

Saifur leaves for Colombo to attend JEC meet today

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman leaves Dhaka today (Monday) for Colombo as the leader of the Bangladesh delegation to the third meeting of Bangladesh-Shri Lanka Joint Economic Committee...

Inflation slows in German states

MUNICH (Germany), Mar 28: Inflation in two key German states is slowing and the price increase of imports is virtually zero...

In Bavaria, retail prices rose by 0.3 of a percentage point in March over the figure in February...

The increase in February was 0.5 per cent, bringing the 12-month to 4.2 per cent.

In Hesse, inflation was 0.3 of a point between mid-February and mid-March, yielding an accumulated 4.9 per cent.

The others are north Rhine-west Phalia and Baden-Wuerttemberg, where the 12-month figures in March were 4.2 and 4.3 per cent respectively.

Meanwhile, the federal statistics office reported that import prices in western Germany were virtually unchanged in February...

Gulf countries trying to tie currencies

KUWAIT, Mar 28: Kuwait's central bank governor said in remarks published on Saturday Gulf countries were working hard to tie their currencies to a common basket of foreign currencies...

"Financial institutions and central banks... are making big efforts to support the financial and economic coordination necessary to tie their currencies to one basket..."

He was referring to the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman.

Pottery industry on verge of extinction in Dinajpur

DINAJPUR, Mar 28: Traditional pottery industry in 13 thanas of the district is on the verge of extinction due to lack of fund, patronisation and scarcity of raw materials...

The potters find it very difficult to buy clay or mud, van, dye and other raw materials at abnormal big prices...

Though the prices of inputs have shot up the prices of their earthenware products have come down gradually due to modern utensils available in the market.

The pottery industry is also affected due to lack of marketing facilities and bad transport system. The potters carry their products on their shoulders for selling in the huts and remote villages.

Local potters urged the authorities to take necessary steps immediately to save the age-old pottery industry from ruin.

Fertilizer prices up, paddy farming may be hampered

From Our Correspondent.

NATORE, Mar 28: The production target of Irri-Boro paddy and other seasonal crops may not be achieved in North Bengal region including Natore district this year as artificial crisis has pushed fertilizer prices up in the region...

Farmers in the region are perplexed following the exorbitant prices of urea and other fertilizers.

According to fertilizer sellers, urea from Ghorashal factory is being sold at Taka 300 to Taka 350 per bale in the market...

Saifur Rahman is expected to return home on April 2, says an official handout.

360 per bale respectively during 1991-92. Urea which is most extensively used by farmers have increased by Taka 118 per bale...

A local dealer pointed to artificial crisis as the main cause for this price hike. Only the agents of the region are responsible for this crisis...

The dealer said that appointing more agents in the region would alleviate the crisis in many respects.

The farmers of the region allege that they find the 50-kg fertilizer bag weigh less by two to three kgs even after paying such high prices.

Local traders of the region said that they had nothing to do with the weight of fertilizer bags. We sell exactly what we get from agents, they emphasized.

Knowledgeable circles informed that there is adequate stock of fertilizers in godowns of the agents and dealers of the region...

Abnormal low rate of aman paddy along with such high price of fertilizer has broken the backbone of the small and marginal farmers in this region...

According to Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Department, about 2,126,360 metric tons of Irri-Boro crops are expected from 29,000 acres of land in the North Bengal region, this season.

Meanwhile, pest attack in Irri-Boro paddy field has increased this year. Taking advantage of this opportunity traders have also increased this year. Taking advantage of this opportunity traders have also increased the prices of insecticide and pesticide...

82 uplift schemes taken up in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Mar 28: Eighty-two schemes have been taken up under Food-for-Work Programme against an allocation of 4,141 metric tons of wheat in 12 thanas of Mymensingh district...

According to an official source, thana-wise number of schemes and allocation of wheat are as follows: 243 metric tons for six schemes in Dohaura, 378.4 metric tons for eight schemes in Phulpur, 259.6 metric tons for six schemes in Nandail, 237 metric tons for six schemes in Haluaghat, 229.4 metric tons for six schemes in Iswarganj, 236 metric tons for five schemes in Gouripur, 539 metric tons for four schemes in Galarganj, 371 metric tons for seven schemes in Bhuluka, 358.3 metric tons for eight schemes in Trishal, 478 metric tons for eight schemes in Sadar thana, 405 metric tons for nine schemes in Muktagacha and 406.6 metric tons for nine schemes in Phulbaria.

Works of the schemes include re-construction of roads, re-excavation of canals and ponds and earth work.

The schemes will be completed by April 30.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 28.03.93

Table with columns: Berth No, Name of Vessels, Cargo, L Port Call, Local Agent, Date of Arrival, Date of Leaving.

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Date of Arrival, Last Port, Local Agent, Cargo, Loading Port.

TANKER DUE

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Date of Arrival, Last Port, Local Agent, Cargo, Loading Port.

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival.

READY ON:

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival.

VESSELS NOT READY:

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival.

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 29/03/93:

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Jewellery shop owners deprive govt of huge revenue

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 28: Unlicensed jewellery shop owners in the district have been doing brisk business depriving the government of huge amount of revenue...

At present, there are about 400 jewellery shops in the district, of them 80 alone are in Kishoreganj town. Most jewellers have been avoiding payment of licence fee of Taka 500 per annum with the connivance of some dishonest officials...

engaged in illegal "Hundi" business and transferring huge amount of money everyday across the border.

Most of the shops are engaged in mortgage business, collecting 20 per cent compound interest on mortgaged ornaments. In most cases, the depositors fail to take back their ornaments being unable to pay the accumulated sum of interest.

Our Correspondent adds: Gambling has become rampant in the local trains running in between Bhatrair and Mymensingh section causing much concern among the travelling people.

Organised gangs of gamblers cheat the passengers especially the labour class through three cards. The railway police and security guards on duty in the local trains remain silent, it is alleged.



JESSORE: The BDR personnel seized the smuggled Indian cattle recently. — Star photo

Cattle smuggling along Jessore border affecting local market

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Mar 28: Smuggling of Indian cattle is rampant along the borders of Jessore and Jhenidah districts for quite sometime, causing serious damage to national economy, it is learnt.

According to sources, hundreds of big-sized cattle, popularly known as 'double-decker' are being smuggled through these routes almost round the clock for onward transportation to various markets, including Dhaka.

Reports received here indicate that the hats of Navaran and Baganehara of Sharsha thana, Purapara of Chowgacha thana in Jessore; Talshar, Bhoraba and Khalishpur of Moheshpur thana in Jhenidah are the points where the double-deckers are amply available at competitive prices.

Reports also indicate that cattle traders are crowding these hats. Trucks loaded with these cattle are going towards capital.

According to a statistical report, during the period from January to mid-March '93, a total of 1,383 cattle allegedly smuggled from India were seized by BDR and handed over to customs for auction.

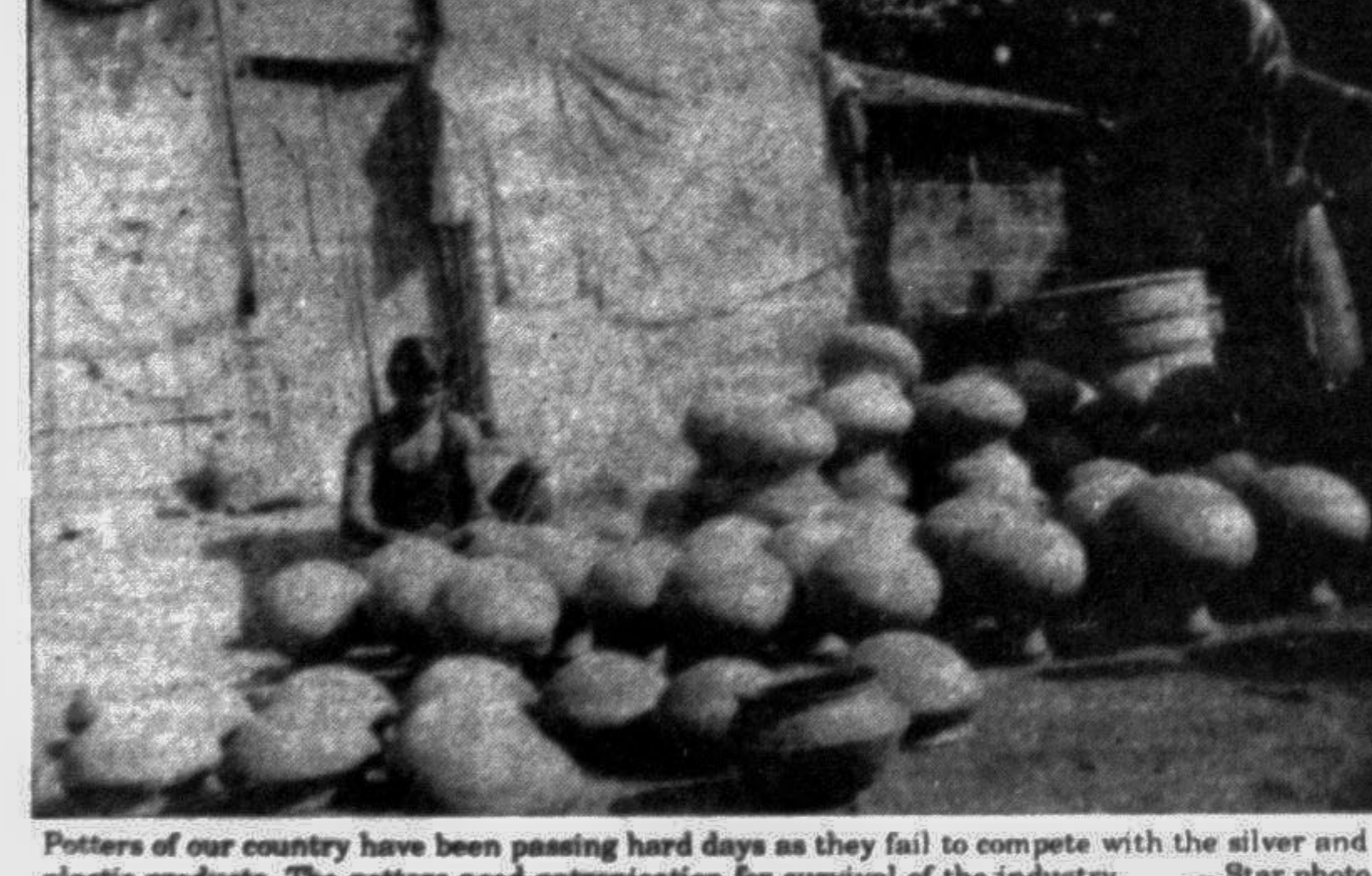
Seminar on regional water management concludes

From Our Correspondent

MAULAVIBAZAR, Mar 28: A seminar on "North East Regional Water Management Study Project" was held at the premises of local Water Development Board (WDB) office, says an UNB report.

Speakers discussed overall flood control measures of the district and urged the authorities concerned for the construction of flood protection embankment. They also suggested that Monu river which carried 36 lakh tons of sands during monsoon be dredged immediately.

The seminar was organised by the joint auspices of the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).



Potters of our country have been passing hard days as they fail to compete with the silver and plastic products. The potters need patronisation for survival of the industry. — Star photo

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on March 28, 1993

Transactions at Dhaka Stock floor met with a massive surge on Sunday. Following dull trading on the opening day, Saturday, figures in both the turnover's table swelled. As many as 4,899 issues changed hands against Saturday's only 1,330. The jump in percentage was 268.34. The total value of 4,899 issues stood at Taka 358522.00 from Saturday's Taka 6550.00, a surge of 447.11 per cent.

MASSIVE SURGE

However, participation of stocks were still far too low. Thirtythree traded on the day from 14 on Saturday. Most prices gained on the day. Almost an absolute domination by the gainers who numbered 25 compared to only three losers. Five traded at previous rates. Among gainers most were from engineering companies like, Bangladesh Lamp, Eastern Cables, Aftab Auto, Howlader Pvc, Quasem Drycells, Aziz Pipe etc. Another lot came from miscellaneous like Chittagong Cement, Bata Shoe, Monno Ceramic, Usmania Glass etc.

The Composite Index also moved forward adding 1.34 points to Saturday's finish of 387.3782.

DAYS TRADING AT A GLANCE

Table showing DSE Share Price Index, Market Capitalisation (TK), Turnover in Volume, Turnover in Value (TK), Company's name, Previous Price, Closing Price, Change (absolute), Change (% over), Number shares sold.

Traded at previous rates (06): Shares: 2nd ICB M Fund (20), Bangladesh Autocars (05), Zeal Bangla Sugar (1000), Modern Dying (20), The Ibn Sina (10). Figures within brackets indicate number of shares transacted.

DSE SHARES AND DEBENTURES

Large table listing various companies and their share prices, including Banks, Textiles, Engineering, Investment, Insurance, Pharmaceuticals, Paper & Printing, Service, and Miscellaneous.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Banks' LC selling and TT (C), OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on March 24, 25, 26 and 27. (Figures in Taka)

Table showing Exchange Rates for various currencies including US Dollar, Pound Sterling, DM, SF, S Riyal, D Quaiders, S Kroner, Singapoor Dollar, U.A.E Dirham, Kuwait Dinar, Indian Rupee (AMU), Pak Rupee (AMU).