

# Germany supports Yeltsin by rescheduling \$4.9b debt

BONN, Sept 25: Germany agreed yesterday to reschedule eight billion mark (4.90 billion dollar) worth of Russian debt as a gesture of support for President Boris Yeltsin's economic reform policies, reports Reuters.

German Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt said he believed Yeltsin was in a strong position and Russia's political crisis could be overcome without major upheaval.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel signed a deal with Russian Ambassador Vladislav Terekhov covering capital and interest which Moscow was due to repay in 1992 and 1993.

"Germany is helping to push forward the reform process in Russia," Waigel said in a statement afterwards. "The accord is,

therefore, an important contribution to restoring Russia's international credit-worthiness."

The debt rescheduling is taking place within the framework of a deal agreed in April by the Paris Club of creditor nations which aimed to save Moscow 15 billion dollar in 1993.

Waigel said the rescheduling, like all aid to Russia, was closely tied to the continuation of economic reform.

Germany in Moscow's largest creditor and aid donor. Grateful for Moscow's consent to unification in 1990, it has given 80 billion mark (49 billion dollar) to the Commonwealth of Independent States, most of which has gone to Russia.

But Bonn has become concerned at Moscow's failure to

service its debts. Earlier this year it stopped granting export credit guarantees, which encourage German companies to do business with Russia, until the country's payments record improved.

Rexrodt said Germany would be watching very closely to see if Russia made a payment of 500 million mark (306.9 million) by September 30 as it had promised. The resumption of export credit guarantees would depend on whether it did.

"It is an important date. The Russian side must know this. We will all be watching it very closely," he told a news conference.

Rexrodt said he hoped the political crisis in Russia could be resolved peacefully.

"It looks as if Yeltsin has a strong position, with support from the regions and probably from the majority of the people," he said. "That raises hope that the situation can be resolved without major upheaval."

He did not think the crisis would adversely affect foreign economic aid.

Rexrodt also welcomed the return to the Russian government of Yegor Gaidar, the architect of economic reform, who was appointed acting Economics Minister and first deputy prime minister this week.

"I am very pleased that Gaidar is now doing this and I expect it to be an important signal for the continuation of the reform policies," he said.

## Call to minimise stamp duty on bill of lading

Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association Saturday urged the government to minimise stamp duty and waive tax at the source for boosting jute goods export, says UNB.

In a statement, Chairman of the Association M Mahmud said the government had raised stamp duty to Taka 200 from Taka three on bill of lading since June 30. "Such unjustified increase posed a threat to export of jute goods,"

The statement said the National Board of Revenue had written off 0.50 per cent advance income tax on some exportables, barring jute yarn. The association has made repeated appeal for stopping deduction of tax at the source on export bills, but it is yet to be heeded, he said.

Dwelling on the importance of jute in the country's economy, the chairman said despite all-out efforts to earn foreign exchange through export of non-traditional items, jute still accounted for 35 per cent of the total export earnings.

Mahmud said the main competitors in jute goods export market are India and Thailand who enjoy various facilities. They will capture the market if the government does not back up the industry, he cautioned.

He urged the government to cut bank loan interest for lessening production cost of jute goods so that the natural fibre could prevail on synthetics in competition in international market.

## Crackdown on Indian truckers continues

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Indian authorities yesterday continued a sweeping crackdown, arresting nearly 1,000 people as a crippling country-wide truckers' strike entered its ninth day, a spokesman said, reports AFP.

Police arrested some 300 truck owners late Thursday and 700 more yesterday across eight states in a bid to put an estimated 1.8 million trucks backed on the roads, the All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) said.

An AIMTC spokesman said the arrests were continuing. "Our people have been dragged away from their homes in the night, AIMTC Vice-President OP Aggarwal said here. What does the government think we are? terrorists?"

KL Sapra, a union leader, was arrested while addressing a press conference in the central Indian city of Gwalior, the AIMTC said.

Most arrests were reported from the federally-administered northern state of Rajasthan, neighbouring New Delhi.

The truckers want the government to scrap a 233 per cent hike in haulage fees, which replaced an entry tax imposed by Indian states. The AIMTC vowed not to take back the strike.

Our demands are just and we are not going to back off, Aggarwal said.

Federal Transport Minister Jagdish Tytler said he was not aware of the arrests.

## Call money rate ranges from 3.5 pc to 8 pc

Money rates in the call money market during the week ended Wednesday ranged from 3.50 per cent to eight per cent, reports UNB.

Interest offered by the banks on certificate of deposits varied from five per cent to 10.25 per cent during the week.

The bank rate was reduced from 6.50 per cent to six per cent with effect from September 18, said a BB press release Saturday.



Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, PSC, inaugurating the computerised banking operations and foreign exchange dealings at the Dhaka Cantonment branch of Sonali Bank yesterday.

## Major rules out possibility of single Euro currency by '99

LONDON, Sept 25: Prime Minister John Major says a single European currency by the end of the decade is impossible and European Community leaders should drop the idea when they meet next month, reports AP.

"We cannot assemble for a special European summit in October on the same, old, stale agenda," Major said in an article published Friday in The Economist, a respected weekly.

"I hope my fellow heads of government will resist the temptation to recite the mantra of full economic and monetary union as if nothing had changed," he added. "If they do recite it, it will have all the quaintness of a rain dance and about the same potency," he added.

The 12-nation community's timetable for having a single currency by 1999 has looked particularly unrealistic since the floundering in August of the Exchange Rate Mechanism which linked community currencies.

Britain and Italy, their cur-

rencies unable to keep pace with the German mark, were ejected from the system a year ago.

In August, the French franc came under intense speculative pressure and community finance ministers effectively suspended the system.

Major said an Oct. 29 summit of European Community leaders should concentrate on getting community labour costs down and finalizing a global free trade agreement. Objections by France are holding up the free trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

British officials have privately been cool about the special summit. It was called by Belgium which holds the community's rotating presidency and which is a prime advocate of closer union into a federal-type Europe.

Major's governing Conservative Party opposes a federal-type Europe and party rebels think Major has already gone too far.

He only managed to get Parliament to ratify the community's Maastricht treaty on closer union by threatening party rebels in a showdown July 23 that the government would resign.

Conservative rebel legislators dismissed The Economist article as an attempt to stop them making trouble at the Conservative Party's annual conference next month.

Earlier, a Conservative rank-and-file legislator said he was considering resigning to take a commercial job — raising the prospect of another cut in Major's already slim 17-seat overall majority in the 651-member House of Commons.

Str Richard Body held a central England farming district called Holland-with-Boston with a majority of 13,831 votes at national elections in 1992.

The Conservatives are trailing badly in opinion polls. In special elections this summer they lost two parliamentary districts where they had majorities of more than 16,000.

## Import regulations liberalised

## Indian gold bounces back

BOMBAY, Sept 25: Indian gold is regaining its glitter for investors following liberalised import regulations and anticipation of increased buying ahead of the Hindu festive season in October, analysts say, reports AFP.

Bombay dealers said gold prices, which hit an all-time low last year, started picking up after a federal scheme was announced in 1992 allowing expatriate Indians to legally bring in up to five kilogram (11 pound) of the precious metal.

The paltry tax of 220 rupee (7.33 dollar) for every 10 gram (0.35 ounce) was further incentive, they said.

Mukul Sonawala, Vice-President of the Bombay Bullion

Association (BBA), said between 250 and 300 kilogram (550 and 660 pound) of gold changes hands daily in this western metropolis.

"Half of India's wholesale trade is here," he said.

But prices, which used to be 40 per cent above the international level, have now come down to global standards after the gold import policy was announced to stem a lucrative contraband trade.

Ten grams fetched 146.33 dollar yesterday, way below the year's high of 156.73 dollar in August. Traders attributed the slump to poor demand but said a turnaround was imminent.

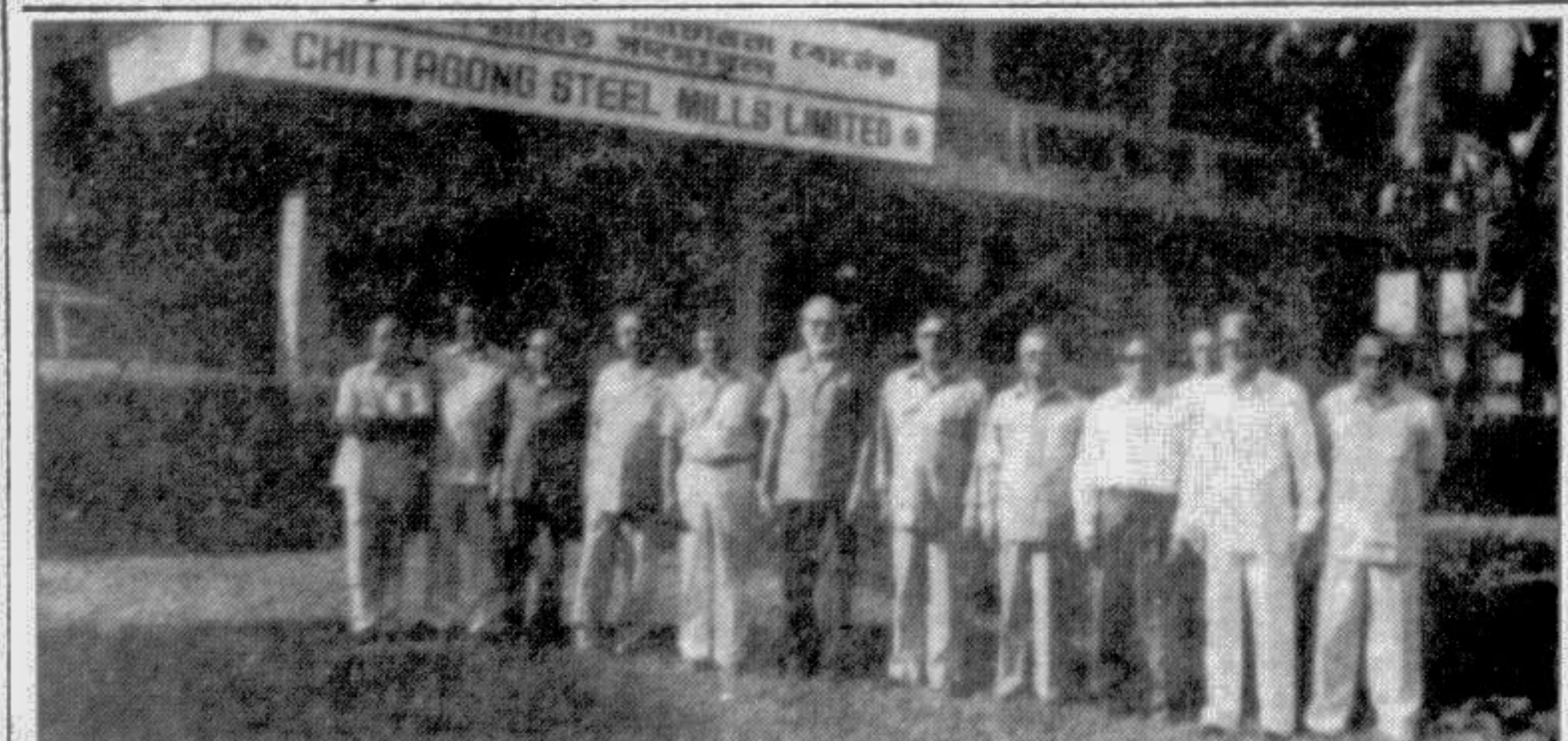
"We are very happy with the import scheme which allows us

to get gold legally," said BBA president M L Damani. "Arrivals of gold to the country now match demand."

"He said prices would stabilise further in October, the start of the Hindu festive and marriage season which witnesses a spurt in gold buying — the best and safest form of investment, according to traditionalists."

Sonawala said almost 90 tonnes of gold had been legally brought into India since January.

The world gold council has said in a survey that the demand in India zoomed from 260 tonnes in 1991 to 454 tonnes the following year.



Members of the Board of Directors of Sonali Bank visited steel mills of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation on Sunday to examine the progress of the mills. The Managing Director of the Chittagong Steel Mills Ltd, S M Hedayet Hossain (extreme left) is seen in the picture.

## 'Cooperative movement should be focal point of uplift'

Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, Saturday said the cooperative movement should be made a focal point of all socio-economic development activities including alleviation of poverty, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest the prize distribution function of the National Cooperative Award '91 of Dhaka Division at the Engineers Institute Wednesday morning.

Abdul Hye, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives and Magreb Morshed, Director General of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) attended the function as special guests.

Presided over by Mohammad Azizul Haq Bhuiyan, Registrar, Cooperative Societies of Bangladesh, the function was also addressed by Abu Selim Khan, joint registrar, and Abdul Mia and Begum Rawshan Akhtar, recipients of the award.

Barrister Talukdar urged the cooperators to make the cooperative movement a great success through spreading its activities among the common people and involving them in it. He also called for giving adequate

publicity of the cooperative activities through documentary films so that the people were attracted towards it.

Describing cooperative as one of the tools of the human resources development, the LGRD minister said "the people should be united under its banner to make it more dynamic and meaningful."

Barrister Talukdar stressed the need for making cooperative societies profitable organisations and distributing dividends among the members.

Referring to failures of some societies, the minister said corruption was responsible to a large extent for the failures. He said "we have to manage the societies in a better way so that there is no scope for corruption in the organisations."

Barrister Talukdar called upon the cooperators to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity, honesty and dedication to make the societies economically viable.

Lauding the activities of the Gramen Bank, the Minister said the model of the bank was even taken up by different foreign countries including the USA.

## Shipping Intelligence

### CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 25.09.93									
Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Date of Leaving			
J/1	*Gruz	GI (P Mat)	Istan	BSC	21/9	26/9			
J/2	Olma	R Seed	Lapa	Royal	19/9	26/9			
J/3	Ikan Tandra	Salt (TCB)	Kand	SBS	10/9	26/9			
J/4	*Al Swamuz	GI/GL	Rang	ASLL	17/9	25/9			
J/5	Vishva Karuna	R Seed	Chin	Litmond	30/8	30/9			
J/6	Nezabudka	Salt (TCB)	Kand	MSPL	19/9	27/9			
J/7	Mun Su Bong	Salt (?)	Tuti	UMAL	24/9	28/9			
J/8	Kurria Sejati	S Coal	Scag	MBL	25/9	28/9			
J/10	Banglar Kiron	Repair	—	BSC	R/A	27/9			
J/11	Indian Endurance	Salt (TCB)	—	GEL	10/9	28/9			
J/13	Knud Jespersen	Cont	Sing	CT	24/9	28/9			
CJ/3	Samudra Samrat	Repair	Kand	SSS	25/9	30/9			
OSJ	Fujisan Maru	Cement	R How	BSL	20/9	30/9			
TSP	Banglar Doot	R Sulp	—	RRSA	R/A	29/9			
RM/3	Jamac	CDSO	Lepo	Seacom	25/9	27/9			
RM/4	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	—	BSC	R/A	28/9			
RM/6	Ronjay Choomic	Cement	Tuti	USTC	15/9	28/9			

### VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Maro	25/9	Tuti	Litmond	Salt In Bag	—
Lank Mahapala	25/9	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Eponyma	25/9	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Tanary Star	27/9	Mong	PSAL	CURF	—
San Evans	28/9	Kand	MSPL	Salt In Bag	—
Mulpha Subang	26/9	Lampu	USTC	Cement	—
Shaplevet	27/9	Sing	EBPL	GI	Japa Fe
Al Selma	27/9	Rang	ASLL	GI/GL	—
Santa Margherita	27/9	Sing	Prog	GI	—
Pa Aspiratio	27/9	Chin	Litmond	Cement	S Ash
Sea Rhapsody	27/9	Tuti	PSAL	Cement	—
Jala Yamini	27/9	Kand	MSPL	Salt In Bag	—
Astro Star	27/9	Sing	OTBL	—	—
Tug Ocean-VII	27/9	Sing	OTBL	—	—
Stonewall Jackson	28/9	Parad	Kama	GI	Ports
Jiang Cheng	28/9	S Hai	BDShip	GI	B Abbas
Mowli	02/10	Mong	SSL	GL	—
NGS Ranger	30/9	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Banglar Kakoli	28/9	Male	BSC	GI	UK Cont
Amer Asha	28/9	—	East-West	Cement	—
Ilyevet	29/9	—	EBPL	GI	Japa Fe
Imke Wehr	29/9	Anti	APL (B)	Cont	USA Fe
Ingeniuty	29/9	Mong	BTS	Cont	Col
South Land Star	29/9	—	UMAL	—	—
Ronjay Victory	30/9	—	PSAL	Cement	—
Fong Shin	30/9	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Fridrich Engels	30/9	Ilyi	EOSL	—	—
Rafah	30/9	Jybo	Dynamic M	Seeds	—
Petr Starostin	30/9	—	CT	Cont	Sing
Optima	01/10	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Hang Wan	03/10	—	BDShip	SPL	—
Leona	06/10	—	Prog	GI	—
Jun Jiang	07/10	Xiuy	OWSL	Sugar In Bag	—
Yamburenko	07/10	—	CT	Cont	Sing

### TANKER DUE

Eso Bayonne	27/9	Sing	MSPL	—
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### VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
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Fong Yun	Cont	Sing	BDShip	25/9
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Polymer	Salt (TCB)	Lamd	RRSA	19/9
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Banglar Jyoti	—	—	BSC	R/A
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Sea Pal	—	Bang	BMD	R/A
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Natricia	Scraping	Sing	ABL	15/9
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Tony Best	Cement	Mong	AEKA	27/6
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Tug Salvirle	—	Sing	OTBL	21/9
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Bali Sun	Scraping	Sing	OTBL	21/9
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Akadani Bulk	R Sulp	Dubai	RRSA	04/9
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C Rose	—	—	—	—
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MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 26/09/93			
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OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIPPING
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J/1 Gruz	MPB-1 Fong Yun	GSJ Fujisan Maru to
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J/2 Olma	MPB-2 Lanka Mahapala	RM-6 Ronjay Choomic
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J/3 Ikan Tandra	J/1 Maro	—
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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 25. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B.C.	T.T. (C)	Buying OD Transfers
US Dollar	39.9700	39.9300	39.4818
Pound Sterling	60.3147	59.3137	58.9431
DM	24.5237	24.1192	23.9684
FF	7.0424	6.9268	6.8835
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2748	1.2675	1.2580
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3363	1.3287	1.3206
Indicative Rates			
S Riyal	10.6600	—	10.5200
D Guilders	21.7100	—	21.4400
S Kroner	4.8600	—	4.7900
Singapore Dollar	25.0600	—	24.7400
UAE Dirham	10.8800	—	10.7400
Kuwait Dinar	133.7100	—	131.9100

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

## Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on September 25, 1993

## Week opens on bullish note

Week's trading on the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) opened on a bullish note on Saturday.

Both the turnovers surged. Volume reached 37625 issues from 8213 showing a rise of 358.115 per cent. Value increased by 597.062 per cent rising to Taka 2297861.50 from Taka 391320.00.

The DSE All Share Price Index also made a gain of 0.139 point. It advanced to 417.5493 from 417.4103.

A total of 35 companies took part in the trading as against Thursday's 31. Of these, 13 gained, 10 lost while 12 others traded at previous rates.

Modern Dyeing dominated the gain