

# APEC should lead world in freeing trade: Keating

CANBERRA, July 11: Asia-Pacific countries should lead the world in freeing trade and push trade liberalisation measures through the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC), said Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, reports Reuter.

In an interview with the Australian newspaper published today, Keating said APEC could be used to force the European Union (EU) back into negotiations for freer global trade.

Keating said the formation of APEC and its talk of freer trade had forced the EU towards the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The only thing that will get them to another round if they think we're developing the

modalities for freer trade ourselves," Keating told the newspaper. "They wouldn't have come to the last round without APEC."

The newspaper said Keating wanted the APEC heads of government meeting, to be held in Bogor, Indonesia, in November to embrace aggressively a trade liberalisation agenda for the region.

This means moving from the trade facilitation issues pursued at last year's APEC meeting to trade liberalisation issues in Indonesia in November, the newspaper said.

Keating also reiterated his support for simply freer trade within APEC rather than an exclusive free trade bloc.

Asked if APEC was pursuing an exclusive free trade bloc, Keating said: "No, we are after

"freer trade". He added he was confident that APEC would change its name at the Indonesia leaders' meeting to the Asia-Pacific Economic Community.

The Australian also reported that a further APEC leaders' meeting had been pencilled in for Japan next year.

The APEC group links Australia, the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand.

It accounts for 40 per cent of the world's population and 50 per cent of its gross national product. Australia was one of the founding members of the APEC group.

## India to tap tourism potential

NEW DELHI, July 11: India has raised a 10-point strategy to tap the country's tourism potential, reports Xinhua.

According to a press release available here today, the strategy was presented by the tourism committee of the PHD (Punjab, Haryana and Delhi) Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The release said hotel industry would provide accommodation to an estimated five million tourists by 1996-97 under the strategy. The tourism industry is expected to earn foreign exchange worth over 100 billion rupees or 3.17 billion US dollars.

India has tremendous potential for promotion of tourism and could be the highest foreign exchange earner and provide additional employment to over 400 thousand people annually, the release said.

India has been making consistent efforts in recent years to tap its rich tourism potential of historical interests and relics as well as its beautiful sub-tropical scenery with various measures and programmes.

The new strategy also suggested that the monument of historic tourist importance be refurbished and public facilities be established while encouraging the involvement of the private sector into tourism promoting activities.

Meanwhile, guidelines for registration of hotels investment will be simplified in tourism related activities such as tour operating agencies, travel facilities and telecom linkages, among others.

## Russia desires to join Paris Club of donors

MOSCOW, July 11: President Boris Yeltsin said Sunday he had insisted at the weekend G-7 summit that Russia be allowed to join the Paris Club of creditor nations, starting with observer status, reports AFP.

Just prior to his return from the summit of the world's wealthiest industrialised nations, which ended Sunday in Naples, he underlined the significance of sums owed to Moscow by other former Soviet republics.

As the inheritor of the former Soviet Union, we accepted a debt of 80 billion dollars, he told Russian Television.

But at the same time, the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States today owe US \$150 billion dollars, Yeltsin continued after taking part in G-7 political discussions for the first time, though Russia is not a member.

"Who in this situation is the creditor?" he asked. "The Paris Club is a club of creditors, that is why I insisted on our becoming a member... with observer status for the first six months of a year."

Yeltsin also called for the lifting of trade restrictions against Russia, saying if they were removed, Russia would be three billion dollars per year better off.

That is a very sizeable sum. We barely get as much credit in (international) aid, he added.

The Russian leader also said he had told G-7 leaders that Moscow had stopped all military aid to North Korea, without elaborating further.

## S Africa, Britain sign aid accord

JOHANNESBURG, July 11: South Africa and Britain's Commonwealth Development Corporation signed an agreement Monday to facilitate British aid for development and business projects, reports AP.

Finance Minister Derek Keys and Michael Heseltine, President of Britain's Board of Trade, said the accord would promote investment, particularly in small and medium enterprises.

The CDC, a foreign aid arm of the British government, said it would study investment opportunities in South Africa and provide financial and technical assistance for suitable projects.

Heseltine arrived Sunday on a five-day mission with 68 British businessmen. They were to meet representatives from the government chambers of commerce and business.

Trade between the Britain and South Africa totalled 5.6 billion rand (1.6 billion dollars) in 1993, while British investments in South Africa are worth about 60 billion rand (17 billion dollars).

South Africa signed a similar agreement with France last week during a visit by French President Francois Mitterrand. The agreements follow the lifting of economic sanctions against South Africa after the nation held its first all race election in April to formally end the apartheid system of racial discrimination.

## US dollar edges higher against yen in Tokyo

TOKYO, July 11: The US dollar edged higher against the Japanese yen Monday on worries about North Korea after its leader's death. The Tokyo Stock Exchange's key index fell sharply for the fourth consecutive trading day, reports AP.

The dollar closed at 98.55 yen, the day's high, up 0.02 yen from Friday's finish. It was also above its finish in New York Friday of 98.05 yen.

The US currency opened at 98.30 yen, its lowest opening in Tokyo since modern exchange rates were established in the late 1940s, and moved as low as 98.24 yen. The previous record low opening of 98.40 yen was set July 1.

Earlier, in Sydney, where trading starts before Tokyo's, the dollar had slipped to 97.55 yen. Traders said investors were disappointed by a lack of strong commitment to support the dollar from the weekend

summit meeting of the Group of Seven major industrial democracies.

Ryoko Kawashima, a dealer with Citibank in Tokyo, said Tokyo trading was centered on the German mark. The mark drew investors' attention as a safe haven due to uncertainties about the North Korean situation, dealers said.

North Korean leader Kim Il Sung died at age 82 on Friday. Other nations were waiting to see how a change in leadership would affect the hard-line Communist state's stand on accepting inspections of its nuclear programme, suspected of developing nuclear arms.

Traders said the dollar was bought toward the end of Tokyo's Monday trading following news that North Korea has indefinitely put off plans for a historic meeting between its president and rival South Korea's.

## Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on July 11, 1994

### Index continues to leap

#### Star Report

The Dhaka Stock Exchange All Share Price Index continued to leap on Monday.

The price index reached 693,446.67 from 687,245.11, an increase of 6,204 points.

The turnovers on the DSE also maintained their upward trends. The turnover in volume showed a gain of 3.306 per cent and the turnover in value rose by 23.735 per cent.

A total of 26,755 shares worth Tk 55,80,503.00 were traded as against Sunday's 25,899.50 shares valued at Tk 45,10,069.00.

The total number of issues traded rose to 51 from 45. Of them, 16 gained, 27 incurred losses and eight others remained unchanged.

Beximco Ltd led the losers in terms of volume with 2600 shares traded.

United Leasing Company (1000), Zeal Bangla Sugar (1200) and Kohinoor Chemical (845) also incurred significant losses in terms of volume.

Beximco Fisheries topped the gainers' list in terms of volume. Its 4220 shares were traded.

Among the gainers, Tallu Spinning (1260), Beximco Synthetic (1460) and Libra Pharma (2520) were also major volume leaders.

#### Trading at a glance

	Change Number (per share) of shares traded	Tk
<b>Losers (27)</b>		
JLC	7.54	1000
1st ICB M Fund	5.00	5
3rd ICB M Fund	5.00	10
4th ICB M Fund	7.00	60
5th ICB M Fund	0.50	50
6th ICB M Fund	0.09	490
Aziz Pipes	0.76	25
Karim Pipe	0.06	208
Renwick Jaineswar	1.59	355
Ctg Vegetable	2.00	20
Zeal Bangla Sugar	0.50	1200
Shin Pukur Jute	11.00	42
Ashraf Textile	0.13	100
Quasem Silk	0.10	100
Padma Textile	7.00	140
Apex Spinning	2.44	580
Amber Pharma	0.34	250
Kohinoor Chemical	1.71	845
Beximco Infusions	13.62	80
Bata Shoe	1.17	300
Monro Ceramic	2.50	30
Usmania Glass	1.00	120
Sava Refractories	5.00	300
Beximco Ltd	0.28	2600
Ctg Cement	0.10	10
Apex Footwear	4.38	10
Eastern Insurance	2.43	820

#### Gainers (16)

Singer BD	5.33	75
BD Thai Aluminium	0.13	80
Bengal Food	15.82	40
Bangla Vegetable	0.37	485
BD Oxygen	1.00	624
Salham Textile	2.56	430
Modern Dyeing	0.25	15
Tallu Spinning	0.63	1260
Beximco Pharma	1.23	510
Rahman Chemicals	1.98	100
Beximco Synthetic	2.82	1460
Libra Pharma	4.31	2520
Apex Tannery	5.00	90
GQ Ball Pen	0.17	510
Bij Fisheries (Deb)	20.00	271

#### Issues (8) unchanged

Aftab Automobiles (20)	BD Lamps (95)	Eastern Cables (640)	BD Autocars (200)
Quasem Drycells (2300)	Desh Garments (30)	Tamijiuddin Textile (1000)	Ibnsina (30)

#### DSE Shares and Debentures

Company	FV/ML	Closing (Tk)	Change (Tk)
BANKS (13)			
Al-Baraka Bank	1000/1	820.00	
A.B. Bank	100/5	185.00	
City Bank	100/5	270.00	
Eastern Bank	100/20	110.00	
IDLC Ltd	100/20	481.50	
ULC	100/20	369.58	
IFLC	100/5	165.00	
Islami Bank	1000/11499.82		
National Bank	100/5	115.00	
Pubali Bank	100/5	100.00	
Rupali Bank	100/10	72.00	
U.C.B.L.	100/5	85.00	
Uttara Bank	100/5	85.00	
<b>INVESTMENT (8)</b>			
ICL B	100/5	116.15	
1st ICB M. Fund	100/5	675.00	
2nd ICB M Fund	100/5	285.00	
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5	240.00	
4th ICB M. Fund	100/10	235.00	
5th ICB M. Fund	100/10	161.50	
6th ICB M. Fund	100/10	126.00	
ICB Unit Cert.			
Sale Price		127.00	
Re-Purchase		122.00	
<b>INSURANCE (5)</b>			
BGIC	100/10	381.00	