

IFC Executive Vice President due Friday

Sir William Ryrie, executive vice president of International Finance Corporation (IFC) arrives in the city Friday on a four-day visit, reports BSS.

During his stay in Bangladesh Sir William will allow the Prime Minister.

He will meet ministers for finance, post and telecommunications, commerce, textiles, planning, industries and energy, an official press release said.

He will visit several industries both in the private and the public sectors and go to Chittagong and Dharmaraj for fieldtrip as well as sight seeing.

He will also meet secretary for economic relations division foreign diplomatic mission chiefs in Bangladesh, members of the foreign investors chamber of commerce and industry, members of the private sector representatives, and World Bank Resident Representative in Dhaka Christopher R Willoughby.

Forest resource on wane

BARUNA, Feb 2: The forest resources of the district are on the verge of extinction as the brickfield owners are using tree as firewood increasingly in manufacturing brick, reports UNB.

A huge quantity of firewood is being consumed by the brickfields of the district every year. Firewood is being sold between Tk 80 and 100 per maund in the local markets.

Use of firewood is prohibited by the government under "Forest Preservation Act" to maintain ecological balance. Use of firewood in the brickfields, according to experts, can be discouraged by arranging immediate supply of LP gas to manufacture bricks.

Local people alleged fruit-bearing trees like mango, jack fruit, palm, black-berry, date-palm and other valuable species are being felled indiscriminately to use as firewood.

Firewoods are found openly piled up in huge quantity in the brickfields and it is alleged that the owner prefer them to coal for their cheap price.

Some brickfield owners said they are forced to use firewood as fuel since neither coal nor any other alternative was available.

But the officials said the supply of coal was adequate and the brickfield owners use wood as it is comparatively cheaper.

It is widely alleged that the law enforcing authority in the district is quite indifferent regarding the indiscriminate use of firewood in the brickfields.

At least two lakh maunds of firewood are being used from December to April season by the brickfield owners in the district.

Riyadh plans to develop unexploited oil field

NICOSIA, Feb 2: Saudi Arabia plans to develop an unexploited oilfield on its border with Abu Dhabi the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said on Monday, reports Reuters.

It said current plans for the Shaybah Field, approved by the government oil company Aramco last year, envisage output of about 500,000 BPD by 1997, to be piped up to the Ras Tannurah export terminal with a new 600-km (360-mile) pipeline.

The Shaybah field lies in the empty quarter — so named because the desert is even more barren than the rest of the country. MEES said two billion dollar had been budgeted to develop it.

The newsletter said it understood that although around 10 per cent of the field appears to lie on the Abu Dhabi side of the border, Saudi Arabia is entitled to pump all the oil. It said the August 1947 border treaty between Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi awarded sovereignty over the whole field to the Saudis.

BSCIC sets up over 144 units in 6 N-dists

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 2: At least 144 small industries at a cost of Tk 47 crore have been set up by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation in six northern districts during the current financial year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, of the total, 16 were established in Rajshahi, 53 in Bogra, 7 in Rangpur, 30 in Pabna, 29 in Dinajpur and 9 in Nilphamari districts.

Besides, BSCIC has started work on industrial estates at a cost of Tk 14 crore in ten northern districts of the country.

The districts are Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Natore, Sirajganj, Kurigram, Lal-

onrhat, Gaibandha, Joypurhat, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh.

It is expected that with the implementation of the projects a large number of unemployed people of this area will get job opportunities.

The work on 36 projects under Food for Works Programme in the district is going on in full swing.

The projects include construction and reconstruction of roads and excavation and re-excavation of canals.

At least 1587 tons of wheat have been sanctioned for the successful implementation of the projects, official sources said.

Of the total, 28 projects are being implemented by the

CARE, a non-government organisation.

Of the total sanctioned wheat, 326 tons were sanctioned for eight projects in Sadar thana, 288 tons for five projects in Aditmari thana, 281 tons for seven projects in Hatibanda thana, 363 tons for eight projects in Patgram thana and 328 tons for eight projects in Kaliganj thana.

People is being provided with same quantity of rice instead of wheat by CARE in its projects while, one kilogram rice is given for one and half kg wheat in the other projects, the sources added.

The work on the projects is expected to be completed by the end of April next.



Gur is plentiful in the city during the winter. It is an essential element in the preparation of season's many delicacies. —Star photo

Potters need patronisation

SATKHIRA, Feb 2: Thousands of potters of the district have been facing manifold problems and the pottery, traditional industry of the area is on the verge of extinction due to lack of patronisation.

This has spelt disaster in the life of thousands of potters engaged in the industry for generations.

Having been unable to grapple with the problems many potters of the district have already given up their profession particularly the young people are trying to find out other

suitable profession.

Thousands of people of different thanas of the district were engaged in this profession. They used to manufacture earthen jars, plates, toys and various things and earned their livelihood by selling these articles. But at present, a few people of these areas have been carrying on this profession with utmost difficulty.

The price of earth or clay, dice, colour and other materials necessary for the industry have now increased many times and the demand of the articles decreases gradually.

Transport is another problem. They carry their products on their shoulders for selling in the hats and bazars of 8 to 10 miles from the village.

About 15,000 families in different thanas of the district have been engaged in this pottery vocation. They reside in groups in different villages of Kalaroa, Tala, Debhata, Kaligonj, Shyamnagar, Assasuni and Sadar thanas of the district. Many potters have meanwhile been made day-labourers and beggars finding no other alternative.



In a country where livelihood from a formal sector is hard for many unemployed like those in the picture turn to self-employment. The sell small items on sidewalks, which the urban middle class find cheaper than in the shops. —Star photo

Dollar, stocks finish higher in Tokyo

TOKYO, Feb 2: The US dollar opened higher against the Japanese yen Tuesday while share prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange edged up, says AP.

The dollar started trading at 125.15 yen, up 0.20 yen from Monday's close. In New York overnight, the dollar settled at 125.05 yen, up from Friday's 124.65 yen.

Dealers said the dollar remained stable against other currencies after opening higher following its overnight gains on overseas markets.

Naotsumi Tsutsumi, a dealer at Daiwa Bank, said the dollar was benefitting from turmoil among European currencies.

The pound suffered heavy selling Monday after the Irish punt was devalued over the weekend. The British government strengthened its case for reforming the 13-year-old European Exchange Rate Mechanism, from which Britain withdrew last year.

The British pound was weaker Tuesday, but bargain hunters halted its downward slide, Tsutsumi said. At around 9:30 a.m. (0030 GMT), the pound was moving at 1.4560/1.4570 dollar slightly down from 1.4575 dollar late Monday in Tokyo.

Tsutsumi said that the yen also was weaker because of expectations for a discount rate cut this week in Japan.



The commercial counsellors designated to Bangladesh Missions abroad called on Mohammad Mosharrar Hossain, President, BGMEA. Hossain apprised them of the trade relations between their country of assignment and Bangladesh with special reference to the garment exports.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

| Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 02.02.93 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------|-----------|---------|--|--|
| Berth No | Name of Vessels | Cargo | Lt Port | Local Agent | Arrival | Departure | Leaving | | |
| J/2 | Samudra Rani | Repair | Col | SSL | 28/01 | 04/02 | | | |
| J/4 | Trans America | Repair | Bkk | BOAL | 08/01 | 04/02 | | | |
| J/5 | Sidi Bishr | Sugar (P) | Pena | MMI | 25/01 | 04/02 | | | |
| J/10 | Endurance Sea | Repair | Agaba | EOSL | 25/01 | 05/02 | | | |
| J/11 | Marine Gloria | Bulk Dap | Pasca | LAMS | 17/01 | 03/02 | | | |
| J/12 | Gutliang | Urea | | ATSL | R/A | 04/02 | | | |
| J/13 | Massy Phoenix | Wheat (P) | Sing | OWSL | 28/01 | 12/02 | | | |
| MPB/1 | Petr Starostin | Cont | Sing | CT | 01/02 | 04/02 | | | |
| CSJ | Al Tajwar | Wheat (G) | | Aqua | R/A | 03/02 | | | |
| TSP | Keltic | | | | | | | | |
| RM/4 | Ronjay Victory | Cement | V.Pat | PSAL | 25/01 | 06/02 | | | |
| DOJ | Banglar Jyoti | Repair | | BSC | R/A | 04/02 | | | |
| DDJ/1 | Bange Labroy-90 | | Sing | ILA | 31/01 | 28/02 | | | |
| DDJ/2 | Banglar Kiron | Repair | | BSC | R/A | 04/02 | | | |

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE:

| Name of Vessels | Date of Last Port Arrival | Local Agent | Cargo | Loading Port |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------|------------------|
| Shenton 25/1 | 02/02 | Sing | OMNI | Cont |
| Sea Destiny | 02/02 | Pada | AML | Cement |
| Vitaliki | 02/02 | Ind | OTL | Scraping |
| Fong Yun 18/1 | 03/02 | Sing | BDSHIP | Cont |
| Shaplaeverett | 03/02 | Sing | EBPL | GI |
| State of Orissa | 04/02 | Mong | SSL | GI |
| Norfolk Namir | 05/02 | | PSAL | Cement |
| J. Sister | 06/02 | S.Hat | ASLL | GI |
| Al Salma | 06/02 | Pena | ASLL | GI/GI Sing, Bang |
| Go. Cent-1 | 6/02 | Pena | CIA | GI |
| Tarbela | 02 | | BSC | Cement |
| Optima 27/1 | 02 | Sing | RSL | Cont |
| Mupo | 02 | | USTC | Cement |
| Andrian | | | | |
| Goncharov 27/1 | 08/02 | Sing | Q | Cont |
| Fong Shin 28/1 | 08/02 | Sing | Bdship | Cont |
| Banglar Robi 30/1 | 09/02 | Sing | BSC | Cont |
| Safina-e-Najam | 10/02 | Kara | ASLL | GI/GI Karachi |
| I.Yamburenko 25/1 | 10/02 | | Q | Cont |
| Ingenuty 31/1 | 10/02 | Sing | RSL | Cont |
| State of Tripura | 10/02 | Mad | SSL | GI |
| Saigon-11 | 10/02 | | USTC | Cement |
| Tiger Force 28/1 | 11/02 | Col | RSL | Cont |
| NGS Express 1/2 | 11/02 | | Bdship | Cont |
| Stonwall Jackson | 12/02 | | Kama | GI New York |
| Kota Buan 1/2 | 12/02 | Sing | CTS | Cont |
| Horn | 13/02 | | Prog | GI |
| Banglar Shobha | 15/02 | Pena | BSC | GI |

TANKER DUE:

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------|------|-----|
| Eso Bangkok | 02/02 | Sing | MSPL | HSD |
|-------------|-------|------|------|-----|

VESSELS AT KUTUBIA:

| Name of Vessels | Cargo | Last Port | Local Agent | Date of Arrival |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| Diporos | Wheat (G) | Dest | Aqua | 26/01 |
| Vinta | Wheat (G) | | Aqua | R/A (31/01) |

VESSELS NOT READY:

| | | | | |
|------|----------|-----|------|-------|
| Arti | GTSP (P) | Ind | H&SL | 16/01 |
|------|----------|-----|------|-------|

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION:

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------|-------------|
| Banglar Shourabh | | BSC | R/A (19/01) |
| Banglar Asha | | BSC | R/A (02/02) |
| Trans Asia | Sing | Boal | 01/02 |

VESSELS NOT ENTERING:

| | | | | |
|---------------|----------|------|------|-------|
| Methua | Scraping | Viza | Umal | 01/01 |
| Stern | GTSP (P) | Col | Umal | 16/01 |
| Arhon | GTSP (P) | Sing | H&SL | 24/12 |
| Star Houston | Scraping | Sing | KSL | 26/01 |
| Hang Loy | Cement | Sing | H&H | 27/01 |
| Olga-1 | Cement | Indo | USTC | 29/01 |
| Sea Venture | Cement | Sing | AML | 30/01 |
| Knock Bannari | Scraping | Sing | J | 02/02 |

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

Price Index

| Essentials | | MEAT | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| RICE | (Taka per kg) | Beef | NA |
| Amara (fine) | 13.00-14.00 | Mutton | NA |
| Pajam | 11.75-12.50 | Large | 68.00-70.00 |
| VEGETABLES | (Taka per kg) | Moderate | 72.00-74.00 |
| Potato (local) | 7.00-8.00 | Small | 76.00-78.00 |
| Brinjal | 5.00-6.00 | TEA | |
| Karola | 12.00-14.00 | Dust (Plain) | 80.00-90.00 |
| Lalchak | 3.00-4.00 | EGG | (4 per) |
| Tomato | 8.00-10.00 | Ilus | 10.50-11.00 |
| Cauliflower | 6.00-8.00 | Duck | 10.00-11.00 |
| Gourd | 8.00-10.00 | Farm | 11.00-12.00 |
| OTHER FOODGRAN | (Taka per kg) | PULSES | (Taka per kg) |
| Flour | 12.50-13.00 | Mashur | 30.00-31.00 |
| Atta | 10.50-11.00 | Moogh | 32.00-33.00 |
| FISH | (Taka per kg) | Chhole | 26.00-26.50 |
| Rubi (big) | 170.00-190.00 | Kharari | 16.00-18.00 |
| Kalia (big) | 150.00-160.00 | FRUITS | |
| Pango | 150.00-160.00 | Green Coconut (Small) | 4.00-5.00 |
| Shrimp (big) | 120.00-140.00 | Coconut (Large) | 15.00-18.00 |
| Sing | 120.00-140.00 | | |
| Am | 130.00-150.00 | | |

Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Banks' BC selling and TT (C), OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on and February 3.

| Currency | Selling B.C. | T.T. (C) | Buying OD Transfers |
|--------------------|--------------|----------|---------------------|
| US Dollar | 39.1326 | 38.9087 | 38.6339 |
| Pound sterling | 57.0761 | 56.7673 | 56.3854 |
| DM | 23.9416 | 23.7901 | 23.6221 |
| FF | 7.0924 | 7.0506 | 7.0008 |
| S Riyal | 21.2585 | 21.1254 | 20.9762 |
| D Quaders | 5.2404 | 5.2034 | 5.1667 |
| S Kroner | 23.7541 | 23.6182 | 23.4514 |
| Singapore Dollar | 10.6911 | 10.6299 | 10.5548 |
| UAE Dirham | 128.0928 | 127.3599 | 126.4604 |
| Indian Rupee (AMU) | 1.4925 | 1.4858 | 1.4783 |
| Pak Rupee (AMU) | 1.5003 | 1.4935 | 1.4861 |

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

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on February 2, 1993.

Poor transactions

Outcome of trading performance of the Dhaka Stock floor appeared rather gloomy on Tuesday. Figures were quite disappointing, most of which appeared very fragile. Transactions fell against Monday's finish. Both the turn moved back, though changes were small. Prices lost by 21.82 per cent from Tk 794987.00 to Tk 621513.90. Shares dropped to 10.173 issues from Monday's 11,699 issues, moving back by 13.04 per cent.

On the floor, most prices fell totalling 18 while only five stock's prices gained.

The Composite Index slightly fell from Monday's 369.6946 to 369.4080, losing 0.287 point.

DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| DSE share Price Index | 369.4080 |
| Market Capitalisation (TK) | 10,559,520,262.00 |
| Turnover in Volume | 10173 |
| Turnover in Value (Tk) | 621513.90 |

| Gains (05) | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| Stocks: | | | | | |
| NTC | 190.00 | 205.00 | 15.00 | 7.895 | 05 |
| Dhaka Veg | 82.00 | 82.50 | 0.50 | 0.610 | 110 |
| United Ins | 175.67 | 176.00 | 0.33 | 0.188 | 80 |
| Howlader Pvc | 112.14 | 112.73 | 0.59 | 0.526 | 1080 |
| Beximco | 18.00 | 18.07 | 0.07 | 0.389 | 3200 |

| Losses (18) | | | | | |
|------------------|---------|---------|-------|-------|------|
| Stocks: | | | | | |
| Metalex Corp | 45.00 | 43.25 | 1.75 | 3.889 | 60 |
| Eastern Cables | 75.90 | 74.00 | 1.90 | 2.503 | 355 |
| Bd Autocars | 72.38 | 68.00 | 4.38 | 6.051 | 100 |
| Bengal Food | 139.50 | 139.00 | 0.50 | 0.358 | 415 |
| B Thai Aluminium | 81.14 | 79.68 | 1.46 | 1.799 | 140 |
| Aziz Pipe | 212.33 | 212.00 | 0.33 | 0.155 | 80 |
| 3rd ICB M Fund | 147.00 | 146.69 | 0.31 | 0.211 | 80 |
| Islami Bank | 1700.00 | 1684.38 | 15.62 | 0.919 | 08 |
| B Oxygen | 63.30 | 63.11 | 0.29 | 0.458 | 637 |
| Eagle Star | 16.91 | 16.80 | 0.31 | 1.833 | 2920 |
| Satham Textile | 74.82 | 74.00 | 0.82 | 1.096 | 80 |
| Beximco Infusion | 217.00 | 216.00 | 1.00 | 0.461 | 30 |
| Rahman Chemicals | 36.00 | 35.50 | 0.50 | 1.389 | 10 |
| The Ibrostna | 101.00 | 98.00 | 3.00 | 2.970 | 10 |
| Apex Tannery | 381.00 | 380.00 | 1.00 | 0.262 | 50 |
| Cig Cement | 271.27 | 270.00 | 1.27 | 0.468 | 200 |
| Savar Refac | 90.03 | 96.00 | 0.03 | 0.031 | 20 |

| | | | | |
|------------------|---------|---------|------|-------|
| Debtore | | | | |
| Beximco Infusion | 1525.00 | 1520.00 | 5.00 | 0.328 |