

Donor states pledge \$5.5b to Africa

PARIS, Oct 22: A conference of wealthy nations has pledged 5.5 billion dollar to 27 impoverished African countries through 1996, well below the target of eight billion dollar set by the World Bank, reports AP.

Farm issues should be included in world trade pact: Sutherland

TOKYO, Oct 22: GATT Chief Peter Sutherland, nearing the end of two days of intensive talks centered on Japan's rice import ban, said today farm issues could not be dropped from efforts to reach a new global trade pact, reports Reuters.

He was earlier quoted as telling Japanese leaders he saw no way to conclude the Uruguay Round without a system of comprehensive tariffs on farm products, including rice. The Tokyo government, reading a political minefield over calls for it to open its rice market, has sought to have the explosive issues detached from the GATT talks.

It does not mean the destruction of Japan's rice industry. While insisting Japan was able to take the lead in helping to ensure a successful conclusion to the trade round, he made clear it would not be held responsible if GATT failed to meet the December 15 deadline.

Washington: US President Bill Clinton (2nd-L) admires a replica of the White House built out of Lego building blocks during a products show on the South Lawn of the White House Wednesday in support of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Russia planning steps to secure payment of CIS trade debts

MOSCOW, Oct 22: Russia is considering tough measures to secure payment of trade debts by other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) that are damaging the economy and threatening enterprises with bankruptcy, reports Reuters.

The draft suggested tougher methods be considered to deal with delinquent payers. Penalties could be levied against central banks for unjustified delays in handling cash transfers.

break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991 disrupted trade between the 15 former Soviet republics and the introduction of several national currencies has created all sorts of payment problems.

Y'slav inflation rate may exceed 2,000 pc

BELGRADE, Oct 22: The monthly inflation rate for October in Yugoslavia will exceed 2,000 per cent, a Yugoslav government expert said yesterday, reports Reuters.

China's money supply under control, claims central bank

BEIJING, Oct 22: China's central bank said Friday that it has succeeded in bringing the money supply under control while easing bank's shortage of funds, reports AP.

Dollar up, gold down in NY

NEW YORK, Oct 22: The US dollar surged to a nearly two-month high against the mark and gained on most other key currencies Thursday after surprise cuts in two key German interest rates, reports AP.

Yeltsin to lift limits on buying, selling land

MOSCOW, Oct 22: Top aides to President Boris Yeltsin said Thursday he would soon lift remaining restrictions on the sale and purchase of land, a key step in putting Russia firmly on free-market tracks, reports AP.

Current legislation allows private ownership of land but has had little effect because of limits put on it by the hard-line parliament that slowed Yeltsin's economic reforms.

Under those limits, large tracks of land transferred to private owners for free cannot be resold for 10 years, and land bought from the state cannot be resold for five years.

Russian citizens can own and sell small plots of land they receive from the government for gardening or home construction.

Economic Minister Yegor Gaidar told reporters Thursday that the expected land decree "is almost ready and can be signed within the next few days."

The Interfax news agency previously reported Yeltsin could sign the decree Thursday, but a presidential aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the measure encountered opposition from some Cabinet members.

Gaidar said the question of land ownership is sensitive for Russian after seven decades of Communist rule.



Miss Bulgaria Evelina Vassileva (R) walks down the catwalk in a preliminary round of the Miss Tourism International pageant at the Galle Face Hotel in Colombo Wednesday.

Selling off family silver nets \$18.7m

REGENSBURG, Germany, Oct 22: Selling off the family silver has netted 31 million mark (18.7 million dollar) for Prince Gloria Thurn and Taxis, who pay her late husband's death duties, reports AP.

Among the objects on auction were 75,000 bottles of wine that sold for 2.4 million mark (1.45 million dollar).

The highest price in the sale was 208,000 dollar paid by an Austrian collector for the painting summer evening. By the Austrian impressionist Olga Wisinger-Florian.

Princess Gloria, the 33-year-old widow of prince Johannes Thurn and Taxis who died in 1990, has been forced to sell of heirlooms to pay death duties and to revive the family fortune, based on a postal monopoly established in medieval Europe.

An earlier sale in Geneva of jewelry took in 22 million marks to pay off debt duties. Despite recent financial problems, Prince Johannes' 10-year-old son Sands to inherit a fortune estimated at two billion mark, including one of Europe's largest forest landholdings.

UK, Australia seek global trade deal before X-mas

LIMASSOL, Nicosia, Oct 22: Britain and Australia urged the 50-nation Commonwealth of former British colonies on Thursday to demand a world trade deal before Christmas, reports AP.

In a move to increase pressure on France, Prime Minister John Major of Britain backed by Australia's Paul Keating, said further delays would not be tolerated by the United States.

Major and Keating aimed to get the Commonwealth, most of whose members are Third World Countries, to take a unified stand that might tip the long-stalled international trade negotiations to agreement by December 15.

The deadline has been set by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the 115-nation forum for negotiations, that have dragged on for seven years.

Britain is the only Commonwealth country that belongs to the wealthy European Community, while Australia is a leading member of the 14-nation Cairns group of agricul-

tural nations. All Commonwealth members are GATT participants.

The two men said completing the talks would be in the interest of all Commonwealth nations. Major said that the Commonwealth would benefit from one-fourth of the estimated 200 million dollar in new trade the agreement is expected to generate each year.

Congress has granted President Clinton special negotiating authority, which expires on December 15. The so-called fast-track procedure cannot be renewed.

There is no doubt that the December 15 deadline is not going to be extended by the American Congress," Keating told reporters at a joint news conference with Major.

"It is a real deadline and I think there has to be pressure brought on France in particular," he added.

France, one of Britain's partners in the 12 nation European Community, has resisted further cuts in farm subsidies.

RHD Notice-Inviting Tender Sealed Tender Invited in BD Form No. 2911.

- 1. Tender Notice No. : 55/RDD/1993-94
2. Name of work : Repairing and carpeting with seal coat work at 29th KM (P) & 30th KM (P) (Board Bazar) of Banani-Tongi-Joydevpur Road under Tongi Rd Sub-Divn during 1993-94. Ch to 168-RBF.
3. Estimated cost : Tk. 5,09,800/-
4. Earnest money : Tk. 10,196/- in BD/TC/NDS certificate in fav. of EE RHD, Road Divn. Dhaka from any scheduled bank.
5. Time allowed : 30 (thirty) days from the date of issue of work order.
6. Eligibility of contractor : 'A' to 'D' class enlisted contractor of RHD, of general category.
7. Name of offices of availability of tender documents : Office of the EE RHD, Road Divn. Dhaka/Manikgonj/Narsingdhi/Munshigonj/Planning (R&B) Divn/Planning & Design Divn. Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/SDE, RHD, Road Sub-Divn. I/II/Tongi/Joydevpur.
8. Name of officers to receive tender bids : SE, DRC/SE Planning Monitoring & Eval Circle/SE Monitoring & Eval. Circle (R&B) Dhaka/EE Rd. Divn. Dhaka/SDE, RHD, Rd Sub-Divn. I/II/Tongi/Joydevpur.
9. Last date of receipt of tender : Up to 12-30 PM on 31-10-93.
10. Date & time of opening of bids : 12-45 PM on 31-10-93

Gyas Uddin Ahmed Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Divn. Dhaka.

Pasture turns into airport in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Oct 22: Two years ago, cows and water buffaloes grazed peacefully on the grass airfield at Bharatpur in southern Nepal.

Since 1991, three new airlines have been operating domestic routes. Flying small computer turbo-props, the airlines have already wrested away from royal Nepal half the domestic passenger market. Two helicopter charter companies have also been granted licenses.

They now fly busily to remote air-strips carved out of rocky mountain flanks in the Himalaya to tourist spots in the foothills and take tourists on sight-seeing flights around Mt Everest.

Most of Nepal's 19 million people cannot afford to fly, but civil aviation officials here say flying in Nepal is not a luxury, it is a necessity. For many Nepali villagers who have never seen a car in their lives, Canadian-

built twin otha turbo-props have become a daily sight.

The only link to the capital was by plane, and the new airlines were pressed into service to airlift vital food, fuel and relief supplies.

The best indication of the revolution in the skies over Nepal is Kathmandu's airport, which is humming with new airlines. The airport recently hit a record peak for take-offs and landings of 135 in a day. Of these, only 20 were international flights.

There is a parking problem at Kathmandu as planes sporting the lively colours of Everest air, Nepal Airways and Neon Air jostle for hanger space with aircraft belonging to Royal Nepal Airlines.

Mindful of safety concerns, the civil aviation department has instituted an 'age law' to

prevent airlines from buying cheap, obsolete aircraft.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) have helped Nepal upgrade its airports and train air traffic controllers.

These are mainly remote airfields in roadless part of Nepal where fares are kept low. For services to destinations that have road connections, the airlines are allowed to quote fares plus or minus 30 per cent of the government rate.

Fares on flights to tourist areas are more expensive and foreigners are required to pay a higher rate in US dollar.

"Our earnings in the tourist season help us to survive the lean months, that is what is keeping us in business," says Pradip Rana of Nepal Airways, which operates two Chinese-built-12's and a British HS-748.

Nepal's tourism industry is booming, with 300,000 visitors last year pumping more than US dollar 80 million into the economy. Tourism is now second only to carpet exports as a money-earner.

"We have to carry more tourists. That is the only way we can make it affordable for more Nepals to fly," says Rabindra Pandey of Everest Air, which operates a modern fleet of three German dorminer 228 aircraft.

Everest air suffered a setback recently, when one of its flights hit a mountain near Kathmandu, killing 18 people. The accident was judged to be pilot error.

Amidst the excitement and the whirl of success of free enterprise, the government is even thinking of privatising Royal Nepal Airlines.



Patrick Vaath, Bangladesh Chief of FSRP, distributing certificates among the participants of a 15-day training course of Janata Bank on 38th credit management. Mohammad Taher Uddin, Managing Director is also seen in the picture.

BJMC Advertisement Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by Latif Bawany Jute Mills Ltd, Demra, Dhaka from the genuine Manufacturers/Suppliers for the supply of (1) Hardware, (2) Loom Reed & Combs, (3) B S Shafting, (4) Flannel Cloth, (5) Plastic Picker & Bobbin Top (6) Wooden Conical Spool Centre, (7) Rubberisation of Pressing Roller, Boss and Rim, (8) Aluminium Inner Tube, (9) Electrical Goods, (10) Polythene Paper, (11) GI Water Tank, (12) Hard Coke, (13) Uniforms, (14) Printing & Stationery & (16) Gamary and other wood on mill site delivery basis.

Tender will be received up to 10-45 am in our office at Demra, and in BJMC Zonal Office, Dhaka Zone, 99, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka on 31.10.93 and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 am in both the places.

Tender documents with full details of requirement, specification, terms and conditions will be available (excepting opening date) from the office of the General Manager (A&F), of the mill at Demra, Dhaka and General Manager (A&F), BJMC, Dhaka Zone, 99, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka against cash payment of Tk. 40/- per set of each group. Earnest money @ 1% of the quoted value but minimum Tk 1000/- must be deposited alongwith tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order etc. in favour of Latif Bawany Jute Mills Ltd., Demra, Dhaka. Tender number must be quoted on the envelope.

Management reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.