Bush invites

tourists

President-Bush is going to the

small screen to persuade more

foreign tourists to visit the

the President promoting Ame-

rica's 'Beauty, wonderer and

excitement has been pre-

pared for distribution in the

United Kingdom, Japan and

The Department of Comme

ree screened the video tape at

an October 28 joint press

conference with the private-

sector Go-USA Travel Industry

at American Express, said the

coalition hopes to raise 9 mil-

lion Dollars from the US pri-

vate sector to executive a cam-

paign, including the video,

aimed at increasing the num-

ber of foreign travelers to the

United States during the 1992

planned campaign are promo-

tions aimed at foreign tour op-

erators and a foreign print

Bush welcomes foreign visitors

to see "our culture, our sense

of history, our sense of hu-

mor," as images of mountains,

beaches, great lakes and the

sons than ever to visit

America, and there's never

been a better time than now."

Bush says. "So what are you

waiting for, an invitation from

Go-USA formed in February

1991 in reaction to a slump in

the travel industry blamed on

recession and fear of air travel

Move to disinvest

**BCIC** units

slated

Star Economic Report

Chemical Industries Sramik

Federation on Sunday con-

demned the government deci-

sion to further distrivest more

by the President of the

Federation, Tofael Ahmed also

urged the workers and em-

ployees to resist such moves by

addressed the meeting said

that Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia repeatedly pro-

mised before the election that

her party would not disinvest

any enterprises. They said the

present decision of the

government is contradictory to

The meeting viewed that

the Prime Minister's promise.

the high price of, essential

commodities has made living

harder. It demanded the min-

imum wage of Taka 1400 for

the productive sector workers.

that the 1989 labour law has

not yet been repealed and de-

manded the implementation of

revelation of all the corrup-

tions conducted during the

to declare a modality for

greater movement to resist

disinvestment on November

The meeting demanded the

The meeting also decided

1969 Labour Law.

past years.

The meeting also regretted

The workers' leaders' who

The meeting presided over

BCIC's industrial units.

the government.

A meeting of Bangladesh

"Today there are more rea-

grand canyon flash by.

the President?"

during the Gulf war.

In the video, President

media advertising campaign.

Other components of the

Roger Ballou, an executive

Coalition.

touristá scason.

Germany starting in January.

A 60-second video tape of

United States, reports USIS.

WASHINGTON, Oct 29:

#### S Arabia pledges to maintain OPEC ceiling

CAIRO, Oct 29 : Saudi Arabia has pledged to stick to the ceiling quota of 8.5 million barrels a day, ruling out market speculation that its oil production could reach 9 million barrels daily in the fourth quarter of the year, reports Xinhua.

Yesterday's 'Middle East Economic Survey quoted Saudi sources as saying that the oil-rich Gulf country does not plan to raise its oil output above 8.5 million Barrel Per Day (BPD) which it pledged at an OPEC ministerial meeting in Geneva last month.

"It seems clear that Saudi policy is— to keep production for the whole of the fourth quarter within the 8.5 million barrels day parameter as promised - in Geneva' the oil industry newsletter said.

Saudi Arabia predicts more demand for oil in the world market in the winter, with Soviet oil production shrinking and the Iraqis unlikely to be exporting oil in the next three month. Kuwait, freed from Iraqi occupation in February, is still low in its oil production.

This would raise demand for output from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) reaching 24.5 million barrel a day, well above the nominal OPEC ceiling of 23.65 million barrels a day for the fourth quarter agreed in Geneva. "Saudi Arabia is understood

to have no excess overseas stock, either floating or offshore, available at present over and above what is the minimum necessary for operational purposes," the weekly Newsletter said.

#### India revises Rupee upward against Pound

BOMBAY, Oct 29: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) here today announced an upward revision of the Rupee by 0.43 per cent in relation to the Pound Sterling, making the British Unit cheaper by nineteen paise, reports PTI.

The new middle rate now works out to Rupee 43.95 per Sterling as against Rupecs 44.14 previously.

The new selling and buying rates for spot delivery are 2.2696 and 2.2810 Sterling per Rupees 100, corresponding to Rupees 44.06 and Rupces 43.84 per Sterling respectively.

The Rupee was appreciated by 0.54 per cent yesterday.



October —29 6,200.00

6,100.00 200.00 Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing



October -29

(Taka per kg)

(Taka Per kg)

18.00-19.00

36.00-40.00

80.00-90.00

50.00-54.00

54.00-56.00

50.00-60.00

12.00-14.00

3.00-3.50

3.00-4.00

7.00-7.50

265.00-266.00

261.00-262.00

254.00-255.00

220.00-230.00

80.00-90.00

18.00-20.00

8.00-9.00

27.00

(Take)

Aman (Very fine) 20.50-21.00 Aman(fine) 15.50-17.00 13.00-14.50 14.00-14.50 (Taka per kg) VEGETABLES 7.50-8.00 Potato(White) 10.00-14.00 Brinjel Lady's finger 20.00-22.00 14.00-16.00 20.00-22.00 Lalshak 8.00-10.00 Pui Shak 8.00-10.00 5.00-6.00 5.00-6.00 Green Banana (Four Pieces) OTHER FOODCRAIN (Take per leg) 13.00-14.00 11.00-11.50 8.50-9.00 17.00-18.00 (Taka per kg) Ruhi(big) 110.00-120.00 Katla(big) 80.00-90.00 42.00-45.00 75.00-80.00 Pangas Shrimp(big) 55.00-70.00 65.00-75.00 65.00-75.00 12.00-12.50 13.00-14.00 PULSES (Taka per kg) 28.00-29.00 30.00-32.00 29.50-30.00 Chhola 23.00-24.00 Mator 24.00-26.00 Khesari 15.00-16.00 MEAT (Taka per kg) 55.00-60.00 80,00-90.00 (Taka per Litre) Mustard 50.00-52.00 Soyabean 36.00-37.00 Coconut(Colombo) 75.00-80.00 Vegetable Ghee 50.00-52.00

Soviet republics agree to share \$70b foreign debts

MOSCOW, Oct 29: Twelve Soviet republics, under pressure from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations, on Monday accepted joint responsibility for Soviet foreign debt, estimated at around 70 billion Dollars, reports AFP.

At a closed-door meeting here with representatives of the G7 nations, the republics signed a three-point memorandum after two days for lengthy discussion.

In the memorandum, the republics :

- Recognised their joint responsibility for Soviet debt.

- Designated the Vnezhekonombank, or Soviet foreign economic relations bank, to oversee the repayment of the debt.

- Agreed to service the debt and provide information on Soviet assets and liabilities.

At the request of five republics including the two largest republics, Russia and the Ukraine, the memorandum says the three recently independent Baltic states may be called upon to share in repaying the debt. David Dogdge, the Canadian

representative to the meeting which opened here on Sunday, called the agreement

"historic." He said it was the first time that the 12 republics Moscow and the G-7 nations had been able to sit down together and 'discuss the economic problems of the union."

### S Arabia writes off \$ 2.8 b debt of Morocco

RABAT, Oct 29: Saudi Arabia has written off a debt of 2.8 billion Dollars owed to it by Morocco, the opposition Daily al Bayan reported yesterday,

The newspaper said the gesture would have "repercussions on the external financial situation" of Morocco, whose total foreign debt comes to around 25 billion Dollars.

Last year Rabat managed to persuade its creditors in the Paris Club to reschedule part of its foreign debt then estimated at 11 billion Dollars.

first time the republics had the chance to review overall economic problems with G-7 Representatives and had understood importance of honouring the Soviet debt.

He said the meeting was the start of a consultation process that would continue.

Earlier Monday, G-7 officials underlined the need for a joint response by the republics to the issue of the Soviet debt. Furring discussions, the

Ukraine had proposed that the debt be divided into 12 parts, with each republic responsible for making payments to an adhoc structure. Upon leaving the confer-

ence room Monday, the Ukraine representative said his republic's signature was "conditional."

Sources said that meant the Ukraine's willingness to participate in should ring the debt depended on whether the Baltic states agreed to pay their share.

They said that if the Ukraine defected from the pact, other republics might follow suit.



Leer. Around 6,000 tons of scrap - corresponding to some 8,000 wrecks - are recycled per month. The high-quality raw material used for producing special steels can be sold — Photo: IN-Press/DPA throughout Europe.

# UN heading for insolvency

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 29 Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said on Monday the United Nations was owed more than a billion Dollars in unpaid duss and, despite raiding all its piggy banks, was heading for insolvency, reports Reuter.

In a written report on the organisation's financial plight, he said unpaid assessed contributions to its regular budget totalled 723.5 million Dollars at the end of September, including 333.6 million Dollars for previous years.

Another 518 million Dollars were owed for U. N. peacekeeping operations, he said.

According to U N documents, the United States owns 344.5 million Dollars in regular budget dues and about 100 million Dollars for peace-Appealing to U. N. members

to pay their bills, the Secretary-General said he had

WASHINGTON, Oct 29:

President Bush promised on

Monday to fight "tooth and

nail" to help stimulate a slug-

gish US economy but said he

wouldn't take rash steps that

might make matters worse,

controlled Congress - where a

rash of tax-cut proposals have

spourted in recent days - of

done. I'm not relaxed about the

economy," the President said

in a teleconference with an

American Gas Association —

slowing the pace of economic

recovery by ignoring his do-

mestic measures he claimed

"We've initiated a broad, ag-

ZACATECAS, (Mexico), Oct

29: US Mexican and Canadian

officials reported substantial

progress over the weekend

towards a North American

Free Trade Agreement

(NAFTA), but observers of the

talks said environmental con-

cerns and worker rights re-

mained major obstacles, re-

move trade barriers between

the three nations, is unlikely

to be approved by the U. S.

Congress unless it includes

measures to curb cross-border

pollution and improve condi-

tions for Mexican workers.

by a letter from house majority

leader Richard Gephardt to U.

S. Trade Representative Crla

Hills on the eve of the meet-

ing, reminding her of

Congress's demands.

Their view was reinforced

The pact, which would re-

ports Reuter.

they said.

would have helped create jobs.

gressive domestic agenda,

Bush blamed Congress for

convention in San Diego.

"I know there's a lot to be

He accused the Democratic-

reports AP.

panicking.

been obliged throughout 1991 to draw on U. N. cash reserves totalling some 236 million Dollars to meet current operation needs.

When the reserves were exhausted by mid-August, he had to borrow from the few U. N. peace-keeping operations which had cash in excess of their immediate requirements, Perez de Cuellar added.

It is clear... that in the present circumstances prompt repayment of the internal borrowings already undertaken is far from assured. Moreover, unless substantial contributions are received shortly, the cash required to meet regular budget obligations and those of certain new peace keeping operations will exceed the funds available from peace keeping accounts, he said.

At that point, the Secretary General said \*his capacity to resort to internal borrowing

Bush pledges economic stimulus

He mentioned legislation

designed to spur highway and

mass transit projects and to

give "enterprise zone" tax

breaks to businesses that lo-

cate in urban low-income ar-

bills on Capitol Hill, Bush said

"I'm not going to jump in and

take steps out of might bur-

struggling to come up with an

economic-growth programme

to rival some of the proposals

said any such package will in-

duce taxes on capital gains.

Beyond that, there is dis-

agreement over what to do,

particularly over tax cuts for

Environment groups oppose NAFTA

The environment and so-

cial issues, as demanded by

Congress, are not being ade-

quately addressed," said Cathy

Vogel, a U S Sierra Club ecol-

ogy group official who was part

of a citizens forum that met

here parallel to the official

labour and other groups from

Mexico, Canada and U. S. op-

ecology groups like the Sierra

Club that say environmental

and worker rights safeguards

need to be a part of any free

officials said good progress was

made at the meeting in nar-

rowing differences over lower-

ing tariffs, ending other curbs

on trade in cars and textiles,

Canadian capital into Mexico.

Mexican

and easing the flow of U.S. and

U. S. Mexican and Canadian

trade pact.

posed to NAFTA and some

Citizens forum included

clude a renewed effort to re-

Administration officials

in Congress.

the middle class.

The administrations is

den future generations more."

But, referring to the tax-cut

the President asserted.

would be exhausted and the organisation will be insolvent and unable to meet its commitments to member states and to staff."

The obvious was of avoiding this would be for member states to pay substantial amounts of their arrears.

Another way would be for countries to make advance payments against future assessments as some had done in the past.

But even this would only postpone the problem for a short while Perez de Cuellar

He noted the General Assembly had consistently refused to grant permission for the organisation to borrow money commercially, as several UN specialized agencies had been allowed to do.

"Throughout the coming

legislative year, we will fight

tooth and nail for economic

growth, opportunity, and jobs

and I will fight against legisla-

tion that will bust the budget

agreement and further burden

the young people of this coun-

with bigger and bigger federal

bill, in particular, "would

stimulate a sluggish economy.

It's job intensive. And it would

do that — without increasing

state and local government

participation in transportation

eight months later, still wait-

ing for action on the measure

Minister Jaime Serra Puche

said the environment and

worked rights were discussed.

the main forum for these is-

sues was outside the trade

we worked out with the con-

Puche, Hills and Canadian

Trade Minister Michael Wilson

was their third since the talks

began in June. They hope to

reach an agreement early next

year and phase it into the two-

year-old U S-Canada free trade

They argue that NAFTA

would encourage U.S. and

Canadian firms to move south

to take advantage of low wages

and lax anti-pollution laws,

costing jobs in the north and

worsening already severe pol-

pact over 20 years.

Commerce lution in the Rio Grande area.

gressmen," the official said.

But one U. S. official said

"We're meeting the plans,

The meeting between Serra

The measure calls for more

"But here we are, almost

he recommended last

Bush said his transportation

try with more and more debt

deficits," Bush said.

our federal deficit."

winter, Bush said.

projects.

## No wish to be promoted!

TOKYO, Oct 29: Two in three Japanese female workers in private companies have no wish to be promoted, according to a Labour Ministry survey reports Kyodo.

The ministry cited 69.9 per cent of women polled as replying they do not want to be promoted. Some 29 per cent hoped for promotion, while 1.1 per cent did not answer either way.

The equal employment opportunity law, enacted in April 1986, stipulates women have equal opportunity with male counterparts in obtaining posi tions, promotion and wage

Of those not wanting promotion, 37.7 per cent were quoted as saying they did not want to acceptany additional responsibility that will go with a higher position.

Those satisfied with their current positions accounted for 35.9 per cent while 24.1 per cent thought promotion would make it more difficult to do their jobs and housework.

Among those wanting promotion, 21.9 per cent were convinced they would be promoted, 56.4 per cent did not expect it to happen and the nest did not answer.

On company attitudes toward female workers, 31.4 per cent said things had changed since the enactment of the equal opportunity law in regard to obtaining positions, promotion, childcare, and holidays, while 39.3 per cent said

things had not improved. On sexual harassment by male colleagues, 18.6 per cent reported such an experience, 63.5 per cent of whom said their bodies had been touched.

The survey, conducted last February, covered about 12,000 female workers in some 4,000 offices with a workforce of 30 or more. This is the first time the ministry has conducted such a survey.

S African gold

output declines

South Africa's gold production

dipped 8.1 per cent in

September to 44,760 kilo-

grams against 48,691 kg in

August, the Chamber of Mines,

representing South Africa's

major mining houses, said yes-

down on output in the same

account non-members and by-

products like uranium oxide

year up to the end of

September was 447,617 kg,

0.5 per cent down on the same

period last year, the chamber

The total was 7.6 per cent

Total production taking into

The cumulative total for the

terday, reports AFP.

month last year.

was 47,768 kg.

JOHANNESBURG. Oct 29:

#### No reason to restructure BCCI, says UK Minister by the Abu Dhabi government

ABU DHABI, Oct 29: The first British Minister to visit the United Arab Emirates (UAE) since the closure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) said on Monday he saw no reason to think the failed bank would be

restructured, reports Reuter. Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg, who will visit Bahrain and Qatar as well as Abu Dhabi, defended the role of the Bank of England in the affair saying the clamp-down was the only way to protect BCCI assets in the interests of depositors and employees.

"I would not like to anticipate what the shareholders might ultimately decide, "Hogg told a news conference in Abu Dhabi.

"But I have no reason to think that a restructuring is going to take palace."

and the ruling family, was closed on July 5 in a worldwide clampdown led by the Bank of England (BOE) amid allegations of fraud. Abu Dhabt is the biggest

and richest of the seven emi-

rates which make up the UAE

Hogg, who leaves for Bahrain and Qatar on Tuesday, said that the BCCI question clearly arose in the case of Abu Dhabi. But Hogg added, I'm sure that our relations will remain

excellent. Hogg said he met Deputy

UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Sultan Bin Zaid -Al-Nahayan, the son of Abu Dhabi ruler and the UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan al-Nahyan. I had the opportunity to

discuss this matter (BCCI) the Deputy Prime

#### BCCI, owned 77.4 per cent Minister **IMF** warns Pakistan against limping economy

ISLAMABAD, Oct 29: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned Pakistan Monday its economy would continue to limp along unless it made massive cuts in its defense budget, reports AP.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus told a news conference that developing nations like Pakistan had to concentrate more on development and less on defense.

More than 50 per cent of Pakistan's 12 billion Dollars budget is devoured by military spending. Most of Pakistan's 120 mil-

lion people can neither read nor write and most people earn less than 400 Dollars a

Camdessus urged both India

and Pakistan to build a lasting peace that would allow defense budgets to be cut back and much-needed development projects to go forward.

Every country has the sovereign right to decide how much it wishes to spend on defence, depending on its pecultar needs," he said. "But I will advise all nations, including India and Pakistan to divert more funds to development, growth and the social sector in order to improve the living standards of their peo-

India and Pakistan have three times gone to war since the subcontinent was divided between Hindus and Muslims in 1947. Last year a fourth confrontation loomed likely.

### Foreign workers reduction leads Kuwait to crisis

NICOSIA (Cyprus), Oct 29: Kuwait faces a "severe management crisis" because of its policy reducing the number of foreign workers in the country following the Gulf War, the Middle East Economic Survey (MESS) said Monday, reports

Kuwait should be seen mainly in terms of skills rather than numbers, "MESS said. "Many of those who left were among the most competent and experienced." Associate Editor Andrew

"The resulting loss to

Cunningham, who prepared the analysis after visiting Kuwait, also noted that the overall cut in population would translate to lower demand in the economy. Thousands of Arab and

Asian workers fled the oil-rich on foreigners

emirate after Irag's invasion on Aug 2, 1990. Those allowed to return following liberation Feb. 26 have been given shortterm work permits and often are denied residence permits for their families. Palestinians, seen by the

Kuwaitis as Iraqi sympathizers, have been fired in Government jobs, and those who fled have not been allowed back.

Many Palestinians did the actual work in keeping ministries running through middle-management positions or ran local businesses. Their numbers have dwindled to about 40.000 from some 400,000 before the war.

The cutback in foreign workers fits neatly with a pre government goal of reducing Kuwait's dependence

#### New EC monetary body set for launching BASEL (Switzerland), Oct

29: European Community central bankers Monday approved draft for a new monetary body to be established in the runup to a single currency, re-

The Chairman of the EC central bankers' committee, Erik Hoffmeyer of Denmark, said however that the decision create a European Monetary Institute was not unanimous. It was unveiled at a meeting of the Basel-based Bank for International Settlements, goes back to the 12 EC members for debate.

BIS groups central banks from the major market eco-

# India's street urchins studying strategies of survival

NEW DELHI, Oct 29: "Here live like a king," said Nassir, a resident of New Delhi railway station. "No family hassles, you work when you feel like it."

Nassir was 13 when he arrived four years ago. Boys like him arrive daily. They flee a volatile family cocktail of poverty and cheap liquor, jump the first train that passes and make themselves at home in the terminus, reports Reuter.

The station offers wideranging employment prospects, including pimping. sponsored gambling and buying up tickets for popular Hindi movies to resell on the black market.

Nassir admits to earning about a Dollar a day carrying bags and securing seats on trains, which like most facilities in this nation of 850 million people are generally oversubscribed.

Social workers estimate that runaways account for only tens of thousands of the 100 million or more children younger than 15 who do not report for formal schooling.

Most Indian children work alongside their parents in villages as farm labourers, carpet weavers or brick-makers. Maybe a million of them

have followed their parents to the mud-hut colonies of the cities where they share a floor at night and study the strategies of street survival by day. For those who are able to

resist the readily - available low-grade heroin, major railway stations can offer a good

A pimp they take 10 per cent of the 50 US cent the prostitute earn from customers solicited as they get off the trains. The local masia pays the

boys to gamble, staking money on who proves most nimble at sharping cards and tumbling

A favourite gambling venue is between the tracks, a fair test of nonchalance as the diesel trains roll by on either

Food comes from the luxury trains that pull in from tourist town like Agra and Jaipur. The boys race to claim the meals that are included in the ticket price but which many passengers don't eat. But, says social worker

Shabnam Ahmed, it can be a very expensive meal. "I've had two boys in my group die that way," Ahmed

"They have to jump on and start scavenging before the train stops, in order to beat the registered collies (porters) to the food. If you miss, you're crushed.

These days, Nassir and many like him in Delhi have the opportunity to rise above the life of crime and drugs offered on the street. Two years ago Ahmed and

colleague Jugnu Ramaswamy established a charity called Street Survivors India. It's aim is to keep as many of the local children as possible off the street, away from crime, away from drugs and to give them a little bit of a head start.

Dhir Singh Chaudhary, the policeman with the impossible job of curbing vagrancy at the station, has given over the ter-

race of his two-storey police post for literacy classes. He has issued identity cards

to pupils to stop his men arresting them and he lets the boys use his toilets and taps. In return the boys steer clear of heroin.

The deal reduces the number of comatose bundles which are periodically cleared from the platforms and dumped elsewhere.

"There are no girls working on the street, she will have a home of sorts," said Ahmed's colleague. "Girls vanish pretty quickly from the streets. The pimps move in fast." Ahmed said she had seen

the younger street girls emerge at night, selling balloons to car drivers in central Delhi. Often the girls are sold, too. There is a widespread be-

lief in India that a girl of seven or eight can cure venereal dis-

Ahmed and Ramaswamy set up their two-person charity with the modest goal of keeping girls like Pinkie, an eightyear-old who keeps house for her family, just the way they

"My father is a cobbler and my mother is a beggar and I have three sisters and one brother," said Pinkie unstop-

"I am the oldest so I look after the others except the baby. My mother takes him begging because people give more," she added.

"Come and see my house. I wash the cloths and my mother's clothes and I sweep and I wash the utensils and I

like, this big," Pinkie said. The water pot is not that big. But Pinkie's house, built of mud, debris and sacking, and the front yard marked off by a

across the road in a huge pot

immaculate. About 50,000 people live in Pinkie's slum. Her family's living space, just over one square metre (yard) per person, is average. The communal latrine is the adjacent municipal rub-

low mud wall from the metre-

wide (yard-wide) alleyway, are

Pinkie is one of about 60 children whom Ahmed and Ramaswamy have lured to their school, a thatched hut built long and narrow to the awkward plot which the parents granted them.

Ahmed and other volunteers, including boys from the station, teach basic hand and crastwork for three hours a carry the water from the tap

SPICES

Onion

Garlic

Chillies

Green chillies

Cinnamon\* (10gms)

Cardamom\* (large)

Jhira (50gms) MILK (Two kgs)

MISCELLANEOUS

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Red-Cow

Tea (Dust)

(Long