

Obuchi, Schroeder pledge continued aid to crisis-hit Asia
Japan, EU make breakthrough in Trade negotiations

BONN, June 21: Japan and the European Union leaders made a breakthrough in years of talks on a two-way trade agreement yesterday and pledged to work together to win support for a new round of global trade talks, officials said.

meetings aimed at strengthening EU-Japanese ties. The joint statement said both sides welcomed the successful introduction of the euro single currency and measures being taken by Japan to "enhance the internationalisation of the yen."

The EU and Japan said in a joint statement they would step up their push for a comprehensive new round of global trade liberalisation talks at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). They would work together to encourage other countries to commit to the new round, which could be launched at a WTO ministerial meeting in Seattle late this year.

would like to lay the emphasis on help for self-reliance. Schroeder told the news conference, suggesting this could take the form of aid to the farmers of North Korea, which has been stricken by famine. Both sides urged Russia to continue political and economic reforms.



An engineer from Japan's automaker Nissan demonstrates a special seat which lifts and slides into the vehicle for disabled persons for the company's new mini-van "Serena," at a Tokyo hotel Sunday.

China's biggest oil co wants to list shares on NYSE

SHANGHAI, June 21: As part of a sweeping overhaul, China's biggest oil company wants to list its shares on the New York Stock Exchange as early as this year, a company official said Monday, reports AP.

Asian stocks surge on firm Dow, foreign buying

SINGAPORE, June 21: A firm Dow, active foreign buying and rosy corporate news swept Asian stock markets higher on Monday, with several key indices reaching new peaks, says Reuters.

Greenspan hinted strongly at a moderate interest rate hike. The dollar stood at 48.66/48.67 on 0515 GMT.

ker at Hyundai Securities. Singapore's Straits Times Index .STI rode to a new 29-month high at 2,111.21 by 0500 GMT, up two per cent, dominated by gains in second liners and penny stocks.

Highlights of final G8 communique

UNDATED, June 21: Highlights of the final communique released from the G-8 summit are: - A commitment to "Work to sustain and increase the benefits of globalization and ensure that its positive effects are widely shared."

tion on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. - A decision "to give a fresh boost to debt relief to developing countries" by endorsing the Cologne Debt Initiative, and a call to gradually increase official development assistance.

Internet-mobile phone soon!

SINGAPORE, June 21: New technology marrying the Internet with mobile phones will be the next big wave in telecommunications - and will have a massive impact on lifestyles - industry experts in Singapore for an international conference said Monday, reports AP.



World Bank President James Wolfensohn speaks at the start of the World Bank's development conference in Paris Monday. Traditional development policies are failing to reduce poverty and in the recent financial crisis have in some cases made matters worse, Wolfensohn said.

Consumers will soon be sporting tiny "communication devices" that combine mobile telephones, Internet terminals, music systems, cameras and other uses, Nokia executive Bo Ilsoe said.

NZ sees huge women gains from APEC free trade

WELLINGTON, June 21: Women could be helped "immeasurably" by APEC achieving its goals of freer trade, New Zealand Prime Minister Jenny Shipley told a conference here, says AFP.

liberalisation had helped every household's budget. "In 1999 cars in New Zealand cost 16 per cent less than they would have without tariff reductions and clothes are 15 per cent cheaper."

"The study will show how much better off all households are in these and other areas," she said. APEC, which groups 21 countries including the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, China and several Asian nations, aims to promote the removal of trade barriers, including tariffs and quotas.

S'pore non-oil exports increase by 15.5pc

SINGAPORE, June 21: Singapore's non-oil domestic exports, a key measure of the economy's performance, jumped a nominal 15.5 per cent in May to S\$8.15 billion when compared with a year earlier, the Trade Development Board (TDB) said today, reports Reuters.

They are being helped by a firming in the global electronics market, following the softness in the middle of 1998. Economists said they expected Singapore's trade performance to continue strongly in June when compared with a year earlier.

Vietnam eyes a niche in world spice trade

HANOI, June 21: The pungent aroma of pepper and cinnamon is starting to waft from warehouses in Vietnam as the country eyes a niche in the world spice trade, says Reuters.

From January to May, exports were worth an estimated \$66 million, prices have ranged from \$3,300-4,600 a tonne FOB Saigon Port in the past six months. Some traders say Vietnam is now the world's second largest black pepper exporter after India.

WTO leadership row Supachei to boycott APEC meet if Moore shows up

BANGKOK, June 21: The bitter race between candidates from Thailand and New Zealand to lead the World Trade Organisation risks spilling over into APEC, another international forum, says AP.

Poll Shows Thais have little confidence in economic recovery

BANGKOK, June 21: Still bruised by the devastating recession that brought their country to its knees, Thais have little confidence that an economic recovery the government claims is taking hold is really under way, a poll showed Monday, says AP.

"Women still bear most of the burden of raising children and keeping families secure and happy. Trade, jobs and higher incomes are the best tools they can have," Shipley said. "Trade liberalisation is helping this happen: as tariffs are removed, essential goods become cheaper for families and businesses," she said.

Exchange Rates

Table with columns: TT/OD, BC, Currency, TT, OD Sight, OD Transfer. Lists exchange rates for various currencies like USD, JPY, CHF, SGD, AUD, MYR, HKD, SAR, AED, KRW, GBP, EUR.

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar

Table with columns: Indian Rupee, Pak Rupee, Thai Baht, Malaysian Ringgit, Indonesian Rupiah, Sing. Dollar, US Dollar. Lists exchange rates for these currencies.

Market Commentary

On Monday demand for US dollar rose due to import related payments. US dollar traded between BDT 48.66 and BDT 48.68. Call money rate closed higher between 10 and 11 per cent.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Table with columns: Berth, Name of Vessels, Cargo, L Port, Local Agent, Date of Leaving. Lists ship arrivals and departures from Chittagong Port.

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Date of Arrival, L Port, Local Agent, Cargo, Loading Port. Lists vessels arriving at outer anchorage.

Tanker due

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Date of Arrival, L Port, Local Agent, Cargo. Lists tankers due at port.

Vessels at Kutubdia

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, L Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessels at Kutubdia.

Vessels at outer anchorage

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Date of Arrival, L Port, Local Agent, Cargo, Loading Port. Lists vessels at outer anchorage.

Vessels not ready

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, L Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessels not ready for service.

Vessels awaiting instruction

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, L Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessels awaiting instructions.

Vessels not entering

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Cargo, L Port, Local Agent, Date of Arrival. Lists vessels not entering port.

The following are shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.