

US gives one million dollar to flood-hit midwest states

ST LOUIS, Missouri, July 18: The US government handed out million-dollar relief cheques to flood-devastated midwest states on Saturday amid a warning that the flooding, blamed for up to 25 deaths, could continue for several weeks, reports Reuters.

President Bill Clinton made his third tour of the area and talked to governments of the nine affected states at a "flood summit" in a St Louis suburb.

Clinton said he was prepared to offer federal troops to relieve exhausted national guard units who have been working around the clock filling sandbags and providing food and shelter to the thousands who have lost their homes to the swollen Mississippi river.

None of the governors took Clinton up on that, saying they needed financial aid for destroyed crops.

In reply, Labour Secretary Robert Reich announced he had relief cheques for some states that had applied for cash to give flood clean up jobs to the unemployed.

Reich drew murmurs of approval as he handed out cheques of 2.5 million dollar for Iowa, one million dollar for Minnesota and two million dollar Illinois.

"I got the money, why not just pass it out?" Reich said, boasting that their applications were processed in 24 hours, Clinton beamed.

"You're the only guy in my administration with any money," Clinton told Reich, smiling. "How'd you do that?"

But Clinton's budget director, Leon Panetta, had a more sobering message, warning there was no way Washington could foot the entire bill — as high as 9 billion.

"We need to caution the victims of this disaster... There really is no programme that can fully replace the level of damage that has taken place," Panetta said.

Clinton has asked Congress for 2.48 billion dollar in emergency flood aid.

Hot steamy weather strained rescue workers and flood fight-

ers as they piled up sandbags and some volunteer workers collapsed in the heat.

The death toll remained low — between 21 and 25 deaths in a month — in part because of the slow but relentless way the flood waters have risen.

Vice President Al Gore said weather patterns causing the heavy rains and devastating floods could last for "several more weeks."

Gore said sophisticated maps, created with the aid of US military satellites, showed the high waters had created "another great lake" in the region and he had been advised by weather experts the pattern could continue.

On Friday night, the Mississippi river finally swept away an embankment and tonnes of sandbags protecting the Bayview Bridge connecting the states of Illinois and Missouri at Quincy, Illinois, flooding one entrance to the bridge.

Weary volunteers scrambled to safety when the level broke, sucking a barge through the

breach and setting off a brief but raging fire at a flooded petrol station after oil floating on the water ignited.

The closing of the Bayview Bridge left thousands of people who work on one side of the river but live on the other cut off. To get to work now, they would have to drive 100 miles (60 km) north of south, and back on the other side.

"Sure it's disappointing after all this work," said Keith Moser, a sandbag volunteer on the Missouri side of the bridge. "But nature always has its way."

On his flight to St Louis, Clinton telephoned a Quincy radio station to say he was prepared to raise his aid request above 2.48 billion dollar when new damage estimates are made.

"We're not in control of this situation certainly because mother nature is having its way with us, and periodically happens," Clinton said. "But I do believe we're going to see our way through this."

Int'l fertilizer body chief meets Agri Minister

The visiting two-member delegation headed by President of International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) Amitav H. Roy met the Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Major General (ret'd) M Majid-ul-Haque in Dhaka Saturday, reports BSS.

During the meeting, Roy exchanged views with the minister on withdrawal of subsidy on fertilizer in Bangladesh, various aspects of facilities extended to the small and marginal farmers and processing and marketing of agriculture products.

The Agriculture Minister informed the delegation how the small and marginal farmers would be directly benefited by the reduction in price of fertilizer by Taka 625 per ton.

They also exchanged views on limitation of uses of fertilizer for environmental balance and how the industrial waste of fertilizer factory could be reprocessed to avoid its destructive effect on nature.

The IFDC President sought cooperation of the Agriculture Minister for expansion of its programme in this region.



The first of the two DC 10-30 aircraft leased by Biman Bangladesh Airlines arrived at ZIA yesterday. Crew members and engineers of this flight were welcomed by Biman officials on their arrival.

PDB clarifies position on Ctg Power Station at Rauzan

A press release of the Power Development Board (PDB) has clarified its position concerning the probe report 'Move to hand over power plant without proper tests' which was published in The Daily Star in its July 13 issue.

The press release is published below.

The allegation that the 210 MW Chittagong Power Station was originally designed for 200 MW capacity is baseless, says the press release. In fact, the station was designed for 210 MW (Economic Continuous Rating (ECR) and 215 MW (Maximum Continuous Rating (MCR)). So, the allegation that "Bangladesh has to shoulder the excess burden of about Tk 25 cr" on this account does not stand.

That the machine cannot generate 210 MW for more than 15 minutes is also not true. During the current trial operation, the machine generated more than 100 mwh (million kilowatt hour) at different capacities upto a maximum capacity of 215 MW.

It is also not true that CMEC is pressing the PDB to take over the plant without the final operation tests. Both the PDB and

CMEC are adhering to the contract and performing the tests required before the Continuous Operation Test (COT). It is also a fact that though the CMEC is almost ready for COT, some facilities of warehouse, workshop, etc. are not yet fully ready for handing over. CMEC has therefore furnished the undertaking to the effect that they would hand over those to PDB within 90 days from the completion of COT.

The consumption of natural gas, steam etc. is not also in excess of the rated ones. The same has been checked and found normal. In addition, during the performance tests, the said consumption of gas, etc. would be accurately measured with a view to verifying the same with the guaranteed values.

All the portable and mobile fire fighting facilities are also in existence at different locations of the plant. Only the fire hydrant is yet to be put in operation, and the same is under test commission.

It is not correct that the consultant detected more than 575 problems detected by the consultant. The PDB appointed

consultant detected a number of defects/lapses/deficiencies at different stages of erection, testing etc. As a practice, PDB consultant and CMEC sit everyday to discuss the progress of work at different areas of the plant which includes rectification of defects, etc. detected by PDB and Consultant. Most of the defects, etc. have been rectified by CMEC, and the remaining ones are being taken care of by CMEC.

It is not correct that as per design, the chimney's height was supposed to be of 100 metres. The design height of the chimney was 65 metres, and accordingly the same has been constructed.

It may be mentioned here that during the course of erection, installation, start-up, trial operation, etc. of such a big power plant, a number of lapses, defects, etc. are normally detected, and the same are rectified to ensure safe, reliable and economic operation of the plant. Therefore, like all other plants, through rectification/correction of deficiencies, etc. the same has almost reached a satisfactory level of operation.

BATC training programme begins

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan yesterday stressed the need for intensive training, technical and non-technical alike, to ensure a safer operation of the national airline, reports BSS.

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a week-long "indoctrination to aviation physiology" course organised by Flight Safety Department of Biman at Bangladesh Airlines Training Centre (BATC) here Saturday morning.

The minister also emphasised the need for taking cognizance of the environment for safe flying. "Safe flying is the result of a long process of preparedness," he added.

Designed for Biman captains, first officers, flight engineers and cabin crew, the course is being conducted in collaboration with Bangladesh Airforce.

Information technology brings about changes in tourism of Pacific islands

Tourism is a major source of foreign exchange earnings for the Pacific island economies. The beautiful beaches, exotic coral reefs, unpolluted surroundings and scenic overall beauty provide great attraction as tourist resorts.

For some smaller islands, barring fishing and limited agriculture, tourism is virtually the only commercially productive sector and the principal earner of foreign exchange.

The adoption of advanced technology in the tourism sector of the South Pacific is therefore important for improving productivity and increasing its share of the market in this important industry.

With the availability of new technological devices and computerized reservation systems, there have been radical changes in the methods of marketing in the tourist industry, including publicity, transport and accommodation.

Hotellers have installed in-house property management software, which allows them to perform their housekeeping duties more effectively and in a more cost-efficient manner.

Management information systems enable the managers to plan more accurately, and to access statistical information that is of great use in marketing programmes and strategies.

Some systems are beginning to offer "direct" connection to the computerised reservation system on an on-line basis which allows the hotel computer to give an automatic answer to requests for reservations. Such applications of information technology are enabling hotels to make their accommodation available and facilities known to a very large number of travel agents, booking agencies and other clientele on a global basis.

The work and method of operation of outbound tour operators also changed with the introduction of new technology. It was in fact the replacement of the old wall-chart system with a computerised reservation system that enabled the large

operators to grow in Europe, North America and Australia. The improved communications facilities of travel agents enabled them to access the tour operators' on-line computers, giving rise to the emergence of mega tour operators who enjoyed considerable economies of scale.

No tour operator can function today without at least a fax or telex machine. The combination of computer and telecommunications technology in small inexpensive machines is becoming a tool that even the smallest operators will need to employ in order to remain in business in a highly competitive world environment.

With the introduction of computer terminals in travel agencies it has become possible for the individual agents to sell other services which were previously not easily accessible. In-house systems also assist them in processing the information-intensive requirements of the travel industry in a faster way and enable them to spend more time and resources in selling rather than administering.

Thus the use of information technology has allowed a multitude of services relating to travel and tourism to be accessed by thousands of travel agents and airline offices, making it difficult for those who do not use such technology to compete.

The association of South Pacific Airlines (ASPA) was contemplating a number of options available for connections and interconnections of the member airlines' product with mega airlines' systems.

It is apparent from the foregoing that the widespread use of information technology is of crucial importance in maximising revenue and foreign exchange earnings in a competitive atmosphere.

In the South Pacific a significant start has been made and the process is expected to gain momentum in the years to come.

— ESCAP Survey, 1992.

India may be a major milk producer by 2000

BANGALORE, July 18: India was expected to be the largest milk producing country in the world by 2000 AD, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) chairman Dr V Kurien said on Saturday, reports PTI.

Addressing the two-day conference of the south zone ministers of animal husbandry and dairying here, he said foreign exchange to the tune of Rs 1700 crore had been saved by farmers who had helped the country attain satisfactory level of milk production.

On some of the resolutions taken by the delegates here yesterday, Dr Kurien said due to government's liberalised policies milk federations were free to export their produce. He hoped they would find suitable market as the country was emerging as a major player in the international dairy scene.

Dr Kurien asked milk federations to come up with viable projects and justify their demand for funds from the NDDB. The NDDB had extended term loans to many for starting new projects. He called upon the federations to evolve an efficient market system and take steps to dispense with the stock on time, in the wake of milk glut in many parts of the country.

The Anand Milk Federation in Gujarat had been successful because the union was all governed by farmers and not by government, he said adding if the dairy sector had to develop it ought to be run on cooperative lines.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Birth position and performance of vessels as on 18/07/1993

| Berth No. | Name of vessels | Cargo | Local agent | Date of arrival | Leaving |
|-----------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| J/2 | Arktis ocean | GI (Copro) | Sing | BSL | 13/7 19/7 |
| J/3 | Neptune Iris | Pulses | Sing | MSA | 11/7 21/7 |
| J/6 | Al Salma | Repair | ASLL | R/A | 25/7 |
| J/7 | Pearl One | Urea | Rang | Cross | 6/7 19/7 |
| J/8 | Sam Hac | Urea | Hong | PSAL | 27/6 22/7 |
| J/9 | Banglar Sampad | Repair | BSC | R/A | 20/7 |
| J/11 | Portatissa | Urea | UMAL | R/A | 18/7 |
| J/12 | Banglar Maya | GI/Gl | Male | BSC | 12/7 21/7 |
| MPB/1 | Lanka Mahapola | Cont | Sing | Baridhi | 17/7 18/7 |
| MPB/2 | Eponyma | Cont | Sing | CTS | 17/7 20/7 |
| CGJ | Vishva Mamta (Ebb)Clink | Visa | UMAL | 5/7 | 20/7 |
| GSJ | Banglar Kiron | Repair | BSC | R/A | 21/7 |
| TSP | Orsha (p.c.stop by the court) | Idle | Sing | USTC | 6/5 20/7 |
| RM/4 | Efstratio-g (Attach-19/6) Idle | Ant | BSL | 20/5 | 20/7 |
| RM/6 | Ronjaj Choomic | Cement | Sing | USTC | 2/6 18/7 |
| DDJ | Banglar Jyoti | C Oil | BSC | R/A | 18/7 |
| DDJ | Banglar Kallol | Repair | BSC | R/A | 26/7 |
| DDJ/1 | Barge Labroy-90 | GI | Sing | ILA | 31/1 7/8 |
| DDJ/2 | Banglar Asha (Ebb) | Repair | BSC | R/A | 25/7 |
| CUFJ | Mandalay | Urea | Yang | MTA | 9/7 18/7 |

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

| Name of vessels | Date of arrival | Last port call | Local agent | Cargo | Loading port |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Apple Blossom | 18.7.93 | Mong | LTL | For scraping | |
| Fong Shin | 19.7.93 | Sing | BDSHP | Cont | Sing |
| Danching Sister | 30.7.93 | Kand | OWSL | Sugar In bags | |
| Fair Spirit | 20.7.93 | Sing | Prog | GI | |
| NGS Express | 19.7.93 | Sing | BDSHP | Cont | Sing |
| Tiger Hope | 20.7.93 | K.Siang | Prog | GI | |
| Sound Royal | 20.7.93 | Cal | IBA | GI | |
| Mukachevo | 20.7.93 | Sing | USTC | Cement | |
| Vishva Parimal | 20.7.93 | Mong | SSL | GI/GL | UKC |
| Rafah | 22.7.93 | Niko | Dynamic | M. Seeds | |
| Manglan | 21.7.93 | Larsh | OTL | Cement | |
| Ingenuity | 20.7.93 | Col | BTSA | Cont | Col |
| Imke Wehr | 21.7.93 | | ULA | Cont | |
| Meng Lee | 22.7.93 | Sing | AML | Cont | Sing, USA |
| Optima | 22.7.93 | Sing | RSL | Cont | Sing |
| Banglar Moni | 23.7.93 | Sing | BSC | Cont | Sing |
| Pecan | 24.7.93 | Mong | OWSL | GI | S.E.Salam |
| Boris Lavrenyov | 25.7.93 | | USTC | GH.Soda | |
| Robert-e-Lee | 25.7.93 | | Karna | GI | S. New York |
| NGS Ranger | 25.7.93 | Sing | BDSHP | Cont | Sing |
| Fong Yun | 29.7.93 | Sing | BDSHP | Cont | Sing |
| Sea Nymph | 30.7.93 | | USTC | Cement | |
| Meng Kiat | 30.7.93 | | AML | Cont | Sing |

TANKER DUE

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---------|------|------|----------|--------|
| Esso Bayonne | 19.7.93 | Sing | MSPL | Sko/JP-1 | (RM/6) |
|--------------|---------|------|------|----------|--------|

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

| Name of vessels | Cargo | Last port call | Local agent | Date of arrival |
|-----------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | | | | |

VESSELS READY

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------|------|----|------|
| Petr Starosting | Cont | Sing | CI | 18/7 |
|-----------------|------|------|----|------|

VESSELS NOT READY

| | | | | | |
|---------|------|--------|-------|------|------|
| Chipsam | 20/7 | Sement | Titiz | USTC | 14/4 |
|---------|------|--------|-------|------|------|

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

| | | | | |
|------------------|--------|------|-------|------------|
| Tony Best | Cement | Mong | AEKA | 27/6 |
| Marine Three | | | BML | R/A (5/7) |
| Trans Asia | | | Cross | R/A (7/7) |
| Banglar Shourabh | | | BSC | R/A (14/7) |
| Agra | | | PSAL | R/A (16/7) |

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|-------|--------|------------|
| Stern (Attach: 15.7.93) | Scraping | Mong | NET | 9/4 |
| Promitheas | Scraping | Sing | ARL | 5/6 |
| Dolores | | | Seacom | R/A (30/6) |
| Cherry Blossom | Scraping | Slova | LTL | 9/7 |
| M.T. Helen | Scraping | Khar | ARL | 15/7 |

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 19/7/1993

| Outgoing | Incoming | Shifting |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| J/2 Arktis Ocean | J/13 Fong Shin (Cont) | |
| J/3 Neptune Iris | RM-6 | Esso |
| Bayonne | | |
| J/7 Pearl One | | |
| DLJ. B. Jyoti | | |

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.

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 18.

(Figures in Taka)

| Currency | Selling B.C | T. T. (C) | Buying OD Transfers |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------|
| US Dollar | 39.8826 | 39.6587 | 39.4059 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 59.1856 | 58.8735 | 58.5182 |
| D.M | 23.0869 | 22.9440 | 22.7977 |
| FF | 6.7799 | 6.7395 | 6.6965 |
| S Riyal | 10.6354 | 10.5756 | 10.5082 |
| D. Outiders | 20.6646 | 20.5485 | 20.4176 |
| S. Kroner | 5.0025 | 4.9682 | 4.9365 |
| Singapore Dollar | 24.6295 | 24.4761 | 24.3201 |
| UAE Dirham | 10.8592 | 10.7971 | 10.7282 |
| Kuwait Dinar | 132.3245 | 131.4072 | 130.5696 |
| Indian Rupee (AMU) | 1.2721 | 1.2664 | 1.2601 |
| Pak Rupee (AMU) | 1.4141 | 1.4077 | 1.4007 |

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

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Unit.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on July 18, 1993

Volume registers sharp rise

Turnover in volume made a sharp rise with 71.764 per cent. It reached 10,950 issues from 6,375. Turnover in value also made a gain, through smaller than volume of 22.618 per cent. It rose to Taka 830,107.50 from Taka 676,983.75.

On Sunday, the second day of the week, losers dominated the floor of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

A total of 25 stocks traded against Saturday's 38. Of these six gained, eleven lost while eight others traded at previous rates.

The DSE Composite Index decreased slightly. It fell to 417.2194 from 417.8284.

DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

| DSE Share Price Index | 417.2194 |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Market Capitalisation (Tk) | NA |
| Turnover in Volume | 10950.00 |
| Turnover in Value (Tk) | 830107.50 |

| Company's Name | Previous Price Tk | Closing Price Tk | Change (absolute) Tk | Change (% over of shares price) | Number sold |
|---|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Gains (06) | | | | | |
| Shares: | | | | | |
| AB Bank | 192.00 | 197.00 | 5.00 | 2.604 | 20 |
| The Ibsnina | 99.50 | 101.00 | 1.50 | 1.507 | 20 |
| Shaham Textile | 82.00 | 89.00 | 7.00 | 8.537 | 40 |
| Rahim Textile | 96.00 | 97.00 | 1.00 | 1.041 | 15 |
| Usmania Glass | 251.00 | 252.00 | 1.00 | 0.398 | 18 |
| Howlader PVC | 106.00 | 106.13 | 0.13 | 0.122 | 60 |
| Losses (11) | | | | | |
| Shares: | | | | | |
| Beximco Infusion | 235.00 | 230.00 | -5.00 | -2.127 | 10 |
| Bata Shoe | 37.50 | 36.79 | -0.71 | -1.893 | 420 |
| Eagle Star | 14.80 | 14.52 | -0.28 | -1.891 | 650 |
| Apex Footwear | 178.39 | 175.80 | -2.59 | -1.451 | 2840 |
| Dulamia Cotton | 76.00 | 75.00 | -1.00 | -1.315 | 50 |
| IDLC | 220.00 | 218.00 | -2.00 | -0.909 | 100 |
| Padma Textile | 165.00 | 162.00 | -3.00 | -1.818 | 20 |
| Chittagong Cement | 207.69 | 206.00 | -1.69 | -0.813 | 80 |
| Singer Bangladesh | 910.00 | 905.00 | -5.00 | -0.549 | 10 |
| Eastern Cables | 77.25 | 77.00 | -0.25 | -0.323 | 205 |
| BGIC | 207.86 | 207.69 | -0.17 | -0.081 | 320 |
| Traded at previous rates (08) | | | | | |
| Shares: National Bank (15), 6th ICB Mutual Fund (200), Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills Ltd. (850), Ashraf Textile Mills Ltd. (800), Tamjuddin Textile Mills Ltd. (20), Wata Chemical (40), Egale Box & Carton Mfg. Co. Ltd. (3900) and Bangladesh Oxygen Limited (250). | | | | | |

DSE SHARES AND DEBENTURES

| Company | FV/ML (Taka) | Closing Rate (Taka) |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| BANKS (12) | | |
| Al Baraka Bank | 1000/1 | 900.00 |
| A.B. Bank | 100/5 | 197.00 |
| City Bank | 100/5 | 330.00 |
| Eastern Bank | 100/20 | 110.00 |
| IDLC Ltd | 100/20 | 218.00 |
| IFIC | 100/5 | 180.00 |
| Islami Bank | 1000/1 | 1500.00 |
| National Bank | 100/5 | 100.00 |
| Pubali Bank | 100/5 | 100.00 |
| Rupali Bank | 100/10 | 68.00 |
| U.C.B.L | 100/5 | 88.00 |
| Uttara Bank | 100/5 | 96.00 |
| INVESTMENT (06) | | |
| ICB | 100/5 | 100.00 |
| 1st ICB M. Fund | 100/5 | 370.00 |
| 2nd ICB Fund | 100/5 | 177.00 |
| 3rd ICB M. Fund | 100/5 | 150.00 |
| 4th ICB M. Fund | 100/10 | 152.00 |
| 5th ICB M. Fund | 100/10 | 94.00 |
| 6th ICB M. Fund | 100/10 | 60.00 |
| ICB Unit Cert. | | |
| Sales Price | | de |
| Re-purchase | | de |
| INSURANCE (04) | | |
| BGIC | 100/10 | 207.69 |
| Green Delta | 100/10 | 211.80 |
| People's | 100/10 | 330.00 |
| United | 100/10 | 213.00 |
| ENGINEERING (19) | | |
| Atab Automobiles | 100/5 | 178.00 |
| Atlas Bangladesh | 10/50 | 42.50 |
| Aziz Pipes | 100/5 | 255.83 |
| Bangladesh Autocare | 100/5 | 62.00 |
| Bangladesh Lampco | 100/5 | 297.26 |
| B. The Aluminium | 100/10 | 88.00 |
| Bengal Carbide | 100/5 | 251.00 |
| Bengal Steel | 10/50 | 20.00 |
| Eastern Cables | 100/5 | 77.00 |
| Howlader PVC | 100/10 | 106.13 |
| Kartim Pipe | 100/5 | 84.00 |
| Metalax Corp. | 100/5 | 36.00 |
| Morgo Stafflers | 100/5 | 165.00 |
| Monno Jute | 100/5 | 300.00 |
| National Tubes | 100/10 | 65.00 |
| Panther Steel | 10/ | |