

Finance Minister calls on bankers

Help reactivate sick industries

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Sunday called upon the bankers to help reactivate the entrepreneurs of at least one hundred sick industries by December for accelerating the pace of development in the country, reports BSS.

Rahman said the present government wanted to mean business and was eager to assist those good entrepreneurs coming out of the industrial sickness which had financial viability and prospects for the sake of employment and production.

He was addressing a special meeting on the banking sector problems highlighting the loan recovery and lending, new investment, import, export and investment problems with the chairman and managing directors of the nationalised banks and financial institutions at the NEC auditorium in the city.

The Finance Minister urged the bankers to evolve a participatory decision making process for financing the closed,

unclosed and new industries to help the government ensure food, clothing, shelter, health and education for all.

Rahman was very critical about the go-slow business and delay in approving project procedures of the banks and financial institutions in the country. He said one should not be insensible to the sound project proposals for setting up industries and had to give decisions within a month of receiving such proposals for financing in the prospective sectors.

The Finance Minister repeatedly appealed the bankers to simplify the procedural system and try to solve the stuck up bank loan problem accelerating the pace of development and industrialisation in the country. Do not jeopardise sound industrial project proposals by way of unnecessary conditionalities, he said.

He categorically said that the government had no dearth of funds to finance industrial-

sation and agrarian revolution but the banks and financial institutions were lacking the dynamism and skill to finance in the sound projects. He called upon the bankers to infuse dynamism, restore discipline and improve skill and efficiency in the banking sector for accelerating the pace of industrialisation, trade and commerce.

If we go-slow and do business as usual then the government would not be able to accelerate the economy, the Finance Minister said adding the government had given a fund of Taka 150 crore for industrial financing. But because of the stringent banking conditionalities and procedural problems the response was very poor, he said.

He asked the Sonali, Janata and Agrani, the three nationalised banks and Bangladesh Shilpa Bank and Shilpa Rin Sangstha to finance at least five sick industries each by September as a drive to reacti-

vate those units.

Rahman said the government was not trying to help the mortgaged sick industries coming out from the default trap. The banks and financial institutions can even try to give sick industries to the managing agencies instead of selling at a take away price, he said.

He urged the politicians to cooperate with the government for the economic emancipation of the 112 million people of Bangladesh and lead the nation to the path of development.

The Finance Minister exchanged views with the bankers and listened to their problems. The bankers urged the minister to help them restore discipline in their respective institutions and tackle the bank unionism. They urged in favour of charging foreign currency instead of local currency (Taka) on loans as they had to purchase foreign exchange

REB workshop on 'Performance Target Agreement' begins

'Performance Target Agreement' (PTA) will be the theme of a workshop which begins in the city today (Monday) at the headquarters of Rural Electrification Board (REB), reports BSS.

Representatives of 40 Pali Bidyut Samities (PBS) spreading all over the country will take part in the four-day workshop where targets will be fixed for reach samity after detailed discussions. Each PBS will sign separate agreement with REB about its target for the current fiscal year, a press release said.

The workshop will also determine the procedure to achieve the target. Target is usually fixed on the basis of financial capability and the overall performance of the samity. The workshop is split into four sessions on the basis of region.

After six months, there will be a review meeting on the PTA when necessary alterations will be made on the basis of objective conditions. The PTA, which has been introduced two years ago, is found to be very helpful in achieving PBS targets.

REB chairman Brigadier Zahed Latif, members of the board and president, general secretary and managers of the samities will be present at the inaugural function.

Rural Electrification Programme which now spreads over ten thousand villages has more than seven lakh consumers including 5,65,000 domestic connections.



NOT SUCH AN EASY RIDE: For some low-income families, even rickshaws are out of reach. The open-top rickshaws offer a precarious, even dangerous journey, but they are the cheapest mode of family transport available. —Star photo

Operational problems hit BSCIC estates in northern region

RAJSHAHI, Aug 23: The industrial estates of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in the northern region are having a great deal of operational problems, reports UNB.

Of the 464 approved units, construction work on only 339 units has been completed so far, of which 268 units are now in running condition, 11 units remained idle and 60 units were closed down in these districts.

Eighty-six industrial units against 139 in Rajshahi, 88 units against 147 in Pabna, 23

units against 32 in Bogra, 11 units against 35 in Bogra (extension), 10 units against 25 in Rangpur, 44 units against 55 in Saidpur and six units against 29 in Dinajpur are now in production.

Entrepreneur sources said the units were closed down during the last three years due to shortage of fund, marketing crisis, lack of skilled manpower and frequent loadshedding.

According to official sources, only seven estates situated in Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Saidpur and Di-

najpur are in operation. Construction work on 51 units is progressing fast and fate of the rest 71 units is still uncertain.

About 13 industrial units went into production in 1991-92 while 15 others remained inoperative during the period, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries urged the authorities to take immediate steps to remove the problems in running the industrial units smoothly.



Biman's Managing Director Abdul Mueed Chowdhury presenting the Biman Crest to Lord King of Warrnaby, Chairman of British Airways PLC during his recent visit to London. They also discussed various matters of mutual interest and common concern at a meeting.

Bombay bond scam High official, son remanded for 14 days

NEW DELHI, Aug 23: An Indian court remanded a top former official and his son in judicial custody for 14 days for further questioning in a billion-dollar scandal, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports Reuter.

Former Planning Commission member V Krishnamurthy and his son K Chandra were sent to Delhi's Tihar Jail for judicial custody till September 4 for further questioning, the PTI said. It did not give details.

UN warns Libya of tighter sanctions

TUNIS, Aug 23: The UN has told Libya the time for talking is over and it must comply with the Security Council's Lockerbie bombings resolution or risk tighter sanctions, reports Reuter.

UN Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky told a news conference in Tunis the Security Council would review sanctions "within days or weeks" if Libya did not act.

"There is no more time for declarations, discussions. Time is for practicalities and practicalities means the implementation of the resolution in all its aspects, without any exclusion," he said.

Kuwait bracing for hard time ahead

KUWAIT, Aug 23: Iraq's attempt to burn up Kuwaiti oil resources failed but Baghdad unwittingly managed to wreck an even greater source of Kuwait's wealth—overseas investments, reports Reuter.

By the time Iraq invaded in August 1990, Kuwait was earning as much money from its investment portfolio valued at up to 100 billion dollar, as from its vast oil reserves, economists say.

But the Gulf War ate into Kuwait's capital assets and government planners will have to take steps to cut the emirate's lavish standard of living, or face spending the country into the ground.

"They've still got cash, as demonstrated by the fact they keep handing it out... but there's no evidence of a long-term strategy," said a Western diplomat.

Officials closely guard the value of what is left of Kuwait's portfolio, but diplomats and local economists estimate it may now have fallen to less than 40 billion dollar.

Bad debt problems have

beset Grupo Torras, a Spanish industrial holding company owned by the Kuwait investment office.

Economists estimated the net worth of Kuwait's investment in Spain at seven billion dollar before it ran into trouble.

And the sale of a 7.7 per cent stake in Britain's midland bank PLC in April prompted speculation that the government was already more cash-strapped than it would care to admit.

"We're back to oil," said economist Jasseem-al-Saddoun of the Al-Shall Consultancy Group. "In two or three years, Kuwait could be in the normal trend of trending of developing countries, in debt and reliant on single, unpredictable commodity."

Over 90 per cent of state revenues in the 1992-93 budget come from oil. Finance Minister Nasser Abdulla-al-Rodhan said this month income from Kuwait's overseas assets, which he declined to quantify, was not included in budget figures.

The Gulf War made a large debt in Kuwait's capital assets. The emirate paid out some 60 billion dollar to cover allied war costs and support its own people.

It channelled 14 billion dollar to its citizens in back pay and free services after the war, and is still to pay out on its biggest commitment. In May it promised to buy over 20 billion dollar worth of debt off stagnating local banks to put them and the debtors on their feet again.

Loss of investment income not only means less revenue to support the free services and well-paid employment Kuwaitis are accustomed to expect, it also means much more uncertainty.

Oil prices could plummet if Iraq, currently banned from selling crude under UN sanctions, comes back on to the market, and underexploited fields like those in the former Soviet republics are commercially developed.

The government could still borrow under a 10 billion dollar limit set by the Emir last

year but investment officials are reluctant to return to international markets after their 5.5 billion dollar Euroloan offer last year met with a cool response.

Local political observers say some officials are concerned at Kuwait's permanently altered balance of payments and are convinced something ought to be done.

But they have so far made little headway against the political pressure to keep providing.

"We obviously can't go back to the way we lived before," a senior government official said.

Signs have emerged recently, however, that the hand-outs are drying up. Last month, the government turned down plans to offer each Kuwaiti family a further 5,000 dinars Gulf War compensation and faces with calls to forgive citizens debts for cars bought before the occupation on the grounds many had been stolen by Iraqis, it said debts could be rescheduled but not forgiven.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 23.08.92.

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L.Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/2	Banglar Shobha	GI	Pena	BSC	23/8	1/8
J/4	Mizoram	GI/GL	Cal	SSL	21/8	28/8
J/5	Hafez	GL	Cal	SSL	22/8	26/8
J/7	Banglar Gourab	Urea	Mong	BSC	10/8	1/9
J/8	Qing He Cheng	Idi	S Hai	BDSHIP	20/8	24/8
J/10	Samudra Raj	Idle	Kara	SSL	15/7	24/8
J/11	Al Mohammed	Urea	Mong	KSL	10/8	26/8
J/12	Nen Jiang	GI(SPL)	China	BDSHIP	18/8	24/8
J/13	New Genlord	Cont	Strng	BDSHIP	23/8	25/8
MPB/1	Optima	Cont	Strng	RSL	22/8	25/8
MPB/2	A Megacarrer Two	Cont	Strng	BDSHIP	22/8	25/8
G/SJ	Ira	Wheat	Califo	Agua	16/8	24/8
TSP	Banglar Asha	Repair		BSC	9/8	25/8
RM/3	Jamca	CSBO	Para	Seacom	19/8	25/8
RM/6	Artemis-1	Cont	Alada	Bright	10/8	24/8
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	C.Oil	BSC	R/A	24/8	
DOJ/1	Endurance Sea	Repair	Apaba	EOSL	25/1	30/8
DOJ/2	Banglar Baari	Repair		BSC	R/A	26/8
RM/9	Banglar Sampad	Repair		BSC	R/A	25/8

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Oryx	23/8	Mong	Agua	GL	Doula
Green Island	23/8	-	Karna	GI	New York
Flying Dragon	24/8	-	USTC	Cement	-
Miramar	24/8	Mong	RSL	GL	Sudan
Yambourko	24/8	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Vilva Pallav	24/8	-	SSL	GL	Dundee Ant
Tanary Star	24/8	-	PSAL	Cement	-
Mehedint	25/8	Col	BSL	GL	-
Fong Shin 18/8	25/8	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Nyveverett	26/8	-	EBPL	GI	-
Ever Cheer 8/8	26/8	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Cal
Kota Buana	16/8	-	-	-	-
Petr Starostin	16/8	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Andromache	16/8	-	CT	Cont	Sing
Carvos Explorer	28/7	Col	RSL	Cont	Mong
Fong Yun 18/8	29/8	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Diamond Star	30/8	Sing	BSC	Steel Cargo	-
Safina-e-Header	31/8	Kara	ASLL	GI/GL	Karachi
NGS Ranger 22/8	2/9	-	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
TT energy	C Oil	COL	NNL	27/4
Kaahce	C Oil	Jebal	DSL	19/8
Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	-	BSC	R/A(23/8)
Ultra Sea	Wheat	New Orle	LAMS	22/9
Soulbuk	Wheat	Para	LAMS	22/8

VESSELS NOT READY

Sheng	Cement	Sing	Bright	17/8
Al Tabith	R Sulp	Al Juba	BSC	18/8

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Alyn	Cement	Sing	Alamin	R/A(18/9)
Nchaj	Scraping	Col	UMAL	10/6
Samudra Samrat	-	Col	SSL	R/A(21/8)
Bryarskyl	-	-	-	-
Mashinostrotel	-	-	TSLL	R/A(14/8)

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.

Raw Jute Prices

As of August 22

Kutcha Bales FOB	BT	Price	Quantity
Narayanganj/Daulatpur	Rejection	1550	240
Varieties (Tk. per 100 Kg)	BT		
White	Habitaji	1150	205
Tossa	Bangla		
Meshta	Cut Ropes	1100	205
Mid. 1058	Cutting		
Bot. (B) 978	BW Cutting		
Bot. (C) 871	A	1200	195
Bot. (D) 790	BW Cutting		
Bot. (E) 657	B	1100	175
Note: *FOB = Freight on board	BT Cutting		
Bot. = Bottom	A	1450	230
	BT Cutting		
	B	1350	210
	BT Cutting		
	Special	1700	
	A	1600	
	B	1550	
	C	1450	
	D		
	E		
	Remarks:		
	Quality	Normal	
	Condition	Average	
	N'ganj imp	5,000/6,000mds	
	Daulatpur imp	4,000/5,000	
	Market	firm	
	** Indicative prices at which sales may be considered for EPC registration. Dollar prices shown above are without selling commission.		

Price Index

August 22

Essentials	Price
RICE (Taka per kg)	140.00-150.00
Aman(ine)	90.00-100.00
Payam	110.00-120.00
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)	120.00-130.00
Onion	60.00-62.00
Potato (local)	85.00-90.00
Brinjal	10.00-12.00
Karolla	5.00-6.00
Lalshak	7.00-8.00
Papya	4.00-6.00
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	70.00-80.00
OTHER FOODGRAN (Taka per kg)	
Floor	13.80-14.00
Arto	11.00-11.50
FISH (Taka per kg)	
Raw(hg)	180.00-190.00
Kat(hg)	120.00-130.00
Haha	55.00-60.00
Pungas Shrimp(big)	140.00-150.00
Singi	90.00-100.00
Koi	110.00-120.00
Beef	120.00-130.00
MEAT	
Chicken	60.00-62.00
Mutton	85.00-90.00
CHICKEN	
Large	62.00-64.00
Moderate	66.00-68.00
Small	70.00-72.00
TEA	
Dust (Plain)	70.00-80.00
EGG	
Fresh	4.00
Firm	11.50-12.00
12.00-12.50	

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 23, 24 and 25.

(Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B.C.	T.T. (C)	Buying O.D. Transfer
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Poundsterling	76.4449	76.0865	75.5887
DM	27.3942	27.2184	27.0262
FF	8.0553	8.0042	7.9477
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042	10.3307
D Outdiers	24.2788	24.1249	23.9845
S Kroner	7.5017	7.4559	7.4032
Singapore Dollar	24.3528	24.2135	24.0425
UAE Dirham	10.6911	10.6299	10.5648
Kuwaiti Dinar	134.3853	133.6164	132.6727
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 Bangladeshis working abroad.

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on August 23, 1992

Star Economic Report

**Poor trading**

A sharp decline was experienced at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Sunday. Both the turnovers fell. Volume registered a fall of 30.42 per cent against Saturday's finish of 23563. Value fell by 37.49 per cent from Taka 1621167.50 to Tk 1013283.50.

A large number of shares traded on the day. Out of total 40 shares, 18 shares gained, 15 lost while the rest nine shares traded at their previous rates.

The DSE index fell and stood at 368.2231 from Saturday's 370.1557, losing 1,933 points.

THE DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE All Share Price Index	368.2231				
Market Capitalisation (Tk)	10,527,874,386.00				
Turnover in Value (Tk)	1019283.50				
Turnover (In volume)	16993				
Company	FV/ML	Previous day's price Tk	Closing Price Tk	Change (Absolute) Tk	Change (% over previous price)
<b>Gains (16)</b>					
Shares:					
Rahman Chemical	100/10	45.50	50.38	4.88	10.726
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50	49.00	51.67	2.67	5.449
B Thai Aluminium	100/10	86.88	89.84	2.96	3.407
Rahim Textile	100/5	72.86	75.00	2.14	2.938
Eagle Box	10/50	23.41	24.00	0.59	2.521
Eastern Cables	100/5	82.69	85.00	2.31	2.794
B Oxygen	10/50	54.98	56.36	1.38	2.510
B Autocars	100/5	80.25	82.00	1.75	2.181
GQ Ball Pen	10/50	79.42	81.00	1.58	1.990
Ashraf Textile	10/50	35.00	35.56	0.56	1.600
Kohinoor Chemical	100/5	88.00	89.00	1.00	1.137
Howlader PVC	100/10	107.21	108.00	0.79	0.737
Heximco Pharma	100/5	365.00	367.00	2.00	0.548
National Tubes	100/10	95.86	96.00	0.14	0.146
<b>Losses (15)</b>					
Shares:					
5th ICB M Fund	100/10	98.00	85.00	-13.00	-