

SAARC business seminar in Colombo tomorrow

COLOMBO, Oct 15: A regional seminar on expanding business among the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) will be held here next week, official sources said today, reports Xinhua.

The one-day seminar to be held on October 17 will be attended by hundreds of experts and businessmen from the seven SAARC countries, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The seminar will deal with opportunities for trade, services, investment, and joint ventures in the region in the background of SAARC Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA) which has been ratified by all the seven member

Workshop on Grameen Bank from Oct 21

A three-day international workshop on 'Grameen Bank — A Basic Concept' jointly organised by the Alumni Association of German Universities in Bangladesh, Carl Duisberg Samity Bangladesh and Humboldt Club Bangladesh in cooperation with Grameen Bank and Goethe-Institut Dhaka, will begin on October 21 at the German Cultural Centre, says a press release.

Professor Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director, Grameen Bank, will speak on 'Future Prospects of Grameen Bank' at the informal opening session. Nancy Wimmer of Results, Germany, will give an overview on how Grameen Bank has become known to German citizens. Grameen Bank facilitators from the fields will act as resource persons for the discussion groups.

PIA to improve its services

ISLAMABAD, Oct 15: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has taken step to improve its services for passengers and increase revenue, said a senior PIA official today, Xinhua reports.

Talking to reporters at a reception in Punjab's provincial capital Lahore, the PIA's Deputy Managing Director of Marketing, Khurshed Anwar said that a new airline policy has been formed.

The new policy, he said, would provide incentives for travel agents and more facilities for the passengers.

He said that telephone and fax facility were being introduced in the PIA flights for the benefit of business community.

He said the PIA plans to increase its fares by 10 per cent if necessary, according to the policy approved by the government.

Consumer prices rise in US

WASHINGTON, Oct 15: Consumer prices rose 0.1 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis during September, the same increase as August, marking a continuation of the moderate price increases that have prevailed since June, according to the US Department of Labour, reports USIS.

Food prices rose 0.5 per cent in September following smaller increases in the preceding four months, said the department October 13, in its monthly publication of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Food price increases, however, were offset by lower price increases or price declines in every other sector as measured by the CPI, it said.

The so-called "core" inflation rate, which measures price increases in all areas except the volatile food and energy sectors, advanced 0.2 per cent for the fifth consecutive month.

Army officers in Russia go unpaid

MOSCOW, Oct 15: Some 75 per cent of Russian officers went unpaid in September, Interfax news agency reported Saturday, quoting a defence ministry spokesman, says AFP.

The spokesman said the delay was due to the Finance Ministry's snowballing debts to the army, currently worth 5.3 billion roubles (around 1.2 billion dollars).

"The army will be agitated by social tensions due to the disastrous financial situation of officers' families," the spokesman was quoted as saying.

The Defence Ministry makes regular protests over the army's dire financial situation.

In 1995, defence accounted for the biggest slice of the budget, at 20 per cent of government spending.

Saifur urges US Senator Assist Bangladesh in PL 480 loan debt write-off issue

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has requested Senator Hank Brown, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee for South Asian Affairs, to assist Bangladesh regarding the issue of PL 480 loan debt write-off, reports BSS.

He said the debt write-off was still an outstanding issue as a result of which the debt was being accumulated and a situation will soon arise when Bangladesh would be paying back to the United States more than what it was receiving in foreign servicing.

Senator Brown listened to the problem and assured the Finance Minister that he would do whatever was possible.

The meeting took place recently during the Finance Minister's attending the annual meetings of the board of governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington.

Pledging his own support and that of his committee, Brown hoped that Bangladesh and the United States would be able to intensify the existing trade relations and diversify the areas of cooperation. He also said that the South Asian countries should cooperate in the management of their water resources on a regional basis for control of floods and using water for economic purposes such as generating power and irrigation as storage and management of water is better done from the upper reaches where the rivers originate.

Saifur said that the assistance received from the United States played a significant and crucial role in the progress achieved in Bangladesh.

The Finance Minister said that to continue the momentum of the progress that has been achieved, the support of the US government and the US Congress was still necessary.

He said that Bangladesh over the past four years, has made steady economic progress and today was able to meet eighty per cent of total expenditure from its own resources which has been possible through effective and efficient financial management.

He also informed the Senator of the bold economic reforms that were undertaken in Bangladesh and creating ideal conditions for foreign investors including US investors to invest in Bangladesh.

Brown said that he was eagerly looking forward to visiting Bangladesh which might take place sometime early next year.

Earlier, the Finance Minister met with Congressman Dan Burton at the latter's Rayburn Building office. Congressman Burton hailed the government of Bangladesh for its achievements and pledged his full support for its programmes towards strengthening of democracy and development of its economy.



Bangladesh Designer Nilufar Ahmed (extreme right) seen at Asia Collection Makuhari Grand Prix Fashion Show held recently in Tokyo. —PID photo

Nobel laureate believes Govt-controlled economies are doomed to failure

WASHINGTON, Oct 15: Robert Lucas, Jr., the latest Nobel Prize winner in the field of economics, believes that state-controlled economies are doomed to failure and that industrial countries cannot "fine tune" the performance of their economies, reports AP.

Lucas, the 1995 Nobel Prize recipient, argues that as governments implement policies aimed at specific economic results, business owners, investors and consumers will adapt their behaviour in ways that will either nullify the government's actions or produce the opposite result, incurring high costs for the country in terms of higher inflation or lower growth.

Lucas, a Professor at the University of Chicago since 1975, received the award for his ground-breaking work on "rational expectations," the theory that the economy is influenced not only by actual events and past performance, but also by expectations of future events. Lucas contends that shifts in economic policy may produce a completely different result if people adapt their behaviour to the expected policy.

The bulk of Lucas' work came in the 1970s when he wrote the "Lucas Critique." It took aim at Keynesian economic theories that used economic models of past economic behaviour to predict what the economy will do in the future.

Under Keynesian thinking, prevalent through the 1960s, government was expected to increase spending when the economy was slowing and to boost taxes when the economy began to overheat. However, by the 1970s, the economy became mired in slow growth and high inflation when workers acted to protect the value of their income by demanding higher wages when the US central bank lowered interest rates and boosted the money supply.

Lucas contends that if consumers and investors anticipate government actions, it makes it nearly impossible for a government to systematically manipulate the economy. Therefore, Lucas says, the past is a poor predictor of the future.

In his own words, "the practical implications of my work has been... to make us a lot more skeptical of our ability to use monetary policy to fine tune the economy."

Lucas has been labelled an "economist's economist" because he has focused on the theoretical. In contrast, many other economists have busily designed models and simulations of the economy that incorporate numerous variables such as the effect of a certain level of taxes or price of oil in determining inflation. Since the models have not yet been able to incorporate the effects of expectations on the variables, Lucas says the models are bound to fail.

Critics of the rational expectation approach argue that it offers no alternative in providing policy advice.

But the rational expectation approach holds that the economy will eventually sort itself out and the government is largely powerless to improve it. This conclusion has found favor with conservatives that have long argued for less government intervention in the marketplace.



Participants of the five-day Passenger Agents Educational Tour to Thailand, arranged by Thai Airways International — Dhaka, are seen on the eve of their departure yesterday at the Zia International Airport with Md Hasanuzzaman (4th from left), Thai's District Sales Manager in Bangladesh.

Chittagong Stock Exchange

At the close of trading on October 15 Index continues to rise

Star Report

The Chittagong Stock Exchange All Securities Price Index continued to rise on Sunday.

The index reached 406.18 from Saturday's 404.16, registering an increase of 2.02 points.

Total market capital increased to Tk 8513944380.00 from Tk 8471502345.00.

The turnover in value fell by 3.30 per cent while the turnover in volume showed a gain of 3.95 per cent. A total of 920 shares worth Tk 292129.70 changed hands as against 885 shares valued at Tk 302099.50.

The number of issues traded totalled eight, of which six gained and two suffered losses.

Usmania Glass experienced a gain of Tk 34.80 per share, leading the gainers. On the other hand, Confidence Cement led the losers with a fall of Tk 2.95 per share.

Apex weaving was the volume leader with 350 shares traded.

CSE at a glance

CSE All Securities Price Index	406.18
Day's change in index	+0.40%
Total turnover (Value)	Tk 2.32129.70
Total turnover (Volume)	920
Number of contracts	36
Issues traded	8
Issues declined	2
Issues unchanged	0
Closing market capital	Tk 8513944380.00
No. of listed securities	30
No. of companies	23
No. of mutual funds	7

Note: Opening price index and opening market cap are calculated as per closing rates of DSE as on 9th October, 1995.

Day's Trading Performance

Company Name	Closing Rate (Ave)	Previous Rate (Avg)	Difference	No of Securities Traded
Rupali	264.93	260.00	4.93 (G)	140
Peoples	600.00	0.00	0.00	0
Green Delta	350.00	350.00	0.00	0
Reliance	348.75	348.75	0.00	0
Janata	195.00	195.00	0.00	0
GMG Industries	30.00	30.00	0.00	0
Apex Weaving	171.07	170.33	0.74 (G)	350
Apex Spinning	349.50	351.00	-1.50 (L)	60
Dulamia Cotton	120.00	120.00	0.00	0
TBL	124.00	124.00	0.00	0
Square Pharma	805.00	805.00	0.00	0
Apex Food	3555.00	3555.00	0.00	0
Bengal Biscuit	151.00	151.00	0.00	0
Confidence Cement	380.25	383.20	-2.95 (L)	240
Ctg Cement	715.00	715.00	0.00	0
Apex Tannery	887.75	860.40	27.35 (G)	40
Apex Footwear	574.50	566.50	8.00 (G)	40
National Oxygen	80.00	80.00	0.00	0
Padma Oil	150.00	150.00	0.00	0
ICB	140.00	140.00	0.00	0
1st ICB MF	1250.00	1250.00	0.00	0
2nd ICB MF	540.00	540.00	0.00	0
3rd ICB MF	361.59	361.59	0.00	0
4th ICB MF	490.00	490.00	0.00	0
5th ICB MF	307.25	307.25	0.00	0
6th ICB MF	188.00	188.00	0.00	0
7th ICB MF	142.25	142.25	0.00	0
AB Bank	223.00	222.50	0.50 (G)	25
Usmania Glass	754.80	720.00	34.80 (G)	25
Aramit	58.00	58.00	0.00	0

Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies with Bangladesh Taka Effective Date is 15th Oct '95. This is for your kind information and publication.

(Figures in Taka)					
Selling			Buying		
Currency	T.T. & O.D.	B.C.	T.T. (C)	O.D. (Sight)	O.D. (Trans.)
US Dollar	1=Tk 40.6620	40.7095	40.3625	40.2050	40.0980
GBP	1=Tk 64.1824	64.2573	63.1928	62.9463	62.7787
DM	1=Tk 28.6573	28.6908	28.1434	28.0336	27.9590
F Franc	1=Tk 8.2390	8.2486	8.0904	8.0588	8.0374
C Doll	1=Tk 30.5307	30.5663	29.9930	29.8760	29.7965
CHF	1=Tk 35.4119	35.4532	34.7712	34.6355	34.5433
Jap Yen	1=Tk 4.0669	4.0742	4.0395	4.0390	4.0390
IRS	1=Tk 1.2009	1.2099	1.1807	1.1630	---
Pak Rupee	1=Tk 1.2885	1.2982	1.2668	1.2478	---
Iranian Rial	1=Tk 0.0234	0.0236	0.0229	0.0226	---
A) T.T. (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk. 40.2837					
B) Usance Rate					
30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days	
40.0099	39.7240	39.4381	39.1522	38.5804	
C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: To be deducted Tk. 0.15 from O.D. sight export bill buying rate					
D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Add cushion of Tk. 0.50 with BC selling					
Indicative Rates (B.T. For one unit of foreign currency)					
Currency	Selling T.T. & O.D.		Buying O.D. Transfer		
S Riyal	Tk	10.8423	Tk	10.6911	
UAE Dirham	Tk	11.0720	Tk	10.9170	
Kuwaiti Dinar	Tk	135.6530	Tk	133.5487	
D Guider	Tk	25.6413	Tk	25.2697	
S Krona	Tk	5.8469	Tk	5.7616	
Malaysian Ringgit	Tk	16.0307	Tk	15.8022	
Singapore Dollar	Tk	28.4887	Tk	28.0739	

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 15.10.95

Berth	Name of vessel	Cargo	Agent	Local agent	Date of arrival	Date of leaving
J/1	Hermion	GI	P.Kela	ANCL	8/10	15/10
J/2	Lady Elena	Rice(GI)	Vua	B/Bay	4/10	16/10
J/3	China Star	GI	Xing	BEA	5/10	16/10
J/4	Bintang Harapan	GI	S.Hui	Prog	2/10	16/10
J/5	Tiger Star	RM/3	Cont	Sing	9/10	15/10
J/6	Boris Lavrenyov	Rice(P)	Bomb	Gel	10/10	22/10
J/7	Rattana Naree	Mop	Ilyc	Litmond	30/9	23/10
J/8	Siba	R seed	Seet	MSA	2/10	19/10
J/9	Progress Excellence	Fert	Sing	CTPL	14/10	23/10
J/10	Pattu	Rice(GI)	Kaki	AMBL	3/10	19/10
J/11	Srimanee	Cont	Sing	PHIB	7/10	15/10
J/12	Fong Shing	Cont	Sing	BDShip	9/10	18/10
MPB/1	Banglar Moni	Cont	Sing	BSC	10/10	17/10
MPB/2	Tiger star	Cont	Sing	BDShip	7/10	16/10
GSJ	Tamarta	Wheat/GI	P.Land	Lams	12/10	17/10
TSP	Feng Jin	Sulp	Pua	CCNL	25/9	20/10
RM/3	Gunta	CDRO	Vua	Seacom	6/10	19/10
RM/4	Maximo Gomez	Cement	Lam	Delmaure	4/9	16/10
RM/5	Tae Chon	Cement	Sing	RML	8/10	15/10
RM/6	Hang Cheong	Cement	Sing	Litmond	27/9	25/10
DOU/1	Mulpha Sib	Cement	Sing	PSAL	27/9	25/10
DDJ/1	A Goncharov(cont)	Repair	Litmond	R/A		
DDJ/2	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	BSC	R/A	16/10	
RM/8	Banglar Sampad	Repair	BSC	R/A	17/10	
RM/9	Ocean Rover	Repair	Via	Fairmax	10/9	18/10
CLPJ	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	PSAL	7/10	20/10
KAPCOA	Kapitan Luca	Ammonia		MBL	12/10	17/10

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of vessel	Cargo	Agent	Local agent	Date of arrival
Coral Reef Explorer	Sing	Sing	B. Bay	2/10
Orient Explorer	Sing	Sing	B. Bay	6/10

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION:

Name of vessel	Cargo	Agent	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banglar Baari	BSC	R/A	(19/9)	
Banglar Jyoti	BSC	R/A	(5/10)	
I Yamburenko	Litmond	R/A	(27/3)	
Anangel Wisdom	Ista	R/A	(12/10)	

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 16/10/95

Outgoing		Incoming		Shifting	
J/2	Lady Elena	J/12	Kota Berjaya	RM/4	M Gomez To CCJ
J/3	China Star	MPB/2	Padma	RM/6	H Chong To J/2
J/4	Bintang Harapan	J/5	Vientian	DOJ	M Sibn To J/3
J/5	Tiger Star	RM/3	Ajon	J/12	T Pioneer To J/11
MPB/1	Tiger Star	RM/4	CP 32		
CCJ	Tai Chon	J/4	Monolima		
RM/3	Gunta				
RM/4	M Gomez				
DDJ	B Shourabh				

The above were the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on October 15, '95 Index continues to leap

Star Report

The Dhaka stock exchange all share price index continued to leap Sunday while the transactions on the floor dropped.

The index gained 12 points reaching 875.42 from Saturday's 863.13. Total market capital advanced to Tk 54550693367.15 from Tk 54.55 billion from Tk 53.78 billion.

The transactions in volume decreased by 45 per cent from 325771 to 179308 and the value showed a decline of 38 per cent from Tk 53.31 million to Tk 33.13 million.

The gainers of the day was led by Islami Bank.

The issues traded totalled 92, of which 65 gained, 16 incurred losses and the share prices of 11 issues remained unchanged.

The volume leaders of the day were Beximco Pharma (33250), Apex Weaving (14493), BOC Bangladesh (9760) and GQ Ball Pen (9265).

Trading at a glance

Trading at a glance			Asian Textile	72 (G)	6800
			Quasem Textile	.50 (G)	1000
			Quasem Silk	.00	200
DSE all price index			875.42012		
Market capital Tk			54550693367.15		
Transaction in volume			179308		
Transaction in value Tk			33132177.50		
Total issues traded			92		
Issues gained			65		
Issues incurred losses			16		
Issues unchanged			11		
Company's name	Change (per share)	Number of shares traded			
	Tk				
Islami Bank	150.00 (G)	1			
UCBL	15.00 (L)	5			
IDLC	45.83 (G)	80			
ULC	20.57 (G)	140			
2nd ICB MF	9.03 (G)	62			
3rd ICB MF	40.00 (G)	35			
4th ICB MF	50.34 (G)	90			
5th ICB MF	17.00 (G)	590			
6th ICB MF	1.22 (G)	1192			
7th ICB MF	10.71 (G)	650			
Aftab Auto	.00	400			
Aziz Pipes	4.90 (L)	375			
Bengal Carbide	4.72 (G)	170			
Bangladesh Lamps	39.41 (G)	415			
Eastern Cables	9.62 (G)	1815			
Karim Pipe	1.14 (L)	1300			
Atlas Bangladesh	.04 (G)	1400			
Quasem Drycells	.75 (G)	1950			
Renwick Jaineswar	.00	120			
Howlader PVC	.00	200			
B Thai Aluminium	2.06 (L)	170			
Alpha Tobacco	1.00 (G)	350			
Apex Foods	4.27 (G)	240			
BLTC	.00	10			
BTC	5.75 (G)	850			
Dhaka Vegetable	1.25 (G)	100			
Zeal Bangla	.34 (L)	2550			
Rupun Oil	3.81 (L)	220			
B Fisheries	3.81 (L)	220			
Bengal Biscuits	8.91 (G)	1590			
Meghna Shrimp	.45 (G)	440			
BOC Bangladesh	4.41 (G)	9760			
Padma Oil	.00	250			
National Oxygen	10.29 (G)	170			
Islami Jute	5.00 (G)	10			
Northern Jute	.37 (L)	2400			
Shine Pukur	.12 (G)	5100			
			Ambee Pharma	.00	50
			B Pharma	8.07 (G)	33250
			ACI Limited	.35 (G)	1150
			Pharma Aids	2.50 (L)	50
			Kohinoor Chemical	.01 (L)	700
			BCIL	1.78 (G)	230
			Wata Chemical	5.23 (G)	360
			B Inclusions	5.00 (G)	50
			N		
			N Polymer	2.06 (G)	2930
			B Synthetic	5.07 (G)	500
			Libra Pharma	6.54 (G)	380
			Orion Infusion	3.67 (G)	2620
			Square Pharma	7.15 (G)	231
			Eagle Box	1.00 (G)	50
			Maq Paper	2.86 (G)	1780
			Bata Shoe	.60 (G)	6640
			GG Ball Pen	2.06 (G)	9265
			Monno Ceramic	54.35 (G)	300
			Umanisa Glass	31.80 (G)	465
			Beximco Ltd	1.13 (G)	4000
			Cig Cement	12.52 (L)	3200
			Apex Footwear	14.71 (G)	1770
			Eastern Housing	7.79 (G)	4500
			Confidence Cement	1.25 (G)	4160
			Meghna Cement	5.99 (L)	5050
			Green Detera	7.50 (G)	1000
			United Insurance	10.00 (G)	100
			Janata Insurance	5.49 (G)	1480
			Phonix Insurance	13.14 (G)	180.00
			Central Insurance	2.37 (G)	1840
			Karnaphuli Insu	1.06 (L)	540
			Rupali Insurance	9.80 (G)	1640
			National Insurance	1.26 (L)	391
			Reliance Insurance	113.08 (G)	113.08
			Purabi Insurance	6.77 (G)	1016
			Delta Insurance	11.52 (G)	2009
			B Textiles (Deb)	.00	20
			BD Zipper (Deb)	47.00 (G)	40