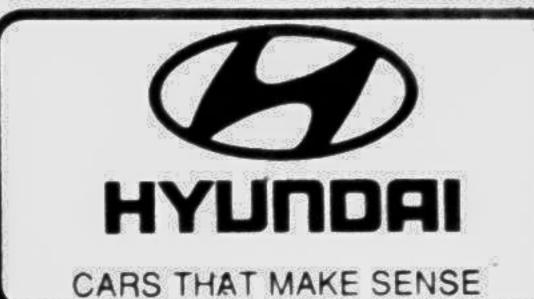
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DThe Baily Star DUSINESS



Inadequate power generation prime cause of frequent disruption

By Sharier Khan

Inadequate generation of power coupled with delay in the implementation of the third phase electrification programme in Dhaka is the main cause of frequent disruption in the electric supply in the capital.

the capital is growing by 10 to 12 per cent, but the development of power infrastructure Supply Authority (DESA) officials said adding therefore, in many areas power distribution fluctuation of voltage and dis-

ruption. Azimpur and even the posh Baridhara.

The present amount of load shedding ranges between 200 and 300 mw across the country, a Power Development Board (PDB) official said.

the 230 mw Kaptai hydropower plant was not producing its full capacity due to fall in the water level of the Kaptai

amount of rainfall this year. The water level of the Kaptai lake has fallen by over 12 feet this year. So this plant is producing 100 mw in the morning, when the demand is low and 180 mw in the evening. when the demand is high," the anonymity told this corre-

the salinity-level of river Karnaphuli. High level of salinity can cause damage in the sophisticated machinery and

for the same reason, the Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Factory had to be shut down is mid March for some days.

In addition, the PDB official pointed out that the power plants in Ashuganj and Ghorashal, which produce almost half of the total power generation in the country, had fallen due to scarcity of gas. Clarifying the "scarcity" he said that the demand for gas had increased drastically for which the power plants were supplied with lesser amount of

DESA officials said that the implementation of the third phase of electrification of Dhaka had been delayed by more than two years, for which the people would be deprived of its full benefits.

"The third phase is scheduled to be completed by December. But the whole system will be saturated in no time," an authoritative source

In the capital. Tongi and Narayanganj area, which are all under the DESA, the demand for power exceeds 840 mw while the country's total demand stands at around 2135

The source pointed out that the government had no immediate plan for the fourth phase of electrification. However, the government has approved a Tk 61 crores emergency power development programme for the capital under which the overloaded lines will be renovated and extended.

"Even if it approves the fourth project, it would take another five to seven years to complete that programme. By that time the demand would increase by over 66 per cent of the present figure and we would be unable to serve adequate electricity," he added.

Under the third phase, some 1180 new transformers had been installed and seven 132/33 KV sub-stations had been set up while seven similar old stations had been extended. Also nine new 33/11KV sub-stations have been set up and 21 similar old stations had been updated.

facturing Division comprising Rahimafrooz Batteries Ltd. Yuasa Battery (BD) Ltd. and Industrial Batteries Ltd has recently signed an agreement with the USA based firm Quality Institute of America Inc for implementation of ISO Quality Management System, says a press release.

ISO 9000 (International Standard Organization) Quality Management System is currently one of the highest crite-

Many companies in EC Arab countries, USA and other countries are now demanding ISO 9000 registration from suppliers around the world. Some experts believe that within five years, ISO 9000 registration will be essential for business to stay competi-

this programme, Rahimafrooz intends to provide total quality assurance and customer satisfaction to its domestic and international customers.

Stock market opens mixed

were mixed in early trading Monday morning, says AP.

average was off 2.42 in the first half hour but then turned higher to show a 7.61-point gain at 4,351.01 by 10.30 am EDT (1430 GMT) one hour

composite index was down minutes while Standard and 0.09 to 843.44 and the American Stock Exchange market value index fell 0.31 to 482.31.

Losers had a slight edge over gainers and an initial tally on the Big Board showed 738 up, 796 down and 867 unchanged.

line.

Volume on the NYSE floor have slowed.

'WTO's child labour issue loses support'

NEW DELHI, May 9: A proposal to withhold trade benefits from developing countries that fail to eliminate child labour is losing support within the World Trade Organisation (WTO), an Indian cabinet minister said vesterday, reports Reuter.

Commerce Minister P Chidambaram said Australia, Canada, South Africa and some other countries had realised that the newly created WTO was not an appropriate forum for discussing child labour.

A group of rich countries led by the United States and France has proposed introducing a "social clause" into the WTO, which would link trade to the willingness of developing countries like India to stop child labour.

New Delhi estimates 20 million Indian children are working instead of going to school, many in dangerous jobs.

"We are strongly opposed to putting the social clause on the WTO agenda," Chidambaram told foreign correspondents. "A number of countries have realised that it is not right to pursue the social clause. We hope it will remain on the back burner.

China's industrial output climbs

BEIJING. May 9: The value of China's industrial output in April rose 15.4 per cent from a year earlier to 156.8 billion yuan (18.67 billion dollars) the State Statistics Bureau reported Tuesday, reports AP.

In the first four months of the year, China's industrial output value was 547.6 billion yuan (65.2 billion dollars), up 14.7 per cent from January-April last year, said the bureau's report, quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Enterprises in which the Chinese state holds a majority stake increased their output value by 10.7 per cent in April, while collectively owned enterprises saw a rise of 16.7 per cent. The April industrial output value of enterprises outside the public sector, including foreign-funded and privately owned companies. was up 21 per cent from a year earlier, said Xinhua.

China distinguishes be tween state-owned and collectively owned enterprises.

Israel's forex reserves all time high

JERUSALEM, May 9: An Unprecedented influx of capital pushed Israel's foreign currency reserves to an all-time high of nine billion dollars at the end of the first quarter, the Bank of Israel said Monday, reports AFP.

While only 2.3 billion dollars in foreign currency came to Israel during the whole of 1994, 2.6 billion poured in over the first three months of this year

"The Bank of Israel's high interest rate policy attracted the money," said spokesman Ohad Bar Efrat.

With the bank's base rate at 17 per cent in February, Israeli companies converted their loans in dollars into shekels and invested the money to make short term gains. "The rates were maintained

at a high level to bring down inflation which should be between eight and 11 per cent compared with 14.5 per cent in 1994," The bank official

However, interest rates have tumbled three per cent since March as price rises

Delay in clearance of containers causing problem in Ctg Port

CHITTAGONG, May 9 Chittagong Port has been facing problem in handling containers because of slow or nonclearance of the same by the concerned parties within the stipulated time, reports BSS.

According to a Chittagong Port authority press release here today, the port authority has to stock 1300 to 1400 containers of Total Equivalent Units (TEUs) at the port though its holding capacity is 8.500. Generally containers can be kept at the port yard for 20 days, but it is observed that containers are not cleared by the concerned parties for thirty days on average.

The port authority in consultation with the Customs. Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and port users decided to hand over the piled up containers to the Customs for auction of the concerned parties did not lift their containers in 75 days of their arrival at the port yard. The port authority has already handed over 1000 containers to the Customs for auction but the Customs authority has to complete some formalities before auctioning of the containers and this causes congestion at the container yard creating problem for handling newly stocked containers.

CPA press release claimed that problem of container handling would be ease when customs would auction 100 containers already handed over to

US Soap Opera TV channel

ENGLEWOOD, Colorado, May 9: Angst-ridden love will bubble into new life this year with the debut of a cable television channel dedicated to soap operas, says AP.

The 24-hour Soap Opera Channel ideally will feature reruns of current and former soap operas, talk shows and related soap programming. said LaRae Schlichting, a spokeswoman for Tele-Communications Inc.

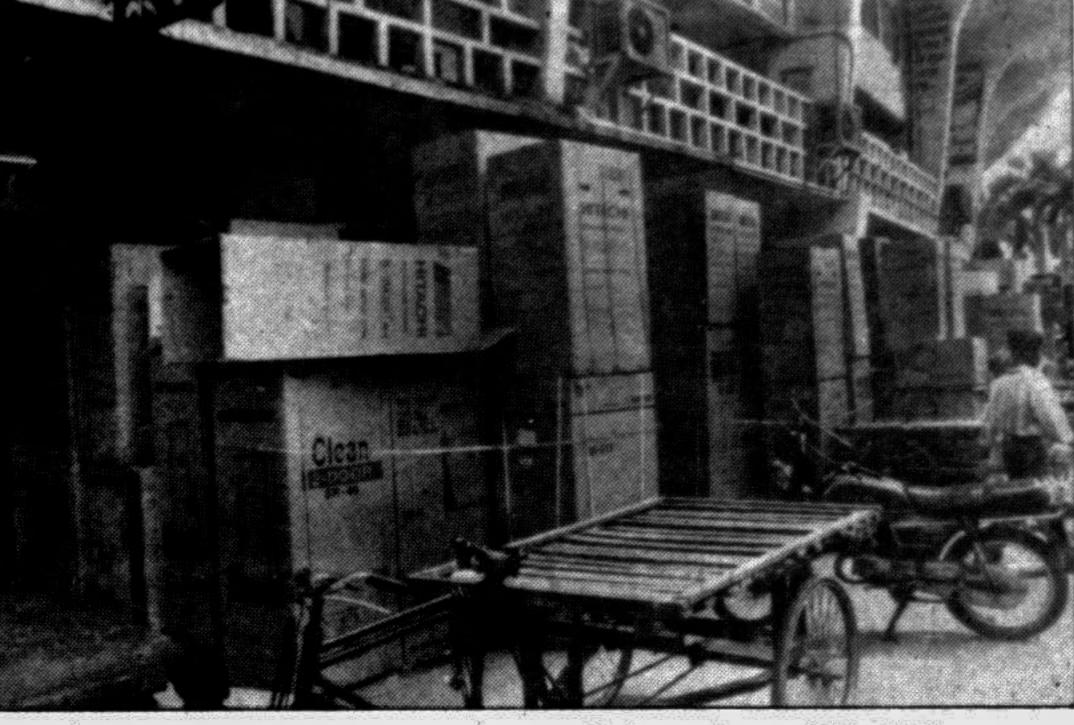
Liberty Media Corp. a unit of TCI, plans to launch the changel on TV! Network by the end of the year. TV! Network is a basic cable service designed to allow customers to preview new programming offerings from network sources.

Chittagong Port started handling of containers in 1977 and completed two multi-purpose container handling jetties with back up facilities in 1992.

The port planned to handle 90,000 annually TEUS containers but now it has to handle more containers for which facilities have to be expanded and developed, the CPA has already singed an agreement with some foreign firms for the supply of machinery for handling 20 more containers. The port has also planned to build more container yards for handling 2.500 containers per

A plan is also on the anvil for construction of two more container terminals in the fu-

Though container handling at the port began fully in 1985. necessary Inland Container Depots (ICD) are yet to be built in different areas of the country except one in Dhaka. More ICD are needed to effectively handle containers and there is need for construction of river container depots whereever possible.



Refrigerators put on display for sale at the Stadium Market on the eve of Eid ul Azha.

Star photo Pakistan slashes

duty on satellite

Picasso portrait sells for \$29m at auction

NEW YORK, May 9: Picasso's portrait of a fellow artist brooding in a Barcelona cafe has been sold for 29 million dollars, the highest price paid for a painting at auction since 1990, reports AP.

Also sold Monday night at Sotheby's was a 1923 painting by Henri Matisse that fetched 14.8 million dollar — a record for a work by the French impressionist. A second Matisse was sold for 5.5 million dollars.

In an art market that has flattened out in recent years. the high prices were reminiscent of the late 1980s boom years, when eight-digit price tags were commonplace.

"It was a fantastic night, the most exciting night for the art market since May of 1990," when a Van Gogh portrait sold for dirs 82.5 million, said Diana Brooks, Sotheby's chief executive...

"I think it's a great statement for the market." Brooks said. "We knew we had a great collection. The question was, would the buyers be there? They were. Pablo Picasso's "Angel

Fernandez de Soto," dated 1903, is from the artist's "blue

period," so named for the predominant colour of his work. It depicts Picasso's friends and long-jawed fellow artist seated before an empty glass, tobacco smoke rising hazily around the

The painting was considered Picasso's most important work to be auctioned since 1989, when his "Yo Picasso" sold for 47.9 million dollar. It was also one of the few paintings from his blue period still on the market

Bidding began at 8 million dollars and increased more than three dozen times before a telephone bid by an anonymous private collector went unchallenged. The final price, including the commission charged by the auction house, was 29,152,500 dollars three times the projected presale price of about 10 million

It was the highlight of an evening when 44 of 46 works from the estate of banker Donald Stralem and his philanthropist wife, Jean, sold for a total of 65 million dollar - the most for a single-owner sale since 1990.

dish receivers, video recorders ISLAMABAD. May 9 Pakistan, keen to curb rampant smuggling, risked the wrath of Islamic clerics yes-

terday by cutting customs duties and withdrawing sales tax on satellite-dish receivers and video recorders, reports Reuter. Islamic scholars have been

demanding a ban or higher taxes on increasingly popular satellite dishes and video equipment, which they see as weapons for western cultural invasion.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's cabinet slashed duty on 33 items and exempted them from sales tax. Information Minister Khalid Ahmad Karal told reporters the move was designed to deter smuggling by reducing profit margins on contraband.

Duty was reduced to 10 or 20 per cent on a variety of consumer goods, office and computer equipment and tools, some of which had previously attracted duty as high as 70 per cent.

Pakistan complains that large-scale smuggling disguised by a transit trade agreement with Afghanistan is depriving the government of revenue and undermining the local economy.

'Dollar will be weak until US acts on deficit'

BONN, May 9: The dollar will not rise against the mark and ven until the US administration acts to boost savings and to cut its budget deficit. the President of the Bundesbank, Hans Tietmeyer. said vesterday, reports AFP.

Tietmeyer told the International Herald Tribune newspaper that the low rate of savings in the United States. and the budget deficit were the main causes behind the fall of the dollar

uncertainty about the future of the deficit and an aggravating factor was that the United States was heavily in debt abroad

The main concern was

"It is possible to settle the

BEIJING, May 9: China's official Xinhua news agency has

Wang, 54, replaces Guo Dongpo, who has been named head

It said that Wang also has served as assistant governor of

Tokyo - Dealerships in Japan sold 26,708 imported autos

The Japan Automobile Importers Association said it was

Passenger car sales were up 13.3 per cent to 24,763.

But sales of impo-YY trucks declined 18.8 per cent to

April's figures brought January-April sales of imported mo-

April sales of vehicles built by US subsidiaries of Japanese

Sales of such vehicles in the first four months of the year

named Qang Qiren, chairman of the board of directors of the

Bank of China, to head its Macao Branch, it was reported

of the Beijing-based China Council for the Promotion of

the People's Bank of China and as vice chairman of China's

in April, up 10.1 per cent from the previous April, an indus-

the best April ever for sales of imported autos, which in-

Those with engine capacities of up to 2 liters increased 17.6

per cent to 8.017 and sales of larger cars grew 11.3 per cent

1.945, the association said, and no Japanese bought im-

ported buses in April, compared with three buses a year ear-

tor vehicles to 120,678, up 39.3 per cent from a year earlier.

These sales included 111,744 passenger cars, up 41.8 per

International Trade, the newspaper China Daily said.

creased on the year for the 18th straight month.

cent, and 8,929 trucks, up 14.1 per cent.

automakers rose 6.0 per cent to 5,787.

surged 69.2 per cent to 34,095.

Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office.

try group said Tuesday.

to 16,746.

Reuter.

reporters.

to resolve the auto dispute, US President Bill Clinton was advised by top aides on Sunday to hit Japan with record-breaking import tariffs and other tough trade measures in a move to force Japan to open its car market to more foreign competition.

Officials in Washington said Clinton, alarmed by a 66 billion trade deficit with Japan, was leaning towards taking strong action, with a decision expected by mid-

In Tokyo on Monday, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama discussed the issue with top cabinet ministers including Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and

that Murayama's cabinet would stick to the basic position that Tokyo would bring the case to the World Trade Watchdog if the US announce punitive measures, Kyodo News Agency

threat to impose sanctions on

TOKYO, May 9: Japan said vesterday it was willing to resume talks with the United States over trade in cars and car parts if Washington stopped pressing the issue of voluntary Japanese purchases of foreign car parts, reports

Feroz Rahim, Director of Rahimafrooz, speaking at the inaugural session of ISO 9000 Quality

Management System programme of the company recently.

Beijing can

feed people

ın 21st

century

BEIJING, May 9: China can

improve its production enough

to ensure sufficient food for its

growing population in the 21st

century, a government report

released Tuesday said, reports

people, 22 per cent of the

world's population, with only 7

per cent of the world's farm-

land. Every year its farmland is

shrinking because of develop-

guarantee continuing im-

provements in productivity in

future decades, even as the

amount of farmland per person

dwindles, scientists concluded

in a report by the Ministry of

China will open up

330,000 hectares (815,000

acres) of wasteland annually.

said the report, quoted by the

official Xinhua news agency. It

also will increase the use of

multiple cropping and improve

grain output in areas that now

reach an estimated 1.6 billion.

compared with 1.2 billion now.

the report said. The total de-

mand for grain will be an es-

timated 640 million tons, an

increase of 190 million tons

US to close 25

missions abroad

next year to

cut costs

to 25 US diplomatic missions

abroad will be closed by next

year to cut costs, Secretary of

Monday, reports AP.

State Warren Christopher said

WASHINGTON, May 9: Up

In 2030, the population will

have low yields, it added.

Scientific progress can

ment.

Agriculture.

from 1990.

China must feed 1.2 billion

issue if the US side does not seek the voluntary plan, and (in that case) we would be ready to continue with the talks," top government spokesman Kozo Igarashi told

US shifts policy: Japan

which threatens to escalate been a US demand that purchase agreements which spell out how they plan to

Auto talks can restart if

The biggest sticking point in the Japan-US dispute into a bitter trade conflict, has Japanese car manufacturers renew so-called voluntary boost purchases of US-made

Igarashi also reiterated Japan's vow to take the automotive trade dispute with the United States to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) if

Washington goes ahead with a

Tuesday.

After talks last week failed

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono.

At the meeting, they agreed

Bangkok — The Department of Civil Aviation has given approval for three airlines to operate domestically, the Nation newspaper reported Tuesday.

in-country flights. The three airlines are Northwind Airways, NTC Tour Company Ltd. and Siam Land Company. The three must still

A total of nine airlines have applied for permission to start

Communications. Dej Boonlong, the paper said. All three companies are small players compared to Thai International, the country's flagship carrier, and Bangkok

Asia business briefs

Northwind, NTC and Siam Land will mainly operate charter flights in regional areas. The Office of Maritime Promotion Commission in Bangkok

is proposing construction of a new deep-sea port west of Bangkok. The OMPC said the new port is needed because Thailand's only other deep-sea port, Laem Chabang, in Chonburi, 70 kilometers (44 miles) south of Bangkok, will reach capacity in the next two decades, the Bangkok Post reported Tuesday. Three sites are being considered for the new port: Samut

Sakhon, 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Bangkok; Samut

Songkhram. 70 kilometres (44 miles) Southwest of the capi-

tal; and Prachuab Kiri Khan, 230 kilometers (143 mtles)

southwest of Bangkok.

Singapore - Singapore's Informatics Holding Ltd. plans to set up two new information technology training centers in China, expanding its network in that country to seven.

The training centres offer a diploma course in computer studies and software training for aspiring salesmen, said a company statement received Tuesday. . It said the IT courses are supplemented by English language learning courses with English language proficiency

tests and secretarial courses. The two new centres in Suzhou and Dagin raise to 85 the number of training sites Informatics has in 16 countries, including eight new centres in India.

Informatics, listed on the junior board of Singapore stock exchange, has a current market capitalization of about dlrs 85 million. Incorporated in 1983, Informatics Holdings Ltd also develops and distributes software packages and markets and retails technology-related products. New Delhi - A court has stopped the chairman of India's

largest car manufacturer from going to Japan after federal police said he could tamper with evidence in cases they are investigating. Maruti Udyog Ltd. Chairman R C Bhargava was heading to Tokyo for talks with Suzuki Motor Corp. which owns half of

the Indian car maker, a spokesman for the company said

Tuesday. In the last four years, federal police have launched investi gations into allegations that Bhargava favoured a firm supply ing shock absorbers to his company.

Christopher told a gathering of State Department employees the measure will save dlrs 15 million in operating costs. He did not identify which posts will be closed but said no area of the globe would be excluded.

Other cost-cutting steps he announced include a reduction in the front office staffs of under secretaries and the immediate elimination or modification of 12 required reports from diplomatic posts.

areas of Gulshan-Banani-

The demand for power in is much slower. Dhaka Electric system is saturated resulting in

As the weather remains hot and dry, people are consuming ' more and more power. The country-wide demand for power has increased by 100 to 150 mega watt from the last year and load shedding has become regular in most places of the city including Zigatola, Satmasjid Road. Dhanmondi, Green Road, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Jurain, Khilgaon, Motifheel, Shahjahanpur, Jatrabari. Elephant Road,

The PDB source said that

"There is insufficient

PDB official. requesting He further said that the 60 mw Sikalbaha Hydro-power plant in Chittagong was also producing insufficient amount of electricity due to increase in

of the DESA said.

mw in peak hours.

Rahimafrooz launches ISO 9000 quality programme

Rahimafrooz Battery Manu-

ria of quality in world trade.

With the implementation of

in New York NEW YORK, May 9: Stocks

The Dow Jones industrial

into the session. Broader measures dipped The New York Stock Exchange 0.17 to 279.73 in the first 30 Poor's 500 stock index edged 0.25 lower to 519.87. The Nasdaq Stock Market slipped

amounted 31.08 million shares in the first half hour.

receive final approval from Deputy Minister of Transport and Airways, which is seeking to become the second national air-

The police also believe he violated norms in buying 10,000 air conditioner components from another company Source AP