

REB extends 6.85 lakh lines so far

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 27: Rural Electrification Board (REB) has extended about 5.65 lakh domestic connections to about 11,000 families in the rural areas of the country during the last 14 years, according to official source.

The REB has also extended about 95 thousands commercial connections and 25 thousands connections to irrigation projects.

More than eight lakh acres of land have been brought under power aided irrigation programmes in the country where production of about 2.50 lakh tons of foodgrains have increased.

For the extension of electric supply to the vast rural areas of the country more than two lakh labourers have got job opportunities in different rural industrial units and fuel worth Taka 80 crore have been saved.

The REB started work in 1978 and has brought 227

thana areas out of 460 thanas under the rural electrification network through the supervision of 39 Palli Biddu Samity (PBS). Work on more six samities will be implemented in phases.

According to REB sources, collection of electric bills are about 98 per cent while system loss is only 14 to 16 per cent. On the other hand, system loss is about 35 to 40 per cent in Power Development Board (PDB).

The sources said that about 400 million US dollar were received as loan or donations from the donor agencies of different countries within the time for extension of rural electrification network in the country.

It is learnt that REB has chalked out a master plan for the expansion of rural electrification and power distribution network in the country within the year 2000.

The masterplan will be implemented in five phases which include construction of new electric lines in 1.40 lakh kilometres area, providing new power connections to 43 lakh rural families more and about 3.50 lakh industrial units including 52,000 connections to irrigation pumps.

Fund crisis hits dredging

Another report adds: Due to shortage of necessary fund and dredgers, most dredging works are yet to be started in different rivers to make the riverine routes navigable for plying both cargo and passenger vessels.

Dredging works are going on only with eight dredgers which are inadequate.

In the absence of regular dredging the navigation is greatly hampered due to emergence of charlands in different areas of the country. Heavy siltation in different

river in southern and northern zones of the country have been causing hindrance in smooth plying of riverine transport including ferry services.

To make the riverine routes navigable, at least 25 lakh cubic metres dredging is needed, according to related sources.

It is learnt that Programme of dredging of 17 lakh cubic metres has been undertaken during 1992-93 financial year with the expenditure of about six crore taka.

Meanwhile, of the 12 points, dredging has already been started in Dailatdia, Meghna, Padma, and Kirtonkhola rivers.

During 1991-92 fiscal year, the target of dredging was not achieved. It is learnt that during last year, about 13 lakh cubic metres dredging were performed with an expenditure of about taka five crore which was not sufficient.

Biman will now fly to Indonesia

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will now be able to operate two weekly flights to Indonesia under an air-service agreement signed between Bangladesh and Indonesia at Jakarta recently, official sources said in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

As per the agreement, the national flag carrier of Bangladesh will be permitted to carry up to 100 passengers in each flight from intermediate points to Indonesia.

One airlines of Indonesia, to be nominated later on, will be allowed to carry up to 75 passengers from intermediate points to Bangladesh in return.

Air Commodore Azharul Hoque, Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, who led a four-member Bangladesh air-services delegation to Indonesia, and Zainuddin Sikado, Director General of Air Communications of Indonesia signed the agreement on December 22 on behalf of their respective governments.

Zemin stresses on role of agri, rural work in modernisation

WUHAN, Dec 27: Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin has recently stressed the importance of agriculture and rural work in China's drive for modernisation, reports Xinhua.

He pointed out that agriculture is the foundation of the national economy and the question of the peasantry is always a fundamental question for Chinese revolution, construction and reform.

Jiang made these remarks in a agricultural working conference held here from December 24 to 25 to assess the situation in the rural areas and discuss ways to protect the farmers' interests and bring their initiative into full play.

At the conference, the party General Secretary discussed some new problems arising from China's rural development with local party and government leaders of six provinces in central, eastern and southwestern China, including Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Anhui, Henan and Sichuan.

Earlier, Jiang made and extensive inspection tour of rural areas in Hubei province.

Jiang said that the party central committee and the government have paid close attention to agriculture and the rural areas as they play a most important role in China.

He pointed out that China's agriculture and rural economy have developed rapidly in the past 14 years of reform and opening to the outside world.

Kuwait's oil output jumps to 1.67m BPD

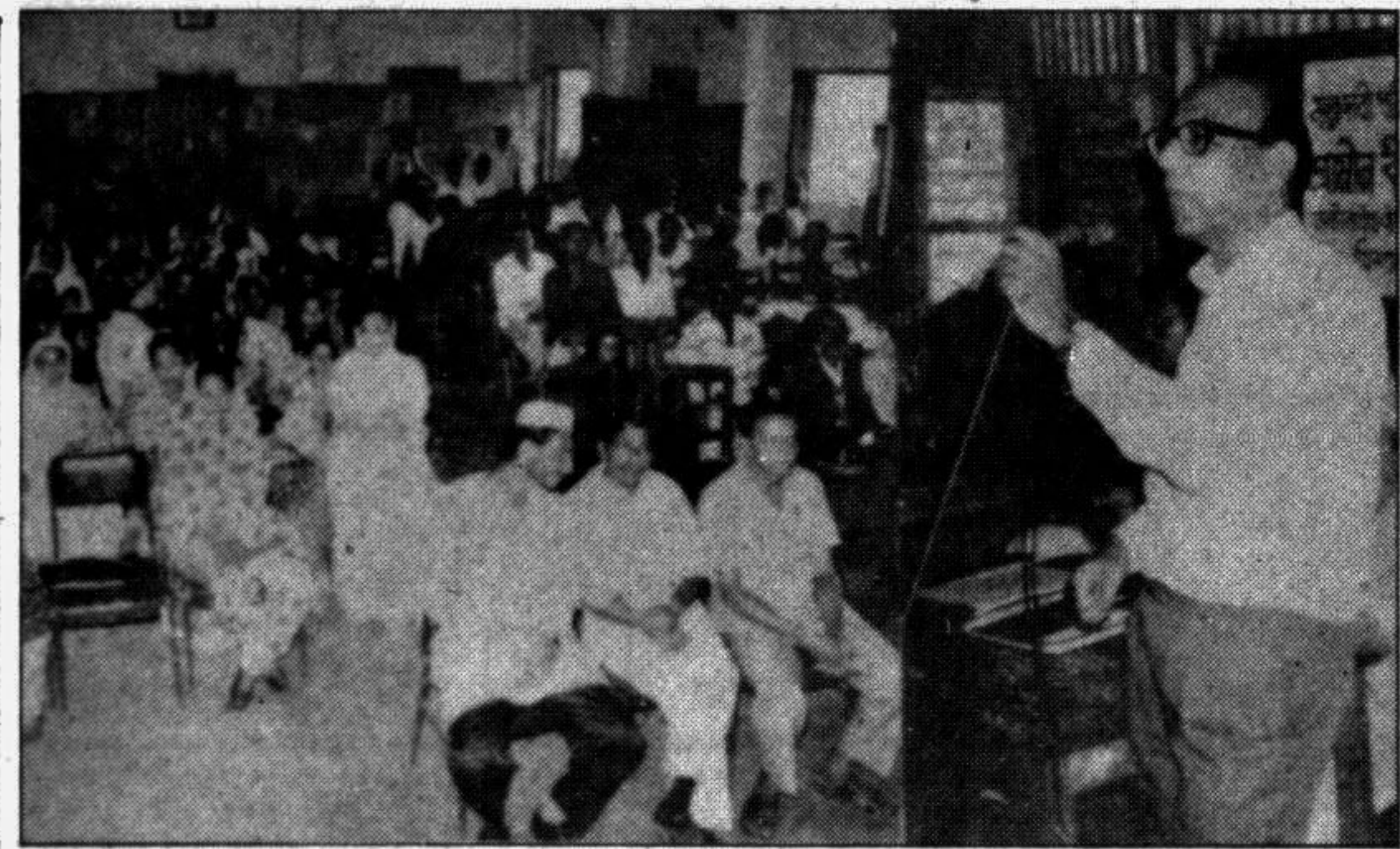
KUWAIT, Dec 27: Kuwait's oil production has jumped to 1.67 million barrels per day (BPD) and will be close to pre-Gulf War levels by the end of next month, Oil Minister Ali Ahmed Al-Baghlhi said on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The figure included Kuwait's 150,000 BPD share of production from the neutral zone, shared with Saudi Arabia, Baghlhi told Reuters.

"We have a plan to achieve 1.7 million barrels per day in Kuwait alone by the end of January."

That would put total Kuwaiti production, including neutral zone output, at around 1.85 million BPD, compared with 1.90 million BPD before the Iraqi invasion on August 2 1990.

Iraqi forces blew up around 600 oil wells towards the end of their seven-month occupation of the Emirate, forcing Kuwait to rebuild the industry which forms the lifeblood of its economy.



Shafiq Ahmed Chowdhury, MD and Actuary of Delta Life Insurance Company addressing the function of settlement of death claim of late Anwar Hossain at the Trishal branch of the company under rural insurance project recently.

Call for adopting action plan to develop coastal belt

A five-day workshop on 'coastal zone management in Bangladesh' began in Dhaka on Sunday with the call for adopting a well-coordinated plan of action for developing the country's coastal belt and at the same time harnessing its resources, reports BSS.

Organised by the National Commission for UNESCO, the workshop is expected to synthesise the results of all previous studies in the field and recommend a scientific plan of action with emphasis on local participation in decision making and building institutional ability to manage and guide the development of coastal area.

About 70 papers on different aspects of coastal zone management in Bangladesh will be presented at the workshop by authors and experts from France, India, Japan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA and host Bangladesh.

Both the national and international experts active in the

field will present state of art papers on the topic and exchange their experience.

They will also discuss regional problems and work out ways and means to enhance cooperation in the field.

Inaugurating the workshop, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar said management of coastal zone was a priority area. He called for protecting the coastal environment both from natural calamity and human activities and underlined that there was a great need for an integrated coastal zone management strategy.

Chaired by Secretary of the Ministry of Education Shafiq Alam, who is also the Secretary General of the National Commission for UNESCO, the inaugural session was also addressed by LM Mandella, representative of the UNESCO's regional office in New Delhi, Dr Md Shahjahan, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Prof Md

Shamsul Haq, Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and Touhida Faruki, Secretary of the National Commission for UNESCO.

Dr Shahjahan said the country could no longer afford to neglect the 710 kilometre-long coastal belt, which is endowed with various resources, but at the same time prone to natural disasters like cyclone, tidal bore and flooding.

Dr Shamsul Haq said the harnessing of the resources of coastal belt as well as those of the economic zone would depend on developing the long coastalbelt of the country.

The UNESCO representative LM Mandella said his organisation would like to associate itself in adopting a regional plan of action for management and development of the coastal zone.

Shafiq Alam stressed that an integrated coastal zone management was the need of the hour.

Frozen food export thru Mongla Port fetches Tk 157.116 cr

KHULNA, Dec 27: A total of Taka 157.116 crore has been earned by exporting nearly 1.15 crore pounds of frozen food through the Mongla Port during the first five months of the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Of the amount, Taka 153 crore has been earned by exporting one crore pound of prawn. Rest of the amount was earned by exporting white fish and other frozen foods.

Bangladeshi frozen goods are being exported usually to Malaysia, Singapore and Japan

through this port. It is expected that export of frozen foods will increase during current fiscal year.

Phone exchange opens Jan 4

A new telephone exchange with a capacity of 2000 lines will be commissioned here on January 4.

Officials said, Card phone booth system will also be opened at the New Market and at the post office in the town. There are already 10,000

telephone connections in the district and 25,000 applications were pending with the T & T Board here.

It is expected that new telephone exchange will partly fulfil the demand of the local people.

Plan to construct, repair 25 roads

Roads and Highways Department has taken up a project for construction, repair and development of 25 roads in greater Khulna district at a total cost of Taka 69 lakh.

Work on the project has already started and would be completed by the end of February next, official sources said.

The roads are Moreganj-Raenda Road, Betgram-Tala-Paikpara Road, Rupsha-Terokhada Road, Badamtali-Fakirhat-Mollahat Road, Kachua Road, Rampal Road, Sakhira-Ashashuni Road, Bagerhat-Chitalmari Road, Shakhipur-Debhata Road, Paikgacha-Koira Road, Shymnagar-Bheikhali Road, Moreganj-Mongla Road, Istiaghata-Ashashuni-Goadanga Road, Senebazar-Terokhada Road, Badamtali Road, Pultala-Shahpur Road, Altpur-Bhomra Road, Dakopp-Naljan Road, Batiaghata-Barolia Road, Bagerhat-Gilatia Road, Nagarhat-Kamargati Road and Bagerhat-Projpur Road.

With the implementation of the project road communication in the area will be improved to a great extent.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth No.	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L-Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Leaving	Date of Arrival
J/1	Ji Lin	GI	Sing	Prog	19/12	27/12
J/2	Iron Will	Salt	Col	MSA	23/12	1/1
J/3	Cape Syros	MOP (P)	Pena	Seacom	18/12	31/12
J/4	Banglar Beani	Sugar (P)	Pena	Scram	13/12	27/12
J/5	Farcast	C.Poss	Glaton	MSA	19/12	31/12
J/6	Continent-1	GI	Pena	CLA	24/12	29/12
J/7	Al Reza	GL	Pena	RSA	28/12	
J/8	Safina-e-Islam-2	GI/GL	Daman	ASLL	24/12	28/12
J/9	Kamaloverett	GI	Sing	BHPL	23/12	28/12
J/10	Indurance Sea	Repair	Aqiba	EOSL	25/1	05/01
J/11	Janbaz-1	Urea	Col	RISA	20/12	07/01
J/12	Trans Asta	Fert	Bark	Boal	1/12	28/12
MPB/1	Rong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	23/12	27/12
MPB/2	NGS Ranger	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	25/12	28/12
CCJ	Al Fesani	Cement	Kang	RISA	14/12	29/12
TSP	Becco Europe	Repair	Sala	UMAL	13/12	
RM/3	Buc Tank Trader	CPO	Sunda	ATHENA	25/12	28/12
RM/4	Banglar Robi	Repair	ISC	R/A	29/12	
RM/6	Entalina	HSD	Sing	MSP/L	25/12	28/12
DDJ	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	ISC	R/A	02/01	
DD	Samudra Raj	GL	Kara	SSL	R/A	29/12
RM/8	S.E.Haider	Cement	Kara	ASLL	R/A	05/01
RM/9	Banglar Kiron	Repair	ISC	R/A	31/12	

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Eastern Mars	27/12	Hong	Prog	GI	
Samudra Samrat	28/12	Sing	SSL	GI	Mong
Ingenuity	28/12	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Fong Yun	28/12	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Petr Starostin 15/12	29/12	-	CT	Cont	Sing
Kallan	29/12	Tugo	Umal	-	-
Solbulk	29/12	-	Seacom	Wheat	-
Iharatendu	28/12	Cal	SSL	E/L	Dumdec.Ant
NGS Express	30/12	Mong	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Mowavi	30/12	Mong	SSL	GI/GL	Abbas
Lena	30/12	Bank	Prog	Const. Materials	-
Hua Li	30/12	-	ASLL	GI	-
Golden Union	30/12	Mong	OWSL	-	Salam
Paraskevi M-Y	30/12	Sing	BSL	Wheat (G)	-
Meringa	30/12	Viza	Mal	Scraping	-
Beebles (48) 24/12	31/12	Cal	EBPL	GI	-
Meng Horng 20/12	31/12	Cal	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Kota Buana 21/12	31/12	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Tiger Force 19/12	1/02	Col	RSL	Cont	Sing
I. Yamburenko 23/12	1/01	-	CT	Cont	Cal
Banglar Sampad	4/01	-	ISC	GI	-
Trans America	4/01	BKK	Boal / Sugar/ GI	-	-
AS Okan	6/01	-	ISC	GI	-
Massy Phoenix	15/01	Jaga	OWSL	Wheat (P)	-

TANKER DUE

Ajon	3/1	CT	C.P.Oil
Antares	4/1	CT	Tallow

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Anting	R.Scuds (P)	Sing	BDSHIP	24/12
Arbon	TSP (G)	Sing	H&SL	24/12

VESSELS NOT READY

Banglar Jyoti	-	-	BSS	R/A (20/12)
Banglar Aaha	-	-	ISC	R/A (20/12)
Artemis-1	-	-	Bright	R/A (21/12)

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 28/12/92

OUTGOING	SHIFTING
J/7 Al Reza	RM/4 Banglar Robi to DDJ/2
J/8 S.E.Islam-2	
J/9 Kamaloverett	
MPB/2 NGS Ranger	
J/13 Optima	
RM/3 B.T. Trader	
RM/6 Entalina	

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

Price Index

Essentials	Rice	Fruits	Meat
RICE (Taka per kg)	Amrinfine 13.50-15.00	Green Coconut (Small) 4.50-5.00	Chicken 200.00
Payam 11.00-12.00	Coconut (Large) 9.00-10.00	Milk 332.00-333.00	
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)	Banana: 3.00-4.00	Miscellaneous (Taka per kg)	Large 64.00-66.00
Brijal 6.00-8.00	Sugar (Large) 12.00-14.00	Chick 220.00-240.00	Moderate 68.00-70.00
Karola 12.00-14.00	Champa 3.00-4.00	Small 75.00-76.00	TEA 80.00-90.00
Lakshya 4.00-5.00	Dates (Taka per kg)	Dust (Plain) 11.00-11.50	EGG 11.00-11.50
Tomato 18.00-22.00	55.00-60.00	Han 11.00-11.50	Farm 11.00-11.50
Cauliflower 6.00-10.00	OIL (Taka per litre)	Duck 11.00-11.50	PULSES (Taka per kg)
Gourd 13.00-15.00	Mustard 54.00-56.00	Fam 11.00-11.50	Wheat 29.00-31.00
OTHER FOODSTUFF (Taka per kg)	Soybean 36.00-38.00	MEAT	Morgh 34.00-35.00
Flour 13.00-13.50	Coconut (Colombo) 90.00-95.00	Chicken	Chick-1 23.00-24.00
Alta 10.50-11.00	Vegetable Ghee (1kg) 48.00-52.00	NA	
FISH (Taka per kg)	SPICES (Taka per kg)	NA	
Rubi (big) 160.00-180.00	Onion (local) 10.00-11.00		
Katla (big) 110.00-140.00	Garlic (local) 24.00-32.00		
Hilsha 45.00-50.00	Chillies (local) 20.00-25.00		
Pangas 125.00-140.00	Tumeric (local) 48.00-50.00		
Shrimp (big) 120.00-140.00	Green Chillies 18.00-20.00		
Koi 120.00-150.00	Ginger 14.00-16.00		
MEAT	Cinnamon (10gm) 3.00-3.50		
Beef NA	Cardamom (10gm) 7.00-8.00		
Mutton NA	Jhira (50 gm) 8.00-10.00		
CHICKEN	MILK (Two kg)		
Large 64.00-66.00	Dane 332.00-333.00		
Moderate 68.00-70.00	Red-Cow 321.00-322.00		
Small 75.00-76.00	Miscellaneous (Taka per kg)		
TEA 80.00-90.00	Chick 220.00-240.00		
Dust (Plain) 11.00-11.50	Sab 7.50-8.00		
EGG 11.00-11.50	Sugar 28.00-29.00		
Han 11.00-11.50			
Farm 11.00-11.50			
PULSES (Taka per kg)			
Wheat 29.00-31.00			
Morgh 34.00-35.00			
Chick-1 23.00-24.00			

Gold & Silver

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 December 26.

Currency	Selling B.C.	T.T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Pound Sterling	59.7119	59.3904	59.9987
DM	24.5345	24.3865	24.2145
FF	7.1928	7.1477	7.6972
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042	10.3307
D Outiders	21.8		