

## Economy

Gas officials recently defended their position against gas export by foreign companies. The gas companies are pushing for gas export for quick payback of their investment on the rationale that Bangladesh would not be able to purchase the gas produced by them by paying in foreign currency, due to slim forex reserve. But gas officials argued that the proceeds of gas purchase by gas-based power plants in the pipeline will be sufficient to meet the forex requirement for paying the gas extracting companies.

Gas Fields Under operation	Operated by	Current Extract mmmcf	Capacity mmmcf	Total Expected Extractio	Tariff \$ per '000 cft	Foreign currency payment Per year <sup>1</sup>
Sangu	Shell/Cairn	60-100	160	550	1.72-3.05	\$200-400m
Jalalabad	Unocal/Occi	60-100	150		1.38-2.84	
Gas fields in pipeline						
Bibiana	Unocal/Occil	-	400		-	

<sup>1</sup> After adjustment of government share (15-30%)

Existing Power Plants	Capacity MW	Builder	Status	Consumption of Gas mmmcf (E)	Gas Purchase Price \$ per '000 cft	Forex Payment Per year
Khulna Barge Mounted	110	Wartsilla Inc.	Under operation	450-550	1.117	\$200-430m
Hariur Barge Mounted	110	Smithco Gen	Under operation			
BaghaBari Barge Mounted	100	Westmont Power	Under operation			
Meghnaghat	420	AES Corp	In pipeline			
Haripur	360	AES Corp	In pipeline			
Baghabari	130	Midland Power	In pipeline			
Mymensingh	60x2 = 120	Rural Power Company	In pipeline			

The proposed and existing power plants - total more than 1000 MW expected by the next 5 years - can consume 450-550 mmmcf while existing operating and prospective gas fields do not ensure more than 350 mmmcf additional gas supply during the period, the officials said. But the question of paying in foreign currency against purchasing power from those power plants remains unanswered.

Government has approved transit of Indian goods through Bangladesh. The deal has long been criticized by the opposition on the ground that it would promote smuggling into Bangladesh and jeopardize security. However, government argues that the transit will be used for transportation between two parts of India only, through the route, and not into Bangladesh. Bangladeshi vehicles will be used in the Bangladesh territory, as per the proposal.

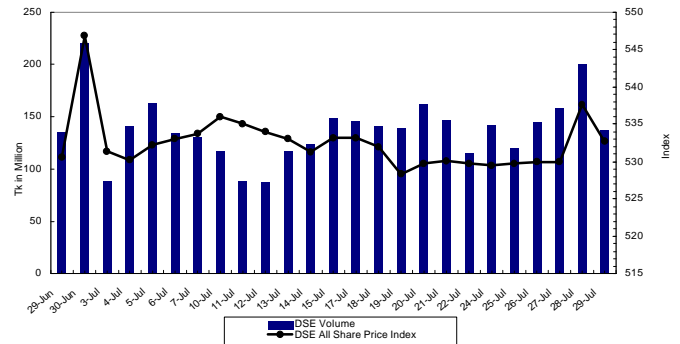
Biman, the national air carrier, is in a process of offering 40% shares to a strategic partner to be selected under Biman reorganization and commercialization program. Biman is now selecting the consultant for the program from the short-list of four firms : ANZ Investment Bank Consortium, UK/BD; Citibank NA; Fleming Consortium, UK; and ABT Associates, USA.

## Economic Indicators

Exchange Rate	1 US\$	= Tk 49.5
Bank Rate	8%	
Inflation Rate*	8.79%	Budget 1999-2000
Forex Reserve	\$ 1.514 b	Budget 1999-2000
Export Receipt	\$ 5.28 b	(1998-9)
Import Payment	\$ 8.20 b	(1998-9)

**Yawer Sayeed, Managing Director & CEO**  
**Shamsur Rahman, Manager, Research Group**  
**Mahmudul Bari, Manager, Fund Management Group**  
**Mizanur Rahman, Manager, F&A Group**

## Stock Market Movement



DSE v			CSE π		
This Week	Last Week	Change %	This Week	Last Week	Change %
532.65	529.78	0.54	220.42	223.93	-1.57

Index	532.65	529.78	0.54	220.42	223.93	-1.57
Average Daily Turnover (TkM)	145.63	142.99	1.85	57.17	41.93	36.35
Market Capital (TkM)	48,611	48,349	0.54	40,371	41,011	-1.56

## Market Commentary

The market was up this week except the last day. DSE All Share Price Index increased by 0.54% closing at 532.65 with enhanced turnover. CSE also experienced a sharp rise in turnover.

## Top 7 Gainers

Company	Average Price (Tk)			Avg. Daily Turnover Tk
	This Week	Last Week	Change %	
M. Hossain	75.0	63.0	19.05	3506307.14
Garments				
Dhaka Fisheries	168.0	146.0	15.07	20173771.43
Metalex	102.0	89.0	14.61	3715.71
Corporation				
Chic Tex	8.0	7.0	14.29	688714.29
National Oxygen	56.0	50.0	12.0	66011.43
Perfume Chemical	67.0	60.0	11.67	2240935.71
Sonali Aansh	242.0	217.0	11.52	4365.71

## Top 7 Losers

Company	Average Price (Tk)			Avg. Daily Turnover Tk
	This Week	Last Week	Change %	
Modern Dyeing	72.0	84.0	-14.29	6814.29
2nd ICB M.F.	400.0	465.0	-13.98	7307.14
Renwick Jaineswar	50.0	58.0	-13.79	17931.43
Bangas Ltd.	135.0	155.0	-12.9	19728.57
Rahim Textile	46.0	52.0	-11.54	1970.71
Monno Jutex	992.0	1100.0	-9.82	9280.0
National Life Ins.	172.0	190.0	-9.47	14064.29

## Top 7 Turnover Companies

Company	Average Price (Tk)			Avg. Daily Turnover Tk
	This Week	Last Week	Change %	
Dhaka Fisheries	168.0	146.0	15.07	20173771.43
Imam Button	104.0	108.0	-3.7	11837264.29
Gulf Food	143.0	149.0	-4.03	6428928.57
Rasplit Food	176.0	174.0	1.15	5609692.86
Tulip Dairy & Food	229.0	239.0	-4.18	5133162.86
Mona Food	88.0	84.0	4.76	4724628.57
Rose Heaven	17.0	16.0	6.25	3851285.71