LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Le mauvais temps persistera, avec des risques d’averses.

SG/PRB/D(92)67

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

NICOSIE - L’avion transportant le dirigeant palestinien Yasser Arafat a disparu mardi soir alors qu’il survolait le territoire libyen, venant du Soudan, ont indiqué les médias officiels libyens dans la nuit de mardi à mercredi. JANA a précisé que l’avion du chef de l’OLP a disparu des écrans radars à 18H45 GMT mardi et que le contact a été coupé en raison des mauvaises conditions atmosphériques.

A TUNIS, une source palestinienne informée a indiqué que le chef de l’OLP, qui a effectué lundi une visite à Khartoum, devait faire une brève escale à Al-Sara pour visiter les forces palestiniennes stationnées dans cette ville, qui compte notamment un aérodrome militaire. Il devait ensuite regagner Tunis, siège de sa direction politique, selon la même source.

BAGDAD - L’Irak a donné son accord pour la destruction "d’équipements et de bâtiments" de son centre nucléaire d’Al-Atheer, situé près de Bagdad, a annoncé mardi le chef de la mission nucléaire de l’ONU, M. Dimitri Perricos.

WASHINGTON - Le gouverneur de l’Arkansas Bill Clinton, chez les Démocrates, et le président George Bush, côté républicain, ont remporté les élections primaires qui se déroulaient mardi soir dans 4 Etats américains, selon les résultats des premiers dépouillements.

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ECONOMIC GROWTH FORECASTS

REUTER: OECD considering revising down 1992 forecast

BONN - "The OECD might revise downwards its 1992 growth forecast of 2.2% for members states because world economic recovery is developing more slowly than expected, the head of the Paris-based forum said on Tuesday. Jean-Claude Paye, Secretary General of the OECD, said OECD ministers would review and update December forecasts at a meeting in Paris on May 18 to 19, and could agree a revision then. 'We may revise the figures down slightly for 1992, since the starting point (of the recovery) is coming a bit later', Paye told a news conference in Bonn. 'But we still think there will be an overall upturn in the second half of the year'... 'We have the impression that the (US) recovery is already underway, even it is still hesitant and there are conflicting indicators’, Paye said. In December, the OECD forecast the 1992 growth rate across its membership would double from 1.1% in 1991. But it said growth would be weaker than in previous upturns. 'The outlook is not extremely bright, but it is also not extremely gloomy’, Paye told reporters between meetings with top Bonn officials and Bundesbank president Helmut Schlesinger... He said it was clear that German unification placed unusual burdens on the country, boosting public borrowing, fuelling inflation and making a tight monetary policy necessary... 'I consider German unification a historically important event, and one that is of benefit to us all’, he said. ‘So it is not shocking and abnormal that a form of burden-sharing, mostly through interest rates, is occurring’. OECD ministers would also review progress on world trade talks, Paye said, adding members states would reiterate their resolve to continue world trade talks and prevent protectionism."

REUTER: IMF expects global economic rebound in 1993

WASHINGTON - "The IMF expects the industrial world to record solid economic growth next year after a lacklustre performance in 1992, international monetary sources said on Tuesday. They said the IMF’s latest economic forecast, discussed by its board this week, foresees growth in the industrial world of 3-1/4% next year after a meagre 2% in 1992... Monetary sources said the IMF expects the US to lead the world recovery next year, with growth picking up to 3-1/2% in 1993 from about
1-1/2% this year. IMF staff also look for faster growth in Europe and Japan... The EC is expected to record overall growth of close to 3% in 1993 after a 2% rise this year. Europe’s biggest economy, Germany, will expand by about 3-1/4% in 1993 after growing 2-1/4% this year, according to the Fund forecast. Japan will also experience an improved economic performance next year, with growth picking up to about 3-3/4% from some 2-3/4% this year, the sources said."

GATT NEGOTIATIONS

WALL STREET JOURNAL: EC, Bush to meet in effort to end impasse on trade

FRANKFURT - "With time possibly running out for GATT, EC leaders are to meet with President George Bush in Washington on April 22 in a bid to seek a breakthrough in the stalled talks on liberalizing world trade, EC officials said... Yet in one inauspicious sign, EC foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg on Monday, while urging renewed efforts for a compromise with the US, turned down a Portuguese proposal to hold a special meeting of EC trade ministers to formulate a common approach ahead of the meeting with Mr. Bush... EC negotiators have claimed that government leaders must intervene on points where negotiators have failed to find accord in Geneva. But, with farmers’ protests against subsidy cuts heating up in Europe, the negotiators warned against hoping that the talks with Mr. Bush will produce a miracle."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Protectionism ’will hit EC most’

BONN - "The European Community, and Germany in particular, stand to lose most if the Uruguay Round under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade fails, according to the BDI, Germany’s leading industry association. Economic and political reforms in eastern Europe would also be threatened, and the danger of mass migration to the west would be increased. A drift back into protectionism could be ‘devastating’, according to Mr Heinrich Weiss, association president."

SHIPBUILDING SUBSIDIES

LLOYD’S LIST: Odds stacked against OECD agreement

"Vital talks to phase out shipbuilding subsidies open today at the OECD in Paris but the chance of success is rated as very low. The major stumbling blocks to an international agreement remain the US protectionist Jones Act and the credit schemes operated by Japan and South Korea... Most agree that this round of talks, under the chairmanship of ambassador Georg Lennkh, represent the last chance to secure an international deal."

LLOYD’S LIST: Anti-subsidy Bill sidetracked in U.S.as OECD talks open

"The progress of the anti-ship subsidy Gibbons Bill towards a final vote at the US House of Representatives has been unexpectedly halted on the eve of today’s resumption of the OECD stalled ship subsidy negotiations... The official explanation for the Bill’s sidetracking was that procedural agreement had not been reached as to whether the entire Bill as amended should be voted on or whether the basic Bill and its amendments should be voted on separately. The Bush administration virorously opposes the Bill, which led some to suggest the delay came from White House muscle-flexing... In any event, it is now unlikely that there can be a House vote on the Gibbons Bill before the week of April 27 at the earliest. Shipbuilders’ Council of America president, John Stocker, a major architect of the Bill, said he was unaware of chicanery. He was optimistic about the Bill’s passage because he was pessimistic that OECD could reach an agreement acceptable to the US."

THE YUGOSLAV REPUBLICS

FINANCIAL TIMES: Bosnia’s Serb minority declares independence

BELGRADE/BRUSSELS - "Serb leaders yesterday declared an independent Serbian republic within Bosnia-Hercegovina, the ethnically mixed Yugoslav republic, following the European Community’s decision on Monday to recognise Bosnia’s independence. Serbs in the republic, where there was further ethnic violence yesterday, fear becoming a minority in an independent Bosnia-Hercegovina, separated from Serbs elsewhere in the former federation. Yugoslav air force jets were reported yesterday to have launched 2 strikes against targets in western Bosnia."

HERALD TRIBUNE: US recognizes independence of 3 republics
WASHINGTON - "The United States recognized the independence of 3 secessionist republics of Yugoslavia on Tuesday. President George Bush said in a statement issued by the White House that he would move immediately to establish diplomatic relations with Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia... The statement issued by the White House said the United States would also ‘work intensively’ with the EC toward concurrent recognition of a fourth republic, Macedonia, which has been delayed by objections of Greece. Joint recognition of Macedonia is now expected in early May."

AMERIQUE LATINE

LE MONDE: Urgence pour des programmes sociaux plus agressifs

"Après les succès remportés en matière d’assainissement économique, le grand défi que l’Amérique latine doit affronter aujourd’hui est la lutte contre la pauvreté’, a affirmé M. Enrique Iglesias, le président de la Banque interaméricaine de développement (BID). Dans un entretien qu’il a accordé au MONDE à la veille de la 33ème assemblée annuelle de la BID, qui s’est ouverte cette semaine, à Saint-Domingue, M. Iglesias a insisté sur l’urgence de mettre en place ‘des programmes sociaux beaucoup plus agressifs, car la raison d’être des efforts économiques réalisés par la région à un coût très élevé est de permettre un développement social solide’."