# Rao seeks more foreign investment in economic infrastructure

DAVOS, Switzerland, Feb 2: Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao said on Tuesday his country's reform programme would be firmly pursued and ealled for more foreign investment in its economic infrastructure, reports Reuter.

He told international businessmen at the Davos World Economic Forum the dismantling of the old centralised and state-dominated economy over the past two-and-a-half years had been deliberately gradual to maintain popular support.

"We are now at a point where we can promise you more in a credible manner . . . the results have been good. That is what has given US greater confidence," Rao de-

The Indian leader, whose government recently achieved a majority in Parliament, said what was now needed was more foreign and domestic investment in building the infrastructure of a modern state.

"We have to concentrate on power, on petroleum, on roads, ports, telecommunications . . . we want you to cooperate to give us the huge infrastructure necessary for a large country like India," he

Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee told the same forum session in the Swiss mountain resort that 34 industrial sectors had been opened up for foreign investment of up to 51 per cent, and earlier

barriers to outside capital were being removed.

· Under the reform programme, he said, inflation had been brought down from around 14 per cent in the middle of 1991 to 8.4 per cent in January this year.

Finance Secretary Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the chief civil servant under Finance Minister Manmohan Singh who did not come to Davos, said the government aimed to bring this rate down further during

But he gave no target figure. "It is our hope that this decline will also be reflected in a decline of interest rates . . . as our fiscal deficit is brought under control, there will be a decline in interest rates also," he told the session.

Neither Rao nor his colleagues have any clear indication of major economic moves expected when the government announces its budget later this month. Manmohan Singh has said this must promote an acceleration of re-

Among measures expected are wider openings for imports and outside investment as well as tax cuts and an extension of the privatisation programme.

The Prime Minister said reform had widespread public support. Even opposition parties and leaders who criticised it in public and in parliament supported it in private, he de-

#### exchange for assistance to its aluminium industry from the governments of other producing countries, reports USIS. July 31. The agreement aimed at to end by February 28 its uni-

Russia agrees to reduce

aluminium production

reducing the global aluminium glut was announced January 30 from Brussels among Australia, Canada, the European Union (EU), Norway, Russia and the United States.

A text of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) was not released since Russia has asked other participants to consider changes, a US trade official said, adding that the proposed changes would not alter any substantive commit-

WASHINGTON, Feb 2:

Russia has agreed to reduce

production of aluminium by

500,000 metric tons a year in

The official, who asked not

to be identified, said January 31 that Russia's cutback will last two years, calculated from the November 1993 level of production and phased in with cuts of 300,000 tons by April 30 and 200,000 tons more by

He said also the EU agreed lateral safeguards, restricting imports from Russia and the other former Soviet republics to 60,000 tons a month.

None of the parties besides Russia made a commitment to impose production cutbacks on its industry; a cartel arrangement would violate US antitrust law, the official said.

Any cutbacks by US producers will result from independent, market-based decisions by individual companies, he

#### Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on February

Currency	S	Selling		Buying		
# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #	TT & OD	EC.	TT Clean	OD Sight Ex. Bills.	OD Transfer	
US Dollar	40.1275	40.1575	39.9195	39.8350	39.7125	
Pound Sterling	60.1511	60.1961	59.3708	59.2450	59.0629	
DM	23.2667	23.2840	22.9025	22.8541	22.7838	
F Franc	6.8550	6.8601	6.7494	6.7351	6.7144	
C Dollar	30.3265	30.3492	29.8466	29.7834	29.6919	
S Franc	27.8356	27.8564	27.4025	27.3445	27.2604	
Jap Yen ,	0.3747	0.3749	0.3652	0.3644	0.3633	
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2825	1.2863	1.2722	1.2564	350 320 (1900) (1900) (1900)	
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3262	1.3303	1.3155	1.2993		
Iranian Riyal (AMU)	0.0231	0.0231	0.0229	0.0226	<u> </u>	

30 Days DA 60 Days DA 90 Days DA 120 Days DA 180 Days DA 39.2880 39.0052 C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk. 39.8350 D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Tk. 40.5575

SERGERS HERSENWES FROM SERVICES AND	Indicative Rates	
Currency	Selling T.T. & O.D.	Buying O. D. Transfer
S Riyal	10.7004	10.5889
UAE Dirham	10.9265	10.8120
Kuwaiti Dinnar	135.0639	133.3305
Singapore Dollar	25.2374	24.9607
D Guilders .	20.6470	20.4282
S Kroner '	5,1118	5.0525
No	te : AMII Asian Manet	ant Union

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

### Australia overcomes recession

Journalists surround the model of the Volkswagen "Concept I", parked in front of a Boeing

747 at Frankfurt's airport on Tuesday. The study, designed as a possible successor of the

legendary "Beetle," was seen in Germany for the first time after its launch at the Detroit

Motor Show. It will be presented in Europe at the Geneva Car Show at the beginning of

SYDNEY, Feb 2: The battered Australian economy is pulling out of its worst recession since the 1930s, reports

March.

Inflation is down, the Australian dollar is up, the stock market is booming, and the forecast is for sustained growth, pegged to trade with America and the booming new Asian economies with which Australia has forged links.

"Export performance was good through 1993," said Graham Hodges, chief economist for Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. "That was because more than 60 per cent of our exports go into the Asia-Pacific region."

"There are clear signs that the economy is moving up a gear," said Alan Oster, chief economist of the National Australia Bank, one of the nation's largest private banks. "I suspect we will be looking at an economy growing at an anrtual rate approaching 3.5 per

By comparison, the economies of the other industrialised nations in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development grew at only 1.1 per cent on average in 1993. Among the 23 OECD nations, only New Zealand's projected 1994 growth rate of about 4.9 per cent is better than Australia's.

Australia slid into recession in 1991, earlier than most other industrial nations, wallowing in high interest rates and unemployment of more than 11 per cent.

But consumer confidence has been rising for months, and the stock market has gone through the roof. The All Ordinaries Index of stock prices has been hovering around 2,300 this week, up about 6 per cent from its January 1 level of 2,173.6. It hit a record high of 2,327.6 on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, Treasurer Ralph Willis released revised budget forecasts that upgraded almost all economic indicators, saying "We have the best conjuncture of economic fundamentals for 30 years."

mestic product was pegged at 3.5 per cent, up from the ear lier estimate of 2.75 per cent. Inflation projections were reduced to 2 per cent, down

- Growth of the gross do-

- Expected creation of jobs in 1994 was doubled to 200,000. However, unemployment is expected to stay over 10 per cent, as discouraged workers who left unem-

from a 3.5 per cent estimate.

ployment rolls emerge to actively seek jobs again. - Business investment was projected to increase 16.75 per cent, up from the earlier

estimate of 10.75 per cent. In other news which bodes well for the economy:

> - Commodity prices, which fell through the 1990s, were projected to rise 2 per cent this year. Exports of minerals and grain form the backbone of Australia's economy.

- AFP photo

- \*- The Australian dollar, worth about 66 US cents in October, has risen in value to over 71 US cents.

- Opposition Liberal party politicians said the Labour government of Prime Minister Paul Keating cannot claim credit for the recovery, saying Australia was pulled out of its slump by strengthening economic trends in the United States, Britain, and throughout Asia, except for Japan. Opposition treasury spoke-

sman Alexander Downer also credited Liberal party ad ministrations in the states of Victoria, West Australia and South Australia with leading the recovery. Months ago, however, op-

position leader John Hewson had been predicting a "double dip recession," with the economy taking a new plunge by

Keating said the recovery was no accident.

"A quality, low-inflation recovery was not just something that happened overnight," he told Parliament.

#### QVC, Viacom revise bids

bidders for Paramount Communications Inc. revised their offers for the entertainment and publishing concern ahead of a deadline Tuesday for their best buyout proposals. reports AP.

ble shopping channel operator. boosted the cash portion of its 10 billion dollars plus bid by about 750 million dollar while cutting the stock in the second stage of the offer by roughly the same amount

Paramount said its board would meet later this week to consider the bids, and that its legal and financial advisers will

Paramount shareholders however, will make the ultimate decision on which offer is better. They have until February 14 to decide

terms of their new offers minutes after the afternoon dead line imposed by Paramount for their best and final offers.

bids Viacom left unchanged its offer of 107 dollars a share in cash for 50.1 per cent of Paramount stock while QVC raised the cash portion in its offer to 104 dollars a share from 92 dollars for the same amount of stock

## Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port Berth position and performance of vessels as on 2/2/94

Berth no	Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Dooyang Brave	M.seed	Vanc	· Royal	23/2	04/2
J/4 =	Marine Three	Cement	Tuti	BML	21/1	05/2
J/6	Aghios Rafael	TSP (P)	Sfax	SSST	23/1	06/2
J/8	Al Salma	· GI	Pena	ASLL	24/1	04/2
J/9	Jiang Cheng	GI	Z Jiang	BDShtp	27/1	04/2
J/10	Dolores	2.6	**	Seacom	R/A	15/2
J/12	Smyrna	Wheat(P)	Sing	Litmond	18/1	07/2
J/12	*Meng Lee	Cont	Sing	AML	31/1	02/2
J/13	Hang Wan	Cement	S.I lai	BDShip	31/1	08/2
MPB/1	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDShip	30/1	03/2
CCJ.	Banglar Asha	Repair	NAMES OF THE PARTY.	BSC	R/A	05/2
TSP	lokasti	Cement	Tuti	Litmond	01/1	07/2
DOJ.	Banglar Shourab	h C.Oil	2442107g	BSC	R/A	04/2
DDJ/2	Ourania	Repair	Mong	Seabird	09/1	03/2
RM/9	* Banglar Kiron	Repair	Mong	BSC	18/1	02/2

Name of vessels	Date of	Last port	Local	Cargo	Loading
	arrival	call	agent	TA A	port
Qun Chon Nyon Ho	02/2	Nampo	Litmond	Cement	A PARTICIPAL OF THE PARTICIPAL
* Salem Nine	06/2	Sing	MSA	SSP	y e
* Imke Wehr 25/1	02/2	Sing	APL (B)	Cont	Sing
Vishva Vikram	03/2	Mong	RRSA GLM	fom.	P.Sudan
Pu Aspiration	03/2	Sing	PSAL	Cement	" E
Apj Angad	03/2	*	OWSL	Wheat (G)	ē .
Monoco	03/2	Sing	Anchor	712	W 2
Gold Finch	04/2	Russ	MSA		9 <sup>H</sup> S
Blue Ocean	04/2	Cal	Cross	Pulses	21
Banglar Moni 26/1	04/2	Sing	, BSC	Cont	Sing
Infinity 26/1	04/2	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Banglar Sampad	05/2	Mong	BSC	GL	B.Abbas
Sonne	05/2	Sing	Ancient	GL	93
Fong Yun 27/1	05/2	Stng	BDShtp	Cont	Sing
Calatagan	05/2	Wall	Litmond	Dun Peas	6
NGS Ranger 31/1	08/2	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Moskovoskiy					
Komsomolets	07/2	3	ANCL	Cement	
Dorianne	08/2	Hald	MBL	Wheat(P)	S 2
Kota Buana 31/1	08/2	Sing	RSL	Cont	
Shaplaeverett.	09/2	Sing	EBPL	G	Japa Fe
Andrian Goncharov 1/3	11/2	Sing	CT	Cont	Strig
Eponyma 1/2	11/2	Stng	RLS	Cont	Baha
Philia	11/2	52	USTC	Cement	
Banglar Robi 1/2	13/2	Mong	BSC	Cont	Sing
1.Yamburenko (Cont)1/2	2 14/2	Sing	CT.	<ul><li>Cont</li></ul>	Sing
Robert-E-Lee	17/2		Karn	GI (lash	

Robert-E-Lee •	17/2		Karn	GI (lash	)
	T	anker de	10		
Gemini	03/2	Sing	MSPL	Н	SD (RM/5)
	Vessels	at Kutu	bdia		
Name of vessels	Cargo	Last	port	Local	Date of
	Consideration	CREATER	call	agent	arrival
	Vest	els read	У		
• Ingenuity	Cont		Col	BTSA	31/1
* Samudra Samrat	GI	)	Cara	SSL	02/2
Delication and Automorphism of the Artist Annual Conference of	Vesse	ls not re	ady		
Ronjay Victory	Cement		Viza	USTC	07/1
Banglar Jyoti	C.Oil		28	BSC	R//
Island Sky	D Peas		Sing	MSA	01/2
Litsa	Cement		Sing	USTC	01/2
1	essels awa	aiting in	struction	n	
Loyal Bird		N	Mong 5	seacom	15/11
	Vessels	not ent	ering		
Akademik Semenov	HSD (P)		Strig	QCSL	27/12
Mov	ement of v	essels fo	or: 03/02/	1994	
Outgoing	Inco	ming		Shif	ting
MPB-1 Fong Shin	GSJ. APJ /	AngadJ/2	lmke Weh	r to MPB	1

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

RM-5 Gemint

J/3 V. Bikram

COFJ Monoco

DDJ-1 Ouranta

### Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on February 2, 1994

#### Index drops by 29 points

Star Report

The DSE All Share Price Beximco Ltd (13600) and the Index registered a sharp decline BGIC (1190).

National Tubes

Trading at	a glance
OSE All Share -	536.2506
Market Capitalisation Tk 24	395586864.4

Turnover in volume Tk	Tk 24395586864.40
Company's	Change Number ( per share) of shares
Losers (26)	traded

10.00

8.00

3.85

3.25

950

nged hands as against 46303.25 shares valued at Taka	Company's
wed increases of 57.447 per cent and 116.084 per cent in the total volume and value respectively.  The Bangladesh Lamps, with a fall of Taka 50.00 per share, led the list of 26 losers out of 53 issues traded while the BCIL.	Losers (26) National Bar 3rd ICB M F 5th ICB M F 6th ICB M F Aftab Autom BD Lamp's Eastern Cab Quasem Dry

led the (Debenture) dominated the list of gainers numbering 19. The share prices of eight issues remained unchanged.

of 29.982 points on Wednesday

while trading in both the vol-

ume and value terms on the

536.25062 from Tuesday's

566.23333, a decrease of

The price index dropped to

A total of 72903.50 shares

worth Taka 18477181.50 cha-

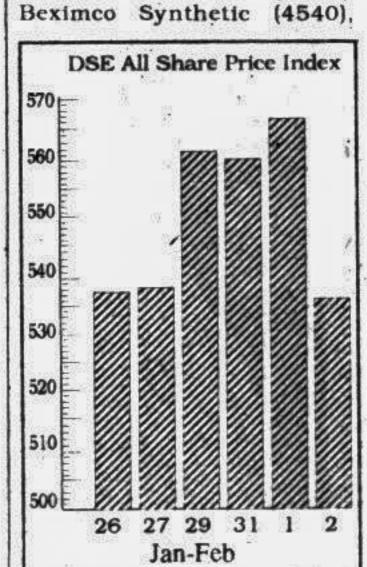
DSE rose significantly.

5.2951 per cent.

The BTC, NTC, Beximco Infusion, and the Apex Footwear also experienced significant losses in share prices.

The Bangladesh Oxygen became the top contributor to the with 23719 total volume

Other major volume leaders were: The 6th ICB M Fund (1530), Ambee Pharma (4750),



Company

**BANKS (12)** 

A.B. Bank

City Bank

IDLC Ltd

I.F.I.C

Al-Baraka Bank

Eastern Bank

Islami Bank

Pubali Bank

Rupalt Bank

Uttara Bank

INVESTMENT (8)

1st ICB M. Fund

2nd ICB M Fund

3rd ICB M. Fund

4th ICB M. Fund

5th ICB M. Fund

6th ICB M. Fund

INSURANCE (4)

ENGINEERING (19)

Aftab Automobiles

Bangladesh Lamps

B. That Aluminium

Bengal Carbide

Eastern Cables

Howlader PVC

Metalex Corp.

Monno Jutex

National Tubes

Panther Steel

A.B Biscuit

Apex Food

Aroma Tea

Alpha Tobacco

B.D. Plantation

Ctg. Vegetables

Fragleg Export

Hill Plantation

Rabeya Flour

Rupan Off

Tulip Dairy

Yousuf Flour

BD Oxygen

Zcal Bangla Sugar

FUEL & POWER (4)

Eastern Lubricant

National Oxygen

'adma Off Co.

TEXTILE (20)

Alhaj Textile

Arbee Textile

Ashraf Textile

Chand Textile

Chand Spining

Desh Garments

Dulamia Cotton

GMG Ind Corp

Modern Dyeing

Eagle Star Textile

Gemini Sea Food

Modern Industries

E.L. Camelha

Bengal Food

B.L.T.C.

N.T.C

Amam Sea Food

Monno Staffliers

Quasem Drycells

Singer Bangladesh

FOOD & ALLIED (23)

Remwick Jagneswar 100/5

Bengal Steel

Karim Pipe

Atlas Bangladesh

Aziz Pipes

Peoples Insurance 100/10

United Insurance 100/10

Bangladesh Autocars 100/5

ICB Unit Cert.

Sales Price

BGIC.

Re-purchase

Green Delta

U.C.B.L

I.C.B

National Bank

2.67 **B.Thai Aluminium** United Insurance 2.73 Ctg Vegetable 170 300 Quasem Silk Eagle Star Textile 0.50 2200 Taniiuddin Textile 1240 **Kohinoor Chemical** Bextmeo Infusion **Apex Tannery** 1040 150 GQ Ball Pen Savar Refractories 5.07 Ctg Cement Apex Footwear 41.52 Green Delta 2.73 Gainers (19) Bengal Carbide 3.82 2.52 Singer BD Alpha Tobacco 3.00 9.20 Bengal Food 0.80 730 Dhaka Vegetable 7.19 BD Oxygen Shine Pukur Jute 11.47 Padma Textile 1.14 Ambee Pharma Beximco Pharma 1.75 0.49 4540 Beximco Synthetic **BD** Monospool 0.50 0.01 Bata Shoe 1540 3.33 Monno Ceramic 3600 0.45 Bextmco Ltd 5.00 Peoples Insurance BCLL(Deb) 144.05 B Synthetic (Deb) 10.00 Issues (8) unchanged

Islami Bank (I), Aziz Pipe (5) Atlas Bangladesh (450), Progres sive Plastic (20), Therapeutics (30), Modern Industries (5), Beximco Pharma (23), Bextmco Deb (2).

10/100 2.20

100/5 100.00

10/50

#### **DSE Shares and Debentures**

Quasem Textile

Rahim Textile

FV/ML Closing

1000/1

100/20

100/20

100/5

1000/113

100/5

100/5

100/10

100/5

100/5

100/5

100/5

100/5 2

100/5

100/10

100/10

100/10

100/10

100/10

100/5

10/50

100/5

10/50

100/5

10/50

10/50

100/5 550.00

100/5 499.08

100/5 75.25

100/10 75.00

100/5 35.00

100/5 340.00

100/51000.00

100/10 56.42

100/51604.17

100/5 199.00

10/50 50.00

100/5 100.00

100/51100.00

100/5 45.13

100/5 140.00

100/5 500:00

100/5 172.03

100/5 800.00

10/50 175.00

100/51040.00

100/5 550.00

100/5 375.00

100/52 260.00

10/00 164.21

10/50 14:00

100/10 74.33

10/50 48.00

100/10 112 00

35.00

NT

68.00

NT

7.50

NI

NI

NI

50 00

76 (M)

10 00

10.00

28 00

100/10

100/5

100/5

10/100

100/10

10/50

10/50

10/50

10/50

10/50

10/50

100/10

100/10

10/50

10/50

20.00

80.00

10.50

100/5

100/5 2

5 8	Satham Textile	100/10	83.04
	S.T.M. (ORD)	100/5	20.00
305.00	Stylecraft	100/5	550.00
90.00	Swan Textile	100/5	9.00
293.00	Tallu Spinning	100/10	103.25
110.00	Tamijuddin	100/10	135.00
285.00			
160.00	PHARMACEUTICA	LS &	
382.00	CHEMICALS (20)	8 E	
125.00	Ambee Pharma	10/50	14.65
100.00	Bangla Process	100/5	
79.00	BCIL		305.00
.00.801	Beximco Infusion		735.36
91.00	Beximco Pharma		1301.75
	B. Synthetics		188.81
	Glaxo		125.00
100.00	ACI	NOTICE OF THE PARTY OF THE PART	10.00
<b>750.0</b> 0	Kohinoor Chemical	12-00000LEXTCUDE.Her	74.00
200.00	N Polymer	VANDA (400) (54,075) (64,075)	110.00
160.00	Petro Synthetic	10/50	
181.00	Pfizer	100/5	
125.00	Pharma Aids	100/5	
93.05	Pharmaco	100/5	
	Progressive Plastic	100/5	
118.00	Rackitt & Colman	10/50	
113.00	Rahman Chemicals	100/10	(i) DECEMBER 100 - 10
	Therapeutics	100/5	
309.61	The Ibnsina	100/10	101.10
300.00	Wata Chemical	20 March 20 Co. 1	200.00
405.00			
292.00	PAPER & PRINTING	G (6)	
	Eagle Box	10/50	19.00
	Monospool Paper	100/5	22.50
230.29	Paper Converting	100/5	
53.00	Paper Processing	100/10	
270.00	Padma Printers	10/50	
42.00	Sonali Paper	10/50	

Paper Converting	100
Paper Processing	100/
Padma Printers	10/
Sonali Paper	10/
SERVICE (2)	
Bangladesh Hotel	10/
Bd. Service	10/
MISCELLANEOUS	(18)
Apex Footwear	100/
Apex Tannery	100
Aramit .	10/
Bata Shoe	10/1
Dantman	10/1

12.00

Proceedings of the Control of the Co		
ex Footwear	100/20	430.00
ex Tannery	100/5	712.00
ımit .	10/50	30.00
a Shoe	10/100	86.01
ximco	10/100	80.42
c ·	100/5	80.00
g. Cement	100/5	330.01
Q. Ball Pen	10/50	100.00
th Speed	100/5	50.00
nadri Ltd.	10/100	6.00
on Tannery	100/5	6.50
nno Ceramic	1 00/5	503.33
w Dhaka Refac	100/20	89.17
oenix Leather	100/5	115.00
var Refractories	100/5	63.33
e Engineers	100/5	100.00
cpick Ind	100.10	171.62
manta Glass	100/5	28800
TE (12)		22.000
ad Jute	100/10	NT
owara Jute	10/50	
lta Jute	10/50	
wsia Jute	10/50	NT
em Jute	100/5	85.00

e Engineers	100/5	100.00
xpick Ind	100.10	171.62
manta Glass	100/5	28800
TE (12)		
ad Jute	100/10	NT
owara Jute	10/50	NT
lta Jute	10/50	8.50
wsia Jute	10/50	NT
am Jute	100/5	85.00
te Spinner	100/5	80.00
itual Jute	100/5	105.00
rthern Jute	10/50	NT
amser Jute	100/5	100.00
cialised Jute	10/50	NT
ine Pukur Jute	100/5	171.62
nali Aansh	100/5	120.00
BENTURES (6)		
L (%)	2000/1	2462.80

EBENTURES (6)		
CIL	2000/1	2462.8
1 <b>7%)</b> Seximco	1865/1	1790.0
l 7% ) Sevimeo Infu <b>sion</b>	1500/2	1670 0
17%) Seximeo Pharma	999/1	
1.7%) feximen Synthetic	2500/2	2370.0
(4%)		
Juasem Silk 1 /%)	1500/1	1340.0
	The second secon	The section is a second section of the second section of the section of the second section of the section of the second section of the section o

Market lat NT= Not Traded Al. = Allotypent Letter 100/5 35 00

Note I'V = Face Value ML=

#### China, as Mexico, which borders the rich U.S market, makes many of the same tex tive," no matter what the tiles and light industrial goods short and medium-term risks. as China — and other Asian ex said Plamsak Milintachinda, Director of the North Ame

#### India's foodgrain output unlikely to reach target NEW DELIII, Feb 2: India's

foodgrain output in the fiscal year ending March 31 is expected to fall short of the targeted 188 million tonnes due to a poor monsoon, a newspaper reported today, says AFP. The latest government es-

timates show that foodgrain production in fiscal 1993-94 was likely to be 179.1 million tonnes, short of the target figure and marginally less than the record 180 million tonnes of last year, The Economic Times said.

Total rice output would be 74 million tonnes, or four million tonnes less than the target, and that of wheat a record 56.90 million tonnes but below the targeted 58.58 million tonnes, it said The Times said the produc-

tion of cereals, pulses, oils-

eeds, cotton and sugarcane

would also fall below the target figures. Indian farmers depend largely on monsoon rains for irrigation. The Times said the less-than anticipated rains in parts of the country were wor-

rying the Agriculture Ministry.

#### China's defence industry exports civilian goods worth \$ 196m BEIJING, Feb 2: China's de-

fense industry exported 1.7 billion yuan (196 million dollar) worth of civilian products last year, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, reports Al. The figure represents 0.2

per cent of China's total ex-

ports in 1993 and about 5 per cent of the defense industry's total civilian production. Xinhua said such exports have increased by 30 per cent annually in recent years. The more than 500 products include sports guns, engineering

and motorcycles. More than 100 foreign companies have started up joint-venture factories with military companies, the report said, without giving details.

machinery, and automobiles

About 65-70 per cent of production in the defense industry has been transformed into civilian production over the past decade as the demand for weapons and other military equipment dropped. The military also is financing its pur chases and development of modern weapons,

#### US dollar rises, stocks fall in Tokyo

TOKYO, Feb 2: The US dollar recovered modestly from a two-month low against the Japanese yen Wednesday, while prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange fell on profittaking after a two-day surge, reports AP.

The dollar finished at 108.43 yen, up 0.23 yen from Tuesday's close, the lowest since December 8, and also above its overnight New York close of 107.70 yen.

Dealers said strong buying by Japanese trust banks and pressure to cover short positions helped the dollar after its overnight fall to new lows for the year in New York.

However, there still was fear among investors that the United States might resort to pressing for a higher yen if bilateral trade talks failed to produce progress in time for a February 11 US-Japan summit in Washington, said a dealer at Citibank. More investor attention was

focused on the trade talks particularly after the arrival in Tokyo Tuesday of US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, dealers said. The US government is try-

ing to persuade Japan to open its markets wider to help reduce Japan's huge trade sur plus with the United States. which totaled about 50 billion dollar last year.

a boon or a bane BEIJING, Feb 2: From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Asia wonders if NAFTA

humming textile mills of South China to the shoe factories of Thailand, Asian managers are wondering how the new North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will hit their share of the lucrative U.S. market, reports Reuter. NAFTA, which began on

January 1, calls for trade barners separating the United States, Canada and Mexico to fall within 15 years. The question for Asian

managers is whether this will be a threat to their exports or whether it creates a new, multi-billion dollar opportu-China, which has built its

recent prosperity on the back of a booming export machine, sees NAFTA as a clear threat because Mexico may become the primer low-cost manufacturing base for the U.S market.

"NAFTA is a severe challenge to China's foreign trade," the official newspaper of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation declared recently. But other countries take a

grouping, foreseeing great opportunities as NAFTA builds business in North America. "In the really long term, the economies of those regions will grow and this will be posi-

balanced view of the new trade

rican Division at Thailand's "The market will be bigger

and start buying products from around the world. This is a great opportunity for Thailand. Thailand, in compiling statistics about trade with NAFTA as a bloc, found that in

biggest regional market, outpacking the European union. A key fear for other Asian economies is that their share of the U.S market can be no longer assured.

1992 it was the country's

"NAFTA will bring major benefits to the world economy, but there is a danger we could lose market share in the United States. Taiwan's Economie Minister Chiang Ping-Kun told the export-ori ented islands' press

Asked directly if she were worried that NAFTA would be negative for China, Wu Yi, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, told a news conference there was a tendency in the world to form regional economic blocs.

"I hope NAFTA will be open and non-exclusive. It should promote world trade and economy," she said. A European diplomat said

NAFTA is entirely negative for

porting powerhouses.

# for Paramount

NEW YORK. Feb 2: The two

Viacom Inc., whose bid had the backing of the Paramount board before the final round added securities to its cash and-stock offer

QVC Network Inc., the ca-

assist in evaluating them.

The companies announced

Under the terms of the new