

BRIEFS

Japan pledges \$86m for El Salvador
TOKYO, Mar 20: Japan pledged 10.03 billion yen (\$86 million dollar) in official development assistance to El Salvador on Friday, resuming aid halted in the late 1970s with the outbreak of civil war in the Central American nation.

Fishermen offered fresh aid in France
PARIS, Mar 20: The French government ordered fresh financial aid Friday to fishermen, who have staged violent protests over cheap imports they blame for undercutting their prices.

Bank chief asked to cancel Russia's debt
PARIS, Mar 20: Jacques Attali, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, urged in a report published Friday that Russia's foreign debt be cancelled to help the cash-strapped country get back on its feet.

30m Brazilians live below poverty line
BRASILIA, Mar 20: More than 30 million Brazilians fail to earn enough money to feed themselves, according to a government report released Thursday.

Thai's spent \$9.5b on gold in '92
BANGKOK, Mar 20: Thai people spent a massive 9.5 billion dollar on gold last year, according to a study commissioned by the World Gold Survey, the Bangkok Post reported Friday.

Karachi Port in privatisation plan
KARACHI, Mar 20: An official committee plans to recommend that the government hand over Pakistan's ports to the private sector to boost efficiency, a Karachi Post official said.

Savings up in Japan despite recession
TOKYO, Mar 20: Despite tough economic times, Japanese savings grew last year, with the average household's nest egg reaching 15.4 million yen (\$122,000 dollar), according to government figures released Friday.

Machinery show in Ho Chi Minh City
HANOI, Mar 20: Representatives of as many as 98 overseas firms are reported to be attending an exhibition of machinery and equipment of Ho Chi Minh City.

EC pessimistic about avoiding trade war with US

BRUSSELS, Mar 20: Despite President Clinton's apparent confidence about averting a transatlantic trade war, European Community officials fear time is running out before the EC has to consider retaliation against US trade curbs, reports Reuters.

message to Washington to prevent bilateral problems on steel, aircraft and public utility contracts from spiralling out of control. The commission spokesman told the commission's daily news briefing that the talks were substantial.

overcoming its internal divisions on how to respond to aggressive US behaviour before the French legislative elections on March 21-28. Officials said the US sanctions might have little immediate effect on EC business, but the political impact of introducing them would oblige the community to respond more vigorously to what Britain has called "pinpricks" on trade.

Taiwanese cos receive \$6.94b export order from US
TAIPEI, Taiwan, Mar 20: Taiwanese companies received US 6.94 billion dollar worth of export orders in February, up 14 per cent from the previous month, the Economics Ministry reported Saturday.

Japan must take economic stimulus measures soon: Miyazawa

TOKYO, Mar 20: Japan must take economic stimulative steps without delay, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told the budget committee of the upper house of parliament. He did not elaborate, reports Reuters.

News reports said Miyazawa planned to announce the incentives on April 13, ahead of an April 16 meeting with US President Bill Clinton in Washington. The Miyazawa administration announced two separate economic packages last year, but many Japanese still say they do not expect the economy to recover any time soon.

More US computer chips in Japanese market

WASHINGTON, Mar 20: The Clinton administration announced a victory Friday in the prolonged effort to sell more American-made computer chips in the Japanese market, reports AP.

G-7 states responsible for global economic stagnation, says Delors

WASHINGTON, Mar 20: European Commission President Jacques Delors blamed the world's seven most industrialised countries for failing to lead the global economy out of stagnation, reports AP.

US house passes \$16.2b emergency spending bill for job creation

WASHINGTON, Mar 20: The US house of representatives passed on Friday a 16.2 billion dollar emergency spending bill that President Bill Clinton says is necessary to spur job creation and ensure that economic recovery does not sputter out, reports Reuters.

Only three republicans voted for the stimulus bill and 22 democrats voted against it. The White House has said the bill would create 400,000 jobs, but republicans contend the number is far less.

Fear of fresh bombing spate sends shares lower in Bombay

BOMBAY, Mar 20: Fears that the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) could again become a target of bombers sent prices lower on the premier Indian market, which reopened Monday after a huge blast last week, reports AP.

Pak export earning may drop by \$8b year-ago period.

ISLAMABAD, Mar 20: Pakistan is very likely to miss the eight billion US dollar target of export earnings in the current fiscal 1992-93 year ending in June due to declines in exports of major items, says a Xinhua report.

Highlights of US budget

WASHINGTON, Mar 20: The 1.5 trillion budget resolution and 16.2 billion stimulus package approved by the house today set out the first part of President Clinton's economic plan, here are details, reports Reuters.



PARIS: French Designer Franck Sorbier presents a dramatic evening dress, a full blown skirt imprinted with a religious motif, topped by a black satin blouse belted at the waist and a black skull cap, during Fall/Winter 1993-94 ready to wear collection March 19. — AFP/UNB photo

Sanction threat against UK

China sending wrong signal to partners

HONG KONG, Mar 20: China is sending a "wrong signal" to its trading partners when it threatens economic sanctions against Britain over political reform in Hong Kong, the Colony's top trade negotiator said Friday, reports AP.

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Deer farming — world's fastest growing livestock industry

WELLINGTON: Deer farming is New Zealand's, and possibly the world's, fastest growing livestock industry. There are over 5,000 deer farmers running over 1.5 million deer in New Zealand.

It is being registered and protected in key markets which New Zealand producers hope will help the maintain a leading edge — unlike kiwifruit, a distinctive New Zealand name, which are now produced by New Zealand's competitors throughout the world.

Asian consumers as "natural tender venison — a taste of New Zealand." New Zealand producers and exporters are determined that unlike kiwifruit which was the little-known Chinese gooseberry before New Zealand gave it a new name — Cervena will win and hold a top spot in the market, well ahead of its rivals.