



**HYUNDAI**  
CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

## CIRDAP training course ends

The concluding function of the training course on computer based monitoring and evaluation (M and E) techniques of rural development projects held at CIRDAP headquarters yesterday, reports BSS.

Mahe Alam, Secretary, RDCD, Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives was the chief guest.

Twenty-one participants from the Maldives, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the training course. The two-week course was jointly organised by CIRDAP and MTSO of Commonwealth from March 20 to April 2 at BARD, Kotbari, Comilla.

It enabled to help develop among the participants a concept of the appropriate methods and techniques of the latest PC softwares, and analyse and present data with the help and aid of personal computers and undertake M and E of the programmes and projects independently.

The valedictory function was addressed by Mohammad Yahya Waliullah, Course Director and Programme Officer (training), Cirdap and Dr Somporn Hanpanpanth, Director, Cirdap.

Mahe Alam, the chief guest, gave away the certificates among the participants.

In his closing remarks, Alam said monitoring and evaluation of the rural development projects represent a key factor for success of the projects which are essentially meant for rural uplift and women emancipation.

Poverty alleviation is the main objective of such projects and monitoring and evaluation based on computer is necessary for the successful implementation of the projects, he said.

## JS body on shipping meet held

The 37th meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Shipping was held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban Sunday, reports BSS.

Chairman of the committee Shipping Minister M K Anwar presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed the activities of Shipping Ministry. The meeting was informed that the ministry is implementing 28 development projects at a cost of Tk 92 crore under the current Annual Development Programme.

Members of the committee Deputy Minister for Shipping A B M Zahidul Haq and Syed Ohidul Alam attended the meeting.

## Bangladesh Trade Fair in Kathmandu

# Two leading firms receive spot orders worth \$ 55000

By Rafiq Hasan

Two leading export firms of the country received spot orders worth about 55 thousand US dollars at the single country Bangladesh exhibition in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The five-day exhibition was concluded Sunday. Thirteen exporting firms of the country participated in the exhibition organised by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) in co-operation with Bangladesh Mission in Kathmandu.

The concerned officials of the EPB said, two companies namely M/s Nalita & Company and M/s. Mousumi Industries Ltd. received export orders for

US \$30,000 and US \$ 25,000 for artificial flower and cute cosmetic products respectively.

At the exhibition, handloom products displayed by M/s Nipun has got tremendous response from Nepali buyers as well as from other foreign buyers, they said. It is expected that big orders of this items would be possible in near future. The visitors and buyers have also shown genuine interest regarding other products exhibited in the fair, the source mentioned.

Nepali Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari inaugurated

the exhibition on March 30.

According to EPB source, over 24 varieties of products were displayed, including home furnishings, leather goods, jute items, carpets, electrical items, pharmaceuticals, paper and news print, fabrics, cosmetics and handloom textiles.

Bangladesh was the second largest trade partner of Nepal, next to India, it is learnt.

A similar Bangladesh trade exhibition was held in Kathmandu in 1983 which had opened up new areas of trade between the two neighbouring countries.

# Beijing faces challenge of feeding vast population

BEIJING, Apr 3: Maintaining self-sufficiency in grain into the next century will require massive investment by the Chinese government and drastic measures to boost unit yields and reduce waste, a report said Sunday, report AFP.

Chinese researchers and officials are "cautiously optimistic" that China will be able to feed a population estimated to reach some 1.6 billion people in the middle of the 21st century, but acknowledge that achieving this aim is a great challenge, Xinhua reported.

The agency cited researchers as estimating the country's maximum annual grain production capacity at between 800 million and one billion tonnes if technological advances are thoroughly exploited to boost yields.

This volume would be sufficient to feed a population of between 1.5 and 1.69 billion at that time, when per capita grain consumption is expected to increase from 375 kilograms to between 500 and 550 kilograms, it said.

Grain output in 1994 stood at 44.6 million tonnes, down 11.9 million tonnes from the previous year.

Research shows that unit yields could be "drastically" increased if an annual 130 million yuan (15.5 million dollars) is earmarked for improving crop species, Xinhua said.

The report cited surveys estimating China's current arable land at 125 million hectares (309 million acres).

The encroachment of industrial projects on the country's farmland has become a major problem in recent years, with a separate report in The People's Daily estimating that 1.1 million hectares had been lost in 1994, accounting for

4.5 million tonnes of the drop in grain output.

Xinhua quoted researchers as saying the arable area would eventually stabilise at around 113 million hectares, enough maintain self-sufficiency.

# Petroleum deposit found in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Apr 3: The Pakistan government Sunday announced discovery of a petroleum deposit with a daily production of 1,700 barrels of oil and five million cubic feet of natural gas, reports AFP.

The total potential of the oil and gas reserves has not yet been established.

The well, drilled at a cost of nine million dollars at Prindori, 50 kilometres (31 miles) southwest of here, is producing oil and gas at a stable rate, Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Anwar Saifullah.

It lies close to the area where two wells drilled by Occidental were abandoned by the US company in 1991 and 1992, one after it blew out and the other due to non-commercial production.

The discovery has been made by Pakistan Oilfields Limited (POL), a public limited company, in a joint venture

with Attock Oil Company (AOC), a British concern here, and state-owned Oil and Gas Development Corporation (OGDC).

The OGDC will have 50 per cent share in production while 35 per cent will go to POL and 15 per cent to AOC.

Saifullah said 22 oil companies, including five local companies, were engaged in oil exploration and production in Pakistan, which has an indigenous supply of 60,000 barrels per day, or 20 per cent of its requirements.

The country, which annually spends 1.8 billion dollars on oil imports, also has plans to import gas from Iran, Qatar and Central Asian State of Turkmenistan due to depleting reserves, Saifullah said.

He said the incentives given by the government in a petroleum policy last year had helped attract more foreign investment.

## Mannan asks govt employees to help build self-reliant economy

Food Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the government employees has an important role to play in ensuring a self-reliant economy for building the country prosperous reports BSS.

"I urge all of you including workers, farmers and employees at all levels to extend your whole-hearted cooperation to wards government's efforts to make the country self-reliant," he said.

The Food Minister was addressing as chief guest at a function organised jointly by Bangladesh Secretariate Hisab Rakkhan Karmakarta O Hisab Rakkhan Karmachari Samity here on Sunday.

With the president of Sachibhalaya Hisab Rakkhan Karmachari Samity Md Siddiqur Rahman in the chair, the function was also addressed by the Establishment Secretary Habibur Rahman, Additional Finance Secretary Shamsuzzaman Choudhury, Sachibhalaya Karmachari Sanjukta Parishad president Sayed Mahiuddin and secretary general Muhammad Shah Alam.

The function was arranged to mark the samity's founding anniversary and the Independence Day.

The Food Minister, however, said the government was trying relentlessly to give democracy an institutional shape and to uphold the country's independence and sovereignty.

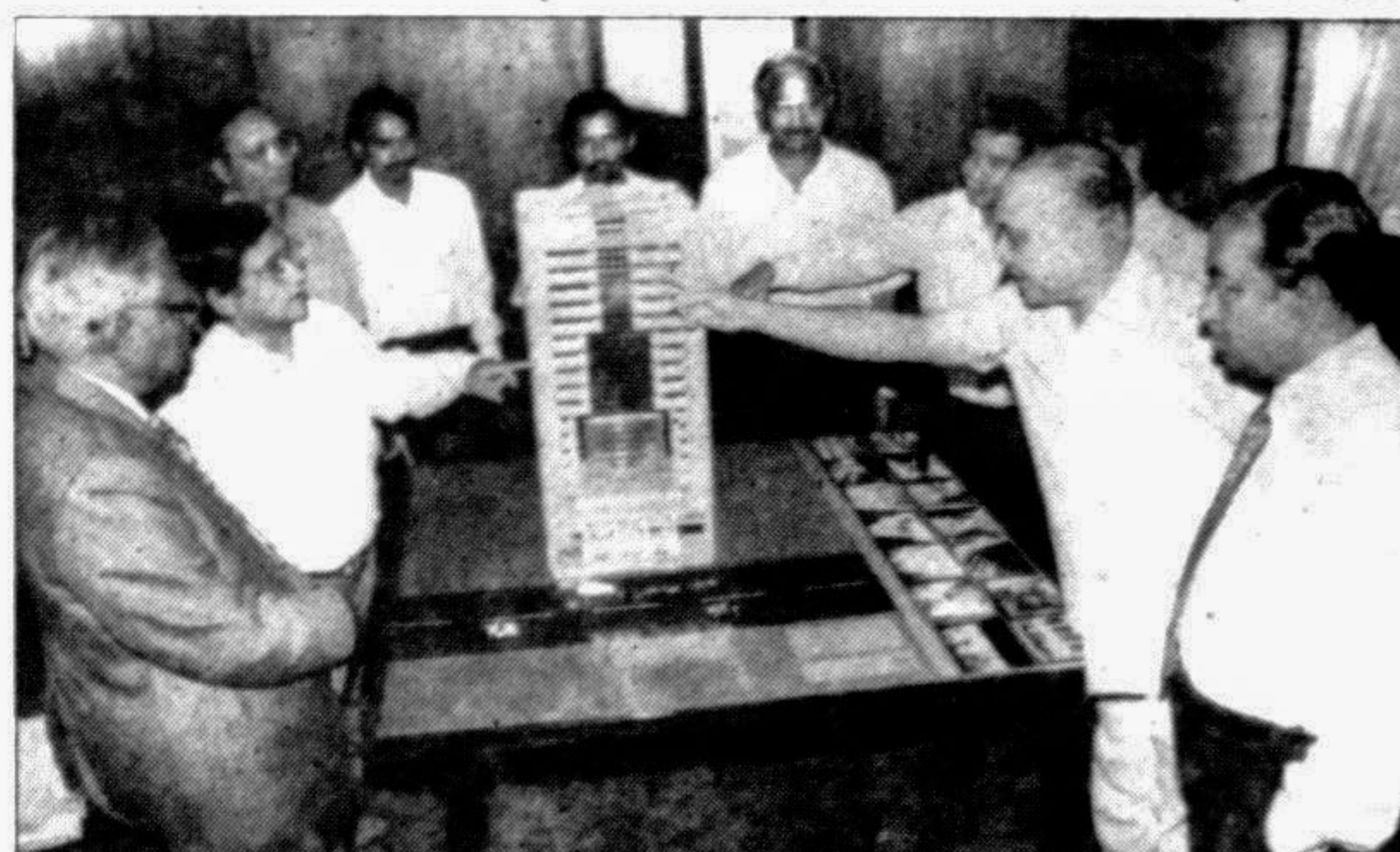
## SIA, Air France launch 2nd jt freighter service tomorrow

Singapore Airlines (SIA) and Air France (AF), which began a joint freighter service between Singapore and Paris on 30th October 1994, will launch a second service tomorrow (Wednesday), says a press release.

Like the first, the second service will be operated with an AF B747-200 freighter, which has a net pay load of 100 tonnes.

The second service, which includes stops in Dubai and Kuala Lumpur, will depart from Paris on Wednesday at 0055 hours and arrive in Singapore at 0105 hours the following day. The return flight will leave Singapore at 0405 hours and arrive in Paris at 1400 hours the same day.

Cargo traffic between Paris and Singapore has grown at an average rate of 17 per cent annually, from 5,100 tonnes in 1991/92 to nearly 7,000 tonnes in 1993/94.



The Board of Directors of Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) at its meeting on Saturday approved the design and model of multi-storied Head Office building of BSRS to be constructed at Kawran Bazar. Al-Ameen Chaudhury, Managing Director (on the right) explains the details of the model to Dr Abdullah Farouk, Chairman, Board of Directors, BSRS.

## Asian stock markets close lower

HONG KONG, Apr 3: Asian stock markets closed mostly lower Monday, with the key index in Tokyo plunging to almost a three-year low because of fears that the weak US dollar will hurt the Japanese economy, reports AP.

Tokyo's benchmark's Nikkei Stock Average of 225 selected issues plunged 758.66 points, or 4.70 per cent, closing at 15,381.29. The average had lost 372.27 points Friday.

Monday's close was the lowest since 15,267.76 on August 20, 1992. The Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the first section lost 57.28 points, or 4.38 per cent, to 1,250.61. It had lost 11.56 points, or 0.88 per cent, on Friday.

Pessimism about the higher yen prompted both domestic and overseas investors to start unwinding their positions in Nikkei futures, sending all other market sectors down, traders said.

Tomio Tsutsumi, a vice-trade minister, said the recent sharp decline in Japanese stock prices and the yen's rise might have slowed the nation's recovery from a 4-year-old recession.

In late Tokyo trading, the dollar was quoted at 86.54 yen, down 1.84 yen from late Friday in Tokyo and below its 86.64 yen in New York late Friday.

In Hong Kong, share prices also tumbled in reaction to the plunge on the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the weak US dollar.

The Hang Seng Index, the Hong Kong market's key indicator of blue chips, fell 187.28

points, or 2.2 per cent, closing at 8,400.44. On Friday, it had slumped 88 points.

The market was closed in Taiwan for a public holiday.

MANILA: Share prices closed lower on profit-taking after recent sharp rises. The Philippines PSE index of 43 selected issues fell 15.62 points to 2,376.63.

WELLINGTON: New Zealand share prices closed little changed in moderate trading. The NZSE-40 Capital Index rose 1.36 points to 1,998.89.

SYDNEY: Australian share prices closed mostly lower as investors reacted negatively to a fall in the US market Friday and a sharp decline in the value of the US dollar. The All Ordinaries Index fell 7.1 points to 1,899.5.

SEOUL: Share prices closed lower in lackluster trading. The Korea Composite Stock Price Index was down 11.56 points to 922.53.

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian share prices closed lower because of the weak US dollar and rumours that the central bank, Bank Negara Malaysia, may raise statutory reserve requirements for banks. The KLSSE Composite Index fell 17.76 points to 966.31.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed lower in thin trading. The 30-share Straits Times Industrials Index fell 18.47 points to 2,074.65.

BANGKOK: Thai share prices closed lower, dragged down by the sliding US dollar and declines in other regional markets,

## Workshop

A workshop for the media on Securities Market Development will be held today at the VIP lounge of the Jatiya Press Club, reports UNB.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest will attend the inaugural session of the workshop, organised jointly by Securities and Exchange Commission and Economic Reporters Forum, said a press release.



## Nowsher new GM of Agrani Bank

Syed Nowsher Ali joined Agrani Bank recently as General Manager. He was serving as General Manager in House Building Finance Corporation prior to his present assignment, says a press release.

Nowsher Ali matriculated from Faridpur Zilla School and obtained masters from Dhaka University. Then he joined erstwhile Habib Bank as officer. Ali held many responsible positions in the then Habib Bank and later Agrani Bank in his long service life.

# Prices of silver, gold up, sugar down, tea stable over week

LONDON, Apr 3: After beginning the year at a low level, silver prices sparked higher this week as speculators crowded into the New York market, reports AFP.

Investment funds willingly returned to the market, convinced that the current low level of US stocks is proof of strong, durable industrial demand for the precious metal.

The other precious metals followed silver higher, with gold additionally boosted by the collapsing dollar.

Oil prices also rose on firmer petrol prices in the US market, but the six base metals, copper, aluminium, etc, were all weaker, as was cocoa and sugar.

The other commodities were little changed.

GOLD: Higher. Gold rose around three dollars to 386 dollars per ounce on the collapse of the dollar and on stronger silver prices.

As foreign currency turmoil gathered momentum, investors can be increasingly interested in the precious metals, particularly after the dollar fluctuated widely on a cut in both German and Japanese interest rates.

Investment funds were also eager to invest in gold or silver as the week went on, particularly as positive fundamentals showed growing demand in European and Asia.

SILVER: Soaring. A rush of speculative buying pushed silver some 50 cents higher to 5.16 dollars and ounce — its highest level since November, when prices plunged.

A large fall in silver stocks on a complex, the New York market, also enticed investors back to the market. Stocks have fallen by some 25 million ounces since the end of February, proving that industrial use, particularly in photography, is growing.

The US research body CMP group also predicted that prices would rise sharply as

production remained weak and demand soared.

PLATINUM AND PALLADIUM: Higher. The price of palladium climbed on US speculative buying to around 176 dollars per ounce — its highest level in six years.

Palladium, increasingly used by the electronics industry, was judged extremely attractive by investors looking for safe investments.

Platinum was firm at around 420 dollars per ounce on strong industrial demand.

COPPER: Easing. Copper slipped around 15 dollars to 2,924 dollars per tonne in dull trading during the week, as dealers left the metal despite unconfirmed rumors of strike action at the Cananea Copper Mine in Mexico.

Dealers said they were waiting for further news on what was happening at Cananea, which has capacity of roughly 140,000 tonnes per year.

Elsewhere, the Bundesbank's surprise decision to cut German interest rates on Thursday "should boost German economic growth and demand for metals and other commodities," said William Adams, metals analyst at Rudolf Wolff.

Weekly stocks on the London Metal Exchange (LME) fell by 9,400 tonnes to 239,000.

LEAD: Lower. Lead fell around 23 dollars to 603 dollars per tonne on a lazy market, dealers said.

Elsewhere, production of lead and zinc ore from the main lead and zinc mine at Australia's Mount Isa mining and smelting complex was halted on Friday after workers began a new 24-hour work stoppage.

Overtime bans at refining plants, Miens and other sectors, including copper, of the Mount Isa operation in Queensland also remained in effect.

A series of one-day rolling

stoppages by union members since management and labour broke off talks over wage and compensation on February 21 has so far cut several hundred tonnes of copper and lead output, company sources said.

Stocks fell by 3,300 tonnes to 293,050.

ZINC: Slipping. Zinc fell 12 dollars to 1,052 dollars per tonne, despite news late last week that China's Huludao smelter was forced to shut its new 130,000 tonne per year plant because of lack of concentrates.

One trader said Zinc's performance was "disappointing" in light of the closure. "Chinese exports were the single biggest cap on the market in 1994 — this year we haven't seen any substantial exports at all and now we see confirmation of what a lot of people had been predicting would happen," said another.

An analyst concurred, saying: "this has been on the cards for some time — China has gone flat out on metal production at a rate that looked unsustainable in terms of the concentrates availability."

Analysts suggested that China would not be able to buy extra concentrates until the second half of this year, when shipments from the Arctic mines start and several new mines come on stream.

Stocks fell 15,250 tonnes to 1,019,100.

ALUMINIUM: Lower. Aluminium fell around 20 dollars during the week to end at 1,852 dollars per tonne in dull trading with little news continued firm stock downwards supported the metal at lower levels.

Weekly stocks fell 43,800 tonnes to 1,177,750.

NICKEL: Lower. Nickel fell around 170 dollars to 7,720 dollars per tonne.

Although white collar workers at the Canadian producer Inco's Sudbury plant voted to strike on Wednesday, analysts

said this should have little effect on production.

Dealers at GNI said the strike was indicative of the industry as a whole. "During a recession and low prices the mining and smelting companies are in a position of strength and negotiate tough pay deals. When a recovery is seen, the workers start to use their muscle to make up the difference."

"The next 12 months is therefore likely to be dogged with industrial activity," they added.

A report by Rudolf Wolff analyst Martin Squares, said nickel would continue to fluctuate between 7,000 and 8,000 dollars per tonne as the fundamentals improve and demand remains strong in the stainless steel sector.

Stocks fell 1,968 tonnes to 122,436.

TIN: Down. Tin fell 70 dollars to 5,760 dollars per tonne, despite news of a general strike since Monday at two tin and zinc mines in Bolivia, Huanuni and Coquiri.

Dealers at GNI said there were currently no negotiations between the unions and the management on the strike, which is seen as a general problem with the government, and not a corporate issue.

Both mines each produce around 1,000 tonnes of tin and zinc concentrates per day.

Stocks fell 345 tonnes to 22,495.

COCOA: Depressed. The reference price fell over 10 pounds to 940 pounds per tonne, its lowest level since December, as dealers remained worried by a large harvest in the Ivory Coast, the world's largest producer.

The Ivory Coast harvest, estimated at between 800,000 and 900,000 tonnes, is likely to be one of the largest in the last 10 years and will add to already considerable world stocks.

Abidjan, however, is disput-

ing the figures. The Ivory Coast Minister for Commodities Guy Alain Gauze said production for the season (September to August) will be only 750,000 tonnes, or 100,000 tonnes less than the previous season. These estimates, however, ignore new figures, dealers said.

Elsewhere, cocoa producers, at a conference in Abidjan, declared themselves to be in favour of chocolate made with pure cocoa, and criticised the European Union, which has allowed the use of five per cent of vegetable oils in its chocolate.

COFFEE: Regular. Prices fluctuated between 3,000 and 3,050 dollars per tonne, as the market remained confused over whether Brazil, the world's leading producer, intended to join an export retention plan signed by the other members of the association of coffee producing countries in mid March.

On Wednesday, however, Brazil announced it was allocating 100 million reals (110 million dollars) to exporters to assist them with export restrictions, as agreed in the plan.

Coffee prices then lifted slightly. Weak exports from Colombia, the world's second-largest producer, reached only 780,000 bags (each of 60 kilograms) in March, reminded the market that world supply remains poor.

SUGAR: Lower. Prices fell by five dollars to around 364 dollars per tonne, after speculators, disappointed by the low level of prices in recent weeks, finally excited the New York market.

The market was hit by estimates of higher production this year in India, the world's leading producer. Production could rise to 13 million tonnes, analysts said, while previous predictions had indicated 12 million.

If production rises above 13 million tonnes, dealers believe

India will export the excess, which will further depress a market already hit by large amounts of Brazilian sugar.

VEGETABLE OILS: Decline. Soy prices in Chicago fell lower, depressing the prices of the eight vegetable oils on the Rotterdam market.

The US market was hit by a large Brazilian soya harvest, one of the largest in recent years, and by the continued large scale of US stocks.

Likewise, palm oil was hit by the prospects of a four per cent rise in the Malaysian harvest, the world's leading producer, in 1995 to 7.5 million tonnes and a rise in world stocks of better quality vegetable oils.

OIL: Firm. Continuing last week's rises, the price of Brent Crude North Sea oil rose to 17.40 dollars a barrel, lifting in the wake of strong petrol prices on the New York market.

On Thursday morning, the North Sea reference price rose to 17.6 dollars — its highest level since early November.

TEA: Stable. The average price of teas was little changed on the London auction market, with the exception of top quality African teas, which rose.

COTTON: Easing. Cotton prices slipped from their peak last week, easing around six cents to end the week at around 105 cents per pound, as speculators sold on the New York futures market.

But any losses were limited by continued strong demand and a poor world harvest last year.

RUBBER: Firm. Rubber prices were strong at around 1,220 pounds per tonne on large-scale purchases of Thai rubber by China.

A dealer at Lewis and Peat, however, said the European market is currently depressed on lack of buying by tyre manufacturers, who are anticipating a slow down in western growth.

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
মতিঝিল  
পোস্ট বক্স নং-৭০৮  
ঢাকা-১০০০

**অফিসে হাজির হওয়ার চূড়ান্ত নির্দেশ**

অত্র অফিসের সাময়িকভাবে বরখাস্তকৃত এম.এল.এস.এস-১ম মান (সার্ভিসবিহীন) জনাব মোঃ ফজলুর রহমান, পিতা-মোঃ মুসলিম মিয়াজি, গ্রাম-পিরোজপুর, পোঃ বনুনাথপুর, থানা-হাজিরা, জেলা-চাঁদপুর বিগত ০৬-১১-৯৪ইং তারিখ হইতে অননুমোদিতভাবে অফিসের কাজে অনুপস্থিত রহিয়াছেন। পরবর্তীতে দেশের বাড়িতে জমিজমা সংক্রান্ত কাজের জন্য ০১-১১-৯৪ ইং তারিখ হইতে ১০-১১-৯৪ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত নৈমিত্তিক ছুটির আবেদন ০৮-১১-৯৪ইং তারিখে অত্র অফিসে দাখিল করেন। সে মোতাবেক তাহার ১২-১১-৯৪ইং তারিখে কাজে যোগানোর কথা (১১-১১-৯৪ইং শুক্রবার) কিন্তু তিনি কোন প্রকার ছুটি বর্ধনের আবেদন/প্রত্যাপন/যোগাযোগ ব্যতীত অদাবিধি অফিসের কাজে অনুপস্থিত রহিয়াছেন। তাহাকে কাজে যোগানোর নির্দেশ সতর্কিতভাবে তাহার স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা হইতে অবিলম্বে অবস্থায় কেহন আসে। অতঃপর ৪-১২-৯৪ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে কসং যোগানোর জন্য তাহার বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানায় তার বর্তা প্রেরণ করা হয়। এর পরেও তিনি কোন প্রকার সত্যা প্রদান না করিয়া কাজে যোগান হইতে বিরত থাকেন। এ প্রেক্ষিতে গত ১৮-১২-৯৪ইং তারিখে তাহাকে চাকুরি হইতে সাময়িকভাবে বরখাস্ত করা হয় এবং ০৭-০১-৯৫ইং তারিখের শারক নং-সংস্থাপন-৭৯ ও ৮০/বা.নি-৯৫ এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্মচারী প্রবিধির আওতায় তাহার বিরুদ্ধে অভিযোগনামা প্রণয়নকরতঃ ১৯-১-৯৫ইং তারিখ সকাল ১০-০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে মনোনীত তদন্তকারী কর্মকর্তা এর নিকট হাজির হইয়া আত্মপক্ষ সর্ধনপূর্বক নিজেই নির্দেশ প্রমানেের জন্য সাক্ষা প্রমাণসহ জবাব পেশ করিতে নির্দেশ প্রদান করা হয় কিন্তু তিনি যথাসময়ে হাজির হইয়া জবাব পেশ করিতে ব্যর্থ হন, যাহা অত্র অফিসে প্রচলিত বিধানের পরিপন্থী বিধায় বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক (স্টাফ) রেগুলেশন এর সর্বশেষ ধারাবাহী শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ।

এমতাবস্থায়, অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংবাদপত্রে প্রকাশিত হইবার ১০ (দশ) দিনের মধ্যে অত্র অফিসে উপস্থিত হইয়া মনোনীত তদন্তকারী কর্মকর্তার সহিত যোগাযোগের জন্য তাহাকে চূড়ান্ত নির্দেশ দেওয়া যাইতেছে। অন্যথায় তাহার সহিত আর কোন প্রকার যোগাযোগ ব্যতিরেকে ব্যাংকের ষ্টাফ রেগুলেশন এর সর্বশেষ ধারা মোতাবেক তাহাকে অত্র ব্যাংকের চাকুরি হইতে বরখাস্ত করা হইবে এবং তাহার নিকট হইতে ব্যাংকের সকল পাতনা টাকা (যদি থাকে) আদায়ের জন্য আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গৃহীত হইবে।

জসওগরিঃ৯৪/৯৫-৯৮  
নং ৩৩২/৪  
ডি-৬১

**এ, এইচ, তৌফিক আহমেদ**  
মহাব্যবস্থাপক  
দুরাল্পনীঃ ২৩০৭০২।