



Ata Uddin new BKB Chairman

By Staff Correspondent

The government has appointed Ata Uddin Khan, a former state minister, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

Ata Uddin Khan, a Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England in 1959, opened an audit firm in the same year.

Khan entered active politics and became a member of the then Provincial Assembly in 1965.

Ata Uddin Khan was the founder-chairman of the now defunct Eastern News Agency (ENA) and also founded the Illustrated Weekly of Bangladesh.

He was elected from the BNP as a Member of Parliament in 1979 and was inducted as a minister of State for Finance.

In 1980 he was appointed minister of State in charge of the Ministry of Manpower Development and Social Welfare.

He hails from Nawabganj of Dhaka district and is closely connected with social activities.

Taka steady against US dollar

Bangladesh Taka remained steady against US dollars at the close of interbank trading yesterday, dealers said, reports BSS.

The banks quoted Taka 40.1505/40.1540 per dollar against yesterday's 40.1505/40.1535.

They said the market remained dull as the international market was closed for the weekend yesterday. The interbank call money rates were also steady at the close of the trading.

The lenders quoted the call money rates between 1.50 per cent to 2.50 per cent same as the previous rates.

The demand for the call money remained steady as the banks have surplus fund in hand.

Benazir tells foreign businessmen Pakistan creates sound investment climate

ISLAMABAD, May 8: Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told foreign business executives here Saturday her country offered a very sound investment climate, reports AFP.

"We have concentrated on putting our house in order so that the private capital can move freely in and out of the country," she said in a speech to a conference being attended by more than 90 local and foreign companies.

Her six-month old government has continued economic deregulation and privatisation, giving incentives to foreign entrepreneurs including a right to repatriate capital and profits with no controls on foreign exchange, she said.

But, observers said an uncertain security situation could hamper Pakistan's efforts to woo foreign capital.

They cited this month's disturbances in the country's industrial and commercial centre of Karachi which caused many casualties and substantial economic losses before troops were moved in to restore order.

Bhutto said her privatisation policy aimed at passing on some of the "most profitable" public utilities such as gas companies, power generation units and telephone corporations to the private sector.

The energy sector has been made an "almost exclusive domain" of the private sector, particularly foreign investors, she said.

"Pakistan would welcome foreign investors to participate in this process either on their own or through a joint venture with local partners," Bhutto said.

Outlining the effectiveness of her economic policies, Bhutto said Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves had risen to 1.9 billion dollars from a "perilous" 300 million dollars six months ago.

Bhutto, who assumed office in October, said the budget deficit had been reduced to six per cent of GDP from eight per cent last year.

The domestic credit expansion which saw growth of 20 per cent during the last three years had been contained to five per cent, she said.

The government domestic borrowing has been restricted to 10 billion rupees (333.33 million dollars) whereas it was 62 billion rupees (1.93 billion dollars) the previous year, Bhutto said.

First on the list is Hong Kong, with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) orchestrating a massive trade delegation later this month to the British colony which reverts to China in 1997.

The trip will mark the first trade promotion in Hong Kong to be organised by MOFTEC, the China Daily Business Weekly said.

MOFTEC Vice Minister Gu Yongliang will head a 200-member trade forum to Australia from June 1-9, during which "more than 500 Chinese projects seeking Australian investment will be announced," the newspaper quoted an official with MOFTEC's foreign investment administration as saying.

Australia is one of the top 10 investors in China and pledged some 1.3 billion US dollars for more than 1,300 Chinese projects last year.

Coinciding with the Australian promotion, Foreign Trade Minister Wu Yi will lead a delegation to Japan to discuss bilateral trade and investment opportunities.

China approved 3,448 projects involving 2.96 billion dollars of Japanese investment in 1993.

Wu recently returned from the United States after spearheading the biggest Chinese Investment Promotion there for 15 years.

Europe is also on the ministry's itinerary, and a 100-strong trade and investment delegation will visit Italy and France towards the end of June.

Beijing moves to woo foreign investment

BEIJING, May 8: China's push for worldwide investment will move up a gear in coming months as a series of high-profile trade delegations prepare to tap overseas interest in the world's fastest growing economy, press reports said today, reports AFP.

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Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on May 8. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling	Buying
	TT & OD	TT Clean
US Dollar	40.2995	40.1010
Pound Sterling	60.1873	59.4018
DM	24.3688	23.9931
F Franc	7.1080	6.9970
C Dollar	29.3464	28.9009
S Franc	28.6530	28.2082
Jap Yen	0.3973	0.3874
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2908	1.2973
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3221	1.3287
Iranian Rial (AMU)	0.0229	0.0230

A) T. T. (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk 40.0590
B) Usance Rates:
30 Days DA 60 Days DA 90 Days DA 120 Days DA 180 Days DA
39.7507 39.4666 39.1826 38.8985 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

Currency	Selling	Buying
	T.T. & O.D.	O.D. Transfer
S Riyal	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	15.0765	14.9183

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Unit

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT
Berth position and performance of vessels as on 08.05.94

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	Local agent	Date of arrival	Date of leaving
J/2	Safar	GI	Pena	ASLL	R/A
J/6	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDShip	7/05
J/7	Banglar Sampad	Rice	Kara	ESC	R/A
J/8	Moskovskoi	GL	Mong	OWSL	7/05
J/9	Komsomolets	GL	Mong	OWSL	6/05
J/10	Sheng Kai	UREA	V. Patt	Seacom	6/05
J/11	Dolores	Idle	Seacom	R/A	15/5
J/12	Meng Kiat	Cont	Sing	AML	6/05
J/13	Lanka Mahapala	Cont	Mong	Baridhi	5/05
MPB/1	I. Yamburenko	Cont	Sing	CT	4/05
MPB/2	Banglar Moni	Cont	Mong	ESC	6/05
CCJ	Kota Buana	Cont	Sing	RSL	5/05
GCJ	Arcaadia-1	C. Clinic	Viza	Seacom	3/05
GCJ	Banglar Kakoli	Wheat (G)	ESC	R/A	8/5
RM/3	Gurayev	CFO	P. Kala	HSC	7/05
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	C.Oil	ESC	R/A	8/5
DOJ/1	Banglar Asha	Repair	ESC	R/A	20/5
CUFJ	Loyal Bird	Urea	Mong	ENCL	15/11

VESSLS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE
Name of vessels Date of arrival Last port Local agent Cargo Loading port

Infinity 23/4	9/5	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Agil Monfal Cone	8/5	—	ARL	Scraping	—
David-L	9/5	—	H & H	Repair	—
Ranger	13/5	—	Lufth	W.Pulp	—
Iran Torab	9/5	Sing	H & H	Cement	—
Banglar Urmil	10/5	Mong	BEC	GL	Latt.
Al Salma	10/5	Sing	ASLL	GI	—
Ultima 3/5	12/5	Col	BTSA	Cont	Mong.
Zenath-1	10/5	—	PSAL	Cement	—
Imke Wehr 4/5	11/5	Sing	APL(B)	Cont	Sing.
Eratin	11/5	—	PSAL	Cement	—
Bintang Harapan	11/5	Hong	Prog	GI	—
Karaberev	12/5	Sing	EBFL	GI	Fe. St.
Banglar Gourab	12/5	P. Kala	BEC	GI	—
Olvia	12/5	—	USTC	Cement	—
Armas	12/5	—	PSAL	TSP (P)	—
Fong Fun 3/5	13/5	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing.
Pearl One	15/5	Yang	ENCL	GI	—
Ronjay Choomie	15/5	Vico	USTC	P. Iron (P)	—
Banglar Robi 7/5	15/5	Sing	BEC	Cont	Sing.
Petr Starostin 7/5	17/5	Sing	CT	CONT	Sing.
Vishva Pankaj	18/5	—	SSL	GI/GL	UK. Cont

TANKER DUE
Argosia 10/5 Sing ECCL F Oil

VESSLS AT KUTUBDIA
Name of vessels Cargo Last port Local agent Date of arrival

Lampeter	C.Oil	Jebe	Archangel	28/4
Banglar Jyoti	C.Oil	—	ESC	R/A
Forum Wind	Wheat (G)	Vanc	SSST	4/5

VESSLS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE
READY ON
Tiger River Cont Sing RSL 7/5

Sellung	MOP(P)	ILL	CCNL	7/5
Eponyma	Cont	Sing	CTS	7/5
Andrian Goncharov	Cont	Sing	CT	7/5

VESSLS NOT READY
Zang San Cement Tuti Delmore R/A/2/5

Almas	Wheat	BEW	Seacoast	28/4
Alkyonis	R.Sulp	Long	Seacom	6/5

VESSLS AWAITING INSTRUCTION:
Soul Urea CTPL R/A (2/5)

VESSLS NOT ENTERING:
Samudra Rani Cement Pada SSL 30/4

OUTGOING INCOMING SHIPPING
J/11 Tiger River DOJ Banglar Shourabh

MPB/1 Banglar Moni DOJ/2 Infinity

DOJ Banglar Jyoti

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

China dumps its surplus production on Vietnam

DONG DANG (Vietnam), May 8: At dawn each day a thin convoy of bicycles and motorbikes leaves this border town and with it trickles away hope for Vietnam's faltering state industries, reports AFP.

Balancing precarious cargoes of everything from beer to televisions, traders drive down from the border posts along the frontier with China to the market town of Lang Son where wholesalers snap up cheap consumer goods for resale across Vietnam.

Hundreds of millions of dollars of goods flood across the frontier each year, mostly brought in illegally by small traders growing rich as China dumps its surplus production of Vietnam, which has found itself powerless to stop the trade.

With estimates of the value of Chinese stockpiles as high as 34 billion dollars, the trade threatens to swamp Vietnam's light industries, already struggling under debts and a legacy of decades of centralised mismanagement.

The Chinese are dumping goods from their vast stocks and with the devaluation of the yuan the products are even cheaper, a western economist said.

What the Vietnamese get from China is basically a better product and the Chinese are definitely not selling at cost price, he said.

Vietnam's textile industry has been particularly hard hit, with high quality Chinese cloth selling for around 15 per cent

less than local material. Chinese products such as porcelain, cooking utensils and bicycles almost completely dominate the market.

Government trade agreements with China and bans on a wide range of imports have been futile as border provinces ignore dictates from the central government to protect their own booming economies.

New regulations in China can, however, have a rapid impact on Vietnam.

Vietnamese officials are waiting anxiously for the outcome of the US tussle with China over Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trading status fearing that if Washington pulls the plug on trade with China, further tidal waves of surplus goods will come across the border.

But some officials and economists here have suggested that the competition from China is just the bitter medicine Vietnam needs to sort out its crumbling state sector.

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