

Railway starts 40-ft container service

With the increasing demand for carrying export goods safely and timely Bangladesh railway introduced 40-foot container service direct to the Chittagong Port from the capital from Saturday, reports UNB.

The railway introduced the 40-ft container service in April 1987 and within the span of five years its earning stood at Tk 22.50 lakh in March this year from Tk 32,008 in May '87, official sources said.

With the transportation facilities of 40-foot container between Dhaka and Chittagong the exporter would be benefited in sending and bringing goods to and from the port directly.

Earlier export goods had to be sent by trucks to loan it to 40-ft containers in Chittagong Port. The export to USA goes only by 40-ft containers and the shipment has become easier with the introduction of the service, the sources added.

United Ins earns Tk 2.57 cr as pre-tax profit

By Staff Correspondent
The United Insurance Company Limited earned a pre-tax profit of Tk 2.57 crore in 1991 - its sixth full operational year. The company's income from investments in 1991 was Tk 1.71 crore while underwriting profit was Tk 1.19 crore, says a Press release.

The company's total claims during 1991 amounted to Tk 7.76 crore which includes cyclone claims of Tk 3.82 crore. This was stated in the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the company held yesterday (Sunday) at a local hotel.

The company declared a dividend of 14.5 per cent to shareholders as against 14 per cent in the previous year after providing Tk 1.25 crore as income tax and setting aside Tk 51.78 lakh as reserve for exceptional losses.

The company's assets stood at Tk 20.95 crore and its unappropriated profit and total reserves including premium reserve stood at Tk 5.62 crore as at December 31, last year.

Pseudo foreign items sold at enhanced prices

By Staff Correspondent
Several widely used Bangladeshi cosmetics are being sold at enhanced prices as foreign items using English label and foreign names, according to a survey result of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) Sunday.

The result says that although the cosmetics require the government's BSTI standard specifications, no product is given a BSTI seal of approval, says a CAB press release.

CAB suggests since the chemical compound of cosmetics should be perfectly proportionate to avoid skin and other diseases, BSTI should control cosmetics' standards.

Some of the surveyed products were manufactured by Pisona Company Ltd, Moushumi Industries Ltd, Square, Kohnoor, Millat, Liver Brothers, Haque and other companies.

None of the surveyed products had any production or expiry date on them.

These products, namely lipsticks, creams, talc powders, snow, nail polish and perfumes, were being sold at the markets at a price 30.37 per cent higher in average than the price fixed by their manufacturers.

Anwar urges CAs to help build honest management

Commerce Minister MK Anwar called upon the Chartered Accountants of the country to come forward and help the government build a transparent, responsible and honest financial management system, according to a press release.

The Minister was addressing the Convocation of Chartered Accountants as chief guest May 23. The function, held at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh was presided over by its President Jamal Uddin Ahmad PCA.

Referring to the shattered economy of the country inherited from the past regime and which was based on a foundation of corruption and self-interest, the Minister reiterated, "The country needs your (chartered accountants) help to eradicate the malpractice inherent in our economy and replace them with transparency and mass-interest."

Only 9 pc get sanitation facilities in rural areas

CHITTAGONG, May 24: Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar Sunday stressed the need for a clean environment for development of human resources, reports BSS.

To ensure a clean environment around us we must have adequate sanitary arrangements including supply of pure drinking water at the village level, he pointed out.

The LGRD and Cooperatives Minister said that so far 80 per cent of the rural people were getting supply of tubewell water whereas only nine per cent people were getting sanitation facilities. The vast majority of the rural people were still ignorant of the insanitary condition around them while many could not afford to have a clean environment because of financial stringency.

Barrister Salam Talukdar was

inaugurating a day-long conference titled "Social Mobilisation for Sanitation" at the Chittagong Medical College Shah Alam Bir Uttan Auditorium here this morning.

The conference held under the joint auspices of Public Health Engineering Directorate in cooperation with the UNICEF was presided over by Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Muhammad Omar Faruk.

Chittagong City Mayor, Begum Rozy Kabir MP, Secretary of the Ministry of LGRD Mushfiqur Rahman also addressed the conference.

Barrister Salam Talukdar said the present government was making all-out efforts to provide health facilities to all citizens keeping in view the UN slogan—health for all by the year 2000.

He said that unless people

at the village level were motivated to keep their surroundings clean, drink tubewell water and use sanitary or atleast covered latrines, the objective of health for all could not be achieved.

The LGRD and Cooperatives Minister called upon all concerned including ansars, teachers of primary and high schools, health and family planning workers to work with better coordination to motivate the rural people to maintain sanitation and cleanliness around their houses.

A working session of the conference was held in the afternoon which was presided over by Secretary of LGRD Mushfiqur Rahman. Sanitation for all and the role of mass media in mobilising the people for sanitation were the subjects for discussion at the working session.



M Maidul Islam, Chairman of the United Insurance Company addressing the 7th Annual General Meeting.

Oil Mills Assoc demands cut in import duty on rape seed

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Oil Mills Association Sunday demanded reduction of import duty on rape seed for the survival of 1200 mustard-oil producing mills.

The association at a press conference at Hotel Purbani said the present import duty of 20 per cent along with five per cent Import Permission (IP) on rape seed are making the mustard oil uncompetitive to soyabean oil. It demanded reduction of the duty to 10 per cent.

Vice President of the association, speaking at the press conference, said while the import duty is being imposed on rape seed for mustard oil, similarly it is being imposed on crude oil for soyabean industries. He said only 13 seer of mustard oil can be extracted from one maund of rape seeds while 39 seer of soyabean oil can be extracted from same quantity of crude soyabean oil.

Although the duty on import of crude is 45 per cent, this still keeps the price of mustard oil price higher due to the lower extraction rate of oil from rape seed, he added.

At present, mustard oil is selling at Taka 50 a kg while soyabean oil is selling at Taka 40 a kg.

The existing 1200 mustard oil mills produce about 1.25 lakh tons of oil annually. Country's total demand of edible oil is five lakh tons.

Of the total production, only about 65000 tons of mustard oil is produced from local rape seed, the rest is extracted from imported seeds.

Rape seed is imported mainly from Canada, China, Poland and France. Each ton of rape seed costs about between 270 to 320 US dollar.

The association said that if the duty is reduced, price of mustard oil can be brought down to the price of soyabean

oil.

If measures are taken to bring down the price of mustard oil, sale of spurious oil will also stop, the association viewed.

It said crude soyabean oil are now being sold as mustard oil. The crude oil has the same appearance as mustard oil. The spurious merchants mix chemical to the crude for the smell of mustard oil as converting the crude to soyabean oil is less profitable than mustard oil due to price difference.

The association said when the prices of both levels down the selling of spurious mustard oil automatically stops.

The association also urged the government to keep the quota imposed on the import of crude soyabean oil to save the mustard oil industry and the 50,000 workers engaged in the 1200 mills.



Newly elected members of the Bangladesh Computer Society.

Computer Samity election held

First Annual General Meeting and election of Executive Council (EC) of Bangladesh Computer Samity were held at a local hotel on Thursday, says a press release.

Sajjad Hossain of IBM Bangladesh and Moin Khan were elected President and General Secretary of the samity respectively. The other members of the Executive Council are: Vice President - Saif D Shahid, Treasurer - Abdullah H Kafi, Joint Secretary - Ghulam Mohiuddin and members - Mustafa Jabbar and Mili Rana.

Information tech infrastructure essential for development

The building of a National Information Technology Infrastructure in Bangladesh in collaboration with external agencies and regional and international networks was recommended at an international seminar held in Dhaka recently, reports BSS.

The five-day seminar-cum-workshop titled "The Role of Information Technology in socio-economic development" also recommended sharing by Bangladesh the successful information technology applications developed in other countries.

Sponsored by Bangladesh Computer Council in collaboration with Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC), Kuala Lumpur, the seminar concluded on May 15 and the recommendations adopted by the seminar was released to the press Sunday.

The seminar also underscored the need for developing programmes for "training of

trainers" in the field of information technology applications in socio-economic development in which Asian Pacific Development Information Network (APDIN) could contribute through documentation of selected success stories in the region and disseminating them to the various interested agencies.

In a number of recommendations the seminar suggested giving top priority to information technology education and training.

The seminar said that elective computer courses at selected secondary and higher secondary schools could be started immediately giving emphasis on use of computer as a problem solving tool.

The seminar suggested offering regular computer courses to the Bangladesh Institutes of Technologies (BITS), the polytechnic institutes, the government commercial institutes and the

teachers training institutes.

It also suggested creation of centres of excellence in some of the universities to develop hard core computer professionals, and development of diversified need-based curricula and syllabi for both the professionals and the users of computers.

The suggestions also include introduction of computer science and engineering degree and post graduate computer applications courses in some universities one year diploma courses to train analysts programmes, as well as shorter certificate and diploma courses to create information technology users or managers.

The seminar recommended establishment of a national database and datacomm network authority to integrate nationwide databases and immediate establishment of one data-comm link for access to world network to be shared by both public and private sectors

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 24.5.92									
Berth No.	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival				
J/1	Gold Future	GI/GI	Mong	AML	23/5	26/5			
J/2	Alam Teguh	R Seeds	Bark	DYNAMIC	21/5	30/5			
J/3	Jiang Cheng	GI	S Hai	BDSHIP	21/5	27/5			
J/4	Banglar Kiron	Wheat		BSC	R/A	26/5			
J/5	Ahlars Breeze (Cont)	Cont	Col	RSL	20/5	24/5			
J/6	Banglar Mamata	Wheat		BSC	R/A	24/5			
J/7	Guang He Kou	GI (SPL)	Nanj	BDSHIP	19/5	26/5			
J/8	Banglar Shobha	GI	Peng	BSC	15/5	26/5			
J/9	Richway	Wheat	Durb	BSL	14/5	26/5			
J/11	Nikos-N	Wheat	Sing	BSL	17/5	30/5			
J/12	Banglar Baani	Wheat		BSC	R/A	30/5			
J/13	I Yamburenko (Cont)	Cont	Sing	CT	22/5	26/5			
MP/B/1	Kota Buana (Cont)	Cont	Sing	CTS	20/5	26/5			
MP/B/2	Fong Yun (Cont)	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	17/5	24/5			
CGJ	Al Samad	C Clink	Kam	UMAL	6/5	24/5			
GSJ	Elibella-IV	Wheat	D Mark	JF	10/5	24/5			
TSP	Unity	R Phos	Suez	TSLL	16/5	27/5			
RM/3	Tbilisi	CDSO	Sing	SEACOM	19/5	27/5			
RM/5	Orsha	Cement	Sing	MSA	7/5	26/5			
DDJ/1	Endurance								
RM/8	Sea	Repair	Aquaba	EOSL	25/1	25/5			
RM/9	Piya-1	Cement	Visa	PSAL	5/5	25/5			
RM/9	Shezan	R Cott	Juba	AQUA	R/A	25/5			
CUJ	APJ Anand	Urea	Sing	MOPL	31/3	24/5			

Vessels Due at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Silver Lake	24/5	Kong	Prog	GI	
Hartford Fishers	24/5	Pokt	SHL	R/A	Phuleet Thai
Banglar Kakoti	24/5	Cal	BSC	GI/GL	UK Cont
Hang Cheong	25/5		H&H	Cement	
Chong Chon Gang	25/5	Anna	TSLL	R Phos	
Kota Eagle (Cont)	25/5	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Olga-1	26/5		USTC	Cement	
Maulin	26/5		MSPL	Scraping	
Green Island	26/5		KARNA	Lash	USA Ports
Petr Starostin (Cont)	18/5 26/5	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
E T Ocean-VI	26/5		Coast		
Marmecul	26/5		Pampong	Cement	
Vishva Parag (E/L)	19/5		SSL	E/L	Dumdee Harb
Ronjay Choomie	27/5	Indo	MSA	Cement	
Golden Fish	27/5	Mong	Aqua		Dakar
Amite	27/5	Mong	Aqua		UK Cont.
Karabieverett	27/5		EBPL	GI	Japa Fe
Lalazar	28/5	Col	BSC	R Cotton	
Samudra Raj					
(48) 13/5	28/5	Mong	SSL		Pakistan
Optima (Cont)	17/5	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Safina-e-Najam	28/5	Kam	ASLL	C Clinker	
Fong Shin (Cont)	18/5	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Safina-e-Isamat-2	30/5		ASLL	GI/GL	Karachi
Hang Loy	1/6		USTC	Cement	
Youhao	2/6		USTC	Cement	
Karrington	2/6		H&H	Cement	
Anangal Hope	4/6		H&H	Cement	
Sha He Kou	4/6		BDSHIP	GI	
Armonia	4/6		QMA	Scraping	
Safina-e-Rehmat	5/6		ASLL	GI/GL	Karachi
Shaplaeverett	5/6		EBPL	GI	Japa Fe
Fortune Ace	5/6		EBPL	GI	

Tanker Due

Eso Bayonne	24/5	Sing	MSPL	HSD/JP-1
Global Venues	26/5		TSL	Crude Palm Olein

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
T T Energy	C Oil	Col	NNL	27/4
Alpha Sun	C Oil	Jibal	DSLL	15/5
Banglar Jyoti	C Oil		BSC	R/A
Western Greeting	Wheat		BSL	16/5
Al Tafsir	Wheat	Mong	BSL	19/5

Vessels at Outer Anchorage

Ready on					
CGM Bretagne (Cont)	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	22/5	
Arktis Princess	GI	Sing	BSL	23/5	
New Genford (Cont)	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	23/5	
Weiser Star (Cont)	22/5	Cont	Cal	BDSHIP	24/5
Banglar Sampad	Wheat		BSC	R/A (20/5)	

Vessels Not Ready

Apil	Cement	Sing	Bright	18/5
Banglar Aaha	Wheat		BSC	R/A (23/5)
Great Harvest	Wheat	Peland	BSL	22/5
Banglar Shourabh	C.Oil		BSC	R/A

Vessels Not Entering

Alyn	Cement Sing	Alamin	R/A (18/9)
Red Deer		Sing	R/A (26/11)
Mild Win	Scraping Bank	H&H	16/5
Badr Bay	Scraping Kavar	OSA	21/5
ANIL Dao	Cement B Taio	Bright	21/5
Ahlars Breeze		Mong	RISA
SAPA Progress	Cement Pada	AML	23/5

Movement of Vessels for 25/5/92

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/2 Alam Teguh	MP/B/2 New Genford	RM/5 Orsha to RM/4
J/13 I Yamburenko	J/2 Western Star	
MP/B/2 CGM Bretagne	NB Banglar Aaha	
CGJ Banglar Mamata	J/13 Banglar Kakoti	
RM/6 Banglar Jyoti	NB G Harvest	
RM/8 Piya-1	NB Apil	
	NB Ronjay Victory	
	NB Silver Lake	

The above were the Sunday (24.5.92) shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC group, Dhaka.

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 May 24, 25 and 26.

(Figures in Taka)				
Currency	SELLING B.C.	T.T. (C)	O.D. TRANS.	BUYING PER
US dollar	39.1326	38.9087		38.6339
Pound sterling	70.9974	70.6529		70.1877
DM	24.2307	24.0772		23.9071
FF	7.2067	7.1589		7.1083
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042		10.3307
D Guilders	21.6251	21.3901		21.2391
S Kroner	6.7180	6.6739		6.6287
Singapore Dollar	23.9768	23.8396		23.6713
UAE Dirham	10.6911	10.6299		10.5548
Kuwaiti Dinar	135.5692	133.7992		132.8543
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.5104	1.5035		1.4960
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.5541	1.5470		1.5393

Authorized dealers will apply T T clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladesh's working abroad.

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on May 24, 1992

Star Economic Report

Sensational rise in trading

Sunday's trading at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) marked a sensational rise in business. The progress was due to turnovers. Turnover in value gained 34.42 per cent from Tk 453,445.00 on Saturday to Tk 2,014,146.00 while value gained 19.19 per cent from 6271 on Saturday to 18679.

Number of shares trading on the floor also rose against Saturday's 23 to 34. Six shares were sold at their previously quoted prices.