

ADB to give \$55m for flood protection project

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 55 million US dollar loan for the Secondary Towns Integrated Flood Protection Project in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The loan, to be drawn from the concessional Asian Development Fund, carries a service charge of 1 per cent per annum and has a repayment period of 40 years, including a grace period of 10 years, according to a news release.

The project area covers the six towns of Khulna, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Panchagarh, Habiganj, and Maulvibazar which have as their highest priority flood protection.

About 83 per cent of the

population in the area belong to the low-income group and 65 per cent are estimated to be urban poor, including those living in squatter areas and slums.

The project consists of four parts, the first covering flood protection works, including expansion and strengthening of embankments and flood walls, regulator structures and bank protection works.

The second covers drainage improvements, including the rehabilitation and cleaning of existing drains and remodelling and construction of new drains and culverts.

The third consists of sanitation, solid waste management and slum improvement

works while the fourth involves assistance in project implementation.

By providing flood protection and drainage, sanitation and solid waste management improvements, the project is expected to upgrade socio-economic development in the project areas.

With a number of low-lying areas in the project area becoming suitable for housing, commercial and industrial uses, the project will help develop urban management and revenue generation.

It will also assist in institutional and policy development for sustainable long-term development.

Future steps of IFDC to Dhaka discussed

The visiting president of the International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) Amitava H. Roy and Director of Asian region of IFDC Kenneth Lo. Meets met Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M. Majid-ul-Haq on Tuesday at his office, reports BSS.

The IFDC President discussed with the Minister various steps taken by IFDC. He informed the minister about the future steps taken by the IFDC about agro-business. IFDC was working for the last 17 years to develop quality fertilizer and transfer its technology into the world. IFDC had set up its Asia regional office in Bangladesh recently.

M. Majid-ul-Haq informed the IFDC director about the quality, using procedures and the marketing system of fertilizer in Bangladesh. IFDC director appreciated the steps of the present government in providing continued help to the farmers for boosting agriculture production. The Minister said Bangladesh will be self-sufficient within a few years in food sector if the present trend of agricultural production continues.

Plan to disburse Tk 40 lakh among growers of betel leaf

RAJSHAH, Dec 23: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank has taken up a programme for distribution of Taka 40 lakh as loan to boost betel leaf production during the current season, reports UNB.

According to sources, about 10,000 families of Tanore Bagmara, Mohanpur and Durgapur thanas are engaged in betel leaf cultivation.

But shortage of capital and necessary inputs, marketing problems and high transportation cost have been hampering betel leaf production.

BSCIC sets up 144 units in 6 northern dists

NATORE, Dec 23: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation has set up 144 small industries in six northern districts at a cost of Taka 47 crore, reports UNB.

Of the total, 16 small industries have been established in Rajshahi, 53 in Bogra, 7 in Rangpur, 29 in Dinajpur and 9 in Nilphamari districts.

Meanwhile, the works on a number of industrial estates in 10 northern districts with the assistance of BSCIC are going on in full swing.

According to a reliable source, about Taka 14 crore would be spent for the implementation of these projects.

The industrial estates are being set up in Natore, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj, Sirajganj, Kurigram, Joypurhat, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts.

With the implementation of the projects, a large number of unemployed persons of the region will get job opportunities.

About nine thousand of con-

sumers of Natore Palli Biddyt Samity (NPBS-2) have failed to pay their electricity bills amounting to Taka 1.5 crore.

A report said the collection was satisfactory in the 1991-92 fiscal after withdrawal of the facility for payment in installments.

There had been 36 per cent disconnections for non-payment of electricity bills last year, the report said.

The NPBS-2 earned Taka 5,21,55,390 by distributing more than 1.77 crore KWH electricity in the fiscal 1991-92.

The Samity paid over 5 crore to the Power Development Board for about two crore kilowatt during the period.

The system loss of Samity has been reduced by five per cent from 23.18 per cent in the last year.

The NPBS-2 covers 620 villages in 1232 square kilometers and 24,566 consumers connected 1,224 kilometers of distribution lines in Natore and Rajshahi districts.

VSA, OOCL, Maersk sign agreements

The VSA carriers (Sea-Land Service Inc, P&O Containers Ltd, Nedlloyd Lines), OOCL and AP Moller - Maersk Line, announced the filing with the FMC of a series of agreements which would begin to be implemented following necessary regulatory reviews, says a press release.

The agreements call for Sea-Land, P&O, Nedlloyd and OOCL to share the use of the 10 Atlantic Class vessels deployed in the North Atlantic trade and for Maersk to provide space on their vessels in that trade for use by OOCL and the VSA. Current port rotations and service levels for the Atlantic Class and Maersk vessels will remain unchanged.

All of the carriers involved joined in stating that "This rationalisation will allow us to use our assets much more efficiently while continuing to provide the same high level of service that shippers require in today's marketplace."

OOCL is represented in Bangladesh by its General Agents "OmniTrans International Ltd."

Confce of Animal Husbandry Assoc on Dec 26

The fourth national conference of Bangladesh Animal Husbandry Association (BAHA) will be held on December 26 at BARC auditorium, reports UNB.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman will inaugurate the conference at 9 am.

State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Goyeswar Chandra Roy and Vice-Chancellor of Agricultural University Prof. Ashraf Ali Khan will attend the function as special guests.

A seminar on the "Role of Livestock in Poverty Alleviation" will also be held at the BARC auditorium on the day, said a press release.

Chinese attack threatens HK stability

HONG KONG, Dec 23: Chinese threats to nullify all Hong Kong-related business contracts after Beijing's takeover of the territory in 1997 violate international law and threaten Hong Kong's stability, an influential legal group said Wednesday, reports AP.

In comments likely to fan the increasingly nasty Sino-British dispute over Hong Kong's future, the Hong Kong Bar Association said the Chinese warnings smacked of political gamesmanship and had "no foundation in international law."

"They suggest that constitutional provisions are not taken seriously, and their interpretation may be subject to the whim of prevailing political consideration. The statements endanger the continuation of the rule of law both now and after 1997," the statement said.



Mojibur Rahman, State Minister for Finance addressing as chief guest in a seminar on 'Real interest rates and Monetary policy in Bangladesh' organised by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management at the BIBM auditorium on December 21.

Present policy to help boost trade, investment: Zahir

Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan Wednesday said that the economic reform measures and the policy of trade liberalisation being pursued by the present government were directed to boost the trading and investment opportunities in the country, reports ISS.

There was no alternative to encouraging the trade for achieving the accelerated growth of the economy, the Planning Minister said while inaugurating a workshop on "expansion of trade and investment in Bangladesh."

The day-long workshop jointly organised by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and

Industry (FBCCI) and the Ministry of Commerce is one of a series of national workshops being held in a number of countries commensurate with the decision taken on the regional seminar on the "expansion of business opportunities in Asia and the Pacific region" held in Bangkok in September this year.

The objective of the seminar is to enhance and sharpen national awareness and perception of the vast potential for interregional trade and investment in Asia and the Pacific which can be better exploited through appropriate initiative.

It also aims at identifying and discussing the obstacles faced by the business community in expanding their trade with other countries in Asia

and Pacific such as tariff and non-tariff barriers. Lack of market information and absence of business of contact with a view to finding appropriate solutions.

Chaired by FBCCI President Mahbubur Rahman, the inaugural session was also addressed by UNDP Resident Representative Charles H. Larimont, Commerce Secretary Nazim Ahmed Chowdhury and ESCAP Representative H. Fujimoto.

One country paper on business and investment opportunities in Bangladesh and two ESCAP studies one on "expansion of trade and investment among ESCAP developing countries with a regional framework" and empirical study of trade and investment with the Asia and Pacific region" would be presented at the workshop.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 23.12.92									
Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving			
J/1	Ji Lin	GI	Sing	Prog	19/12	30/12			
J/3	Pratapad	Logs	Rang	HSL	12/12	26/12			
J/4	Banglar Bahari	Sugar (P)	Pena	Cross	13/12	26/12			
J/5	Farcast	C Peas	Glaton	MSA	19/12	31/12			
J/8	Qing He Cheng	GI	S Hai	HDSHP	20/12	24/12			
J/10	Endurance Sea	Repair	Agaba	EOSL	25/1	31/12			
J/11	Damon	Wheat (P)	Pers	Royal	8/11	25/12			
J/12	Trans Asia	Fert	Bank	BOVL	1/12	25/12			
MPB/1	Andrian Goncharov	Cont	Sing	CT	22/12	25/12			
CGJ	Al Fesani	Cement	Kaki	RRSA	14/12	26/12			
GSJ	Banglar Kallol	Wheat (G)	ISC	R/A	25/12				
TSP	Becco Europe	R Phos	Sala	SSST	13/12	24/12			
RM/4	Banglar Robi	Repair	ISC	R/A	27/12				
DD	Samudra Raj	GI	Kara	SSL	R/A	27/12			
DD/1	S E Halder	Cement	Kara	ASL	R/A	30/12			
RM/8	AL Swamiruz	Repair	Metha	ASL	7/12	25/12			
RM/9	Banglar Kiron	Repair	ISC	R/A	27/12				

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Last Arrival	Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Kamaleverett	23/12	Sing	EBPL	GI	
Arunachal Pradesh	23/12	Mad	SSL	GI/GL	Japa
Continent-1	23/12	Peng	CLA	GI	
Fong Shin 12/12	23/12	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Sam Houston	23/12	Cal	Karna	GI	New York
Hydra	23/12	Sfax	SSST		
Iron Will	23/12	Ind	MSA	Salt	
Arhon	24/12	Gres	H & S	TSP(G)	
Tai Shan Hai	24/12	Sing	H & S	TSP	Mong
Safina-e-Islam-2	24/12	Daman	ASL	GI/GL	Karachi
Aning	24/12	Shan	BDSHP	R Seed(P)	
Optima 17/12	25/12	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
NGS Ranger 14/12	25/12	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Mowlavi	26/12		SSL		Abbas
Eastern Mars	26/12		Prog	GI	
Petr Starostin 15/12	27/12		CT	Cont	Sing
Samudra Samrat	28/12		SSL	GI	
Ingenuty 19/12	28/12	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Tiger Force 19/12	28/12	Col	RSL	Cont	Cal
Fong Yun 19/12	28/12	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
NGS Express 19/12	29/12	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Trans America	29/12	BKK	BOVL	Sugar/GI	
Beccles	29/12	Cal	EBPL		
Lena(48) 11/11	30/12	Bank	Prog	Const.	
Hua Li	30/12		ASL	GI	
Golden Union	30/12	Mong	OWSL		Salaam
Paraskevi M-Y	31/12	Sing	BSS	Wehat (G)	
Meng Hong 20/12	31/12	Cal	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Kota Buana 21/12	31/12	Sing	CTIS	Cont	Sing
Massy Phoenix	15/01	Japa	OWSL	Wheat(P)	

TANKER DUE

Blue Tank Trader	24/12	Athens	CTMO
Entalina	25/12	Sing	MSPL

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Shenton (Cont)	Cont	Sing	OMNI	22/12
Cape Syros	Mop (P)	Pira	Seacom	18/12

READY ON:

Banglar Shourabh		BSC	R/A (10/12)
Banglar Jyoti		BSC	R/A (20/12)
Banglar Asha		BSC	R/A (20/12)
Al Reza	GL	KSL	R/A (21/12)
Artemis-1	Cement	Bright	R/A (21/12)

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

T T Energy		K Dia	ARL	20/12
Tug Neftegaz		Pajer	ARL	18/12
Tug Jupiterites		Sing	ARL	21/12
GU Yue	Cement	Indo	Bright	21/12
Zanbaj-II	V.Mach	Cal	BSI	20/12

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

T T Energy		K Dia	ARL	20/12
Tug Neftegaz		Pajer	ARL	18/12
Tug Jupiterites		Sing	ARL	21/12
GU Yue	Cement	Indo	Bright	21/12
Zanbaj-II	V.Mach	Cal	BSI	20/12

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

Price Index

Essentials			Sagur (Large)		
RICE	(Taka per kg)		Champa	(Taka per kg)	
Amant(fine)	13.50-15.00		Dates	55.00-60.00	
Pajam	11.00-12.00		Oil	54.00-56.00	
VEGETABLES	(Taka per kg)		Mustard	36.00-38.00	
Brinjal	9.00-9.50		Soybean	90.00-95.00	
Onion (local)	6.00-8.00		Cocunut (Colombo)	48.00-52.00	
Karolla	12.00-14.00		Vegetable Ghee (1kg)		
Lalshak	4.00-5.00		SPICES	(Taka per kg)	
Tomato	18.00-22.00		Onion (local)	10.00-11.00	
Cauliflower	6.00-10.00		Garlic (local)	24.00-32.00	
Gourd	13.00-15.00		Chillies (local)	20.00-25.00	
OTHER FOODGRAN	(Taka per kg)		Turmeric (local)	48.00-50.00	
Flour	13.00-15.00		Green chillies	18.00-20.00	
Alia	10.50-11.00		Ginger	14.00-16.00	
FINI	(Taka per kg)		Cinnamon (10gm)	3.00-3.50	
Kashmiri	160.00-180.00		Cardamom (10gm) (small)	7.00-8.00	
Kashmiri	100.00-140.00		Jhura (50 gms)	8.00-10.00	
Rohi	45.00-50.00		MILK	(Two kgs)	
Panas	125.00-140.00		Dano	332.00-333.00	
Shrimp(hg)	120.00-140.00		Red-Cow	321.00-322.00	
Sagi	120.00-140.00		MISCELLANEOUS	(Taka per kg)	
Koi	130.00-150.00		Ghee	220.00-240.00	
MEAT					
Beef	NA		Gold (Guinea)	5395.00	
Mutton	NA		Silver	200.00	
CHICKEN					
Large	64.00-66.00				
Moderate	68.00-70.00				
Small	75.00-76.00				
TEA					
Dog (Plain)	80.00-90.00				
BAG	(Taka per kg)				
Ilan	11.00-11.50				
Ilan	11.00-11.50				
Farm	11.00-12.00				
PULSES	(Taka per kg)				
Mashur	29.00-31.00				
Moogh	34.00-35.00				
Chola	23.00-24.00				
Khesari	16.00-18.00				
FRUITS					
Green Coconut (Small)	4.50-5.00				
Coconut (Large)	9.00-10.00				
Banana	(One piece)				
	5.00-6.00				
	(One piece)				
	6.00-7.00				
	(One piece)				
	6.00-7.00				

Gold & Silver

(Taka for 10.00 grams)

Gold (Guinea) 5395.00

Silver 200.00

Source: Department of Agriculture marketing

Hides & Skin

(Wet/Salted)

(Taka per 100 pieces)

Cow 10,000 - 36,000

Light 61,000 - 70,000

Medium 72,000 - 80,000

Heavy 82,000 - 90,000

Very heavy 100,000 -