

**Lankan defence spending in '95 may reach all-time record**

COLOMBO, Oct 20: Sri Lanka's defence spending in 1995 is expected to reach an all-time record of 33 billion rupees (660 million dollars) because of the resumed Tamil separatist war, official figures released Thursday showed, says AFP.

The cost of financing the security forces and police is expected to outstrip the budgeted expenditure by about 22 per cent, according to draft budget estimates.

Earlier, the government had allocated only 27 billion rupees (554 million dollars) for defence spending during 1995. However, the resumption of hostilities in April made the figures unrealistic, a finance ministry official said.

The anticipated final cost for the year is more than 50 per cent up on the previous high of 20.45 billion rupees in 1994.

The draft estimates also show that the government expects to spend slightly more on defence in 1996 — 33.9 billion rupees. The budget is to be presented in parliament on November 8.

The government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga came to power last year on a promise to restore peace and unite the ethnically divided country, but raised taxes by 1.5 percentage points after fresh fighting broke out in April.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) pulled out of a 100-day truce with the government and resumed their separatist war on April 19. Since then, more than 3,000 rebels and government troops have died in fighting.

**Iraq wants former OPEC oil quota of 3.14 m BPD**

BAGHDAD, Oct 20: Iraq wants its former OPEC oil quota of 3.14 million barrels per day (BPD) or the same as Iran is currently producing when international sanctions on Iraq's oil exports are lifted, Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Mohammed Rasheed said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

General Rasheed told a news conference that Iraq would expect the same OPEC quota as it had at the time the United Nations imposed sanctions in 1990, 3.14 million BPD, or an amount equal to what Iran produces. "So, now, if Iran produces 3.5, we will ask for 3.5," he added.

**France to take firm measures to deal with budget for '96**

PARIS, Oct 20: French Finance Minister Jean Arthuis said that more cuts were to be made in state spending to ensure that the target for the budget deficit this year was met, reports AFP.

The cuts would affect everyone, he warned.

"I am preparing to take extremely firm measures in the next few days to deal with the budget for 1996," he said in remarks on French radio.

"It is my duty to respect the deficit which was set by parliament in July. We must not exceed 321 billion francs. There will be new cuts and everyone, believe me, will have to contribute."

His remarks were seen as highlighting problems facing the centre-right government of Prime Minister Alain Juppe in containing the deficit this year as part of an ambitious plan to reduce the deficit to three per cent of Gross Domestic Product in 1997 in time for France to be a founder of a single European currency.

Deep doubts among international financiers that the government can introduce tough measures to achieve this, and will stand up too social unrest in protest at such austerity, have undermined credibility in the franc.

The member of parliament responsible for summarising work on the budget for next year by the parliamentary finance commission said on Monday that the budget for 1996 was rather "anaemic."

He said that there were "still some savings to be made."

During debate in the commission supporters of the government revolted three times last week to cut the deficit by more than the government had intended.

The government has warned that tax revenue, particularly from companies, will fall far short of expectations this year.

**Appeal for international help to put out fire**  
**Lanka stops sale of aviation fuel to foreign airlines as oil depot blown up**

COLOMBO, Oct 20: Sri Lanka today suspended the sale of aviation fuel to foreign airlines and imposed an immediate ban on domestic petrol sales following Friday's attack on an oil storage depot here, officials said, reports AFP.

"The government has ordered an immediate halt to the sale of aviation fuel to foreign airlines. Fuel will be given only to Airlanka (the national carrier)," a spokesman for the Ministry of Power and Energy said.

Sri Lanka's existing stocks were being reserved to maintain essential services such as hospitals and food distribution.

He said a fresh shipment of aviation fuel was due here

November 1. Four out of 47 tanks at Kolonnawa storage depot were burning.

Kolonnawa has a capacity of 250,000 tonnes of aviation fuel, diesel, kerosene and furnace oil while three tanks at a nearby Orugodawatte complex which was also attacked, contain 90,000 tonnes of crude oil.

Several other tanks threatened by the fires contain another 20,000 tonnes of aviation fuel, official said.

The tanks that were ablaze contained 63,000 tonnes of diesel and 19,000 tonnes of petrol, officials said.

Despite a curfew in the capital, thousands of vehicles queued up outside filling stations after the government imposed its ban on the sale of diesel and petrol for domestic consumption.

Meanwhile, Lanka is appealing for international help to put out major oil storage tank fires in the capital after they were blown up by gunmen here yesterday.

The government has already contacted New Delhi to buy 25,000 tonnes of "Aqua foam compound" to fight the fires, said a spokesman for the Ministry of Power and Energy.

"We are also asking for Indian expertise to fight the flames. The Indian government has asked us for details," he added.

Sri Lanka was also considering contacting other countries "depending on the situation."

The government move came as fire-fighters watched helplessly as fires ravaged the Kolonnawa oil storage depot and the nearby Orugodawatte crude-oil complex following the pre-dawn attack by gunmen who left off bombs.

Four of the 47 storage tanks at Kolonnawa were on fire.

A fire department spokesman said fire-fighters faced a daunting task unless they received additional supplies of foam. Ten fire-engines had been rushed to the scene.

But he said there was "no fire fighting operation as such. There is very little we can do in this type of situation except prevent it from spreading."

**Pakistan launches new uranium mining project**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 20: Pakistan has launched a new uranium mining and processing project in western Lakki Marwat, press reports here said yesterday, reports AFP.

Inaugurating the project Wednesday, Minister for Natural Resources Anwar Saifullah said the processing plant had been designed, built and installed by Pakistani engineers, who will also operate it.

The uranium deposits in Qabul Khel near Lakki Marwat, 380 kilometres (240 miles) west of Islamabad, would be mined by the leaching method because the presence of soft rock in the region precluded the conventional tunnelling method, a local daily, The News, said.

The increasing number of embargoes and restrictions imposed by western exporters of nuclear material compelled Pakistan to use local nuclear technology, Ishtaq Ahmed, Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission Technology, was quoted as saying in the press.

Western countries stopped supplying fuel to Pakistan's lone nuclear power



Indonesian Minister for Tourism, Post and Telecommunication Joop Ave delivers a speech in Jakarta yesterday following a signing ceremony between PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia (PT Telkom) and five consortia of foreign and Indonesian companies for the installation and management of two million telephone lines across the country. — AFP/UNB photo

**FAO urges UNSC to release Iraq's assets frozen abroad**

BAGHDAD, Oct 20: The U.N. food agency has recommended the U.N. Security Council release Iraqi assets frozen abroad, saying only foreign exchange can sustain the food rationing system which has saved Iraq from famine, reports Reuters.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), in a report issued in Baghdad on Thursday, said the Iraqi government and the Security Council should also reach agreement on oil sales so that Iraq can buy food abroad.

But it offered no ideas for breaking the deadlock over a U.N. proposal to let Iraq sell some oil under U.N. supervision. The Iraqi government has rejected the proposal on the grounds that it would violate Iraqi sovereignty.

The report said Iraq had failed to meet expectations that the cereal crop in 1994/95 would be larger than in the previous year. The FAO estimate for the crop is now 2.533 million tonnes, compared to 2.824 million in 1993/94 and 3.451 million in 1989/90, when the United Nations imposed trade sanctions.

Before the sanctions Iraq used to import two thirds of its basic food needs, at a cost of about 2 billion dollars a year. It now earns about 400

million dollars a year from oil sales to Jordan and other amounts from illicit sales through Iran and Turkey.

The report said the government was now spending 185.7 billion dinars (the equivalent of about 740 million dollars) a year on the food rationing system, which provides 34 per cent of the people's calory needs at nominal prices.

"Famine has been avoided by the widespread availability of the government food ration ... but the burden of the costs is increasingly becoming too heavy," it said.

"Printing of notes has been resorted to as a way of keeping things moving. This, however, is unsustainable," it added.

"The only viable alternative is for Iraq ... to use its own resources for earning foreign exchange and hence feed itself and provide for the sick and vulnerable. The government of Iraq and the Security Council are urged to come to an agreement on the sale of oil so that these needs can be met," it said.

"Suitable arrangements could entail the authorisation by the Security Council of the release of additional funds, in particular from Iraq's frozen assets," it added.

The Iraqi government says it has about 4 billion US dollars frozen in Kuwait and occupied Kuwait in August 1990.

Some funds have been released over the years to pay for imports of food, medicines and other humanitarian supplies.

The FAO report said cereal production had fallen because farmers do not have enough good seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides and because shortages of spare parts have undermined the irrigation system.

Vegetable, fruit and date production has compensated to some extent for the shortage of cereals.

Fruit output is expected to rise this year, to 1.3 million tonnes from between 1.1 and 1.2 million a year between 1991 and 1994, and the date crop could be up to 700,000 tonnes, compared with a 1991-4 average of 560,000 tonnes. The report said there was no firm estimate for vegetables.

It said that as a result of food shortages and the impoverishment of the population, malnutrition had risen fourfold under sanctions, to 12 per cent from three per cent, defining malnutrition as a weight for height ratio at least two standard deviations below the recommended.

**'Asian economies must focus on correcting imbalances'**

NEW DELHI, Oct 20: Asia's dynamic economies must focus on correcting glaring imbalances created by rapid industrial expansion seen as crucial for world economic growth, the head of the United Nations' industry arm said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Mauricio De Maria Y Campos, Director-General of the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), cited imbalances in wealth, demands on overloaded infrastructure, unemployment and damage to the environment as key areas to be addressed.

How well these problems were handled would affect industrial growth in a region seen as the engine driving future world trade, he said.

Asia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 6.7 per cent in 1994, twice the rate of the developed world,

manufacturing expansion and GDP growth, leading the global economy as many developed nations trail far behind.

Campos said the full benefits of trade liberalisation carried out under the aegis of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) would take about 10 years to reach the developing world.

Indian Industry Minister K Karunakaran urged Asia-Pacific nations to cooperate in developing technology and expertise, particularly in the field of industrial infrastructure.

"Almost half of the new investment in power generation will be in Asia in the next decade," he said. "Industrial cooperation could provide great dividends for each of our countries."

**China's gold output rises**

BEIJING, Oct 20: China's gold output increased 19.9 per cent in the first nine months of 1995 over the same period last year, as government measures succeeded in boosting sales to the state by 40 per cent, Xinhua said, according to AFP.

The jump in production put the sector on target to fulfill this year's plan, with output between January and September accounting for 85.8 per cent of the annual targeted level, the agency said in a dispatch late yesterday.

China has long guarded its gold output as a state secret, but made a one-off announcement last year that 1993's production hit 90 tonnes. Output in 1994 rose 14 per cent over the previous year.

Under Chinese law, all gold must be sold to the central bank. However, with state prices lower than international prices, smuggling and black marketing have seen up to 40 per cent of output disappear into private hands or overseas.

**Japan's GDP growth may not reach target**

TOKYO, Oct 20: Japan's Economic Planning Chief said today that the country's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the year to next March was not likely to reach the government target of 2.8 per cent, reports AFP.

"We have to admit that it is extremely hard to achieve the 2.8 per cent growth target ... as we will not likely see the full impact of the latest stimulus package," Economic Planning Agency (EPA) Director-General Tsutomu Miyazaki said.

"At present, the domestic economy is moving in a weak trend in the wake of the prolonged standstill," he said.

However, Miyazaki said the economy was expected to begin recovering more steadily in the second half of the year to March as a result of the latest economic package and official discount rate cut in September.

Miyazaki said that expected reviews of the domestic tax system, along with ongoing liquidation of bad loans at financial institutions, should also help the economy pick up.

"Given the fact that corporate capital spending is gradually picking up, we will see more good news than bad news from this time forward," Miyazaki said.

Miyazaki also expressed concerns that the fraudulent losses reported by Daiwa Bank Ltd. over its US bond trading may have a negative impact on the ongoing liquidation of bad loans.

**Biggest ROK project opens in UK**

LONDON, Oct 20: Queen Elizabeth II yesterday inaugurated the biggest South Korean investment in Europe, at a new manufacturing site in northeast England built by the Samsung Electronics giant, reports AFP.

The factory, which will cost 450 million pounds (700-million dollars) and employ 3,000 people by 2000, is sited at Wynyard, Cleveland.

Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine welcomed the Samsung project, saying that he had "no doubt of the benefit that investments such as Samsung's make to the economy of the UK."

Initially, two factories will manufacture personal computer monitors and microwave ovens, employing 900 people by the end of this year. At full capacity, these plants will produce one million ovens and 1.3 million monitors per year.

**Record grain harvest in Sichuan**

BEIJING, Oct 20: Sichuan, China's most populous province, has reported a record grain harvest this year, the 'People's Daily' reported today, says Xinhua.

According to preliminary statistics, the output of grain will surpass the record year of 1992 to reach 45 million tons this year, that of rape seed amounts to 1.378 million tons, up 21.4 per cent over last year, and that of cotton, sugarcane and flue-cured tobacco will also register big increases.

The first nine months of this year saw the province slaughter 48.05 million pigs, up 9.35 per cent over the same period of last year, and market 318 million head of poultry, up 15.6 per cent, 502,700 tons of eggs, up 4.36 per cent, and 279,000 tons of aquatic products, up 10.9 per cent.

**Admission to Cadet College — 1996**

1. Intending candidates are requested to apply in prescribed form obtainable from the college seeking admission in Class VII only. Applications should reach the concerned college not later than 30 November, 1995.

2. Qualification

- Admission is open for boys in all the Cadet Colleges except Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College which is for girls only.
- Candidates must have passed Class VI or submit a certificate given by school authority that the candidate has appeared or would appear at the annual examination of Class VI and will qualify.
- Age. Age of the candidates must be maximum twelve years six months on 1st January, 1996 and minimum eleven years.
- Physique. Candidates must have sound health.
- Physical height. Minimum 4' feet-7" inches and maximum 5' feet-3" inches.
- Nationality. Candidates must be the citizen of Bangladesh by birth or domicile.

3. Disqualification. Candidates once appeared at admission test will be considered as disqualified.

4. Application form and prospectus can be obtained by post sending a self-addressed envelope of 28CMX20CM (11"X8") affixed with a postage stamp of Tk 12/- together with a non-refundable Bank Draft of Tk 150/- (Taka One hundred fifty) in favour of Principal of the Cadet College to which admission sought on the concerned designated bank as mentioned below:

Address of College	Name of Bank
a. Principal Faujderhat Cadet College P. O. Cadet College Chittagong	Agrani Bank Faujderhat Cadet College Branch Chittagong
b. Principal Jhenidah Cadet College P. O. Cadet College Jhenidah	Sonali Bank Jhenidah Cadet College Branch Jhenidah
c. Principal Mirzapur Cadet College P. O. Cadet College Tangail	Agrani Bank Mirzapur Cadet College Branch Tangail
d. Principal Rajshahi Cadet College P.O. Sardah Rajshahi	Sonali Bank Rajshahi Cadet College Branch Sardah, Rajshahi
e. Principal Sylhet Cadet College P. O. Sylhet Sylhet	Pubali Bank Sylhet Cadet College Branch Sylhet
f. Principal Rangpur Cadet College P. O. Alamnagar Rangpur	Agrani Bank Rangpur Cadet College Branch Alamnagar, Rangpur
g. Principal Barisal Cadet College P. O. Cadet College Barisal	Sonali Bank Barisal Cadet College Branch Rahmatpur, Barisal
h. Principal Pabna Cadet College P. O. Pabna Pabna	Rupali Bank Pabna Cadet College Branch Pabna
i. Principal Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College P. O. Mymensingh Mymensingh	Agrani Bank Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College Branch Mymensingh
j. Principal Comilla Cadet College P. O. Kotbari, Comilla	Janata Bank Comilla Cadet College Branch Kotbari, Comilla

5. Selection Test. Candidates have to sit for written test on the following subjects as per the syllabus of Class VI standard in any one of the examination centres mentioned at serial No. 7 as convenient for him/her on 05 January, 1996 (Friday):

S. No	Subject
a.	Bengali
b.	English
c.	Mathematics
d.	General Knowledge and Intelligence

6. Candidates qualified in the written test will be called for interview/viva voce.

7. Examination Centres. Written test will be held in the Faujderhat Cadet College, Jhenidah Cadet College, Mirzapur Cadet College, Rajshahi Cadet College, Sylhet Cadet College, Rangpur Cadet College, Barisal Cadet College, Pabna Cadet College, Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College, Comilla Cadet College, Bandarban, Rangamati, Dhaka, Khulna, Jessore, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Faridpur, Bogra and Mymensingh Centres.

8. Medical Examination. Candidates qualified in the written test and viva-voce will be medically examined for determining physical fitness. The decision of the medical board is final in this regard and no appeal is entertained. Only those who are found medically fit will be finally selected for admission to Cadet Colleges.

Chairman  
Governing Bodies, Cadet Colleges  
and  
Adjutant General, Bangladesh Army  
Army Headquarters  
Dhaka Cantonment