

**SHOWROOMS :**

**Gulshan** — 31 Gulshan Tower, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.  
Tel: 9882192

**Malibag** — 89, DIT Road, Malibag, Dhaka.

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**Uttara** — Baly Complex, Sec-3, Uttara, Dhaka

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# The Daily Star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1997

**HYUNDAI**  
CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

## Urea price hits record low: Survey

The fall in retail price of urea continued and it was record low in last week, according to a field survey conducted by International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The survey showed 11 per cent fall in retail price of urea in the third week of February compared to that of the last year. The retail price of 50-kg bag was Taka 244 in last week while it was Taka 273 in the third week of February last year.

The survey revealed that usually, the price of fertilizer maintained upward trend during the IRRI-boro season from January to March. But this is for the first time the price is gradually declining despite its use moving towards the peak.

The price was three per cent lower in the first week of February and in the second week it was seven per cent lower compared to that of the last year.

The field survey covered various regions, particularly, greater Chittagong, Noakhali, Comilla, Sylhet, Dhaka, Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, Kustia and Jessore.

Meanwhile, the government has distributed the entire quantity of urea to the dealers

## Transparency in exchange rate policy stressed

The country needs an articulated and transparent exchange rate policy to avoid instability in the economy, this was told at a seminar here Monday, says BSS.

The seminar titled "exchange rate management: cross country experience" was organised by Bangladesh Economic Association.

The seminar highlighted that lack of transparency in the country's exchange rate policy caused wide ranging speculation in the money market which might adversely affect the country's overall economy.

Chief Economist of South Asia region of World Bank John Williamson presented a paper where he discussed the experience of Chile, Colombia and Israel in the exchange rate management.

## Govt firm to achieve food security: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Monday renewed her government's strong political will and commitment to achieving food security for all through sustainable agricultural development, reports UNB.

"Cooperation of national and international community is needed in this regard," she said.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating a national seminar on "Agricultural Research and Development in Bangladesh" at the International Conference Centre (ICC), which was organised by Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI).

Food and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, UNESCO Professor of Ecotechnology Dr MS Swaminathan and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) executive chairman Dr Z Karim also addressed the seminar. Agriculture secretary Dr AMM Shaukat Ali presided.

The Prime Minister said the greatest challenge facing the nation today is to develop technologies to increase production in all spheres of agricultural crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry.

Speaking of the government's high priority to sustainable development of agriculture, she said: "The recent decline in official development assistance (ODA) in this sector by the international donor community is a matter of concern for us and indeed for other developing countries."

She emphasised the need for international, regional and bilateral cooperation and agreements for the use of common natural resources, such as water.

## PEREGRINE BANGLADESH INDEX

**Tuesday's market comment**

The PBI added 0.8 per cent for the day to close at 818.09. Trading was positive as 14 issues advanced over 10 losers. One issue remained unchanged. Chittagong Cement led the winners with a 7.7 per cent gain followed by Apex Foods which added 4.1 per cent on retail demand. The pharmaceutical stocks also performed well as Square Pharma and Beximco Pharma appreciated 3.4 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively. Olympic Industries dropped 3.5 per cent to top the minus column followed by Padma Textile which shed 1.3 per cent under retail selling pressure. IDLC did not trade.

## Exchange Rates

The following are the Janata Bank's dealing rates (BD Tk for one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 25/02/97

Selling	T.T. & B.C.	T.T. Clean	O.D. Sight	O.D. Transfer
US Dollar	42.9120	42.9650	42.6200	42.3433
GB Pound	70.2550	70.3375	69.2336	68.7733
D Mark	25.7356	25.7654	25.3043	25.2003
F Franc	7.6298	7.6387	7.5029	7.4720
J Yen	0.3552	0.3556	0.3469	0.3455
C Dollar	31.6989	31.7356	31.2555	32.9374
S Franc	29.5545	29.5888	28.0479	28.9285

Janata Bank's selling and buying rates in cash currency for public:

SELLING	US DOLLAR	GBP	S RYAL	UAE DH	KU DINAR
SELLING	42.9000	69.2560	11.7000	11.6500	141.0000
BUYING	42.3000	57.0050	11.3000	11.1500	135.5000

## Tk 806 cr project launched to improve rural roads, markets

The Second Rural Roads and Markets Improvement and Maintenance Project at a cost of Taka 806 crore was launched Monday, reports UNB.

The RRMIIP-2, launched at a workshop, will be implemented in 14 districts including six districts in greater Dhaka division to improve rural transport and marketing by providing physical infrastructure, employment for rural poor and women, participation of local communities and increased institutional capacity for infrastructure maintenance.

It has been initiated by the government with the financial assistance of World Bank and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Nogaon, Natore, Nawabganj, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra and Joypurhat.

Inaugurating the two-day workshop for the launch of the project, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman said the government had adopted specific policy to raise production, maximise use of communications system and to bring the rural hats and bazars under the extension programme keeping in mind the importance of physical infrastructure in socio-economic activities.

He said the government had given importance to rural development strategy, particularly rural infrastructure like road, hat-bazar and small irrigation project.

"Road communications system works as the main driving force for socio-economic development of an agrarian country," he said. Socio-economic uplift accelerate free market economy with the increase in demands.

"Poverty alleviation is one of the major thrusts of the present government," the minister said, as it is our main election manifesto.

He said the government was implementing a national plan of action giving the top priority to rural development.

Increasing income of rural people, self-employment of womenfolk and making farm and non-farm sector more dynamic are the objectives of the project.

## Malaysia's trade deficit slides 93 pc in '96

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Feb 25: Buoyed by a surge of exports Malaysia's trade deficit slid 8.7 billion ringgit (3.48 billion dollars) last year, a 93.4 per cent decline compared to 1995, the Statistic Department said Tuesday, reports AP.

It said the deficit last year stood at 617.97 million ringgit (247.18 million dollars), far less than the 5.2 billion ringgit (2.08 billion dollars) forecast by the Treasury Department last year.

The deficit in 1995 was 9.53 billion ringgit (3.74 billion dollars).

Exports totaled 196.69 billion ringgit (78.676 billion dollars) in 1996, 6.3 per cent higher than the 11.7 billion ringgit (4.68 billion dollars) worth exports in 1995, the Statistics Department said.

Imports increased only by 1.5 per cent to 197.30 billion ringgit (78.923 billion dollars). Thermionic valves and tubes, photo cells and parts continued to be the major exports, earning 35.2 billion ringgit (14.08 billion dollar) or 17.9 per cent of total exports.

## DHL Europe to replace fleet

DHL Worldwide Express plans to gradually phase out its European fleet of 64 B727. Con- vair CV580 and L188 freighters and replace it with A300 and B767 freighters, says a press release.

A recent study by the Brussels-based integrator shows that, based on an average annual market growth of 20 per cent in the next 15 years, DHL's volumes are expected to grow by 35 per cent annually.

## Shipping Intelligence

### Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 25.2.97.

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Asian Harp (Roro/24)	Vehi	P Kel	BBA	24/2	26/2
J/2	Lady Juliet	GI (Copro) Sing	IPL	19/2	6/3	
J/5	Chelyabinsk	Cement	Sing	CCNL	26/1	27/2
J/7	Chang Ping	Urea (G)	Bonk	Seacon	20/2	3/3
J/8	Yi Yang	GI	Xing	Prog	15/2	5/3
J/9	Eate Fresco	GI	Sing	Everett	22/2	27/2
J/10	Professor Buznik	Urea	(G)	Roya	Litmond	16/2
J/11	Hemlock	Wheat (P) Dar	OSSL	19/2	8/3	28/2
J/12	Dauzu Maru	GI (D Peas)	Sing	AASS	27/1	28/2
J/13	Mariup	Wheat (P) P Kel	AASS	19/2	5/3	
OCT/1	Consistence	Cont	Sing	RSL	23/2	27/2
OCT/2	Vanessa	Cont	Sing	RSL	22/2	25/2
OCT/3	Sea Elegance	Cont	Sing	PLI (BD)	23/2	27/2
GSJ	Evimeria	Wheat (G) USA	RSR	17/2	25/2	
RM/4	White Star	CDSO	Mad	Seacon	18/2	25/2
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	-	BSC	R/A	5/3
DOJ/1	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	PSAL	7/6	
DOJ/2	Banglar Robi	Repair	Mong	BSC	16/2	25/2
CUFLJ	Blue North	Cement	Qing	PSAL	3/6	25/3
Kalco (U)	Trade Dawn	Urea (G)	Swich	Litmond	16/2	10/3
Vessels due at outer anchorage						

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Loading	Port
QC Pintail 16/2	25/2	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Anangel Honour	25/2	South	RSR	Wheat (G)	-
Orizont	25/2	Sing	B Bay	Survey Purpose	-
Invincible Tide	25/2	Sing	B Bay	-do-	-
Brute Tide	25/2	Sing	B Bay	-do-	-
Egner Venture	26/2	Sing	Simni	Scraping	-
Banglar Gaurah (4222/2)	27/2	Mong	BSC	Cont	Chin
Banglar Miji (24/2)	27/2	Mong	BSC	Cont	Sing
XP-Fish Tisul 17/2	27/2	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Col
Padma 18/2	27/2	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya 16/2	27/2	Sing	PLI (BD)	Cont	Sing
Meng Yang 19/2	2/3	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing
Peng Xiang Ling	27/2	-	Delmore	C Clinic (Bilk)	-
Fong Shin 12/2	28/2	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
An Da	28/2	Dall	MBL	CClink (M Jetty)	-
Al Salma (48/22/2)	1/3	Bomb	ASLL	GI	-
Da Teal 20/2	2/3	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Qc Fu 22/2	2/3	Sing	APL (B)	Cont	Sing
Meng Kiat 20/2	3/3	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing
Freesia 24/2	3/3	Col	BDShip	Cont	Col
Steamers Future 24/2	5/3	Col	BDShip	Cont	Col
Kota Bintang 24/2	6/3	Sing	PLI (BD)	Cont	Sing
Fong Yun 24/2	6/3	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing

### Tanker Due

Destiny	Date	Sing	ECSL	SKO/MS
Kapitan Nagonyuk	27/2	Sing	IPL	Lube Oil
Danat Qatar	9/3	Rast	USS	Crude Oil

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
smaya	-	-	B Bay	9/1
Mighty Tide	-	-	B Bay	20/2

### Vessels at outer anchorage

Ready on	GI	S Hat	BDShip	23/2
Feng Qing	GI	Sing	Prog	23/2
Jin Jiang	GI	Coch	Oil	23/2
Norbukl Namir	GI	Col	BDShip	24/2
Fong Lee	Cont	Col	BDShip	24/2
Magic Wave (Roro/24)	Vehi	Moji	Oil	24/2
Dignity	HSD-JP-1 Aden	ECSL	23/2	
La P Aix	GI	Pena	AASS	20/2

### Vessels awaiting instruction

Hydroussa	Ballast	Monr	OTL	21/12
Banglar Sampad	-	-	BSC	R/A (17/01)
Agences-1	Ballast	Tampa	GEL	10/2
Mekhanik Gordiyenko	-	-	RML	R/A (23/2)
Banglar Shourabh	-	-	BSC	R/A (24/2)

### Movement of vessels for 26.2.97

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/1 Asian Harp	J/2 Magic Wave	J/5 Lady Juliet to J/3/6
J/6 Chelyabinsk	NB Feng Qing	J/6 Chelyabinsk to RM/3
RM/3 White Star	NB Jin Jiang	
J/3 Esto Presko	NB N Namir	
	NB La Paix	

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

**বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণাগার, ঢাকা**  
**BCSIR Laboratories, Dhaka**

### Notice for inviting applications for enlistment of suppliers

Applications are hereby invited from the bonafide suppliers/importers/manufacturers for enlistment of suppliers for the following categories of suppliers in the BCSIR Laboratories, Dhaka, for the year 1997.

Category "A" Scientific Apparatus, Glass-Wares and Chemicals

"B" Office-Stationery and Printing of forms.

The application forms are available on cash payment of Tk. 50/- (Taka fifty) per form on all working days up to 04-03-97.

The application form duly filled in with the necessary information along with the required documents indicated in the form should be submitted to the office of the undersigned by the 12-03-97 at the latest.

**Director**  
G-520 BCSIR Laboratories, Dhaka

### Malaysia's trade deficit slides 93 pc in '96


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It said the deficit last year stood at 617.97 million ringgit (247.18 million dollars), far less than the 5.2 billion ringgit (2.08 billion dollars) forecast by the Treasury Department last year.

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Dr Mohammad Harun-Ur-Rashid, Chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission, speaking at the monthly luncheon meeting of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry held at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. Seated on his left are President of the Chamber, Mahubul Jamil and FICCI Secretary, Jahangir Bin Alam respectively and on right NJS Miller, Committee Member of the Chamber.

## Livial in Bangladesh

Organon (Bangladesh) Limited is going to introduce Livial from the last week of February for the treatment of menopausal symptoms, says a press release.

Livial is already available in many developed countries of the world. It is a new HRT with its gonadomimetic effect which does not induce withdrawal bleeding, with its convenient dosage regimen once-a-day tablet with multi-beneficial effect.

From now women in Bangladesh can avail the benefits of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) without the inconvenience of monthly bleeding.

Livial is an HRT researched and introduced by Organon. It was designed to relieve the troubles of the menopause without causing the regular bleeding associated with traditional HRTs.

Livial is recommended for women who are at least one year beyond their last natural menstrual period who wish to enjoy the quality-of-life and long-term health benefits which HRT can bring.

Organon Bangladesh is a subsidiary of NV Organon, a Netherlands-based multinational pharmaceutical company.

## First meet of possible Asian G-6 on March 4

WASHINGTON, Feb 25: Top US Treasury and Federal Reserve officials will meet with their counterparts from five key Asian countries next week for what will be the first-ever economic strategy session linking finance and central bank officials from a possible Asian group of Six, reports AP.

The US delegation will be headed by Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers. Other officials participating will come from Japan, China, Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong.

Clinton administration officials said the daylong meeting in Tokyo on March 4 could set the stage for regular sessions of the group, even after Hong Kong becomes part of China later this year.

Currently, the finance officials of the world's seven richest industrial countries — the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — meet regularly to coordinate economic policies as the Group of Seven.

In addition, leaders of the G-7 countries get together once a year to survey mutual economic and political problems facing the group. This year's G-7 summit will be held in Denver from June 20-22.

A formal statement issued by the US Treasury Department said the Asian meeting would be held to discuss "economic policy and financial market issues of mutual interest."

Officials said that one goal of the meeting is to develop a mechanism for responding to future financial crisis such as the one that engulfed Mexico after it was forced to devalue the peso in late December 1994.

In explaining the make-up of the group, officials said that while Hong Kong will become a part of China later this year, its central bank, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, will remain an independent institution, in control of Hong Kong's huge 70 billion dollars in currency reserves.

The Asian G-6 represents the latest effort by the Clinton administration to reorient US policy to place greater emphasis on Asia, which features the fastest-growing economies in the world.

The administration views this region as a huge economic opportunity for American businesses although currently it is also the region where the United States is suffering its biggest trade deficits, including a 47.7 billion dollars gap with Japan and a 39.5 billion dollars imbalance with China.

**Eastern Refinery Limited**  
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)  
North Patenga, Post Box No. 35  
Chittagong-4000  
Bangladesh

Dated: 15th February, 1997

## International Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from the bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers/Agents for supply of the following materials on C&F Chittagong basis as per specifications, terms and conditions mentioned in the schedules of relevant Tender Documents:

Tender No.	Description of Materials	Cost of Tender Schedule per Set	Last Date for Purchasing of Tender Schedule	Opening Date of Technical Offer	Opening Date of Commercial Offer
ER/PUR/IT-08/97	Reciprocating Compressor for Merox Unit Revamp Project.	Tk. 100/-	11-03-97	12-03-97	24-03-97
ER/PUR/IT-09/97	Pressure Instruments for Merox Unit Revamp Project.	Tk. 100/-	16-03-97	17-03-97	06-04-97
ER/PUR/IT-10/97	Differential Instruments for Merox Unit Revamp Project.	Tk. 100/-	16-03-97	17-03-97	06-04-97
ER/PUR/IT-11/97	Office and Office Flange for Merox Unit Revamp Project.	Tk. 100/-	16-03-97	17-03-97	6-04-97
ER/PUR/IT-12/97	Control Valves for Merox Unit Revamp Project.	Tk. 100/-	16-03-97	17-03-97	06-04-97
ER/PUR/IT-13/97	Special Check Valves for Merox Unit Revamp.	Tk. 100/-	11-03-97	12-03-97	24-03-97
ER/PUR/IT-15/97	Various Pressure Gauge & bi-metallic temperature gauge.	Tk. 200/-	24-03-97	25-03-97	15-04-97

Tender documents may be obtained from (i) Accounts Officer (Cash) of Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong or (ii) Manager, Liaison Office, Eastern Refinery Limited, 338, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka on payment of the cost of Tender Schedule in Taka or equivalent currency (Non-refundable).

The tenders must be dropped in the tender-box kept in the Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong, Bangladesh as per date & time mentioned in the tender documents.

Eastern Refinery Limited Authority reserves the right not to accept the lowest or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

DFP-3622-18/2  
G-521

**Syed Ahmed**  
Sr. Purchase Officer

## Coca-Cola named America's most admired co

The Coca-Cola Company has once again been named America's most admired company in an annual survey by Fortune magazine, one of the world's leading business publications, says a press release.

Coca-Cola was also voted number one for its financial soundness, value quality of products and services, quality of management, and community and environmental responsibility.

More than 13,000 senior executives and analysts participated in the survey to rank 431 Fortune 1,000 companies in eight key attributes.

The magazine cited Coca-Cola's strong business performance as a dominant factor in its reputation. "It earned 3.5 billion US dollars last year, a 17 per cent increase over 1995."



Yussuf Abdullah Harun, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), presenting a Crest emblem of FBCCI to Mrs Marion Arnot-Job, Mayor of Birmingham, UK, at a meeting with FBCCI at the Federation auditorium on Monday.

**BCIC International Tender Notice**

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

General Manager (Purchase), BCIC, BCIC Bhaban (16th floor), 30-31, Dilkusha C/A., Dhaka invites sealed quotation under 2 (two) envelope system against Tender Enquiry No. PUR-3.1442/96-97 dated 12-02-1997 for 25,000 MT (- 10% at buyer's option) Rockphosphate (65.5% BPL Min.) on C&F (C) Chittagong liner terms basis under Cash Foreign Exchange. Offers shall be received up to 11.00 AM on 11-03-1997 and shall be opened immediately thereafter. Tender documents will be available on payment of Tk. 750.00 per set (non-refundable) from (i) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, Dhaka (ii) Sr. General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong.

Earnest money as 1% of the total quoted value. No Tender Documents will be sold on the date of opening and no late offer shall be accepted. Buyer reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

BCIC 140-15/2/97  
DFP-3558-17/2

G-518