

## Tech needed to crop coastal areas for meeting food demand: Expert

To meet increasing needs of food, a major thrust is needed to develop agricultural technology suitable for coastal and off-shore islands, 30 per cent of the country's net cultivable area.

"We have the technology to grow crop in good quality land, but not for the vast 2.85 million hectares of land lying untapped in the coastal and off-shore areas," said an agricultural scientist in the wake of threatened food security due to recurring natural disasters.

"With the existing technology, we can produce additional two million tons of rice and 1.5 million tons of pulses and oilseeds in the coastal and off-shore areas if there are cultivated properly," Dr Z Karim, Member-Director of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC),

told UNB yesterday. According to official estimates, the country's average annual production of food-grains is around 19.4 to 20 million tons barring any calamity. And in a normal year, this is sufficient to meet the needs of 120 million people of the country with import of some wheat.

Officials said agro-technological features indicate that, besides rice, some other crops like pulses, spices and oilseeds grow well under adverse saline condition.

Research and development to find out appropriate technology for the coastal and off-shore areas have to be taken up by the national agricultural research institutions, said Dr Karim. "Research priority and programme development in this regard is the immediate need of the

time." Agricultural productivity in the coastal and off-shore areas is low with only 80 to 90 per cent cropping intensity against the country's average of 170 per cent.

The BARC member-director suggested setting up of a Centre on Coastal Agricultural Development which initially may work under the administrative control of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BIRRI). The centre should eventually be turned into a separate institution.

Dr Karim said reorganization is needed to bring all the research stations and sub-stations under one umbrella to make them more effective and also to economize on the scarce resources.

Though there are two out stations of BIRRI in Barisal and Sonagazi in Noakhali, re-

search programmes are mostly traditional in nature. Tidal surge and salinity are the major problems in the coastal and off-shore areas. But no problem specific priority, nor thrust or incentive programme for these areas has been taken yet.

No serious effort was made, nor any policy decision taken in resolving conflicts in land use (shrimp versus crop). Again, absentee farmers in the coastal and off-shore inlands are a big problem for crop intensification.

Dr Karim also suggested to develop brackish water irrigation agriculture technology to increase the cropping intensity in Rabi season. There are many such technology-based institutions for agricultural development in off-shore and coastal areas in India, he said.

## 5m French workers set to stage strike

PARIS, Oct 9: Citizens prepared for chaos and the government braced for its biggest test yet on the eve of a planned general strike expected to unite over 5 million public sector workers, reports AP.

From trains, subways and buses to post offices, schools and hospitals, France's vital functions are to be reduced or utterly suspended for 24 hours beginning Monday night.

The general strike, expected to be France's worst since 1986, was called by public sector unions to protest a pay freeze announced by the government.

It marks the first major labour challenge to conservative Premier Alain Juppe, who came to power in May with promises to cut France's massive deficit and 11.5 per cent unemployment.

Juppe is also under fire for his role in a housing scandal, and plagued by persistent rumors that his resignation is imminent. His office officially denied the rumors Friday.

A preliminary investigation is underway to determine whether Juppe abused his position as an elected official to gain housing advantages for himself and family members.

Initially, Tuesday's strike was only to include bureaucrats and civil servants, but employees of French state-owned companies, including Air France, the state railway company and car manufacturer Renault have announced they will join in the action.

Unions announced the strike in September after failed talks with the government.

## Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on October 5

### Index up by 2 points

Star Report

The Dhaka Stock Exchange All Share Price Index rose by over two points in an improved trading opened on Monday after a three-day break.

The index reached 833.80 from Thursday's 831.44, showing a rise of 2.36 points. Total market capital rose to Tk 51.96 billion from Tk 51.81 billion.

Transactions in value increased by 5.13 per cent to 151451 from 144061 and

the value showed a gain of 6.38 per cent, reaching Tk 28.81 million from Tk 27.08 million.

Islami Bank enjoyed a gain of Tk 125.00 per share, leading the gainers while Amam Sea Food led the losers with a fall of Tk 50.00 per share.

Volume leaders of the day were: Beximco Pharma (32550), BD Zipper (10721), Sonargang Textile (9900) and Meghna cement (7779).

### Trading at a glance

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| DSE All Share Index     | 833.80         |
| Market Capital Tk       | 51957035301.20 |
| Transaction in volume   | 151451         |
| Transaction in value Tk | 28809259.50    |
| Total issued traded     | 94             |
| Issues gained           | 42             |
| Issues incurred losses  | 45             |
| Issues unchanged        | 7              |

|                       |           |       |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------|
| Talju Spinning        | 2.25 (G)  | 1270  |
| Padma Textile         | 9.17 (G)  | 240   |
| Apex Spinning         | 61 (G)    | 60    |
| Beximco Knitting      | 11 (L)    | 240   |
| Dynamic Textile       | 2.25 (L)  | 960   |
| B Dyeing              | 86 (L)    | 100   |
| Delta Millers         | 8.57 (L)  | 520   |
| Apex Weaving          | 1.63 (G)  | 486   |
| Dandy Dyeing          | 31 (L)    | 2100  |
| Sonargang Textile     | 6.88 (G)  | 9900  |
| Beximco Textiles      | 79 (L)    | 6793  |
| BD Zipper             | 6.72 (L)  | 10721 |
| Beximco Pharma        | 1.83 (G)  | 32550 |
| ACI Limited           | 1.43 (L)  | 1400  |
| Reckitt and Colman    | 1.60 (L)  | 200   |
| Kohinoor Chemical     | 1.13 (L)  | 765   |
| Rahman Chemicals      | 1.00 (L)  | 300   |
| Bangladesh Chemical   | 27 (L)    | 810   |
| Wata Chemical         | 5.00 (L)  | 240   |
| National Polymer      | 8.26 (L)  | 611   |
| Beximco synthetic     | 3.68 (L)  | 840   |
| Libra Pharma          | 3.44 (L)  | 260   |
| Orion Pharma          | 9.00 (G)  | 1020  |
| Square Pharma         | 00 (L)    | 12    |
| Maq Paper             | 1.52 (G)  | 4300  |
| Apex Tannery          | 00 (L)    | 520   |
| Aramit Ltd            | 5.00 (G)  | 1000  |
| Bata Shoe             | 30 (L)    | 1520  |
| GQ Ball Pen           | 2.17 (G)  | 1390  |
| Monno Ceramic         | 01 (G)    | 3305  |
| Umanita Glass         | 2.18 (G)  | 190   |
| Beximco Ltd           | 49 (L)    | 2800  |
| Chittagong Cement     | 17 (L)    | 528   |
| Apex Footwear         | 1.27 (L)  | 1360  |
| Eastern Mousing       | 1.60 (G)  | 1120  |
| Confidence Cement     | 15.82 (G) | 3200  |
| Meghna Cement         | 3.95 (G)  | 7779  |
| Lexco Limited         | 75.00 (G) | 200   |
| BCIC                  | 2.00 (L)  | 180   |
| Green Delta           | 2.00 (G)  | 30    |
| Janata Insurance      | 5.35 (G)  | 780   |
| Eastland Insurance    | 20 (G)    | 140   |
| Central Insurance     | 1.75 (G)  | 780   |
| Karnaphuli Insurance  | 1.00 (G)  | 280   |
| National Life         | 45 (G)    | 200   |
| Federal Insurance     | 59 (L)    | 1122  |
| Progressive Insurance | 9.00 (G)  | 200   |
| Purabi General        | 00 (L)    | 90    |
| Delta Life            | 35.75 (G) | 7423  |
| Beximco Knitting      | 00 (L)    | 174   |
| Beximco Textiles      | 00 (L)    | 16    |
| BD Zipper             | 1.41 (G)  | 175   |
| Bangladesh Chemical   | 00 (L)    | 75    |

### Indian commerce ministry seeks excise protection for local industries

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Pressure is building on the Indian finance ministry to exempt certain items from payment of excise duty to help the indigenous manufacturers tide over the problem of cheap imports, says Xinhua.

Pleading the case of the indigenous manufacturers, who are suffering from an import rush, the Commerce Ministry urged the Finance Ministry to exempt certain goods from payment of excise duty, the Commerce Ministry sources said today.

Apart from the Commerce Ministry, the Industry Ministry has also urged the Finance Ministry to review the excise duty on various individual items along with the landed cost of imported goods through various available routes, the sources said.

The industry, especially small-scale sector engaged in manufacturing of consumer goods, presented a proposal to the Commerce Ministry, suggesting exemption from payment of excise duty as a way to fight cheap imports.

Since the lowering of tariff barriers, various goods have flooded the Indian market. The imported goods are having an overall impact on the prices of locally-made goods and eroded their competitiveness in the market, the sources added.

### Jt Arab institution to assess financial bodies

ABU DHABI, Oct 9: Arab states have created a joint institution that will give them greater access to the performance of their financial bodies and ensure security for domestic investors, the organization's sponsor said yesterday.

The World Bank will help in the operation of the company for the evaluation and classification of credit adequacy, the first of its kind in the Arab world, said the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

AMF Chairman, Jassim Al-Manal, signed the agreement for the new venture in Washington, where he was attending joint meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, it said in a statement sent to AFP.

The contract was signed with the World Bank's International Finance Corporation and the company would begin operation before the end of the year. "The new company is part of the efforts to activate stock markets in the Arab world and expand the investors base," it said.

"It will strengthen the official Arab auditing bodies like the central banks and the Stock market managements in auditing bodies like the central banks and the stock market managements in the auditing and supervision of the activities of the financial institutions in the region. This will contribute to protecting the rights of dealers and investors in the Arab markets."

The creation of the company coincides with reforms in the Arab banking sector following guidelines by the Bank for International Settlement (BIS) for banks worldwide to boost their capital adequacy to at least eight per cent to ensure they have enough funds to face any financial crisis.

### DSE Shares and Debentures

| Company                                     | PV/ML (Taka) | Closing Rate (Taka) | 100/20 | 409.17 |
|---|--------------|---------------------|--------|--------|
| Quasem Silk                                 | 10/100       | 7.60                |        |        |
| Quasem Textile                              | 10/50        | 17.00               |        |        |
| Rahim Textile                               | 100/5        | 105.00              |        |        |
| Sahara Textile                              | 100/10       | 100.00              |        |        |
| S T M (ORD)                                 | 100/5        | 18.00               |        |        |
| Stylecraft                                  | 100/5        | 360.00              |        |        |
| Swan Textile                                | 100/5        | 35.00               |        |        |
| Talju Spinning                              | 100/10       | 139.84              |        |        |
| Tamjuddin                                   | 100/10       | 190.00              |        |        |
| Dandy Dyeing                                | 100/10       | 123.00              |        |        |
| Sonargang Textiles                          | 100/5        | 131.93              |        |        |
| Beximco Textiles                            | 100/5        | 121.39              |        |        |
| <b>PHARMACEUTICALS &amp; CHEMICALS (23)</b> |              |                     |        |        |
| A C I                                       | 10/50        | 130.14              |        |        |
| Amee Pharma                                 | 10/50        | 18.90               |        |        |
| Bangla Infrac                               | 100/5        | 73.00               |        |        |
| BCIC  | 100/10       | 34.86               |        |        |
| Beximco Infrac                              | 100/50       | 465.00              |        |        |
| Beximco Pharma                              | 10/50        | 81.01               |        |        |
| B Synthetic                                 | 100/20       | 172.48              |        |        |
| Libra Pharma                                | 100/20       | 364.69              |        |        |
| Glaxo                                       | 10/50        | 125.00              |        |        |
| Ibn Sina                                    | 100/10       | 120.00              |        |        |
| Kohinoor Chemical                           | 100/5        | 62.21               |        |        |
| N Polymer                                   | 100/10       | 645.49              |        |        |
| Petro Synthetic                             | 10/50        | 13.07               |        |        |
| Orion Infrac                                | 100/200      | 158.90              |        |        |
| Pharma Aids                                 | 100/5        | 187.50              |        |        |
| Pharmaco                                    | 100/5        | 125.00              |        |        |
| Progressive Plastic                         | 100/20       | 23.45               |        |        |
| Rackitt & Colman                            | 10/50        | 185.00              |        |        |
| Rahman Chemicals                            | 100/10       | 63.00               |        |        |
| Renata Ltd                                  | 100/5        | 780.00              |        |        |
| Square Pharma                               | 100/20       | 790.00              |        |        |
| Therapeutics                                | 100/5        | 124.00              |        |        |
| Wata Chemical                               | 100/20       | 340.00              |        |        |
| <b>PAPER &amp; PRINTING (7)</b>             |              |                     |        |        |
| Eagle Box                                   | 00/5         | 30.00               |        |        |
| Maq Paper                                   | 100/20       | 166.64              |        |        |
| Monosop Paper                               | 100/5        | 45.00               |        |        |
| Paper Converting                            | 100/5        | 105.00              |        |        |
| Paper Processing                            | 100/10       | 34.55               |        |        |
| Padma Printers                              | 10/50        | 25.00               |        |        |
| Sonali Paper                                | 10/50        | 30.50               |        |        |
| <b>SERVICE (8)</b>                          |              |                     |        |        |
| Bangladesh Hotel                            | 10/50        | 12.00               |        |        |
| Bd. Service                                 | 10/50        | NT                  |        |        |
| S Pukur Holdings                            | 100/5        | 86.23               |        |        |
| <b>INSURANCE (16)</b>                       |              |                     |        |        |
| BCIC  | 100/10       | 334.00              |        |        |
| Central Insurance                           | 100/20       | 159.75              |        |        |
| Eastern Insurance                           | 100/10       | 600.00              |        |        |
| Eastland Insurance                          | 100/20       | 168.50              |        |        |
| Delta Life Insurance                        | 100/10       | 379.61              |        |        |
| Green Delta                                 | 100/10       | 350.00              |        |        |
| Janata Insurance                            | 100/20       | 180.42              |        |        |
| Karnaphuli Insu                             | 100/20       | 153.00              |        |        |
| Phonix Insurance                            | 100/10       | 200.00              |        |        |
| Phonix Insurance                            | 100/20       | 252.29              |        |        |
| Rupali Insurance                            | 100/20       | 224.00              |        |        |
| United Insurance                            | 100/10       | 300.00              |        |        |
| National Insurance                          | 100/20       | 144.75              |        |        |
| Federal Insurance                           | 100/20       | 158.77              |        |        |
| Reliance Insurance                          | 100/10       | 325.00              |        |        |
| Purabi Insurance                            | 100/5        | 101.00              |        |        |
| <b>MISCELLANEOUS (23)</b>                   |              |                     |        |        |
| Apex Footwear                               | 100/20       | 535.44              |        |        |
| Apex Tannery                                | 100/5        | 840.00              |        |        |
| Aramit                                      | 10/50        | 58.00               |        |        |
| Bata Shoe                                   | 10/100       | 140.01              |        |        |
| Beximco Ltd                                 | 10/100       | 62.95               |        |        |
| B.S.C.                                      | 100/5        | 101.00              |        |        |
| Ctg. Cement                                 | 100/5        | 684.58              |        |        |
| Confidence Cement                           | 100/20       | 322.53              |        |        |
| Eastern Housing                             | 100/20       | 145.86              |        |        |
| G.G. Ball Pen                               | 10/50        | 172.87              |        |        |
| High Speed                                  | 100/5        | 55.75               |        |        |
| Himadri Ltd                                 | 10/100       | 6.00                |        |        |
| Lexco Ltd                                   | 100/5        | 975.00              |        |        |
| Milton Tanneries                            | 100/5        | 65.00               |        |        |
| Monno Ceramic                               | 100/5        | 904.09              |        |        |
| Meghna Cement                               | 100/5        | 263.65              |        |        |
| New Dhaka Refac                             | 100/20       | 40.00               |        |        |
| Phonix Leather                              | 100/5        | 308.00              |        |        |
| Savar Refractories                          | 100/5        | 68.00               |        |        |
| The Engineers                               | 100/5        | 100.00              |        |        |
| BD Zipper Industries                        | 100/5        | 142.35              |        |        |
| Texpick Ind                                 | 100/10       | 85.00               |        |        |
| Umanita Glass                               | 100/5        | 631.34              |        |        |
| <b>DEBENTURES (10)</b>                      |              |                     |        |        |
| BCIL (17%)                                  | 2000/1       | 1580.00             |        |        |
| Beximco (17%)                               | 1331/1       | 1310.00             |        |        |
| B Infrac (17%)                              | 1400/2       | 1390.00             |        |        |
| B Pharma (17%)                              | 570/1        | 490.00              |        |        |
| B Synthetic (14%)                           | 2500/2       | 2400.00             |        |        |
| B Fisheries (14%)                           | 3000/1       | 2800.00             |        |        |
| B Knitting (14%)                            | 3000/2       | 2200.00             |        |        |
| B Housing (11%)                             | 5000/1       | 4410.00             |        |        |
| B Textiles                                  | 2330.00      |                     |        |        |
| BD Zipper (12%)                             | 2350.00      |                     |        |        |

## Dollar mixed in Tokyo

TOKYO, Oct 9: Despite a weekend pledge by major industrialized nations to support a stronger dollar, the US currency turned mixed against the Japanese yen in Tokyo Monday in the absence of central bank intervention, traders said, reports AP.

The market reacted positively early in the session to Saturday's agreement among officials from the Group of Seven industrial nations to support the dollar's "orderly reversal."

After hitting a record low of 79.75 yen in Tokyo on April 19, the dollar has been gradually recovering.

Yosuke Seike, a dealer with Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, said market players had expected intervention by the Bank of Japan in the exchange market Monday following the weekend G-7 meeting, but no intervention was seen.

The dollar ranged as high as 101.30-101.40 yen at one point in Sydney's early morning trading, but later fell back on profit-taking to the 100-yen level in Tokyo trading, Seike said.

However, "the market's overall sentiment will be for a strong dollar on a long-term basis," Seike said.

The G-7 includes the United States, Japan, Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Canada.



**TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT**  
DHAKA, OCTOBER, 1995  
ORGANISED BY  
MICRO INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES  
COLLABORATED WITH  
COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Samson H Chowdhury (C), Managing Director of Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Chairman, MIDAS Board of Directors, presided over the inaugural session of the two-day workshop on 'Total quality management' in the city yesterday. Also seen are (from L to R) Janis Miller and Maggie Swithenbank (facilitators from Humber College), Roderick Haney, First Secretary, Canadian High Commission, and Abdul Karim, Acting Managing Director of MIDAS.

## Govt firms in South holding back economic growth: WB

WASHINGTON, Oct 9: State-run enterprises in developing countries are holding back economic growth there, a World Bank working report said Sunday, reports AFP.

While applauding the rapid conversion from a command economy to a market economy in Russia and

## MIDAS workshop on quality management

A two-day workshop on 'total quality management (TQM)' organised by Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services (MIDAS) in collaboration with Humber College of Applied Arts and Technology of Canada began here yesterday, says a press release.

The workshop, being participated by the senior professionals of business and research organizations will discuss the principles and practices regarding improvement of performance and productivity in and organisation by focusing on the efforts of the workforce to satisfy customers in respect of quality and service.

This workshop will also incorporate an overview of some of the latest developments in TQM applications, such as, Business Process Re-engineering, ISO 9000 and Change Management.

Samson H Chowdhury, Director of Square Pharmaceuticals and Chairman of MIDAS Board of Directors, presided over the inaugural session.</