

Turkey to trade food for Iraqi diesel

BAGHDAD, June 15: Turkey, its economy squeezed by the UN Gulf crisis trade blockade on Iraq, will soon resume supplying its southern neighbour with food and medicine in return for Iraqi diesel, diplomats say, reports Reuter.

Western countries, which helped eject Iraqi troops from Kuwait in 1991 are likely to turn a blind eye to the trade given that their ally Turkey is feeling the economic pinch and humanitarian supplies are allowed under the blockade, they add.

But the move, which traders say will slash the cost of food in Baghdad, is likely to be a boost for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein who has launched a crackdown on prices in a bid to hold his country's sanctions-shattered economy together.

"Up to 2,000 trucks are expected to enter Iraq everyday once they get the go-ahead from their government," said one diplomat.

The diplomat said Turkey believed that sanctions, in place since August 1990, had crippled the economy of its southeastern region, mainly

inhabited by a restive ethnic Kurdish minority.

"The whole infrastructure of the Turkish province of the southeast is dependent on trade with Iraq ... about 10 million people live there ... because of the embargo, they are suffering very much and companies there report great losses," he said.

Turkish trucks regularly crossed the border with food and other supplies in 1992. Drivers fixed extra tanks to their vehicles and took back cheap Iraqi fuel.

The trade dwindled when Ankara limited the amount of diesel fuel Turkish drivers could bring back.

UN sources in Baghdad say the highway is now almost empty, used only by trucks laden with UN relief supplies for Kurds.

The diplomat, just back from a visit to Turkey, said Ankara was now considering allowing drivers to bring back as much diesel as they want. "Signs are that a decision will be taken and implemented by the end of this month," the diplomat added.

Iraq was Turkey's main

trade partner before the security council imposed sanctions shortly after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Official statistics show that Iraq imported goods, mainly from Turkey's southeast, worth 2 billion dollar to 2.5 billion dollar per year. Ankara also received about 300 million dollar a year in transit fees from Iraq's oil exports through its territory.

Another diplomat said Iraq and Turkey finalised arrangements for the diesel trade during an April visit to Baghdad by Turkish Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Ozdem Sanberk. "It will be beneficial to both countries, particularly Iraq, now facing severe shortages in food and medical supplies," he added.

Political ties do not look so bright.

Iraq on Wednesday denounced a recommendation by Turkey's national security council to renew permission for western planes to use Turkish bases to patrol northern Iraq and said recent Turkish statements on a rapprochement had no meaning.

But diplomats said the two

had made up their minds to put political differences aside and resume trade within a framework that does not look as if Ankara is breaking the trade blockade.

The diplomats added that the western allies, enforcing the sanctions, can no longer ignore Turkish complaints of losses.

Very likely, western governments will be closing their eyes on the ongoing trade as long as it involves humanitarian supplies," one said.

"Mind you, it is going to help the Kurds, now under their (western) protection," one western diplomat added.

Iraq's rebel Kurds control about 100 km (63 miles) of the highway through northern Iraq. In the past the Turks paid them fees and are expected to do so once again.

But any move on reviving trade between Turkey and Iraq could be just a first step.

The western diplomat said that if sanctions remained in place this year Turkey would press the security council for an oil deal with Iraq similar to one which allows Baghdad to continue to meet Jordan's oil needs.

Egypt's \$4b Western debt forgiveness to be delayed

CAIRO, June 15: Egypt may have to wait up to six months to win four billion dollars of Western debt forgiveness due to be implemented in July, an Egyptian minister said.

Youssef Boutros Ghali told Reuters a review by the IMF of Egypt's economic reforms, which are tied to the issue of debt forgiveness, would not be completed for another few months.

"The International Monetary Fund is looking at two things — what has been done so far and what needs to be done in the future. There is a difference of view on one or two points," said Ghali, a Minister of State at the Prime Minister's office.

Asked when he expected final agreement on the debt forgiveness, he said: "Some time before the end of the year."

The four billion represent a final tranche of debt forgiveness offered by the Paris club of creditors under an accord reached with Egypt in 1991. The donors have already for-

given two tranches worth in total around six billion dollar.

In return, Egypt agreed to an IMF-World Bank programme of trade and currency liberalisation, privatisation, and tighter budget control.

Ghali said the discipline imposed by three years of reform had put Egypt's economy on a strong footing, citing a balance of payments surplus over one billion dollar last year, foreign reserves of 16.6 billion dollar and a fall in inflation to a 20-year low of 6.9 per cent.

"Reserves have not hit this level since the late 1940s, balance of payments (since) the early 1950s," he said.

Foreign debt, which economists put at around 35 billion dollars was the lowest "since the early 50s in terms of income and our capacity to service it."

Economists say the downside to the reforms has been a recession, but Ghali said Egypt emerged relatively unscathed compared to other countries undergoing similar changes.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on June 15, 1994

Ctg cement leads gainers

Star Report

Chittagong Cement Clinker led the gainer on the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) in both the value and volume terms on Wednesday.

The company dominated the list of 16 gainers with a rise of Tk 48.09 per share, its 5245 shares were traded.

Among the gainers, Eastern Cables (525), Dulamia Cotton (960) and Beximco Synthetic (980) were also major volume leaders of the day.

Quasem Drycells led 19 losers in terms of volume with 1400 shares traded.

Zeal Bangla Sugar (500), Apex Spinning (660), Beximco Pharma (908) and Bata Shoe (820) also incurred significant losses in terms of volume.

In terms of value, 1st ICB M Fund topped the losers' list with a decline of Tk 20.00 per share.

The turnover in volume on the DSE decreased by 40.74 per cent while the turnover in value showed an increase of 64.68 per cent.

A total of 17,475 shares worth Tk 58,78,681.00 changed hands on the floor as against Monday's 20,490 shares valued at Tk 35,69,757.50.

Trading at a glance

DSE All Share		
Price Index		632.06374
Market Capitalisation Tk		2,875,44,01,339.60
Turnover in Volume		17,475
Turnover in Value Tk		58,78,681.00
Company's name	Change (per share)	Number of shares traded

Gainers (16)

Aziz Pipes	4.50	10
Eastern Cables	0.59	525
Singer BD	11.27	335
Prologis Export	0.03	150
Dhaka Vegetable	0.22	320
Quasem Textile	0.10	250
Dulamia Cotton	5.00	960
Ambe Pharma	1.13	200
Pharma Aids	20.00	25
Beximco Synthetic	0.70	980
Apex Tannery	1.00	5
GQ Ball Pen	0.97	145
Monno Ceramic	1.05	455
Beximco Ltd	0.47	200
Ctg Cement	48.09	5245
Apex Footwear	1.56	480

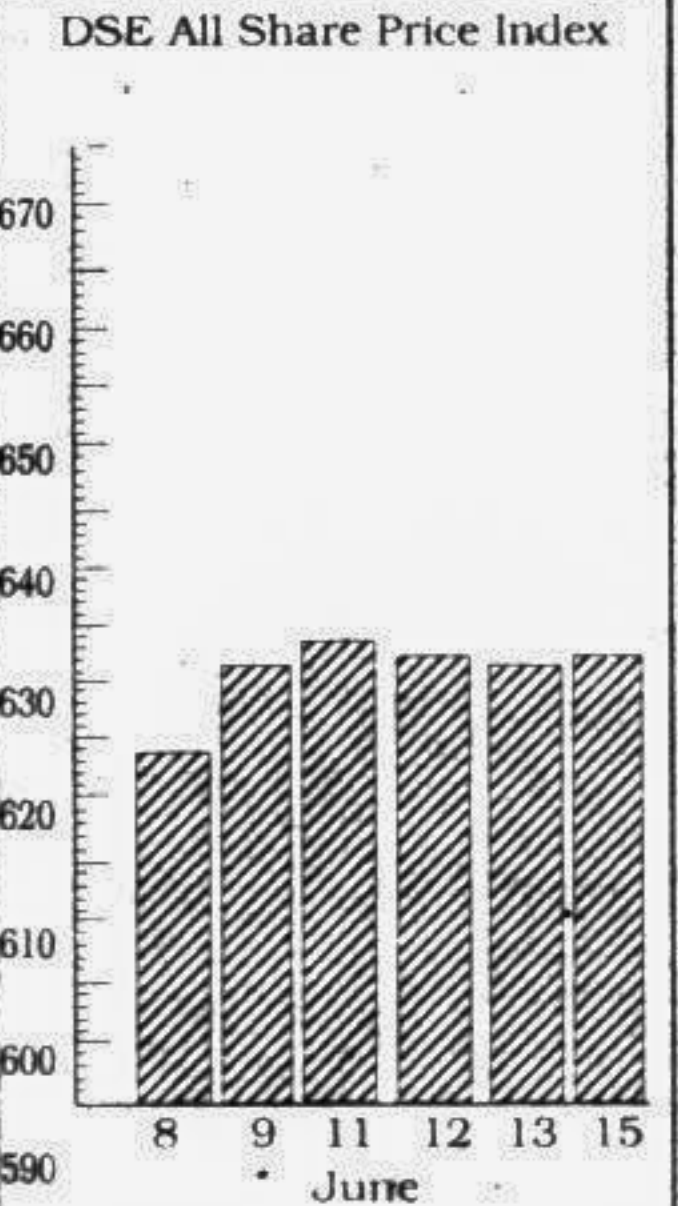
Losers (19)

1st ICB M Fund	20.00	50
5th ICB M Fund	5.67	150
6th ICB M Fund	1.25	470
Aftab Automobiles	3.00	5
Atlas BD	1.05	340
BD Autocars	2.00	15
Quasem Drycells	0.04	1400
Zeal Bangla Sugar	0.10	500
Rupon Oil	0.13	100
Saham Textile	1.00	30
Modern Dyeing	1.25	50
Tallu Spinning	0.09	120
Apex Spinning	7.18	660
Beximco Pharma	3.57	908
Rahman Chemicals	1.33	290
Beximco Infusion	6.85	40
Eagle Box	1.00	350
Bata Shoe	0.79	820
Eastern Insurance	0.77	420

Issues (12) unchanged

City Bank (5), Al Baraka Bank (8), BD Lamps (31), BTC (50), BD Oxygen (111), Kohinor Chemical (50), Wata Chemical (20), Aramit Ltd (100), Phoenix Leather (5), Usmania Glass (65), United Insurance (10), Beximco Deb (17).

The DSE All Share Price



DSE Shares and Debentures

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)	Padma-Textile	100/20	345.00
BANKS (12)					
Al-Baraka Bank	1000/1	810.00	Quasem Silk	100/100	3.77
A.B. Bank	100/5	185.00	Quasem Textile	100/50	5.20
City Bank	100/5	280.00	Rahim Textile	100/75	92.04
Eastern Bank	100/20	110.00	Saham Textile	100/10	80.00
IDLC Ltd	100/20	470.00	S.T.M. (ORD)	100/5	26.00
IFLC	100/5	170.00	Stylecraft	100/5	425.00
Islami Bank	1000/1	1460.00	Swan Textile	100/5	25.00
National Bank	100/5	700.00	Tallu Spinning	100/10	119.00
Pubali Bank	100/5	100.00	Tamjuddin	100/10	180.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	72.00	PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEMICALS (90)		
U.C.B.L	100/5	85.00	Ambe Pharma	100/50	19.00
Utara Bank	100/5	82.00	Bangla Process	100/75	40.00
INVESTMENT (8)					
1st ICB M Fund	100/5	116.15	BCCL	100/15	430.00
2nd ICB M Fund	100/5	280.68	Beximco Infusion	100/50	585.25
3rd ICB M Fund	100/5	245.00	Beximco Pharma	100/5	1495.00
4th ICB M Fund	100/10	250.00	B. Synthetics	100/20	250.48
5th ICB M Fund	100/10	171.00	Glaxo	100/50	140.00
6th ICB M Fund	100/10	124.96	A.C.I.	100/50	110.00
ICB Unit Cert.			Kohinor Chemical	100/5	105.00
Sale Price		122.00	N Polymer	100/10	140.00
Re-Purchase		117.00	Petro Synthetic	100/50	9.10
INSURANCE (5)					
Eastern Insurance	100/20	254.71	Renata Ltd	100/5	210.00
Green Delta	100/10	356.00	Pharma Aids	100/5	270.00
Peoples Insurance	100/10	450.00	Pharmaco	100/5	74.00
United Insurance	100/10	345.00	Progressive Plastic	100/5	23.71
ENGINEERING (19)					
Aftab Automobiles	100/5	245.00	Rackitt & Colman	100/50	95.00
Atlas Bangladesh	100/50	48.00	Rahman Chemicals	100/10	50.00
Aziz Pipe	100/5	347.00	Therapeutics	100/5	75.00
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5	48.00	The Usmania	100/10	105.00
Bangladesh Lamps	100/5	1440.00	Wata Chemical	100/20	240.00
B. That Aluminium	100/10	117.42	SERVICE (2)		
Bengal Carbide	100/5	470.00	Bangladesh Hotel	100/50	12.00
Bengal Steel	100/50	20.00	Bd. Service	100/50	NT
Eastern Cables	100/5	122.00	MISCELLANEOUS (18)		
Howlader PVC	100/10	67.50	Apex Footwear	100/20	490.21
Karim Pipe	100/5	96.00	Apex Tannery	100/5	870.00
Metalex Corp.	100/5	60.00	Aramit	100/50	20.00
Monno Staffers	100/5	370.00	Bata Shoe	100/5	80.51
Monno Jutex	100/5	900.00	Beximco	100/100	56.10
National Tubes	100/10	91.00	B.S.C.	100/5	80.00
Panther Steel	100/50	8.00	Cig. Cement	100/5	396.62
Quasem Drycells	100/50	16.18	G. Q. Ball Pen	100/50	138.00
Renwick Jewellery	100/5	80.00	High Speed	100/5	50.00
Singer Bangladesh	100/5	1901.27	Himadri Ltd.	100/100	6.00
FOOD & ALLIED (23)					
A.B. Biscuit	100/5	198.00	Milon Tannery	100/5	9.76
Alpha Tobacco	100/50	50.00	Monno Ceramic	100/5	660.31
Amam Sea Food	100/5	500.00	New Dhaka Refac	100/20	90.00
Apex Food	100/5	980.00	Pharvox Leather	100/5	125.00
Aroma Tea	100/5	55.00	Sparco Refractories	100/5	55.00
Bangas	100/5	175.50	The Engineers	100/5	100.00
B. D. Plantation	100/5	900.00	Textpick Ind.	100/10	80.00
Bengal Food	100/5	250.00	Usmania Glass	100/5	405.00
B.L.T.C.	100/5	800.00	JUTE (12)		
B.T.C.	100/50	170.00	Abad Jute	100/10	NT
Ctg. Vegetables	100/10	90.00	Anowara Jute	100/50	NT
Dhaka Vegetables	100/5	115.34	Delta Jute	100/50	8.50
E.L. Camella	100/5	1040.00	Gawvia Jute	100/50	NT
Prologis Export	100/50	3.20	Islam Jute	100/5	100.00
Central Sea Food	100/5	50.00	Jute Spinner	100/5	126.67
Hill Plantation	100/5	550.00	Mutual Jute	100/5	120.00
Modern Industries	100/5	400.00	Northern Jute	100/50	NT
N.T.C.	100/50	32.00	Rupon Oil	100/5	100.00
Rabeya Flour	100/100	NT	Sparmer Jute	100/50	NT
Shahar Jute	100/100	5.20	Specialised Jute	100/5	280.00
Tulp Dairy	100/10	75.00	Shine Pakur Jute	100/5	NT
Youssuf Flour	100/50	15.00	SPECIALISED JUTE		
Zeal Bangla Sugar	100/50	8.10	Shahar Jute	100/5	130.00
FUEL & POWER (4)					
BD Oxygen	100/50	171.00	DEBENTURES (6)		
Eastern Lubricant	100/50	14.00	BCIL	2000/1	2880.00
National Oxygen	100/10	70.00	Beximco	1665/1	1600.00
Padma Oil Co.	100/50	70.00	Beximco Synthetic	3500/2	2400.00
TEXTILE (21)					
Alhaj Textile	100/50	NT	(17%)		
Apex Spinning	100/20	305.18	Beximco Pharma	856/1	990.00
Arbee Textile	100/10	112.00	Beximco Synthetic	3500/2	2400.00
Ashraf Textile	100/50	28.21	(14%)		
Chand Textile	100/50	NT	Quasem Silk	1800/1	1330.00
Chand Spinning	100/50	NT	(17%)		
Dash Garments	100/10	50.25	Notes: FV = Face Value ML = Market Lot NT = Not Traded		
Dalarna Cotton	100/10	110.00	AL = Allotment Letter		
Eagle Star Textile	100/50	18.77			
GMG Ind. Corp.	100/50	10.00			
Modern Dyeing	100/5	36.00			

3 US firms order 200000 MT of Vietnamese rice

HANOI, June 15: Three US firms have ordered 200,000 tonnes of Vietnamese rice in the largest export deal since the United States lifted its trade embargo against Vietnam in February, a report said today, reports AFP.

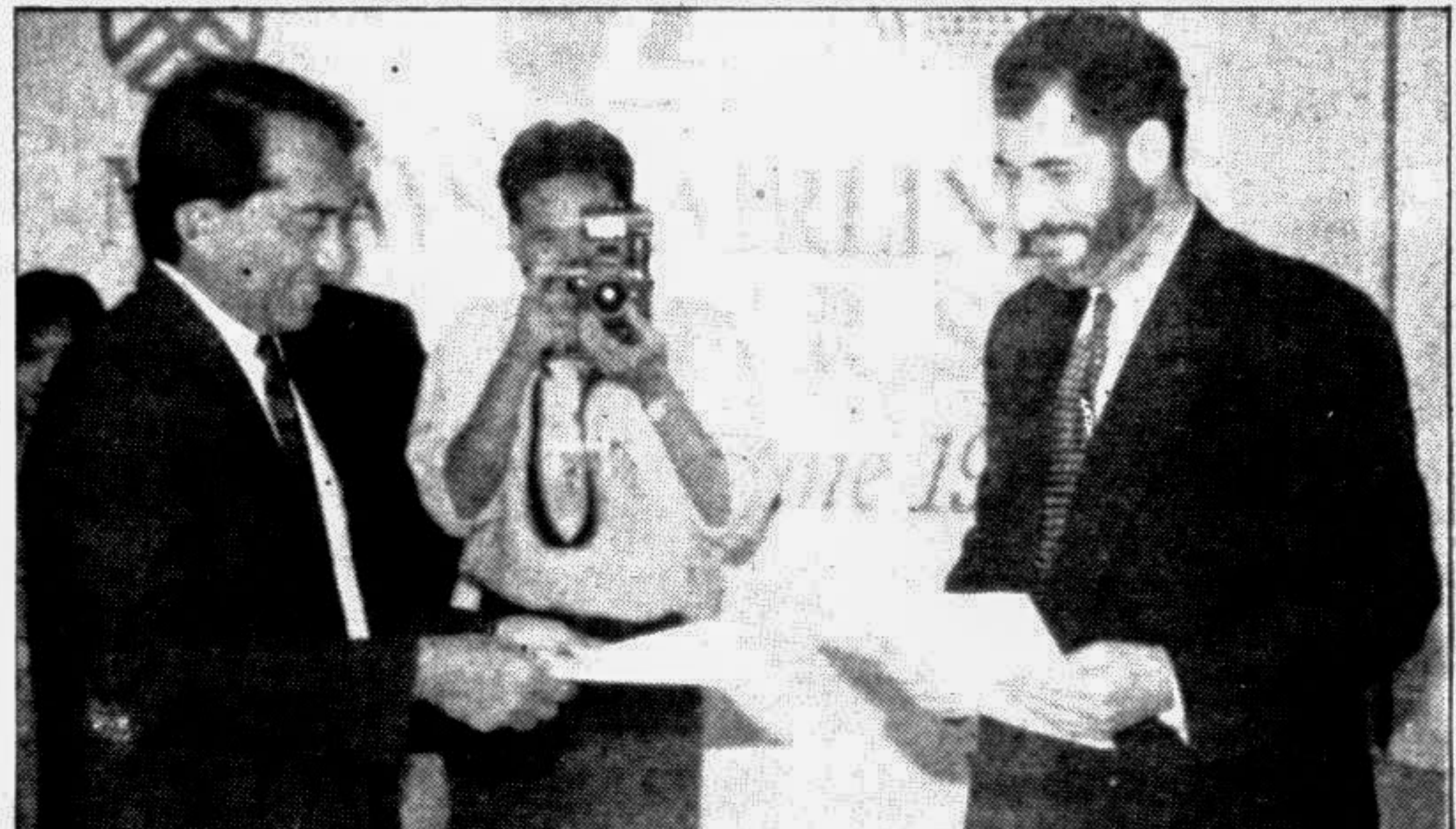
The three US firms, which were not named in the Vietnam news agency report, had previously bought 10,000 tonnes of rice to assess its quality and wild purchase a further 200,000 tonnes in July.

The opening up of sales to the United States has given a boost to Vietnam's struggling rice exports. The country is facing problems with credit, transport facilities and the quality of processing.

A ministry of commerce official told the Tuoi Tre newspaper that markets in the America, the Middle East and Africa were developing and that Vietnam hoped to sell a million tonnes of rice to Iran, Sri Lanka and Malaysia this year.

Vietnam sold 1.8 million tonnes of rice in 1993, down 10 per cent on the record exports of a year earlier, but still placing the country third in the list of world exporters after the United States and Thailand.

Exports in the first quarter of this year were only at 69 per cent of the sales in the same period last year and stockpiles are mounting according to official reports.



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Deputy Managing Director for Marketing Baharuddin Nordin (L) exchanges a signed agreement with Ahmad Khatib (R), Executive Vice-President of World Airways, yesterday in a three-way deal that allows MAS to use the US-based charter airline's new MD-11 freighter aircraft. Under the deal, MAS will buy cargo space from Malaysian Helicopter Services, which owns 24.9 per cent of World Airways. — AFP photo

Mexico to get \$918 m loan from World Bank

WASHINGTON, June 15: The World Bank has approved three loans to Mexico to be used in cleaning up the environment, mostly along its northern industrial border with the United States, says a USIS press release.

Shahid Javed Burki, the bank's vice president for Latin America and the Caribbean, said June 9 that the loans totaling \$918 million dollar would help Mexico build up a "domestic capacity" to tackle its environmental problems.

Burki said the Bank is emphasising the environment in all of its lending to Mexico, which will total 1,500 million dollar this year.

The environmental loans are being made to Banobras — the Mexican development bank that handles public works and services. Cities and municipalities in turn would receive loans from Banobras based on submission of competitive master plans. About 27 cities and municipalities are eligible, according to the bank's division chief for Mexico, David de Ferranti.

The first loan, for 368 million dollar, will help finance the Northern Border environment project for cleaning up five or six cities on the US border in an area that is home to some 3 million people.

The second loan, for 350 million dollar, will help improve water and sanitation services in the poorer regions of Mexico.

The third loan, for 200 million dollar, will support a national programme to modernise solid-waste services in medium-size cities across Mexico.

The three loans will be the first issued under a joint programme for environmental protection agreed upon by Mexico and the Bank last September. The programme is expected to provide up to 1,800 million dollar in World Bank loans to Mexico over the next three years.

Iran decides to allow setting up of private banks

NICOSIA, June 15: Iran has decided to allow the setting up of privately owned banks from next week for the first time since the Islamic revolution in 1979, reports Reuter.

Iran's central bank governor, Mohammad Hussein Adeli, said in remarks quoted by Tehran Radio that the bank would supervise the private banks "and therefore guarantee their activities."

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, quoted Adeli as saying regulations governing the activities of the private banks had been approved by the government and a money and credit council and declared to be within constitutional and religious laws.

"The banks would be able to take deposits and participate in production and economic activities nationwide," he said.

Iran nationalised private banks at the start of the revolution.

Pakistan telecom to privatise 1 pc of its shares in two months

ISLAMABAD, June 15: Pakistan's state-run telecommunications network will privatise one per cent of its shares worth a billion rupees (34 million dollars) in two months, the government said Monday, reports AFP.

The shares, priced at 10 rupees (0.33 dollar) each, will be offered to the public, employees of Pakistan Telecommunications Corporation (PTC) and Pakistanis residing abroad.

Each investor can buy up to 10,000 shares. Information Minister Khalid Ahmed Kharaal told reporters after a meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto approved the scheme.

"The basic intention is to sell the shares to the lower income group," Kharaal said, adding that foreigners could also buy shares.

The eight-month old Bhutto administration has resumed a privatization programme launched by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Global campaign launched to eradicate child labour

GENEVA, June 15: The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) launched a global campaign on Tuesday to eradicate child labour, including a boycott of exports made by exploited, under-age workers, reports Reuter.

Enzo Friso, General Secretary of the world's largest international labour grouping, took the case for a link between trade and labour conditions to Peter Sutherland, chief of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"This shameful phenomenon has grown over the last year," Friso told a news briefing in Geneva. "It is a serious problem which requires state intervention."

"We are going to campaign for a boycott to stop goods made by children from gaining access to foreign markets," he added.

In a new report, the Brussels-based ICFTU said from 100 to 200 million children under fifteen are working in streets, factories and mines, mainly in South Asia and Latin America.

They include children working in coal mines in Colombia, gold mines in Peru, as "slaves" in Pakistan weaving carpets, sweet vendors in Mexico, and in garment factories in the Philippines.

The 13-page report, "child labour: the world's best kept secret", contains documentation from ICFTU affiliates on abuses in India, Nepal, Mexico and the Philippines.

"A number of multinationals are currently under investigation by ICFTU experts," it said. "All companies discovered to be using child labour will be exposed and the companies will be the target of special union campaigns."

Bjorne Grimrud, ICFTU campaign organiser, declined to name suspected multinationals, but said: "It is important to get to the sub-contractors level because that is where you find the child labour."

In a statement, ICFTU said the campaign would include an international boycott of hand-woven carpets from Nepal, India and Pakistan, unless they were labelled with a guarantee that child workers were not involved in production.

The ICFTU has 174 labour union affiliates in 124 countries representing 120 million workers. During the cold war period it campaigned for workers' rights in communist