

Appeal to WB, EEC to provide CIS with credit

Collapse of Soviet Union downs tea export

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, June 17: Bangladesh tea has been hard hit this season in the world market as dull trading continued to persist in the weekly tea auctions held here that sent the both growers and merchants worried, market sources said.

The growers and traders of Bangladesh tea are now locked into an odd situation triggered by the fall of USSR as most of the tea auctions out of eight held so far this season registered a decline in average tea price with a heavy withdrawal of around 50 per cent due to the absence of buyers from Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), brokers said.

Besides, the less export enquiry from other foreign buyers in the face of price competition with the tea of Malawi, Kenya, Sri Lanka and India, had aggravated the sale position of Bangladesh tea, the second cash crop after jute, sources added.

According to market reports, this season average auction price recorded around Tk 43 per kg as against Tk 45 per kg during the same period in the last season. Apart from these the average export price

this year recorded at Tk. 52 per kg down from Tk 57 in the corresponding period last year, a Tea Board source said.

The sluggish trading of Bangladesh tea forced down its export alarmingly posing a bleak future.

According to reports available from the government owned Bangladesh Tea Board, in the 11 months from July '91 to May '92 Bangladesh exported 23.09 million kg of tea worth Taka 120 crore down 12 per cent from the same period, a year earlier. In the 11 months upto May of last fiscal year Bangladesh exported 26 million kg worth Taka 150 crore, reports said.

However, tea officials and traders attributed the shrinkage of exports of Bangladesh tea specially to the split of USSR, dislocation by Gulf war, abolition of barter and STAs and overall global economic recession.

CIS countries, top traditional markets for Bangladesh tea, failed to send buyers in most of the auctions held so far in the port city and local merchants feared that they would remain absent at some

next weeks.

Iraq, one of the top buyers of Bangladesh tea is still barred to attend the tea auctions here under economic sanction imposed upon it.

Meanwhile, the slump in tea trading and export prompted the Bangladesh Tea Growers Association to appeal to the Government for asking EEC and World Bank to provide credit facility like commodity loans to CIS countries on long term basis with the stipulation that such loans would be utilised to buy tea and other essential commodities from the least developed countries like Bangladesh, sources said.

An official of Bangladesh Tea Board said the authority was preparing to propose to EEC and World Bank to provide the CIS countries with such credit money for tea imports from the least developed countries specially from Bangladesh. The proposal is expected to be finalised in the next coordination meeting of the Tea Board, the official added.

Growers fear that they would land up with the increased crop without buyers if

the government failed to take any pragmatic measure to salvage the sinking tea sector.

The outgoing Chairman of Bangladesh Tea Board, Foyaz Ahmed said, "Unless proper emphasis is given to export of Bangladesh tea by the government it would be impossible on the part of exporters to find new avenues to export tea individually." Foyaz suggested that all Bangladesh embassies abroad be made more active with their economic counsellors to find new markets avenues for disposal of Bangladesh tea.

Turning to nonparticipation of buyers from CIS countries to Bangladesh tea auctions an informed source said, their currency were yet to be stabilized in addition to shortage of cash-flow.

An authoritative source of Bangladesh Tea Board informed that a trade delegation would be sent to CIS countries by the end of July in a bid to explore tea markets. Moreover, marketing drive are expected to be made in some other countries including Pakistan soon to boost the tea export, the sources added.

Reconstruction of embankments in progress

COX'S BAZAR, June 17: Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majidul Haq Tuesday visited reconstruction work of coastal embankments at Kutubdia, Moheshkhali and Cox's Bazar to see the progress of work being done under Food for Works Programmes, reports BSS.

The Minister was apprised that the reconstruction of 28 km coastal embankment at Kutubdia financed by Saudi government at cost of Taka 25 crore and a 12 km embankment under Special Food for Works Programme was in progress about 1000 tons of wheat was allocated in this purpose.

Fed Chairman favours to link interest rate and inflation

WASHINGTON, June 17: Tying the interest rate on US Treasury securities to inflation may save taxpayers' money and help the Federal Reserve plan monetary policy, but the proposal faces many hurdles, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan said Tuesday, reports AP.

The central bank chief, appearing before a House subcommittee, said he is attracted by the potential benefits of inflation-indexed Treasury securities, but pointed out a number of possible problems.

"Changing the composition of federal debt issuance is not a matter to be taken lightly," he said.

Theoretically, the government could pay less interest if investors knew they would be protected from unexpected inflation surges. They would be paid the inflation rate plus several percentage points.

According to economics professor William Poole of Brown University the government could have saved 50 billion dollar to 100 billion dollar

Dhaka seeks more ADB help

State Minister for Establishment Md Nurul Huda met the Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Kimimasa Taramizu at ADB headquarter here Tuesday, reports BSS from Manila.

Huda apprised the President under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia came to power, overthrowing autocratic government, through a historic free, fair and peaceful election.

To materialise the verdict of the people he said, the present government under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister was keen to implement the people-oriented programmes so that the lot of the common people would improve.

During the meeting all the three Vice Presidents of ADB, two alternate Executive Direc-

tors of ADB, and Charge d' Affaires of Bangladesh Embassy, among others, were present.

In the last leg of the State Minister's visit to different countries to gather information and experiences for administrative reforms in Bangladesh, he is now in Manila to know about the administrative structures of the Philippines.

Earlier, he called on the Acting Foreign Minister of the Philippine at the latter's official chamber and exchanged views on mutual interests between Bangladesh and the Philippines.

Prior to it, he visited France, United States and Japan. He will also visit Thailand for this purpose.



A DISGUISED POTENTIAL: Canes (Mustak) seen growing in abundance at Baliakandi, Rajbari. Modern techniques of cultivation can enhance the production of these canes, used to produce mats (patee). These mats are of versatile use now-a-days and contributing increasingly to our export earnings. — Star photo

US Senate votes for reducing dependence on imported oil

WASHINGTON, June 17: The Senate Finance Committee voted on Tuesday to give a tax break to independent oil and gas producers, bringing Congress closer to adopting a national energy policy designed to reduce US dependence on imported oil, reports Reuter.

Committee members approved an estimated one billion US dollar in tax relief through 1997 for independent producers, known as "wildcaters" by a 14-6 vote.

Enactment of a national energy strategy has been a priority of the Bush Administration and some Congressional leaders. But the House of Representatives and Senate have passed slightly different energy bills.

The action by the Senate Finance Committee, which modified the tax provisions of the house bill, moved the issue a step closer to the point where the two chambers can negotiate a compromise bill.

Oil industry experts said the provision would dramatically improve depressed US drilling activity. We should see a big increase in the ring count and people being put back to work.

'Labour, skills shortage may hit industrialisation'

KUALA LUMPUR, June 17: Malaysia's aim of becoming an industrialised nation by the year 2020 will be derailed if the government fails to tackle the country's labour and skills shortage, foreign investors said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Ernest Zuilliger, President of the Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MICCCI), said Malaysia would lose out to countries like Mexico, which is becoming its major competitor in attracting investment.

A shortcoming in producing people with the knowledge and skills required to absorb new technologies would put at risk the nation's aspiration of becoming fully industrialised by 2020. Zuilliger said at an international economic conference here.

The 154-year old MICCCI represents 640 foreign investors from 29 countries who have combined net investments of 63 billion Malaysian dollars (24 billion US) in Malaysia that have helped fuel five years of economic boom.

Zuilliger said at a time when competition was becoming more tough and more global, education and training should be the cornerstone of

Malaysia's future move towards a new level of industrialisation based on value added products.

Shortage of human resources and skills are already felt today. It is therefore crucial to allow the industrial and service sectors to recruit foreigners until we have developed sufficient number of Malaysians, he said.

Investments in education and adaptation of educational programme must be considered as a national priority, he said.

Zuilliger said foreign investments were crucial to ensure Malaysia's economic growth, access to latest technologies, inputs for value added production as well as to secure export markets.

A report recently released by Bank Negara, Malaysia's central bank said foreign investments in 1990 and 1991 contributed nine billion dollars (3.6 billion US) to the balance of payments.

The report, published today said authorities should examine Japan conduct in areas such as after-hours deal-

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Caution against risks of deregulation

TOKYO, June 17: The Ministry of Finance (MOF) issued a caution about new risks in international finance as a result of the deregulation of global markets, reports Reuter.

An MOF official told reporters there was no alternative to promoting further liberalisation and deregulation.

"But at the same time a kind of risk has emerged", he said in response to a report by the sub-committee of interna-

tional financial transactions which urged Japanese authorities to examine customs and rules in Tokyo financial markets.

"The committee said we should pay more attention to the emergence of risk from globalisation."

The report, published today said authorities should examine Japan conduct in areas such as after-hours deal-

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 17.06.92

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Local Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Seayang Ace	GI	Inch	PSAL	14/6	19/6
J/3	Mezdurechensk	Cement	Sing	PSAL	5/6	19/6
J/4	Armas	GI	Pena	OWSL	8/6	20/6
J/5	Horn	GI	Hong	Prog	14/6	18/6
J/6	Kopainia Ryduytov	M. Seeds	Sing	Royal	5/6	19/6
J/7	Andromache	Cont	Col	RSL	14/6	18/6
J/8	Olga-1	Cement	Sing	USTC	27/5	20/6
DD	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	29/6
DDJ/1	Endurance Sea	Repair	Aqaba	EOSL	25/1	22/6
RM/8	Ronjay Choomie	Cement	Sing	MSA	27/5	20/6
RM/9	Banglar Mamata	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	18/6
CUFJ	Al Tafair	Urea	Mong	KSL	10/6	17/6

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Last Port Arrival	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
New Genlord 13/6	17/6	Mong	BDShip	Cont
Hang Loy	17/6	-	USTC	Cement
Amite	17/6	Mong	Aqua	UK Cont
Kota Buana 8/6	17/6	Sing	CTS	Cont
Kum Gang	17/6	Indo	MSA	Cement
Armetis-1	18/6	-	Bright	Cement
Al Salma	18/6	Bang	ASLL	GI/GL
Bervalla 10/6	18/6	Mong	RSL	Cont
Golden Fish	18/6	Mong	Aqua	-
Piya-1	19/6	Pena	H&H	Cement
Chong Chon Gang	19/6	Mong	RRSA	-
Nityrade	19/6	Cal	Ancient	GI
NCS Ranger 14/6	23/6	Sing	BDShip	Cont
Safina-e-Rehmat	23/6	Kara	ASLL	GI/GL
Abotitz Megacarrier 2	24/6	Cal	BDShip	Cont
Mehedint	24/6	Colm	BSS	GI
Adelavevert	24/6	-	EBPL	GI
Jala Gobinda 15/6	24/6	-	SSL	E/L
Yannis-II	24/6	-	PSAL	GI
A S Okan	25/6	Turk	BSC	GI
Smotny	25/6	Col	BSA	GI
I.Yamburenko 16/6	25/6	-	BT	Cont
Banglar Kallol	28/6	-	CSC	GI

TANKER DUE

Neptune Antia	19/6	Sing	MSPH HSD/JP-1
Hikari Orient	20/6	R.Tant	ESCL Crude Oil
Global Jupiter	22/6	-	TSL CPO
Bunga Selasih	25/6	-	Seacom CDSO

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

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

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Sea Glory	GI	Sing	Prog	18/6
Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDShip	17/6

VESSELS NOT READY

Hang Fook	Cement	Viah	MSA	13/6
George	Cement	Sing	Bright	15/6

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Banglar Kiron	Repair	-	BSC	12/6
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VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Alyn	Cement	Sing	Alumin	R/A(18/9)
Reed Deer	-	Sing	OTL	R/A(26/4)
Mild Win	Scrapping	Bank	UMAL	16/5
Maullin	Scrapping	Sing	UMAL	26/5
Imperial	Scrapping	Sing	OTL	6/6
North Cape	Scrapping	Pira	OTL	15/6
Bafn Bay	Scrapping	Kawa	OTL	21/5
Nehaj	Scrapping	Col	BBA	10/6
Boris Lavrenyov	Cement	Shin	PSAL	10/6

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 18.6.1992

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/5 Horn	J/13 Kota Buana	J/9 Banglar Samped
J/13 Andromache	MPB/2 Benballa	
MPB/2 New Genlord	MPB/1 Fong Shin	To RM/9
RM/9 Banglar Mamata	J/7 Sea Glory	
	J/2 Al Salma	

The above were the Wednesday's (17.06.92) shipping positions and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Price Index

June-17

Essentials	FRUITS	(One piece)
RICE (Taka per kg)	Green Coconut (Small)	5.00-6.00
Amratifine	Coconut (Large)	6.00-7.00
14.00-17.00	Mango:	(Taka per kg)
14.00-15.00	Langra	40.00-45.00
Pajam	Himsagar	30.00-40.00
11.00-12.00	(One piece)	
Potato (local)	Jackfruit	5.00-8.00
6.00-8.00	Banana:	15.00-40.00
Karolla	Banana:	(4 pieces)
6.00-7.00	Sagar (Large)	8.00-10.00
Lolshak	Champa	2.50-3.00
3.00-4.00	(Taka per kg)	
Papya	Dates	45.00-50.00
6.00-8.00	Oil	(Taka per litre)
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	Mustard	54.00-56.00
4.00-5.00	Soyabean	39.00-40.00
10.50-11.00	Coconut (Colombo)	95.00-100.00
Atta	Vegetable Ghee (1kg)	48.00-50.00
14.00-14.50	SPICES	(Taka per kg)
FISH	Onion (local)	9.00-10.00
Rubi(big)	Garlic (local)	26.00-32.00
120.00-130.00	Chilies (dry)	80.00-90.00
Katla(big)	Chilies (local)	36.00-48.00
110.00-120.00	Turnerid (Round)	50.00-56.00
Hilsa	(Long)	56.00-60.00
48.00-50.00	Green chilies	8.00-10.00
Pompo	Ginger	15.00-16.00
90.00-100.00	Cinnamon (10gm)	3.00-3.50
Shrimp(big)	Cardamom (10gm) (small)	8.00-9.00
120.00-130.00	Shin (50gm)	8.00-9.00
Sing	MILK	(Two kg)
120.00-140.00	Dano	31.00
Koi	Red-Cow	31.00
130.00-140.00	MISCELLANEOUS	(Taka per kg)
MEAT	Ghee	230.00-240.00
Beef	Sab	7.00-7.50
60.00	Sugar	27.00-27.50
Mutton		
85.00-90.00		
CHEESEN		
Large		
68.00-70.00		
Moderate		
72.00-74.00		
Small		
76.00-78.00		
TEA		
Dust (Plain)		
70.00-80.00		
BEGG		
(4 pos)		
11.00		
Den		
11.50-12.00		
Firm		
11.50-12.00		
PULSES		
Mashur		
27.00-28.00		
Mogh		
30.00-31.00		
Chulra		
23.00-24.00		
Chesur		
11.00-12.00		

Source: Department of Agriculture marketing

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 June 17.

Currency	SELLING B.C.	(Figures in Taka)	BUYING T.T. (C)	O.D. TRANS-FER
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339	
Poundsterling	72.9226	72.5732	72.0965	
DM	25.0320	24.8729	24.6972	
FF	7.4333	7.3894	7.3372	
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042	10.3307	
S Outiders	22.2243	21.0846	21.9286	
S Kroner	6.9298	6.8840	6.8354	
Singapore Dollar	24.1098	24.9718	23.8025	
US\$ Dirham	10.6911	10.6299	10.5548	
Indian Rupee	135.5006	134.7253	133.7737	
Kuwait Dirham	1.5076	1.5008	1.4933	
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.5593	1.5451	1.5374	

Authorised dealers will apply T T clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladeshis working abroad.

Note: AMU-Asian Monetary Union.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on June 17, 1992

Star Economic Report

Massive trading!

The day's trading at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) met with a record number of stocks taking part in transactions. The last highest record of this year stood at 49 which appeared in early March's trading. Out of 50 stocks only three traded at their previously quoted prices, the rest appeared as gainers meaning losers were no where hear the floor.

Business continued to rise in terms of volume which marked an increase of 21.54 per cent from 52,119 papers on Tuesday to 63,347. Transactions in value terms declined whose loss recorded, though very slight, at 5.14 per cent from Tk 3,383,662.00 on Tuesday to Tk 3,209,643.00.

The DSE All Share Price Index jumped from 312.7472 on Tuesday to 322.6991, a gain of 9.952 points.

THE DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE All Share Price Index	322.6991
Market Capitalization (Tk)	9,230,528,779.00
Turnover in value (Tk)	3,209,643.00
Turnover (in volume)	63,347

Company	FV/MIL	Previous day's price Tk	Closing Price Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change (% over Previous price)
Gains (47)					
Usmaria Glass	100/5	278.15	300.00	21.85	7.855
Singer Bangladesh	100/5	1430.00	1450.00	20.00	1.399
3rd ICB M Fund	100/5	140.00	158.70	18.70	13.357
Rahman Chemicals	100/10	46.22	61.00	14.78	31.977
Pharma Aids	100/5	175.00	188.89	13.89	7.937
Howlader Pvc	100/10	99.67	113.33	13.66	13.705
Chittagong Cement					