

Protests erupt at ADB meet in India

AFP, Hyderabad

Protestors took to the streets in southern India Wednesday as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) began its annual meeting to expand free trade in a region housing two-thirds of the world's poor.

Several hundred protestors staged early morning demonstrations as street meetings got underway in Hyderabad against "anti-people policies" of the multilateral agency, officials and witnesses said.

Organisers said more than 2,000 people were expected to stage a main rally later Wednesday against the ADB and the World Bank's lending policies which they branded as anti-poor.

Wearing black headbands, brown and green jackets proclaiming "Destroy ADB" and "Go back ADB", the demonstrators, including women and children, shouted slogans against the Manila-based lender.

"ADB hands off our water, our health, our forests, our livelihood and our environment," a huge banner read.

"These agencies are undemocratic and push their own agenda without listening to our voices," said protestor Murad Hussain, head of a 70-member group from India's eastern state of West Bengal.

The People's Forum Against ADB, an umbrella group of more than 70 non-governmental organi-

sations, also kicked off a "parallel session" in Hyderabad to highlight the plight of people displaced by ADB projects, lack of accountability by the ADB and other social issues.

"The ADB, like the World Bank, has become the custodian of private investment and the promoter and protector of corporate interests and profits," said Gururaja Budhya, a People's Forum spokesperson.

"The projects of ADB continue to displace hundreds of thousands of people across the region with little or no compensation," he said. "The ADB creates development refugees and manufactures poverty."

Budhya said a session on "Reclaiming Democracy" would be held in Hyderabad to bring to light how

development projects bypass local governing bodies.

"In India and elsewhere in Asia we see a new trend of military guarding development projects funded by the multilateral agencies. This shows to what extent institutions such as ADB can go to support undemocratic institutions," he said.

On May 5, the People's Forum is planning a rally in the southern city of Hyderabad and more than 7,000 people are expected to attend, Budhya said.

More than 3,000 global delegates including finance ministers, business leaders and representatives from global organisations are attending the ADB meeting here.

Ann Quon, spokesperson for the ADB, said an explosion in Asian free-trade deals and their links to cutting poverty will top the agenda of the annual event.

"One of the main areas we are looking at is how regional cooperation and integration can help us fight poverty," she told AFP. "At the same time there is a proliferation of FTAs (free trade agreements) which has a snowball effect in the region. One has to try and make sense of it all."

During the ADB's 39th annual meeting the bank will ask members to try to aim for multilateral trade agreements, instead of country-to-country deals, Quon said.

Unilever seminar on new developments in skin whitening

In a recent seminar on new developments in skin whitening, Unilever scientists explained the safety and efficacy of 'Fair & Lovely', a skin care cream of the company, to renowned dermatologists of the country.

Chairman of Unilever Bangladesh Sanjiv Mehta, President of Bangladesh Dermatological Society Prof MA Wadud, Unilever scientist Vibhav Sanzgiri and Director of National Skin Centre of Singapore Goh Chee Leok were present at the seminar, says a press release.



PHOTO: STAR

Navana Ltd, the sole distributor of Toyota brand vehicle in Bangladesh, conducted a raffle draw styled 'Guess and Fly Quiz' on Tuesday in Dhaka to mark the launch of Toyota Yaris car in local market.



PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

Bidyut Kumar Basu, head of Customer Management Division of mobile phone operator GrameenPhone Ltd, exchanges views with the subscribers under a promotional programme of the company styled 'Grahok Katha' (customer interaction) in Teknaf recently.

CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's (May 3, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	Buy	OD Slight Doc	OD Transfer
70.1700	70.2000	USD	69.0500	69.0270	68.9810	
89.7194	89.7577	EUR	86.2089	86.1802	86.1227	
130.2215	130.2772	GBP	126.0370	125.9950	125.9109	
54.9150	54.9385	AUD	52.1397	52.1223	52.0875	
0.6281	0.6284	JPY	0.6056	0.6054	0.6050	
57.5305	57.5551	CHF	55.3996	55.3811	55.3442	
9.9116	9.9158	SEK	8.9929	8.9899	8.9839	
64.3112	64.3387	CAD	61.9449	61.9243	61.8830	
9.0706	9.0745	HKD	8.8851	8.8822	8.8763	
45.5679	45.5874	SGD	43.7357	43.7212	43.6920	
19.2605	19.2688	AED	18.6481	18.6418	18.6294	
18.8578	18.8659	SAR	18.2643	18.2582	18.2460	
12.4232	12.4285	DKK	11.2364	11.2327	11.2252	
236.9155	237.0189	KWD	234.8803	234.8043	234.6524	

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.77	60.05	102.8	37.555	6.1427	0.6407	3.61

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was active on Wednesday. USD was stable against the Bangladeshi taka.

Local Money Market

Money market was active on Wednesday. Call money rate eased and ranged

between 11.00 and 12.00 percent compared to 12.00-15.00 per cent.

International Market

The dollar eased towards a recent one-year low against the euro on Wednesday as investors fretted about the US interest rate outlook.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 3/5/2006.

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/3	Ken Cape	R. Seed/Wt	Vanc	USL	16/4	5/5	1467
J/4	Pretty Flourish	Wheat(P)	Novo	Mutual	23/4	7/5	2678
J/5	Continent-4	GI(S.Ash)	P. Band	Cla	22/4	5/5	1074
J/6	Bounty-7	GI(Log)	Yang	PML	28/4	5/5	2056
J/7	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	25/4	4/5	218
J/8	Liang Shan	GI	Sing	Cosco	26/4	3/5	3174
J/9	OEL Excellence	Cont	Col	PSSL	24/4	3/5	--
J/10	Banglar Robi	Cont	Col	BSC	24/4	4/5	153
J/12	Banga Bodor	Cont	Ptp	Baridhi	24/4	3/5	--
J/13	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	24/4	6/5	226

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Israa	3/5	Jedd	USS	Scraping	--
Selatan Megah	3/5	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Yang
Ja Vesta	4/5	Sing	Vega	Cont	Sing
Amanat Shah	3/5	Chenn	Cla	Sugar	--
New Hope	3/5	--	OLM	C. Clink	SCBL
Zorina	5/5	Mgl	Seacon	Urea	K/U
OEL Wisdom	6/5	Kal	PSSL	Cont	Kol
Banga Borti	4/5	Sin	Bdship	Cont	Sing
KS Harmony	4/5	Indo	ASL	C. Clink	Holcim
Esham	5/5	P. Kel	CEL	Cont	Sing
Xpress Manaslu	4/5	CBO	Seacon	Cont	Col

Tanker due

C.P.33	3/5	Dumai	USL	Cpo (RM/4/3)
Southern Orchis	5/5	Sing	Jardine	Lube Oil
Tabitm	6/4	Dumai	SNCL	CPO(RM/3)
Salamat-3	6/5	--	Nishat	Bitumen (RM/3)

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Kota Rukun	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	25/4
QC Dignity	Cont	PTP	QCSC	26/4
Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	26/4
New Blessing	Cont	P. Kel	CEL	26/4
Sea Master One	Cont	P. Kel	PML	28/4
Xpress Makalu	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	28/4
Banga Borak	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	29/4
Independent Spirit	Cont	Sing	APL	29/4
Kota Petani	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	29/4
QC Teal	Cont	Col	QCSC	30/4
Cape Bonavista	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	30/4

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Au Co-1	Raw Sugar	Bang	Park	21/4
Cakra Kember	GI(Copra)	Sing	Mutual	26/4
Midax	Slag	Viza	Move	30/4
Hilal-1	Wheat(P)	Niko	Litmond	1/5
Alison	C. Clink	Nant	MBL	3/5

Vessels not entering

Ocean Heart	Salt	Kand	Sigma	13/2
Georgios-II	Wheat(P)	Turk	USL	19/4
Maris	C. Clink	Lumut	Litmond	26/4
Vana	C. Clink	Nant	USL	27/4
Kulinatee	C. Clink	Jaka	BSL	28/4
An Shun	C. Clink	Rizha	Val	1/5
Pan Express	Scraping	Huang	Rsship	25/4
Alphaship	Ballast	Pirao	JF	27/4

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



PHOTO: UNITREND

The 33rd annual general meeting (AGM) of Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd was held on Tuesday in Dhaka. Chairman of the company Gerald K Adams presided over the AGM, which was attended, among others, by directors KR Das, Anil Bhalla, Jean Claude Loutreuil, Rupali Chowdhury and Abdul Khalek, and Managing Director Masih Ul Karim. The AGM approved 100 per cent cash dividend for its shareholders for the year 2005.

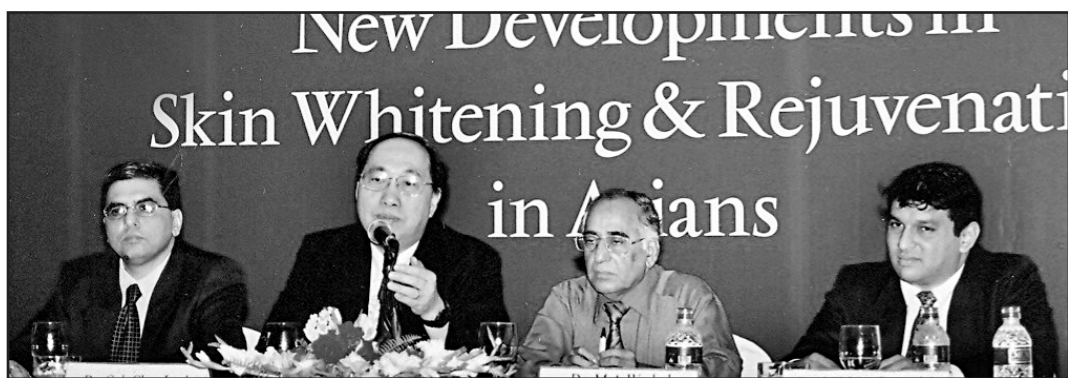


PHOTO: ASIATIC MINDSHARE

Chairman of Unilever Bangladesh Sanjiv Mehta and President of Bangladesh Dermatological Society Prof MA Wadud are seen with Unilever scientist Vibhav Sanzgiri and Director of National Skin Centre of Singapore Goh Chee Leok at a recent seminar on new developments in skin whitening.

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