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DHAKA MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1995

FBCCI concerned at attack on Redwan's house

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) expressed deep concern at Saturday's bomb attack on the Uttara residence of BGMEA President Redwan Ahmed, MP, reports UNB.

FBCCI feels that such attack on the members of business community will hinder the promotion of trade and investment in the country, said FBCCI President Salman F Rahman in a statement yesterday.

He urged the authorities to bring the miscreants to book and give exemplary punishment.



All businesses were shut down during hartal hours in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Boycott of French goods has little impact on N-testing

PARIS, Sept 3: A boycott of French products in an effort to get Paris to call off nuclear testing has had little measurable impact so far, France's Minister of Agriculture Philippe Vasseur said yesterday, reports AFP.

Several countries in Asia and the Pacific, notably Australia, New Zealand and some politicians in Japan, have called for the boycott of French goods to get President Jacques Chirac to reconsider his planned resumption of nuclear testing, due to begin Friday.

"There are for the moment a lot of worries about market losses," Vasseur told a news conference.

"Nothing so far indicates that the boycott has been massively implemented," he said, pointing to recent trade figures for French agricultural exports, which have not shown significant decreases.

Vasseur said he totally supported the decision to resume nuclear testing, and that the boycott was due to "things that are not totally clear."

Merchant bank needs minimum Tk 2 cr to operate

A full-fledged merchant bank will need a minimum capital base of Tk 2 crore to operate in Bangladesh simultaneously as issue manager, underwriter and portfolio manager under a proposed law, reports UNB.

The proposed "Merchant Banker and Portfolio Manager Regulations" is awaiting clearance from the Ministry of Law.

As per the regulations, an underwriter and a portfolio manager will require at least Tk 1 crore each as capital while an issue manager needs Tk 25 lakh.

Official sources said the proposed regulation has made registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) mandatory prior to beginning any merchant bank activities. It also makes merchant banking open to both locals and foreigners.

Unlike traditional banking, the functions of a merchant bank essentially include underwriting of shares, issue management, portfolio management and stock investment advisory activities.

Merchant banking activities are still in a nascent stage in Bangladesh. Only the

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) functions as a full-fledged merchant bank while SABINCO, some banks, insurance companies and financial intermediaries do some merchant banking in a limited way.

Dr Shabbub Alam, member of the SEC, said lack of regulatory framework has been a major reason of underdevelopment of merchant and investment banks in Bangladesh.

He was of the view that merchant and investment

banks would get an opportunity to flourish and contribute significantly to the development of the securities market when the Merchant Banker and Portfolio Manager Regulations and the Mutual Funds Regulations would be in force.

Dr Alam expressed optimism that with active participation of merchant and investment banks, country's market capitalisation would see radical increase in near future.

Cambodian PM gives importance to small traders

PHNOM PENH, Sept 3: Cambodian Co-Prime Minister Hun Sen on Saturday stressed the importance of small traders in the recovery of a nation that had a tendency to look to foreign investment as the miracle cure, reports Reuters.

"To overlook small business is a mistake," he told graduating students of a Georgetown University training course, adding: "Family-run businesses are very important for the development of the country's economy."

Hun Sen advised the 85 students of the small-business course to learn from the example of Chinese immigrants, who play a crucial role in the economic life of Cambodia.

"For Khmers (ethnic Cambodians), if they want to do business, they want to become millionaires in one year. We should learn from Chinese people who live off only one crab leg during their journey from China to Cambodia and become wealthy here," he said.

Cambodia is struggling to recover from decades of war and internal strife, including the vicious three-year reign of the Maoist Khmer Rouge, which ended when Vietnam invaded in 1978.

The Georgetown small business training programme is being conducted in cooperation with Phnom Penh University's business faculty with the support of the US government.

Move to recover banking confidence in Russia

MOSCOW, Sept 3: A group of medium-sized Russian banks took a step on Thursday toward shattering a banking confidence crisis, agreeing to openly share long-secret financial data but to conduct credit deals only with each other, reports Reuters.

The agreement is both a bold move in a country where corporate data is guarded as a "commercial secret" — and a sign that commercial banks still distrust each other after a money market liquidity crisis froze all bank payments last week.

It was not clear if the banks were reacting to earlier remarks on Thursday by President Boris Yeltsin, who said Russia's banking system was plagued by insolvent institutions that had to be shaken out of the system to preserve stability.

"Our agreement was signed by banks who owe no-one anything," said Yuri Glush-

chenko, Board Director of Prezentkbank, one of the signatories of the agreement.

"We're not setting as our goal maximum profit-taking from recent events, but rather are trying to resurrect the credit market."

He said members of the agreement feared Russia's banking system could implode if overnight credit markets failed to continue running smoothly after the crisis.

Yeltsin, speaking a week after liquidity problems at some banks paralysed domestic money markets, told top commercial bankers that major banks should take over or merge with smaller outfits squeaking by on shaky deals.

"The process of major banks taking over small ones has been going slowly and there are still to many banks," Yeltsin said.

Economic imbalance among races in Malaysia may cause problem

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3: Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad warned Saturday the small number of ethnic Malays — or Bumiputras — participating in the national economy should be viewed seriously as it could cause racial tension, reports AFP.

Although racial tension in the country had declined, he warned the imbalance between the Malays and the other races in the share of the economy could cause problems.

"This tension will affect all our achievements," Mahathir said, adding the government viewed this imbalance seriously.

Ethnic Malays make up more than 50 per cent of Malaysia's 18 million population, while ethnic Chinese, who play a dynamic role in the country's commerce, make up 36 per cent.

The government's top priority has been to stimulate the good economic growth so that the wealth could be distributed to the country's poor.

Under the National Development Policy (NDP) announced in 1991, the government is to transfer 30 per cent of Malaysia's corporate equity to the Malays over an unspecified period with the avowed aim of narrowing race-based social and economic disparities in the

multi-racial nation.

The 10-year-old NDP replaces the New Economic Policy (NEP), introduced after the 1969 race riots between Malays and the wealthier ethnic Chinese and has shaped Malaysian economic and social planning since 1970.

Under the NEP, the government had sought to increase the Malays' participation in the economy to 30 per cent.

Malaysia recorded a 9.5 per cent growth in its gross domestic product in the first six months of this year.

Mahathir said Saturday in spite of the country's strong economic growth, the Malay's share had yet to reach the 30 per cent target in the expanded economy, adding that he did not have the specific figures.

"We still need to strive to balance the economic position of the Malays with that of other races which have succeeded in forging ahead," he said.

He also said it was vital for any community which had the capability and expertise in specific fields to share their knowledge and experience with those still weak and lagging behind.

He cited the case of the Chinese whom he said would not lose if they imparted

their experience in business with the Malays.

7-day workshop at ASA

The Chief Executive of Association for Social Advancement (ASA), Shaful Haque Chowdhury, has said effective development of banking procedure needs an intervention-free banking management, says a press release.

He was speaking as chief guest at the opening session of a week-long workshop on Saturday, organised by the Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, at ASA Training Institute in the city.

Choudhury said the development of credit management needs easy procedure and skilled staff. It also needs discipline, economics of scale and corruption-free environment.

About ASA, he said, its model is being implemented in Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Cambodia. The model will be introduced in more than ten countries of former Soviet Union including Nepal, shortly.

Speaking as special guest, Obaidul Haque, Senior Principal Officer of Islami Bank, said repayment of ASA is most high. It has been possible due to fair credit management.



Shaful Haque Chowdhury, Chief Executive of Association for Social Advancement, speaking at the opening session of a seven-day workshop organised by Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd at ASA Training Institute in the city on Saturday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সমবায় অধিদপ্তর (ধকর সেল)
৯/ডি, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।
বারক নং-সিডি/পিডি/২০৯ তারিখ ২৮-০৮-৯৫

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
নং-০১/৯৫-৯৬(ছাঃ)

সমবায় অধিদপ্তরের জন্য সিএন্ডএফ এজেন্ট নিয়োগের দরপত্র

সমবায় অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নধীন ঘূর্ণিঝড় ও জলোচ্ছ্বাসে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় মৎস্যজীবী সমবায় সমিতি লিঃ-এর জরুরী পুনর্বাসন প্রকল্প-এর প্রকল্প পরিচালক কর্তৃক প্রকল্পের আওতায় আমদানিকৃত মালমাল চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর হইতে খালসকরণের নিমিত্তে ২ বৎসরের (১৯৯৫-৯৬-৯৭) সিএন্ডএফ এজেন্ট হিসাবে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকৃত দক্ষতাসম্পন্ন লাইসেন্সধারী সিএন্ডএফ এজেন্টগণের উক্ত কাজে ন্যূনতম ৫ বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইবে। সিএন্ডএফ এজেন্টকে চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর হইতে মালমাল ডেলিভারী গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে এবং চট্টগ্রাম আদালত ভবনের ১০ কিঃমিঃ ব্যাসার্ধের মধ্যে অবস্থিত জুদাম/গড়বাড়ী টাক, টাইলার, কোষ্টার, বার্জ ইত্যাদি পরিবহন দ্বারা নিরাপদে পৌঁছাইতে হইবে।

২। আগামী ২৯-৯-৯৫ইং হইতে ১৬-৯-৯৫ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতি কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ৩ নং অনুচ্ছেদে উল্লিখিত অফিস হইতে প্রতিসেট দরপত্র দলিল অফিসের মাধ্যমে নগদ টাকা ১০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র প্রদানপূর্বক সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে। দরপত্র খোলার দিন কোন দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

৩। প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ঘূর্ণিঝড় ও জলোচ্ছ্বাসে, ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় মৎস্যজীবী সমবায় সমিতি লিঃ-এর জরুরী পুনর্বাসন প্রকল্প, সমবায় অধিদপ্তর, ৯-ডি, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০-এর বরাবরে লিখিত পিডিড খামের উপর "সিএন্ডএফ এজেন্টের দরপত্র" লিখিয়া এবং সীলপালায়ুক্ত করিয়া আগামী ১৭-০৯-৯৫ইং বেলা ১১-০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অফিসে রক্ষিত বাগে ফেলিতে হইবে।

৪। রেজিস্টার্ড ডাকযোগেও দরপত্র পাঠানো যাইতে পারে, তবে সেই ক্ষেত্রে উহা অবশ্যই উপরোক্ত ঠিকানায় নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের মধ্যে পৌঁছাইতে হইবে। ডাক বিতরণের বিলয়ের অজুহাত গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।

৫। আগামী ১৭-৯-৯৫ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১-০৫ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্রাদানের সমুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হইবে। উপস্থিত দরপত্রাদাতাদের প্রতিনিধিগণকে দরপত্র খোলার বিবরণীতে স্বাক্ষর করিতে হইবে।

৬। দরপত্রের সহিত আর্নেস্টমনি হিসাবে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হইতে টাকা ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র ব্যাংক ডাকট (কোরতযোগ্য), প্রকল্প পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় মৎস্যজীবী সমবায় সমিতি লিঃ-এর জরুরী পুনর্বাসন প্রকল্প-এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করিতে হইবে। আর্নেস্টমনি ব্যতীত কোন দরপত্রই বিবেচনা হইবে না।

৭। দরপত্রাদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে দরপত্রের সহিত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভার্ট রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও জিআইআর সার্টিফিকেট-এর সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

৮। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল/গ্রহণ করিবার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ডিএফপি-২১২৯৫-০০/৮
জি-১২৯৬

Prices of base metals fall, oil, cotton rise over week

LONDON, Sept 3: This week witnessed a spectacular plunge in base metals on the London Metal Exchange (LME), as speculators liquidated their holdings en masse, reports AFP.

Tin led the rout losing over 10 per cent of its value during the week, followed by nickel, aluminium and zinc. Some analysts pinned the blame on profit taking ahead of the long weekend in the US, where labour day is a public holiday on Monday.

But others detected more fundamental factors at work, judging that the funds had taken the view that the global economic outlook was now less rosy than before, which would push demand down at a time when output is on the rise.

Other markets were more sedate, apart from a sharp fall in silver in response to rising comex stocks in New York.

Coffee weakened slightly under the effect of forecasts of a high Indian harvest, while Brent North Sea crude oil was supported by weekly data of the American Petroleum Institute, showing a strong fall in US crude oil stocks.

194 per cent jump in silver imports by Japan in July had little impact.

PLATINUM: Fall. The metal lost around six dollars per ounce to 425 dollars, as prospects faded of a strike at the South African giant Impala platinum.

This mining group is responsible for a third of South African output and its sales represent almost a quarter of world supply. Its 30,000 employees are threatening to strike if their demands for higher wages and better working conditions are not met, but any strike before September 4 would be against the country's labour laws.

COPPER: Rout. The price of copper fell sharply during the week as investment funds launched widespread selling. The rout culminated Friday with a 65 dollar crash after a 10,750 tonne rise in LME stocks to 173,500 knocked the final stuffing out of the market.

At the end of the week, three month copper prices were down over 110 dollars, to around 2,900 dollar per tonne.

Prices started to fall on Tuesday as trading opened after a three day weekend in Britain, and on Thursday crashed spectacularly as investment funds liquidated their holdings en masse.

Dealers said the funds were scared by gloomy prospects for world economic growth, especially in Japan, where growth in 1996 is now forecast by the IMF at 1.5 per cent, sharply down on the earlier figure of 3.5 per cent.

LEAD: Lower. Lead managed to limit the fall-out from copper's crash with a respectable stocks fall of 1,475 tonnes to 225,300 tonnes, and ended the week 10 dollars down at 630 dollars per tonne.

ZINC: Crash. The metal plunged by over 40 dollars in the wake of copper, falling

beneath the psychologically important barrier of 1,000 dollars to 995 dollars per tonne, and hitting a low since September 1994.

LME stocks fell by 7,300 tonnes to 761,400 tonnes.

ALUMINIUM: Hammered. The metal took even more of a hammering than copper, diving over 90 dollars to 1,820 dollars per tonne. Analysts at GNI research said the crash showed "the severity of the negative sentiment," and compared it to the time in February last year when prices slumped.

Angus MacMillan at trading-house billiton metals said that growth in the major industrialised economies was insufficient to absorb additional capacity as the production restraint pact signed in February 1994 between world producers, the "memorandum of understanding," begins to fall apart.

"We'll be seeing a lot of capacity restarts over the next six months," he warned.

On the EME, weekly stocks fell by 2,225 tonnes to 549,700 tonnes.

NICKEL: Plunge. The metal plunged by around 690 dollars, or seven per cent, to 8,620 dollars per tonne, a low since the end of July. Stocks on the LME fell by 1,440 tonnes to 66,456 tonnes.

TIN: Bloodbath. Tin came under overwhelming pressure in the wake of the huge fund selling in copper and the other base metals, and lost more than 10 per cent of its value by the end of the week, tin had fallen by 780 dollars to 6,320 dollar per tonne. As recently as August 7, the metal was at a three-year high at 7,130 dollars.

LME stocks fell by 155 tonnes to 16,790 tonnes.

COFFEE: Week. Prices fell by more than 70 dollars to 2,725 dollars per tonne, depressed by forecasts of a higher Indian harvest in

1995-96, now expected to total a record 225,000 tonnes against 191,000 last year.

The decline was limited, though by the announcement of a weekly fall of 65,617 sacks (60 kilograms each) in US-certified coffee stocks, and by the drought afflicting certain producer regions of Brazil.

The harvest of the number one world producer, however, is not expected to be too badly hit unless the drought persists for another three to four weeks, analysts at the London trading house GNI said.

Also according to GNI, India, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela and Mexico may join the export limit plan of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC).

COCOA: Slight fall. The price fell by over 10 pounds to 952 pounds per tonne, in line with GNI's prediction of a 20 per cent drop in prices during the season of 1995-96 (Oct-Sept). In spite of a world production deficit forecast at 70,000-110,000 tonnes next season, GNI explains, world stocks remain quite adequate, equivalent to over 30 per cent of consumption.

According to GNI, the crop of the Ivory Coast, the world's number one producer, could reach 910,000 tonnes in 1995-96 against 820,000 tonnes the previous season.

SUGAR: Lower. Prices dived by over 10 dollars in the course of two days, to 307 dollars, depressed by expectations of a large surplus in world supply over demand over 1995-96, due to larger-than-forecast harvests in Thailand, Europe and India.

London traders Czarnikow predict a surplus of three million tonnes, sharply up from their previous forecast a few months ago of 1.96 mil-

lion tonnes.

Confirmation of the purchase of 80,000 tonnes of sugar by Egypt on the cash market, however, halted the slide, and prices ended the week at around 310 dollars.

VEGETABLE OILS: Calm. The prices of most vegetable oils remained stable in Rotterdam except for palm oil, which weakened, and soya, which advanced slightly.

Soya was supported by fears that the US crop, hit by the heatwave and the drought, would worsen still more if the adverse weather conditions persisted.

The trading house securities corp estimated the US production of soya beans this year at 2.13 billion bushels, down on the last forecast by the US department of agriculture of 2.25 billion.

OIL: Firmer. Supported by a strong fall in US weekly crude oil stocks, at their lowest levels for 20 years, the reference price for Brent North Sea crude oil firmed slightly, ending the week at 16.20 dollars per barrel.

British crude oil production in the North sea jumped by 30 per cent in July from June, to more than 2.5 million barrels per day, according to figures of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS). This sharp rise is explainable by the end of maintenance and expansion work on a number of large platforms.

Kuwait has asked OPEC for a 10 per cent increase in its production quota to 2.2 million barrels per day, according to the Kuwaiti Daily Al Watan.

RUBBER: Prices bounded around wildly, defying all logic in a "crazy" week, according to one London trader. The week's early gains were reversed suddenly

Thursday and the next day prices swung up again.

There does not appear to be any shortage of supply, even if weather conditions are not very very favourable in the producer regions of South East Asia.

It rained during the dry season, in the middle of harvest time. In Europe, demand remained weak.

GRAINS: Firm. The prices of wheat and barley advanced more than a pound, to 115.75 and 109.4 pounds per tonne. Gains were limited, however, by promising prospects for the US spring wheat harvest and rains in Europe after weeks of drought.

In Chicago, wheat prices climbed Thursday to a four-week high, due to the prolongation of the withdrawal of subsidised European wheat sales until October 12. This suspension, imposed on July 13, was initially due to end on September 7. Traders expect this to translate into higher US sales.

Wheat was also lifted by warnings from Argentine producers that the country's harvest will fall to between eight and nine million tonnes if the scorching weather persists. In August, the US department of agriculture forecast in Argentine crop of 10.5 million tonnes.

COTTON: Firm. The indicator price in Liverpool, Northern England, rose slightly by one cent to 0.89 dollars per pound, still supported by worries about the US harvest, particularly in Mississippi, where the plantations have been over run by insects.

However, in the Carolinas and Georgia, the heavy rains of the last weekend should boost the crops.

WOOL: Stable. Prices remained unchanged in Bradford, Northern England, despite losses over the Australian market due to the absence of Chinese buying.

Figures from the Japanese ministry of finance showing a