

## Tea demand strengthens at Ctg auction

CHITTAGONG, July 15: The demand of all grades of tea became strong again at the weekly sale held here yesterday, reports BSS.

According to market sources, prices of most types were dearer. Polish buyers were more active on bold brokens and this appreciated by Taka two to three, while Pakistan and Afghanistan lent strong support to medium and small brokens which were also firm to dearer.

Pakistan also operated for a fair weight of medium brokens at slightly lower rates internal buyers including blenders were more active for well made teas which were dearer.

Bold and large brokens were strongly contested for and were dearer especially the former. Medium and small brokens were initially slightly easier but with the progress of sale were firm to dearer particularly towards the close when prices appreciated by Tk 1 to Tk 2.50 over last week.

All clean grainy fannings met with strong demand and were firm to dearer by Tk 1 while popular types advanced by Tk 2 to 3 and sometimes more depending on quality. However, mediums were steady and often eased by Tk 1 to 1.50 plain types were eased by up to Tk 2.

A total of 160 chests were on offer which met with a strong demand. Fine Young Hysen (FYH) sold at Tk 112 young Hysen between Tk 105 and Tk 107 and Hysen at Tk 90 (8).

A total of 2,296 chest 2,773 gunny sacks (108 chests and 32 gunny sacks of old season) were on offer met with fair demand. Well made good liquoring types eased by Tk 1 to Tk 2 while others declined by Tk 2 to Tk 4 with substantial withdrawals.

Powder types met with some competition and sold well. Loose tea trade was active with only some support from the blenders.

In all 19,857 chests, 9,823 gunny sacks (97 chests of old season) were on offer in the sale.

## Maize farmers in Nandail facing problems

MYMENSINGH, July 15: Maize farmers in Nandail thana here have been facing serious problems in marketing their produce due to absence of any government purchasing centre, reports UNB.

The farmers cultivated maize on 300 acres of land in Fulbaria of Chandipasha union and Shaldhara of Gangal union during the current season and produced about 15,000 maunds of maize.

But they could not sell their product as there is no demand for maize in the local market and the government is not running any purchasing centre for them.

Maize producers said frustration gripped them as they failed to cover the production cost and uncertainty prevails over cultivation in the next season.

## BKB recovers Tk 880 cr in '97-98

Bangladesh Krishi Bank recovered Taka 880 crore during the fiscal year '97-98 which is Taka 79.00 crore higher compared to the preceding year.

During the same period, the BKB disbursed Taka 848 crore. The amount of disbursement is Taka 67 crore higher than that of the previous year.

The bank has doubled its deposit mobilisation in the year over the previous year, says a press release.

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