

# Prices of jute tumble in Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Nov 20: The price of jute has been gradually decreasing in the rural hats and bazars of the district. New jute started appearing at the different hats and bazars of the district since August. But the growers of the jute are selling their produce at a lower price for want of buyers. Inferior quality of jute is now selling between Taka 130 and Taka 150 and tosha variety between Taka 170 to Taka 200 per maund which is much below the production cost. In the absence of government purchase centre, price of jute has fallen abnormally and the market is now under the control of speculators, farias, beparies and middlemen. The middlemen and farias are taking advantages of economic

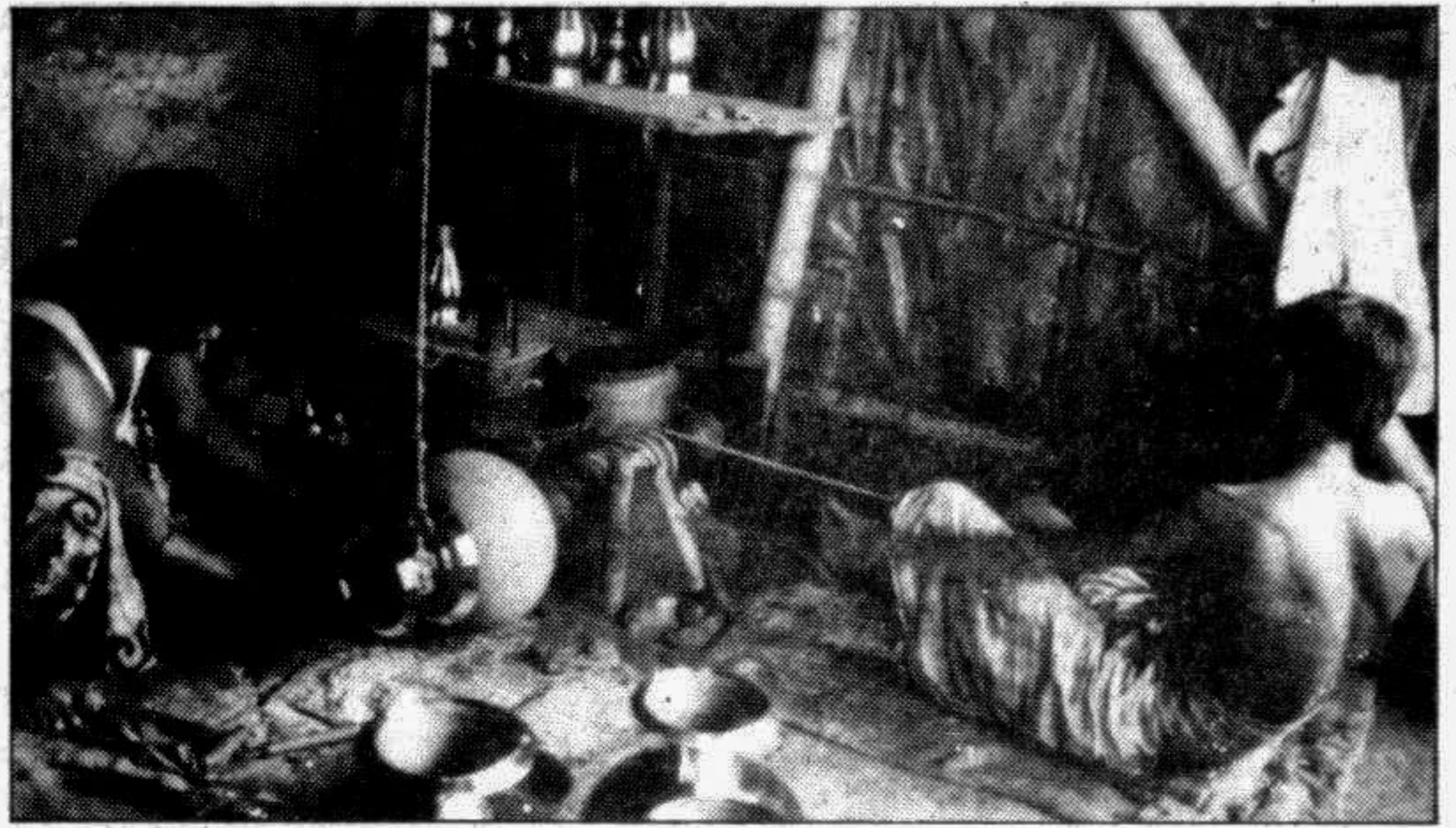
hardship of jute growers. They purchase jute at low price when the needy growers come to sell their produce. Some of the jute growers informed that due to the low price, they are bound to return home with unsold jute. The sufferings of jute growers have increased as government purchasing centres did not start purchasing jute in the district. The jute growers urged the concerned authorities to open the centres to ensure the fair price of jute. **Number of indebted people increases** Another report adds: Indebtedness has hit hard the people of Kurigram district. According to a report, in nine thanas of the district

there are nearly 1,00,000 indebted persons whose number is still increasing. About 90 per cent of the indebted persons are farmers and the rest 10 per cent small traders. All of them are now struggling for survival. Indebtedness generally began from 1971. The causes of indebtedness are many. The farmers have become indebted due to the sky-high rise in the prices of agricultural inputs, other daily essentials, occurrence of recurring natural calamities and dowry system in the marriages of their daughters. They have mortgaged their agricultural lands to local wealthy persons and the agricultural bank to receive loan to meet their various expenses.

Many of them are now selling their cultivable lands and dwelling houses to repay the loan. A large number of cultivators have become poor after repaying their loan because they sold large parts of their inherited agricultural land. Some indebted farmers received loan from local money lenders and agricultural bank by producing fake documents. They are not repaying the loan because their miserable financial conditions. The small traders who received loan from the financial institutions are now unable to repay the loan because of the recession of their business. A great frustration has been prevailing in the minds of the indebted people of Kurigram district.

## Unauthorised drug trade on increase

CHANDPUR, Nov 20: Unauthorised trade in drugs and medicines has been expanding in the seven thanas and two pourashavas of the district, reports UNB. A survey conducted by the district unit of Bangladesh Chemists and Druggists Society showed that there are over a thousand medicine shops without any valid drug licence. These shops are running their business with the untrained staff and selling banned and sub-standard medicine. Indian drugs are also being sold by these shops. While talking to UNB, the president of the district unit of the society said there are a little over 200 authorised medicine shops.



The brasspot makers are giving final touch on their products. But the goods have lost their demand because of substitutes like plastic and enamel materials. As a result they are passing hard days. — Star photo

## Growers not getting fair prices of paddy

MANIKGANJ, Nov 20: Farmers are being deprived of fair price of their paddy due to inadequate government procurement drive in seven thanas of the district, reports UNB. Local officials said food godowns in the district are already full of food grains. As a result, the on going paddy procurement drive is being hampered as local godowns have no space to accommodate more paddy. Taking advantages of the situation, a section of unscrupulous middle men are purchasing paddy from the growers at Taka 165 to 170 per maund as against the government rate of Taka 210 including carrying cost.

## Farmers get Tk 68 lakh loan

SATKHIRA, Nov 20: Kriishi Bank disbursed Taka 68 lakh as agriculture loan among the farmers of the district through 15 branches, reports BSS. A bank source said the loans were disbursed among the farmers for cultivation of boro paddy, potato, sugarcane, mustard and vegetables. Taka 65.54 lakh were earmarked for potato cultivation, Taka 1.76 lakh for boro cultivation, Taka 51,000 for sugarcane and Taka 90,000 for mustard and vegetable cultivation.

## Biman to procure equipment with Japanese grant

A Japanese debt relief grant equivalent to Taka 40 crore would be utilised for procurement of ground handling equipment and overhauling workshop equipment of Bangladesh Biman, an official handout said, reports BSS. This was disclosed at a meeting held yesterday at the conference room of the Planning Ministry with Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan in the chair. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, M Mokammel Haque, Member Programing, A T M Shamsul Haque, Member (Physical Infrastructure) of Planning Commission and other concerned high officials were present in the meeting. Elaborate discussions were held on the development programmes of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, their implementation, financing, particularly utilisation of commodity aid for procurement of ground handling equipment and those for overhauling workshop of Bangladesh Biman. The present status of implementation of various projects of Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh Biman and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation were also discussed. The meeting was informed that boarding bridges will be installed at Zia International Airport apart from re carpeting of the runway which will start very soon.

# Cotton production fails to achieve target

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 20: Target of cotton cultivation in 16 districts of Rajshahi Division has not been achieved for want of bank loans, enhancement of production cost and comparatively less profit. But environment of this year was completely in favour of cotton cultivation. There are three cotton extension zone and one sub-zone in Rajshahi Division under Bangladesh Cotton Development and Extension Department. Target of cotton cultivation during the current season was fixed at 26, 280

acres of land but only 16,773 acres of land were cultivated. About 9,500 acres of lands have been remaining uncultivated in the cotton production zones. A source of the department expressed hope that cotton production in Rajshahi, Rangpur and Bogra zones and Pabna sub-zone will be very satisfactory than any other years of the past. Absence of heavy downpour and floods created favorable weather for cotton production. The cotton cultivators of the Sirajganj informed that bank loans for the purpose were not available which created fund constraints for the

farmers. Only Taka 21,000 have been distributed among some farmers of Nalka, Talgachi and Sherpur under Sirajganj and Bogra districts respectively. Besides insecticides worth Taka 1,26,000 have been distributed among the farmers under Bogra zone. At present raw cotton is sold at Taka 700 to 720 per maund in the local markets. Sources said that arrangement of required bank loans and proper marketing system needed to encourage cotton cultivation in the northern districts.

# Call to extend active support for unhindered uplift

RUPSHA (Khulna), Nov 20: Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali said Friday the present government had been initiating all steps for fulfilling the basic requirements of the people as well as attaining prosperity of the nation, reports BSS. As a part of these, increasing medicare facilities to the

common masses were being ensured. He was addressing as the chief guest the foundation stone laying ceremony of Rupsha Thana Health Complex and inauguration of its 10-bed health centre temporarily at a building here. Presided over by Mostafa Rashidi Shuja, MP, the func-

tion was addressed, among others, by Nurul Islam, president, city BNP, Golam Sarwar Jamaddar, Senior Vice President of district BNP, AKM Ziauddin Paltu, Vice President of district BNP and Sardar Mainuddin, General Secretary district BNP of Khulna. The Speaker said the government was committed to ensure health for all and with this end in view steps were taken to expedite setting up of medical infrastructure throughout the country. He said, the people had regained democracy through a long struggle and were determined to uphold the process of democracy to earn self-reliant economy. He called upon the people to extend active cooperation to the government for ensuring unhindered development of all the regions of the country. He also urged the people of all walks of life to help maintain peace and tranquility in the society in order to implement local development programmes smoothly. Earlier, the Speaker unveiled the plaque of the complex and visited the temporary hospital.

# Tk 61.19 lakh for uplift works in Magura

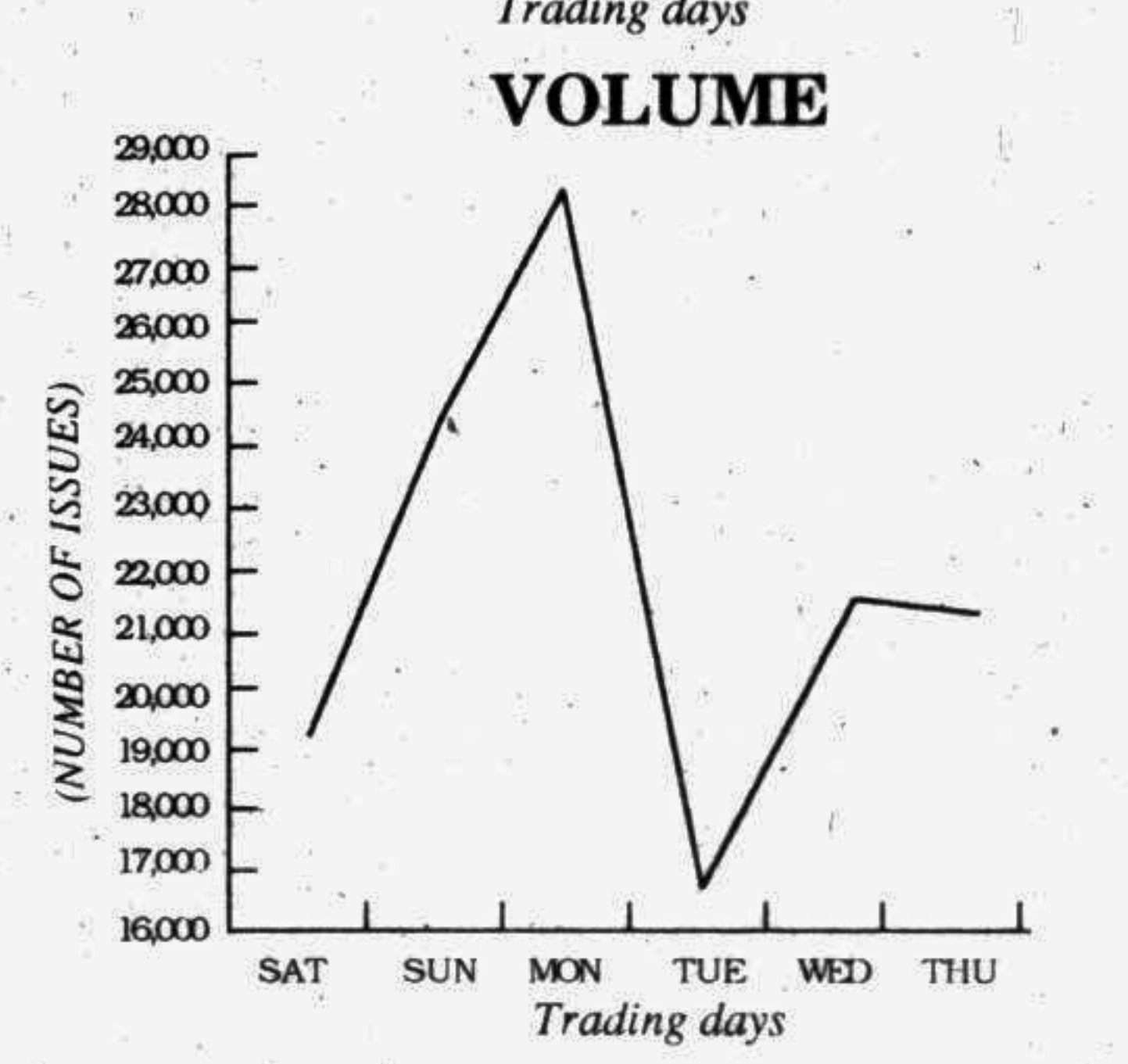
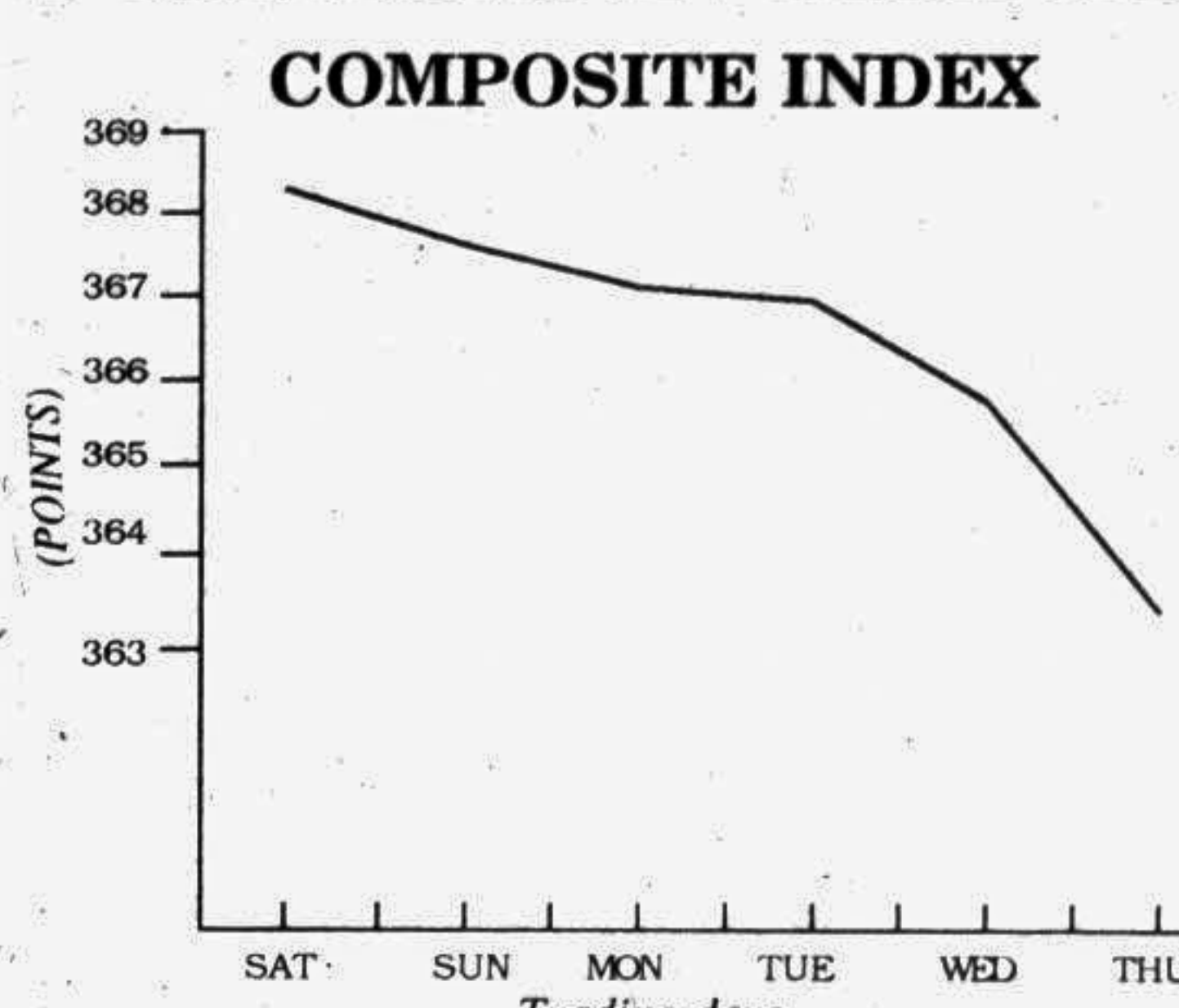
MAGURA, Nov 20: Local Government and Engineering Bureau had taken up schemes to construct four roads, one sluice gate and 17 culverts in the district during current fiscal year at a total cost of Taka 61.19 lakh, reports UNB. Official sources said out of total amount, Taka 25.19 lakh would be spent for the construction of a sluice gate and re-excavation of Chapra-Jagdal Canal in sadar thana. The rest Taka 36 lakh would be spent on the construction of Magura-Kamarpura, Magura-Mohammadpur,

Sreepur-Sacchilapur and Jhonary-Bunaghat roads including some culverts. Sources said the construction work would start next month and would be completed by March next year. On completion, rural road communication, irrigation and sanitation facilities will improve considerably in the district. A report from Feni says: Government has sanctioned 1.83 lakh sets of primary school books for all primary schools in five thanas of the district for the coming academic session.



SYLHET: Certificates were awarded among ten leading travel agents here for their business with British Airways in 1991-92 at a function held recently. Neil Harrison, Regional Sales and Marketing Manager, British Airways, South Asia distributed the certificates. — Star photo

# DSE WEEKLY TRADING POSITIONS IN GRAPHS



# Shipping Intelligence CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 19-11-92

| Berth No | Name of Vessels               | Cargo     | L Port | Local Call | Date of Leaving | Arrival |
|----------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|------------|-----------------|---------|
| J/1      | Karnapully                    |           |        |            | 10/11           | 20/11   |
| J/2      | Devo                          | Wheat (G) | Col    | Lams       | 10/11           | 20/11   |
| J/3      | Arti                          | Wheat (P) | Damam  | Seacost    | 6/11            | 21/11   |
| J/4      |                               |           |        |            |                 |         |
| J/5      | Samudra Raj                   | GI        | Kara   | SSL        | 13/11           | 22/11   |
| J/6      | Shaplaeverett                 | GI        | Sing   | EBPL       | 17/11           | 21/11   |
| J/8      | Banglar Doot                  | GI/Sugar  | Peng   | BSC        | 9/11            | 22/11   |
| J/12     | Thalia                        | Wheat (P) | Derrm  | Alamin     | 3/11            | 22/11   |
| J/13     | Ahler breeze                  | Cont      | Visk   | RSL        | 19/11           | 20/11   |
| MPB/1    | NGS Express                   | Cont      | Sing   | BDSHIP     | 15/11           | 19/11   |
| MPB/2    | Petr Starostin                | Cont      | Keles  | CT         | 17/11           | 20/11   |
| CCJ      | Thai Binh                     | C Clink   | Aqaba  | UMAL       | 14/11           | 20/11   |
| CSJ      | Banglar Kiron                 | Wheat (G) | LAMS   | R/A        | 21/11           |         |
| RM/6     | Port Au Prince                | HSD       | Sing   | EOSI       | 11/11           | 21/11   |
| DDJ/1    | Endurance Sea (Attach : 27/7) | Repair    | Aqaba  | EOSL       | 25/1            | 30/11   |
| RM/8     | S E Halder (Attach : 9/9/92)  | Cement    | Kara   | ASLL       | R/A             | 29/11   |
| RM/9     | Banglar Robi                  | Repair    | Mong   | BSC        | 18/11           | 26/11   |
| CUFLA:1  | T Royal City                  |           | Sing   | Anchor     | 17/11           | 20/11   |

### VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

| Name of Vessels            | Date of Last Port Arrival | Local Call | Cargo             | Loading Port   |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Safar                      | 19/11                     | Col        | ASLL              |                |
| Alan                       | 19/11                     | Suez       | Aqua              | MOP            |
| Skitathos                  | 19/11                     | Sing       | BSS               | Wheat          |
| Fong Shin 8/11             | 19/11                     | Sing       | BDSHIP            | Cont           |
| Banglar Kakoli             | 20/11                     | Col        | BSC               | GI             |
| Hafez 11/11                | 20/11                     | Mong       | SSL               | B Abbas        |
| Lena 4/8/11/11             | 20/11                     |            | Prog              | Materials      |
| Supreme                    | 20/11                     | P/Laud     | Royal Wheat (P)   |                |
| Yue Yue                    | 22/11                     | Kala       | Royal Wheat (P)   |                |
| Shenton 12/11              | 23/11                     | Sing       | Omni              | Cont           |
| Jiang Cheng                | 21/11                     | S Hal      | BDSHIP            | GI             |
| Horn                       | 21/11                     | Hong       | Prog              | GI             |
| Vishva Mamta               | 22/11                     | Mad        | SSL               | GI/GL          |
| Vishva Parag 11/11         | 22/11                     |            | SSL               | E/L Dundee Ant |
| Sagaland                   | 22/11                     | Sing       | BSS               | Copra          |
| Samudra Rani               | 24/11                     | Mong       | SSL               | Karachi        |
| Knud Jespersen 14/11       | 24/11                     |            | CT                | Cont           |
| Scandinavian Express 24/11 | 24/11                     | Sing       | BDSHIP            | Cont           |
| Trans Asia                 | 25/11                     | Bank       | BQNL-GI/Sugar (P) |                |
| Al Swamuz                  | 25/11                     |            | ASLL              | GI             |
| Weaver Star 31/10          | 26/11                     | Sing       | BDSHIP            | Cont           |
| Optima 18/11               | 26/11                     | Sing       | BSS               | Cont           |
| Fong Yun 17/11             | 28/11                     | Sing       | BDSHIP            | Cont           |
| Orange Berant              | 29/11                     |            | BPA               | GI             |

### TANKER DUE

| Gregory Ordzhonikidze | 21/11 | Augi | MSPL | Lube Oil |
|-----------------------|-------|------|------|----------|
|-----------------------|-------|------|------|----------|

### VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

| Name of Vessels | Cargo     | Last Port | Local Call | Date of Arrival |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| TT Energy       | COI       | Col       | NNL        | 2/7/4           |
| Chestrut Hill   | Wheat (G) | N Ori     | Lams       | 7/11            |
| Height          | Wheat (G) |           | Lams       | R/A (17/11)     |
| Nikoula         | Wheat (G) |           | Lams       | R/A (17/11)     |

### VESSELS NOT READY

| Damon             | Wheat (P) | Mers | Royal | 8/11  |
|-------------------|-----------|------|-------|-------|
| Soarer Bellona    | Wheat (P) | Sing | OWSL  | 16/11 |
| Kota Buana (Cont) | Cont      | Sing | CTS   | 18/11 |

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

### 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 21. (Figures in Taka)

| Currency           | Selling B. C. | T. T. (C) | Buying OD Transfers |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------|
| US Dollar          | 39.1326       | 38.9087   | 38.6339             |
| Pound Sterling     | 59.6495       | 59.3438   | 59.9484             |
| DM                 | 24.7205       | 24.5682   | 24.3947             |
| FE                 | 7.2751        | 7.2294    | 7.1783              |
| S Riyal            | 10.4641       | 10.4042   | 10.3307             |
| D Outiders         | 21.8252       | 21.6882   | 21.5351             |
| S Kroner           | 6.5609        | 6.5162    | 6.4708              |
| Singapore Dollar   | 23.9255       | 23.7886   | 23.6206             |
| UAE Dirham         | 10.6911       | 10.6299   | 10.5548             |
| Indian Rupee (AMU) | 131.8495      | 131.0951  | 130.1692            |
| Pak Rupee (AMU)    | 1.5104        | 1.5036    | 1.4961              |
|                    | 1.5357        | 1.5287    | 1.5210              |

# Dhaka Stock Prices

Weekly review : At the close of tradings on November 12 and November 19, 1992

| Company                       | FV/ML* | November 12 |         | November 19 |         | High | Low |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|------|-----|
|                               |        | Taka        | Taka    | Taka        | Taka    |      |     |
| <b>BANKS (10)</b>             |        |             |         |             |         |      |     |
| AL Baraka Bank                | 1000/1 | 900.00      | 890.00  | 1200.00     | 760.00  |      |     |
| AB Bank                       | 100/5  | 182.00      | 182.00  | 215.00      | 155.00  |      |     |
| City Bank                     | 100/5  | 300.00      | 300.00  | 305.00      | 172.00  |      |     |
| IFIC                          | 100/5  | 178.00      | 178.00  | 200.00      | 160.00  |      |     |
| Islami Bank                   | 1000/1 | 1700.00     | 1700.00 | 1900.00     | 1190.00 |      |     |
| National Bank                 | 100/5  | 107.00      | 99.47   | 122.50      | 102.00  |      |     |
| Pubali Bank                   | 100/5  | 100.00      | 102.00  | 110.00      | 85.00   |      |     |
| Rupali Bank                   | 100/10 | 79.00       | 85.00   | 110.00      | 68.00   |      |     |
| U.C.B.L                       | 100/5  | 150.00      | 123.00  | 131.00      | 118.00  |      |     |
| Utara Bank                    | 100/5  | 112.00      | 112.00  | 200.00      | 115.00  |      |     |
| <b>INVESTMENT (08)</b>        |        |             |         |             |         |      |     |
| ICB                           | 100/5  | 103.00      | 100.00  | 100.00      | 79.00   |      |     |
| 1st ICB M.Fund                | 100/5  | 370.00      | 370.00  | 414.00      | 330.00  |      |     |
| 2nd ICB Fund                  | 100/5  | 166.00      | 164.00  | 220.00      | 148.00  |      |     |
| 3rd ICB M. Fund               | 100/5  | 152.00      | 149.26  | 195.00      | 124.00  |      |     |
| 4th ICB M. Fund               | 100/10 | 152.50      | 148.00  | 170.00      | 120.00  |      |     |
| 5th ICB M. Fund               | 100/10 | 97.23       | 96.00   | 128.50      | 85.00   |      |     |
| 6th ICB M. Fund               | 100/10 | 62.69       | 62.50   | 93.00       | 56.00   |      |     |
| Unit Certificate              |        |             |         |             |         |      |     |
| Sales Price                   |        | 113.00      | 113.00  |             |         |      |     |
| Re-purchase                   |        | 108.00      | 108.00  |             |         |      |     |
| <b>INSURANCE (04)</b>         |        |             |         |             |         |      |     |
| BIC                           | 100/10 | 149.29      | 148.00  | 178.00      | 104.50  |      |     |
| Green Delta                   | 100/10 | 147.00      | 152.00  | 165.00      | 106.00  |      |     |
| Peoples                       | 100/10 | 163.00      | 160.00  | 168.00      | 120.00  |      |     |
| United                        | 100/10 | 159.11      | 161.00  | 182.00      | 116.50  |      |     |
| <b>ENGINEERING (19)</b>       |        |             |         |             |         |      |     |
| Aftab Automobiles             | 100/5  | 219.00      | 173.00  | 280.00      | 180.00  |      |     |
| Atlas Bangladesh              | 10/50  | 50.50       | 53.06   | 67.00       | 30.00   |      |     |
| Aziz Pipes                    | 100/5  | 215.00      | 218.00  | 330.00      | 218.00  |      |     |
| Bangladesh Autocars           | 100/5  | 70.00       | 69.43   | 123.00      | 65.00   |      |     |
| Bangladesh Lamps              | 100/5  | 245.00      | 245.00  | 315.00      | 225.00  |      |     |
| B.Thai Aluminium              | 100/10 | 80.00       | 78.00   | 143.00      | 70.00   |      |     |
| Bengal Carbide                | 100/5  | 265.00      | 265.00  | 269.50      | 220.00  |      |     |
| Bengal Steel                  | 10/50  | 20.00       | 20.00   | 18.00       | 18.00   |      |     |
| Eastern Cables                | 100/5  | 78.75       | 76.92   | 116.00      | 73.00   |      |     |
| Howlader PVC                  | 100/10 | 98.52       | 95.00   | 125.00      | 82.00   |      |     |
| Kartim PVC                    | 100/5  | 107.00      | 99.83   | 212.00      | 112.00  |      |     |
| Metalex Corp.                 | 100/5  | 72.00       | 72.00   | 153.07      | 75.00   |      |     |
| Monno Staffers                | 100/5  | 150.00      | 155.00  | 220.00      | 190.00  |      |     |
| Monno Jute                    | 100/5  | 260.00      | 260.00  | 260.00      | 210.00  |      |     |
| National Tubes                | 100/10 | 82.08       | 78.12   | 148.48      | 92.00   |      |     |
| Panther Steel                 | 10/50  | 8.00        | 8.00    | 8.00        | 8.00    |      |     |
| Quasem Drycells               | 10/50  | 10.10       | 10.28   | 14.85       | 6.80    |      |     |
| Renwick Jaineswar             | 100/5  | 94.00       | 93.13   | 104.50      | 48.00   |      |     |
| Singer Bangladesh             | 100/5  | 815.00      | 815.00  | 1800.00     | 700.00  |      |     |
| <b>FOOD &amp; ALLIED (23)</b> |        |             |         |             |         |      |     |
| A.B Biscuit                   | 100/5  | 200.00      | 200.00  | 200.00      | 180.00  |      |     |
| Alpha Tobacco                 | 10/50  | 48.00       | 46.00   | 48.00       | 46.00   |      |     |
| Aman Sea Food                 | 100/5  | 23.00       | 23.00   | 40.00       | 25.00   |      |     |
| Apex Food                     | 100/5  | 475.00      | 475.00  | 500.00      | 270.00  |      |     |
| Aroma Tea                     | 100/5  | 85.00       | 85.00   | 45.00       | 45.00   |      |     |
| Bargas                        | 100/5  | 150.00      | 150.00  | 155.00      | 145.00  |      |     |
| Bengal Food                   | 100/5  | 500.00      | 500.00  | 500.00      | 250.00  |      |     |
| B D Plantation                | 100/5  | 135.32      | 124.50  | 255.00      | 111.00  |      |     |
| B.L.T.C.                      | 100/5  | 500.00      | 500.00  | 500.00      | 408.00  |      |     |
| B.T.C.                        | 10/50  | 60.00       | 60.00   | 83.00       | 35.00   |      |     |
| Cig. Vegetable                | 100/10 | 79.45       | 78.00   | 117.00      | 85.00   |      |     |
| Dhaka Vegetable               | 100/5  | 100.00      | 97.00   | 175.00      | 113.00  |      |     |
| E.L. Cemelia                  | 100/5  | 1040.00     | 1040.00 | 1250.00     | 1000.00 |      |     |
| Frogleg Export                | 10/50  | 3.50        | 3.00    | 6.75        | 1.75    |      |     |
| Gemini Sea Food               | 100/5  | 100.00      | 100.00  |             |         |      |     |
| Hill Plantation               | 100/5  | 550.00      | 550.00  | 550.00      | 300.00  |      |     |
| Modern Industries             | 100/5  | 185.00      | 185.00  | 200.00      | 135.00  |      |     |
| N.T.C.                        | 100/5  | 240.00      | 240.00  | 282.00      | 220.00  |      |     |
| Rabeya Flour                  | 10/50  | NT          |         |             |         |      |     |