4 383.3538

10408

100

250

311

6000

170

1020

407243.75

10,958,160,960.00

Change Change Number

price)

3.125

0.826

1.667

0.292

0.077

2.500

1.493

1.220

0.589

0.172

13.462

2.439

2.273

1.509

0.690

0.862

1.098

3.226

0.351

0.429

4.167

0.395

0.745

(absolute) (% over of share

Tk

0.10

0.30

2.00

0.33

0.17

1.60

25.00

2.00

0.36

0.27

0.46

35.00

1.50

2.00

1.75

1.00

1.13

0.09

2.00

0.36

0.72

2.00

1.00

2.21

1.00

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on March 07, 1993

Index continues to gain

with as many as 40 shares trading on the floor. Transactions

interms of value however, fell from Saturday's finish. It lost

31.78 per cent of its prices against Saturday's close of Tk

596974.00 and finished at Tk 407243.75. Volume showed a

rise of 26.17 per cent from Saturday's 8,249 issues to 10,408

neck. Losers remained ahead of gainers outnumbering the lat-

ter by 14 to 12. Another 14 shares traded at unchanged rates.

DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

price

36.60

122.00

113.33

222.00

1700.00

166.00

157.29

225.00

59.00

86.00

114.25

144.00

130.00

8.13

60.00

102.18

166.92

252.00

294.29

Stocks: IFIC (16), National Bank (25), Uttara Bank (10),

Aftab Automobiles (05) Eastern Cables (10), Singer Bangladesh (06), BTC (250), Rupon Oil (400), Rahim Textile

(10), Saiham Textile (50), Padma Textile (20), Kohinoor Chemicals (150), Rahman Chemicals (100), Peoples

46.00

219.14 220.00

14.00 14.46

61.50

65.60

383.3538 from Saturday's 387.5255 adding 0.828 point.

Previous

3.20

36.30

120.00

113.00

221.83

1675.00

164.00

61.14

157.02

260.00

61.50

88.00

116.00

145.00

131.13

8.20

62.00

102.54

167.64

48.00

253.00

296.50

Traded at previous rates (14)

251.00 250.00

64.00

DSE Share Price Index

Turnover in Volume

Company's name

Gains (12)

Quasem Silk

Shine Pukur

Wata Chemical

Beximco Infusion

2nd ICB M Fund

6th ICB M Fund

Bata Shoe

B Oxygen

Aziz Pipe

Eagle Box

Losses (14)

Stocks:

Bengal Carbide

4th ICB M Fund

Bangla Process

Tallu Spinning

Monno Ceramic

Insurance (40).

Date of

Arrival

04/03

Aeka

Usmania Glass

Pharma Aids

Islam Jute

Ctg Cement

Bd Autocars

Karim Pipe

Bengal Food

Zeal Bangla

UCBL

Islami Bank

Stocks :

Turnover in value (Tk

Market Capitalisation Tk

On the floor gainers and losers almost fought neck and

The Composite Index slightly moved ahead finishing at

Business on Sunday at Dhaka Stock appeared quite busy

Commentary

Do we need a state-sponsored ICB?

Abu Ahmed Guest Columnist

the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, founded in 1976 to help develop capital market through bridge financing is now facing a serious crisis from want of funds. It has exhausted all its funds in bridge-financing to over 276 projects, Many of them, however, did not go into operation at all, and from marny which went into operation it could not recover the overdue

ICB is one of the examples in the state-owned which wasted resources without fruitful utilisation. The condition of other DFIs like BSB and BSRS is eyen worse All are suffering from no-endin sight problem of nonrecovery of overdue loar

Who funded the ICB? The shareholders id, among whom the shares of government and institutions under it are much larger compared to that of the or dinary public. Government gave it the

shape of a public limited comoffering shares to the public unlike other DFIs. But the public did not show much enthusiasm for its dismal performance. Only two per cent shares in its Taka 20 crore paid-up capital are held by the public and the rest by the government, government-backed institutions and the Bangladesh Bank.

It seems, ICB embarked on a charity programme. It never tried seriously to earn profit for its shareholders. This year only seven per cent dividend were offered to them. It was no better in the year before. ICB as a commercial House is supposed to earn its own living from its businesses. The businesses are trading in mer-

chandising items like selling mutual funds to public, selling and buying stocks as a stock broker, taking commission for Pfrforming a specific job. Yarning fees against underwritng etc. As a leading investment company, ICB was provided with enough capital by the government and its other shareholders. It exhausted them in new bridge-financing, forgetting that its business can

keep moving only if it recov-

Shareholders gave it Tk 20

ers overdue loans.

crores as equity capital over the years. In addition, it received from government, Bangladesh Bank and other sources Tk 52.19 crores as longterm loans over which interest charge ranged between nine to 13 per cent. Moreover, it has Tk 28.91 crores as accumulated reserves over the years. In all, it has more than Tk 100 crores at its disposal to run its business. But it earned a hopeless Tk 2 crores and 27 lakh profit in 1991-92. It was Tk 23 lakhs less compared to that of last year. When converted into percentage, Taka 2.27 crores stand as only two per cent of the capital. If an organisation earns only two per cent per annum where

There is still one consolation; that unlike many other government-bwned commercial organisations it did not earn a negative profit. A bulk amount of money had to be provisioned last year against interest receivable, Taka 28 crores against Tk 333.54 crores interest receivable or bridge-loan. This organisation has Tk 207 crores (by Dec 92) as outstanding over-due loan with the bridge-loan recipi-

does it stand commercially?

ents. In 1991-92, ICB recovered Tk 14.60 crores from the above outstanding loan after giving all kinds of concessions. In the preceding two years, it recovered Tk 10 crores in each year, and now (Feb 92) the recovery is at its lowest

In ICB, or in any other state-owned financial organisation for that matter, it is profitable to become a loanee. Out of 272 projects to which it supplied funds, 60 projects are sick and they are not repaying any overdue loan. To 67 projects, ICB granted Tk14.75 crores as interest waiver in 1991-92. By waiving Tk14.75 crores, it recovered only Tk 14.60 crores, a ratio of almost one to one. In this way ICB is to lose half its money it gave to the entrepreneurs.

Ironic is that, though ICB

waived the above amount the it did not even consider applications of small investors for the same purpose, who held forty thousand investment accounts with it. The then managing director of ICB did not allow the applications of small investors, who are paying about 13 per cent interest on the investment accounts, to roll upto the Board of Directors. ICB thus is not mindful about the needs and feelings of the small investors who infact make up the backbone of investment community in any country. Small investors started closing their investment accounts in despair. 1743 accounts were closed this year against 555

newly opened ones. Though ICB reported that Sabout 36,000 investment accounts are in operation, in reality this number is much less. Most accounts actually remain dormant over the years.

Why investors are increasingly showing a lack of interest? This is because the small investors are unhappy with ICB for the quality of service they receive. Two years back, ICB bought Rahman Chemical's shares in investors' accounts without their consent. Last year it bought shares and debentures of Magura Paper Mills for them, again without consulting the investors. Now, ICB is charging about 13 per cent interest on investment accounts, though elsewhere it has fallen sharply.

ICB also advanced bad loans recently. Two year earlier it gave Magura Paper Mills about Tk eight crores. The investors protested, and ICB is now trying to recover the money. Only last year, Tk 35 lakhs were given to Susmie Oil Company as bridge loan; but later it was that found the company did not even exist. Now when ICB asks for additional Tk 10 crores from government, how can it justify the claim?

DFIs can never be a sustainable vehicle for industrialisation. They can at best, be a temporary way out. The time has come now to abandon them in favour of markets wherefrom bridge-loan seekers can raise the equity capital. Government's involvement in providing funds should be abandoned and the question of providing ICB with more money should be considered in this light.

Whether we at all need ICB in a market framework is also worth pondering. Probably it can exist, but only if it can survive in competition with other investment companies, absolutely on commercial terms.

China predicts further economic boom, rules out serious inflation

BEIJING, Mar 7: China predicted on Sunday that first quarter growth would show further economic boom but that there was no threat of serious inflation this year, reports Reuter.

Industries production would grow 18.3 per cent in the first quarter against the same period a year ago, said the state information centres.

Industrial output grew 25.6 per cent in 1992 over 1991 a period when China's total economy shot ahead 12.8 per

The high rate of growth has caused worries among economists that China is in for another bout of inflation. Inflation in many urban centres is already at an annual rate of 14 per cent or higher.

But the state information centre said that for the country as a whose, inflation would be kept in check.

"The centre notes that this retail price hike this year is steel normals although it will be greater than that of last year," Xinhua news agency reported. "It sees no possibility of serious inflation in China this year".

Name of Vessels

Reuter adds: China the one billion dollar a year.

world's most populous country hopes to reap a windfall by sending more of its 1.1 billion people overseas as workers, the business weekly said on

Earnings from labour exports this year will top last years record 6.2 billion dollar the newspaper said.

A senior trade official says Kuwait, Iran, South Korea and Japan are expected to be lucrative new attractions for China's engineering and labour service in 1993 the newspaper

There were currently "no sizeable joint ventures" in the environmental protection industry, he said.

"The general technical levels and reliability of Chinese products are low in comparison with similar foreign-made ones," the newspaper quoted Qu as saying. "Environmental agencies have to rely on imports for sophisticated instru-

China says its environmental protection industry is growing 20 per cent per year and includes more than 4,000 firms and institutions with annual production worth about

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 07.03.93

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port	CONTROLL VICTORIA	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Safina-e-Ismail-2	GI/GL	Kara	ASIL	23/02	08/03
J/2	Arktis Breeze	Copra	Stng	BSL	28/02	19/03
J/3	Chandidas	GI/GL	Mad	SSL	05/03	08/03
J/4	Marine Three (Cement/GI	Tuti	BML	26/02	10/03
J/5	Stella F	C Peas	Gule	MSA	28/02	14/03
J/7	Kamaleverett	GI	Sing	EBPL	04/03	10/03
J/8	Safina-e-Najam	GI/GL	Kara		22/02	09/03
J/9	Banglar Shobha	GI	S Hat	BSC	24/02	10/03
J/10	Endurance Sea	Repair	Agaba	EOSL	25/01	12/03
J/11	Xiang He	Cement	Hong	Khansons	21/02	08/03
J/12	That Binh	Fert	Akba		15/02	12/03
J/13	Benvalla	Cont	Sing	ULA	06/03	08/03
MPB/1	NGS Ranger	Cont	Sing		03/03	08/03
MPB/2	Optima	Cont	Sing		06/03	09/03
CCI	Sea Rhapsody	C Clink	Vizk		01/03	10/03
GSJ	Al-Tajwar	Wheat	(G) -	Aqua	R/A	08/03
TSP	Vinta	Wheat	(G) -		R/A	09/03
RM/3	Ussuri Ysk	CPOI	P Clen		06/03	08/03
RM/4	Tarbela C	ement (P)	Sing	BSC	11/02	A SAMPLE OF PROPERTY.
RM/6	Lise	Cement	Sing		17/02	
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh			BSC	R/A	
DDJ/1	Barge : Labroy-90	The second of th	Sing		31/01	1.00
DDJ/2	Banglar Asha	Repair		BSC	R/A	10/03

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

	VIIIANI		- Bent		-
Fong Yun 28/2	07/03	Sing	BDShtp	Cont	Sing Hald
Knud Jespersen 1/3	07/03	Sing	CT .	Cont	Sing
Steinkirchen	07/03	Const	Prog	P Equip	
Annegret	08/03	Kobe	Prog	P Equip	5
Oun Chon Nyon Ho	08/03	Sing	OSA	Cement	5
Mytischi	08/03		USTO	Cement	5
Meng Lee 2/3	09/03	Cal	AML	Cont	Sing
Samudra Samrat	09/03	Kara	SSL	GI	102
ingenuity 27/2	09/03	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing/Mong
Andromache 28/2	09/03	Viza	RSL	Cont	Col
Tanaray Star	09/03	(*)	PSAL	Cement	5
Long Xn	10/03	LShan	Khansons	Cement	5
Green Island	10/03	188	Karna	GI	New York
Akademik Filatove	10/03	L Kou	Khansons	Cement	ю з
Huaxing	10/03	3000	USTC	Cement	
General Kazim Orbay	11/03	Aden	BSC	CT	2
NGS Express 3/3	12/03	820	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Fong Shin 3/3	13/03	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Kôta Buana 4/3	13/03	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Andrian					
Goneharov 1/3	14/03		CT	Cont	Sing
Banglar Kallof	14/08	(-	BSC	GI	4
Hanjani	15/03	1.00	EBPL.	GI	a 5
Zhen Xing	17/03	(a)	H&H	Cement	0 53
Karabieverett	19/03	38 1	EBPL	GI	Fe St Chin
Banglar Sampad	19/03	Kara	BSC	GI	X
Orang Berani	20/03	Sing	BBA	Gl	266
Banglar Urmi	21/03	0.00	BSC	GI	3
Banglar Gourab	21/03	*	BSC	GI	3
	TA	NKER	DUE		
Sandgate (07/03	Sing	MSPL	HSD/JP	
Ararat 1	2/03	Col	CT	Crude P	Oil -

Name of Vessels Local

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

	REA	ADY ON		Hillsonemen
Santa Margherita Andreas-V Saigon- 1 Banglar Robi (Cont)	GI Cement Cement Cont	Sing L Chin Tuti Sing	Prog Khansons 19 USTC HSC	06/03 /02 05/03 07/03
Arhon	GTSP(P)	Sing	HSL	24/12
	VESSELS	NOT REA	DY	
Arti Yun Teng Paulina Al Mohammed	GTSP(P) Cement C Clink Urea	Ind Sing Sing Mong	H&HL Bright Khansons KSL	16/01 27/02 02/03 06/03

Vessels awaiting instruction R/A (3/3) Banglar Jyoti BSC

Vessels not Entering Trans Asia Sing BON. 01/02						
Trans America	2	BKK	BOAL.	R/A (27/2)		
Tae Dong Gang	Cement	Indu	PSAL	01/03		
Delight Glory	Cement	Sing	Acka	03/03		

Movement of vessels for 08.03.93

Cement

Outgoi	ng	Incon	ning	Shi	fting
J/3	Chandidas	J/13	Fong Yun K Jespersen	J/1	S.E. Ismail to RM/5
J/4	Marine Three	RM/6	Sangate	J/1	1 B Robi to MPB/1
J/6	Xiang He	J/6	Santa M	RM.	/4 Terbela to J/11
J/13	Benvalla	J/3	Andreas		
RM/3	Ussuri Yak	J/4	Satgon		
DOT	B Shourabh	NB	Yun Teng		10
MPB/1	NGS Ranger	NB	Steinkirchen	C.	

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.

Company	FV/N	AL Tk	Shine Pukur, Jute Sonali Aansh	100/5 100/5	100.8
BANKS (10)	F		TEXTILE (20)	7	
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	910.00	Alhaj Tex ile	10/50	N
A.B. Bank	100/5	186.00	Arbee Textile	100/10	112.0
City Bank	100/5	268.00	Ashraf Textile	10/50	30.0
LF1.C	100/5	172.50	Chand Textile	10/50	N
Islami Bank		1700.00	Chand Spining	10/50	N
National Bank	100/5	101.00	Desh Garments	100/10	50.0
Pubali Bank	100/5	100.00	Dulamia Cotton	100/10	78.5
Rupali Bank U.C.B.L	100/10	73.00 114.25	Eagle Star Textile	10/50	15.8
Uttara Bank	100/5	100.00	GMG Ind. Corp.	10/50	10.0
Ottora Derik	100/0	100.00	Modern Dying	100/5	32.0
INVESTMENT (08	0		Padma Textile	100/20	175.0
I.C.B	100/5	80.00	Quasem Stlk	10/100	3.3
1st ICB M.Fund	100/5	350.00	Quasem Textile	10/50	4.0
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	166,00	Rahim Textile	100/5	77.0
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5	145.52	Satham Textiles		72.0
4th ICB M. Fund	100/10	144.00		100/10	
5th ICB M. Fund	100/10	90.50		100/5	40.0
6th ICB M. Fund	100/10	61.50	Stylecraft	100/5	130.0
ICB Unit Cert.		117.00	Swan Textile	100/5	18.0
Sales Price		117.00	Tallu Spinning	100/10	102.1
Re-purchase		112.00	Tamijuddin	100/10	180.0
INSURANCE (04)	2800000	2012/2012/201	PHARMACEUTICA	10.0	-
BGIC	100/10	157.29		u.o a	
Green Delta	100/10	165.00	CHEMICALS (18)		100100011100
Peoples	100/10	208.00	Ambee Pharma	10/50	
United	100/10	187.18	Bangla Process	100/5	
ENCORPORAÇÃO O	100		BCIL	100/10	
ENGINEERING (CONTRACT STRAINS LAND STRAINS		Beximco Infusion	100/00	
Aftab Automobiles			Beximco Pharma	100/5	426.0
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50	44.05	Glaxo	10/50	125.0

GINEERING (19		PERSONNEL
ab Automobiles		179.00
as Bangladesh	10/50	44.05
z Pipes	100/5	220.00
ngladesh Autocar	s 100/5	59.00
ngladesh Lamps	100/5	175.00
Thai Aluminium	100/10	77.00
ngal Carbide	100/5	225.00
ngal Steel	10/50	20.00
stern Cables	100/5	73.00
wlader PVC	100/10	96.00
rim Pipe	100/5	86.00
talex Corp.	100/5	46.00
nno Stafflers	100/5	150.00
nno Jutex	100/5	220.00
tional Tubes	100/10	71.00
nther Steel	10/50	8.00
asem Drycells	10/50	9.50
nwick Jagneswar	100/5	79.00
nger Bangladesh	E-10-00-01-00-01-00-01	1050.00

Singer Bangladesh	100/5	1050.00
FOOD & ALLIED (25	3)	1
A.B Biscuit	100/5	200.00
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	46.00
Aman Sea Food	100/5	18.00
Apex Food	100/5	650.00
Aroma Tea	100/5	60.00
Bangas	100/5	160.00
B.D. Plantation	100/5	500.00
Bengal Food	100/5	130.00
BLT.C.	100/5	500.00
B.T.C.	10/50	75.00
Ctg. Vegetable	100/10	78.00
Dhaka Vegetables	100/5	84.00
E.L. Camellia	100/5	1040.00
Frogleg Export	10/50	2.00
Gemini Sea Food	100/5	100.00
Hill Plantation	100/5	550.00
Modern Industries	100/5	185.00
N.T.C	100/5	190.00
Rabeya Flour	10/100	NT
Rupan Oil	10/100	4.30
Tulip Dairy	100/10	50.00
Yousuf Flour	10/50	NT

Zeal Bangla Sugar 10/50 FUEL & POWER (00) 65.60 BD Oxygen 10/50 Eastern Lubricant 10/50 14.00 100/10 National Oxygen Padma Oil Co. 10/50

T MATTER OF CO.	10700	
JUTE (12)	==00000 8000000. Vi	
Ahad Jute	100/10	N
Anowara Jute	10/50	N
Delta Jute	10/50	8.3
Gawsia Jute	10/50	N
Islam Jute	100/5	46.0
Jute Spinner	100/5	78.0
Mutual Jute	100/5	105.0
Northern Jute	10/50	N
Shamser Jute	100/5	100.0
Spctalised Jute	10/50	N

ICI. 10/50 10.00 100/10 N Polymer 100/5 Kohinoor Chemical 10/50 10.00 Petro Synthetic 100/5 450.00 Pfizer 100/5 166.92 Pharma Aids 100/5 50.00 Pharmaco 100/5 45.00 Progressive Plastic Reckitt & Colman 10/50 110.00 Rahman Chemicals 100/10 36.75 100/5 73.00 Therapeutics 100/10 101 00

The Ibnsina	100/10	101.0
Wata Chemical	100/20	113.3
PAPER & PRINTIN	FG (06)	
Eagle Box	10/50	14 4
Monospool Paper	100/5	50.0
Paper Converting	100/5	110.0
Paper Processing	100/10	34.0
Padma Printers	10/50	50.0
Sonalt Paper	10/50	51.6
SERVICE (02)		-
Bangladesh Hotel	10/50	12.0

angladesh Hotel d. Service	10
ISCELLANEOUS	(17)
pex Tannery	10
ramit	10
nto Chos	10/

ex Tannery	100/5	360
amit	10/50	37
ta Shoe	10/100	36
ximee	10/100	18
BC .	100/5	50
ittagong Cement	100/5	252
Q. Ball Pen	10/50	
gh Speed	100/5	80
madri Ltd.	10/100	6
lon Tannery	100/5	10
onno Ceramic	100/5	294
w Dhaka Refac	100/20	95
eonix Leather	100/5	90
var Refractories	100/5	87
e Engineers	100/5	100
spick Ind	100.10	100.
mania Glass	100/5	250

95.00 DEBENTURES (04) 38.67 2060.00 Beximeo Beximco Infusion 1500/2 1530.00 Beximco Pharma 1428/1 1205.59 (17% 1998)Quasem Silk 1500/1 1225.00

> (17% 1994)Note: FV = Face Value ML= Market Lot NT= Not Traded AL = Allotment Letter

VGP begins in Rajshahi RAJSHAHI, Mar 7: A twoday workshop on Vulnerable

Workshop on

Group Development (VGP) programme in Rajshahi division began here Sunday with the objective of training the personnel to improve their skill in monitoring, reporting and evaluation system of the programme to ensure it's proper implementation, reports BSS. The participants informed

the workshop that about four and a half lakh of distressed women of the country have been brought under VGD programme. Each woman is being provided with 31.25 kgs of wheat per month round the year which involved an amount of Taka 250 crore per year.

The distressed women are also being provided training so that they could pursue self employment activities. Relief and Rehabilitation Directorate with the assistance of WFP is implementing the programme. lnaugurating the workshop,

the Divisional Commissioner Aminul Islam stressed the need for better management of the programme aimed at betterment of the distressed sections of the masses.

He urged the trainees to learn the system after acquiring knowledge given at the workshop and work with sincerity and efficiency to make the programme development oriented and take the country towards attaining self reliance.

Clinton lends support to Ramos' reform programme

MANILA, Mar 7: US President Bill Clinton has supported attempts by Philippine President Fidel Ramos to carry out economic reforms and praised government sponsored talks aimed at ending insurgencies, reports Reuter.

I applaud your economic reform programme and hope you can implement it rapidly to lay the base for substantial growth, Clinton said in a letter to Ramos delivered by outgoing American ambassador Richard Selomen.

The presidential palace re-

leased excerpts today. We certainly support (your) goal and efforts (of attaining) national reconciliation to bring an end to insurgencies in the Philippines, Clinton added

Rames is trying to push through measures to liberalise the economy. He also wants to negotiate agreements in separate talks with communist guerillas, army dissidents and

Muslim separatists. Ramos thanked Clinton and proposed in his own letter a review of relations. Ties were strained by the withdrawal of US forces from their military

bases in the country last year. We must strengthen the economic bonds between us through trade and nurture the strong personal and cultural ties between our two peoples. Clinton said

President Abdur Rahman Biswas delivering inaugural address at a seminar on government's denationalisation policy and the role of NASCIB on small and cottage industries in Bangladesh at BCIC auditorium on Saturday. — PID photo

India foresees rise in foreign investment

TOKYO, Mar 7: Finance Minister Manmohan Singh today expressed confidence that direct foreign investment in India would soon witness an upswing as he was convinced that the reform process was durable and irreversible, reports PTI.

In an interview given to "world eye reports," published as a supplements in "the Japan Times," Dr Manmohan Singh did not expect foreign investment would be "a flood overnight".

"But I am confident the di rect foreign investment will see a more credible inflow". Commenting on India's per-

formance in getting foreign in-

China's, the Finance Minister said india enjoyed an edge over others in many respects - it had a functioning democracy and capital market, property rights and legal systems, and a vast pool of technological and managerial skills.

said, in reply to a question.

and Prithviraj Singh Oberot.

It is for the investors to de-

The report carries inter-

vestment in comparison with

cide where they wish to put their money, and I am sure they will be guided by hard commercial considerations, he

views with leading Indian industrialists like Ratan Tata. Km M Mammen Mappilai, Rasesh Mafatlal, Rahul Bajaj,

China seeks foreign help in environmental industry BEIJING, Mar 7: The

Chinese government is calling for foreign help in developing the country's fledgling environmental industry, the China Daily reported today, says AFP.

China will invest more than 200 billion yuan (34.5 billion dollar) in environmental protection in the next seven years, most of it to develop technologies and equipment, the official English-language newspaper quoted an official as saying.

Foreign firms with technical expertise would be allowed to provide services and set up companies in China, including wholly foreign-owned firms, said Qu Geping, Director General of the national envi-

ronmental protection agency. Sonali Bank to give loan to small traders

PATUAKHALI, Mar 7: Sonali Bank has taken up an ambi tious programme to disburse loan for small business and small industries all over the country, reports UNB.

· Bank sources said here that maximum Taka 5 lakh will be given for setting up per unit industry and small business. Sources said the loan for

Barisal division will be distributed through its six branches. Experts said with the im-

plementation of the pro gramme a large number of unemployed youths will get job opportunities and national

economy will get further boost. They also cautioned that if the increasing trend of smuggling of contraband items is not checked any ambitious ef fort to boost national economy is bound to face a setback.

Successes, failures in expanding access to family planning

WASHINGTON, Mar 7: The countries in Population Action International's annual "picks and pans" list of successes and failures in expanding access to family planning services, re-

Listed are the population of each country and developments cited by the organisa

Picks

 Indonesia, 184.5 million. had a fivefold increase in contraceptive use over 20 years of a government-backed programme.

 Bangladesh, 111.4 million, has doubled contraceptive use over the past decade, with 40 per cent of couples using birth control.

- Iran, 59.7 million, has had a dramatic turnaround in Family planning, reflecting a new pragmatism among its leadership which doubled funding for family planning last year to more than 15 million dollar. - Peru, 22.5 million, has

revitalised its family planning programme resulting in a surge in contraceptive use in a country where 90 per cent of married women say they do not want another child or want to delay their next birth.

 Zimbabwe, 10.3 million, an African "pacesetter" in population efforts, with a tripling of contraceptive use among married women, from 14 per cent in 1979 to 43 per cent in .988. Pans

 Russia, 149.3 million, has neglected family planning and reproductive health care during the transition to a free market economy. Factories recently stopped producing condoms and other birth control

devices because of a lack of hard currency to import latex, been imported since 1990.

has weak political support for family planning and poor health services. - Poland, 38.4 million, has

- Iraq, 18.2 million, has been hostile to family planning efforts, with President Saddam Hussein encouraging large

families.

poor access to contraceptives and virtually no access to safe abortion, largely because of opposition by the Catholic Church

Early Star

and no contraceptives have -Pakistan, 121.7 million.

had a dramatic decline in ac eess to family planning and safe abortion in the past year as a result of pressure from the Roman Catholic Church.

- Ireland, 3.5 million, with