


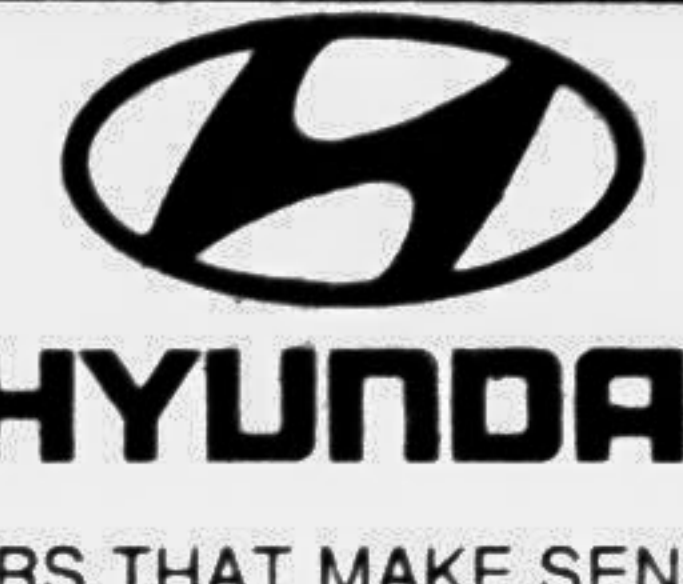
**SANYO**  
Micro Computer Controlled Automatic Washing Machine ASW-40MT



# The Daily Star BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1996

**HYUNDAI**  
CARS THAT MAKE SENSE



## BRIEFS

**Australia detains 244 foreign vessels in '95**  
SYDNEY, Australia, Jan 10: Determined to police strict maritime safety standards in its waters, Australia in 1995 detained 244 foreign cargo vessels which it says breached basic requirements like proper charts and usable lifeboats. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said Wednesday the worst ships were those registered in Liberia, Panama, China and the Philippines, reports AP.

**APEC labour officials agree to cooperate**  
MANILA, Jan 10: Labour officials from Asia and the Pacific agreed on Tuesday to cooperate more in sharing labour market information and deploying workers within the region. The agreement came at the end of a two-day meeting of senior officials of the 18-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Manila, a prelude to APEC Ministerial talks later this week on human resources development, reports AP.

**Hanoi issues list of import quotas for '96**  
HANOI, Jan 10: The Vietnamese government has issued its list of import quotas for this year, a report said yesterday. Vietnam is to import 1.4 million tonnes of black cement and 1.4 million tonnes of fertilisers, the same amount as last year, the Saigon Times daily quoted a release from the government's office as saying, reports AP.

**Malaysia Airlines to buy 25 Boeing jets**  
SEATTLE, Jan 10: Malaysia Airlines has placed a four billion dollar order for 25 wide-body jetliners from the Boeing Co, the aerospace company said. The order consists of 15 777-200s and 300s and 10 747-400s. The airline also took options on three additional 747-400s and two 777s, reports AP.

**Japan-Indonesia joint venture starts work**  
JAKARTA, Jan 10: A Japanese-Indonesian joint venture began Tuesday building a 100 million dollar glass production factory in the East Java, capital of Surabaya. The PT Asahimas Flat Glass Co. Ltd's facility, when completed in 1997, will have an annual production capacity of 150,000 tons, a company statement said, reports AP.

**Unemployment rate surges in Germany**  
NUREMBERG, Germany, Jan 10: Germany's unemployment rate surged to 9.9 per cent last month as nearly 3.8 million people ended the year without jobs, the Federal Labour Office said Tuesday. Signaling an economic slowdown at the end of a year that began well, the December jobless rate was up from 9.3 per cent in November, reports AP.

**PT Merrill Lynch in Indonesia**  
JAKARTA, Jan 10: PT Merrill Lynch Indonesia on Tuesday became the first majority-owned US securities firm to be granted a licence by the Indonesian Capital Markets Supervisory Agency. A statement said the licence enables PT Merrill Lynch Indonesia to underwrite and trade Indonesian securities and act as an investment manager, reports AP.

**US aid to typhoon victims in Vietnam**  
HANOI, Jan 10: The US government has donated \$5,000,000 to typhoon victims in a coastal village of central Vietnam, the United Nations Development Programme said Tuesday. The aid, which will be administered by the UNDP, is the first this year from the United States. The US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance donated \$486,100 dollars to Vietnamese flood and storm victims last year, reports AP.

**German economy likely to grow by one pc in '96**  
BERLIN, Jan 10: The German economy is likely to slow down sharply to show growth of only one per cent this year, the DIW forecasting institute here warned yesterday, reports AP.

## Experts suggest adoption of fast changing digitalisation tech

Experts at a workshop here yesterday laid emphasis on adoption of the fast changing digitalisation technology in the country as this network was now playing an important role in multi-media revolution throughout the world, reports BSS.

To keep track with the current trend the government has also embarked upon digitalisation of its network, they said, adding for this there is no alternative but to go ahead with appropriate human resources development in this sector.

The experts were addressing the inaugural session of the five-day Bangladesh-Japan training workshop on "digital telecommunication technology" at Sonargaon Hotel.

Local experts said the government had taken an ambitious target to raise the number of telephones to eight lakh by the year 2000 compared to the existing 3,20,000.

Organised by the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) in collaboration with Fujitsu International Engineering Limited, Japan, Mitsui and Co. Ltd, Dhaka office, Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board and

Bangladesh AOTS Alumni Society (BAAS) the function was addressed by chief of planning of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications M Azizur Rahman as the chief guest, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan Hadeyuki Sakamoto as a special guest, President of Fujitsu International Engineering Motojiro Shiromizu, BAAS President Kazi Ali Afzal and AOTS Representative in Bangladesh Dr A K M Moazzem Hussain.

Chairman of the steering committee for the workshop Tatumasa Arita gave the welcome address.

M Shiromizu, President of Fujitsu, Shirai, an expert on transmission system, Takase, expert on telephone exchanges and Ono, expert on recent topics will conduct the workshop while it is being participated by a total of 50 persons. Of them 38 senior officials are from the T and T Board and the rest 12 from private sector.

Azizur Rahman, in his speech, said digital telephone system replacing the traditional analogue was taking place in the country. As part of this programme, the government recently commissioned 20 thousand lines at Motijheel here and 7,500 in Sylhet.

Stressing the needs to be equipped with adequate share of knowledge on the relevant technology Azizur Rahman said it could be achieved through proper transfer of technology and hoped the participants would be benefitted a lot from this workshop.

Hadeyuki Sakamoto said, telecommunication sector is the most vital element in today's information society and helps develop national economy, better investment climate, market economy and above all creates more jobs. People who master this technology and the network system of information would lead the world to the next century.

Considering the importance of this sector, Sakamoto said Japan had been providing financial and technical assistance through OECF and JICA to telecommunication projects in Bangladesh.

Motojiro Shiromizu, in his speech, said now is the time for organising more affluent society by easy collection and use of information through digitalisation and integration of different media.

By having access to this network, Shiromizu said, the whole world would be benefitted from improvement in

medical treatment, cultural education, nature conservation and effective use of human resources in various fields.

The Fujitsu president hoped that this workshop would foster further friendship between the two countries and development of Bangladesh.

Kazi Ali Afzal highlighted various aspects of the alumni society, BAAS and said it was being run by a 27-member committee.

With 350 active members, the society runs one Japanese language school and a computer school in Dhaka.

Dr Moazzem Hussain said AOTS was involved in human resources development activities for the developing countries of the world.

AOTS, Dr. Hussain said, has so far imparted training to 70,000 persons in Japan from more than 150 countries including Bangladesh. Besides, he said, it also sends expert to conduct training, workshop and seminar where many persons can take part. So far 1200 people received training in the various field like agri-machinery, transport vehicle, energy conservation garments and industrial sewing machine.

## Bumper output of BR-23 paddy in Khulna

KHULNA, Jan 10: A bumper production of high-yielding 'Disheri' paddy in the saline affected low-lying areas, adjoining the shrimp enclosures this year has ushered in a new era, reports UNB.

The bumper production of Disheri (BR-23) has created much enthusiasm among the local farmers.

Officials of Agriculture Extension Department (AED) and local farmers said the BR-23, invented by Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, has gained much popularity among the farmers in the southern districts after it got approval for field level cultivation in 1990-91.

AED officials said that about 1.5 lakh acres of land were brought under BR-23 cultivation this season out of 5.5 lakh acres of high yielding variety paddy. A total of 10 lakh acres of land were brought under aman cultivation during the aman season.

Local farmers said per acre yield of BR-23 is 42 to 45 maunds against the only 15 to 20 maunds of local aman variety in the shrimp gear areas.

The bumper production had been possible due to regular supervision of AED workers, availability of irrigation water and absence of pest attack in the paddy fields.

## Dhaka Stock Prices Transaction up index down

Star Report

Transaction on the floor of Dhaka Stock Exchange increased on Wednesday while index continued to fall.

The transaction in volume rose by 61 per cent to 20929 from 130504 and value reached Tk 2.94 cr from Tk 2.33 cr. The index lost 1.57 points ending at 823.52 from 825.09.

The market capital rose to Tk 5307.30 cr from 5288.42 cr.

The leading gainer of the day was Lexco Ltd with a gain of Tk 66.67 per share while the losers were led by Eastern Housing (Deb) with a loss of Tk 150 per share.

The volume leaders of the day were: Eastern Housing (82120), Beximco Pharma (36000) and Apex Weaving (14593).

A total of 95 issues were traded of which 38 gained 47 incurred losses while prices of ten remained unchanged.

**Trading at a glance**

DSE All Price Index	823.52
Market Capital Tk	5307.30 cr
Transaction in volume	20929
Transaction in value Tk	2.94 cr
Total issues traded	95
Issues gained	36
Issues incurred losses	47
Issues unchanged	10

Company's name	Change (per share)	Number of shares traded
National Bank	81 (L)	10
TEL	18.57 (L)	280
United Leasing	10.00 (L)	120
3rd ICB Mutual Fund	9.43 (L)	115
4th ICB Mutual Fund	1.53 (L)	20
6th ICB Mutual Fund	1.63 (L)	190
7th ICB Mutual Fund	1.66 (L)	954
Alfa Automobiles	11 (G)	25
Aziz Pipes	3.87 (G)	330
Bangladesh Lamps	33.39 (G)	40
Singer Bangladesh	1.22 (L)	220
Atlas Bangladesh	17 (G)	200
Bangladesh Autocars	03 (G)	225
Quasen Drycells	17.74 (G)	210
Renwick Jaineswar	5.00 (G)	200
National Tubes	05 (L)	690
B Thai Aluminium	94 (L)	520
Amam Sea Food	00	5
Apex Foods	00	20
Bengal Food	01 (G)	5200
Zouk Sugar Mills Ltd	20	1470
Rupun Oil	00	800
Tulip Dairy	4.00 (L)	80
Chittagong Vegetable	00	20
Beximco Fisheries	1.00 (L)	420
Bengal Biscuits	1.38 (L)	240
Meghna Shrimp	1.00	400
Raspi Food	47 (L)	300
BOC Bangladesh	1.07 (L)	950
Padma Oil	4.89 (G)	563
Northern Jute	1.00 (G)	400
Shine Pukur	00	1760
Ashraf Textile	06	9750
Quasen Silk	10 (L)	700
Modern Dyeing	4.00 (G)	40
Dulama Cotton	1.11 (G)	320
Talpu Spinning	10.00 (L)	60
Padma Textile	9.50 (L)	20
Beximco Knitting	7.50 (G)	476

**DSE Shares and Debentures**

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing (Taka)
B Dying	120/20	168.81
Delta Millers	100/20	108.00
M Garments	-	95.00
Mithun Corp	100/20	108.00
Modern Dyeing	100/5	58.00
Padma Textile	100/20	360.00
Prime Textile	-	285.00
Phonix Textile	6/100	6.80
Quasen Textile	10/50	18.00
Rahim Textile	100/5	108.00
Saihan Textile	100/10	95.00
S T M (ORD)	100/5	18.00
Stylecraft	100/5	360.00
Petro Synthetic	100/10	40.00
Talpu Spinning	100/10	130.00
Tamjuddin	100/10	200.00
Dandy Dyeing	-	80.00
Sonargang Textiles	-	116.50
Beximco Textiles	-	124.73



Forest Cookson, President of American Bangladesh Economic Forum, addressing a press conference at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on the eve of US Trade Show '96. — Star photo

## A ceremonial revenue collection in Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Jan 10: The four-day *Rajpuruya Utsab*, a traditional revenue collection ceremony of the Bomang circle began on the *rajbari* (palace) premises here yesterday amidst traditional custom and enthusiasm, reports BSS.

The festival, considered to be the major and almost annual ceremony of the Bomang circle for the last about forty years, has now turned into a congregation of eleven tribal communities of the southern parts of Bangladesh.

To mark the occasion, hundreds of tribal people from far areas of 96 villages including headmen, traders (*karbari*) thronged *rajbari* to pay their annual revenues to their king.

The chief of Bomang circle Raja Bahadur Aung Shew Prue Chowdhury attended in traditional king attire and escorted by the members of his mini-cabinet, ascended the *rajdarbar*, the hall of audience, in an impressive function held here yesterday.

When Bomang chief was ascending the *darbar* hall, the *sepoys*, who stood both sides at the red carpet, greeted the king with their heads bent and tribal women showered flowers to the king.

Dr Shah Mohammad Farid, Secretary, Ministry of Planning, inaugurated the festival as the chief guest while former MP Mama Ching and Bir Bahadur, Deputy Commissioner Abdul Haq, Regional Commander Brigadier

Rafique Ahmed and other officials also addressed the function.

The Bomang chief, who was crowned as king 36 years ago, briefly recounted the last 30 many years and said, once the people of this region did not know what is education, but at present massive development has taken place in the region as government paid special attention to the hill district or the welfare of the tribal people.

The king urged all tribals and non-tribals to maintain peace, amity and harmony in order to ensure socio-economic uplift of the hill region.

Later, the tribal farmers of *joom* land paid their revenues in a big golden urn, kept in front of the king at *rajdarbar*.

## Ford offers rebates on most models

DETROIT, Jan 10: Ford Motor Co. said Tuesday it will give 600 dollar rebates to buyers of most of its 1996 cars and trucks, including its redesigned Taurus, which has had sagging sales for three months, reports AP.

The No. 2 automaker reported last week that its US sales of cars and light trucks were down 9.2 per cent in December from a year earlier. Sales of the Taurus, which has been the nation's best-selling car for four years, were off about 35 per cent.

The rebate programme applies to Ford Taurus, Contour, Probe, Thunderbird, Windstar, Aerostar, Econoline, Club Wagon and Ranger models. It also is available to buyers of Mercury Mystique, Sables and Villagers. A 2,000 dollars rebate is being offered for buyers of Ford Bronco sport-utility vehicles.

In lieu of rebates, the programme offers 48-month financing at a 4.8 per cent interest rate.

## Handloom factories facing closure in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Jan 10: The century old handloom factories of the district are facing closure due to high prices of different raw materials and influx of cheaper Indian products, reports UNB.

According to weavers, chemical, increased the production cost of the handloom products that are being sold in the market less than the cost of production.

The sources said, the production cost of a dozen sares produced from a bundle of yarn is Tk 900, but its present market price is about Tk 700.

Julhas Miah, a weaver of Aidiaba village in Raipura thana alleged that the prices of the handloom products including sares, lungis, towels and mosquito nets which had high demand in the area cannot be raised as Indian handloom products are being sold at comparatively cheaper prices.

"We can hardly save our capital by selling the handloom products and afford meal for more than twice a day," he said.

According to official sources, about 15,000 weavers are engaged in 12,000 handloom factories in

six thanas of the district, but many have already been closed due to high production cost.

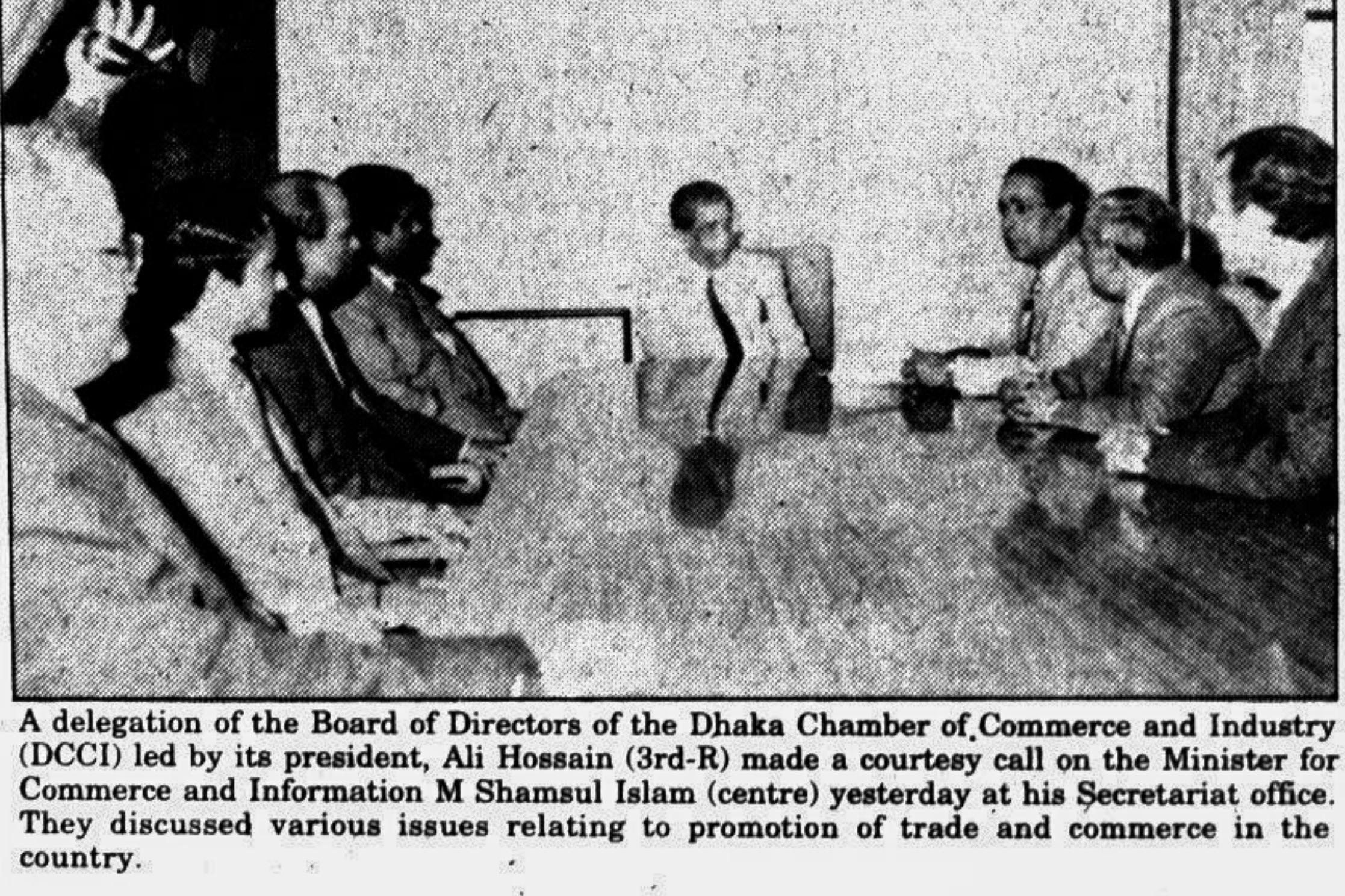
**King Hussein opens UNCTAD meeting**

AMMAN, Jan 10: King Hussein opened yesterday meeting of the Asian members of the UN conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) here with a call to help developing countries, reports AFP.

The two-day meeting grouping 32 Asian countries and 26 UN agencies, is to prepare for a world conference on trade and development to be held in South Africa in April.

King Hussein told delegates: "the globalisation of the economy and the liberalisation of world trade, while they can help development, also create new challenges for developing countries."

He urged them to "direct international investment to these countries" and help them find a solution to their crippling debt problems.



A delegation of the Board of Directors of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) led by its president, Ali Hossain (3rd-R) made a courtesy call on the Minister for Commerce and Information M Shamsul Islam (centre) yesterday at his Secretariat office. They discussed various issues relating to promotion of trade and commerce in the country.

## Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies with Bangladesh Taka effective date is 10th Jan '96.

Selling		Buying	
T.T. & O.D.	B.C.	T.T. (C)	O.D. (Sight) (Trans.)
US Dollar	1=Tk 41.1610	41.2015	40.8650
GBP	1=Tk 63.9013	63.9641	62.9468
DM	1=Tk 28.7269	28.9752	28.2170
F Franc	1=Tk 8.4019	8.4102	8.2535
C. Doll	1=Tk 30.3632	30.3931	29.8230
SFR	1=Tk 35.5263	35.5612	34.8899
Jap Yen	1=Tk 0.3984	0.3988	0.3873

(Figures in Taka)

A) T. T. (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk. 40.7847

**BUSSANCE RATE.**

30.Days	60.Days	90.Days	120.Days	180.Days
40.5080	40.2185	39.9291	39.6396	39.0607

C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Same as 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.Tk. for one unit of foreign currency)**

Currency	Selling T.T. & O.D.	Buying O.D. Transfer
\$ Riyal	Tk 10.9754	Tk 10.8230
UAE Dirham	Tk 11.2073	Tk 11.0505
Kuwaiti Dinar	Tk 137.5702	Tk 135.5392
D Guilder	Tk 25.5133	Tk 25.5143
S Krona	Tk 6.2449	Tk 6.1542
Malaysian Ringgit	Tk 16.1068	Tk 15.8787
Singapore Dollar	Tk 28.8520	Tk 28.5331