

BRIEFS

Clinton urged to retain Caribbean textile tariffs

WASHINGTON, Dec 22: A group of 71 House of Representatives Democrats is threatening to vote against any final budget bill that would eliminate tariffs on textile imports from Caribbean and Central American countries.

In a joint appeal sent Wednesday to President Clinton, the group said additional trade preferences for the 24 nations of the Caribbean Basin Initiative are simply not needed, reports AP.

French employers see economy bleak

PARIS, Dec 22: French employers see a bleak outlook for the country's economy over the next 12 months, with 70 per cent expressing pessimism, according to a survey published yesterday. The survey, which coincides with a "social summit" called by Prime Minister Alain Juppe to discuss France's labour crisis, however said that 75 per cent still backed the embattled premier. In worrying figures for Juppe, the number of pessimists was up nearly 30 per cent on the same poll a year ago. Only 27 per cent are those surveyed said they were positively optimistic, reports AFP.

Mexicans' purchasing power shrinks

MEXICO CITY, Dec 22: Mexican consumers bought 13 per cent less over the first 10 months of the year, with less purchasing power than at any time in the past 15 years, according to a study released on Wednesday. The National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Data said that a poll of 33 cities found that gross sales in Mexico fell 21.4 per cent for the January-September period. Consumer purchases make-up about half of all Mexican sales, reports AFP.

Czech gov't privatises \$25b state property

PRAGUE, Dec 22: Property worth nearly 25 billion dollars has been privatised as part of the process of changing from communist rule to a free-market economy, the official news agency CTK reported Thursday. The agency quoted the head of the National Property Fund, Roman Ceska, as saying that some 70 per cent of all state-owned property chosen for privatization had been placed under private ownership, reports AP.

Time Warner to buy Toshiba equipment

NEW YORK, Dec 22: Time Warner Cable, the nation's second-largest cable TV operator, said Thursday it will buy equipment from Toshiba Corp., including 50,000 computer modems, to improve a few cable systems for on-line computer services. Financial terms were not disclosed. The equipment will be used at Time Warner's cable system in San Diego and in two other cities, which the company did not name, reports AP.

Sweden will be able to meet EMU criterion

STOCKHOLM, Dec 22: Sweden will be able to meet the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) criterion for a budget deficit of less than three per cent in 1997, according to a report yesterday by the National Institute for Economic Research (KI). Finance Minister Goeran Persson said in October that the three per cent goal could be met in 1997, reports AFP.

Sanyo develops new optical disc reader

TOKYO, Dec 22: Sanyo Electric Co. announced Thursday it has developed an optical pickup compatible with both ordinary compact discs, or CDs, and digital video-discs, DVDs. The new product uses a liquid crystal display (LCD) shutter to alter the characteristics of the laser used in reading discs, which differentiates its technology from existing methods, which use a separate lens for each format, the company said, reports AP.

DSE shows positive sign after weeks of bearish trading

By Sharier Khan

After weeks of bearish trading, the market indicators of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) showed a rather bright week.

According to market operators, the week was stagnant and the last week of the year would be bearish due to lack of fresh fund flow.

The All Share Price Index shot up by 9.95 points to 840.60 at the closing of the week on Thursday from the previous week's closing of 830.65 points.

The market capitalisation rose by Taka 62.36 crore during the four working days of the week to Taka 5387.84 crore from the previous week's Taka 5325.48 crore.

"There was a feeling among the small investors during the week that the political stalemate would be over. By the end of the week, the uncertain feeling settled down among us again," said one small investor Nazrul Islam.

"Everybody wants to keep their year-end bank balance in a good shape. Therefore, the tendency to invest less in the share market developed

down by nearly 1 lakh to 2.04 lakh shares and debentures from the previous week's average of 3.03 shares and debentures.

The daily average value of trading similarly fell by Taka 80 lakh to Taka 3.66 crore at the closing of the week from Taka 4.47 crore of the previous week.

A total of 8 lakh 17,193.65 shares and debentures worth Taka 14 crore 65 lakh 98,565.5 were traded this week against a total of 9 lakh 10,313 shares and debentures worth Taka 13 crore 42 lakh 76,905.5 of the previous week.

Some 370 issues were traded this week having 140 gainers and 148 losers as against 263 issues having 144 gainers and 118 losers of the previous week.

The volume leaders of the week include: Apex Weaving (over 2.30 lakh shares sold), Beximco Pharma (nearly 1 lakh shares sold), BOC (nearly 70,000 shares sold), Beximco Infusions (50,000) and Orion Infusion (over 22,000).

Name of Issue	Last week's Closing Price	This week's Closing Price	Difference
BD Zippers	Tk 150	Tk 149	(-) Tk 1
BD Lamps	Tk 3131	Tk 2932	(-) Tk 199
Singer	Tk 5862	Tk 5844	(-) Tk 18
IDLC	Tk 1749	Tk 1816	Tk 67
1st ICBMF	Tk 1980	Tk 1930	(-) Tk 50
Apex Foods	Tk 2608	Tk 2598	(-) Tk 10
BTC	Tk 169	Tk 178	Tk 9
BOC	Tk 182	Tk 186	Tk 4
Apex Weaving	Tk 131	Tk 132	Tk 1
Beximco Tex	Tk 128	Tk 127	(-) Tk 1
Bex Pharma	Tk 89	Tk 89	nil
Square Pharma	Tk 796	Tk 835	Tk 39
Maq Paper	Tk 166	Tk 168	Tk 2
Shinepukur	Tk 80	Tk 80	nil
Prime Tex	Tk 280	Tk 289	Tk 9
Purabi Ins	Tk 139	Tk 153	Tk 14
Bex Denims	Tk 146	Tk 151	Tk 5
E Housing	Tk 131	Tk 131	nil
Bata	Tk 139	Tk 138	(-) Tk 1
Monno Cer	Tk 734	Tk 857	Tk 123 (-35.56%)



Bangabazar, devastated by a recent terrible fire, is again humming with business activities. — Star photo

New digital phone exchange in Rajshahi district

Tanore thana of Rajshahi district was brought under Nationwide Direct Dialing (NWD) system from Thursday with the installation of a 256-line digital telephone exchange at the thana headquarters, reports UNB.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam formally inaugurated the new exchange from his office here by talking to State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haque at Tanore over phone.

From now, the subscribers of Tanore will be able to directly communicate throughout the country over telephone. The area code of the local exchange is 07229.

Bangladesh Rural Telecommunications Authority (BRTA) installed the new exchange. It so far installed 52 digital exchanges all over the country, an official handout said.

EU ministers agree on fishing quota

BRUSSELS, Dec 22: European Union fisheries ministers agreed early today after 14 hours of talks to take account of fishing industry needs and soften proposals for sharp cuts in 1996 quotas aimed at protecting dwindling stocks, reports Reuter.

"A deal was agreed," said a British spokesman.

A European Commission official said Sweden voted against the quota deal because it was unhappy with a related EU fishing accord with Norway earlier this month.

The Executive European Commission proposed cuts of up to 50 per cent in 1996 total allowable catches (TACs) after severe warnings from fisheries scientists of the potential collapse of some plaice, hake, herring and other stocks.

US Senate passes bill Foreign cos to be punished if invest in Libya, Iran

WASHINGTON, Dec 22: On the eve of the anniversary of the bombing of Pan Am flight 103, the Senate passed a bill that would punish foreign companies that invest in Libya's oil industry, reports AP.

The bill would invoke identical sanctions on Iran's petroleum industry. The Clinton administration has approved the bill's Iranian language but has not decided about the Libyan sanction, an amendment to the original bill. Both countries are on the US State Department list of countries that export terrorism.

Approval of the bill came Wednesday night on a voice vote, with no debate. The measure now goes to the House of Representatives, where similar bills are pending.

Libya has been since the mid-1980s a target of US restrictions on Americans working there.

In April 1992 the United Nations put Libya under international sanctions restricting diplomatic relations and barring arms sales and air travel, later extended to cover most equipment for Libya's oil industry. The UN Security Council acted at the behest of the United States and Britain to punish Col Moammar Gaddafi for refusing to surrender for trial two suspects in the Pan Am bombing.

A device exploded aboard the jumbo jet on December 21, 1988, over Lockerbie, Scotland. The resulting crash killed 259 crew and passengers, including many Americans coming home for Christmas, and 11 Lockerbie residents on the ground. The United States and Britain indicted two Libyans alleged to be agents of Gaddafi on charges they carried out the attack.

"Libya pays for its sponsorship of terrorism with its oil money," said Sen. Alphonse D'Amato, the new bill's sponsor. "Therefore it is only logical that we deprive Libya of the means to fund these actions."

It was unclear how effective the bill might be even if it becomes law.

Anthony H Cordesman, a Washington expert on Middle East security, said its effect would be mostly symbolic because firms could easily avoid the proposed sanctions.

As an example, he said a Swiss bank could easily form a subsidiary to invest in Libya, thus avoiding US sanctions on the bank itself.



Children chant slogans during an anti-government rally to protest against price increase in milk by 20 per cent and water tariff by 25 per cent in Kathmandu on Wednesday. Over 4000 young college girls, women factory workers and social workers took part in the hour-long demonstration. — AFP/UNB photo

IMF approves emergency credit for Bosnia

WASHINGTON, Dec 22: The executive board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday accepted Bosnia-Herzegovina as a new member of the international financial institution and also approved an emergency credit equivalent to about 45 million US dollars, reports Xinhua.

The credit is okayed under the IMF's policy on involvements in post-conflict countries that was endorsed by the interim committee, the decision-making body of IMF at its meeting on October eight, this year.

Bosnia-Herzegovina's quota in the IMF is about 180.1 million dollar equivalent and with Bosnia-Herzegovina, IMF membership now totals 181 countries.

The World Bank and IMF estimated earlier that the post-war reconstruction in Bosnia-Herzegovina will cost at least four billion US dollars.

Ibn-Sina, Siemens sign MOU

A most modern imaging centre will be set up in Dhaka, says a press release.

The centre will be established on turnkey basis.

A Memorandum of Understanding to this effect was signed between Ibn-Sina Trust and Siemens Bangladesh Limited in Dhaka on Wednesday.

The centre is expected to go into operation in the second half of next year.

The centre will be equipped with latest version of MRI, CT, X-ray, Ultrasonogram, Mammography etc. It will be linked with sophisticated imaging centres in Asia, Europe and USA.

The centre is made for offering sophisticated diagnostic facilities to patients and will be one of the best in the sub-continent.

Stanchart workshop on forex

A two-day workshop on Foreign trade and foreign exchange will be held at Hotel Purbani today and tomorrow, says a press release.

The workshop has been organised by Standard Chartered Bank of Dhaka for its valued corporate and institutional clients.

Dr. ATM Shamsul Huda, Secretary, Banking Division of the Ministry of Finance will inaugurate the workshop at 9 in the morning. While Mahbubur Rahman Khan, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank, will be the special guest.

Stocks surge to new high in Japan

TOKYO, Dec 22: Japanese stocks surged to a new high for the year on heavy buying by foreign investors today, with the key index expected to break the 20,000 point mark next week, reports AFP.

"It is becoming more and more likely that the Nikkei will reach 20,000 by the end of the year," a broker at Nikko securities said.

By the end of the morning session the Nikkei stock average of the Tokyo Stock Exchange had risen 106.12 points or 0.5 per cent at 19,759.37 points, exceeding the January four close of 19,684.04 points on the first trading day of the year, on high turnover of 400 million shares for the morning session.

As many as 61 stocks rewrote year's highs, including Fuji Photo Film, Sony, Toyota, Mitsubishi Bank and Nomura Securities. Brokers attributed the bullish sentiment to active buying by foreign investors who think Japanese stocks are comparatively cheap.

The Nikkei gained more than 500 points on Wednesday and yesterday.

Yasuo Ueki general manager of equities operations at Nikko Securities, told reporters that since the Nikkei index fell below 20,000 in late 1990, that level has been a major line of resistance.

But it should be breached unless the yen rises sharply, there is a heavy fall in New York stocks or foreigners withdraw, he said.

US trade fair begins in Dhaka Jan 11

The fifth annual "US Business in Bangladesh Trade Show," co-sponsored by the US Embassy and the American Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF), will open on January 11 at the Dhaka Sheraton hotel.

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh, David N Merrill, will inaugurate the three-day event.

According to a USIS press release Wednesday, the objective of the show is to offer US firms an opportunity to increase public awareness of their products and develop contacts with the Bangladeshi business community.

The US trade show has grown year by year as the commercial relations between the US and Bangladesh have expanded. This year, there will be 80 booths representing about 150 US firms in Bangladesh, up from 58 booths representing 120 US firms in last year's show.

In addition, this year one non-resident US firm — Black and Veatch International which specializes in power station design and construction — is taking part in the show.

The show will be open January 11-13, from 10 am to 8 pm each day. On the opening day, the show will be open only to traders until 5 pm when it will open to the general public.

Tk 76 cr earned from tourism industry

NOAKHALI, Dec 22: The country earned Tk 76 crore from its tourism industry during the last fiscal as some 1.40 lakh foreign tourists visited the country during the period, reports UNB.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Maj (ret'd) Abdul Mannan informed this at a meeting organised by Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation as part of its nationwide programme in observance of the Parjatan Month '95 here on Wednesday.

Referring to the bright prospect of the country's tourism industry, the State Minister said it can play a significant role in creating employment opportunities, alleviation poverty as well as earning foreign currency.

Corporation Chairman Dr AKM Mubin said the observance of the Parjatan Month was aimed at making the tourism popular among the people at home and abroad.

Citing various programmes undertaken on the occasion of the Tourism Month in different parts of the country, he hoped the month long programmes would be able to uphold the country's natural beauty as well as its cultural tradition.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port
Berth position and performance of vessels as on 21/12/1995

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/2	Ritz	GI/GL	Col	Cross	11/12	23/12
J/3	Banglar Kiron	GI (Bitu)	Col	BSC	R/A	21/12
J/4	Banglar Sampad	Wheat (G)	Col	BSC	R/A	20/12
J/5	Banglar Baani	Wheat (G)	Col	Frank	R/A	25/12
J/6	Banglar Urmi	Wheat (G)	Col	EASL	R/A	20/12
J/7	Yong Jiang	GI	Xing	Prog	14/12	30/12
J/8	Hawai Splendour	GSSP	Sing	PSAL	29/11	25/12
J/9	St. of Gujrat	GI/GL	Mad	SSL	18/12	21/12
J/10	Amer Asha	GI (Bitu)	Fija	ECSL	3/12	25/12
J/11	Techmat Pioneer	Rice (G)	Viza	MSTPL	14/12	23/12
J/12	Mikhail Stenko	Cont	Col	Baridhi	6/12	21/12
J/13	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	PI (B)	15/12	23/12
CCT/1	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDship	14/12	21/12
CCT/3	Consistence	Cont	Sing	RSL	17/12	23/12
RM/14	Sea World	Repair	Viet	Litmond	9/12	1/1
CJ	Emerald Island	C.Clink	Chin	USTC	13/11	25/12
GSJ	Anangel Dignity	Wheat (G)	Kahu	RSA	12/12	22/12
TSP	Hae Woo No 2	Cement	Sing	PSAL	10/12	22/12
RM/5	Nandu Jiang	Cement	Sing	RML	14/12	20/12
RM/6	Pacific Hunter	HSD	Sing	MSPL	18/12	21/12
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	Cont	Sing	BSC	R/A	25/12
DD	AL Salma	Repair	Mong	ASLL	18/10	30/12
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	PSAL	7/6	30/12
RM/9	Sam Hae	Idle	Sing	USTC	13/11	22/12
SM-10	Tug Britoil-98	Idle	Chand	Karma	20/12	-

Vessels due at outer anchorage:

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Tug Java Supply	21/22	Sing	Arafeen	Cont	Sing
Imke Wehr	21/12	Sing	AML (B)	Cont	Sing
Ocean Crest	21/12	-	OWSL	Rice (G)	Sing
Sea Express	22/12	Sing	PI (B)	Cont	Sing
Orange Sky	22/12	Yang	BBA	Vehicles	-
Sea Venture	22/12	Sing	HSL	Cement	-
Dong Fang Yang	23/12	Sing	HSL	R.Phos (TSP)	-
Banglar Mookh	23/12	Mong	BSC	Cont	UK Cont
Fong Soon	23/12	Kart	Karna	Cont	Sing
Tug Britoil-2	23/12	Viza	Karna	-	-
Ananecida	24/12	-	OWSL	Rice (G)	-
Alexander Grain	24/12	Sing	PSAL	Cement	-
Eufonia	24/12	Sing	JF	Vehicles	-
Meng Kiat	24/12	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing
MARE	24/12	-	OWSL	GI (Bhtumeen)	-
Stonewall Jackson	24/22	-	Karna	GI (Lash)	-
Padina	24/12	-	RSL	Cont	Sing
Al Madina	25/12	Jedd	BSC	Passengers	-
PU Aspiration	25/12	-	USTC	Cement	-
Asia Venture	26/12	Sing	BBA	GI (25 Vehi)	-
Unimarine	26/12	Kakt	Cross	Rice (G)	-
Vishva Parjati	27/12	-	SSL	GI	-
Jaear	27/12	-	Everett	SPL Cargo	-
Banglar Robi	27/12	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Meng Yang	28/12	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing
Maritime Chiangmai	28/12	-	Rainbow	Rape Seed	-
Oiy	28/12	-	PSAL	C.Clinker	-
Sintra	30/12	Sing	PI (B)	Cont	Sing
Banglar Moni (Cont)	30/12	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing

Vessels at Kutubdia:

Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Ismaya	Sing	B.Bay	B.Bay	4/12
Ren Tappmeyer	Sing	B.Bay	B.Bay	8/12
Lady Lorraine	Sing	B.Bay	B.Bay	8/12
Lady Carolline	Sing	B.Bay	B.Bay	8/12

Vessels at Kutubdia/Outside Port Limit:

Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Unimar	GI	DARB	TSL	14/12
Edward	GI	Sing	Prog	15/12
Iydra	Cont	Sing	RSL	17/12
Kota Bintang	Cont	Sing	PI (B)	18/12
Ocean Trader	MOP	ILCY	Litmond	7/12
Maj Sif (Cont)	Cont	Sing	BDship	18/12
Fong Yang (Cont)	Cont	Sing	BDship	19/12
Morning Bright	Vehi	Oaska	Oil	20/12
Tk. Gloria	Wheat (GI)	Kwin	Ancient	21/12
Banglar Asha	Wheat (GI)	K.Da	BSC	N/A

Movement of vessels for 22.12.95

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
22/12		
J/1 M. Bright	GSJ TK. Gloria	J/7 young Jiang to J/6
GSJ A. Dignity	J/1 Pattu	J/6 B. Urmi to J/7
TSP H. Woo No 2	DDJ/2 B. Asha	DDJ/2 B. Kiron to RM-9
	NB B. Mamata	RM-9 Sam Hae to CUPLJ
23/12		
J/2 Ritz	J/13 Fong Yun	DDJ/2 B. Asha to J/11
J/11 T. Pioneer	CCT-3 Imke Wher	RM/5 Ocean Trader to J/2
J/13 K. Berjaya	NB B. Express	
CCT-3 Consistence	NB B. Mamata	
RM-9 Nan Du Jiang		
RM-9 B. Kiron		

Vessels ready:

Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Unimar	GI	DARB	TSL	14/12
Edward	GI	Sing	Prog	15/12
Iydra	Cont	Sing	RSL	17/12
Kota Bintang	Cont	Sing	PI (B)	18/12
Ocean Trader	MOP	ILCY	Litmond	7/12
Maj Sif (Cont)	Cont	Sing	BDship	18/12
Fong Yang (Cont)	Cont	Sing	BDship	19/12
Morning Bright	Vehi	Oaska	Oil	20/12
Tk. Gloria	Wheat (GI)	Kwin	Ancient	21/12
Banglar Asha	Wheat (GI			