

WDB-World Bank conduct survey to check erosion

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 4: The Water Development Board with World Bank assistance has undertaken a survey to check erosion by river Jamuna in Sirajganj, reports UNB.

A permanent measure would be taken early next year to protect Kaziur Sadar thana on the basis of the survey report.

Officials apprised Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq of the measures during his visit to the flood and erosion-hit areas in Kaziur Thursday.

Health complex, schools, colleges, arable land and other infrastructure on the bank of Jamuna in Kaziur have been declared abandoned in the wake of continued erosion, an official handout said.

The minister, addressing a public meeting in Sadar thana, said the present government was determined to save life and property of the people from erosion by the mighty river.

Earlier, the minister visited the embankment constructed to protect the Mazar of Shah Mukhdum (R) at Shahjadpur in the district. It was built at a cost of Taka 1.87 crore.

State Minister for Law Aminul Haq and local MPs accompanied the minister.

Work on Tk 46 cr road construction in progress

TANGAIL, Sept 4: Construction of 46-kilometre Tangail-Mymensingh feeder road is progressing fast at a cost of Taka 46.56 crore, reports BSS.

An official source said that five out of 14 bridges and three out of eight culverts will be completed by the end of the current year.

Besides, pavement work of 23 kilometres of the road will be completed soon, the source said.

Japan chamber chief hails economic package

TOKYO, Sept 4: Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI) Chairman Rokuro Ishikawa praised the government's recent economic package but said he was unhappy that it did not include income tax cuts, reports Reuter.

"The government's awareness of the current economic conditions has finally come close to ours," Ishikawa told a news conference.

He said, the economic package reflected 90 per cent of JCCI's ideas on boosting the economy but declined to give it a full 100 per cent since the government had decided not to include income tax cuts in the package.

Asked when the government should introduce income tax cuts, Ishikawa said the timing would depend on how the package was carried out and its effects on the overall economy.

"If the current economic condition turns for the worse, we need to think up other measures," he said.

Asked about Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's recent comments on the possibility of using public funds to set up a property-buying body, Ishikawa said this showed the government's serious attitude toward revitalising the economy and would have a positive effect.

US battle against drugs costs \$45.2b

WASHINGTON, Sept 4: The US government has spent \$45.2 billion dollar battling narcotics but has little to show for it, a private group said Thursday, reports AP.

The Drug Policy Foundation accused President Bush's administration of failing in a pledge to focus on cutting US demand for drugs and of being unable to sustain a sharp downward trend in drug usage. It found that more than 70 per cent of the money spent by the Bush administration has been on law enforcement.

The declaration of war on drugs by the Bush administration three years ago was "deceptive" and Bush is continuing the deception by declaring victory, said foundation President Arnold S. Trebach.

Illegal drug use declined 39 per cent between 1985 and 1988, but the decline rate slowed to 15 per cent between 1988 and 1991, said the report.

An administration policy official rejected the criticism, saying the "turnaround in drug use has been nothing short of amazing."

The number of drug users has dropped by two-thirds since its peak of 25 million in the 1980s, said Bruce Carnes, director of planning and budget at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Bin Haji Ahmad Badawi addressing a reception accorded to him by Multimode Transport Consultants Limited at Panda Garden recently. Abdul Awal Minto, MD, MTCL and Secretary, Religious Affairs Abdul Awal also seen in the picture.

Benapole customs needs test laboratory

Govt facing revenue losses worth crores of taka

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 4: Benapole customs office has been incurring loss of revenues worth crores of taka due to absence of a test laboratory every year.

Over 70 per cent of chemical substances imported from India enter through this route, sources said. These are used in garments, steel, rubber and tin manufacturing factories.

Imports of such items require quality report from test laboratory before entrance into the country. So, cases have to refer to Dhaka or Rajshahi for clearance certificate. Normally,

it takes three to four months for consignee to get delivery order.

Consignments are held up under open sky for pending receipt of report. In this situation, quality of production falls, causing losses to national economy.

Installation of a test laboratory at Benapole can solve these problems through issuance of on the spot report and deliver order to consignee quickly. But its set-up being delayed for unknown reasons.

Meanwhile, a practice has developed to collect cash money from consignees in the name of test laboratory fees. But every little of it is remitted against the cases.

When contacted concerned officer of Benapole customs office told The Daily Star, that it could be easily done by repairing a room of the local customs office. One chemist and two assistants can initially run it and fees collected will exceed the total cost including the salaries and allowances by wide margin, the officer disclosed.

A popular method of fishing seen here. The water flow favours this method better as fishes are trapped inside. Making a escape is tough as the trap is made very tactfully. —Star photo

Bank cashier absconding with Tk 5.15 lakh

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 4: A bank cashier has been absconding after taking Taka five lakh 15 thousand from two customers of the town.

Ali Reza, Chowdhury, a cashier of Janata Bank, foreign exchange branch, Sylhet along with a guard took a cash amount of Taka two lakh from Kawsar Jahan Koyor, a dealer of foreign exchange on the plea of emergency need of the bank on August 19. The amount will be credited against his bank account, the cashier informed Kawsar.

Due to his personal business, hartal and holiday on the following three days, the customer could not collect the receipt, Kawsar said.

On August 22, another foreign exchange dealer, Jahid Uddin Ahmed went to deposit Taka three lakh 15 thousand to the counter of the bank. Due to heavy rush, the cashier requested Jahid to collect the receipt later on. When Jahid went to the branch on August 23, the manager informed him that the cashier had been transferred. The cashier was not available at his residence at the town.

Two separate cases have been registered with the Kotwali Police Station.

When contacted, the manager of the bank confirmed the matter but denied to say anything in detail.

IBM to start new company for PC business

NEW YORK, Sept 4: International Business Machines Corp. eager to maintain its place on the cutting edge of the computer industry, said on Thursday it would start a new company to handle its personal computer business, reports Reuter.

The new company, which would be the world's largest personal computer maker with annual revenues of Seven billion US dollar, will try to evolve into a more flexible competitor in the fast-moving PC market.

It is the latest in a series of moves by IBM, the world's largest computer maker, to become more responsive to market shifts and she fits image as a lumbering giant.

Industry analysts said it would rid IBM of a conflict between the demands of its traditional mainframe business and small computer divisions.

"This whole thing is about speed — faster development and a faster distribution system," James Cannavino, General Manager of IBM's personal systems business, said in an interview.

IBM will use the new company as a vehicle to sell a revamped line of PCs aimed at the low end of the market.

Cannavino said the new unit is "geared and positioned and has the right product set to gain a market share and grow as a business."

The move is part of a restructuring launched late last year by IBM. IBM stock was down 50 cents a share at dollar 87 on the New York stock exchange.

The new company is responsible for developing, manufacturing, distributing and marketing IBM PCs worldwide.

150 new dyeing, finishing units to be set up

CHITTAGONG, Sept 4: State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan on Wednesday said that the government had decided to establish 150 new dyeing, finishing industrial units in private sector in the country, reports BSS.

He said steps had also been taken for balancing, modernising and rehabilitation of existing dyeing, finishing units.

The State Minister was addressing a meeting of the members of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) at the Chamber Bhaban here on Wednesday.

Presided over by the president of the CCCI Engineer Ali Ahmed, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP.

The State Minister said the country has a demand of 230 crore metre of clothes during the current fiscal year. Of this, 130 crore metre is for local

demand and 100 crore metre for export market, he added.

Mannan said, to meet the demand of clothes, our country has to import 135 crore metre of finished clothes per year. He opined, if this quantity of clothes could be imported in gray condition and it could be dyed and finished in our country, it would save a huge amount of foreign currency and side by side generate a large number of employment.

He called upon the entrepreneurs and industrialists to come forward in establishing more dyeing and finishing industrial units in order to achieve the goal.

The State Minister was apprised of various problems existing in this sector. He assured that all possible measures will be taken to remove the problem.

Later, he held a meeting with the members of specialised textile mills association at the Chamber Bhaban.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 3.9.92

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	
Swan Glory	Swan Glory	GI	Indo	Seacom	29/8	8/9
J/2	Banglar	GI	Pena	BSC	23/8	8/9
J/3	Mehedinti	GI	Col	BSL	27/8	7/9
J/4	Oryx	GL	Mong	Aqua	28/8	3/9
J/5	Hafez	GL	Cal	SSL	22/8	4/9
J/6	Banglar	Urea	Mong	BSC	10/8	5/9
J/7	Miramar	GL	Mong	KSL	28/8	5/9
MF/1	Andrian	Cont	Sing	CT	1/9	4/9
GSJ	Banglar Aaha	Wheat	—	LAMS	R/A	3/9
TSP	Al Tabith	R Sulp	Al Jub	BSL	18/8	6/9
RM/4	Shalamar	Cement	Col	PSAL	28/8	9/9
RM/6	Tanary Star	Cement	Sing	PSAL	24/8	4/9
BOJ	Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	—	BSC	R/A	8/9
DD/1	Endurance Sea	Repair	Aqaba	EOSL	25/1	15/9
DD/2	Banglar Baari	Repair	—	BSC	R/A	8/9
RM/8	Flying Dragon	Cement	Sing	USTC	23/8	10/9
RM/9	Banglar	Repair	—	BSC	R/A	8/9
	Shourabh	Repair	—	BSC	R/A	8/9

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading agent
Caravon Explorer	3/9	Stork	Alamin	Wheat	—
NGS Ranger	4/9	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Horn	4/9	Hong	Prog	GI	—
Safina-e-Haider	5/9	Kara	ASLL	GI/GI	Karachi
Optima	4/9	Sing	BSL	Cont	Sing
R Rossi	5/9	Pena	Sunbeam	Copra	Sing
New Genlord	6/9	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Diamond Star	6/9	Sing	BSC	Steel	—
Tory Hill	6/9	—	Anchor	P Iron In Bulk	—
Al Fesani	7/9	—	Seacom	Copra	—
Pacific Timur	8/9	Cal	Sing	OTL	—
Asian Queen	8/9	Cal	EBPL	GI	—
Shaplaeverett	6/9	Sing	EBPL	GI	—
Forq Yun	8/9	Peng	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Weser star	8/9	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Cal
Safina-e-Islam-2	8/9	—	ASLL	GI/GI	Karachi
Kota Buzar	9/9	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Pearl One PM	4/9	Mong	—	Cross	—
Vishva Parjat	9/9	—	SSL	—	Dundee Ant
AS Altinca	10/9	—	BSC	Steel	—
Mowavi	10/9	—	SSL	GI	Iranian Ports
State of Manipur	12/9	—	SSL	GI	—
Amal	12/9	—	ENCL	Cement	—
Hang Cheong	12/9	L Kou	Khansons	Cement	TCB
Forq Shin	12/9	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Ever Cheer	15/9	—	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Andromache	16/9	Col	RSL	Cont	Mong
Jiang Cheng	20/9	S Hai	BDSHP	Cont	—
Avon Delta	20/9	Sakra	Aqua	Wheat	—

TANKER DUE

Esso Bayonne	4/9	Sing	MSPL

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
T Energy	C Oil	Col	NNL	27/4

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON

Envalia	Cong	Mong	RSL	3/9

VESSELS NOT READY

Yao Sheng	Cement	Sing	Bright	17/8
Georgios-M	Cement <th>Viso</th> <th>Paragon</th> <th>17/8</th>	Viso	Paragon	17/8
Ielos	R Seeds <th>Ruen</th> <th>Royal</th> <th>2/9</th>	Ruen	Royal	2/9
Lang Shing	Cement <th>Mong</th> <th>H&H</th> <th>3/9</th>	Mong	H&H	3/9

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Alyn	Cement	Sing	Alamin	R/A
Ultra Sea <th>Wheat</th> <th>P Syed</th> <th>LAMS</th> <th>27/8</th>	Wheat	P Syed	LAMS	27/8
Selantik <th>Wheat</th> <th>—</th> <th>LAMS</th> <th>R/A</th>	Wheat	—	LAMS	R/A
Felastella <th>Cement</th> <th>Sing</th> <th>AEKA</th> <th>28/8</th>	Cement	Sing	AEKA	28/8
Artemis-1 <th>Cement</th> <th>—</th> <th>Bright</th> <th>R/A</th>	Cement	—	Bright	R/A

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

September-2

Essentials

RICE	(Taka per kg)	Dates	50.00-55.00
Amant(fine)	16.00-17.00	OIL	(Taka per litre)
Pajon	13.50-14.50	Mustard	52.00-54.00
VEGETABLES	(Taka per kg)	Soyabean	38.00-39.00
Potato (local)	11.00-12.00	Coconut (Colombo)	90.00-95.00
Brinjal	6.00-10.00	Vegetable Ghee (1kg)	48.00-52.00
Karola	10.00-12.00	SPICES	(Taka per kg)
Lalishak	5.00-6.00	Onion (local)	10.50-11.00
Papya	5.00-7.00	Garlic (local)	25.00-30.00
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	4.00-6.00	Chillies (local)	28.00-38.00
OTHER FOODSTUFF	(Taka per kg)	Turnerich(local)	48.00-52.00
Flour	1.50-1.60	Green chillies	8.00-12.00
Amo	10.50-11.00	Ginger	22.00-24.00
FISH	(Taka per kg)	Cinnamon (10gm)	7.00-8.00
Rubi(big)	160.00-170.00	Candamom (10gm) (small)	3.00-3.50
Katla(big)	120.00-130.00	Jhira (50 gms)	9.00-10.00
Hilsha	50.00-55.00	MILK	(Two litres)
Puagan	120.00-130.00	Dano	306.00-307.00
Shrimp(big)	90.00-100.00	Red-Cow	316.00-317.00
Singi	110.00-120.00	MISCELLANEOUS	(Taka per kg)
Koi	125.00-135.00	Ghee	230.00-240.00
MEAT		Salt	7.00-7.50
Beef	55.00-60.00	Sugar	27.00-28.00
Mutton	85.00-90.00		
CHICKEN			
Large	58.00-60.00		
Moderate	62.00-64.00		
Small	66.00-68.00		
TEA			
Dust (Plain)	80.00-90.00		
EGG	(4 pcs)		
Hm	12.00-12.50		
Duck	12.00-12.50		
Pinn	12.00-13.00		
PULSES	(Taka per kg)		
Mothor	28.00-30.00		
Mogch	30.00-32.00		
Chola	22.00-23.00		
Kharuri	15.00-16.00		
FRUITS	(One piece)		
Green Coconut (Small)	5.00-7.00		
Coconut (Large)	8.00-12.00		
Pineapple	NA		
Jackfruit	3.00-4.00		
Banana	(4 pieces)		
Sugar (Large)	12.00-15.00		
Chupra	(Taka per kg)		

Hides & Skin

(Wet/Salted)

(Taka per 100 pieces)

Cow	12000	33000
Light <td>68000 <td>75000 </td></td>	68000 <td>75000 </td>	75000
Medium <td>75000 <td>83000 </td></td>	75000 <td>83000 </td>	83000
Heavy <td>85000 <td>93000 </td></td>	85000 <td>93000 </td>	93000
Very heavy <td>105000 <td>110000 </td></td>	105000 <td>110000 </td>	110000
Rejected <td>35000 <td>40000 </td></td>	35000 <td>40000 </td>	40000
Goat <td></td> <td></td>		
Big & heavy <td>12000 <td>30000</td> </td>	12000 <td>30000</td>	30000
Light & heavy <td>90000 <td>11000</td> </td>	90000 <td>11000</td>	11000
Medium <td>7000 <td>8000</td> </td>	7000 <td>8000</td>	8000
Rejected <td>60000 <td>65000</td> </td>	60000 <td>65000</td>	65000

Gold & Silver

(Taka for 11.66 grams)

Gold (Gutnra)	6200.00
Silver <td>200.00</td>	200.00

Source: Department of Agriculture marketing

Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial