

US-Japan trade talks fail

HONG KONG, July 24: Trade negotiators from Japan and the United States failed to reach a result in talks here Saturday on Japanese procurement practices as a Washington imposed deadline looms, reports AFP.

Deputy US Trade Negotiator Charlene Barshefsky met Saturday with Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs, for more than three hours, but their discussions apparently failed to yield a result and the pair agreed to meet again Sunday.

"We will continue our meeting tomorrow morning," said Hayashi as he emerged from the meeting, adding, "I cannot comment on the content of the talks."

Earlier at a news conference, Barshefsky played down the significance of the discussions, saying, "We are certainly not meeting here for an agreement."

However, reports in Tokyo late Friday said Hayashi would

make a compromise proposal to Barshefsky when the two meet.

"Hayashi will bring a compromise proposal the Japanese side finds reasonable enough for Washington to accept," Kyodo news service quoted a trade ministry official as saying.

"Japan could not make any more compromises," he said, reportedly threatening to break off negotiations if the Hong Kong talks fail. "If the United States rejects this proposal, the procurement talks will not get anywhere."

Asked about the reported threat to abandon the negotiations, Barshefsky said, "Hostile rhetoric doesn't make sense. We have to decide to resolve our problems or not."

The talks in Hong Kong came only a week before the expiry of Washington's latest deadline on whether to impose sanctions against Tokyo for failing to expand its procure-

ment of foreign telecommunications and medical equipment.

US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor on June 30 delayed by 30 days — until next Saturday — a decision on whether sanctions would be taken against Japan for its failure to open the government procurement market.

But Barshefsky conceded: "I don't know whether we will be able to find adequate agreement (by the deadline)... the issues are complicated."

Japanese government procurement of such items, along with computers and satellites, is one of the three priority areas. Automotive trade and insurance are the other priorities in the talks launched under an agreement in July last year.

Hayashi was expected to convey to Barshefsky that Tokyo is ready to accept most of Washington's demands for "objective criteria" to measure

the impact of future measures and policies on government procurement, Jiji press said. But it added that Tokyo would continue to reject demands for numerical targets.

Barshefsky denied any such targets had been sought.

"The United States has never asked Japan for numerical targets or market share targets of any kind," she said, adding that the markets under discussion Saturday, such as telecommunications, were growing so rapidly that any attempt to impose numbers would be meaningless.

International trade and industry minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Friday that Japan "would like to make as much effort as possible to reach accord."

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said: "I do not think it is good to set a deadline for negotiations, but it is desirable to reach agreement as early as possible."

French air strike hits Euro holidaymakers

PARIS, July 24: Striking French air controllers disrupted vacations around western Europe on Saturday, stranding travelers for hours in airports on one of the busiest days of the year, reports AP.

The strike by controllers at the Aix-en-Provence regional center in southeastern France, a flyover point for many sunny destinations, grounded passengers heading to or from Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal and Italy.

More than 3,000 holidaymakers suffered delays at Ringway airport in Manchester, northern England, some for as long as five hours. Officials expected delays to grow.

It was the first peak season weekend at the airport, with 900 flights scheduled in and out — 100 of them to the Balearic islands off the Spanish coast, part of the strike-affected zone.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on July 24, 1994

Trading increases

Star Report

The trading on the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) rose significantly on Sunday while the price index fell.

A total of 36,341.50 shares worth Taka 81,70,898.50 changed hands as against Saturday's 34,463.00 shares valued at Taka 41,79,472.00.

The changes meant 4177 per cent and 95.50 per cent increase in the total volume and value respectively.

The number of traded issues rose to 59 from 51. Of them, 32 incurred losses, 17 gained and 10 others traded at previous rates.

Ashraf Textile led the losers in terms of volume.

The company's 1600 shares were traded.

Among the losers, Eagle Star Textile (1000), Libra Pharma (1020) and Beximco Ltd (1500) were also major volume leaders.

In terms of value, Singer Bangladesh topped the losers' list with a fall of Taka 60.36 per share.

Zeal Bangla Sugar dominated the gainers' list in terms of volume with 7410 shares traded.

Beximco Fisheries (2200), Tamijuddin Textile (2110), Rahman Chemicals (1080), Beximco Synthetic (2440) and Monno Ceramic (5225) also gained significantly.

Islamic Bank experienced a gain

of Taka 20.00 per share, leading the gainers in terms of value.

The DSE All Share Price Index dropped to 681.3814 from 685.55805, a decline of 4.177 points.

Trading at a glance

DSE All Share Price Index 681.3814
Market Capitalization Tk. 3,09,80,34,36.33
Turnover in Volume Tk. 86,34,13.50
Turnover in Value Tk. 81,70,898.50

Company's name	Change Number (per share) of shares	Tk. traded
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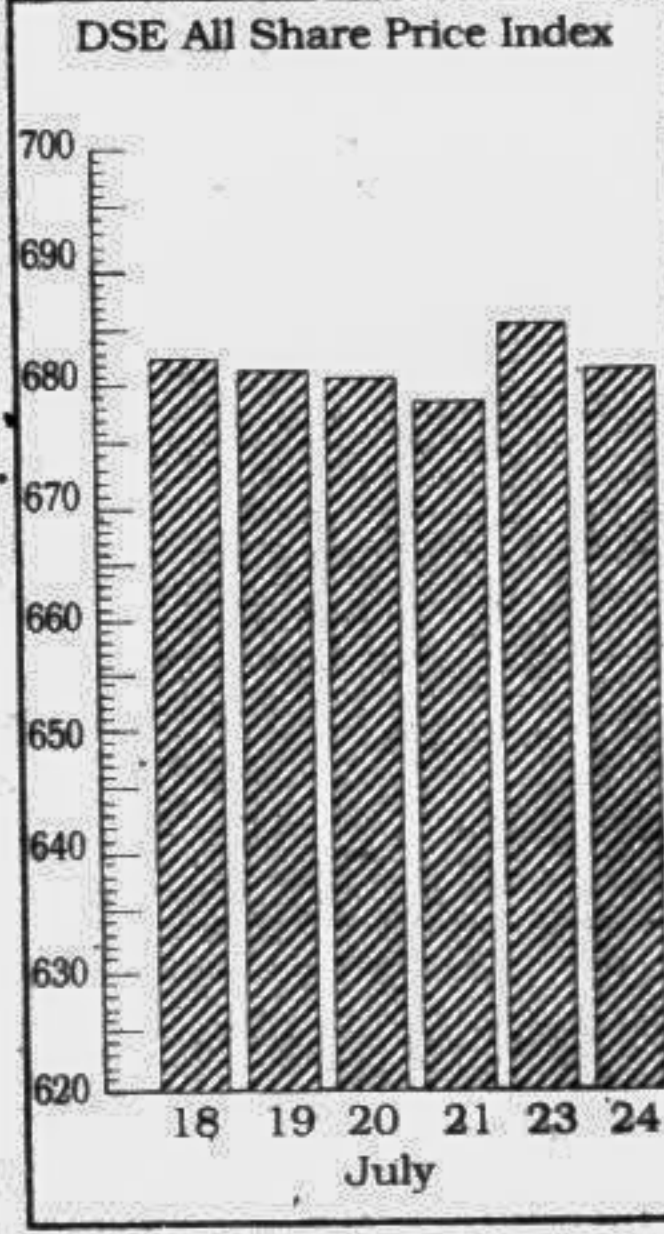
Losers (32)		
AB Bank	0.11	185
National Bank	7.24	270
Rupali Bank	0.25	40
UCBL	4.20	25
IDLC	14.92	260
4th ICB Fund	2.60	36
5th ICB Fund	1.19	30
Aziz Pipes	26.17	5
Eastern Cables	1.46	740
Monno Jute Stallers	10.00	10
Singer BD	60.36	109
Quasem Drycells	0.08	100
Metalex Corp.	4.00	5
National Tubes	4.00	300
Bengal Food	2.11	409
Dhaka Vegetable	0.38	340
BD Oxygen	5.22	575
Ashraf Textile	0.06	1600
Eagle Star Textile	0.09	1000
Dulamia Cotton	0.80	500
Padma Textile	0.10	140
Ambee Pharma	0.05	750
Pharma Aids	29.20	10
Kohinoor Chemical	1.42	105
Beximco Infusions	21.83	40
Libra Pharma	0.13	1020
Sonali Paper	10.00	200
Usmania Glass	9.20	50
Beximco Ltd	0.89	1500
United Insurance	10.00	10
Eastern Insurance	2.87	660
B Fisheries (Deb)	2.59	240

Gainers (17)

Islamic Bank	20.00	3
Bengal Carbide	9.14	157
BD Lamps	1.00	5
BD Thai Aluminium	0.50	400
Zeal Bangla Sugar	0.08	7410
Beximco Fisheries	5.21	2200
Saham Textile	1.00	110
Desh Garments	2.00	50
Tallu Spinning	2.12	100
Tamijuddin Textile	1.67	2110
Apex Spinning	2.97	300
Pharmaco	1.00	75
Therapeutics	3.00	500
Rahman Chemicals	1.28	1080
Beximco Synthetic	0.02	2440
Monno Ceramic	15.17	5225
Apex Footwear	2.94	470

Issues (10) unchanged

United Leasing Co (200), 6th ICB Fund (600), Atlas BD (750), National Oxygen (1900), Ibsina (40), Beta Shoe (1000), GQ Ball Pen (105), Savar Refractories (300), BGIC (270), Green Delta (90).



DSE Shares and Debentures

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)
BANKS (13)		
Al-Baraka Bank	1000/1	762.50
AB Bank	100/5	189.89
City Bank	100/5	265.00
Eastern Bank	100/20	110.00
IDLC Ltd	100/20	465.00
UCL	100/20	380.00
IFLC	100/5	165.00
Islamic Bank	1000/1	1580.00
National Bank	100/5	102.78
Rupali Bank	100/5	100.00
UCBL	100/5	71.75
Uttara Bank	100/5	80.80

INVESTMENT (8)		
ICB	100/5	115.00
1st ICB Fund	100/5	650.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	270.00
3rd ICB Fund	100/5	224.00
4th ICB Fund	100/10	233.00
5th ICB Fund	100/10	161.50
6th ICB Fund	100/10	127.00
ICB Unit Cert.	—	—
Sale Price	—	—

RE-PURCHASE (5)		
BGIC	100/10	380.00
Eastern Insurance	100/20	225.28
Green Delta	100/10	350.00
Peoples Insurance	100/10	450.00
United Insurance	100/10	332.00

ENGINEERING (19)		
Aftab Automobiles	100/5	248.00
Atlas Bangladesh	100/5	60.00
Apex Pipe	100/5	350.00
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5	44.00
Bangladesh Lamps	100/5	144.00
B. Thai Aluminium	100/10	118.00
Bengal Carbide	100/5	635.67
Bengal Steel	100/5	20.00
Eastern Cables	100/5	116.78
Howlader PVC	100/10	52.77
Karim Pipe	100/5	102.00
Metalex Corp.	100/5	51.00
Monno Jute	100/5	360.00
Monno Jute	100/5	880.00
National Tubes	100/10	62.00
Panther Steel	100/5	8.00
Quasem Drycells	100/5	15.70
Rennick Jaineswar	100/5	68.00
Singer Bangladesh	100/5	52225.89

FOOD & ALLIED (24)		
AB Biscuit	100/5	198.00
Alpha Tobacco	100/5	50.00
Amam Sea Food	100/5	500.00
Apex Food	100/5	890.00
Aranga Tea	100/5	55.00
Bangas	100/5	172.00
B. D. Plantation	100/5	500.00
Bengal Food	100/5	293.89
B.T.C.	100/5	293.89
Ctg. Vegetables	100/10	150.00
Dhaka Vegetables	100/5	98.59
E.L. Camella	100/5	1040.00
Froglegs Export	100/5	3.00
Gemini Sea Food	100/5	65.00
Hill Plantation	100/5	550.00
Modern Industries	100/5	350.00
N.T.C.	100/5	290.00
Rabeya Flour	100/10	N.T.
Rupali Oil	100/10	5.00
Tulip Dairy	100/5	75.00
Yousuf Flour	100/5	15.00
Zeal Bangla Sugar	100/5	7.20
Beximco Fisheries	100/20	0.82

FUEL & POWER (4)		
BD Oxygen	100/5	10.78
Eastern Lubricant	100/5	4.00
National Oxygen	100/5	70.00
Padma Oil Co.	100/5	68.00

TEXTILE (10)		
Alhaj Textile	100/5	N.T.
Apex Spinning	100/20	105.47
Arbee Textile	100/10	112.00
Ashraf Textile	100/5	24.14
Desh Garments	100/10	52.00
Dulamia Cotton	100/10	103.20
Eagle Star Textile	100/5	14.59
OMG Ind. Corp.	100/10	10.00
Modern Dyeing	100/5	36.00

DEBENTURES (8)		
BCIL	2000/1	2700.00
(17%)		
Beximco	1668/1	1600.00
(17%)		
Beximco Infusion	1900/2	1660.00
(17%)		
Beximco Pharma	856/1	798.33
(17%)		
Beximco Synthetic	2500/2	2500.00
(14%)		
Beximco Fisheries	3000/1	12657.63

JUTE (12)		
Abad Jute	100/10	N.T.
Anowara Jute	100/5	N.T.
Delta Jute	100/5	8.50
Gawisa Jute	100/5	70.00
Islam Jute	100/5	126.67
Jute Spinner	100/5	120.00
Monno Jute	100/5	N.T.
Northern Jute	100/5	100.00
Shamsher Jute	100/5	100.00
Specialised Jute	100/5	8.71
Shine Pukur Jute	100/5	250.00
Sonali Jute	100/5	130.00

NOTE: FV = Face Value ML = Market Lot NT = Not Traded AL = Allotment Letter		
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Chinese economy achieves sharp growth

BEIJING, July 24: Beijing has achieved a new surge in its economy with Gross Domestic Production totalling 47,878 billion yuan in the first half of the year, 13.4 per cent up from the same period of last year, reports Xinhua.

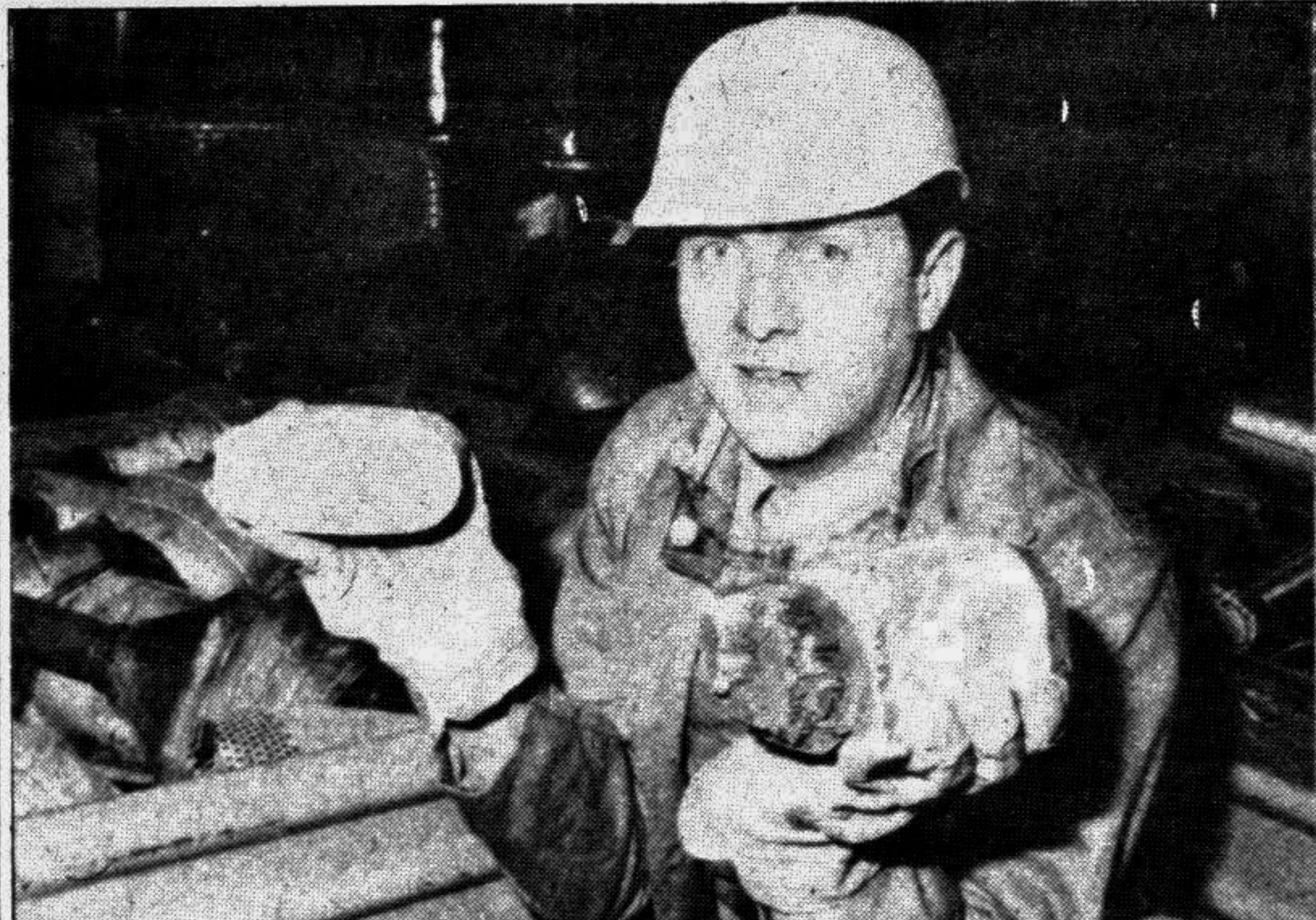
According to the Municipal Statistics Bureau, agriculture increased by 2,458 billion yuan, up 1.6 per cent.

The industrial output value jumped by 22,915 billion yuan, a rise of 15.1 per cent, and the output value of the service industry rose by 22,505 billion yuan, with a growth rate of 13.3 per cent.

According to the Bureau, the private sector is playing an increasing role in the city's industrial production. And the development of export-oriented industry in light industry has also been stepped up.

The city's investment in fixed assets has also achieved great progress and its structure has improved.

The city's total investment in fixed assets reached 12.47 billion yuan, an increase of 70.1 per cent from last year, with investment in agriculture rising by 81.1 per cent, accounting for 32.5 per cent of the total.



Recycling: Degussa A G in Frankfurt/Main recovers almost all of the valuable platinum from used car exhaust catalysers. Right, an old catalyser which no longer functions because of overheating. Left, a new model.

US to import 3 lakh MT of Vietnamese rice every year

HANOI, July 24: A US trading firm has signed a deal to buy 300,000 tonnes or more of Vietnamese rice per year for the next three decades, a report said today, reports AFP.

The deal, a major boost to Vietnam's stagnant rice-exporting sector, was signed between American rice, a subsidiary of the Los Angeles-based Ery Industry group, and state-owned Vinafood II, the Vietnam Investment Review said.

The firm has already bought 200,000 tonnes of rice since the lifting of the US trade embargo in February, and is selling the product under the "Golden Palace" brand, the official newspaper said. Much of the rice was sold on to South America and the middle-east.

American rice is also looking to set up an "instant rice" processing plant in the

Mekongdelta area in a joint venture with Vinafood II.

"With its existing markets, American rice could help Vietnam increase its rice shipments abroad," said company lawyer Ha Phu Truong.

"American rice is already the largest US exporter of instant rice but there is a market for a cheaper-priced, lower quality product," he said.

Vietnam's rice sales have risen slightly this year, up 5.2 per cent in the first half of the year over the same period in 1993, when the industry was hit by processing, transport and credit problems.

Sales fell 10 per cent last year compared with the record sales in 1992 when Vietnam established itself as the third-largest exporter after the United States and Thailand.

The government has set a target of two million tonnes in exports this year following

agreement to sell 300,000 tonnes of rice to Iran and the emergence of new markets in the United States and Europe.

Following several years of massive growth after Vietnam liberalised its agricultural sector, exports have slowed due to credit problems faced by rice traders and the poor processing and transport infrastructure.

The government is now concentrating its efforts on drawing in foreign investment in processing to improve the quality of the product and boost the value of sales, which so far have mostly been of low quality rice to Africa and the Middle-East.

The country's rice-producing areas in the Mekong and Red River Deltas have seen bumper harvests this year, adding to stockpiles of around two million tonnes.

Israel needs to convert military tech to civilian applications

TEL AVIV, Israel, July 24: Israel's most famous export has long been the Uzi, symbol of a nation that not only lived by the sword, but perfected and sold it, says AP.

The compact, folding sub-machine gun became a weapon of choice for secret services, and terrorists, around the world.

But now the global arms business is in a slump and Israel is pursuing peace with the Arabs, so what to do with an industry that was a leader in earning foreign currency?

A Finance Ministry report released last week showed record losses of almost one billion dollars for state-run arms companies in 1993, despite efforts to streamline and find new markets.

Many Israelis see the answer in converting military technology to civilian applications, the same challenge facing the United States, Russia and other countries with large military industries.

Reuven Krupik, an economist dedicated to conversion, said Israel can show the way.

"We have this huge defence sector and we have a great need to convert it," he said. "Other countries haven't encountered the problem to this extent."

ranging from walkie-talkies to an anti-tailgating device that measures the distance between cars.

Lee Iacocca, the former Chrysler chairman, tested the device here last month and the maker, Silicon Heights, has installed it on a test car sent to the United States.

Such innovations were on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's mind when he told the graduating class at the Israeli engineering university Technion: "We must find ways to shift more and more to entirely different fields in research and development. [Otherwise] tens of thousands of jobs will be lost."

In the United States, 1995 orders for military aircraft are down 86 per cent from a decade ago and the market for tanks has vanished, the US publication Defence News reported. The American aerospace industry has laid off 10 per cent of its workers.

Among Israeli companies, the largest 1993 loss — 450 million dollars — was recorded by Israel Aircraft Industries.

Moshe Ortasse, head of the electronics division, said it hoped to bounce back by selling business jets instead of fighters. The company developed an executive jet in the early 1980s and has sold several hundred.

"We hope civilian projects will constitute 40 per cent of

our revenue in a few years," Ortasse said.

Aircraft Industries also is developing a civilian satellite, Ofek, and a blood-cell scanner that uses radar technology for early cancer detection.

Ortasse sees the greatest potential in using Israel's experience with small military air bases to sell developing countries' radars, air traffic management and everything they need for small airports.

Such plans come too late for the 3,000 Aircraft Industries employees, nearly one-fifth of the total, being laid off this year. The other state-owned military giant, Israel Military Industries, has cut its staff from 11,000 to just over 4,000 in three years.

These are humbling developments for an industry that, by some estimates, accounted for 40 per cent of industrial production several years ago.