

EC-Japan talks on progress

BRUSSELS, Oct 8: The European Commission and Japan said on Thursday they were making progress in discussions on a so-called trade assessment mechanism which could lead to ways to cut Japan's trade surplus.

John Richardson, the Commission official in charge of talks on the subject, held a fifth round of discussions in Brussels on Wednesday with Kojiro Shojiri, head of the unit dealing with EC economic affairs in the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Richardson told Reuters that considerable progress had been made, while a spokesman for the Japanese mission to the EC said he was very satisfied with the results of the meeting, which had been of a technical nature.

"What is important is to have a constructive dialogue between Japan and the EC," the Japanese spokesman said, adding that his government appreciated the EC's efforts to take a different approach from that of the United States toward reducing Japan's trade surplus.

A Commission spokesman said the EC and the United States shared the same aim of getting Japan's current account surplus down, but differed on methods of achieving this.

India's spices exports may double

NEW DELHI, Oct 8: India's spices exports are expected to be doubled in the next three or four years by shifting from supplies of raw materials to value-added consumer projects with a special emphasis on quality and productivity, according to official sources today, reports Xinhua.

India's joint secretary in the commerce ministry Ashok Kumar was quoted as telling reporters that a quality assurance guarantee for consumers in markets would be served with the aim of increasing its exports of the global market.

India produces 2.5 million tonnes of spices annually. In 1992-93, India's exports of spices to nearly 90 countries totalled \$2.9 billion (192 million US dollar) which is expected to go up to 50 billion rupee (1,583.7 million US dollar) this year.

70m people in US use personal computer

WASHINGTON, Oct 8: More than 70 million people in the United States use a personal computer at home or in the office, spending an average of 17 hours weekly in front of their screens, according to the think tank Technican, reports AFP.

Thirty-seven per cent of US families have at least one member who uses a personal computer for work, play or study.

But the pace of buying new equipment makes computer makers uneasy according to the Technican report. Users keep their machines an average of 30 months, while 40 per cent have never replaced the first computer they bought.

Users of computers with the powerful Intel 486 microchip have an average of 4.73 programme. Microsoft's windows is the most popular programme and gaining popularity. Twenty-one per cent of users have joined a network such as productivity or America on-line.

The average computer user is 35 to 44 years old who earns between \$9,000 and 75,000 dollar annually. Usually the average user also has other electronic equipment such as video games, telephone answering machines, portable telephones or video cameras.

Japan set to achieve balanced trade ties with developing states: JETRO

Japan is set to achieve balanced and harmonious trade relationships by promoting imports from all the countries of the world, specially the developing ones, reports BSS.

This was stated by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) officials to a group of 43 persons comprising journalists, trade officials and industrialists from the developing countries who recently visited Japan under JETRO's Export to Japan Study Programme (EJSP).

As part of this import promotion programme, the government and the business community have been making concerted efforts in recent years to encourage imports by further opening the Japanese market to the outside world, they said.

Backed by the government's import promotion budget which was greatly enhanced in 1990, JETRO has further strengthened its import expansion policies drawing wide acclaim, they further said.

The JETRO organised EJSP programme was attended by the participants from Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The programme, first time for the developing countries, was arranged with a view to introducing the participants with the outline of the Japanese market and also how to penetrate into the market. Earlier, this EJSP programme was meant for the advanced nations.

Individual business appointments with company executives as well as visit to different industries in Tokyo and other cities were also included in the tour and study programme.

The Japanese specialists, in lecture sessions, specially dealt with quality, cost, delivery and service (Q.C.D.S), which they said were the main criteria to enter the Japanese market.

The experts suggested proper target market research and analysis for understanding the nature of the Japanese market and its consumers. They were of the view that the products, good for the American and Education markets might not be appropriate for the Japanese market.

To accelerate the government's more import policies, JETRO, a non-profit organisation, has set up local internationalisation centres in Japan's 50 prefectures and districts to serve as the base to promote

imports by providing information tailored to each region's needs.

The Business Support Centre (BSC) of JETRO at Akasaka Twin Tower in Tokyo, opened in March 1993, is another significant addition to the variety of its activities that support this effort.

According to JETRO sources, Bangladesh, Hong Kong and Korea were the beneficiary countries of Asia in 1992 of the Japan government's "cooperation project for the promotion of export and industry in developing countries" with the specific intention of assisting these countries in their efforts to develop export products, foster human resources through training and promote small and medium-sized industries.

JETRO international communication adviser Shohel Kuriyama while taking around the participants to the Business Support Centre told BSS that the centre's main objective was to offer comprehensive assistance to foreign business people willing to export to Japan by providing a fully-equipped office upto two months.

At BSC the 'help desk' will provide them with necessary information about the Japanese

market. The advisors at the desk provide services such as arrangements for business appointments, recommendation of interpreters and consultation on a variety of problems faced by the foreign entrepreneurs in doing business in Japan.

In the multi-purpose space of the BSC, these are provisions for holding of exhibitions, seminars, training programmes, business appointments etc.

In business library of the centre, the JETRO adviser said, the foreign entrepreneurs could use a variety of reference books and publications, statistics and

company brochures. But the users, he said, should apply for office looking through JETRO's overseas offices.

It organises exhibitions in Tokyo and other regions of the country to introduce products from the developing countries. It also dispatches purchasing missions to 'product fairs' in the developing countries to promote imports to Japan.

JETRO in collaboration with ESCAP will hold a handicraft exhibition in November next in Tokyo. Two Bangladesh companies along with other countries will participate in the exhibition.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates (Bangladesh taka for one unit of foreign currency) to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on Oct 7 and 8.

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	B. C.	T. T. (C)	Transfers	OD
US Dollar	39.9750	39.7300	39.4850	
Pound Sterling	60.9499	59.9430	59.5734	
DM	24.7657	24.3540	24.2038	
FF	7.0855	6.9683	6.9254	
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2757	1.2670	1.2545	
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3373	1.3282	1.3150	

Indicative Rates	Selling		Buying	
	T.T. & O.D	O. D Transfer		
S Riyal	10.8600	10.5000		
D Guilders	21.4600	21.2000		
S. Kroner	4.8800	4.8200		
Singapore Dollar	24.9100	24.5600		
UAE Dirham	10.8900	10.7500		
Kuwait Dinar	132.9000	129.5000		

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

Shipping Intelligence CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 06.10.93

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Al Salma	GI/GL	Call	ASLL	28/09	10/10
J/2	Santa	GI	Stng	Prog	27/09	07/10
J/3	Polyxeni	Salt (TCB)	Lamd	PRSA	19/09	06/10
J/4	Pu Aspiration	Cement	Sing	Litmond	03/10	10/10
J/5	San Evans	Salt (TCB)	Kand	MSPL	29/09	08/10
J/6	Jala Yamini	Salt (TCB)	Kand	MSPL	28/09	06/10
J/7	Ivyerett GI	Stng	EBPL	01/10	08/10	
J/8	Jiang Cheng	GI	S.Hat	BDSHP	04/10	09/10
J/9	Banglar Kakoli	GI	Male	BSC	30/09	08/10
J/10	Maro	Salt (TCB)	Tuti	Litmond	25/09	09/10
J/11	Indian	Endurance	Salt (TCB)	Rand	10/09	06/10
J/12	Kota Buana	Cont	Sing	RSL	05/10	07/10
J/13	Hang Wan	SPL. Cargo	W.Hov	BDSHP	03/10	10/10
MPB/1	Banglar Mont	Cont	Mong	BSC	05/10	07/10
MPB/2	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	04/10	08/10
CCJ	Vishva Karuna	R.Seed	Chin	Litmond	30/08	25/10
GSJ	Sea Rhapsody	Cement	Tuti	PSAL	27/09	10/10
TSP	Banglar Doot	Repair	—	BSC	R/A	08/10
RM/4	Antje	P.Equip	Mina	Prog	05/10	07/10
RM/6	Banglar	Shourabh	Repair	—	BSC	R/A 08/10
DOJ	Dolores	—	Seacom	R/A	10/10	
DD	Samudra Samrat	Repair	Kand	SSL	25/08	13/10
DDJ/1	Banglar Kiron	Repair	—	BSC	R/A	06/10
DDJ/2	Banglar Asha	Repair	—	BSC	R/A	15/10
CUFJ	Tanary Star	Urea	Mong	PSAL	28/09	08/10

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last Port	Local call	Agent	Cargo	Loading port
Kyong Je	06/10	—	—	—	—	—
Cheong Buk	06/10	—	—	—	—	—
Che Je	06/10	—	—	—	—	—
Kasuga-II	06/10	Yang	MSA	Pulses & Logs	—	—
Leona	06/10	V.Pat	Prog	GI	—	—
Loyal Bird	07/10	Mong	Litmond	Repair	—	—
I. Yamburenko23/9	07/10	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing.	
Higenia	07/10	Kand	MSPL	Salt	—	—
Lanka Mahapala 28/9	08/10	Mong	Baridhi	Cont	Col.	
Jin Jing	09/10	Sing	OWSL	Sugar in Bag	—	—
Eponyua 29/9	09/10	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing.	
Arktis Sun	09/10	Sing	RSL	GI (Copro)	—	—
Ronjay Victory	10/10	—	PSAL	Cement	—	—
Mowlavi	08/10	Mong	SSL	GL	Abbas	
Exceed-2	10/10	—	BBA	GI	—	—
Meng Kota 25/9	10/10	—	AML	Cont	Sing.	
Banglar Robi 2/10	10/10	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing.	
Sea Nymph	10/10	—	USTC	Cement	—	—
Lotikva	10/10	Sitt	MTA	Timber	—	—
Gwardia Ludowa	10/10	Kand	Conso	Salt	—	—
Fong Yun 30/9	11/10	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing.	
Boris Gorbato	11/10	—	GEL	Salt (TCB)	—	—
Andrian Goncharov3/10	11/10	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing.	
Imke Wehr 5/10	12/10	Sing	AFB	Cont/USA/FAR	—	—
Insuetasy 3/10	13/10	Col	BTLA	Cont	Col	
Rafiah	14/10	Jybo	Dynamic	M.Seeds	—	—
Optima5/10	14/10	—	RSL	Cont	Sing.	
Epson Trader 488 5/10	14/10	—	EBPL	GI	—	—
NGS Ranger3/10	15/10	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing.	
Nour (E.L.) 2/9	15/10	—	LTL	E/L	Sudanese	
Taganrogskiy Zaly	15/10	Mong	OWSL	—	Sea Ports	
Blue Shark	16/10	—	Prog	GI	—	—
Kamlaerett	21/10	—	EBPL	GI	Japa. F.E	

TANKER DUE

Esso Melbourne	07/10	Sing	MSPL	HSD/SKO
Larissa	09/10	Disc	ESCL	F.Oil
Marano	09/10	JBD	CSLL	M.C Oil

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local call	Agent	Date of arrival
Banglar Jyoti	—	—	BSC	R/A (20/9)	
Mara	—	Mong	OTL	02/10	
Marine Three	—	—	BML	R/A (3/10)	

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 07.10.93

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/12 Kota Buana	MPB/11. Yamburenko	J/4 PU Aspiration
MPB/1 Banglar Mont	J/14 Leona	to TSP/RM-4
RM/4 Antje	J/12 Kasuga	
	NB Higenia	

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

Dhaka Stock Prices

Weekly comparison: At the close of trading on September 29 and October 7, 1993

Company	FV/ML*	1992-93	
		Sept 29	Oct 07
BANKS (12)			
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	900.00	900.00
AB Bank	100/5	172.00	175.00
City Bank	100/5	325.00	325.00
Eastern Bank	100/20	110.00	110.00
IDLC Ltd	100/20	205.29	207.00
IFIC	100/5	157.00	156.00
Islami Bank	1000/1	1401.00	1400.00
National Bank	100/5	92.00	92.00
Pubali Bank	100/5	100.00	100.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	68.00	68.00
U.C.B.L	100/5	120.00	120.00
Uttrara Bank	100/5	90.00	90.00
INVESTMENT (08)			
ICB	100/5	100.00	100.00
1st ICB M.Fund	100/5	350.00	365.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	160.00	165.00
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5	144.50	145.00
4th ICB M. Fund	100/10	145.25	146.00
5th ICB M. Fund	100/10	92.00	93.02
6th ICB M. Fund	100/10	65.73	69.00
Unit Certificate		112.00	113.00
Sales Price		107.00	108.00
Kc-purchase			
INSURANCE (04)			
BGC	100/10	182.50	183.80
Green Delta	100/10	207.50	207.50
Peoples	100/10	290.00	290.00
United	100/10	193.00	194.00
ENGINEERING (19)			
Altab Automobiles	100/5	183.25	183.00
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50	44.50	44.00
Ariz Pipes	100/5	230.00	231.00
Bangladesh Autocars/10/5		47.00	49.31
Bangladesh Lamps/10/5		300.00	300.00
B.Thai Aluminium/10/10		83.00	82.50
Bengal Carbide	100/5	272.00	272.00
Bengal Steel	10/50	20.00	20.00
Eastern Cables	100/5	70.58	70.00
Howlader PVC	100/10	110.00	109.00
Karim Pipe	100/5	62.87	58.00
Mastaf Corp.	100/5	30.00	30.00
Monno Staffers	10/05	200.00	200.00
Monno Jute	100/5	350.00	350.00
National Tubes	100/10	60.00	60.00
Panther Steel	10/50	8.00	8.00
Quasem Drycells	10/50	9.90	9.90
Renwick Jaineswar	100/5	81.50	83.00
Singer Bangladesh/10/5		907.50	898.00
FOOD & ALLIED (23)			
AB Blacut	100/5	200.00	200.00
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	50.00	50.00
Aman Sea Food	100/5	15.00	15.00
Apex Food	100/5	700.00	675.00
Aroma Tea	100/5	60.00	60.00
Bangas	100/5	145.00	145.00
B D Plantation	100/5	500.00	500.00
Bengal Food	100/5	114.00	144.00
B.L.T.C.	100/5	800.00	800.00
B.T.C.	10/50	74.00	74.00
Chg. Vegetable	100/10	67.23	68.00
Dhaka Vegetable	100/5	67.00	