

# Poverty in Asia declines: WB

WASHINGTON, Sept 18: Today only one East Asian in 10 can be considered poor - compared with one in three at the end of the 1980s, says the World Bank official in charge of the region, reports AP.

"If you look at East Asia, excluding Japan, its trade volume is as much as the US market," said Vice President Gautam S. Kajli. "Hence it cannot be regarded as an insignificant player..."

"East Asians can not see themselves as marginalised players waiting for others to take action which impacts on them."

He suggested that they could become an "engine of growth," taking the lead in the world

trading system. He put the annual growth in production of East Asian countries at three or four times that of western industrial countries - seven to nine per cent a year, compared with about two per cent.

Kajli was reviewing progress in the area for a group of reporters.

China has about 1.2 billion of the 1.7 billion people in East Asia. As defined by the World Bank, East Asia does not include Japan, nor the 900 million of Kajli's native India, nor neighbouring Pakistan and Bangladesh. It does include South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and

Indonesia. More than one person out of every four in the world lives there.

Kajli said Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia are now rapidly industrialising in the footsteps of South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

China and others in the area have new and special problems because they are in the midst of transforming a Communist economy into one dominated by private enterprise, he said.

Like Japan, China now sells much more to the United States than it buys.

The bank has calculated that although the average Chinese income was only about 370 dollar in world-wide terms last

year, it was equivalent to 2,870 dollar in local purchasing power locally.

Kajli said China now has about 100 million people considered poor in the World Bank system of defining poverty. Most of them live in remote areas with bad soil and water supplies.

This is only a small proportion of China's 1.2 billion population.

The Bank sets a poverty line in each country as the cost of buying market baskets with fixed amounts of food and other needful products, adjusted to local tastes.

People are considered poor if they can not provide themselves with such baskets.

## Prices mark sharp rise in commodity markets

By Staff Correspondent  
Commodities in the city bazars have become dearer to the common people during the last one month.

The price of dry chillies in the city markets has jumped to Tk 65 per kg from Tk 30 in the last few days.

Meanwhile, during the last two months the price of ginger jumped to Tk 48 per kg from Tk 28, garlic to Tk 48 from Tk 36 and soyabean oil to Tk 40 per kg from Tk 38.

Prices of all types of pulses rose by Tk one to two and price of sugar increased by Tk 6 per kg.

"During the last year, the price of dry chillies was around Tk 22 per kg," wholesalers in Kauran Bazar said yesterday.

Fresh vegetables have also become very expensive. The price of cucumber increased to Tk 24 per kg from Tk 16, ladies finger to Tk 28 from Tk 16, papaya to Tk 7 from Tk 5, and Jhinga to Tk 16 from Tk 12.

The prices of different types of rice has also risen by Tk .50 to Tk one per kg.

The cheapest IRRI is being sold in the markets at Tk 10 per Kg, while Jhingshall at Tk 12, paljam Tk 11, nazirshahi at Tk 14, kataribhagh at Tk 18 and fine rice at Tk 32.

## Marketing team leaves for Europe today

A six-member marketing mission leaves for three European countries today (Sunday) for promoting export of Bangladesh footwear, leather and leather products, reports UNB.

The team, led by MSA Gazi, Vice-Chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau, will visit Italy, Germany and Holland during its fortnight-long trip till October 3, EPB said Sunday.

The mission comprises five private sector exporting firms - Mark Bangladesh Shilpa and Engineering Ltd, Trade Fair International Ltd, Impulse Fashion Ltd, Beautiful Jackets Ltd and Descho Leather Complex (Pvt) Ltd.

It will meet the importers of footwear, leather and leather goods and inform them of the production capacity, preservation and processing of these products in Bangladesh.

The mission members will discuss with the concerned persons marketing of leather shoe, leather sandle, shoe upper, canvas shoe and upper, PVC shoe and sandle, industrial working gloves, leather garments like jacket, coat, gloves, bag, wallet, belt and other leather safety products in these countries.

## Beijing will unify exchange rates

HONG KONG, Sept 18: China is to unify its exchange rates by allowing the renminbi currency to float freely next year, a Beijing-run newspaper reported yesterday, says AFP.

Jin Rengjing, vice minister of the finance ministry, was quoted by Ta Kung Pao, as saying in London that the renminbi would be allowed to float against a basket of foreign currencies as part of China's financial restructuring programme starting next year.

However, Jin, who was in London to attend the launching of a 300 million dollar Euro-bond, cautioned that it would take some time for the Chinese currency to be freely exchanged against all currencies.

## Britain, Vietnam initial air services accord

HANOI, Sept 18: Britain and Vietnam have initiated an air-services agreement that will allow British Airways and Vietnam Airlines flights between the two countries, the official Vietnam News Agency said Saturday, reports AFP.

The 18-point accord was inked Thursday in Hanoi.



PROCESS OF IODIZATION-2: Unrefined salt imported by Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) being purified by chemicals.

# Asian rice farmers win anti-pesticide war

BANGKOK, Sept 18: There are few things nastier to millions of Asia's rice farmers than a small insect known as the brown planthopper - unless it's the tons of deadly insecticides used to kill it, according to AP.

This war in the rice paddies had produced mass casualties: destruction of harvests upon which Asia depends for survival, environmental degradation, and great health hazards to both farmers and consumers.

But now, the United Nations believes it has turned the chemical tide - by proving to farmers and governments that they can reap benefits by not dousing their fields with insecticides and pesticides.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, which is spearheading an Asia-wide programme to curb these chemicals, cites Indonesia as a prime success story.

After suffering from pest infestation and subsidizing insecticides at a yearly cost of more than 150 million dollar one of the world's greatest users of insecticides banned 57 brands from use on rice in 1986 and began an intensive "integrated pest management," or (IPM), programme.

Since then, Indonesia's rice production has increased by some 15 per cent despite more

than a 50 per cent drop in pesticide use, according to the FAO. The government has also saved about one billion dollar in subsidies and health benefits have been considerable.

"Farmers are making more money and saving the environment. You can't do better than that," said Peter Kenmore, who heads the FAO's IPM programme in Asia.

At a recent international IPM conference here, Kenmore said that the only ones unhappy with the course of events are executives of the multi-billion dollar insecticide-pesticide industry, mostly centred in western Europe and the United States.

Kenmore said that some of them had predicted pest outbreaks and dramatic drops in rice production following Indonesia's 1986 decision.

What in fact happens, Kenmore says, is that the highly toxic chemicals knock out both some of the pest along with its natural predators as well as a lot of "good guys" in the rice fields, including snails, frogs and fish. Under such conditions, the pests multiply dramatically.

"The brown planthopper is kept under complete biological control in intensified rice production fields that are not treated with insecticide," and FAO study says.

Some countries, like Thailand and initially Indonesia, have relied on rice varieties resistant to the insect. But this strategy fails, the FAO says, because the brown hoppers evolve a capacity to overwhelm the resistant genes within just a few planting seasons.

Infestations in recent years destroyed some 250,000 hectares (618,000 acres) in the rice-rich Central Plains of Thailand in 1989-90, and more than 400,000 hectares (988,000 acres) in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. Malaysia also suffered from the pests during this period.

Kenmore said that along with Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh and the Philippines are taking well to the IPM concept which emphasizes teaching farmers' right in their own fields. India and China, he said, were at the mid-level of pesticide use, while Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Laos, Cambodia, Pakistan and South Korea were still lagging behind.

Thailand, in particular, is awash with the chemicals with over a thousand legally registered insecticides and hundreds of unregistered ones. The FAO says there are, for example, more than 270 legal trade names for methyl parathion, banned for health reasons in Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, South Korea and Japan.

## Japan announces over \$1b ODA loan to Thailand

BANGKOK, Sept 18: Japan, saying it wants to contribute to the political and economic stability of Thailand, has announced a record Official Development Aid (ODA) loan of over one billion dollars to Bangkok, according to an official Japanese statement, reports AFP.

The loan package, totalling 104.5 billion million yen, is the 18th and largest since ODA soft loans were extended to Thailand, according to the statement released Friday by the Japanese embassy.

The latest ODA "yen loan" comes immediately after a visit by Japan's foreign minister, Tatsuhiro Hata to Thailand and Cambodia.



Jiban Bima Corporation (JBC) settled death claim of life insurance policy of Taka 3,10,200/- of Maulana Syed Md Naim Uddin Al Qaderi, Principal of Shah Mohsin Aulia Tayyibia Gausia Sunnia Madrasa. Industries Minister AM Zahir Uddin Khan handing over claim cheque to the children of the deceased.

## Venezuela willing to sell Cuba oil only for cash

CARACAS, Venezuela, Sept 18: Venezuela is willing to sell oil directly to Cuba, but only for cash, the Foreign Ministry said Friday, reports AP.

Cuba wants to pay with sugar.

The two countries discussed the potential deal when Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich visited the communist Caribbean nation for two days this week.

Another sticky point is that Cuba owes Venezuela 45 million dollar, ministry spokesmen told the Associated Press. Venezuela is reluctant to reach a new accord until the debt is canceled.

From 1985-91, Venezuela delivered to Cuba 20,000 barrels of oil a day. In exchange, the former Soviet Union delivered the same amount to Venezuela's refineries in Germany, and Cuba delivered sugar to the Soviet Union.

The triangular deal collapsed when the Soviet Union disbanded and stopped complying with the accord.

Venezuela is willing to renew that, too, he ministry said.

Venezuela and Russia discussed in June renewing the accord.

## Cuba bought through international traders about 5,000 barrels of Venezuelan oil and oil products daily the first seven months of this year.

# PLO — Israel investment fund established

JERUSALEM, Sept 18: An Israeli-Palestinian investment fund, the first such joint venture, has been established and has attracted European and Arab backing, its Israeli partner announced, reports AFP.

Benny Gaon, chairman of Koor, Israel's largest conglomerate, said the fund would be headed by the Palestinian investor, who prefers to remain anonymous for the moment.

"It means I'm going to have to learn Arabic," he quipped. "Gaon said the groundwork for the 100-million-dollar investment fund had been laid secretly last year, long before the announcement that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization would enter into an agreement on Palestinian

autonomy. Besides, the Israel and Palestinian participation, Gaon said a large European bank and an investor from an Arab country which does not have diplomatic relations with Israel were associated with the fund.

"We told Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin we wanted to set up the fund with Arab investors and he gave us the green light," Gaon said.

He said one of the first projects which would receive funding would be the construction of a cement factory on the West Bank.

"We also plan investments in tourism, infrastructures and transportation," he said, "Koor will also help market Palestinian products."

## Shipping Intelligence CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 18.09.93									
Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving			
J/1	Rana	Salt	Kand	Cross	10/9	22/9			
J/2	Indian Endurance	Salt	Kand	GEL (P)	10/9	24/9			
J/3	Ikan Tandra	Salt	Kand	SBS (P)	10/9	21/9			
J/5	Vishva Karuna	R Seed	Chin	Litmond	30/9	25/9			
J/6	Dicle	S Billets	Nemr	BSC	15/9	24/9			
J/7	Petr Starostin	Cont	Strig	CT	16/9	19/9			
J/8	State of Nagaland	GI/GL	Mad	SSL	14/9	18/9			
J/9	Banglar Kiron	Repair	Strig	BSC	R/A	22/9			
J/11	Anton Makarenko	Cement	Strig	USTC	16/9	19/9			
J/12	Continental-1	GI	Kara	CLA	07/9	23/9			
J/13	Indian Valour	Spl Cargo	Salt	OWSL	13/9	20/9			
MPB/2	Imke Weher	Cont	Strig	APL (B)	15/9	18/9			
CCJ	Samudra Samrat	Repair	Kand	SSL	25/8	25/9			
GSJ	Dolores (Attach: 29/7/93)	-	-	Seacom	R/A	25/9			
RM/3	Alekseevsk	CPO	P Vad	CT	15/9	19/9			
RM/5	Parnassus	Salt	Kand	MSPL	15/9	19/9			
RM/6	Banglar Doot	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	21/9			
DDJ	Banglar Jyoti	-	-	BSC	R/A	20/9			
DD	Banglar Robi	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	25/9			
DDJ/1	Banglar Sampad	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	21/9			
DDJ/2	Banglar Asha	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	25/9			

## VESSLS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Banglar Moni 12/9	18/09	Strig	BSC	Cont	Strig
I Yamburenko 7/9	19/09	Strig	CT	Cont	Strig
Banglar Kallol 5/9	19/09	Mong	BSC	Cont	Mong
Amra Jaya	19/09	Mong	BBA	GI	-
Nezabudka	19/09	Tuti	MSPL	Salt	-
Sea Rhapsody	22/09	-	USTC	Cement	-
Polyxeni	19/09	Kand	RRSA	Salt	-
Olma	19/09	Fran	Royal	R Seeds	-
Meng Lee 30/9	20/09	Strig	AML	Cont	Strig
Al Salma	24/09	Rang	ASLL	GI/GL	-
Ronjay Victory	25/09	Rang	PSAL	Cement	-
Rafiah	20/09	Niko	Dynamic	M Seeds	-
Vishva Prafulla	22/09	-	SSL	GI	UK Cont
Astro Star	20/09	Strig	OTBL	Scraping	-
Tug Ocean	20/09	Strig	OTBL	Scraping	-
Bali Sun	20/09	Strig	OTBL	Scraping	-
Tug Salvirite	20/09	Strig	OTBL	Scraping	-
Pu Aspiration	25/09	Chin	Litmond	Cement	S Ash
Kota Buana 9/9	20/09	Strig	RSL	Cont	Strig
Gruz	21/09	Istan	BSC	GI	Holand
			(P Mater)		
Lanka Mahapala 15/924/09	-	Baridhi	Cont	Col	-
Fong Yun 15/9	25/09	Strig	BDShip	Cont	Strig
Shaplaeverett	25/09	-	EBPL	GI	Japa Fe
Eponyma 16/9	25/09	Strig	CTS	Cont	Strig
Jiang Cheng	28/09	Shai	BDShip	GI	C Ports
Banglar Kakoli	28/09	Male	BSC	GI	UK Cont
Iyeveverett	29/09	-	EBPL	GI	Japa Fe
Hong Shin 7/9	30/09	Strig	BDShip	cont	Strig
Fangwan	03/10	-	BDShip	Spl Cargo	-
Fujian Maru	20/09	R How	BSL	Cement	-

## TANKER DUE

Jamac	22/09	-	Seacom	CDSO
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## VESSLS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival

## VESSLS READY

Al Swamuz	GI/GL	Rang	ASLL	17/9
Optima	Cont	Strig	RSL	17/9
Southern Queen	CPO	P Kala	CT	18/9
Marine Three	R Sulp	-	RRSA	R/A (11/9)

## VESSLS NOT ENTERING

Sea Pal	-	Bang	BML	R/A (15/9)
Alpha Nova	Cement	Strig	USTC	16/9
Tony Best (attach: 22/7/93)	Cement	Mong	Aeka	27/6
Natkins	Scraping	Strig	ARL	15/9

## MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 19/09/93

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/7 Petrastrotincont	MPB-2 Banglar	GSJ:Dolores to RM-5
J/11 Anton Makarenko	12 Banglar	J/12Continent-1 to J/8
(Cement)	Kallolcont	
RM-3 Alekseevsk (CPO)	J/11 Yamburenko	J/6 Dicle to J/7
J/9 Banglar Kironrepair	RM-3 Southern	J/3 Ikan Tandra to J/9
	Queen (CPO)	
	J/3 Olma (R seed)	
	J/6 Nezabudka (salt)	

The above were the Saturday'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 Sonali Bank's dealing rates (Bangladesh taka for one unit of foreign currency) to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on Sept 18.

(Figures in Taka)			
Currency	Selling B. C.	T. T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.9850	39.7250	39.4768
Pound Sterling	61.2570	60.2108	59.8346
DM	24.9054	24.4821	24.3291
FF	7.1439	7.0231	6.9792
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2714	1.2675	1.2580
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3363	1.3287	1.3188
Indicative Rates			
	Selling T. T. & O.D.	Buying O. D Transfer	
S Riyal	10.6600	10.5000	
D Guilders	21.4600	21.2000	
S Kroner	4.8800	4.8200	
Singapore Dollar	24.9100	24.5600	
UAE Dirham	10.8900	10.7500	
Kuwait Dinar	132.9000	129.5000	

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

# Dhaka Stock Prices

## Cut in bank rates helps increase turnovers

A government decision, taken on Friday, to cut bank rates helped increase turnovers on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Saturday, the opening day of the week.

The turnover in volume term reached 12683 issues from 3878 showing a surge of 227.050 per cent and the turnover in value increased to Tk 750265.75 from Tk 414761.00, a gain of 80.891 per cent.

The number of stocks transacted rose to 42 as against Thursday's 31. Of these, 18 gained, 13 lost while 11 others traded at previous rates.

But the DSE All Share Price Index plunged to 414.2812 from 417.1157, a decline of 2.834 points.

BLTC topped the gainer's list with a rise of 30.00 per cent while Bex