

# Govt, jute-textile workers accord only temporarily averts crisis

By Nazmul Ashraf

Although Monday's agreement between the government and jute-textile workers halted a one-day barricade as a part of greater labour movement, the problems may crop up again as, circles concerned say, the accord contains no specific commitment to fulfil the workers' demands.

The government signed two separate memoranda of understanding (MOU) with the jute and textile workers' leaders for fulfillment of the eight-point and six-point demands of two sectors.

The leaders of the jute-textile mills workers while talking to the Daily Star expressed their hope that the government would fulfil the demands. They however mentioned, their preparedness to revise their action programme, to re-align the demands.

"It's a victory of our on-going movement", said Abul Bashar, convener of Patkol Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad (jute mills workers' employees' action council). "The demands must be fulfilled. Otherwise, we would force the government to do

so", he continued. Mohammad Masi-Ud-Dowla, executive president of Suta-Bastrakal Sramik Karmachari Federation (cotton-textile mills workers' employees' federation), is also hopeful of fulfillment of the demands. In a low voice he said, "let's wait and see". He is in favour of continuing pressure on the government until the demands are met.

Both the leaders opined that the materialisation of the two MOUs would cost no money. They said, the demands have not been placed for gaining financial benefits. It depends on the sincerity of the government to resolve the crisis in the jute-textile sectors, they observed.

Commenting on the announcement of wage commission for the workers, they pointed it out as a common demand.

The demand was accepted by the government in the accord signed in December '91 with the SKOP, they reminded.

A jute ministry source also admitted that the fulfillment of demand would not involve any extra burden on the public ex-

chequer. The MOU, signed by the Jute Minister Brig (Retd) ASM Hannan Shah and the jute workers' council, provided eight formula regarding implementation of the council's eight demands. A letter of recommendation would be forwarded to the Finance Ministry and accordingly the ministry would convene a meeting to resolve the first and the second demands.

The first demand asks for facilitating each of the jute mills use 100 per cent of its export earnings. The second one for the formation of a central cell comprising the representatives of the Jute Ministry, BJMC, BJMA and the mills workers empowering it to control the foreign currency the mills earn and also modernisation of the jute mills in phases.

The third formula of the accord says, the Finance Ministry has already been contacted about the demand of sharing the losses incurred during the 1989-90 and 1990-91 fiscals in the entire jute sector as per as earlier decision of the Cabinet Division sub-committee.

The disbursement of nomi-

nal subsidy fourth demand which had been stopped since 1991-92 fiscal, the accord said, the current budget provides for the same. The December '91 government-SKOP agreement on the National Wage Commission for the workers in now under process.

Regarding resumption of production in the closed jute mills, the accord mentioned, necessary steps would be taken within next two months through consultation with the concerned quarters.

The two sides condemned terrorism in the jute mills and the government agreed to take effective measures to stop the labour unrest in the jute mills, especially the Adamjee Jute Mills and the National Jute Mills.

Both the sides agreed to rid the BJMC from its top-heavy administration and stop recruitment of workers.

The second MOU signed between the State Minister for Textile and the leaders of textile-cotton workers, did not specify any action to implement the six-point demand of the textile-cotton workers.



M Yunus, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and members of the Board of Directors of the DCCI met Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Minister for Home Affairs at the latter's office on August 1. They discussed various issues relating to the prevailing law and order situation of the country.

## Tk 45.87 lakh land revenue collected in Feni

FENI, Aug 1: The district administration earned land revenue Taka 45.87 lakh during the last fiscal 1991-92, reports UNB.

Of the total amount, Taka 12.26 lakh was realised in Sadar, Taka 15.25 in Sonagazi, Taka 6.40 lakh in Daganbhuiyan, Taka 4.35 lakh in Chhagalnaiya and Taka 6.62 lakh in Porshuram thanas.

The amount was collected from individuals as well as business bodies, socio-cultural organisations and associations.

The revenue collection was 53.98 per cent in individual level and 17.14 per cent in organisation level, official sources said.

## Unemployment in France hits record high

PARIS, Aug 1: French unemployment hit a record high in June, causing further discomfort for a government caught wrongfooted this week by reports of an International Monetary Fund study suggesting European Union might be bad for growth, reports Reuters.

The Labour Ministry said the seasonally adjusted number of people out of work in France last month rose by 12,100 to 2,924,700.

The unemployment total, based on the narrower International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of the term, rose by 0.4 per cent to 2,571,100, the ministry said.

A total of 43,000 people joined the jobless ranks after being made redundant in June, 17.6 per cent up on June 1991.

In the first half of 1992, the Ministry recorded 262,000 redundancies, 13 per cent more than in the first half of 1991.

This trend, along with the sluggish pace of recruiting, highlights the persistent difficulties of the labour market, despite positive signs here and there," it said.

The suggestion that preparation for economic union could throw even more people out of work by stifling growth has caused a mild panic among Finance Ministry officials, who have been working overtime since Tuesday to refute the scare story.



## New President of IPM

S A Huq has been elected President of the Institute of Personnel Management (IPM), Bangladesh, for next two years at a recently concluded election, says a press release.

Huq, a recipient of 'Ghulam Martuza Memorial Gold Medal' is an author of several books on personnel management and its allied fields. He was the Secretary General of the Institute for last five years. He was also the head of Personnel Department of Philips Group in Dhaka.

Huq is an advocate by profession.

## TT Energy owner makes fresh offer to settle claim

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Aug 1: Fresh attempts are being made by the owner to get the oil tanker TT Energy released which was detained near Kutubdia channel, 32 miles off Chittagong port under a court order.

Talking to this correspondent, the Chairman of BPC M Fazlul Hoque said that the owner of the tanker had sent an offer to them to pay the compensation amount of two lakh dollar of 13 lakh dollar compensation claim in a bid to negotiate a settlement.

The offer was recently forwarded to the ministry concerned for necessary action.

Without any opinion of BPC, the Chairman said. Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation BPC filed a compensation claim of 13 (thirteen) lakh dollars against the oil tanker in April.

BPC went to the court to realise the compensation for loss due to the tanker's delay to carry about one lakh ton crude oil for Eastern Refinery in Chittagong. The delay forced the country's lone refinery close down its operation for some days. It caused a severe dislocation of supply and distribution of petroleum products during the peak season.

When asked whether the anchorage of the tanker is risky for the port channel, the BPC chairman pleaded his ignorance and said that the tanker was detained by the legal authority as per court order.

However, when contacted, the Deputy Conservator of Chittagong Port Captain Aminul Islam ruled out the possibility of any threat to Chittagong Port from the tanker's present location.

The tanker TT Energy is staying outside the port-limit and we don't feel any threat from it," Islam added.



Amanullah Miah, Chairman, Executive Committee of Al Baraka Bank Bangladesh Ltd delivering speech as chief guest in the Branch Managers' conference of the Bank at its head office on Friday. Ashraf Ali, M A Khaleque, Dr S A Shakoor and F M Rafiqul Islam were also present.

## Greek parliament okays troubled Maastricht Treaty

ATHENS, Aug 1: Parliament has overwhelmingly ratified the embattled Maastricht treaty on European unity, making Greece the third European Community member to approve the accord, reports AP.

Political leaders Saturday praised the vote but warned Greece will have to crack down on inflation, government debt and tax evasion if the nation is to become an equal partner in the trading bloc.

"Greece will benefit, but so will the attempt toward European unification. The road ahead is hard," Premier Constantine Mitsotakis said after the treaty was ratified in a midnight vote Friday.

The vote provided another boost to a treaty that has been in trouble since voters in Denmark rejected the treaty in June. All 12 EC member are to ratify the plan for it to take effect early next year.

The accord would establish common foreign and security policies and a single currency by 1999 in what is the world's largest trading bloc. But many Europeans oppose a federal European government that could limit their countries' sovereignty.

After five days of debate, the 300-member Greek parliament on Friday voted 286 to 8 to ratify the treaty, with the ruling Conservative Party, opposition Socialists and a small

leftist party all in favour. The government said it will submit an economic plan to Parliament designed to bring Greece's economy in line with those of its European partners to qualify for EC aid.

Mitsotakis has said the austerity plan would aim to lower Greece's double digit inflation and cut its public debt to levels agreed upon at Maastricht. Greece is slated to receive a share of a 13.8 billion dollar EC fund designed to help poorer EC members — such as Spain, Portugal and Ireland — catch up with richer ones.

Ireland, on June 18, and Luxembourg, on July 2, have ratified the treaty negotiated last December.

## Shipping Intelligence

### CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 1.8.92

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L. Port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Ronjay Victory	Cement	Sing	PSAL	16/7	3/8
J/2	Oranienburg	Pulp	Sing	Luful	30/7	1/8
J/4	Banglar Gouarb	GI	Pena	BSC	18/7	1/8
J/5	Samudra Raj	GI	Kara	SSL	15/7	-
J/7	Jiang Cheng	GI/GL	S. Hat	BDSHIP	22/7	1/8
J/8	Continent-1	GI	Pena	CLA	25/7	1/8
J/10	Arktis Orion	GI	Sing	BSC	30/7	3/8
J/11	Ronjay Choomie	Urea	Mong	PSAL	10/7	1/8
J/12	NOS Ranger	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	28/7	3/8
J/13	Harmen	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	28/7	3/8
J/13	Oldendorff	Fert	Mobile	SSST	17/7	5/8
MPB/1	Fong Yun	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	29/7	1/8
MPB/2	Kota Buana	Cont	Sing	Cia	30/7	1/8
CCJ	Banglar Mamata	Repair	Mong	BSC	29/7	4/8
GSJ	Ocean Earth	Cement	Sing	Sunshine	19/7	4/8
TSP	Samudra Samrat	Repair	Col	SSL	1/7	5/8
RM/5	Nina	SKO/SKO	Lube	Mapi	29/7	1/8
DDJ	Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	-	BSC	R/A	1/8
ID	Banglar Baari	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	3/8
DDJ/1	Endurance Sea	Repair	Agaba	EOSL	25/1	5/8
RM/8	Nan du Jiang	Cement	Chin	MSA	25/6	4/8
CUFJ	Banglar Sampad	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	4/8
CUFJ	Banglar Kiron	Urea	-	BSC	R/A	6/8

### VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Zang Su Bong	2/8	Col	UMAL	-	Phil
A Megacarrrier two/7/7	3/8	Mong	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Viskva Pankaj 11/7	3/8	Mong	SSL	E/L	Dundee ant
Al Mohammed	5/8	Mong	KSL	-	Vietnam
Armas	3/8	Mong	/WSL	-	-
Oryx	3/8	Mong	Agua	GL	Doula
Kota Eagle 26/7	3/8	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Knud Jespersen 20/7	3/8	CT	CT	Cont	Sing
Golden Gate	3/8	Tampa	SSST	Fert	-
Hurza	4/8	-	Bright	Cement	Adab
Fresh Ocean	4/8	-	USTC	Cement	-
Mizoram	4/8	-	BDSL	GI	Fe E Fapa
New Genlor 25/7	5/8	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Yao Sheng	5/8	-	Bright	Cement	-
Hellatrix	5/8	Mong	MMI	-	Abbas
Summit Venture	5/8	Vanc	Ancient	Wheat	-
Silver Lake	4/8	-	Prog	GI	-
Marghan	5/8	Sing	Prog	GI	-
Mehedinti	6/8	Col	BSC	GI	-
Stonewall Jackson	6/8	-	Karna	GI	New York
Bysanaki	6/8	-	-	-	-
Mashinostrotel	6/8	Araraba	TSL	R Phos	-
Hafez 26/7	6/8	Mong	SSL	E/L	Abbas
Fong Shin 25/7	6/8	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Optima 28/7	6/8	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Pearl One	6/8	Kara	Cross	Bitumin	-
Vishva Abha	7/8	-	SSL	GL	Odesa
Flying Dragon	7/8	-	USTC	Cement	-
Andromache 26/7	8/8	Col	RSL	Cont	Mong
Artemis-1	10/8	-	Bright	Cement	-
Karabievrett	10/8	-	EBPL	GI	Japa FE
Safina-E-Hasider	10/8	Kara	ASPL	GI/GL	Karachi
Petr Starostin 27/7	12/8	-	CT	Cont	Sing
Andrian Goncharov 27/7	15/8	-	CT	Cont	Sing
Ultra Sea	18/8	-	LAMS	Wheat	-

### TANKER DUE

Apollo Asuka	2/8	-	NWSL	Lub Oil
Neptune Andria	3/8	Sing	MSP	HSD & JP-1

### VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
TT Energy	C Oil	Col	NNL	27/4
Topaz	C Oil	Jebel	ECSS	21/7
Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	-	BSC	-/R/A

### VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

#### READY ON:

Tenryoshi Maru-4	C Oil	Indo	NWSL	R/A(30/7)
Bennavia	Cont	Mong	RSL	1/8
Long Khan	Cement	Sing	Bright	30/7
Alexey Talostoy	Cement	Sing	PSAL	23/7

### VESSELS NOT READY

Hang Shing	Cement	Sing	H & H	22/7
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### VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Ocean Envoy	-	Col	BSC	R/A(27/7)
Banglar Asha	-	-	BSC	R/A(30/7)

### VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Alyn	Cement	Sing	Alamin	R/A(18/8)
Red Deer	-	Sing	KSL	R/A(26/11)
Nehaj	Scraping	Col	UMAL	10/6
ANH Dao	Funker	Mong	UMAL	27/7

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

## Price Index

August 1

Essentials	Index	Change
Rice (Taka per kg)	16.00-17.00	27.00-28.00
Wheat (Taka per kg)	13.50-14.00	30.00-32.00
Vegetables (Taka per kg)	11.00-12.00	22.00-23.00
Green Coconut (Small)	4.00-5.00	14.00-15.00
Coconut (Large)	8.00-10.00	-
Pineapple	8.00-12.00	-
Jackfruit	5.00-6.00	-
Banana (4 pieces)	6.00-8.00	-
Sugar (Large)	4.00-6.00	-
Champa	14.00-15.00	-
Dam	10.50-11.00	-
Oil (Taka per litre)	45.00-50.00	-
Mustard	110.00-140.00	-
Soybean	50.00-55.00	-
Coconut (Colombo)	120.00-140.00	-
Vegetable Ghee (1kg)	90.00-100.00	-
SPICES (Taka per kg)	140.00-150.00	-
Onion (local)	11.00-12.00	-
Garlic (local)	26.00-32.00	-
Chillies (local)	28.00-35.00	-
Turmeric (local)	45.00-50.00	-
Green chillies	8.00-10.00	-
Ginger	18.00-20.00	-
MILK (Two ltr)	30.00-37.00	-
Red Cow	315.00-316.00	-
MISCELLANEOUS (Taka per kg)	70.00-80.00	-
Ghee	220.00-260.00	-
Salt	7.00-8.00	-
Sugar	27.00-27.50	-

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 August 2, 3 and 4.

(Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B.C.	T.T. (C)	Buying O.D. Transfer
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Pound sterling	75.3710	75.0153	74.5239
DM	26.5486	26.3788	26.1925
FRF	7.8603	7.8106	7.7555
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042	10.3307
D Guilders	23.5483	23.3995	23.2342
S Kroner	7.3077	7.2591	7.2078
Singapore Dollar	24.2089	24.1309	23.9605
UAET Dirham	10.6911	10.6289	10.5548
Kuwait Dinar	134.7796	134.0055	133.0590
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.5104	1.5035	1.4960
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.5523	1.5451	1.5374

Authorised dealers will apply T T clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladesh working abroad.  
Note: AMU-Asian Monetary Union.

## Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on August 1, 1992  
Star Economic Report  
Business improves

Business brightened up following dull transactions on Thursday. Figures in both, volume and value appeared promising to march ahead. The rise in volume measured against Thursday's figures stood at 36.44 per cent from 8893 to 12134. Value finished at Tk 1121853.00 from Tk 897820.00, a rise of 24.89 per cent.

Number of shares trading on the floor jumped from 15 on Thursday to 36. The losers just managed to lead the floor who outnumbered the gainers by 13 to 12 while eleven shares traded at their previously quoted prices.

Despite bright trading the DSE index further shed 0.817 points and closed at 360.8527 from 361.6694.

### THE DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE all share Price Index	360.8527
Market Capitalisation (Tk)	10,310,213,615.00
Turnover in Value (Tk)	1121853.00