

Govt taken up policy to liberalise trade

Commerce Minister M K Anwar on Saturday said that the government had undertaken the policy of deregulation and trade liberalisation with a view to ensuring a greater role of the private sector in commerce and industry, reports BSS.

He said the country's economy and trade had been liberalised significantly as part of the commitment made by the present government.

The Commerce Minister, however, said that legitimate interest of the local manufacturers and producers as well as the interest of the common people would be protected before opening any item for free import.

Anwar was inaugurating a day-long workshop on the existing regulatory functions of government agencies in respect of small and medium enterprises which can eventually be transferred to the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and its member bodies.

Jointly organised by FBCCI and ADH-TA, the German Association of Small Chambers and Craft Bodies, the workshop is due to adopt a package of recommendations for removing existing regulatory function of the government agencies.

Chaired by FBCCI President Mahbubur Rahman, the inaugural session of the workshop was addressed by Commerce Secretary Nazem A Chowdhury, BSCIC Chairman M Maniruzzaman Chowdhury and regional coordinator of the ZDH-TA Heiko Waesch.

DPRK studying prospects for coal, hardrock mining

A North Korean delegation is conducting feasibility study at Barapukuria and Madhyapara for coal and hardrock mining, reports UNB.

The seven-member team, led by Vice-Minister Kim Ji Song, came in October on a 2-3 week visit to Bangladesh as per agreement between the two countries signed on March 23, official sources said in the city Monday.

The Koreans are studying prospects, economic viability and technical feasibility of the proposed projects to come out with a study report for consideration by the North Korean government for assistance.

A handout said the agreement under the Joint Economic Commission was signed in Dhaka by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and North Korean Economic Relations Minister Dong Song on behalf of their respective governments.

The delegation also met with Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury at his office recently and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Chowdhury assured the members of the delegation of all possible support regarding the exploration.

Training course on insurance begins

FARIDPUR, Nov 2: A six day-long training course for the insurance personnel of Faridpur, Rajbari and Gopalganj districts began here on October 31 at local Jiban Bima Corporation's (JBC) office premises, reports BSS.

The training course organised by Bangladesh Insurance Academy (BIA) as inaugurated by KM Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur.

Among others, zonal manager of JBC Siddiquiah and faculty member of BIA Mir Mosharraf Hossain spoke on the occasion. The function was presided over by AR Laskar, local JBC manager.

Thirty development officers of JBC of this area are participating in the training course.

Workshop on rehabilitation of sick units

A three-day long workshop on 'Rehabilitation of sick projects' concluded on November 2, says a press release.

Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) conducted this workshop to identify the causes of sickness of industrial projects and suggest measures for prevention thereof and rehabilitation of sick industrial units.

Senior officers from banks and financial institutions participated in the workshop.

A H M Nurul Islam Chowdhury, Director General, BIBM, presided over the concluding session of the workshop.

Hilsa fish export can fetch Tk 1500 cr every year

The government can earn nearly Taka 1500 crore a year by exporting Hilsa fish if proper infrastructural facilities and security are provided to the marine fishermen, reports UNB.

The estimate came from the fishermen of a coastal area who came to the capital Monday to apprise newsmen of the problems and latent prospects of deepsea fishing.

Leaders of the Patharghata-Barguna and Kalapara Fishing Trawler Samity urged the government to set up a permanent navy camp in Patharghata-Kalapara area to ensure security of hundreds of fishermen.

'Our existence is threatened, we are harassed by terrorists and toll collectors,' said President of the samity Ali

Akbar Khan at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club this morning.

A section of leaders, he alleged, are extorting exorbitant tolls beyond the fished rate with the help of local administration and also harassing the fishermen with false cases. 'We feel totally insecure.'

The samity men urged the authorities concerned to set up navy outposts at fixed distance, marked buoys and light house on the bank of Kuakata for better security of the fishermen as well as trawlers.

They also urged the government for power supply to river port Bishkhali, 10 miles off Barguna district headquarters, establishment of ice factory, workshop and dockyard for expansion of fish business. The samity asked for both

short and long-term loans for the fishermen to help them buy trawler, fishing net and accessories and exemption of arrear registration fees.

They also demanded that fish harbour be established at Patharghata for storage of fish and a survey office in Barisal for convenience of the poor fishermen. Now they have to go to Chittagong from Barguna for registration.

Some 10,000 trawlers are engaged in fishing in the Bay and thousands of fishermen depend on it for their livelihood, they said.

Samity Secretary Azizul Haq, Barguna Zila Samity President N I Khan and other leaders Abdus Sattar Master, Golam Mostafa Chowdhury and Mobarak Ali Mridha were present at the news conference.



CHANDPUR: Hilsa fish are being processed to sell in different markets of the country at Chandpur ghat. —Star photo

Call for better protection of intellectual property

A three-day seminar on 'Industrial property licensing and technology transfer arrangements' began in Dhaka at the International Conference Centre (ICC) with a call for better understanding, particularly to secure agreements on the concepts of protection of inventions, industrial design and trade marks, reports BSS.

Organised jointly by the Ministry of Industries and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the WIPO-Asian sub-regional seminar, was inaugurated by Industries Secretary Dr Ekram Hossain.

Ataul Karim, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Golam Ahmed, Joint Secretary, W Fisher, Acting Resident of UNDP and Maqbool Qayoom, senior Programme Officer of Geneva-based WIPO spoke on the occasion.

Dr Hossain referred to the forthcoming SAARC summit to

be held in Dhaka and said 'this seminar has assumed and added significance as it will also familiarise the officials, entrepreneurs, traders, businessmen and other members of the community of the problem of preserving intellectual properties and sharpen their awareness of the issues relating to the common heritage of mankind which intellectual properties they are.'

Dr Ekram Hossain said intellectual property rights was an important subject which concerned humanity as a whole. 'Industrial property licensing and technology transfer arrangements is an area which can be regarded as one of the most important issues confronting the world today,' he said.

Ataul Karim said the WIPO, one of the 16 specialised agencies of the United Nations, made satisfactory ef-

orts in collaborating with the developed and developing nations for smooth transfer of technology suited to the need of different nations.

Fisher said the UNDP had a close and fruitful cooperation with Bangladesh government in the field of industrial property with the on-going UNDP-funded projects to modernise and strengthen the patent and trademark administration.

Maqbool Qayoom said the aim of the seminar was to examine the ways in which industrial property licensing agreements were negotiated and implemented and the means to facilitate the acquisition and exploitation of technology and know-how by countries of the South Asian region.

Representatives from Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are taking part in the seminar.

Extensive boro farming plan taken up

PATUAKHALI, Nov 2: An extensive scheme has been taken up to bringing about 2.27 lakh hectares of land under Boro cultivation in 11 southern districts of the country during the current season, reports UNB.

The districts are Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Barisal, Bhola, Madaripur, Rajbari, Faridpur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj.

Agriculture Extension Department sources here said of the total land, 1.89 lakh hectares will be brought under high yielding variety and 0.38 lakh hectares under local variety.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will provide necessary seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other

necessary inputs to the growers at fair prices to make the scheme a success in the region.

According to an estimate with the implementation of the scheme about 5.50 lakh metric tons of Boro paddy will be produced in the district.

Another report adds: About 16.80 lakh acres of land have been brought under broadcast and transplanted Aman cultivation in the same 11 districts this year.

Of the total land, about 6.30 lakh acres have been brought under high yielding variety and 10.50 lakh acres under local variety.

Production target of the crop has been fixed at 18.75 lakh metric tons.

Sugarcane growers bound to produce molasses

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Nov 2: The sugarcane growers are compelled to produce molasses in the district in the absence of a sugar mills, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said about 25,000 acres of land are brought under sugarcane cultivation in the district every year and about four lakh tons of sugarcane are produced.

It may be mentioned that 80 per cent of the total land are cultivated in Shibganj thana alone. The concerned authorities had selected a site for setting up a sugar mills in Shibganj in 1989. But no initiative has yet been taken in this regard.

According to growers, a mound of molasses is produced from ten thousand pieces of sugarcane and molasses per mound is being sold at Taka 400 which is below the production cost.

It is learnt that 40,000 tons molasses are produced in the district annually from four lakh tons high quality sugarcane. But in the absence of market facilities the molasses is being sold at throw away prices.

The sugarcane growers have urged the authorities to set up sugar mills in the district to redress their sufferings and help increase sugar production of the country.

DHL opens express logistic centre

DHL and Singapore Automotive Engineering signed recently an agreement to establish and operate a Singapore-based Express Logistics Centre (ELC), says a press release.

By utilising the Singapore ELC, companies requiring fast distribution can ensure that they have inventory strategically positioned at the centre of Asia — the world's most dynamic region.

Fast turnaround is ensured as DHL promises that processing, packing and access to the DHL global network all occur within one hour of order receipt. And also the ELC operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Restrictions on bank loan to foodgrains traders go

Bangladesh Bank has lifted restrictions on disbursement of bank loan to foodgrain traders, a press release said on Monday, reports UNB.

Banks will now extend loans to the grain traders in the private sector on the basis of bank-client relationship, the BB release said.

Businessmen concerned have been asked to contact the scheduled banks in this regard.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 02/11/92

Berth no	Name of vessel	Cargo	Local agent	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Sympica	Wheat(P)	Damam	Dynamic	21/10	4/11
J/2	Lambda	Wheat(P)	Monka	Dynamic	19/10	5/11
J/3	Johanna K	Wheat(P)	N Orle	Alamin	9/10	6/11
J/6	Pionar	Salt(P)	N Fert	MSA	30/10	12/11
J/9	Ursus	GL	Parj	ESA	29/10	4/11
J/11	Al Tafzir	Rice	Viet	KSL	24/10	2/11
J/12	Haight	Fert (P)	Tempa	SSST	19/10	4/11
J/13	Optima	Cont	Sing	RSL	30/10	2/11
MPB/1	Fong Yun	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	30/10	2/11
CCJ	Safina-e-Najam	C Clink	-	ASLL	R/A	2/11
GSJ	Banglar Kiron	Repair	Col	BSC	23/10	4/11
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	-	BSC	R/A	2/11
ED	Al Reza	Repair	Pada	KSL	18/10	8/11
DDJ/1	Endurance	-	-	-	-	-
RM/8	Al Salma	Repair	Apaba	EOSL	25/1	6/11
RM/9	Banglar Urmil	GI	Col	ASLL	13/10	5/11
CUFJ	Artemis-1	Cement	-	Bright	21/10	3/11
					R/A	2/11

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Banglar Gourab	2/11	Hang	BSC	Cement	-
Jaribaz-1	2/11	Berg	MMI	GL	Sing
Ingenuty 24/10	2/11	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Easter Pearl	4/11	-	BFA	GI	-
Fong Shin 22/10	4/11	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Komsomlets	-	-	-	-	-
Belorussi	5/11	Cal	CT	Mustered Seeds	-
Sae Byol	5/11	-	H&H	Cement	-
Hafez	5/11	Mong	SSL	GL	Abbas
Nikos-N	5/11	Sing	BSL	Wheat(G)	Ctg
Kota Buana 27/10	5/11	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Chestnut Hill	6/11	N Orle	LAMS	Wheat	Ctg
Banglar Robt	6/11	-	BSC	GI	-
Karabieverett	6/11	-	EBFL	GI	Japa Fe
Banglar Doot	7/11	-	BSC	GI	-
Mezhidure	-	-	-	-	-
Chensk	7/11	Sing	Prog	GI	-
Damon	7/11	Mers	Royal	Wheat (P)	-
Vishva Mamata	8/11	Mad	SSL	GI/GL	Japa Fe
Samudra Rani	8/11	-	SSL	-	Karachi
Shenton	-	-	-	-	-
31/10	8/11	Sing	Omni	Cont	Sing
Hang Loy	9/11	-	H&H	Cement	-
Stonewall	-	-	-	-	-
Jackson	10/11	-	Karna	GI	New York
Samudra Raj	10/11	-	SSL	GI	-
NGS Ranger	-	-	-	-	-
31/10	10/11	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Scandinavian	-	-	-	-	-
Express	11/11	-	SSL	GI	-
Vishva Parag	12/11	-	SSL	-	Dundee Ant
Petr Starostin	-	-	-	-	-
18/10	15/11	Sing	CT	Cont	Japa Fe
Shaplaeverett	16/11	-	EBFL	GI	Sing
Weaver Star 31/10	16/11	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Cal
Soarer Bellona	17/11	-	Dynamic	Wheat(P)	-

TANKER DUE

Ajon	4/11	-	CT	Palm Oil
Maritime Pride	3/11	-	Seacom	CLSO

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
TT Energy	C Oil	Col	NNL	27/4
Thalia	Wheat(P)	Darm	Alamin	30/10
Arti	Wheat(P)	Damam	Seacoast	30/10
Aspiros	C Oil	J Dhan	DSLL	25/10
Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	-	BSC	R/A

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON

Ronald	C Clink	Col	UMAL	8/10
NGS Express	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	1/11
Ranger	S Wood	Hald	Lufail	1/11
Ahler Breeze	Cont	Viza	RSL	2/11
S E Haider	Cement	Kara	ASLL	R/A(20/9)

VESSELS NOT READY

Giannis NK	Wheat(P)	Jedda	Dynamic	31/10
Neptune Perioot	C Peas	Poland	MSA	2/11

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Banglar Asha	-	-	BSC	R/A(28/10)
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VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Malloweverett	Scraping	Call	EBPL	R/A(27/10)
Tanary Star	Cement	T Prt	PSAL	31/10

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

Price Index

Essentials	CHICKEN	Price
RICE	Large	62.00-64.00
Amrai(fine)	Moderate	66.00-68.00
	Small	70.00-72.00
Japan	TEA	100.00
VEGETABLES	Dust(Plain)	80.00-90.00
Mustard	EDG	4.00 (4pc)
Mustard (local)	Hen	12.00-12.50
Brinjal	Duck	12.00-13.00
Karolla	Firm	12.50-13.00
Lalshak	PULSES	(Taka per kg)
Papsa	Mothor	29.00-30.00
Green Bananas (Four Pieces)	Chholp	34.00-35.00
OTHER FOODGRAN	Rheari	22.00-24.00
Flour	FRUITS	15.00-16.00
Atta		
11.00-11.50		
FISH		
(Taka per kg)		
Rahi(big)	Green Coconut (Small)	5.00-6.00
Kalia(big)	Coconut (Large)	8.00-10.00
Hilsha		
48.00-50.00		
Pungo		
110.00-120.00		
Shrimp(big)		
100.00-120.00		
Sing		
90.00-100.00		
Koi		
110.00-120.00		
MEAT		
Beef		
55.00-60.00		
Mutton		
85.00-90.00		

Gold & Silver

	(Taka for 11.66 grams)
Gold (Gutna)	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 November 2 and 3.

Currency	Selling B.C.	T. T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Poundsterling	60.8717	60.5532	60.1486
DM	25.3778	25.2163	25.0382
F.E	7.4716	7.4246	7.3722
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042	10.3307
S Guilders	22.5483	22.4064	22.2481
S Kroner	6.7336	6.6894	