

Plague casts shadow over India's coffee exports

BOMBAY, Oct 5: Plague has cast a shadow over India's coffee exports at a crucial time when planters are hoping to secure total liberalisation of coffee marketing and boost their overseas sale, growers and exporters said, reports Reuters.

They said coffee shipments were held up after some countries banned imports from India soon after an outbreak of plague in the western Indian city Surat.

"Some Gulf agents have advised us not to make any shipments," said Vijayan Rajes, a planter-exporter. "The situation is very alarming."

Exporters say that shipments of around 20,000 tonnes of coffee — 8,000 tonnes on the high seas and the remainder in the pipeline — may face restrictions on arrival at foreign ports.

"As a precautionary measure, we have advised our shipping companies to fumigate coffee export consignments," said Ramesh Raja, a leading exporter.

Fruit and vegetable exporters in Bombay said on Tuesday they had got clearance to resume exports to the Gulf.

although cargoes would still have to be fumigated.

Raja said coffee roasters in importing countries were awaiting their government's stand on imports from India.

"The impact could be temporary. It could result in delayed shipments and create a negative image for India," he said.

Exporters estimate the total shipments of coffee in the first six months of fiscal 1994-95 (April/March) at 95,000 tonnes against a target of 140,000 tonnes for the whole year.

Coffee growers have been reaping rich returns from booming global prices after the government partially lifted curbs on coffee marketing in January this year.

The relaxed regime allows growers to directly market half their produce under a 50 per cent Free Sale Quota (FSQ). The growers are now hopeful of securing total liberalisation of the coffee trade and industry.

The plague could not have struck at a more crucial time.

The killer disease, which broke out in Surat on September 19, swiftly spread to far off

places such as Delhi and Calcutta, creating world-wide fears.

"Indian coffee is being screened and quarantined for fumigation in Italy," said Anil Bhandari, another coffee planter turned exporter.

Indian coffee exporters, who earned about 5.5 billion rupees (175 million dollars) from overseas sales in 1993/94 ended March, are hopeful of doubling their earnings this year.

The state-run coffee board, set up to regulate coffee marketing, has recently recommended that the growers be allowed to market their entire produce under a 100 per cent FSQ.

Growers' representatives met the Commerce Minister last week demanding a 100 per cent FSQ for the 1994/95 coffee season (October/September) which has just begun.

Planters estimate the 1994/95 crop at 180,000 tonnes, up from the previous year's 170,000 tonnes.

"We are hopeful the 100 FSQ will come through in the new season by when the plague will have been a forgotten issue," Bhandari said.



The ninth Third World Insurance Congress was held in Cairo recently. Photo shows (from right to left): M Moeedul Islam, Chairman of Bangladesh Insurance Association and leader of the Bangladesh delegation, Razaul Karim, Managing Director of Janata Insurance Co Ltd, Nizamuddin, Chairman of Karnafally Insurance Co Ltd, Aliuzzaman, Managing Director of Karnafally and R H Das, Managing Director of Peoples Insurance Co Ltd attending the conference.

ADB to make documents public

MANILA, Oct 5: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will declassify as wide range of formerly confidential bank documents by January 1995 as part of a stepped up information drive and a new policy of openness, it was announced yesterday, reports BSS.

The Manila-based institution said in a statement that the documents would be made available to the public on request after approval by the bank's Board of Directors.

These papers include "reports and recommendations of the (ADB) President on individual projects and programmes, technical assistance reports and economic reviews and operating papers of member countries," the bank said.

"The policy on confidentiality and disclosure of information will reinforce the new information initiative and instill a greater degree of transparency and accountability in the bank's operations," it said, adding that the policy would be effective as of January 1, 1995.

It said, however, that full disclosure would be made only in the absence of "legal and practical constraints."

The bank also announced an invigorated information drive to "deliver its development messages more effectively among target audiences in member countries."

In addition to media organisations, the information campaign will target government leaders, legislators, non-government groups, corporate executives and academics, the bank said.

GCC states oppose additional taxes on petroleum

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 5: Saudi Arabia said Tuesday the oil-producing Gulf states are opposed to additional taxes on petroleum, reports AP.

We, the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, are convinced that imposing additional taxes on petroleum will not contribute to the environment but instead will distort international trade, Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal told the UN General Assembly.

He did not specify who was proposing additional taxes or in what amount.

"It will not only adversely affect the economies of oil-exporting nations, but also those of oil importing nations. It will also undermine the development efforts of developing countries," he said.

The Gulf Cooperation Council include Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates.

Japanese office workers suffer first income drop in 45 years

TOKYO, Oct 5: Annual incomes of Japanese office workers dropped for the first time in 45 years in 1993 due to the nation's worst recession in several decades, the government said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Average incomes in the sector dipped by 0.6 per cent from the previous year to an average 4,522 million yen (45,220 dollars) in 1993, the national tax agency said in its annual report.

A male office worker earned an average of 5,551 million yen last year, down 0.5 per cent from the previous year, while a female worker earned 2,708 million yen down 0.8 per cent, the agency said.

People working for financial institutions earned the largest incomes last year, hitting an average of 5,555 million yen per person.

The number of white-collar workers — including part-timers — increased by 3.7 per cent to 42.77 million last year, made up of 27.29 million men and 15.48 million women.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on October 5, 1994

Bullish trend

Star Report

A bullish trend took over the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Wednesday.

A total of 2,63,642 shares worth Tk 11,22,05,479.50 changed hands as against Tuesday's 1,12,841 shares valued at Tk 2,55,51,287.50. The changes meant 133,640 per cent and 339.138 per cent increases in the turnovers in volume and value respectively.

A record number of issues took part in trading on the day. The number rose to 83 from Tuesday's 59, in which 35 gained, 31 incurred losses and the prices of 17 issues remain unchanged.

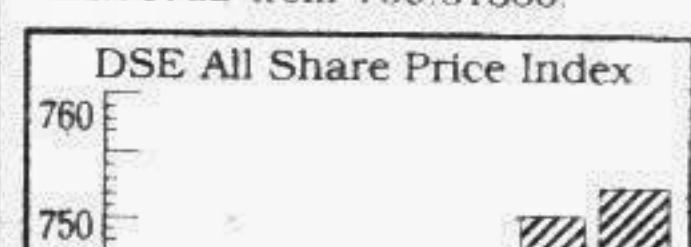
Monno Jute Industries experienced a gain of Tk 975.00 per share, leading the gainers in terms of value.

Beximco (Debt), Apex Tannery and Bangas Ltd incurred significant losses.

Eastern Housing Ltd became the top volume leader. Its 109840 shares were traded.

Other volume leaders of the day were: Beximco Pharma (50190), Apex Spinning (41920), Bangladesh Oxygen (13123), Quasem Drycells (3500), Beximco Knitting (5400), Mithun Corpn (3520), Ambee Pharma (5000), Beximco Synthetic (3460) and Beximco Ltd (5600).

The DSE All share Price Index rose by 2.194 points, increasing to 752.70782 from 750.51366.



Following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on October 5. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling	Buying
US Dollar	40.3830	40.0950
Pound Sterling	64.1242	62.6987
DM	26.3651	25.6504
F Franc	7.7192	7.5096
C Dollar	30.3293	29.4948
S Franc	31.7481	30.8855
Jap Yen	0.4124	0.3970
Indian Rupee	1.2939	1.2722
Pak Rupee	1.3210	1.2988
Iranian Ryal	0.0233	0.0228

Currency	Selling	Buying
S Riyal	10.7651	10.6276
UAE Dirham	10.9351	10.8553
Kuwaiti Dinar	135.8325	133.7779
D Guilders	23.3064	23.0051
S Krona	5.4763	5.4041
Malaysian Ringgit	15.7439	15.5388
Singapore Dollar	27.3135	26.9500

Shipping Intelligence

Berth	Name of vessels	Cargo	L-port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Mar Courier	R.Seeds	Ghent	Royal	2/10	10/10
J/2	Amanceida	P.Iron	Selen	MBL	25/9	7/10
J/4	Seyang Ace	GI	Hong	PROG	30/9	5/10
J/5	Khartoum	GL	Mong	ASCO	3/10	6/10
J/7	Meng Kiat	Cont	Mong	AML	4/10	5/10
J/11	Continent-1	Urea	—	CLA	24/9	—
J/12	Al Tajwar	Urea	Mong	Seacom	26/09	8/10
J/13	Ultima	Cont	COL	Baridhi	2/10	6/10
MPB/1	Prattita	Cont	Sing	AML	2/10	12/10
MPB/2	Imke Wehr	Cont	Sing	CT	2/10	6/10
CGJ	Komosolets Rossli	C.Clink	OKHA	Seacom	8/9	7/10
GSJ	Nadelhorn	Wheat (G)	Sing	Ancient	30/9	7/10
TSP	Saint Nektarios	R.Phos	Aqaba	SSST	26/9	6/10
OM/3	Global Juno	CPO	Bela	TSL	3/10	5/10
RM/4	Templar	COOL	COL	TSL	3/10	8/10
RM/5	Mekhanik Yurev	HSO	Sing	MSPL	2/10	6/10
RM/6	Yun Hua	Cement	Sing	CTPL	1/10	5/10
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	COIL	—	HSC	R/A	5/10

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Banglar Mont 25/9	5/10	Mong	HSC	Cont	Sing.
Bao Wang	5/10	Sing	HSL	Cement	—
Pattu	6/10	Pena	OWSL	GI (Copro)	—
Reunion	6/10	Mala	IPIL	GI (Copro)	—
Stonewall Jackson	7/10	Para	Karna	GI (Laish)	CAL
Zang Su Bong	7/10	Yang	Rainbow	Cement	—
APJ Anand	8/10	Nikol	Litmond	Fert	—
Banglar Robi 28/9	7/10	Sing	HSC	Cont	Sing.
Kritika Naree	7/10	P.Kome	PSAL	C.Clinker	—
Princes Ariadne	10/10	Sing	H&SL	Scraping	—
Petr Starostin	8/10	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing.
Pong Yun 27/9	8/10	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing.
Mikhail Stenko	8/10	COL	HTSA	Cont	Col
Lhotse 29/9	8/10	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing.
Kota Bintang 29/9	8/10	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing.
Sea Tradition	8/10	—	AML	Cement	—
Banglar Shobha 1/10	12/10	Sing	HSC	Cont	Sing.
Banglar Kakoli	12/10	Male	HSC	GI	—
Mowlav	12/10	—	SSL	GL	BABes
Optima 4/10	12/10	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing.
Chandidas	13/10	Col	SSL	GL	UK Cont
Pong Shin 4/10	14/10	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing.
Trans Auto (Roro)	22/9	20/10	BHA	Vehicles	—

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Al Ain	C.Oil	RAS	ECSL	29/9
Banglar Shourabih	C.Oil	—	HSC	R/A

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banglar Asha	Wheat (G)	—	HSC	R/A (30/9)

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Hang Cheong	Sugar (G)	Sing	OWSL	21/9
Blueprint	Cement	Sing	HSL	2/10
Wang Ting	Cement	Rizh	Delmure	2/10
Maritime Freindship	Wheat (P)	Sing	OWSL	2/10
Nicola-D	Cement	China	PSAL	3/10

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Arbas	Scraping	Hong	ARL	25/9
Eratin	Cement	Sing	SES	3/9
Agios Nektarios	Cement	Lyon	HSL	30/9
Aghios Rafael	Fert (P)	Sing	SSST	2/10
Michel	Scraping	Sing	ARL	2/10
Mezhgorie	Cement	Chin	SES	2/10
Handil	Scraping	Sing	OTL	3/10

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/5 Khartoum	DOJ Banglar Jyoti	RM/4 Templar to RM/3
J/11 Continent-1	J/4 Reunion	—
J/13 Ultima	RM/4 Blueprint	—
MPB/1 A Goncharov	—	—
MPB/2 Imke Wehr	—	—
TSP S Nektarios	—	—
RM/5 M Yurev	—	—
DOJ Banglar Shourab	—	—

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

Davao tries to spruce image, attract business

DAVAO CITY, Philippines, Oct 5: This southern metropolis is trying to overcome its image as the "Dodge City of the Philippines" develop into a major trading and industrial center, reports AP.

Selling Davao, a major fishing port on Mindanao Island with a population of about one million, is a formidable task. Until a few years ago, the city had a reputation for lawlessness like Dodge City in the American "Wild West" of the last century.

Communist-led held such a firm grip on the Agdao slum district that it was nicknamed "Nicaragu Agdao." Gunmen from the pro-government "Alsa Masa," or "Masses Arise," militia patrolled the streets. Crime was rampant.

The result was devastating for the economy. Business fell so flat that in 1993, construc-

tion of a single cement plant represented a 3,420 per cent increase in new investment over the previous year.

Much of that is changing now in Davao City, about 610 miles (960 kilometers) south-east of the capital, Manila.

Communist influence has waned because of the vigilantes and factionalism in rebel ranks. Alsa Masa gunmen no longer patrol the streets, and the city bustles with activity unseen only a few years ago.

Davao is in the midst of a construction boom, and traffic clogs the streets. The city recently introduced a fleet of brand new, radio-equipped taxis. It boasts an airport capable of serving international flights.

"Our skyline is changing every month," Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said. "The city is peaceful now. We have been able to restore infrastructure

and provide stability for our investors."

The US, Japanese and other foreign embassies no longer discourage their nationals from visiting Davao, although they advise caution.

To promote its new image, the city has launched an "invest in Davao" campaign, highlighting opportunities in transshipment, tourism, light industry, agri-business and processed foods.

"We want to project Davao," Syvel Tan, project manager of the city's Private Investment and Trade Opportunities office, said. "Our problem was one of unfair perception. We want to show the good side of Davao."

To do so, the city is putting finishing touches on a three-story Business Center, funded in part by the US Agency for International Development.



USAID Mission Director in Bangladesh, Dr Richard M Brown and Chairman of Business Advisory Services Centre (BASC), A Hafiz Choudhury, signing a cooperative agreement on behalf of their respective organisations in the city yesterday.

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board
Office of the Director Procurement,
Telephone Exchange Building,
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

No DP/L-119/IP/93-94/Mic/80 Dated: 27-09-94 AD/12-06-1401 BS
Sub: Local Re-Tender Notice for supplying 4 (four) Nos compressor of 5 (five) tons capacity.

Gala sealed tenders in duplicate are hereby invited from the bonafide business organisations/manufacturers for supplying of above compressor under-mentioned subject.

Tender will be received on 19-10-94 AD/04-07-1401 BS up to 12-00 BST and will be opened on the same day at 12-05 BST in presence of the tenderers or their representatives (if any).

The intending tenderers shall have to apply to the undersigned in their printed letter pad for purchasing the tender schedule. On submission of the application at reception counter of Telephone Exchange Building, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka the tender schedule may be purchased on cash payment of Tk 100/- (Taka one hundred) only (Non-refundable) from 8-30 AM to 1-00 PM on all working days. Information about earnest money, other terms and conditions and specifications are available in the tender schedule. No tender schedule will be sold on the opening day of the tender.

The authority is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept any or to reject all the tenders in the interest of B. T & T Board without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DDP-5924/29/9 Dy Director (Local Procurement)
C-1528 Phone No. 815041

\$ 461,000 US aid for business dev in Bangladesh

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide 461,000 dollars to the Business Advisory Services Centre (BASC) to continue its work supporting business development in Bangladesh, says USIS.

An agreement to this effect was signed by Dr Richard M Brown, Director, USAID mission in Bangladesh and A Hafiz Chowdhury, Chairman, BASC in the city yesterday. Under the agreement, BASC will receive the USAID assistance for a two-year period to improve market and technology information for business people, carry out consultancies, and provide a variety of training to promote business development in Bangladesh.

In his brief remarks after signing the agreement, Dr Brown pledged USAID's full cooperation and support for the work of the Business Advisory Services Centre. He said, "USAID's major goal in Bangladesh is to reduce poverty — which can best be accomplished by increasing employment. BASC has a key role to play in employment generation."

BASC and USAID have been working together since 1991, under the sponsorship of MIDAS (Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services), to promote improved management practices and better access to technology for businessmen and women in Bangladesh. He said that over that period, BASC has become a full-service business centre, registered with the government of Bangladesh.