

Chittagong complex to produce 84,000 tonnes of fertilizer

Chittagong TSP Complex will produce and market a record 84,000 metric tons of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) fertilizer during the current fiscal year (1992-93).

Official sources told UNB Saturday the target has been fixed in view of the rising demand of the fertilizer at home and abroad. Last year (1991-92), it produced 45,000 metric tons of SSP and marketed 34,000 metric tons.

The TSP Complex has reduced production of Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) because of unplanned import by the private sector that brought the price lower than its manufacturing cost.

It has started production and marketing of SSP fertilizer

due to fall in the use of TSP in South-East Asia. On an average the annual use of SSP fertilizer is now 1.65 lakh mts in Pakistan, 31.38 lakh mts in China and 8.42 lakh mts in India.

Experts say, it's a sign of optimism that farmers have shown interest in using mixed fertilizer SSP. The TSP Complex marketed 24,546 mts of SSP in July and August alone, the sources said.

The production capacity of the complex could be increased to 2,60,000 tons from the present capacity of 1,52,000 tons with some repair works to be done at an estimated cost of about taka 17 crore.

"It's a corrosive plant, it

needs modification and reconstruction to increase SSP production," said Managing Director of the TSP Complex Jamil Islam.

Use of TSP fertilizer is declining in the region as users tend to reject it as "unprofitable". In the developed countries also, there is an increasing trend of the use of mixed fertilizer like Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), Nitrogen Phosphorous Potassium (NPK) and Nitrogen Phosphorous Potassium Sulphur (NPKS).

Officials said the government has a plan to set up a DAP fertilizer plant near Jamuna Fertiliser Factory at Tarakandi by 1993. It is expected to go into production by 1995.

This DAP plant will use surplus Ammonia and Phosphate of Jamuna Fertiliser and Chittagong Urea fertiliser factories as raw materials. The annual surplus urea and TSP production is three and four lakh tons respectively.

"But it is unfortunate that off-take of TSP from the country's lone manufacturing unit TSP Complex has slowed down due to heavy stock of imported TSP in private sector," said a BCIC official.

TSP is now selling at Taka 6,860 per ton against the production cost of Taka 8,100 due to the lack of specific import rule of the government because donors are giving subsidy of Taka 2,000 per ton to the importer, he said.

BGMEA demands abolition of advance taxes

The 9th Annual General Meeting of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) for the year 1991 was held on August 29 at Sonargaon Hotel with Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain, President of the Association in the chair, says a press release.

The meeting which was largely attended by the garment manufacturers discussed the Annual Report for the year 1991 and passed the same together with the budget for the current financial year.

The participants in the meeting dwelt at length the burning issues as Tax at Source and Income Tax Rebate on export earnings. It was observed that these taxes especially the tax at source would put the export of Bangladeshi garments at comparative disadvantage when competing with other countries who do not have such regressive taxes.

The meeting unanimously demanded total abolition of the said tax and 100 per cent rebate of income tax on export earnings.

It was viewed with concern in the meeting that although Bank interest has been lowered the same has not been given effect to in the garment industries in Bangladesh.

The meeting therefore, unanimously raised its voice for interbond transfer at Chittagong like that of Dhaka, reduction of value addition to the previous level of 25% and withdrawal of the ban on cut piece.



Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain, President, BGMEA addressing the 9th annual general meeting for the year 1991 of the association in a local hotel on August 29.

Govt to take steps for uplift of water transport sector

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan Saturday said the government would actively consider declaring the water transport sector as industry to ensure its overall development in the interest of the national economy, reports BSS.

He said the existing labour laws would also be reformed making them up-to-date for the welfare of workers including those in the water transport sector.

The Minister was inaugurating a seminar on "water transport workers and labour law" organised by Bangladesh Jatiyatatabadi Noujan Samik Kar-

machari Dal at the Sadarghat launch terminal. State Minister in charge of the Water Transport Harun al Rashid, former labour director S M Hafiz and journalist Harun Rashid Bhuiyan also spoke on the occasion.

Labour Director S Habibullah was present on the occasion which was presided over by the dal's chairman Munir Choudhury.

The labour Minister said the inland water transport regulation and employment act 1965 was reformed as 'inland water transport (appointment and regulation) act 1992 keeping in view the interest of

the people in this sector. "This act is expected to be passed in the next session of parliament," he said.

The Minister said the whole labour and manpower sector including the water transport sector was overlooked during the last nine-year rule.

The present government is committed to bring welfare for the workers and labourers," he said and called upon all to extend their sincere cooperation to the government in its efforts to implement the development programmes in the country.



New BSFC Chairman

Meer Belayet Hossain has taken over the charge of Chairman, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFC) on September 3, says a Press release.

He was earlier working as Member (Finance) of Bangladesh Water Development Board.

He also worked in responsible positions in different government offices and semi-government organisation.

Dhaka Sheraton prepares for SAARC summit

With a multimillion taka renovation programme which is now going on full swing, Dhaka Sheraton prepares for SAARC summit, says a Press release.

The new phase of renovation also involve the modernising of the lifts, expansion of the lobby area, renovation and enlargement of functions areas.

To enhance the beauty of the lobby granite marble will be used, introduction of lobby cafe and redecoration of the Reception counter will take place.

Before the commissioning of the proposed health club project in October 92, a health club with all modern fitness equipments and gym is being introduced on the third floor of the hotel as an interim arrangement to meet guests demand.

All these renovation and upgrade programme has been taken in the backdrop of the SAARC summit to be held in December 1992.

COMMENTARY

Inadequate opportunity causing low saving in Bangladesh

Abu Ahmed, Guest Columnist

We say that saving is low in Bangladesh around four per cent of the Gross National Product. But we hardly say why saving is low, apart from saying that income, one of main factors in saving, is also low.

True, low income generates low saving, but low saving also generates low income. What is the truth for Bangladesh then—low saving due to low income, or the other way round? Actually this is a chicken-egg problem and we should not get bogged down such a problem.

Without going into the exercise of identifying which one increases first saving or income, we can say very strongly that both can move simultaneously and to help move them simultaneously is one of the functions of a dynamic economy.

Our neighbours have much higher saving rate, around 15 per cent of their GNP. We are the only country in this region to be caught in a low saving-income trap. Saving does not generate income on its own, but through investment. If saving is high, high investment is expected, which will lead to the high income. In other words saving, investment, and income generation are connected in a chain of actions. If one does not move others also remain static.

Saving, investment, income generation—everything is going very slowly in Bangladesh and the economy is not working at its full potentiality. Saving and investment do not take place in an economy when there is a slow-down of demand. But here demand is high, though suppressed. Yet the saving and investment are not going up over time. This is a paradox which seems to belie the spirit of a market economy. But in reality there is nothing wrong with the automatic movements of economic variables of Bangladesh economy, except that we did not clear the market from obstructionist factors to help it move freely.

Saving on its own does not lead to investment. It can at best lie idle in the vaults of financial intermediaries like banks and insurance companies. Financial intermediaries must channel it to investment sector and the market forces must also help this transformation. Piling up of saving with the financial institutions may even turn out to be burden, as we now find in Bangladesh financial institutions, to remain free from burden of idle funds, must constantly shift it onward for further use in production. But it is also possible that saving with the banks and non-bank financial institutions can be channelled onward for other purposes. The bulk of the saving the banks and other financial institutions now use, for example, for imports is simply being used for non-productive purpose. That is, the saved-up money is being used for import of consumer goods.

Saving when goes to equity or fixed capital financing is used for productive purpose. Saving thus used generates income and employment. Once the wheel of saving-investment-income generation can be set in motion, it will surge forward in a market economy unless stopped by various controls and other market imperfections.

In Bangladesh, the individuals as well as institutions do not have much options about saving a portion of their income. Why they should save when it cannot be invested to generate more earn income and when the saved money loses value over time? Normally, one expects to earn more by saving, but in Bangladesh the reverse frequently happens.

When rate of inflation exceeds rate of return on saving, people become losers and they try to find other ways of saving and investment to augment their income.

But what are the other ways for saving? They are investments in land and housing. These are savings in the sense

that money comes from the postponement of present consumption. But these savings lead to unproductive investment because investments in land or house does not increase income or employment. Still a big portion of our saving is finding way to these sectors and causing a dampening effect on our income generation.

We did not create enough opportunity for saving in Bangladesh, as we kept our economy controlled, and made government presence necessary every where from setting up an industry to road construction and other social welfare deliveries. We did not understand properly what a market economy is and how does it work. Households, the backbones of saving, have real difficulty in choosing between saving and consumption because the former did not offer them any reasonable return for their postponement of consumption.

Saving takes place in a free economy with multiple saving opportunities. Saving opportunities are offered by the existence of various financial instruments which represent both the equity capital and loan capital of various industrial and commercial enterprises. These instruments are stocks, bonds, certificates of deposits, bills of exchange etc.

In general, the instruments fall in two categories, the long-term and the short-term ones. Both types compete with each other to influence the income earners to postpone their present consumption in favour of future return. If the income earners do not see these instruments around, or if they see them alright but do not feel confident about them, then saving will not take place. If it takes place at all, it will be used for unproductive purposes, like investment in real estate.

Availability of saving instruments like stocks, bonds, bills etc. to the potential savers will help raise our savings level and this can be achieved only through reform of capital and money markets.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 05.09.92

Berth No	Name of vessel	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Swan Glory	GI	Indo	Seacom	29/8	10/9
J/2	Banglar Shobha	GI	Pena	ISC	23/8	10/9
J/4	Safina-e-Haider	GI/GL	Kara	ASLJ	5/9	12/9
J/5	K Rosati	Copra	Milan	Sunbeam	4/9	12/9
J/6	Delos	R Seeds	Ruen	Royal	2/9	16/9
J/9	Horn	GI	Hong	Prog	4/9	8/9
J/10	Mehedinti	Idle	Col	BSL	27/8	7/9
J/12	Miramar	CL	Mong	BSL	28/8	7/9
J/13	Optima	Cont	Sing	BSC	5/9	8/9
MPB/1	NGS Ranger	Cont	Sing	BDShip	4/9	7/9
MPB/2	Bernalva	Cont	Mong	BSC	3/9	5/9
TSP	Al Tabith	R Sulp	Al Juba	BSL	18/8	7/9
RM/4	Shalamar	Cement	Col	PSAL	28/8	11/9
RM/6	Easo Bayonce	HSD/JP-1	Sing	MSPJL	4/9	7/9
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	Cont	ISC	R/A	8/9	8/9
DDJ/1	Endurance Sea	Repair	Aqaba	EOSL	25/8	15/9
DDJ/2	Banglar Baani	Repair	ISC	R/A	8/9	8/9
RM/8	Flying	Cement	Sing	USTC	24/8	10/9
RM/9	Banglar Sampad	Repair	ISC	R/A	8/9	8/9

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Pearl one	5/9	Mong	Cross	-	-
Caravos Explorer	6/9	Stork	Alamin	Wheat	-
Diamond Star	6/9	Sing	ISC	Steel Cargo	-
Tory Hill	6/9	Sing	Anchor	P Iron	-
Shaplaeverett	6/9	Sing	EBPL	GI	Japa FE ST
Al Pssari	7/9	Sing	Seacom	Copra	-
Bryantky	-	-	-	-	-
Mashinostrotel	8/9	-	UMAL	-	-
New Genlord 26/8	8/9	Strug	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Pacific Timur	8/9	Cal	OTL	Logs	-
Asian Queen	8/9	Cal	EBPL	GI	-
1 Yamburenko 3/9	8/9	-	CT	Cont	Sing
Kota Buana 29/8	9/9	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Vishva Parjat	9/9	-	SSL	-	Dundee Ant
Safina-e-Jamal-2	10/9	-	ASLJ	GI/GL	Karachi
A S Altincan	10/9	-	ISC	Steel Cargo	-
Mowlavit	10/9	-	SSL	GI	Iranian Ports
Fong Yun 18/8	11/9	Peng	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Weser Star 25/8	11/9	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Cal
Amal	12/9	Sikka	ENCL	Cement	-
Fong Shin 1/9	12/9	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Hang Cheong	14/9	L.Kou	Khanasara	Cement	-
State of Manipur	16/9	-	SSL	GI	-
Yun Bun Jin	15/9	Sing	OSA	Copra	-
Ever Cheer 1/9	16/9	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Andromachi 1/9	16/9	Col	RSL	Cont	Mong
Jiang Cheng	20/9	S.Hai	BDSHIP	GI	-
Avon Delta	20/9	Sacra	Aqaba	Wheat	-
P Starostin 5/9	13/9	-	-	-	-

TANKER DUE

Al Debaran-IV	5/9	Sing	Seacom	CSO
Pacific Diamond	10/9	Sing	ECSL	F Oil

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

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

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON				
Banglar Asha	Wheat	-	LAMS	R/A(3/9)

VESSELS NOT READY

Yao Sheng	Cement	Sing	Bright	17/8
Georgios-M	Cement	Viso	Panagon	27/8
Hang Shing	Cement	Mong	H&I	3/9

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Alyn	Cement	Sing	Alamin	R/A(18/9)
Solbulk	Wheat	Sing	LAMS	R/A(30/8)
Felstella	Cement	Sing	AEKA	28/8
Artemis-1	Cement	Sing	Bright	R/A(28/8)
Sung Sen	Cement	Visak	HIL	2/9

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

September-5

Essentials

RICE	(Taka per kg)	Dess	(Taka per kg)
Aman(11%)	16.00-17.00	OIL	50.00-55.00
Patil	13.00-14.00	Mustard	52.00-54.00
VEGETABLES	(Taka per kg)	Soybean	38.00-39.00
Potato (local)	11.00-12.00	Coconut (Colombo)	90.00-95.00
Brijal	8.00-12.00	Vegetable (Choe (1kg))	48.00-52.00
Karolla	10.00-12.00	SPICES	(Taka per kg)
Lahak	6.00-7.00	Onion (local)	10.00-11.00
Pepya	7.00-8.00	Garlic (local)	25.00-30.00
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	4.00-6.00	Chillies (local)	28.00-38.00
OTHER FOODGRAIN	(Taka per kg)	Turmeric (local)	48.00-52.00
Flour	13.30-14.00	Green chillies	10.00-12.00
Arua	10.50-11.50	Ginger	24.00-26.00
FISH	(Taka per kg)	Cinnamon (10gm)	7.00-8.00
Ruh(big)	70.00-180.00	Cardamom (10gm) (small)	3.00-3.50
Katia(big)	30.00-140.00	Jhira (50 gms)	9.00-10.00
Haha	60.00-65.00	MILK	(Two ltr)
Purga	125.00-135.00	Dano	305.00-305.00
Shrimp(big)	90.00-100.00	Red-Cow	315.00-315.00
Sing	110.00-120.00	MISCELLANEOUS	(Taka per kg)
Ko	125.00-135.00	Choe	230.00-240.00
MEAT		Salt	7.00-7.50
Beef	60.00	Sugar	27.00-28.00
Mutton	85.00-90.00		
CHEICKEN			
Large	62.00-64.00		
Moderate	66.00-68.00		
Small	70.00		
TEA			
Dus (Plain)	80.00-90.00		
EGG	(4 pcs)		
Han	12.00-14.00		
Duck	12.00-12.50		
Firm	12.00-13.00		
PULSES	(Taka per kg)		
Mashur	28.00-30.00		
Mooch	30.00-32.00		
Chhola	22.00-23.00		
Khasari	15.00-16.00		
FRUITS			
Green Coconut (Small)	5.00-7.00		
Coconut (Large)	8.00-10.00		
Pineapple	8.00-12.00		
Jackfruit	NA		
Banana (4 pieces)	12.00-15.00		
Sugar (Large)	12.00-15.00		
Champa	3.00-4.00		

Hides & Skin

(Wet/Salted)		(Taka per 100 pieces)	
Cow	Light	12000	33000
Light	Medium	95000	77000
Medium	Heavy	75000	83000
Heavy	Very heavy	85000	83000
Very heavy	Rejected	105000	110000
Rejected	Goat	35000	40000
Goat	Light & heavy	12000	30000
Light & heavy	Medium	10500	11000
Medium	Rejected	3000	