

**WARNING ON HEALTH HAZARDS** (Excerpts) According to the central news unit, Mr Manafi, the Deputy Prime Minister and head of the environmental protection agency, gave a press conference and told reporters of the dangers of industrial and city sewage, the dredging of the Anzali marshes, and the presence of insects and other pests throughout the city [Tehran]. . . The head of the environmental protection agency, commenting on the presence of insects and other pests in the city, said: According to information received, there is a large amount of rubbish produced every day which contains a certain amount of food. Because this rubbish is strewn in the streets, combating insects and pests is very difficult. Municipalities must first quickly remove rubbish from the cities so that the food source for these pests is cut off. As long as these pests have a food supply, fighting them is totally impossible. (Tehran home service 0430 gmt 19 Aug 85)

**RICE SURPLUS** (Excerpt) Rasht, Gilan province, 18th August - Agriculture Minister Abbasali Zali, currently here on a tour of provincial agricultural projects, announced Saturday [17th August] that a surplus of more than 300,000t of rice was recorded last year compared to the pre-revolution era. He attributed the surplus rice production to an additional 80,000ha of land which went under rice cultivation. Zali added that land under clover cultivation has increased from 15,000 to 20,000ha, leading to the production of a total of 140,000t of dried forages, which is a "positive pace" towards achieving the goals of the country's agricultural system. . . (IRNA in English 1737 gmt 18 Aug 85)

**CAVIAR PRODUCTION** The Fisheries Affairs Under-Secretary of the Agriculture Ministry has announced that during the first three months of this year, 7,400t of fish and shrimps were caught on the southern coasts and 1,480t in the north. In the same period, 196,000Kg of caviar were brought in; 14,300Kg of caviar and 36,000Kg of sturgeon were exported. During the same period, over 12,000Kg of caviar were sold in the country and over 5m t of assorted tinned fish were produced. (Tehran home service 0430 gmt 14 Aug 85)

**BANDAR ABBAS POWER STATION** The third generator unit of Bandar Abbas power station went into operation on 17th August. The gas-powered station now produces 960MW and is expected to increase its output when the fourth unit, built at a cost of 2bn rials, comes into operation before the winter of 1985. (IRNA in English 1452 gmt 17 Aug 85)

**RURAL ELECTRIFICATION** (Text) Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan province, 17th August - About 95% of villages in Iran will be provided with electricity by the end of Iranian year 1371 (21st March 1992), said Energy Minister Hassan Ghafur-Fard here Saturday [17th August]. Ghafuri-Fard, who is here to attend the inauguration ceremony of the third unit of the thermal plant and the 440 volt power generating station, added that this would be achieved through electrification of 1,500 villages per year. On the ministry's programmes to face power shortages, Ghafuri-Fard said that a number of powerful generators in Hormozgan, Esfahan, Khuzestan, Khorassan, -East. Azarbayjan and the Martyr Raja'i generator in Zanjan province would be exploited in five years and most of the shortage would be overcome. On dam construction projects throughout the country, the Energy Minister said that a number of dams in Kerman, Central, Khorassan and Sistan-Baluchestan provinces are under construction and some new projects in Khuzestan and Azarbayjan provinces are being studied. (IRNA in English 1605 gmt 17 Aug 85)

**WEST AZARBAYJAN WATER PROJECT** A project to provide drinking water in Takab, West Azarbayjan, has been completed at a cost of approximately 330m rials. (Tehran home service 1630 gmt 16 Aug 85)

#### **IRAQ**

**JAZIRAH IRRIGATION PROJECT** The Iraqi Irrigation Ministry has begun implementing the northern part of the Jazirah irrigation project, which is aimed at improving and reclaiming 1,000 sq.km. of arable land in the Nineveh governorate, northern Iraq. Special studies concerning the southwestern part of the project have been finalised. A

network of water channels and irrigation systems will be built to develop 500 sq.km. of arable land. The Ministry is about to complete studies on the third part of the project, which covers 250 sq.m. of land currently being used for wheat and barley plantation and depends on rain water. This land will subsequently be irrigated by a network connected with a main channel that reaches an inlet in the Saddam dam. (INA 0808 gmt 13 Aug 85)

## ISRAEL

**CABINET ADOPTS ECONOMIC RESOLUTIONS** (Excerpts) Today the Cabinet ... adopted a series of economic resolutions, the main ones being the ratification of the free trade zone agreement with the United States and the continued restrictions on government contracts, through a gradual letting up until March. The number of government staff will be frozen until March; the requirement that senior ministers obtain approval in order to travel abroad will remain in effect until December, when the matter will be reconsidered. Ministers Sharir, Pat and Shapira voted against the continued restriction on travel by senior ministers.

Our economic affairs correspondent Ze'ev Hasper reports that following the request by the Interior Minister, the Cabinet decided to terminate daylight savings time two weeks earlier than originally planned: on 1st September. It was also decided to adjust income tax brackets during August by 14%, and to exempt all those whose tax bracket exceeds [as heard] 20% from paying national insurance next month. Finally, in the wake of a proposal by the Finance Minister, the Cabinet approved the channeling of 12m shekels to local municipalities as emergency aid. . . (IDF Radio 1405 gmt 18 Aug 85)

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX UP** (Excerpt) The consumer price index increased by 27.5% in July, the highest total ever registered. The increase reflects price increases in all consumer items, particularly food, utilities, transport and communications. Only the price of fruits and vegetables registered a decrease. . . (Israel home service 1400 gmt 15 Aug 85)

**SRI LANKA REESTABLISHES COMMERCIAL TIES** (Text) The President of Sri Lanka has decided to reestablish commercial ties between his country and Israel. This was reported by official sources in the capital of Colombo. The presidential decision was conveyed to the Industry and Trade Minister by the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister. Sri Lanka severed its ties with Israel on the grounds that Israel was refusing to recognise the UN resolution calling for a withdrawal from the [occupied] territories. (Israel home service 1400 gmt 16 Aug 85)

## KUWAIT

**MODERNISATION OF OIL REFINERIES** (Excerpts) Kuwait is about to complete the modernisation of its two largest oil refineries through the use of the most up-to-date technology in the world so that by the end of next year it can refine more than 65% of its oil output. Since 1980 Kuwait has been modernising the oil refinery at the port of Ahmadi and the oil refinery at the port of Abdullah in order to increase their refining capacities to approximately 650,000 b/d. The estimated cost of modernising the two refineries amounts to about 1,320,000,000 Kuwait dinars, that is to say about 4,356,000,000 US dollars. . . The current refining capacities of all three refineries - the aforementioned two and the Shu'aybah oil refinery - amount to 520,000 b/d. . .

The estimated cost of modernising the oil refinery at the port of Ahmadi is 720m Kuwait dinars - about 2,400m US dollars. Its refining production capacity is expected to rise to 270,000 b/d in August of next year when modernisation is completed. The estimated cost of modernising the oil refinery at the port of Abdullah is 600m Kuwait dinars - about 1,980m US dollars. Its refining capacity is expected to reach 200,000 b/d by the end of 1987. . . In addition to the main contractor - the Japanese JGC corporation - about 168 local contractors participated in the modernising project of the oil refinery of the port of Ahmadi, while the total number of people who were employed to carry out the work amounted to about 10,000 engineers, technicians, administrators, and skilled and semi-skilled workers. . . (KUNA 1225 gmt 19 Aug 85)