

UNICEF endorses controversial rug-mark scheme in India

NEW DELHI, June 3: UNICEF, the United Nations child development arm, endorsed yesterday a controversial label which certifies that Indian carpets are woven without using child labour, reports Reuters.

The rug-mark scheme, to be implemented by an independent, private organisation, envisages fixing a label on Indian carpets which signifies that the factory where it was woven has been inspected and found free of child workers.

Carpet makers denounce the scheme and the government opposes it, preferring an alternative label.

UNICEF sees rug-mark as a creative, exploratory initiative to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism that will ensure children are not exploited. UNICEF Community Development Chief Richard Young told a meeting of child rights activists.

Young said the rug-mark la-

bel was a result of consumer awareness in the West. The industry needs to show them that there is a move to eliminate child labour, he said.

The rug-mark foundation comprises representatives of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), carpet manufacturers, an Indo-German trade body and UNICEF.

Indian carpet-makers say the scheme was inspired by Western competitors, while the government and some NGOs have slammed the rug-mark monitoring and inspection procedure as an impractical process that lacks credibility.

"How can they reach every nook of the country where carpet weavers exploit children? It's well-nigh impossible," a spokesman for the state-run Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) told Reuters. "This is mischievous international trade politics."

Official estimates put the

number of child labourers in India at nearly 20 million, but NGOs say there are more than 50 million children working in match-making, quarrying, tanning, fireworks and carpet-weaving.

The South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), a child's rights group represented on the rug-mark foundation, says nearly 1.2 million children work in carpet factories in India, Nepal and Pakistan.

"The government does not view the rug-mark scheme with favour," said Ajaib Shankar, who heads India's Handicrafts Development Division, he said the CEPC had suggested an alternative monitoring scheme that was less ambitious but more credible.

"This label would say that the export earnings from the carpet have contributed to the development of the weavers and denotes the government's commitment to end child

labour," he told Reuters of the government's preferred option.

"The pathway is not easy, but I believe the inspection system is as credible as possible," Young said, "if manufacturers know a spot check can be made any moment, it would dissuade them from employing children. It creates a certain pressure," he said.

Some Indian NGOs opposed the move.

"We are suspicious of the process by which the rug-mark foundation was made," said Swami Agnivesh, head of the Bandhua Mukti Morcha (bondage liberation front), an NGO not represented on the foundation.

Clinton had during his campaign threatened to curtail trade privileges with China unless it significantly improved human rights. But under extreme pressure from US business interests there, he delinked the two issues.

Clinton renews MFN status for China

WASHINGTON, June 3: Despite simmering tensions with Beijing, President Bill Clinton renewed trade preferential trade privileges for China yesterday, administration officials said, reports AFP.

"He will extend Most Favoured Nation status for China," said White House Press Secretary Michael McCurry.

Clinton went ahead and continued with his policy set last year not to link China's failure to make significant progress in human rights with the Most Favoured Nation trade status.

Clinton had during his campaign threatened to curtail trade privileges with China unless it significantly improved human rights. But under extreme pressure from US business interests there, he delinked the two issues.

The Clinton administration has meanwhile been seeking to downplay tensions with Beijing over a planned private visit this month to the United States by Taiwanese president Lee Teng-Hui.

Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Winston Lord said Tuesday that Lee's visit 'changes nothing' in terms of US policy toward Beijing.

But Lord acknowledged that the decision was made under extreme pressure from Congress, saying the legislative body "was headed toward forcing this decision in any event."

Beijing has reacted angrily, cancelling high-level military exchanges and postponing talks on controlling missile technology and nuclear energy cooperation.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on June 2, 1995
BD Electricity Meter enters market
7 point more rise in index

Star Report

The Dhaka Stock Exchange All Share Price Index continued to leap on Saturday while the transactions on the floor fell. A new issue entered the market on the day.

The price index reached 717.8222 from Thursday's 710.76311, posting another sharp rise of 7.05 points.

Total market capital rose to Taka 42.55 billion from Taka 42.09 billion.

The transactions in volume fell by 7.74 per cent and the transactions in value showed a decline of 35.93 per cent.

A total of 123261 shares worth Taka 19525456.50 changed hands as against 133615 shares valued at Taka 30475990.50.

The number of issues traded rose from 74 to 78, in which 55 gained, only 13 suffered losses and the share prices of 10 issues remained unchanged.

Singer Bangladesh, Monno Ceramic and Beximco Knitting (Deb) were the leading gainers.

A total of 70 shares of the new issue, BD Electricity Meter Co Ltd, were sold at the rate of Taka 100.00.

Volume leaders of the day were: Eastern Housing (40320), Apex Weaving (8487), BOC Bangladesh (7850), Shine Pakur Holding

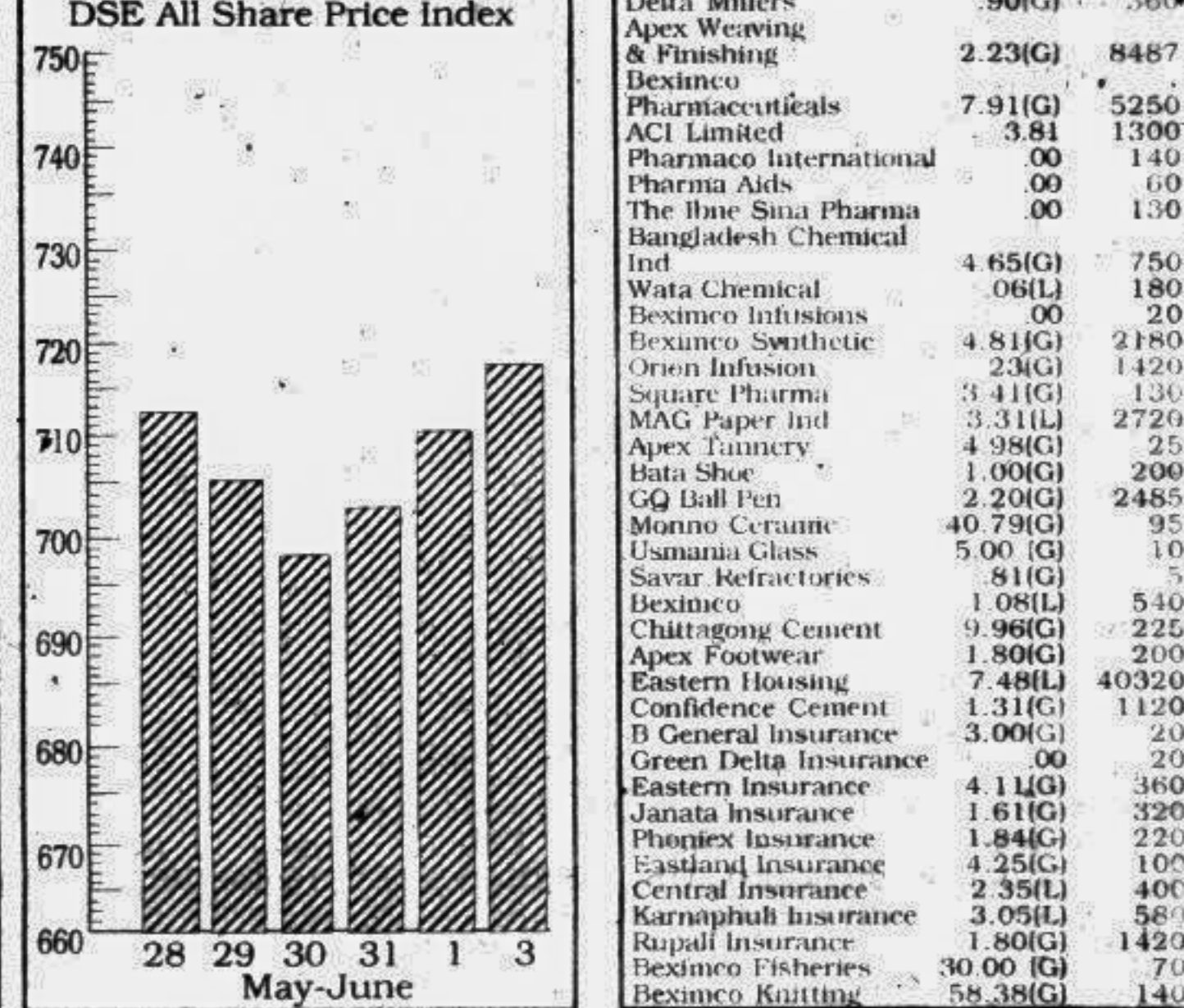
(7550) Beximco Ltd (5400) and Beximco Pharma (5250).

Trading at a glance

DSE All Share Price Index 717.8222
Market Capital Tk 425484111.52
Transactions in Volume 123261
Transactions in Value Tk 19525456.50
Total Issues Traded 78
Issues Gained 55
Issues Traded Losses 13
Issues Unchanged 10

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

National Bank Ltd 1.00 (G) 40
1st ICB M Fund 28.98 (G) 96
3rd ICB M Fund 1.14 (G) 55
5th ICB M Fund 18.10 (G) 210
6th ICB M Fund 8.34 (G) 27
Aziz Pipes Ltd 9.39 (L) 70
Bengal Barbed 3.50 (L) 50
Eastern Cables 2.25 (G) 340
Karim Pipe 0.41 (G) 2000
Monno Jute Ind. 0.00 (G) 20
Singer Bangladesh 40.66 (G) 600
Bangladesh Auto 4.00 (G) 5
Quasen Drycell 4.00 (G) 500
Renwick Japeswa 1.65 (G) 190
National Tubes 2.00 (G) 190
Bangladesh Tub 1.23 (G) 720
Aluminium 7.79 (G) 1660
BD Electricity Meter 4.00 (L) 70
Apex Foods Ltd 4.00 (L) 25
Dhaka Vegetable 2.00 (G) 20
Zulfi Bangla Sugar 0.08 (G) 2950
Rupon Oil Ind. 0.71 (G) 900
Tulip Dairy Food 0.00 (G) 100
Beximco Fisheries 4.41 (G) 1980
Bengal Dairies 2.78 (G) 360
Meghna Shrimp 2.49 (L) 206
DCC Bangladesh 2.60 (G) 7850
Northern Jute 1.71 (G) 3200
ACI Limited 3.91 1300
Shine Pakur Holdings 1.03 (G) 7550
Soleh Carpet Mills 2.00 (G) 1000
Ashraf Textile Mills 0.21 (L) 4600
Saham Textile 1.00 (G) 910
Eagle Star Textile 3.01 (L) 100
Qil Mill 2.00 (G) 240
Northern Jute 11.33 (L) 60
Apex Spinning 26.33 (G) 600
Beximco Knitting 7.91 (G) 5250
Dynamic Textile 2.00 (G) 420
Mithun Corporate Ind. 1.68 (G) 780
Mita Textiles 3.00 (G) 20
B Dyeing 6.74 (G) 1580
Delta Millers 9.01 (G) 360
Apex Weaving 2.23 (G) 8487
& Finishing 1.00 00
Pharmaceuticals 7.91 (G) 5250
ACI Limited 3.91 1300
Pharmaco International 00 140
Pharma Aids 00 60
The Hae Sina Pharma 00 130
Bangladesh Chemical Ind 4.65 (G) 750
Wata Chemical 06 (L) 180
Beximco Indus 2.00 20
Beximco Synthetic 4.81 (G) 2180
Orion Infusion 2.34 (L) 1420
Square Pharma 3.41 (G) 130
MAG Paper Ind. 3.31 (L) 2720
Apex Tannery 4.98 (G) 25
Bata Shoe 1.00 (G) 206
Qil Mill 2.00 (G) 240
Monno Ceramic 40.79 (G) 90
Usmania Glass 5.00 (G) 10
Saver Refractories 8.10 (G) 50
Beximco 1.08 (L) 540
Chattogram Cement 9.96 (G) 225
Apex Footwear 1.80 (G) 180
Eastern Housing 7.48 (L) 40320
Confidence Cement 1.31 (G) 1120
Green Delta Insurance 3.00 (G) 20
Eastern Insurance 4.11 (G) 360
Janata Insurance 1.61 (G) 320
Eastern Insurance 1.84 (G) 180
Eastern Insurance 4.25 (G) 100
Central Insurance 2.35 (L) 400
Karnaphuli Insurance 2.05 (L) 580
Rupun Insurance 1.80 (G) 1420
Beximco Fisheries 30.00 (G) 70
Beximco Knitting 58.38 (G) 140



DSE Shares and Debentures

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)
Dynamic Textile	100/20	88.00
Eagle Star Textile	10/50	14.50
GMC Ind Corp	10/50	10.20
Genetic	100/0	109.00
B Dyeing	120/20	196.94
Delta Millers	100/20	99.96
Mithun Corp	100/20	127.60
Pharmaco	100/0	55.00
Padma Textile	100/20	362.00
Quasen Silk	100/100	7.00
Eastern Bank	100/20	8.50
IDLCL Ltd	100/20	628.65
IFIC	100/5	142.00
Eastern Bank	100/20	1970.00
National Bank	100/5	106.00
Pubali Bank	100/5	100.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	71.00
ULCL	100/5	92.00
UPL	100/20	405.00
Utara Bank	100/5	100.00

PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEMICALS (23)

ACEI	10/50	110.31
ACEI Pharma	10/50	20.00
Bangla Process	100/5	20.00
BCIF	100/10	339.65
Beximco Pharma	100/00	450.00
Beximco Infusion	10/50	96.70
Beximco Synthetic	100/20	196.81
Libra Pharma	100/20	318.33
Glaxo	100/10	123.00
Bn Sina	100/10	120.00
Kohinoor Chemical	100/5	180.00
N Polymer	100/10	337.00
Sero Synthetic	100/5	10.90
Orion Infusion	100/20	176.53
Pharma Aids	100/5	160.00
Pharmaco	100/5	120.00
Progressive Plastic	100/5	47.00
Rackitt & Colman	10/50	170.00
Rahman Chemical	100/10	57.13
Square Pharma	100/5	890.50
Therapeutics	100/5	130.00
Wata Chemical	100/20	348.44

PAPER & PRINTING (7)

BD Electricity	10/5	22.00
Mag Paper	100/20	152.34
Monospool Paper	100/5	50.00
The Engineers	100/5	105.00
Paper Converting	100/10	20.83
Papier Printers	100/5	25.00
Sonali Paper	10/50	30.50

FOOD & ALLIED (26)

Alpha Tobacco	10/50	60.70
Anam Sea Food	100/5	820.00
Apex Foods	100/5	1336.00
Arma Tea	100/5	56.00
Banaga	100/5	265.00
B I D Plantation	100/5	550.00
B L T C	100/5	680.00
Bengal Food	100/5	249.43
B T T	150/50	150.00
Dhaka Vegetables	100/5	127.50
K L Camella	100/5	2200.00
Phleg's Export	10/50	3.50
Gemini Sea Food	100/5	100.00
Modern Industries	100/5	300.00
N T C	100/5	250.00
Plantation Flour	10/100	NT
Rupon Oil	10/100	7.00
Cig Vegetables	100/10	110.18
H20 Plantation	100/5	120.00
Beximco Fisheries	100/20	178.41
Bengal Biscuits	100/20	185.28
Meghna Shrimp Culture	100/20	151.81
Tulip Dairy	100/10	52.00
Yousaf Flour	10/50	13.00
Zost Bangla Sugar	10/50	7.00

FUEL & POWER (4)

BSC Bangladesh	10/50	185.39
Eastern Lubricant	10/50	14.00
National Oxygen	100/10	90.00
Panna Oil Co	10/50	100.00

JUTE (12)

Abad Jute	100/10	NT
Anowara Jute	10/50	NT
Delta Jute	10/50	NT
Gowalia Jute	100/5	95.00
Islam Jute	100/5	165.00
Jute Spinner	100/5	120.00
Monno Jute	10/50	20.17
Northern Jute	100/5	100.00
Shamser Jute	10/50	NT
Specialised Jute	100/5	150.00
Sonali Aarsh	10/200	7.20
Soleh Carpet	10/200	7.20

TEXTILE (26)

Ahli Textile	10/50	NT
Apex Spinning	100/20	290.80
Arber Textile	100/10	112.00
Ashraf Textile	10/50	33.21
Beximco Knitting	100/20	168.37
Apex Weaving	100/10	140.24
Deek Garments	100/10	103.50
Dulama Cotton	100/10	115.00

Note: FV=Face Value ML=Market Lot NT=Not Traded AL=Allotment Letter G=Gain L=Loss



David T. Kaveny, GM of American Express Bank, Bangladesh, seen signing the agreement with Reuter. Also present are Abdul Matin, Reuter representative, and Mirza Ejaz Ahmed of the bank.

American Express Bank to install Reuter's Dealing 2000 System

American Express Bank Ltd., Bangladesh and Reuters concluded an agreement in the city yesterday covering the installation of the Reuter's dealing 2000 System - the first such system to be introduced in Bangladesh, says a press release.

This system will be installed in the dealing room of the bank and will facilitate on-line instantaneous communications and transactions with other dealing rooms of banks throughout the world.

The General Manager of American Express Bank in Bangladesh, David T. Kaveny, commented at the signing ceremony of the agreement that this enhancement will enable the bank to provide more competitive foreign exchange rates and services to its customers.

DPRK trade team to visit US

UNITED NATIONS, June 3: North Korea is sending its first trade delegation to the United States and an official from the communist nation said the group will press for a broadening of economic relations, reports AP.

The five-member trade delegation is to arrive in New York on Sunday for talks on selling magnesite, a raw material used primarily to coat blast furnaces.

Washington lifted certain trade restrictions against North Korea in January after North Korea agreed to freeze a nuclear programme.

Trade sanctions have been in force for 45 years.

The delegation "will also seek the possibility of broadening the economic cooperation between the two countries," Han Song Ryol, an official with the North Korean mission to the United Nations, said Friday. "We cannot be a prisoner of history."

Han said he believed this would be the first visit by a North Korean trade delegation to the United States.

The group was invited by the New York-based company Mineral Technologies.

US industries have depended on China for imports of low-cost magnesite, but during the past 18 months Beijing has raised the price more than 100 per cent, the company said in a statement.

The potential business deal could reach several million dollars, Rick B. Honey, a spokesman for the company said.

China opens unsellable goods market

SHANGHAI, June 3: Amid the frenzy for starting markets, the central china province of Henan has come up with a novel idea - a market for unsellable goods, reports Reuters.

China's state and collective firms have 400 billion yuan (48.2 billion US dollars) worth of goods that are unsellable or in warehouses, and the mountain is growing at rate of 10 per cent a year, the Shanghai securities news said on Saturday.

To get these goods moving and unblock the capital they are tying down, Henan has invested 130 million yuan (16 million US dollars) to build the market and four times a year will conduct nationwide trading in unsold goods, it added.

Thousands of Chinese firms suffer from a chronic shortage of cash, in part because much of their capital is tied up in unsold items.

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co. Ltd. (A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla)

Part A
Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Procurement of Gas Line Pipes under ADB Loan No. 1293-BAN (SF)

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has undertaken the Third Natural Gas Development Project for the development of its natural gas production, transmission and distribution system and received a loan from the Special Fund Resources of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under a loan bearing No. 1293-BAN (SF) in various currencies equivalent to SDR 76,856,000 towards the cost of the Project. Out of the proceeds of the loan, under Part-C, an amount of SDR 18,101,000 has been made available for Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co. Ltd., an undertaking of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under contract (s) for supply of gas line pipes (The Goods).

2. Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd. now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of ADB for the supply of the following Goods:

Sl No	IFB No	Description of Goods	Quantity	Cost of Bid Document	Bid Closing Date
1	PD.2312/365-P/RTNDR	M.S PIPE Group-A API 5LX52 (40) A.1) DN 20" SAW Group-B API 5LX52 (40) B.1) 20" Seamless B.2) 6" Seamless	20,000 Meter 1000 Meter 200 Meter	US\$ 50.00 OR Tk. 2000.00	20 July '95

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

Deputy General Manager (Purchase)
Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd.
105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawran Bazar CA, Dhaka-1215
Bangladesh
FAX: 880-2-813031
TELEX: 642689 TGNC BJ; 632468 BGGP BJ

4. Bid documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder upon payment of the cost (non-refundable) amount as indicated above for the bidding document from the following addresses from 05 June '95 between 0900 Hrs and 1300 Hrs on all working days:

- Accounts and Finance Department, Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C.A. Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
- Bangladesh Diplomatic Missions in (i) Bonn; (ii) London; (iii) Ottawa; (iv) Paris; (v) Rome; (vi) Singapore; (vii) Tokyo; and (viii) Washington D.C.

Bid Documents will be supplied free of cost to those bidders who purchased the earlier Bid Document No. PD. 2312/365-P dated 26 January 1995.

No Bid Document will be sold on the closing date of the IFB.

5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee of 2% of bid amount must be delivered to Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd., Dhaka on or before the closing date of the bid by 1100 Hrs.

6. Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd. will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation and delivery of bids.

7. Bids will be opened on the same date of closing at 11:30 hrs, in presence of bidders, if any. Should this day happens to fall on any holiday, bids shall be opened at the same hours on the 1st subsequent working day.

8. TGDCL reserves the right to accept any bid and reject any or all the bids at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever.

"গাছ লাগান; গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" - প্রধানমন্ত্রী

Titas/PR-140/94-95
D-549 Deputy General Manager (Purchase)