

ROK gaining from strong yen

SEOUL, May 7: South Korea is gaining wind ails from the strong yen which is making its products cheaper in overseas markets, company officials said Friday, reports AP.

"We are enjoying a booming business that we have never seen since 1988", said a spokesman for Goldstar Co., electronics exports of which soared 25 per cent during the first four months to April compared with the same period last year.

The biggest beneficiaries from a strong yen include heavy and chemical industries, electronic home appliance manufacturers and semiconductor makers.

Semiconductor producers, including Samsung Electronic Co., Gold Star Electronics Co. and Hyundai Electronics Co. have full books of orders for four megabyte d-ran (random access memory), enough to keep them busy until the end of September.

Although the company is operating at full capacity, production of such parts as cathode tubes and refrigerator compressors is insufficient to satisfy growing overseas demand, the Goldstar spokesman said.

Automakers were also capitalizing on the strong yen to raise export prices for greater profits because the yen appreciation forced Japanese competitors to jack up their own prices to maintain margins.

US dollar falls against most major currencies

NEW YORK, May 7: The American dollar fell against most major currencies Friday after stronger-than-expected employment numbers sparked a selloff in the stock and bond markets, pulling capital away from the United States, reports AP.

Gold prices soared in US trading after advancing modestly in Europe. On New York's Commodity Exchange, gold for current delivery rose 9.80 dollars per troy ounce to settle at 383.40 dollars. At 4 pm EDT (200 GMT), Republic National Bank quoted gold at 382.75 dollars, up 9.15 dollars.

Precious metals analysts said gold gained in part on inflation fears sparked by the strong economic report. But they also cited technical factors, including the covering of short positions by investors who had been betting that the metal would fall in price.

The dollar finished in New York at 1.6615 German marks, down from 1.6620 late Thursday, and at 102.40 Japanese yen, down from 102.85.

The dollar initially rose after the government's report that unemployment fell to 6.4 per cent in April from 6.5 per cent in March. The Labour Department said non-farm payrolls grew by 267,000, compared to market expecta-

tions of a gain of 170,000 jobs. Such numbers usually boost the dollar, since they indicate stronger economic growth, which draws foreign investment to the United States.

But US stock and bond investors have in recent months been extremely sensitive to hints of inflation, and the report exacerbated those worries, helping precipitate selloffs in both markets that hurt the dollar.

Analysts said the fall steepened after rumours circulated that the Federal Reserve would immediately raise short-term interest rates in an anti-inflation move. But a rate hike, expected by mid-May, was not forthcoming Friday.

Market watchers said investment money is pouring out of the country and into more attractive European investments. That's weighing down the dollar, said Bob Near, a Vice President at the Bank of New York.

Analysts also said the effects of Wednesday's massive dollar-supporting intervention by the Fed and other central banks have largely worn off. Dealers expect the Clinton administration to resume what has been interpreted as a weak-dollar policy.

"Since taking office, the administration has been talking the dollar down," said

Angelo Evangelista, a Vice President at the Bank of Boston. "It's going to take more than one or two belts by the Fed to convince everybody that they're not seeking a weak dollar."

In Tokyo, the dollar closed at 103.10 yen, up 1.30 yen from Monday's close in Tokyo. Japanese markets were closed from Tuesday through Thursday for national holidays. Later in London, the dollar was quoted at 102.70 yen.

The British pound traded in London at 1.4935 dollars, down from 1.4985 dollars late Thursday. In New York, the pound also fetched 1.4935 dollars, down from 1.4994 dollars.

Other late dollar rates in New York, compared with late Thursday: 1.4125 Swiss francs, down from 1.4155; 5.6965 French francs, down from 5.7130; 1.595 Italian lire, down from 1.604; and 1.3808 Canadian dollars, down from 1.3818.

Gold closed in London at 375.13 dollars a troy ounce, up from 374.45 dollars late Thursday. In Zurich the late bid price was 374.90 dollars, up from 374.20 dollars. On the New York Comex, silver for current delivery finished at 5.435 dollars a troy ounce, up from 5.107 dollars Thursday.

Plea to renew China's MFN status

WASHINGTON, May 7: About 800 American companies, trade associations, farm organizations and consumer groups wrote Thursday to US President Bill Clinton urging him to extend the Most Favoured Nations (MFN) trading status to China, reports Xinhua.

The Business Coalition for US-China Trade released the letter yesterday and stated that not renewing China's MFN status would jeopardize the over 180,000 high-wage American jobs dependent upon the over 9 billion worth of US goods and service exported to China last year.

In the letter which about 800 American businesses put their signatures to the coalition said that 'our companies are engaged in diverse businesses, ranging from manufacturing, farming, and retailing to financial and entertainment services. But we share a common conviction that trade with China is vital to America's future.'

"We are deeply concerned that initiating economic conflict through MFN revocation or other sanctions, such as denying MFN for state-owned companies, would put American jobs and exports at risk, cede the Chinese market to Europe and Japan," it claimed.

John McDonnell, Chairman

of McDonnell Douglas, explained in a news release by the coalition that "China represents an incredible market opportunity which will create thousands of additional US jobs and further improve the US economy as the Chinese demand more American products and service."

"If we let this opportunity slip away, our global competitors will take over where we leave off and it will be nearly impossible to recover a competitive position in that area of the world," McDonnell said.

The business leaders highlighted the important role that the Chinese market has for the American consumer.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on May 7, 1994
Index, turnovers decline
Star Report

The price index and the turnovers on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) declined on Saturday, the opening day of the week.

The DSE All Share Price Index fell to 679.43657 from 684.25160, a decline of 0.70 point.

The turnover in volume dropped by 28.96 per cent and the turnover in value showed a decrease of 11.63 per cent.

A total of 12,538 shares worth Taka 37,45,435.00 changed hands as against Thursday's 17,650 shares valued at Taka 42,38,257.00.

The number of issues traded also fell to 32 from 35.

The gainers led by Rupon Oil, outnumbered the losers by 14 to 13 while five others were traded at previous rates.

Rupon Oil led the gainers in terms of volume. Its 2100 shares were traded.

Eastern Cables (1160) and Beximco Synthetic (1890) also gained significantly.

In terms of value, Shine Pukur Jute dominated the list of gainers with a rise of Taka 40.00 per share. Only 10 shares of the company changed hands.

Sixth ICB M Fund topped

Trading at a glance

DSE All Price Index	679.43657
Market Capitalisation	3,090.95,3249.30
Turnover in Volume	12,538
Turnover in Value Tk	37,45,435.00

Company's name	Change Number (per share) of shares traded
Gainners (14)	
Eastern Cables	0.49 1160
Dhaka Vegetable	3.93 315
Rupon Oil	0.43 2100
Shine Pukur Jute	40.00 10
Talpu Spinning	1.46 120
Ambee Pharma	0.83 400
Beximco Pharma Ltd	0.82 449
Kohinoor Chemical	2.00 200
Beximco Synthetic Ltd.	7.17 1890
Apex Tannery Ltd	2.50 30
GG Ball Pen	1.93 535
Morino Ceramic	5.00 10
Cig Cement	6.89 100
Eastern Insurance	2.47 240
Losers (13)	
Islamic Bank	50.00 3
6th ICBM Fund	1.00 900
Adiz Pipes	15.00 15
Bd Lamps	1.32 643
Singer Bd	3.53 52
Alpha Tobacco	2.00 500
Padma Textile	2.90 260
Walta Process	14.00 10
Banga Chemical	5.00 20
Umsania Glass	0.86 5
Beximco Ltd	1.00 600
Apex Footwear	3.82 380
Beximco Synthetic (Deb)	5.00 2
Issues (5) unchanged	
Quasem Silk Mills Ltd (200), Desh Garments (220), Pharmaco International Ltd. (200,000), Pharma Aids Ltd (30), and BGIC (1050).	

Lloyd's faces \$6m claim

LONDON, May 7: Lloyd's of London insurance market faces a 6.0 million dollar claim following the death last weekend of Brazilian formula one racing driver Ayrton Senna, an insurance broker said on Friday, reports Reuters.

Lloyd's broker Tim Clowes said Lloyd's underwriters insured around one third a 20 million dollar policy, with insurance companies operating in Britain taking on the balance.

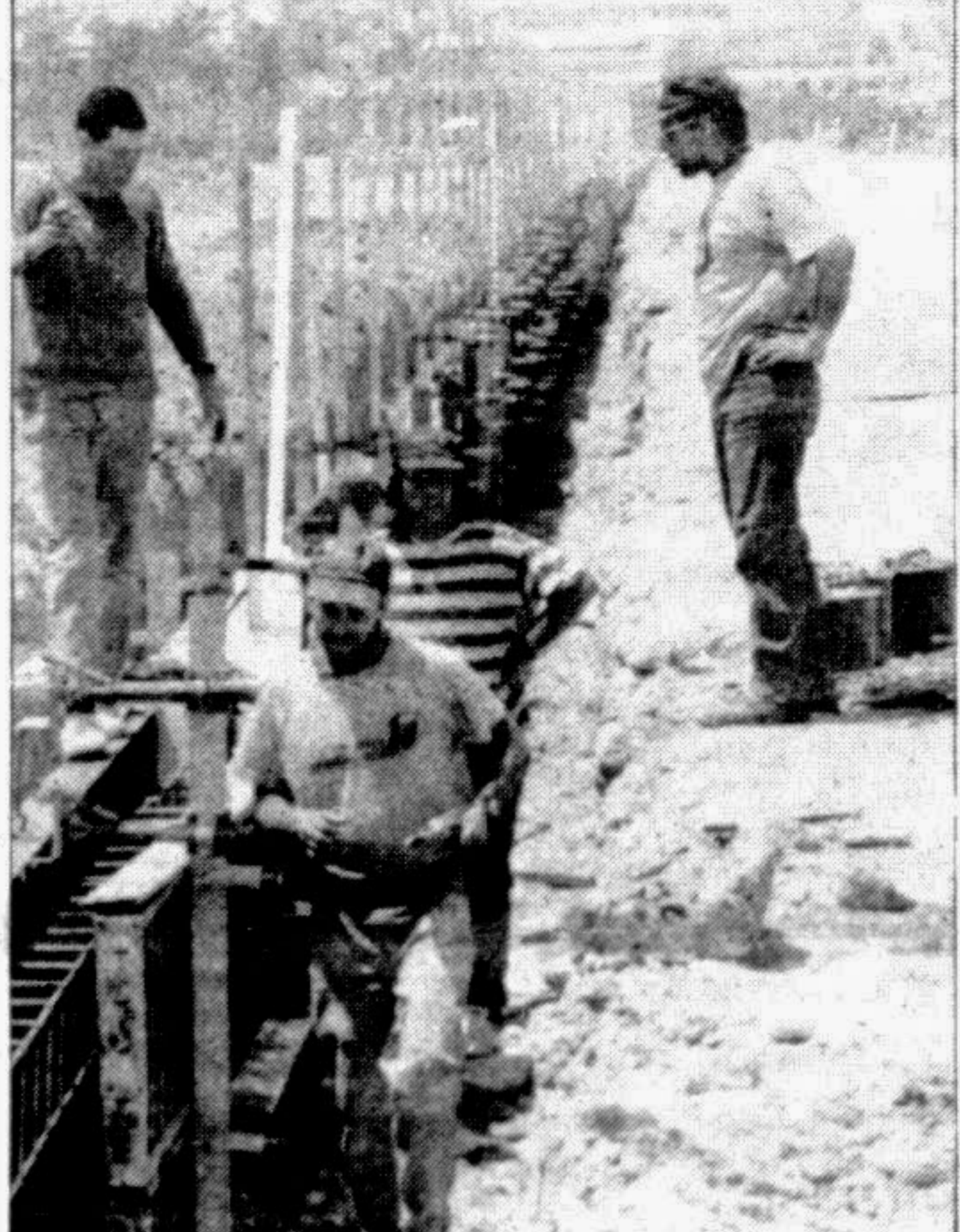
The two-year policy covered the Williams racing team against cancelled appearances in the event of Senna's death, the broker said. The policy is not payable in full as some events had already taken place, he added.

The risk was placed widely with Lloyd's syndicates specialising in personal accident insurance and does not represent a large claim for the market as a whole.

Senna was killed in an accident at the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola on May 1.

Clowes is a specialist broker for motor racing and high risk sports with close connections to the motor racing world.

"I met Senna when he first came to Britain at the age of 18 last weekend was the most horrendous weekend of my life," Clowes said.



Israeli workers build the new electronic fence along the border between the autonomous Gaza Strip (L) and Israel on Thursday in a bid to prevent eventual terrorists or thieves infiltration into Israel. In the last few months, thousands of stolen Israeli cars have found their way into the Gaza Strip where, even brand new, they can be bought for a few thousand dollars. — AFP photo

Russia loses \$3b a yr for West

MOSCOW, May 7: Economics Minister Alexander Shokhin on Friday said Russia was losing about three billion dollars each year because the West was barring its access to world markets, Interfax news agency reported, says Reuter.

Shokhin, who is also Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic strategy and talks with the West on Russia's foreign debt-echoed comments by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who accused the West of discriminating against Moscow.

Shokhin said the government was trying to attract more Western investors as the country could use between 40 billion and 50 billion dollar a year.

Private savings in foreign currencies rise in China

BEIJING, May 7: Chinese have stashed more than 10 billion dollars in hard currencies in private bank accounts, 40 per cent more than they had 16 months ago, the Bank of China said Saturday, reports AP.

Increased travel abroad is one reason for the increase, the official Xinhua News Agency quoted bank spokesman Zhu Chi as saying.

Not many years ago, it was difficult for private Chinese to obtain foreign currencies, even if they planned a trip abroad. China's currency is not internationally convertible.

In recent years, the government has relaxed currency restrictions and taken measures to encourage citizens to put their hard currency in banks, including raising interest rates and allowing them to remove deposits at will.

Digital Equipment may cut 20,000 more jobs

BOSTON, May 7: Digital Equipment Corp may shed another 20,000 jobs over the next two years and sell some businesses in a bid to become more competitive, the computer company said Friday, reports AP.

Digital currently employs about 92,000 workers including temporary employees, and has previously said it intended to cut 7,000 jobs this quarter.

In a videotaped presentation to employees Tuesday, Digital Chief Executive Robert B. Palmer said the company should have a work force of 65,000, based on the ratio of revenue per worker enjoyed by its competitors.

"You cannot justify a company of 85,000 people with our level of revenue," Palmer said, according to a transcript of the video.

Palmer said he was comparing the company's revenue per employee with that of rivals International Business Machines Corp and Hewlett Packard.

Digital spokeswoman Nikki Richardson said the company may pare its payroll by spinning off divisions. She said the need to cut 20,000 employees also could be lessened if revenue increases.

Still, Richardson said: "Even if we're fortunate to achieve a reasonable growth in revenue, we cannot escape the fact that additional downsizing is unavoidable. We are going to be disinvesting and we are going to be downsizing."

The Wall Street Journal said Palmer also told employees that he expected Digital's operations to be profitable by the end of this calendar year. He said April 25 that the turnaround would take two years.

The company lost 183 million US dollars in its latest quarter, and has lost more than three billion dollars over the past three years. The latest loss had been unexpected and broke a string of five quarters of improved results.

Palmer said some units would be sold.

IFC to invest \$50m dollars in AIFMC

WASHINGTON, DC, May 7: The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has approved an equity investment of US\$50 million dollars in the Asian Infrastructure Fund which will invest in private sector infrastructure projects in the developing economies of Asia, including the Indian sub-continent, says an International Finance Corporation press release.

The IFC will also participate in the equity capital of the Asian Infrastructure Fund Management Company (AIFMC), which has expertise in infrastructure and knowledge of the Asian region and will serve as manager of the fund.

The fund will invest in utility, transportation, and telecommunications projects, which are private sector-sponsored or which are being privatised. It will focus on equity and equity-related investments.

Peregrine Investments Hol-

dings Ltd, a Hong Kong-based merchant bank, is the fund's lead sponsor. Other initial investors in the funds — which will also be shareholders of AIFMC — are Soros Funds Management, the Asian Infrastructure Development Fund (or an affiliate), the Asian Development Bank, and Frank Russel Company.

"IFC's participation in this innovative fund will help mobilise private sector investment to meet the enormous demand for financing for infrastructure projects in Asia," said Everett Santos, Director of IFC's Infrastructure Department. "The role of the private sector in Asian infrastructure is growing rapidly, because of the efficiency it brings to both the implementation and operation of infrastructure projects. The Asian Infrastructure Funds is likely to serve as a model for future infrastructure financing vehicles. It also allows investors to participate in the region's significant growth."

500 Chinese goods displayed in Yangon

YANGON May 7: Nearly 500 Chinese light industrial products, machinery and foodstuffs were exhibited at a week-long trade fair in Yangon, sponsors said, reports AP.

More than 40 light industries from China's economic zones will showcase their products at the China Trade Fair '94, "hoping they will find their way into the Myanmar market" the sponsors told a news conference on Friday.

The products ranged from motor vehicles and machinery to home appliances, textiles and various foodstuffs, they said.

Companies took part include the National Airborne Equipment Corp, the Qingdao Computer-Embroidery Machine General Plant, the China National Building Material Technique Company, Tsingtao Brewery Ltd, Huaxia Plastic Woven Machinery Corp, and China Aviation Industry Supply and Marketing Corp.

After the fair ends, show-rooms and sales and service centres will be set up in Yangon to help promote Chinese products here.

Pioneer Myanmar Holding Ltd, a public company that is one of the fair's sponsors, will act as sole agent in Myanmar for the Chinese companies represented at the fair, company Managing Director Zaw Win said.

"The products are definitely of better quality than those coming into Myanmar from across the border," Zaw said.

Qatar ready to sell gas to Israel

DOHA, May 7: Qatar is prepared to sell liquefied natural gas to Israel on condition that there is further progress in the Middle East peace process, Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jabr Al-Thani said yesterday, reports AP.

He told Israeli and other journalists covering disarmament talks here that he had already raised the possibility with Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres at meetings in October in New York and in January in London.

"No agreement has been reached on the subject. But if the peace process makes progress we see no hindrance," he said.

Tokyo may move to open market next month

BRUSSELS, May 7: Japan's new Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata said on Friday he hoped his government could come up with a comprehensive set of plans to open up the domestic market to foreign competition by the middle of next month, reports Reuter.

"I hope for concrete measures by mid-June," he told a news conference at the end of a whistle-stop tour of four European Union countries.

"We shall continue to work on macroeconomic and microeconomic issues... we should accept the criticisms and remove regulations," he added, without giving any further details.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies (figures as on May 7, effective in Taka)

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	TT & OD	EC	TT Clean	OD Sight Ex. Bills Transfer
US Dollar	40.2995	40.3285	40.1010	40.0170 39.8915
Pound Sterling	60.1873	60.2306	59.4018	59.2775 59.0916
DM	24.3688	24.3963	23.9931	23.9428 23.8678
F Franc	7.1080	7.1131	6.9970	6.9823 6.9604
C Dollar	29.3464	29.3675	28.9009	28.8403 28.7498
S Franc	28.6530	28.6737	28.2082	28.1491 28.0608
Jap Yen	0.3973	0.3976	0.3874	0.3855 0.3853
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2908	1.2973	1.2754	1.2675 —
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3221	1.3287	1.3063	1.2900 —
Iranian Ryal (AMU)	0.0229	0.0230	0.0226	0.0223 —

A) T. T. (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk 40.0590
B) Usance Rates:
30 Days DA 39.4666 90 Days DA 39.1826 120 Days DA 38.8985 180 Days DA 38.3304
C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk 40.0170
D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Tk 40.5285

Indicative Rates

Currency	Selling T.T. & O.D.	Buying O. D. Transfer
S/Ryal	10.7460	10.6363
UAE Dirham	10.9730	10.8604
Kuwaiti Dinar	136.1010	134.3827
Singapore Dollar	25.9277	25.6487
D Guilders	21.7659	21.5397
S Kroner	5.3030	5.2458
Malaysian Ringgit	15.0785	14.9183

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Unit

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT
Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 7.5.94

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L. Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/2	Safar	GI	Pena	ASLL	R/A	10/5
J/6	Vishva Parag	GI	Cal	SSL	R/A	3/5
J/7	Banglar Sumpad	Rice	Kara	BSC	R/A	—
J/10	Dolores	Idle	—	Seacom	R/A	15/5
J/11	Meng Kiat	Cont	Sing	AML	6/5	8/5
J/12	Lanka Mahapala	Cont	Mong	Bangri	5/5	7/5
J/13	Yambureniko	Cont	Sing	CT	4/5	5/5
MPB/1	Banglar Moni	Cont	Sing	RSL	5/5	8/5
GCJ	Arcaalia-1	C. Clink	Viza	Seacom	3/5	12/5
GSJ	Banglar Kakoli	Wheat (G)	—	BSC	R/A	—
DDJ	Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	—	BSC	R/A	7/5
DDJ/1	Banglar Asha	Repair	—	BSC	R/A	10/5
CUFJ	Loyal Blvd	Urea	Mong	ENCL	15/11	12/5

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Infinity 23/4	7/5	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Saitkung	7/5	—	CCNL	Mop (P)	—
David-L	9/5	—	H&H	Repair	—
Tiger River 3/5	7/5	Sing	RSL	Cont	Cal
Eponyma 27/4	7/5	Sing	CTS	Cont	—
Armas	13/5	—	PSAL	TSP	—
Pearl One	15/5	Yang	ENCL	GI	—
Andrian Goncharov 27/4	8/5	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Karabieverett	12/5	Sing	EBPL	GI	Fe St
Agri Monfalcone	8/5	—	ARL	Scraping	—
Banger	12/5	—	Lufth	W. Pulp	—
Banglar Gourab	12/5	P. Cala	BSC	GI	—
Banglar Urm	13/5	Mong	BSC	GI	Latt UK Cont
Iran Torab	9/5	Sing	H&H	Cement	—
Al Salma	10/5	Sing	ASLL	GI	—
Ultima 3/5	10/5	Col	BTSA	Cont	Mong
Zeneh-1	10/5	—	PSAL	Cement	—
Imke Wehr 4/5	11/5	Sing	APLEB	Cont	Sing
Erattini	11/5	—	PSAL	Cement	—
Bintang Harapan	11/5	Hong	Prog	GI	—
Olvia	12/5	—	USTC	Cement	—
Fong Yun 3/5	13/5	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Vishav Panjak	18/5	—	SSL	GI/GL	UK Cont
Ronjay Choomie	15/5	Vico	USTC	P. Rion (P)	—
San Mateo (Rorol) 3/5	25/5	—	JF	Vehicles	—
Callian-S	25/5	—	SES	Wheat (G)	—

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Lampeter	C OIL	Jebe	Archangel	(28/4)
Banglar Shourabh	C OIL	—	BSC	R/A
Forum Wind	Wheat (G)	Vanc	SSST	4/5

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Sheng Kai	Urea	V Pat	Seacom	6/5
Guryev	CPO	P. Cala	TSL	7/5
Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	7/5
M Komsomolets	GL	Mong	OWSL	7/5

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

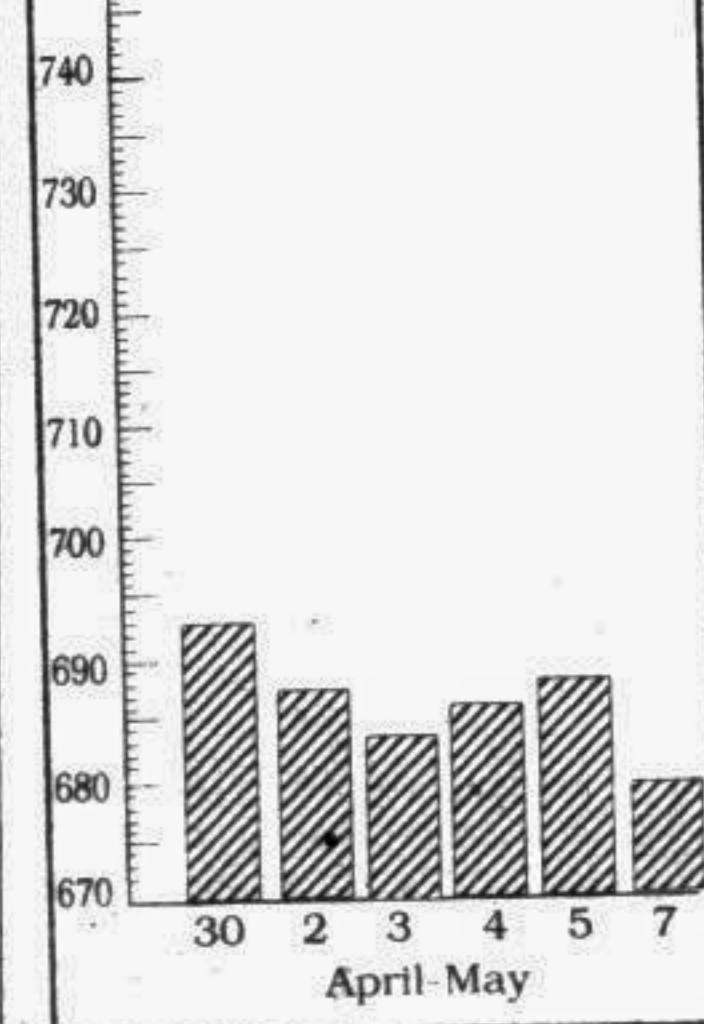
Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Soul	Urea	—	CTPL	R/A (2/5)

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 8-5-94

OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIFTING
J/9 Meng Kiat	DDJ Banglar Jyoti	MPB/2 Fong Shin to MPB/2
J/12 Lanka Mahapala	J/13 A Goncharov	J/12 HRS
J/13 Yambureniko	J/44-DDJ Infinity (Cont)	J/11 HRS
MPB/2 Keta Duana	J/12 Eponyma (Cont)	J/1 HRS
GSJ Banglar Kakoli	J/11 Tiger River (Cont)	J/1 HRS
RM/4 Guryev	J/1 Saitkung	—
RM/6 Banglar Shourabh	—	—
J/7 Banglar Sumpad	—	—

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.

DSE All Share Price Index



DSE Shares and Debentures

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)
BANKS (12)		
Al-Baraka Bank	1000/1	800.00
AB Bank	100/5	180.00
City Bank	100/5	280.00
Eastern Bank	100/20	110.00
IDLC Ltd	100/20	439.88
IFLC	100/5	170.00
Islamic Bank	1000/1	1550.00
National Bank	100/5	125.00
Pubali Bank	100/5	100.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	70.00
U.C.B.L	100/5	100.00
Uttara Bank	100/5	85.00
INVEST		