

### Railway incurs Tk 100 cr loss a year

Bangladesh Railway's earnings marked a sharp decline but were still running at a loss to the tune of more than Tk 100 crore a year, said State Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman in parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to Sardar Shakhawat Hossain Bakul of the Treasury bench during question hour, Rahman informed the House that railway earned Tk 119,61,98,000 in the first six months of the current fiscal year (July-Dec 1992), up from previous year's income during the period.

It was Tk 5 crore 93 lakh and 40 thousands more than the earnings in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

Railway earned Tk 113,96,60,000 from freight traffic in 1991-92 fiscal year, he said.

### Italy donates equipment for cyclone-hit infrastructure

The government of Italy has agreed to donate some equipment worth about 50 crore Italian lira as grant to Bangladesh to help repair and rehabilitation of cyclone damaged infrastructure, says a press release.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in this connection in Rome on February 5. The Bangladesh Finance Minister and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Italy signed the MOU on behalf of their governments.

The first consignment of equipment consisting of 18 excavators, three cranes and 21 cases of spare parts has already arrived at Chittagong port and unloaded.

According to Italian Embassy sources, the rest of the equipment will be shipped soon. These will be placed at the disposal of Bangladesh Water Development Board.

## 250 small industries closed for capital shortage

KURIGRAM, Feb 12: Nearly 250 small industries, set up under the initiative of BSCIC in 16 northern districts of the country have been closed down due to shortage of capital and absence of proper marketing facilities. More than 3,000 labourers of these industries lost their jobs and have been living in a sub human condition.

According to a source, about 600 industrial units had been set up by BSCIC in different areas of greater Rangpur, Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, and Dinajpur districts.

Due to shortage of capital and skilled man power, 25 out of 84 industrial units in Pabna have already been closed. Thirtyfive out of 154 in greater Rajshahi, 25 out of 73 in greater Rangpur, 15 out of 108 in greater Dinajpur, 50 out of 172 in greater Bogra have been closed.

The rest of the units have been running as the sick industries and it is apprehended that these units may be closed at any time.

### Fishermen in problems

Hundreds of fishermen of Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Nilphamari districts in greater Rangpur have been facing numerous problems including short

supply of fishing material like nets, boats and their price-hike.

Once these areas were famous for producing different kinds of fishes in beels, ponds, tanks and rivers. But, now the situation has changed due to a number of factors. Unplanned irrigation projects and indiscriminate fishing by the non-professionals are the main factors.

When contacted a number of fishermen told this Correspondent that the existence of professional fishermen are at stake. Some of them have left the country for survival.

Scarcity of fish and other problems forced them to leave the profession. Meanwhile, the non-professional fishermen have made monopoly over the whole fishing profession causing concern to the genuine fishermen.

There is an existing law in the country for leasing out the beels or jalmahals to the genuine fishermen. But this law has not come into force. Some ijaradars in collusion with the local vested groups are giving sub-lease to some fake fishermen.

Moreover, genuine fishermen cannot catch fish normally even after getting lease in most cases. The non-professionals are catching fish by

force and even they take away the nets and fishing equipment of the professionals.

Moreover, most of the canals, beels and rivers of the districts have gone dry hampering fishing greatly.

Fishermen have appealed to the authority concerned to take proper measures for supplying fishing materials to the genuine fishermen through Cooperative Societies.

### Uplift works in progress

Works on various development schemes at a cost of taka 15 lakh 34 thousand are in progress in Kurigram/district during the current financial year.

These 11 projects have been taken by Kurigram Zila Parishad under ADP.

The schemes include construction of a Public latrine at Kurigram at a cost of Taka 50,000, reconstruction of a road at Kurigram town at a cost of Taka 75,000, construction of two passenger-shed at Nageswari and Kanthalbari at a cost of Taka 1,52,000. Repair works of Bhurungamari Dakbanglow at a cost of Taka 2,36,000, metaling works of two roads at Ulipur at a cost of Taka 8,10,000.

It is expected that the works will be completed by the end of April next.

## Increase in BCIC production

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) registered a 14 per cent increase in the production of goods in its industrial units during the first seven months of the current fiscal year, says BSS.

A press release of the BCIC said Friday that its industrial units produced goods worth Taka 828.22 crore during July, 92 to January, 93 which was Taka 729.07 crore during the corresponding period of last year.

Six urea fertilizer factories of BCIC, Zia Fertilizer Factory, Jamuna Fertilizer Factory, Chittagong, Urea Fertilizer Factory, Ghorasal Urea Fertilizer Factory, Polash Urea Fertilizer Factory, Fenchuong Natural Gas Fertilizer Factory - have produced 11,22,945 mt of urea fertilizer during the period.

The actual urea production during the same period last year was 8,35,716 mt.

The total production of two paper mills under BCIC Karnaphuli Paper Mill and

North Bengal Paper Mill during the period was 24,023 mt against 23,076 mt produced in the same period last year.

Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mill produced 9,230 mt pulp during the first seven months of the current financial year, while the actual production of last year was 8368 mt during the same period.

Bangladesh Insulator and Sanitaryware Factory at Mirpur here produced 1339 mt of Sanitaryware and 60,075 metre tiles during first seven months of the current financial year as against 1173 mt of sanitaryware and 54,078 sq metre tiles produced in the same period last year.

Actual production of Safety matches was 24.18 crores pieces during the first seven months of 1992-93 as against 22.33 crore pieces produced during the same period of 1991-92. Lira Industrial Enterprise at Tongi produced 270 mt PVC Pipe during the period over 136 mt produced in the same period last year.

## Shipping Intelligence CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L/Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Continent-1	GI	Pena	CLA	08/02	-
J/2	Samudra Rani	Repair	Col	SSL	28/01	11/02
J/3	Vinta	Wheat (G)	-	Aqua	R/A	05/02
J/4	Trans America	Repair	BKK	BONL	08/01	09/02
J/5	Sidi Bishr	Sugar (P)	Pena	MMI	25/01	11/02
J/6	Arktis Trader	GI	Sing	BSL	06/02	11/01
J/7	Shaplaeverett	GI	Sing	EBPL	04/02	09/02
J/8	J Sister	GI	S Hai	ASL	05/02	12/02
J/9	Al Tajwar	Wheat (G)	-	Aqua	R/A	11/02
J/10	Endurance Sea	Repair	Aqaba	EOSL	25/01	15/02
J/11	Massy Phocnix	Wheat (P)	Sing	OWSL	28/01	14/02
J/12	Gujjang	Urea	-	ATSL	R/A	10/02
J/13	Optima	Cont	Sing	RSL	07/02	10/02
MPB/1	Shenton	Cont	Sing	Ommi	02/02	09/02
MPB/2	Fong Yum	Cont	Sing	BDShip	03/02	09/02
CCJ	Ronjay Choomie	Cont	V Pat	PSAL	25/01	12/02
TSP	Keltic Confidence	-	-	SSST	31/01	12/02
DDJ	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	11/02
DDJ/1	Barge: Labroy-90	GI	Sing	ILA	31/01	28/02
DDJ/2	Banglar Kiron	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	10/02

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Al Salma	09/02	Pena	ASLL	GI/GL	Sing tiang
Mupo	09/02	Tanj	USTC	Cement	-
Tarbela	10/02	Chin	BSC	Cement (P)	-
Vector	10/02	Rouen	Royal	R Seeds	-
Sea Rhapsody	10/02	-	UMAL	C Clink	Visak
Kota Buana 1/2	11/02	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Ingenuity 31/1	12/02	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Tiger Force 28/1	12/02	Col	RSL	Cont	Col
NGS Express 1/2	12/02	Mong	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Norbulk Namir	12/02	-	PSAL	Cement	-
I Yamburenko 25/1	13/02	-	CT	Cont	Sing
Horn	13/02	-	Prog	GI	-
Meng Horng 6/2	14/02	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Safina-Najam	15/02	Kara	ASLL	GI/GL	Karachi
Saigon-1	15/02	-	USTC	Cement	-
NGS Ranger 6/2	15/02	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Banglar Shobha	15/02	Pena	BSC	GI	-
State of Tripura	16/02	Mad	SSL	GI	-
Stonewall Jackson	16/02	-	Karna	GI	New York
Mukacheo	20/02	-	USTC	Cement	-
Qing He Cheng	22/02	-	BDShip	GI	-

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Aspilos	11/02	Jebe	DSLL	M C Oil	-

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Andrian Goncharov	Cont	Sing	CT	08/02
Banglar Robi	Cont	Sing	BSC	08/02
Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDShip	08/02

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Banglar Asha	-	-	BSC	R/A (02/02)
Banglar Jyoti	-	-	BSC	R/A (04/02)

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Meringa	Scraping	Viza	UMAL	01/02
Stern	GTSP (P)	Col	UMAL	16/01
Arhon	GTSP (P)	Sing	H&SL	24/12
Star Houston	Scraping	Sing	KSL	26/01
Knock Bannan	Scraping	Sing	JF	02/02
Trans Asia	-	Sing	BONL	01/02
Vaishky	Scraping	Hald	OTL	02/02
Diaporos	Wheat (G)	N Ori	Aqua	06/02
Tovkecob	Scraping	Sing	ARL	08/02

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/4 Trans America	J/4 Vector	J/7 Fong Shin to J/13
J/13 Optima	CCJ/S Rapody	CCJ R Choomie to RM/6
DDJ/2 Banglar Kiron	RM/4 Mupo	-
-	J/7.2 Food Coaster	-

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.

## Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Banks' BC selling and TT (C), OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on February 13 (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B.C.	T.T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Pound sterling	55.6898	55.3962	55.0225
DM	23.5738	23.4249	23.2594
FF	6.9703	6.9294	6.8805
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4042	10.3307
D Guilders	20.9489	20.8179	20.6709
S Kroner	5.2212	5.1844	5.1477
Singapore Dollar	23.7729	23.6309	23.4699
UAE Dirham	10.6911	10.6299	10.5548
Kuwait Dinar	127.1771	126.4494	125.5563
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.4925	1.4868	1.4783
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.4900	1.4832	1.4758



MADARIPUR: A mustard field in the district. Bumper rabi crop production is expected this year. -Star photo

## Most tea prices remain steady

Most tea prices remained steady as the rising trend witnessed in the last few sales subsided at this week's auction held in Chittagong on Tuesday.

According to a Unity Brokers market report, the rising price levels came to a halt with major export buyers for the brokers dividing freely.

Smaller brokers moved up occasionally when local traders showed interest. Fannings opened firm but prices eased towards the close and there were some withdrawals where sellers were unwilling to meet the market.

Major buyers were Russia, Poland, India and Pakistan. Local traders were active for the dusts at lower levels.

Withdrawals at the sale stood at 13 per cent as against last week's ten per cent.

A total of 17,630 packages were offered at the sale in the

leaf category. Of which, export buyers accounted for 67 per cent of the sale while the internal traders purchased 22 per cent and the remaining 11 per cent was withdrawn.

In the dust category, 4,544 packages were offered, of which the local buyers purchased 57 per cent while the export buyers brought 22 per cent and the rest 21 per cent remained unsold.

Following is the category-wise market performance report as prepared by Unity Brokers:

CTC: Prices for most broken were fully firm with the major export buyers dividing freely and rates only moved up where interests clashed with the local buyers. Selective best lines sold between Tk 60.20 to Tk. 61.20 per kg.

Fannings sold at around last rates with prices declining by

Tk. one to two per kg as the sale progressed. Best lines sold between Tk. 58.00 to Tk. 60.60 and secondaries eased and realised between Tk. 43.00 to Tk. 47.50 per kg. Off-grades met with withdrawals.

GREEN TEA: 420 packages were on offer. FYH's sold between Tk. 52.00 to Tk. 53.50 and the Hysons between Tk 44.90 to Tk 45.10 per kg. Others were withdrawn.

DUST: 4,544 packages were on offer. Prices generally eased by Tk. one to two per kg and more towards the close.

The next auction sale (No. 43) will be held on February 16 and the offerings will consist of about 14,000 packages of leaf and another 5,000 packages of dust. Henceforth, the market report added, quantity in the coming sales will be smaller with larger volume of end of season types on offer.

## Nine jute mills under lock and key now

Nine jute mills, including one in the public sector, are now closed in the country, Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah told parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

The mills are: A R Howlader Jute Mills, W Rahman Jute Mills, Ashraf Jute Mills, Sultana Jute Mills, Allied Jute Mills, Alijan Jute Mills, Bangladesh Fabrics Ltd, Usha Jute Spinners Ltd and government owned Mymensingh Jute Mills.

Responding to a question from Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim of Awami League, the minister said production in the Mymensingh Jute Mills came to a halt on January 2 last when Power Development Board (PDB) stopped power supply to the defaulter mill.

To another question, the Jute Minister informed the House that the country expects to fetch Tk 1,080 crore from export of jute and jute goods in the current fiscal year (1992-93). Some 5 lakh metric tons of jute and jute goods are expected to be exported this year, he said.

Earning from jute has been on increase during the present regime, the minister said, adding that jute sector earned Tk 1047.42 crore in 1991-92 against Tk 931.44 crore in 1990-91. Volume of export increased to 4.72 lakh metric tons from 4.02 tons during the period.

Replying to a supplementary from Azizur Rahman of AL, the Jute Minister said the government has taken steps to promote jute in the international market to avail the opportunity emanating from the recent anti-synthetic syndrome.

The government has decided to participate in international trade fairs and Bangladesh embassies have been asked to wage vigorous campaign to sell jute, the minister said.

He told another questioner that an estimated 46 lakh bales of jute are expected to be produced in the country this year (1992-93). The domestic demand is of 36 lakh bales.

## Consumer price inflation of OECD slows down by 1.3 point

PARIS, Feb 12: Consumer price inflation in western industrial countries and Japan, excluding Turkey, decelerated by 1.3 point to an average annual rate of 3.2 per cent last year against 4.5 per cent in 1991 the OECD said on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Including high-inflation Turkey, the average was 4.3 per cent compared with 5.1 per cent in 1991, the 24-nation Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its monthly survey of consumer prices.

On a monthly basis, OECD prices remained unchanged in December after a 0.1 per cent increase in November.

Consumer prices rose on average by 3.1 per cent in 1992 in the seven major OECD countries, with Canada and Japan leading the field, sporting rates of 1.5 per cent and 1.7 per cent respectively.

France, at 2.5 per cent, recorded the third-lowest rate among the Group of Seven (G7) countries, followed by the United States at three per cent, Britain at 3.7 per cent, Germany at four per cent and Italy at 5.3 per cent.

## DHL's \$1.2b spending plan for 5 years

The DHL International Ltd, the largest international air express company, announced recently that it is embarking on a 1.25 billion dollar world-wide capital spending programme for the 1993 to 1997 period, says a Press release.

The DHL is currently going through a period of tremendous growth with revenue increasing 20 per cent over 1991. The company has forecast that shipments will increase more than 20 per cent in 1993 in the express package market.

Express Logistics Centres, DHL's own bonded warehouses, provide storage and at customer request onward Just-In-Time centralised distribution to their customers thus minimising the high costs involved in holding inventory in multiple countries and allowing more immediate response to market demand.

## Dollar falls against most currencies

NEW YORK, Feb 12: The US dollar fell against most major currencies Thursday but rose against the Japanese yen as uncertainty gripped the market about the Clinton administration's position on the yen, says AP.

Gold prices fell. On the Commodity Exchange in New York, gold bullion for current delivery traded late at 332.20 dollar a troy ounce, down 1.20 dollar from late Wednesday. Republic National Bank of New York said gold fell 55 cents an ounce, to a late bid price of 331.25 dollar an ounce.

Curtis Perkins, a currency trader at Chemical Bank, said the dollar was bound for a tumble after riding high in recent days.

"When you've had a free ride for a few days, the appiecart starts to tip over," Perkins said. But the tipping was aided and abetted by conflicting signals about administration policy on the yen, he said.

Japan has been under heavy pressure from the United States and other major trading partners to reduce its trade surplus, which surged to a record 107.1 billion dollar last year, including 43.7 billion dollar with the United States.

## Dhaka Stock Prices

Weekly review: At the close of tradings on February 04 and February 11, 1993

Company	FV/ML*	February 4		February 11		High	Low
		Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka		
<b>BANKS (10)</b>							
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	890.00	890.00	1150.00	850.00		
AB Bank	100/5	186.00	186.00	215.00	180.00		
City Bank	100/5	270.00	270.00	305.00	270.00		
I.F.I.C	100/5	165.00	170.00	185.00	150.00		
Islami Bank	1000/1	1884.00	1700.00	1700.00	1400.00		
National Bank							