



Rupali Bank raises interest rate on deposits

Rupali Bank has increased the interest rate on various deposit accounts with effect from January 14 this year to generate savings habits among the prospective depositors, says a press release.

The interest rate for savings account has been increased to 5.50 from 5.25 per cent and on short term deposits to 5.00 from 4.50 per cent.

The interest rates on fixed deposits for the period of three months to less than six months has been increased to 6.25 from 6 per cent, for six months to less than 12 months to 6.50 from 6.25 per cent, for one year to less than two years to 6.75 from 6.50 per cent, for two years to 7 from 6.75 per cent.

Israeli finance minister to visit Asian nations

SEOUL, Jan 15: Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shochat will make a three-day visit to Seoul this month as a part of a five-nation Asian tour which will take him to Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand and India, diplomats said today, reports AFP.

The Israeli Embassy said Shochat, who became a member of the Knesset in 1988 and was appointed minister in 1992, would meet with his South Korean counterpart Rha Woong-Bae and central bank of Korea Governor Lee Kyung-Shik.

During the January 16-18 visit he will also meet the heads of major South Korean corporations including the Daewoo and LG groups and Korea Telecoms, the embassy said.

Indonesia may import wood to overcome shortages

JAKARTA, Jan 15: Indonesia may import wood to overcome severe raw material shortages for wood panel products, Forestry Minister Jamaluddin Suryohadikusumo said here Saturday, reports AFP.

Suryohadikusumo, quoted by the Antara news agency said the wood should not come from neighbouring countries as the wood could be smuggled from Indonesia.

The minister said that Indonesia, whose plywood products accounts for some 80 per cent of the world's market, could import wood from Vietnam or Myanmar.

The Indonesian government last month called on plywood firms to restructure and diversify their products to those which don't need large logs or face bankruptcy due to shortage of raw materials.

Officials have criticised wood processing companies for being reluctant to develop their own timber estates and preferred to take wood from natural forests.

Jamaluddin said demand outweighed the capacity of natural forests. He said that many plywood factories survive by buying illegally-felled logs from the black market.

Bourse officials meet PM DSE market capital may rise to \$2.5b this year

Dhaka Stock Exchange is poised for a buck with its market capitalisation rising up to 2.5 billion US dollars during the current calendar year, reports UNB.

The optimism was expressed by DSE Chairman Intiyaz Hossain when he, along with newly elected council members of the bourse, made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office this (Monday) afternoon.

Hossain further forecast that the market capitalisation of DSE would touch US dollar four billion mark in next three years as the stockmarket was showing steady buoyancy.

Dhaka Stock Exchange is currently at 1.47 billion US dollars.

The DSE council members told the Prime Minister that the stock market fared well in 1995 and was expected to perform better during the current year (1996).

They said growth prospect of capital market in Bangladesh was brighter than in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, since the country, unlike its neighbours, is free of ethnic conflicts. Excepting some "minor tension" in the political arena, they observed, overall environment is congenial to economic growth.

The DSE Chairman lauded the role of the ruling party in

establishing what he said "economic freedom" in the country.

The Prime Minister congratulated the newly elected DSE council members. She hoped the stock market in the country would continue to be buoyant and contribute to the national economy.

Reiterating government's sincerity towards the growth of stockmarket, she pointed out the opening of the second bourse in Chittagong.

The DSE council requested for a piece of government land for construction of a permanent DSE building. The Prime Minister assured them of considering the appeal.

Market capitalisation of



Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman inaugurated the 6th branch of Prime Bank Limited at Laldighirpar, Sylhet on January 10.

WB urges China not to loosen credit squeeze

BELJING, Jan 15: The head of the World Bank's mission in China has blamed a swelling mountain of company debt on a relaxed financial system that does not try to recall loans and urged Beijing not to loosen its credit squeeze, reports Reuters.

However, Pieter Bottelier praised what he called China's "remarkable" success in cooling inflation to 14.8 per cent in 1995 after a Communist era record of 21.4 per cent the previous year.

"If tremendous changes do not happen in government policy, inflation for 1996 may stay at 10 per cent," the China Daily Business Weekly on Sunday quoted Bottelier as saying.

"At the beginning of last year, many people told me that 1995 would be terrible for China. But in fact it was a good year," he said.

Beijing had obtained the soft landing it aimed for, cooling economic growth without generating new problems, he said.

China's gross domestic product grew by 10.2 per cent in 1995, slightly above a target of 8.9 per cent, but down from a rise of 11.2 per

cent the year before, official statistics showed.

The main objectives of China's tough policies introduced in 1993 to try to re-assert macro-control had succeeded, Bottelier said.

China's fiscal Czars imposed a tight credit policy in 1993 when the world's fastest growing economy began to spin out of control, with enterprises racing to profit from a call by paramount leader Deng Xiaoping the year before to unleash business.

Bottelier said it was important for Beijing to maintain that monetary discipline, even though many enterprises want to see an easing of credit.

Increased company debts are not a result of monetary policy but a result of a financial system that is too relaxed to recall loans, the newspaper quoted Bottelier as saying. A tight monetary policy would put pressure on enterprises to reform and to improve their effectiveness, he added.

Official statistics show debt owed by China's lumbering enterprises had increased by 150 billion yuan (18 billion US dollars) in the first 11 months of last year.

Prime Bank's 6th branch opens in Sylhet

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman inaugurated the 6th branch of Prime Bank Limited at Laldighirpar, Sylhet on January 10, says a press release.

Dr RA Ghani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the bank, presided over the opening ceremony. Md Habibur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet, was present as special guest while Lutfur Rahman Sarkar, Managing Director explained the activities of the bank.

Pubali Bank undertakes action plan

Pubali Bank Limited has taken up a year-long action plan and declared 1996 to be the year of progress, says a press release.

The plan was announced at the first Regional Managers' conference of the bank held at its head office yesterday with the Managing Director Md. Qamrul Huda, in the chair.

E A Chaudhury, chairman of the bank was present as chief guest while Shaif A Chaudhury, Director, was the special guest.

Gold, sugar surge while tea, coffee stabilise over the week

LONDON, Jan 15: The New Year has brought a ray of sunshine to the precious metals, in particular gold, which burst through the highly symbolic 400 dollars per ounce level this week, reports AFP.

The speculative frenzy of buying on the New York and London markets soon fizzled out and prices beat a retreat. But this week saw a flurry of excitement after several months of relatively dull trading.

Crude oil also began the week with a spectacular flare-up soaring to more than 19.25 dollars a barrel as blizzards swept through the north-east of the United States, covering the area in snow.

But the resulting boom in oil demand brought about by the cold was not enough to hold Brent crude oil prices at that high level.

Among tropical commodities, coffee staged a modest rally as the prospect loomed of a new export cut-back plan by producers who are desperate to steady prices.

Sugar continued to excite investors. "Too much" warned some experts, who see difficult times ahead for this commodity.

GOLD: Glittering. Gold prices rocketed at this start of the year, driven upwards by a wave of speculative purchases that sent the metal bursting through the 400 dollars per ounce mark Wednesday for the first time since August 1993.

"This surge is partly a re-

sult of the expiry Friday in New York of the contract for February delivery," said London expert Andy Smith at Union Bank of Switzerland.

The spark came on the New York futures market, Comex, where the super-speculative American investment funds decided to "bet on gold" in the New Year.

After bursting up through 400 dollars, gold retreated to around 396 dollars.

SILVER: Sparkle. On the back of gold, silver shot up to 5.55 dollars per ounce, a high since September. Speculators descended on the silver market, even if the rally was "less impressive" than that of gold, one trader said.

PLATINUM: Boost. This precious metal, used mainly for catalytic converters, gained ground on the back of gold, rising to 415 dollars per ounce.

COPPER: Technical. The price of copper on the London Metal Exchange (LME) showed no net movement, but stayed between 2,530 and 2,550 dollars per tonne. Any progress that was made came as a result of technical trades rather than any fundamental change.

The New York Comex market was closed at the start of the week because of snow storms.

At the week's end, the price of copper was hit by a new surge in stocks at the LME, which climbed 15,500 tonnes in one week to a total of 330, 675 tonnes.

LEAD: Calm. Like the other base metals, lead showed little activity, hardly

touched by the drop in reserves on the LME (down 4,950 tonnes to 125,800 tonnes). The price held around 690 dollars per tonne.

ZINC: Upsurge. A dramatic cut in stocks (down 4,725 tonnes to 657,675 tonnes) sent prices rising this week, to 1,040 dollars per tonne.

ALUMINIUM: Fall. The metal has been hit by growing signs of a surge in global production. Prices fell to below 1,610 dollars per tonne this week, their lowest level since September 1994.

The market suffered from the continued build-up of stocks on the LME (up 12,375 tonnes to 602,300 tonnes).

The GNI trading house predicted that the average price for aluminium in 1996 would stabilise at 1,500 dollars per tonne, backing up the most up-bet predictions of Goldman Sachs.

NICKEL: Seesaw. The price of this metal, used in the production of stainless steel, wavered this week with an initial fall to 7,700 dollars per tonne followed by an upsurge to finish above 7,750 dollars per tonne.

Stocks at the LME fell by 2,202 tonnes to 42,474 tonnes.

TIN: Progress. The metal eased out of the doldrums this week. Prices rose by some 70 dollars to settle between 6,370 and 6,380 dollars per tonne. Stocks fell by 425 tonnes to 11,435 tonnes.

OIL: Up, then down. Like a hot air balloon that has run out of steam, petrol prices

sank at the end of the week after reaching for the sky earlier on. The price of Brent North-Sea crude hit its highest level since May 1995 on Monday at 19.25 dollars per barrel.

Severe weather in north-east America boosted demand for natural gas and fuel oil for heating. Refineries stepped up production and the country's oil reserves plummeted.

But the market quickly tumbled from these highs. With the announcement that the weather would improve, Brent lost 1.5 dollars to 17.8 dollars per barrel.

RUBBER: Fall. Latex revealed its weakness with a fall of some 50 pounds on the London market to 1,055 per tonne, despite intense activity on the forward market.

"The surge (in forward prices) has not yet appeared on the cash market," one London trader said. The forward market firmed up with hefty Chinese purchases and the prospect of a slowdown in South East Asian production.

COFFEE: Stabilised. After weeks of decline, coffee prices appear to have stabilised between 1,750 and 1,800 dollars per tonne, 50 to 100 dollars above the end of last week.

The market was given a shot in the arm by the prospect of a more comprehensive coffee export limit plan. The Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) is due to meet in Brazil on January 15 and in

Corruption charge Roh arrives at court

SEOUL, Jan 15: Former President Roh Tae-woo arrived at court Monday facing charges that he took massive bribes for government projects during his 1988-93 term, reports AP.

Security was tight as the 63-year-old former army general was driven to the Seoul District Criminal Court by bus from prison, 30 minutes away. About 1,000 police were deployed along the route and around the courthouse.

Hundreds of onlookers could not see Roh when he arrived at the courthouse in scattered rain, because his bus was driven straight into a basement parking area.

Unlike at the first hearing of the trial, no photography was allowed inside the courtroom Monday.

Television network VTN said Roh looked tense as he boarded the bus at Seoul Detention Centre. At the previous trial session, he wore padded white winter garb, but Monday he was clad in a blue prison uniform.

'Reliance commits irregularities'

NEW DELHI, Jan 15: The Indian market watchdog probing the switching of shares by the country's largest firm, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has said the firm committed "irregularities," a daily reported today, reports AFP.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), probing the switching of nearly seven million shares, by RIL, has "confirmed many of the irregularities," the business standard said.

The textiles and petrochemical giant, whose shares are the most heavily traded in the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), is accused of switching shares bought by domestic financial institutions some years ago.

Reliance says it merely replaced one set of sold shares with another of equal value except that their numbers were different and argued the exercise was not illegal.

The Indian government ordered a probe on December 20, 1995, after opposition members accused RIL and a controversial telecommunications firm, Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd, of rigging shares.

Two BSCIC projects create 49586 jobs

Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WEDP), a project of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), had generated 45,161 employment opportunities up to December '95 since its inception (July '90), says a press release.

This was disclosed at a review meeting on progress of different development programmes and overall activities of BSCIC held at conference room of the Ministry of Industries yesterday with State Minister for Industries Lutfur Rahman Khan in the chair.

The meeting was informed that 22,468 women entrepreneurs took training on efficiency and management development under this project. Recovery rate of disbursed loan under this project is 97 per cent.

It was also informed at the meeting that 4425 employment opportunities were generated under Self Employment Project up to December '95 since its inception (January '93).

A total of Tk 616.88 crore was invested for 19,690 units of small and cottage industries, including new and existing units and as a result, 76,802 employment opportunities were created.

Lutfur Rahman Khan said there is no alternative to setting up of small and cottage industries for poverty alleviation and creation of employment opportunities for the unemployed youth force of the country.

Referring to the unemployment problem of the country, the State Minister said the rate of employment opportunities is not increasing in comparison with the rate of unemployment.

Among others Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industries Syed Yousuf Hossain, Chairman BSCIC Md Abdus Samad were present at the meeting.



Lutfur Rahman Khan, State Minister for Industries, reviewing the progress of BSCIC activities at conference room of the Ministry of Industries yesterday.

BJMC Advertisement Tender Notice

Aleem Jute Mills Ltd, Atra I/A, Khulna invites sealed quotations for (1) Coal tar & (2) Pig Iron at mill site delivery basis.

Tender will be received up to 12:00 Noon on 31.1.96 and will be opened at 12:30 pm on the same day. Tender documents with full details of requirements, specification and terms and conditions will be available (excepting opening date) with the General Manager (A&F), BJMC, Dhaka, Dy. General Manager (A&F), BJMC, KZ, Khulna and Dy. Manager (A&F), Aleem Jute Mills Limited, Atra I/A, Khulna on payment of Tk 40/- per set (non-refundable). Earnest money of Tk 1000/- must be deposited by the tenderer as per rule stated in the schedule along with each tender.

BJMC: 15/Dt 4.1.96
DFP-533-8/1

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Mohakhali Public Works Division, Dhaka

Corrigendum to Tender Notice

No. 41/1995-96

Name of work : Construction of 1st & 2nd floor of Dhaka Metropolitan Cantonment Thana-cum-Barrack building (Subhead: Arrangement for internal water supply & sewerage system)

It is notified for information of all concerned that, under unavoidable circumstances, the following amendments are made to the tender for the above work invited vide Mohakhali Public Works Division Tender Notice No. 41/1995-96/Com-T/3293 dated 23-12-95 (9-9-1402 BS).

	As per original Notice	As per amended Notice
Last date of selling tender	13-1-96	23-1-96
Date of receiving tender	14-1-96	24-1-96

All other terms & conditions of tender will remain unchanged. This will be treated as an integral part of the tender.

Executive Engineer
Mohakhali Public Works Department
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

DFP-764-10/1
G-100

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Director
Research, Training & Evaluation
Animal Resources Research Institute
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Memo No. Sec Tender/K-1/95/1138 Dated: 6-1-96

Tender Notice

Tenders are invited in schedule from Animal Resources Research Institute enlisted contractors & bonafide importers for purchase of laboratory chemicals & glasswares for different sections under Director, Animal Resources Research Institute, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 for 1995-96 financial year. The tender should be dropped in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned between 10 am and 1 pm of 25-1-96 which will be opened on the same day at 2 pm in presence (if any) of the contractors at this office. Schedule containing detailed rules & regulations can be purchased on cash payment of Taka 750/- from Cash Section of this office & 2/A Section of the Directorate from 21-1-96 to 24-1-96 during office hours. The schedule money is non-refundable. No schedule will be sold on the date of opening tender.

Dr. Mohammad Hossain
Director
Research, Training & Evaluation
Animal Resources Research Institute
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

DFP-696-11/1
G-101