

Export of electronic goods far below target

by Sharier Khan

Despite high expectations, the country's electronics assemblers and exporters have failed to penetrate the world market during the current fiscal year 1992-93.

Although the export target was set at Taka 35 crore during 1992-93, till March last the country brought home only some Taka 2.48 crore.

Sources in the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) said that Bangladeshi electronics exporters were lagging behind as the industry was entirely assembly dependent. All the components of the exportable electronics were imported items, they added.

Lack of investment, proper marketing and production facilities and of popular brand names are the other reasons for the failure of the exports, the EPB sources added.

During the fiscal year 1991-92, the electronics sector fetched Taka 20 crore exceeding the export target of 19 crore.

On the other hand, during the last fiscal year the country exported computers, video and audio cassettes, radio and audio recorders, TV sets and

other accessories but during this fiscal computers and TV have been dropped from the list.

Last year Assembled video and audio cassettes earned over Taka 88 lakh but this year out of the total Taka 2.48 crore earnings, the item earned 2.47 crore, whereas radio and audio recorders bagged only Taka 13,000.

"Due to extreme dependency on the imported components," one EPB source further said, "the assemblers cannot add much of local inputs excepting the labour".

This situation otherwise called low "value addition" carrying the assemblers very low profit.

In addition to such situation, the Bangladeshi exporters are deprived of Generalised System of Preference (GSP), a system of the EC countries where the developing countries get tax exemptions.

As the electronic goods of Bangladesh has low value addition, it does not get tax exception. Therefore the price of Bangladeshi products are

unattractive in the international market.

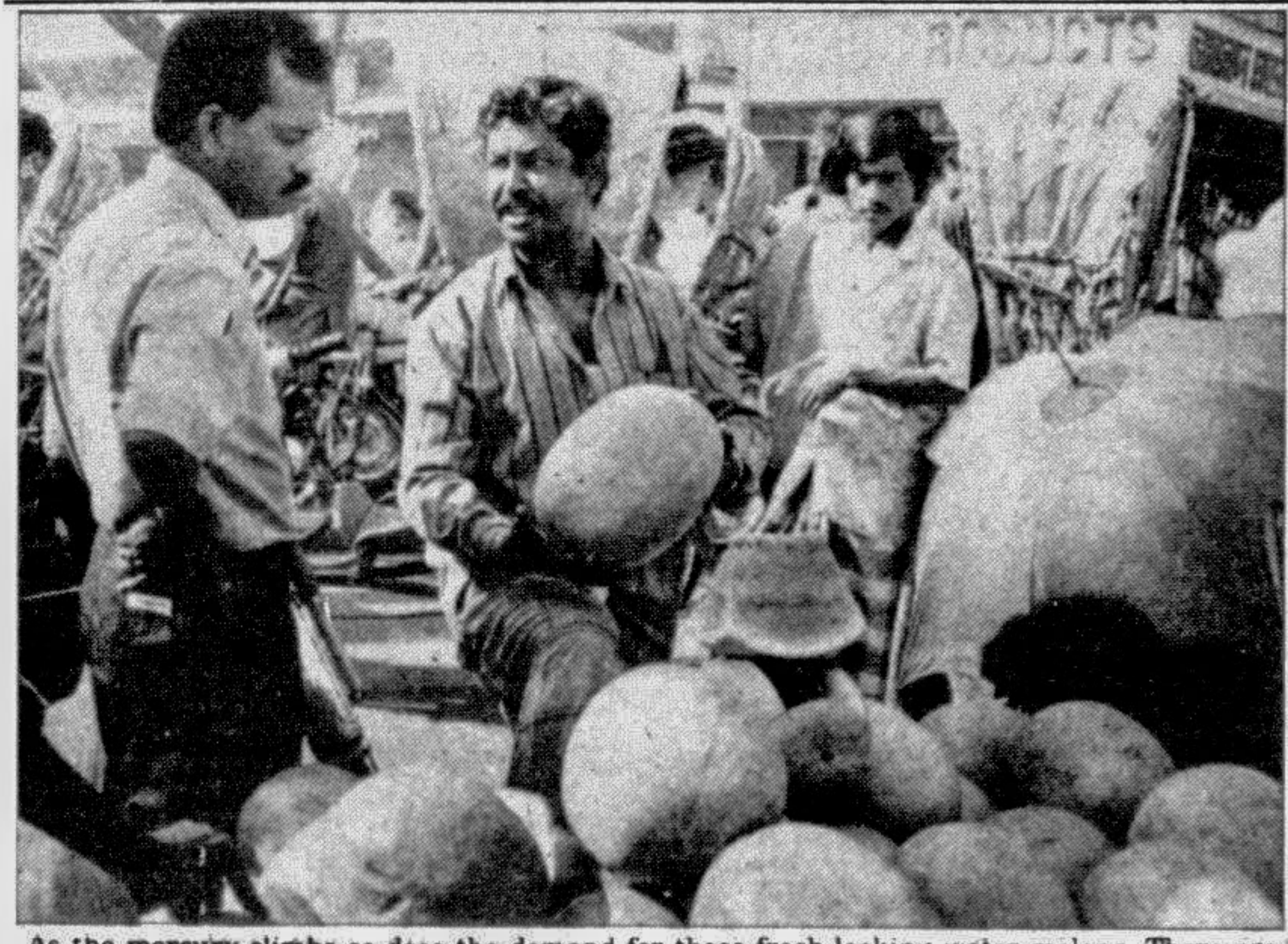
"Even if the country could provide plastic moulding facilities, the assemblers would have done a lot better," the EPB source said adding that "it would have had increased the value addition by an attractive percentage."

To be an advanced electronics industry, high investment is required which the assemblers of the country do not have. The industry would flourish only if it could produce at least small components like Taiwan, the EPB sources suggested.

As the 1991-93 export policy stresses special importance on the electronics products, the EPB is trying to coordinate some 50 assemblers and exporters of the country hoping to gain exportable strength.

The EPB under and UNDP fund has organised seminars and workshops on electronics in which the assemblers encouragingly participated.

"To promote electronics export," the EPB sources concluded, "ultimately the government has to come up."



As the mercury climbs so does the demand for these fresh-looking water melons. There are plenty in supply yet prices remain forbiddingly high. —Star photo

87,178 tonnes UNHCR grains for Rohingyas

A total of 87,178 metric tons of foodgrains were so far distributed by UNHCR for the Rohingyas refugees, State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan told the parliament Thursday, reports UNB.

In reply to AKM Jahangir Hossain, the State Minister said UNHCR gives 250 grams of foodgrains including 225 gram potatoes to each refugee a week, while under the World Food Programme each refugee is given 4060 grams of foodgrains including 3150 grams of rice per week.

Dollar drops against major currencies in London

LONDON, May 14: The US dollar dropped against most other major currencies in early European trading Friday, and gold prices fell back from a 17-month high, reports AP.

London's major bullion dealers fixed a recommended gold price of 366.60 dollar an ounce at midmorning, down from 369.25 dollar bid late Thursday.

In Zurich, the bid price of gold was 366.90 dollar down from 368.75 dollar late Thursday.

Bullion steadied after prices zoomed on Thursday because, analysts said, of fears higher inflation in the United States. Gold is a traditional hedge.

Continental to buy 92 aircraft from Boeing

WASHINGTON, May 14: Continental Airlines Wednesday announced a 4.5 billion dollar order for 92 aircrafts from Boeing, the world's number one aircraft manufacturer, and options on 98 others, reports AP.

The order was for 50 Boeing 737s with an option for 50 others; 25 twin-engine 757s with an option for 25 more; 12 767-300ers with an option for another 18; and five 777s with an option for another five.

The 75 B-737s and B-757s originally were ordered in 1990 but suspended when the airline sought bankruptcy protection later the same year.

US seeks international mushroom market

GRANTS PASS, (Ore) May 14: As timber production plummets, the US Forest Service is seeking other woodland products to sell — and finding that interest in mushrooms is growing wildly as both international demand and competition increase, reports AP.

Mushrooms offer big profits. But prices fluctuate wildly on world markets — the fungi grow everywhere from Iraq to South America — and the wide-open nature of mushroom picking makes the industry difficult to regulate.

Unemployed loggers and immigrants from Cambodia and Laos are among those following the wild mushroom trail, said Bruce Casey, a Forest Service Officer working to standardize management of special forest products.

"People would be absolutely amazed if they understood the true market potential of a lot of these products," said Catherine Mater, vice president of Mater Engineering, a Corvallis, Ore. firm that conducts economic development studies.

The Pacific Northwest is home to four main commercially valuable mushroom varieties, including the matsutake, or pine mushroom, a big seller in Japan.

Shipping Intelligence Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 12.05.1993

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L. Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Date of Leaving
J/1	Bo Tong Gang	Cement	Sing	ASL	27/04	14/05
J/2	Altair Lee	Cement	Sing	Bright	22/03	14/03
J/3	Norbalk Namir	Cement	Visa	BOAL	15/04	14/05
J/4	Menado	GI (Copro)	Sing	AML	09/05	13/05
J/5	Banglar Mori	Repair	—	ESC	R/A	12/05
J/6	Dubai Glory	GI	Sing	Prog	06/05	18/05
J/8	Samudra Raj	GI	Kara	SSL	11/05	18/05
J/9	Ternovsk	S Serap	Sing	Prog	10/05	15/05
J/10	Endurance Sea	Repair	Agaba	CLA	25/01	20/05
J/11	Arti	GTSP (P)	Ind	H & SL	16/01	14/05
J/13	Banglar Robi	Cont	Sing	ESC	11/05	13/05
MPB/1	I Yamburenko	Cont	Sing	CT	10/05	13/05
MPB/2	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDShip	10/05	14/05
CCJ	Navick	C Clink	Sing	UMAL	25/04	18/05
GSJ	Banglar Sampad	Wheat (G)	—	ESC	R/A	14/05
TSP	Iran Sabr	R Sulp	Al Jub	NNL	08/05	17/05
RM/6	Ronjay Victory	Cement	Jaka	USTC	07/05	20/05
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	—	—	ESC	R/A	12/05
DDJ/1	Barge: Labroy-90	GI	Sing	ILA	31/01	—
DDJ/2	Banglar Asha	Repair	—	ESC	R/A	15/05
CUFJ	Smit Lombok	P Mat	—	Anchor	31/03	31/08

VESSLS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Ingrutny 22/4	12/05	Mong	RSL	Cont	Col
Banglar Gourab	14/05	Mong	TSC	Repair	—
Lily	14/05	Cal	Dynamic	GI	—
NGS Express	2/5	14/05	Mong	BDShip	Sing
Agra	14/05	Sing	PSAL	Cement	—
Victorious	15/05	—	Anchor	—	—
Mariner	15/05	—	Anchor	—	—
Komsomolets	15/05	—	Sunbeam	GI (Copro)	—
Rosita	15/05	—	Sunbeam	GI (Copro)	—
Vishva Kaumudi	15/05	Mong	SSL	E/L	UKC
(E/L) 8/5	15/05	Mong	SSL	E/L	UKC
Grietje	15/05	Yarab	Litmond	P Equip & Mater	—
Un Bong	16/05	Yarab	Litmond	Cement	—
Optima 9/5	16/05	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Tug Dara	16/05	Sing	ILA	P Materials	—
Meng Kiat 2/5	17/05	Sing	AML	Cont	Cal
Gold Asia	18/05	Bang	AML	GL	Mom Mapu
Kota Bstaris 10/5	18/05	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Petr Starostin	9/5	18/05	—	CT	Cont
Kamaleverett	18/05	—	EBPL	GI	Fe St
Fong Yun 8/5	19/05	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Sokol	20/05	Kara	CT	GI	—
Mangaretha	20/05	—	Prog	E Equip	—
Safina-e-Islam	20/05	Kara	ASL	GI/GL	Karachi
Epomya 11/5	20/05	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
NGS Ranger	11/5	20/05	Sing	BDShip	Cont
Andrian Goncharov 9/5	21/05	—	CT	Cont	Sing
Smolny	25/05	Col	ISA	GI	Harb & Poi
Nezabudka	25/05	—	USTC	Cement	Fe St
Karabeverett	27/05	—	EBPL	GI	Fe St
Tanary Star	28/05	—	USTC	Cement	Fe St

TANKER DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Mekhanik Yuryev	18/05	—	Seacom	CDSO	—

VESSLS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Saint Dimitrios	C Oil	Jebel	DSL	06/05
Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	—	ESC	R/A (11/05)

VESSLS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Ready on Sea Rhapsody	C Clink	Visa	UMAL	04/05
Bintang Harapan	GI	Basa	Prog	12/05
Meng Lee	Cont	Sing	AML	12/05

VESSLS NOT READY

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Xin-Ji	Cement	Lach	Kharsons	15/04
Orsha	Cement	Sing	USTC	06/05

VESSLS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Chipam	Cement	Tittz	PSAL	14/04

VESSLS NOT ENTERING

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Fleistella	Cement	Sing	Bright	23/03
Astra	Cement	Sing	USTC	22/04
Stern	Scrapping	Mong	NFT (P)	09/04
Harq Cheong	—	—	H & H	R/A (05/04)
Loyal Bird	Repair	—	Litmond	R/A (08/05)

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 13.05.93

OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIPPING
J/4 Menado	DOJ B Jyoti	J/12 Meng Lee to MPB/1
J/13 B Robi	MPB/1 Ingenuty	
MPB/1 I Yamburenko		
DOJ B Shourabh		

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 May 14 and 15.

(Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B.C.	T.T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.9326	39.7087	39.4566
Pound Sterling	61.2324	60.9153	60.5491
DM	24.8028	24.6485	24.4914
FF	7.3574	7.3095	7.2629
S Riyal	10.6740	10.6142	10.5465
D Quillers	22.0988	21.9567	21.8167
S Kroner	5.3725	5.3388	5.3047
Singapore Dollar	24.7429	24.6042	24.4474
UAE Dirham	10.9096	10.8485	10.7793
Kuwait Dinar	133.3310	132.5834	131.7383
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2737	1.2680	1.2617
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.4870	1.4803	1.4729

Authorised dealers will apply T T clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladesh working abroad.

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

Dhaka Stock Prices

Weekly comparison: At the close of tradings on May 05 and May 12, 1993

Company	FV/ML*	May 05		May 12	
		Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka
BANKS (11)					
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	922.00	923.00	1150.00	850.00
AB Bank	100/5	176.00	176.00	215.00	180.00
City Bank	100/5	301.67	306.00	305.00	268.00
IDLC Ltd	100/20	232.07	230.64	—	—
IFLC	100/5	166.00	165.92	185.00	150.00
Islami Bank	1000/1	1699.00	1699.00	1700.00	1400.00
National Bank	100/5	100.00	93.00	122.50	97.00
Pubali Bank	100/5	90.00	90.00	75.00	95.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	73.00	72.00	110.00	73.00
U.C.B.L	100/5	112.00	105.88	121.00	118.00
Uttrara Bank	100/5	94.00	94.00	135.00	95.00

INVESTMENT (08)					
ICB	100/5	95.00	95.00	103.00	79.00
1st ICB M.Fund	100/5	365.00	365.00	400.00	340.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	177.00	176.00	204.00	180.00
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5	148.00	148.00	161.00	136.00
4th ICB M. Fund	100/10	151.00	151.00	158.00	135.00
5th ICB M. Fund	100/10	93.00	92.75	109.00	85.00
6th ICB M. Fund	100/10	61.00	61.75	87.00	56.00
Unit Certificate					
Sales Price		119.00	120.00	—	—
Re-purchase		114.00	115.00	—	—

INSURANCE (04)					
BGIC	100/10	176.00	173.00	174.00	137.00
Green Delta	100/10	183.00	183.00	160.00	135.00
Peoples	100/10	260.00	265.00	196.00	137.00
United	100/10	197.00	196.00	193.00	145.00

ENGINEERING (19)					
Afah Automobiles	100/5	169.50	170.00	265.00	158.00
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50	42.50	43.00	64.00	39.00
Aziz Pipes	100/5	232.38	228.00	319.00	206.00
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5	59.00	57.00	113.00	46.00
Bangladesh Lamps	100/5	232.38	230.92	310.00	150.00
B.Thai Aluminium	100/10	74.00	74.50	138.00	70.00
Bengal Carbide	100/5	242.91	242.91	269.00	225.00
Bengal Steel	10/50	20.00	20.00	20.00	18.00
Eastern Cables	100/5	72.17	72.00	100.00	72.00
Howlader PVC	100/10	85.00	94.00	122.00	87.00
Karim Pipe	100/5	87.00	87.00	190.00	85.00
Metals Corp.	100/5	40.00	40.00	105.00	43.00
Morino Staffers	100/5	150.00	152.00	220	