

### Dhaka-Paris financial protocol signed

A financial protocol has been signed in Paris between Bangladesh and France, on August 10, an official press release said Sunday, reports BSS.

Under this protocol Bangladesh will receive an amount of French franc 72.3 million as grants for procurement of goods and services from France for implementation of different projects.

The projects are delivery of two switching exchanges and of additional equipment in Chittagong, rural multi-channel radio links network, automatic message switching system and instrumental landing system for Zia International Airport, equipment for the National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease in Dhaka, rural electric with solar power generators and geophysical equipment.

Md Sirajul Islam, Joint Secretary, ERD and Ludovic de Montille, Joint Director in Charge of bilateral affairs of the French treasury department, Ministry of finance, signed the protocol on behalf of their respective governments.

### World Population Congress looks at dangers of economic growth

The first World Optimum Population Congress this week regarded the 'continued emphasis on economic growth' as a major concern, says a press release.

'In other words,' Stephen Kinzett, a Demographer at Cardiff University in Wales and a congress organiser, said Thursday, 'people with vested interests in seeing population growth — for expansion of their own markets — usually dictate any policy on population.'

The conference, which heard a variety of papers from academics at Trinity College, Cambridge University, came at a time of mounting concern over the problems of population, expected to increase by a record 98 million a year this decade.

'So much emphasis seems to be placed on the responsibilities of developing countries to control their populations,' said Dr Kinzett, 'whereas in the more developed countries, such as Britain, where we use many more resources per head, we have a problem as well.'

My preference for Britain would be a population between 25 and 30 million. A population of 56 million is only sustainable if we persist in unbalanced trade and consumption patterns in our dealings with the rest of the world,' he added.

Professor Aubrey Manning from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, thought Britain's optimum population should be 25-28 million: 'such a Britain would be a much more comfortable place, with more opportunity for people to express their talents.'

The congress, which attracted experts from North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, China, India and Australia, generally agreed that population growth posed grave dangers to human welfare.

The delegates agreed that, to enable the poorer majority of mankind to achieve a standard of living approaching the average in the developed countries without accelerating environmental damage, the world's population would have to be reduced to about a quarter of its present size.

Delhi won't widen market to foreign insurance cos

NEW DELHI, Aug 15: The Indian government has no immediate plans to open up the country to foreign insurance companies, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh told parliament, reports AFP.

The United States has demanded that India open up its huge market to foreign insurers, saying absence of such access amounted to an unfair trade practice.

It is also one of the conditions set by former GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel's compromise plan to save the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Singh, replying to questions by opposition MPs, said the government was not considering any proposal to allow in foreign insurance firms.

An expert committee studying insurance sector reforms is 'going into all these aspects' and it was premature for the government to comment on it before it submitted its findings, he said.

He said he personally felt that government-owned insurance firms such as the Life Insurance Corp. and General Insurance Corp. would be able to handle competition from foreign companies.

Pressed by opposition members for a categorical assurance that foreign insurers would not be allowed to enter India, the minister said.

## Farming of local varieties of paddy declining in Barguna

BARGUNA, Aug 15: The cultivation of local varieties of paddy is decreasing in Barguna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Bhola, Jhalakathi and Barisal districts, reports UNB.

The farmers of the districts previously grew different local varieties of paddy namely Panisical, Binipakri, Khirshahog, Kalijira, Dudkumar, Dhyapa, Uknimda, Sattia, Poraugi, white Aus and Kalamanic on their land.

These varieties grew abundantly. After the harvest of the varieties of paddy, the farmers used to procure sufficient straws which were used as fodder and there was no scarcity of fodder then.

Owing to the sharp fall in the cultivation of local varieties of paddy, many problems have now developed including scarcity of fodder.

The production cost of Irri-boro is increasing day by day with the increased price of agricultural inputs. Farmers alleged that the price of the agr-inputs have now gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the peasants.

Some farmers of Barguna, Sadar thana told UNB that the local varieties of paddy could be cultivated without using fertilizers and irrigation facilities. Moreover, the production cost is also very low. But the cultivation of Irri-boro was impossible without using fertilizers and irrigation facilities.

The per-acre production cost of Irri-boro is very high and many farmers of the region unable to spend such an amount, have now run into debts.

Other crops cannot be cultivated after harvesting Irri-boro and as a result the cultivation of these varieties of paddy have become less profitable.

Before the introduction of Irri-boro, the farmers could produce three crops in a year.

Irri-boro is now cultivated in large scale in Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi and Barisal districts but the authorities have taken no steps to operate power-pumps in order to minimise the production cost of the paddy.

Besides, the local varieties of paddy are more nutritious than Irri-boro, local experts said.

## Mugabe threatens to seize white-owned farmland

HARARE, Aug 15: President Robert Mugabe warned Friday his government would seize white-owned commercial farmland without compensation if the West exerts economic pressure on Zimbabwe, the domestic Zianna news agency reported, says AFP.

Mugabe Wednesday accused some western diplomats of trying to pressure Zimbabwe to drop a controversial land nationalisation plan in exchange for their governments' support for economic reforms which badly need foreign investment and financial aid.

The President, speaking in rural Murombedzi west of here, accused Zimbabwe's 4,000 white commercial farmers, who owned about 30 per cent of the

prime land, of secretly soliciting support from, among others, the Harare embassies of Canada, Britain and the United States, for their governments to press for the land reform plan to be scrapped.

Under the land acquisition act, the government intends to nationalise five million hectare (12.5 million acre) of mainly white-owned land to resettle some 162,000 landless blacks.

The western governments, 'motivated by racial prejudice,' had now said they would review their economic support to Zimbabwe because of the land issue, Mugabe told a gathering of hundreds of villagers.

The president's remarks come only two days after he described as 'racial bigots' some western diplomats for their support of the country's white commercial farmers.

Last week the Canadian government cancelled an investment promotion trip by Zimbabwe's Industry Minister Chris Ushewokunze after the Canadian High Commissioner in Harare, Charles Bassett, said businessmen from his country were uncertain about investing in Zimbabwe because of its policy.

If it were to choose between western aid and investment and the land, his government would choose the land, Mugabe said.

He urged Zimbabweans to stand firm and unite on the issue and not to blame the government if economic aid from the West were lost as a result.

## 'NAFTA still not a reality'

MEXICO CITY, Aug 15: President Carlos Salinas de Gortari basked in TV spotlights and applause as he announced side accords to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that sent the Mexican stock exchange soaring, reports AP.

But the triumphant speeches and congratulations in all three capitals following agreement on parallel accords Friday overshadowed one simple fact: NAFTA is still not a reality.

The side agreements on labour, environmental issues and ways to prevent sudden import surges, came after a week of high drama, when a reported impasse threatened to scuttle the pact.

If approved by legislators in all three nations, NAFTA would create the world's largest free trade zone, removing virtually all barriers to goods, services and investment beginning January 1.

Boosters say NAFTA will bring prosperity to all three countries. But Mexico, which is depending on the pact to bring its economy to a first-world level, has the most to lose should it fail.

NAFTA has been passed by the Canadian parliament, and passage in Mexico is assured. But the real fight is in Washington, where the pact faces a number of obstacles and could still be defeated by Congress.

To protect US jobs and under pressure from labour and environmental groups, Clinton demanded tough side agreements before he sent the pact to Congress.

Salinas has made NAFTA the centerpiece of the sweeping economic reforms carried out since he took office in 1988. The

president has assured investors that the economy is solid without the pact, free trade's failure will hurt, experts say.

'Over the short term, some investors will be scared away,' Sarmiento said. 'In the long term, our trade will suffer, and we will have trouble getting our products into the US.'

That could slow the economy, says Mauro Leos of the Center for Economic Investigation of Mexico, CIEMEX-WEFA.

Last year Mexican GDP grew by 2.6 per cent. With NAFTA, the center projects the economy will grow by 3.8 per cent in 1994.

Without NAFTA, the center sees 1.9 per cent growth in 1994. Inflation, wrestled from 51.7 per cent in 1988 to 11.9 per cent last year, could rebound along with interest rates, Leos said.

### OPINION

## ASEAN members burdened with external debt

By A Special Correspondent

Two generally informative articles by a former Deputy Prime Minister, Jamal Uddin Ahmed on investments in ASEAN, published in *The Daily Star* on August 8 and 9, have been read by many of us with interest. However, one major piece of misinformation has marred the study of your learned contributor, making me wonder about the accuracy of his other information. We sincerely hope that he has checked them carefully, at least for his own reputation and that of *The Daily Star*.

The misinformation in question appears in the early part of the first article. Speaking on the success of ASEAN, Ahmed says, 'How was it possible for countries of ASEAN to achieve such a spectacular industrial transformation when barely a decade ago when all these countries' economies, except that of Singapore, were largely commodity based? The other marvel of the accomplishment is that this was achieved without having to run up huge external debts. (Italics mine).

Here, your contributor has got his facts wrong.

According to the latest report of the Asian Development Bank, published in 1993, contained in the AD Outlook, outstanding external debts run up — and accumulated — by major ASEAN countries are as follows:

Indonesia - 92 billion US dollars; The Philippines - 33 billion dollars; Thailand - 45 billion dollars and Malaysia - 15 billion dollars.

With these outstanding external debts, these countries do figure prominently on the list of debtor nations in the developing world. The rate of repayment of these debts is another matter. Here, the Philippines remains in a crisis situation. Indonesia is far from being in a comfortable position. Again, much of the external debts run up by Thailand are from commercial sources, which probably carry much higher interest than charged by aid agencies or donor nations.

We should not be too unhappy with what is happening in some South Asian countries in the same field. The size of the external debt run up by India now stands at 81 billion dollars, by Pakistan at 28 billion dollars and, finally, by Bangladesh at 16 billion dollars. (The source: the ADB Report).

We have developed a kind of euphoria about the economic success of the ASEAN countries, which is reflected in the two articles of Ahmed. Much of the praise showered on these countries is certainly justified. However, we must put the picture in the correct perspective.

For one thing, the success achieved by indi-

### ASEAN members burdened with external debt

vidual ASEAN countries is more due to their individual economic planning than to the grouping's regional ventures. Thus, Malaysia has scored such a success with the diversification of its export trade, — the development of palm oil and electronic industry being two examples — Singapore has moved ahead with its industrialisation projects, Indonesia went for massive investments from Japan and Thailand found that it could offer almost any project for joint ventures. It is just as questionable as the massive equity foreign participation in Singapore economy, which is said to have reached over 75 per cent of the total.

The grey area in the ASEAN, which the former Deputy Prime Minister should look at carefully, relates to regional co-operation. Right through the decade of the Eighties, the grouping remained involved in political issues, especially in Cambodia, and now it has started looking at the defence of the area in the post-Cold War era. But it has rightly taken a firm stand against trade protectionism.

However, any of us are far from sure if the ASEAN has promoted joint industrial ventures among its member nations, which the grouping's summit talked about in the Seventies and even prepared some tentative blueprints. Malaysia has set up what looks like a successful automobile plant — this was supposed to be a joint ASEAN venture, with member countries manufacturing different parts — while Indonesia has gone ahead building up its aviation industry which has considerable export potential. May be some progress is being made in the petro-chemical sector on a regional basis.

There is also disappointment among ASEAN experts over the growth of intra-regional trade among the members of the grouping. In the Seventies, there was a good deal of thinking about setting up a payments union. With the Philippines peso still fighting to gain some stability, no one talks about this project. The sad thing is, instead of stepping up trade among themselves, the ASEAN countries are competing among themselves to capture new markets for themselves in China, Vietnam, Laos, the Pacific Islands and central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union. Here, the opportunity of mounting a joint ASEAN plan of action has gone by default.

An expert like Ahmed is right in calling upon South Asia to learn from the experience of the ASEAN. My plea is simply this: Let our study of what is undoubtedly a successful regional venture be as balanced — and factual — as possible.

## Cuba allows dollar, other foreign currencies

HAVANA, Aug 15: The dollar and other foreign currency can now be used to buy goods and services in government establishments, the state-owned newspaper Granma reported Saturday, says AFP.

Granma said the state council issued the changes to Cuban law that had previously allowed only diplomats and foreigners to use foreign currency to buy goods through an network of state-owned businesses.

Cuba's central bank said the government will now accept the US and Canadian dollar, the German mark, the French franc, the Spanish peseta and the pound sterling.

The central bank also announced that Cubans could now receive and exchange foreign currency.

The measures were part of a decree signed Friday by President Fidel Castro and were designed to pump more foreign currency through Cuba and to present the impoverished Caribbean nation as more open to outside investment.

Even though the decree was not signed until Friday,

the dollar and other foreign currency can now be used to buy goods and services in government establishments, the state-owned newspaper Granma reported Saturday, says AFP.

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## Shipping Intelligence

### CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 15.08.93

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Nand Srihti	Pulses/ Wheat	AUST	MSA	01/8	17/8
J/2	Banglar Doot	TSP	SFAX	SSST	07/8	16/8
J/4	Danching Stater	Sugar	Kand	OWSL	03/8	7/8
J/5	Kamaleverett	Gl	Sing	EBPL	07/8	17/8
J/6	Vishva Mamata	Salt	Tuti	UMAL	09/8	16/8
J/7	Chippam	Urea	Titiz	PSAL	14/4	18/8
J/8	Vila Moomam	Urea	Pena	B Bay	10/8	17/8
J/9	Meng Kiat	Cont	Cal	AML	14/8	15/8
J/10	Banglar Kiron	Repair		BSC	R/A	16/8
J/11	Nezabudki	Salt	Tuti	MSPJ	13/8	17/8
J/12	Lanka Mahapola	Cont	Mong	Baridhi	14/8	16/8
J/13	Banglar Robi	Cont	Sing	BSC	14/8	
MPB/1	Andrian					
	Goncharov Cont	Sing	CT		13/8	16/8
MPB/2	Banglar Kallol	Cont	Mong	BSC	13/8	16/8
CCJ	Banglar Baani	C Clink	Viah	BSC	08/8	25/8
GSJ	Dolores			Seacom	R/A	18/8
RM/6	Al Dhabyah	HSD/JP-1	Sing	MSPJ	12/8	16/8
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	C Oil		BSC	R/A	15/8
DD	Marine Three	Repair		BML	R/A	18/8
DDJ/2	Banglar Asha	Repair		BSC	R/A	20/8
CLFJ	Lily	Urea	Mong	Seacom	05/8	16/8

### VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Last Port Arrival	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Sea Rhapsody	15.8.93	Yang	PSAL	-
Kuldiga	15.8.93			
I Yamburenko	16.8.93	Sing	CT	Cont Sing
Ingenuity	16.8.93	Col	BTSA	Cont Col
Chrysanthi	17.8.93		USTC	
Withdrawn	17.8.93		SSL	Dundee UK
Maro	17.8.93	Kand	MSPJ	Salt in Bag Cont Sing
NGS Express	17.8.93	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont Sing
Mun Su Bong	17.8.93		Prog	GI/M Seeds & R Seeds Indo USA Fe
Menado	18.8.93		AML	GI (Copro) Cont
Imke Wehr	18.8.93	Sing	ULA	Cont
Regine	18.8.93		Prog	P.Equip & Mater Cont Col
Tiger Noice	18.8.93	Sing	RSL	Cont Col
Meng Lee	19.8.93	Sing	AML	Cont
Rafah	20.8.93	Niko	Dynamic	M Seeds Cont
Al Swamruz	20.8.93		ASL	GI/GL Cont Sing
State of Nagaland	20.8.93		SSL	GI Cont Sing
Optima	20.8.93		RSL	Cont Sing
Banglar Monti	20.8.93	Sing	BSC	Cont Sing
Mandaly	20.8.93	Yang	MTA	Cont Sing
Fong Yun	21.8.93	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont Sing
Qing He Cheng	22.8.93	S Hai	BDSHIP	GI Cont
Karabeverett	22.8.93		EBPL	GI Cont
Boris Lavrentyov	22.8.93	Pena	USTC	GI Cont Sing
Kota Buana	22.8.93		RSL	Cont Sing
Amrta Jaya	23.8.93		BBA	GI Cont
Aspasia I	25.8.93		Lutfal	P Equip Cont Sing
Fong Shin	27.8.93	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont Sing

### TANKER DUE

Name of Vessels	Date of Last Port Arrival	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Ashkhabad	20.8.93		Seacom	CDSO
Leontas	23.8.93		BSL	

### VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Obo Abant	C Oil	Rast	DSLL	11/8
Banglar Shourabh	C Oil		BSC	R/A

### VESSELS READY

Ready on

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Eponyma	Cont	Sing	CTS	14/8
Cattleya	GI	Hong	Prog	15/8
NGS Ranger	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	13/8
Mukachevo	Urea	Mong	RRSA	15/8

### VESSELS NOT READY

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Sea Nymph	Cemnt	Sing	USTC	02/8
Tanary Star	Cemnt	Sing	PSAL	14/8

### VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Banglar Sampad			BSC	R/A
Tony Best	Cemnt	Mong	Aeka	27/6
Golden Star			BML	R/A

### MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 16/08/93

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/2 Banglar Doot	J/6 Sea Rapsody	
J/8 Vishva Mamata	CUFJ Golden Star	
J/10 A. Goncharov	A/FR Tony Best	
J/12 Lanka Mahapola	DOJ Banglar Jyoti	
RM-6 Al Dhabyah		
DDJ Banglar Shourabh		
CUFJ Lily		

### Exchange Rates

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.

The followings are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates (Bangladesh taka for one unit of foreign currency) to public for some selected foreign currencies effective on Aug 15. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B.C.	T. T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	40.0400	39.7050	39.4615
Pound Sterling	58.4170	57.9502	57.6155
DM	23.3878	23.1854	23.0432
FF	6.6127	6.5493	6.5091
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2737	1.2680	1.2617
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3352	1.3292	1.3226

Indicative Rates

Currency	Selling B.C.	T. T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
S Riyal	10.6907		10.5481
D Ouliders	20.7443		20.4570
S. Kroner	4.8922		4.8240
Singapore Dollar	24.8617		24.5300
UAE Dirham	10.9186		10.7730
Kuwait Dinar	133.4513		131.6712

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

## Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on August 14, 1993

### Gloomy mood continues

Trading on the floor of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) continued gloomy mood on Saturday, opening day of the week.

Both the turnovers fell. Volume declined to 6508 issues from 9387 showing a loss of 30.670 per cent while value dropped to Taka 657155.00 from Taka 746571.00, a fall of 11.976 per cent.

The DSE All Share Price Index also suffered a loss of 0.497 point. It fell to 417.1217 from 417.6139.

Number of stocks transacted increased to 41 from Thursday's 29 but losers continued domination on the floor.

The losers outnumbered gainers by 16 to 10 while 15 others traded at previous rates.

### DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE Share Price Index	417.1217
Market Capitalisation	(Tk) 15661393104.50
Turnover in volume	6508
Turnover in Value (Tk)	657155

Company's name	Previous Price Tk	Closing Price Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change (% over price)	Number shares sold
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### Gains (10)

Shares:	Previous Price	Closing Price	Change (absolute)	Change (% over price)	Number shares sold
BGIC	210.28	210.64	0.36	0.171	250
Monno Staffers	185.00	190.00	5.00	2.702	10
Monno Jute	315.00	325.00	10.00	3.174	5
Bengal Food	115.00	117.00	2.00	1.739	5
Dhaka Vegetables	66.00	68.00	2.00	3.030	125
Beximco Infusion	239.94	240.00	0.06	0.025	200
Rahman Chemical	31.50	32.00	0.50	1.587	10
Eagle Box	22.50	23.00	0.50	2.222	50
Apex Tannery	333.56	335.00	1.44	0.431	60

### Losses (16)

Shares:	Previous Price	Closing Price	Change (absolute)	Change (% over price)	Number shares sold
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