

Tk 6.5 cr British grant for aquaculture support

Britain will grant six crore 48 lakh taka to improve the aquaculture support in Bangladesh, in the areas of fish disease, nutrition and pond dynamics. The grant will fund a three-year project linking the Institute of Agriculture of the University of Stirling in Scotland and the Fisheries Faculty of the Bangladesh Agricultural University at Mymensingh (BAU).

The project will improve the BAU's research capabilities, provide upgraded facilities and include the exchange of experts between the two organisations.

A resident British Technical Cooperation Officer and the Dean of the Faculty at Mymensingh will jointly manage the project.

Fishermen in Narail facing manifold problems

NARAIL, Feb 18: Thousands of fishermen in the vast haor areas of the district have been facing manifold problems in running their age-old profession, reports UNB.

Lack of fund, scarcity of fishing materials like nets, boats, ropes, price hike of other inputs and exploitation of fishermen by the non-professionals are the main reasons for deteriorating condition of the fishermen.

At least 15,000 fishermen of Lohagara, Kalia and Sadar thanas of the district earn their livelihood by catching fish in the rivers, haors, beels, canals and ponds. Pisciculture in the district has been affected due to drying up of the waterbodies.

The fishermen are unable to buy boat, net and other necessary inputs due to fund shortage. They are often forced to borrow money from money lenders at a very high interest rate. Some fishermen alleged that they did not get bank loan for purchasing their appliances due to complicated procedure.

On the other hand, the non-professional fishermen have made monopoly over the fishing professionals causing concern among them.

It is alleged that the genuine fishermen are usually not getting the lease of the beels or jalmaals due to maneuvering of the influential non-fishermen people. Some tjaradars in collusion with the local

vested groups are giving sub-lease to the fake fishermen. The genuine fishermen can not catch fish even after getting lease in most cases. The non-professionals are catching fish by force and even they snatch away the nets and fishing materials of the professionals.

The fishermen alleged that the law enforcing agencies remained silent even after lodging complaints with them. The funds allocated to the fishermen's co-operative society are also given to the non-professionals in many cases, it was alleged. As a result the existence of the genuine fishermen is at a stake. Some of them have already left their profession.



Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General, ISECO, an organ of the OIC, visited ICTVTR Tuesday. Prof Dr A M Patwari, D G ICTVTR and heads of different departments are seen with him.

Tk 3.52 cr for construction of road in Maulavibazar

Local Government Engineering Department sanctioned Taka 3.52 crore for the construction of 22.5 growth centre connection road (GCCR) in Maulavibazar, reports UNB.

The project has been taken up with the financial assistance from Islamic Development Bank during the current fiscal year.

According to official sources, of the total amount, Taka 66.70 lakh has been sanctioned for Rajnagar-Fatehpur road, Taka 57.38 lakh for Sampashi-Bhairabganj road, Taka 91.60 lakh for Sarkar-bazar-Gurari bazar road, Taka 45.61 lakh for Sreemangal-Sindurkhan road, Taka 46.50 lakh for Kamalganj-Adampur road and Taka 44.24 lakh for Helalpur-Jagatshi road.

It is expected that the construction work will be completed within next June.

Tk 3.71 cr land development tax unrealised in Noakhali

At least Taka 3.71 crore remained unrealised as land development tax in six thanas of Noakhali district upto the last December, reports UNB.

A total of only Taka 35.91 lakh had been realised out of the total amount Taka 4.07 crore during the period.

Some government offices and shops are not paying the land development tax regularly, it is learnt.

Another message adds: Mushroom growth of unlicensed medicine shops in six thanas of the district has been posing a threat to public health.

There are almost 400 unlicensed medicine shops in Sadar, Begumganj, Chakhal, Companiganj, Hatiya and Senbagh thana where date expired and sub-standard medicines are being sold with impunity.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to look into the matter and take necessary action without further delay.

Pak trade gap widens sharply

KARACHI (Pakistan), Feb 18: Pakistan's trade deficit widened sharply to a provisional 291 million dollar in January, up from 108 million dollar in December and compared with 308 million dollar in January 1992, the Federal Bureau of Statistics said, says Reuter.

Exports fell 21 per cent to a provisional 555 million dollar from 702 million dollar in December and compared with 495 million dollar in January 1992. Main export items that fell sharply included rice, cotton yarn, fish and fish preparations, bedwear, petroleum products and readymade garments.

Imports rose 4.4 per cent to a provisional 846 million dollar, from 810 million dollar in December and 803 million in January 1992.

Main import items that showed increases included fertilizers, chemicals and palm oil.



Business Advisory Services Centre (BASC) organised a two-day catalogue exhibition in association with foreign and local trading and indenting houses at Shilpa Bank Bhaban from February 17 to 18. 19 companies took part in the exhibition.

Food Minister says Strong infrastructure key to development

MUNSHINGHAJ, Feb 18: Food Minister M Shamsul Islam said here Wednesday that a strong infrastructure was a pre-condition to the development of the country, reports BSS.

Development of communication network was one of the important parts of the development process initiated by the present government, he said.

The Minister was addressing as the chief guest the inaugural function of newly constructed bridge on Tangbari-flashali Road at Shidhesary Bazar.

Pointing out different programmes initiated by the pre-

sent government, Islam said active involvement of the people in such a programme like mass education, self employment, building up cottage industry was necessary to help the country achieve economic prosperity.

He called upon the people to cooperate with government to fight against poverty through implementation of country-wide ongoing development programme.

The Local Government Engineering Department has constructed the 105-feet long bridge which would improve the communication facilities of about one lakh people of this area.

IMF expected to recommend Slovak crown's devaluation

BRATISLAVA, Feb 18: A visiting International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation is expected to recommend a devaluation of the new Slovak crown, an IMF official said, reports Reuter.

"We're considering all sorts of measures which we'll recommend this week," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said no time has been set yet for a devaluation and it is too early to comment on the meetings between the seven-member delegation and government and banking officials.



Shafat Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of the Green Delta Insurance Co Ltd, addressing the 7th Annual Conference of Zonal and Branch Incharges. Managing Director N A Chowdhury and Deputy Managing Director A R Bhuiya are also seen in the picture.

Wide job opportunity exists in Russia for Bangladeshi workers

There is a wide scope of employment of Bangladeshi workers in various fields like construction, motor workshops, restaurants and saloons in Russia, reports UNB.

This was stated by Russian Ambassador in Bangladesh Edward Shevchenko in a meeting with Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at the latter's Secretariat office Wednesday.

The envoy made a call on

the minister and discussed matters of mutual interests, says a handout.

He told the minister that he was aware of an acute unemployment problem in Bangladesh and informed him of the employment opportunity in his country.

The minister thanked the Ambassador for his feelings and sought cooperation from his government in this regard.

'Protectionist attitude of US to make GATT talks difficult'

PARIS, Feb 18: Trans-Atlantic negotiations over a deadlocked world trade pact will become more difficult because of the "protectionist attitude" of the United States Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Wednesday, reports AP.

"The situation is complicated by the protectionist attitude that the United States seems to be adopting," said Dumas.

EC calls for urgent steps to reduce Japan's trade surplus

TOKYO, Feb 18: European business leaders called for emergency measures to reduce Japan's burgeoning trade surplus with the EC, and accused Tokyo of dragging its feet on the issue, according to Reuter.

It is absolutely necessary to have an emergency programme of government im-

ports, Henri Martre, President of the French Aerospace Industries Association told a news conference.

He was speaking after a meeting of Japan's Import Board, a group of US, European and Asian business leaders and Japanese government officials that was set up

in 1990 to try to boost Japan's imports.

The board is trying to improve access to Japan's market for specific business sectors, from aerospace to cut flowers, but Europeans are worried this will take too long.

EC exports to Japan fell 1.6 per cent in 1992, as Japan's domestic demand fell victim to its weakened economy.

What is necessary is measures having short-term results.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 18.02.93

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Date of Leaving
J/1	Samudra Rani	Repair	Col	SSL	20/2	20/2
J/2	Komsomolets					
	Roseli GI	Pena	Sunbeam		25/2	20/2
J/3	Sun Speed	GI	Hang	MEI	16/2	20/2
J/4	Tiger Hope	GI	Hong	Prog	16/2	21/2
J/5	Sidi Bishr	Sugar	Pena	MMI	25/1	22/2
J/6	Trans America	Hepflr	BKK	BOPL	08/1	22/2
J/8	J Sister	Urea	S Hai	Seacom	05/2	22/2
J/9	Horn	GI	Busan	Prog	13/2	25/2
J/10	Endurance					
	Sea	Repair	Aqaba	EOSL	25/1	25/2
J/12	Al Salma	Cement/CI	Pena	ASL	09/2	25/2
J/13	Vector	R Seed	Rouen	Royal	10/2	19/2
HPB/1	NGS Ranger	Cont	Sing	BDShip	16/2	20/2
CCJ	Sea Rhapsody	C Clink	Viah	UMAL	10/2	19/2
GSP	Vinta	Wheat (G)	Aqua	R/A		
TSP	Freedom					
	Venture	R Phos	Aqua	SSST	13/2	20/2
RM/5	Sandgate	HSD	Sing	MSPL	15/2	19/2
DOJ	Banglar					
	Shourabh	C Oil		ISC	R/A	18/2
DDJ/1	Barge:					
	Labroy-90	GI	Sing	ILA	31/1	28/2
DDJ/2	Banglar Aaha	Repair		ISC	R/A	22/2

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Al Tabith	18/93	SW	Bright	Cement	Cig
Hartford	18/93		SR	R/L	Thal
Asian Express	19/93	Cal	B Bay	GI	
Yom Bun Jiri	19/93	Bank	Bright	Cement	
Alam Sempurna	19/93	C Town	OTL	W Polcs	
Saigon-1	19/93	Tuti	OSTC	Cement	Cig
Shenton	19/93	Sing	Omnit	Cont	Sing
Marine Three	19/93	Tuti	BML	Cement	
Andreas-V	19/93	Long	Khansons	Cement	
State of Tripura	20/93	Mad	SSL	GI	
Mukachevo	20/93		USTC	Cement	
Olga-1	20/93		USTC	For Bunkering	
Knud Jeppesen	20/93	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Fong Yun	20/93	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Banglar Kiron	20/93	Mong	ISC	CL	Qala
Arktis Breeze	20/93	Sing	BSL	Copra	
Optima	21/93	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Continent	21/93	Mong	Cal	P Mat	Sun
Banglar Shobha	21/93	S Hai	ISC	GI	
Xiang He	21/93	Long	Chartered	Cement	
Banglar Robi	22/93	Sing	ISC	Cont	
Gold Future	22/93		AML	GI	Mapu
Safina-e-ismail-2	22/93		GI/GL	GI/GL	Karachi
Safina-e-Najam	22/93		ASL	GI/GL	
Stonewall Jackson	26/93	Kara	Kama	GI	New York
Qing He Cheng	23/93	S Hai	BDShip	GI	
Blue Ocean	25/93	Kara	BON	GI	Yangon
Chandidas	23/93		RSL	GI/GL	UK Cont
Ingeniully	23/93	Sing	SSL	Cont	Sing
Vibhan Asha	24/93		SSL	GI/GL	Porta
Andrian Gorncharov	24/93		CT	Cont	Sing
Fong Shih	25/93	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Mytischi	25/93		USTC	Cement	
Orsha	25/93		USTC	Cement	
Gaeu	25/93		EBPL	GI	
NGS Express	25/93	Mong	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Samudra Raj	25/93		SSL	GI	
Kota Buana	25/93	SMG	CTS	Cont	Sing

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Aspiros	C Oil	Jebe	DSLL	11/2
Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	ISC	BSC	R/A (17/2)

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Thal Hine	C Clink	Alba	UMAL	15/2
Meng Horng	Cont	Sing	BDShip	16/2

VESSELS NOT READY

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Arti	GTSP (P)	Ind	H&SL	16/1
Tarbela	Cement	Sing	ISC	11/2
Alam Tenang	Cement	Sing	H&H	15/2
Lise	Cement	Sing	Paragon	17/2

VESSELS AWAITING EMPLOYMENT/INSTRUCTION

Nil

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Meringa	Scraping	Via	UMAL	1/1
Arhon	GTSP (P)	Sing	H&SL	24/12
Trans Asia	Cement	Sing	ROAL	1/2
Diaporas	Wheat (G)	N Ori	Aqua	06/02
Al Tajwar	Wheat (G)		Aqua	R/A
Sea Progress	Cement	Pacla	AML	15/2

The above were the Thursday'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 19 and 20.

(Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B.C.	T.T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Pound Sterling	56.5489	56.2414	55.952
DM	14.1068	23.9615	23.7923
FF	7.1053	7.0608	7.0110
S Riyal	10.4641	10.4842	10.3501
D Quillers	21.4085	21.2744	21.1241
S Kroner	5.2675	5.2304	5.1534
Singapore Dollar	23.8395	23.7031	23.5357
UAE Dirham	10.0911	10.8296	10.5348
Kuwait Dinar	127.2592	126.5311	125.6374
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.4922	1.4835	1.4781
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.4860	1.4793	1.4719

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 18, 1993

Deteriorating figures

Figures turned out quite poor at Dhaka Stock Exchange floor on Thursday. Fewer stocks took part in transactions giving rather a dull view of trading. Both the turnovers fell.

Turnover, in volume, suffered a loss of 76.13 per cent. It stood at 2,532 against Wednesday's 10,611. Turnover, in value, similarly declined by 55.29 per cent, closing at Taka 562,890.50 against Wednesday's Taka 1,231,561.50.

Only 22 stocks were traded on the floor against Wednesday's 38. 11 lost, only three gained while eight were traded at their previous rates.

The index shed further 0.067 point and stood at 369.5505.

THURSDAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE Share Price Index	369.5505
Market Capitalisation (Tk)	10,563,593,898.00
Turnover in Volume	2532
Turnover in Value (Tk)	562890.50

Company	Previous price Tk	Closing price Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change (% over of shares Price)	Number sold
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Gains (03)

Stocks:	Previous price Tk	Closing price Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change (% over of shares Price)	Number sold
Singer Bangladesh	862.00	870.00	8.00	0.928	20
National Bank	100.33	101.00	0.67	0.668	18
National Tubes	75.05	75.42	0.37	0.493	130

Losses (11)

Stocks:	Previous price Tk	Closing price Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change (% over of shares Price)	Number sold
Aman Sea Food	20.00	18.00	2.00	10.000	05
Tallu Spinning	114.14	104.00	10.14	8.884	888
National Oxygen	98.00	95.00	3.00	3.061	20
Metalex Corp	45.00	44.00	1.00	2.222	120
6th ICB M Fund	62.91	61.92	0.99	1.574	60