

GCC committed to ending AL trade ban on Israel

MANAMA, Bahrain, Mar 11: The Gulf Cooperation Council's six member states said Sunday they are committed to ending the 45-year-old Arab League boycott of indirect trade with Israel...

the secondary boycott - black-listing US and other foreign countries who do business with Israel - although that has been steadily eroding since the peace process was launched in 1991.

The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain. Establishing economic ties with the Arabs is a key Israeli goal in the peace process.

Conference on expanding US-Gulf trade begins

MANAMA, Mar 11: Hundreds of delegates have arrived for a conference opening here Sunday on expanding billions of dollars in US-Gulf trade and investment, despite growing political unrest in the Arab Gulf, says AFP.

Donald Roberts, the First Secretary of Commercial Affairs at the US Embassy here, told AFP: "It's what grabs the headlines (in the United States)."

Japan, Brazil likely to sign \$2b contracts

BRASILIA, Mar 11: While Brazil reels from a banking credibility crisis and the breakup of a government coalition that guaranteed a majority to approve constitutional changes...

Security for the conference has been heightened following a spate of bombings this year which were carried out by Bahraini militants demanding the restoration of parliament in Manama, security personnel said.

Two-way trade between the United States and the GCC countries - Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman - is "increasing, although not as fast as we'd like," Roberts added.

Cardoso, who will begin his four-day stay on Wednesday in the first Brazilian state visit to Japan in 15 years, is expected to sign contracts totaling 1.8 billion dollars for construction projects.

Chinese New Year may be good for US companies

SAN FRANCISCO, Mar 11: For thousands of years, Chinese have been celebrating the Lunar New Year, says AP.

at holidays beyond just the Christmas season," said Coke spokesman Bob Bertini.

Now, US companies are joining the festivities - hoping to cash in on the affluent and growing Chinese market.

MCI mails out a four-colour brochure to its Chinese customers during the New Year. The US Postal Service now issues a Chinese New Year stamp.

"Companies in the last three to five years are paying more attention to Chinese consumers and the Chinese market," said Godwin Wong, business professor at Golden Gate University.

AT and T, Bank of America and Disneyland are collaborating on a promotion that includes a free five-minute call to Asia and a chance to win a Disneyland vacation.

"I think more and more people are realizing this is not just goodwill, this is good business sense," said Angela Chen, senior product manager at Bank of America.

It is also a way to reach the Asian market, one of the most affluent and well-educated populations in the country.

National Broadcasting Authority of Bangladesh (TV Wing)

NBA House, 121, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahabag, Dhaka-1000

International Re-Tender Notice No. Para (KE) 30-39/96

Bangladesh Television invites sealed International Tenders from reputed manufacturers/manufacturers' authorised suppliers through their appointed local agents in Bangladesh for supply of the following equipment as specified in the tender schedule:

Venezuela may face 3-digit inflation

CARACAS, Mar 11: Venezuela could face three-digit inflation if President Rafael Caldera does not take the necessary measures to put the nation's economy in order.



People line up at a bank in Beijing which open specially for the first day sale of China's treasury bonds on Sunday. China is issuing a record 195.257 billion yuan (23.5 billion dollars) worth of treasury bonds this year, an increase of more than 43 billion yuan from the previous year.

Taiwanese share prices plunge as investors pull back

TAIPEI, Mar 11: Share prices plunged Monday as jittery investors pulled back, alarmed by China's plans to follow up its missile tests with war games starting Tuesday, reports AP.

The public continued to put its money into US dollars as a hedge against trouble with China, while the main stock index fell 98.08 points, or 2 per cent, closing at 4,711.43.

The Central Bank of China, Taiwan's central bank, vowed to defend Taiwan's currency and urged the public to stop the panic buying.

Beijing has been trying to wipe out what it sees as a Taiwanese drive to dump the doctrine of reunification with China and declare itself an independent state.

Pakistan must keep next budget on tight rein'

ISLAMABAD, Mar 11: Pakistan must keep its budget on a tight rein in fiscal 1996/97 (July-June) even though its economy is set to grow six per cent this year on the back of the best cotton crop in four years, an official said on Wednesday.

He said a 10 per cent regulatory import duty, imposed in October as part of an emergency stabilisation package, would be removed and maximum tariffs cut to 55 per cent from 65.

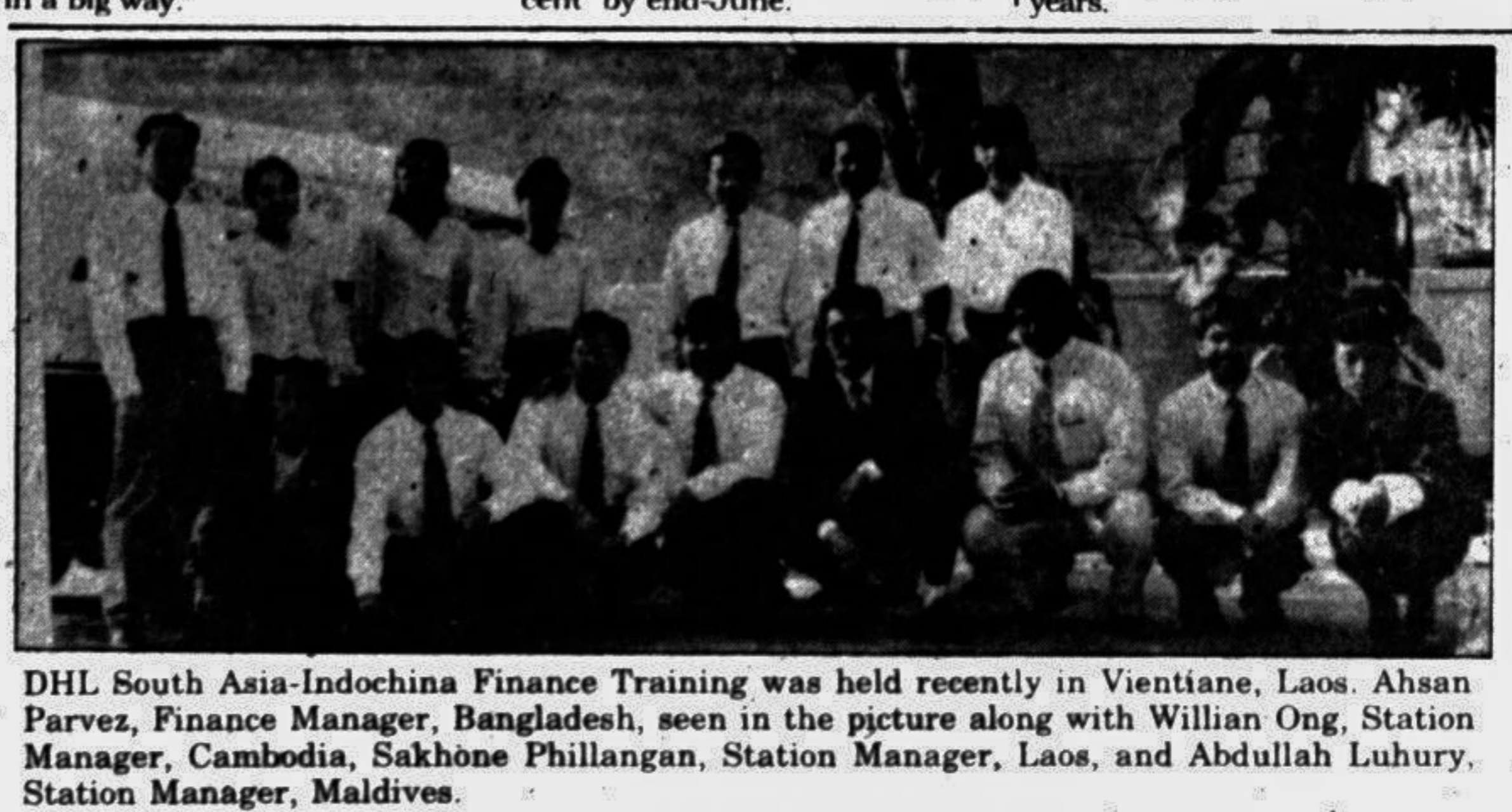
There is no time to lose, we have to take measures firmly and urgently. If we don't we could face three-digit inflation," he told the daily El Universal.

He said a 10 per cent regulatory import duty, imposed in October as part of an emergency stabilisation package, would be removed and maximum tariffs cut to 55 per cent from 65.

Possible assembly of Malaysian car in Indonesia

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 11: Several Indonesian car assemblers and an association of parts makers are discussing possible assembly of Malaysian Proton passenger cars in Indonesia, an official said Sunday, reports AP.

Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, co-chairman of PT Citra Muda Persada of Indonesia, said the project could proceed if the Indonesian government approved.



DHL South Asia-Indochina Finance Training was held recently in Vientiane, Laos. Ahsan Parvez, Finance Manager, Bangladesh, seen in the picture along with William Ong, Station Manager, Cambodia, Sakhone Phillangan, Station Manager, Laos, and Abdullah Lohury, Station Manager, Maldives.

Plans to police Internet in ASEAN states draw mixed reviews

SINGAPORE, Mar 11: Plans to police the Internet in ASEAN member states have drawn mixed reviews in the region, where attempts to curb access or censor content could run into political opposition and technical snags, reports AFP.

technology industry quickly backed the plan, but reactions to Internet regulation were varied across ASEAN, which also includes Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Quilbao, a freelance writer and Internet "sufer" in the Philippines, where any hint of media controls can trigger an outcry.

Exchange Rates table for Sonali Bank with columns for Name of Currency, Selling, and Buying rates.

Exchange Rates table for Janata Bank with columns for Name of Currency, Selling, and Buying rates.

Janata Bank's selling and buying rates in cash currency for public.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Kluina PWD Division-II, Kluina Notice Inviting Tender

BJMC Advertisement Re-Tender Notice No. 7/96. Sealed quotations are hereby invited by the General Manager, Latif Bawany Jute Mills Ltd., Demra, Dhaka...