Snippets

Japan's trade

surplus growing

sharply

export growth and slowing

domestic demand for imports

should combine to push

Japan's April customs-cleared

trade surplus sharply higher.

Economists polled by

Reuters on average forecast

Japan's unadjusted Merchan-

dise trade surplus will expand

to 5.77 billion dire for the

month from 3.54 billion dirs a

tump from a year earlier," said

Paul Summerville, Senior

**Economist at Jardine Fleming** 

Securities Ltd's Tokyo Branch

"It will be right in line with

the trend toward higher sur-

US computer maker,

We are going to see a big

reports Reuter.

pluses".

TOKYO, May 17 : Robust

# Supervised credits alleviate poverty

Credit operations by financial institutions under various poverty alleviation projects have met with considerable success in Bangladesh in re-

cent years. However, unsatisfactory recovery positions, inadequate credit delivery and supervision systems, poor monitoring and extension services and the overall shortage of trained manpower and lack of ancillary support is leading to deterioration of some of these poverty alleviation projects.

in a paper presented at a regional workshop in Mantla which concluded on Thursday. M. Taheruddin, General Manager of Sonali Bank, the country largest Nationalised Commercial Bank (NCB), dwelt on its experience in financing programmes for poverty alleviation and on the problems being faced while implementing the projects.

In addition to providing the normal banking services, the Bank is currently involved in financing programmes sponsored by Bangladesh Rural Development Board, Swantryar (self-reliance) and Bittahin Rin Prokalpa (Assetless Group Project) in collaboration with the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training. Besides, the Bank also fi-

nances projects for the landless and marginal farmers under the Special Agricultural Credit Programme.

Poverty alleviating programmes encompass financing small, marginal and landless farmers both for farming and non-farming income generat-

ing activities. Related activities include paddy husking, Chira-Muri making (flattened and puffed rice), milching cow rearing, goat rearing, cattle fattening, purchasing rickshaw vans, coir making, bee keeping, kitchen gardening, backyard poultry and duckery, small boat and fishing net making, handloom weaving pottery, small bakery, tailoring and sewing, setting up cottage industry and other similar projects.

Under these programmes Senali Bank has so far distributed about Taka 1000 million in credits to the disadvantaged people of the country Star Economic Report

with a rate of recovery at only 55 per cent.

The success of any poverty focused credit programme, the paper pointed out, depends largely on selection of right type of borrower, disbursement of credit in adequate quantity and at an appropriate time, post-disbursement supervision of end-use and constant follow-up for recovery.

Credit programmes for income generation under various poverty alleviation projects, it noted, indicate that there has been appreciable socio-eco nomic improvement in the target group after availing of bank financing. The credit operation tended to bring the rural poor under financial sector discipline and thus opening up prospects for economic upliftment.

While the impact of the poverty alleviation programmes is favoruable, the pa-

compensatory arrangements to enable banks to sustain such credit operations in the face of poor credit recovery.

For improved credit recoveries, the monitoring arrangements of the banks should be strengthened to meet the demands of intensive supervision, so vitally needed for the success of credit opera-

Furthermore, attention should be given for building suitable credit delivery ma chinery in the form of provid ing training facility and other logistic support to participating credit institutions.

The paper noted that with the expiry of foreign aided projects, uncertainty looms large over such income generating credit programmes. Credit programmes for poverty alleviation may be marred unless supplementary efforts per argued for some built-in in funding the same are made. I of June.

Breakthrough in talks on 19-nation common market

BRUSSELS. May 17: The European Community and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) made a breakthrough in talks on an accord that would eventually unite a 19-nation common market of 380 million consumers, reports Reuter.

But the sign of progress. after a day of make-or-break negotiations, was clouded by Switzerland's refusal to go along with some parts of the accord.

"We have reached agree-ment on a final communique that enables us to have a breakthrough." Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos. whose country is current Pres ident of the 12-nation EC, told a news conference after a meeting of Trade Ministers from the two blocks.

EFTA's chief negotiator Wolfgang Schuessel also de scribed the results of a meeting of EC and EFTA Foreign Ministers as a "political breakthrough."

Poos and Schuessel, Austria's Economics Minister both agreed the progress meant talks on creating a European Economic Area (EEA) where on course and could be finalised as planned by the end



VANCOUVER (Canada): Bangladesh's Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman presiding over the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) held here

# Market Prices of Listed Shares and Debentures with Dhaka Stock Exchange

		At th	ne close	of trad	ing on	May 9 and 1	May	16 199	1.		h
				1	990-'91	Delta Jute	10/50	8.50	8.50		
				1000	W. Lacol Well Coll Tild	Gawsia Jute	10/50	NT	NT	-	THE STATE OF THE S
		May	May	High	Low	Islam Jute	100/5	59.00	59.00	63.00	50.00
		9	16		2000	Jute Spinner	100/5	97.00	97.00	100.00	93.00
Company	EV/ML*	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka	Mutual Jute	100/5	100.00	100.00	100.00	50.00
	**************************************		100000000000000000000000000000000000000	NEW CHIS	199	Northern Jute	10/50	NT	NT	.52	*
BANKS (Ten)	150					Shamser Jute	100/5	100.00	100.00		
AL Baraka Bank	1000/1	900.00	750.00	1135.00	800.00	Spcialised Jute	10/50	NT	NT	100.00	00.00
A.B Bank	100/5	155.00	180.00	255.00	135.00	Shine Pukur Jute	100/5	94.00	94.00	100.00	93.00
City Bank	100/5	265.00	275.00	255.00	160.00	Sonali Aansh	100/5	85.00	85.00	85.00	51.00
LF.L.C	100/5	200.00	195.00	235.00	140.00	PHARMACEUTIC A			(2000) 100 시간 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10		1000
Islami Bank	1000/1	1185.00	1196.67	1150.00	925.00	Ambee Pharma	10/50	14.90	15.15	18.25	12.50
National Bank	100/5	118.00	114.50	145.00	102.00	Bangla Process	100/5	68.00	68.00	73.00	60.00
Pupali Bank	100/5	110.00	110.00	115.00	90.00	Beximco Pharma	100/5	178.17	175.03	182.00	149.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	90.00	80.00	130.00	75.00	Glaxo	10/50	125.00	125.00	240.00	125.00
U.C.B.L	100/5	130.00	130.00	155.00	130.00	ICI	10/50	10.00	10.00		
Uttara Bank	100/5	214.00	214.00	240.00	193.00	Kohinoor Chemica	1100/5	79.00	82.50	93.00	69.00
INVESTMENT (	(Eight)					Petro Synthetic	10/50	15.50	15.00	14.00	10.50
1.C.B	100/5	97.00	97.00	117.50	90.00	Pfizer	100/5	110.00	110.00		TO SERVICE STORY
1st ICB M.Fund	100/5	430,.00	420.00	575.00	405.00	Phama Aids	100/5	190.00	195.00	200.00	150.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	195.00	195.00	220.00	170.00	Phamaco	100/5	42.00	46.00	55.00	40.00
3rd ICB M. Fund	d 100/5	155.00	154.00	173.00	143.00	Progressive Plastic		45.00	48.00	70.00	50.00
4th ICB M. Fund		142.75	140.00	161.00	133.00	Reckitt & Colman		250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
5th ICB M. Fund	1 100/10	125.00	124.00	142.00	115.00	Rahman Chemicals	- FOR 4 62 FOLD 74 BO		52.00AL	106.00	50.00
6th ICB M. Fund	d 100/10	93.34	90.00	104.00	85.00	Therapeutics	100/5	40.00	40.00	50.00	35.00
ICB Unit Cert.	LICENSIA CALL						100/10	90.00	85.00	105.00	80.00
Sales Price		130,.00	131.00			PAPER & PRINTIN		D. LENEY CHOCK			ONE OFFICE
Re-purchase		125.00	126.00			Eagle Box	10/50	14.25	13.13	13.50	9.50
INSURANCE (Fo	our)					Monospool	100/5	114.00	114.00	135.00	98.00
BGIC	100/10	112.50	111.00	117.50	104.00	Paper Converting	100/5	115.00	110.00	125.00	115.00
Green Delta	100/10	115.41	116.17	122.00	104.50	Paper Processing	100/10	110.00AL	106.00AL	115.00	100.00
Peoples	100/10	118.00AL	116.00AL	118.00	108.00	Padma Printers	10/50	50.00	50.00	50.00	25.00
United	100/10	121.00AL	110.00XD	120.00	105.00	Sonali Paper	10/50	55.00	55.00	60.00	58.00
ENGINERING (						SERVICE (Two)					
Aftab Automobil		208.89	206.00	232.00	194.00	Bangladesh Hotel	10/50	12.00	12.00		
Atlas Banglades	CONT. SHOW SHOW TO SELECT TO	40.00	40.20	48.00	35.50	Bd. Service	10/50	NT	NT	1/2	
Aziz Pipes	100/5	235.00	235.00	250.00	180.00	TEXTILE (Eighteen	N)				
Bangladesh Aut		114.00	106.52	157.00	113.00	Alhaj Textile	10/50	NT	NT	-	
Bangladesh Lam	nps 100/5	290.00	290.00	365.00	230.00	Arbee Textile	100/10	NT	NT	Tell Par	-
B.Thai Alluming	um100/10	102.00AL	96.00	110.00	75.00	Ashraf Textile	10/50	32.25	32.00	34.25	27.00
Bengal Carbide	100/5	400.00	400.00	450.00	320.00	Chand Textile	10/50	NT	NT		-
Bengal Steel	10/50	18.00	18.00			Chand Spining	10/50	NT	NT	100	-
Eastern Cables	100/5	75.00XD	76.000XD	105.00	78.00	Desh Garments	100/10	95.00	95.00	102.00	95.00
Howlader PVC	100/10	120.00	120.00	122.00	103.00	Dulamia Cotton	100/10	100.00AL	98.00AL	107.00	69.00
Karim Pipe	100/5	124.00	124.00	13900	115.00	Eagle Star	10/50	34.00	34.50	42.00	30.00
Metalex Corp.	100/5	100.00	100.00	113.00	75.00	GMG Ind. Corp.	10/50	13.00	13.00	13.00	10.00
Monno Stafflers	10.05	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	Modern Dying	100/5	35.00	35.00	45.00	32.00
Monno Jutex	100/5	350.00	350.00	The same state of		Quasem Silk	10/50	6.30	6.30	8.00	6.00
National Tubes	100/10	110.00	110.00	137.00	102.00	Quasem Textile	10/50	8.50.	8.50	10.00	7.50
Panther Steel	10/50	6.00	6.00			Rahim Textile	100/5	55.50	55.50	65.00	50.00
<b>Quasem Drycell</b>	ls 10/50	8.50	8.00	9.30	7.25	Satham Textile	100/10	85.50	83.06	103.00	82.00
Renwick Jajnes	swar100/5	66.00	64.00	75.00	40.00	S.T.M. (ORD)	100/5	12.00	12.00	60.00	12.00
Singer Banglad	csh 100/5	1125.00	1125.00	1150.00	1150.00	Stylecraft	100/5	100.00	100.00	WESTERS	08/09/5/15
FOOD & ALLIET	O (Twenty o	me)				Swan Textile	100/5	60.00	60.00	73.00	60.00
A.B Biscuit	100/5	200.00	200.00	290.00	200.00	Tallu Spinning	100/10		117.00	123.00	101.00
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	48.00	48.00	48.00	. 48.00	MISCELLANEOUS			10 L 20 L 20 L	W22-58	
Aman Sea Food				40.00	36.00	Apex Tannery	100/5		150.00	155.00	135.00
Apex Food	100/5			340.00	260.00	Aramit	10/50	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	NT		00.00
Aroma Tea	100/5			52.00	54.00	Bata Shoe	10/100	D	39.50	64.00	37.00
Bangas	100/5			State Charles	I PROGRAMMA COMPA	Beximeo	10/100		10.06	12.00	8.25
Bengal Food	100/5			255.00	170.00	B.S.C	100/5		45.00	60.00	12.00
B.L.T.C.	100/5		V SERVICE STORY	600.00	600.00	Chittagong Cemer			146.00	165.00	107.00
B.T.C.	10/50			83.00	80.00	G. Q. Ball Pen	10/50	ACCOUNTS TO THE PARTY OF THE PA	60.00	75.00	51.00
Ctg. Vegetable		VIII 125 CONTROL TAXABLE TO		116.00	90.00	Himadri Ltd.	10/100		NT		00.50
Dhaka Vegetab				192.00	152.00	Milon Tannery	100/5		36.67	54.00	26.50
E.L. Cemellia	100/5			700.00	500.00	Monno Ceramic	100/5		144.60	16000	127.00
Frogleg Export				8.00	4.00	Pheonix Leather	100/5		90.00	110.00	90.00
Gemini Sea Foo				100.00	100.00	Savar Refractories			105.86	132.00	110.00
Modern Indust	기존 사용하다 그는 맛이 없는 사이를 하셨다.			135.00	120.00	The Englineers	100/5		100.00		
N.T.C	100/5			350.00	220.00	Usmania Glass	100/5	127.40	139.00	152.00	123,00
Rabeya Flour	10/100		a distribution of the state of		100	DEBENTURES (Fo	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE		2010000000	DI DALLARDA	DOMESTIC STREET
Rupan Oil	10/100	6.75AL		9.25	6.50	Apex Tannery	1000/1	1035.00	1035.00	1015.00	875.00
Tulip Dairy		101.00AL		105.00	101.00	(17% 1992)	10000000	BU IBBRE	Light de S	835300000000	200000000000000000000000000000000000000
Yousuf Flour	10/50	NT		02.00	Carrie Over	Bengal Food	1470/1	1210.00	1210.00	1800.00	1130.00
Zeal Bangla	10/50	9.00	9.00	10.00	7.40	(18.5% 1992)		100000000	To a to a to a to a	500 000 000	
FUEL & POWER	R (Three)				Victorian I	기가 있다면 살아 있다면 하는데 얼마나 하는데 되었다.	1714/1	1731.00	1720.00	1880.00	1640.00
Padma Oil Co.	10/50				40.00	(17% 1997)		U_U/S/SAUSE		200000000000000000000000000000000000000	100000000000000000000000000000000000000
Eastern Lubrica	ant 10/50	14.00	14.00			Quasem Silk	2000/1	15900.00	1590.00	1566.00	1400.00
Oxyzen	10/50	56.67	53.50	90.00	50.00	(17% 1994)			APP AC	Traded AT	Allet
JUTE (Twelve)		(7 E)	n 6000	the second second	A.	*FV = Face Valu	C ML=	Market Lot	tend	traded, ALA	-Anotherit
Ahad Jute	100/10				. 30	Letter XB= Ex.Be	Alus/ A	D- Ex. Divid	-CIM		301
Anowara Jute	10/50	) NT	NT	15		*Trading was clos	ed on	February 21	because of	Shaheed I	Day'
18	E1100/200			* 67		Tracing was cros					

# Tk 100 cr needed to repair PDB installations

Star Economice Report

Colossal damages have been caused to the power installations in the off-shore islands by the April 29 cyclone and tidal surge. With the latest reports of losses from the islands, the rehabilitation cost of the power installations damaged in the cyclone affected areas may reach Taka 100

Power Development Board (PDB) previously estimated that about Tk.80 crore would be required to repair and rehabilitate the power generation and supply system in the cyclone affected areas. But the delayed reports more damages in the off-shore islands like Sandwip, Hatiya, Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Manpura, St Martin, Bhola and Khepupara

lier estimates. The power supply in those islands is mainly dependent on diesel generators. But due to tidal surge during the cyclone,

called for revision of the ear

all the generators were submerged and badly affected. Most of the diesel generators remain inoperative since April 29. Damages were also caused to the infrastructures of power stations as well as distribution lines in the islands.

In Sandwip, out of three generators, two have been totally damaged while the other one been repaired and is now in operation.

Out of six generators in Hatiya, only one is now operating and in Kutubdia, all the three generators have been damaged and remain out of operation.

Moheshkhalt island used to get power supply through the national grid on the mainland. During the cyclone, two river crossing towers of PDB's supply line were totally broken and the island remains without electricity.

The six-MW power station in Bhola has resumed genera-

tion, but damages were caused to the structure and distribution system. In Khepupara, the local generator was damaged. but the supply from the grid has been resumed.

The only generator of S Martin island is operating, but the damages were caused to the distribution system. PDB could not gather reports of the damages in Manpura till Mon-

According to PDB officials power supply systems in al the coastal districts were badly affected by the cyclone. In Chittagong, where the extent of damage was higher than other places, three 132 KV transmission towers, 217 elec tric poles and towers, transmission and distribution lines and a large number of pole mounted transformers were badly damaged and the Halishahar sub-station was severely affected in the cyclone.

# ports AFP.

Star Economic Report

electric meters resented

Bangladesh Electrical Association (BEA) has strongly resented the move to lift the ban on import of electric me-

Domestic production of single phase electric meter is sufficient to meet the country's entire demand. With quality control measures enforced by Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), the local products have already helped reduce dependence on imported supplies, according

In a press statement, the BEA said that the World Bank (WB) recommended to lift the ban on import of Single Phase Electric Meter in the name of liberalising imports. If such a recommendation is accepted, it will have crippling effects on local electrical industry, it

The Association pointed out that Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) imported 608,000 pieces of single phase electric motor from 1972 to 1988. Of these

imported stocks, 4,69,014 pieces were defective and damaged.

KOPEC field survey reports. sponsored by UN/DTCD, confirmed that import of such meters from various sources resulted in non-standardisation and caused high energy loss, the BEA stated. The same reports also noted that lack of spares, repair or maintenance facilities for imported meters was another problem.

Imports of electric motor without body cover seal and also without terminal block cover seal were responsible for leakages, the BEA alleged.

The Association stated that BPDB incurred a direct loss or wastage of 5.53 million US Dollar for import of cheap and defective meters while interests accrued on its borrowed funds. "Due to non-standardisation, non-maintenance and monopolistic system, BPDB has a system loss of minimum Taka 248.80 crore to Taka 360 crore", it said.

It said that the Open

ports and a stable international

economic environment are

critical to the success of ef-

forts that the developing coun-

Social Development and Hu-

manitarian Affairs, said devel-

opment should be seen as a

process of levelling up of low-

income groups and enhancing

the capacity of low productivity

should encourage institutional

change through the strength-

ening of people's understand-

ing of issues affecting them,

She said while greater at-

tention had been given to so-

cial issues at the international

level in recent years, the re-

sources needed to address

The development strategies

their economies.

tries must make to restructure

Margaret J. Head Centre for

Market System (OMS) was introduced later by the government, allowing domestic electricity consumers to purchase their own electric meter from the open market after obtain ing necessary approval of power connections by the Power Board for use in their own premises.

Under this system, BSTI instead of BPDB. is to test, seal and certify each and every meter in the manufacturers premises, before the meter is sold in the local market. The dependence on imported meters has been curtailed after the introduction of OMS the Association noted.

The BEA said, quality domestic meters are available now and pilferage due to nonsealing of is largely checked. The OMS has been successful since 1989 and the domestic manufacturers of meters continue to give guarantee of free replacements within 24 hours of any defective meter, it claimed.

### Bid to salvage Uruguay round of GATT talks SINGAPORE, May 17: Rep-

resentatives of 19 Pacific nations will meet here this week in a bid to help salvage the deadlocked Uruguay round of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), conference sources said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The three-day Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (PECC) starting on Monday would discuss a "common Pacific response" to the stalemated round of GATT talks, a PECC spokesman said.

Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, US Vice Pres ident Dan Quayle and Malaysian International Trade and Indus try Minister Rafidah Aziż will address the annual conference. to be attended by about 300 Government officials, businessmen and academics.

The PECC spokesman said the conference would discuss a joint stand on the current round of GATT talks. He did not elaborate.

## Japan's economy not unhealthy TOKYO, May 17 : Japan's

economy is not unhealthy. though it is slowing. Michio Ochi, Director General of the Government's Economic Planning Agency said, reports Reuter.

Ochi told a news conference, "I see no signs of sickness in the Japanese econ-

He added that he would continue to watch Japan's various economic indicators.

Another message adds Japan's economy probably grew strongly in the first quarter of 1991 from the previous three months, but this does not portend any quick rebound in the slowing econ-

omy, economists here said. They said the economy is still in a gradual down-trend and may risk a major decline unless interest rates dip by mid-year.

We will probably see good GNP (Gross National Product) numbers for the January March quarter, but this does not mean the economy has started picking up steam again," said Nobuyuki Saji, Senior Economist at Nikko Research Center.

Economists expect personal spending to have grown by 1.1 to 1.4 pc in January-March from the 0.3 pc contraction in October-December, and corporate capital investment to have risen by around 1-5 pc from a 3.1 pc pct gain.

China sign accord BEIJING, May 17: US computer maker Unisys has entered its first joint venture in China, the China Daily newspaper announced Thursday, re-

The newspaper said Unisys and China's Aerospace Ministry signed a 15-year cooperation agreement calling for an initial investment by Unisys of 1.5 million Dollars, with each party taking a 50 per cent share in the new firm.

it will be based in Beijing Deputy General Manager Wang Zhengzhong said the first goal would be software develop-

### Israel's GDP rises by 5.1 pc

TEL AVIV. May 17 : Israel's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 5.1 per cent in 1990 but fell short of largest set to absorb an influx of immigrants and prevent a sharp rise unemployment, the Central Bureau of Statistics said, reports Reuter.

GDP rose by 1.6 per cent in 1989. Growth was fuelled by the arrival of about 200,000 Jewish immigrants, most from the Soviet Union, boosting the population by 3.1 per cent, compared with 1.7 per cent growth in 1989.

#### US retail sales drop, prices rise WASHINGTON, May 17: US

retail sales fell 0.1 per cent in April while prices rose 0.2 per cent, the government announced, reports AFP.

The Labour Department said that excluding energy and food, prices still rose 0.2 per cent last month compared to a 0.1 per cent hike in March.

Analysts were expecting an 0.2 per cent increase in all retail prices and an 0.3 per cent rise in prices excluding energy and food, sectors with the most volatile fluctuations.

## Cleaning E German water to cost billions

BERLIN, May 17 : Modernising East Germany's water and sewage system will cost up to 150 billion marks in the next decade and require private investment, the head of the Treuhand Privatisation Agency said, reports Reuter.

Birgit Breuel, in charge of disposing of state-owned East German industry, said the scale of investment needed was so enormous that local authorities could not cope alone.

She called for a partial privatisation of drinking water and sewage treatment, previously handled by 14 state water works with 25,000 employees

#### Silver futures fractionally lower NEW YORK, May 17 : Comex

silver futures traded fractionally lower in early dealings. unaffected by news US consumer prices for April rose 0.2 per cent, reports Reuter.

Excluding food and energy. prices also rose 0.2 per cent. Both figures were in line with analysts' expectation.

Spot May silver futures were down 2.4 cents at 3.965 Dollars an ounce. Active July lost 1.3 cents to trade at 4.01 Dollars, and September and May, the only deferred months trading, were off 1.5 and 0.5 cent respectively.

July bottomed at 3.995 Dollars, which was also Monday's low. Chart watchers pointed to support at that level, followed by 3.95 and 3.93 Dollars. July's life-of-contract low stands at 3.601 an ounce set on February

#### UN asked to compensate African states

ADDIS ABABA, May 17 African Economic Ministers called on the United Nations to compensate African states for financial losses due to the Oulf crisis, reports Reuter. The ministers, ending an-

nual talks at the UN Economic Commission for Africa head quárters in Addis Ababa, also appealed to industrialised countries to back African initiatives to ease the continent's overall 272 billion Dollars debt burden.

# Slow growth for world economy panding market access for ex-

NEW YORK, May 17 : A temporary surge in oil prices. disruption in trade and the destruction of production facilities during the Gulf crisis have reinforced recessionary tendencies in the world economy, a senior United Nations official told the Economic and Social Council, reports PTI.

Addressing the council on the opening day of its session. Refeeuddin Ahmed, Under-Secretary for International and Social Affairs, predicted that the world economy would experience slow growth this year and per capita output would fall for the second year in a

He estimated people living in poverty at one billion, out of whom 600 million are living in

Stressing the need to reverse the trend, he said an easing of the debt burden increased financial flows, ex-

conditions of extreme poverty.

those issues and sunk. Oil demand to boost Arab economy

she said.

ABU DHABI, May 17: An expected increase in oil demand and a greater role by the private sector will accelerate economic growth in Arab oilproducing countries in the next few years, an official Arab

report has said. In contrast, economic prob-

## USSR may be oil importer by 1996

SINGAPORE, May 17: The Soviet Union will be a net oil importer by 1996 unless it perseveres with efforts to move to a free market economy, Eugene Khartukov, Chief of the World Energy Analysis and Forecasting Group in Moscow, said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

wards a market economy with gradual increases in domestic prices of crude and products. and limited involvement of western oil companies, it will still be exporting more than two million barrels per day (BPD) by the end of the century, he told the oil and money conference in Singapore.

But if it moves slowly to-

lems will persist in the remaining Arab League nations as they suffer from rising debts, a drop in aid and remittances and deficits in their trade and balance of payments, said the 1990 annual Arab economic report. "Economic growth is ex-

pected to increase in Arab oil states in the first years of the 1990s as they reap the fruits of their efforts to diversify income sources and their overseas investments," the report, obtained by Agence France-Presse, said.

This will be coupled with a growth in the role of the private sector in these countries, especially in the light and medium industries," it added. The halt in spending cuts in

1989 and 1990 supports this trend, according to the 375page report, prepared jointly by the Arab League, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Mone tary Fund (AMF).

The report classified the 21-nation Arab League into two groups - oil and non-oil states. The first includes the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) plus Libya, Iraq and Algeria.