

BCIC shows improved performance

Star Economic Report

The annual turnover of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) has increased by Taka 91.58 crore during the first 11 months of the current fiscal year (1991-92) compared to the corresponding period of 1990-91.

According to available figures, the overall turnover of the 23 units under BCIC stood at Taka 1215.43 crore up to May this year while it was Taka 1123.85 crore during the same period in the previous fiscal year.

One of the largest public corporations in Bangladesh BCIC is managing and operating six large and medium-sized urea factories, four paper and pulp mills, a number of other chemical units and several joint venture projects in partnership with private owners.

Output of urea, TSP, glass-sheet, insulation materials, hardboard and match-boxes have registered a marked improvement during the period compared to the previous one.

Production of urea increased by 1.70 lakh tonnes during this period. Urea output stood at 14, 79,000 tonnes during the first 11 months of the on going fiscal year while it was 13,09,000 tonnes in the corresponding period of 1990-91.

Production of TSP fertilizer also increased from 86,000 tonnes to 91,000 tonnes in the same period.

Output at the BCIC's lone glass-sheet factory, Usmania, also increased from 119 lakh square feet to 135 lakh square feet during the same period.

Production of insulation material at the Bangladesh Insulation and Sanitary-ware Factory at Mirpur also recorded a sharp rise from 341 tonnes during the first 11 months of the last fiscal year to 868 tonnes this year.

Production of hardboards has increased from 155 lakh square feet to 159 lakh square feet during the same period. Output at the only match factory, Uzala Match Factory also increased from 21 crore pieces in the first 11 months of 1990-91 to 35 crore pieces during the same period this year.

Prices of some consumer goods up

Cost of living almost static

Star Economic Report

Despite increase in the prices of some consumer products during the current financial year, the cost of living did not register a significant rise, according to figures from Bangladesh Bank and the independent monitoring agency, Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB).

But the value of Taka against Pound Sterling and US Dollar has deflated further during the year.

According to the CAB, the prices of rice, tea, sugar, edible oil, vegetables and powdered milk have gone up by 9.2 per cent, 12.26 per cent, 11.63 per cent, 13 per cent, 25.7 per cent and 13 per cent respectively during the month of May in comparison with the prices during the same month of the previous year.

The prices of tea, sugar, onion, garlic and ginger have decreased by 13 per cent, 2.5 per cent, 23 per cent, 22 per cent and 4.5 per cent respectively during the same period.

During 1990-91, the average exchange value of one Pound Sterling was Taka 57.95 and that of US Dollar was Taka 35.74. The rates have gone up to Taka 66.47 and Taka 37.88

respectively during the current year, according to Bangladesh Bank.

The cost of living increased by 8.94 per cent in 1990-91 and during the current year the rise stood at 8.03 per cent. Though the month-wise cost of living index for middle

689, 717, 649, and 622 respectively taking 1973-74 as the base year. These figures stood at 715, 743, 679 and 644 respectively during the current year showing an increase of 3.7 per cent, 3.6 per cent, 4.6 per cent and 3.5 per cent.

Of food, fuel, electricity, housing and clothing, the consumers had to pay more for fuel and electricity compared to other items.

During the current year, economists observe a rise in the salary and wages of government and non-government employees and workers which has contributed to the rise in the cost of some products and utilities.

The wage level of the government staff has increased by 27 to 52 per cent during the period from 1982-83 to 1991-92. As the largest employer in the country, the Public Sector acts as a leader in setting wages. Private firms are eventually forced to adjust the wage structure.

The wholesale price indices of agricultural and industrial products show a rise during the current year.

Run-up to the budget

class families has not been calculated, the partial figures do not show a significant rise. Independent observations also show that in most areas, like rickshaw fares, housing, clothing etc, the cost did not go up.

During the financial year of 1990-91, the general cost of living index for middle class families of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi stood at

DCCI chief for govt-opposition consensus on labour force

By Inam Ahmed

The new President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) M Yunus, views that the labour force of the country must be freed from politicisation and brought under discipline to make the economy flourish.

In an interview with The Daily Star immediately after his taking over of the post, Yunus said, the economic recovery from the nose-down situation of the past autocratic regime has been slow as the labour problem posed a big problem towards productivity.

M Yunus took over as the President of DCCI on June 8. He is a partner of Howlader Yunus & Co, a chartered ac-

countants firm and Managing Director of Howlader Yunus International Ltd. He was the President of 'South Asian Federation of Chartered Accountants' (SAFA) and Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB).

The DCCI chief blamed the past governments saying that the existing labour laws of the country which is more or less appropriate, could not be applied as the ruling parties always tried to keep the labour force on their side for political gains. As a result, the labour administration lost its effectiveness, he commented.

Yunus observes that the ruling party and the Opposition must come to a consensus not to politicise the labour force for the economic recovery. Commenting on the issue of retrenchment of labour force from the Public Sector enterprises, the new DCCI chief said without any comprehensive plan this step would not be beneficial for the economy. He supported the golden handshake plan and said more industrial units should be built for absorption of the retrenched labour force.

Talking on the investment climate of the country he commented that it was not still favourable upto the desired level. Yunus said, the legal framework for investment is quite satisfactory. However, there is still much to be done on strengthening the infras-

structure and policy formulation.

Talking on the recent reform of bank rates Yunus said, if the rates come down with the reduction of interest rate on deposits, it would bring some good to the investment sector. He, however, said, the new measures may have some adverse effect on savings of the fixed income group.

Commenting on the share market, the DCCI President said, investment in share market is necessary to make it stronger. He observed that the middle income group must be attracted towards the share market to make it humming with activities.

Courses on commerce, banking conclude

Three different courses — Foreign Trade and Foreign Exchange, Banking Laws and Practices and Personnel Administration in Banks concluded here on June 10, says a press release.

Eighty-eight officers from different banks and financial institutions participated in the courses.

The concluding sessions of the courses were presided over by A B M Mahbubul Amin Khan, Director General, BIM. He also gave away the certificates among the participants.

Fish output on decrease

MANIKGANJ, June, 14: Fish production in the district is gradually decreasing due to various reasons, reports UNB.

The reasons include lack of excavation and re-excavation of ponds, unplanned construction of dams and sluice gates and indiscriminate catching of fish fry with current nets.

Some unscrupulous people defying government ban are catching fish fry with current nets resulting in the decline of fish, informed sources said.

According to fisheries department sources, the district is facing a shortage of about 7,000 metric tons of fish annually. The Average yearly fish production in the district is only 6,000 metric tons they said adding that production may be increased to 13,000 metric tons by introducing scientific methods.

Experts here believe that fish production sharply decreased due to feeble water flow in the rivers Padma and Jamuna, Kaliganga and Ichhamati caused due to the unilateral with drawl of waters at Farakka by India.

Meanwhile, 50 per cent of government and private ponds have been brought under fish cultivation. According to a survey, water bodies in the district include 9,950 ponds of which 388 are under government control. There are five rivers and 29 beels.

Fishermen of the district complained that they are fac-

ing problems due to lack of fishing materials and non-availability of loans on easy terms.

The fisherman alleged that no initiative has so far been taken by the concerned authorities to train them up in scientific pisciculture.

About 3,000 families are now engaged in fishing occupation in the district but many of them have been compelled to give up their ancestral profession because of existing problems in the sector, local people say.

Valuables worth over Taka one lakh were looted from a house at Ghor Upazila of the district on Friday.

Witnesses said a gang of armed dacoits raided the house of Badal Thakur at Boyna Pukuria village and looted gold ornaments, watch and other valuables.

The miscreants also beat the inmates indiscriminately and decamped with the booty.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Another report adds: Police seized Indian saree worth over Taka 10,000 from a passenger bus at Aricha Ferry Terminal in Shibhalaya Upazila Saturday.

Acting on secret information, river traffic police raided a Dhaka bound bus from Khulna (No Jessore-VA-812) and recovered the contraband goods.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 14.06.92

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Banglar Banri	Wheat	Call	J.BSC	R/A	17/6
J/3	Mazhdurechenesk	Cement	Sing	PSAL	5/6	17/6
J/4	Armas	GI	Peria	OWSL	8/6	19/6
J/6	Kopalnia Rydulowy	Seeds	Sing	Royal	5/6	16/6
J/7	Optima	Cont	Sing	RSL	12/6	16/6
J/8	Al Fesari	Bunker (Repair)	Seacom		5/6	15/6
J/9	Shaplaeverett	GI	Sing	EBPL	6/6	16/6
J/10	Sarinderjit	Cement	Tlgi	PSAL	30/5	17/6
J/11	Banglar Aaha	Wheat	Call	BSC	R/A	18/6
J/12	Tanary Star	Urea	Mong	PSAL	31/5	18/6
J/13	CGM Bretagne	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	9/6	16/6
MPB/1	I Yamburenko	Cont	Sing	CT	8/6	14/6
MPB/2	Kota Rakayat	Cont	Sing	CTS	9/6	15/6
CCJ	Safina - e - Najam	C Clink	Col	ASLL	30/5	16/6
GSJ	Lito	Wheat	Naat	JF	9/6	15/6
TSP	Consensus Wave	R Subj	Juba	SSST	12/6	20/6
RM/4	Olga-1	Cement	Sing	USTC	27/5	18/6
RM/5	Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	Sing	BSC	R/A	16/6
RM/6	Pearl One	Bunker	Yang	Cross	7/6	
DD	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	Sing	BSC	R/A	18/6
DD/1	Endurance Sea	Repair	Aqaba	EOSL	25/1	18/6
RM/8	Ronjay Choomie	Cement	Sing	MSA	27/5	19/6
RM/9	Banglar Mamata	Repair	Sing	BSC	R/A	17/6
CURJ	Al Tahir	Urea	Mong	RSL	10/6	16/6

Vessels Due at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
North Cape	14/6	OTL	Scrap	
G Eorge	14/6	Sing	Bright	Cement
Seyang Ace	14/6	Bus	Prog	GI
Yousha	14/6	USC	Cement	
Golden Fish	15/6	Mong	AQUA	Dakar
A S Okan	15/6	Turk	BSC	GI
Banglar Sampad	15/6	Mong	BSC	Ballast
Moulavi	16/6	Sing	SSL	GI
Fong Shin	16/6	Sing	BDSHP	Cont
Chong Chon Gang	17/6	Mong	RRSA	Urea
Karrington	17/6	H & H	Cement	
Eastern Breeze	17/6	Mong	RRSA	Jute goods
Sea Glory	17/6	Prog	GI	
Hang Loy	17/6	USC	Cement	
Amitie	17/6	Mong	Aqua	UK
Kota Buana	17/6	Sing	CTS	Sing
Ronjay Victory	18/6	PSAL	Urea	
Safina - e - Rehmat	18/6	ASLL	GI/GL	Karachi
Al Salma	18/6	ASLL	GI/GL	
Ohmady	18/6	PSAL	Salt	
Smolny	18/6	Col	BSC	GI
Bowalla	18/6	Mong	RSL	Cont
Chestnut Hill	19/6	BSL	Wheat	Sing
Andrian Goncharov	19/6	CT	Cont	Sing
Knud Jespersen	20/6	CT	Cont	Sing
Q H Cheng	20/6	Shanghai	BDSHP	GI
Yannis-II	21/6	PSAL	GI	
Sam Houston	22/6	Karna		
A Megacarrrier Two	23/6	Sing	BDSHP	Cont
Mehedinti	24/6	BSL	GI	Sing
Banglar Kallol	28/6	BSC	GI	

Tanker Due

Bunga Sealth	25/6	Seacom	CDSO
--------------	------	--------	------

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
T T Energy	C Oil	Call	NNL	27/4

Vessels at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Andromache Horn	Cont	Col	RSL	14/6
	GI	Hong	Prog	14/6

Vessels not Ready

Sea Destiny	Cement	Pada	AML	8/6
Anangul Hope	Cement	Sing	H & H	11/6
Hang Fook	Cement	Viah	MSA	13/6

Vessels Awaiting Instruction

Martin	GI	Sing		11/6
Banglar Kiron		Sing	BSC	12/6

Vessels Not Entering

Alyn	Cement	Sing	Alamin	R/A(18/9)
Red Deer		Sing	OTL	R/A(26/11)
Mild Win	Scrap	Bank	UMAL	18/5
Bath Bay	Scrap	Kawa	OTL	21/5
Maulin	Scrap	Sing	UMAL	26/5
Imperial	Scrap	Sing	OTL	6/6
Armonia	Scrap	Sing	OMA	6/6
Nehaj	Scrap	Sing	IBA	10/6
Be Gae Bong	Cement	Sing	PSAL	11/6
Borb Cavrenov				

Movement of Vessels for 15/6/1992

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/8	Al Fesari	J/1
MPB-2	Kota Rakayat	RM-5
GSJ	Lito	Anangul Hope
		Banglar Shourabh
		to RM-6

The above were the Sunday's (14.06.92) shipping positions and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on June 14, 1992

Star Economic Report

Business declines sharply

Business was dull on the floor of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Sunday, the first day after the Eid Holidays. The number of shares traded fell sharply to nine from previous day's 20. While turnover in value terms declined to Tk 223,745.00 from previous day's Tk 453,690.00, recording a fall of more than 50%, turnover in volume declined from 15,520 to a meagre 2,425, which records a fall of more than 84%.

However, eight of the shares which were traded on the floor were gainers, while only one exchanged hand at previous quoted prices.

The DSE Composite Price Index rose slightly from 308.5613 to 309.0685. Market capitalization also rose slightly from 8,826,129,110.00 to 8,840,638,582.00.

THE DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE All share Price Index	309.0685
Market Capitalization (Tk)	8,840,638,582.00
Turnover (in value Tk)	223,745
Turnover (in volume)	2,425

Company	FV/ML	Previous day's price Tk	Closing price Tk	Change (Absolute) Tk	Change (% over previous price)
---------	-------	-------------------------	------------------	----------------------	--------------------------------

Gains (08)					
Shares:					
BGIC	100/10	140.50	145.00	4.50	3.203
BD That Aluminium	100/10	104.88	108.00	3.12	2.975
Renwick Jaineswar	100/5	77.50	78.46	0.96	1.238
Ambee Pharma	100/50	17.90	20.00	2.10	11.731
Kohinoor Chemical	100/5	86.00	88.00	2.00	2.325
Progressive Plastic	100/5	69.00	74.50	5.50	7.971
Beximco	100/100	16.75	17.00	0.25	1.492
Chittagong Cement	100/5	283.23	285.00	1.78	0.628

Traded at previous quoted prices (01)
Shares: Atlas Bangladesh

SHARES & DEBENTURES LISTED WITH DSE

Company	FV/ML Tk	Mutual Jute	100/5	105.00
BANKS (10)				
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	1190.00		
A.B Bank	100/5	188.00		
City Bank	100/5	275.00		
I.F.C	100/5	175.00		
Islami Bank	1000/1	1515.00		
National Bank	100/5	106.00		
Pubali Bank	100/5	105.00		
Rupali Bank	100/10	81.00		
U.C.B.L	100/5	122.00		
Uttara Bank	100/5	125.00		

PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEMICALS (16)				
Ambee Pharma	100/50	20.00		
Bangla Process	100/5	68.00		
BCIL	100/10	150.00		
Beximco Pharma	100/5	335.00		
Glaxo	100/50	125.00		
ICL	100/50	10.00		
Kohinoor Chemical	100/5	88.00		
Petro Synthetic	100/50	17.75		
Pfizer	100/5	110.00		
Pharma Aids	100/5	171.00		
Pharmaco	100/5	58.00		
Progressive Plastic	100/5	74.50		
Reckitt & Colman	100/50	110.00		
Rahman Chemicals	100/10	4.58		
Therapeutics	100/5	100.00		
The Ibtisna	100/10	92.00		

INVESTMENT (08)			I C I		
ICB	100/5	79.00	Kohinoor Chemical	100/5	88.00
1st ICB M.Fund	100/5	350.00	Petro Synthetic	10/50	17.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	153.00	Pfizer	100/5	110.00
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5	140.00	Pharma Aids	100/5	171.00
4th ICB M.Fund	100/10	140.00	Pharmaco	100/5	56.00
5th ICB M. Fund	100/10	88.00	Progressive Plastic	100/5	74.00
6th ICB M. Fund	100/10	61.88	Reckitt & Colman	10/50	110.00
ICB Unit Cert.			Rahman Chemicals	100/10	4.00
Sales Price	116.00,		Therapeutics	100/5	100.00