

US, Pakistan sign \$2.5b accords on power projects

ISLAMABAD, Dec 19: Pakistan and US businessmen signed eighteen agreements amounting to an investment of 2.5 billion US dollars for setting up power projects in Pakistan, reports PTL.

This was announced by the US Secretary of Energy William H. White here yesterday. White, who has been in Pakistan since December 12, is accompanying a 60-member delegation of private American businessmen and government officials to explore new opportunities for trade and investment in the energy sector of Pakistan.

While four agreements were signed for setting up coal and gas fired power stations, the others were for cooperation in the field of oil and gas and research in energy efficiency and renewable energy technology.

These were in addition to the agreements worth over 4.5 billion US dollars signed between US and Pakistani businessmen for development of Pakistan's energy sector in September.

White said that some of these deals would be in place within six months.

Toyota predicts 10pc rise in vehicle sales

TOKYO, Dec 19: Toyota Motor Corp, Japan's largest automaker, said Monday it expects to sell 10 per cent more vehicles in Japan in 1995 than it did this year, reports AP.

It also plans to boost foreign production by 18 per cent to 1.25 million vehicles, while decreasing exports 17 per cent to the same number of vehicles, it said.

The rise of the yen, which makes exports more expensive, was the main reason for moving more production overseas, a Toyota spokesman said.

Toyota, which has 40 per cent of Japan's auto market and had eight trillion yen (80 billion dollars) in sales worldwide in fiscal 1994, expects to sell 2.24 million vehicles in Japan in 1995.

The projected increase is in line with the market as a whole. After shrinking nearly two years in a row, domestic auto sales began rising above the previous year's levels in June.

The company declined comment on how much the vehicle sales would represent in financial terms.

Nepalese PM tells entrepreneurs

Help make SAPTA a success

KATHMANDU, Dec 19: A two-day seminar of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on preferential trading arrangement was inaugurated here yesterday, reports Xinhua.

Inaugurating the seminar, Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikari said that entrepreneurs, particularly members of chambers of commerce and industry, need to play a crucial role in making SAPTA (SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement) a success.

The seminar was organised by the Federation of Nepalese

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) under the auspices of Frederick Naumann Foundation and SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

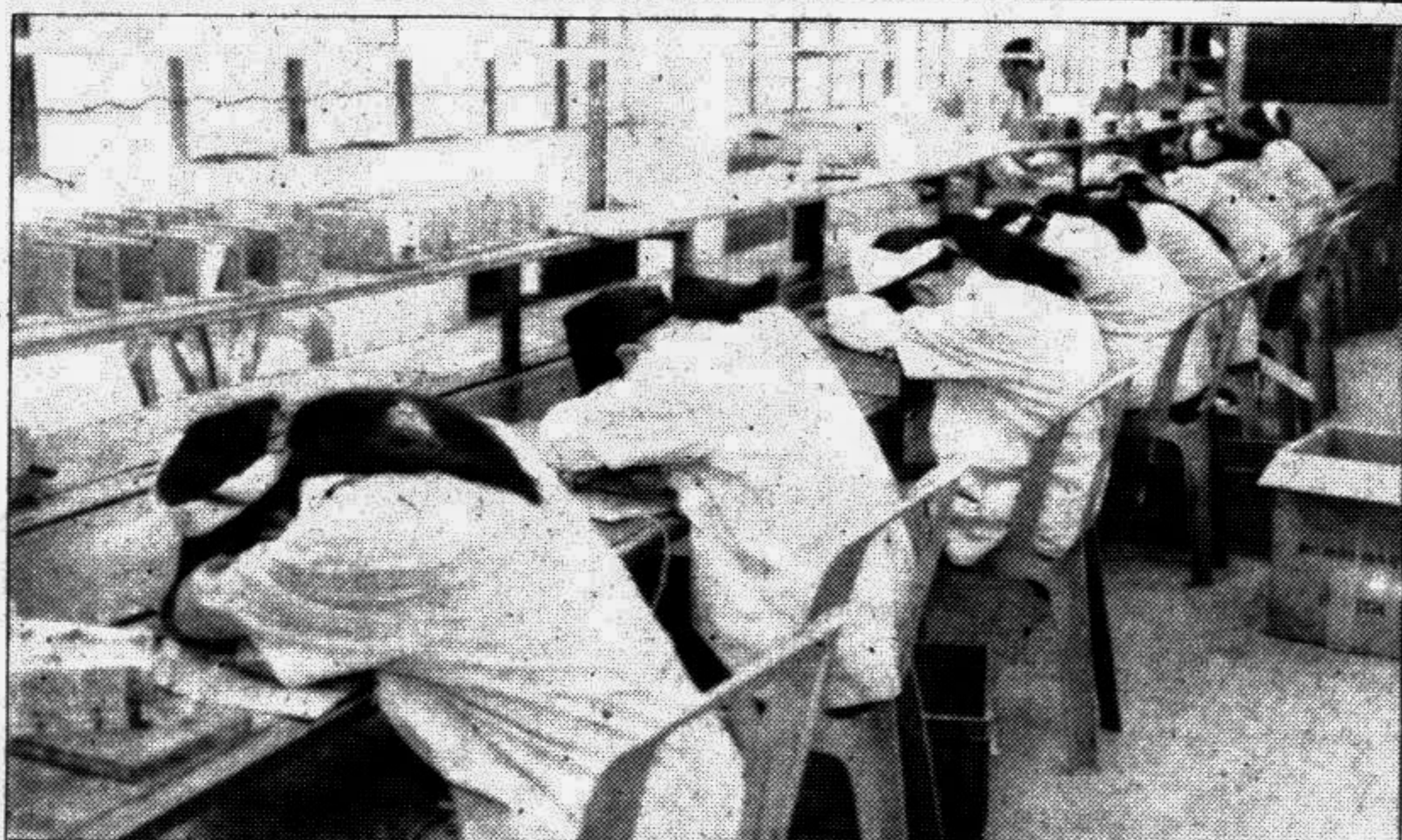
The prime minister said, SAPTA provides only a policy framework for gradual liberalisation of intra-SAARC trade. But the actual realisation of its great potential rests in the hands of key economic players in the private sector.

Nepal's close ties with the SAARC countries were nurtured and sustained over the years by long historical tradition, uniform culture, common

economic interest, harmony in development needs, cherished understanding and cooperation, the prime minister noted.

Adhikari expressed his belief that participation in the joint investment, transfer of appropriate technology, sharing of experiences and innovations among the member countries would assist in achieving the common goal of intra-regional trade and economic cooperation.

Nepal was the first country to ratify the SAPTA agreement after it was signed in Dhaka in 1993.



Workers in a car alarm factory in Shanzhan of China take a quick nap during their ten-minute afternoon break on Saturday. The Hong Kong owned factory, like hundreds of others, has switched its manufacturing base from the territory to the mainland because of cheaper production costs.

Foreign investment not needed in Riyadh's privatisation: Experts

ABU DHABI, Dec 19: Foreign investors may be barred from taking part in massive privatisation programmes planned by Saudi Arabia in sweeping economic reforms to cushion the impact of weak oil prices, a Gulf banker said yesterday, reports AFP.

Henry Azam, chief economist of the Saudi Arabia's biggest bank, the National Commercial Bank, said such privatisations would take time as the government is still involved in expanding sectors likely to be sold off.

"Foreign investors are not expected to contribute to the Saudi privatisation programme, at least in its first stages," Azam said in a study published in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al-Khaleej.

"Such a contribution could become possible only after new laws and legislations are enacted to regulate such investments," he said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, has not made clear if it would allow foreigners to buy shares it intends to float as part of plans to enable the private sector to play a greater role in development.

Experts said Riyadh did not consider foreign involvement was needed as its private sector possesses large resources inside Saudi Arabia and abroad. They estimated such funds at more than 200 billion riyals (\$3.3 billion dollars).

They noted the funds could cover most of the shares the government plans to float from such key sectors as the post, telephone, ports and industry. Foreigners are allowed to

set up joint projects in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf oil producers on a 51-49 partnership basis but they are not permitted to trade in shares in the regional stock markets.

Saudi Arabia has announced the most ambitious privatisation programme in the region after it was hit hard by low oil prices since crude exports of eight million barrels per day account for more than 80 per cent of its total exports.

Weak prices, now nearly half their 1980 level, have created a persistent shortfall in its budget, turned a balance of payment surplus into a deficit and forced it to drain its overseas reserves.

The high Gulf War bill has also forced it to borrow, turning it from a pure creditor into a debtor.

"The decline in oil prices has hurt Gulf states but it has also prompted them to acknowledge the importance of the private sector, which has not been given a chance to tap its enormous potential," said Yusuf Khalifa, an economics professor at the Emirates University.

Egyptian exports rise

CAIRO, Dec 19: Egyptian exports rose by more than 14 per cent in the 1993-94 financial year, Economy Minister Mohammad Mahioud Bayumi said in an interview published yesterday, reports AFP.

Exports stood at 10.4 billion Egyptian pounds (three billion dollars) between July 1993 and June 1994 compared with 9.1 billion pounds (2.6 billion dollars) the previous year, Bayumi told the Al-Ahram daily.

The figure surpasses the expectations of the International Monetary Fund, which forecast exports worth 2.98 billion dollars in the last financial year.

But it remains lower than Egypt's import levels, which hit 15 billion dollars in 1992-93.

Bayumi said the government would aim to further boost exports next year by implementing measures set out in the general agreement on tariffs and trade signed by Egypt.

Taxes imposed on some exported food products will be removed while others will be reduced, the minister said.

Egypt's main export is oil products. According to an international expert, non oil exports make up just four per cent of the country's gross domestic product, compared to six per cent in 1987-88.

The IMF believes the devaluation of the Egyptian pound is the most effective way of increasing exports, but the government has ruled it out fearing such a measure could push up prices and trigger social unrest.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki said Saturday: "It is not true that such a measure would improve exports. On the contrary it would push up the price of

imported products, especially industrial equipment, and so increase inflation."

Firms from ASEAN states may jointly build chemical plant in Hanoi

HANOI, Dec 19: Companies from three ASEAN countries are to join together to build a chemical storage and manufacturing centre in Vietnam, a report said Sunday, according to AFP.

SK Chemical Trading Pte Ltd of Singapore, Malaysia's Chemquest Overseas Ltd and Thai firm Industrial Chemicals Promotion (ICP) Co Ltd are to hold a 75 per cent stake in the project to be built south of Ho Chi Minh city, the Vietnam Investment Review said.

Construction of the 12-million dollar project is expected to begin next year once negotiations with a Vietnamese partner are completed, according to the newspaper, which is published by the government licensing body, the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment.

The foreign firms will identify their local partner as negotiations on the contract have not been completed, the newspaper said.

The first phase of the project will include bulk chemical storage facilities, a jetty, tanks and shipping pipelines, and should be completed by the end of 1995, the newspaper said.

The consortium, known as ICP Chemquest Investment Pte Ltd, is also planning a distribution network in Vietnam and a plant to produce 25,000 tonnes of di-octyl phthalate, a chemical used in paints and inks.

Asian stock markets close higher

HONG KONG, Dec 19: Asian stock markets closed mostly higher Monday, with the key index rising in Tokyo for the fourth consecutive session, reports AP.

Tokyo's Nikkei index of 225 selected issues closed at 19,270.85, up 107.42 points, or 0.56 per cent, from Friday's close of 19,163.43. The index had climbed 42.31 points, or 0.22 per cent, on Friday.

The Tokyo Stock Prime Index of all issues listed on the first section was up 5.71 points, or 0.38 per cent, to 1,514.31. It had closed Friday at 1,508.60, down 0.19 points.

In Taiwan, share prices closed sharply higher for the second consecutive session on news that the government plans to strengthen economic ties with mainland China.

The Taipei market's Weighted Index rose 117.97 points to 7,055.30 following Saturday's 125-point gain.

HONG KONG: Share prices closed generally higher in light trading. The Hang Seng Index, the market's key indicator of blue chips, rose 11.95 points, or 0.1 per cent, closing at 8,178.34. On Friday, the index had slumped 93 points.

WELLINGTON: New Zealand share prices closed little moved in moderate trading, with investors expecting the market to drift through the week. The NZSE-100 capital index rose 2.53 points to 1,927.39.

MANILA: Share prices closed higher in active trading. The Philippines PSE index of 43 selected issues rose 14.27 to 2,723.26.

SEOUL: Share prices closed lower because of concerns over

rising interest rates. The Korea Composite Stock Price Index fell 7.92 points to 1,028.62.

SYDNEY: Australian share prices closed slightly higher, boosted by gains in the US market on Friday. The All Ordinaries index rose 3.0 points to 1,900.0.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed slightly higher in thin trading. The 30-share Straits Times Industrials Index rose 15.47 points to 2,185.19.

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian share prices closed higher despite some profit-taking in the afternoon. The KLCSE Composite Index rose 10.65 points to 957.25.

BANGKOK: Thai share prices closed slightly higher in moderate trading. The Stock Exchange of Thailand Index rose 1.31 points to 1,337.78.

JAKARTA: The stock exchange's Composite Index rose 6.008 points, closing at 459.387.

US dollar higher in Euro trading

LONDON, Dec 19: The US dollar was higher in European trading Monday morning. Gold prices fell, reports AP.

Dollar rates compared with late Friday: 1.5750 German marks, up from 1.5720, 100.39 Japanese yen, up from 100.19, 1.3344 Swiss francs, up from 1.3311, 5.4293 French francs, up from 5.4205, 1.646.25 Italian lire, up from 1.637.00, 13917 Canadian dollar, up from 1.3888.

The British pound was quoted at 1.5590 dollars down from 1.5629 dollars.

Exchange Rates

Following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on December 19.

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	TT & OD	HC	OD	Transfer
US Dollar	40.3775	40.4075	40.1000	40.0150
DEM	63.3038	63.3509	61.8907	61.7596
GBP	25.8732	25.8924	25.1705	25.1172
FFranc	7.5021	7.5076	7.3003	7.2848
C Dollar	29.3116	29.3334	28.5132	28.4528
S Franc	30.5135	30.5362	29.6815	29.6186
Yap Yen	0.4088	0.4091	0.3936	0.3927
IRS	1.2939	1.3036	1.2722	1.2531
Pak Rupee	1.3164	1.3263	1.2941	1.2747
Iranian Rial	0.0232	0.0234	0.0228	0.0225

A) T. T. (DOCI) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk	40.0575
B) US Dollar Rate:	
30 Days	60 Days
39.7497	39.4656
90 Days	120 Days
39.1816	38.8976
180 Days	
38.3295	

C) US Dollar sight bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk. 40.0150

D) US Dollar sight bill 3 months forward sale: Tk. 40.6075

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	TT & O.D.	HC	OD	Transfer
US Dollar	40.3775	40.4075	40.1000	40.0150
DEM	63.3038	63.3509	61.8907	61.7596
GBP	25.8732	25.8924	25.1705	25.1172
FFranc	7.5021	7.5076	7.3003	7.2848
C Dollar	29.3116	29.3334	28.5132	28.4528
S Franc	30.5135	30.5362	29.6815	29.6186
Yap Yen	0.4088	0.4091	0.3936	0.3927
IRS	1.2939	1.3036	1.2722	1.2531
Pak Rupee	1.3164	1.3263	1.2941	1.2747
Iranian Rial	0.0232	0.0234	0.0228	0.0225

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 19.12.94.

Berth	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local	Date of Leaving	Arrival
3/1	Trans Friendship	M Seeds	VANC	Royal	3/12	22/12
3/2	Keishun (Roro)	Vehicles	MANI	BBA	16/12	20/12
3/3	Tina	P.Mat	HOLA	Prog	17/12	22/12
3/5	Anh Dao	Cement/SSP	L.Son	USTC	14/12	25/12
3/6	Fu Ping	GI	Sing	Prog	15/12	25/12
3/7	Banglar Marata	GI	MAL	BSC	15/12	20/12
3/8	Rafael	Wheat (P)	P Land	Royal	28/11	22/12
3/9	Krasnokamsk	UREA	MAD	Seacom	12/12	21/12
3/12	Banglar Moni	Cont	Sing	BSC	17/12	21/12
3/13	Banglar Rabi	Cont	Mong	BSC	17/12	19/12
MPB/1	Ultara	Cont	Sing	CTS	14/12	19/12
MPB/2	Fong Yun	Cont	Sing	BSC	17/12	21/12
GSJ	Global Jane	Wheat (G)	V.Pat	Lams	12/12	21/12
DDJ	Banglar Kiron	Repair	KARA	BSC	27/10	30/12
DDJ/1	Good Spirit	Repair	Seacom	R/A	30/12	
RM/9	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	—	BSC	R/A	27/12

VESSLS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Last Port	Local	Cargo	Loading
SAFAR	19/12	Mong	ASLL	UREA
Min Jiang	19/12	Sing	PROG	GI (VEHI)
Kalasi	19/12	Mong	LAMS	OMI Columbia
Kapitan Alkseyev	20/12	S.Lan	MSA	Rice (P)
Nikolay Morozov	20/12	COL	Baridhi	—
Banglar Shobha	20/12	Mong	BSC	GL
Bang Salar	21/12	Vanc	Royal	M Seeds
Pong Shin 10/12	22/12	Sing	BDShip	Cont
Kota Bintaang 12/12	22/12	Sing	CTS	Cont
Crest	22/12	Kara	Seacom	Rice (P)
Silver Kris	22/12	—	Litmond	Cement
Qing He Cheng	22/12	—	BDShip	GI
Optima 14/12	23/12	Sing	RSL	Cont

TANKER DUE

Name of Vessels	Date of Last Port	Local	Cargo	Loading
Hawk	22/12	Sing	MSPL	HSD
Mando	24/12	—	TSL	CDSO
Assimina	28/12	—	BSC	C.Oil

VESSLS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local	Date of arrival
OMI Columbia	Wheat (G)	Sing	LAMS	15/12
Kiraning	Wheat (G)	Sing	Lams	18/12
Anagel Horizon	Wheat (G)	Sing	SSST	18/12
Banglar Asha	Wheat (G)	—	BSC	R/A (18/12)

VESSLS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON:

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local	Date of arrival
Long Khan	C.Clink	Lansh	RSA	14/12
Attica	Wheat(G)	K.Dia	LAMS	19/12

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 20.12.94

OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIPPING
3/2 Keishun	3/3 Banglar Shobha/9 Krasnokamsk to 3/12	
MPB/2 Fong Yun/2 Archives	3/3 Tina to DOJ	
	NB Kapitan Alekseyev	
	RM/9 N Morozov	

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

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on December 19, 1994

Trading continues to rise

Star Report

The trading on the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange continued to rise on Monday.

A total of 60669 shares worth Taka 11242760.00 changed hands as against Sunday's 42445 shares valued at Taka 9039970.00.

The changes meant 42.936 per cent and 24.367 per cent increases in the turnovers in volume and value respectively.

The number of issues traded rose to 67 from 63 and the gainers dominated the floor. They outnumbered the losers by 33 to 24 while the share prices of 10 issues remained unchanged.

Al Baraka Bank led the gainers in terms of value, enjoying a gain of Taka 50.00 per share.

On the other hand, Islami Bank suffered a loss of Taka 33.75 per share, leading the losers.

Beximco Ltd was the top volume leader. Its 6800 shares were traded.

Other volume leaders of the day were: Beximco Fisheries (4460), Meghna Shrimp Culture (3380), Quasem Silk (5500), Beximco Knitting (3550) and Janata Insurance (4300).

The DSE All Share Price Index dropped further slightly. It fell to 843.08243 from

843.30215, posting a decline of 0.0373 per cent.

Trading at a glance

DSE All Price Index 843.08243

Market capitalisation Tk4058286691.30

Turnover in volume 60669

Turnover in value Tk 11242760.00

Total issues traded 67

Issues gained 33

Issues incurred losses 24

Issues unchanged 10

Company's name Change (per share) Number of shares traded

Arab B Bank 5.00 (G) 75

IFIC 5.00 (G) 111

Islami Bank 33.75 (L) 11

National Bank 4.00 (G) 406

Rupali Bank 5.00 (L) 110

Uttara Bank 00 246

Al Baraka Bank 50.00 (G) 2