

TSP sale falls by 1.28 pc due to unplanned import.

A major segment of TSP imported by BADC and the private sector now remain unsold due to massive and unplanned import of the item, reports UNB.

The production at TSP complex, an enterprise of BCIC, had to also be slowed down during 1991-92.

Officials told UNB that from July through June, 1991-92, BADC imported 3,18,632 tons of TSP of which 1,18,545 tons were sold to private distributors from the ship at ports and 2,02,129 tons were despatched to BADC stores.

BCIC apprehended that it is essential to regulate import of TSP taking cognizance of indigenous production at BCIC enterprise and demand in the country.

Actual sale of TSP during 1991-92 was 4,56,672 tons against 5,14,761 during 1990-91 representing a drop of 58,089 tons, 11.28 per cent.

Despite drop in sales of TSP, the import has reached all time high during 1991-92. BADC imported 3,18,632 tons and private imported 1,47,033 tons totaling 4,65,677 tons during 1991-92.

Chittagong TSP complex can produce 1,52,000 tons annually when the actual import of TSP 4,56,677 tons exceeds the total sale of TSP in the country which is about 4,56,672 tons per year.

IBL exports industrial batteries

Industrial Batteries Limited (IBL), a subsidiary of Rahimafrooz Batteries Limited, has recently exported components of industrial batteries to Thailand, says a Press release.

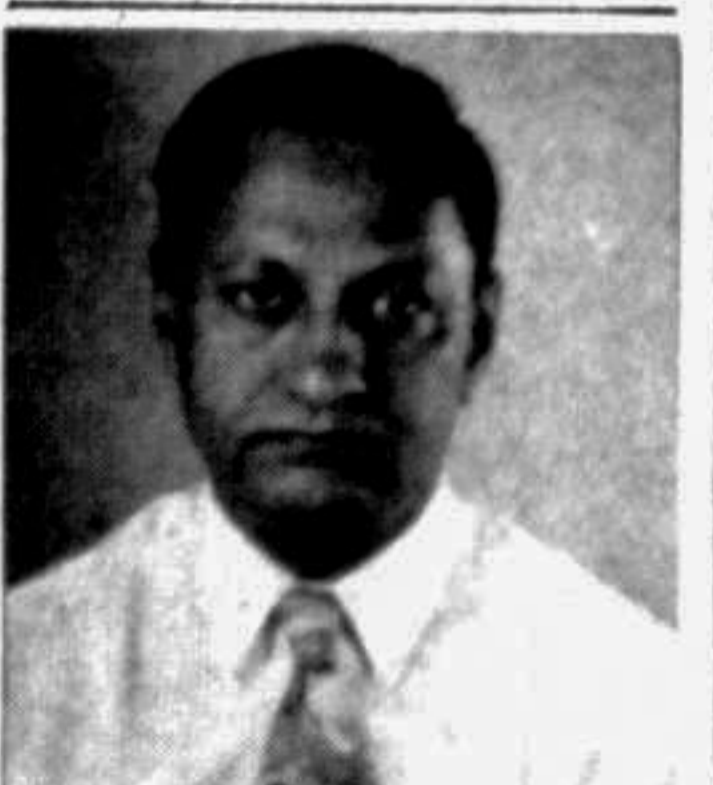
This is the first ever export of its type from Bangladesh. These industrial batteries are mainly used in telecommunication system, railways, power stations and sub-stations, forklifts and other electrical vehicles.

Rahimafrooz produces more than hundred types of lead-acid batteries for different applications with capacities from 4AH to 2200 AH. The company is also considering other export enquiries.

Success of a farmer in producing guava

MAGURA, July 27: A farmer of Nizandault village of sadar thana has achieved extraordinary success in producing quality guava in large quantity. Agriculture officials said here, reports UNB.

Ashrafur Islam Manu Munshi, produced nine tons of Kazi peara (guava) worth about Taka 90,000 on 1.50 acres of land last year.



Sincere efforts needed to attract foreign investment

Commentary

Abu Ahmed
Guest Columnist

Those days are long gone when the governments of underdeveloped countries used to think that the foreign firms do not really help create income and employment, rather, reap the 'rent' at the expense of their economies. Virtually all of those countries are now in competition for more foreign private investment, no matter what conditions the foreign firms impose.

In order to attract more foreign direct investment, many underdeveloped countries eased import restrictions in very liberal ways, reduced tax levy and did away with most of the restrictions on remittance. Yet many of these countries are getting less and less foreign investment compared to what they got ten years back when competition for foreign private investment was not that intense. Those who won the confidence of foreign investors by offering various concessions and a conducive social atmosphere are lucky.

The run for foreign direct investment has accelerated in recent years to make up the shortfall created by shrinkage of aid from official channel. Poor countries until now depended heavily on the government to government aid which is known as Official Development Assistance (ODA). But the amount of this type of aid was always limited. Former socialist countries are now also competing for this aid. There is no hope for increased ODA for — the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America — in the coming days.

The ODA flows to public sector, which in many developing countries are beset with inefficiency and corruption. Irony is that, much of the aid remains un-utilised in these countries due to shortage of local counter funds. On the other hand, in many of

these countries the burden of economic development is increasingly being left to private sector which work under market mechanism. This contradicts the purpose of aid through official sources.

A part of the ODA is also diverted to private sectors at later stages through government-sponsored institutions. But this diverted money is not enough for the rapidly growing private sectors. Unfortunately, the diverted aid, in most cases, turns into bad loan. Borrowers from private sector think that the government gets the borrowed money at a very low cost from abroad.

Bangladesh is a glaring example in this respect. Over years, a huge amount of foreign aid was channelled to private sector borrowers through govt intermediation, but a bulk of those money turned into bad debt. The government either had to repay the loan from its own funds or had to get it converted into grant.

Government recently conceded huge concessions to defaulting borrowers to recover the stuck-up loan. The measure, however, did not bring much success. At the moment, the state run financial institutions which acted as intermediaries are passing the days without much work as there is no fresh supply of money from abroad.

This mechanism for funding private sector projects with foreign capital is a misfit in a system of market mechanism. It frees private sector entrepreneurs from risks. The government takes all the risks on their behalf. The donors too feel confident if the government acts as the guarantor of loans, though at the end, they too make further concession and write off the total loans.

This way, neither a poor aid-seeking country receives enough loan from abroad, nor the donor countries can help

create a demand in that country which they want for other purposes. The better and more mutual way to tie the domestic market with external markets for foreign capital inflow will be more effective. If the market is opened to external capital inflow, then return on capital will determine the amount of capital that a country attract. Movement of capital among various factors of production is virtually free and responds better to the variations in returns.

Bangladesh, failed to offer a conducive atmosphere for foreign investment, though it opened its markets for a long time. Capital is also the most sensitive factor of production as it always responds negatively to a disorderly situation very quickly. Bangladesh is unlucky in this case, because, it has a socio-political situation where foreigners are reluctant to take risk. Political leaders bear the major responsibility of putting this situation in a right perspective, because, their provocative stand on many issues in the past made the situation worse.

Many international agencies like International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank has undertaken various types of assistance programmes, countries such as Foreign Investment Advisory Service (FIAS), to help inflow of foreign direct investment to developing countries. Bangladesh should take help from such services. But before that it must put its markets and social atmosphere in right order.

Capital flows through capital market, but here it is absent. Our neighbours are doing everything possible to broaden their capital markets. The IFC has opened its services in forty countries to help them with foreign direct investments. Bangladesh is not one of them. It is sad that we are missing this golden opportunity.



Ola Adefemiwa, High Commissioner of Nigeria to Bangladesh calls on Mahbubur Rahman, President of FBCCI on Thursday at the chamber office. They discuss matters of bilateral trade, strengthening of cooperation through joint collaboration, especially in agriculture and agro-based industries including jute industries.

Employers re-elect Anis Ud Dowla President

M Anis Ud Dowla, Chairman of ICI Group of Companies in Bangladesh and Advanced Chemical Industries Ltd has been re-elected as the President of Bangladesh Employers' Association for the year 1992-93 at its 41st Annual General Meeting, held on July 30 says a Press release.

Well-known for managerial dynamism, Dowla has wide experience in the field of industrial relations. He represented Bangladesh in the International Labour Conference several times and participated in various symposia on labour matters and social issues.

He was also the President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka for 1976-77 term.

Syed Manzur Elahi, Chairman, Apex Group of Industries has been elected as the new Vice-President of the Association for the year 1992-93. Elahi is a leading industrialist of the country. He was also the president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka for 1990-91, term.

Other Members of the Managing Committee are: Iftikharul Alam, Syed Mohsen Ali, F Azim, G M Chowdhury, Malcolm Fry Rashid-ul Haque, R A Howlader, Zeaul Huq M Moshed Khan and Salman F Rahman.

Slight fall in rice price, fish still dear

By Staff Correspondent

Prices of coarse and fine rice have come down slightly at the wholesale market of the city from the last week while the price of the medium types of rice remained the same.

The price of irri which was between Taka 400 and 410 last week has stood at Taka 380 to 390 per maund. The price of fine rice, Chinigura, which was Taka 970 last week has come down to 930 to 935 per maund.

Prices of the medium types like Kataribhogh, remaining the same costs Taka 650 to Taka 670 per maund while the prices of Zhingasahti stood at

Taka 500, Patjam at 480 to 500, Lata at 460 to 480.

According to wholesalers at Isadamtoli of the old city, the price of the coarse rice was high in the last few weeks due to incessant rainfall. Rainfall influences the existing rice supply system.

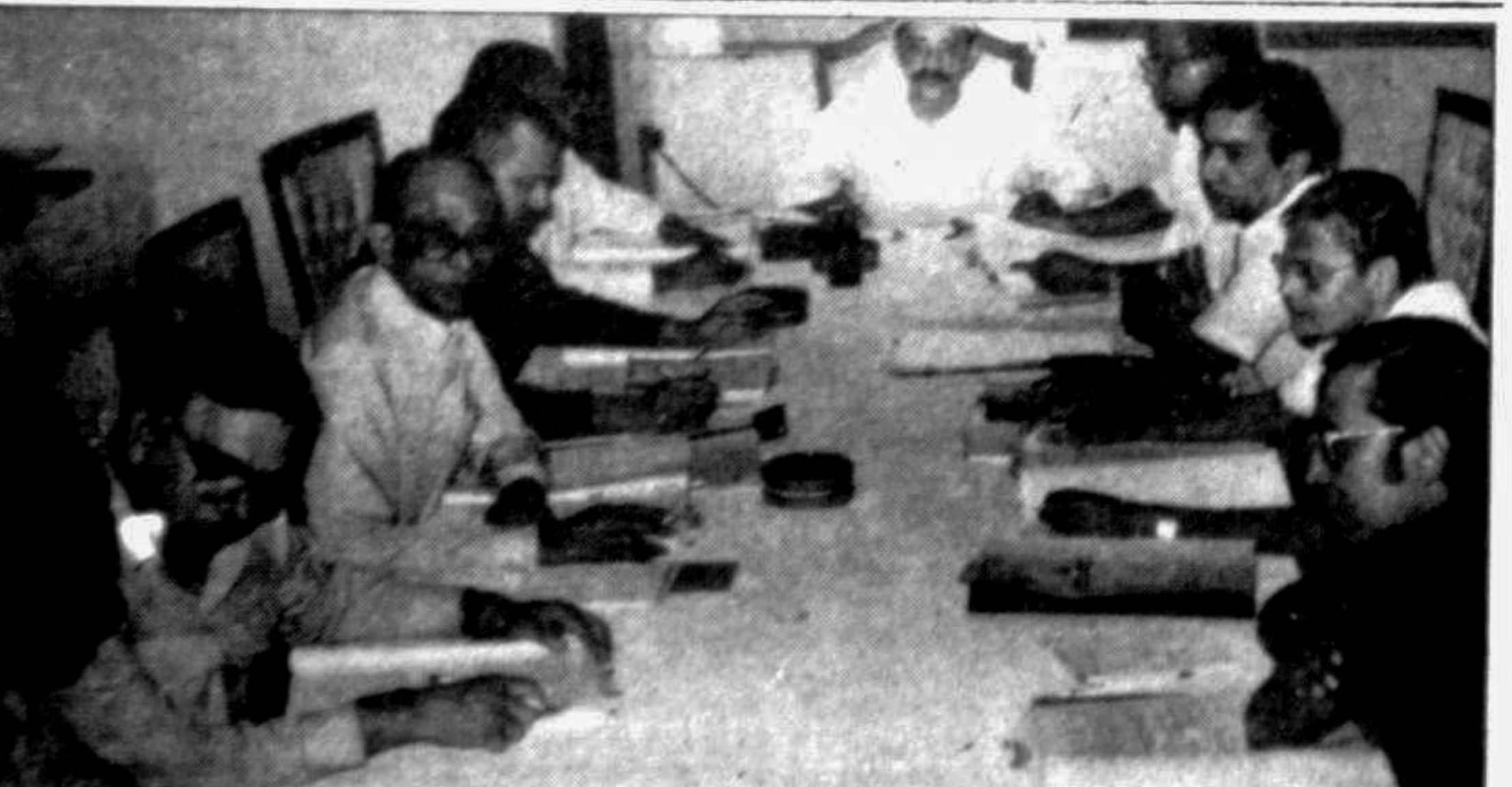
"Since most of the days of the last week were sunny," wholesalers said Friday, "suppliers found it convenient to send rice in large quantity. But the price would not fall further," they added.

Similarly, supply of fine rice also increased in the last few days. "But the prices of rice are higher than the last year."

Some wholesalers said the price went up because the prices of fertilizers, pesticides, diesel and agriculture machinery also went up.

"I think the production of rice this year will be better," an old wholesaler said, "but farmers had to invest a lot to drive away pests which were rather unusually high in number this year."

"We have stock of some types of rice which was more in quantity than the existing demand," informed a wholesaler. "For which, some types of rice are losing their quality."



Sardar Sakhawat Hussain Bakul, Chairman, Board of Directors of ICB presiding over the meeting of the Board on July 30. MM Nurul Haque, Managing Director is also seen in the picture.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 30/7/92

Berth No	Name of Vessel	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Ronjay Victory	Cement	Stng	PSAL	16/7	2/8
J/4	Banglar Gourab	GI	Pena	BSC	18/8	1/8
J/5	Samudra Raj	GI	Kara	SSL	15/7	31/7
J/6	Al Swamruz	GI	Stng	ASLL	18/7	31/7
J/7	Jiang Cheng	GI/GL	S Hai	BDShip	22/7	31/7
J/8	Continent-1	GI	Pena	CLA	25/7	01/8
J/11	Ronjay Choomie	Urea	Mong	PSAL	10/7	31/7
J/13	Harmen Oldendorff	Fert	Mobile	SSST	17/7	05/8
MBP/1	I Yamurenko	Cont	Stng	CT	26/7	30/7
GCJ	Banglar Asha	Repair	Stng	BSC	R/A	30/7
OSJ	Ocean Earth	Cement	Stng	Sunshine	19/7	03/8
TSP	Samudra Shamrat	Repair	Col	SSL	1/7	05/8
RM/4	Nan Du Jian	Cement	Chin	MSA	25/6	4/8
RM/5	Nina	SKO/HSD	Libe	MSPL	29/7	31/7
RM/6	Tenyoshi Maru-4	L Oil	Indo	NWSL	28/7	31/7
DDJ	Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	Indo	BSC	R/A	30/7
DDJ	Banglar Baant	Repair	Indo	BSC	R/A	5/8
DDJ/1	Endurance Sea	Repair	Arqba	Libe	25/1	5/8
DDJ/2	Banglar Shampad	Repair	Indo	BSC	R/A	4/8
RM/9	Banglar Kiron	Repair	Indo	BSC	R/A	1/8

VESSEL DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessel	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Oranienburg	30/7	Stng	Lufal	W Pulp	—
Zang Su Bong	30/7	Col	UMAL	Fert	Lhli
Al Mohammed	02/8	Mong	KSL	Urea	Vietnam
Arktis Orion	30/7	Stng	BSC	—	—
Bervalla	1/8	Mong	RSL	Cont	Sing
Armas	3/8	Mong	OWSL	J Goods	Sing
Hanza	4/8	Mong	Bright	Cement	Adab
A Megacarrer II	2/8	Mong	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Vishva Pankaj	2/8	Mong	SSL	E/L	Dundee Ant
Mehedint	2/8	Col	BSC	—	—
Onyx	3/8	Mong	Aqua	GL	Doula
Kota Eagle	3/8	Stng	CTS	Cont	Sing
Knud Jespersen	3/8	—	CT	Cont	Sing
Stonewall Jackson	6/8	—	Karna	GI	S New York
Glen Gate	3/8	Tampa	SSST	Fert	—
Fresh Ocean	4/8	—	USTC	Cement	—
Mizoram	4/8	—	SSL	GI	Pe E Japa
New Genlor	4/8	Stng	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Yao Sheng	5/8	—	Bright	Cement	Sing
Bellarix	5/8	Mong	MMI	—	B Abbas
Summit Venture	5/8	Vanc	Ancient	Wheat	—
Silver Lake	5/8	—	Prog	GI	—
Marginal	5/8	—	Prog	GI	—
Bryanskyl Maashnos	6/8	Armba	TSLL	R Phos	—
Trottel	—	—	—	—	—
Hafz	6/8	Mong	SSL	E/L	B Abbas
Fong Shin	6/8	Stng	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Optima	6/8	Stng	RSL	Cont	Sing
Pearl One	6/8	Kara	Cross	Bitumin/Cotton	—
Vishva Abha	7/8	—	SSL	GL	Odeasa
Flying Dragon	7/8	—	USTC	Cement	—
Andromache	8/8	Col	RSL	Cont	Mong
Artemis-1	10/8	—	Bright	Cement	—
Karabeverett	10/8	—	EBPL	GI	Japa FE
Safina-e-Halder	10/8	Kara	ASLL	GI/GL	Karachi
Petr Starostin	12/8	—	CT	Cont	Sing
Andrian Goncharov	15/8	—	CT	Cont	Sing

TANKER DUE

Neptune Antlia	3/8	Stng	MSPL	HSD and JP-1 (BBLs)
Apollo Asuka	1/8	—	NWSL	HSD and JP-1

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessel	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
T T energy	C Oil	Col	NNL	27/4
Topaz	C Oil	Col	ECSL	21/7
Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	Col	BSC	R/A

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON

NGS-Rangaj	Cont	Stng	BDShip	28/7
Fong Yun	Cont	Stng	BDShip	29/7
Kota Bharna	Cont	Stng	CTS	30/7

VESSELS NOT READY

Hang Shing	Cement	Stng	H and H	22/7
Alexey Tolstoy	Cement	Stng	PSAL	23/7
Loug Khan	Cement	Stng	Bright	30/7

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Banglar Mamata	Repair	Mong	BSC	29/7
Ocean Enjoy	—	Col	BSC	R/A (27/7)

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Alyn	Cement	Stng	Alamin	R/A (18/9)
Red Deer	—	Stng	KSL	R/A (26/11)
Nehaj	Scrapping	Col	UMAL	10/6
Anh Dao	Bunker	Mong	UMAL	27/7

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

Price Index

July 30

Essentials	Moogh	30.00-32.00
RICE	Chhola	22.00-23.00
	Khears	14.00-15.00
FRUITS		
Green Coconut (Small)	(One piece)	4.00-5.00
Coconut (Large)	(One piece)	8.00-10.00
Green Bananas (Four Pieces)	(One piece)	10.00-12.00
Jackfruit	(One piece)	8.00-12.00
Banana: (4 pieces)	(One piece)	20.00-30.00
Sugar (Large)	(One piece)	12.00-14.00
Champa	(One piece)	3.00-4.00
Dates	(Taka per kg)	45.00-50.00
Mustard	(Taka per litre)	52.00-54.00
Soybean	(Taka per litre)	38.00-39.00
Coconut (Columbo)	(Taka per kg)	85.00-95.00
SPICES	(Taka per kg)	48.00-52.00
Onion (local)	(Taka per kg)	10.00-11.00
Garlic (local)	(Taka per kg)	28.00-32.00
Chillies (local)	(Taka per kg)	28.00-35.00
Turmeric (Local)	(Taka per kg)	45.00-50.00
Green chillies	(Taka per kg)	10.00-12.00
Ginger	(Taka per kg)	16.00-18.00
Cinnamon (10gm)	(Taka per kg)	3.00-4.50
Cardamom (10gm) (small)	(Taka per kg)	7.00-8.00
Risu (50 gms)	(Taka per kg)	9.00-10.00
MILK	(Taka per kg)	
Dawa	(Taka per kg)	306.00-307.00
Red Cow	(Taka per kg)	315.00-316.00
MISCELLANEOUS	(Taka per kg)	
Ghee	(Taka per kg)	220.00-240.00
Oil	(Taka per kg)	7.00-8.00
Mustard	(Taka per kg)	27.00-28.00

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 July 31 and August 1.

(Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B. C.	T. T. (C)	Buying O.D. Transfer
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Pound Sterling	75.1367	74.7816	74.2916
DM	26.4231	26.2542	26.0687
FF	7.6265	7.7786	7.7237
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042	10.3307
D Outiders	23.4257	23.2777	23.1133
S Kroner	7.2805	7.2321	7.1810
Singapore Dollar	24.2743	24.1354	23.9849
UAE Dirham	10.6911	10.6299	10.5548
Kuwait Dinar	134.7531	133.9821	133.0358
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.5104	1.5036	1.4961
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.5523	1.5451	1.5374

Authorized dealers will apply T T clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladeshis working abroad. Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Unit.

Dhaka Stock Prices

Weekly comparison: At the close of

tradings on July 23 and July 30, 1992

Company	FV/ML*	July 23		July 30		1991-92	
		Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka	High	Low
BANKS (10)							
AL Baraka Bank	1000/1	1115.00	115.00	1200.00	760.00	—	—
A B Bank	100/5	200.00	215.00	210.00	155.00	—	—
City Bank	100/5	290.00	305.00	305.00	172.00	—	—
I.F.I.C	100/5	165.00	165.00	200.00	170.00	—	—
Islami Bank	1000/1	1490.00	1490.00	1960.00	1190.00	—	—
National Bank	100/5	116.00	110.00	122.50	102.50	—	—
Pubali Bank	100/5	100.00	102.00	110.00	85.00	—	—
Rupali Bank	100/10	100.00	100.00	110.00	68.00	—	—
U.C.B.L	100/5	123.00	131.00	131.00	118.00	—	—
Uttara Bank	100/5	135.00	135.00	200.00	125.00	—	—
INVESTMENT (08)							
ICB	100/5	100.00	100.00	100.00	79.00	—	—
1st ICB M.Fund	100/5	390.00	400.00	414.00			