

BRIEFS

Major urges EC to save Yslav victims

BRUSSELS, Oct 15: British Prime Minister John Major said in a letter to EC partners that hundreds of thousands of people could die in former Yugoslavia this winter and that Friday's community summit must tackle the issue.

British Coal to make 100,000 jobless

LONDON, Oct 15: British Coal's savage cutbacks could mean more than 100,000 job losses throughout the hard pressed UK economy in addition to the 30,000 miners' job losses announced Tuesday.

Alcatel launches digital project

ISLAMABAD, Oct 15: France's Alcatel launched a multi-million dollar project to manufacture digital switching systems here Wednesday in a major boost to its decade-old presence in Pakistan.

WB, Poland hold talks on agriculture

WARSAW, Oct 15: A World Bank delegation met Polish government officials to discuss plans to protect the country's forests and modernise its agriculture.

French budget deficit may rise

PARIS, Oct 15: Premier Pierre Berégovoy predicted Wednesday that France's budget deficit for 1992 will rise above earlier estimates but won't exceed 220 billion franc (46 billion dollar).

Probe into loans to Iraq urged

WASHINGTON, Oct 15: The chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee called Wednesday for an independent counsel to investigate why the FBI, CIA and Justice Department withheld information in a case involving illegal bank loans to Iraq.

Mahathir slams US double standards on trade

HONG KONG, Oct 15: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad bitterly attacked the United States on Wednesday for building a North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA), while blocking his plan for an East Asian economic group.



It has yet to get off the ground. Admittedly there are fears of domination by Japan, particularly on the part of its immediate neighbours.

Washington risked creating bitterness even among its friends in East Asia, said Mahathir, adding that Japan risked being left out in the cold if it spurned his plan.

What is preventing the EAEC from taking shape is the vehement objection of the United States of America.

some of Malaysia's South East Asian neighbours, who are also worried about the power Japan might wield. The name was subsequently changed to East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) but would be shut out under the Mahathir plan.

Dark talk of imperialism, neo-colonialism and hegemony are being heard at seminars and workshops all over East Asia. Mahathir, who will meet Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa later this week, also delivered a warning to Tokyo.

French farmers protest price cuts, US policy at GATT

TOURS (France), Oct 15: French farmers, angered by price cuts and US efforts at world trade talks to curb their subsidised exports, demonstrated across the country on Wednesday ahead of this week's European Community summit.

down in the fact of US pressure at GATT global trade negotiations. In Senlis, north of Paris, demonstrators bricked up the door of a government building and spilled tonnes of sugar beets in front of it.

The protests were the farmers' latest against the EC's reform of its common agricultural policy, adopted in May. The overhaul will slash prices that are guaranteed to farmers and require grain producers to idle 15 per cent of their land as a means of capping excess output.

ment on Tariffs and Trade, are snagged on differences over farm subsidies. France has led EC opposition to US demands for deep and quick cuts in handouts. "We need to stand firm against the American aggressor," Luc Guyau, head of the powerful French farmers' federation FNSEA, told a rally here.

ASEAN faces hard bargaining over proposed trade bloc

MANILA, Oct 15: South East Asian finance ministers face hard bargaining next week on efforts to create a regional free trade zone.

And a few days after that ASEAN ministers will meet a high-level European Community (EC) delegation. Portugal's objections to Indonesia's human rights record in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor have so far blocked a new economic cooperation accord between ASEAN and the EC.

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MOSCOW: Russian President Boris Yeltsin (L) hands over data concerning the Korean Air Lines jumbo jet shot down in 1983 by Soviet fighters to K Efkinton (R), Chairman of the American Association of relatives of crash victims, Oct 14. The KAL flight 007 was shot down on Sept 1, 1983 after it strayed into Soviet airspace. All 269 passengers and crew were killed.

A long neglected land of abundance looks for investors

by Collins Museman'geji

A long-neglected area of Zambia with an abundance of resources is looking for investment to open it up. It is potentially the richest part of the country and typical of many regions of Africa waiting for their opportunities to be realised.

ing drought has hit much of the country the region has good rains and has not been much affected. Major rivers like the Zambezi, Kafue and Kabompo emanate from the region. Many of the rivers and streams are a potential source of hydro-electricity.



Mwinilunga and Zambezi districts, use their own hydro-electricity. Despite all this, no organisations or companies showed any interest in investing in the province in the first three decades of independence.

EC, US moving to GATT deal

BRUSSELS, Oct 15: The European Community and the United States are moving towards a GATT farm trade deal, John Gummer, U.K. Farm Minister and current president of the EC farm council said, reports Reuters.

Energy saving technology for idle computers

WASHINGTON, Oct 15: Intel Corporation, microprocessor supplier for 80 per cent of the world's desktop computers, has announced it has developed technology for reducing those computers' energy use by 50 per cent or more by turning them off automatically when they are not in use.

Uganda asks Indian traders to return, invest

NEW DELHI, Oct 15: Twenty years after dictator Idi Amin expelled Indians from Uganda, the African nation's president Wednesday invited Indian businessmen to come back and invest.

Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur can claim \$140m compensation for oil pollution

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15: Malaysia and Indonesia can claim up to 140 million US dollars from two international shippers' funds as compensation for oil pollution in the Strait of Malacca, environment officials said Wednesday.

Jakarta could demand up to 80 million dollar and Kuala Lumpur 60 million dollar from the London-based funds separately established by tanker and cargo owners to compensate for oil spills, they said.

Bombay bond scam Probe committee accuses minister of involvement

NEW DELHI, Oct 15: Several members of a parliamentary panel probing India's 1.3 billion dollar bank and stock market scam alleged Wednesday that a senior cabinet minister was directly involved in the scandal.

Iraq ready to sell oil futures for food, medicine

BAGHDAD, Oct 15: With its hard cash coffers empty and gold reserves depleting, Iraq today offered to sell future oil deliveries in return for food and medicine, reports Reuters.

Japan's trade surplus balloons to all-time high

TOKYO, Oct 15: Japan's trade surplus in September jumped 24.9 per cent from a year earlier to an all-time high of 12.07 billion dollar, the Finance Ministry said Wednesday.

Dollar slips against most currencies

LONDON, Oct 15: The US dollar fell against most European currencies in early trading on Thursday. Gold prices were lower, reports AP.