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449 dev projects completed in Barisal

BARISAL, Mar 17: A total of 449 development projects were completed in Barisal district under test relief programme at an allocation of 866 metric tons of wheat during the last rainy season, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the projects included the construction of bridges, repair of roads, development of educational institutions, clearing of bushes, jungles and water-hyacinths and digging of drainages.

Of the total, 39 projects were completed in Agaikjhara thana at an allocation of 66 metric tons of wheat, 40 projects in Gourndi thana at an allocation of 71 metric tons of wheat, 52 projects in Hizla thana at an allocation of 83 metric tons of wheat, 49 projects in Mehendiganj thana at allocation of 87 metric tons of wheat, 40 projects in Muladi thana at an allocation of 87 metric tons of wheat, 25 projects in Babuganj thana at an allocation of 58 metric tons of wheat, 40 projects in Bakerganj thana at an allocation of 121 metric tons of wheat, 80 projects in Barisal sadar thana at an allocation of 129 metric tons of wheat, 44 projects in Wazirpur thana at an allocation of 82 metric tons of wheat, and 40 projects in Banaripara thana at an allocation of 82 metric tons of wheat.

Card phone popular in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, Mar 17: About Tk 60,000 has been earned as revenue since the introduction of card phone system at Chandpur Head Post Office, reports UNB.

The card phone system has been introduced in the district town since January last and response from the people is satisfactory, said the post master of Chandpur head post office.

Local people alleged that through this phone they can talk only within Bangladesh but they can not talk to their near and dear ones working abroad as the card phone booth has no overseas connection.

Local elite urged the concerned authorities to introduce overseas connection immediately for the convenience of the people.

£2m TV ad for Dunlop Tyres

"It's the biggest spend ever for a British tyre company on TV advertising," says Stuart Wyss, the man responsible for advertising of Dunlop brand tyres. "Our two million pound television campaign eclipses what our competitors are planning this year."

"Unexpected" the stunning new commercial for Dunlop tyres broke on national TV at the end of May, says a press release.

SP Tyres, the manufacturers of Dunlop tyres, challenged TV advertising's most controversial director, Tony Kaye, to film the Unexpected. Tony's revolutionary approach to the brand will take the tyre market by storm.

The storyline is surreal and the visual effects, created by colourisation, are unique. 'Unexpected' is the most ambitious advertising concept undertaken by SP Tyres UK since acquiring Dunlop in 1985, the 60 second commercial features a malevolent magician conjuring up bizarre situations to threaten a car travelling a desert highway.

The surreal theme extends into the medium used to film and edit the new Dunlop tyre ad. Colourisation creates visual effects that cannot be achieved using conventional colour film, so Tony Kaye shot in black and white and employed the latest digital technology to take colourisation to a level not previously seen.

"The ad is visually stunning, there has been nothing like it before, but the actual star throughout is the Dunlop tyre," says Stuart Wyss.

The crazy world of life-threatening incidents, created by the magician allows the tyre to demonstrate its dependability and performance. It reinstates all the traditional quality values associated with Dunlop, but gives the brand a new excitement and glamour."

SP Tyres believe the impact will alter the Dunlop image dramatically making the brand stand out from its rivals and grab the imagination of both public and trade.

This ad will be shown on Bangladesh Television today as Dunlop sponsors the serial 'A Law.'

In the process, they covered a wide range of topics re-

Demand, supply position of petroleum satisfactory

PABNA, Mar 17: The demand and supply position of petroleum and petroleum products all over the country including the western zone is satisfactory.

Chairman of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) Md Fazlul Hoq said this during a visit to the floating barges at Nagarbari, Pabna after reviewing the overall demand and supply position of petroleum fuel in the region and also all over the country is completely normal.

It was further stated that the country has sufficient stock of petroleum fuel to cope with any emergency and normal situation.

Apart from commissioning some floating depots and barges in different parts of the country to keep the supply of petroleum products steady and normal during dry season, the government has also taken other measures like installation of rail-head depot at Santahar which will be opened tomorrow.

The BPC chairman asked the officials to constantly monitor and supervise demand and supply position to keep the

overall situation normal.

Tk 8 cr sanctioned for drinking water

UNB report says An amount of Tk 8 crore has been sanctioned for drinking water supply scheme in the district pourashava area in the current fiscal year, officials said.

The work on the programme will be started from next June with the financial assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The scheme includes installation of three overhead tanks, three deep tubewells, 50 km pipelines and hand tubewells where deep tubewell pipe line can not be installed and repair of 40 km old pipe line.

After the implementation of the scheme, drinking water facilities for the town-dwellers will increase to a great extent.

PARIS, Mar 17: The government confirmed Wednesday that its total 1993 budget deficit was 315.7 billion francs (55 billion dollars) widening from 1992's deficit of 226 billion francs, reports AP.

The final 1993 figure is 1.9 billion francs less than previous official estimate for a deficit of 317.6 billion francs.

A communiqué from the Budget Ministry explained that 1993 fiscal revenues were 9.2 billion francs higher than expected, due notably to an increase in value-added tax receipts.

In the meantime, total expenditures surpassed their target by 7.2 billion francs, nearly half of which was attributed to a boost in transfers to local governments. In the end, revenues totalled 1.142 trillion francs against 1.458 trillion francs of expenditures.

France confirms \$ 55b budget deficit

SHANNON, Ireland, Mar 17: US Defence Secretary William Perry predicted today "an avalanche" of nearly 100 million dollars in contracts for US and Russian firms to help build housing in Russia and convert that country's Cold War defence industry to civilian production, reports Reuter.

Perry spoke to reporters flying with him to Moscow from Washington at the start of a week-long trip to Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Belarus to improve US military ties with the young democracies and help convert their defence industries.

"Roughly 100 million dollars in defence conversion (is what) I expect to be expended in the next six months," he said before his plane made a brief refuelling stop at Shannon.

Perry conceded as "well-founded" some criticism that the US programme was working too slowly but said it was now ready to move ahead

Washington to help Moscow convert defence industry

SHANNON, Ireland, Mar 17:

US Defence Secretary William Perry predicted today "an avalanche" of nearly 100 million dollars in contracts for US and Russian firms to help build housing in Russia and convert that country's Cold War defence industry to civilian production, reports Reuter.

He and other defence officials said most of the 100 million would go to Russia, although other former Soviet states would receive funds. Another 100 million would probably be committed in the following year.

Perry, who is to meet Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and other senior government officials in Moscow over two days, said the Pentagon was preparing to approve contracts between US companies and firms in Russia and Ukraine to build prefabricated housing and convert defence plants.

Rao's Britain visit strengthens business links

NEW DELHI, Mar 17: Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao returned home today from a four-day visit to Britain which took bilateral ties to a new high and paved the way for stronger business links, reports AFP.

The 72-year-old premier did not speak to reporters at the airport after flying in from Edinburgh.

But he told journalists accompanying him that his whirlwind visit, highlighted by significant trade accords and Queen Elizabeth's agreement to visit India, had been "highly successful," the Press Trust of India said.

Rao said his talks with British Prime Minister John Major and other leaders had brought "great friendliness and closeness" between the two countries.

It was the first trip to Britain by an Indian premier since Rajiv Gandhi travelled there in 1985. In London, officials said relations were "now better than at any time" since the departure of the British Raj from India in 1947.

A bilateral investment protection accord and an agreement to prolong by a year the successful Indo-British partnership initiative (IBPI) marked the visit, which Indian officials said would boost trade and investment links.

The IBPI, set up in January 1993, has given a major impetus to two-way trade which has soared more than 20 per cent.

Seoul plans to open front-line military sites to foreign tourists

SEOUL, Mar 17: Hoping to cash in on having the last Cold War frontier in the world, South Korea plans to open sensitive front-line military sites to foreign tourists, reports AP.

The plan is part of the Seoul government's "Visit Korea Year 1994," a year-long campaign to bring life back to South Korea's sluggish tourism industry.

The 248 kilometer (155 mile)-long Korean border is the world's most heavily armed, with nearly two million troops deployed on both sides of the divided peninsula. Since the collapse of communism, it has been billed as the world's last Cold War frontier.

Defence Ministry officials say they are prepared to open to tourists sensitive military observation posts along the border and three infiltration tunnels dug by Communist North Korea under the four kilometer (2.5 mile)-wide Demilitarized Zone.

Prices of shares, US dollar fall in Tokyo

TOKYO, Mar 17: The US dollar slipped against the Japanese yen Thursday, while prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange edged down, reports AP.

The dollar ended at 105.78 yen, down 0.05 yen from Wednesday's Tokyo close and below its overnight New York finish at 106.07 yen. The currency opened at 105.85 yen and ranged from 105.60 yen to 105.90 yen.

The dollar weakened as Japanese exporters sold it, dealers said. Their frustration over the US currency's inability to recover above the 106 yen level prompted them to sell it at lower levels than earlier, they said.

But players kept the dollar from falling below 105.60 yen because they suspect the Bank of Japan may conduct dollar-buying intervention at around 105.50 yen per dollar to prevent the currency's further decline, dealers said.

On the stock market, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average fell 85.61 points, or 0.41 per cent, ending the day at 20,592.16. On Wednesday, the average gained 168.92 points, or 0.82 per cent, closing at 20,677.77.

The Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the first section was down 4.74 points, or 0.29 per cent, to 1,648.53. The TOPIX rose 10.33 points, or 0.63 per cent, to 1,653.27 points the day before.

Foreign investors continued to buy, but prices fell because of profit-taking and other selling by Japanese corporate investors, traders said.

Japanese companies were selling in an attempt to book profits ahead of the March 31 end of fiscal 1993, they said.



KUWAIT: Nine-month-old Fahad Abdul-Rahman, the youngest child in his family, sits Tuesday in the middle of a pile of Kuwaiti dinars worth about 10,000 US dollars. Fahad was the beneficiary of an Arab and Muslim custom at the end of Ramadan, which is that during the festival of the Eid, relatives and guests shower the youngest child with gift money.

— AFP photo

US farm exports to add \$8.7b under GATT in 2005

WASHINGTON, Mar 17: A new worldwide trade agreement would add as much as 8.7 billion dollars to US farm exports in the year 2005.

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy said Wednesday in urging congressional passage of the pact, reports AP.

At the same time, the agreement will cut the amount the government spends for farm programmes except for the dairy programme, Espy's department said in an analysis of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The analysis was released as Espy and Trade Representative Mickey Kantor outlined the terms of the agreement to the House Agriculture Committee.

"We were able to create a level playing field in order that US agriculture could benefit all over the world," Kantor said.

However, dairy state lawmakers raised doubts about the benefits which will be justified in supporting GATT, said Rep

Unemployment rate in UK falls to 9.8 pc

LONDON, Mar 17: Hopes for economic recovery remained muted Wednesday after contradictory government figures for February showed a welcome fall in unemployment, but revealed a worrying surprise drop in retail sales, reports AFP.

Unemployment fell a larger-than-expected 38,800 in February to a total of 2,752,000 taking the unemployment rate to 9.8 per cent of the working population from 9.9 per cent in January.

Analysts had predicted a drop of 20,000 in the jobless total.

But retail sales fell 0.5 per cent, against analysts' expectations of a 0.2 per cent rise, heightening fears that the slight momentum behind economic recovery might not be sustained through large tax increases in April.

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De Klerk assures homeland citizens of job security

PRETORIA, Mar 17: President F W de Klerk, seeking to avert another homeland uprising, told public workers in the sovereign territories Wednesday they would have jobs after April's election, reports AP.

De Klerk also acknowledged that the ousted leader of the Bophuthatswana homeland, Lucas Mangope had been "secured" by South African troops for his own safety. But he denied Mangope's claim he was under house arrest.

"Our approach all along has been that we were concerned about his safety and that in the turmoil and the volatility... it would be in his best interests to be very careful in his movements," de Klerk told a news conference.

De Klerk said after Mangope complained to him personally, the government assured him he was free to leave his home in Bophuthatswana.

A civil uprising by homeland citizens demanding immediate pension payouts in case they lost their jobs after the election. The 10 tribal homelands created under apartheid will lose their self-governing status after the vote and be reincorporated into South Africa.

Civil servants in the Ciskei homeland embarked on a similar strike last week and warned of widespread unrest unless their pensions were paid. The Ciskei government late Wednesday agreed to pay the pensions but rejected demands for an interim administrator to take over the homeland until the election.

At the wide-ranging news conference, de Klerk also referred to the threat from right-wing whites opposed to April's election.

The uprising, which killed



F W de Klerk

homeland's status as an independent state.

The uprising, which killed

Congress being asked for \$ 112m USAID programme in Bangladesh

Future US aid to support development, stability in S Asia

WASHINGTON, Mar 17: The Clinton Administration's plan for future assistance to South Asia, including the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, the suspension of US aid to Pakistan and reports of human rights abuses in India.