

Tokyo will freeze loan to Iran

TOKYO, May 13: Japan will freeze the second installment of a yen loan to Iran until after a Group of Seven (G7) industrialised nations' summit next month, in response to a US call, a major newspaper said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Yomiuri Shimbun said Tokyo would decide whether to extend the yen loan to Iran after discussions on the issue among G7 members at the summit in Halifax, Canada.

A Japanese foreign ministry official refused to confirm the report, only saying that it is "a matter under consideration."

The G7 groups Britain, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Japan and the United States.

The Yomiuri said that Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) was considering requesting Japanese oil trading companies not to "seek out" Iranian crude oil. Japan has already offered 38.6 billion yen (460 million dollars) in loans to Iran as a first installment of a loan package for a hydroelectric power station and had planned a second of 45 billion yen last summer. It was postponed because of pressure from Washington.

India opposes US trade sanctions against Iran

NEW DELHI, May 13: India is opposed to the US trade sanctions against Iran, a foreign office spokesman said Tuesday, reports AP.

India and Iran have been forging closer economic and political links and the two countries signed important deals when President Hashemi Rafsanjani visited New Delhi last month.

Iran has offered India a gateway into the emerging Central Asian market by providing a transit route and port facilities for Indian exports into the region.

Japan to take retaliatory steps if US imposes trade sanctions

TOKYO, May 13: Japan turned up the heat yesterday in its escalating trade row with the United States, hinting it might take retaliatory steps of its own including trade sanctions, reports Reuter.

An official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Japan's response to threatened US sanctions might go beyond complaining to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and involve some reciprocal action.

"Our reaction to the US list may not be limited to our complaints with the WTO. We are now studying what else we can do," the official told Reuters.

Japan has already pledged to appeal to the new world trade body as soon as Washington unveils its list of targets for

punitive tariffs in its bid to force a deal in the row over car and car parts trade.

The Japanese trade official said Japan was trying to come up with steps which did not violate WTO rules but which were threatening to Washington.

"We are looking for steps which the US would clearly recognise as sanctions," he said without elaborating further.

The United States said on Wednesday it was ready to hit Japanese imports with punitive duties and challenge Tokyo's auto market regulations and practices at the Geneva-based WTO to force open Japan's markets to US cars and parts.

The target list for US sanctions is to be published in the

next few days. Another 30 days is required by law to hear from the public and to narrow the field of targets.

Japan has roundly rejected a key US demand in the 20-month-old talks for Japanese car makers to draft fresh "voluntary" plans to buy more America-made car parts, and the battle could well end up being fought before the WTO.

US officials have made clear they are eyeing the June 15-17 summit of Group of Seven (G7) rich nations in Halifax, Canada, as an important date for settling the long-running row.

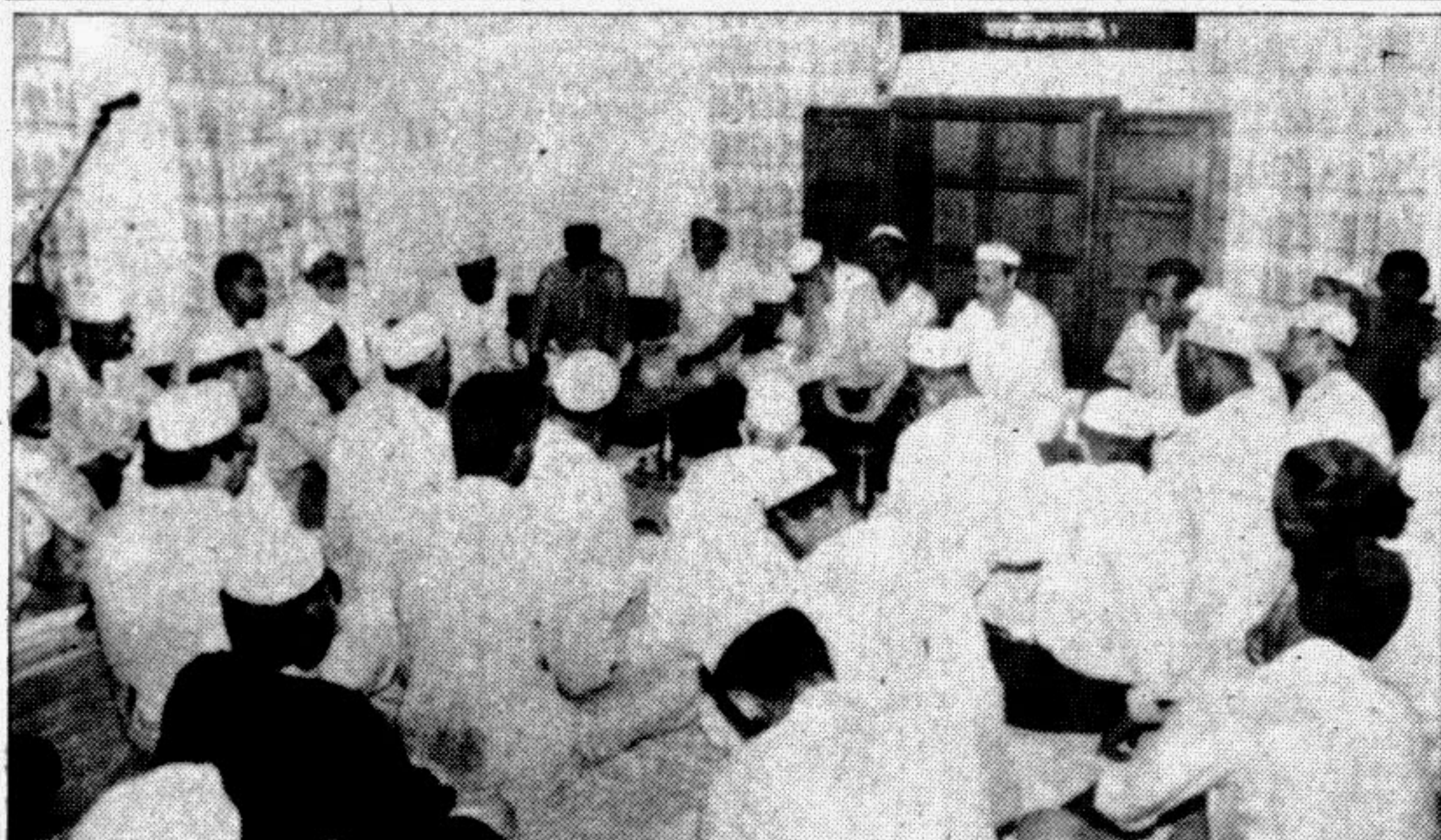
"Halifax would provide an opportunity for the Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the United States to discuss these matters and I hope it might be the occasion

for resolving them," US Secretary of State Warren Christopher told reporters in Kiev, where President Bill Clinton was on a state visit.

"There will be an opportunity at Halifax before the sanctions go into effect to have a discussion at the highest level," Christopher said.

Both sides took pains this week to state that the trade row would not sour overall US-Japan ties, but analysts were far from certain it could be settled anytime soon.

"It's a political issue, but a resolution would be very difficult at this point unless the United States gives up its demand for voluntary purchase plans," said Takeshi Kondo, Chairman of Itochu Political and Economic Research Institute.



Prof. Md. Razaul Karim, MP, Chairman of Bangladesh Jute Association, speaking at the condolence meeting of late G M Bhuiyan, Joint Secretary, BJA, at Narayanang BJA office on Tuesday. Md. Rezaul Karim, Vice-Chairman, BJA is seen on his right.

Malaysia's building sector set to be biggest local revenue earner

KUALA LUMPUR, May 13: Malaysia's construction industry, crucial to the nation's dream of becoming a developed state in 25 years, is set to be the biggest local revenue earner this year, a government agency said yesterday, reports AFP.

The building sector is expected to chalk an additional 33.9 per cent in earnings for 1995, compared to the 15.4 per cent expansion forecast for the transport division, the second largest portion of the Malaysian business pie, the statistics department said.

The department said 126 companies which responded to the survey did not anticipate any operational constraints this year.

Consumer prices rise in US

WASHINGTON, May 13: Consumer prices increased by 0.4 per cent in April, the biggest jump since August of last year, the Labour Department said yesterday, reports AFP.

The price increases registered in a number of areas including food and energy were certain to raise concerns about inflationary pressures gathering steam in the economy.

The 0.4 per cent gain in the consumer price index for April was double the 0.2 per cent increase in March and was the biggest jump since a similar 0.4 per cent rise last August.

Analysts were expecting a 0.3 per cent increase for April. Many economists insisted that despite the price increase, a slowdown in economic growth could help inflation in check.

"Our current projections continue to expect the current surge in prices to be temporary," said Donald Ratajczak, Director of the Economy Forecasting Unit at Georgia State University.

The rise in the price index was attributed to a 1.2 per cent increase in food costs, in particular fruit and vegetable prices due to server flooding in California growing areas.

It was the biggest jump in food prices since February 1990, with 80 per cent of the surge blamed on a 7.5 per cent rise in fruit and vegetable prices.

Lettuce prices rose a record 113.1 per cent while tomato prices were up 15.6 per cent.

Energy prices rose 0.4 per cent in April after falling 0.5 per cent in March.

Gasoline was up 0.6 per cent, the biggest gain since November.

Murdoch makes \$2.8b offer for 3 TV networks of Berlusconi

MILAN, Italy, May 13: Media baron Rupert Murdoch has made a 2.8 billion dollars offer for the three television networks of former Premier Silvio Berlusconi, reports said Friday, reports AP.

There was no official confirmation of serious talks between the two media tycoons, but the timing of the reported News Corp offer comes at a sensitive time.

A June 11 referendum question, if approved by voters, would ban a single owner from having more than one national TV network. It would force Berlusconi to sell two of the three stations in his Fininvest SPA group. It could also hamper Murdoch's plans if he seeks to keep the stations broadcasting nationally.

Another referendum question would ban advertisement from interrupting films on television.

The three Fininvest stations attract nearly half of the Italian TV viewership.

When Berlusconi entered politics last year, he promised to sever ties with the media and retail holdings but never followed through. His 8-month old conservative government collapsed in December.

The Italian financial newspaper Il Sole-24 Ore said Berlusconi will decide whether to accept the Murdoch offer by the end of the weekend.

According to the paper, Murdoch's Australian based company offered to buy 51 per cent of the networks and the advertising division immediately. Murdoch would then buy the remainder once certain regulatory issues in Italy are resolved and the results of the referendum are known.

Britain to privatise 8 nuclear plants next yr

LONDON, May 13: The eight most modern nuclear plants in Britain will be privatized next year, the government said Tuesday, but opponents complained industry will profit at the expense of taxpayers, says AP.

A holding company will be created to operate the stations now run by Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, while some older stations and their liabilities will be retained by the government.

"In private ownership, the holding company will be free to compete, both domestically and overseas," Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine told a sparsely attended session of the House of Commons.

Britain's general union, the GMB, which represents about 6,000 workers in the nuclear industry, blasted the "crass and ill-considered proposal."

The opposition Labor Party said it would fight the plan.

Labour politicians acknowledged private electric bills could fall, but said the taxpayers would end up paying out more than they saved as the government pays to decommission nuclear plants.

"The private sector gets a cut-price bargain — the taxpayer gets the bill," said Labour's spokesman on trade and industry matters, law-maker Jack Cunningham.

"We have already seen the unashamed greed of senior executives in the water, electricity and gas industries ripping off the public," GMB National Secretary Donald Macgregor, told delegates to the union's energy and utilities conference Tuesday in Manchester.

"This government is now going to make the same mistakes in the nuclear industry."

Unemployment up in major countries

WASHINGTON, May 13: Over the past 20 years, nine major countries have learned how to hold down the prices that consumers pay but among them only the United States has cut unemployment sharply, the US government reports, says AP.

In addition to the United States, the Bureau of Labour Statistics distributed comparative figures this week for Canada, Japan, France, West Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and Britain.

In 1975, under President Ford, the US unemployment rate reached a high of 8.5 per cent, more than in any of the eight other countries. Canada was next with 6.9 per cent. In Japan the official rate was only 1.9 per cent and in West Germany not much higher: 3.4 per cent.

By the first three months of this year, US joblessness was down to 5.5 per cent, while Japan's had crept up to

ward 3 per cent and West Germany's had nearly doubled to 6.4 per cent.

"Unemployment is likely to remain high in many countries, particularly in Europe," the International Monetary Fund said last month in its semi-annual "World Economic Outlook."

Other countries showed even greater increases of unemployment — persistent problem that has been the subject of repeated international conferences.

In France and Italy joblessness has almost tripled over two decades: from 4.2 per cent to more than 12 per cent now. In Britain it has risen from 4.6 per cent to 8.7.

Countries do their calculations in different ways. The Bureau of Labour Statistics converts them to make comparable for study purposes with those of the United States.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Facilities Department, Ministry of Education
Bogra Zone, Bogra

Tender Notice

Notice No. 68(T)/ADB/N.G.I.C./FUR/XEN/F.D/BOG/94-95 Dated: 30-04-95.

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No. 2908 from the Enlisted Contractors/Firms of Facilities Department of Category A-1 and also from the bonafide furniture manufacturers for supply of furniture to selected Non-Govt. Intermediate colleges under Higher Secondary Education project, (ADB Loan No. 1123-BAN (SF)).

1. Particulars works:

Sl. No.	Name of district	Name of Thana	Name of Institution	Completion of time on (month)	Remarks
1.	Bogra	Sadar	Kamoruiddin Islamia Technical College	3 (three)	
2.	Bogra	Dupchanchia	Jahanara Kumruzzan College	3 (three)	
3.	Bogra	Gabatali	Tarunirhat College	3 (three)	
4.	Sirajganj	Shahajadpur	Kortoya College	3 (three)	
5.	Joypurhat	Sadar	Shahid Zia College	3 (three)	
6.	Joypurhat	Punchbibi	Shiratti College	3 (three)	

2. Last date of purchasing tender schedule: 22-5-95 (During office hours).

3. Date and time of receiving tender: 24-5-95 (Up to 12.00 Noon).

4. Date and time of opening tender in presence of the bidder's if there be any: 24-5-95 (At 12.30 PM).

5. Tender schedule may be purchase from: The office of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Bogra/Rajshahi/Rangpur/Dinajpur zone and from the office of the Assistant Engineer, Facilities Department, Bogra/Sirajganj/Joypurhat District.

6. Places where tender will be received: At the office of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Bogra/Rajshahi/Rangpur/Dinajpur zone and also by the representative of Deputy Commissioner and the Assistant Engineer, Facilities Department at the office of the Deputy Commissioner Bogra/Sirajganj/Joypurhat District.

7. Earnest money: Each tender must accompany a Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Nationalised/scheduled Bank of Bangladesh for an amount of 40% (Two) of quoted amount as earnest money in favour of THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, FACILITIES DEPARTMENT, BOGRA ZONE, BOGRA.

8. Price of each set of tender schedule: Tk. 400/00 (Four hundred) only (non-refundable).

9. Drawing and Relevant Papers: Drawing and other relevant papers may be seen from the concerned offices on all working days during office hours.

10. Instructions:

- Inscription of any additional clause in the tender by the tenderer will render his tender to summarily rejection.
- The tenderer will quote item wise rate both in figure and in words.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid at any time prior to award of contract without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- The successful tenderer/tenderers after manufacturing the furniture shall deliver the same to selected Non-govt. Intermediate college (S).
- At the time of executing the formal agreement the tenderer/tenderers shall have to submit a performance guarantee equivalent to 8% (eight per cent) of the quoted amount from any scheduled bank in favour of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Bogra Zone, Bogra. The performance guarantee will be returned after satisfactory completion of work.
- The successful tenderers on issue of letter of intent will be required to execute a formal agreement in triplicate with the concerned zonal Executive Engineer on tender documents on Cash Payment of Tk. 400/00 (four hundred) only (non-refundable) for each set of document.
- For the Contractor, other than enlisted contractors of this department, tender documents may be obtained on producing the following documents:
 - Up to date Trade License of the Firm.
 - Up to date Income Tax payment Certificate.
 - "Vat" Registration Certificate.
- Work order and completion certificate (duly) attested by an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer for supplying of furniture amounting to Tk. 2.00 lacs in a single work order of any Government/Semi-Government/Organization.

Md. Emdadul Hoque
Executive Engineer
Facilities Department
Bogra Zone, Bogra

DPP-11618-7/5
C-743

Ethiopian economic growth may rise to 5.6 pc this yr

ADDIS ABABA, May 13: Economic growth in Ethiopia, recovering from 17 years of Marxism and civil war, dropped last year to 1.3 per cent because of drought but is expected to rise to 5.6 per cent this year, its Finance Minister said.

Alemayehu Daba told Reuters GDP growth reached about seven per cent in the 1992/93 July-June fiscal year but was hit by last year's drought because Ethiopia relies on agriculture for 50 per cent of its GDP.

He said reforms since the fall of dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam in 1991 helped public enterprises to operate at 70 per cent of capacity in 1992/93 compared with between 10 and 30 per cent in 1991.

Economic reform and reconstruction from war damage which began in October 1992 were aimed at encouraging the private sector as the major thrust for Ethiopian development.

"Our major aim for the future is to encourage agriculture in all its activities. If agricultural productivity rises then the whole economy will improve because it is dependent on agriculture," he added.

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in impoverished Africa and Alemayehu said that because of its reliance on agriculture its growth would always depend on the weather.

He said inflation, which was single digit in 1992/93 despite a large devaluation, rose to between 13 and 14 per cent in 1994/95 because

of the drought from around seven per cent the previous year.

He said the World Bank target for inflation this year was 11 per cent and Ethiopia was meeting virtually all its targets under a structural adjustment programme agreed with the bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) which started in 1992.

He said coffee exports, Ethiopia's main foreign exchange earner, were targeted at 100,000 tonnes in the 1994 crop year and he believed 90 per cent of that would be achieved because of strong coffee prices.

Ethiopia exported some 78,000 tonnes of coffee last year and is expected to produce between 200,000 and 250,000 tonnes of coffee this year, the minister added.

He said the transitional government, which held Ethiopia's first multi-party election on Sunday after nearly four years in power, had taken drastic steps to increase government revenue.

He said two years ago taxes were about 30 per cent of GDP while now they were about 70 per cent with a 90 per cent target.

Collection had increased partly because some taxes were the sole responsibility of Ethiopia's nine new regions.

Ethiopia's foreign debt now stood at 4.4 billion dollars owed to international agencies and bilateral creditors plus three billion roubles owed to Russia for military hardware bought by Mengistu.

Republicans push for more spending cuts in US budget

WASHINGTON, May 13: The Clinton administration defended both its foreign aid budget and the way it administers aid Tuesday, trying to ward off Republican legislation that would cut spending and dismantle the government's foreign aid agency, reports AP.

The Republican head of the House International Relations Committee, Rep. Benjamin Gilman, said he wished there could be more cuts.

His legislation makes major changes in budget levels so as to direct very scarce resources toward the highest priorities. Gilman said, "I wish we could do more. We'll do what we can."

Richard M. Moose, under-secretary of state for management, said the Republican proposal would cut 2.8 billion dollars from the \$8.4 billion dollar asked by President Clinton for the US government's foreign operations. "Shortchanging this function — which constitutes no

more than 1.3 per cent of total federal spending — will inevitably lead to greater costs in future years," he predicted.

Moose said reductions would especially hit aid to poor countries. US international broadcasts and US support for international bodies.

Republican members emphasized reducing the federal budget deficit.

To achieve a balanced budget by 2002, foreign expenditures are going to have to be cut by 25 billion dollars to 30 billion dollars over a seven year period said Rep. Jan Meyers, Republican from Kansas.

"Now I'd like to have you ... thing through with us how we can best accomplish that," Meyers said to administration witnesses.

Said Rep. Donald M. Payne, a Democrat: "I don't know how much you can cut out of 1 per cent."

Gilman said he wanted the committee to finish work on it by Friday, so that it would be ready for action by the full House. The amount of actual spending will be determined later by a bill that appropriates the money to be spent.

The bill now being discussed would also put three semi-independent agencies under the direct control of Secretary of State Warren Christopher: the Agency for International Development, the US Information Agency and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. These already work under Christopher's policy direction.

Spokesmen for the three agencies each argued that the reorganization would not save money. They said Clinton's administration will oppose the change.

Shipping Intelligence							
Chittagong port							
Berth position and performance of vessels as on 13.5.95							
Birth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	
J/2	Veer Savarkar	Rice (G)	Mad	SSL	3/5	20/5	
J/3	Khanilistwa	Rice (G)	Yang	MTA	6/5	15/5	
J/4	Loyal Bird	Rice (P/G)	Kara	Cross	5/5	20/5	
J/5	Gios	Rice (P)	Kand	Liamond	23/4	15/5	
J/6	Anton Makarenko	Rice (G)	Kara	RESA	30/4	19/5	
J/7	Dafzu Maru	Rice (G)	Viza	CCNL	29/4	17/5	
J/8	Fu Ping	GI		PROG	3/5	18/5	
J/9	Jennifer Jane	R. Seed	Shan	Seacom	4/4	17/5	
J/11	Lacanian Confidence	Rice (G)	Myan	Liamond	3/5	17/5	
J/12	Mantis	Rice (P)	Kand	Liamond	30/4	20/5	
MPB/1	Banglar Sampad	Wheat (G)		LAMS	R/A	1/5	
MPB/2	Imke Wehr	Cont	Sing	APL (B)	4/5	14/5	
MPB/3	Optima	Cont	Sing	RSL	6/5	15/5	
C/1	Dae Jin	Cont	Sing	BDShip	8/5	15/5	
G/1	Stormy Annie	Clink	Chm	PSAL	28/4	16/5	
RM/4	Mikhail Stelmakh	Wheat (G)	Sout	RSA	6/5	17/5	
RM/6	Banglar Jyoti	Repair		BSC	R/A	16/5	
DM/3	Banglar Gourah	Repair		BSC	R/A	14/5	
DD/1	Indian Prestige	GISSP	Adab	RMI	30/4	16/5	
RM/8	A. Goncharov	Repair		CT	R/A	20/5	
CT/H/1	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	Mong	BSC	R/A	19/5	
JB	Nani	Whicat (P)	Darb	OWSL	29/5	10/5	
	Matsu Maru		Puke	Imacco	24/5		
Vessels due at outer anchorage:							
Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading		
Kian Ann	16/5	Mad	Anci	Bulk Urea			Rafco
State of Haryana	15/5	Mad	SSL	Rice (G)			
Omi Columbia	13/5	Sing	Ancient	Wheat (G)			
Flint	19/5		Lams				
Naph	16/5		MSA	GI (S) Coth			
Meng Yang	18/5	Sing	AMI	Cont			Sing
Ascan Enterprise	13/5		Psal	Cement			
Helen N	14/5	Sing	USTU	Cement			
Long Yun	16/5	Sing	Hibship	Cont			Sing
Sam Houston	14/5		Karna	GI			
Vishva Vikram	14/5	Mad	SSL	Rice (G)			
Meng Lee	14/5	Sing	AMI	Cont			Sing
Banglar Shobha	14/5	Mong	BSC	GL			Lattaka
Victoria	14/5	B Abbas	USTU	Bitumen			
Tug Java Gulf	14/5		Karna				
Kota Bimang	16/5	Sing	CTS	Cont			Sing
Banglar Kallist	22/5		BSC	GI			
Natar	17/5		ASLI	Rice (P)			
Abi Brigadier 4/5	16/5		BRA	Vehicles			
Banglar Robi	16/5	Sing	BSC	Cont			
Brava 2/5	17/5	Sing	JP	Vehicles			Sing
Ragad	17/5	Bank	UMTI	Rice (G)			
Meng Kiat	18/5	Sing	AMI	Cont			Sing
Banglar Moni	18/5	Sing	BSC	Cont			Sing
Michael Stenko	18/5	Col	Baridhi	Cont			Col
Banglar Kakoli	18/5	Mong	BSC	GL			UK Cont
Santia	20/5	Sing	CTS	Cont			Sing
Saadi	20/5	Mad	SSL	Rice (G)			Sing
Anno Fremantle	23/5	Sing	CTS	Cont			Sing
Irumi	18/5	Sing	RSL	Cont			Sing
Tanker due							
Wawasan Setia	16/5	Sing	MSPL		HSD		
Vessels at Kutubdia							
Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival			
Vessels in outer anchorage							
Ready on							
Tiger Sun	GI	Kaws	Prog	9/5			
Kapitan Kadeckij	C Clink	Sing	PSAL	R/A (10/5)			
Lanka Mahopala	Cont	Col	Baridhi	11/5			
Ocean Meg	Cement	Sing	PSAL	12/5			
Norbuk Namar	GI	Bomb	OWSL	13/5			
Andrey Lavrov	Sugar	Durb	Seacom	10/5			
Phaethon							
Vessels not ready							
Professor Nebesnov	I. Oil	Arje	BDship	7/5			
Banglar Baani		Mong	BSC	9/5			
Al Tabith			LAMS	R/A (12/5)			
Vessels awaiting instruction							
T Yamurenko			CT	R/A (27/5)			
Tug Bristol-18			Karna	12/5			
Dong Ming	GI	Sing	Prog	12/5			
Vessels not entering							
Dora			JP	R/A (19/4)			
AJI	Scraping	Bada	OTL	R/A (25/4)			
Tug Odin		Bada	OTL	26/4			
Mc Dermott	Scraping	Bada	OTL	30/4			
Kavkaz	Scraping	Suez	SW	2/5			
Al Himalaya Secondo	Scraping	Sing	ARI	3/5			
Alcides	Scraping	Sing	ARI	3/5			
Knock Nailing	Scraping	Sing	H/RI	5/5			
Liberty Belle	Scraping	Sing	JP	5/5			
Tug Suhaili	Wheat (G)	Col	Lams	13/5			
T T Seal Island	Scraping	Col	ARI	13/5			
Movement of vessels for 14/5/95 and 15/5/95							
Outgoing	Incoming			Shifting			
J/2	V Savarkar	MPB-1	Nanka Mahopala	RM-6	B. Gourah	to DD/1	
J/12	Mantis			MPB-1	Imke Wehr	to DD/1	
MPB-1	Imke Wehr						
RM-3	Ocean Megh						
J/5	Khanilistwa	J/5	Tiger Sun			J/13 B. Sampad	to J/9
J/5	Gios	MPB-2	Meng Lee				
MPB-2	Optima	NB	Kapitan				
MPB-3	Dae Jin	J/13	Al Tabith				
above were the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port							
for berthing sheet of CFA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka							