

Copyrights issue No US action against four countries

WASHINGTON, Nov 15: US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor has decided for now to take no action against Greece, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on their treatment of copyrights, according to USIS.

In a November 13 press release, Kantor's office said the first three countries would remain on the Special 301 priority watch list and the last country would stay on the Special 301 watch list.

Under the Special 301 provision of the 1988 Trade Act, the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) must identify every year priority countries for investigation of their protection for intellectual property rights, cases that could ultimately lead to US trade sanctions if not resolved.

USTR created the Special 301 "priority watch list" and the less-onerous "watch list" to focus attention on practices that could lead to priority designation.

In April 1995, at the time of the last annual Special 301 review, Kantor identified 38 trading partners that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property or deny fair and equitable market access to United States persons that rely upon intellectual property protection. At that time, Kantor placed Greece, Brazil and Saudi Arabia on the Special 301 priority watch list and the United Arab Emirates on the Special 301 "watch list" and stated that he would conduct out-of-cycle reviews of the status of these countries under the Special 301 programme in the autumn.

Budget dispute: Lack of funds US government winds down non-essential operations

WASHINGTON, Nov 15: The US government would wind down non-essential operations for lack of funds Tuesday as the White House and Congress jockeyed to resolve their bitter feud over how to balance the federal budget, reports AFP.

Some 800,000 "non-essential" workers, more than one third of the federal workforce, faced being sent home without pay while national zoos, parks and museums were closed. Operations to process visas were sharply curtailed.

A memo issued by budget Director Alice Rivlin at the start of business on Tuesday told agency chiefs to "implement the close down of affected operations promptly and in an orderly manner."

Rivlin said that a Continuing Resolution (CR) which

allows the government to keep spending money expired at midnight (0500 GMT Tuesday) and "We have no indication yet that Congress will act today and pass an acceptable CR."

The dollar was slightly down against the major currencies in early trading Tuesday and dealers blamed the uncertainty over the budget war. Few were willing to hazard a guess on the long term impact.

The federal government ran out of money at midnight after President Bill Clinton vetoed two emergency funding bills which he said contained unacceptable budget cutting measures tacked on by the Republican majority in Congress.

The Democratic president accused the Republicans of using the budget crisis as a

"backdoor" to ram through their harsh legislative agenda, including cuts in medical care for the aged, education and environmental programs.

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta was to meet with the leaders of congressional budgetary committees from both the Republican and Democratic parties.

Nobody would predict how long the shutdown would last. But White House spokesman Michael McCurry was pessimistic about the chances for a quick resolution of the budget crisis.

A last ditch meeting late Monday of Clinton, senate majority leader Robert Dole and Newt Gingrich, speaker of the House of Representatives, failed to head off the shutdown.

Strike costs Karachi \$38m a day

KARACHI, Nov 15: Strikes in the volatile city of Karachi, Pakistan's economic hub, cause losses of nearly US dollar 38 million a day, a business group study has calculated, reports Reuter.

The southern port city, with an estimated 12 million people, was brought to a halt on 28 strike days so far this year. The strikes were mostly called by the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM).

"A working day lost during strike in Karachi costs the economy a minimum loss of 1.3 billion rupees (38 million dollars), said a research paper commissioned by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI). The paper is yet to be published.

Ethnic, sectarian and political violence, much of it pitting MQM militants against security forces, has killed more than 1,680 people this year and shattered business confidence.

The KCCI study said its strike cost estimate included losses to the manufacturing, construction, banking and insurance, transport and storage, foreign trade and perishable food sectors, as well as government revenue in the form of indirect taxation.

KCCI president Haji Shafiq-ur-Rehman, a former provincial minister and MQM parliamentarian, said the calculation assumed a strike that paralysed all commercial

and industrial activities. However, industrialists and the government have taken action to maintain some activity on strike days, he told Reuters.

Industrial estates such as Site, Federal B area and Korangi were shut down on strike days. But factories have increased working hours on normal days to recoup production losses and cut staff by a fifth to maintain profitability, he said.

"Industries in districts central, west and east have made sort of compromise deals with the powerful groups in their areas," Rehman said, referring to protection money.



Nick Miller, Managing Director of Nestle Bangladesh Limited, addressing the Blue Cross launch ceremony at Nestle factory premises in Gazipur. Also seen from the left are Atiqur Rahman, Director, Transcom Ltd., Trevor Reckerman, Nestle Marketing Manager, Richard Jones, Nestle Plant Manager and Saifur Rahman, Director, Transcom Ltd.

Blue Cross makes welcome return

Blue Cross made a welcome return with the launch of a new product formulation, says a press release Tuesday.

Nestle Bangladesh organised a day-long programme at its Sripur factory in Gazipur where Nestle dealers and sales staff from all over the country were present to mark the event.

Nick Miller, Managing Director, and Trevor Reckerman, Marketing Manager, spoke of the Nestle commitment to Bangladesh and specific role of Blue Cross.

Dipak Sengupta, Sales Advisor, and Sadat Reza, Product Manager, expounded the strategic, marketing and distribution plans to take Blue Cross to the vast potential market in Bangladesh.

Omar Sunny, one of Bangladesh's rising film stars, graced the occasion and confirmed the role he will play in popularising Blue Cross among target users in the cities. He joined the "Tea-Bunk" skit and led the Blue Cross float that paraded Dhaka city.

Nestle Bangladesh which commenced commercial operations in 1994, has launched a range of popular products like Nespray, Lec-togen, Cerelac and Maggi, in addition to Blue Cross, and plan to introduce a few more international brands in early 1996, the press release added.

US boosts sugar quotas

WASHINGTON, Nov 15: The US Department of Agriculture has boosted US quotas of raw cane sugar by 300,000 metric tons to 1,417,195 tons for the fiscal year that began October 1, 1995, according to USIS.

Separately, the Office of the US Trade Representative issued country-by-country allocations for the additional sugar quotas. Of the 40 countries provided quotas, 30 will receive additional amounts they can export to the United States as part of the quota.

Roh summoned for 2nd time

SEOUL, Nov 15: South Korean state prosecutors have summoned disgraced ex-president Roh Tae-Woo for a second time for questioning over a 654 million dollars slush fund, an official at the prosecutors office said today, reports Reuter.

The official said further details were not available. State television said it was unlikely that Roh would face arrest when summoned. The domestic Yonhap news agency said prosecutors were expected to seek an arrest warrant for Roh on Thursday.

If arrested, Roh would become the first South Korean head of state, serving or retired, to face criminal action.

Protectionism losing out to liberalisation: WTO chief

GENEVA, Nov 15: World trade in goods, spurred by growing integration of the global economy, is expected to grow by eight per cent in volume in 1995, the World Trade Organisation said yesterday, according to Reuter.

WTO chief Renato Ruggiero said the strong global trade figures reported by WTO analysts for 1994 and 1995 showed protectionism was losing out to liberalisation and open markets. He was speaking at a news conference to launch the report.

The eight per cent growth figure, although down compared to 9.5 per cent increase of 1994, will keep

trade growth nearly three times that of overall world economic growth at a projected three per cent, the trade watchdog said.

Although a further modest slowing is expected next year, trade growth will still be close to double the expected increase in world output to the end of 1996, the annual report predicted.

"We have to be attentive, but the wind is for globalisation, liberalisation, and not for protectionism," Ruggiero said.

The report, "International Trade - Trends and Statistics," said the pattern since 1990 of trade growth exceeding output growth by a much wider margin than over the previous four decades "is strong evidence that global integration is continuing at a fast pace."

Advertisement for Bangladesh Shiping and Shipping Corporation. Includes text: 'বাংলাদেশ ইম্পাত ও প্রকৌশল করপোরেশন', 'বিএসইসি ভবন', '১০২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ', 'ঢাকা-১২১৫'. Also features a list of services and contact information.

Shipping Intelligence table. Title: 'Chittagong Port Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 15-11-95'. Columns: Berth No, Name of Vessels, Cargo, L. Port, Local Agent, Date of Leaving, Date of Arrival. Lists various vessels and their schedules.

Chittagong Stock Exchange table. Title: 'Chittagong Stock Exchange At the close of trading on November 15, '95 Transaction increases'. Includes 'Star Report' and 'CSE at a glance' sections with market data.

Advertisement for Sonali Bank. Title: 'সোনালী ব্যাংক'. Includes text: 'প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা', 'পারিসীমেল ডিভিশন, পরিবহন দপ্তর', 'বাস ভাড়া নেয়ার জন্য দ্রুপত্র আহবান'. Lists various services and contact details.

Advertisement for the Chief Engineer/West of Bangladesh Railway. Title: 'Office of the Chief Engineer/West Bangladesh Railway Rajshahi Tender Notice'. Details tender requirements for supply of 5,480 Nos (17,125 Cft) Broad Gauge standard wooden sleeper.

Shipping Intelligence table. Title: 'Vessels due at Outer Anchorage'. Columns: Name of Vessels, Date of Last Port Arrival, Local Agent, Cargo, Loading Port. Lists vessels and their arrival schedules.

Exchange Rates table. Title: 'Exchange Rates'. Columns: Currency, Selling, Buying. Lists rates for various currencies like US Dollar, GBP, JPY, etc.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority. Title: 'Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority Tender Notice'. Details tender requirements for supply of 1(One) No. Plain paper copier as per tender schedule.