

Purchase of treasury bonds mandatory in China

BEIJING, May 23: Unable to attract voluntary buyers for its treasury bonds, the Chinese government is ordering state and private enterprises to purchase them, an official newspaper said Sunday, reports AP.

The China Daily Business Weekly said the government plans to sell 6 billion yuan (1.05 billion dollar) worth of the bonds through the mandatory purchases. It said half of that amount is to be bought by state enterprises and institutions and half by private businesses.

Most enterprises will, in turn, require their employees to buy some of the bonds. The paper said the central government also has ordered provinces and cities to come up with their own policies for selling the bonds. By the end of April, only 4.6 billion yuan (807 million dollar) worth of bonds had been sold out of a total issue worth 30 billion yuan (5.28 billion dollar).

Until 1992, China sold its bonds each year through an elaborate and unpopular quota system in which each province, city and workplace was told how many bonds it had to sell. One month every spring, employers deducted a few weeks' pay from each worker's wages and handed the worker a couple of bonds.

The government switched last year to issuing bonds through underwriters, but many took a loss. This year's sales were even worse because of the bonds' uncompetitive interest rates.

On May 15, the government raised the rates from 10 per cent for three-year bonds to 12.52 per cent, and from 11 per cent for five-year bonds to 14.06 per cent.

Brazil's Finance Minister replaced

BRASILIA, May 23: President Itamar Franco named his foreign minister to the key post of Finance Minister Thursday amid a broader shakeup fueled by political infighting and an unprecedented economic crisis, reports AP.

It was the fourth time Franco has changed finance ministers since he took office six months ago upon the ouster of President Fernando Collor de Mello in a corruption scandal.

Little change was expected in the government's economic policy, which has been characterised by extreme Laissez Faire in the face of soaring inflation and empty state coffers. Outgoing Finance Minister Eliseu Resende told reporters after meeting with Franco that he would be replaced by Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a 62-year-old sociologist who was in New York when the shakeup came.

Explaining his resignation, Resende said his political credibility was damaged beyond repair by a Senate inquiry into allegations he arranged government loans to his previous employer, a civil engineering firm.

Resende was cleared of the charges May 13 but he told reporters, "I could not stay with the political damage I suffered."

"I felt myself to be in a humiliating position when I was forced to submit hotel bills," he said of the Senate inquiry.

Corrigendum

In our yesterday's story regarding Lever Brothers and Fisons Ltd, it was mistakenly said that Lever Brothers had taken over the latter. In fact, Lever Brothers have taken over only the toiletries division of Fisons (Bangladesh). Fisons will continue to operate their other divisions independently. Any confusion on this matter is regrettable.

270 plots created in Magura to cultivate HYV vegetables

MAGURA, May 23: Agriculture Minister M Majid ul Huq has said homestead vegetables production can ensure financial support and more vitamin-enriched food for the small farmers, reports UNB.

He said this while visiting the Homestead Vegetables Production Project at Harapir Adarsha Gram in the district on Saturday.

The homestead vegetables production was one of the suitable ways for the less-earning poor farmers to become self-reliant, the Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development

and Flood Control Minister said.

Some 270 demonstration plots have been created in the district this year to motivate small farmers for cultivating HYV vegetables.

Majid-ul-Huq inspected different plots and talked to the growers.

He instructed Agriculture Extension Department to provide maximum possible help and HYV seeds to the farmers.

The Minister also visited the construction site of a project to close Magura diversion channel near the town. The

project will be completed at a cost of Tk 17 lakh within next June.

About three hectares of land are expected to come under irrigation facilities after completion of the project.

Majid-ul-Huq instructed the concerned officials to complete the project within the scheduled time and supervise timely to check irregularities.

Earlier, the Minister attended a meeting of anti-smuggling task force activities and a review meeting of law and order situation at Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall.



AKM Mostafizur Rahman, Managing Director, Jiban Bima Corporation (Left) and Major (Rtd) Moktadir Ali, Managing Director, Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co Ltd exchanging deed of Group Insurance Agreement made in Dhaka recently.

'OPEC to hike production ceiling'

MANAMA, May 23: OPEC will hike its production ceiling to 24.5 million barrels a day in the third quarter, boosting Kuwait's demand for a quota increase, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali al-Baghlhi says, reports AP.

Al-Baghlhi told the Al-Hayat daily, in an interview published Sunday, that he based his prediction for July-September on anticipated demand of 24.2 million barrels a day forecast by OPEC's economic committee, with 600,000-700,000 barrels daily for stockpiling added.

"The anticipated rise in demand ... plus building a stockpile ... will lead to an increase in demand of around 1.2 million barrels," he told the Arabic-language daily during a tour of the Saudi Arabian, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates capitals.

"The ceiling will be at least

24.5 million barrels a day, because OPEC's production in March and April was within this range, while the ceiling was 23.582 million barrels a day and the prices were fluctuating."

Al-Hayat, which is London-based but also prints in Bahrain, said Al-Baghlhi was hopeful this would allow Kuwait's production quota to be hiked to 2 million barrels a day, an increase of 400,000 barrels.

Kuwait has been pressing for a higher quota from the 17-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, whose leaders are scheduled to meet in Geneva on June 8 to set the third-quarter ceiling.

The emirate argues that it needs the extra export revenues to pay for rebuilding the economy shattered by Iraq's 1990 invasion and 7-month

occupation.

Three other OPEC members in the Gulf Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates—are also members with Kuwait of the Gulf Cooperation Council with Kuwait.

Several OPEC states have been over-producing in the second quarter, violating the ceiling of 23.582 million barrels a day set for the March-June period.

This has been a factor in blocking OPEC efforts to push up prices to the target range of 21 dollar a barrel. Prices have been fluctuating around two dollar below that.

Al-Baghlhi said he and the Saudi, Qatari and UAE oil minister will meet again June 7 in Geneva, the day before the OPEC ministerial session starts.

He said he plans to visit Tehran Tuesday.

Russian govt, central bank to fight inflation together

MOSCOW, May 23: The Russian government and the central bank have agreed to cooperate closely in managing the economy through a strict credit policy and measures to counter inflation, Interfax news agency said Friday, reports AP.

Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin meanwhile predicted the Russian economy would pick up this year but warned the country was still "balancing on the edge of hyperinflation," Russian radio said.

The government, together with the central bank and IMF economists, had worked out a draft joint statement on economic policy to be used as the basis for a new three-billion-dollar credit to aid Russian market reforms, Interfax said.

The document calls for the government and the bank to work out fiscal, monetary and credit policies with the aim of cutting the monthly inflation rate, currently hovering around 20 per cent, to less than 10 per cent by the end of the year and to stabilise prices.

The agreement, if confirmed, would mark a significant turn in relations between the cabinet and the central bank which have traded accusations of economic mismanagement for much of the last year.

The government has in particular blamed the central bank, which is nominally under the parliament's authority, for fueling inflation through granting easy credit in the form of subsidies to unproductive and faltering state indus-

tries. According to the draft statement, the government and the bank will eschew new targeted credits and will allow subsidies to industry only within the context of the state budget worked out by the government.

The central bank would also "substantially increase" the cash reserves accessible by fledgling commercial banks either through auction or direct new credit lines, the report said.

The government plans to curtail the budget deficit by cutting tax breaks and special subsidies for importers and plans to acquire additional revenue through introduction of new energy taxes, the report said.

Accord to end German steelworkers' strike

BERLIN, May 23: Negotiators for East German steelworkers and their employers reached agreement early Sunday on a new contract to end a three-week strike, reports AP.

Under the deal, the wages of about 20,000 steelworkers in former East Germany would gradually be raised to the levels of their western counterparts by April 1, 1996 said Horst Wagner, negotiator for the IG Metall labour union.

On June 1, wages would be increased to 80 per cent of western levels and to 90 per cent in October 1994, he said.

Eastern steelworkers' salaries are currently at 60 per

cent of western levels.

The agreement, reached after a 13-hour marathon bargaining session, now goes to the rank-and-file for a vote, probably on Tuesday, Wagner said.

Their approval would end the first strike in eastern Germany in six decades.

More than 40,000 eastern metalworkers and steelworkers walked out of their jobs three weeks ago after employers scrapped an agreement that promised them western wages by next year.

The broken accord also would have raised eastern pay by 26 per cent as of April 1, 1993.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 23/05/93						
Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L/Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Leaving	Date of Arrival
J/1	Orsha	Cement	Sing	USTC	06/5	30/5
J/2	Gold Asia (48)	GL	Bang	AML	20/5	23/5
J/3	Norbulk Namir	Cement	Visa	BOAL	15/4	27/5
J/4	Komsomlets					
	Rosati	GI	Bella	Sunbeam	15/5	25/5
J/5	Marine Three	Repair	Mad	BML	16/5	30/5
J/6	Banglar Shobha	Repair	Sing	BSC	20/5	25/5
J/7	Kamaleverett	GI	Sing	EBPL	20/5	25/5
J/8	Samudra Raj	Repair	Kara	SSL	11/5	25/5
J/9	Jiang Cheng	GI	S Hat	BDSHP	20/5	25/5
J/10	Endurance Sea	Repair	Agaba	CLA	25/1	25/5
J/11	Vishva					
	Kaumudi (E/L)	E/L	Mong	SSL	22/5	25/5
J/12	Eponyma (Cont)	Cont	Sing	CTS	21/5	25/5
J/13	Xin Ji	Cement	Lach	Khansons	15/4	23/5
MPB/1	Andrian					
	Goncharov	Cont	Sing	CT	22/5	25/5
MPB/2	Fong Yun	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	19/5	23/5
OCJ	Navick (Ebb)	Chink	Sing	UMAL	25/4	26/5
TSP	Dignity	R Phos	Anra	TSLL	22/5	31/5
RM/4	Tanary Star	Cement	Sing	PSAL	16/5	26/5
DDJ	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	Mong	BSC	R/1	27/5
DD	Banglar Gourab	Repair	Mong	BSC	14/5	26/5
DDJ/2	Banglar Asha Ebb	Repair	Mong	BSC	R/A	25/5
CJFLJ	Smit Lombok	P Mat	Sing	Anchor	31/1	31/8

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Banglar Robi 15/5	23/5	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Sokol	05/6	-	CT	GL	-
Banglar Kiron	26/5	Kara	BSC	Coronado	-
Vishava Umarg	23/5	Visa	PSAL	Cement	-
Vishava Shakti	24/5	Bomb	SSL	GI	-
Bervalla 16/5	24/5	Sing	ULA	Cont	USA FE
Chillan	24/5	L Ang	MSPL	Scraping	-
T T Aias	24/5	Sing	OTL	Scraping	-
Nezabudka	25/5	T Para	USTC	Cement	-
Ronjyar Choomie	25/5	-	USTC	Cement	-
I Yambeuranko 19/5	26/5	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Continent-1	25/5	Cal	CLA	GI	-
Agra	26/5	Sing	PSAL	Cement	-
Safina-e-Ismail-2	26/5	Kara	ASL	GI/CL	Karachi
Fong Shin 15/5	27/5	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Meng Kat 2/5	29/5	Sing	AML	Cont	Cal
Karableverett	27/5	Sing	EBPL	GI	FE ST
NGS Express 20/5	28/5	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Banglar Mont 18/5	28/5	Sing	BSC	Cont	Col
Optima 22/5	29/5	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Ingenuty 15/5	30/5	-	RSL	Cont	Col
Trans Asia	31/5	Yang	BOAL	GI	-
Kota Buana 22/5	01/6	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Kang An Kou	02/6	-	BHA	GI (Car)	-
Smolny	03/6	Col	BHA	GI	Harb&Pol
Keban	06/6	-	BSC	Steel Billets	-
Tin Ghi Shan	10/6	-	Khansons	Cement	-

TANKER DUE

Esso Bayonne	26/5	Sing	MSPL	HSD/JP-1
Petr Shmidt	30/5	Sing	Seacom	Soya Oil

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Sea Rhapsody	C Clink	Visa	UMAL	4/5
NGS Ranger	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	22/5
Loyal Bird			Litmond	R/A (8/5 at 1242)

VESSELS READY

Ready on				
Sea Rhapsody	C Clink	Visa	UMAL	4/5
NGS Ranger	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	22/5
Loyal Bird			Litmond	R/A (8/5 at 1242)

VESSELS NOT READY

Estaratios-G	Wheat (G)	ANT	LTL	20/5
Al Reza	Repair	Mong	Seacom	21/5
Banglar Sampad	Wheat (G)		Lams	R/A (22/5)

VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Chipsam	Cement	Tiliz	PSAL	14/4
Banglar Jyoti			BSC	R/A (17/5)

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Stern	Scraping	Mong	NFT (P)	9/4
Ortiga	Scraping	Mall	ARL	15/5
Sea Progress	Cement	Fida	AML	21/5
Coronado	Wheat (G)	Jedd	Ancient	22/5

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 24.05.93

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/5 Marine		
Three (Repair)	J/2 Vishva Shakti (GI)	J/8 Samudra Raj (Repair)/J/5 J/8 A Reza (Urea)
	GSJ: Q of Heart (Wheat)	

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

Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Banks' BC selling and TT (C), OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on May 23, 24 and 22.

Currency	Selling B.C.	T. T. (C)	Buying OD
US Dollar	39.9326	39.7087	39.4556
Pound Sterling	61.5911	61.2731	60.8050
DM	24.5739	24.4211	24.2654
FF	7.2983	7.2534	7.2072
S Riyal	10.6740	10.6142	10.5465
D Guilders	21.9289	21.7880	21.6492
S Kroner	5.4824	5.4479	5.4132
Singapore Dollar	24.7184	24.5798	24.4231
UAE Dirham	10.9096	10.8485	10.7793
Kuwait Dinar	133.4188	132.6707	131.8251
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2725	1.2684	1.2621
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.4820	1.4754	1.4680

Authorised dealers will apply T T clean buying rate for purchase of remittances of Bangladeshis working abroad.

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on May 23, 1993

Index, turnovers continue to rise

The DSE Composite Index and both the turnovers maintained upward trend on Sunday.

The DSE index reached 373.1183 from 372.9985 carrying a gain of 0.119 point. Turnover in volume increased from 7539 issues to 10476, a rise of 38.957 per cent. And the turnover in value term made a gain of 51.739 per cent. It advanced to Taka 1026912.00 from Taka 676757.75.

Gainers dominated the floor. Number of stocks traded on the day totalled 38 against Saturday's 41. Gainers outnumbered losers by 18 to 10. The rest (10) were traded at previous rates.

DAY'S TRADING AT A GLANCE

DSE Share Price Index	373.1183
Market Capitalisation (Tk)	10,667,328,573.00
Turnover in Volume	10476
Turnover in Value (Tk)	1026912.00

Company's name	Previous price Tk	Closing price (absolute) Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change Number (% over of shares price)	Volume sold
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Gains (18)

National Bank	91.29	91.50	0.21	0.230	14
UCBL	90.00	91.00	1.00	1.111	51
4th ICB M Fund	150.67	151.00	0.33	0.291	50
BGIC	173.00	173.13	0.13	0.075	100
BD Lamps	230.00	232.00	2.00	0.869	5
Monno Staffers	152.00	155.00	3.00	1.973	5
Bengal Food	122.63	123.09	0.46	0.375	818
Ctg Vegetables	69.50	70.00	0.50	0.719	