

Soviet budget deficit \$ 120 b

MOSCOW, Sept 29: The Soviet budget deficit has already reached 200 billion Rubles (120 billion Dollars) the ceiling agreed by the government for the end of the year, Ivestia newspaper said Saturday, reports AFP.

It said the provisional government set up in the wake of last month's abortive hardline coup met Friday to discuss ways of reducing the deficit and boosting federal income.

However, specialists from the finance and economy ministries, after consulting with representatives of the country's constituent republics, planned to cut federal spending by only 17 billion Rubles (2.7 billion Dollars), by reducing outlays for defense and culture, the newspaper said.

Defense minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov said earlier in the week that the defense budget alone could be slashed by 20 per cent without pain.

During a meeting on September 13, the government envisaged a deficit of 200 billion Rubles by year end, Ivestia said.

EBRD grants \$ 5.97m loan to Hungary

BUDAPEST, Sept 29: The London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) granted a first loan of 4.89 million European Currency Units (about \$ 5.97 million Dollars) to Hungary, MTI news agency said Friday reports AFP.

The loan goes to modernise Peto Printing house in the central Hungarian city of Keszkesmet, a unit privatised in May.

EBRD disclosed no data on the expiry and terms of the loan but MTI was informed that its interest would not follow market rates.

Technical Director Tabor Szabados said that Peto Printing house received the loan to develop and produce high-quality packaging materials.

Peto, an 86 per cent foreign-held shareholding venture, exports 1.5 million Dollars worth of packaging materials to Austria and Germany a year and its gross production amounts to 37.5 million Dollars.

Chofin, the Hungarian investment arm of the De Benedetti Group holds 50 per cent of Peto, the First Hungarian Fund has 16 per cent, the Hungarian-American Enterprise Fund and the Hungarian Investment Company hold ten per cent each.

The rest of the shares were distributed among the Hungarian Commercial and Credit Bank, the printing house's workers' trust and local councils.

Republics close to economic agreement: Gorbachev

MOSCOW, Sept 29: President Mikhail Gorbachev said yesterday former and current Soviet republics could sign within two weeks an agreement aimed at preventing economic collapse, reports Reuters.

The agreement envisages an economic union that could embrace in some form all 15 republics that formerly made up the Soviet Union. Since the failed August coup, the three Baltic states have broken with Moscow and nine others have now formally declared independence.

"I hope that the signing will take place in the first 10 days of October...in the (Kazakhstan capital) Alma-Ata," Gorbachev told reporters after talks with visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

He said a draft, based on proposals by radical economist Grigory Yavlinsky, would be ready later on Friday. Heads of

republican governments would meet on October 3 for final talks.

His remarks suggested some delay in the original plans. Kazakhstan President Nursultann Nazarbayev had invited republican leaders to Alma-Ata on October 1 to sign the accord.

All 15 republics, bound by seven decades of Soviet industrial integration, have expressed interest in preserving some economic links, but it was not clear how many would sign a formal agreement.

Some took part in drafting it as observers, Gorbachev said. Yavlinsky, who heads the talks in his capacity as deputy head of an interim Soviet government, said in a newspaper interview on Thursday negotiations were progressing painfully. He said economic union was vital for all republics and their last chance to avoid economic chaos.

Republics agreed to form a loose federalist bank union and divide Soviet internal debt. Yavlinsky told the Daily Trust newspaper.

Some republics, including the powerful Ukraine, have said they were prepared to pay their share of the 70 billion Dollar Soviet foreign debt, but Yavlinsky strongly opposed the idea.

"It is absolutely impermissible...to undermine trust of creditors. The centre took the money, the centre should return it," he said.

The draft agreement, according to Yavlinsky, said that the republics could introduce their own currencies, but he personally favoured keeping the Ruble as a common unit and speeding up its convertibility.

Senior economic officials from 15 republics met in Moscow earlier this week.

Chinese economy gets priority

BEIJING, Sept 29: China's senior leadership stressed the importance of economic revival in keeping the people's faith in Communism in their most important meeting in nine months, official media reports said yesterday, reports AFP.

The five-day central committee working conference, which closed here Friday, was chaired by Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin and focused on reviving the elephantine state sector of China's economy.

It was the most important publicised leadership conference since the failed hardline coup in Moscow last month and the Chinese ruling party's second plenum in December 1990.

"The most important thing in building socialism with Chinese characteristics and enabling socialism to manifest strength the vigor and raise the efficiency of (state) enterprises," the Xinhua news agency said in its report on the meeting.

"Only by so doing can the dominant role of the public economy be consolidated and the faith of the masses in the socialist road strengthened so that China will always be in an invincible situation," it said.

The conclusions were in line with Beijing's repeated insistence that it will resist the forces of change that felled Communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

The meeting was attended by all but one member of

China's leadership core — the six-man Politburo Standing Committee — as well as the country's ministers, governors and military and parliamentary leaders.

A western diplomat said the secretive Chinese hierarchy was likely to have used the central committee conference to address political issues such as the new leadership line-up to be announced at a party Congress next year.

In an apparent sign of divergence on the fundamental direction of economic policy, the media failed to announce either the formal end or continuation of a three-year austerity programme designed to stem runaway growth and inflation.

UAE cargo boat sinks

ABU DHABI, Sept 29: A United Arab Emirates (UAE) cargo boat sank Friday in the Southern Gulf but its 14-member crew were rescued, police in the Emirate of Umm Al-Qaiwain said here, reports AFP.

They said the Dubai-bound boat Sultan was coming from Iran with a 7,000-ton shipment of paints and other chemicals when it ran aground four miles (six kilometres) off Umm Al-Qaiwain.

All its crewmen were rescued but the shipment was lost and could cause pollution, municipality officials said.

"We will begin a comprehensive survey operation today to assess the environmental damage," said the Director of Umm Al-Qaiwain municipality, Sultan Ibn Omair.

Mandela repeats pledge to nationalise mines, financial institutions

CAPE TOWN, Sept 29: African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela repeated his pledge yesterday to nationalise South Africa's mines and financial institutions, reports AFP.

He told a banquet at Somerset West near that country which had suffered great upheaval, notably Japan, Germany and South Korea, had needed massive state intervention to rebuild the economies.

Mandela said apartheid policies had given 87 per cent of the land in the hands of a 13 per cent white minority, and four monopolies controlled 75 per cent of shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

"Where is the free market you talk about?" he asked.

While the ANC had "no ideological attachment" to nationalisation, it was the only way to redress the imbalance of wealth between black and white, he said.

GCC rejects Kuwaiti oil aid plea

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Kuwait's partners in the six-

nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have again turned down the Emirate's request for oil assistance totalling 8,000,000 barrels a day (BPD), oil minister Hammoud Al-Ragha said in remarks published Saturday, reports AFP.

GCC ministers meeting in the western Saudi city of Jeddah on September 21 "turned down our request, on the pretext of long technical and administrative procedures," he told the Daily Sawt Al-Kuwait.

He said Kuwait had asked its partners (Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain) for "aid of 6,000,000-8,000,000 barrels a day, which would be gradually decreased as soon as we return

to our (pre-Gulf War) production levels."

Ragha said Kuwait was "in a delicate position and need this assistance to offset the enormous expenses connected with the reconstruction of the oil industry and the country" following seven months of Iraqi occupation.

Since the end of the Gulf War in February, Kuwait on three occasions asked its GCC partners to help provide it with oil supplies.

Kuwait's pre-war OPEC quota in August 1990 was 1.5 million barrels a day. Its current production stands at 180,000 BPD.

The Kuwaiti minister also said that 505 of the 790 oil wells set ablaze by retreating Iraqi forces had been capped by firefighting teams in the Emirate.

Islamic investment co in Europe likely

DUBAI (United Arab Emirates), Sept 29: Islamic banks in the Gulf, seeking to expand business, are considering plans to set up an investment company in Europe, a senior banker said here Friday, reports AFP.

A consultative body has been created to study the feasibility of the venture and decide on its headquarters, said Lootha, Chairman of the Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB).

The Gulf's seven Islamic banks have agreed to subscribe to the company but it will remain open for contributions from Islamic banks in other countries, he told.

Lootha is also Deputy

Chairman of the Jeddah-based Islamic Banks' Union, which groups more than 60 Islamic banks around the World.

"The project is aimed at opening new business horizons for Islamic economic and financial institutions as there is a great scope for business in Europe," he said.

Lootha said the company would serve both Muslims and non-Muslims but its activities would be in accordance with Islamic rules.

Islamic law prohibits interest as usury but allows banks and financial institutions to receive a percentage from the profits of projects they have financed.

British Aerospace seeks JT. venture in India

LONDON, Sept 29: India is considering a British aerospace proposal for a joint venture with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for production of various items, reports PTI.

The British proposal for the joint venture in India has been lying pending with the government and it has been revived by the British Aerospace management following the new policy of liberalisation, Commerce Minister Chidambaram said here Saturday.

Speaking to newsmen, Chidambaram said during his talks with the representatives of British trade and industry, he received several proposals from securities and financial institutions and they have been invited to Indian for further talks.

Training centre in UK for E Europe, Soviet bankers

LONDON, Sept 29: The Bank of England yesterday revealed that it had formed a new banking centre which was training bankers from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to assist in the transition to market economies, report AFP.

In a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce in London, Bank Governor Robin Leigh Pemberton said 135 bankers mostly from Eastern Europe had already attended training courses at the centre for central banking studies.

In the next six months the centre has scheduled training programmes in Prague and Bucharest and two courses in London for bankers from the former Soviet Union.

The first of these scheduled for October will be in Banking management and banking supervision for chairmen or directors of republic state bank.

Metal prices easier in London

LONDON, Sept 29: The escalation of civil unrest in Zaire, highlighted by the arrival of French and Belgian paratroops lifted copper and cobalt price this week on commodity markets, reports AFP.

Although Zaire is the fifth largest producer of copper, analysts indicated that the markets reaction was primarily psychological and that it would take a prolonged interruption in exports to have any impact on an already over supplied physical market.

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Gold: Easier after steady start. Increased tensions in the Gulf and the crisis in Zaire supported gold at the beginning of the week and receding fears of Soviet selling were also supportive.

Silver: Easier after steady start. Silver reached a two month high on Tuesday

boosted by technical buying but the market trend then reversed an losses grew towards the weekend following a revision of US second-quarter growth figures which indicated the recovery may not be as imminent as previously thought.

Copper: Easier. After drifting lower early in the week copper prices recovered previous levels in reaction to the crisis in Zaire, the Western world's fifth largest producer analysts said the reaction was primarily psychological and unjust.

A report that state owned Miner Gecamines headquarters had been bombed encouraged speculative buying particularly in New York.

Lead: Steady. Lead prices traded in a narrow band tending to firm slightly in the prospect of an upturn in demand with the approach of winter.

Tin: Easier. Tin prices fell at the beginning of the week

but then treaded in a narrow range at the lower level. LME stocks fell 580 tonnes to 14,020 tonnes.

Aluminium: Easier. Three month aluminium prices came under pressure again, dipping under 1,200 Dollars per tonnes to their lowest level since the current LME contract was launched in June 1987 soaring LME stocks which jumped 26,025 tonnes to a new record high of 687,450 tonnes continued to weight heavily on sentiment.

Zinc: Easier then partial recovery. Zinc prices slide lower at the beginning of the week before recovering partially in the wake of copper US Gross National Product (GNP) figures released Thursday, which showed the economy contracting at an annual 0.5 per cent in the second quarter instead of the initially reported 0.1 per cent were expected to put pressure on zinc and other base metal prices.



Recently three employees of the Sonargaon Hotel were honoured and awarded with prizes and certificates due to their unique accomplishment in the fact that they did not avail a single day sick leave for the past ten years. Pictured from left to right are — Md Monirul Islam, Deputy Personnel Manager, Md Azizul Hoque, Asstt. Head Waiter and at extreme right Md Abul Kalam, Laboratory Asstt. photographed with General Manager Andrew J McBurnie.

People's Republic of Bangladesh Public Works Department

Notice Inviting Tender

1. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 on item rate basis are hereby invited from Class I/II E/M contractors enlisted with the PWD. Tenders will be received up to 12-30 P.M. on 7.10.91 by the undersigned and tenders will be opened at 1-00 P.M. on the same day in presence of the tenderers or their representatives if they are any. Tender will be addressed to the Executive Engineer PWD E/M Division-VIII Mirpur, Dhaka and the name of work and date of opening are to be written on the envelope.
2. Name of works: Running repair of Scraper T-200 under PWD E/M Sub-Division-XV, Mirpur, Dhaka against R.C.T and P (Heavy)
3. Tender documents and schedule can be seen and purchased on cash payment on usual price (Non refundable) from the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Division-I/II/3/4/5/6/7 Mechanical Workshop Division/Wood Workshop Division/PWD Eden Building Division Dhaka and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days before the tender opening day.
4. Tenderers will have to furnish earnest money @2% of the total quoted rate in the form of B.D.C.D.P.O etc. to be issued from any scheduled bank in favour of the undersigned along with each tender otherwise the tender will be outrightly rejected/fix deposit holder are excepted from earnest money to the extent of F.D amount for two groups of tenders in a day. If the amounts of earnest money in a particular work exceeds the amount of F.D than the balance excess amount is to be deposited with such tender otherwise tender will be rejected. F.D holder will have to submit F.D certificate issued by concerned E.E not later than 3 months ago.
5. The undersigned reserves the sole authority to accept/reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Executive Engineer,
PWD E/M Division-VIII,
Mirpur, Dhaka.

DFF (G) 10950-25/9
G-586

Most commodities' prices weaker

LONDON, Sept 29: Oil prices were supported by increased tension in the Gulf and failed to react to the lifting of OPEC's production ceiling to 23.65 million Barrels Per Day (BPD), reports AFP.

The market judging this level in line with forecast demand for the fourth quarter and felling that the OPEC countries do not have the capacity to increase production above this level.

Coffee: Prices were weakened by rainfalls in Brazil where there had been fears of drought inspired crop damage and by the lack of visible progress toward new price supporting measures at the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) council meeting in London.

Oil: Firmer. Brent Crude, the Benchmark for North Sea oil output, was supported by increased tensions in the Gulf. Iraq continued to resist pressure to cooperate with a UN inspection of its nuclear installations.

This factor dominated the market, compensating the restart of production in Brazil after a 12-day strike. The lifting of the OPEC Production Ceiling (without Iraq and Kuwait) to 23.63 million Barrels Per Day for the fourth quarter against 22.3 million was regarded as realistic.

Sugar: Firmer Prices were supported by the forecast from the International Sugar Organisation of a production surplus of only 900,000 tonnes in 1991-92 against 2.58 million tonnes the previous season.

A cut in import taxes on sugar in Pakistan from 25 to 15 per cent also brought support. The market continued to await a decision by the EC on

the Soviet Union's request for food aid including 900,000 tonnes of sugar.

Vegetable oils: Steady. Most vegetable oils progressed, with notable gains by soya, palm, copra and sunflower oils. Specialist review Oil World estimated that satisfying the Soviet request for an extra 300,000 tonnes of vegetable oil would force the EC to deliver into stocks, reduce it

sales to other countries and increase imports.

Soya oil was supported by the USSR's purchase of 125,000 tonnes of Soya beans, announced on Wednesday by the US Department of Agriculture, Brazil's Geographical and Statistical Institute lifted by 1.2 per cent to 14.7 million tonnes its estimate of the 1990-91 harvest of Soya in Brazil, a figure well below the 19.9 million tonnes of the

previous season.

Rubber: Idle. The natural rubber market remained idle. Traders continued to await signs of intervention by the buffer stock manager of the International Natural Rubber Organisation (INRO).

The depressed state of the market was illustrated by the announcement of heavy first-half losses by giants Michelin and Italy's Pirelli.

Grains: Easier. Grains eased on the London market in the wake of Chicago, weakened at the start of the week by good harvest conditions in the mid-west, the threat of frost having disappeared.

The announcement of the USSR's purchase of 750,000 tonnes of maize and 300,000 tonnes of wheat from the US stabilised the market at lower levels.

Tea: Firmer. Demand picked up at the weekly auction and focused mainly on quality grades. Prices firmed to 200 pence per kilo against 155 pence for quality grade and to 110 pence against 100 for medium grade. Low-medium declined from 78 to 75 pence per kilo.

Cotton: Weak. The price index on the Liverpool market fell to its lowest level since the beginning of 1989, depressed by lack of demand in Europe and the prospect of an abundant harvest in the US in 1991-92. The harvest is expected to be the largest since 1937-38.

Coffee: Weak After an irregular start prices tended lower on failure of the ICO meeting to make progress towards price supporting measures the meeting was due to close late Friday and the market expected a decision to extend the current agreement for an extra year until Sept 1993.

'Tokio Express' rescues 24 seafarers

The crew of Hapag-Lloyd's CMV 'Tokio Express' (47,733 dwt) displayed superb seamanship in rescuing the 24-man crew of the Greek bulk carrier 'Sun Set' (21,000 dwt) after the latter had got into serious difficulties at sea on August 1, 1991 says a Press release.

Under the command of Captain Armin Tosch, 53, the Hapag-Lloyd container ship was on her 100th homeward-bound voyage from the Far East to Europe.

West of the Socotra Islands at the entrance to the Gulf of Aden in the Indian Ocean, the 'Sun Set' sank during an unusually violent monsoon which had brought Force 100 winds and mountainous seas.

Following the container-ship's arrival back in Hamburg, the captain submitted his report on the rescue. From this it emerged that having received SOS calls from the Greek ship, then 21 nautical miles away, the 'Tokio Express' had altered course with all speed, immediately embarking on all the necessary preparations for the rescue. A

lifeboat was made ready and four crew members, including the First Officer as boatswain, volunteered to man this.

Thanks to a great performance by the crew of the 'Tokio Express', which had to work close to the limits of the possible during this operation, the rescue was completed without incident. This once again demonstrated this skilful seamanship and high standard of training of the seafarers aboard the Hapag-Lloyd vessel.

The Greek crew was taken aboard without loss or injury, and was able to disembark at Suez. The crew of the 'Tokio Express' also rendered exceptional service in looking after them in the interval.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Name of Vessels	Berthed	ETA	Berth No.	L. Port Call
Ornyx	23/9	3/10	J/1	Pola
Khuzim - II	10/9	1/10	J/2	Colombo
Banglar Progati	24/9	30/9	J/3	NA
Golden Lake	25/9	2/10	J/4	NA
Banglar Asha	25/9	1/10	J/5	NA
Jiang Cheng	25/9	2/10	J/7	NA
Sprante Rubin	29/9	1/10	J/8	NA
Nehaj	28/9	1/10	J/9	NA
Ocean Transporter	23/9	30/9	J/11	NA
AL Mohammad	29/9	3/10	J/12	NA
Banglar Sampad	28/9	1/10	J/13	NA
Mette Sif	28/9	30/9	MPB/1	Colombo
Vivari-II	20/9	6/10	MPB/2	NA
Symphonic (Attached)	11/9	30/9	CCJ	Jedd
Leon	26/9	2/10	CSJ	Can
Global Mercury	28/9	30/9	RM/3	NA
Amphion	28/9	2/10	RM/4	NA
Fong Yun (Attached)	03/7	7/10	RM/5	Singapore
Banglar Shourabh	29/9	30/9	RM/6	NA
Red Deer (Attached)	11/7	5/10	RM/8	Singapore
Al Salma	17/9	5/10	RM/9	Singapore
Banglar Swapna	23/4	30/9	DDJ/1	

Name of Vessels	ETA	ETA	Berth No.
Queen of Heart	30/9	NA	J/13
Ivory Bay	30/9	NA	J/8
Amphion	30/9	NA	RM/4
Bangla Jyoti	30/9	NA	RM/6
Fong Shin	30/9	NA	MPB/1

Vessels Due at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	ETA	L. Port Call
Aghlon Oros	30/9/91	Pola
Et Ocean-VII	1/10/91	Singapore
Arktis Sea	1/10/91	Singapore
Andrian Concharov	1/10/91	Singapore
Sea Rhapsody	2/10/91	Singapore
NGS Rangers	2/10/91	Singapore
State of Gujarat	3/10/91	Mongla
Gold Horizon	3/10/91	Singapore
Koto Mawar	3/10/91	Singapore
Infinity	3/10/91	Singapore
Mega - P	3/10/91	NA
Dignity	4/10/91	Mongla
Hafez	4/10/91	NA
Fong Soon	5/10/91	Singapore
New Genlord	5/10/91	Singapore
Hyok Sin	5/10/91	Chin
Safina-E-Haider	5/10/91	Kara
Karabieverett	5/10/91	Singapore
Anting	6/10/91	Kand
Fong Shan	6/10/91	Singapore
Glory Star	6/10/91	Jaka
Atlantic Cliffer	6/10/91	Mongla
Anke	9/10/91	Singapore
Johnverett	10/10/91	NA
Sun Star	12/10/91	NA

Mongla Port

Name of Vessels	*Berthed	***ETA	**ETD	L. Port
Al-Kantara	23/8		26/8	Chittagong
Fair Runner	20/8	-	-	Chittagong
Ronjoy	22/8	-	-	Chittagong
Tropis	25/8	-	-	Chittagong
Arkady Caidar		26/8	-	Calcutta
Swan Glory	23/8	-	-	Chittagong
Samudra Raj	21/8	-	-	Chittagong
Gold Asia	25/8	-	-	Chittagong
Vishva Prafulla	-	*NA	-	Calcutta
Fingyin	-	*NA	-	Qinhuam
Vlacherna Breeza	-	*NA	-	Singapore
Al-Swamruz	-	*NA	-	Chittagong
Wincostrader	22/8	-	-	B. Indon
Hang Pook		30/8	-	Chittagong
State of Harayana		07/9	-	Calcutta
Banglar Kolol		28/8	09/9	Chittagong
Sea Destiny	24/8	-	-	Padang
Ncusdadt	20/8	21/9	-	Chittagong
Kaptai	24/8	-	05/9	Chittagong
Gorankovacic		27/8	31/9	Calcutta