Arab expatriates remit \$ 90 B

ABU DHABI, Sept 9: Arab expatriates in the wealthy Gulf remitted home 90 billion dollar between 1973 and 1980, far more than the official aid received by their countries, according to the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF). The remittances, mainly from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). stood at around 150 per cent of the total aid received by poor Arab states during that period, the Abu Dhabi-based fund said in a report this week, according to AFP.

Taiwan to ban Korean ship movement

TAIPEI, Sept 9 : Taiwan, which broke diplomatic ties with South Korea last month, will ban Korean shipping firms from operating on the Taiwan-Japan route from September 15, officials said on Tuesday. The ban was being imposed because Seoul had long prohibited Taiwanese ships from serving the South Korea-Japan route, said David Yang, Chairman of the National Association of Chinese Shipowners, says Reuter.

Russia to defend reform programme

MOSCOW, Sept 9: Russia will defend its reform programme this autumn through a programme of economic and political action, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Foreign Economic Affairs, said reports Reuter. Alexander Shokhin told news conference the cabinet planned to support the rouble, restrict subsidies on imports and impose tough rules on companies seeking foreign credits, says Reuter.

Oil workers to strike in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 9 Oil workers will stage a 24hour strike Wednesday for higher pay and more benefits, the state oil company Petrobras said Tuesday. A last-minute effort to avert the strike collapsed when unions rejected an offer for bimonthly cost-of-living raises, a company press spokesman said. The meeting scheduled for tomorrow was called off, said Lucio Pimentel. The strike will go on," says AP.

East German GNP falls by 7.7 pc

WIESBADEN (Germany), Sept 9: Gross National Product (GNP) in former East Germany fell by 7.7 per cent in the second half of 1991 compared with the figure for the same period of 1990, the federal statistical office said on Tuesday. Gross Domestic Product fell by 11.4 per cent during the same period. Household consumption rose by 3.7 per cent and public spending by 3.3 per cent, reports AFP.

Iran's oil output to reach 4m BPD

TEHRAN, Sept 9: Iran's oil production capacity will rise to four million barrels per day in two week's time when a repaired offshore Gulf platform goes back on stream, Oil Minister Golamreza Aghazadeh said here. The Salman platform, located in the middle of the Gulf and destroyed by Iraq during the 1980-88 war, is expected to produce about 150,000 BPD, Mustapha Khoi, the Director General of Iran's National Offshore Oil Company, said in June, says AFP.

Jakarta tin miners

warned of reforms JAKARTA, Sept 9: Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmit has told the state-owned tin company PT Tambang Timah (PTTT) to be prepared to face a free market, the Antara news agency said Wednesday. Antara quoted Ginanjar as saying in Mentok on the tin-producing island of Bangka off the eastern coast of South Sumatra on Tuesday, that PTTT should ready itself for a scenario when the Association of Tin-Producing Countries (ATPC) could no longer control world tin prices, reports AFP.

Non-EC states may not get EMS link

BRUSSELS, Sept 9 : The EC is unlikely to allow applicant states to establish a formal link with the European Monetary Systme (EMS) before community membership negotiations are completed, a commission officials aid. They are not about to get full associate membership of the EMS," the official quoted **Economics** Commissioner Henningh Christophersen as telling Scandanavian journalists recently, says Reuter.

Entrepreneurs urged to help restore Soviet Union

MOSCOW, Sept 9 : Arkady Volsky, leader of a powerful Russian industrial lobby, called on enterprise managers in the former Soviet republics to help restore a unitary state, reports

Reuter. In an interview in the conservative daily newspaper Pravda, Volsky said he was dis satisfied with the collapse of the Soviet Union late last year and thought the return to a single state was still possible.

I am sure that... there are objective laws that made our people's live in a common

WASHINGTON, Sept

President George Bush said on

Tuesday he was worried about

Americans' lack of confidence

in the ability of the economy to

"I have been concerned

"You have so much gloom

and doom about the economy

that people are scared," he

economy has been growing

slowly, he said, "we are still

the envy of the world".

official visit.

BANGKOK, Sept 9: Senior

officials of the Asia-Pacific

Economic Cooperation (APEC)

forum Tuesday said they had

discussed a host of measures

to bolster trade within the 15-

The officials, concluding

talks ahead of a ministerial

meeting on Thursday and Fri-

day, said that they were also

drafting a "strong statement"

to push the stalled Uruguay

Round of multilateral trade ne-

said Tuesday's talks covered

trative aspects of market ac-

cess, harmonisation of customs

rules and the creation of a

databank of member countries

groups the United States,

Canada, Australia, New

Zealand, Japan, South Korea,

China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and

the six members of the Associ

ation of South East Asian Na

The APEC, formed in 1989.

tariff rules.

investment rules, the adminis-

A senior Australian official

gotiations to an early end.

member group, reports AFP.

Acknowledging that the

about the confidence factor,"

Bush told the convention of

B'nai B'rith, a Jewish fraternal

grow, reports Reuter.

organisation.

state for centuries. And those laws have not diminished," he

"Our task is to... replace those politicians who fool the people with fairy tales that independence could bring prosperity," Volsky added.

Volsky's union organisation, which unites thousands of state sector industrial managers, is a backbone of a powerful industrial lobby in Russia. It has close ties to similar bodies in other ex-Soviet re-

The lobby favours slowing

Bush worried about Americans'

lack of confidence in economy

'Yes, things have been slow,

but I am not pessimistic long-

run," Bush said. "Look around

the world, it's been a global

recession, certainly a global

The United States econ-

omy has grown anemically for

five straight quarters, but it's

so anaemic that many areas

is get ready and move forward

into the future with some op-

campaign in which the econ-

omy has become a pivotal is-

FUTURE RESPONSIBILITY: The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

with Special Responsibility for Hong Kong, Alastair Goodlad (R), and Hong Kong Governor

Christopher Patten (C) visit a local university Sept 9. Goodlad said earlier that the future

Special Administrative Region Government in Hong Kong should also be responsible for

financing the 21 billion US dollar new airport project after 1997 when the British colony

reverts to Chinese rule. Goodlad is scheduled to leave Hong Kong Sept 9 after his six-day

APEC members talk measures

to bolster trade

tions, Brunei, Indonesia,

Malaysia, the Philippines, Sin-

The ministerial meeting.

the fourth since APEC's inau-

guration in Canberra, Australia,

in 1989, is expected to shape

the forum's structure and lay

the groundwork for substantial

cooperation by approving the

setting up of a secretariat and

talks said that they had not yet

reached a decision on where

to locate a secretariat which

Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia

and South Korea are bidding to

sion yet but we hope to have a

recommendation for the min-

a senior Thai official said.

on the issue.

isters to approve on Thursday,"

Brunei and Japan had been

given the task of sounding out

members on a consensus host

for a secretariat to avoid a vote

Other officials said that

"We have not made a deci-

But officials attending the

gapore and Thailand.

a budget.

timism," he said. "I believe we

Facing a tough re-election

"Now what we've got to do

don't feel it." Bush said.

slowdown

can do it".

the pace of economic reforms and strong state support for national industries.

It has grown especially influential after the liberal reform team, lead by acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, was diluted earlier this year by the appointment of three new vice-premiers.

The state sector prevails in all ex-Soviet states, providing more than 80 per cent of industrial output.

"Industrial managers and entrepreneurs should realise

sue. Bush said the way to

strengthen the economy is to

get the government sector of

He said he favoured reining

'In my view the government

The President said

Congress should approve some

posed, including a cut in the

capital gains tax and tax breaks

- AFP/UNB photo

The United States and

Japan, the economic power-

houses in APEC, have said they

prefer the secretariat located

in an ASEAN country but the

regional economic grouping

has so far failed to reach

agreement on a common can-

Indonesian Foreign Minis-

ter Ali Alatas said after ASEAN

foreign ministers discussed

the issue in Jakarta last week

that the regional group did not

have a single candidate but

would try again during the

the choice has, however, nar-

rowed to Singapore and

Bangkok. Indonesia which al-

ready hosts the ASEAN secre-

tariat in Jakarta is not ex-

pected to win support within

Lumpur says: Malaysia docs not

support the idea of a secre-

tariat for the Asia-Pacific Eco-

nomic Cooperation (APEC).

Another report form Kuala

Regional diplomats say that

for first-time house buyers.

tax incentives he has pro-

spends too much and taxes too

much. Took much in the pub-

lic sector, not enough in the

the economy doing less".

in government spending.

private sector," he said.

themselves as a powerful force and strive for coordination of their activities," said Voilsky.

The interview with Volsky was published two weeks before a summit of Commonwealth leaders in Bishkek. capital of the Central Asian state of Kyrgyzstan.

Among other issues, the summit is due to discuss closer economic and political cooperation among the member-states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose alliance erected on the rubble of the Soviet Union.

Elephant memory

TOKYO Sept 9: Japan's NEC Corp said Tuesday it had developed the technology to produce computer memories capable of stor ing more than a trillion bits of data in a single square inch (6.5 square centimetres), reports AFP.

ments in Scanning Tun nelling Microscope (STM) technology made it possible to realise terbit (million megabit) memories with a capacity, 3,000 times bigger than existing CD-ROM (compact discread only memory) de-

technology, operating at density discs, it said.

STM technology has been used to observe and anal yse atoms and fabrication techniques could not be applied to memory devices as they lacked writ ing and erasing abilities.

But the Japanese electronics rewritable STM technol

'Accord on free trade won't solve protectionism'

But concluding the new pact under the General Agreement on Tartiffs and Trade (GATT) is still vital to a stable world trading system and a legal framework to work out disputes, he said in a speech to a business law con-

"A GATT agreement cannot eliminate protectionist pressures in the developed countries, these will not disappear so long as some industries and economic sectors in these countries are doing badly," Lee

"But an agreement can help governments to deflect these pressers and cope with them in less harmful ways," he added.

The seven-year-old Uruguay round of negotiations under GATT has been blocked since December 1990 by a dispute between the United States and the European Community over farm subsidies.

The company said advance-

Such memories could run up to 100 times faster than current nano-meter level millionth of a millimetre and could be used to make ultra-fine, largescale integrated circuits and high-

giant, the world's biggest producer of computer chips, said it had overcome the problem by us ing vanadium oxide crystal glass as a writing medium, enabling it to achieve

The results of the research were to be presented at a meeting of the Japan society of applied physics in Osaka next week.

SINGAPORE, Sept 9: long-delayed agreement to create free world trade will not solve the problems of protectionism, Singapore Trade and Industry Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

ference.

China to prepare for re-entry into GATT

down on pro-democracy BEIJING, Sept 9: A top protesters forced a postponeeconomist says China will inment of discussions. crease market access and shift to a single, hard currency to GATT, which regulates meet requirements for rejoinmost of the world's trade, ing the General Agreement on promotes free-market ideals Tariffs and Trade, an official and sponsors agreements that

> China lost its membership in 1950 a year after the Communists came to power in Bei-

offer participating countries

greater access to foreign mar-

Ma said that as part of the changes, China will encourage domestic enterprises to participate in international competition, give foreign trade autonomy to enterprises and allow enterprises to make overseas investment, the newspaper reported.

He said those steps will bring China in line with international standards and improve the performance of Chinese enterprises in international competition, according to the report.

In trade talks with Betting, the United States has been discussing many of the same market access measures required for GATT membership.

The United States has threatened to impose punitive tariffs on up to 3.9 billion dollar of Chinese exports to the United States if China refuses to lift trade barriers to give American companies more access to Chinese markets.

Indian workers, employers call for less govt interference in disputes

NEW DELHI, Sept 9 : Indian workers and employers' representatives jointly called for less government interference in industrial disputes, reports

newspaper said Wednesday.

The China Daily reported

that Ma Hong, Director of the

cabinet's Development Re-

search Center, said the open-

ing of the domestic market

will include lowering tariffs on

some products and easing re-

strictions on the approval of

The changes will include

reform of the exchange rate

system to gradually turn the

Chinese yuan into convertible

currency. Ma was quoted as

saying. He gave no timetable

currency, renminbi yuan, while

foreigners in China use yuan

issued in foreign exchange

certificates. Neither is

Tuesday during the opening of

a conference in shanghai on

business, finance and invest-

China has been trying since

1986 to regain membership in

GATT. The body's working

party was about to start studies

on China's protocol in 1989

when Beijing's military crack-

Ma made his comments

Chinese people now use one

says AP.

imports.

for the changes.

convertible.

ment in China.

A statement issued at the end of a two-day conference said the representatives agreed government must not arbitrate in industrial disputes as it had done in the past under a state-controlled econ-

But the statement added that details of how they thought industrial disputes should be resolved in the future have not been worked out.

It said, present practice of getting the federal or state governments to be a party in an industrial dispute must

Employers have long complained that India's strict labour laws favour workers.

"We want less and less of government in industry. We want direct negotiations with the workers employers and employees can solve problems without the help of either the state government or the centre, Keshuv Mahindra, head of the Council of Indian Employers told Reuters.

Some union leaders said they opposed the plan to keep government out.

In a democratic country governments have to intervene to ensure that labour is protected, said Pradyut Kumar Ganguli, Secretary of a Marxist trade union.

But despite efforts of the communist unions, representatives of the Congress Party union, as well as other union officials, moved the resolution for climinating government interference.

The government started to liberalise India's economy last year, reversing decades of socialism. The policy cuts through a maze of regulations and freed industry from state

Seven C.American states back Tiwan's bid to join GATT

TAIPEI, Sept 9 : Seven Central American nations pledged support Tuesday for Taiwan's bid to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Foreign Ministry officials said, reports AFP.

In return, Taiwan will consider extending loans for a programme to upgrade industry in Central America through its International Cooperation Development Fund and the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, they said.

A committee will be set up to promote cooperation affairs between Taiwan and the Central American States -Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Belize.

The seven countries are also to support Taiwan's bid to accede to the Montreal Protocol of 1987, which aims to reduce global use of chlorofluorocarbons or CFCS, said to harm the earth's zone layer.

China's Communist Party government, which disputes Taiwan's claim to be the sole legitimate ruler of all China, has said that it would allow the island to join GATT only after Beijing has done so.

The foreign ministers made their promises through the signing of a joint communique with their Taiwanese counterpart Fredrick Chien, officials noted.

Under the communique which describes the holding of a joint cooperation conference in Taiwan as historic and significant, the eight nations will work together to promote peace, abide by international law and respect human rights as well as avoiding creating regional tension or any actions which will provoke others in the Central American region.

Japan's export to GCC soars, import drops

ABU DHABI, Sept 9 : Japan's exports to Gulf Arab states surged by more than 60 per cent in the first half of 1992 while a drop in oil prices depressed its import bill, according to the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO),

according to AFP. Figures released by the Dubai-based JETRO office showed the exports increased by 68 per cent to 4.8 billion dollar over the same period of 1991 while imports fell by 7.5 per cent to 11.9 billion dollar.

JETRO Director in Dubai. Mitsuhito Ono, said the rise in exports was due to the end of the Gulf War while the decline in imports was caused by a fall in the price of oil, which constitutes the bulk of Japan's imports from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The decline in imports does not mean Japan received less oil from the GCC, he told AFP by telephone. IT was mainly caused by a drop in off prices.

Oil prices have so far averaged 18.6 dollar this year compared with 20 dollar in 1991 and 22.2 dollar in 1990, when they shot up to 40 dollar in the few months that followed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

During that year, Japan's imports form GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) soared to nearly 26 billion dollar, the highest level in about eight

India to extend Ghana \$ 5 m credit

NEW DELHI, Sept 9: India will extend a five million dollar line of credit to Ghana for setting up small scale industries, give assistance for export processing zone facilities and set up joint ventures in the fields of cement, sugar, cold storages and garments, reports PTI.

Disclosing this to newsmen here today, the Deputy Commerce Minister, Salman Khurshid, who has just returned from Ghana, said due to the enthusiasm evinced by Ghana to develop economic relations it was decided to explore the possibility of raising the quantum of credit by another five million dollar.

Khurshid, who chaired the long overdue trade committee meeting between India and Ghana at Accra, said he has been successful in finalising a five million dollar project for setting up workshops for Ghana association for garages.

He said the Ghanian government had desired to import buses and equipment for rural electrification purposes.

Dollar falls, stocks mixed in Tokyo

TOKYO, Sept 9: The US dollar remained lower against the Japanese yen in Tokyo Wednesday morning, as share prices were mixed in light trading, reports AP.

At late morning, the dollar was changing hands at 122.75 yen, down 0.53 yen from Tuesday's close but above its opening at 122.62 yen. In New York, the dollar finished overnight at 122.85 yen.

The dollar's lower opening followed its decline in New York where it was sold against most major currencies, including the German mark, dealers

Toshihiro Nemoto, a currency dealer at the Tokai Bank, said the dollar was staying in a narrow range from 122.70 yen to 122.80 yen in Tokyo due to the absence of fresh market-affecting news.

Nemoto said Japan's central bank was tightening credit recently, a move that usually helps strengthen the yen.

Stocks fall in New York

NEW YORK, Sept 9 : Stock prices fell Tuesday, reflecting a pessimistic view held by many traders of the US economy's prospects, reports AP.

Last week's grim report on August unemployment continued to weigh on many investors' minds throughout the session. The government on Friday reported private employment fell by 167,000 jobs in August while the nation's unemployment rate dropped to 7.6 per cent from 7.7 per

cent in July.

After the report was released, the Federal reserve moved to lower a key shortterm interest rate - the federal funds rate - 0.25 percentage point to 3 per cent. But the prospect of lower rates failed to elicit new buying for stocks on Friday or during Tuesday's session. Financial markets were closed in the US on Monday because of the Labour Day holiday.

Pacific islanders feel the pinch of 'development' But the consequent abandonment of charges foreign vessels only about 1.5 million

SUVA (Fiji), Sept 9: Writers and artists have always waxed lyrical about life in a tropical island. But for those living in the 300 atolls dotting the vast Pacific Ocean, mere survival has

become a problem, reports IPS. These days, they are not only threatened by rising sea levels but also by a development model that has made the atolls' population chronically dependent on the import of basic necessities

"Because of their size, these low-lying atolls are vulnerable to cyclone, typhoons and high scas," says Jeff Liew, Coordinator of the UN Development Programme's (UNDP), Integrated Atoll Development Project (IADP).

Their soil is coral-lined and lacks the organic matter, so growing anything is difficult. he adds. "They don't have natural anchorages for ships to pull up close. Thus, they are further isolated.

In 1985, the UNDP set up the IADP for the Pacific atoll nations of Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Tokelau and the federated states of Micronesia. Liew reports they have spent 2.8 million US dollar on various projects since.

"We try to develop a greater measure of selfreliance within the atoll communities by trying to increase the subsistence productions so that

people will not have to spend whatever little money they have on imported food," he ex-

talks here.

the group.

Atolls are low Coral islands that rise no more than four to six metres above sea level and often entirely enclose a saltwater lagoon. Atolls have few natural resources beyond fish, coconut and a handful of tropical fruits while fresh water is scarce and often contaminated.

With the small atoll nations scattered over some three of four million square kilometres of ocean, immense supply, transport and communications difficulties are common. Indeed, many export projects have faltered due to high freight rates.

Copra used to be the sole source of foreign exchange earnings for many of these atoll states until the price of that commodity plummeted in recent years. Some of the atolls have tried to raise money by exporting handicrafts and selling colourful postage stamps, but revenues from these efforts do not look promising.

With a 200 mile maritime exclusive economic zone surrounding the atolls recently set up, some of the tiny nations have tried issuing fishing licences for extra income. But returns have been poor, with little

political clout. Marshal Islands, for instance,

US dollar for rights to more than 150 million US dollar worth of tuna each year. The biggest sources of external revenue for most atoll nations are overseas aid and remit-

tances from their citizens working abroad, mainly in New Zealand and in foreign ships. But Liew says South Pacific Island states "are very much a part of the global monetary economy and there's tendency for people to consume more processed and imported food."

This has resulted in a growth in disadvantaged groups where people now need cash income to survive," he says. "They just can't depend on traditional subsistence systems." Liew says the IADP encourages people to

participate in development. One of their most successful ventures has been in the Cook Islands, he adds, where an Island Development Coordination Committee (IDCC) comprising local leaders and government and community representatives has been formed.

Before Liew and his group intervened, people in Mangaia, one of the Cook Islands, were facing economic disaster, when world prices and deteriorating shipping services killed Mangaia's thriving pineapple industry. Most of the island's population lost their major source of income.

pineapple plantations also led to a huge erosion problem in the upland areas, which in turn affected the traditional taro farms in the foothills, says Liew. 'You had a situation where the foreign source of income was lost and the traditional base you would fall upon has been affected." Through the IDCC an island development

loan fund was put up. So far, nine income generating projects have benefited from it. An official UN report says results have been encouraging. Only one group defaulted while a fund borrower has increased his income by 2,000 US dollar in six months with his vegetable-growing business.

The IADP took a different tack in the Marshall Islands, where people identified water and sanitation as priorities over access to credit. IADP provided training and technical support to some of the islands people, who built their own water and sanitation system.

The government, however, has yet to commit to sustaining the project and replicate it elsewhere. Liew, meanwhile, admits the atoll nations may never be independent of foreign aid. But he says IADP is working for a development framework that will "better match external resources to the needs of the people."