Keating's criticism of Mahathir mars Aussie-Malaysia trade ties

SYDNEY, Dec 1: Australia's trade relations have been damaged by Prime Minister Paul Keating's criticism of Malaysian leader Mahathir Mohamad, Canberra's special trade representative John Button said today, reports AFP.

The former Senator Button, who retired as industry minister at the March election, said he wished it had not happened, but did not know if Keating should apologise.

"It may be that the issue can be resolved satisfactorily in the next few days without that," he

Keating has made clear he has no intention of apologising for describing the Malaysian Prime Minister as a "recalcitrant" over his boycott of the Seattle summit of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

(APEC) forum leaders. While Keating has been under pressure form his political opponents especially to take steps to end the row, few on his

JPC decides

not to summon

Rao

NEW DELHI, Dec 1: The final

The JPC decided to present

The final draft circulated

among committee members vesterday also indicted the former RP Governor, S

Venkitarama..... and his

Deputy, Amitabh Ghosh, for their "overall failure" to prevent the multi-crore scam, JPC

The Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) came in for

sharp criticism for its "lack of

gation, the sources said.

initiative" and "slowness' in its conduct of scam related investi-

Briefing newsmen on today's deliberations of the 30-member committee, the JPC Chairman,

Ram Niwas Mirdha, said the committee decided not to examine any more witnesses. The fi-

nal draft would come up for

Russian arms

sales to reach

\$9b in '94

arms sales will quadruple be-

tween 1992 and 1994 to reach

nine billion dollar, with a list of

clients that includes the United

States. Deputy Prime Minister

Aleksander Shokhin announced

"primarily oriented toward the

Middle East, Latin American

and Southeast Asia," he said

"Even traditionally arms-export-

ing countries are preferring

bought Yak-141 vertical take-off

air-planes and Sweden is cur-

rently testing T-72 tanks, he

has no political character," he

said. "It is not oriented against

the interest of any particular

country and is of purely com-

New markets include China.

Malaysia and the United Arab

"The sale of our weapons

The United States has

Russia's arms exports are

Tuesday, reports AFP.

Russian weapons.

mercial character.

MOSCOW, Dec 1: Russia's

discussion on December three

its report to parliament tenta-

tively on December 17.

draft of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the securities scam is understood to have indicted the Finance Minister. Dr Manmohan Singh, even as the committee at its meeting yesterday decided not to summon the Prime Minister, PV Narasimha Rao, on the one crore rupee pay-of charge, re-

ports PTI.

sources said.

or four.

Bombay bond scam

The Malaysian cabinet was meeting today to discuss possible sanctions against Australia

The outspoken Button said Trade Minister Peter Cook and Defence Minister Robert Ray would be on a previously arranged visit to Malaysia next week, "and they will really have to try and conciliate the rela-

The youth wing of Mahathir's ruling Umno Party has demanded that government contracts awarded to Australian companies be reviewed and Kuala Lumpur enforce a "buy Australian last" policy if Keating

Malaysia has already banned Australian-made television programmes and advertisements in a move that could cost the industry millions of dollar.

this week that both sides had much to lose by the row con-

Another report adds: Australia's net foreign debt rose to record levels in the three months to September 30 but economists said Wednesday they expect an improvement in

Net foreign debt rose 3.5 per cent to a record 177.81 billion dollar (117 billion US) in the September quarter, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said.

The figure was up from 171.72 billion dollar in the previous three months and 8.1 per cent above the September quarter figure last year of 164.47

rose 4.1 per cent to 218.99 billion dollar from 210.27 billion in the June quarter and by 8.1 per cent from 202.54 billion dollar a year ago.

"It is all too easy to be alarmist at the speed at which Australia's net foreign debt is growing," said bankers trust Australia Chief Economist Chris

Caton. But the largest factor in the growth in foreign debt in the past year was the depreciation

foreign debt is denominated in currencies other than our own, so when the Australian dollar falls there is an automatic increase in foreign debt." Caton

"But the fall in the currency has put it at more competitive and more sustainable levels. and this augurs well for the future of the current account."

Gore visits Mexico for talks on NAFTA

WASHINGTON, Dec 1: Vice President Al Gore reinforced the Clinton Administration's push to expand economic ties with Latin America on Tuesday by traveling to Mexico to discuss the North American Free Trade Agreement, reports AP.

Before departing, the vice president stood with President Clinton and seven Central American leaders at the White House as Clinton held out the passage of NAFTA as a "catalyst for the expansion of the free trade to other market democracies throughout the hemisphere."

Gore, assuming a more visible role in US foreign policy. said he was meeting with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari late Tuesday again Wednesday "on specific nuts and bolts strategies for implementing NAFTA as quickly

and as smoothly as possible." On Wednesday, he is to deliver what Clinton called "a major address on American engagement in Latin America" at the national auditorium inMexico City.

Gore spokeswoman Lorraine Voles said the trip was designed to work out final details before NAFTA takes effect on January 1, but that there were no major sticking points with the Mexicans.

Voles said Gore wanted to personally congratulate Salinas on passage of the pact, which would link the United States, Mexico and Canada in the world's largest free-trade zone. It would gradually remove tariffs and other barriers to trade and investment over the next 15 years.

US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said Gore planned to discuss steps for other Latin American countries to join the free-trade agreement.

Officials of Chile and other countries have discussed their desires to join NAFTA, and Clinton often referred to the expansion of NAFTA beyond Mexico as one of the biggest benefits that would come if Congress approved the trade

Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on Dec 1. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Se	elling		Buying	ng	
	TT & OD	BC	TT Clean	OD SIGHT Ex. Bills.	OD	
US Dollar	39.9250	39.9500	39.7100	39.6125	39.4950	
Pound Sterling	59.3086	59.3457	58.2323	58.0893	57.9170	
DM *	23.3853	23.4000	23.0145	22.9581	22.8900	
F Franc	6.7634	6.7677	6.6566	6.6403	6.6206	
C Dollar	30.0447	30.0635	29.5633	29.4908	29.4033	
S Franc	26.7551	26.7719	26.3375	26.2728	26.1949	
Jap Yen	0.3724	0.3724	0.3589	0.3580	0.3570	
Indian Rupee (AMU	1.2744	1.2773	1.2662	1.2537		
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3271	1.3301	1.3185	1.3054	ž.	
Iranian Riyal (AMU	0.0232	0.0233	0.0231	0.0228		

D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale:		1R. 40.2000		
Indicative Rates				
Currency	Selling T.T. & O.D.	Buying O. D. Transfer		
S Rtyal	10.6475	10.5300		
UAE Dirham	10.8699	10.7519		
Kuwaiti Dinar	133.8266	132.0020		
Singapore Dollar	25.0000	24.7153		
D Guilders	20.9185	20.6877		
S Kroner , w	4.7729	4.7158		

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 01/12/93

Berth no Name of vessels Cargo Last port Local Date of Leaving

Mong

Sing

Sing

J/3 Vishva Karuna Idle Chin Litmond 30/8

Cont

Cont

Idle

R.Phos

C.Oil

Repair

Repair

Urea

Vessels due at outer anchorage

call

Mong

Viza

Mong

Sing

Vanc

Viza

Mong

Tanker due

Pena

Vessels at Kutubdia

Vessels at Kutubdia/outside port limit

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Ready on

Vessels not entering

Movement of vessels for 2.12.1993

Incoming

J/13 Lanka Mahapola

MPB-2 I. Yamburenko

DOJ. B Jyoti

J/1 Safar

Cargo

C.OI

C.Off

Cont

Scraping

Scraping

Scraping

P.Land

Mong Baridhi

flyc Litmond

Sing BDShip

Local

agent

ASLL

PSAL

OTL

Royal

DMA

BSC

SSL

ECSL

MSPL

Last port

Bank

Sing

CT

Last port

Cement

HSD/MF

Banglar Kallol

Shaplaeverett

*Sea Muse

Norbulk Namir

*Petr Starostin

Vishva Madhury C.Clink

Date of

arrival

2.12.93

1.12.93

3.12.93

2.12.93

4.12.93

2.12..93

2.12.93

3.12.93

3.12.93

4.12.93

3.12.93

2.12.93

3.12.93

8/12

*NGS Ranger

Ifigenia

Dolores

Pavlina

*Zara

Sea Nymph

Esso Bayonne

Banglar Jyoti

Banglar Doot

Banglar Asha

J/10

J/13

CCJ.

GSJ.

RM/4

DOJ

CUFJ:

Name of vessels

Ronjay Victory

L Yamburenko

Lanka Mahapola

Ocean Grace

Darin Maree

Ocean Trader

Banglar Robi

Samudra Raj

Pacific Diamond

Asean Producer

Name of vessels

*Banglar Shouabh 1/12

Kota Buana (Cont)

Pegasus'

Narica

Agip Lazio

Outgoing

RM-5 Esso Bayonne

DOJ Banglar Shourabh

Astrapatrica

Fong Shin

Kallang

call agent arrival

BDShip

UMAL

Seacom

TSLL

USTC

BSC

BSC

CLA

BSC 28/11

PSAL 22/11

EBPL 30/11

16/11

11/11

28/11

28/11

28/11

27/11

30/10

27/11

Cargo

Cement

Cont

Cont

Cont

Cont

HSD/JP 01

Local

agent

BSL

RSL

UMAL

Sons

OTL

J/5 B.Kallal

DD : B Doot to J-2

. 7

Date of

arrival

29/11

30/11

15/11

28/11

30/11

30/11

J/12

M.Seed & Yellow Peas

R/A

R/A

R/A

R/A

R/A

05/12

04/12

05/12

10/12

05/12

03/12

02/12

04/12

07/12

02/12

Loading

port

ENGINEERING (19)

Bangladesh Autocars 100/5 45.09

B. Thai Aluminium 100/10 84.00

Aftab Automobiles

Bangladesh Lamps

Bengal Carbide

Bengal Steel

Eastern Cables

Howlader PVC

Karim Pipe

Metalex Corp.

Monno Jutex

National Tubes

Panther Steel Quasem Drycells

A.B Biscutt

Apex Food

Aroma Tea

B.D. Plantation

Ctg. Vegetable

E.L. Camellta

Frogleg Export

Hill Plantation

Rabeya Flour

Rupan Otl

Pulip Dairy

Yousuf Flour

Shamser Jute

Zeal Bangla Sugar

FUEL & POWER (04)

Gemini Sea Food

Modern Industries

Dhaka Vegetables

Bengal Food

Bangas

B.L.T.C.

B.T.C.

N.T.C

Alpha Tobacco

Amam Sea Food

Renwick Jagneswar

Singer Bangladesh

FOOD & ALLIED (23)

Monno Staffllers

Atlas Bangladesh

Aziz Pipes

C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk. 39.4625

Th 40 2000

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on December 1, 1993

Dull Trading

The turnovers on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) continued to fall on Wednesday.

A total of 31290 shares traded at Taka 2386699.00 as against Tuesday's 33833 shares valued at Taka 5175063.00. The changes showed losses of 7.52 per cent and 53.88 per cent in the total volume and the value respectively.

The number of the issues transacted fell to 36 from Tuesday's 43. Of these, 18 lost, 14 gained and four others traded at previous rates.

The Apex Foods dominated the gainers' list with a rise of 16.13 per cent in its share price while the Beximco Ltd became the biggest contributor to the total volume of the day with 12600 shares.

The DSE All Share Price Index reached 372.24718 from 371.77526, an increase of 0.47192 point.

Trading at a glance

DSE Share Price Index				372.24718 17843717193.71		
Market Capitalisati				178437	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	
Turnover in Volum Turnover in Value	53)			25	31290 86699.00	
Company's name	Previous	Closing	Change	THE RESIDENCE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF TH	Number of	
)7	price	price	(absolute)	(% over	shares	
0 8 m 5 5	Tk	Tk	Tk	price)	traded	
Issues gained (1	4)		d 3	OH SEEDING SEED		
1st ICB M Fund	405.00	410.00	5.00	1.230	20	
Green Delta	210.00	- 211.00	1.00	0.476	400	
Eastern Cables	70.17	71.33	1.16	1.653	60	
Apex Foods	775.00	900.00	125.00	16.130	-05	
BD Oxygen	125.05	125.96	0.91	0.727	287	
Dulamia Cotton	85.00	88.13	3.13	3.680	1570	
B Synthetic	125.63	125.89	0.26	0.207	1420	
BCIL	306.00	325.00	19.00	6.210	30	
Beximco Infusion	295.91	299.64	3.73	1.260	. 190	
Apex Footwear	225.38	228.79	3.41	1.513	940	
Bata Shoe	76.07	76.51	0.44	0.578	2200	
Beximco	25.36	25.61	0.25	0.986	12600	
Ctg Cement	194.98	195.00	0.02	0.010	05	
B Synthetic (Deb)	2480.00	2490.00	10.00	0.403	02	
Issues lost(18)	= 2	200				
National Bank	126.74	125.00	1.74	1.373	2891	
Pubali Bank	100.00	95.00	5.00	6.000	05	
Rupali Bank	86.21	86.00	0.21	0.243	10	
2nd ICB M Fund	170,00	168.00	2.00	1.176	10	
3rd ICB M Fund	144.00	142.95	1.05	0.729	100	
4th ICB M Fund	145.00	144.00	1.00	0.690	110	
5yth ICB M Fund	100.00	99.00	1.00	1.000	530	
6th ICB M Fund	74.50	74.00	0.50	0.671	100	
BGIC	185.11	184.00	1.11	0.599	20	
Aziz Pipes	236.50	230.00	6.50	2.748	20	
B Thai Aluminium	85.00	84.00	1.00	1.176	40	
Quasem Drycells	10.90	10.80	0.10	0.917	150	
Ctg Vegetables	67.00	65.00	2.00	2.980	230	
Modern Dyeing	29.00	28.00	1.00	3.448	70	
Tallu Spinning	100.00	97.54	2.46	2.460	240	
Kohinoor Chemica	62.13	62.00	0.13	0.209	395	
Pharmaco	56.00	55.00	1.00	1.786	50	
Therapeutics	72.00	70.00	2.00	2.770	60	

Issues traded at previous rates (04)

Howlader PVC (100), Dhaka Vegetables (310), Rupan Oil (100), GQ Ball Pen (5020).

DSE Shares and Debentures

ompany	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate	Sprialised Jute Shine Pukur Jute Sonali Ansh	10/50 100/5 100/8	120 0 130 0
		(Taka)	TEXTILE (20)		2
ANKS (12)	VMCFESOFADY-ED		Alhaj Textile	10/50	N
-Baraka Bank	1000/1	880.00	Arbee Textile	100/10	112.0
B. Bank	100/5	173.00	Ashraf Textile	10/50	25.0
ty Bank		291.00	Chand Textile	10/50	N
astern Bank		110.00	Chand Spining	10/50	N
LC Ltd		216.00	Desh Garments	100/10	50.0
CLC	THE PROPERTY OF SHAPE	154.00	Dulamia Cotton	100/10	88.1
lami Bank		1375.00	Eagle Star Textile	10/50	10.5
ational Bank	The State of the S	125.00	GMG Ind. Corp.	10/50	10.0
	100/5		Modern Dyeing	100/5	28.0
	- per 100 170 170 170 170 170 170 170 170 170	· *** '전기 위치 시간 (1년시)	Padma Textile	100/20	1170.0
opali Bank	100/10	100.00	Quasem Silk	10/100	
C.B.L		103.00	Quasem Textile	10/50	V 12.00 100
tara Bank	100/5	103.00	Rahim Textile	100/5	91.0
VESTMENT (08)			Saiham Textiles	100/10	85.0
Contract of the contract of th	100/5	110.00	S.T.M. (ORD)	100/5	20.0
B W Bond	THE RESERVE OF THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF T	110.00	Stylecraft	100/5	425.
t ICB M. Fund		410.00	Swan Textile	100/5	Company of the Compan
nd ICB M Fund	100/5		Tallu Spinning	100/10	TO ENGLISH TO
d ICB M. Fund		142.95	Tamijuddin	100/10	The substitute hands had
h ICB M. Fund		144.00			
h ICB M. Fund	100/10	99.00	PHARMACEUTICA	IS &	
h ICB M. Fund	100/10	74.00		are mi	
B Unit Cert.		*****	CHEMICALS (20)	10/50	10.5
ales Price		114.00	Ambee Pharma		3 TO SEE SEE SEE
e-purchase		109.00	Bangla Process	100/5	
ISURANCE (04)			BCIL	こうしゃ こんりょう 東ラス かっかっかん	
CHC	100/10	184.00	Beximco Infusion	100/00	
reen Delta	100/10	211.00	Beximco Pharma	100/5	
oples Insurance		303.00	B. Synthetics	100/20	
nited Insurance		199.07	Glaxo	10/50	the state of the s
			ACI	10/50	10.0

100/5 189.00

10/50 44.00

100/5 230.00

100/5 380.00

100/5 271.00

10/50 20.00

100/5 71.33

100/10 115.00

100/5 57.00

100/5 26.00

100/5 200.00

100/5 503.00

100/5 980.00

100/5 200.00

100/5 900.00

100/5 143.00

100/5 500.00

100/5 115.00

100/5 800.00

10/50. 100.00

100/5 62.00

100/51040.00

100/5 35.00

100/5 550.00

100/5 335.00

100/52 240.00

2.20

50.00

60.00

100/10

10/50

10/50

100/5

10/50

100/5

100/5

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10/50

10/100

10/100

100/10

10/50

10/50

100/5 Kohinoor Chemical 100/10 N Polymer 10/50 Petro Synthetic 100/5 450.00 100/5 172.00 Pharma Aids 100/5 Pharmaco 100/5 Progressive Plastic Reckitt & Colman 10/50 100/10 Rahman Chemicals 100/5 Therapeutics 100/10 101.00 The Ibnsina

100/20 142.0 Wata Chemical PAPER & PRINTING (06) 10/50 21.00 100/5 Monospool Paper Paper Converting 100/5 100/10 Paper Processing 10/50 Padma Printers 10/50 52.00 Sonali Paper

50.00

76.5

50.0

100.10 100.0

1760.0

100/5 292.0

10/50

10/50

SERVICE (02) Bangladesh Hotel Bd. Service Apex Footwear

MISCELLANEOUS (18) 100/20 228.79 100/5 391.2 Apex Tannery Bata Shoe

10/50 10/100 10/100 Beximco 100/5 B.S.C 100/5 195.00 Ctg. Cement 10/50 91.00 G. Q. Ball Pen 100/5 High Speed 10/100 Himadri Ltd. 100/5 Milon Tannery 100/5 286.6 Monno Ceramic 100/20 80.0 New Dhaka Refac 100/5 115.0 Phoenix Leather 100/5 65.0 Savar Refractories 100/5 100.0

Beximeo 17% 1998 (17% 1998)

Beximco Pharma 1428/1 1165.0 (17% 1998)

NT 80.41 80.00

Padma Oil Co. JUTE (12) 100/10 Ahad Jute 10/50 Anowara Jute 10/50 Delta Jute 10/50 Gawsia Jute Islam Jute

10/50 125.76 BD Oxygen Eastern Lubricant 10/50 14.00 National Oxygen

100/5 Jute Spinner Mutual Jute Northern Jute

100/10 90.00 10/50 45.00

100/5 105.00 10/50 100/5 100.00

8.50

Texpick Ind Usmania Glass DEBENTURES (05)

3.80 The Engineers 70.00 NT 6.56

Beximco Infusion 1500/2 1650.0

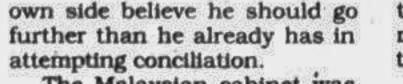
1500/1 1340.0 Quasem Silk (17% 1994) Beximco Synthetic2500/2 2490.0 (14% 2003) Note: FV = Face Value ML

Market Lot NT= Not Traded AL = Allotment Letter

Emirates, he said. **Notice Inviting Tenders** No. 7/93-94

- enders in sealed cover are hereby invited in Form No. 2911 from all Classes (Civil) approved contractors of this Department for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned, Executive Engineer, PWD Division -I/II, Rajshahi/Natore/Naogaon up to 12:00 of 13/12/93 Eng. and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 Noon.
- Name of work
- Repairs to Constable Barrack No. 3 attached to Police line, Pabna (roofing, part of remaining work). Tk. 1,56,591/00
- Estimated cost Earnest money
- Tk. 3,132/00 in the form of in
- Sanchaypatra /BD CD from any scheduled Bank. Fixed deposit holder to submit a certificate from the concerned Executive Engineer received within three months.
- The tender form together with the schedule of items, specification, terms and conditions, plans etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and above mentioned offices during office hours on payment of usual charges up to previous date of submitting tender. **Executive Engineer**,
- DFP (G) 19637-25/11

PWD Division, Pabna



over Keating's remarks.

tionship a bit."

fails to apologise.

However, former Prime Minister Bob Hawke warned tinuing. Foreign debt rises to record level

the months ahead.

billion dollar. Gross debt or the quarter of the Australian dollar, he said. "More than half of Australia's

Schroders Australia economist Bernadette Fulton said market forecasts or September quarter net foreign debt had ranged from 177 billion dollar to 180 billion dollar with a median expectation of 178 billion.

A group of legislators from the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) stage a sit-in to protest Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's policy to open the nation's rice market in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). - AFP photo

Seoul may agree to liberalise rice market soon: Analysts

SEOUL, Dec 1 : Growing indications that Japan is on the verge of liberalising its rice market makes it almost inevitable that South Korea will have to follow suit soon, ana lysts said, reports Reuter.

Time is ticking away as the December 15 deadline for the Uruguay Round of free trade talks looms and government officials are meeting daily in an effort to thrash out a solution.

Publicly, the word is South

Korea will stand firm no matter

what the political or economic Rice is a deeply emotional issue. When South Korea reached self-sufficiency in rice in the mid-1980s the achievement was regarded as the ultimate symbol

of recovery from the devastation of the 1950-53 Korean War. "This is national sentiment. Citizens are well aware of the costs of keeping the market closed. But they are willing to accept them", said an agricul-

ture ministry official. Government officials, however, say they realise South Korea is unlikely to win any concessions on rice in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"We seem to have lost a vital ally in Japan. The likelihood of

the Uruguay Round reaching a settlement next month is casting a strong doubt on whether South Korea on a keep its pledge,' said a research fellow at the state-funded Korea Institute for International Economic

Policy (KIEP). "If Seoul insists on keeping its rice market closed, it may have to leave the GATT. Then it will have more to lose," said the

KIEP research fellow. Seoul is not giving in gracefully. Government negotiators are still desperately trying to wring an exception out of the GATT and are expected to continue the struggle until the ele-

ment hour. Tokyo is also urging for an exemption, arguing self-sufficiency in the staple grain is a

matter of national security. South Korea's schedule for farm market opening, to be submitted to the Geneva-based GATT before the deadline for the Uruguay Round, excludes

rice form the timetable. When leaders of the Pacificrim countries met at the APEC forum in Seattle this month. South Korea mooted opening its markets wider for electronic goods, scientific equipment and stuffed toys in a last-ditch plea for an exception on rice.

Last Friday, South Korea's

Agriculture Minister offered to liberalise the rest of South Korea's agricultural market in exchange for a concession on

Analysts said South Korea would benefit if it took a more realistic stance -- accepting rice market opening in return for

more favourable conditions. "If we can have a 10-year grace period, limit rice imports to three per cent of the market and maintain tariffs of some 300 per cent for the next 10 years, domestic farmers will be able to modernise and enhance their competitive edge. the KIEP official said.

But any concession at all on rice would be viewed as a sell out by domestic farmers who depend on rice for about half their income and who are staging anti-liberalisation demonstrations almost daily.

"This is viewed as a life-ordeath issue by farmers. President Kim Young-Sam promised the government will never open the rice market," said an official at the National Agriculture Cooperative Federation

(NACF). The NACF estimates rice imports would ruin some 84 per cent of South Korea's six million farmers.

Filipino workers, leftists protest wage policies

of workers and leftists rallied Tuesday throughout the Philippines to demand across-theboard wage increases, reports

More than 15,000 people turned out in Manila's Luneta Park to hear speakers' call for an across-the-board pay raise of 35 peso (1.25 dollar) a day for public and private sector work-

About 1,000 others, mostly

supporters of self-exiled Communist leader Jose Maria Sison, held a separate rally about 500 metres (yards) from President Fidel Ramos' office. Ramos opposes an acrossthe-board increase and instead

has called on government re-

gional wage boards to determine

increases locally. The railies occurred on the 130th anniversary of the birth of Andres Bonifacio, a 19th-century revolutionary leader. The annual holiday is traditionally a day for labour and leftist railies.

In Cagayan de Oro, an in-

dustrial and port city on Min-

danao Island 800 kilometers

(500 miles) south of Manila,

tion of government boards as "pro-business." Mindanao Wage Board granted

a 17 peso (6 cent) a day increase to all workers earning less than 130 peso (4.64 dollar) a day. Labour leaders say that's too small.

ment.

In Manila, separate rallies were organised by mainstream labour organisations and by rival factions allied with the Communist Party of the Philippines.

has been split between supporters and opponents of Sison, the group's founder, who lives in self-imposed extle in the Dutch city of Utrecht.

labour leaders demanded aboli-

Last month, the Northern

Although the Philippine government has the power to mandate wages at private companies, many companies do not comply with the rules. Figures compiled by government sources show that only about half the registered businesses in northern Mindanao pay minimum wages set by the govern-

The Communist Party itself

The above were the Wednesday's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

MANILA. Dec 1: Thousands