

Issue of aid distribution to Kurds remains unresolved

Iraq-UN oil talks to resume Apr 8

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 19: UN and Iraqi negotiators adjourned "for-fee" talks Monday until next month...

"considerable progress" during the latest round, which began March 11. A first round was held in February.

food and medicine, distributing aid free to the Kurds would violate provisions requiring equitable distribution.

"You must realise the whole issue requires a decision at the political level, and this is what we are waiting for."

Illegal immigrants' houses in Malaysia to be demolished

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 19: The chief minister of Selangor today ordered the immediate demolition of several hundred houses built by Indonesian illegal immigrants on government land, reports AP.

Loan scandal in Japan Authorities raid failed credit union

TOKYO, Mar 19: Tokyo prosecutors raided a bankrupt credit union and the home of its former president seeking information on alleged illegal loans that may have contributed to its failure, news reports said Tuesday, according to AP.

The collapse of the asset-inflated bubble economy of the late 1980s left the institution with some 235 billion yen (2.22 billion dollars) in bad loans, mostly in real estate.

US, Japanese firms to build LNG plant in Qatar

DOHA, Qatar, Mar 19: The Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Co. said Monday it has awarded a one-billion dollar contract to build an LNG plant to the JGC Corp. of Japan and M W Kellogg Co. of the United States, reports AP.



Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mahmoud Moussa (L) shakes hands with South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-myung on Monday after signing an accord on increasing bilateral economic cooperation in Seoul.

Business briefs

BANGKOK, Mar 19: Thai Airways International PCL, Thailand's national carrier, said Tuesday it plans to purchase six B777-300 aircraft from US-based Boeing Co.

China set to become world's top beer guzzler by 2000

SINGAPORE, Mar 9: Newly affluent Asians are fuelling growth in the global brewing industry, with China set to become the world's top beer guzzler by 2000, a regional industry convention was told here yesterday, reports AFP.

China's per capita consumption was still a low 12 liters in 1994, it said. The report said China was expected to consume 12 billion dollars worth of alcoholic drinks by 2000.

breweries account for only 14 per cent of the highly fragmented market, with 800 regional brewers scattered across the vast country.

Investor worried at China-Taiwan deteriorating relations

SHANGHAI, Mar 19: A Taiwan businessman who has invested in two factories in China said on Monday a war between the Communist mainland and Taiwan could destroy the work of the past 10 years and make Beijing turn its back on the world, reports Reuters.

GM Corpn strike: Negotiations seem picking up momentum

DAYTON, Ohio, Mar 19: Workers walking the picket lines at two General Motors Corp. brake plants Monday were pleased that negotiations seem to be picking up momentum, reports AP.

worker Bram Lanier, 56, of Franklin, Ohio. "When they're talking, they're talking and there has to be something good coming out of the talks."

Bethlehem Steel Corp.'s Burns Harbor, Indiana, mill to halt shipments because of the strike, and Caterpillar Inc., which makes engines for GM, said it will temporarily lay off 115 workers.

Dollar up against major currencies in NY

NEW YORK, Mar 19: The dollar rose against most major currencies Monday during sluggish trading bolstered late in the day by a spurt in US stock and bond markets, reports AP.

KL plans, to permit army buy more tanks, copters

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 19: Malaysia's 1996-2000 economic plan will give the army more money to buy tanks, armoured personnel carriers, helicopters and other equipment, Defence Minister Syed Hamid Albar said Monday, reports AP.

Band together for economic stability, urges Sierra Leone president-elect

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone, Mar 19: Hours after his election, Sierra Leone's president-elect appealed Monday to war refugees to return home and urged citizens to band together for peace and economic stability, reports AP.

Oil tanker strike in Pakistan enters fourth day

KARACHI, Mar 19: Pakistan's tanker truck drivers took their strike into a fourth day today and their leader said oil products and vegetable oils were running short throughout the country.

Band together for economic stability, urges Sierra Leone president-elect

Caught in the middle of this tension between Taipei and Beijing are thousands of Taiwan businessmen who have invested in the mainland.

Band together for economic stability, urges Sierra Leone president-elect

top vote-getters in the first round of voting Feb 26-27. Kabbah, a British-educated lawyer and longtime United Nations official, was favored to win based on the popularity of his Sierra Leone People's Party, which was formed in 1952 when the West African country was still under British colonial rule.

Band together for economic stability, urges Sierra Leone president-elect

Neither he nor the dozen other original candidates offered much in the way of specific ideas on how to salvage Sierra Leone, except to promise an end to the five-year rebel insurgency and an improvement of the economy.

Band together for economic stability, urges Sierra Leone president-elect

The outgoing military ruler, Brig Gen Julius Maada Bio, is to hand power to Kabbah within 14 days, ending nearly 20 years of civilian and military dictatorships that made Sierra Leone one of the world's poorest countries and prompted the civil war.

Band together for economic stability, urges Sierra Leone president-elect

The company has been running an oil-recovery program through its service stations, and the 10 million liter was recovered Monday.

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Yemen will boost its crude oil output to 400,000 barrels per day (BPD) by early 1997 with the development of two fields, Nicosia-based newsletter said Monday, reports AFP.

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