

BKB to disburse Tk 660 cr as agricultural credit to farmers

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has set a target of disbursing Taka 660 crore as agricultural credit to support various farm activities and agro-based industries in the current fiscal year.

Bank sources told UNB the loan would be disbursed to the farmers of Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Khulna divisions at varied interest rates — 14 per cent on agri-credit and 10 per cent on shrimp, leather and textiles export credits. In Rajshahi, there is a separate bank styled Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank for dealing with farm loans.

To expedite and enhance disbursement of bank loan, officials said, BKB has taken up some steps in the current fiscal. As per the measures, now BKB will disburse crop loan once a year instead of three to four times as of earlier. The new system will save time and end harassment of farmers, they hoped.

It has extended acreage limit of credit from 2.5 acres of land to five acres which will correspondingly increase quantum of loan. Now any bank in any union can disburse loan after getting NOC.

The government has also re-fixed interest rates and mode with effect from this year for reducing the accumulated interest burden on the loanees. Now interest on agri-credit will be simple instead of earlier compound rate. Moreover, those who will repay loan in due time will be exempted from the two per cent interest as incentive.

The borrowers whose loans upto Taka 5,000 were waived will be entitled to fresh credits. BKB's 222 branches in Dhaka, 306 in Chittagong, 191 in Barisal and 141 in Khulna division will distribute the allocated agri-loans among the interested farmers and borrowers during the fiscal year (1993-94).

The sources said taka 174.25 crore would be distributed in Dhaka division, taka 255.94 crore in Chittagong division (headquartered in Comilla), taka 86.30 crore in Barisal and taka 68.51 crore in Khulna division.

They further said Taka 75 crore would be distributed by the Local Principal Office (LPO), Dhaka, of the bank.

According to credit programme, BKB has allocated Tk 475.46 crore as short-term and Taka 183.34 crore as medium-

term loan for distribution in rural and urban areas of Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions.

Short-term loan is disbursed in crop season for 18 months, medium-term for 18 months to five years and long-term for a period ranging over five years.

BKB distributed Taka 463.42 crore against the target of taka 601.41 crore in the last (1992-93) fiscal. Recovery was Taka 536.28 crore against the target of taka 850 crore in the same fiscal. The total outstanding credit amounted to taka 2599.86 crore.

The sources said loans would be distributed in 14 sub-sectors on priority basis — crop production, tea production, draft animal/plough cattle, poultry, goatery, duckery etc, irrigation tools, fishery and aquaculture, tea development, rubber plantation, potato preservation, 'swanirvar' and poverty alleviation, marketing and working capital, export credit, small and cottage industries, agro-based projects and other activities.

Officials at the state-run bank said being a development financial institution, especially engaged in boosting production

in agriculture sector, BKB is also financing growth of agro-based industry.

The bank has so far financed as many as 1395 agro-industries involving a total credit quantum of taka 188.50 crore including taka 262.09 crore outstanding at present. It is 10 per cent of the total outstanding loan of Taka 2599.86 crore, they said.

According to the sources, BKB covered 61 per cent of the total quantum of agricultural loan disbursed so far by different lending institutions in the last fiscal year.

Natural calamities, absence of document and sudden political announcement waiving interest and principal were termed by the bank officials as the main reasons for non-fulfillment of agri-loan disbursement and recovery targets.

To improve the lending situation, they suggested introduction of 'supervised credit system', simplification of loaning procedures for easy and prompt credit delivery, development of man power through continuous training to improve professional skill, bankers' positive attitude and human relations.

Workers urged to increase output

KHULNA, Aug 28: Industries Secretary AHM Abdul Hal called upon the workers, employees and officials of Khulna Newsprint Mills and Khulna Hardboard Mills at town Khulshpur Wednesday to increase production and reduce overhead expenses for earning profit, reports BSS.

The industries secretary was exchanging views with the workers and employees at a meeting held at the mills premises. He said that sincere work and efficient management were key to earn profit in industries.

It may be mentioned here that the Newsprint Mills annual production capacity is forty eight thousand metric ton. But it exceeded its target for production last year. The Newsprint Mills produced forty nine thousand one hundred and one metric tons.

During the current financial year the production target has been fixed at forty nine thousand tons and it is expected that the target might be exceeded.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on August 28, 1993
Week opens on mixed note

Trading on the floor of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) opened on a mixed note on Saturday, the first day of the week. Turnover in value increased to Taka 764496.00 from Tk 556244.50 showing a rise of 37.438 per cent while the turnover in volume decreased slightly. It fell to 6427 issues from 6485.

The DSE All Share Price Index also declined. It dropped to 411.5939 from 411.6831 with a fall of 0.0899 point. The number of stocks transacted on the floor was 27. Of these, eleven lost, six gained and ten others traded at previous rates.

DAYS' TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE Share Price Index	411.5939
Market Capitalisation (Tk)	16034189805.46
Turnover in Volume	6427
Turnover in value (Tk)	764496.00

Company's name	Previous Price Tk	Closing Price Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change (% over price)	Number of shares sold
Gains (06) Shares					
Usmania Glass	251.10	259.55	8.45	3.365	210
TBL	71.00	72.00	1.00	1.408	10
Rahman Chemicals	32.00	32.25	0.25	0.781	10
Singer BD	810.00	815.00	5.00	0.617	15
Bengal Carbide Debuture	272.00	273.00	1.00	0.367	35
Bestinco Infusion	1747.33	1749.83	2.50	0.143	24

Company's name	Previous Price Tk	Closing Price Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change (% over price)	Number of shares sold
Losses (11) Shares					
United Insurance	200.00	192.15	-7.85	-3.925	430
Shaham Textile	83.00	81.00	-2.00	-2.409	1000
Eastern Cables	84.40	85.96	1.56	1.840	600
Kohtoor Chemical	67.00	66.00	-1.00	-1.492	140
Dhaka Vegetables	66.50	66.00	-0.50	-0.751	50
Dulama Cotton	76.50	76.00	-0.50	-0.653	860
IDLC	216.00	215.00	-1.00	-0.462	20
Cig Cement	187.68	186.96	-0.72	-0.383	290
Apex Footwear	175.50	175.00	-0.50	-0.284	960
BD Oxygen	73.95	73.90	-0.050	-0.067	275
Debuture					
Bestinco Pharma	1101.00	1100.00	-1.00	-0.090	23

Traded at previous rates(10) Shares - Rupali Bank Limited (20), 6th ICB M Fund (170), Quasem Drycells Ltd (600), Bengal Food Ltd (100), Rupani Oil Industries (200), Quasem Textile Ltd (100), Rahim Textile Mills Ltd (45), Padma Textile Mills Ltd (160), Wata Chemical (20) and Apex Tannery Ltd (40).

DSE SHARES AND DEBENTURES

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)	NT
BANKS (12)			
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	800.00	10/50
A.B. Bank	100/5	200.00	100/10
City Bank	100/5	320.00	10/50
Eastern Bank	100/20	110.00	10/50
IDLC Ltd	100/20	215.00	10/50
I.F.I.C.	100/5	160.00	100/10
Islamic Bank	1000/1	1440.00	100/10
National Bank	100/5	86.50	10/50
Pubali Bank	100/5	100.00	100/5
Rupali Bank	100/10	65.00	100/5
U.C.B.L.	100/5	84.88	100/20
Uttara Bank	100/5	90.00	10/100
INVESTMENT (06)			
1st ICB M. Fund	100/5	100.00	100/5
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	165.00	100/5
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5	146.20	100/5
4th ICB M. Fund	100/10	145.00	100/10
5th ICB M. Fund	100/10	87.00	100/10
6th ICB M. Fund	100/10	57.25	100/10
PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEMICALS (19)			
Ambee Pharma	10/50	12.00	10/50
Bangla Process	100/5	60.00	100/10
Bestinco Infusion	100/50	232.00	100/5
Bestinco Pharma	100/5	426.00	10/50
Glaxo	10/50	125.00	10/50
ICI	100/10	10.00	100/5
N Polymer	100/5	66.00	100/5
Kohtoor Chemical	100/5	66.00	100/5
Petro Synthetic	100/5	10.00	100/5
Pfizer	100/5	450.00	100/5
Pharma Aids	100/5	177.00	100/5
Pharmaco	100/5	50.00	100/5
Progressive Plastic	100/5	26.00	100/5
Reckitt & Colman	10/50	95.00	100/10
Rahman Chemicals	100/10	32.25	100/5
Therapeutics	100/5	72.00	100/10
The Ibratna	100/10	101.00	100/20
Wata Chemical	100/20	122.00	10/50
PAPER & PRINTING (06)			
Eagle Box	10/50	23.00	100/5
Monosop Paper	100/5	25.00	100/5
Paper Converting	100/5	70.00	100/5
Paper Processing	100/10	15.25	100/50
Padma Printers	10/50	50.00	10/50
Sonali Paper	10/50	52.00	10/50
FOOD & ALLIED (23)			
A.B. Biscuit	100/5	200.00	100/5
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	43.00	100/5
Amam Sea Food	100/5	15.00	100/5
Apex Food	100/5	67.00	100/5
Arma Tea	100/5	60.00	100/5
Bargas	100/5	120.00	100/5
I.D. Plantation	100/5	500.00	100/5
Bengal Food	100/5	116.00	100/5
B.L.T.C.	100/5	800.00	100/5
B.T.C.	10/50	70.00	100/10
Cig. Vegetable	100/10	61.00	100/5
Dhaka Vegetables	100/5	66.00	100/5
E.L. Camella	100/5	1040.00	100/5
Frogling Export	10/50	8.00	100/5
Gemini Sea Food	100/5	39.00	100/5
I.B.I. Plantation	100/5	550.00	100/5
Modern Industries	100/5	320.00	100/5
N.T.C.	100/5	207.00	100/5
Rabeya Flour	100/10	NT	100/10
Rupani Oil	100/10	4.20	100/10
Tulip Dairy	100/10	90.00	100/5
Yousaf Flour	10/50	NT	100/5
Zeal Bangla Sugar	10/50	6.50	100/5
FUEL & POWER (04)			
BD Oxygen	10/50	73.90	100/5
Eastern Lubricant	10/50	14.00	100/5
National Oxygen	100/10	65.00	100/5
Padma Oil Co.	10/50	41.00	100/5
JUTE (13)			
Ahad Jute	100/10	NT	100/5
Anowara Jute	10/50	NT	100/5
Delta Jute	10/50	8.50	100/5
Gawsta Jute	10/50	NT	100/5
Islam Jute	100/5	45.00	100/5
Jute Spinner	100/5	75.00	100/5
Mutual Jute	100/5	105.00	100/5

US Congressman to work against NAFTA

NEW YORK, Aug 28: The third ranking democrat in the House of Representatives says he will work against the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), dealing a setback to President Bill Clinton who has invested political capital in the pact, reports Reuter.

Congressman David Bonior of Michigan, the majority Whip in the House, told the New York Times he would use the staff, computers and other resources of his office to "raise opposition to NAFTA. The pact envisages breaking down trade barriers between the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The vote on the trade agreement is expected to be close in the House, where democrats are sharply divided on its merits, the Times reported in Saturday editions. Bonior told the newspaper the measure would fail if the House voted on it now.



Participants of the first cargo proration course organised by Biman seen with Biman's Managing Director Abdul Myeed Chowdhury. Conducted by BATC, the course was also attended by three officials from Druk Air.

Germany ready to renegotiate key points of US-EC trade accord

BONN, Aug 28: Germany is ready to renegotiate key points of the US-EC farm trade accord, billed as the keystone to an eventual world trade accord, a political ally to Chancellor Helmut Kohl said yesterday, reports AFP.

Agriculture Minister Jochen Borchert, a Kohl loyalist, told German radio that the European Community had to check that the so-called Blair House interim deal was compatible with the EC's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

"If not, we will certainly have to talk about it all over again," he said, appearing to echo French concerns that the Blair House deal breached the CAP.

His comments appeared to contradict a statement made yesterday by government spokesman Norbert Schaefer, who told journalists that the Blair House Agreement was not up for renegotiation.

Referring to the Chancellor's statements here Thursday at a joint press conference with French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, Schaefer said "I want to tell you that the Chancellor

did not talk Thursday about a renegotiation" of the controversial Blair House Agreement.

However, Kohl wanted to continue discussions on the accord, which is opposed by France.

That agreement, reached in Washington last November by negotiators for the United States and the European Commission, calls for taking some EC oilseed farmland out of cultivation, limiting EC oilseed production, and cutting subsidised EC farm exports and internal price support.

French farmers have protested vociferously against it, and the French government opposes it.

After a meeting with Balladur on Thursday, Kohl said Germany had "problems" with certain points of the agreement and said they had to be discussed.

When asked how the Chancellor planned to discuss controversial points in the Blair House Agreement without renegotiating, the spokesman merely said that "I can't agree with your interpretation of the effect

that there has to be renegotiation."

Schaefer added that the "discussions" should include the United States, and not take place only within the EC he noted that Kohl would meet next Wednesday with Peter Sutherland, Director General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The spokesman said he did not know what points Kohl viewed as "problems" in the Blair House accord, generally viewed as a key step toward conclusion of a general GATT agreement on expansion and liberalisation of world trade.

Kohl's stand has apparently taken some people in the government by surprise. A spokesman for the economics ministry confessed that "it's news to us to hear that we have problems with Blair House."

In France, Bonn's new flexibility on GATT was welcomed at a time of mounting discontent in the countryside.

Three agricultural unions, albeit representing a minority in the industry, have announced their intention to mount a

blockade of the French capital on September 15 to protest against the reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy.

But in the wake of the Bonn talks, analysts said french officials could hope to extract some extra concessions at the meeting of EC agriculture and foreign ministers on GATT in Brussels in September.

Reuter from Geneva adds: The head of the GATT trade body will meet German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur in the next 10 days to seek support on concluding an agreement to reduce world trade barriers, a spokesman said on Friday.

Meanwhile, delegates reported that German trade envoys were taking pains to explain that Kohl had not meant to suggest Bonn supported renegotiating a key transatlantic farm accord. Balladur has repeated opposition to the so-called Blair House accord between the 12-nation EC and Washington, saying Paris would not accept more cuts in its farm exports.

Japan's auto makers facing rough road

TOKYO, Aug 28: Japan's auto industry faces a rough road to the next century as soaring production costs, slack demand and pressure from trade partners endanger its traditional strategies, reports AP.

The expansion strategies that powered the industry to global pre-eminence, like boosting sales volume while sacrificing short-term profit to gain market share, are becoming impractical because the car makers need to drastically cut costs, according to a recent report by the influential Industrial Bank of Japan.

"The single most important factor driving up costs is the rising yen," Matthew Ruddick, an industry analyst at James Capel Pacific Japan Securities, said Friday.

A more expensive yen makes Japanese products more costly to overseas consumers and thus less competitive. It also eats into the yen value of profits brought back to Japan. Automakers are responding by cutting costs and shifting more production out of Japan, analysts say.

"They aren't going to be able to do it fast enough to avoid

problems over the next two years or so," he said.

The bank report said a greater shift of production abroad can eventually help the automakers cope with changes in exchange rates and reduce trade friction, but the short-term result of the high yen is likely to be a continuation of dismal earnings figures.

The rapid rise in the yen's value has forced Japanese car makers to raise prices faster than the US Big Three, leading to renewed competition from the US auto giants.

The Japanese currency closed at 104.45 to the dollar in Tokyo Friday, after rising more than 17 per cent since mid-February.

The bank report estimated that, with the shift of production overseas, domestic production will drop to 12.1 million vehicles in fiscal 1995, and 10.9 million by 2000, from 13.5 million in fiscal 1990.

Overseas production is likely to nearly double from four mil-

lion vehicles in 1990 to 7.9 million in 2000, it said.

The report said the shift will make plant closings at home inevitable, and massive layoffs a very real possibility.

But Japan's car makers beg to differ. "Nobody is going to get fired," Toyota's Eto said.

He said all of Japan's major automakers will be able to reduce their work forces through attrition, voluntary early retirement and transfers.

Regardless of how soon the Japanese companies adjust to the change in exchange rates, though, a host of long-term problems threatens to keep earnings low into the next century, said the report.

Expensive environmental and safety requirements and pressure to cut exports are also growing, the report said.

In addition, demand for autos in Japan and abroad isn't increasing as explosively as it used to, requiring fundamental changes in the structure of Japan's auto industry, the report said.

TANKER DUE

Ashkhabad	30/8	Seacom	CLSO
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VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Leontas	C Oil	Jabe	BSL	R/A
* Banglar Jyoti	C Oil		BSC	R/A

VESSELS READY

* Peter Starostion	Cont	Sing	CT	28/8
* Paula	P Equip	Mong	Irog	28/8
* Esao Mcilbourne	HSID	Sing	MSPL	28/8

VESSELS WAITING INSTRUCTION

Banglar Sampad
