



Fishermen facing acute problems at Natore

NATORE, Feb 10: Some 31,000 fishermen families in the district and Chalan Beel area have lost interest in their ancestral profession due to their multifarious problems, says UNB.

Their problems include scarcity and high prices of fishing materials and lack of fund. Dumping of wastes, violating the Fish Preservation Law-1950, in the river Narad from Natore Sugar Mills and Jamuna Distillery has also worsened their sufferings.

Pisciculture in six thanas of the district and in the Chalan Beel areas has been hampered as the number of water bodies dried up following drought. Situation in the 40 kilometers long Narad river is also affecting the pisciculture in the region.

Meanwhile, the fish releasing programme of the Fisheries Department at 'Hali Beel' of Natore and Naogon districts under the third fisheries project has been closed following dissatisfaction of the main donor agency, World Bank.

Japan's economy maintains mild recovery trend

TOKYO, Feb 10: Japan's government today maintained its assessment that the nation's economy is on a mild recovery trend, while stressing the need for close attention to the effect of last month's devastating earthquake, reports AFP.

"We need to pay full attention to the effect of the earthquake disaster on the economy," Economic Planning Agency (EPA) Director-General Masahiko Komura said in a cabinet meeting as he submitted the agency's monthly economic report.

Komura specifically noted a slowdown in economic activity in quake-stricken western Japan, as well as rises in some commodity and service prices in the region.

In the monthly report, taken as an official government verdict on the economic condition, the agency retained the view that the economy is maintaining a trend of mild recovery.

Zimbabwe to get £15m from UK

HARARE, Feb 10: Britain yesterday agreed to grant Zimbabwe 198 million zim dollars (15 million pounds) in balance of payments support for the country's five-year Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP), says Xinhua.

The money will be used to reimburse oil and fuel importation costs incurred by the national oil company of Zimbabwe.

The agreement, which brings British aid for the ESAP to 660 million zim dollars, was signed here today by British High Commissioner Richard Daless and Zimbabwean Senior Finance Secretary Charles Kuwaza.

Kuwaza said the assistance came at a crucial time as the government has taken bold measures on parastatal and civil service reform and restrained state expenditure.

CPA may take lease of 4 straddle carriers soon

CHITTAGONG, Feb 10: In the backdrop of equipment crisis, Chittagong Port Authority is expected to take lease of four straddle carriers from private parties shortly.

The authorities decided to take such a lease from private parties in order to expedite the handling of container cargo at Multi Purpose Berths (MPB) known as container terminals.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Port authority secured approval to this effect from the Ministry of

Shipping to hire equipment from private organisations to bring the two MPBs under full operation.

Rapid growth of containers at Chittagong Port prompted the authorities to go for such a deal to cope with the present need, they added.

According to official reports, Chittagong Port witnesses a 30 per cent growth of containers every year as most of the consignees prefer container service for better transportation of their cargo. Port sources say, process is

now underway to float tenders shortly for taking lease of those four straddle carriers.

Presently, only four straddle carriers are being used at MPB which, officials say, are quite insufficient to cope with the rush.

Moreover, the two MPB container terminals at this port even after formal inauguration by the end of 1993, still could not be brought under fullest operation due to shortage of equipments, port sources said.

Nishat Jute Mills produces 3690 MT of jute goods in 7 months

TONGI, Feb 10: Nishat Jute Mills produced 3690 metric tonnes of jute goods during the first seven months of the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The production is 271 metric tonnes up than that of the corresponding period of the preceding year.

This was disclosed while the Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah was visiting the mills on Thursday.

Later, at a meeting, the minister urged the workers to work hard to boost production for expediting the country's economic development.

Weekly analysis DSE index down 2.20 pc

By Sohel Manzur

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) closed last week with the main index 2.20 per cent down from the previous week, although turnover in both volume and value increased significantly.

The decline in the main index was attributed to the fasting month of Ramadan when the market usually remains dull while the upward trend in transactions were analysed by the dealers as an outcome of active buying by some foreign and local traders in view of the price fall.

The bourse started Saturday with 835.58 points after a slight decline and closed at 838.00 points at the previous weekend.

Transactions of shares almost doubled last week compared to the previous week's turnover, although trading remained confined within only a few scrips.

DSE member Hemayet Uddin Ahmed said the increase in turnover was due to active buying by some foreign investors after the fall in the prices of some blue chip shares like Bengal Carbide and

Eastern Housing. Some local investors were also waiting at the sidelines for the shares prices to come down, he added.

He also said that the number of issues transacted were not very high, but the scrips like Bengal Carbide, Eastern Housing and Orion Infusion were highly traded.

A total of 627.691 shares and debentures worth 3.79 million dollars were traded during the time as against only 397.367 shares and debentures worth 1.98 million dollars of the previous week.

Market capitalisation of the listed securities started last week with Tk 40.39 billion and closed at Tk 39.59 billion on Thursday as against Tk 40.46 billion at the previous weekend.

Hemayet, who is also a former Chairman of the DSE, said there were latent trailing pressure in the market, which pushed the share transactions up.

Ambee Pharma, Monno Ceramic, BGIC, Senali Paper, Quasem Drycells and Beximco Ltd. were the other highly traded issues of the week.

35,600 acres of land used to burn bricks at Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Feb 10: Some 35,600 acres of lands of Manikganj, Tangail and Dhaka districts are being used by the brick field owners to burn bricks causing adverse effects to the environment, reports UNB.

According to a survey conducted by an NGO, the brick field owners are indiscriminately using trees the fields as fire woods despite a government ban.

The report said that fertility of the lands are also declining due to adverse effect of the brick-fields.

It said poor farmers of the areas have been compelled to mortgage their lands to the brick-field owners as normal production in the lands fell sharply.

The brick-field owners, however, alleged that they were using fire woods due to scarcity and high price of coals.

Vietnam resumes rice exports this month

HANOI, Feb 10: Vietnam resumed rice exports this month after the local market recovered from four months of disruption caused by floods and typhoons government officials said yesterday, reports Reuter.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet told the Agriculture and Trade Ministries last October to cut or delay rice export contracts to stabilise the domestic market after floods hit the Mekong Delta rice growing area and typhoons damaged crops further north.

We have resumed rice exports from February, and priority is being given to contracts signed last year. But prices must be adjusted in conformity with the current international price an agriculture ministry official told Reuters.

With Tet (the lunar new year) over now, the local food market is stabilising, the official said.

Local food prices rose sharply during Tet, which lasted from January 30 to February 2 this year, as households stocked up with rice for holiday feasting.

Vietnam is the world's third largest rice exporter after the United States and Thailand.

It shipped 2.2 million tonnes of the staple food in 1994, including unofficial exports across the border to China, estimated by officials at 200,000 to 300,000 tonnes a year.

The government last month banned the unofficial rice exports carried into China in small quantities by traders on foot, bicycle or perhaps trucks.

US to implement stockbrokers ethics training

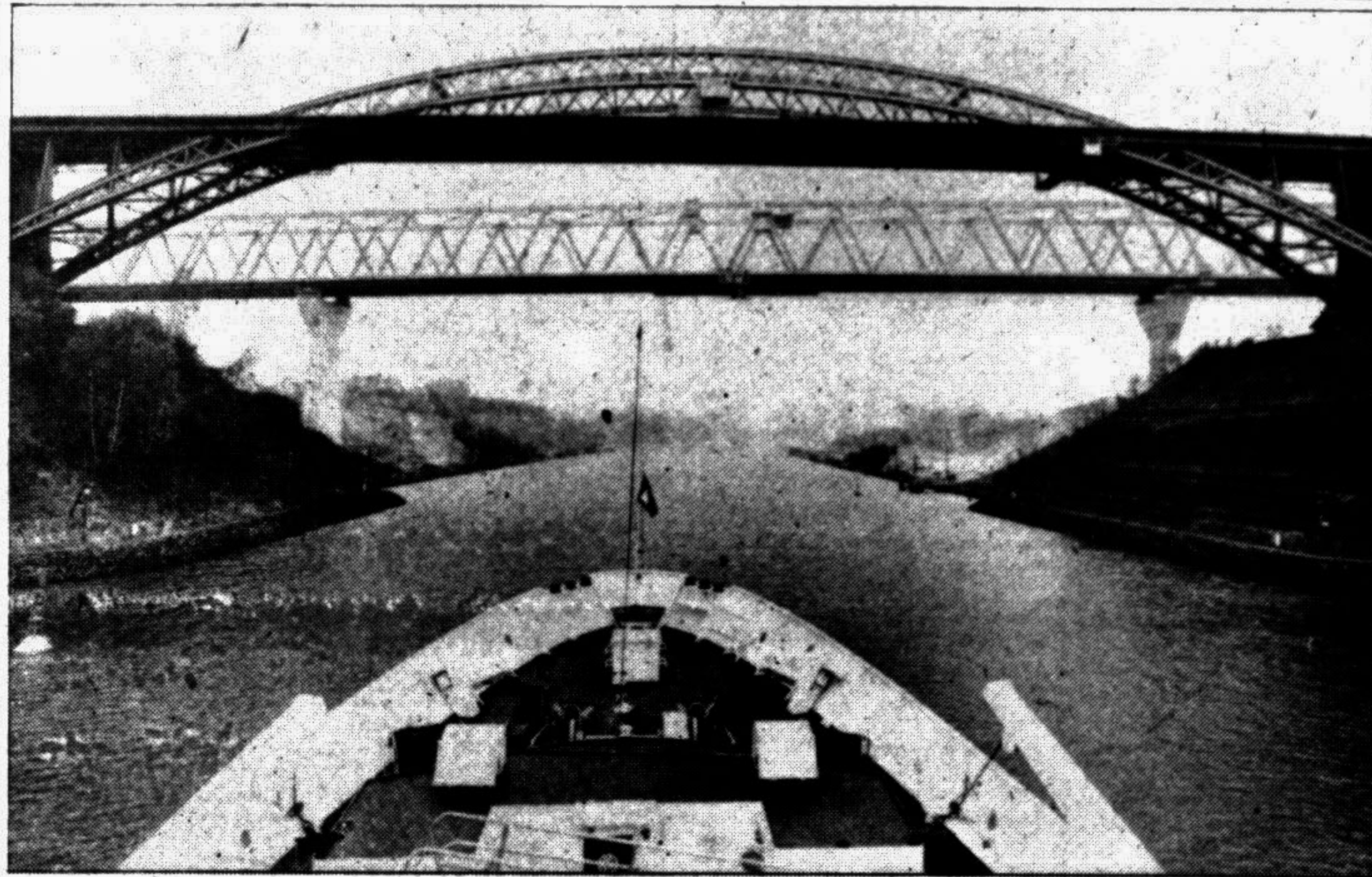
NEW YORK, Feb 10: The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has approved a programme of regular training in regulatory and ethical issues for US stockbrokers, says Xinhua.

The programme, to begin on July 1, requires brokers to travel on their second, fifth and 10th anniversaries in the securities business to one of 55 national facilities for computer-based regulatory and ethics training. Brokers who have been in the business for 10 years and have spotless disciplinary record about 17 per cent of a total of 485,000 will not have to undergo the training.

In addition to the ethics training, brokers will receive regular courses at their firms to educate them about internal sales practices and the products their firms sell to investors. Such internal training will begin in January 1996.

The two-part programme was developed by the SEC in cooperation with securities firms as well as self-regulatory groups such as the New York Stock Exchange and the National Association of Securities Dealers. Executives at the firms say the training is intended to reassure investors about their brokers' competence and ethical grounding.

The training programme is part of a three-part strategy undertaken by the SEC to weed out unethical or overly aggressive stockbrokers, said SEC Chairman Arthur Levitt.



Passage through the Kiel Canal between the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. The much-used sea lane will be 100 years in 1995.

TSE's main index rebounds after three-day fall, dollar slips

TOKYO, Feb 10: The Tokyo Stock Exchange's main index rebounded moderately Friday after a three-day fall, while the US dollar slipped against the Japanese yen, reports AP.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average gained 191.80 points, or 1.06 per cent, closing the week at 18,291.35. Before Friday's rebound, the key index had fallen a total of 567.68 points in the three previous sessions.

Share prices were moderately lower on arbitrage selling early in the session, but renewed buying of some construction issues reversed the course spurred, dealers said, by hopes for reconstruction from the devastating January 17 earthquake.

"Construction issues will remain one of the few attractive sectors to investors for some time to come on increasing demand for restoration," said Katsuhiko Kodama, deputy manager of the equity department at Marusan Securities.

The quake leveled much of the Kobe area in western Japan, killing more than 5,200 people and destroying tens of thousands of buildings.

The government has yet to announce reconstruction plans or costs of rebuilding.

The Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the first section was up 13.58 points, or 0.96 per cent, to 1,426.29. The TOPIX lost 4.33 points, or 0.30 per cent, to 1,419.42 Thursday.

An estimated 350 million shares changed hands on the first section, up from Thursday's 340 million shares. Advancing issues outnumbered decliners 574 to 386, with 180 unchanged.

Meanwhile, the dollar was trading at 98.79 yen at 3:30 pm (0630 GMT), down 0.03 yen from late Thursday trading in Tokyo and below late New York trading overnight at 98.80 yen.

The dollar traded at 98.83 yen in early Tokyo trading, and then moved as low as 98.66 yen. Spot trading totalled 5.12 billion dollars, from Thursday's 5.78 billion dollars.

Some dealers said players avoided significant moves prior to the release of the US producer price index for January, slated for release later Friday, a key barometer of the direction of the American economy and interest rates.

The price of the benchmark No. 164 10-year Japanese government bonds closed at 96.53 yen, down 0.09 yen from Thursday's close. Their yield rose to 4.655 per cent from 4.640 per cent.

Huge natural gas found in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, Feb 10: A deposit of 68 billion cubic metres of natural gas has been discovered at the Kalub locality of region 5, southeastern Ethiopia, says Xinhua.

This was announced on Wednesday by Jihad Abekoyas, General Manager of the Kalub Gas Share Company.

He said that the quantity was comparable with those in the USA and other countries of great potential.

The General Manager also disclosed a similar deposit of 40 billion cubic metres of natural gas had been found 80 kilometers west of Kalub not long ago.

He said that an 86 million US dollars fund has been earmarked for the tapping of the mineral, in addition to the 66.31 million US dollars granted by the World Bank in the form of loans.

The actual production will begin after 30 months with an estimated annual output of, among others, 65,000 tons of benzene, butane, kerosene and naptha, according to the Manager.

The natural gas discoveries will contribute to a reduction of 12 per cent of its annual foreign exchange spending, the Manager said.

China earns over \$7b from tourism in '94

BEIJING, Feb 10: China earned more than 7 billion dollars from foreign visitors in 1994 and has become the world's eighth most popular tourist destination, the China Business Daily reported today, says Reuter.

In 1994, China earned 7.23 billion dollars from tourism up from 4.68 billion US dollars in 1993, with 43.685 million visitors, up 5.2 per cent from 1993, it said.

The number of tourists joining organised tours totalled 7.64 million, up 8.7 per cent. Most visitors are Chinese from Hong Kong and Macau visiting friends and relatives, but they usually spend less than foreign tourists since they stay in homes, not hotels.

The number of Asians visiting China in 1994 rose 30 per cent from the 1993 figure, with the number of Japanese and South Korean up 25 per cent and 79 per cent. The number of American tourists rose 17.5 per cent, the paper said.

US workers achieve 2.2pc productivity gains

WASHINGTON, Feb 10: The productivity of workers in US non-farm businesses rose 2.2 per cent last year, a strong performance relative to the average of the past 10 years, says a USIS press release.

Nonfarm business productivity, or output per hour worked, rose 2.2 per cent in 1994 as output climbed 5.2 per cent and the number of hours worked increased 2.9 per cent, the Department of Labour reported February 8.

Unit labour costs were up 0.9 per cent for the year, the smallest annual increase since 1964.

The increase in output was the largest in ten years and the gain in hourly compensation - 3.1 per cent in 1994 - was the smallest since 1949, the department said.

During the fourth quarter, productivity was up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.8 per cent, with output rising at a rate of 5.4 per cent and hours increasing at a rate of 3.6 per cent.

বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন
Bangladesh Shipping Corporation
MV Banglar Kiron (Voy. No. 43-OW)

The above vessel will load cargo for Mombasa, Dar-es-Salaam and other East African ports subject to minimum indcement of 1000 MT each port as per following tentative loading schedule:

	ETA	ETD
Mongla	12-02-95	20-02-95

All valued shippers/buyers/patrons are requested to extend their support to Bangladesh Shipping Corporation by offering timely booking/nomination in favour of above vessel.

For space booking and any other information please contact in the following address:

DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	KHULNA
28/1, Toyenbee Circular Road Motijheel Commercial Area Dhaka-1000	"BSC Bhaban" Saltgola Road Chittagong	KDA Building (2nd floor) Lower Jessore Road, Khulna
Phone : 250430, 258378 & 251455.	Phone : 505327 & 503790	Phone : 22326, 21142 & 23702
Telex : 632204 & 642231	Telex : 66277, 66253 & 66359 BSC BJ	Telex : 633327 BSC BJ
BSC BJ	Fax No. : 031-710506	Fax No. : 041-22643
Fax No. : 02-863950	031-501288	

Aussie Dy PM denies harsh budget cuts

CANBERRA, Feb 10: Australian Deputy Prime Minister Brian Howe today denied the government would adopt the harsh budget cuts proposed in a set of fiscal options apparently leaked to the parliamentary opposition, reports Reuter.

"There are various papers of very limited status that circulate around the place and frankly there are a whole range of proposals that have never been considered and would never be considered by a labour government," Howe told reporters.

"We have not put up and would never put up proposals such as terminating unemployment benefits after nine

months or not paying sole parents' pensions when their youngest child reaches 12."

Opposition leader John Howard and his Liberal-National Coalition say they have received a leaked copy of options for spending cuts prepared by the finance department.

However revealed some of the options in parliament this week.

He said the options, typically cuts to social security that would be politically impossible to implement, would save a 21 billion dollars (15.6 billion US dollars) a year. Economists say the government must save to meet fiscal targets.

DPRK seeks \$1b tech aid from US

WASHINGTON, Feb 10: North Korea is asking the United States to provide up to 1 billion dollars in additional equipment even as it resists accepting two South Korean-designed reactors as part of a deal to stop its suspicious nuclear programme, US officials said Wednesday, reports AP.

The request includes a fuel-fabrication plant, power-transmission lines and new simulators, the officials said. "It's not a deal-breaker," one said. "The real story is where the reactors come from, not haggling over details."

Unless North Korea accepts South Korea's construction of the two new reactors, valued at about 4 billion dollars, the agreement cannot go forward, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, the State Department spokeswoman,

Christine Shelly, said North Korea was resisting the South Korean reactors on both technical and political grounds.

"We have always taken the position that the only viable option requires South Korean-type reactors, because South Korea is the only country willing to play a central role in financing the light-water reactor project," she said.

Declining to specify additional items that the North Koreans are demanding, the spokeswoman said: "We have no intention of agreeing to the add-ons, which are outside of the normal scope of supply or which would significantly increase the cost of the project."

However, she went on, "we will carefully consider inclusion of those facilities which are necessary and desirable for safe and efficient operation of the reactors."