

Govt considering measures to keep agri-product prices stable

The government is considering short and long-term measures to keep prices of agricultural products stable and improve the economic condition of farmers, reports UNB.

The cabinet yesterday approved in principle the recommendations to this effect of the Ministry of Agriculture at its regular weekly meeting held at Bangabhaban Tuesday with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The details of the steps to be taken both on long-term and short-term basis will be examined by a high-level committee and their recommendations will be placed before the cabinet for consideration.

The cabinet also approved a draft bill for amending the Supreme Court Judges (leaves, pension and privileges) Ordinance, 1982 seeking to enhance the pension amount

of the Supreme Court Judges in keeping with the enhancement of their pay which came into effect from July 1, 1991.

The cabinet also approved the draft of a bill to be introduced in parliament for the enactment of a new law named the Financial Institution Act, 1993. The bill envisages proper management and smooth running of the non-banking financial institutions besides ensuring discipline in their various operations.

The cabinet was apprised of the state of implementation of the cabinet decisions during the last quarter of the current year.

Ministers, State Ministers-in-charge of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting. The cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and concerned secretaries of different ministries were present.

Price of Imported milk powder soars

By Staff Correspondent

Prices of all brands of imported powder milk have gone up by Tk two to Tk 13 per two-kg tin in the city markets as a result of the enhancement of import duties.

The budget for 1993-94 has increased duties on import of milk powder in bulk from 30 to 40 per cent, tinned powder milk from 25 to 30 per cent and baby food from 15 to 30 per cent.

A 2-kg tin of Dano, which was Tk 342 before the budget now sells at Tk 345. Similarly, Red Cow has gone up to Tk 338 from Tk 336, Nespray Tk 330 from Tk 326 and Anchor Tk 337 from Tk 324. The price of a one-kg pack of Diploma has gone up from Tk 153 to Tk 155.

In the wholesale market, the price of a six-tin carton of Dano has gone up from Tk 2028 to Tk 2040, Red Cow from Tk 2010 to Tk 2030, Dano (super) Tk 2050 to Tk 2070, Nespray Tk 1945 to Tk 1970, Coast Tk 2020 to Tk 2040 and Diploma (12 one kg packs) from Tk 1836 to Tk 1872.

Wholesalers in New Market, however, told The Daily Star that the prices of butter oil and baby milk food had not marked any increase yet following the budget.

Meanwhile, the retail prices of Indian garlic and ginger have marked a fall. Garlic is now come down to Tk 24 per kg from Tk 36 while ginger has come down to Tk 30 from Tk 44 per kilo.

The prices of vegetables have registered sharp rises as supplies decreased with the onset of the monsoon, which has affected transportation.

Green chillies, which cost Tk 200 per maund a few weeks ago, now costs about Tk 480. Egg plant or Brinjal, until recently selling at Tk 200 a maund, has gone up to Tk 380. Jhingra prices have also gone up to Tk 375 from Tk 220 per maund while papaya prices have shot up to Tk 190-200 from Tk 120 per maund.

The fish market, over the last four days, has seen supplies dwindle sharply. A big pangash, selling at Tk 90 to 100 per kg a few days ago now cost between Tk 170 and Tk 180. Similarly a big size hilsa, which was going for Tk 120 last week, now fetches Tk 200 and big rui (carp) has risen to Tk 185 from Tk 160 per kg.



Al-haj Mohammad Shahidullah, President of Bangladesh Salt Mill Owners' Association addressed a press conference at FBCCI in the city yesterday demanding import of boulder salt through the association. —Star photo

Pepsi-Cola to open fast food shops in Bangladesh

By Masud Hasan Khan

Pepsi-Cola International will open fast food shops in Bangladesh next year, said its Asia Division president Leslie G. Ham.

In an interview with The Daily Star recently, Ham said that his company, besides being one of the largest soft drink bottlers in the world, was also a big snack food producer having some 20,000 fast

food restaurants across the world.

"We are planning to move our restaurant business to South Asia because of the growing demand in this region," he said.

However, he pointed out that, in Bangladesh, the snack shops would be opened on a trial basis to test if the entrepreneurs could cope with the high quality standards set by the fast food giants like McDonalds or the Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Ham observed there was tremendous "bottlers' interest" in Bangladesh as demand and consumption of the soft drinks have gone up significantly.

Responding to a query, he assured that there was no qualitative difference between the Pepsi produced in Bangladesh and those produced elsewhere.

The basic concentrates of Pepsi products anywhere in the world are always the same and the quality is strictly maintained. But the difference in taste is because of the use of different kinds of sugar and water," he said.

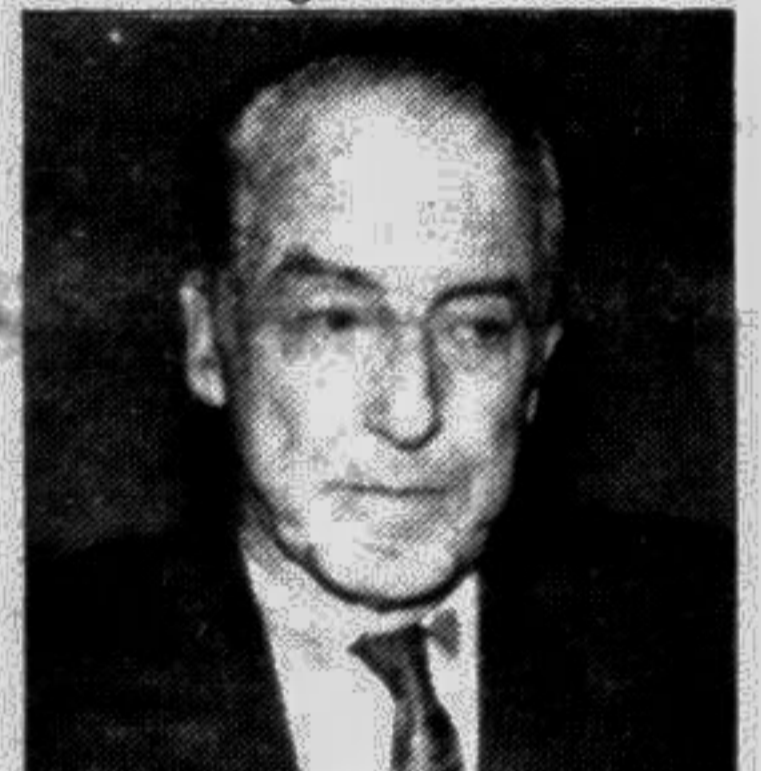
Speaking on the press reports on discovering alien objects often found in sealed Pepsi bottles, the Pepsi chief in Asia said that one could not possibly put something in the bottles because of the speed in bottling.

Hundreds of bottles were mechanically filled in minutes, he pointed out. "No system is full proof... but Pepsi's prime objective is to satisfy the clients with our quality products," he said.

Ham mentioned about some recent incidents of discovering hypodermic syringes in Pepsi bottles in the USA and said the people involved were arrested while putting those in the shops.

"I guess, these people do it for easy bucks," he commented.

When asked if his company was going to introduce diet Pepsi in Bangladesh, Ham said "we have future plans. But it will take some time."



Leslie G. Ham food restaurants across the world.

Ctg customs realises Tk 842 cr as VAT

By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 6: Chittagong Customs and VAT Collectorate realised a revenue of Taka 842 crore as Value Added Tax (VAT), 22 crore over its target during fiscal 92-93.

This was disclosed today by the Collector of Customs (Land) Anwar Hossain at his office while talking to the pressmen.

The collector hoped that in the years ahead the VAT collection would continue to increase following the intensified monitoring system in different sectors.

He informed that VAT amounting to Taka 160 crore was outstanding with the gas field authorities.

Besides, VAT still could not be realised properly from some sectors including construction firms and ship-breaking enterprises, the Collector added, saying, measures for full implementation of the system were being taken in this regard.

CHITTAGONG, July 6: Chile's forestry exports declined 3.5 per cent to 443 million dollars in the first five months this year. The National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) attributed the decline to economic crises in some industrial countries, reports Xinhua.

Chile's annual forestry exports are valued at more than one billion dollars. His most important markets are the United States, Japan and South Korea.

Chile's forestry exports decline

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BIBM course on banking laws, practices ends

A course on 'Banking Laws and Practices' conducted by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), concluded on Tuesday, says a press release.

The objective of the course was to acquaint the bankers with the laws relating to banking and improve their operational skills in solving different problems. Participants were drawn from banks and financial institutions.

Karnaphuli Rayon incurring huge losses every year

By Sohail Manzur

Karnaphuli Rayon and Chemicals (KRC) Limited has been incurring huge losses every year because of declining demand for its products in both local and international markets.

The losses and accumulated loans of the factory located at Chandraghona of Rangamati district, reached such extent that it would be difficult to continue its operation unless immediate measures are taken by the government to overcome the crisis.

The loss in the current fiscal year reached Tk 20.65 crore till April. It was Tk 18.85 crore in 1991-92, Tk 6.71 crore in 1990-91, Tk 7.72 crore in 1989-90 and Tk 13.63 crore in 1988-89 fiscal year.

At present, the KRC is producing rayon yarn, cellophane, RSF (rayon stable fibre) and six chemical items.

Officials at the factory told The Daily Star that the rayon market had shrunk as the people are becoming more interested about cotton clothes rather than synthetic ones.

Moreover, polyester yarn, inter mangle yarn and various other types of synthetic yarns are now dominating the market, leading the KRC, established in 1964, towards closure, they said.

The cellophane items cannot compete with imported products mainly because of higher cost of production, they added.

While briefing a group of newsmen Wednesday at the factory Managing Director of KRC, K M R Islam Abu Wahed said the RSF plant, which was established in 1984, had to be closed in 1989 as the textile units under Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) stopped using RSF.

The outstanding loan of the factory stood at Taka 280.45 crore and the factory had to spent Tk 10 to 12 crore each year for paying interest against the loan, the Managing Director said.

The withdrawal of rebate facilities for importing raw materials in last year's budget also contributed to the crisis, Abu Wahed said.

He also said that imposition of VAT on RSF made the crisis more acute.

He, however, disclosed that KRC had recently signed an agreement to export 168 metric tonnes of rayon to Pakistan.

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Bangladesh and Uzbekistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on air services between them at Biman Bhavan in the city yesterday.

Bangladesh, Uzbekistan sign MOU on air services

Bangladesh and Republic of Uzbekistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on air services between the two countries here yesterday, a Biman press release says.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed at Biman Bhavan following a two-day meeting between the visiting tour member Uzbek delegation and the officials of Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry and Biman.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth Position and Performance of Vessels As On 06.07.93

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local Agent	Date of Leaving
J/1	Apple Blossom	Caracasses	Jedd	LTL	02/7 08/7
J/2	NGS Express	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	05/7 08/7
J/3	Sam Hac	GI(S Ash)	Hlong	Seacoast	27/6 08/7
J/4	Neos	Salt (TCB)	Kand	MSPL	03/7 07/7
J/5	Agra	Cement	Hong	PSAL	12/6 12/7
J/6	Ronjay				
	Choomi	Cement	Sing	USTC	02/6 15/7
J/7	Al Salma	GI	Rang	ASLL	25/6 06/7
J/8	Trans Asia	GI	Yang	Cross	27/6 07/7
J/9	Mary-M	M Seeds	Penia	USTC	30/6 12/7
J/11	Portalfissa	Urea		UMAL	R/A 10/7
J/12	Eponyma (Cont)		Sing	CTS	03/7 07/7
J/13	I Yamburenko	Cont	Sing	CT	03/7 06/7
MF/1	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	03/7 06/7
MF/2	Dragon Sumatr	Cont	Sing	RSL	04/7 07/7
CCJ	Elstratos-G	Idle	Ant	BSL	20/5 07/7
(Attach: 19/6)					
GSJ	Nomadic				
	Queria	Wheat (G)	Sing	LAMS	30/6 08/7
TSP	Orsha (P C				
	Stop	Idle	Sing	USTC	06/5 08/7
	By The Court				
RM/4	Global Neptun	CPL	Sing	TSL	03/7 06/7
RM/5	Nezabudka	Cement	Sing	USTC	02/7 08/7
RM/6	Esoo Bayonne	HSD	Sing	MSPL	03/7 06/7
DDJ	Banglar Jyoti	C Oil		BSC	R/A 06/7
DD	Banglar Shobha	Repair	Mong	BSC	23/6 14/7
DDJ/1	Barge Labroy-90	GI	Sing	ILA	31/7 07/8
DDJ/2	Banglar Asha (Ebb)	Repair		BSC	R/A 15/7
CUFJ	Zara	Urea		CLA	R/A 07/7

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Ingenuity	06/7	Col	BTSA	Cont	Col
Pearl One	06/7	Col	Cross	Urea	
Sam Houston	07/7		Karna	GI	Sa New
Simara Express	07/7	Col	OWSL	Spl Cargo	
				For Somal	
Samudra Samrat	09/7	Mong	SSL	For Bunkering	
Eagle Breeze	07/7	Sing	ULA	Cont	USA Fc Mong
Meng Lec	07/7	Hald	AML	Cont	Sing
Mandalay	08/7	Yang	MTA	Urea	
NGS Ranger	09/7	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Meng Kiat	10/7	Sing	AML	Cont	Cal
Refah	10/7	Niko	Dynamic	M Seeds	
Banglar Moni	09/7	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Optima	10/7		RSL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Maya	09/7	Male	BSC	GI	
Cherry Blossom	09/7		LTL	For Scraping	
Vishva Shobha	10/7	Bomb	SSL	GI/GL	Assab
Mukachevo	10/7		USTC	Cement	
Vishva Parimal	10/7		SSL	GI	
Kabirdas (E/L)	10/7		SSL	E/L	Dundee Harb
Andrian Goncharov	10/7	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Arktis Ocean	12/7		BSL	GI	
Kota Buana	12/7		CTS	Cont	Sing
Boris Lavrenyov	12/7		USTC	GI (Soda Ash)	
Lanka Mahapola	15/7	MGL	RSL	Cont	CMB
Banglar Robi	15/7	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Sound Royal	16/7		BBA	GI	
Petr Starostin	17/7		CT	Cont	Sing
Dancing Sister	19/7	Kand	OWSL	Sugar in Bags	
Golden Union	25/7		OWSL	GL	De Salam

TANKER DUE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo
Akademic Semenov	05/7	Rio	Royal	CDSO
Baltico	08/7	Rije	ECSL	Lube Oil

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Banglar Kallol	Wheat (G)		BSC	R/A (29/6)

VESSELS READY

READY ON

Banglar Kallol	Wheat (G)		BSC	R/A (29/6)
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VESSELS NOT READY

Vishva Mamta	C.Clink	Visa	UMAL	5/7
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VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Chipsam	Cement	Titz	PSAL	14/4
Banglar Sampad	Repair		BSC	R/A (2/7)
Banglar Kiron			BSC	R/A (3/7)
Samudra Rani			SSL	R/A (1/7)
Tony Besi	Cement	Mong	Aeka	27/6
Marine Three			BML	R/A (5/7)

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Stern	Scraping	Mong	NFT	9/4
Pyritheas	Scraping	Sing	ARL	5/6
Parizanskaya Slava	Mop (P)	Athen	BSL	28/6
Dolores			Seacom	R/A (30/6)
Vishva Umang			SSL	R/A (2/7)

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 07.07.93

OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIFTING
J/4 Neos (Salt)	DOJ Banglar Jyoti	
J/8 Trans Asia (GI)	MF/2 Eagle Breeze	
J/12 Eponyma (Cont)	RM-4 A Semanov	
MF/2 D Sumatra (Cont)	J/4 Banglar Sampad	
DOJ Banglar Shourabh		
CUFJ Zara (Urea)		

The above were the Tuesday'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 July 7

Currency	Selling (B.C)			Buying (T.T. [C])		
	US Dollar	Pound Sterling	DM	US Dollar	Pound Sterling	DM
US Dollar	39.9326	60.1764	23.5521	39.7087	59.6619	23.4062
Pound Sterling		6.9617	6.9617		6.9173	6.8732
DM		10.6740	10.6740		10.6142	10.5485
S. Riyal		20.9620	20.9620		20.8335	20.7007
D. Guilders		5.1851	5.1851		5.1527	5.1198
S. Kroner		24.5981	24.5981		24.4602	24.3043
Singapore Dollar		10.9016	10.9016		10.8405	10.7714
UAE Dirham		133.1513	133.1513		132.4047	131.5606
Kuwait Dinar		1.2721	1.2721		1.2664	1.2601
Indian Rupee (AMU)		1.4654	1.4654		1.4591	1.4518
Pak Rupee (AMU)						

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 July 6, 1993

Gloomy trading continues

Gloomy trading on the floor of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) continued on Tuesday.

The DSE Composite Index fell 0.192 point. It slipped to 420.8397 from 421.0325.

Turnover in volume term declined to Taka 1127468.75 from Taka 1641961.50 showing a fall of 31.334 per cent while turnover in value made a little gain of 3.945 per cent. It increased from 12,775 to 13,279.

Losers continued their domination on the floor. A total of 40 stocks were traded on the day. Of these, 11 stocks gained, 16 lost and the rest traded at previous rates.

DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE Share Price Index	420.8397
Market Capitalisation (Tk)	NA
Turnover in Volume	13279
Turnover in Value (Tk)	1127468.75

Company's name	Previous price	Closing price	Change (absolute)	% Change	Number of share
Gains (11)					
Shares :					
Quasem Silk	2.80	3.00	0.20	7.142	800
United Insurance	226.74	230.83	4.09	1.803	60
BGIC	220.94	224.76	3.82	1.728	1040
Eastern Cables	75.00	75.94	0.94	1.253	1085
Wata Chemical	128.00	129.60	1.60	1.250	300
Aziz Pipe	240.00	242.00	2.00	0.833	15
Usmaria Glass	250.00	252.00	2.00	0.800	70
5th ICB M Fund	93.17	93.73	0.56	0.601	390
Peoples Insurance	338.43	340.00	1.57	0.463	100
Monno Ceramic	291.00	292.00	1.00	0.343	10
Howlader PVC	106.00	106.25	0.25	0.235	40

Losses (16)					
Shares :					
Gemini Sea Food	100.00	80.00	20.00	20.000	10
Eagle Box	20.00	18.75	1.25	6.250	400
Dhaka Vegetables	78.75	76.35	2.40	3.047	203
AB Bank	195.00	190.00	5.00	2.564	1245
Bengal Food	121.00	118.21	2.79	2.305	300
Atlas Bangladesh	44.00	43.00	1.00	2.272	200
Saiham Textile	84.79	83.00	1.79	2.111	10
Quasem Drycells	9.70	9.51	0.19	1.958	1600
B Autocars	65.87	65.00	0.87	1.320	100
Tallu Spinning	97.00	96.00	1.00	1.030	10
Karim Pipe	86.00	85.23	0.77	0.895	43
IDLC	225.38	224.00	1.38	0.612	40
Pharma Aids	181.60	181.00	0.60	0.330	20
Apex Tannery	335.41	3			