

## 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, Izvestia 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 (27.2 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, Izvestia 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 Petofi Printing house in the central Hungarian city of Kecskemet, 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 Petofi Printing house received the loan to develop and produce high-quality packaging materials.

Petofi, 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 Petofi, 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.

## People's Republic of Bangladesh Public Works Department

### Notice Inviting Tender

- 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 there be 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.
- 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)
- 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.
- 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/fixed 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 then 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.
- The undersigned reserves the sole authority to accept/reject any or all the tenders without assenting any reason whatsoever.

## 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 Reuter.

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 Nursultan 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 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 federal bank union and divide Soviet internal debt, Yavlinsky told the Daily Trud 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 should return the money," he said.

The draft agreement, according to Yavlinsky, said that the republics could introduce their own currencies, but he personally favoured keeping the Rouble 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 publicized leadership conference since the failed hardline coup in Moscow last month and the Chinese ruling party's seventh plenum in December 1990.

"The most important thing in building socialism with Chinese characteristics and enabling socialism to manifest strengthen 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 a 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.

"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.

Lootha is also Deputy

## 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, nautical 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 Omaith.

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 that countries 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.

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

## GCC rejects Kuwaiti oil aid plea

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

Raqqa 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.

## 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 reviewed by the British Aerospace management following the new policy of liberalization, 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.

## Islamic investment co in Europe likely

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.

## Shipping Intelligence

### Chittagong Port

Name of Vessels	*Berthed	**ETA	Berth No.	L Port Call
Oryx	23/9	3/10	J/1	Pola
Khuzim - II	10/9	1/10	J/2	Colombo
Bangla Progoti	24/9	30/9	J/3	NA
Golden Lake	25/9	2/10	J/4	NA
Bangla 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 Mohamad	29/9	3/10	J/12	NA
Bangla 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
Synphonic (Attached)	11/9	30/9	CCJ	Jedd
Leon	26/9	2/10	CSJ	Cara
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
Bangla Shourab	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
Bangla Swapna	23/4	30/9	DDJ/1	

Name of Vessels	**ETA	**ETD	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
Aghion Oros	30/9/91	Pola
Et Ocean-VII	1/10/91	Singapore
Arktis Sea	1/10/91	Singapore
Andrian Goncharov	1/10/	