

Swedish envoy, Energy Minister talk cooperation

The Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh Bjorn Sternby called on the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondokar Mosharraf Hossain at his secretariat office Wednesday, reports BSS.

During the meeting, they discussed different issues of mutual interest particularly the ways and means of help and cooperation of Sweden for the development and exploration of energy and mineral resources of Bangladesh.

The Energy Minister briefed the envoy of the present position and future prospect of energy and mineral resources of Bangladesh and hoped that the cooperation of Sweden in the field of promotion of energy and mineral resources would be wider and strengthened in the years to come, says an official hand-out.

Natural gas reserve found

DINAJPUR, Apr 21: Natural gas reserve has been found in village Bdnipur of Nawabganj thana in the district, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, when GI pipe of a shallow tubewell was being installed on Monday and when it reached at a depth of 30/35 feet the gas started outflowing through the pipe.

Local enthusiastic people rushed to the scene and tested it with fire. They urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps for its exploration after necessary laboratory test.

Another report adds: Property worth about Taka 8 lakh was gutted in a fire at Mahanpur in Birganj thana on Monday.

The fire originating from a kitchen soon engulfed the adjoining areas and gutted 35 houses.

Local people rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire after hour's frantic efforts.

Farmers expect bumper boro production

COMILLA, Apr 21: Farmers of the district are expected to harvest a bumper boro paddy due to favourable climate this season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, at least 1,02,230 hectares of land have brought under boro cultivation in the district.

Frequent rainfall and balanced temperature favoured the cultivation during the season, officials said adding several demonstration plots have also been set up to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation has distributed high yielding seeds, fertilisers and insecticides among the farmers at fair prices to make the scheme a success.

It is expected that 2.76 lakh metric tons of paddy will be produced in the district.

Sonali Bank lends farmers Tk 1.33 cr in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Apr 21: Sonali Bank, Netrakona Region, disbursed Taka 1,33,40,000 as Agri-Loan among the farmers of ten thanas under Netrakona district during the current boro season, reports BSS.

An official source said at the total amount of Taka one crore and thirty lakh were distributed among 2,145 farmers for irri-boro cultivation and Taka three lakh and forty thousand were distributed among 109 farmers for potato cultivation.

Kyrgyzstan may launch new currency

TOKYO, Apr 21: Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev said on Tuesday the former Soviet republic could introduce its own currency, as early as May, a Japan Finance Ministry official said, reports Reuters.

Without issuing our own currency, there would be limited scope of success in our economic reforms, Akayev was quoted as telling Japanese Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi.

Akayev, who arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday for a five-day visit to Japan, made a courtesy visit to the finance ministry to meet Hayashi, the ministry official told a briefing.

On Monday, Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister Tursunbek Chengyshev said the country's only way forward was to issue its own currency.

He told Kyrgyzstan's parliament his government's work had come to nothing because of rampant inflation spawned by the rapidly devaluing rouble.

\$9m Dutch aid for raising rice output in Asia

The Netherlands is contributing about nine million US dollar to a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation field programme aimed at boosting rice production by reducing use of pesticide in Asia, reports UNB.

The Dutch contribution will be used to deploy FAO's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam says a UNIC press release.

About 2 million Asian farmers will be trained by FAO's project funded by the Netherlands by 1997. Besides, at least 10,000 staff of government and non-government organisations will become IPM trainers.

In 1992, the Netherlands contributed about 52 million dollar which represented over 20 per cent of FAO's Trust Fund Programme.

Australia will pledge additional three million dollar for the project.

Along with Asian governments, FAO so far has successfully trained more than 50,000 farmers in the region to grow rice without heavy application of pesticides.

The IPM has so far succeeded in reducing excessive reliance of rice farmers on chemicals. It is based on growing healthy crops, protecting the pest's natural enemies and applying pesticides selectively and only when absolute necessary.

Pesticide use has been re-

duced so far in nine Asian countries by about 50 per cent. The savings in pesticide costs and government subsidies have been estimated at over one billion US dollar. The most dramatic example of a national IPM project has been Indonesia.

The new funding by the Netherlands and Australia will be mainly used for educating trainers in the field. The programme will rely on the existing field facilities rather than new administrative infrastructure.

The IPM in rice is based on more than 20 years of research by national agricultural research systems and international centres such as the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines.



Dr. Iqbal Mahmud, Chairman, Sonali Bank Board of Directors, M. Ahsanul Haque, MD, Syed Manzur Elahi, Director and the senior executives with the participants of the regional conference of Dhaka Division held on Wednesday at the bank's head office.

Experts urged to help reduce acute housing problem

Mayor of Dhaka Mirza Abbas MP Wednesday called upon experts to help evolve a mechanism to resolve the acute housing problem of the metropolitan city of about 10 million population, reports BSS.

Abbas also asked them to assist the government in improving policies and practice in the areas of building, and land development standards and regulations, land development policies, cost recovery and better use of under-utilised government land.

The mayor was inaugurating the two-day seminar on 'formulation of land development controls and procedures for Dhaka city' organised jointly by the government, RAJUK and Asian Development Bank (ADB) Wednesday morn-

ing a local hotel in the city. The ADB experts Dr A A Shah and Giles Clarke and RAJUK's chief town planner Zakir Hossain also spoke.

Abbas underscored the need for planned development of the metropolitan city and said, we wanted to turn this historic ancient city into a modern one with all civic amenities.

The experts said while urban growth continued at a rapid rate, environmental conditions deteriorate and access to land and shelter by the low income majority of the city population became more and more difficult.

They said that there was an urgent need to encourage development to move down market to serve lower income groups.

There is a need to lower the minimum plot size, they suggested that it would be more appropriate to provide for a minimum basic standard of services and housing rather than a single rigid minimum plot size alone.

In addition, the experts said a minimum plot size might contradict the present cultural practice of subdividing land to pass on as inheritance.

The experts observed that not all costs of infrastructure standards were being recovered and said that the critical issue was how to establish a method of service charges for both on and off-site services.

The national building code now being developed should be coordinated with RAJUK's building regulations to avoid overlapping, they suggested.

France for globalisation of world trade talks

PARIS, Apr 21: French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said on Tuesday he would tell German Chancellor Helmut Kohl it was a "gross caricature" to blame French agriculture alone for stalling the GATT world trade talks, reports Reuters.

"One must stop this constant obsession with French agriculture," the new conservative Premier told reporters ahead of his first foreign trip on Thursday.

Balladur said the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) would be a major subject of his talks with Kohl in Bonn.

"We need a very clear explanation that," he said, "I will repeat to Chancellor Kohl ... That I want to globalise the trade negotiations and settle the problems together instead of separately."

He said he would also discuss "the need for a gradual cut in interest rates throughout western Europe" but would not beg for a cut in German rates, since that depended on Germany's own economic interests.

France has begun to cut its own rates since last month's general election while the franc has held firm against the German mark.

France has refused to accept a draft agreement between the European Community and the United States on agricultural trade, reached last November, which is widely seen as holding the key to a conclusion of the six-year old GATT Uruguay Round talks.

It says Washington has failed to satisfy European demands on industrial goods, services and intellectual prop-

erty.

Balladur's new conservative government has said it wants a global "trade pact" with the United States and has promised it will move from blocking the GATT talks to making proposals soon.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel complained in February that France was harming German interests by blocking the farm deal, which covered restrictions on subsidised exports and oilseed cultivation.

Paris should show more "solidarity" with export-oriented Germany's vital interests in a new trade accord, he said.

"In the GATT Uruguay Round talks the point has come where our position does not always coincide with France's, Kinkel told.



The officers and employees of the Emirates during their holiday vacation.

Govt to sell wheat at reduced prices

The government has decided to sell wheat at reduced prices, according to an official handout issued in the city Wednesday, reports BSS.

A decision to this effect was taken as people are purchasing wheat at relatively higher prices although, the overall foodgrains stock in the country is satisfactory, price of wheat is very stable alongside paddy and rice and despite their prices remaining within the purchasing capacity of the commonman.

Henceforth anyone including grain and flour mills can purchase wheat of any quantity from the government godowns at reduced prices.

Under the reduced rates the price of general variety of wheat has been fixed at Taka seven and paise ten, white variety at Taka seven and paise twenty and red soil variety at Taka seven and paise eighty-five.

In areas near to seaports the general variety of wheat will be sold at Taka six and paise seventy five and the red soil variety at Taka seven and paise fifty the handout added.

The formalities regarding purchase of wheat have been simplified interested buyers have been advised to contact the concerned district food controllers.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 21.04.93

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L/Port Local Call Agent	Date of Arrival	Date of Leaving	
J/1	Samudra Rani	GI	Kara SSL	18/04	27/04	
J/2	Golden Lake	GI	Hong Prog	12/04	21/04	
J/3	Orang Berani	GI	Sing BBA	16/04	22/04	
J/4	Nand Bhargavi	GI	Hazi CTL	13/04	24/04	
J/5	Mars	Cement	Sing Bright	31/03	22/04	
J/6	Ivyverett	GI	Sing EBPL	18/04	23/04	
J/7	Fei Teng	GI (Peri)	Dale Prog	06/04	26/04	
J/8	Banglar Sampad	GI	Kara BSC	07/04	22/04	
J/9	Pearl One	GI	Cal Cross	18/04	23/04	
J/10	Endurance Sea	Repair	Agaba CLA	25/01	30/04	
J/11	Arti	GTSP (P)	Ind H&SL	16/01	26/04	
J/12	Al Rahman	Urca	Mong KSL	07/04	21/04	
J/13	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing BDSHIP	18/04	22/03	
MPB/1	Tiger Force	Cont	Col RSL	15/04	21/04	
MPB/2	Ingenuity	Cont	Sing RSL	17/04	21/04	
CGJ	Berry	Cement	Sing Bright	29/03	22/04	
GSJ	Swift Wings	Wheat (G)	Sing Prog	08/04	22/04	
TSP	Hang Cheong	Cement	Sing H&H	28/03	25/04	
RM/3	Banglar Shobha	19/4	Repair	BSC	R/A	24/04
RM/4	Vinta	Wheat (G)	Globe	R/A		
RM/6	Ronjay Choomie	Cement	Viah PSAL	15/03	25/04	
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	BSC	R/A	23/04	
DDJ/1	Barge: Labroy-90	GI	Sing IIA	31/01	31/07	
DDJ/2	Banglar Mori	Repair	Mong BSC	12/04	21/04	
CUFJ	Banglar Aaha	Repair	BSC	R/A	25/04	
CUFLJ	Barge: Smit	P Mat	Sing Anchor	31/03	31/08	

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Qing He Cheng	21/04	S Hai	BDSHIP	GI	Chinese Ports
Nianga	21/04	Sing	MBL	GI	
Astra	22/04	Sing	USTC	Cement	
Kota Buana 13/4	23/04	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Eponyma B/4	23/04	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Nomadic Lady	23/04	Cara	Lams	Wheat (G)	
Banglar Doot	23/04	Mong	BSC	CL	Latakia
Agna	24/04	Sing	PSAL	Cement	
Loyal Bird	24/04		RISA	Repair	

TANKER DUE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Easo Melbourne	23/04	Sing	MSPL	HSD	
Sorja	25/04		Seacom	CDSO	

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON :

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Meng Lee	Cont	Sing	AML	18/04
Petr Starostin	Cont	Sing	CT	18/04
Continent-1	GI	Pena	CLA	19/04
NGS Ranger	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	19/04
Ji Lin	GI	Sing	Prog	20/04
Optima	Cont	Sing	RSL	21/04
Handy Shipper	M Sheeds	Sing	Royal	19/04

VESSELS NOT READY :

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Altair Lee	Cement	Sing	Bright	22/03
Xin Ji	Cement	Lach	Khansons	15/04
Flying Dragon	Cement	Sing	USTC	21/04
Lily			Dynamic	R/A (20/04)

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Banglar Jyoti			BSC	R/A (18/04)
Chipsam	Cement	Titiz	PSAL	14/04

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Flestellia	Cement	Sing	Bright	23/03
Erotas	Scraping	Sing	Sigma	07/04
Norbuk Namir	Cement	Viah	BOAL	15/04
Sea Destiny	Cement	Pada	AML	16/04
Ryong Song	Cement	Sing	USTC	19/03
Stern		Mong	NFT	09/04
Milos	Scraping	Pra	JF	19/04
King Alexander	Scraping	Pachi	H&SL	19/04
Marchury Sea		Male	NFT (P)	18/04
Pu Aspiration	Cement	Jaha	USTC	16/04

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 22.04.93

OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIFTING		
J/3	Orang Berani	DDJ/2	Banglar Mori	Banglar Sampad to GSJ
J/5	Mars	J/5	Ji Lin	Ronjay Choomie to RM/5
MPB/1	Meng Lee	J/3	H Shipper	NGS Ranger
CGJ	Berry	NB	Qing He Cheng	Banglar Shobha to MPB
GSJ	Swift Wing	J/8	Optima	Mars to CGJ
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	NB	Nianga	Fong Shin to J/8
CUFJ	Banglar Aaha	NB	Xin Ji	Banglar Aaha to DOJ

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.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Banks' BC selling and TT (C) OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on April 22.

Currency	Selling B.C.	T.T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.1326	38.9087	38.6339
Pound Sterling	60.5320	60.2143	59.8117
DM	24.5115	24.3606	24.1885
FF	7.2589	7.2133	7.1624
S Riyal	10.4602	10.4003	10.3269
D Outiders	21.8252	21.6822	21.5291
S Kroner	5.3140	5.2600	5.2428
Singapore Dollar	24.1155	24.0029	23.8334
UAE Dirham	10.6911	10.6299	10.5548
Kuwait Dinar	130.6598	129.9123	128.9947
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2485	1.2429	1.2367
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.4609	1.4544	1.4472

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on April 21, 1993

Surge in value

Business held at firmer grip on Wednesday at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). Gainers and losers fought neck and neck resulting in equal share of 13 each.

Value positioned itself to a wide gap of surge of 172.44 per cent finishing at Taka 1520599.50 from Tuesday's close of Taka 558135.75.

As many as 14,081 shares traded on the day as against Tuesday's 10451.25 issues. This gain in volume was measured at 34.73 per cent.

Thirty-seven companies took part in business with an addition of a new entry into the stock share market. The company, IDLC Ltd, entered under the group-investment of DSE share list.

The company Tulip Dairy finished with a remarkable gain of 25 per cent from Taka 40.00 to Taka 50.00. On the other hand, Monospool Paper broke down by 11.11 per cent closing at Taka 40.00 from previous rate of Taka 45.00.

The Composite Index witnessed another rise on the day. It added 5.33 points to finish at 372.9091.

DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE Share Price Index	372.9091
Market Capitalisation (Tk)	10,661,348,909.00
Turnover in Volume	14081
Turnover in Value (Tk)	1520599.50

Company's name	Previous price Tk	Closing price Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change (% over price)	Number of shares sold
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Gains (13) Shares:					
Tulip Dairy	40.00	50.00	10.00	25.000	50
Dhaka Veg	85.62	85.00	1.38	1.550	40
Karim Pipe	85.00	87.00	2.00	2.353	05
B Autocars	57.94	58.00	0.06	1.04	15
Striger Bag	1448.18	1452.00	73.89	0.269	41
Quasem Drycells	9.36	9.50	0.14	1.496	500
Paper Processing	24.75	25.50	0.75	3.030	100
Beximco	20.05	20.10	0.05	0.249	500
Cig Cement	253.78	256.68	2.90	1.143	310
Wata Chemical	115.00	115.50	0.50	0.435	40
Beximco Pharma	446.50	447.00	0.50	0.112	16

Debtentures					
Beximco Pharma					