

US move to boost trade with India

WASHINGTON, Jan 14: US Commerce Secretary Ron Brown left here Friday as the head of a major business delegation for a week-long trip to India aimed at boosting US investment in the rapidly growing Indian economy, reports AFP.

Brown's trip comes on the heels of a visit by US Defense Secretary William Perry this week during which the two sides signed what they described as an historic agreement on defence cooperation.

"We are headed to India with a bold and clear vision — to increase business opportunities for US companies in India's vast market, and contribute to India's sustainable development and economic growth," Brown said before leaving Washington.

We are greatly encouraged by the reform efforts of the Indian government and believe this trend will lead to a stronger commercial relationship with the United States that will greatly benefit the economies of both countries, Brown said.

He is heading a delegation of 25 presidents and chairmen of US companies including aircraft manufacturer McDonnell Douglas, telecommunications to giants US West and Motorola, and a number of power generation, transportation, finance and information systems concerns.

US officials said there are a number of deals in the pipeline which could be sealed during Brown's visit, but refused to give details.

A similar mission to China

last year resulted in the signing of deals worth more than five billion dollars.

Brown's mission is part of a US government push to boost trade ties with India, which along with China it has targeted as one of 10 major emerging markets worldwide where Washington wants to boost trade.

The commerce secretary's mission is expected to give a firm economic footing to future ties between the two countries, which were often at odds during the Cold War days when India was the Soviet Union's prominent non-communist ally.

The liberalisation of the Indian economy and a cooling of relations between New Delhi and Moscow has shifted the US focus from strategic con-

cerns to trade.

US companies have accounted for about 40 per cent of all foreign investments in India since Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao opened up the economy in 1991, pumping in more money than in the previous 40 years.

IBM and Coca Cola returned after leaving in the 1970s, and AT and T and General Motors have been seduced by the huge market. Livi Strauss and McDonald's have also announced plans to set up shop.

The United States is India's largest trading partner with two-way trade at about eight billion dollars. A potential dispute was headed off early in the new year when India agreed to allow access to US textiles and clothing.



US President Bill Clinton speaks at a gathering of European business leaders on Friday at the White House conference on trade and investment in Central and Eastern Europe in Cleveland, Ohio. Clinton spoke to leaders of European countries about the investment the US has planned for the region. — AFP photo

IMF plans to renew \$ 6b credit talks with Russia soon

MOSCOW, Jan 14: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) plans to reopen negotiations over a six billion dollar standby credit with the Russian government next week, the IMF's Moscow office said Friday, reports AFP.

A team from the international lending fund will arrive in Moscow on Tuesday and expects to start meeting Russian officials on Wednesday, the IMF said.

The delegation, to stay two to three weeks, will scrutinise the 1995 budget and seek clarifications on Russia's decision to end oil export quotas, a key free market demand of the IMF, said a senior Russian Finance Ministry official quoted by Interfax news agency.

The conflict in Chechnya will probably not have any direct influence on negotiations for the IMF loan, which is cru-

cial to Russia's 1995 reformist budget, a western economist in Moscow said.

But the long term prospects of a costly reconstruction programme in the Caucasus Republic and the political fall out from the war are bound to overshadow the IMF talks, said the economist, who asked not to be named.

On Wednesday, the Russian government said it was revising the planned budget to take cost of military operation in Chechnya into account, without giving details.

One western advisor to the Russian government, who asked not to be named, said the costs of the Chechnya War, and the accompanying international criticism, could unravel the tight 1995 budget.

This could in turn endanger massive financial support for Russia from the IMF and other western sources and provoke

the collapse of the country's economic stabilisation.

Russia is hoping for about 15 billion dollars, or 10 per cent of its federal expenditure, in foreign loans this year.

Estimates of the cost of rebuilding Chechnya and its economy vary widely, but are likely to expand the budget deficit, said Alexander Shokhin, a moderate reformist parliamentary deputy, quoted by Interfax.

He predicted Chechnya reconstruction would cost five to seven trillion rubles (1.3 to 1.8 billion dollars), although Nikolai Gonchar, Chairman of the Upper Parliamentary House's Budget Committee, said the figure could be 15 trillion rubles (4 billion dollars), Interfax said.

Shokhin said he had "strong doubts" that the 1995 budget plans could be preserved under such circumstances.

What will become of the Japanese economy in '95?

TOKYO, Jan 14: The yen is becoming increasingly isolated from other currencies as the global market place heads for a bipolar system dominated by the dollar and the mark, according to the Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. (IBJ), says AFP.

By tracing the fluctuations of 18 major currencies over a 10-year period between 1985 and 1994, the bank found that Asian currencies, the Australian dollar and the Canadian dollar developed stronger links with the US dollar.

During the same period, European currencies had become more strongly correlated to the German mark, a study by the bank showed.

The study, contained in a new book, entitled "what will become of the Japanese economy in 1995," said the yen has become a "great local currency," despite the Bank of Japan's efforts to globalise the unit.

"It is unrealistic to think of Asia as being a yen economic zone," IBJ said, warning that Japanese companies moving production to the region would have to take further measures to minimise foreign exchange risks.

UK to provide China with \$1.5b export credits

LONDON, Jan 14: Britain is providing export credits worth one billion pounds (1.5 billion dollars) to try to improve relations with Beijing and help British firms catch up with competitors, the Daily Telegraph said today, reports AFP.

The sum, by far the largest Britain has granted to China, focuses on the industrial city of Wuhan, said the paper.

Although signed in October, the deal has been kept quiet for "commercial reasons," according to Beijing sources quoted.

The accord — a copy of which the Telegraph said it has seen — is essentially one between the British department of trade and industry and the municipal government of Wuhan, a city of seven million people on the Yangtze river.

Britain has so far not made the agreement public apparently to maximise its political

effect, possibly by announcing it when Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, visits London this year, said the Telegraph.

Qian has acknowledged only that he has been invited. He will take up the invitation when there is a realistic prospect of an improvement in relations, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

Sino-British relations have been soured by the row over political reform in Hong Kong in the run-up to the handover of the British territory to China in 1997.

The agreement provides export credit cover for deals that are done, "an official said."

"It is not a question of money for the Chinese," a Beijing embassy official was quoted as saying. China would not be able to use the credits to buy products other than those provided by British firms, he added.

Summon/Notice in the Court of Sub-Judge and Third Financial Loan Court, Dhaka Title Suit No-11/94

National Bank Limited
Dilkusha Branch
48, Dilkusha Commercial Area
Dhaka

Plaintiff

Vs

- Mr Wadud Ahmed**
Proprietor-M/s. Polish Traders
Namazi Chamber (1st floor)
16, Motijheel Commercial Area
Dhaka

AND

House No-23 (2nd floor)
Road No-22
Agrabad Residential Area
Chittagong

AND

C/o. M/s. Bay Cost Liner Limited
Room No-35 (1st floor)
Trank Road, Chittagong

- Mr. Abu Saleh Sayed Ahmed**
S/o. Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed
of 9/3, Nawab Street
Wari, Dhaka
- Miss. Sonia Ahmed**
D/o. Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed
of 9/3, Nawab Street
Wari, Dhaka
- Mr. Mohammad Ali**
S/o. Late Nousher Ali
of 91/1, Siddique Bazar, Dhaka
- Shamsuddin Ahmed**
S/o. Haji Afsaruddin
of House No-38, Road No-4A (New)
Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka
- Mrs. Shamsuddin Nahar Ahmed**
W/o. Mr. Shamsuddin
of House No-38
Road No-4A (New)
Dhanmondi Residential Area
Dhaka

Defendants

- Registrar of the Inland Water Transport Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Registrar of Water Transport of Sadarghat Terminal Bhaban, Dhaka
- Losa Meridona Enterprise
of 38, Dhanmondi Residential Area
Road No-4A, Dhaka
- Mr. Abu Ahmed Siddique**
Manager
M/s. Polish Traders
of 16, Motijheel Commercial Area
Dhaka

Proforma Defendants

The above Title Suit has been filed against you on 30-1-94 by the Plaintiff, National Bank Limited for realisation of the Tk.75,78,110 (Taka seventy five lac, seventy eight thousand one hundred ten) only up to 31-12-93. You are notified to appear in the above mentioned Suit in the learned Court at 10.00 AM on either in person or through an authorised Attorney on 7-2-95 on failure of which the Suit will be disposed of *exparte*.

By order

Sheristader
Sub-Judge and Arthurin Adalat
No-3
Dhaka

ABL chief arrested in Lahore for fraud

KARACHI, Pakistan, Jan 14: Pakistani police have arrested Khalid Latif, President of the Privatized Allied Bank Ltd (ABL), in connection with fraudulent deals uncovered by the central bank, a central bank official said yesterday, reports Reuters.

Latif, seized on Wednesday at Lahore Airport, is the second private bank chief to be detained on fraud charges in Pakistan since March awaiting trial.

Officials said the federal investigation agency had obtained a court order to allow Latif to be kept in custody until he can be formally charged in court on Tuesday.

Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar told a local news paper that Latif was suspected of involvement in fraudulent share purchases during ABL's privatisation in 1991.

Dividends for Hanoi's state firm workers proposed

HANOI, Jan 14: The Finance Ministry has proposed giving workers in state-owned companies a share in company profits in order to boost incentive, a news report said Saturday, reports AP.

The Saigon Newsreader called the proposal radical, but did not give any details of how the proposal would work.

It said it was part of a larger proposal by the ministry that would give state companies more control over their after tax profits.

The report did not say when the government was likely to act on the draft decree.

Japan to give China \$ 1.4 b in loans

BEIJING, Jan 14: Japan has agreed to provide 1.4 billion dollars in concessionary loans to China to help finance hydroelectric projects, transport and port construction and chemical fertilizer production, it was reported Saturday, says AP.

Japan promised the loans in 1994 as part of a third batch of government loans to China worth a total of 810 billion yen (8.1 billion dollars). In addition to the loan agreement signed in Beijing Friday, Tokyo in December pledged loans worth 5.8 billion dollars for 40 projects between 1996-98.



Zapatista Army (EZLN) supporters march in Mexico City on Thursday to protest the government's handling of the economic crisis. Thousands of Mexicans also protested the rise in prices of basic foods. The banner bears the portrait of Emiliano Zapata, the peasant General during the Mexican Civil War. — AFP photo

Coca-Cola may soon get entry into DPRK

SEOUL, Jan 14: Could North Koreans soon quaff their thirst with the most American of soft drinks: Coca Cola? reports AP.

A report Saturday said the US company is negotiating a possible entry into the communist country, one of its last untapped markets.

North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, Park Kil Yon, visited Coca-Cola headquarters in Atlanta on Thursday to discuss a joint-venture in the isolated communist state, the Joong-ang Daily News reported.

It said Coca-Cola invited Park to the meeting.

The newspaper attributed the report to officials at Coca-Cola Korea. The company's Seoul office was closed Saturday, and officials were not available for comment.

Several American firms based in Seoul — including IBM, AT and T been blocked by US laws that forbid economic

transactions with the communist state.

However, the United States and North Korea pledged on Oct. 21 to improve economic and political ties as part of an agreement aimed at dismantling the North's nuclear programme.

North Korea announced a week ago that it will end a ban on trade and financial transactions with the United States, and Washington is required to begin easing its restrictions by Jan. 21 — three months after the nuclear agreement.

The United States has not yet indicated what areas will be eased but has said it will be a step-by-step process. Telecommunications links and some financial transactions are believed likely to be among the first measures.

The US embargo has prohibited American companies from shipping commodities or discussing joint ventures with North Korea since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Stock market closes higher in New York

NEW YORK, Jan 14: Stocks traded robustly higher Friday as a surprising drop in December retail sales allayed inflation fears, says AP.

The Dow Jones industrials sprinted nearly 50 points higher to close within 100 points of its all time high closing price of 3,978.36 made last January 31.

Volume was moderate. Broad market indexes participated in the rally. But blue chips outperformed, led by financial issues.

Stocks were pushed higher by the bond market, where the 30 year US Treasury bond was up more than 10 dollars per 1,000 dollars face value. Bonds advanced after the Commerce Department said US retail sales slipped 0.1 per cent in December, despite Christmas sales. Analysts had expected a quarterly gain of 0.6 per cent. Sales rose 7.6 per cent for all

of 1994, "the strongest showing in a decade."

The data suggested to bond investors that they need not worry about inflation, which they do not like because it erodes the value of fixed return investments.

The drop in retail sales also led analysts to conclude that the Federal Reserve may hold off on an interest rate increase that had been widely expected at the end of the month. Stock investors had feared that higher interest rates might slow down the domestic economy and cut into corporate earnings.

But James Solloway, research director at Argus Research, questioned the accuracy of the retail sales numbers, saying they may not have adequately captured purchases of computers and electronic equipment over the holiday season.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading of January 14, 1995*

Star Report

The DSE All Share Price Index fell to a new significant low on Saturday while the turnovers on the DSE surged.

The index dropped to 827.82468 from 831.05272, indicating a decline of 56.24 point or 0.2212 per cent.

The turnover in volume rose by 56.24 per cent and the turnover in value showed an increase of 61.30 per cent.

A total of 33147.25 shares worth Taka 5213333.75 changed hands as against Thursday's 20237.00 shares valued at Taka 3623462.50.

The number of issues traded rose to 85 from 57, in which 27 gained, 43 incurred losses and the share prices of 15 issues remained unchanged.

Aziz Pipes experienced a gain of Taka 54.75 per share, leading the gainers in terms of value.

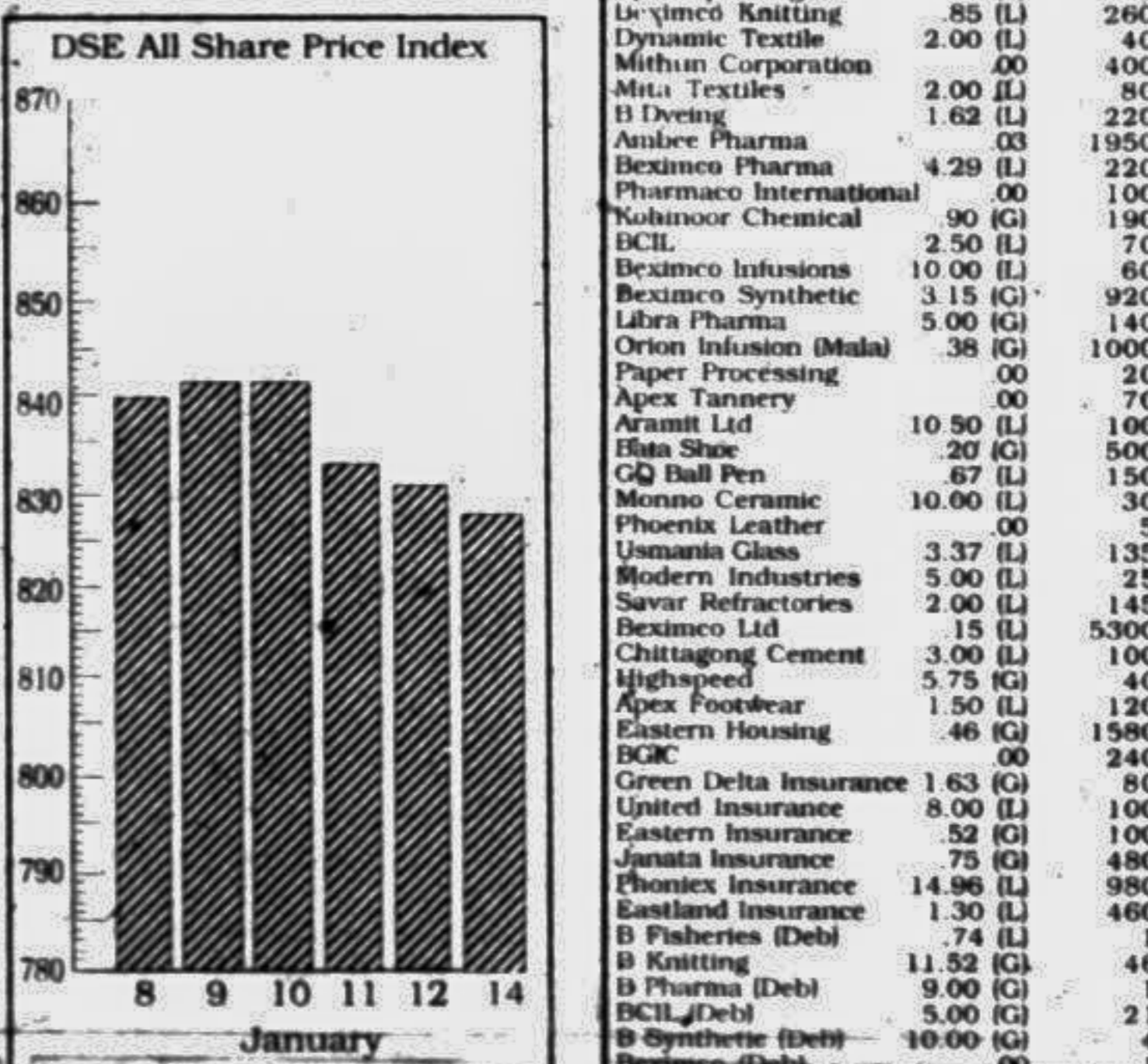
Monno Jute Industries led the losers, suffering a loss of Taka 80.00 per share.

Beximco Ltd. was the top volume leader. Its 5300 shares were traded.

Other volume leaders of the day were: Quasem Silk (3900), Rupon Oil (2600), Ambee

Trading at a glance

Company's name	Change (per share)	Number of shares traded
AB Bank	2.00 (G)	50
Islami Bank	0.00	5
National Bank	1.98 (G)	617
Rupon Oil	2.50 (G)	200
ULCL	1.00 (G)	10
Al. Dapaka Bank	0.00	79
ULCL	25.00 (G)	520
1st ICB M Fund	5.00 (G)	1210
4th ICB M Fund	10.00 (G)	80
5th ICB M Fund	9.00 (G)	150
6th ICB M Fund	3.15 (G)	1610
Altab Automobiles	5.00 (L)	115
Asia Pipes	54.75 (G)	45
Eastern Cables	1.00 (G)	370
Kurim Pipe	16 (G)	308
Monno Jute	80.00 (L)	5
Monno Jute Industries	20.00 (L)	30
Singer Bangladesh	25.00 (L)	5
Bangladesh Autocars	1.18 (L)	330
Quasem Drycell	2.50 (G)	200
Howader PVC	1.47 (G)	210
Thai Aluminium	15 (L)	170
Apex Foods	2.50 (G)	65
Quasem Textile	20.00 (L)	10
MTC	9.58 (L)	120
Dhaka Vegetable	4.10 (L)	20
Zonal Shrimp	1.40 (L)	100
Rupon Oil	1.00 (G)	2600
Beximco Fisheries	11.62 (G)	740
Bengal Biscuits	1.00 (G)	440
Quasem Shrimp	3.15 (G)	1210
Palm Oil	5.00 (L)	204
National Oxygen	83 (L)	150
Howader PVC	1.47 (G)	210
Shine Jute	5.00 (L)	150
Ashraf Textile	44 (L)	800
Quasem Textile	20.00 (L)	300
Rahim Textile	1.45 (G)	245
Quasem Silk	1.00 (L)	3900
Eastern Cables	1.00 (G)	110
Sinhait Textile	1.45 (G)	245
Apex Spinning	4.50 (L)	200
Beximco Knitting	85 (L)	260
Dynamic Textile	16.78 (L)	140
Mithun Corporation	2.00 (G)	400
Mita Textiles	2.00 (L)	80
IC Dyeing	1.62 (L)	220
Ambee	1.47 (G)	210
Beximco Pharma	4.28 (L)	220
Pharmaco International	0.00	100
Kobun Chemical	3.00 (L)	150
BCIL	2.50 (L)	70
Beximco Infusions	5.00 (L)	60
Beximco Synthetic	3.15 (G)	920
Libra Pharma	10.00 (G)	140
Orion Infusion (Malta)	38 (G)	1000
Paper Processing	0.00	20
Apex Tannery	10.50 (L)	100
Aramit Ltd	20 (G)	500
Libra Shoe	3.37 (L)	150
CD Bank	10.00 (L)	30
Monno Ceramic	10.00 (L)	30
Pheno Leather	0.00	5
Usman Glass	3.37 (L)	135
Modern Industries	5.00 (L)	25
Savar Refractories	2.00 (L)	145
Beximco Ltd	15 (L)	5300
Chittagong Cement	3.00 (L)	100
Highspeed	5.75 (G)	40
Apex Footwear	1.50 (L)	120
Eastern Housing	46 (G)	1580
BGC	0.00	240
Green Delta Insurance	1.63 (G)	80
United Insurance	8.00 (L)	100
Eastern Insurance	52 (G)	100
Janata Insurance	75 (G)	480
Phoenix Insurance	14.96 (L)	980
Eastland Insurance	1.30 (L)	460
B Fisheries (Deb)	1.74 (L)	1
B Knitting	11.52 (G)	46
B Pharma (Deb)	1.00 (L)	1
BCIL/Deb	5.00 (G)	21
B Synthetic (Deb)	10.00 (G)	1
Beximco (Deb)	0.00	1



DSE Shares and Debentures

Company	FV/NL (Taka)	Closing (Taka)
BANKS (13)		
AB Bank	1000/1	1010.00
Islami Bank	1000/1	1010.00
National Bank	1000/1	1010.00
Eastern Bank	1000/1	1010.00
ULCL	1000/1	1010.00
ICFC	1000/1	1010.00
INVESTMENT (8)		
1st ICB M Fund	100/5	136.25
2nd ICB M Fund	100/5	930.00
3rd ICB M Fund	100/5	310.00
4th ICB M Fund	100/5	250.00
5th ICB M Fund	100/5	340.00
6th ICB M Fund	100/5	226.00
ICB Unit Cert	100/10	157.00
INSURANCE (8)		
Green Delta	100/20	390.00
Green Delta	100/20	234.00
United Insurance	100/10	361.88
United Insurance	100/10	485.00
Janata Insurance	100/10	332.00
Phoenix Insurance	100/20	217.42
Phoenix Insurance	100/20	311.27
Eastland Insurance	100/20	215.87
ENGINEERING (19)		
Altab Automobiles	100/5	245.00
Altab Automobiles	10/50	74.12
Aziz Pipe	100/5	961.00
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5	130.82
Bangladesh Lamps	100/5	1700.00
H Thai Aluminium	100/10	119.85
Bengal Carriage	100/5	1135.00
Bengal Steel	10/50	20.00
Eastern Cables	100/5	185.00
Howader PVC	100/10	80.00
Kurim Pipe	100/5	33.00
Metalex Corp.	100/5	70.00
Monno Jute	100/5	2020.00
National Tubes	100/10	116.00
Quasem Textile	100/5	8.00
Quasem Textile	100/10	19.25
Remonk Jute	100/5	73.00
Singer Bangladesh	100/5	35.80
FOOD & ALLIED (26)		
AB Flour	100/5	190.00
Bengal Biscuits	100/20	209.00
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	65.00
Amam Sea Food	100/5	800.00
Apex Tea	100/5	1775.00
Aranya Tea	100/5	536.00
Banana	100/5	280.00
B.I. Plantation	100/5	550.00
Pragati Food	100/5	339.75
ITC	100/5	645.00
ITC	100/5	170.00
IC Vegetables	100/10	120.00
Dhaka Vegetables	100/5	160.00
E.L. Camella	100/5	2200.00
Progress Export	10/50	4.00
Gemini Sea Food	100/5	80.00
Hill Lamination	100/5	536.00
MTC	100/5	355.00
N.T.C.	100/50	290.42
Rubany Flour	10/100	NT
Rupon Oil	10/100	9.02
Tully Dairy	100/10	74.17
Yarned Flour	10/50	13.00
Zonal Bhangra Sugar	10/50	7.50
Beximco Fisheries	100/20	271.62
Meghna Shrimp Culture	100/20	211.56
FUEL & POWER (4)		
BI Choppa	10/50	180.12
Eastern Lubricant	10/50	14.00
National Oxygen	100/10	109.87
Palm Oil Co.	10/50	100.00
TEXTILE (28)		
Ashraf Textile	10/50	NT
Apex Spinning	100/30	445.00
Ashraf Textile	100/10	112.00
Ashraf Textile	10/50	26.69
Deah Garments	100/10	88.00
Dhaka Textile	100/10	180.00
Eastland Textile	10/50	14.00
GEM Ind Corp.	100/50	10.00
Modern Dyeing	100/5	80.38
Palm Oil Co.	100/20	422.39
Quasem Silk	10/100	6.00
Quasem Textile	10/50	9.00
PHARMA (22)		
Ambee Pharma	10/50	35.03
Bangla Process	100/5	85.00
BCIL	100/10	480.00
Beximco Infusion	100/100	600.00
Beximco Pharma	100/5	1445.68
B. Synthetics	100/20	273.52
Libra Pharma	100/20	280.80
Clas	10/50	140.00
A.C.I	10/50	169.95
Kobun Chemical	100/5	169.95
N Polymer	100/10	130.00
Petro Synthetic	100/5	12.00
Herata Ltd	100/5	750.00
Pharma Aids	100/5	240.00
Pharmaco	100/5	140.00
Progressive Plastic	100/5	20.00
Rackitt & Colman	10/50	185.00
Rahman Chemicals	100/10	68.00
Therapeutics	100/5	150.00
The Rastina	100/10	