ports AFP.

Star Economic Report

reach at Ctg

French donation of 17,000 metric tons of wheat to Bangladesh reached at the Chittagong Port. reports UNB. The grant given as a token of friendship for the year 1990 arrived at the port on March 31, said a press release here Friday.

Francois-Xavier Flamand. Deputy Trade Commissioner of the French Embassy in Dhaka formally handed over the food aid to Azizur Rahman, Regional Controller of Food, Chittagong on April 1.

ceived a total of 227 174 metric tons of wheat from France as food aid.

Saudi Arabia faces financial problems

RIYADH, Apr 5 : Post-war Saudi Arabia is facing unprecedented financial difficulties that will force the desert kingdom to make potentially painful policy decisions. But fi nancial and diplomatic sources say the country's long-term economic health is virtually assured, reports AP.

Saudi Arabia emerged from the Gulf war with its government and oil facilities intact. Oil prices did not plummet, as analysts had predicted they would after the war.

Still, there are rough times ahead. The Saudis reportedly spent up to 30 billion dollars last year on arms and war preparations, including payments to the United States. This contributed to a budget deficit of about 15 billion dollars, compared to 7.9 billion dollars for 1989.

For the first quarter of 1991, the Saudis pledged 13.5 billion dollars in cash and ground support services to the United States but reportedly have paid less than a third of that sum. While payments have not been a problem in the past, it could be difficult to raise all of the remaining sum.

A cash value has not yet been placed upon the goods and services - such as fuel and catering - that the Saudis provided to US troops. Until they do that, the Saudis can't settle their bills in full.

BANKS (Ten)

AL Baraka Bank

A.B Bank

City Bank LF.LC

slami Bank

Pupalt Bank Rupalt Bank U.C.B.L

National Bank

1st ICB M.Fund

3rd ICB M. Fund

5th ICB M. Fund

6th ICB M. Fund

Atlas Bangladesh

Bengal Carbide

Jowlader PVC

Monno Stafflers

National Tubes

Quasem Drycells

Renwick Jajneswar100/5

Karim Pipe Metalex Corp

Monno Jutex

Panther Steel

A.B Biscuit

Apex Food

B.T.C.

Aroma Tea

Bangas Bengal Food

Alpha Tobacco

Aman Sea Food

Ctg. Vegetable Dhaka Vegetable

Frogleg Export Gemini Sea Food

Modern Industries 100/5

FUEL & POWER (Three)

Eastern Lubricant 10/50

E.L. Cemellia

N.T.C Rabeya Flour

Rupan Oil Tulip Dairy

Yousuf Flour

Padma Oil Co.

JUTE (Twelve)

Anowara Jute

Zcal Bangla

Oxyzen

Ahad Jute

Delta Jute

Gawsia Jute

INSURANCE (Four)

ENGINERING (Nineteen)

Aftab Automobiles 100/5

Bangladesh Autocars 100/5 116.65

100/5

100/5

10.05

100/5

100/10

10/50

100/5

100/5

100/5

100/5

100/5

10/50

100/5

100/5

100/5

10/50

10/50

10/50

100/10

10/50

10/50

Singer Bangladesh 100/5 1150.00

FOOD & ALLIED (Twenty one)

ICB Unit Cert.

Sales Price

Re-purchase

Green Delta

2nd ICB Fund

INVESTMENT (Eight)

The 11-member Task Force on financial sector reforms recommended that the Government should undertake several legal steps to strengthen the 'intermediately' role of the banks in the overall

The report of the Task Force was submitted to the Government in March.

Additional Secretary of **Economic Relations Division** (ERD) Dr. Mohtuddin Ahmed, who was Managing Director (MD) of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) in the mideighties, was the Convenor of the Task Force.

It examined the critical issues in the country's ailing financial sector. It stressed the need for streamlining the legal framework for more effective and dynamic operations by the banking sector.

The recommendations of the Task Force covered four major operational aspects. They included: (1) Legal and statutory problems. (2) Implementation process for recently-introduced financial sector reforms, (3) Financial discipline and managemen. and (4) Capital market and development of securities mar-

The Task Force on financial sector reforms was one of 29 working groups set up by the Government to make a review of existing problems in various socio-economic sectors and suggest remedial measures to help overcome the same.

In it's recommendations for instituting an appropriate institutional legal framework for the banking and, overall, financial sector, the Task Force suggested that steps should be taken for waiving stamp duty in cases of mortgaging any documents or deeds with the

banks as colluteral for lending operations. There should be provisions for registration fees only for such cases.

The report highlighted the needs for appropriate moves in following areas:

(1) The existing arrangements for clearance certificates from income tax authorities at the time of registration of any mortgage documents for obtaining bank loans. Mortgage is not sale. So, clearance certificates are redundant for such cases. Without the certificate loan or credit disbursements will be easier.

(2) There should be penal provisions for punishment up to a maximum of three years' prison term in cases where cheques are bounced because of non-availability of funds in the accounts of such chequeissuing persons, firms or institutions. Bounching of cheques

is a fraudulent practice. (3) Equity mortgages should be allowed at the upaztla levels for disbursements of credits in

rural areas. (4) Credit recovery courts should be set up at district levels. Number of such courts in Dhaka, Chittagong and other commercial cities should be

increased, depending upon the

number of cases relating to de-

faults in loan repayment. (5) Legal measures should be instituted to regulate the functioning of those banks which operate on Islamic principles. There is no law at present for the same in the country. Malaysia has enacted one for its Islamic banks.

(6) Highest income tax rate for banking companies should be limited to 45 per cent.

(7) The supervisory role of ministry of finance should be extended to insurance com-

panies because insurance is essentially a savings project. So, the control and supervision of banks and insurance companies should be in the hands of one and the same authority -Ministry of Finance.

(8) The existing provisions. debarring defaulters, in repayment of bank loans, from participating in local council elections should be extended to national level elections.

(9) There should be legal coverage for use of electronic methods in banking practices. Such electronic process or methods should be considered as evidence and given full legal coverage.

The Task Force commended the recent amendments to the banking companies act. This is a welcome forward move, it said while recommending for appropriate measures to strengthen and

improve the legal framework in other fields of operations in the financial sector to cater to the changing needs of the

The members of the Task Force included Lutfur Rahman Sarkar of Islami Bank: Humayan Khaled, MD Agrant Bank; A. Quresht of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Bank (BSCIB); Kazi Baharul Islam, former MD. Rupali Bank MD. Investment Corporation of Bangladesh); S. H. Chowdhury, Chairman Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd; M. M. Nurul Hug, MD. Bangladesh Shilpa Rin

Sangstha (BSRS); S. I Karmaker. Executive Director Bangladesh Bank; Khondoker Ruhul Quddus, MD, Bangladesh Krishi Banki A. B. M. Mahbubul Amin Khan of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management and Khondoker Ibrahim Khalil of PKSP.

Albania takes privatisation steps

million Dollars.

Perez to seek aid

for war victims

tions), Apr 5: UN Secretary

General Javier Perez de Cuellar

will call on the international

community next week to come

to the aid of Gulf war victims, a

UN official said Thursday, re-

Giuliani said the UN chief has

asked the heads of the organi-

sations relier agencies to begin

setting up programmes to lend

emergency humanitarian aid to

those in need. The countries

targeted for the assistance in-

clude Iraq and Kuwait, and the

neighbouring countries of Jor-

dan, Turkey and Iran. Britain

has already responded to the

unofficial appeal, announcing

its contribution of about 35

UN spokesman Francois

NEW YORK (United Na-

TIRANA, Apr 5 : The Communist government has taken the first step toward privatising parts of the economy. Albanian radio reports. The move came on the day of a general strike to protest post-election violence as Albania distances itself from Stalinism, reports

A government decree issued Thursday instructs ministries and other central institutions to decide by the end of April which enterprises will be transferred from state to private ownership, the radio monitored in London, said.

The initial move from public to private could include handicraft, communal services, and retail sectors, the production of staple consumer goods, both industrial and nonindustrial food production, in workshops, factories, and small enterprises

Unemployment on rise in E. Germany

BONN (Germany). Apr 5: Eastern Germans got more bad economic news Thursday with the release of a government report showing that unemployment in the new states continues to climb while it has declined in the prosperous West, reports AP.

Chancellor Helmet Kohl announced he would cut short his easter vacation to visit the east, which has been hit by unrest prompted by the region's rising unemployment and declining economy since its uni-

fication with the west last year. The visit, scheduled for Sunday, will be Kohl's first to the new German states since being elected leader of unified Germany in December.

Malaysia to cut timber output

KUALA LUMPUR. Apr. 5: Malaysia, a major timber exporter, will reduce timber production to preserve its forests but plans to boost output of rubberwood, rattań and bamboo, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

"We are going into largescale rattan and bamboo farming to help preserve our forests," he told reporters after meeting officials of the

National Forestry Council. Ghafar said Malaysia, the world's top rubber producer, might raise rubberwood output to meet demand by furniture makers.

Drilling in China's Turpan basin begins

BEIJING, Apr 5 : Drilling in western China's oil-rich Turpan basin has begun with thousands of workers arriving on the site, the official New China News Agency said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

China's onshore oil output has dwindled and the government is desperate to tap new sources. Survey work in the area in Xinjiang province where the Turpan basin is located started in 1987 and oil discovered in January 1989, it

"Thousands of oil workers are arriving in the Turpan de pression at the start of a campaign to exploit vast oil resources," the agency said.

West slated for not providing aid to Iraq

for not providing "real humanimassed on the Turkish border with Iraq, reports Xinhua.

The President said - that Turkey would do its best to help lraqis fleeing the current fighting between rebels and government troops. "But other countries, too, should help. he told Britain's independent

ready 100,000 refugees have poured into Turkey and the country could not admit more because it lacks the means to receive them.

World Bank sets terms to release industrial credit

Star Economic Report

World Bank has proposed to Bangladesh to waive restrictions on the import of nine items by 1991.

The action plan, as suggested by the Bank, is one of the conditions to release the first trance of the industrial sector credit negotiated in

The nine items, which World Bank has suggested to be decontrolled, are fabrics (yarn included), electric meters, aluminium articles, machinery, pumps, pipe, steel products, salt and sugar.

Deep recession in eastern Europe

Market Prices of Listed Shares and Debentures

with Dhaka Stock Exchange

At the close of trading on March 28 and April 4, 1991.

135.00

160.00

140.00

925.00

102.00

75.00

130.00

193.00

405.00

170.00

143.00

133.00

115.00

104.00

104.50

108.00

105.00

194.00

180.00

113.00

230.00

75.00

320.00

78.00

103.00

115.00

250.00

102.00

40.00

1150.00

200.00

48.00

36.00

260.00

170.00

600.00

80.00

90.00

152.00

500.00

100.00

120.00

220.00

101.00

7.40

40.00

50.00

54.00

35.50

Jute Spinner

Northern Jute

Spcialised Jute

Sonali Aansh

Ambee Pharma

Glaxo

Bangla Process

Bextmco Pharma

Petro Synthetic

Phama Aids

Therapeutics

Eagle Box

Monospool

Padma Printers

SERVICE (Two)

Bangladesh Hotel

TEXTILE (Eighteen)

Sonali Paper

Bd. Service

Alhaj Textile

Arbee Textile

Ashraf Textile

Chand Textile

Chand Spining

GMG Ind. Corp.

Modern Dying

Quasem Textile

Rahim Textile

Saiham Textile

Quasem Silk

S.T.M. (ORD)

Swan Textile

Apex Tannery

Chittagong Ceme G. Q. Ball Pen

Himadri Ltd.

Milon Tannery

Monno Ceramic

Pheonix Leather

The Englineers

DEBENTURES (Four)

Usmania Glass

Apex Tannery

Bengal Food

(18.5% 1992)

17% 1997)

Quasem Silk

Tallu Spinning

Stylecraft

Aramit

Bata Shoe

Beximco

Phamaco

Kohinoor Chemical 100/5

Progressive Plastic 110/5

PAPER & PRINTING (Six)

Paper Converting 100/5

Paper Processing 100/10

Rahman Chemicals 100/10 55.00AL

100/5

10/50

10/50

10/50

10/50

100/10

10/50

10/50

100/5

10/50

10/50

100/5

100/10

100/5

100/5

100/5

10/100

10/100

100/5

nt 100/5

10/100

Savar Refractories 100/5 XR105.44

100/5

100/5

100/5

100/5

Beximco Pharma 1714/1 1720.00 1150.00

Letter XB= Ex.Bonus/ XD= Ex. Dividend

2000/1 1565.00

MISCELLANEOUS (Fourteen)

100/10 94.00AL

Shine Pukur Jute

GENEVA, Apr 5: Recession in the Soviet Union and its former allies in eastern Europe deepened last year, according to a UN economic survey citing scattered positive signs in a mostly grim short-term outlook, reports AP.

Transformation from centralised to market economies " is now seen as a task of enormous complexity which cannot be accomplished by a quick transfusion of technology and technicians from the West," the report concluded.

The difficult transition was highlighted by the decline of the economy in former East Germany following last year's

1135.00

255.00

255.00

1150.00

145.00

115.00

155.00

575.00

220.00

173.00

161.00

142.00

117.50

122.00

118.00

232.00

48.00

157.00

110.00

450.00

250.00

137.00

1150.00

290.00

48.00

40.00

340.00

255.00

600.00

116.00

192.00 700.00

100.00

135.00

9.25

10.00

47.00

90.00

350.00

83.00

52.00

150.00

250.00

202.00

1150.00

118.00

110.00

130.00

210.00

435.00

198.00

155.00

125.00

127.00

122.00

114.00

115.5

210.00

232.00

114.00

96.00AL

400.00

18.00

100.00

120.00

128.00

250.00

400.00

137.00

1150.00

200.00

48.00

36.00

45.00

340.00

206.40

600.00

116.00

159.00

700.00

100.00

150.00

280.00

7.50AL

9.20

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14.00

58.00

NT

NT

NT

8.50

83.00

69.00

232.00

202.00

1150.00

118.00

110.00

130.00

97.00

435.00

155.00

146.00

126.00

127.00

122.00

111.00

111.00

100/10 118.00AL 120.00AL

100/10 116.00AL 116.00AL

207.00

230.00

95.00AL

400.00

18.00

98.00

127.00

250.00

400.00

135.50

6.00

8.60

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48.00

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monetary union with West Germany and subsequent German unification, it said.

The former East German economy's "rapid collapse in the face of market forces, despite massive levels of support from the (West German) Federal government has led... in some countries to greater caution about the possibilities of a 'big bang' approach to economic restructuring," the report said.

The 245-page survey was compiled by analysts of the U. N. Economic Commission for Europe. It was based on national data and their own rescarch.

World Bank also suggested exclusion of at least 125 heads from the Classified List (CL).

It also said no new restrictions should be imposed if public health and safety reasons are not involved. The Bank also proposed re-

duction of tariff from 150 per cent to 50 per cent. It called for omission and replacement of the discouraged investment schedule.

World Bank is of strong opinion that if protection is given to country's industrialisation, industries will not flour-

Pleading for a free market economy. Bank said if foreign goods are allowed into the country, local products would survive through competition and quality products will come to the market.

On private sector development, World Bank proposed enhancement of DFI/NCB ceiling to Tk 300 million for foreign and domestic investment and foreshadow further rises or abolition.

It also pleaded eliminations of descriptions of non-CL items in industrial importers' pass book and foreshadow abolition.

100.00

100.00

100.00

85.00

73.00

182.00

240.00

93.00

14.00

200.00

55.00

70.00

250.00

106.00

50.00

105.00

13.50

135.00

125.00

115.00

50.00

60.00

102.00

13.00

45.00

10.00

65.00

60.00

73.00

123.00

155.00

64.00

12.00

60.00

75.00

54.00

160..00

110.00

132.00

152.00

1015.00

1800.00

1880.00

1566.00

165.00

103.00

8.00

100.00

100.00

100.00

94.00

85.00

15.00

68.00

175.00

125.00

83.00

13.50

110.00

46.00

51.00

13.00

58.00

12.00

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38.00

6.30

8.50

59.00

85.50

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100.00

144.50

NT

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9.90

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32.00

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100/10 125.00AL 122.00AL

144.40

42.04

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151.18

150.00

140.00

1000/1 1010.00 1015.00

1470/1 1130.00 1150.00

*Trading was closed on February 21 because of 'Shaheed Day'

FV = Face Value ML= Market Lot NT= Not Traded, AL=Allotment

175.00

PHARMACEUTIC ALS & CHEMICALS (Fifteen)

100/5

50.00 93.00

50.00

93.00 51.00

12.50

60.00

149.00

125.00

69.00

10.50

150.00

40.00

50.00

50.00

35.00

80.00

9.50 98.00

115.00

100.00

250.00

Second EPZ planned in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Apr 5 : The Pakistani government has decided to establish its second Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Lahore, a major city in the eastern province of Punjab, and in Balochistan and North West Frontier Provinces, reports Xinhua.

The Lahore EPZ covers an area of 300 acres, out of which 200 acres will be developed and complete infrastructure provided at an estimated cost of 333 million rupees (about 23.3 million US dollars), the sources said.

The zone is likely to accommodate 100 to 150 industrial units which could generate 12,000 jobs, they said adding that the EPZ is expected to consume local raw material of about 100 million dollars and export from the zone may go up to 400 million dollars every year.

Pakistan's first EPZ is located at Karachi, an important sea port city in the country.

The EPZ authority has so far approved 227 projects at the Karachi EPZ, of which 93 projects were withdrawn or cancelled due to lack of progress. In the zone, a total of 32 industrial projects are in operation and 35 units are in different stages of construction, the sources said.

China orders \$ 190 m cut in budget deficit

BEIJING, Apr 5: China has taken the unusual step of ordering a one billion Yuan (190 million Dollar) cut in the 1991 budget deficit, reports Reuter.

The State Council, the top government body, has ordered a redrafting of the budget to trim 500 million Yuan (96 million Dollars) from spending and add a similar amount to revenues, the official New China News Agency said on Thursday.

The budget presented to Parliament only last week called for a deficit of 13.3 billton Yuan (2.6 btllton Dollars) in 1991.

The revisions would pare that to 12.3 billion Yuan (2.46 billion Dollars).

It is very rare, said a western diplomat. The budget is usually just accepted by Parliament.

The news agency quoted Chen Muhua, Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress, the largely ceremonial Parliament, as saying that new sources of revenue were needed and that spending had to be brought under control.

The 1990 budget deficit ballooned to 14 billion Yuan (2.9 billion Dollars) - more than six billion Yuan (1.1 biltion Dollars) over target.

The deficit is even worswhen calculated by the International Monetry Fund, which unlike China, does not treat foreign and domestic debt as income Exclusing this, budget

deficit stood at 50.9 billion Yuan (9.8 billion Dollars) last year and before the latest revisions was set to reach 48.6 billion Yuan (9.3 billion Dollars) this year. Finance Minister Wang

Bingqian, in his budget speech last week, said that failure to reach budget targets this year could harm the nation's political stability. The budget has been bloated by mounting costs of

costs for urban consumers. China also wants to boost military spending this year by 12 per cent.

subsidizing inefficient state in

dustry and holding back living

There were no specific items trimmed. The news agency quoted Chen, the former head of the central bank, as saying only that there should be corresponding ad justments in specific items of revenues and expenditures.

The agency said deputies to Parliament had expressed great concern over the nation's severe financial difficulties.

MOSCOW: Vendors at Moscow's busiest private market sell goods ranging from shoes, clothes, foodstuffs and other consumer items to shoppers. This type of black market trading is frequent and is unaffected by massive price increases on state controlled shops which -AFP/UNB photo remain, for the large part, empty of goods.

25.00 27.00 Soviet miners reject 95.00 32.00 6.00 7.50 50.00 82.00 12.00 60.00 101.00 135.00 37.00 8.25

12.00

107.00

51.00

26.50

127.00

110.00

123,00

875.00

1130.00

1640.00

1400.00

offer, continue strike MOSCOW, Apr 5: Soviet coal miners said they would press production.

ahead with a month-old strike after a pay deal proposed by President Mikahil Gorbahcev this week failed to satisfy their demands, reports Reuter. Pavel Shushpanov, Head of

the Independent Miners' Union, said the Government had made no significant concessions on their economic and political demands, which include calls for Gorbachev's resignation and the dissolution of Parliament. "None of the basic demands

we put to the government and the President were resolved." he told a news conference.

Alexaner Mrill from the Ukraine's Donbass coalfield said recent steep price rises introduced by the government on a wide range of goods made a mockery of an offer to double miners' pay within a year provided they pledged to boost

"What the government has proposed is absurd," Mrill said. Another miner present at Wednesday's talks with Gorbachev quoted the Kremlin chief as saying: "You can criticise and hold rallies but I will not resign."

Mrill said there had been no negotiations as such. The miners handed their political demands to Gorbachev and he flatly rejected them.

"No one asked us about ways to stop the strike. They just presented us with their terms."

The miners told the news conference their were no plans for further talks on the dispute, which has crippled parts of the Soviet metallurgi cal industry and threatens to damage other sectors of the economy

Japan bows to US pressure on rice issue

BEACH NEWPORT (California), Apr 5 ! Japan's Premier on Thursday bowed to US pressure and agreed to add the rice issue to negotiations at his summit with President George Bush, reports Reuter.

Prime Minister Toshik Kaifu made no bold promises of liberalising Japan's tightly guarded rice sector, but agreed to take up the problem with Washington and in global farm trade talks despite strong opposition at home.

Rice is a problem throwing a shadow over US-Japan relations. Bush told Katfu, according to a senior Japanese offi-

The Prime Minister said while rice was a difficult domestic problem involving subsidies and price controls, he wanted to solve it at the Uruguay Round

ISTANBUL, Apr 5 : Turkish President Turgut Ozal Wednesday criticised the West tarian aid" to Iraqi refugees

television news. The President said that al-

French wheat | Legal steps to heal ailing banking sector proposed | Snippets

development process.

Md. Serajul Islam Controller of movement and storage. Chittagong, Siddique Ahmed, Deputy Controller (M & S). Chittagong, and Shahidul Islam. Director of Al-Amin Scatrans Ltd. were present.

Bangladesh since 1973 re-