

ption in 1980 (MEED 16:11:84). Wakim, still owns 12.5 per cent of Saadco, fell out of the majority shareholder, Prince Abdullahaisal, and left for the UK where, by July 1984, he had run up horseracing debts with the firm *Ladbroke's*, Winchester crown court told. The private detective hired by Ladbroke's to investigate Wakim had plotted to make his fortune by smuggling the Japanese businessman to Jeddah, where he would be "placed in the prince's private prison," the court heard. The prosecution emphasised Prince Abdullah was not involved in the

SOMALIA

Italy's Prime Minister Bettino Craxi will take a long-standing invitation and visit from 2 September. A 30 August statement of the meeting between Craxi and President Abd Barre will lay the basis for reinforcing the term bilateral co-operation programmes; the situation in the Horn of Africa and other issues will also be on the agenda. The visit will be the first by an Italian prime minister since Somalia gained independence in 1960.

The government has announced details of its programme to revitalise the economy by encouraging local and foreign private investment, stimulating private-sector agricultural and industrial output. According to a statement issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the programme is to be directed by an independent committee with its own administrative section. The committee will comprise government officials and representatives of parastatal agencies and other organisations involved in production. Privately owned local and foreign firms are to be licensed when appropriate, and private individuals and firms will be allowed to export oil for distribution through co-operative organisations. The government agreed to implement an economic liberalisation programme in its talks with the IMF in early 1985 (MEED 24:8:85).

SUDAN

Lends for power scheme

International Development Association (IDA) is lending SDR 30.3



Insulated Sectional Overhead Doors

Galvanised Roller Shutter Doors

NEWS

MEED

MEED 7 SEPT. 1985
p42-43 X VOL. 25 NO. 36

million (\$31.4 million) to part-finance a \$40.2 million rehabilitation project to improve the efficiency of existing power generating facilities and the overall reliability of electricity supplies.

The project is part of the 1985-90 development programme of the *National Electricity Corporation (NEC)*, which is to provide the remainder of the finance through internal cash generation.

A World Bank spokesman told MEED that the project comprises a distillation of the highest priorities of the proposed power four development programme. The most urgent need was to improve the existing system through a series of small rehabilitation projects, rather than a major expansion in generating output as envisaged under power four, he added.

However, discussions will be held with the government on implementation of power four at a later stage, although it is likely to be substantially revised, MEED was told. In essence, the new scheme is an interim measure designed to continue with rehabilitation started under the power three programme, with a small power expansion component.

Two units at *Roseires* hydroelectric station in eastern Sudan will be rehabilitated, together with the supply of spare parts for the *Sennar* hydroelectric station, north of *Roseires*. In addition, the *Blue Nile* transmission network will be rehabilitated and circuit breakers in the eastern grid and at the *Burri* and *Kilo X* substations replaced. The project also provides for capacity at the *Burri* thermal power station to be expanded by the addition of two 10-MW diesel generating units. Four diesel units were recently installed at the station, which is designed for six.

Consultants are to be appointed to supervise project implementation and to carry out studies on long-term development and investment priorities for the power supply system. The government will decide whether to employ the consultants involved in the power three programme; if new consultants are required standard international tendering procedures will be adopted.

The credit is for 50 years, including 10 years' grace, with annual charges of 1/2 per cent on undisbursed amounts and 3/4 per cent on disbursed amounts.

SYRIA

The government has written to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressing regret at the UN's decision to circulate as a UN document a communique issued at the end of the recent Arab League summit in Casablanca. The meeting, which ended on 9 August, gave implicit backing to the joint Jordanian-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace initiative with Israel (MEED 17:8:85, Regional). However,

Damascus says the summit had no political value, as five Arab states, including Syria, did not attend. As a result, the communique "does not accurately express the true nature of the Arab position."

Libya's revolutionary leader Muammar Qaddafi has called on Syria to annex Lebanon, in a speech marking the anniversary of Libya's September 1969 revolution.

Oil & Mineral Resources Minister Ghazi al-Durobi arrived in the Soviet Union on 1 September, the official Syrian Arab News Agency reports. His visit is intended to promote energy co-operation.

Jacques Noiseux is to be Canada's first ambassador in Damascus, and Syria is expected to open a mission in Ottawa within six months, according to reports from the Canadian capital. The opening of the Damascus embassy is largely the result of the June closure of Canada's Beirut mission, which Noiseux headed. Canada's immigration and visa procedures for Lebanon will be handled from Damascus.

TUNISIA

Refinery tenders due

Nine international companies or groups were to be sent tender documents for a \$20 million extension to Bizerte refinery on 10 September, contractors say. *Societe Tunisienne des Industries de Raffinage (STIR)*, which runs the refinery, intends to double annual topping capacity to 3 million tonnes, to improve the yield of gas-oil and fuel oil. Both products are in demand locally (MEED 24:5:85).

An earlier, \$500 million project to increase the refinery's capacity to 5 million tonnes a year and to add downstream units was shelved in 1983. The cancellation was one of the first signs of government concern about the level of investment spending (MEED 27:1:84, page 46).

STIR will also ask bidders to put in offers for an alternative scheme to increase annual topping capacity to 4.5 million tonnes. Although the larger volume would be better suited to the scale of local demand for refined products, funds for such an increase have yet to be approved in the budget. Oil and refined products imports cost TD 236 million (\$306 million) in 1984. Bidders for the extension are:

- Italy — *Snamprogetti, Tecnipetrol* and *Compagnia Tecnica Internazionale Progetti (CTIP)*
 - France — *Foster Wheeler Francaise* and *Heurtey Industries*, bidding with the US' *Lummus Crest*
 - Japan — *JGC Corporation, Hitachi Zosen* and *Chiyoda Chemical Engineering & Construction Company*
 - Czechoslovakia — *Technoexport*.
- The refinery, built by Snamprogetti in

1962, made kerosene.

IN BRIEF

Algeria's military spokesman said Tunisia's visit came during a visit, where (page 20). March 1985

A Pakistani co-operative industrial (SIAPE) — at the National already signed Kuwait, T fertilizer co

IMF stands

Economic agenda of the IMF, until 1986 credit, say Erdem. N SDR 225 credit bro IMF was c budget de and were e visit (MEE Treasury c has not de the credit.

The trend year indica can be den However, had recover the first-ha declined b with Janua

The budg escalation continuing 50 per cen although w June and J increase m Appearing government problem, E is expected cent, comp targets of 2 inflation w

December the budget Treasury of government spend their the budget deficit to d and Novem and interna drops — in year, the g