

Greek fuel protesters vow to continue demonstration

ATHENS, Oct 20: Workers protesting against high oil prices and taxation ended a brief occupation of the Greek development ministry today, but pledged to continue their demonstration in central Athens, reports Reuters.

Oil prices hold at firm levels as ME violence flares again

SINGAPORE, Oct 20: World oil prices held at firm levels today as violence again flared between Israelis and Palestinians, threatening to derail a fragile US brokered truce, says Reuters.

prised that prices are up. The weather (in the United States) is warm, which is reflected in the steep slide in gas prices recently," he said.

dent Hugo Chavez came a day after Arab Gulf sources said OPEC would hike production by 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) if prices remained out of a \$22-\$28 range by October 27.

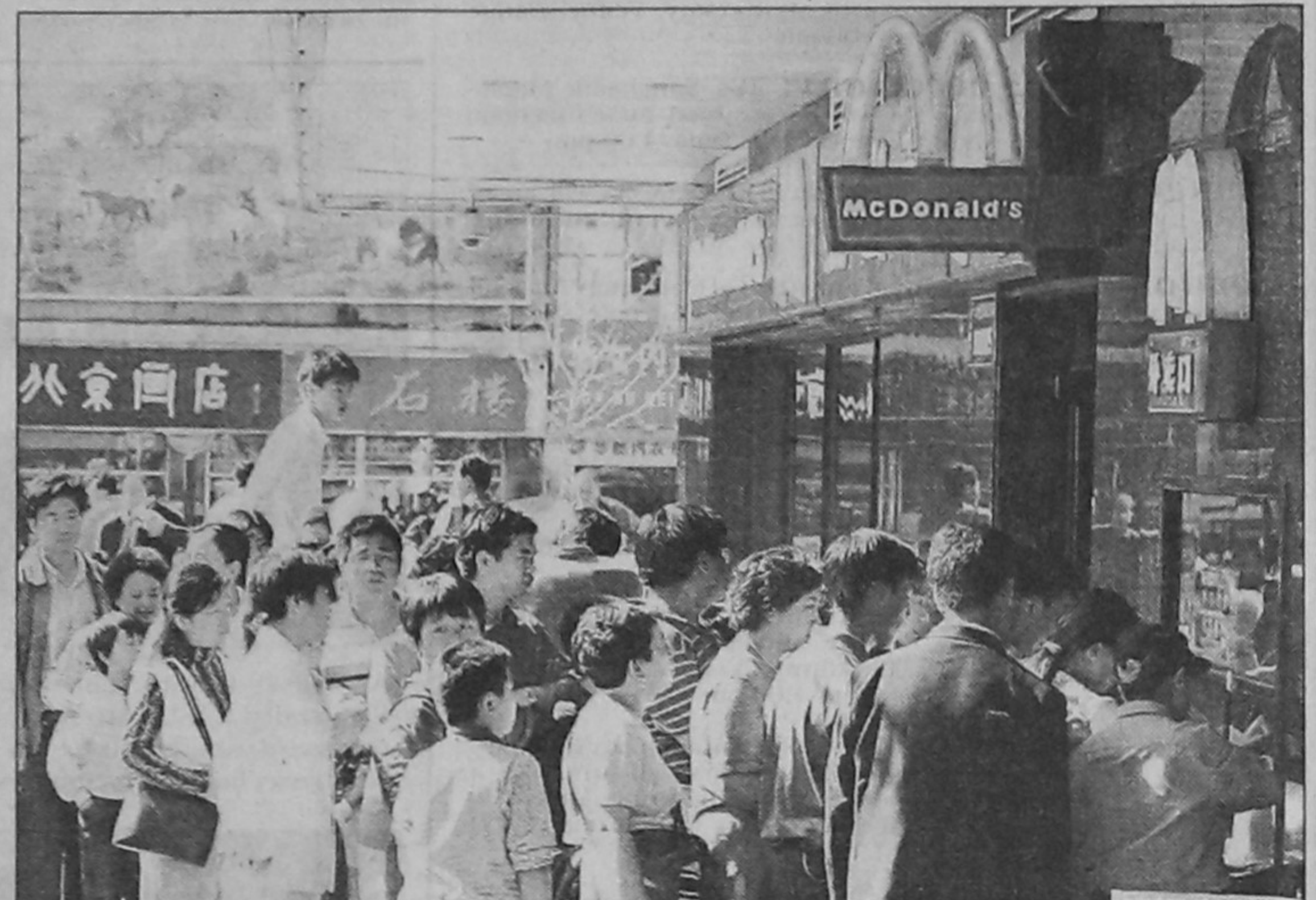
marginalise poor nations and threaten Asia's economic recovery. Thailand's Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai warned today.



Japan's Casio Computer unveils world's first Mouse Printer KP-C50 during the World PC Expo 2000 in Tokyo yesterday. The Mouse Printer enables to print on the 13mm width ribbon with thermal printer to make labels or memorandums. Casio will put it on the domestic market October 25 with a price of 8,500 yen (80 USD).

Japan still top ODA donor

TOKYO, Oct 20: Japan was the world's biggest donor of overseas development aid for the ninth straight year in 1999, but six smaller countries gave a greater proportion of their national wealth, the government said today, reports AFP.



A crowd queues up outside a US fast-food McDonald's outlet in downtown Beijing yesterday during lunch break. McDonald remains as the most popular fastfood in China, with more outlets in major Chinese cities than all its competitors combined.

Reuters to spin off Instinet brokerage

LONDON, Oct 20: British information group Reuters said Friday it was planning to spin-off part of its Instinet electronic brokerage, but shied away from naming a date, says AFP.

Thai banks post disappointing third quarter results

BANGKOK, Oct 20: Thai banks still grappling with problems stemming from the 1997/98 Asian financial crisis, have reported generally disappointing third quarter results, analysts said today, reports Reuters.

had hoped for a profit. The bank said the loss came from a debt writedown in its two asset management companies, a downward revaluation of its property and spending to strengthen its competitiveness.

Anticipated cheaper funding costs and wider net interest margins failed to materialise, dampening the results.

EU, Asian leaders reach out to DPRK by promising support

SEOUL, Oct 20: European Union and Asian leaders, opening a two-day summit Friday, reached out to isolated North Korea by promising financial and moral support, reports AP.

In June, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung met with his North Korean counterpart Kim Jong Il, agreeing to reunite families separated by a half century of hostility and work toward unification.

become a global issue, Blair added. "When President Kim made his historic approach to North Korea (last June), we applauded it in part because we could see it relevance to our own security."

Activists stage protest against ASEM

SEOUL, Oct 20: Police roughed up a dozen activists Friday as they tried to march to a Seoul convention centre where leaders of 25 Asian and European countries met to discuss political and economic cooperation between the two regions, reports AP.



South Korean students lie on the ground in Seoul yesterday during an anti Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) demonstration. Prime Ministers and Presidents from across Asia and Europe were gathering to formally open a transcontinental summit amid an extraordinary mood of reconciliation towards North Korea.

Indian first to win \$10m jackpot on Internet

NEW DELHI, Oct 20: Mohammed Karim Basha can now pay off his debts, buy a new home, a car and send his computer savvy sons to study in the United States, says AP.

EU must fight inflation: ECB board member

DUBLIN, Oct 20: The European Union must work to combat the risk of inflation from rising oil prices, European Central Bank executive board member Sirka Hamalainen said in a newspaper interview published today, says Reuters.

Asian stocks close higher after Wall Street rally

TOKYO, Oct 20: Most Asian share markets received a welcome end-of-week fillip Friday after Wall Street's rally the day before, says AFP.

"It looks like a relief rally but turnover was too low, meaning market sentiment has not improved much...I would not say (the rise) was a technical rebound - it was only short-term relief," said Mark Youngblood, institutional sales manager of Shenyn Wanguo Securities.

ities Index closed 8.61 points up at 510.26. The key index reached an intraday high of 1,943.76 before profit-taking set in with investors cautious before the weekend.

BOMBAY: Stocks on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) declined 0.3 per cent on position-squaring ahead of the weekend.

market has been on a continued rebound, helped by the introduction of a three-tier maximum bid/offer price spread," Fidor Sekuritas Indonesia dealer Christiantoro said.

Basha's neighbors don't know that they have a multi-millionaire living next door. "Only my family and close friends know about the jackpot. I will throw a party once I receive the lottery money," he said.