

Asia may become rice importer after 2005

LOS BANOS, Philippines, Feb 15: Asia may become a net rice importer after 2005 as it feels the pinch of liberalized global trade under the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), an expert said yesterday, reports AFP.

But Prabhu Pingali, an agricultural economist with the Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) said the rain-fed rice lands of Myanmar and Cambodia are expected to play key roles in the global equation.

While he warned that massive investments into these civil war-ravaged nations would depend much on political changes, he said these changes were expected to occur within the next 20 years.

Myanmar, ruled by a military junta, is expected to boost production tenfold to three million tons if it adopted an open market system, while Cambodia would increase output to one million tons.

British secretary begins visit to India

NEW DELHI, Feb 15: British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Michael Heseltine began a two-day visit to India Tuesday with a call to expand business links and strengthen a two-year-old trade partnership, officials said, reports AFP.

US move to end new banana quota system

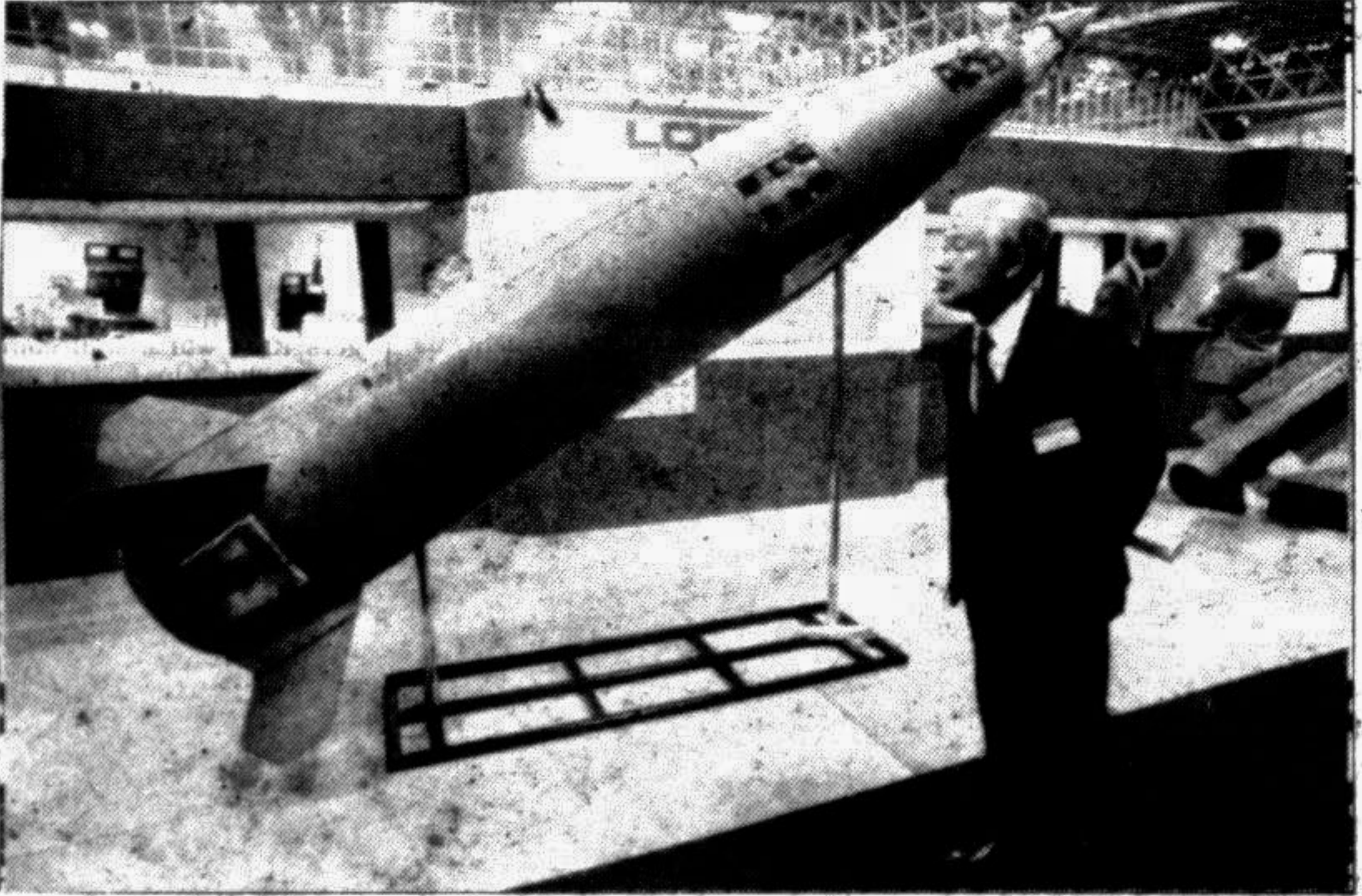
WASHINGTON, Feb 15: Using a controversial trade law, the United States is taking on both the European Union and Latin America in a bid to end a new banana quota system that hurts US firms involved in the banana trade, reports AFP.

N Korea steps up sugar imports

SEOUL, Feb 15: North Korea has stepped up imports of sugar, apparently to be used by de facto leader Kim Jong-Il's birthday gifts to loyal party members, South Korean dealers and reports said yesterday, reports AFP.

US dollar slips in Tokyo

TOKYO, Feb 15: The US dollar slipped against the Japanese yen on Wednesday, reports AP.



A prospective buyer walks past a US made army tactical missile yesterday during the opening of the Japan International Aerospace Exhibition '95 at Makuhari Messe. The five-day trade exhibition gives aerospace industries an opportunity to exchange technology and trade business.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority. Text includes: 'Extension of Bidding Time', 'The date for submission and opening of Bids for Procurement of Inland Pontoon Facilities'.

Advertisement for Vietnam sets rice export goal. Text includes: 'HANOI, Feb 15: Vietnam set an export goal of two million tons of rice this year, down slightly from last year's 2.2 million tons'.

Large advertisement for Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority. Includes text: 'পণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার', 'নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়', 'পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি'.

Advertisement for Russia should do all to fight inflation. Text includes: 'MOSCOW, Feb 15: Russian Economic Minister Yevgeny Yasin said yesterday that Russia should do all it can to fight inflation in order to attract investment, reports Xinhua'.



US President Bill Clinton (L) talks to reporters as his chief economic adviser Laura Tyson looks on at the White House in Washington on Monday. Clinton sent his annual economic report to the US Congress earlier Monday and said that America's economic prospects have improved considerably in the last two years and will continue to improve through 1996.

Exchange Rates

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies including US Dollar, GBP, DM, F Franc, S Doll, S Franc, Jap Yen, Pak Rupee, Iranian Riyal, etc. Columns include Currency, Selling, and Buying rates.

Shipping Intelligence

Table titled 'CHITTAGONG PORT' showing berth position and performance of vessels as on 15.2.95. Columns include Berth No, Name of vessels, Cargo, Local agent, Date of arrival, and Leaving.

Dhaka Stock Prices

Table showing Dhaka Stock Prices at the close of trading on February 15, 1995. Includes DSE All Share Price Index, Market Capitalization, and a list of companies with their share prices.

Text discussing the trading on the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and the DSE All Share Price Index.

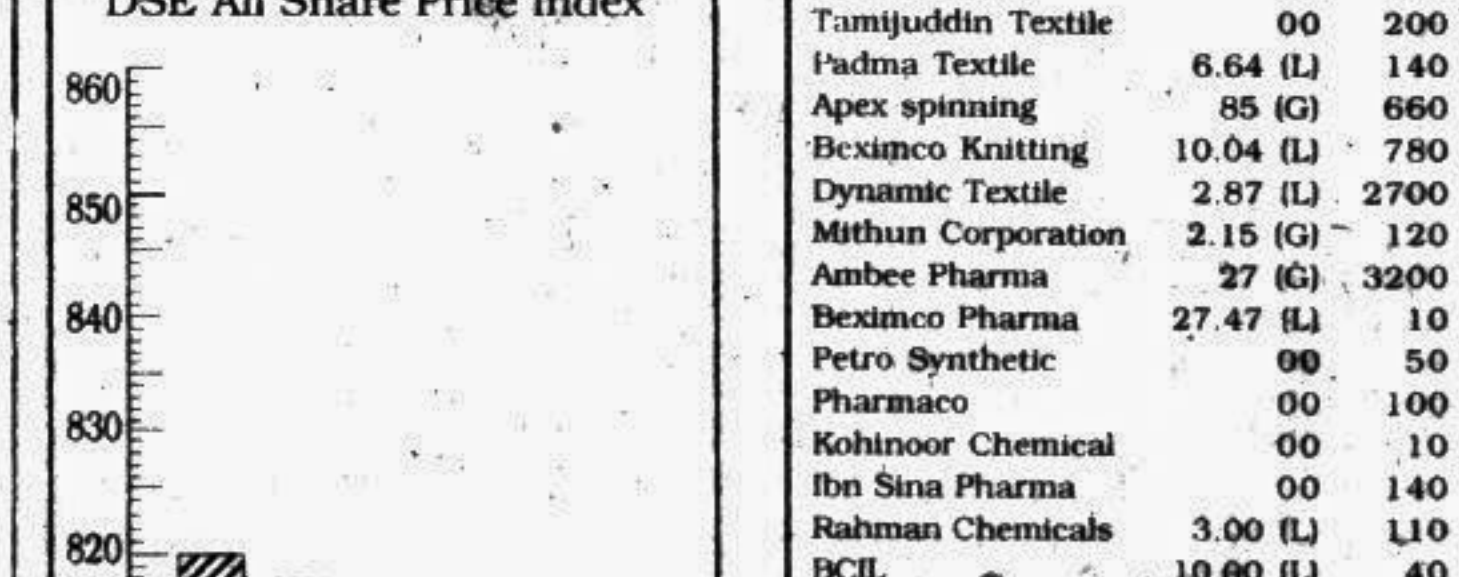


Table titled 'DSE Shares and Debentures' listing various companies and their share prices.

Table titled 'PHARMACEUTICALS & CHEMICALS (22)' listing various pharmaceutical and chemical companies and their share prices.