

Country economically able to carry forward uplift programmes: Saifur

BOGRA, Jan 9: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said the country is economically capable enough to carry forward its development programmes, reports UNB.

The minister was addressing a public meeting at Bagopara Shahid Daneshuddin High School premises of Sadar thana 10 kilometre from the district headquarters Friday.

Saifur said that the crying need of the time is discipline, unity co-ordinated and concerted efforts by public representatives, government officials and people, says an official handout.

The BNP government, as claimed by a particular political party and its leader, is not running the economy rather has nourished the national economy in its less than two years rule, he said.

Presided over by Gokul Union Parishad Chairman Md Habibur Rahman the meeting was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Finance Mofijur Rahman, State Minister for Law Barrister Aminul Haq, local MP GM Siraj and other local BNP and its front organisation leaders.

The minister said during the end of the last BNP regime

the Annual Development Programme (ADP) size of the country was 150 crore US dollar (Taka 6000 crore) which had been reduced to 110 crore dollar (Taka 4400 crore) during last autocratic regime although the population of the country shot up from 7.50 crore to over 11 crore.

But in less than a couple of years rule of BNP, this year's ADP size raised to Taka 8650 crore, he added.

Listing out the success of the government, he said the government is embarked upon implementing massive development programmes for bringing about socio-economic uplift.

He said education, health, infrastructure and other social sectors have been given top priority.

The Finance Minister said that 10,000 private primary schools and 300 private secondary schools will be developed at a cost of more than 100 crore taka. Secondary high schools will be nationalised in 400 thanas.

He said that a massive health and family planning and health programme is being implemented under which all the old district hospitals would

be elevated to 250-bed and all new district hospitals upgraded in two phases.

The implementation of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project will start this year, he said.

Saifur said this year the crop production has recorded all time high creating new hope and confidence among the people, he listed out.

The import, export, foreign currency reserve and all other indicators have been showing encouraging sign, he further added.

Saifur Rahman said the Baridhara Development Project was dreamt by late president Ziaur Rahman and the present BNP government will implement the project.

Turning to the criticism of the major opposition party and its leader, the Finance Minister said after much toll and sacrifice in nine-year long movement against autocracy, BNP government is set with programmes and policies to develop the nation as per the pledge embodied in its election manifesto.

But, unfortunately a known force is out to undo all these and resorted to activities detrimental to the healthy

growth of democracy and sustenance of development, he pointed out.

He said Awami League is tarnishing the country's image by its malafide publicity in the name of communal harmony.

Despite intense provocations after Babri Mosque razing, the people of Bangladesh maintained utmost peace, as they always do although our constitution does not embody secularism, he pointed out.

He called upon all political parties to shun divisiveness and uphold the outstanding national issues to help sustain democracy and development process.

He reiterated that BNP government is committed to bring peace, progress and prosperity in the country.

State Minister for Finance Mofijur Rahman said, BNP government came to power with popular mandate and is engaged in fulfilling all its pledges.

Speaking on the occasion State Minister for Law Barrister Aminul Haq called upon the people to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to accelerate the pace of national development.

Tk 7cr cotton production possible in two dists

RAJSHAHI, Jan 9: The prospect of cotton cultivation along with intercropping of turmeric is bright in Rajshahi and Natore districts, reports UNB.

Production of more than one lakh maunds of cotton worth about Taka 7 crore is possible every year on 10,000 acres of land which are now under turmeric cultivation in these two districts, local experts said.

Turmeric is being cultivated as the only crop as it is usually thought that no other crops

could be grown on the same field.

But some farmers of Matihar and Charghat thanas of Rajshahi and Bagatpara of Natore are cultivating cotton on the turmeric fields as intercropping since last year.

Fakir Mandal of Binodpur village of Matihar thana has been cultivating both the crops at a time for last two years on two bighas of land. This year, he hoped to harvest 10 maunds of cotton worth about Taka 7000 against the cultivation cost of Taka 1500.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 09.01.93

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Leaving Arrival
J/1	Al Tajwar	Cement	Jaka	PSAL	02/01 15/01
J/2	A S Okan	GI	Kuwait	BSC	08/01 11/01
J/3	Amer Jyoti	Cement	Jaka	Paragon	03/01 22/01
J/4	Becies (48)	GI	Col	EBFL	07/01 09/01
J/5	Sulbulk	Wheat (P)	P Land	Seacon	30/12 -
J/6	Anting	R Seed (P)	Sing	BDSHP	24/12 11/01
J/7	Banglar Sampad	GI	Kara	BSC	08/01 16/01
J/8	Golden Union	GL	Mong	OWSL	08/01 -
J/9	Becco Europe	Urea	Sah	UMAL	R/A 12/01
J/10	Endurance Sea	Repair	Agaba	EOSL	25/01 15/01
J/11	Janbaz-II	Urea	Cal	RRSA	20/12 15/01
J/12	Kallang	Urea	Tugo	UMAL	29/12 10/01
J/13	Andrian				
MPB/1	Goncharov	Cont	Sing	CT	07/01 10/01
MPB/2	Sheron	Cont	Sing	Omni	05/01 09/01
OCJ	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	07/01 10/01
CSJ	S E Haider	Cement	Kara	ASL	R/A 15/01
TSP	Paraskevi M-Y	Wheat (G)	Sing	BSL	02/01 10/01
RM/3	Vinta	R Phos	Jedah	SSST	04/01 16/01
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	Col	CT	06/01 09/01
DDJ/2	Banglar Robi	Repair	-	BSC	02/01 09/01
CUFJ	Farcast	Urea	-	USTC	R/A 15/01

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Call	Cargo Agent	Loading Port
Gui Jiang	09/01	Sing	ATSL	Cement	-
Iro	10/01	Ghent	Ancient	Wheat (G)	-
Optima 30/12	10/01	Mong	RSL	Cont	Sing
IMS London	11/01	Sing	JF	-	-
Ilang Wan	11/01	-	Prog	GI	-
Ocean Voyager	11/01	-	AML	Cement	-
Delight Glory	12/01	-	Bright	Cement	-
Ingenuity 31/12	12/01	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Robert-lee	12/01	-	Karna	GI	New York
Fong Yun 3/1	13/01	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Hald
Petr Starostin 2/1	13/01	-	CT	Cont	Sing
Stern	13/01	Sah	UMAL	TSP (P)	-
NGS Ranger 29/12	14/01	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Tina	14/01	Bank	Prog	Cons-Materials	-
NGS Express 3/1	14/01	-	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Karabievrett	14/01	-	EBFL	GI	Fe St.
Kota Buana 4/1	14/01	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Mowlati	15/01	Mong	SSL	GI/GL	Abbas
Stamartner	15/01	-	SSST	Wheat (G)	-
Massy Phoenix	15/01	Japa	OWSL	Wheat (P)	-

TANKER DUE

Vidno	Date	Call	CT	M (Lassca)
Global Venus	10/01	Sand	Seacon	Palm Oil
Chota	11/01	Reug	Seacon	Veg Oil
Esso Bangkok	11/01	Sing	MSPFL	HSD
Botary Triad	19/01	-	JF	Tallow

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Aspilos	C Oil	Rast	DSLL	05/01
Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	-	BSC	R/A

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Ready on	Cargo	Call	CT	Date
Antares	Tallow	Col	CT	6/1
Trans America	Sugar/GI	BKK	BOAL	8/1
Ivyeverett	GI	Sing	EBFL	8/1
Grietje	P Water	P Side	Prog	9/1
Banglar Kiron	Wheat (G)	-	BSC	R/A (2/1)
Norman Prince	Wheat (G)	Mong	BSL	6/1
Sandgate	HSD	Sing	MSPFL	8/1

VESSELS NOT READY

Arhon	TSP (G)	Sing	H&SL	24/12
Al Mohammed	Wheat (G)	Mong	BSL	7/1

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Banglar Asha	-	-	BSC	R/A (20/12)
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VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Al Fesari	-	-	PRSA	R/A (31/12)
Mertinga	Scrapping	Viza	MTA	1/1
Alam Mexico	GTSP	S East	SSST	5/1
American Trader	Wheat (G)	Sing	BSL	6/1

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 10.01.93

OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIFTING
J/8	Grietje	DOJ
J/13	A Goncharov	DOJ
MPB/2	Fong Shin	MPB/1
OCJ	S E Haider	J/13
GSJ	Paraskevi M-Y	J/8
RM/3	Antares	Gui Jiang
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	Trans America

The above were the Saturday's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by IHC 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 January 10, 11 and 12. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B.C.	T. T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Poundsterling	59.9072	59.5911	59.1923
DM	23.7599	23.6096	23.4429
FE	6.9848	6.9387	6.8897
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042	10.3307
D Guilders	21.1413	21.0090	20.8606
S Krone	5.2668	5.2297	5.1927
Singapore Dollar	23.5582	23.4234	23.2580
UAE Dirham	10.8911	10.6299	10.5548
Kuwait Dinar	129.0672	128.3287	127.4224
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.4925	1.4858	1.4783
Pak Rupee (AMJ)	1.5090	1.5022	1.4946

Authorised dealers will apply T T clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladeshis working abroad. Note: AMU-Asian Monetary Union.

Singer's annual sales confce held

Singer's annual sales conference-1993 was held at Deer Park Parjatan Complex, Rangamati from December 27-29, 1992, says a press release.

The conference was participated by the managers of various Singer show room-cum sales centers. Singer approved agents along with all the staff and officers of Singer's Marketing Department. It was also participated by the members of the Board of Directors and all members of Singer's Management Committee.

The conference was formally inaugurated by Mahub Jamil, Chairman and Managing Director, Singer Bangladesh Ltd. About 200 participants took part in the conference.

Mahub Jamil, Chairman and Managing Director, Singer Bangladesh Ltd. addressed the conference.

Borrowers blame HBFC for making loanes defaulters

The Association of the Borrowers of House Building Finance Corporation (ABHFC) has alleged that the House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) has been imposing increased rate of interest, lump-sum and compound interest outside the contract in a wrong and illogical manner, says BSS.

With all these steps the corporation has been making the loanes defaulters first and then showing the repayments on account of interest only, the association further alleged.

The association threatened to launch a movement from February next if the concerned authorities failed to check wrong and unreasonable programme of the corporation which have been causing harassment to the loanes.

The association at a meeting of its central executive committee in Dhaka on Thursday, however, decided to discuss the matter with the highest government level within the current month, a press release of the association said on Friday night.

The association said that its repeated efforts to draw the attention of the concerned authorities to these illogical steps of the corporation went in vain resulting in the increased sufferings of the borrowers.

The meeting was presided over by Vice-President of the Association Dr Abdul Baten Khan.

Setting up of more BSCIC units needed

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Saturday underlined the importance of establishing more cottage and small industries for providing employment opportunity to the distressed and the unemployed, reports BSS.

He said the future of the nation depends on the strengthening the socio-economic condition through hard work and dedicated efforts of all.

The President was speaking to a 13-member delegation of the Jatiyatabadi Nadee Vangoli Bastuhara Dal of Barisal branch, when they met him at Bangabhaban.

President Biswas said that the present democratic government had undertaken a number of programmes to bring about a rapid progress and prosperity of the nation.



Mahub Jamil, Chairman and MD of Singer Bangladesh Ltd speaking at the annual sales conference held at Rangamati recently.

PDB saves Tk 40 cr by reducing system loss in 5 months

Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) saved Taka 40 crore by reducing system loss by two per cent in five months since July 1992, reports UNB.

Energy Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharrar Hossain told newsmen after a review meeting on PDB's overall activities in the last two months that system loss reduced to 24.36 per cent in November last year from 26.44 in July.

The minister could not give the account of December, he hoped system loss also decreased last month as notable progress in streamlining power generation and distribution network was made during the period, resulting in increased PDB income.

Dr Mosharrar Hossain informed the press that revenue income of PDB increased by Taka 18 crore over the last six months to Taka 112 crore in December. The income grew from Taka 94.5 crore in July last year.

Energy Secretary Mohammad Ali, PDB Chairman Faizur Razaq, board members, General Manager, regional chiefs, superintending engineers and concerned magistrates were among others present at the press briefing in PDB's conference room.

The minister also pointed out that the average system loss (including DESA and REB) during the period also dropped by 2.13 per cent and the situation was improving

steadily. Power distribution system's overall loss came down to 36.76 in November last year against 38.89 per cent in July.

The system loss of DESA (Dhaka Electric Supply Authority) which distributes 45 per cent of power was 31.7 per cent in November 1992 against 42 when it was floated in October 1991.

The World Bank suspended a 300-million-dollar energy sector credit to Bangladesh two years back for a unusually high rate of system loss.

System loss escalated by nine per cent to 42 during the nine years of autocratic regime for alleged corruption and inefficiency.

The minister said overall system loss was slashed 5.5 per cent over the last two years since the BNP government took over and thus saved Taka 110 crore.

He told reporters that a number of measures, including punishment of the employees for lapses, were taken to cut system loss and ensure better accountability and discipline in the sector.

PDB achieved 65 per cent collection/generation ratio in December last year as against World Bank target set at 55 per cent, said Faizur Razaq. The overall ratio was 59.2 per cent in November last year.

Dwelling on frequent loadshedding in Chittagong region, the Energy Minister said the situation would change very

soon with completion of the Ashuganj-Comilla 230 KV National Grid Transmission Line and Sub-Station.

Started in February 1991, the project worth about Taka 240 crore with financial assistance from Germany will be completed by this month, he said.

With commissioning of this project, an additional 70-80 megawatt power will be supplied to greater Chittagong to meet the demand of the region.

The greater Chittagong is now facing 40 megawatt loadshedding. The fall of water level in Kaptai Power Plant area is learnt to be main cause of loadshedding.

Dr Mosharrar Hossain also informed that another power generation project at Rawjan was expected to be completed by April this year.

The project, started in April 1990 at a cost of Taka 525 crore with financial and technical assistance from China, will generate another 210 megawatt electricity, he added.

The minister said with completion of these projects, power crisis in Chittagong would go and help establish new industries and develop irrigation system.

Detailed discussion on illegal connections, outstanding bills and disconnection of power lines of defaulters was also held in the meeting.

Sugar mill faces acute fund crisis

KUSHTIA, Jan 9: Kushtia Sugar Mills has been facing serious fund crisis as almost of its production remained unsold, reports UNB.

The mills produced 5,988 metric tons of sugar during 60 days of crushing season by crushing 75,752 mts of sugarcane with an average recovery of 8.13 per cent.

The mills has so far sold only 10 metric tons of sugar to the wholesalers.

Informed sources said, smuggling of sugar into the country and import of sugar in private sector hampered the selling of sugar of the mill.

The 16 sugar mills of the country have been facing setback for the wrong assessment of sugar requirement and also for import of sugar, it is learnt.

Govt to rehabilitate coastal fishermen

A report from Barisal says: Government has taken up a programme to rehabilitate the last year's devastating cyclone affected fishermen of the 12 coastal districts.

Officials sources said Taka 112.73 crore will be dis-

tributed among the fishermen while Japan government will provide necessary fund as loan. About 906 groups of fishermen of the fishermen cooperative societies will be given trawler, fishing nets and necessary articles at a cost of Taka 96 crore.

The rest amount will be spent for maintenance and repairing of trawlers of the less affected fishermen in these districts.

Tk 5cr smuggled goods seized last year

CHUADANGA, Jan 9: Law enforcing agency personnel seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 5.01,99,577 during last year from Chuadanga border areas, reports BSS.

Incoming smuggled goods recovered were worth about taka 4,56,73,942 while outgoing goods amounted to taka 45,25,935.

The goods included sugar, blades, VCR, bicycles. At least 1359 cases were registered with different thanas.

Affected fishermen of Barisal, Khulna, Patuakhali, Noakhali, Lakshimpur, Chittagong, Bagerhat, Perojpur, Borguna, Chandpur, Bhola and Cox's Bazar were directed to enroll their names through their respective societies.

Textile mills faces closure

The only textile mills of the district is now on the verge of closure due to various problems.

Production is being hampered greatly due to shortage of cotton as earlier it was supplied to the mill by the authorities on credit basis while recently the credit system has been changed forcing the mill authorities to buy the cotton on cash payment.

Yarn of about Taka 5 crore is lying unsold in the godown of the mill and about Taka 50 lakh remained outstanding as electricity bills and Power Development Board has served notice for payment of the bills. It is feared that the mills might be closed at any time throwing its 1200 employees and workers into uncertainty.