

China to open railways to foreign management

BEIJING, May 30: China is to open its railways to foreign management, offering preferential investment policies to help the backward sector catch up with the demands of the booming economy, the China Daily said today, reports AFP.

Under the new policies being drafted by the Ministry of Railways, foreign investors will be permitted to set up independently managed railway joint ventures, which will be given greater freedom in setting prices than state-run companies, the paper quoted a ministry official as saying.

At present, some 53,300 kilometres (32,860 miles) of track cover a landmass of 9.6 million square kilometres (3.8 million square miles).

Railway officials blame the

slow development of the industry on artificially low state-set prices, which not only result in excess demand and low revenues but also act as an obstacle to investment.

The system can now cope with only 68 per cent of total freight needs, they say, putting the losses to the Chinese economy caused by the gridlock at 500 billion yuan (57.4 billion dollars) last year and forecasting the sector itself will lose 10 billion yuan in 1994.

An Shunyi, deputy head of the ministry's foreign capital and technical import office, said the new joint ventures would be permitted a fairly wide business scope, including authorisation for railside real estate developments, to help

China announced plans last year to spend 600 million dollars on foreign technology to upgrade the rail sector, aiming to expand total line length to 60,000 kilometres (37,200 miles) by 1995.

Experts say China's present needs total 100,000 kilometres of track.



Senior officials of Biman Bangladesh Airlines and Saudia are seen discussing different issues of mutual interest at Biman Bhaban in the city yesterday. Ahmed S Bahman, General Manager, International and Hajj Affairs of Saudia and A H Salahuddin, Director, Marketing and Sales of Biman led their respective sides at the meeting.

Iran bans importers from buying hard currency on open market

TEHRAN, May 30: Iran on Saturday banned all importers from buying hard currency on the open market in a bid to cut demand for the dollar and halt the slide of the rial, reports AFP.

The new measure, which caps a series of efforts to curb imports, requires all foreign purchases to be ordered instead through the country's state banking system, the central bank said.

It also requires importers to register their orders at the commerce ministry and present a certificate of exchange

from the banks before being able to release their goods from the customs office, it said.

In the past two months, the ministry has been authorizing the release of imported goods only if the owner deposited an equal amount of cash at the bank.

These restrictions, often costly and time-consuming, had so far applied only to state companies, while private importers could still turn to the open market for their hard currency.

The latest measure is designed to further tighten im-

ports, which have dropped from 23 billion dollars in 1992 to seven billion dollars last year, according to official figures.

The restrictions on imports have been adopted to cut private demand for hard currency and enable the government to repay some 30 billion dollars in short and medium-term foreign debts.

The fall in imports also came as Iran's trade partners refused to honour Iranian letters of credit after the country came up with a payment areas of some 13 billion dollars.

The Daily Star BUSINESS

Kuwait's oil exports may be cut

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 30: Kuwait's oil exports are expected to be cut by up to 200,000 barrels a day in the second half of the year because of increased domestic refinery demands, the Middle East Economic Survey reported Monday, reports AP.

The arrears, accumulating from loans and interest, increased to 152.5 Arab Accounting Dinars (AAD) (645 million dollars) at the end of 1993 from 147.2 million AAD at the end of 1992, it said in a report.

The 1993 arrears included around 401 million dollars in principal loans, 45 million dollars in interest and the rest in outstanding interest.

Iraq, reeling under a UN embargo, emerged as the biggest defaulter, with arrears of 269.4 million dollars.

It was followed by Sudan with arrears of 252.5 million dollars, Somalia with 122.6

dollars. The newsletter said the throughput in Kuwait's refineries, currently at 700,000 barrels a day, was due to increase to 800,000 barrels daily later this year when a distillation unit at the Mina al-Ahmad refinery resumes operations.

Kuwait oil installations, including its three refineries, were heavily damaged during the Iraqi occupation following the 1990 invasion.

The newsletter, published in Nicosia, said once the Mina al-Ahmad unit was restored, that facility would process 400,000 barrels a day, the Mina Abdullah refinery 245,000 barrels daily and the Shuiba refinery 155,000 barrels daily.

The weekly newsletter noted that about 150,000 barrels of crude a day — Kuwait share of production from the Neutral Zone shared with Saudi Arabia — are being marketed separately by the Japanese-owned Arabian Oil Co.

Huge phone bills remain unpaid in Barisal

BARISAL, May 30: More than Taka four crore telephone bills have been lying outstanding in eleven southern districts under Barisal telecommunications zone, reports UNB.

According to Barisal T & T and Revenue office sources, of the total bills, about Taka 1.75 crore remained outstanding with the semi-government offices while Taka 2.50 crore with the private sector consumers.

Besides, Taka 1.20 crore remained outstanding against about one thousand closed telephones in the zone.

There are about 11,000 telephone consumers in the zone, the Revenue office sources said.

Note : AMU—Asian Monetary Unit

Arrear problem hits Arab Monetary Fund

ABU DHABI, May 30: The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the main official lending institution in the region, said yesterday its problem of arrears was worsening with Iraq and other member states unable to pay back loans, reports AFP.

The arrears, accumulating from loans and interest, increased to 152.5 Arab Accounting Dinars (AAD) (645 million dollars) at the end of 1993 from 147.2 million AAD at the end of 1992, it said in a report.

The 1993 arrears included around 401 million dollars in principal loans, 45 million dollars in interest and the rest in outstanding interest.

Iraq, reeling under a UN embargo, emerged as the biggest defaulter, with arrears of 269.4 million dollars.

It was followed by Sudan with arrears of 252.5 million dollars, Somalia with 122.6

dollars. The newsletter said the throughput in Kuwait's refineries, currently at 700,000 barrels a day, was due to increase to 800,000 barrels daily later this year when a distillation unit at the Mina al-Ahmad refinery resumes operations.

Kuwait oil installations, including its three refineries, were heavily damaged during the Iraqi occupation following the 1990 invasion.

The newsletter, published in Nicosia, said once the Mina al-Ahmad unit was restored, that facility would process 400,000 barrels a day, the Mina Abdullah refinery 245,000 barrels daily and the Shuiba refinery 155,000 barrels daily.

The weekly newsletter noted that about 150,000 barrels of crude a day — Kuwait share of production from the Neutral Zone shared with Saudi Arabia — are being marketed separately by the Japanese-owned Arabian Oil Co.

Huge phone bills remain unpaid in Barisal

BARISAL, May 30: More than Taka four crore telephone bills have been lying outstanding in eleven southern districts under Barisal telecommunications zone, reports UNB.

According to Barisal T & T and Revenue office sources, of the total bills, about Taka 1.75 crore remained outstanding with the semi-government offices while Taka 2.50 crore with the private sector consumers.

Besides, Taka 1.20 crore remained outstanding against about one thousand closed telephones in the zone.

There are about 11,000 telephone consumers in the zone, the Revenue office sources said.

Note : AMU—Asian Monetary Unit

million dollars and the rest is owed by Syria and Yemen.

"The arrears problem is still putting strong pressure on the fund. This has hampered its lending activities," the report said.

The report showed a 13 million dollars credit to Mauritania was the only loan granted in 1993. Another loan of around 48 million dollars was approved for Yemen but it has yet to be signed.

This compared with an average five loans a year before the Gulf War, which caused a deep split among Arabs and aggravated the AMF problems.

The AMF was created by the Arab League in Abu Dhabi in 1976 with the primary aim of tackling its 22-member, balance of payments deficits. But the problem has persisted despite loans totalling nearly 2.4 billion dollars.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on May 30, 1994

Losers' domination continues

Star Report

The losers continued to dominate the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Monday while turnover in value rose.

Beximco Ltd led the 32 losers in terms of volume with 7400 shares traded.

Among the losers, National Bank (1099), Quasem Drycells (2250), Zeal Bangla Sugar (1600), Rupon Oil (2700), Ambed Pharma (2150) and Beximco Synthetic were also major volume leaders.

Singer Bangladesh Ltd, Beximco Pharma, Infusions, Ctg Cement and Eastern Insurance incurred losses significantly in terms of value.

Padma Textile dominated the list of 10 gainers in terms of volume. Its 55240 shares were traded.

The number of issues traded totalled 49, in which prices of seven issues remained unchanged.

The turnover in volume decreased by 41.53 per cent while the turnover in value showed a gain of 40.00 per cent.

A total of 99,771 shares worth Tk 2,69,41,861.50 changed hands on the floor as against Sunday's 1,70,645 shares valued at Tk 1,92,43,874.25.

The DSE All Share Price Index continued to fall. It de-

clined to 644,61922 from 647,50957, a decrease of 2.89 points.

Trading at a glance

DSE All Price Index 644,61922
Market capitalisation 2,932,55,86,571.82
Turnover in volume 99,771
Turnover in value 2,69,41,861.50

Company's name Change Number
(per share) of shares traded

Losers(32)

National Bank 5.00 1099
1st ICB M Fund 35.00 127
3rd ICB M Fund 5.00 20
6th ICB M Fund 3.60 990
Aftab Automobile 3.83 30

Eastern Cables 2.11 230
Karim Pipe 0.53 797
Singer BD 31.98 81
Atlas BD 0.50 400

Quasem Drycells 1.12 2250
Howlader PVC 0.46 40
BD Thai Aluminium 0.41 100
NTC 1.08 100
Zeal Bangla Sugar 0.10 1600
Rupon Oil 0.10 2700
BD Oxygen 0.27 450
Ashraf Textile 0.20 250
Eagle Star Textile 1.64 100
Dulamia Cotton 0.89 90
Ambed Pharma 0.85 2150
Kohinoor Chemical 4.43 240
Wata Chemical 1.25 40
Beximco Infusions 22.50 200
Beximco Synthetic 3.38 3300
Apex Tannery 3.38 755
Bata Shoe 2.77 920
Beximco Ltd 0.48 7400
Ctg Cement 10.23 2015
Apex Footwear 1.20 700
BGIC 2.74 270
Eastern Insurance 10.25 680

Gainers (10)

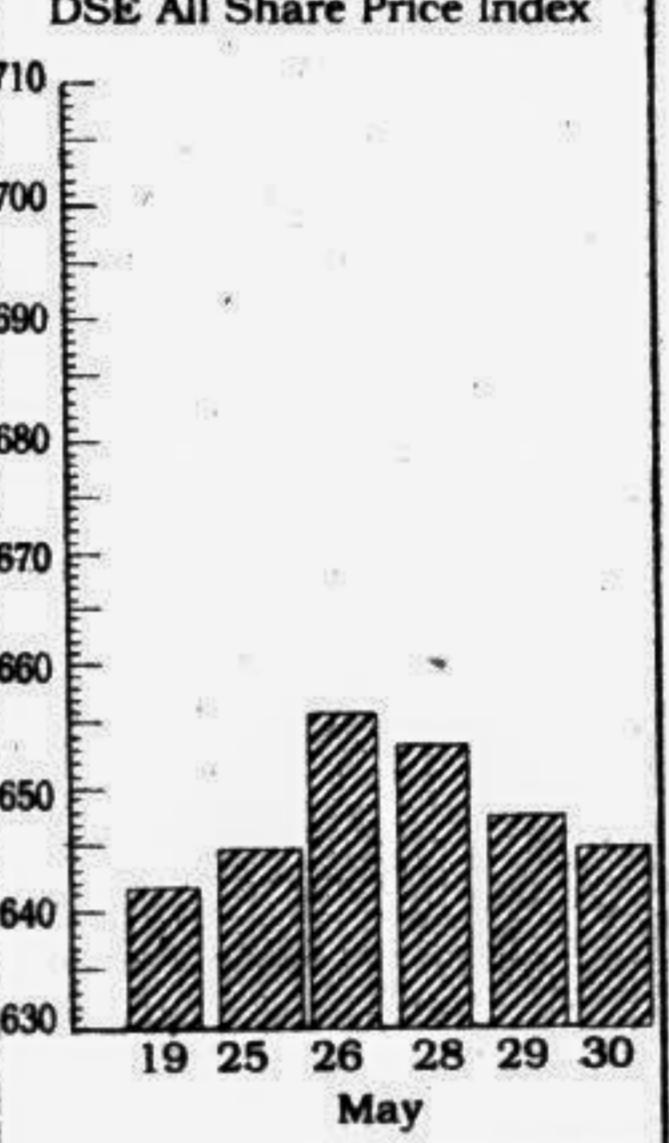
IFIC 2.00 3020
Islam Bank 17.00 1
Rupali Bank 2.10 10
Aziz Pipes 1.38 10
BD Lamps 10.00 39

People's Insurance 5.00 50
Tanjimuddin Textile 1.33 10020
Padma Textile 1.29 55240
BCIL (Deb) 6.82 11
Beximco (Deb) 3.13 78

Issues (7) unchanged

IDLC (20), BD Autocars (100), Desh Garments (760), ACI Ltd (50), Rahman Chemicals (190), Quasem Silk Deb (8), Apex Foods (5).

DSE All Share Price Index



DSE Shares and Debentures

Company FV/ML Closing Rate (Tk) (Tk)

BANKS (12)
Al-Baraka Bank 1000/1 800.00
A.B. Bank 100/5 185.00
City Bank 100/5 280.00
East Asia Bank 100/20 110.00
IDLC Ltd 100/20 436.00
IFLC 100/5 176.00
Islami Bank 100/1 1450.00
National Bank 100/5 120.00
Pubali Bank 100/5 66.90
Rupali Bank 100/10 69.00
U.C.B.L. 100/5 100.00
Uttara Bank 100/5 82.00

PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEMICALS (20)

Ambee Pharma 10/50 19.00
Bangla Process 100/5 51.00
BCL 100/10 460.00
Beximco Infusions 100/00 625.50
Beximco Pharma 10/5/10 51.71
B. Synthetics 100/20 262.66
Glaxo 10/50 110.00
A.C.I. 10/50 110.00
Kohinoor Chemical 10/5/10 108.33
N. Polymer 100/10 145.00
Petro Synthetic 10/50 10.00
Renata Ltd 100/5 710.00
Pharma Aids 100/5 269.00
Pharmaco 100/5 75.00
Progressive Plastic 100/5 40.00
Rackitt & Colman 10/50 95.00
Rahman Chemicals 100/10 55.00
Therapeutics 100/5 75.00
The Ibsina 100/10 115.00
Wata Chemical 100/20 260.00

ENGINEERING (19)

Aftab Automobiles 100/5 250.00
Atlas Bangladesh 10/50 64.50
Aziz Pipe 100/5 356.00
Bangladesh Autocars 100/5 53.00
Bangladesh Lamps 100/10 5144.00
B. Thai Aluminium 100/10 121.60
Bengal Carbide 100/5 530.00
Bengal Steel 10/50 20.00
Eastern Cables 100/5 127.21
Howlader PVC 100/10 68.25
Kartik Pipe 100/5 101.47
Metalax Corp. 100/5 62.47
Monno Stafflers 100/5 370.00
Monno Jute 100/10 90.00
National Tubes 100/10 89.89
Panther Steel 10/50 8.00
Quasem Drycells 10/50 16.68
Renwick Japewar 100/5 80.00
Singer Bangladesh 100/5 1914.98

PAPER & PRINTING (6)

Eagle Box 10/5 145.00
Monospool Paper 100/5 30.00
Paper Converting 100/5 85.00
Paper Processing 100/10 18.00
Padma Printers 10/50 50.00
Sonali Paper 10/50 40.00