

India's jute industry seems to be in perennial crisis

CALCUTTA, July 9: Dogged by a shortage of raw jute, labour trouble and technological obsolescence, India's once flourishing jute industry seems to be in perennial crisis, reports PTI.

Once the mainstay of Indian economy, along with textiles, jute started its downhill journey after Bengal was partitioned in 1947 as most of the jute cultivation was done in the eastern part of the state.

Ideally, the jute industry should have revived after a national diversification and modernisation programme in 1992 says Arun Lohia, President of Indian Jute Manufacturers' Association (IJMA). Planned initiative by the government, a global awareness and entry into general currency areas were the factors that failed this.

But the situation today is so bleak that while efforts were being made to revive the industry and all mills began functioning, it was starved of raw jute supply, the demand for raw jute being low most of the time, the supply response of jute growers was not flexible enough and carry forward stocks were also inadequate consequent to this, the mill owners say.

However, trade unions say, the supply position was normal, although prices ruled high initially, but some mills started excess consumption of jute to maximise their profits. Besides, there was maldistribution of available raw jute among the mills.

This resulted in a significant

growth of imports in the past few years. While in 1992 only 25,000 bales were imported last year Indian mills used over 300,000 bales of foreign jute. The shortage began in 1993-94.

The imbalance in the demand-supply position was aggravated by a ban on export of quality jute by Bangladesh. When raw jute shortage hit the industry in November last year, the eastern neighbour imposed a ban on jute exports by land, which is cheaper and faster than by sea.

Moreover, production of raw jute has stagnated since the early nineties. Whereas two years ago raw jute production stood at 880,000 bales (one bale is equivalent to 180 kg), last year it dropped to 763,000 bales.

The falling production is accompanied by astronomical rise in prices. According to IJMA figures the prices now range between Rs 1,900 and Rs 2,000 per quintal. Only during the last season the prices averaged Rs 600.

Strikes and lock-outs have almost become a routine with the jute industry, since 1979 there have been at least six major strikes.

The four-day strike involved more than 250,000 workers employed in 59 jute mills. The main demands of the trade unions were wage revision and absorption of casual workers. Though the IJMA was not much affected by the strike, there was an aggregate production loss of 3,500 tonnes, worth Rs 87.5 million.

Added to this is the loss to the state and central government exchequers.

IJMA President, Arun Lohia said three factors should have helped revive the flagging industry. First, jute's revival was the goal of a planned initiative by the government.

Industrialists and research and development organisations.

Accordingly, a national diversification and modernisation programme for the jute industry was launched in 1992, the centre and the United Nations Development Programme signed a jute development programme under which the former provided Rs 500 million and the UNDP Rs 280 million.

The second factor working in favour of jute revival was global awareness about the environmental friendliness of the fibre. Though not as durable and inexpensive as synthetic fibre, jute has the advantage of being biodegradable and ecologically harmless. This is why Europe is again increasingly turning to jute for agro-based packaging material. Australia and the United States are also encouraging the use of jute.

Thirdly, the loss suffered by the jute industry after the disintegration of the Soviet Union was largely compensated by larger volume of exports to general currency areas. Greater experiments and innovations to suit the changes of demand patterns in the overseas and domestic markets were responsible for the in-

creasing exports.

Packaging rules have also been revised by the centre to benefit the industry. Amendments to the jute packaging materials (compulsory use in packaging commodities) act, 1987 require the cement industry to use jute in half its packaging.

In the case of fertilisers, the obligation is 65 per cent. Foodgrains are also packed in jute bags.

Besides, the export of diversified jute goods is also increasing steadily. This is evident from the fact that the export of traditional Hessian has declined from 170,000 tonnes in 1991-92 to less than 100,000 tonnes in 1993-94.

Sadly, however, these favourable factors have failed to turn the industry around. Apart from shortage of raw jute, another factor bedeviling the industry is the lack of technological upgradation.

One big handicap in this industry is that improved machinery are no longer being manufactured abroad, let alone India, as the jute industry is significant only to the economies of India and Bangladesh. In India there is little or no research and development efforts.

Technological obsolescence and lack of research and development were characteristic to the industry even during World War I. In the inter-war years there were frequent bickering between the IJMA and pro-ducers leading to strikes and lockouts.

Chittagong Stock Exchange 9-point rise in index

CHITTAGONG, July 9: Twenty one, out of 72 listed securities, were traded on the Chittagong Stock Exchange floor today (Tuesday), reports PTI.

Of those, 18 issues gained and rest three incurred loss. The CSE All Securities Price Index rose by 9.19 points to 445.79 on the day.

A total of 15,402 securities valued at Tk 10,960,575.00 were traded.

Market capitalisation stood at Tk 40.11 billion.

Day's trading performance

Company Name	Closing Rate	Previous Rate	Difference	No. of Securities Traded	Value in Taka
Rupali	863.18	699.20	163.98	780	673,280.00
Janata	426.29	444.77	-18.48	1360	579,760.00
Central	290.00	158.00	132.00	40	11,600.00
Federal	309.68	266.88	42.80	1250	387,100.00
Delta Life	1806.45	1000.00	806.45	62	11,200.00
Pragati Insu	1016.45	778.87	237.58	2000	203,290.00
Sandhani Life	166.43	106.00	60.43	350	58,250.00
Apex Weaving	101.00	100.45	0.55	200	20,200.00
Beximco Pharma	68.23	68.07	0.16	150	10,235.00
AMCL (Iran)	509.59	500.39	9.20	1100	56,050.00
Confidence Cement	719.70	644.60	75.10	4780	344,016.00
Ctg Cement	3316.64	3160.12	156.52	490	1,625,155.00
Aziz Pipe	1101.56	924.92	176.64	160	176,250.00
Apex Tannery	610.00	600.00	10.00	20	12,200.00
Shine Pukur	74.67	67.00	7.67	600	44,800.00
BOC (BD) Ltd	225.47	255.39	-29.92	950	214,200.00
7th ICB MF	309.15	322.00	-12.85	1210	374,700.00
6th ICB MF	290.00	285.00	5.00	200	58,000.00
Umanisa Glass	835.87	760.30	75.57	455	379,865.00
National Polymer	790.00	670.00	120.00	20	15,800.00
Monno Ceramic	774.22	748.94	25.28	225	174,200.00

CSE at a glance

All Securities Price Index	445.79
Day's Change in Index	2.1400%
Total Turnover in Value in Taka	10,960,575.00
Total Turnover in Volumes	16,402
Total Issues Capital in Taka	12,808,659,190.00
Total Closing Market Capital in Taka	40,110,676,801.00
Total Number of Listed Securities	72
Total Number of Companies	65
Total Number of Mutual Funds	7
Day's Contract Numbers	387
Day's Issues Traded	21
Day's Issues Gained	18
Day's Issues Incurred loss	3
Day's Issues Unchanged	0

Exchange Rates Sonali Bank

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies with Bangladesh Taka as on July 9, '96

	Selling	Buying
	T.T. & O.D.	T.T. (Clean) O.D. Sight Transfer
USD 1 B.T.K.	41.9115	41.9515
GBP 1 B.T.K.	65.2723	65.3346
DM 1 B.T.K.	27.6276	27.6540
FRF 1 B.T.K.	8.1598	8.1676
CAD 1 B.T.K.	30.7498	30.7791
SFR 1 B.T.K.	33.3897	33.4215
JYEN 1 B.T.K.	0.3830	0.3833

A) T.T. (DOC) spot buying Taka 41.5362
B) Usance export bill buying rates (B. Taka for one unit of US Dollar).

	30 Days DA	60 Days DA	90 Days DA	120 Days DA	180 Days DA
41.1873	40.8405	40.4937	40.1469	39.4533	

C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Same as O.D. sight export bill. Indicative rates (B. Taka for one unit of foreign currency).

	Currency	Selling	Buying
		T.T. & O.D.	O.D. Transfer
Saudi Riyal	1=	Tk 11.7755	11.0277
UAE Dirham	1=	Tk 11.4129	11.2619
Kuwait Dinar	1=	Tk 139.7982	138.7167
D. Guider	1=	Tk 24.4910	24.1626
S. Krona	1=	Tk 6.2654	6.1785
Malaysian Ringgit	1=	Tk 16.8096	16.5857
Singapore Dollar	1=	Tk 29.0039	29.2635

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 9.7.96

Berth No.	Name Of Vessels	Cargo	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/6	Wang Ting	GI	Sing	1/7	11/7
J/7	Banglar Shobha	GI	Kara	4/7	10/7
J/8	Banglar Mamata	GI	Monong	9/7	13/7
J/10	Ani Da	C. Clink	Sing	2/7	12/7
J/11	Hong Qi 206	C. Clink	Sing	22/6	12/7
J/12	Aries	Cont	Mong	8/7	11/7
J/13	Padma	Cont	Sing	18/7	9/7
CCT/2	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	1/7	13/7
CCT/3	Shenton	Cont	Sing	1/7	11/7
RM/14	Banglar Asha	Repair	Mong	5/6	10/7
GCJ	Wan Ru	C. Clink	Dani	28/6	14/7
GCJ	Hang Shun	Cement	Rizh	22/5	10/7
TSP	Taachorn	R. Phos	Anna	15/6	15/7
RM/3	Reneta 11	CDFO	Veza	8/7	11/7
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	Sing	18/7	12/7
DD	Fong Shin (Cont/6)	Repair	Sing	30/6	20/7
DMJ/1	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	7/6	15/7
DMJ/2	Sea World	Repair	Litmond	R/A	15/7
RM/9	Furture Star	Repair	Kaki	Eastwest	6/7
SM/10	Tug Ocean South	Chand	Aracien	R/A	10/7

Kafco (A) Blue North (Damage and semi submerged)

Vessels Due At Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Last Port Arrival	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Stewart 1/7	9/7	Col	BDSHP	Cont
Susak 15/6	9/7	Col	BDSHP	Cont
Kota Binitang 29/6	9/7	Sing	PI(B)	Cont
Halex	9/7	Sing	SSI	Cont
Mun Su Bong	9/7	Chin	MSTPL	Cement
Chang	9/7	Chin	AMEL	Cont
Meng Yang 23/6	10/7	Sing	AMEL	Cont
Balt Harmony	10/7	Mong	OWSL	GL
H-Star	10/7	Visa	Rainbow	M Seeds
Tug Britoil 17	10/7	Sing	Karma	Cont
Fong Lee 1/7	11/7	Sing	BDSHP	Cont
QC Pintail 19/6	11/7	Sing	QCGL	Cont
Polar Bird 1/7	11/7	Col	BDSHP	Cont
Liberty Wave	11/7	USA	Lams	Wheat(G)
Eurasian Moni 30/6	11/7	Sing	BSC	Cont
Eurasian Chariot (Roro) 24/27.6	12/7		Oil	Vehicles
Diasong	12/7		BRA	GI
Tug Britoil 16	17/7	Kari	Karma	Cont
Ostertiedland 3/7	12/7	Sing	PI(B)	Cont
Island Princess (24/4) 7/14/7	14/7	Sing	Sunshine	GI
Ocean-1	14/7	Yang	Cross	GI(Logs)

Tanker Due

Name of Vessels	Date of Last Port Arrival	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Wawasan Setia	12/7	Sing	MSP	HSD

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Banglar Sampad			BSC	R/A(22/6)
Banglar Shorab			BSC	R/A(6/7)
Banglar Baari			BSC	R/A(6/7)
Lisa			Mong	Lams

Vessels Awaiting Instruction

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Banglar Sampad			BSC	R/A(22/6)
Banglar Shorab			BSC	R/A(6/7)
Banglar Baari			BSC	R/A(6/7)
Lisa			Mong	Lams

Movement of Vessels for 10.7.96

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
GSJ Hang Shun	J/11 Sintra	J/11 Hong Qi 206
	J/5 Meng Yang	
	GSJ Lams	

The above are 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 July 9, 1996

Upward trend continues

Star Report

Upward trend on the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange continued on Tuesday.

The DSE All Share Price Index rose to 1047.03 from 1044.81, indicating an increase of 2.21 points. Total market capital rose to Tk 7109.27 cr.

The transaction in volume showed a rise of 33.01 per cent, increasing to 400,699 from 301,248 and the value reached Tk 12,059 cr from Tk 10,589, showing an increase of 13.93 per cent.

Beximco Knitting (Deb) led

the gainers with a rise of Tk 298.57 per share, while National Tubes suffered a loss of Tk 838.46 per share, leading the losers.

Volume leaders of the day were: Square Pharma (37920), Eastern Cables (32039), Dynamic Textile (26560), Beximco Pharma (25800), Shine Pukur (16050), Apex Weaving (13000), Chic Tex (12500) and Ashraf Textile (11500).

The number of issues traded totalled 104, of which 63 gained, 37 incurred loss and four remained unchanged.

Trading at a glance

DSE All Price Index	1047.03	
Market capital Tk	7109.27 cr	
Transaction in volume	400699	
Transaction in value Tk	12.05 cr	
Total Issues traded	104	
Issues gained	63	
Issues incurred losses	37	
Issues unchanged	4	

Company name	Change (per share)	Number of shares traded
National Bank	1.69 (L)	3365
IDLC	7.34 (L)	540
United Leasing Co	11.64 (G)	1280
3rd ICB M Fund	21.97 (L)	535
4th ICB M Fund	18.15 (L)	130
5th ICB M Fund	16.48 (L)	340
6th ICB M Fund	10.46 (L)	1480
7th ICB M Fund	1.28 (L)	1250
Afah Automobiles	19.83 (G)	675
Bengal Cattle	26.67 (G)	865
Bangladesh Lamps	83.40 (G)	860
Eastern Cables	67.70 (G)	32039
Karim Pipe	116.35 (G)	1491
Singer Bangladesh	383.42 (L)	180
Atlas Bangladesh	6.38 (G)	6250
Bangladesh Autocars	10.77 (G)	1435
Quamem Drycells	75 (G)	6200
Renwick Jaineswar	5.23 (G)	330
National Tubes	838.46 (L)	260
B Thai Aluminium	19.71 (G)	2360
BD Electricity	22.50 (G)	10
Alpha Tobacco	3.51 (L)	4350
Anam Sea Food	33.33 (L)	15
Apex Foods	5.64 (L)	310
Bengal Food	30.80 (G)	220
BLTC	76.00 (G)	140
BTC	18.00 (G)	750
Gemini Sea Food	56.00 (G)	100
Dhaka Vegetable	36 (G)	110
Chittagong Vegetable	9.13 (L)	240
Beximco Fisheries	2.11 (G)	240
Bengal Biscuits	4.93 (G)	880
Meghna Shrimp	35 (G)	7720
Raspi Food	19.40 (G)	1250
AMCL Iran	21.72 (G)	750
Padma Oil	3.96 (G)	7230
Padma Oil	19.21 (L)	1800
Northern Jute	100 (G)	800
Shine Pukur	1.79 (G)	16050
Ashraf Textile	53 (G)	11500
Padma Textile	00	240
Apex Spinning	2.30 (G)	240
Beximco Knitting	8.69 (G)	5320
Dynamic Textile	6.45 (L)	26560
Mithun Knitting	4.05 (G)	380
Mita Textiles	73 (G)	940
B Dyeing	35.66 (G)	5160
Delta Mills	11.13 (G)	2800
Apex Weaving	5.35 (G)	13000
Sonargang Textiles	2.00 (G)	5000
Beximco Textiles	2.19 (G)	7500
BD Zipper	5.02 (G)	3650
Beximco Denims	2.95 (G)	6450
M T Hossain	2.68 (G)	150
Sajit Knitwear	2.63 (L)	2900
Chic Tex	05 (L)	12500
Sreepur Textile	3.49 (G)	6100
Monno Fabrics	2.99 (G)	2350
Beximco Pharma	2.86 (G)	25800
Shine Pukur	2.68 (G)	17500
Pharmaco International	2.00 (L)	385
Reckitt and Colman	1.02 (G)	650
Pharma Aids	5 (G)	80
Kohinoor Chemical	00	60
Rbn Sina Pharma	00	20
Robian Chemicals	3.92 (L)	140
Bangladesh Chemical	17.63 (G)	1100
Wata Chemical	8.72 (L)	140
Beximco Infusions	3.68 (G)	300
National Polymer	79.62 (G)	4030
Beximco Synthetic	10.87 (G)	2120
Orpex Industries	47.00 (G)	470
Square Pharma	23.07 (L)	37920
Maq Paper	22.79 (G)	230
Apex Tannery	25.75 (G)	1225
Aramit	4.00 (G)	50
Bal Shon	1.40 (G)	5600
GG Bangladesh	3.05 (L)	270
Monno Ceramic	8.97 (L)	4850
Usmania Glass	119.29 (G)	10635
Savar Refractories	5.00 (G)	180
Million Tanneries	2.00 (G)	140
Beximco Ltd	82 (G)	6500
Chittagong Cement	114.54 (G)	2470
Eastern Housing	3.95 (G)	900
Confidence Cement	58.70 (G)	2420
Meghna Cement	49.28 (G)	3450
Lexco Limited	20.85 (G)	700
Eastern Insurance	42.64 (G)	1180
Jasmin Insurance	20.41 (G)	600
Phoenix Insurance	54.78 (G)	5580
Eastland Insurance	10.75 (L)	3360
Central Insurance	23.95 (L)	6200
Karnaphuli Insurance	4.69 (L)	2900
Rupali Insurance	60.03 (G)	3750
National Insurance	39.96 (G)	2890
Federal Insurance	34.27 (G)	5920
Reliance Insurance	163.80 (L)	1100
Purabi Insurance	9.36 (L)	3250
Delta Life	207.32 (L)	1000
Pragati Insurance	73.72 (L)	500
Sandbar Life	19.02 (G)	160
B Knitting (Deb)	29.57 (G)	140
BD Zipper (Deb)	258.00 (L)	140