

Prospects of Bangladesh, India and Pak economies at the end of '92

In the perspective of stagnation in the world economy which grew by a negative 0.4 per cent in 1991, developing countries of the ESCAP region showed strong resilience and recorded much higher growth of 6.1 per cent. The story was repeated in 1992 when the combined GDP of developing ESCAP economies grew at an estimated rate of 6.9 per cent compared to 0.4 per cent growth of world economy.

In immediate future the same trend is projected to continue when developing ESCAP region is likely to grow by seven per cent in 1993 and 1994 compared to world economic growth of two and 3.2 per cent respectively. While world economic growth is likely to be subdued and fragile economies of Asia and Pacific region are likely to maintain a much better growth tempo through effective exploitation of global, subregional and intraregional complementarities and cooperation.

Economic growth of Bangladesh slowed down considerably in 1991 due to series of exogenous factors, e.g. natural calamities, Gulf war, political changes etc. Which had cumulative destabilising influence. Production and exports both suffered and there has been considerable loss of workers' remittances which is an important source of foreign exchange as well of national income. On the external front, in spite of adverse that previous year.

With most of the adverse conditions stemming from Gulf war and natural disasters gone and prudent economic management policies taking firm roots under the new democratic leadership, it is likely that GDP growth in 1992 will turn out to be marginally better (four per cent) than in 1991.

In future, assuming normal weather conditions, and a

continuous recovery of the world economy GDP is expected to grow by 4.1 per cent in 1993 and 4.2 per cent in 1994.

Enhanced participation of private sector in economic activities is expected to increase efficiency as well as domestic savings rate which, in the past, has been much lower than the other South Asian countries. Inflation rate is projected to be 5.1 per cent in 1992 increasing slightly in 1993 and 1994.

Exports grew strongly at the rate 24 per cent in 1992. With the prospect of imminent world recovery including that in Middle East growth of merchandise exports are likely to be maintained at satisfactory rates. Growth rates of imports which are linked with changes in general economic conditions are projected to increase from six per cent in 1992 to 12 per cent in 1994.

Remittances from workers as well as other invisible earnings are likely to increase in future years and current account balance will somewhat improve from an estimated deficit of one billion US dollar in 1992 to 0.8 billion US dollar in 1994.

In the year 1991 the Indian economy passed through its worst crisis in recent times marked by severe crunch on foreign exchange reserve in an atmosphere of relative political uncertainty. Due to downgrading of India's credit rating, foreign exchange credit inflow was seriously threatened precipitating a crisis situation.

On the other hand, as a response to the crisis, a series of decisive actions were taken and strong commitment was shown for accelerating reform programmes in all facets of the economy. Short term costs of adjustment in the backdrop of world recession were reflected in the macro economic performance of 1991 when growth of GDP slowed the

of 1991 when growth of GDP slowed down to 2.4 per cent and inflation shot up to double digit rate.

In 1991 due to the collapse of the Soviet economy, after effects of Gulf war and general sluggishness of the importing countries, exports actually contracted by 1.9 per cent despite of a substantial devaluation. On the other hand, imports contracted by a sharp 19 per cent due to slow down of the domestic economy, restrictions on capital goods imports and many other factors.

Initial shock of adjustment being over improvement in agriculture production, made the scenario of 1992 much brighter. It is likely that in this year the GDP of India increased by 4.5 per cent. It is expected that political stability will remain in future years and the promised economic reforms will be carried out successfully. Agriculture sector which has, of late become relatively stable from the vagaries of monsoon is likely to perform on trend.

With world economic outlook also getting brighter, it is likely that GDP growth rate of India will be maintained at 4.5 per cent in 1993 increasing to five per cent in 1994. Inflation is expected to remain just under 10 per cent annum. Growth rate of exports is estimated to increase to 18 per cent in 1994.

Imports which will experience expansionary pressures from various trade liberalisation measures but contraction from the expected tight monetary and fiscal regime are forecasted to grow by eight per cent in 1993 and 11 per cent in 1994 after a significant increase by 18 per cent in 1992. Both trade deficit and current account deficit are expected to fall from their 1992 level but financing of deficit will remain tight.

GDP growth of 5.6 per cent in 1991 in spite of the adverse effect of Gulf war. This resilience was the result of initiation of an accelerated wide ranging economic reform programmes in the area of privatisation and deregulation which brought back business confidence.

However, on fiscal side, instability increased as a result of higher budget deficit and inflation increased to 12.3 per cent as compared to six per cent in 1990. Even considering the damage caused by the recent flood it is estimated that GDP growth of 1992 has been estimated at 6.4 per cent followed by six per cent in 1993 and 6.3 per cent in 1994.

In 1991 GDP growth in Pakistan has been sustained by export of primary commodities when overall exports grew by 20 per cent. However, due to a sluggish world economy and low prices of cotton yarn, exports are expected to grow at a lower rate of 14.2 per cent in 1992 with some improvements in 1994. Though lower oil prices will have a downward effect on oil imports, non oil imports are expected to show strong growth in future.

Imports are estimated to grow by 21 per cent in 1992, 10 per cent in 1993 and 12 per cent in 1994. Trade deficit is expected to remain around three billion US dollar during 1991-1994 period. Though flow of workers remittances are likely to be stagnant in future a slight improvement in current account balance is expected.

On the inflation front, it is likely that controls will be exerted on both monetary and fiscal situation and inflation will be checked to a rate of nine to 10 per cent in 1993 and 1994 which is similar to the rate of 9.6 per cent estimated for 1992.

Pakistan recorded a healthy

—UNIC Feature

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as On 14.02.93

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L/Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Continant-1	GI	Pena	CLA	08/02	14/02
J/2	Samudra Rani	Repair	Col	SSL	28/01	17/02
J/3	AL Salma	GI/GL	Pena	ASLL	09/02	25/02
J/4	Vector	R Seed	Rouen	Royal	10/02	19/02
J/5	Sidi Bishr	Sugar	(P)Pena	MMI	25/1	16/02
J/7	Trans America	Repair	BKK	Boal	08/01	20/02
J/8	J Sister	GI	S Hai	ASLL	05/02	18/02
J/9	Horn	GI	Busan	Prog	13/02	16/02
J/10	Endurance Sea	Repair	Wheat	Agaba	25/01	25/02
J/11	Massy Phoenix	Wheat	(P) Sing	OWSL	28/01	16/02
J/12	Kota Buana	Cont	Sing	CTS	11/02	16/02
J/13	I Yamburenko	Cont	Sing	CT	12/02	16/02
MPB/1	Ingenuity	Cont	Sing	RSL	12/02	14/02
MPB/2	NGS Express	Cont	Mong	BDSHIP	12/02	15/02
CCJ	Sea Rhapsody	C Clnk	Vish	UMAL	10/02	18/02
GSJ	Vinta	Wheat (G)	Aqua	R/A	14/02	
TSP	Freedom					
RM/4	Venture R.Phos	Agaba	SSST	13/02	22/02	
RM/6	Cement	T.Pen	USTC	09/02	15/02	
DOJ	Ronjag Choomic	Cement	V.Pat	PSAL	25/01	14/02
DXI/1	Barge: Labroy-90 GI	Sing	IA	31/01	28/02	

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Tiger Force 28/1	14/02	Col	RSL	Cont	Col
Alam Ternang	15/02	Sing	H & H	Cement	
Sea Progress	15/02	Padang	AML	Cement	
Komsomolets Rossi	15/02	Penang	Subsam	GI (Copro)	
Meng Huru 6/2	16/02	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	
NGS Ranger 6/2	16/02	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
San Speed	16/02	Yang	MBL	GI (Logs)	
Tiger Hope	16/02	HKG	Prog	GI	
Norbulk Namtr	17/02	-	PSAL	Cement	
Gold Future	17/02	-	AML	GI	Mom. Mapu
Asian Express	17/02	-	B Bay	GI	
State of Tripura	18/02	Mad	SSL	GI	
Saftina-e-Najam	18/02	Kara	ASLL	GI/GL	
Saigon-1	19/02	-	USTC	Cement	
Stonewall Jackson	19/02	-	Karna	GI	New York
Blue Ocean	19/02	Kara	Boal	GI	Cal.Yangon
Shenton 11/2	19/02	Sing	OMNI	Cont	Sing
Makachevo	20/02	-	USTC	Cement	
Knud Jerspersen 9/2	20/02	-	CT	Cont	Sing
Vishva Asha	20/02	-	SSL	GI/SL	
Fong Yun 11/2	20/02	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Optima 11/2	21/02	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Shobha	21/02	-	BSC	GI	
Qing He Cheng	22/02	S Hai	BDSHIP	GI	
Saftina-e-Ismael-2	22/02	-	ASLL	GI/GL	Karachi
Chandidas	23/02	-	SSL	GI	
Myitschi	25/02	-	USTC	Cement	
Gaku	25/02	-	EBPL	GI	

TANKER DUE:

Sandgate	15/02	Sing	MSPL	HSD
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VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Aspilos	C Oil	Jebb	DSLL	11/02
Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	-	BSC	R/A

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Ready On:

Lily	GI	Pena	Dynamic	13/02
AL Tajwar	Wheat(G)	Aqua	R/A (12/02)	

VESSELS NOT READY:

Arti	GTSP (P)	Ind	H & SL	16/01
Tarbela	Cement (P)	Sing	BSC	11/02

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION:

Banglar Asha	-	-	BSC	R/A (02/02)
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VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Meringa	Scraping	Viza	UMAL	01/01
Arhon	GTSP (P)	Sing	II & SL	24/12
Trans Asia	-	Sing	Boal	01/02
Diaporos	Wheat (G)	N.Orl	Aqua	06/02
Gutjang	Urea	-	ATSL	R/A (12/02)

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 15/02/93

Outgoing	Incoming
MPB/2 NGS Express	DOJ Banglar Shourabh
DOJ Banglar Jyoti	GSJ Vinta
	J/7 Komsomolets Rossi

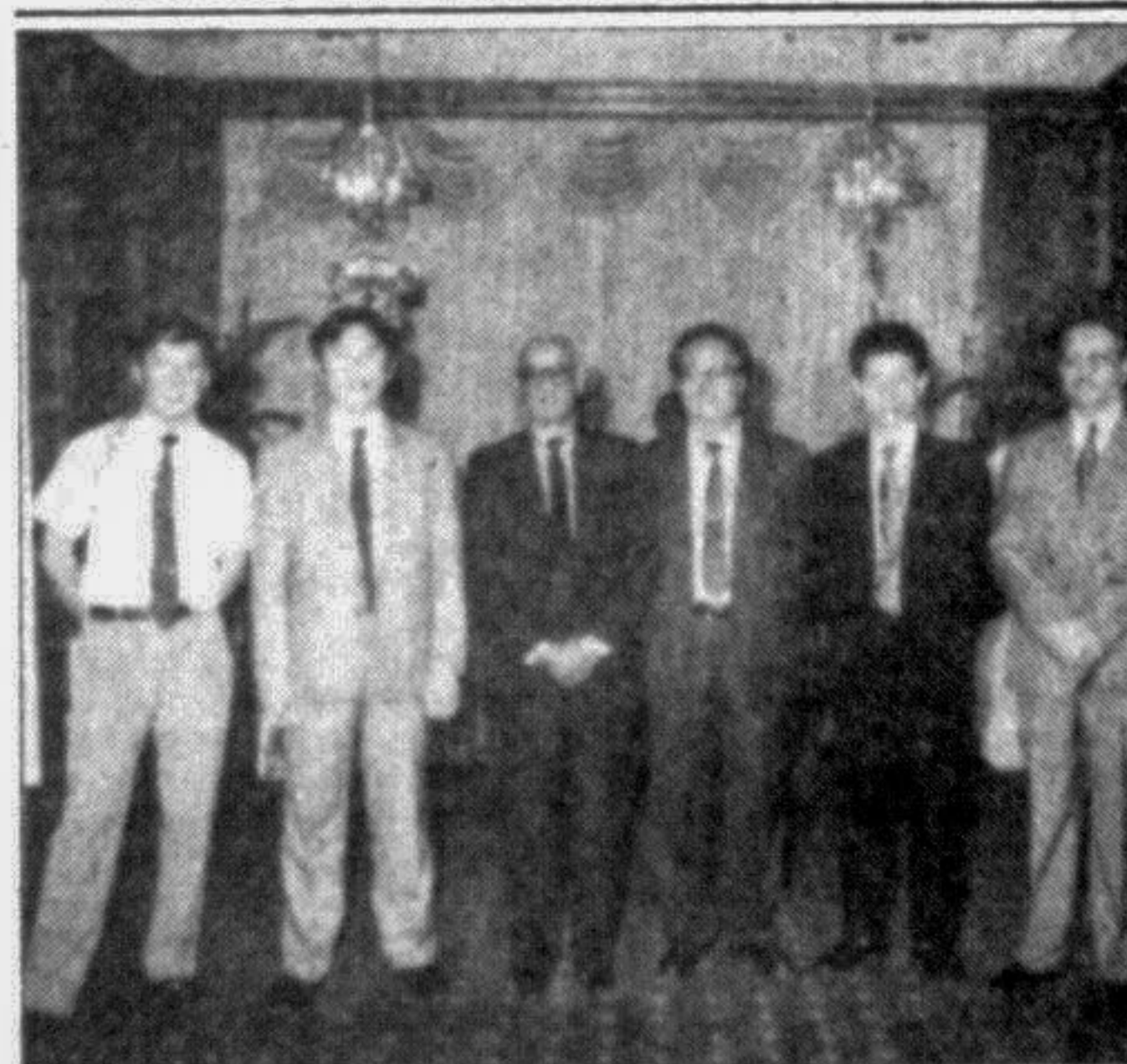
The above were the Sunday's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

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 14, 15 and 16 (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B.C.	T.T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Pound Sterling	55.5726	55.2677	54.8948
DM	23.5738	23.4291	23.2636
S Riyal	10.4841	10.4042	10.3307
D Guilders	20.9691	20.8380	20.6908
S Kroner	5.2073	5.1740	5.1375
Singapore Dollar	23.7297	23.5939	23.4273
UAE Dirham	10.6911	10.6299	10.5548
Kuwait Dinar	127.0753	126.3482	125.4559
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.4925	1.4858	1.4783
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.4866	1.4790	1.4716

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



Participants at a reception arranged by Air China International and Sino-Bangla Ltd on the occasion of Air China's opening of operation.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on February 13, 1993

Bearish trend

Business on the floor of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) showed bearish trend on Saturday, opening day of the week.

Both the turnovers declined. Volume fell to 1877 from 6638, showing a decline of 71.723 per cent. Value dropped from Taka 324982.00 to Taka 202267.50, a fall of 37.760 per cent.

The DSE index also dropped from 370.3191 to 370.2348, a decline of 0.084 point.

A total of 24 stocks was traded on the day. Only seven shares gained while 12 lost and the rest five stocks were traded at previous rates.

DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE Share Price Index	370.2348
Market Capitalisation (Tk)	10,583,154,458.00
Turnover in Volume	1877
Turnover in Value (Tk)	202267.50

Company	Previous Price Tk	Closing Price Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change (% over price)	Number of shares sold
Gains (07)					
Shares:					
National Tubes	67.13	71.00	3.870	5.765	30
Peoples Insurance	196.00	200.00	4.000	2.041	30
Aziz Pipe	226.88	230.00	3.340	1.472	100
Eastern Cables	75.00	76.00	1.000	1.333	20
BGIC	154.00	155.38	1.380	0.896	240
B Autocars	60.00	60.25	0.250	0.417	15
Green Delta	168.11	168.36	0.250	0.149	110
Losses (12)					
Shares:					
Howlader PVC	112.68	99.00	13.680	12.141	10
Eagle Box	18.00	17.50	0.500	2.778	300
National Oxygen	100.00	98.00	2.000	2.000	20
Chittagong Cement	270.00	266.00	4.000	1.481	10
Karim Pipe	91.00	90.00	1.000	1.099	100
Savar Refractories	98.00	97.00	1.000	1.020	10
Dhaka Vegetables	82.28	81.50	0.780	0.948	70
Monro Ceramic	3211.00	318.00	3.000	0.935	90
United Insurance	191.44	190.00	1.440	0.752	20
Beximco	18.30	18.20	0.100	0.549	200
3rd ICB M Fund	146.50	145.75	0.750	0.512	55
Wata Chemical	120.07	120.00	0.070	0.058	160

Traded at previous rates (05)

Shares: Aftab Automobiles (35), B Thai Aluminium (100), Zeal Bangla Sugar (100), Ibrinsia (50).
Debenture: Beximco Infusion (2).

DSE SHARES AND DEBENTURES

Company	FV/ML Tk	Specialised Jute	10/50	NT
Shine Pukur Jute	100/5	114.00		
Sonali Aarsh	100/5	100.00		
BANKS (10)				
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	890.00		
A.B. Bank	100/5	188.00		
City Bank	100/5	270.00		
I.F.I.C	100/5	170.00		
Islami Bank	1000/1	1700.00		
National Bank	100/5	99.00		
Karim Bank	100/5	100.00		
Rupali Bank	100/10	73.50		
U.C.B.L	100/5	120.00		
Utara Bank	100/5	95.00		
INVESTMENT (06)				
ICB	100/5	85.00		
1st ICB M.Fund	100/5	350.00		
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	163.00		
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5	145.75		
4th ICB M. Fund	100/10	147.50		
5th ICB M. Fund	100/10	93.00		
6th ICB M. Fund	100/10	63.00		
ICB Unit Cert.				
Sales Price		117.00		
Re-purchase		112.00		
INSURANCE (04)				
BGIC	100/10	155.38		
Green Delta	100/10	168.36		
Peoples	100/10	200.00		
United	100/10	190.00		
ENGINEERING (19)				
Aftab Automobiles	100/5	178.00		