

### Step taken to produce power at inactive plants

The fifth meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources was held in Dhaka Thursday with Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khondakar Mosharruf Hossain in the chair, reports BSS.

Dr. Hossain gave a detailed picture of the power sector, including its development activities.

He said due to mismanagement and the indifferent attitude of the past autocratic regime, no plans had been taken to meet the growing demand of electricity.

Dr. Hossain said the installation capacity of power was 2,398 megawatt now while the actual generation of power was 1,552 megawatt.

He informed the meeting that the government had taken up an emergency rehabilitation programme to resume the power generation at in-serviceable power stations.

Members of parliament Azizul Haq, A K Abu Taher, Manzurul Hasan Munshi, Shahiduzzaman Belu, Imran Ahmed, Abdul Awal Miah, Abdul Mukit Khan, A K M Jahangir Hossain and Sharfuddin Khasru attended the meeting.

The Secretary of the Energy and Mineral Resources ministry and the chairman of Power Development Board were present.

## BCIC signs contracts to export Tk 113 crore urea till July

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) has signed contracts for exporting 2,26,000 tons of urea fertilizer worth about Tk 113.05 crore (30.15 million dollar) in three months till next July, reports UNB.

Official sources told UNB the average export price per ton of urea covered under these contracts works out at 133.42 US dollar equivalent to Tk 5,002.21 as against the approved selling price of Tk 4,025 for supply in the home market.

According to contract, one lakh tons valued at 14.62 million US dollar equivalent to Tk 52.95 crore will be supplied from Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Factory.

Out of this contract 44,500 tons worth 5.85 million US dollar equivalent to Tk 22.90 crore have already been exported to South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines.

A total of 73,500 tons will be exported from Jamuna Fertilizer factory to Vietnam and the Philippines valued at

8.83 million US dollar equivalent to Tk 38.30 crore. This urea will be shipped during the May-July period and the shipment work has already commenced.

A total of 53,000 tons worth 6.70 million US dollar equivalent to Tk 25.90 crore will be exported from Zia Fertilizer Factory to Nepal and Vietnam during the period.

Bangladesh has now six urea fertilizer factories in operation: Natural Gas Fertilizer Factory in Fenchuganj with annual production capacity of (1,06,000 tons), Ghoraul Urea Fertilizer Factory (3,40,000 tons), Polish Urea Fertilizer Factory (95,000 tons), Zia Fertilizer Factory in Ashuganj (5,28,000 tons), Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Factory (5,61,000 tons) and Jamuna Fertilizer Factory (5,61,000 tons).

The combined urea production capacity of these six urea fertilizer factories of BCIC is a little over 2 million tons against the current annual demand of over 1.8 million tons. BCIC's fertilizer factories

produced 14,23,826 tons of urea worth about Tk 600 crore during the last fiscal year (1990-91) and 13,26,946 tons valued at about Tk 548.38 crore during the first 10 months of the current fiscal (1991-92).

Bangladesh has invested over Tk 4,000 crore for establishment and development of the country's fertilizer industry, the highest investment in a single industry.

With the progressive increase in indigenous production of urea fertilizer, Bangladesh has become self-reliant in such a vital agricultural input and the availability of adequate quantity of urea has contributed to the steady growth in food production in the country.

The urea fertilizer factories have contributed Tk 340.92 crore to the national exchequer in the form of customs duty, sales tax, excise duty and income tax from 1976-77 to 1990-91.

The factories have provided direct employment to 6549 workers, staff and officers.



KM Ejazul Haque, Additional Secretary of Economic Relations Division (ERD), and Toshio Saiki, Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh, signing Exchange of Notes providing for grants for Meghna-Gumti Bridge and Dhaka WASA at National Economic Council building at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka on Thursday. — PID photo

### Commentary

## High time to straighten public sector employment situation

By Abu Ahmed  
Guest columnist

Very often our unemployed youths clamour for jobs in the public sector organisations as they think that the government is responsible for giving employment to them. But how a government can offer all the jobs the unemployed ask for is very hard to understand, especially when a market based economy is declared as an economic goal.

What creates employment opportunities? Definitely economic interactions among the factors of production towards creating additional output. In other words, a dynamic economic constantly creates employment opportunities for its unemployed factors of production, particularly, for its labour force.

Who is an employed person? The classical definition is: The person who works for 40 hours in his full capacity in a week is to be called an employed person. The term "full capacity" is highly emphasized while calling a person employed, because a person may be simply on a pay roll, but does not do work at his full capacity. In economic literature, persons receiving full pay but not working at full capacities are termed as underemployed persons.

If having someone on the pay roll is the solution to the unemployment problem then no one would have remained unemployed in any society. But it is expected that when a person is paid he is to offer his skill and labour in return, and that offer must be in his full capacity.

How does a government solve the unemployment problem? Actually it does not solve this problem on its own, it just help solve the problem by adopting policies. The responsibility of solving the problem mainly lies with the other sector of the economy — the private sector.

Employment opportunities, however, may come in various ways: From the government, from the firms in the private sector, or from self-source.

We want to say that the main task of a government is not to create employment opportunities directly but help the economy move forward so that it can create the employment opportunities on its own.

When doesn't an economy absorb its surplus working force in the employment process? It is when other factors of production like capital and organization are not available. Wherefrom and how are they made available? From more investment acts in productive sector, and from the interaction of economic agents towards surplus income generation. These two tasks are performed by the market forces in a market-based economy, and there is no reason theoretically why these task can not be performed well by the market.

But when obstacles are created in the way of functioning of the market in an economy the

tasks of investment and surplus income generations can not be performed by the market. As one imperfection breeds another imperfection the economy works at a much lower level than the full employment level.

In this situation the government steps in to perform these functions, but it can not perform them the way the market do them. Sometimes the government creates problems in the way of smooth functioning of the market by levying taxes and providing subsidies. These acts by the government create a series of distortions in the economy leading to its slow-down.

Bangladesh has a huge unemployed workforce among its population. An estimate puts the figure as 35% of the population. In addition, there is a substantial portion of underemployed people. Approximate by one-third of the employees in the public sector can be categorized according to an estimate, as underemployed.

If these underemployed people can be re-trenched from the public sector we will be able to save a good amount of tax money for the development budget.

Very often we hear that many posts are lying vacant in the public sector. But are these vacant post really vacant? Hardly, in the economic sense. They were created mainly because the bosses wanted them, and no scientific criteria to justify the needs were applied. One very simple test to judge whether we have surplus personnel in the public sector or not can be the giving option to the existing employed persons to do more work against more salary and wage.

If they agree, then it will be understood that some of them are redundant, because, employment definition suggests that they cannot work more even they are paid more within hours for which they are normally being paid. Yes, they can work for more hours against more payment, but not more intensively against the payment they were already receiving.

The very psyche of this nation about employment and unemployment must be changed. Even the educated persons are heard to say that if employed persons are re-trenched from the public sector then the unemployment problem will worsen. But they do not want to understand that in order to create long-run employment opportunities in the economy we are to re-trench the redundant persons from the public sector.

While wages, salaries, and subsidies eat up 90 per cent of the government income, wherefrom money will come for our annual development programme? The answer largely lies in straightening the employment situation in the public sector in the light of the needs and efficiency.

### Seminar on budget for MPs tomorrow

A two-day seminar on "Fiscal Planning and the Budgetary Process" for Members of Parliament will begin in Dhaka on Sunday, reports UNB.

Speaker Shakh Razaq Ali will inaugurate the seminar, organised by the Centre for Analysis and Choice (CAC), at Hotel Sonargaon at 9.30 am. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will attend the inaugural function as special guest.

The seminar will be split into three workshops on national budget formulation, the legislative process in fiscal management and external co-operation in fiscal policy formulation, said a press release.

Dr AKM Mashur Rahman, Secretary Internal Resources Division and Chairman of National Board of Revenue, Kazi Jalaluddin Ahmed, former Secretary of the Jatiya Sangsad and Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary of Economic Relations Division, will be the keynote speakers at the seminar.

Members of Parliament, leading economists and policy planners will participate in the discussion.

### Excess liquidity may lower Pak T-bills yield

KARACHI (Pakistan), May 29: Excess liquidity in Pakistan's fledgling money market is likely to push yields lower on the government's six-month T-bills, dealers say, reports Reuter.

Yields could drop to 12.50 per cent, compared with a weighted average of 13.13 per cent at the May 5 auction when the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) accepted bids worth 5.12 billion rupee against 7.64 billion offered, one dealer said.

At the last auction, on May 26, the bank rejected all bids — totalling 10.09 billion rupee — without giving any reason.

"The excess liquidity is helping the central bank," said a banker who asked not to be identified.

The SBP said only it had rejected the bids, but one bank official said T-bill rates had got out of line with the market.

The rates have been very high compared with the interbank call rates and repo rates," he said.

The SBP gave no indication what offers had come from Pakistan's primary dealers, but one dealer said some banks had tried to push rates up to 14 per cent.

The excess liquidity has drastically cut the interbank call rates to 1.75/50, compared with 2.25/00 a week ago and 7.50/25 a month ago," said Zahid Noorani, a dealer at Khadim Ali Shah Bukhari and Co.

Bank of America dealer Nabeel Waheed said the SBP's action had caused panic in the money market and dealers had begun adjusting rates before the next auction.

After rejecting bids on Tuesday, the SBP re-invited tenders for the sale of bills worth four billion rupee. The settlement day is Monday.

Pakistan opened a secondary market in government securities in March last year and began moving towards open market operations as part of its economic reforms.

## Shipping Intelligence

### Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 28.5.92

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of arrival	Date of Leaving
J/1	Silver Lake	GI	Hong Kong	Prog	24/5	02/6
J/2	Alam Teguh	R Seeds	Bank	Dynamic	21/5	02/6
J/3	Banglar Aaha	Wheat	BSC	R/A	31/5	
J/4	Banglar Kakoli	GI/GL	Cal	BSC	25/5	29/5
J/5	Arktis Princess	GI	Sing	BSC	23/5	2/5
J/6	Western Greeting	Wheat	BSC	BSC	24/5	5/6
J/7	Jiang Cheng	GI	S Hai	BDSHIP	21/5	30/5
J/8	Banglar Shobha	GI	Peng	BSC	25/5	29/5
J/9	Kota Eagle	Cont	Sing	CTS	25/5	30/5
J/10	Banglar Sampad	Wheat	BSC	R/A	30/5	
J/11	Nikos-N	Wheat	Sing	BSC	17/5	01/6
J/12	Banglar Baart	Wheat	BSC	R/A	31/5	
J/13	Guan He Kou	GI	Nanj	BDSHIP	19/5	30/5
MPB/1	Petr Starostin	Cont	Sing	CT	27/5	30/5
MPB/2	CGM Bretagne	Cont	Mong	BDSHIP	28/5	29/5
CCJ	APJ Anand	Urea	BSC	MSPSL	31/3	29/5
GSJ	Great Harvest	Wheat	P Land	BSC	22/5	01/6
TSP	Chong Chon Gang	R Phos	Arna	TSAL	25/5	06/6
RM/4	Ronjay Victor	Cement	Jaka	PSAL	24/5	03/6
RM/5	Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	BSC	R/A	30/5	
RM/6	Esao Bayonec	HSD/J.P-1	Sing	MSPSL	24/5	29/5
DDJ/1	Endurance Sea	Repair	Arqba	EOSL	25/1	30/5
RM/8	Apil	Cement	Sing	Bright	18/5	31/5
RM/9	Banglar Kiron	Urea	BSC	R/A	31/5	
CUJF	Al Samad	Urea	Kara	RRSA	R/A	05/6

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of arrival
TT Energy	C Oil	Col	Nil	27/4

### Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of arrival
Tiger Hope	GI	Kore	Prog	26/5
Lalazar	GI	Col	BSC	27/5

### Vessels not ready

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of arrival
Oiga-1	Cement	Sing	USTC	27/5
Banglar Shourabh	Repair/C Oil	Sing	BSC	R/A
Ronjay Choomic	Cement	Sing	MSA	27/5
Optima	Cont	Sing	RSL	27/5

### Vessels not entering

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of arrival
Alyn	Cement	Sing	Alamin	R/A
Red Deer	-	Sing	OTI	R/A
Mild Win	Scraping	Bank	H&H	16/5
Bain Bay	Scraping	Kawar	OSA	21/5
Maulin	Scraping	Sing	MSPSL	26/5
Eastern Breeze	-	Mong	RRSA	R/A
Sea Progress	Cement	Padra	AML	23/5
Silver Sea	-	-	RRSA	R/A
Shezan	-	Juba	AQUA	R/A
Hang Cheong	Cement	Sing	H&H	25/5
E T Ocean-VI	-	Sing	OOST	26/5

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Marnell	28/5	H Chen	Paragon	Cement	-
Sarindjerit	28/5	PSAL	PSAL	Cement	-
Golden Fish	28/5	Mong	Aqua	-	Dakar
Amittie	28/5	Mong	Aqua	-	UK Cont
Vishva Paraj	29/5	Mad	SSL	-	Dundee Harb
Safina-Najam	29/5	Kara	ASLL	C Clincker & GI	-
Fong Shim	30/5	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Ocean Voyager	30/5	S Vin	ANI	Cement	-
Karabeveret	31/5	Sing	EBFL	GI	Japa Fe
Safina-e-Ismail	31/5	Kara	ASLL	GI/GL	Karachi
Georgios-T	31/5	FEED	LTL	Wheat	-
Hang Loy	01/6	-	USTC	Cement	-
Sha He Kou	01/6	-	BDSHIP	GI	-
Youhao	02/6	-	USTC	Cement	-
Karrington	02/6	-	H&H	Cement	-
Armas	02/6	Pera	BNL	GI	-
Twin Flower	02/6	Yako	JF	GI	-
Anagel Hope	04/6	-	H&H	Cement	-
Armonia	04/6	-	OMA	For Scraping	-
NGS Ranger	04/6	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Andrian Goncharov	04/6	-	QMA	Cont	Sing
Fong Yun	05/6	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Safina-e-Rehmat	05/6	-	ASLL	GI/GL	Karachi

The above were the Thursday's (28.05.92) shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

## Price Index

### Essentials

Item	Unit	Price
RICE	(Taka per kg)	40.00-50.00
Aman(ripe)	16.50-17.50	
Majum	14.00-15.00	
VEGETABLES	(Taka per kg)	
Brinjal (local)	11.00-12.00	
Karola	6.00-8.00	
Lalshak	5.00-8.00	
Papsa	7.00-8.00	
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	4.00-6.00	
OTHER FOODGRAN	(Taka per kg)	
Flour	14.00-15.00	
Atta	10.50-11.00	
FISH	(Taka per kg)	
Rubi(big)	120.00-130.00	
Katla(big)	80.00-90.00	
Hilsa	75.00-80.00	
Pangas	110.00-115.00	
Shrimp(big)	80.00-110.00	
Sing	100.00-120.00	
Koi	110.00-120.00	
MEAT		
Beef	55.00-60.00	
Mutton	85.00-90.00	
CHICKEN		
Large	70.00-72.00	
Moderate	74.00-76.00	
Small	78.00-80.00	
TEA		
Dust (Plain)	70.00-80.00	
EGG	(4 pcs)	
Hen	11.00	
Duck	11.00	
Firm	12.00	
PULSES	(Taka per kg)	
Mashur	26.00-28.00	
Mooch	29.00-31.00	
Chholis	23.00-24.00	
Kheser	14.00-15.00	
FRUITS	(One piece)	
Green Coconut (Small)	4.00-5.00	
Mango	(Taka per kg)	
Langs	45.00-50.00	
Honey	35.00-42.00	
Coconut (Large)	8.00-10.00	
Banana (Sugar) (Large)	10.00-14.00	
Banana (Chapa)	2.50-3.50	

### Hide & Skin

Item	Unit	Price
Cow	15000	30000
Light	80000	85000
Medium	60000	70000
Heavy	70000	75000
Very heavy	80000	85000
Rejected	25000	35000
Sheep	9500	11000
Light & heavy	7500	9000
Medium	2500	4500
Rejected	8500	9900
Sheep	57000	64000

### Gold & Silver

Item	Unit	Price
Gold (Guinea)	62000	
Silver	2000	

## 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 29 and 30.

Currency	SELLING	BUYING
	B. C.	T. T. (C) O. D. TRANS-FER
US dollar	38.1326	38.9087
Poundsterling	70.1852	69.8545
DM	23.912	