

DAKA FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1995

## Jute yarn mills facing severe crisis

By Staff Correspondent

The country's export-oriented jute yarn mills are facing a severe crisis due to a sharp increase in raw jute prices this season and uneven competition in the international market from neighbouring countries.

The yarn and twine mills in jute sector are passing through a critical moment as the cost of production of jute goods increased by about 150 US dollars just in a year, said Sabir Yusuf, Chairman of Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association.

He said the price of raw

jute was between Taka 400 and 475 per maund during last year while this year it is ranging between Taka 650 and 700.

In a statement on Wednesday, BJSA chairman said the mills are incurring a loss of 50 dollars on each tonne of yarn exported as the international price of jute yarn is about 750 US dollars and the export price fixed by the association is 850 US dollars.

He urged the government to introduce a 10 per cent External Market Assistance

(EMA) to sustain the growth of this indigenous industry.

Giving example of different incentives provided by the Indian government to its exporters, BJSA chairman said, besides active exchange rate and devaluation of its currency, India has extended a 10 per cent EMA to its jute goods exporters as incentives against their FOB export price upto 1997. As a result, India is going to control Bangladesh market.

According to the BJSA, Bangladesh exported about 1.03 lakh metric tonnes of

yarn and twine in the last 1994-95 fiscal year.

The BJSA said the production of jute has been hampered in the recent years due to drought condition in the country. The country's jute harvest may be 30 to 35 lakh bales this year as against 50 lakh bales few years back. For this reason, the jute spinning mills were to buy raw jute at higher prices.

The annual demand for jute yarn and twine in the world market is 2.23 lakh metric tonnes at present of which Bangladesh can supply about 57.57 per cent.

"If proper steps are taken, the country's market share for jute goods export could reach 70 to 80 per cent," the BJSA mentioned.

BJSA Chairman said the prevailing political condition in the country is responsible for irregular production and shipment.

"The buyers are diversifying their business to our neighbouring countries as we can not maintain time schedule of production and shipment."

## 'Only 15 pc households has electricity connections'

By Staff Correspondent

Of the total households in Bangladesh, only three per cent have piped natural gas connections and 15 per cent electricity connections.

The per capita consumption of commercial energy in Bangladesh is equivalent to 65 kgs of oil only and the per capita energy generation is only 90 kWh annually, which remained one of the lowest among the developing countries of the world.

This was stated by the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, at a press conference Wednesday.

He said about 60 to 70 per cent of total final energy consumption is met by different types of biomass fuels like wood, agricultural residues.

The minister said the country annually imports 2.4 million tonnes of petroleum fuel. In contrast, indigenous production of liquid fuels is only two per cent of total annual demand.

If the country's GDP growth rate remains at 5 to 6 per cent till 2010, the total demand for commercial energy would stand at 24 million tons of oil equivalent after 15 years. At the present level of energy reserves, it will not be possible to meet the need, Hossain pointed out.

The minister said yet, the country has a net recoverable reserve of coal in Barapukuria of 70 million tonnes, gas in 17 fields of 9.96 trillion cubic feet and extracts 13.7 tonnes of natural gas liquid per day and has hydropower of 1000 Giga watt hour (GWH) per year at Kapital.

He said in addition, there is potential one billion tonnes of coal reserve in Jamalganj.

450 million tonnes at Khalasipur, 0.5 trillion cubic feet coal bed methane at Jamalpur, 170 million tonnes of peat at Faridpur and Khulna.

9.3 trillion cubic feet natural gas elsewhere and over 500 GWH hydropower in the country.

## Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on September 14, 1995

### Index continues to rise

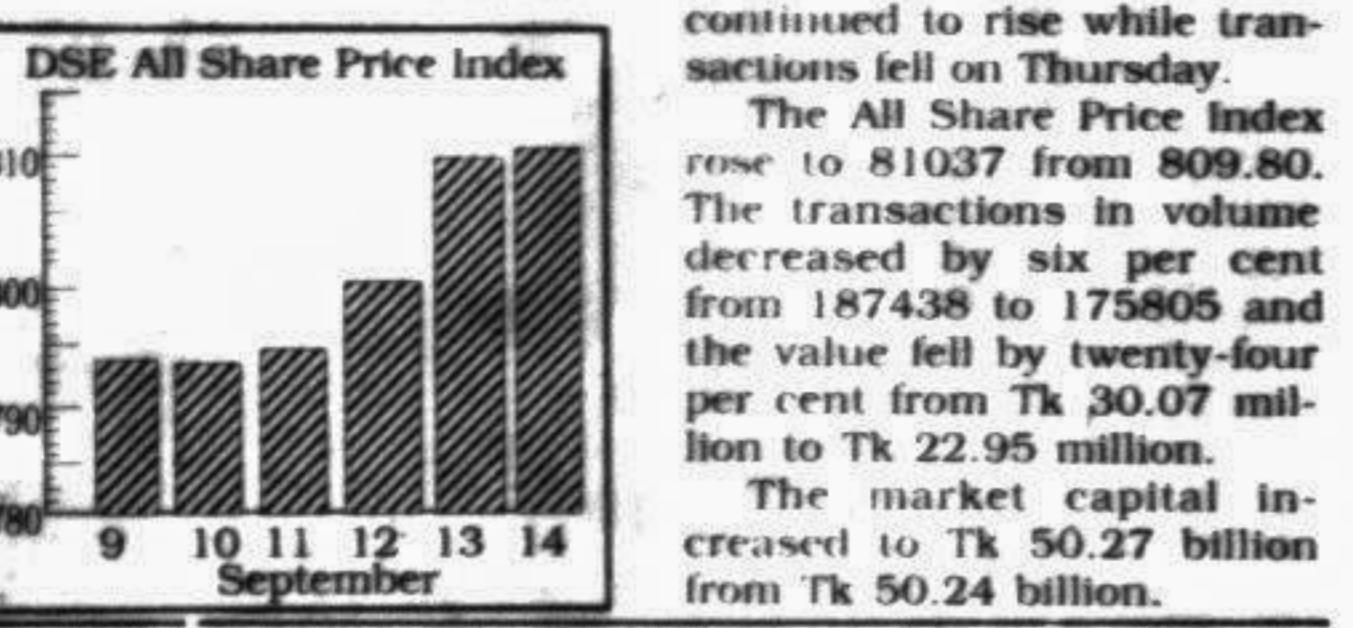
Star Report

The Dhaka Stock Exchange

ge All Share Price Index continued to rise while transactions fell on Thursday.

The All Share Price Index rose to 81037 from 80980. The transactions in volume decreased by six per cent from 187438 to 175805 and the value fell by twenty-four per cent from Tk 10.070 million to Tk 22.95 million.

The market capital increased to Tk 50.27 billion from Tk 50.24 billion.



### Trading at a glance

Company's	Change	Number
	(per share)	of shares
	Tk	traded
Income Bank	100 (G)	1
Pubali Bank	5 (G)	45
B&C	40.80 (G)	780
United Leasing	3.59 (L)	60
4th ICB Mutual Fund	00	10
6th ICB Mutual Fund	93 (L)	480
Alah Automobiles	4.41 (L)	35
Aziz Pipes	3.95 (L)	385
Bengal Carbide	6.34 (L)	200
Bangladesh Lamp	25.17 (G)	135
Eastern Cables	9.41 (L)	1780
Karim Pipe	5.86 (L)	500
Stinger Bangladesh	27.00 (G)	10
Atlas Bangladesh	18 (L)	120
Bangladesh Autocars	10 (G)	500
Quasim Dryells	80 (L)	4950
Indo-Asian PVC	90 (L)	250
Thai Aluminium	2.86 (L)	40
BD Electricity Meter	3.33 (G)	40
Alpha Tobacco	13.98 (L)	200
Anam Sea Food	64.50 (G)	10
Apex Foods	200 (G)	120
Bengal Food	1.00 (L)	10
Bangladesh Tobacco	50 (G)	250
Frogleys Export	.36 (G)	250
Obaka Vegetable	1.00 (G)	100
Zeal Bangla	.30 (G)	3050
Ruponi Oil	00 (G)	1000
Tulip Dairy	2.00 (L)	10
Chittagong Vegetable	.52 (L)	110
Bangladesh Plantation	40.00 (G)	28
Heximco Fisheries	2.80 (L)	1320
Dental Biscuits	.03 (L)	360
Meghna Shrimp	5.00 (G)	4100
BOC Bangladesh	2.10 (G)	7250
Palma Oil	2.50 (G)	10
Northern Jute	.05 (L)	4500
Shin Polkar	1.0 (G)	2350
Saleh Chana	.53 (G)	3400
Asian Textile	.31 (L)	3500
Kishan Textiles	.95 (G)	185
Quasim Silk	.75 (L)	3950

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