

Plan to set up 64 employment offices under consideration

Labour and Manpower Minister M Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on Sunday said that a proposal for establishing employment offices in all the 64 districts was under active consideration of the government, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a three-day national workshop on vocational guidance and career information the minister said efforts were also made to strengthen the labour market information function of the employment service.

He said, under the proposed revised programme of the employment service it had been proposed for registration of all the unemployed with the district employment offices regularly and make it compulsory for the employers to recruit only the registered job seekers.

Mannan pointed out that during the past autocratic regime the Manpower Plan-

ning Centre, responsible for research and implementation of plans for employment generation had been abolished, and registration of the unemployed job seekers had been almost abandoned resulting into present obscured situation of employment statistics in the country.

He said, the actual volume of unemployment and the nature of their education and training were not fully available for want of an appropriate Labour Market Information (LMI) system to collect and disseminate information on employment, unemployment and various other facts of the ever changing labour market.

State Minister for Education Principal M Eunus Khan was the special guest at the function. Jointly organised by the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) and International Labour Or-

ganisation (ILO) the function was also addressed by Director General (DG) of BMET M A M Ziauddin, Additional DG Abdus Sattar Khan, Dhaka area office, Director of ILO Werner K Blenk and ILO expert from Bangkok Omakant Rao.

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Manpower Dr Shah Mohammad Farid was in the chair.

Principal Eunus Khan underscored the need for development of a suitable vocational guidance programme as soon as possible and said that the Ministry of Education would readily join their efforts with such a useful programme for the greater interest of all concerned.

He suggested imparting induction training to a greater number of teachers gradually, to extend the guidance facilities to a greater number of schools. He also suggested 'mobile guidance units' with

suitably equipped vehicles and guidance materials.

Ziauddin said that not less than 30 per cent jobs remained vacant in the whole country while about 17 million people were unemployed.

He said all number of job seekers both in the public and private sectors were facing unemployment due to mismatching between the job requirements of the employers and the unsuitable education and training of the job seekers.

He said there was a short supply of trained and skilled technical manpower while on the other hand, there was over supply of general educated manpower.

He said the target group for vocational guidance was mainly the educated youths, but it could be extended to cover the school drop outs, women, rural poor and especially the disabled people for choosing a vocation.

Govt plans to build 1000 model villages

The government is planning to build some 1,000 model villages (adarsha gram) sheltering about 2 lakh homeless poor by next June.

Officials told UNB on Sunday that the project would be implemented by the Land Ministry with financial assistance from the Commission of European Communities.

There are already some 750 model villages, styled cluster villages, throughout the country, each providing accommodation to about 40 families.

Under the new plan, each family will get a small homestead and some basic facilities including agricultural land and a pond at each village.

The new scheme also envisages assistance to villagers in developing skills, generating income and increasing quality of life, the officials said.

Credit facilities and funds would also be provided for construction of community centres.

Non-government organisations will be engaged to work with these model villages for conducting activities like group formation, handicraft training, horticulture, children's education, literacy programme, health and family planning, pisciculture and marketing.

ADB approves technical grant to BR

By Staff Correspondent

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$100,000 technical assistance grant to Bangladesh Railway for carrying out pending work in connection with the implementation of the Railway Recovery Programme, says an ADB press release.

The programme requires a series of actions designed to improve the operational and financial performance of the Bangladesh Railway and transform it into a viable transport enterprise, it adds.

According to the press release, policy changes such as the elimination of government subsidy to Bangladesh Railway, adjustment of passenger fares and tariffs and the provision of compensation to the Railway for providing no-commercial services that the government deems to be socially necessary, will be introduced under the programme.

It further says, institutional reforms would also be included in the programme. Among these are the creation of a corporate environment which would allow the railway to successfully compete in terms of cost and quality of service, reduction of staff, development of human resource skills and improvement in the Railway's use of assets.

Three consultants, required in accordance with the Bank's guidelines on the use of consultants, will support the Ministry in their technical work for the programme. They would monitor developments concerning measures to improve the Railway's financial situation, assist in drafting guidelines for the establishment of a Public Service Obligation (PSO), develop a formula to compute the annual PSO requirement, monitor the Railway's cost performance, monitor developments related to the staff reduction programme of the Railway, identify suitable re-training facilities and assist refining the compensation proposal, the press release says.



Dr Khandker Mosharruf Hossain, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, addressing PDB high officials as chief guest in a review meeting on ADP, revenue collection and systems loss reduction at WAPDA Building on Sunday.

Rural Development Bank soon

The Government has taken initiatives to set up a rural development bank in the country. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder said in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the 12th annual general meeting of Jatiya Palli Unnayan Samabaya Federation at the Engineers Institution, the Minister said the proposed bank would aim at welfare of the rural people and the cooperators with a view to making them self-reliant.

Presided over by President of the Samabaya Federation Syed Irtiza Ahsan, the inaugural session was also addressed

by Haji Rashed Mosharruf MP and Rural Development and Cooperatives Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye.

Chairman of 452 thana central cooperative associations are taking part in the annual meeting of the federation.

The LGRD and Cooperatives Minister informed the cooperative leaders that the cooperative law was being amended to make it time-binding.

Salam Talukdar said the co-operators were making valuable contributions to the socio-economic fields of the country. If the cooperative movement was run properly, the country would be elevated to an hon-

ourable position within the next five to 10 years, he hoped.

Rashed Mosharruf MP called upon the government to take measures for making the cooperative movement more dynamic so that the co-operators could contribute much to the national development.

Govt firm to salvage power sector

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandker Mosharruf Hossain Sunday reiterated the government's firm determination in salvaging the country's power sector by reducing high system loss, reports UNB.

Briefing newsmen on Sunday morning, he said PDB has started work within the framework of an action plan under which accountability of officials will be reviewed every month.

Energy Secretary Mohammed Ali and PDB Chairman Mohammad Fazlur Razaque were present at the briefing.

The Minister said that PDB spent taka 856 crore in fiscal 1991-92 against the Annual Development Programme (ADP) allocation of taka 761 crore. PDB has been allocated Taka 846.33 crore under the ADP for the current fiscal year (1992-93).

"We are now emphasising on power generation and development of the transmission and distribution system," he said adding that work of 210-Megawatt Roazan power station will be completed by December, 1993.

Chairman Fakur Razaque said PDB's collection stood at taka 97 crore in July alone. This is 63 per cent of the target and almost 100 per cent of the total billing, he added.

BSCIC to expand its women entrepreneurship project

By Raffat Binte Rashid

The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) has undertaken a Tk 21.05 crore plan to extend the operation of its Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WEDP).

Under the expansion programme, 16 more thanas throughout the country will be added to the existing 24 thanas under the project, launched with USAID assistance in 1981 to promote particularly rural and semi-urban women.

Officials say that the expanded project is to generate 50,000 jobs for women. They also plan to identify 20,000 potential needy rural

women as entrepreneurs, and train another 20,000 in management and as skilled workers.

Seventy five per cent of the expansion costs is to be funded by the USAID and the rest would be borne by the Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB).

Project Director Rasheda Akhtar Khanam said that the US agency had agreed to fund the expansion after evaluating the effectiveness of the programme.

Previously, she said, the US Agency for International Development would provide one-third of the project's local cost and the Government would

give the rest through BKB. The BKB, Khanam said, would disburse the loan to an entrepreneur recommended by the WEDP.

The Project Director said that the BSCIC programme had helped 17,343 rural women develop as entrepreneurs until December 1991, with a total disbursement of Tk 4.91 crore and a recovery rate of 77 per cent.

The project, she said, created jobs for 34,166 persons and trained 8,224 women in different fields.

The entrepreneurs have so far produced goods valued Tk 20 crore, she said.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 16-08-92						
Berth No.	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Manglam	GI	Sing	Prog	7/8	16/8
J/3	Arnas	GL	Mong	OWSL	6/8	16/8
J/4	Peral One(48)	GI	Kara	Cross	12/8	16/8
J/5	Vishwa Abha	GL	Mong	SSL	14/8	17/8
J/7	Banglar Gourab	Urea	Mong	HSC	10/8	28/8
J/10	Samudra Raj	IDLE	Kara	SSL	15/7	20/8
J/11	AJ Mohammed	Urea	Mong	KSL	10/8	22/8
MP11/1	Kota Buana	Cont	Sing	CTS	12/8	16/8
CGJ	Samudra Samrat	Repair	Col	SSL	1/7	20/8
TSP	Banglar Asha	Repair	HSC	HSC	9/8	18/8
RM/4	Hang Shing	Cement	Sing	H&H	22/7	17/8
DDJ/1	Endurance Sea	Repair	Apqba	EOSL	25/1	20/8
DDJ/2	Banglar Barri	Repair	HSC	R/A	20/8	20/8
RM/8	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	HSC	R/A	18/8	18/8
RM/9	Banglar Sempad	Repair	HSC	R/A	20/8	20/8

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Lok Vivek	16/8	Hald	Alamin		
Fong Yun 1/8	16/8	Mong	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Yao Sheng	17/8	Sing	Bright	Cement	
Iknvalla 9/8	17/8	Mong	RSL	Cont	Sing
NGS Ranger 15/8	17/8	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Andrin Goncharov 27/7	17/8	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Kota Eagle 8/8	17/8	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Arktis Star	18/8	Vizak	BSL	GI	
Mizoram	18/8	Cal	SSL	GI	FE. E. JAPA
Flying Dragon	18/8	Cal	USTC	Cement	
AL Tabith	18/8	FUZA	BSL	R Sulpher	
Nen Jiang	18/8	G Hou	BDShip	GI(SPL)	
Miramar	19/8	Mong	KSL	GL	P Sudan
Banglar Shobha	19/8	Pena	HSC	GI	
Oryx	20/8	Mong	Apqa	GL	Doula
New Genlord 9/8	20/8	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
A Megacardier Two9/8	20/8	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Hafic26/7	20/8	Mong	SSL	E/L	B Abbas
Iyevrett	20/8		EBPL	GI	JAPA, FE.
Optima 11/8	20/8	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Qing He Chent	21/8	S Hai	BDShip	GI	
Ultra Sea	21/8	New Orle	LAMS	Wheat	
Ever Cheer 8/8	22/8	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Cal
Vishva Pallav	22/8		SSL	GL	Dundee, Ant
Diamond Star	24/8	Sing	HSC	Steel Carg	
Mehedint	25/8	Col	BSL	GI	
Caravos Explorer	25/8	Stork	Alamin	Wheat	
Safina-E-Haider	25/8	Kara	ASLL	GI/GL	Karachi
Fong Shin 15/8	25/8	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing

TANKER DUE

Jamac	18/8	SEACOM	CISO
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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 OUT ANCHORAGE

Ready on /				
Name of Vessels	Cargo	Local Agent	Prog	Date of Arrival
Syang Ace	GI	Hong	Apqa	15/8
JRA	Wheat	Califo	Apqa	18/8

VESSELS NOT READY

Artemis-1	Cement	Alada	Bright	10/8
Banabaki Annis				

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Alyn	Cement	Sing	Alamin	R/A(18/9)
Nehal	Scraping	Col	UMAL	10/8

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

Price Index

Essentials		Dues	
(Taka per kg)	(Taka per litre)	(Taka per 100 pieces)	(Taka per 11.66 grams)
RICE (Amin/line)	16.00-17.00	Mustard	50.00-55.00
Papam	13.50-14.50	Soyabean	52.00-54.00
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)		Cocunut (Columbo)	38.00-39.00
Posato (local)	10.00-11.00	Vegatable Choe (1kg)	48.00-52.00
Brijjal	8.00-12.00	SPICES (Taka per kg)	
Kawala	9.00-2.00	Onion (local)	9.00-10.00
Lobak	5.00-6.00	Garlic (local)	20.00-27.00
Pappa	6.00-8.00	Chillies (local)	25.00-35.00
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	4.00-6.00	Turmeric (Local)	45.00-50.00
ONION/RODGRAN (Taka per kg)		Green chillies	6.00-8.00
Flour	13.50-14.00	Ginger	18.00-20.00
Atta	11.00-11.50	Cinnamon (10gm)	7.00-8.00
FISH (Taka per kg)		Cardamom (10gm) (small)	4.00-5.00
Rubi(big)	150.00-160.00	Jhus (50 gms)	9.00-10.00
Katla(big)	100.00-130.00	MILK (Two kgs)	
Hilsha	45.00-50.00	Dano	306.00-307.00
Pangan	120.00-135.00	Red-Cow	317.00-318.00
Shrimp(big)	90.00-100.00	MISCELLANEOUS (Taka per kg)	
Singi	120.00-130.00	Glass	230.00-240.00
Koi	130.00-140.00	Salt	7.00-8.00
MEAT		Sugar	27.00-27.50
Beef	60.00-62.00		
Mutton	85.00-90.00		
CHICKEN			
Large	64.00-66.00		
Moderate	68.00-70.00		
Small	72.00-74.00		
TEA			
Dust (Plain)	70.00-80.00		
EGG (4 per)			
Han	12.50-13.00		
Duck	12.00-13.00		
Firm	13.00-14.00		
PULSES (Taka per kg)			
Mashur	27.00-28.00		
Mooch	30.00-32.00		
Chhola	22.00-23.00		
Khears	14.00-15.00		
FRUITS			
Green Cocunut (Small)	7.00-8.00		
Cocunut (Large)	8.00-10.00		
Pineapple	8.00-14.00		
Jackfruit	NA		
Banana	(4 pieces)		
Sugar (Large)	12.00-15.00		
Champa	3.50-4.00		

Gold & Silver

Gold (Guinea)	6200.00
Silver	200.00
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 August 16, 17 and 18.

Currency	Selling B.C.	T.T. (C)	Buying O.D. Transfer
US Dollar	39.1325	38.9087	39.5339
Poundsterling	75.1357	74.7816	74.4916
DM	26.7295	26.5663	25.3713
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042	10.3307
D Guilders	23.7024	23.5525	23.3861
S Kroner	7.3419	7.2939	7.2416
Singapore Dollar	24.3854	24.1314	23.9738
UAE Dirham	13.6911	13.6299	10.5548
Kuwaiti Dinar	136.3793	133.6154	132.6787
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.5104	1.5036	1.4961
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.5523	1.5431	1.5374

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

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on August 15, 1992
Star Economic Report

Small gain

Tradings at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) did not look very bright on Sunday although business slightly improved compared to last Thursday's transactions. A negative trend in business can be observed if one goes through DSE transactions figures since the start of this month. Going through the DSE Composite Index from 1.8.92 to 16.8.92 a down hill slope can be sketched, similar observation goes for figures in volume which stood at 12134 on 1.8.92 gradually coming down to four digit figures and finished at 9614 on 16.8.92, though variation of high and low is always expected.

The DSE market capitalisation also fell and showing negative trend since early this month. On 1.8.92 the figure stood at Taka 9,958,673,983.00 and finally (until 16.8.92) it stood at Taka 9,958,673,983.00.