

New Delhi to export surplus foodgrains

NEW DELHI, Jan 14: The Indian government will push ahead with free export of surplus foodgrains to earn foreign exchange, reports Xinhua.

There is no need for imports as the current production of 182 million tons is sufficient for even the projected population of one billion by 2000. Agriculture Minister Dalram Jakhar said here yesterday.

Efforts, however, would continue for increasing production to maintain the surplus, he added.

The export of farm products in the first eight months of the current financial year was worth 1,364 million U.S. dollars compared to 1,150 million dollars in the corresponding period last year, he said.

Another report adds: The Indian government yesterday firmly ruled out further export of cotton in the remaining part of the current fiscal year.

Ramos for greater cooperation among 3 blocs

MANILA, Jan 14: President Fidel Ramos today called for greater cooperation, especially among emerging trade blocs like APEC, NAFTA and AFTA.

In order to sustain growth in the Asia-Pacific region, reports AFP.

Speaking at a gathering of legislators from Asia and North America, Ramos said "there is... a need to discover the complementarities and opportunities among APEC, NAFTA and AFTA."

Ramos said the need for this became clear during the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) summit in Seattle last November when all Asian nations were made aware that the creation of NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, could divert trade and investment away from them.

Ramos noted that "while other regions are trying to cope with ethnic rivalries, Asia and the Pacific Rim has remained politically stable and economically dynamic."

However, he said this could only be maintained by nurturing "our growing political, economic and social interdependence and cooperation," and called for more open trade within the region.

APEC is a 17-member regional grouping including the United States and Japan, while the newly-created NAFTA is a free-trade area covering Canada, the United States and Mexico.

AFTA, the Asean free trade area, is a programme to create a free-trade area among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines — over 15 years.

Gaddafi welcomes tumble of oil prices

TUNIS, Jan 14: Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, defying the threat of tougher sanctions from the West, said he did not care if the price of oil fell to zero, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported today, reports Reuters.

"We welcome the tumble of oil prices, even if they reach zero," the agency quoted him as saying at a rally in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi on Thursday.

"We thank God when we see oil prices collapse, because we want to prove that oil no longer matters to us, and that our interest would be served if oil did not even exist, because they (the West) believe that they can use oil to make us submit," Gaddafi added.

"The Libyan people can live without oil but they can not live without independence, dignity and sovereignty," he declared. Libya, a member of the

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is already under mild trade sanctions from the UN Security Council.

It has failed to settle its quarrel with the West over demands that it surrender two men suspected of bombing a US airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988.

JANA said a million people attended the rally addressed by Gaddafi.



HONG KONG: A 22k solid gold coin, a collectors item, with an engraved Pekingese is shown Thursday after 800 of these gold coins were released at a price of 3,650 HK dollar (468 US dollar) for distribution at the Hong Kong bank to celebrate the Year of the Dog. The Chinese new year which begins February 10 will be the Year of the Dog which in Chinese tradition symbolizes intelligence and loyalty.

US disappointed with Japanese approach to economic talks

TOKYO, Jan 14: The United States is disappointed with Japan's approach to bilateral economic talks and is incensed by "inaccurate claims" that it wants specific market share targets, a senior official said Wednesday, reports AFP.

"Progress to date in the framework talks has been disappointing," said Joan Spero, Under Secretary of State for Economic and Agricultural Affairs, referring to the past four months of negotiations of forging a new partnership between the world's two biggest economies.

"We are looking at real results in these talks and not cosmetic agreements where we pretend that we have succeeded," she told a news conference, noting that Japan's Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is due in Washington next month.

Spero was especially critical of recent Japanese accounts of the negotiations.

"Over the past months, the focus of public debate in Japan

has shifted almost exclusively to repetitive ADB inaccurate claims that the United States is seeking specific market share targets," she said.

"This information, or disinformation, has obscured an understanding of the purpose of the framework and why it will benefit the Japanese economy."

Spero said the "constant portrayal by some Japanese that our framework proposals are managed trade is wrong" and asserted that Washington's goal was to "unmanage" trade.

"Over the past two decades, whenever the United States and other foreign countries called for market-opening in Japan, special interests in Japan resisted and predicated dire consequences. Yet none of this came to pass," Spero said.

"The changes we are advocating are the same kind of changes that Prime Minister Hosokawa is seeking and that Japanese business organisations have been advocating.

Aussie jobless rate falls sharply

SYDNEY, Jan 14: Australia's jobless rate fell sharply Thursday and economists said the new figure was a sensational confirmation that the worst days of unemployment were over, reports AFP.

The unemployment rate fell to a seasonally adjusted 10.7 per cent in December from 11.1 per cent the previous month, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said.

"It is a sensational figure," said Bankers Trust Australia economist Chris Caton. "We have kissed 11 per cent unemployment goodbye for this economic cycle."

The number of unemployed people fell in December 1993 by 41,000 to a seasonally adjusted 937,400 people from 978,400 in November, the ABS said.

Total employment also rose by 23,200 to 7.85 million people in December, seasonally adjusted, from 7.83 million in November.

The proportion of the working-age population either in a job or actively looking for one fell slightly to a seasonally adjusted 63.0 per cent from 63.2 per cent in November.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on Jan 13 & 14.

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	TT & OD	FC	OD	Transfer
US Dollar	40.1325	40.1625	39.9175	39.8325
Pound Sterling	60.3673	60.4124	59.5540	59.4271
DM	23.2803	23.2977	22.9120	22.8632
F Franc	6.8419	6.8471	6.7353	6.7209
S Franc	30.8277	30.5505	30.0392	29.9753
C Dollar	27.5877	27.6083	27.1483	27.0905
Japan Yen	0.3614	0.3617	0.3519	0.3513
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2825	1.2992	1.2722	1.2564
Pak Rupee (AMU)	11.3293	1.3334	1.3186	1.3022
Iranian Ryal (AMU)	0.0230	0.0231	0.228	0.0225

A) T. T. (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk 39.8750
 B) Usance Rates:
 30 Days DA 60 Days DA 90 Days DA 120 Days DA 180 Days DA
 39.5688 39.2860 39.0033 38.7205 38.1550
 C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk 38.8325
 D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Tk 40.5124

Indicative Rates

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	T.T. & O.D.	FC	O.D.	Transfer
S Riyal	10.7035		10.5888	
UAE Dirham	10.9279		10.8116	
Kuwait Dinar	134.6360		132.8538	
Singapore Dollar	25.0812		24.8001	
D Guilders	20.6488		20.4248	
S Kroner	4.9145		4.8565	

Note : AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 13.1.94

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Call	Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/2	Dehkoda	GL	Mong	SSL	11/1	16/1	
J/6	Sea Nymph	P Iron	V Pat	PSAL	2/1	20/1	
J/7	Karabieverett	GI	Sing	EBPL	10/1	14/1	
J/8	Samudra Rani	Fert	Sing	SSL	R/A	16/1	
J/9	Moon Bird	P Mach	Sing	EBPL	11/1	13/1	
J/10	Dolores			Seacom	26/12	15/1	
J/11	Padi	TSP (P)	Saf	EOSL	26/12	16/1	
MPB/1	Kota Buana	Cont	Sing	RSL	11/1	15/1	
MPB/2	NGS Ranger	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	11/1	14/1	
CCJ	Pavina-1	C Clink	Visa	Seabird	3/1	21/1	
TSP	Iokisti	Cement	Tuti	Litmond	1/1	25/1	
RM/3	Ararat	CPO	Sing	TSL	11/1	14/1	
RM/6	Traveller	HSD/JP-1	Sing	MSPL	11/1	15/1	
DD	Banglar Sampad	Repair	BSC	14/12	15/1		
RM/9	Banglar Asha	Repair	BSC	R/A	16/1		
CUFJ	Al Swamuz	Ura	Mong	ASLL	4/1	13/1	

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Call	Cargo	Loading Port
I Yamburenko	13.1.94	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Banglar Maya	15.1.94	Male	BSC	GI	
Vorean	14.1.94	Chin	USTC	Cement	
Fong Shin	14.1.94	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Eponyma	15.1.94	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Andrian Goncharov	15.1.94	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Hang Wan	18.1.94	S Hat	BDSHP	Cement	GI
Sam Houston	16.1.94		Karna	GI	
Dubai Glory	16.1.94		Prog	GI	
Gold Finch	16.1.94		MSA	MOP (P)	

Tanker due

Global Mercury	15.1.94	TSL	CPO	RM-4
----------------	---------	-----	-----	------

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Call	Date of Arrival
Vinta	GI	Col	OWSL	11/1
Lanka Mahapala	Cont	Mong	Baridhi	13/1

Vessels ready

Banglar Shourabh		Mong	Seacom	15/11
Loyal Bird		Mong	Seabird	9/1
Ouarina			Seacom	R/A
Pearl of Fujairah			BSC	R/A
Banglar Jyoti				R/A

Vessels awaiting instruction

Banglar Shourabh			BSC	R/A
Loyal Bird			Seacom	15/11
Ouarina			Seacom	R/A
Pearl of Fujairah			BSC	R/A
Banglar Jyoti				R/A

Movement of vessels for 14.1.94 & 15.1.94

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
14.1.		
J/7 Karabieverett	MPB-2 B Robt (Cont)	Nil
RM-3 Ararat		
MPB-2 NGS Ranger (Cont)		
15.1.		
J/12 Vinta	J/5 B Maya	J/11 Padi to J/1
J/13 L Mahapala (Cont)	J/13 Eponyma (Cont)	
MPB-1 Kota Buana (Cont)	J/12 A Goncharov (Cont)	
GSJ Al Tabit	RM-4 Global Mercury	
RM-6 Traveller	GSJ Oriental Way	
DD B Sampad	MPB-1 Fong Shin (Cont)	

The above were the Thursday's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিদ্যুৎ বিলা নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করুন

কাজের বিবরণ: চট্টগ্রাম ৬০ মেগাবোল্ট কেন্দ্রের পরিচালনা ভবনের প্যাকেজ টাইপ কেবলিং এরায়কটিন প্রাইট এর কুলিং টাওয়ার মেসার্স ও সলরকন কাজের দরপত্র। প্রিকারের যোগাযোগ: প্রকল্প মেসার্সকারী সংস্থা যাহানের পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা ও নিজস্ব ওয়ার্কশপ আছে। দরপত্রের মূল্যঃ ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা (অক্রেডেবলো), পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে উপ-পরিচালক, আঞ্চলিক হিসার দপ্তর, পিএনডি, কিল্ডো, আগাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম-এর অফিসে। দরপত্র পরিদর্শন ও তারিখঃ প্রধান পুরুষাণী (উপস্থান) এর দপ্তর, কিল্ডো, আগাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম, ঢাকা/নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হইতে আগামী ২০/০১/৯৪ইং পর্যন্ত। গ্রহণ ও যৌগ্যতা তারিখঃ ২৬-০১-৯৪ইং কেলো ১-০০ ঘটিকা এবং প্রিন্সিপাল কেলো ১-০০ মিনিট। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য সকল যাবতীয় নিয়মাবলী অবশ্যই পালন করিতে হইবে।

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
 বৈমূর্তিক সলরকন বিভাগ
 ৬০ মেগাবোল্ট কেন্দ্র, কিল্ডো, চট্টগ্রাম

বিদ্যুৎ/সন-৮১০/৮১০-৯৮
 DFP (BA) 164-8/1
 G-78

Asian countries see Bremen as gateway to European markets

When Germans sit down to read their newspapers at the breakfast table every morning, little do they know that the port of Bremen has already done its bit to make that possible. The explanation is simple. Bremen's port specialises, among other things, in handling forest products like wood, paper and wood pulp that are on their way to the processing industries and newspaper publishers. It also helps to send millions and millions of stuff up in smoke! Not to be alarmed, Bremen is also reputed for processing tobacco and is also the seat of the Tobacco Exchange which, discreetly, is used to auction off millions of pounds of Indonesian tobacco.

These are only some of the distributions that Bremen has come to be noted for. What is particularly noteworthy is the setting up and functioning of the World Trade Centre whose avowed objective is to provide a flip to the sinews of foreign trade, promoting, apart from domestic connections, the Asian region in particular. International trading companies, shipping lines and forwards take advantage of the centre as well in terms of using it as a point of contact, transshipment and exchanging information.

Bremen's World Trade Centre today houses 60 companies from 13 countries that include China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Vietnam. Using a total of 10,000 square metres of office space and exhibition area, these prominent companies sharpen their marketing strategies, further aided by communications and organisational support extended by the Bremen Business International GmbH team. While international trade is the general target for promotion, it is Asia, with its economies enjoying high growth rates, that occupies centre-stage. "The Asia-Pacific region is the fastest growing region of the world and that is where the main thrust is going to be," enthused Helmut Detken, chief executive of Bremen Business International (BBI), who is overlooking the intricacies of the "Asian connection."

Backed up by an infrastructure that lays emphasis on speedy information and quick transactions of business, the World Trade Centre provides exhibition space, conference rooms, language laboratory, modern catering services and a professional management team that smooths organisational procedures. Thus, Bremen has created a virtual marketing bonanza for Asian businessmen by bringing the most interesting and worthwhile suppliers and buyers from Asian countries to its doors, so that European buyers can choose quickly, surely and reliably from a comprehensive range of high-quality goods therefrom.

the free port areas of Bremen and Bremerhaven. The container terminal in Bremerhaven is the largest in Europe, with a quay length of 3200 metres, 19 container gantry cranes and an overall space of 1.6 million square metres. Direct access to road and rail networks ensures short transit times to the hinterland, just a few hours away within Germany, and between 24 and 48 hours for Europe-wide distribution. Along with this edge to Bremen's competitiveness in the distribution sector, the companies under one European roof at the World Trade Centre enjoy the close co-operation of the Bremen Chamber of Commerce in offering marketing seminars and helping to look after inquiries seeking business partners in Europe.

Europe's housewives make BIG's job tough but rewarding. Expecting fruit from all over the world, practically throughout the year, they also want it ripened to perfection when it gets to the table. That is where BLG gets into the act with its reefer containers, pallets and climate-controlled rooms. Whether it's bananas, Kiwis, other exotic fruits or delicate vegetables, shippers can rest assured that BLG would keep storage temperatures and humidity just right.

Every year, 450,000 metric tons of green coffee beans are unloaded in Bremen. In fact, Bremen has been recognised by London's Community Exchange as a tender port for coffee and cocoa. Green coffee from Columbia, Kenya, Brazil, Tanzania, Ecuador, Guatemala, Malaysia, Mexico, El Salvador and Indonesia is shipped to Bremen to be roasted to that perfect taste sought after by the customers.

With such commercial and strategic attractions to offer, it is not surprising to note that Bremen has been pulling in more and more firms to what has turned out to be its permanent trade fair. The range of firms that have perched themselves here stretches from manufacturing companies through trading firms, computer and electronics suppliers, down to those in the textiles field, food importers and handicrafts businesses. The Bremen facility is being particularly appreciated by Asian enterprises in view of its function of identifying partners for collaboration in getting joint ventures off the ground and offering a "logistics services chain", right from the port of entry to the ultimate buyer. Indeed, Bremen is being increasingly seen as a "gateway" to the European Community in the wake of the unified European market since the beginning of this year.

Credit for the conceptualisation of the Asian connection through the World Trade Centre also goes to the Economic Development Corporation of Bremen (EDCB) which has drummed up business in the Asian countries, setting up representative offices in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Seoul, Taipei, Manila and Tokyo.

India's shipping industry to add 1.5m DWT to fleet

BOMBAY, Jan 14: India's shipping industry says it will add nearly 1.5 million dead-weight tonnes (DWT) to its fleet in 1994, right on the heels of a record acquisition of 30 ships totalling 1.01 million DWT last year, reports Reuters.

The Indian National Shipowners' Association (INSA) said the industry stepped up buying last year, the highest in any one year since 1976 after the government liberalised shipping laws under a two-year old economic reform programme.

"This year should be even better as the full impact of liberalisation will be felt now," said R.L. Pai, President of INSA and group General Manager with Larsen and Toubro.

In a statement INSA said, "The acquisitions reflect the positive impact of the liberalisation in the industry."

Despite the additions, there was a net decline in the size of the Indian fleet due to the sale or scrapping of 29 ships totalling 1.06 million DWT. The fleet on January 1 stood at 10.30 million DWT from 442 ships.

Dhaka Stock Prices

Weekly comparison: At the close of tradings on January 6 and January 13, 1994

Company	FV/M/L*	1993-94			
		Jan 6	Jan 13	High	Low
BANKS (12)					
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	805.00	805.00	908.00	800.00
AB Bank	100/5	169.32	170.00	200.00	160.00
City Bank	100/5	290.00	290.00	355.00	280.00
Eastern Bank	100/20	110.00	110.00	110.00	105.00
IDLC Ltd	100/20	230.00	230.00	235.00	200.00
I.F.C.	100/5	150.00	150.00	198.00	140.00
Islami Bank	1000/1	360.00	1380.00	1705.00	1300.00
National Bank	100/5	125.00	125.00	130.00	85.00
Pubali Bank	100/5	100.00	100.00	100.00	85.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	70.00	70.00	91.00	65.00
U.C.B.L	100/5	108.00	108.00	120.00	80.00
Uttara Bank	100/5	91.00	91.00	103.00	87.00

INVESTMENT (8)

ICB	100/5	113.00	103.00	113.00	100.00
1st ICB M Fund	100/5	420.00	415.00	420.00	350.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	168	167.00	186.00	160.00
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5	14			