

US pushing privatisation in foreign aid programmes

WASHINGTON, May 15: The United States is pushing privatisation in its foreign aid programmes, especially in the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union (NIS) and Eastern Europe, according to Clinton Administration officials who testified before a US House of Representatives panel, reports USIS.

Lawrence Summers, the Treasury Department's under secretary for international affairs, told members of the House Committee on Small Business recently that there was no better alternative to privatization to reform the command economies of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Committee Chairman John LaFalce expressed concern that privatization is not distributing benefits equitably.

"We see too much of the so-called nomenklatura or patron privatization which excludes adequate opportunity for a broader-based process that would enhance the socio-economic conditions of the greater body politic — what I would call: Empowerment Privatization," LaFalce said.

Summers, assured the chairman that the United States has been addressing the question of equitable distribution, especially in Russia. He said a special \$3,000-million programme for restructuring and privatization in Russia, created by the heads of the Group of Seven industrial countries at the 1993 Tokyo Economic Summit last July,

contains components that address equitable distribution.

Summers stressed that if privatization is properly organized and implemented it can be a major tool to promote economic democracy."

Carol Lancaster, deputy administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), said USAID is spending around \$350 million on privatization programmes worldwide in the current fiscal year, with nearly \$300 million of the total going to the NIS and Eastern Europe.

Lancaster said USAID is planning to launch an enterprise fund to encourage small-scale privatization in South Africa just as it did in Eastern Europe.

Ambassador Thomas Simons, Jr., the State Department's coordinator for US assistance to the NIS, said the United States has supported the establishment of equity funds that will provide capital, technical assistance, and governance both to small enterprises and to enterprises emerging from the mass privatization programme in Russia.

He said the US government has eight funds — either operational or in the pipeline — that can support up to \$2,000 million in financing throughout the NIS. They include five that are congressionally financed enterprise funds and three that are private funds sponsored by the Overseas Private

Investment Corporation.

In addition, Simons said the United States has contributed to a multilateral fund managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to service small enterprises in Russia.

He reported that over 50 per cent of Russian industry has now been transferred to private ownership. Around 10,000 large enterprises, employing about 10 million workers and representing approximately 50 per cent of large enterprises, have sold shares through voucher auctions, according to Simons, and another 20 per cent of large firms are to be privatized by July 1.

In addition, as of April around 100,000 small shops and service businesses, accounting for 80 per cent of the total, had been privatized, he said.

Ambassador Ralph Johnson, the State Department's coordinator for East European assistance, said bank privatization and the creation of local investment banking capabilities is the last frontier in Central European privatization.

Johnson said the most successful efforts to date in bank privatization have been in Poland — where USAID, EBRD and the World Bank are working together — and in the Czech Republic, where strong local leadership has allowed USAID to play a key role with specific institutions.

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New Zealand to boost trade ties with Southeast Asia

WELLINGTON, May 15: Prime Minister Jim Bolger left New Zealand today for a week-long trip to boost trade ties with Southeast Asia, reports Reuter.

"We recognise our destiny increasingly lies with Asia, and it is timely to be visiting these countries," Bolger said before leaving on a tour of Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

All three are members of the association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which bought just under seven per cent of New Zealand's export in 1993 and accounted for 4.5 per cent of its imports.

Officials said Bolger, who toured north Asian countries last year, would focus mainly on trade and regional issues.

These could include a proposal floated by Thailand and backed by Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating for a common trade zone embracing the ASEAN countries and Australasia.

In Indonesia, Bolger will hold talks with President Suharto and senior cabinet ministers, and has said he will raise New Zealand's concerns over human rights in East Timor.

More than half New Zealand's 99 members of parliament signed a petition this month protesting against alleged massacres and torture since Indonesia invaded the territory in 1975.

Bolger will meet the Prime Ministers of Singapore and Malaysia and address business audiences in both countries.



Photo taken 13 April '94 of Nancy Wake, 81, Australian heroine of the French resistance posing at her home. Nancy Wake will sell her war medals at auction by Christies today in Melbourne before going to visit France for D-Day commemorations.

— AFP photo

Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on May 15. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	TT & OD	EC	TT Clean	OD
US Dollar	40.2995	40.3285	40.1010	40.0170
Pound Sterling	60.4291	60.4726	59.6406	59.5158
DM	24.2521	24.2695	23.8782	23.8282
F Franc	7.0713	7.0764	6.9628	6.9483
C Dollar	29.4082	29.4294	28.9617	28.9010
S Franc	28.4078	28.4282	27.9728	27.9142
Jap Yen	0.3876	0.3879	0.3779	0.3771
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2908	1.2973	1.2754	1.2594
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3195	1.3261	1.3037	1.2874
Iranian Rial (AMU)	0.0231	0.0232	0.0228	0.0225
A) T. T. (DOC) US Dollar Spot	Buying Tk 40.0590			
B) Usance Rates:				
30 Days DA	60 Days DA	90 Days DA	120 Days DA	180 Days DA
39.7507	39.4666	39.1826	38.8985	38.3304
C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk. 40.0170				
D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Tk. 40.5285				

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on May 15, 1994

Index falls by 14 points

Star Report

The Dhaka Stock Exchange All Share Price Index fell by about 14 points on Sunday.

The price index dropped to 648.92411 from 662.76131, a sharp decline of 13.84 points or 2,087 per cent.

The turnovers on the DSE rose slightly. The turnover in volume increased by 16 per cent and the turnover in value showed a gain of nine per cent.

A total of 28,527 shares worth Tk 60,53,853.50 changed hands as against 24,592 shares valued at Tk 55,54,236.00 of the previous day.

The number of issues traded fell to 46 from 49. Of them, 18 incurred losses, 16 gained and 12 traded at previous rates.

Ctg cement led the losers in terms of volume. Its 5975 shares were traded.

Beximco Ltd (5500), Bata Shoe (1900), BD Thai Aluminium (830), Ctg Vegetable (780) and Ambee Pharma (900) also incurred significant losses in terms of volume.

In terms of value, BTC topped the losers' list with a fall of Tk 20.00 per share.

Beximco Synthetic dominated the gainers' list in terms of volume. The company's 3420 shares were traded.

Eastern Cable (1255), Zeal Bangla Sugar (2700) and Apex

Footwear (520), among the gainers, experienced remarkable gains in terms of volume.

NTC led the gainers in terms of value, with a rise of Tk 25.29 per share.

Trading at a glance

DSE All Price Index	648.92411
Market	Capitalisation 2,952,14,28,469.80
Turnover in Volume	28,527
Turnover in Value	60,53,853.50
Company's name	Change (per share) Number of shares traded

Gainers (16)

5th ICB M Fund	1.00	100
Eastern Cable	0.01	1255
NTC	25.29	17
Zeal Bangla Sugar	0.14	2700
Mutual Jute	15.00	10
Talii Spinning	2.40	50
Padma Textile	8.67	240
Beximco Pharma	6.25	225
Glaxo BD	10.00	40
Kohinoor Chemical	0.55	25
Beximco Synthetic	4.96	3420
Apex Tannery	1.76	40
Monna Ceramic	20.88	15
Usmania Glass	2.87	75
Apex Footwear	6.18	520
Eastern Insurance	0.55	460

Losers (18)

National Bank	1.00	5
6th ICB M Fund	0.50	320
Karim Pipe	2.00	38
Singer BD	2.47	72
Adas BD	1.24	50
BD Thai Aluminium	3.88	830
BTC	20.00	60
Dhaka Vegetable	2.31	180
Ctg Vegetable	1.94	780
Dulamia Cotton	8.00	20
Ambee Pharma	0.59	900
Beximco Infusion	6.85	120
Bata Shoe	0.72	1900
Beximco Ltd	0.07	5500
Ctg Cement	0.67	5975
United Insurance	14.29	70
BCL (Deb)	4.25	16
Beximco (Deb)	215.00	1

Issues (12) unchanged

Bengal Carbide (16), BD Autocars (10), Amam Sea Food (180), Rupon Oil (400), BD Oxygen (225), Shine Pukur Jute (5), Desh Garments (130), Rahman Chemicals (510), Wata Chemical (40), GQ Ball Pen (460), BGIC (520), Beximco Infusion Deb (1).

DSE Shares and Debentures

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)
BANKS (12)		
Al-Baraka Bank	1000/1	800.00
A.B. Bank	100/5	180.00
City Bank	100/5	280.00
Eastern Bank	100/20	110.00
IDLC Ltd	100/20	436.00
IFLC	100/5	170.00
Islam Bank	100/10	110.00
National Bank	100/10	124.00
Pubali Bank	100/5	