France will take legal

action against US co

nications as a pre-requisite for

the transport system among

the member countries to en-

able trucks to travel from one

end of the ECO to the other as

well as the expansion and in-

the United States was not the

world's only economic super-

power, and noted that the

government contracts more

followed an EC ruling on this

sector that effectively closed a

potential 15 billion dollar

US auto industry for higher

tariffs on imported Japanese

minivans, Kantor said the trea-

sury was looking into the

question, but no final deci-

cconomic stimulus package

was still needed despite re-

the Philippines. Singapore and

ought to be able to discuss

between themselves impedi-

ments to trade and investment

which Washington now dis-

cusses bilaterally with its East

framework agreement "which

would set our goal of establish-

ing an open economic associa-

tion in the Asia Pacific region,

in which economies were by

degrees integrated to create

the world's most dynamic zone

Kuala Lumpur, the manufacture

of rubber products has huge

potential for Malaysia. But to

date production has been slow

The transition of Malaysia's

rubber industry is marked by a

He proposed talks about a

Keating said APEC countries

Thailand.

Asian partners.

of production.

to pick up.

cent good economic figures.

Brown also said a modest

sions have been made.

Asked about calls from the

market to US companies.

The plan calls for improving

achieving the goals of ECO.

Zaire merchants accept new notes

KINSHASA (Zaire), Feb 8 President Mobutu Sese Seko has won a temporary reprieve in the pressure for him to step down, as merchants began accepting disputed new bank notes that provoked military riots last week. Mobutu tried again Friday night to replace Etienne Tshisekedi, his chief opponent, as prime minister. He also indicated he would purge troops believed to have supported Zaire's prodemocracy movement. The transitional government led by Tshisekedi estimates at least 1,000 people were killed in the past week. Soldiers rioted after stores refused to accept the new currency Mobutu had printed to pay them, reports AP.

Cuba studying free trade zone's idea

HAVANA, Feb 8: Cuba, which is seeking to open its economy to international trade and investment, is studying the possibility of setting up a free trade and transit zone, the communistruled island's Customs chief said. Orlandobello said in an interview published in the international edition of the official newspaper Granma that Cuba was well placed geoanhically to benefit from trade passing through Latin America and the Caribbean. reports Reuter.

Canadian PM in US

WASHINTON, Feb 8 President Bill Clinton stuck to tradition on Friday as Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney became the first foreign leader to visit the White House since the November 3 election. Canada is the largest trading partner of the United States and the two countries share the world's largest land boundary. As such, recent US presidents have made a point of first inviting the Canadian leader. The brief one day working visit by Mulroney is expected to focus on trade issues, particularly the recent North American Free Trade Agreement which links the United States, Canada and Mexico, reports AFP.

GM men moving to counter publicity

CHICAGO, Feb 8: Top General Motors Corp officials are moving aggressively to counter the publicity from an enormous negligence verdict on GM's pre-1988 pickups, asserting it would have no impact on sales or customer loyalty. But automobile industry experts said Friday the verdict was the last thing the struggling automaker needed as it tries to restore an image battered by horrendous losses, management upheaval and an eroding share of the car market. "We've been very close to this issue for some time and our dealers have not felt any impact in the marketplace from this problem, GMC Truck Division general manager Roy Roberts said in an interview at the Chicago Auto Show, reports AP.

FTC defers action on Microsoft probe

WASHINGTON, Feb 8: The Federal Trade Commission deferred action Friday on its closely watched antitrust investigation of Microsoft Corp, the world's largest computer software company. For 2 1/2 years, the FTC has been investigating allegations that Microsoft Corp has unfairly used its dominance in the market of personal computer software to squelch competition, according to industry officials. Microsoft makes MS-DOS, the operating system that runs every IBM and IBM-compatible personal computer. It also produces programmes that compete with the software applications made by other companies to be run on DOS systems, reports AP.

US budget cuts to be announced soon

WASHINGTON, Feb 8: The US administration will announce spending cuts in the coming week demonstrating President Bill Clinton's commitment to curbing waste, Vice President Al Gore said Sunday. "You're going to see announcements this coming week that will demonstrate quite clearly that the experience Bill Clinton has in balanced budgets is being brought to bear in weeding out the unnecessary, wasteful kind of spending that's just been allowed to go on for too long," Gore said, reports AFP.

ECO to set up bank, link member states

QUETTA, (Pakistan), Feb 8: Members of the 10-nation **Economic Cooperation Organ**isation (ECO) Sunday agreed to establish a regional bank to boost and finance their trade and called for a rail and road network to improve inter-Asia transport and communications, reports AFP.

The ECO foreign minister at the end of their two-day meeting here adopted a Quetta Plan of action aimed at achieving an integrated economy by the end of the century.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shahayar Mohammad Khan described the outcome of the first substantive meeting of ECO since its expansion, as "very successful."

Formed by Iran, Turkey and Pakistan in 1985, ECO was joined the six central Asian republics Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazak-hstan, Turkministan and Kirghizstan and Afghanistan last year.

"The plan of action is very significant," as it charts the whole range of areas of cooperation and a time-frame to achieve the targets, Khan said. He said the ECO bank will

be established before the summit of the member states in Istanbul, Turkey in June this year. The member states emphasised the "vital importance" of

mobilising a market oriented

economy and stressed the

need to encourage private sec-

WASHINGTON, Feb 8: The

new US administration is not

protectionist, President Bill

Clinton's two top trade officials

"This is not a protectionist

administration. This is an ad-

ministration that believes in

opening markets, Commerce

Secretary Ron Brown said in a

We also believe in fair trade.

We want to have a level playing

Kantor echoed these senti-

ments, saying in another tele-

vision interview that trade is a

SYDNEY, Feb 8: Australian

Prime Minister Paul Keating

proposed Monday turning 15

major economies of the Asia-

Pacific region into a common

market which he predicted

would become the "the world's

most dynamic zone of produc-

campaign to win the March 13

election, Keating acknowl-

edged unemployment as

Australia's major problem and

proposed strengthening trad-

ing links with Asia and the

Pacific rim as the best

The rapid spread of AIDS

holds little good news for most

countries today. But for

Malaysia, the surge in demand

for condoms and surgical

gloves came at a time when

the rubber industry was at a

trees - are now in high de-

Dr Habibah Suleiman of the

Malaysian Rubber Research

and Development Board

(MRRDB) says rubber latex

forms the expanding sector of

the rubber industry. Other

products like rubber tyres,

which are made from an al-

ternative form of rubber - dry

rubber - have been affected

exporter of surgical gloves to

This is an area receiving more

attention-the 'downstream'

Rubber production - which

includes the production of dry

rubber and rubber latex - has

been called one of the twin pil-

lars of Malaysia's economic

success. Over the last hundred

years rubber and tin were ma-

jor export commodities.

Despite competition from

Synthetic rubber and a decline

in price of natural rubber (

price fell 50 per cent between

1960 and 1970) rapid replant-

ing and other improvements

enabled Malaysian rubber to

remain profitable.

Germany," said Dr Suleiman.

sector-manufacturing."

"We are now the leading

by the worldwide recession.

creased.

longterm solution.

In the first speech of his

tion," says an AFP reports.

"We believe in free trade.

Trade representative Micky

television interview Sunday.

field, Brown added.

said Sunday, reports AFP.

tor, a statement said. They also called for interaction with other economic

groupings and organisations and the foreign ministers also decided to seek help from the United Nations agencies, World Bank and Islamic Bank in realising objectives states in

They underlined the need

tional financing and expressed "satisfaction" at the "positive results" of various expert groups on developing regional cooperation and initiation of significant projects among the member states, it said.

The minister emphasised



SIBI (Pakistan): Iranian Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati tries on a traditional Balouchi cap and an ajark (scarf) presented by Quetta Senator Fasleh Iqbal February 7. On the second day of Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) ministerial session being held in Quetta. Delegates visited Sibi 165 km east of Quetta for the Sibi festival of horse and -photo AFP/UNB

brown at pains to point out

that the steel measures had

been in the pipeline for many

months- in other words, the

process had been initiated un-

der his predecessor, George

didn't tip our that to any pol-

icy changes of any policy deci-

ruling over government con-

tracts was only a preliminary

decision and the US dispute

with the EC over the public

works market was still in its

the right way, it risks causing

ing concern among officials

here that the new United

States administration is show-

ing less interest than the pre-

vious one in finding a solution

to the Uruguay round of GATT

These are Japan, China,

Hong Kong, Taiwan, South

Korea, the United States,

Canada, Australia, New Zealand

and the six Association of

South East Asian Nations

(ASEAN) nations member:

Brunci, Indonesia, Malaysia,

Prime Minister Mahatir

Mohamad aims for an ambi-

tious annual growth rate of

over seven per cent through to

The most remarkable gains

the year 2020.

His remarks reflect increas-

resentment and resistance."

He said several times that

sion, he added.

early stages.

Keating for 15-nation common market

The measures certainly

Kantor stressed that the

Clinton admn believes in free, fair

trade, say trade officials

"We are looking to expand

The first two weeks of the

trade, open up markets,

Kantor told Cable news net-

Clinton administration have

seen Washington impose anti-

dumping measures on im-

ported steel, and threaten the

European Community with re-

taliatory action on government

contracts, particularly com-

munications, if the EC does

not lift new restrictions on its

Sunday to play down fears of

Clinton protectionism, with

Brown and Kantor sought

In a speech which high-

lighted Australia's achieve-

ments as an exporter, he also

made clear its concern that

Washington's new administra-

tion could be about to take the

wrong route on trade and

warned of the resentment it

mind that the Clinton adminis-

tration intends to pursue a

very robust market-opening

strategy with Asian trading

doubt in my mind that unless

the United States goes about it

"And equally there is no

Such was the success of the

industry that by the mid 1980s

the country was the world

leader and employed a quarter

Total rubber production fell

leaders in the rubber industry.

of its working population.

"There is no doubt in my

would cause if it did.

partners," Keating said.

The conference also decided to establish a direct air link between the capitals of each of the ECO countries and discussed the possibility of starting an ECO airline.

The ECO transport minis ters' conference in Alma Ata scheduled for October this year is expected to finalise this plan. The member countries will also be linked through telephone and telefax channels by 1995.

They will also explore the possibility of expanding satellite link between ECO countries for telecommunications. television and radio broadcasts together with the feasibility of an ECO satellite.

The council directed that a plan should be drawn up for a network of pipelines and power grids to meet the entire region's energy requirements, to include the possibility of obtaining finance through the United Nations, Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and other international agen-

The minister also decided to facilitate tourism and decided to adopt a liberal visa

They also decided to set up a special fund to undertake feasibility studies in various sectors of economic activity within the region.

An initial contribution of 300,000 dollar has already been made by the founding members, the statement said.

Japan plans to set up council to avoid tanker accidents

TOKYO, Feb 8: Japan plans to set up a council this month to develop ways to prevent oil tanker accidents, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said on Monday following a spate of accidents in the congested Malacca Strait, reports Reuter.

The council-likely to comprise officials from MITI, the Petroleum Association of Japan and the shipping industry — will focus on technical measures, such as an electronic system to warn one tanker when it gets too close to another.

The move is aimed at ensuring safety in the Malacca Straight. The route for nearly two thirds of Japan's imported oil and the scene of tanker collisions caused largely by busy traffic, a MITI official said

The most recent mishap occurred in late January when the Singapore- registered Maersk navigator, bound for Japan with oil, collided with another tanker near the strait's entrance.

The accident set off a pollution alert, as the Maersk navigator spilled a large amount of crude oil in the area, home to endangered species such as

AIDS gives boost to Malaysian rubber industry works in an air-conditioned factory near Kuala Lumpur. "I didn't want to get up early every morning to do that sort of work for those wages," he said. The best time to tap rubber

> trees is at dawn. As Malaysia continues its set for further growth. -GEMENI NEWS

for violating law PARIS, Feb 8: Labour

Minister Martine Aubry said legal action will be taken starting Monday against the American vacuum cleaner company Hoover for its alleged failure to respect French law in its planned move from the

ports AP. Aubry, speaking on French radio, claimed that Hoover, a unit of Maytag Corp, failed to notify its French worker-management committee about the

Dijon region to Scotland, re-

move prior to announcing it. She added that the gov ernment will investigate whether Hoover has violated any European Community regu-

"At the least one must respect the laws of a country where one is exercising an activity," the minister said, adding that Hoover would be cited later Monday by the work inspector who guarantees that companies operating in France conform to all aspects of the

The Hoover relocation from Longvic, in the Cote d' Or region near Dijon, to Scotland will eliminated 600 to 700 jobs in Dijon, French regional authorities have hired a US law firm to investigate the situa-

The Hoover move has become a headline issue in France, as March legislative elections approach, and the ruling Socialists take heat for failing to cut the unemployment rate of 10.5 per cent.

Addressing the issue of unemployment, Aubry was pessimistic, saying France is not likely to see a decline in the figures before March.

The Hoover move is moneysaving device for the company, which will benefit from concessions on wages and benefits for Scottish unions that cut labour costs. Some 400 jobs will be created in Scotland by the move.

Economic prospects of India, Spain excellent' India exported 162 million

NEW DELHI, Feb 8: Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain, visiting India with top Spanish business leaders, said Monday the two nations have excellent economic prospects, reports AP. Spain has gone through a

process of economic liberalisation... and I think it could be useful to strengthen our relation, Gonzalez told journalists after a ceremonial welcome at the president's palace. Gonzalez is trying to asses

the changes Prime Minister I'V Narasimha Rao introduced 18 months ago to begin opening India's closed-door economy and to attract more foreign investment.

Rao was upbeat about the Conzalez's four-day visit, the third by a European head of

sandstone building.

government in as many weeks. "Our economic liberalization will have beneficial results on both countries," Rao said after welcoming Gonzalez at the red

dollar worth of garments, scafood and engineering goods to Spain in 1992 and imported 59 million dollar worth of oil, chemicals and drugs, according to Indian officials. Both countries will sign an

agreement to avoid taxing businesses doing trade in both countries. Indian officials says that would boost investments in their nation. Gonzalez will hold talks

with Rao and senior ministers before heading to Beijing on Wednesday.

The visit comes at a time when Rao is trying to reduce Hindu-Muslim animosity, which caused nationwide riots in the past two months that claimed more than 1,800 lives.

Rao also is trying to fend off attacks by dissidents in his governing Congress Party who believe the prime minister has done too little to curb the nationwide communal riots.

Black farmers in US get smaller loan

WASHINGTON, Feb 8 Black farmers receive an average of 51 cents for every dollar lent to white farmers under an Agriculture Department programme intended to rescue America's struggling small farms, reports AP.

records from 1980 to 1992 farmer's loan was 21,000 dolloan to a white family farmer.

was set up for farmers who cannot get loans elsewhere to buy the seed, land, livestock and equipment they need to expand or survive.

The agency denies that it discriminates and argues that loans to black farmers are smaller because their operations are smaller. It does not keep records on farm-loan applications and rejections by race, but information about the race of those who do receive loans is available in agency

Luther Marable Jr, a black farmer near the southwest Georgia town of Boston, said the agency's refusal to lend him money wift him unable to feed his livestock. More than

80 head of cattle and 3,000

hogs starved to death. motivated."

An Associated Press review of the Farmers Home Administration lending also found that overall, a black lar smaller than the average

The FmHA loan programme

"It's the worst thing I ever got into," Marable said. He is convinced that the roadblocks he ran into were "just racially

From 1980 through 1992, Farmers Home made or guaranteed 20.5 billion dollar in loans to buy farmland, tractors, livestock, seeds or chemicals. About two per cent of the money went to blacks, who own one per cent of the nation's farms.

The AP's analysis of lending records from 1980 to 1992 also found that while the number of loans to white farmers dropped by 66 per cent over that period, the number of loans to black farm borrowers tumbled by 82 per cent.

FmHA spokesman Marlyn Aycock said discrimination is "not policy," adding, "The administrator is firmly against it. He won't tolerate it."

But Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, who represented a rural Mississippi district in the House before President Clinton appointed him as the first black to head USDA, said: "As a congressman I sought to call attention to discrimination in the FmHA programme."

crossroads. After a decline in labour shortage and moves by The spread of AIDS in South East Asia has boosted push for high growth, rubber rubber output, the shift to the some plantation owners to the rubber industry in Malaysia. The use of condoms production will assume a less manufacture of latex products palm oil production. Khun Ong Sathorn, a rubber has been promoted in 'safe sex' campaigns and use gave the industry a much important economic role than plantation owner in neighbourin the past. But as the number needed boost. of surgical and examination gloves amongst ing Thailand, a gave a simple Largely due to the AIDS of HIV and AIDS cases conmedical practitioners has increased. Growing deexplanation for the labour scare, products made from a tinue to rise, the export of mand for latex products, reports Gemini News problem: "If you compare rubber latex and goods looks concentrated form of latex -Service, has kept Malaysia amongst the world Thailand with Malaysia, sap extracted from rubber

mand. The use of condoms has been promoted in "safe sex" 16 per cent in 1991, from 1.5 campaigns around the world million tonnes to 1.25 million and sales have rocketed. In tonnes. Volatile prices and addition, use of surgical and competition from other proexamination gloves amongst ducers knocked Malaysia from nurses, doctors and other its leading position into third medical practitioners has inplace behind Thailand and

Indonesia. But rubber remains an important product in Malaysia's programme to industrialise, as

in the rubber industry have been in rubber latex. Michael Morris, latex technologist at the Malaysian Rubber Producers Research Association in Hertford, England, says Malaysia is the biggest producer of rubber latex in the world.

According to Lim Pin Yuu, a Malaysian businessman in wages."
As more Malaysians move to the city looking for the good life, the monotonous drudgery of plantation work holds little attraction. An increased standard of

Thailand has almost four

times as many people and they

are willing to work for lower

living has also made work on rubber plantations less appealing. Abdul Rahman used to tap rubber on a plantation but now

Kings of condoms Company sales in millions, 1989 864 604.8 576 432 360 2838 Carter Wallace London Rubber Hindustan Latex Ansell Britain US Japan US India

সওজ দপ্তরের দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৩৬/সু স বি/১৯৯২-৯৩ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং কান্ধের নাম

७७/मु म वि/১৯৯२-৯७ইश

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বায়নার টাকা

দরপত্র খোলার সময় ও তারিখ

বিট্মিনাস সীলকোট-এর কাজ

সিলেট-সুনামণঞ্জ সড়কের

৬০তম কিমি-এ প্রিমিকস্ট

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বাজার/কৃমিলা মোতাবেক যে

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