

Countrywide procurement of Aman begins today

Government procurement of aman rice and paddy begins today (Tuesday) all over the country when the farmers are expected to harvest a bumper crop of over 100 lakh tons, reports UNB.

Procurement target was set at 2 lakh tons of rice and the price fixed at Tk 210 per maund of paddy as against Tk 245 last year. Procurement price of rice was fixed at Tk 323.40 per maund.

Government planned to procure 1.25 lakh tons of rice directly from the growers and the rest of 75 thousand tons from husking mills.

Reports reaching from

northern districts said foodgrains market slumped to the distress of the growers. Coarse variety of paddy was selling at prices varying from Tk 110 to 160 per maund.

According to price monitored by the government during the week ending November 28, paddy was selling at Tk 110 at Thakurgaon Road Bazar, Setabganj Tk 120, Kabirajhat Dinajpur Tk 120 and Birganj Tk 125 per maund.

Our Nilphamari correspondent said coarse variety of paddy was selling as low as Tk 90 per maund at Patgram Bazar on November 28.

Agriculture officials estimate the production cost of paddy at Tk 230 per maund.

Production cost has gone up with higher prices of agricultural inputs including fertilizer and irrigation following withdrawal of subsidy on agriculture, they said.

Reports from Rangpur, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna, Mymensingh and Sylhet said growers are expected to rush to the government purchasing centres as the market price of rice and paddy is much lower.

Officials however said they will buy only quality paddy and rice and their purchase is sub-

ject to the availability storage facility in respective areas.

Government has now a stock of more than 11 lakh tons of foodgrains thus leaving hardly any space for storage, officials said.

Government's open market sale of rice failed this year despite slashing down the price by Tk 1 to Tk 10.50 per seer.

Officials were telling the farmers that only best quality palzam rice and paddy will be accepted. Besides, no grower will be allowed to sell more than 15 sacks (1 sack-65 kg) of paddy at the purchasing centre.

Thai envoy, Agri Minister talk steps to raise output

Ambassador of Thailand in Bangladesh, Vichai Vannasin, met Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control M Majid-ul-Haq at his secretariat office in Dhaka Monday, reports BSS.

The Ambassador discussed various activities of agriculture sector taken by the present government. He appreciated the Bangladesh government for taking appropriate and positive initiatives to increase agricultural products to attain self-sufficiency.

The Minister said that bumper production of this season was the main achievement of the present government. He said Bangladesh government was taking necessary steps to export rice, fruits and other agriculture products.

They also discussed bi-lateral and international issues.

Rice, paddy prices low in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Nov 30: Rice and paddy are being sold here at abnormally low prices which is below the production cost, local farmers said, reports UNB.

Paddy is being sold between Taka 170 and 190 per maund and rice between Taka 270 and 300 per maund in the local markets.

The farmers expressed their fear that the price might come down further with the appearance of new varieties in the local market.

They informed that in spite of government announcement no purchasing centres have yet been set up in the district.

Another report adds: The dredging work in the river Padma near Daulatdia Ghat and Jamuna at Aricha ghat costing Taka four crore is going on in full swing.

Int'l confce on 'improving soil management' from today

A three-day international conference on 'improving soil management for intensive cropping in the tropics and sub-tropics' will begin here today (Tuesday), reports UNB.

It is being jointly organised by the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and Soil Science Society of Bangladesh under the auspices of International Soil Science Society. The conference will be attended by top level soil scientists from home and abroad.

Delegates from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, USA, Venezuela and Vietnam will also be present.

Agriculture Minister Majid-ul-Haq will inaugurate the conference.

Workshop on privatisation

A week-long workshop on methods and practice of privatisation of state owned enterprises in developing countries will be opened by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Tuesday at Academy for Planning and Development, reports UNB.

Minister for Industries M Shamsul Islam Khan will be the special guest in the workshop jointly organised by Ministry of Industries and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development and UNDP, said an official handout.



Sylhet: The vendors are trading on a main road of the town. — Star photo

Most Sylhet roads under vendors' possession

SYLHET, Nov 30: The vendors and hawkers have occupied the major parts of different roads and footpaths Sylhet town for attracting the buyers causing great inconveniences to the passers-by and smooth movement of vehicles.

The situation had worsened by the unrestrained growth of unauthorised stalls on the narrow roads footpaths in the busy areas of the town. Many stalls of various items including the foodstuff, household materials and fruits have been set up on both sides of the roads leaving very narrow passage for the movement of the pedestrians, rickshaws and other vehicles.

Immediate steps should be taken by the law-enforcing agencies in this regard, it is widely felt.

Capital crisis keeps 16 textile mills closed

BOGRA, Nov 30: All the 16 textile mills in the district remained closed for a long period due to marketing smooth problem, and want of running capital.

These textile mills were established in 1984 with the financial assistance from banks to decrease the use of synthetic cloths.

In the same year these mills started production and supplied cloths to the local markets.

In the years to come, products of these mills faced competition from the imported

Cuban inventor devises 'palm cycle' to pick coconuts

HAVANA, Nov 30: An inventor in fuel-starved Cuba has devised a new way to pick coconuts - the 'palm cycle' - a bicycle-pulley system that helps workers climb coconut palms with little effort, reports AFP.

Jose Pablo Morales unveiled his gadget at a recent national conference entitled 'Bicycles: Option for the 21st century.' He is enthusiastic about its future in this increasingly pedal-powered country.

It will increase productivity in harvesting coconuts, while reducing the demands on human labour and the risks to workers, he said.

The 'palm cycle' was a key attraction in the conference of 150 experts in urban transport, bicycle producers, economists, sociologists, doctors, military experts and ecologists.

There were other oddball inventions - bicycles with sidecars and Camouflage-painted bicycles rigged for military transport. Large metallic boxes pulled by the military models contained solar-powered radio equipment.

Bicycles used for military purposes are nothing new in Havana, which in many ways witnessed a parade of soldiers on bicycles pulling machine-guns mounted on wheels.

Along with a fashion show for cyclists, the conference also gave local bicycle manufacturers a chance to display the national brand, the giron, and gave sociologists, economists and doctors a chance to discuss the merits of the 'little queens,' as bicycles are known here.

Two-thirds of Cuba's public transport has disappeared since the Soviet Union disintegrated last December, taking with it this orthodox communist country's main source of cheap, subsidised oil. As a result, Cubans have turned to bicycles in droves, with hundreds of thousands of Chinese and Cuban-made bicycles clogging the streets of Havana and other cities.

The Cuban media incessantly sing the glories of bicycles, telling people here how the vehicles are highly practical as well as tone muscles and burn off fat. 'A therapy advised for nervous tension, insomnia and all forms of stress,' one advertisement says.

During the conference, researchers discussed the many uses of the bicycle and the consequences of injecting huge numbers of two-wheelers into the country's economy and culture.

This process has been accelerated since the Youth League of the Cuban communist party launched a 'see the country on a bicycle' campaign last summer in an attempt to ease the public transport shortage.

Put forward as an ideal remedy to air and noise pollution, bicycles play an important role in the economy, including campaigns to use them for agricultural purposes.

But bicycles also cause problems for authorities, who are forced to reorganise traffic patterns in some parts of the capital, especially the Maleconeside Boulevard, where bicycles battle dilapidated American cars and Soviet-made Ladas for space on the road.

Bicycle accidents and theft are also a source of concern. In the first nine months of the year, more than 7,600 cyclists were involved in road accidents.

Members of G-15 to be expanded: Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Group of 15 developing countries (G-15) would be expanded to cover more members which had expressed interest to join the forum, reports AFP.

Mahathir, one of the G-15 founders, was quoted by Bernama news agency as saying that many south countries had expressed interest to join the forum. He did not identify them.

Mahathir, returning from the G-15 summit in Senegal and a visit to several African countries, said the name of the grouping would not be changed despite expansion in its membership.

The three-day G-15 summit in Dakar from November 21 admitted Chile as its 16th member but did not make a decision on Iran's application to join the forum, news reports had said.

The reports had also said that the G-15 was prepared to invite China depending on whether it was interested in joining the group.

The 15 original members of the group were Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

The G-15 was founded in 1989 to form a counterweight to the G-7 grouping of the most industrialised countries - Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 30.11.92.

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L/Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Lea-vng
J/2	Supreme	Wheat (P)	P Land	Royal	22/11	10/12
J/3	Sagalard	Copra	Sing	BSL	22/11	30/11
J/4	Bi Ryu Gang	Sugar (P)	Bank	TSL	25/11	5/12
J/6	Banglar Kakoli	Gl/GL	Cal	BSC	26/11	30/11
J/7	Damon	Wheat (P)	Mcrs	Royal	8/11	10/12
J/10	Endurance Sea	Repair	Aqaba	EOSL	25/11	15/12
J/11	Soarer Bellona	Wheat (P)	Sing	OWSL	16/11	9/12
J/12	You Yuc	Wheat (P)	USA	Royal	23/11	11/12
MPB/1	Optima	Cont	Sing	RSL	29/11	1/12
MPB/2	Fong Yun	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	29/11	2/12
CCJ	Thai Binh	C Clink	Aqaba	UMAL	R/A	3/12
TSP	Samudra Raj	GI	Kara	SSL	R/A	10/12
RM/4	Banglar Asha	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	1/12
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	1/12
DD	Safar	Repair	Col	ASL	19/11	2/12
DDJ/1	Banglar Kiron	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	6/12
RM/8	S E Haider	Cement	Kara	ASL	R/A	2/12
RM/9	Banglar Robi	Repair	Mong	BSC	R/A	30/11
CURJ	Banglar Doot	Urea	Mong	BSC	28/11	3/12

VESSLS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Samudra Razi	30/11	Mong	SSL	GL	Karachi
Da Shi Zhai	30/11	S Hai	BDSHIP	GI	Africa
Continent-1	30/11	Kara	CLA	GI	-
Ronjay Choomie	30/11	Sing	PSAL	Cement	-
Atlanta-T	30/11	Kela	Seacom	Sugar	-
Actos	30/11	Jedda	SSST	R Phos	-
NGS Express 21/11	01/12	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Trans Asia	01/12	Bank	BQVL	GI/Sugar	-
Ingenuty 19/11	01/12	Sing	RSL	Cont Mong	Sing
Petr Starostin 21/11	01/12	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Orang Berani	01/12	Sing	BBA	GI	-
Olga-1	01/12	Pada	USTC	Cement	-
Scandinavian Express 01/12	Mad	SSL	GI	-	-
Kota Berani	02/12	Bang	OWSL	Sugar	-
Seavenus	02/12	L Pall	Ancient	Wheat	-
Banglar Kallol	02/12	Male	BSC	GI	-
Green Island	02/12	-	Kama	-	New York
Kota Buana 24/11	03/12	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Banglar Baani	03/12	Pann	Cross	Sugar	-
Komsomolets Rossi	04/12	-	Sunbeam	GI (Copra)	-
Al Pesari	04/12	-	RRSA	Cement	-
Vishva Parag (E/L)11/11	04/12	Mong	SSL	E/L	Dundee. Ant
Haice (E/L)	05/12	Mong	SSL	-	Abbas
Vishva Yash	05/12	-	SSL	-	Ilyche
Al Swamruz	05/12	-	ASL	GI	-
Shenton 28/11	06/12	Sing	OMNI	Cont	Sing
Ahler Breeze 21/11	07/12	Viza	RSL	Cont	Mong
Fong Shn 26/11	07/12	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Knud Jesperen	28/11	9/12	Sing	CT	Cont
Pratapgad	10/12	Cal	HSL	LOGS	Sing
Kiukiang Carrier	13/12	Lapa	Ancient	Wheat (G)	-
Lena (48)11/11	15/12	Bank	Prog	Const.Materials	-

TANKER DUE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo
Aspiros	30/11	Jebel	DSLL	M C Oil
Bunga Kesumba	2/12	-	TSL	CSBO
Esoo Bangkok	2/12	Sing	MSP	HSD/JP-1

VESSLS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
T T Energy	C Oil	Cal	NNL	27/4

VESSLS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Tanary Star	Urea	Mong	PSAL	28/11
Vishva Mamata	GI/GL	Mad	SSL	30/11

VESSLS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Banglar Shourabh	-	-	BSC	R/A (19/11)
Artemis-1	Cement	-	Bright	R/A (21/11)

VESSLS NOT ENTERING

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Devo	Wheat (G)	-	Lams	R/A (23/11)

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 01/12/92

OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIFTING
MPB/1 Optima	MPB/1 NGS Express	RM/4 Banglar Asha to RM/9
DOJ B Jyoti	J/13 Petr Starostin	DD Safar to RM/4
	NB Ingenuty	DDJ/1 Banglar Kiron to DD
	J/3 Continent-1	RM/8 S E Haider to RM/6
	NB Atlanta-T	
	NB S Express	
	J/1 Orange Berant	
	TSP Actos	
	NB Trans Asia	

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	(Taka per kg)
RICE	Large	64.00-66.00
Aman (fine)	Moderate	68.00-70.00
	Small	75.00-76.00
Fayam	TEA	80.00-90.00
VEGETABLES	Dust (Plain)	80.00-90.00
Brasal	EGG	4.50 (4 per)
Karolla	Hen	11.00-11.50
Lalshak	Duck	11.00-11.50
Tomato	Farm	11.00-12.00
Cauliflower	PULSES	(Taka per kg)
Gourd	Mashur	29.00-31.00
	Mooch	34.00-35.00
	Chhola	23.00-24.00
	Khasars	16.00-18.00
	FRUITS	(One piece)
	Green Coconut (Small)	4.50-5.00
	Coconut (Large)	9.00-10.00

Gold & Silver

	(Taka for 10.00 grams)
Gold (Guinea)	5395.00
Silver	200.00

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 29, 30 and December 1. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B.C.	T. T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.1329	38.9087	38.6339
Poundsterling	59.1457	58.8316	58.4373
DM	24.4854	24.3301	24.1583
FE	7.2114	7.1675	7.1169
S Riyal	10.4841	10.4042	10.3307
S Guilders	5.7479	5.7087	5.6684
S Kroner	23.9930	23.8557	23.6872
Singapore Dollar	10.6911	10.6299	10.5648
UAE Dirham	131.3603	130.8087	129.6883
Kuwait Dinar	1.5105	1.5036	1.4961
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.5232	1.5186	1.5110

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 November 30, 1992

Record stocks participate

Performance of transactions at Dhaka Stock Exchange prevailed rather poor. A record number of shares participated on the trading floor on Monday.

Transactions fell in terms of both the turnovers. Volume moved back by 52.4 per cent from 32861 issues to 15642 issues. Value stood at Taka 1077075.00 against Sunday's Taka 1373326.50, a decline of 21.57 per cent.

A record 55 shares took part in trading on the day since start of this year. Gainers lead by 20 to 15. Trading by debentures did not take place. A large number of shares traded at unchanged rates who totalled 20.

The Composite Index slightly fell from 370.6687 on Sunday to 369.8381, shedding 0.83 point.

DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE Share Price Index	369.8381
Market Capitalisation Tk	10,572,573,970.00
Turnover in Volume	15642
Turnover in Value Tk	1077075.00

Company	FV/ML	Previous Price Tk	Closing Price Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change (%) over Price
Gains (20)					
Shares:					
Paper Processing	100/10	40.00	45.00	5.00	12.500
Milon Tannery	100/5	15.00	16.00	1.00	6.667
United Ins	100/10	165.00	169.59	4.59	2.782
BCIL	100/10	190.00	195.00	5.00	2.632
Green Delta	100/10	149.00	151.76	2.76	1.852
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50	54.00	55.00	1.00	1.852
Peoples Ins	100/10	163.08	166.30	3.22	1.975
Therapeutics	100/5	80.00	81.00	1.00	1.250
BGIC	100/10	147.02	148.50	1.48	1.007
Kohinoor Chemical	100/5	76.00	76.80	0.80	1.053
Bengal Food	100/5	133.00	134.00	1.00	0.752
B Autocars	100/5	68.25	68.75	0.50	0.733
Savar Refractories	100/5	99.00	99.70	0.70	0.707
Bata Shoe	100/100	37.75	38.00	0.25	0.663
5th ICB M Fund	100/10	93.50	94.00	0.50	0.535
6th ICB M Fund	100/10	62.67	63.00</		