

Rich nations must make concessions: Supachai

WTO talks pit Asia against West on a variety of fronts

HONG KONG, Nov 27: As nations wealthy and poor gather to see if they can start another round of global trade talks, a major East-West showdown seems likely over a new question: Should labour and environmental standards be part of the deal? says AP.

There is no consensus among Asian nations on what they want from the World Trade Organisation negotiations that begin Monday in the north-western US city of Seattle, but there is plenty of common ground on what they don't want.

Western proposals to include labour and environmental rules in any new trade pact sound like pure poison to Asian nations that have made huge economic strides in recent decades by capturing a bigger share of the world market for

manufactured goods, largely because their workers do the job more cheaply.

Quickly imposing social and environmental standards that developed over many decades in the affluent West would put the developing nations in this region at a huge disadvantage, trade officials say.

Chau worries that if the WTO talks in Seattle collapse with no agreement to pursue more open global trade rules, it will only fuel dangerous protectionist sentiment in the United States, causing a huge setback in efforts to liberalise commerce.

Organised labour, such as unions in America's AFL-CIO confederation, and environmental groups are planning massive demonstrations outside the WTO talks.

They contend lower pay, worse working conditions and shoddy environmental rules in poorer countries give them an unfair trade advantage over nations where factories have to operate cleanly and workers get a bigger piece of the economic pie.

Chau asks that if liberalising trade has been so harmful to US workers, why is the US economy roaring ahead and making so many people richer?

"What's the AFL-CIO saying? The WTO should be used for their own selfish, hypocritical concerns," Chau said.

Environmentalists use a similar rationale in trying to toss their interests into the WTO discussions, saying developing nations that place little emphasis on environmental protection also are competing

unfairly against those with more stringent pollution controls. It's certainly cheaper to make things in factories where managers don't have to worry much about what's being spewed into the air and water.

Meanwhile, a report from Manila says: The co-leader of the World Trade Organisation said Saturday that wealthy countries — especially the United States — must make concessions to developing nations.

But Supachai Panitchpakdi, who is also Thailand's trade minister, rejected calls by some developing nations for "whole-sale renegotiations" on implementing the last big global accord, which they contend has failed to meet promises of equal benefits from trade between rich and poor countries.



Sheraz Bin Faruk, Managing Director of Pctel Limited, a dealer of AKTEL, inaugurates its new branch at Nawabpur in the city yesterday. Md Noor Nabi, Executive Director, and Sayem Ahmed, Manager (Sales), were also present.

— Star photo



M Nurul Islam, Chairman, and Rafiqul Islam Khan, Managing Director, National Bank Limited, Dato Mohd Kassa Bin ABD Aziz, Chief Executive and Abdul Gaffar Ahmed, Deputy Chief Executive, Bank Simpanan Nasional, Malaysia, and Abdur Rouf Talukder, First Secretary (Commercial) of Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia, were present in the signing ceremony.

China, Japan, South Korea taking part

ASEAN summit seen springboard for regional common market

MANILA, Nov 27: Asian leaders gathered in the Philippines today for a summit that could be a springboard for the establishment of a regional common market, says Reuters.

Presidents and prime ministers of the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) will meet Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji and South Korean President Kim Dae-jung at a series of weekend summits.

With their economies emerging from two-and-a-half years of crisis, the leaders might be expected to be complacent.

But currency crashes, recessions and political turmoil since 1997 have weakened the region and forced governments to rethink their old economic and diplomatic assumptions.

A draft "surveillance report" prepared for the ASEAN leaders and obtained by Reuters today highlighted one problem:

"ASEAN has been focusing on recovering from crisis, competition from other countries within Asia and outside has continued to intensify."

have said the first steps could be endorsed this weekend.

Japan cautions but in favour of plans

Analysts have said there are many barriers to putting the plan in place, not least rivalry between the region's two major powerhouses China and Japan, but added that economic imperatives do allow for strange bedfellows.

ASEAN — which comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — has become more interdependent after the regional financial crisis and sees this cooperation as one way to regain high growth rates of previous years.

Regular cooperation as embodied by ASEAN has made quite some progress, a senior Japanese official told reporters, speaking about Tokyo's stand on more regional cooperation.

"It seems to be spilling over to north Asia, which is a welcome thing. But it is still in its incipient phase."

But he said Japan was positive towards the idea: "As far as Japan is concerned, it does provide us with a new opportunity to open a new vista in our Asian policy."

ASEAN more upbeat

For ASEAN, economically resurgent after the 1997/98 crisis, regional cooperation is vital for maintaining buoyancy.

The resurgence has been export-driven and eliminating trade barriers forms the core of intra-ASEAN cooperation. Extending this, with more access to lucrative Chinese and Japanese markets, is a mouth-watering prospect, regional officials have said.

"Our future depends on our relations with our neighbours," Philippine Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu said on Friday.

"We are subjected to external pressure that we may not be able to control. That is why there is need to look at what China is going to do, what Japan is going to do, what South Korea is going to do."

Japan agrees to boost investment in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Nov 27: Japan underscored its pledge to support Indonesia's reform today, agreeing to help boost investment and speed up its assistance to small firms and the country's poor, says AFP.

President Abdurrahman Wahid met Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, the first foreign head of government to visit the country since the Indonesian leader took office in October.

"I conveyed to Gus Dur Japan's reaffirmed position that it will continue to spare no effort to support economic recovery and reform efforts underway in Indonesia," Obuchi told reporters.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Indonesia on its success in democracy and once again say to the Indonesian people that Japan, as a member of the same family, will always walk with Indonesia on the path towards prosperity."

Obuchi said the two agreed to negotiate a new pact to remove any discrimination against Japanese investment in Indonesia by legally securing smooth fund flows from Tokyo.

"We agreed to commence negotiations to conclude a bilateral investment protection agreement, with a view to giving support to activities in the private sector," said the premier.

Obuchi said he would send a Japanese expert to help support small firms and expand a personnel exchange program with Indonesia.

BPDB's Local Tender Notice

সময় মতো সঠিক বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করুন
সরকারকে কৌকি দেয়ার অবশ্য বক করুন

Sl. No.	Tender No	Name of Materials
1.	Tender No	BPDB's Local Tender Notice No. Pur-250/99 dt 9.11.99
2.	Name of Materials	Procurement of Line materials required for Renovation of Distribution Line under Distribution division, Tangail. Name of Materials: Group-A: Procurement of PVC Insulated Copper Cable 95 MM 2-1000 Meter. 78 MM 2-5000 Group-B: 11 KV DOFC 11 KV Lightning Arrester -600 Nos. -600 Sets Group-C: Performed Deadend Joint Service Bell -1500 Nos. Mid Span Joint -3500 Nos. -3000 Nos.
3.	Financing	Central O & M (Revenue) Budget 1999-2000.
4.	Qualification of Tender	Renowned Manufacturers/Suppliers.
5.	Bid Bond	Irrevocable/Un-conditional Bid Bond of equivalent to 2.5% of quoted amount in the currency of bid in favour of Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.
6.	Place of receipt of Tender	Office of the Director, Purchase, PDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
7.	Date & time of receipt of tender	12-12-99 up to 11:00 AM (BST).
8.	Date of opening of Bids	12-12-99 at 11:30 AM.
9.	Name of office where tender document available	From the office of the undersigned on submission of written application Pay Order/Bank Draft for amount of Tk. 2,000/- (non-refundable) in favour of the Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka-1000.

Tender document will neither be sold on the day of opening nor it will be received through Telex/Fax/Post/Courier etc.

Bangladesh Power Development Board reserves the right to accept or reject any of all Bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Director, Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka.

LatAm to fight farm subsidies at Seattle

MONTEVIDEO, Nov 27: Latin America, buffeted by an economic crisis, will apply most of its energy and initiative at world trade talks in Seattle to fight for an end to farm subsidies, reports AFP.

Six Latin American countries that are part of the 15-member Cairns group of farm-exporting nations met in Buenos Aires in August to discuss tactics ahead of the World Trade Organisation ministerial. The five-day WTO conference has been called to set the agenda for a new round of global trade talks next year.

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay belong to the Cairns group, which is led by Australia, Bolivia, Costa Rica and Guatemala are observers.

Latin America's own Mercosur, or common market of the south, which groups Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, will deliver a statement to the WTO demanding that trade in farm goods gets the same tariff treatment as industrial and

other goods. Mercosur maintains that average tariffs on agricultural goods stand at 40 per cent against four per cent for industrial goods.

Latin America's campaign is part of a wider struggle that will dominate much of the deliberations in Seattle.

The United States and the European Union are the principal protagonists in the fight over government assistance to agriculture, with Washington determined to end export subsidies.

The United States contends that the European Union spends 50 per cent of its overall budget on subsidies to give its farmers — who account for only two per cent of the EU population — an edge in competition for foreign markets.

The EU replies that Washington is equally guilty, and is determined to fight its corner in Seattle where Latin America will seek common cause with the United States in rejecting farm subsidies.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
Special Apartment Implementation Project
Public Works Department
Purba Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka

Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed tenders are invited in BD Form No. 2911 in two-envelope system (technical proposal and financial offer) for the undermentioned work as per terms and conditions stated below:

1.	Tender No.	01/1999-2000
2.	Name of work	Construction of 6 no. ten storied apartment buildings (3 no. of 1500 sft and 3 no. of 1250 sft buildings—36 flats in each building) at Mirpur, Dhaka and 7 no. ten storied suit buildings (1250 sft suit—36 suits in each building) at Nakhalpara, Tejgaon, Dhaka under Special Apartment Implementation Project (work divided into six groups and comprises works of civil, sanitary-water supply, electrification, lift etc. all).
3.	Estimated cost	A) At Mirpur, Dhaka: Gr. I: Bldg-1 (1500 sft flat) & Bldg-2 (1500 sft flat) Tk. 14,20,00,000.00 Gr. II: Bldg-3 (1500 sft flat) & Bldg-4 (1250 sft flat) (ic one elect. sub-station) Tk. 13,87,00,000.00 Gr. III: Bldg-5 (1250 sft flat) & Bldg-6 (1250 sft flat) (ic one elect. sub-station) Tk. 12,79,00,000.00 B) At Nakhalpara, Tejgaon, Dhaka (All building comprises of 1250 sft suit) Gr. IV: Bldg-1 & Bldg-2 (ic one elect. sub-station) Tk. 12,79,00,000.00 Gr. V: Bldg-3 & Bldg-4 (ic one elect. sub-station) Tk. 12,79,00,000.00 Gr. VI: Bldg-5, Bldg-6 & Bldg-7 (ic one elect. sub-station) Tk. 18,06,00,000.00 4.
4.	Earliest money	Group I: Tk. 28,40,00,000.00 Group II: Tk. 27,74,00,000.00 Group III/IV/V: Tk. 25,58,00,000.00 Group VI: Tk. 36,12,00,000.00
5.	Time for completion of work	15 (fifteen) months for each group.
6.	Eligibility of contractors/firms	Special class 1 (one)/special class enlisted contractors/firms of PWD, topmost class of contractors/firms of other govt., semi-govt., autonomous organization and bonafide developer having membership of REHAB, those who have successfully completed and commissioned two number minimum 8 (eight) storied buildings during last five years. Joint venture of contractors/firms are allowed to participate in the tender. In case of joint venture one firm to be declared as lead firm & technical performance of lead firm will only be taken into consideration for evaluation of technical proposal. Contractors/firms must have ABC contractory & supervisory licence from Electricity Licensing Board, Govt. of Bangladesh. Certificate for successful completion and commissioning of eight storied building from an official equivalent to the rank of Executive Engineer of concerned department/organization duly verified by an Executive Engineer of PWD of that district should be enclosed along with the tender documents. For any false/incorrect or forged certificate, earnest money will be forfeited. Tk. 775/- (Taka seven hundred seventy-five) only per set for each group.
7.	Cost of the tender documents	The tender documents may be purchased by the contractors/firms or by himself/herself or his/her representative on production of authorized letter bearing the signature of representative duly attested by the contractor and original Registration Book of Enlistment/Membership documents of REHAB (for developer) from the following offices: a) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka. b) All working Divisions of PWD within Dhaka City. c) PWD, Chittagong Division 1, under Chittagong PWD Zone; PWD Khulna Division 1, under Khulna PWD, Zone: PWD Rajshahi Division 1, under Rajshahi PWD Zone. d) Office of the Chief Arboriculturalist, Arboricultural PWD Division, Dhaka. e) Office of the Sub-Divisional Engineer, PWD Sub-Division No. V under PWD Division No. IV, Purba Bhaban, Dhaka.
9.	Last date of selling the tender	During office hours up to 12.12.1999
10.	Place of receiving tenders	a) Office of the Joint Secretary (Dev.) Ministry of Housing & Public Works, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. b) Office of the undersigned. c) All the offices mentioned in Sl. No. 8 (except 8c, 8d, & 8e). d) Office of the Executive Engineer (Staff Officer), PWD Dhaka Zone, Dhaka.
11.	Date of receiving and opening the tender box	Tender will be received up to 12.00 Noon on 15.12.1999 & tender box will be opened on the same day at 12.15 PM by the respective officer.
12.	Date of opening of technical proposal	Technical proposals will be opened on 15.12.1999 at 3 PM in the office chamber of the undersigned.

Project Director

Special Apartment Implementation Project
Public Works Department
Purba Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.

তৃতীয় নীলামের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মাননীয় সাবজেক্ষন অর্ধেক্ষণ আদালত, সিলেট
অর্ধেক্ষণ জারী মোকদ্দমা নং ১/৯৮

জনতা ব্যাংক . . . ভিত্তিদার
বনাম

আলী আমজদ খান পিতা মৃত আলম খান

সাং মোহাম্মদপুর প্রকাশিত আলমপুর এবং লাউয়াই

ধানা সদর, জেলা সিলেট।