

UK's lawmakers vote to raise pay

LONDON, July 12: British lawmakers voted themselves a hefty 26 per cent pay hike Wednesday night against the advice of their party leaders, who called for a far smaller increase in a bid to head off public anger, reports AP.

The 279-154 vote in the House of Commons will give the 650 lawmakers there an extra 9,000 pounds (13,950 dollars) a year, taking their annual pay to 43,000 pounds (66,650). The 26 per cent hike compares with an annual British inflation rate of 2.2 per cent.

Financial and sexual scandals among lawmakers in recent years and rowdy Commons scenes plus continuing job insecurity for many Britons and other economic woes which many blame on political mismanagement has led to growing resentment of lawmakers.

A Guardian/ICM opinion poll in the liberal London newspaper the Guardian earlier Wednesday showed 75 per cent of those questioned opposed the recommendation for a 26 per cent pay hike. The poll based on telephone interviews with 1,200 people on July 5 and 6 had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.8 per cent.

Prime Minister John Major, whose governing Conservative Party has a majority of just one seat over all the other parties in the Commons combined, had urged a pay hike for lawmakers of only three per cent. Opposition Labour Party leader Tony Blair and Liberal Democratic Party leader Paddy Ashdown also urged restraint.

"There are a lot of people who are facing tough economic circumstances," Blair said. "I don't believe this is the right time at which to award pay increases of this sort to members of Parliament."

But the issue was decided on a free vote, meaning the decision was left to the individual consciences of lawmakers, and the advice of the three party leaders was ignored by the majority.

The hike brings lawmakers pay roughly into line with that of senior police officers and principals in state run schools.

British postal workers set 4 more strikes

LONDON, July 12: Postal workers announced four more strikes Thursday in a long-running dispute over pay and working practices, reports AP.

Royal Mail's plan to introduce "team working" has been a major unresolved issue in negotiations. Management said it was breaking off talks following the Communication Workers Union's announcement of more strikes.

Up to 130,000 sorting office and delivery workers will be called on to strike for 24 hours on July 18-19, 36 hours on July 26-27, 48 hours on July 31-Aug. 2 and 24 hours on Aug 6-7.

Workers staged two 24-hour strikes in June.

Alan Johnson, joint general secretary of the union, said it decided on further strikes after several days of negotiations reached no conclusion.

EU claims victory in dispute with Japan over liquor tax

BRUSSELS, Belgium, July 12: The European Union claimed an important victory Thursday in its dispute with Japan over taxes placed on foreign spirits sold in Japan, reports AP.

EU officials said the final report from a World Trade Organisation panel firmly condemned Japan's practice of taxing European whisky, gin and other alcoholic drinks six to seven times higher than local products.

In a written statement, EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan praised the report as "very good news (that) should help remove serious hurdles hindering exports to Japan."

The EU also encouraged South Korea to take note of the WTO ruling, suggesting that similar action could be taken to open its market. Foreigners currently only have a 2 per cent spirits market share in South Korea.

The final report now heads to the WTO's dispute settlement body, which decides whether to accept it outright, or send it back to the panel for modifications.

The 15-nation EU has been waging this battle since when the WTO predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, ruled in the EU's favour.

ROK, Argentina agree to allow air flights

SEOUL, July 12: Argentina and South Korea have tentatively agreed to allow regular commercial airline flights between their capitals, reports AP.

The Defence Ministry said Friday that officials from both countries initiated an aviation agreement after two days of talks in Seoul.

The agreement is expected to be signed by the end of the year after further talks, the ministry said.

China, Taiwan sign pact to jointly explore for oil

TAIPEI, Taiwan, July 12: Sidestepping their political differences, China and Taiwan signed a pact Thursday to jointly explore for oil in the Taiwan Strait which divides the two arch-rivals, reports AP.

The deal calls for cooperation on a 50-50 basis between China's China National Overseas Offshore Oil Corp. and a subsidiary of Taiwan's state-owned Chinese Petroleum Corp.

"We want to be able to exclude political questions and develop our relationship along purely economic lines," said Chang Zhu-yuan, chairman of Chinese Petroleum Corp.

By using its Panama-registered subsidiary, Overseas Petroleum and Investment Corporation, Chinese Petroleum bypasses Taiwan's ban on direct business links between Taiwanese and Chinese companies.

The two sides will first sur-

vey and test drill a combined area of 15,400 square kilometers (6,160 square miles), about midway between Taiwan and the southern Chinese province of Guangdong.

The area includes a zone in which China held military exercises last March as part of a campaign of intimidation against Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui.

Taiwan is home of the Nationalist government which fled to the island in 1949 after losing a civil war to the Communists on the Chinese mainland.

China broke off talks on improving ties in June 1995, following a private visit by Lee to the United States. Beijing interpreted Lee's trip as an indication that Taiwan was seeking an identity of its own and abandoning the doctrine of reunification with China.

The tensions delayed the

signing of the oil exploration agreement, which had been essentially finalized during Chang's visit to Beijing last December, said Chinese Petroleum spokesman Fang Yishen.

But Wang Yan, president of China National, said the venture was evidence of Chinese President Jiang Zemin's position that political questions should not impede economic cooperation between the two sides.

"If there were any problems with this deal, I would not be here now for the signing," said Wang.

No surveys have been done to gauge the area's productive potential, but Fang said data indicates a greater abundance of natural gas than crude oil.

All equipment for the venture will be leased with each side contributing half of costs, Fang said.

Indonesia reintroduces tax exemption for investment

JAKARTA, July 12: Indonesia has reintroduced 10-year tax exemptions for investment in certain industry sectors, reports said here today, according to AFP.

"The government has reintroduced the tax holiday incentive to increase Indonesia's attractiveness as an investment site," state minister of investment Sanyoto Saswardoyo was quoted by the Bisnis Indonesia daily as saying here.

The tax holiday ruling was based on a government regulation signed by President Suharto on July 8. Tax holidays are periods during which taxes are waived to reduce company costs and lure foreign investment.

The government regulation stipulated that investment projects could get a maximum ten-year tax exemption. Projects outside Java and Bali will get an additional two years, the regulation said.

A finance ministry statement on the tax holidays was quoted by the Jakarta Post daily as saying that the exemp-

tions would begin upon completion of the construction phase of investment projects.

Investment projects are given a maximum of five years between start of construction and that of commercial operation.

The statement also said that the exemptions would also apply to tax on dividends paid to foreign-based shareholders. The statement further said that sectors qualifying for the exemptions will be determined by Suharto, based on recommendations from the team for assessment of tax facilities for certain industries, headed by coordinating minister for economy, finance and development supervision Saleh Afifi.

It is unclear whether the tax exemption regulation would also apply to existing projects. The authorities were unavailable for comments Friday.

Indonesia first introduced tax holidays in the late 1960s, but scrapped the ruling in 1983.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Public Works Division-2
Dhaka
Memo No D-2/T-1/Development/96-97/1933 Dated 2.7.96

Tender Invitation Notice

1. Tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 under sealed cover are hereby invited from Public Works Directorate's licence holder special first class/first class contractor/firm, Public Works Dhaka Zone's 2nd class building contractor/firm & Public Works Circle-3 Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka's 3rd class building contractor/firm for the undermentioned work. The tender will be received by the office of the undersigned and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Public Works Division-1/3/Mohakhali & Eden Building Division, Dhaka up to 12.00 Noon of 22.7.96 and opened on the same day at 12.15 PM in presence (if any one willing to) of the tenderers. Tender should be submitted superscribing the name of work on the envelope. Contractors/firms not possessing VAT certificate will not be sold any tender.

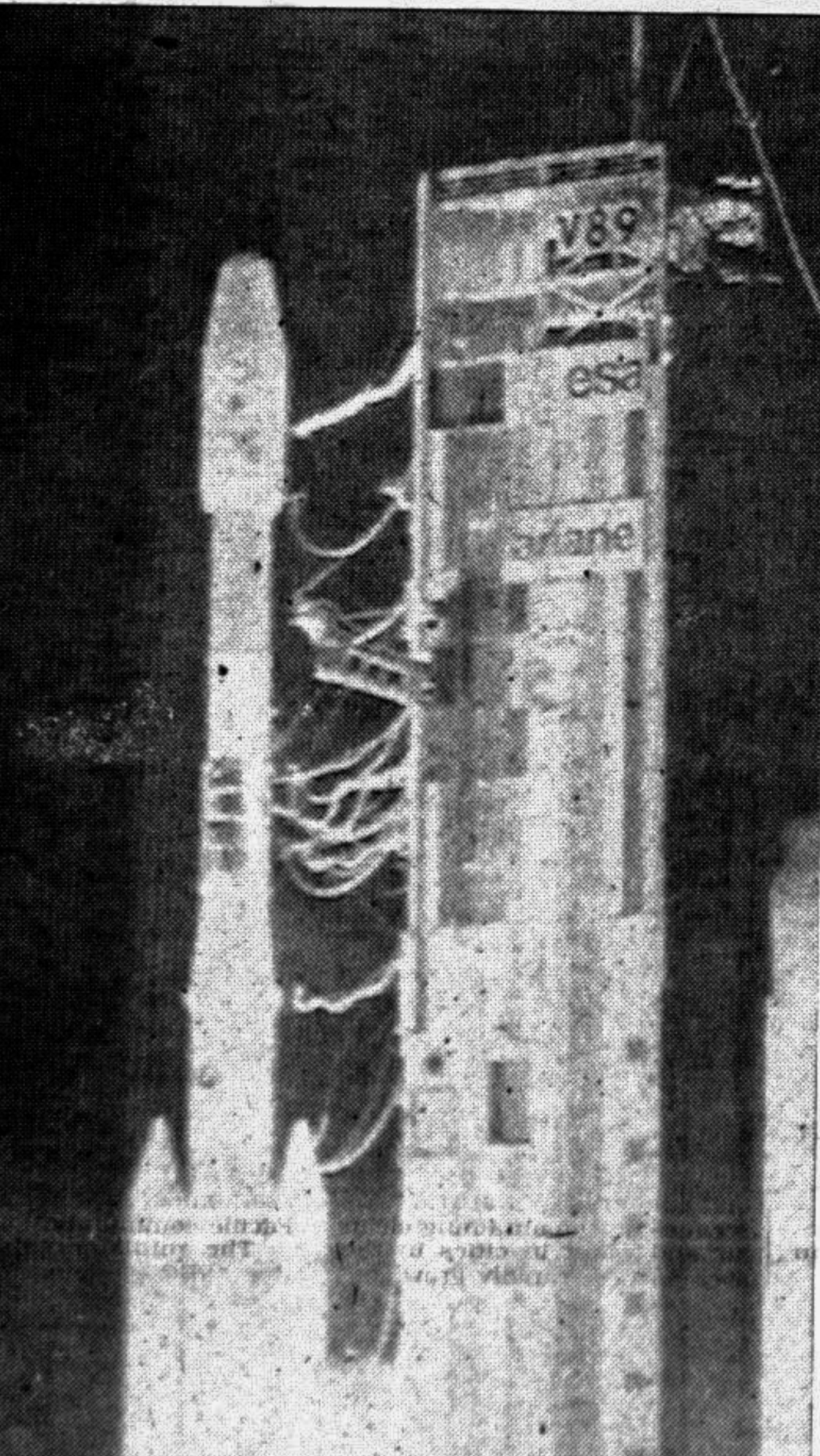
2. Name of work : Construction of National Broadcasting Building (Administrative Building, Dhaka (Sub-head: Setting marble stone on the standing area in front of lobby)

B) Estimated cost : Tk 1,43,351/-
C) Earnest money : Tk 2,870/-
D) Time limit for completion of work : 15 (fifteen) days from the date of issuing work order.

3. Agreement form with Bangladesh Form No. 2911, tender Notice, schedule of work, additional terms & conditions can be seen & purchased at usual price of Tk 400/- (per set of schedule) & Tk 25/- (each form No. 2911) only (both non-refundable) from the office of the undersigned and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Public Works Division-1/3/Mohakhali & Eden Building Division, Dhaka on or before 21.7.96. No tender can be purchased on the date of opening.

4. Each construction firm shall have to attach, with other documents given in the estimate of tender submission, a copy of the registration certificate from proper authority. Participation in tender by any construction firm without VAT registration certificate will be treated as invalid.

A K M Shajahan Patwari
Executive Engineer
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Public Works Division-2
Dhaka
DFP-14969-4/7
G-839



The 89th Ariane European space rocket takes off early July 10 from the Kourou space centre in French Guiana with two communication satellites. Ariane launched 20 minutes later successfully the Arabsat-2A Turksat-1C satellites.

Court rejects UK bid to suspend beef ban

BRUSSELS, July 12: The European Court of Justice today rejected a bid by Britain to suspend the European Union's worldwide ban on British beef exports, an EU official familiar with the judgment said.

"The have rejected Britain's case in its entirety," the official told Reuters. The court is due to make a formal announcement after 09300 GMT.

Britain had asked the Luxembourg-based court to lift all or part of the ban on exports of British beef products and cattle imposed in March amid a health scare that mad cow disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), could be transmitted to humans.

London argued that the ban was illegal, particularly as it

concerned exports to non EU countries.

It also asked for the measures to be temporarily suspended because of the damage to the British beef industry.

The ban on British beef triggered a crisis in the 15-nation European Union.

British Prime Minister John Major pledged to block all EU business until his partners agreed a plan to end the ban and lifted restrictions on beef derivatives tallow, semen and gelatin.

The EU officials said there was no indication that today's decision would have any effect on the Florence agreement, which essentially laid out the steps to be taken for the ban to be lifted in the long run.

King Hussein calls for controlling price-hike

AMMAN, July 12: Fearing a repeat of price riots seven years ago, King Hussein on Thursday called for restraint over a proposed 200 per cent hike in the price of bread, wheat and animal fodder, reports AP.

A foreign debt of 6.5 billion dollars and lower-than-expected Arab aid to Jordan in the 1980s, when the country overspent on arms purchases to consolidate an Arab front against Israel, were to blame for the increases, the king said.

"I warn of the dangers of mindless actions and the agitation which could result in disaster," he said in an emotional appeal.

The king's remarks were made at a news conference called by Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Kabariti. The king was not expected to address the news conference and his sudden appearance underscored his concern that the planned price hikes might trigger unrest in the mostly-desert kingdom of about five million people.

The 1989 riots were sparked by a 10 per cent rise in the price of fuel and scores of food items.

A finance government said in May it planned to cut state subsidies because it was no longer able to spare the 200 million dollars it spends annually on subsidising wheat and fodder.

The planned hike will bring up the price of each kilogram (22 pounds) of bread to 0.250 Jordanian dinars (0.36 dollars). The government planned to compensate Jordanians through a 15-dinar (21 dollars) raise in the cost of living allowance.

Gold Fields reports 19.4 pc profit increase

JOHANNESBURG, July 12: South Africa's Gold Fields mining group on Thursday reported a 19.4 per cent profit increase during the first three months of 1996 from the previous quarter, reports AP.

In a report released here, Gold Fields said it made after-tax profits of 355.8 million rands (82.1 million dollars) during the first quarter to June 30, compared to 295.9 million rands (68.7 million dollars) between October and December 1995.

The company said increased earnings were largely due to a stronger gold price, which countered a declining gold production to 23,021 kilograms during the quarter to June 30 from 24,005 kilograms the previous quarter.

Shipping Intelligence

Shipping intelligence Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 11.7.96

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Hong Qi-206	C Clink	Long	Cosmos	22/6	14/7
J/2	An Da	C. clink	Sing	MBL	2/7	20/7
J/5	Hafez	GL	Viza	SSL	10/7	14/7
J/6	Wang Ting	GI	Sing	IPL	2/7	13/7
J/7	Banglar Shobha	GI	Kam	BSC	4/7	12/7
J/8	Banglar Mamata	GI	Mong	BSC	9/7	13/7
J/9	Susak	Cont	Col	Baridhi	9/7	12/7
J/10	Sintra	Cont	Sing	PIL(B)	9/7	13/7
J/11	Meng Yang	Cont	Sing	AML	10/7	13/7
J/12	Aries	Cont	Mong	RSL	8/7	12/7
J/13	Stewart	Cont	COL	Bdshp	9/7	12/7
CCT/1	Kota Bintang	Cont	Sing	PIL(B)	9/7	11/7
CCT/2	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	PIL(B)	6/7	14/7
CCT/3	Shenton	Cont	Sing	APL(B)	7/7	11/7
RM/14	Banglar Asha	Repair	Mong	BSC	5/6	14/7
CCJ	Wan RU	C.Clink	Daru	Seacomb	28/6	12/7
TSP	Taeschoon	R. Phos	Anna	RSA	15/6	16/7
RM/3	Renata-II	CCSO	Veza	Rainbow	8/7	12/7
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	Sing	BSC	R/A	13/7
DD	Fong Shin	Repair	Sing	Bdshp	30/6	20/7
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	PSAL	7/6	15/7
RM/8	Sea World	Repair	Litmond	R/A	15/7	
RM/9	Fortune Star	Repair	Kaki	Eastwest	6/7	25/7

Kalco (A)Blue North (Damage and Semi Submerged)

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
QC Pintall (Cont)19/6	11/7	Sing	OCSL	Cont	Sing.
Liberty Wave	11/7	USA	Lams	Wheat (G)	
Sea Fox	12/7	Mong	Lams		
Balt Harmony	13/7	Mong	OWSL	GL	
Polar Bird 1/7	13/7	COL	Bdshp	Cont	Col.
H-Star	15/7		Rainbow	M.Seeds	
Banglar Moni 30/6	12/7	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Osterlesland 3/7	12/7	Sing	PIL(B)	Cont	Sing.
Mun Su Bong	13/7	Chin	Mstpl	Centent	
Island Princess (24)4/71777		CAL	Sunshine	GI	
Ocean-1	14/7	Yang	Cross	GI(Logs)	
Ultima 6/7	14/7	COL	BaridhiCont	Mong	Col
Fong Soan 6/7	14/7	Sing	Bdshp	Cont	Sing.
Fong Yun 6/7	14/7	Sing	Bdshp	Cont	Sing.
Dia Song	15/7		EBB	GI	
A-or	15/7		ESL	GI(Copra)	
Tia Estela	15/7		OL	GI	
Consistence 7/7	15/7	Sing	ISL	Cont	Sing
Eastern Mars	16/7		Prog	GI	
Eufonia (Roro)24/4/7	16/7	Sing	JF	Vehicle's	

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Wawasan Setia	12/7	Sing	MSPI	HSD	

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Fong Lee	Cont	Sing	Bdshp	11/7

Vessels awaiting instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banglar Sampad			BSC	R/A(22/6)
Banglar Shourabh			BSC	R/A(6/7)
Banglar Baari			BSC	R/A(6/7)
Lita			Lams	R/A(11/7)
Tug Britoil-17		Viza	Kama	R/A(11/7)

Movement of vessels for 12.7.96

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting	
CCT/1	K Bintang	J/13	B Moni
J/13	Stewart	CCT/1	Fong Lee
J/9	Susak	J/4 GSJ	Alga
J/12	Aries	RM/6	Wawasan Setia
J/7	B Shobha		
CCJ	Wan Ru		
RM/3	Renata		
13.07.			
J/6	Wang Ting	J/8	B. Harmony
J/8	B. Mamata	GSJ	Alga to DOJ
J/10	Sintra	J/12	Ostland
J/11	M. Yang		
DOJ	B. Jyoti		

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Decia Felix, Credit Bank incur \$1b losses

Governor halts financial support to two private banks in Romania

BUCHAREST, July 12: The threatened collapse of two private banks, Decia Felix and Credit Bank, has sent shock waves through Romania where the government fears a backlash from 800,000 people likely to lose their savings, reports AP.

The governor of the Romanian National Bank (BNR) Mugur Isarescu has ordered a "halt to financial support" to these two banks in the wake of losses totalling one billion dollars. He said he had decided to "let justice take its course."

However, the government on Wednesday slammed the weekend decision saying it was up to the BNR to see that depositors were able to recover their money.

"People responsible for proven irregularities will be punished," Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu warned. He said he was "concerned" about the potential impact of the BNR decision on the stability of the country, in the wake of recent price increases of several staple goods and services.

The solution is not to drive

these banks into bankruptcy but to help them get back on their feet," President Ion Iliescu said.

However, the BNR governor said credit lines totalling 1,700 billion lei (560 million dollars) already made to Decia Felix and Credit Bank had led to "no improvement" in their financial positions.

He said he was no longer willing to bow to the "blackmail" of people who claimed the BNR "has an obligation to support the banks by printing more money, in order to avert a social explosion."

The stand taken by Isarescu who is the "bete noire" of the anti-reforms lobby, risks exacerbating the latest conflict which has simmered for several months between him and the government.

Which has four portfolios in Vacaroiu's cabinet, called for a special session of parliament to discuss the fate of the two banks and the "replacement" of Isarescu. Meanwhile leader of the two beleaguered banks mounted a counter-attack ac-

curring the BNR of "seeking to destroy private banks."

"Under the law, a bank can only be declared bankrupt after it has suspended payments for 30 days and after the withdrawal of its license, which is not the case," said Emil Clotian, the Chairman of Credit Bank. He acknowledged however that deposits had plunged dramatically in the past few days.

The decline of Credit Bank began in January last year when its former Chairman Marcel Ivan was arrested and charged with "forgery" and "corruption." He was accused of taking bribes in exchange for extending UN-guaranteed loans to cronies.

These loans running into several hundred million dollars have never been recovered, despite efforts by the bank's new management.

The private banking system has been used to fund clients close to the regime. The two banks are being pushed into bankruptcy so people with huge debts will not have to repay them, said economist Varujan Vosganian.

500000 Sudanese in danger of starvation

UNITED NATIONS, July 12: Half a million people in southern Sudan are in danger of starvation because the government has blocked UN food shipments, a UN official said Thursday, reports AP.

"More than 500,000 people are now seriously hungry," in southern Sudan, said Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, in a statement.

"If food shortages persist, there is a very real danger of gradual and widespread starvation," she added.

Since last September, the Sudanese government has blocked the World Food Programme from using C-130 cargo aircraft to fly the food into the southern region which is under rebel control.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary General Boutros-Boutros Ghali avoided taking a position on Sudan which is facing the threat of UN sanctions due to alleged ties to international terrorism.

The UN chief's report stuck to a factual account of the rift that has developed between the council and Sudan over allegations it is harboring terrorists who launched a June 1995 attack against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Transport Commissioner
Govt Transport Directorate
Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka

Sale Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from interested buyers for sale of a number of vehicles of various make & model declared as condemned on "as it is where it is basis" of Central Transport Pool under Govt Transport Directorate.

Tender box for dropping tender will be maintained besides the office of the Director, Govt Road Transport, Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka, also at the office of Controller, Printing, Stationery, Form & Publications Directorate, Tejgaon, Dhaka and Govt Employees Welfare Directorate, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka. Interested tenderers can drop their tenders in the above tender boxes every day during office hours after publication of this notice in newspaper latest up to 12.30 PM of 18.7.96 (3 Shraban 1403 BS) Thursday. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1300 hours in presence (if any) of the tenderers.

Schedule containing terms & conditions of sale of the condemned vehicles can be collected from the Accounts Officer, Govt Transport Directorate, Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka by depositing Pay Order for Tk 400/- (Non-refundable) from any scheduled bank in favour of the undersigned. No tender will be acceptable without the purchase of schedule. No schedule will be sold on the date of opening tender.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

DFP-14903-4/7
G-841

Transport Commissioner
Govt Transport Directorate

Short Tender Notice
No. 03(1996-97)

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 under sealed cover are invited from Public Works Directorate's Special First Class & E/M work enlisted First Class/Second Class contractors for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the office of the Public Works E/M Division 4/5/6 & Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka during office hours