

Read

The Daily Star
The Complete
Newspaper

First with the news,

The Daily Star

Best with the views

Polish PM vows to continue economic reforms

WARSAW, Nov 10: Polish Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak today vowed to continue the reform in the country but said the way and method should be changed, reports Xinhua.

Addressing parliament on his administrative programme today Pawlak said reform should be beneficial to the society and the people.

Admitting that the economic reform conducted in the country over the past four years is necessary he said the reform is being carried out "in a dogmatic approach and lacking a matter-of-fact spirit."

The new government he said will take some realistic changes in the current social-economic policies. Otherwise, it is very hard to ease the current social tension at home, he warned.

'West, Russia will need to step up financial aid to Ukraine'

WASHINGTON, Nov 10: The West and Russia will need to step up financial aid to Ukraine and other former Soviet states to help them cope with a 15.5 billion US dollar shock from Moscow's reforms, international monetary sources said yesterday, reports Reuters.

They said a new, unpublished study by the International Monetary Fund reckons that's how much the former Soviet states outside Russia will lose in a year as Moscow cuts off cheap credits and subsidised exports to them as part of its reforms.

The states will have to make up for the loss in terms of trade through a combination of their own reforms — making their economies more efficient — and extra foreign financing.

Western nations have already pencilled into their budgets increased assistance to Ukraine and other former Soviet states, but the amounts involved are not very big.

Ramos leaves for US to promote bilateral trade ties

MANILA, Nov 10: President Fidel Ramos left Wednesday for a two-week visit to the United States to "chart a fresh beginning" in bilateral ties with the Philippines' largest trading partner, reports AP.

Ramos, who is bringing along a large business delegation and key officials, will also attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Seattle, Washington, next week to "consult on the problems and prospects of the Asia-Pacific region in the post Cold War world."

He said that in his meeting with President Clinton, he will "chart a fresh beginning in the Philippine-American relations, one that looks beyond the out-moded special relations to straightforward strategic and economic considerations, particularly trade, industry and investment."

Ramos was referring to "special ties" since the Philippines was colonised by the United States and established military bases here.

US producer prices fall in Oct

WASHINGTON, Nov 10: US producer prices fell 0.2 per cent in October, the labour department reported yesterday, says Xinhua.

It marked the fifth time in six months that prices have either fallen or held steady.

Producer prices are what wholesale merchants pay for goods before passing the products down to retailers.

In October, food prices fell 0.5 per cent, pulled down by a 16.9 per cent drop in vegetables. Energy prices rose 1.3 per cent, the biggest increase since February.

The "core rate" of wholesale inflation, which excludes the volatile food and energy categories, fell 0.5 per cent in October.

The various changes left the producer price index in October at 124.7 of its 1982 base of 100, up from 124.4 a year ago. That means a market basket of goods that cost 100 dollar in 1982 would have cost 124.4 dollar a year ago and 124.7 dollar last month.

So far this year, producer prices rose at an annual rate of 0.4 per cent, compared with a 1.6 per cent rise for all of last year.

Ctg Port turns into paradise of smugglers again

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Nov 10: Country's major port city has again turned into a paradise of smugglers with the fresh intensified influx of smuggled foreign goods through sea, air and land routes, sources said.

Most of the goods — mainly gold, drug, contraband foreign cigarettes and electronics reportedly enter the city through sea route. Now this port is used as a convenient transit point by the gold smugglers and drug traffickers.

Sources informed that in recent months smuggled goods worth crores of taka had flowed into the city markets. As a result, the price of foreign cigarettes which rocketed to over Taka 100 per packet about two months ago, now came down to around Taka 50 per packet, market sources said.

Most of the city markets including Reazuddin Bazar, Mimi

Super Market, Bipani Bitan, Highway plaza and Agrabad Singapore Market have been flooded with contraband goods. The sources attributed the unabated inflow of smuggled goods here to lax anti-smuggling drive at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port and other vulnerable points. Taking advantage of passivity of task force and other preventive bodies including custom and law enforcing personnel the alleged smugglers and their kingpins desperately reappeared to run their business.

Some liner vessels operating between Chittagong port and other parts of the world via Singapore and Hong Kong are engaged in carrying smuggled goods allegedly having connivance of a section of shipping agents and other concerned bodies.

Those liner vessels while carrying consignments of cargo to Chittagong port also bring smuggled contrabands which are unloaded at the outer anchorage and sold to the local clients waiting there on board high-powered engine boats, trawlers and sampans. Sometimes, the crew members of the ships reportedly carry the smuggled gold and drug — mainly heroin to the city to handover to their recipient kingpins staying here.

Three months ago 1300 tolas of gold were seized by port security personnel at Chittagong Port Jetty No. 5 from some Filipino crew who obtaining shore pass tried to cross the jetty gate keeping the smuggled gold bars pasted with thigh. On March, 1991 also 1500 tolas of gold were seized from some Filipino crew at the port jetty

and they were arrested. But they were tight-lipped to name the recipient smugglers here.

A senior custom official in charge of preventive operations told The Daily Star over telephone that the anti-smuggling drive could not be made in full swing due to lack of equipment and other logistic supports.

Another task force official said the anti-smuggling operations could not be carried out frequently in the city markets apprehending an outbreak of violence if unleashed by the alleged smugglers.

However, in the early months of the current year most of the alleged smugglers and their kingpins went into hiding at the time of anti-smuggling crackdown. But with the slackening of the drive they seem to be back to their business in the port city.

Roads & Highways to take up Tk 494 cr plan in Jessore

JESSORE, Nov 10: The Roads and Highways, Jessore will take up programme for construction and maintenance of different roads in Jessore and Narail districts at a total cost of Tk 499 crore during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

A sum of Tk 1.10 crore has been allotted for development of Jessore portion of Jessore-Magura road. Construction of thana connecting road will be taken up at a cost of Tk 1.60 crore. These roads included Nilganj-Fatehpur, Charavita-Baharpara, Churamankathi-Chowgacha, Jessore-Monirampur-Keshabpur, Minirampur-Kapalia, Narail-Kalia and Narail-Phultala.

Besides, about 350 kilometres of roads will come under maintenance for which a sum Tk 2.19 crore has been allotted. These included Jessore portion of Jessore-Khulna, Jessore-Jhenidah, Jessore-Magura, Jessore-Benapole road, Jessore-Narail and Narail-Bhattapara roads.

Majid calls for continued expansion of food output

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, M Majid-ul-Haq called for strengthening FAO and World Food Programme for continued expansion of food production and ensuring food security, reports BSS.

Addressing the 27th Food and Agriculture (FAO) conference at Rome Tuesday he said that policy reforms in a number of countries, including Bangladesh brought about substantive changes which made it possible for private enterprises to be involved in the total marketing process of agricultural inputs including fertilizers.

In Bangladesh, he said, we are on the threshold of self-sufficiency in cereal production and have even begun to look at the possibility of exporting surplus rice.

Majid-ul-Haq suggested the food donor countries and the world food programme to adopt a more flexible programme for the countries approaching food

grain self-sufficiency. For example, he said, it ought to be made possible to substitute pulses or oilseeds in lieu of wheat or rice in food aid programmes if the recipient country was able to achieve self-sufficiency in cereals.

The minister said that for the increase of food production in the developing countries, it is a must to adopt new technology especially bio-technology.

Good infrastructure in rural areas in the developing countries is also a required for the purpose, the agriculture minister said.

Haq said that FAO had done an excellent job all over the world to improve food production and food security.

The current FAO conference, he hoped, would take more effective initiatives for the betterment of the developing countries.

Haq was elected a vice chairman of the conference at the outset.

Policy makers paint gloomy picture for Japanese economy

TOKYO, Nov 10: Japanese policy makers painted a gloomy picture yesterday of prospects for an economy recovery but asked Japanese to be patient as they tackle the protracted recession, reports Reuters.

The government's Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Japan's stagnant economy shows no signs of a turnaround in the foreseeable future.

The Nikkei closed down 499.45 points, or 2.68 per cent, at 18,125.71. The dollar jumped to 108.08 yen before falling back to close at 107.97 yen.

An EPA official said the move towards recovery that was thought to be spreading in recent months had fizzled, judging from worsening business sentiment and unsold goods still piled up in corporate ware-

houses. So far there is no sign that the economy will turn a round in the near future, the official said. It has slipped back to the state seen in March, when signs of recovery had not yet emerged.

Japanese businessmen and labour unions have been pressing hard for income tax cuts to stimulate consumer spending.

Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii told reporters Japan had no immediate plan to trot out more stimulus measures after recent increases in public works spending and drastic credit easing.

Later, he told the finance committee of parliament's lower house that the next step was to reduce income taxes in the pro-

cess of tax reforms, not as top-gate gift to consumers.

A government tax advisory panel is expected, in a report on November 16, to propose raising the consumption tax rate and cutting income taxes. The size and timing of the changes will be left to politicians to decide.

Fujii argued that taxpayers were more likely to save the money from such tax cuts than spend it.

The current recession is complicated by damage from the high yen, structural problems that need deregulation and the aftermath of the past asset inflation, Fujii said.

The economy will never get back on track only by boosting overall demand and ignoring structural problems he said.

Egg-eating gene discovered

ATLANTA, Nov 10: Some people wolf down eggs every day and live to be 90. Now scientists believe they know why — the egg-eating gene, reports AP.

While many people need to watch their cholesterol, some clearly don't. These fortunate few, who can thumb their noses at every eating rule in the book, have always been a mystery.

Scientists suspect they are born with genes that make them impervious to artery-clogging cholesterol in food. A study released Tuesday suggests they are right.

Dr. Richard B. Weinberg of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N. C., found that people who carry a gene for a protein called Apo-A-IV-2 seem to be able to eat all the eggs they want without raising their cholesterol.

Health groups like the American Heart Association have long considered eggs and saturated fat to be culinary no-nos, to be eaten only in moderation.

Of course, no single gene is likely to control the body's response to all the nutrients in the diet, Weinberg, who presented his findings at a heart association meeting here, believes that a combination of perhaps a dozen genes influences cholesterol levels.

Apo-A-IV-2 is a variation of a protein carried by everyone. About 1 in 7 Americans has it, while most others have the typical gene, Apo-A-IV-1. Both varieties influence the body's metabolism of fat. In his study, Weinberg found 11 healthy volunteers with the Apo-A-IV-2 gene and compared them with 12 others who had the normal gene.



The newly elected office-bearers of Sonargaon Hotel Workers and Employees Association were accorded reception on Monday.

Barisal zone produces more than 5.78 lakh bales of jute

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 11: More than 5.78 lakh bales of jute have been produced in eleven southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Borguna, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Faridpur, Madaripur, Sariapur, Rajbari and Gopalganj under Barisal Agriculture Zone (BAZ) during the current season.

According to official sources, a total of about 60,000 hectares of land was brought under jute cultivation in these districts.

About 75,000 kgs of jute seeds were supplied the jute

growers to make the programme a success.

Of the total, 1,24,490 bales of jute were produced on 1,585 hectares of land in Barisal, 395 bales on 42 hectares in Jhalakathi, 580 bales on 82 hectares in Patuakhali, 486 bales on 56 hectares in Borguna, 2,02,490 bales on 20,950 hectares in Faridpur, 1,940 bales on 205 hectares in Bhola, 68,150 bales on 7,020 hectares in Sariapur, 1,250 bales on 130 hectares in Pirojpur, 1,25,000 bales on 12,805 hectares in Madaripur,

63,660 bales on 6560 hectares in Gopalganj and 1,00,910 bales jute on 10,500 hectares of land in Rajbari district.

The jute growers of some districts like Faridpur, Madaripur, Sariapur and Gopalganj are facing various problems due to sudden fall in prices of raw jute in different markets of these districts.

Taking the under advantages of the situations middlemen in the jute trade are purchasing jute at prices below the production cost.



Visiting World Bank Vice President Joseph Wood called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office Wednesday. — PID photo

Taejon Expo concludes

Taejon Expo '93, a 93-day global festival of the mankind and visions for the future, was officially closed on November 7 in Taejeon, central Korea, says a press release received here.

Under the theme of the "Challenge of a New Road to Development" the Expo ran from August 7 through its closing day on Sunday last, impressing over 14 million visitors including 700 thousand foreigners.

The 93-hectare Expo site was transformed into a global village showcasing modern science and technology alongside the traditional culture and arts of 108 countries around the world. As many as 33 international organisations also took part in the exposition.

The Peace and Friendship Pavilion at the Expo site will be converted into "Taejon Expo Commemorative Museum" to house the cultural and scientific exhibits of the participating nations and international organisations. The museum is expected to prolong the effect and benefits of Taejon Expo '93 as well as to commemorate the participation of the countries and international organisations in the "Olympics of Science and Technology."

Taejon Expo which marked the centennial of Korea's first

ever participation in an international exposition in Chicago 1893 was the first exposition hosted by a developing country in the 142-year history of the world exposition.

Taejon Expo '93, fetched 1.6 billion US dollar of domestic earned income through creating 217,000 domestic jobs which was far beyond its direct cost of nearly 1.2 billion US dollar.

Tehran plans to spend \$115b in 5 years

NICOSIA, Nov 10: Iran plans to spend 190 trillion rial (115 billion US dollar) in the five years starting March 20 according to a draft version of its second five-year plan, Tehran Radio said yesterday, reports Reuters.

The cabinet began discussing the blueprint, written by the plan and budget organisation, yesterday, the radio said. It will then have to be approved by parliament before becoming law.

The overall spending figure of 190 trillion rial (115 US dollar) is less than the first plan's approved 120 billion US dollar.

Inflation in Russia to fall

MOSCOW, Nov 10: Economics Minister Yegor Gaidar said Wednesday inflation in Russia will slow this month as tough government policies begin to work, reports AP.

Gaidar told government and business leaders in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk that the government had taken steps to steady the beleaguered ruble and curb inflation, according to the Interfax news agency.

The government is struggling to shift Russia away from the old Soviet state-run economy to a free market system. The economy has been buffeted by soaring inflation, declining production and other problems.

Restoring the economy is seen as vital to ensure political stability.

Monthly inflation in Russia has been falling steadily since reaching a 1993 high in August of 29 per cent. Final figures have not been released, but government officials say inflation in October was around 20 per cent a month.

A government programme announced last week calls for cutting inflation to 15 per cent a month by January, and to between two per cent and 5 per cent by the end of 1994.

PNG expects 11.5 pc growth in '93

PORT MORESBY, Nov 10: The Papua New Guinea government expects its minerals driven economy to grow by 11.5 per cent in 1993, Prime Minister Paias Wingti said yesterday, reports Reuters.

The forecast growth follows 9.0 per cent growth in gross domestic product in both the 1992 and 1991 calendar year and compares with zero growth in 1990. When civil disturbances forced closure of the giant Bougainville Copper mine on Bougainville Island.

"Estimated domestic economic growth of 11.5 per cent this year in Papua New Guinea will exceed that of most neighbouring countries," Wingti told parliament.

"A growth figure of that level puts us up with the economic increases in the so-called 'tiger' economies of East Asia," Wingti said in a speech ahead of next Tuesday's 1994 budget.

"Naturally, the 'tiger' economies have a much stronger economic base form which to start," he said.

"However, if we are to provide our people infrastructure, jobs and services, then we must aim for at least double-digit economic growth."

Wingti said Papua New Guinea's balance-of-payments situation had improved dramatically, since oil from the Kutubu oil project had come on line and there had been growth forestry products.

Papua New Guinea is a major exporter of gold and copper and produces cocoa, coffee and copra.

"Increased exports, coupled with decreased imports, have seen the trade balance improved from a surplus of kina 565 million one kina one US dollar in 1992 to kina 1.2 billion in 1993, a 166 per cent improvement," Wingti said.

Wingti said the country's overall balance of payments situation was expected to show a surplus of kina 253 million in 1993, up from a deficit of kina 68 million in 1992.

Wingti said the kina was expected to maintain its current levels within a small band.

Indian textile exports grow 19 pc

NEW DELHI, Nov 10: Indian textile exports increased 19 per cent in dollar terms in the first five months (April-August) of the current financial year, reports Xinhua.

Their value is placed at 2,465.2 million US dollar compared with 2,069.9 million US dollar in the same period last year.

According to the statistics released by Indian ministry of textiles yesterday, except the decline in the exports of silk products and woollens, exports of other textiles have gone up by 11 per cent to 30 per cent.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Dhaka PWD Division No. III, Dhaka

Notice Inviting Tender

Tender No. 85 of 1993-94

1. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from Special class-1 (one) and class-1 (one) approved building contractors under Public Works Department, Class-II approved building contractors under PWD Zone, Dhaka, Class-III approved building contractor under PWD Circle-II, Dhaka, for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, Dhaka, PWD Division No. IV/Eden Buildings PWD Divn./Medical College PWD Division, Dhaka in their respective office chamber up to 12.00 Noon of 21.11.93 and will be opened on the same day at 12.15 P.M. in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it. No tender form will be sold after 20.11.93.

2. Name of work : Construction of Electric Sub-Station (single storied) Building in the Compound of "Food Bhaban" at 16, Abdul Ghani Road, Dhaka during the year 1993-94.

3. Estimated Cost : Taka 4,31,644/00

4. Earnest Money : Taka 8,633/00

5. Time allowed for completion of the work from the date of issue of work order

6. Contract documents consisting of BD Form No. 2911, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division No. III/IV/Eden Buildings PWD Divn./Medical College PWD Division, Dhaka on payment of usual charges of Taka 400/00 (Non-refundable) per set of the notice inviting tenders, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions and a sum of Taka 25/- (Non-refundable) per copy of tender Form No. 2911. The tender form may be purchased by the contractor on production of Registration Book of enlistment during office hours on all working days.

Md. Sadiq Hassan
Executive Engineer
Dhaka PWD Divn III, Dhaka.

DFF/G/18083/3/11
G-1536