

# FAO opens \$ 3.5 m new fish marketing information centre in E Europe

ROME, July 2: The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Danish Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries signed an agreement recently creating EASTFISH, the first fish marketing and information service designed to assist Central and Eastern European countries, according to FAO press release.

The agreement was signed in Copenhagen by FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf and Danish Agriculture Minister Henrik Dam Kristensen.

Headquartered in Copenhagen, the 3.5 million dollars Danish government-funded project will assist Central and Eastern European countries with the complex problems of fishing industries

in transition as they compete in the market place with Western and developing world fisheries.

EASTFISH will provide a source for marketing information, as well as managerial expertise, particularly in the field of business procedures, price and cost calculations and in the preparation of investment proposals, feasibility studies and business plans.

EASTFISH, which will be operational from July 1, 1996, joins the FAO network of fish marketing information services providing information and advice on markets and supplies, processing and quality issues that impact on global fishing industries.

Some areas where EASTFISH will provide immediate assistance include: a canning factory in one of Baltic States which must prepare a business plan and feasibility study to secure financing for much needed machinery, particularly packaging equipment, a coldstorage distribution centre in Moscow which is looking for a suitable exporter of whitefish, in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, an oversupply of carp from aquaculture, which is causing serious price decreases, has the three countries looking for alternative markets such as the EU.

The FAO-managed project will operate for a preparatory

phase of 10 months and is assured of further funding for two years to cover the costs of a small staff. Eventually, EASTFISH is expected to become an independent intergovernmental organization financed by its member countries and from funds raised by its services.

The project is part of FAO's on-going effort to increase worldwide food security through, among other things, the sustainable management of fisheries.

A World Food Summit will convene at FAO Headquarters in Rome, 13-17 November 1996. Global Fisheries will be one of many food security issues on the Summit agenda.

A temporary agreement on



Ali Hossain, President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), along with some members of the DCCI Board of Directors, called on the Minister for Finance SAMS Kibria at his secretariat office Monday and exchanged views with him on various issues relating to country's trade and economic activities.

## RBI policy measures boost gilt prices

BOMBAY, July 2: The Indian money market reacted to the policy measures announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) yesterday by a sharp jump in gilt prices, dealers said, reports Reuter.

The market went crazy in the afternoon once it got the news, "a dealer at a foreign bank said. "Yields have dropped by 30 basis points in one day for some securities".

The RBI announced measures including a cut in banks' cash reserve requirements which is expected to improve liquidity.

Perceptions of easy liquidity led to a surge in buying interest in gilts, a dealer said. "But this is only an immediate reaction," he said. "The market should stabilise over the next couple of days".

Call money rates ended Monday around 8.50 per cent against the day's opening 10.75-10.85 per cent, dealers said.

"Call rates may come down further as bank requirements fall following the RBI measures," a dealer said.

Dealers reported buying interest in both treasury bills and longer-dated securities.

Yields on the 13.50 per cent 1997 stock moved down to 12.10 per cent from 12.30 per cent, a dealer said.

In treasury bills, yields on treasury bills maturing in September fell to 12.10 per cent from 12.30 per cent.

No activity was reported in certificates of deposit and commercial paper.

## Bid to reduce cost base London bourse to cut 120 jobs

LONDON, July 2: The London Stock Exchange (LSE) is to cut 120 jobs in a bid to reduce its cost base, the company announced after a review of its trading practices which was published yesterday, reports AFP.

The job-cuts, which come on top of 250 planned redundancies when the exchange adopts a settlement in two weeks' time, will reduce market's total workforce to 550.

The LSE said it will remain competitive and be able to provide quality services and regulation with a cost base of no more than 120 million pounds (180 million dollars) and with a staff of approximately 550 people.

The proposed job cuts come as the latest wave of redundancies on the LSE, which has seen its workforce fall from about 2,000 employees in 1992.

In recent months, the exchange has undergone a radical shake-up of its staff. Its former chief executive, Michael Lawrence, was sacked in January, amid accusations from other top officials that he had lost the confidence of key players on the market.

The LSE appointed a successor to Lawrence, who was widely seen to be a mover and a shaker who had a closed shop of market intermediaries, just last month.

It was also designed to ensure that the market here survived as the dominant European stock exchange, in the face of increasing competition from other trading centres such as the Frankfurt and Paris markets.

The London market believes that by cutting costs, it will be able to encourage overseas companies to float shares here rather than on other bourses on continental Europe.

The market has also faced fresh competition from a

## China plans to build fast breeder reactor by 2000

BEIJING, July 2: China plans to build an experimental fast breeder reactor by 2000 to lay a solid technological foundation for the construction of similar reactors commercially, Xinhua reported yesterday.

The official news agency quoted Sun Zhuxun, the President of the Chinese Academy of Nuclear Energy, as saying that preliminary designs for the facility were expected to be completed by the end of this year.

To be owned by the academy, the facility would have a designed thermal power of 65 mw and electric generating output of 20 mw, the president said in an interview with Xinhua.

Past breeder reactors are some 50 times more economical in uranium usage than the more common thermal reactors.

A feasibility study on the construction of the reactor was passed last month by the Chinese National Nuclear Corporation, it said.

It has decided to modify the way trade is conducted on the London market. The LSE will implement a hybrid system of share dealing which in part still relies on the network of "marketmakers", who agree to buy and sell shares at certain agreed prices, with an order-driven system under which dealers do not have to trade through intermediaries.

Research on the fast breeder reactors was listed in 1987 as part of China's medium to long term high technology research programme.

Development of these reactors was of strategic importance for China to meet its growing energy needs in the next century, Sun said.

Experts say China's need for primary energy will reach 4.5 billion tonnes of standard coal by 2050, while the country's supplies of conventional energy, including coal, oil and natural gas, can only provide 3.5 billion tonnes.

Polish parliament opens new way for privatisation of state-owned cos

WARSAW, July 2: The leftist government says a law that has taken three years to pass the lower house of parliament will speed up privatisation, but critics say it leaves too much room for political patronage, says AP.

The upper house of parliament and the president were expected to also approve the bill, passed Friday by the Sejm after three years of debate and opposition from former President Lech Walesa.

The law provides a new way of privatising state-owned companies, turning them into joint-stock companies governed by commercial law but fully owned by the state treasury.

The leftist government says the move will facilitate future privatisation by allowing companies to participate in the commercial market and improve their efficiency before they are fully privatised.

The law also allows the Cabinet to "commercialise" some state companies without ever privatising them.

Libya to realise assets in Europe to invest in Egypt

CAIRO, July 2: Libyan leader Moamer Gaddafi has decided to cash in millions of dollars of Libyan assets in European countries and invest the capital in Egypt, a senior Libyan official said yesterday, reports AFP.

Mohammed Al-Howeij, in charge of investments abroad, told the official Egyptian news agency MENA that "moves have begun to realise Libyan assets in European countries especially in Britain."

UN diplomats said the Iraqis want to import computers, oil-drilling equipment, telecommunications equipment, spare parts and other supplies not authorized by the oil-for-food agreement.

Libya's International Investment Company has begun to sell its shares in the Metropole group of hotels estimated at 290 million dollars, he added.

The country has been under a UN embargo since 1992 for refusing to handover for trial in either the United States or Britain, two Libyans suspected of the 1988 bombing of a US jet above Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

Natural gas prices were

# Japan, US still far from trade agreements

TOKYO, July 2: A few days after talks failed to resolve a dispute over expanding passenger air services, Japan is ready to negotiate again this week with the United States, a top transport official was quoted as saying Monday, reports AP.

"It is inadvisable to let the current bilateral dispute develop into a tit-for-tat sanctions war," said Vice Transport Minister Minoru Toyoda, according to Kyodo news agency. "Even if we don't have face-to-face meetings, we can have talks by phone."

In March, the two sides resolved a few of the air cargo issues they had disagreed on. But serious disagreements remain.

A temporary agreement on

Japan's part to allow increased services by United Airlines between Tokyo and Los Angeles and by Japan Airlines between Sendai and Honolulu expires next Monday.

Unless the approval is extended, the services will be decreased, and Toyoda suggested that any new agreement would not be in time.

"It will take time to bring the bilateral issue to a final settlement," Kyodo quoted him as saying. "Japan fully informed the United States of its views regarding the equalisation of opportunities for the Japanese and US air industries at last week's talks."

Japan contends that the two nations' present aviation agreement favours the United States.

# Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on July 2, 1996

## 9-point rise in index

Star Report

The Dhaka Stock Exchange All Share Price Index continued to rise posting a gain of 8.65 points to 967.70 on Tuesday.

The transaction in volume increased by 41 per cent to 2.90 lakh from 2.06 lakh and value rose by 40 per cent from Tk 5.49 to Tk 7.69 cr.

The total market capital of DSE reached Tk 6570.69 cr from Tk 6511.93 cr.

The leading gainer of the

day was Singer Bangladesh with a rise of Tk 175.00 per share while the losers were led by Beximco Knitting with a fall of Tk 100.00 per share.

The volume leaders of the day were: Mita Textiles (38380) and Eastern Cables (37725).

The number of issues traded totalled 115 of which 60 gained 47 incurred losses while prices of eight remained unchanged.

Trading at a glance			
DSE All Price Index	967.70		
Market Capital Tk	6570.69 cr		
Transaction in volume	290497		
Transaction in value	7.69 cr		
Total issues traded	115		
Issues gained	60		
Issues incurred losses	47		
Issues unchanged	8		
Company	Change	Number	
	(per share)	of share	
	Tk	traded	

Chittagong Stock Exchange			
5-point rise in index			
All Securities Price Index	410.85		
Day's Change in Index	0.4400%		
Total Turnover in Value in Taka	4,167,610.00		
Total Turnover in Volumes	14,770		
Total Issues Capital in Taka	12,808,659,190.00		
Total Closing Market Capital in Taka	36,966,800,578.00		
Total Number of Listed Securities	72		
Total Number of Companies	65		
Total Number of Mutual Funds	7		
Day's Contract Number:	183		
Day's Issues Traded	17		
Day's Issues Gained	11		
Day's Issues Incurred loss	5		
Day's Issues Unchanged	1		

CSE at a glance			
All Securities Price Index	410.85		
Day's Change in Index	0.4400%		
Total Turnover in Value in Taka	4,167,610.00		
Total Turnover in Volumes	14,770		
Total Issues Capital in Taka	12,808,659,190.00		
Total Closing Market Capital in Taka	36,966,800,578.00		
Total Number of Listed Securities	72		
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CSE at a glance

All Securities Price Index

Day's Change in Index

Total Turnover in Value in Taka

Total Turnover in Volumes

Total Issues Capital in Taka

Total Closing Market Capital in Taka

Total Number of Listed Securities

Total Number of Companies

Total Number of Mutual Funds

Day