

WTO's new leadership talks deadlocked

GENEVA, May 2: The World Trade Organisation was deadlocked Saturday despite desperate efforts to agree on a new director-general and avert a leadership vacuum at a crucial time for the world economy, says AP.

A bad-tempered meeting of the WTO's decision-making general council broke down in disarray after supporters of former New Zealand Premier Mike Moore clashed repeatedly with backers of Thai Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi.

The atmosphere is tense, tense and not terribly pleasant," said WTO spokesman Keith Rockwell. "It is very clear that we don't have consensus."

Ali Mchumo, the WTO council chairman, adjourned the meeting until Monday in the hope of finding a solution by then.

Mchumo, a Tanzanian diplomat, had proposed on Friday that the US-backed Moore be approved by consensus since he had the support of 62 nations, three more than Supachai.

However, Japan, Malaysia, India and other Asian nations demanded a vote. That runs counter to the WTO's time-honored rule that all decisions be reached by consensus.

Bangladesh Power Development Board Tender Notice

Name of work/supply: 1) Supply of service connection materials (nuts & bolts) for this department. 2) Supply of service materials (Shackle Insulator) for this department. Eligibility of contractor: Power Development Board's all class contractors/suppliers/bonafide traders/A,B,C licence holder electrical contractors/civil contractors/bonafide motor repairing firms. Estimated cost: Taka 1) 74,200/-, 2) 44,000/-. Price of tender: Taka 1) 100/-, 2) 50/- (Non-refundable), should be submitted through Pay-Order in favour of the Deputy-Director, Zonal Accounts Office, CES, PDB, Chittagong. Place & date of obtaining tender: Tender can be purchased from the office of the Chief Engineer, Distribution, South Zone, PDB, Biddut Bhaban, Agrabad, Chittagong/Superintending Engineer, Operation & Maintenance Circle (West), PDB, Chittagong/Manager, Uttara Bank, Agrabad Branch, Chittagong up to 12-5-99 for work No 1 and up to 11-5-99 for work No 2. Date of receiving & opening tender: Tender will be received at the said offices (except bank) up to 12.00 Noon of 13-5-99 for work No: 1 and of 12-5-99 for works No 2 and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 PM in presence of the attending tenderers (if any). Other terms & conditions and all rules & regulations of the tender must be complied with properly.

Biddut/Jana-1467(4)/98-99
Sales & Distribution Division, Halishahar
PDB, Chittagong

Executive Engineer
PDB, Chittagong

Bangladesh Power Development Board Re-Tender Notice

Name of work: Repair to engine No 1 of Rajshahi Power Generation Station. Eligibility of contractor: Power Development Board enlisted A, B & C class contractors & bonafide experienced workshop owners experienced in respect of Power Development Board/Railway/Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation/Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation. In case of bonafide experienced repairing firm, 1998-99 Trade Licence & Income Tax certificate should be submitted at the time of purchasing tender. Estimated cost: Tk 3,25,274/40 (taka three lakh twenty-five thousand and two hundred seventy-four & forty paise only). Price of tender: Tk 300/= (non-refundable), to be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order in favour of Deputy Director, Accounts, ZAO, PDB, Rajshahi. Date & place of obtaining tender: Tender can be purchased up to 17-5-99 from Chief Engineer (Generation), PDB, WAPDA Bhaban, Dhaka/Manager (O&M), Northern Zone, PDB, Rangpur/Executive Engineer, Bogra Power Station, PDB, Bogra/Rajshahi Power Generation Station, PDB, Katakhal, Rajshahi. Date of receiving & opening tender: At the said offices (except bank) up to 12.00 Noon of 18-5-99, and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12.30 PM in presence (if any) of the attending tenderers. Other terms & conditions and all rules & regulations of tender must be properly complied with.

Biddut/Jana-1466(4)/98-99
Rajshahi Power Generation Station
PDB, Katakhal, Rajshahi.

Executive Engineer
PDB, Katakhal, Rajshahi.

বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার কাউন্সিল

বাড়ী # ৩১/এ, রোড # ৬, ধানমন্ডি আ/এ, ঢাকা-১২০৫।
ফোন: ৮৬৪২২৪, ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮০-২-৮৬০৭৭৩, ই-মেইল bcc@bdonline.com

স্মারক নং বিসি/৮২০/সিস্টেমস-৭২/৯৭- তারিখ: ০২/০৫/১৯৯৯

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক গ্রহীত "বিভাগীয় সদরে স্ট্যান্ডার্ড কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণ কোর্স পরিচালনা" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের জন্য কম্পিউটার, প্রিন্টার, ইউপিএস, অটোমেটিক ভোল্টেজ স্ট্যাবিলাইজার, সফটওয়্যার, আসবাবপত্র ও অন্যান্য আনুষঙ্গিক সরঞ্জামাদি সংগ্রহের জন্য অগ্রাহী প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট থেকে দর প্রস্তাব আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

দরপত্র সিডিউল বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার কাউন্সিলের (বাড়ী # ৩১/এ, রোড # ৬, ধানমন্ডি আ/এ, ঢাকা-১২০৫) কার্যালয় থেকে ২৫০/= (দুইশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকার বিনিময়ে (অফেরতযোগ্য) আগামী ০৬ মে ১৯৯৯ তারিখ থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আগামী ২০ মে ১৯৯৯ বেলা ১২:০০ টা পর্যন্ত দরপত্রসমূহ বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার কাউন্সিলের অফিসে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাক্সে দাখিল করা যাবে। একই দিনে দুপুর ১২:৩০ টায় দরপত্রদাতার উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে। বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার কাউন্সিলের অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক থেকে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রফট আকারে কোটেশনে উদ্ধৃত মোট মূল্যের ২.৫% আনেষ্ট মানি প্রত্যেক দরপত্রের সহিত সংযুক্ত করে অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন রকম কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

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Lanka offering free trade deal to Pakistan

Hope for boosting tea export

COLOMBO, May 2: Sri Lanka is offering a free trade deal to Pakistan, hoping the move will encourage Pakistanis to drink more of its tea and help salvage the slump-hit commodity, government and industry officials said, reports AFP.

Sri Lanka's legendary tea, better known by the country's previous name Ceylon, is suffering from devastating price drops in the world market.

The problem has been compounded by an increase in production and the troubles of the trade are already being felt in the economy by way of sharply falling exports, declining foreign reserves and slower growth.

For Sri Lanka, the challenge is to recapture the price-conscious Pakistan market which is expected to become the world's largest consumer of tea within a decade by pushing Britain and Russia to second and third places.

"Pakistan is one of our best hopes to get the market out of the present problems," said Hasitha de Alwis, director at the Sri Lanka Tea Promotion Bureau which is planning a visit to Islamabad this month.

De Alwis said Sri Lanka exported 30 million kilos (66 million pounds) of tea to Pakistan in 1980 and became the largest single exporter to that market then. The picture is very different now.

Pakistan retail stores are flooded with Kenyan tea which accounts for 45 per cent of the market while Sri Lanka's share has dwindled to an abysmal three per cent.

The tea industry here hopes to regain lost ground through a bilateral free trade agreement recently proposed by Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

Sri Lanka hopes that the treaty will ensure tariff concessions to tea, making Ceylon more competitive against the cheap Kenyan teas, and also allow Pakistan to increase its exports to this Indian Ocean island.

"We want to do to Kenya what they are doing to us in Egypt," de Alwis said, referring to a preferential trading arrangement known as COMESA (Common Markets for Eastern and Southern Africa) which gives Kenya an advantage over Sri Lanka in the Egyptian market.

COMESA conditions give Kenyan teas an 80 per cent duty concession in Egypt, which until February this year remained

a key market for Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is set to lose its 15 million kilo (33 million pound) tea market in Egypt.

South Asia is also trying to set up a trading bloc but progress has been slow.

The seven-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is trying to establish a free trade area by 2001 but experts say it may not be a reality until 2008 or 2010.

The world's largest producer of tea is India, the world's largest exporter is Sri Lanka and Pakistan is potentially the largest consumer.

Other SAARC members are Bangladesh and Nepal — both tea-growing nations — while the smaller Maldives and Bhutan are tea-drinking nations.

"If we can have a 45 per cent tariff advantage over other countries, then Sri Lanka tea will be very competitive in Pakistan and within the first year should be able to sell 20 to 25 million kilos (44 to 55 million pounds) there," de Alwis said.

A delegation of Sri Lankan industry officials is expected to leave for Pakistan this month to prepare the ground work to conclude the bilateral free trade agreement.

A similar agreement with

neighbouring India was to have gone into effect on March 1 but the deal was scuttled when India made a sudden U-turn and withdrew promised tariff concessions to Sri Lankan tea.

"We are careful to avoid that kind of situation with Pakistan," a finance ministry official said. "The problem with India was that the details were not negotiated at the time of signing the agreement (in December)."

India may now pose a new threat to Sri Lanka.

Indian Tea Board Chairman S S Ahuja is expected to visit Islamabad to renew talks with counterparts in Pakistan "in view of improved relations between the two nations," according to Indian commerce ministry officials.

India's tea exports to Pakistan, which stood at five million kilos (11 million pounds) in 1997, collapsed in the following year as rival nuclear tests in May fuelled new tensions between the two countries.

"India now feels it can sell at least 10 million kilograms (22 million pounds) to Pakistan, which will also benefit from lower freight rates due to buying centres being nearer," a ministry official said.

On Sunday, the demand for dollar was high and tala finished at 48.67 and 48.68 per dollar. The call money rate closed higher and call rate ranged between 7.5 to 8.5 per cent.

Bangladesh Bank accepted Treasury Bills worth of BDT 4050 million. Of them, BDT 3,490 million for 28 days at the rate of 7.53 per cent, BDT 170 million for 182 days at 9 per cent, BDT 180 million for 364 days at 9.63 per cent and BDT 210 million for 2 years at 10.10 per cent.

The international markets were closed due to weekend. At New York closing on Friday, USD traded at 119.43/48 JPY, GBP at 1.6033/98 USD and euro at 1.0568/73 USD

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Exchange Rates

Following are yesterday's Standard Chartered Bank rates of major foreign currencies against Taka.					
Central Bank USD/BDT Rate: Buying - BDT 48.35/Selling - BDT 48.65					
Selling		Currency		Buying	
TT/OD	IC		TT	OD	Transfer
			Clean	Doc	
48.7300	48.7700	USD	48.3200	48.1599	48.0758
0.4186	0.4190	JPY	0.3944	0.3931	0.3925
32.4067	32.4333	CHF	31.2913	31.1876	31.0727
29.0839	29.1077	SGD	28.1503	28.0570	28.0080
33.9180	33.9458	CAD	32.6995	32.5911	32.4683
5.8041	5.8089	SEK	5.7212	5.7022	5.6902
33.2241	33.2514	AUD	30.9876	30.8849	30.6968
12.9446	12.9552	MYR	12.5991	12.5563	12.5246
6.3034	6.3085	PRD	6.2175	6.1507	-
13.0636	13.0744	SAR	12.8153	12.7728	12.7404
13.3415	13.3525	AED	13.0839	13.0405	13.0072
0.0410	0.0411	KRW	0.0406	0.0405	0.0404
70.4200	70.1061	EUR	76.7806	76.5260	76.2481
52.5309	52.5741	EUR	50.1078	49.9418	49.8546

Usance Export Bills					
TT/DOC	30 days	60 days	90 days	120 days	100 days
48.2204	47.9228	47.5257	47.0690	46.5725	45.4605

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar					
Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Mal Ringgit	Indo Rupiah	Sing Dollar
42.36/42.46	50.18/50.26	37.42/37.52	3.7999/3.8001	8850/8925	1.723/1.724

US dollar		Libor		3 Months		12 Months	
Cash	48.15	48.75	USD	6.62875	5.28063	5.15813	5.15609
TC	48.1	48.7	GBP	6.5	6.34813	6	6.57531

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Shipping Intelligence

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 2-5-99						
Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of Leaving	Arrival
J/1	Pacific Seles	Gl(Peas)	Kona	Seaglor	12/4	8/5
J/3	Feng Tao	Sugar(G)	Bang	Seaglor	20/4	7/5
J/4	Darya Ma	Wheat(P)/Gl	Cal	MSA	26/3	3/5
J/5	Pacific Bridge	Gl	Sing	MSA	7/4	3/5
J/6	Sea Majesty	Gl	Busa	PROG	20/4	7/5
J/7	Yau Yau	Cont	Sing	PSL	29/4	