

Prices of fish, essentials up in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Mar 3: With the advent of Ramadan the prices of fish and other essentials in the district have registered a sharp rise, reports UNB.

On an average, the fish price has gone up by Taka 20 per kilogram, traders said. Despite soaring prices, there is heavy pressure of buyers for fishing the markets.

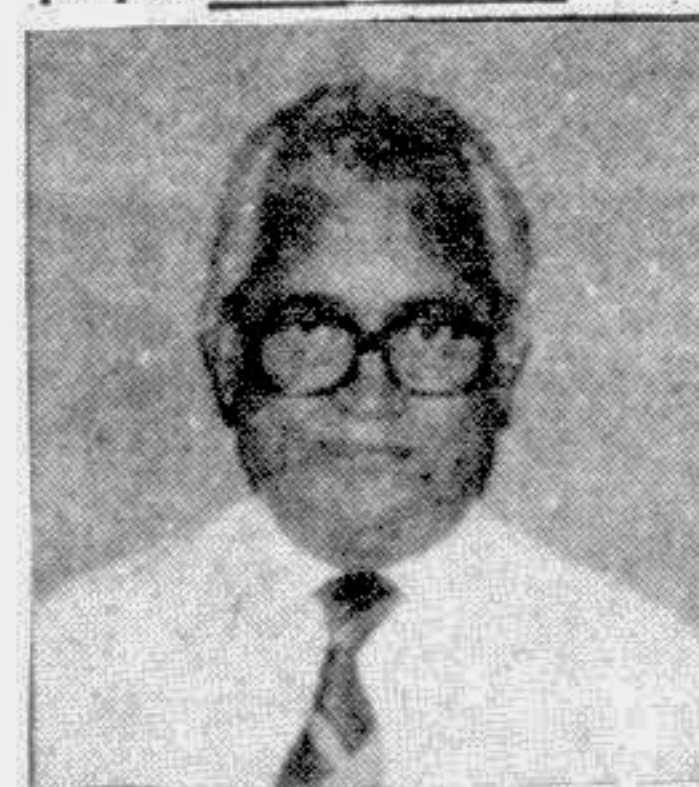
At present, a kilogram of hilsa fish is being sold at Taka 100, Ruih at Taka 200, Katla at Taka 135, Boal at Taka 100, Kot at Taka 95 and Chital at Taka 110. Small size fish are being sold between Taka 80 and 100 per kg.

Fishery officials at Manikganj said short supply of fish in the markets was main reason for sudden price hikes.

The strike of ice factory till last week also affected the supply of fish to the markets.

There is also fall in the catch of fish in the rivers Padma and Jamuna resulting in the short supply. The breeding of fish in the mighty rivers have now become difficult due to the fall in water levels over the past few years.

Prices of mutton, beef, edible oil, powdered milk, ghee etc have also gone high affecting the low income group of people.



1st Bangladeshi GM of Glaxo

G M Chowdhury has been appointed General Manager for Glaxo Bangladesh Limited. He is the first Bangladeshi who takes over as the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, says a Press release.

G M Chowdhury joined Glaxo Bangladesh Limited in the year 1979 and was called to the Board as Finance Director in early 1981 and became Resident Director, Chittagong in 1992.

Prior to his joining Glaxo Bangladesh he was a practicing public accountant in the United Kingdom. G M Chowdhury is the fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

G M Chowdhury is a life member of the Chittagong Shishu Hospital and a Rotarian and he is also a District Treasurer for the last two years of the Rotary District-3280 Bangladesh.

Advance Bank Management course concludes

A month-long "Advance Course on Bank Management" for the officers of banks and financial institutions concluded on Wednesday at the BIMB's premises, says a press release.

The Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIMB) conducted the course with a view to improving knowledge and efficiency of bank officials in modern banking.

A H M Nurul Islam Chowdhury, Director General, BIMB, presided over the concluding session of the course and gave away the certificates to the participants. M K Barman and D R Karmaker, members of the BIMB faculty, were the coordinators of the course.

Rouble tumbles to record low

MOSCOW, Mar 3: The battered rouble tumble to a record low for a second straight session Tuesday, trading at 649 to the dollar at the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange, reports AP.

At its last session Feb 25, the rouble had traded at 593 to the dollar. Tuesday's trading volume was \$2.5 million dollar.

Increased inflation is seen as the key reason for the rouble's fall.

Oleg Bogomolov, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and former member of President Boris Yeltsin's Council of Advisers, blamed "rising political instability" for the rouble's sharp drop.

The fall of the rouble has come despite massive intervention by the Russian Central Bank, a senior bank official acknowledged Tuesday.

The Central Bank has been heavily intervening to prevent the rouble from plummeting further," said Alexander Potyomin, head of the bank's International Transactions department.

ECNEC okays Tk 10.40 cr plan for charland's uplift

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved a char development and settlement project for the south-eastern char region of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The approval was given at a meeting of the ECNEC held on Wednesday at the Bangladesh Secretariat under the chairmanship of Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman. Concerned ministers, secretaries and high officials were present in the meeting, according to an official handout.

The project will be implemented at a cost of Taka 10.40 crore. The Dutch government will provide a grant of Taka

7.25 crore and a Bangladesh government will contribute Taka 3.15 crore, for the project. It aims at improving the socio-economic condition of the char region mainly through rehabilitation of the landless in newly formed char areas.

The char development project is a component of a larger three-component land reclamation project. The other two components are in the irrigation and land sectors. It is expected to be completed in 1995.

The ECNEC also approved two ongoing projects. They are "afforestation and rehabilitation project for unclassified forests in the Chittagong Hill

Tracts region" being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests at a cost of Taka 200 crore, and "repair of 45 pontoons" being implemented by the Ministry of Shipping at a cost of Taka 6.89 crore. The former project is being wholly financed from government's own resources and is expected to be completed by June, 1995.

The ECNEC meeting also reviewed the performances of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority. The Finance Minister asked the concerned officials to submit an appraisal report on actual returns from Chittagong Export Processing Zone.

Tea prices fall as demand poor

By Staff Correspondent

Poor demand led most tea prices to fall sharply at this week's auction sale held in Chittagong on Tuesday resulting in large withdrawals.

According to a Unity Brokers market report, market opened at around last levels but kept declining, often sharply.

Export buyers for the brokers were initially active which led to firm rates but prices fell substantially as the sale progressed with buyers having completed their quotas.

Local traders operated for the good liquoring fannings at Taka four to Taka six per kilogram below last week's rates.

Major buyers were Russia, India, Poland and Pakistan. Withdrawals stood at 50 per cent of the offering as against last week's 36 per cent.

In the leaf category, a total of 11,191 packages along with 220 packages of new season teas came under the hammer

at the sale. There were large quantities of the end of season inferior teas on offer. The export buyers accounted for 29 per cent of the sale while the local traders purchased 18 per cent and the remaining 53 per cent was withdrawn.

In the dust category, a total of 4,913 packages was offered at the sale. Of which, the internal traders purchased 44 per cent while the export buyers brought 15 per cent and the rest 41 per cent remained unsold.

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

CTC: Better brokens opened firm on last rates but prices progressively declined, often, by over Tk 10 per kg with substantial withdrawals. Selective lines sold between Taka 68.50 to Tk 70.00 and new season brokens sold between Tk 58.50 to Tk 65.00 per kg.

Fannings were generally easier by Tk four to six per kg. Poorer sorts were often neglected. Selective lines sold between Tk 55.50 to Tk 60.00 per kg.

Green Tea: 740 packages were on offer. FYH sold at Tk 52.00 whilst all others ranged between Tk 30.00 to Tk 45.70 per kg.

ORTHODOX: Few lines of brokens and fannings sold between Tk 28.00 to Tk 29.30 per kg.

DUST: 4,913 packages were on offer. Except for the popular types, all others eased by Tk Four to six per kg with large withdrawals.

The next tea auction sale (no. 46), which will also be the final sale of the season, will be held on March 9 and offerings will likely comprise of about 9,500 packages of leaf and another 3,500 packages of dust along with all reprints of the last sale and any further arrivals.



Mahfuzur Rahman, Chairman, Friends International receiving President's Export Trophy from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at a function held on Tuesday at the Usmani Memorial Auditorium.

Zia Fertilizer Factory exceeds production target

ASHUGANJ (Brahmanbaria), Mar 3: The Zia Fertilizer Factory (ZFF) has set up a production record during the first seven months of the current year by producing 3,09,392 metric tons of urea against the target of 2,61,361 tons for the period, reports UNB.

The ZFF is expected to produce 5,36,000 tons of urea by the end of 1992-93 fiscal, 8,000 tons more than the actual installed capacity of 5,28,000 tons.

The figures were disclosed by the ZFF Managing Director Mohammad Shaifur Rahman on Tuesday to a group of reporters during a visit to the factory here.

He said apart from meeting the demand of urea for stepping up domestic production, the ZFF, a public sector enterprise under Bangladesh

Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), has also emerged as an exporter of urea in the international market.

Rahman said that the factory, after meeting the home demand, also exported 8,829 metric tons of urea to Korea, Vietnam and Nepal during 1991-92 and earned Taka 19.79 crore.

He said when the country's major industries were losing crores of taka every year, the ZFF contributed Taka 4.46 crore to the national exchequer last year and Taka 1.47 crore in first seven months of the current year as duties and taxes.

The ZFF Managing Director informed that since it began commercial operation on July 1 in 1983, the factory has no record of loss and its machinery and equipment are still in good condition.

The factory has succeeded setting up a new record due to stable production, he said adding that it was almost free from unscheduled closures and strikes.

"We always try to maintain a good worker-management relation... we try to solve the problem of workers. This is why the ZFF is almost free from any labour unrest," Shaifur Rahman said.

He hoped that the factory would do well both in production and profit in future.

At present, the factory has about 1,213 permanent staff of officers, employees and workers.

The BCIC has submitted to the government a renovation scheme for the ZFF to increase its plant capacity of urea by about 20 per cent and to reduce energy consumption by about five per cent.

Tk 45 cr project taken up to make pourashava self-reliant

BARISAL, Mar 3: A multi-purpose project has been undertaken at a cost of Taka about 45 crore to make the Barisal Pourashava economically self-reliant in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The project will be implemented with the financial assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB), official sources said.

The Pourashava authorities also undertaken a programme to construct a four-storied complex costing Taka about 70 lakh.

The complex include a community centre and a mod-

ern rest house with the facilities of car parking. Besides, it will also construct two four-storied supermarkets with an expenditure of Taka 3 crore.

BKB starts certificate cases

BSS reports: Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Barisal Region, started 1,011 certificate cases against farmers-debtors for the realisation of Taka 1,95,84,000 during the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, the region comprises the districts of Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Bhola, Patuakhali,

Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur. Bangladesh Krishi Bank however realised outstanding loans amounting to Taka 3,20,50,000 from 4,538 farmer-debtors till January 31, last. The target of loan collection was fixed at Taka 8,57,00,000 in the fiscal year, the source said.

The Krishi Bank undertook a programme to disburse agriculture loan of Taka 7,34,90,000 in Barisal district in the current fiscal year. Meanwhile, it has so far distributed a sum of Taka 3,41,43,000 among 7,289 farmers.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 03.03.93.

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local Call	Local Agent	Date of Leaving
J/1	Safina-E-Isam-2	GI/GL	Kara	ASL	23/02	05/03
J/2	Arktis Breeze	Copra	Sing	BSL	28/02	06/03
J/3	Banglar Kiron	GL	Mong	BSC	26/02	05/03
J/4	Marine Three	Cement/GI	Tuti	BML	26/02	07/03
J/5	Continant-1(24)		Mong	CLA	01/03	03/03
J/7	Blue Ocean	GI	Kara	BOAL	26/02	04/03
J/8	Safina-E-Najam	GI/GL	Kara	ASL	22/02	08/03
J/9	Banglar Shobha	GI	S Hai	BSC	24/02	08/03
J/10	Endurance Sea	Repair	Aqaba	EOSL	25/01	12/03
J/11	Dancing Sister	R Seed	Rost	Royal	27/02	06/03
J/12	I Yamburenko	Cont	Sing	CT	27/02	04/03
J/13	Thal Binh		Alba	Seacom	15/02	12/03
MPB/1	Kota Bhuana	Cont	Sing	CTS	26/02	04/03
CJ	Sea Rhaphody	C Clink	Vizk	UMAL	01/03	10/03
GSJ	Al Tajwar	Wheat/GI	Aqna	R/A	05/03	
TSP	Vinta	Wheat(G)	Aqna	R/A	05/03	
RM/4	Tarbela	Cement(P)	Sing	BSC	11/02	10/03
RM/5	Pattaya	HSD	Sing	MSPL	01/03	04/03
RM/6	Lise	Cement	Sing	Paragon	17/02	06/03
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	Repair		BSC	R/A	08/03
DXJ/1	Barge: Labroy-90	GI	Sing	ILA	31/01	05/03
DXJ/2	Banglar Asha	Repair		BSC	R/A	10/03
CUFJ	Freedom Venture	Urea		RRSA	R/A	05/03

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE:

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Call	Cargo	Loading Port
Asha	03/03	Mong	SSL	GI/GL	Russ Ports
NGS Ranger 22/02	03/03	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Kamaleverett	04/03	Sing	EBPL	GI	Far East
Akademik Pillatove	04/03	L Kou	Khansons	Cement	
Chandidas	05/03	Mad	SSL	GI/GL	UK Cont
Saigon-1	05/03	Tuti	USTC	Cement	
Optima 24/2	06/03	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Bervalla 22/2	06/03	Sing	ULA	Cont	Sing
Fong Yun 28/2	06/03	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing Haidia
Samudra Samrat	06/03	Kal	SSL	GI	
Annegret	06/03		Prog	P Equip	
Stieckirchen	06/03		Prog	P Equip & Matter	
Santa Marghepita	06/03	Chin	NSL	GI	
Banglar Robi 27/2	06/03	Sing	BSC	Cont	
Al Mohammed	07/03	Mong	NSL		
Meng Lee 2/3	07/03	Cal	AML	Cont	Sing
Knud Jespersen 1/3	07/03	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Oun Chen Nyon Ho	08/03	Sing	OSA	Cement	
Mytshichi	08/03		USTC	Cement	
Ingenuty 27/2	09/03	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Andromache 28/2	09/03	Col	RSL	Cont	Col
Huaxing	10/03		USTC	Cement	
Green Island	11/03		Karna	GI	New York
Andrian Goncharov 1/314/03			CT	Cont	Sing
Banglar Kallol	15/03		BSC	GI	
Banglar Sampad	19/03	Kara	BSC	GI	
Orang Berani	20/13	Sing	BA	GI	
Banglar Urmil	21/03		BSC	GI	
Banglar Gourab	21/03		BSC	GI	

TANKER DUE

Standgate	07/03	Sing	MSPLHSD/JP-1
Ararat	06/03		CTCrude P Oil
Ussuri Yak	06/03		CTCrude P Oil

VESSELS NOT READY

Arhon	GTSP(P)	Sing	H&SL	24/12
Arti	GTSP(P)	Ind	H&SL	16/01
Andreas-V	Cement	L Chin	Khansons	19/02
Yun Teng	Cement	Sing	Bright	27/02
Stella F	C Peas	Gule	MSA	28/02
Xiang He	Cement	Hong	Khansons	21/02

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Banglar Jyoti		BSC	R/A/S/3
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VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Trans Asia	Sing	BOAL	01/02	
Alap Sempurna	W Poles	Pana	QTL	20/02
Vector	Scrapping	D Sea	Royal	23/03
Norbalk Namir	Cement	Sing	BOAL	24/02
Orsha	Cement	K Kuh	USTC	26/02
Sea Tradition	Cement	Pada	AML	27/02
Trans America		BKX	BOAL	R/A/S/2/3
Mukachevo	Cement	Sing	USTC	01/03
Sae Dong Gang	Cement	Indu	PSAL	01/03
Stonewall Jackson	GI(Lash)	Haid	Karna	02/03
Paulina	C Clink	Sing	Khansons	02/03
Delight Glory	Cement	Sing	AEKA	03/03

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

Price Index

Essentials	Pulses	(Taka per kg)
RICE	Mashur	30.00-31.00
Amrai(fine)	Chhoga	32.00-33.00
	Chhola	26.00-26.50
	Kasuri	16.00-18.00
Vegetables	FRUITS	(One piece)
Potato (local)	Green Coconut (Small)	4.00-5.00
Brijal	Coconut (Large)	15.00-18.00
Karolla	Banana	(One piece)
Lalshak	Sagar (Large)	10.00-14.00
Tomato	Champa	4.00-6.00
Cauliflower	Dates	55.00-60.00
Gourd	OIL	(Taka per litre)
	Mustard	52.00-54.00
	Soyabean	36.00-37.00
	Coconut (Colombo)	95.00-100.00
	Vegetable Ghee (1kg)	48.00-52.00
	SPICES	(Taka per kg)
	Onion (local)	10.50-11.00
	Custic (local)	22.00-24.00
	Chillies (local)	20.00-24.00
	Turnerrie(Local)	45.00-48.00
	Green chillies	10.00-12.00
	Ginger	14.00-16.00
	Cinnamon (10gm)	2.50-3.00
	Cashewnut (10gm) (small)	6.00-7.00
	Jhira (50 gm)	9.00-10.00
	MILK	(Two kgs)
	Dawo	334.00-335.00
	Red-Cow	328.00-329.00
	MISCELLANEOUS	(Taka per kg)
	Ghee	220.00-240.00
	Salt	6.00-7.00
	Sugar	27.00-28.00

Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Banks' BC selling and TT (C), OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on March 4.

Currency	Selling B.C.	T.T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Pound Sterling	56.6856	56.3778	55.9982
DM	23.8632	23.7320	23.5644
FF	10.4602	10.4003	10.3269
S Riyal	21.2389	21.1002	20.9511
D Guilder	5.0788	5.0494	5.0108
Singapore Dollar	23.8395	23.7031	23.5357
US Dollar	10.6911	10.6299	10.5548
Kuwait Dinar	127.9675	127.2353	126.3367
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.4925	1.4858	1.4783
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.4850	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 Union.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on March 03, 1993