

"May be we will need to recapitalize, commit more capital and ask shareholders to pay more," he said.

The US Lehman Brothers International Investment Bank was appointed in March "to study the feasibility of merger. If merger is not advisable then to suggest the alternatives for each company," he said. "We expect an answer on the feasibility of merger by early May," he added.

The government has a controlling of Kuwait's banks and financial institutions following Iraq's seven month occupation which put a financial strain on the oil-rich Emirate.

Kuwait has had to borrow 5.5 billion dollar on the world market to help cover repairs to its war-torn infrastructure.

Financial experts said the reason for the planned merger dates back to the collapse in 1982 of the unofficial secondary stock market known as Souk al-Manakh, involving influential Kuwaitis and financial institutions.

"They said that bad investment policies were also to blame for the financial difficulties of the investment companies."

"They are trying to blame the Iraqi invasion, but the main reason is Manakh and bad investment strategies," one said.

2 Koreas agree to waive tariffs

SEOUL, Apr 11: Rivals South and North Korea on Friday agreed in principle to make inter-Korean trade exempt from tariffs, official said, reports AP.

It was the first specific agreement in two-month-old talks between the two Koreas aimed at implementing a historic reconciliation pact.

The Communist North and capitalist South also agreed at a border meeting that direct transportation channels should be used and that both governments should support measures for inter-Korean trade, a Unification Ministry statement said.

The two Koreas have held a number of border meetings since the adoption of the reconciliation pact Feb 18. Friday's meeting was attended by three delegates from each side.

The two sides agreed to meet again April 18.

In a separate reconciliatory move, the Defense Ministry said Friday it might stop using provocative phrases about the North, such as "North Korean puppet-elite."

The Koreas still remain sharply divided in many other areas of the February pact, which calls for political, military and social reconciliation and exchanges between the two states.

On Friday, the North refused the South's proposal to open an information center at the border village of Panmunjom.

New schemes to be identified for funding Kuwaiti delegation arrives to review on-going projects

A four-member delegation from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development led by its Engineering Adviser Abdulaziz N Asagabi arrived in Dhaka Friday to review the on-going projects and to identify new projects for future financing, reports BSS.

This is the first mission from Kuwait after the Gulf war.

The Kuwait Fund has so far extended economic assistance to Bangladesh to the tune of 176.52 million US dollar. Now

there are four on-going projects. These are: Eighth Rural Electrification Project, Deep Tubewell Project, Ashuganj Thermal Power Project and North-West Tubewell Project.

The mission will also discuss a number of new projects which are expected to be financed under future assistance from Kuwait Fund.

The projects are: Co-financing of Teesta Project, Rural Electrification Phase-IV.

Feasibility Design of Kushiara Bridge on Dhaka-Sylhet road, Cox's Bazar-Teknaf sea beach drive way and credit financing to private sector small and cottage industries in Bangladesh.

During their stay in Bangladesh they will visit the Teesta Barrage project site at Rangpur. The mission will call on secretary, economic relations division and officials concerned of various ministries and agencies.



M Ahsanul Huq, MD of Sonali Bank, and Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, MD of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, formally opening a booth of Sonali Bank at the counter of Biman Office at Motijheel in Dhaka on April 9. The booth was opened for round-the-clock collection of embarkation fee and travel tax.

Panchagar Sugar Mills produces record output

Panchagar Sugar Mills has set a record by producing the highest amount of sugar (11,154 tons) in the current fiscal year since its inception.

The amount is also the highest among all the 16 sugar mills in the country.

The achievement was made in all the three areas of the factory: cane crushing, sugar recovery and sugar production—by exceeding the targets and surpassing the previous records.

According to a press release

issued by the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC), the factory has crushed 1,27,110 tons of sugarcane in the current fiscal year against the targeted amount of 1,18,630 tons and produced 11,154 tons of sugar against the targeted amount of 10,380 tons. The sugar recovery rate was, however, 8.78 per cent against the target of 8.75 per cent.

The Panchagar Sugar Mills has also achieved almost 100 per cent of its target in the field of cane plantation.

Taiwan stocks hit year's low

TAIPEI, Apr 11: Steep falls in overseas bourses during the week posed a psychological threat to the already sluggish Taiwan stock market, pressing share prices down to this year's low, reports AFP.

Extending a 1.7 per cent decline the previous week, the 275-issue weighted price index on the Taiwan stock exchange lost another 170.16 points or 3.6 per cent to wind up the week at 4,563.8 points.

Widespread worry over the likelihood of a "domino effect" sparked by dives in Tokyo and Wall street pervaded the trading floor here, keeping most investors at bay, analysts said.

Training issue needs more care

By Shahabuddin Mahtab

"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a life time" (A Chinese proverb).

The purpose of institutional training is to raise the knowledge, skill and output of managers, supervisors and shop floor workers. The idea is to train the man in the top management position and down the line to the level of routine worker. The method and approach in each case, naturally, has to be different.

When training a senior manager, the trainer would try to bring in some needed attitudinal change and also sharpen his decision making powers, which is a qualitative approach. In the case of the shop floor worker, development of skill or imparting the improved know-how of an operation is needed.

The Fourth FYP in its chapter on Public Administration states that in the Third FYP "quality and effectiveness of training was more emphasised than numerical aspect of training."

It however, further states that no investigation or study had been conducted to assess the overall impact of training on the efficiency of the country's administrative system. The Fourth FYP further states that training would be one of the vital components of the development programmes.

The immediacy and urgency of training is being repeated in our plans, but the economic worth of training has hardly been assessed. We have so far failed to place training in our top drawers, as a result of which we have been unable to attain a high level of efficiency in implementing our development programmes, which ultimately results in time over runs and cost over runs as regular features.

We may cite the case of Zia Fertilizer Factory as an example.

In South Korea if a project is targeted for completion in two years, it is completed within two years. In our case we take several years more than the stipulated time and consequently there is a huge cost escalation. Several other factors may be responsible for the delay in our case, such as delay in the lining up a loan; but it is only fair to admit that we have to improve our managerial efficiency. This aspect of our problem is being reflected in the reports and assessments of the donor agencies too.

There are over two hundred and fifty training institutes in the country. Most of them are in the government and public sectors and small in size, excepting a few premier institutions such as the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, Bangladesh Management Development Centre, Academy for Planning and Development and two Rural Development Academies at Comilla and Bogra.

This can be termed as national training centres. There are some useful and cost effective training institutes also in the private sector.

Training is a serious business, as this involves huge investments, recurring expenditures and costly time of the executives who are pulled out from their normal activities. Training therefore has to be effective, so that on return to his job the executive is able to function more effectively. If this does not happen, then obviously the training has been wasted.

To be precise, effective training means giving the right training to the right people by the right people in the right form at the right place at the right time and at the right cost.

The criteria as indicated above is very difficult and would require a lot of hard work to fulfil. But we have to do this anyway if we intend to increase the capabilities and efficiency of our executives and senior administrators. Successful training must be reflected in one's career path, promotion, financial benefit and recognition.

In the developed world there is a genuine desire to go for the management courses as these lead to higher responsibilities. In contrast, training in our case seems to be a bitter pill which an executive has to swallow, though there are exceptions.

In some cases the topmost administrators of the country attended the training courses willingly and their attitude helped them to get the maximum benefit from those courses. Some of them later remarked that they have greatly benefited from the training courses.

Training can be really successful when there is a genuine desire to learn. Both the trainers and trainees are required to be carefully selected. The courses that are offered must also be related to the need of the trainee.

Training institutes must be taken as a part of the total system and they should have close link with the operational bodies. The best officers and trainers need to be deputed or recruited for these institutes. If we continue to use the training organisations as dumping grounds, the whole objective of training is bound to fail.

As indicated in the Fourth FYP, careful assessment is required after a trainee has completed a course, after a one year period and the last one after a period of five years. Feedbacks must come from both the former trainer and his boss.

Training is a vital tool for an efficient and effective administration and we cannot neglect this any longer because the area of governmental activity is likely to expand in future and the need for trained personnel will be more acute then.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Berthing Position & Performance of Vessels as on 11/4/92.

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving	Cargo
J/1	Dekhoda (E/L)	SSL	11/4	14/4	
J/2	Bangla Gourab	BSC	23/3	12/4	GI
J/4	Safina-e-Haider	ASLL	2/4	14/4	GI/GL
J/5	APJ Anand	NISHAT	31/3	20/4	Coke/PC
J/6	NGS Rangor(Cont)	BDSHIP	8/4	12/4	Cont
J/8	Banglar Urmi	BSC	6/4	13/4	GI
J/9	Banglar Sempad	BSC	R/A	14/4	Wheat
J/10	Lash Barge (4 Nos)				
J/11	Kota Buana (Cont)	CTS	9/4	14/4	Cont
J/12	Golden Fish	BSL	27/3	15/4	MOP
J/13	Al-Tasir	KSL	R/A	12/4	Wheat
MPB/1	Fong Shin (Cont)	BDSHIP	6/4	11/4	Cont
MPB/2	Hang Fook	BRIGHT	1/4	14/4	Cement
CSJ	Samudra Raj	SSL	18/3	15/4	Repair
CSJ	Amite	SSL	8/4	12/4	Repair
TSP	Platon	SST	10/4	18/4	R Phos
RM/4	Continent-1	CLA	10/4	12/4	Repair
RM/5	Banglar Joyti	BSC	R/A	12/4	C Oil
RM/6	Ervilia	MSP/L	9/4	12/4	Lab Oil
DDJ/1	Enduren Sea	EOSL	25/1	12/4	Repair
DDJ/2	Banglar Mamata	BSC	26/2	15/4	Repair
RM/8	Laurel Star	BML	14/2	15/4	Repair
RM/9	Banglar Swapna	BSC	R/A	15/4	Repair

Tanker Due

Name of vessels	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Cargo
Ervilia	MSP/L	9/4		Lab Oil

Vessels at Kutubdia

Matterhorn	DSLL	8/4		C Oil
Banglar Shourabh	BSC	R/A		C Oil

Vessels at outer Anchorage

Ready on

Ronjay Victory	H&H	7/4	Sing	Cement
Adkris	BSL	30/3	Sing	Gold Rolled
Pionar	MSA	4/4		Salt
Banglar Asha	BSC	R/A (7/4)		Wheat
Anax Puma	JF	11/4		Tallow

Vessels not ready

Hang Wan	H&H	7/4	Sing	Cement
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Vessels awaiting instruction

Banglar Kiron	BSC	R/A (6/4)		
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Vessels not entering

Alyan	ALAMIN	R/A(18/9)	Sing	Cement
Red Deer	OTL	R/A(26/11)	Sing	
Hang Tone	H&H	31/3	Mong	Scrappling
Alissa	H&H	18/3	Padra	Cement
Malleco	OTL	31/3	Huan	Scrappling
Sea Progress	AML	8/4	Padra	Cement
Olympic Phoenix	BSL	R/A	Sing	
Liberty Beele	KSL	8/4		Wheat
Mount Sabana	AML	31/3		C Bales

Vessels due at outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Cargo	Local Agent	Loading Ports
Weser Star (Cont)	11/4	Cal	Cont	BDSHIP	Sing
Robert-c-Lee	12/4	Lash	Lash	KARNA	USA ports
Dimitry Polyuan	12/4	Mong		CT	Odesa
Andrian					
Goncharov (Cont)	13/4	Sing	Cont	CT	Sing
Eastern Breze	13/4			RPSA	
Ever Cheer (Cont)	13/4	Sing	Cont	BDSHIP	Cal
Catlyna	13/4			GI	PROG
Fong Yun (Cont)	13/4	Sing	Cont	BDSHIP	Sing
Shezhan	13/4	Juba	Sulpher	AQUA	
Silver Sea	13/3			GI	PROG
Ahlers Breze (Cont)	14/4	Col	Cont	RSL	Col
Vishva Parthi (E/L)	14/4	Col	E/L	SSL	UI C ports
Mandiri (Cont)	16/4	Col	Cont	RSL	Sing
Arunachal Pradesh	16/4			GI	SSL Far East, Japa
Infinity (Cont)	16/4	Sing	Cont	RSL	Sing
S Fisher	17/4			MMI	Suez
Orient Venture	17/4			GI	ISA
J Yamburanko (Cont)	17/4			Cont	CT
New Genlord (Cont)	20/4			Cont	BDSHIP
Zang San	23/4			R Phos	TSHL
Petr Starostin (Cont)	24/4	Sing	Cont	CT	Sing
Safar	25/4			ASLL	
Al-Salma	25/4			GI/GL	ASLL
Optima (Cont)	3/5	Sing	Cont	RSL	Sing

The above were the Saturday (11/4/92) Shipping position and performance at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC GROUP, Dhaka.

Price Index

April-11

Essentials	Index	Change
RICE (Taka per kg)	15.50-17.00	
Amanfinch	15.50-17.00	
Pajon	14.50-15.50	
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)	7.50-8.00	
Brinjal	3.00-5.00	
Karola	8.00-10.00	
Lalshak	4.00-5.00	
Pappa	5.00-6.00	
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	4.00-5.00	
OTHER FOODGRAN (Taka per kg)	14.30-15.00	
Flour	11.50-12.00	
FISH (Taka per kg)	14.00-15.00	
Katla(big)	100.00-110.00	
Haha	90.00-100.00	
Panga	110.00-120.00	
Shrimp(big)	90.00-110.00	
Singi	90.00-100.00	
Koi	100.00-120.00	
MEAT (Taka per kg)	55.00-60.00	
Beef	80.00-85.00	
Mutton	70.00-72.00	
Moderate	74.00-76.00	
Small	78.00-80.00	
TEA (Plain)	70.00-80.00	
BBQ	10.00-10.50	
Duck	10.00-10.50	
Firm	10.00-10.50	
PULSES (Taka per kg)	28.00-30.00	
Mash	28.00-30.00	
Mogha	24.00-25.00	
Chola	24.00-25.00	
Kharai	15.00-16.00	
FRUITS (One piece)	6.00-7.00	
Watermelon (Large)	30.00-45.00	
Coconut (Large)	8.00-10.00	
Banana (Sugar) (Large)	12.00-15.00	
Banana (Chapa)	2.50-3.00	
Dam	45.00-55.00	
OIL (Taka per litre)	52.00-54.00	
Mustard	37.00-38.00	
Soyabean	90.00-95.00	
Coconut (Colombo)	48.00-50.00	
Vegetable Ghee (1kg)	7.00-8.00	
SPICES (Taka per kg)	22.00-28.00	
Onion (local)	65.00-70.00	
Chillies (dry)	55.00-60.00	
Chillies (local)	40.00-45.00	
Turmeric(Round)	48.00-50.00	
(Long)	10.00-12.00	
Green chillies	14.00-16.00	
Ginger	3.00-4.00	
Cinnamon (10gm)	7.00-8.00	
Cardamom (10gm) (small)	7.00-8.00	
Onira (50gms)	7.00-8.00	
MILK (Two kg)	295.00-296.00	
Red-Cow	297.00-298.00	
MISCELLANEOUS (Taka per kg)	220.00-240.00	
Salt	7.00-7.50	
Sugar	27.00-28.00	
Hides & Skin (Wet/Salted) (Taka per 100 pieces)		
Cow	12000.00 - 30,000.00	
Light	60,000.00 - 95,000.00	
Medium	60,000.00 - 71,000.00	
Heavy	74,000.00 - 79,000.00	
Very heavy	80,000.00 - 85,00	