

India moves to privatise two state-owned companies

NEW DELHI, July 17: Two of India's largest loss making public sector companies are going on sale after being declared sick and are looking for new owners to nurse them back to health, reports AFP.

The first significant move towards privatisation of state-owned companies, the decision to have them off coincided with a call to the public sector Friday by Finance Minister Manmohan Singh to fend for itself.

The Fertilizer Corp of India and the Hindustan Fertilizer Corp. of India, which together are more than 30 billion rupees (one billion dollars) in the red, have been put on the block, officials said here Saturday.

"There net worth has been eroded," said a spokesman for the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a government-appointed agency which oversees the privatisation or revival of public sector companies.

He said the government had been unable to come up with a scheme to put the two companies back on their feet, prompting the board to put them on sale.

The Industrial Credit and Investment Corp. of India (ICICI), a financial institution, was asked by the BIFR on Friday to scout for prospective new owners to take them over, the spokesman said.

The ICICI would study bids from the private sector and foreign investors willing to infuse fresh capital and technology to turn around the ailing and overstaffed companies, which together have more than 15,000 employees.

"It is now open for interested parties to approach the ICICI," the spokesman told AFP.

The two fertilizer companies, burdened by first-generation plants of outdated technology, turned sick in the face of shortages of inputs such as power and coal, forcing production cutbacks.

An investment of more than 14 billion rupees (466 million dollars) would be required to revive their now-idle plants, which had been running at half their capacity.

Trade unions have vigorously protested government plans to wind up sick factories or privatise the public sector under a three-year-old economic reforms programme putting India on the road to a market economy.

Hundreds of thousands of public sector workers joined an anti-privatisation strike Thursday, hitting production in key industries such as steel and coal.

In the face of union opposition, privatisation moves have so far been restricted to the cautious sale of a portion of the equity in select state-owned firms.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Singh said during a visit Friday to the southern Indian city of Trivandrum that New Delhi would no longer pump funds into the public sector.

The government would restrict itself to reinforcing infrastructural facilities such as power plants, ports and communications, The Hindu Daily quoted him as saying at a news conference.

And state governments would have to find their own resources to set up industrial projects, said Singh, the architect of the market reforms overturning a socialist charter that put the public-sector at the economic forefront.

"If the states have good projects, they can raise funds from the capital market, financial institutions, or non-resident Indians," Singh was quoted as saying.

The public sector has about 250 companies whose reach cuts across all sectors of the economy, including mining, oil, telecommunications, steel, aviation, ship building, railways, hotels and even bus transport.



Mahbubur Rahman (C), President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, seen welcoming the visiting members of the Board of Directors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in a meeting with the members of FBCCI at the chamber office Saturday. (From L-R) Zhou Yuequn, Peter McCawley, N Cinnamon Dornisfe and Qazi Shamsul Alam are also seen in the picture.

US Congress accelerates consideration of Uruguay Round accord

WASHINGTON, July 17: Congressional leadership has accelerated its schedule with the hope of having a vote before its summer recess in mid-August on implementing legislation for the Uruguay Round global trade accord, says a USIS press release.

The House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee has asked its members to submit all amendments to the legislation by July 15 and complete its work by July 22.

A tentative meeting of the week of July 25 has been scheduled with the Senate to work out differences between the two legislative bodies.

US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor appeared before the committee July 14 to call attention to the importance of passing legislation this year.

He pointed out that some 123 countries will be covered by Uruguay Round trade rules on subsidies and countervailing duties, while only 27 countries are covered by international trade rules in these areas currently. Similar figures apply in such areas as standards, customs valuation, import licensing and antidumping, he said.

Kantor said the United States has everything to gain. "We have four per cent of the world's population; future economic opportunities will occur in countries with the other 96 per cent," he said.

According to US government estimates, US exports to Japan will climb from an estimated \$52,000 million this year to \$88,000 million by the year 2010. US exports to Latin America during the same period will rise from \$88,000 million to \$232,000 million, to Asia (excluding Japan) from \$94,000 million to \$248,000 million, to the European Union countries from \$95,000 million to \$128,000 million and to Canada from \$109,000 to \$147,000 million.

Several issues related to approval of the trade accord are proving to be difficult, the most contentious being the administration's proposal of \$12,000 million in spending cuts and tax increases of offset revenue losses resulting from tariff cuts scheduled under the accord.

Kantor, commenting to reporters July 14, said that he received a positive response from a congressional

Republicans and Democrats. Congressional aides said the response was more mixed.

Among the plan's key elements are: reductions in agricultural support programmes, cutbacks in a Federal Communication Commission programme, reduced tax breaks for foreign-controlled companies in Puerto Rico, taxes on Indian reservation casinos, accelerated taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and telephones, and numerous other adjustments in accounting practices.

"Perhaps the toughest problem involves establishing new Fast Track authority," Kantor said. "We are requesting this authority because we need to maintain the momentum of the Uruguay Round and continue US leadership in establishing an interdependent, prosperous and stable world."

Exchange Rates

Following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on July 17. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling		Buying		
	TT & OD	IC	TT Clean	OD Sight Ex. Bills	OD Transfer
US Dollar	40.3875	40.4150	40.1500	40.0650	39.9350
Pound Sterling	63.4047	63.4479	61.7498	61.6191	61.4192
DM	26.2611	26.2790	25.5815	25.5273	25.4445
F Franc	7.6603	7.6637	7.4603	7.4445	7.4203
C Dollar	29.6362	29.6564	28.8702	28.8091	28.7156
S Franc	31.1932	31.2144	30.3794	30.3152	30.2168
Yap Yen	0.4193	0.4195	0.4042	0.4033	0.4020
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2908	1.2973	1.2754	1.2594	—
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3204	1.3270	1.3046	1.2883	—
Iranian Ryal (AMU)	0.0230	0.0231	0.0227	0.0224	—
A) T. T. (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk 40.1075					
B) US Dollar Rates:					
30 Days DA	60 Days DA	90 Days DA	120 Days DA	180 Days DA	
39.7993	39.5149	39.2305	38.9461	38.3773	
C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk. 40.0650					
D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Tk. 40.6150					

Indicative Rates

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	T.T. & O.D.	OTL	O.D. Transfer	OTL
S Riyal	10.7707	—	10.6530	—
UAE Dirham	10.9986	—	10.8765	—
Kuwaiti Dinar	137.1096	—	135.2802	—
Singapore Dollar	26.7411	—	26.4253	—
D Guilders	23.5209	—	23.2944	—
S Kroner	5.3384	—	5.2778	—
Malaysian Ringgit	15.6118	—	15.4397	—

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Unit

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 17.7.94

Berth No.	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L/Port	Local call	Date of agent	Leaving arrival	
J/1	Nand Bhagathi	IBI	Magd	OTL	7/7	20/7	
J/2	Siddi Bishr	SSP (P)	Kara	MMI	11/7	19/7	
J/3	Amilla	M Seed	LTL	Dunk	2/7	49/7	
J/4	Saffina-E-	Rice/GI	Kara	Prog	14/07	22/7	
J/5	Cariona	Sugar (P)	Kaus	Seacom	08/7	22/7	
J/6	Tiger Star	Wheat(G)	KAUS	Prog	14/7	17/7	
J/7	Sea Song	Wheat(G)	Caru	Seacoast	10/6	20/7	
J/9	Perla One	Cement	Sing	PSAL	28/6	20/7	
J/10	Dolores	Idle	—	Seacom	R/A	20/7	
J/11	Fantasy	Idle	Sing	SES	2/6	—	
J/12	Irene	Cement	Sing	PSAL	13/7	21/7	
J/13	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	Bdship	15/7	20/7	
MPB/1	Optima	Cont	Sing	RSL	13/7	18/7	
MPB/2	Petr	Starostin	Cont	Sing	CT	14/7	19/7
CCJ	Banglar	Kiron	Wheat(G)	—	BSC	R/A	17/7
GSJ	Western	Greeting	Wheat(G)	Rouen	LTL	5/7	21/7
RM/4	Jala Mudra	Cement	Jaka	USTC	6/7	20/7	
RM/5	Argosea	F.Oil	P.Cla	ECSL	16/7	20/7	
RM/6	Team Trinta	HSD/MS	Sing	MSP	10/7	20/7	
DOJ	Sea Lady	Cement	Sing	HSL	20/6	18/7	
LD	AL Swamuraz	Repair	Pena	ASL	29/06	22/07	
DDJ/1	Pearl One	Repair	Yang	ENCL	15/6	20/7	
DDJ/2	Kaptal	Repair	Karna	R/A	19/7	—	
RM/9	Banglar	Shobha	Repair	PASE	BSC	22/6	20/7

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of arrival	Last Port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Prudent Venturer	17/7	Sing	PSAL	Cement	J.Goods
Salem Twelve	17/7	Mong	OWSL	J.Goods	LATT
Karabieverett	18/7	Sing	EBPL	GI	Fe.St.
Alexander Peredeiry	18/7	Mong	OWSL	J.Goods	MOM
Laemthong Glory	19/7	LYC	Litmond	MOP (P)	—
Ultima 11/7	18/7	COL	Bardhi	Cont	MGL
Kransno Yarski	20/7	—	Seacom	GI (Copro)	—
Komsomolets	20/7	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Delote 11/7	20/7	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Banglar Robi 11/7	20/7	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Nikoula	21/7	Sing	Prog	GI	—
Meng Kiat 10/7	21/7	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing
Andrian	21/7	—	CT	Cont	Sing
Goncharov 11/7	21/7	TEKI	Ancient	Wheat (G)	—
Delta Star	21/7	Rouren	Ancient	Wheat (G)	—
Marlin	22/7	—	Litmond	Wheat (P)	—
Pelopidas	22/7	—	—	—	—
Jiangui	22/7	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Jiang Cheng P	23/7	S.Hai	Bdship	GI	C.Ports
Gai Jianqun	23/7	—	Litmond	Cement	—
Kota Bintang 14/7	23/7	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Tirgu Secures	24/7	—	USTC	P.liron	—
Khartoum	25/7	S.AFA	Cosma	SSP(P)	—
Sam Houston	25/7	SOA	Karna	GI (Lash)	—
Manaslu	27/7	—	HSA	Cont	COL

TANKER DUE:

Name of Vessels	Date of arrival	Last Port	Local agent	Cargo	Date of arrival
Akademik Vokua	19/7	SAO	Royal	CLSO	—
Chang	20/7	—	MPL	LOI	—

VESSELS AT KUTUBIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Marine Power	Scraping	Sing	ARL	8/7
Sayanskie Gory	Scraping	Sing	OTBL	13/7
Knock Ardy	Scraping	YOSU	JF	13/7
Rybn Murman	Scraping	SUEZ	OTBL	15/7
Yannis-II	Scraping	PSAL	R/A (12/7)	—

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 18.7.94

OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIFTING
J/6 Tiger Sun	J/13 Salem Twelve	J/13 Fong Shin to MPB/1
J/11 Fantasy	J/11 A Peredeiry	J/1 Nand Bhagathi to J/2
MPB/1 Optima	J/6 ALMA Tenang	—
DOJ Sea Lady	J/6 Shourah	—

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.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on July 17, 1994

Losers dominate floor

Losers heavily dominated the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Sunday. Beximco Ltd led the losers numbering 31 in terms of volume. Its 6200 shares were traded.

Beximco Fisheries (6020), Ashraf Textile (5100), Beximco Synthetic (2620), and Libra Pharma (3920) also incurred significant losers in terms of volume.

In terms of value Beximco Infusions led the losers with a fall of Taka 29.80 per share.

Zeal Bangla Sugar topped the list of seven gainers in terms of volume with 3650 shares traded.

Among the gainers, Ambee Pharma were also the major volume leader with 2500 shares traded.

Bengal Carbide experienced a gain of Taka 35.95 per share, leading the gainers in terms of value.

The number of issues traded totalled 55, in which 17 remained unchanged.

The turnover on the DSE in volume fell by 3.694 per cent while the turnover in value showed a gain of 9.180 per cent.

A total of 39,393.00 shares, worth Taka 51,84,573.50 changed hands as against Saturday 40,904.00 shares

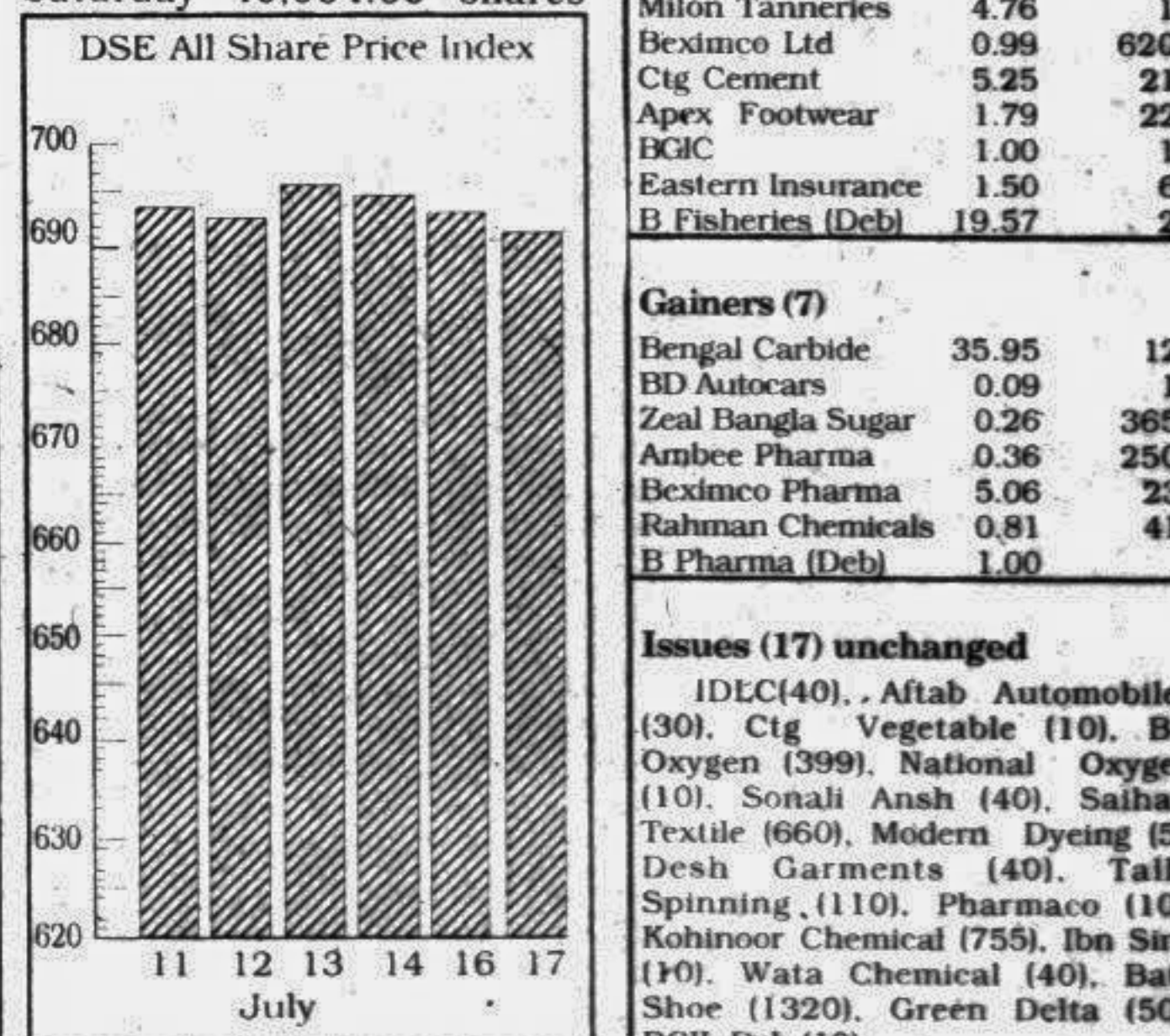
Trading at a glance

DSE All Share Price Index: 691.28184
Market Capitalization Tk: 31448403660.00
Turnover in Volume Tk: 30993
Turnover in Value Tk: 5184573.50

Company's name	Change (per share)	Number of shares traded
Losers (31)		
6th ICB M Fund	0.59	40
Aziz Pipes	1.17	10
Eastern Cables	0.73	615
Atlas BD	0.44	360
Howlader PVC	3.00	10
BD That Aluminium	1.75	670
Bengal Food	1.89	21
Dhaka Vegetable	1.00	175
Beximco Fisheries	5.97	6020
Shine Pakur Jute	3.00	25
Ashraf Textile	0.75	5100
Rahim Textile	0.33	200
Quasem Silk	0.10	500
Eagle Star Textile	0.62	50
Padma Textile	6.00	20
Apex Spinning	4.47	890
Therapeutics	2.00	50
Beximco Infusions	29.80	50
Beximco Synthetic	3.01	2620
Libra Pharma	5.18	3920
Apex Tannery	0.59	195
GG Ball Pen	0.09	440
Monno Ceramic	8.42	95
Usmania Glass	3.00	120
Milon Tanneries	4.76	15
Beximco Ltd	0.99	6200
Cig Cement	5.25	215
Apex Footwear	1.79	220
BCIC	1.00	10
Eastern Insurance	1.50	60
B Fisheries (Deb)	19.57	23

Gainers (7)

Bengal Carbide	35.95	120
BD Autocars	0.09	10
Zeal Bangla Sugar	0.26	3650
Ambee Pharma	0.36	2500
Beximco Pharma	5.06	233
Rahman Chemicals	0.81	410
B Pharma (Deb)	1.00	2



DSE Shares and Debentures

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)	Padma Textile	100/20	330.00
Quasem Silk	10/100	5.40	Quasem Textile	10/50	5.00
Rahim Textile	100/5	91.00	Saham Textile	100/10	93.00
S.T.M. (ORD)	100/5	22.00	Stylecraft	100/5	425.00
Swan Textile	100/5	20.00	Talsh Spinning	100/10	118.00
Tamjuddinn	100/10	183.00			
PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEMICALS (21)					
Ambee Pharma	10/50	16.86	Bangla Process	100/5	45.00
BCIL	100/10	440.00	Beximco Infusion	100/00	490.20
Beximco Pharma	100/5	1495.00	B.Synthetic	100/20	217.79
Libra Pharma	100/20	156.63	Glaxo	10/50	140.00
ICI	10/1	115.00	Kobinoor Chemical	100/5	106.00
N.Polymer	100/10	140.00	Petro Synthetic	10/50	9.50
Renata Ltd	100/5	720.00	Pharma Aids	100/5	279.20
Pharmaco	100/5	74.00	Progressive Plastic	100/5	20.00
Rackitt & Colman	100/5	95.00	Rahman Chemicals	100/10	66.54
Therapeutics	100/5	60.00	The Ibsina	100/10	120.00
Wata Chemical	100/20	265.00			
PAPER & PRINTING (6)					
Eagle Box	10/5	17.50	Monosop Paper	100/5	30.00
Paper Converting	100/5	85.00	Paper Processing	100/10	15.00
Padma Printers	10/50	50.00	Sonali Paper	10/50	40.00
SERVICE (2)					
Bangladesh Hotel	10/50	12.00	Bd. Service	10/50	NT
MISCELLANEOUS (18)					
Apex Footwear	100/20	494.45	Apex Tannery	100/5	950.00
Aramit	100/5	200.00	Bata Shoe	10/100	91.00
Beximco	10/100	50.08	BSC	100/5	80.00
Cig Cement	100/5	400.00	G. Q. Ball Pen	10/50	146.52
Hilmadri Ltd	10/100	6.00	Milon Tannery	100/5	5.00
Monno Ceramic	100/5	661.58	New Dhaka Refac	100/20	90.00
Phoenix Leather	100/10	130.00	Savar Refractories	100/5	46.00
The Engineers	100/5	100.00	Texpak Ind	100/10	85.00
Us					