

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.

But 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 is saying is 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 Petel 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

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 fighting 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 — and 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.



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, are seen at the signing ceremony of a MOU on remittance arrangement for Bangladeshis living in Malaysia.

NBL, Malaysian bank sign MOU on remittance arrangement

National Bank Limited (NBL), a leading private sector bank in the country, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) recently on remittance arrangement for the Bangladeshis living in Malaysia, says a press release.

The signing ceremony was held at the head office of the bank Simpanan Nasional in Kuala Lumpur.

Rafiqul Islam Khan, Managing Director of National Bank Limited, and Dato Mohd Kassa Bin ABD Aziz, Chief Executive of Bank Simpanan Nasional, signed the MOU on behalf of their respective banks.

M Nurul Islam, Chairman of NBL, and Abdul Gaffar Ahmed, Deputy Chief Executive, Bank Simpanan Nasional, Abdur Rouf Talukder, First Secretary (Commercial) of Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia, were present in the signing ceremony.

EU hails Sino-Canada agreement on WTO

BRUSSELS, Nov 27: The European Union welcomed Canada's bilateral agreement with Beijing yesterday helping pave the way for China to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO), reports Reuters.

European Commission trade spokesman Anthony Gooch said the EU executive had not received formal information about the Canada-China agreement, signed in Toronto.

"We would welcome it as another step on the road to China's accession to the WTO," he told Reuters.

China's 13-year bid to join the WTO or its predecessor has gathered pace in recent months. It overcame a major obstacle earlier this month when it wrapped up negotiations with the United States after reaching agreement with Japan in July.

The Canadian-China accord puts the spotlight more firmly on the EU as the most important trading power yet to reach agreement with Beijing.

Any WTO member has the right to seek negotiations with an applicant country on its trade concerns and to seek market-opening concessions.

Many developing countries, which make up the vast majority of the WTO's membership of 135, have yet to even start talks with China.

European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy is due to meet Chinese Foreign Trade Minister Shi Guangsheng on the sidelines of next week's WTO ministerial conference in Seattle, EU officials said.

China will attend the Seattle meeting, which will discuss the agenda for future global trade talks, as an observer.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director

Special Apartment Implementation Project

Public Works Department

Purta 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 undementioned work as per terms and conditions stated below:

- Tender No. : 01/1999-2000
- 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 Nakhapara, Tejgaon, Dhaka under Special Apartment Implementation Project (work divided into six groups and comprises works of civil, sanitary-water supply, electrification, lift etc. all).
- Estimated cost : A) At Mirpur, Dhaka.
Gr. I: Bldg-1 (1500sft flat) & Bldg-2 (1500 sft flat) Tk.14,20,00,000.00
Gr. II: Bldg-3 (1500 sft flat) & Bldg-4 (1250 sft flat) Tk.13,87,00,000.00
(Vc one elect. sub-station)
Gr. III: Bldg-5 (1250 sft flat) & Bldg-6 (1250 sft flat) Tk.12,79,00,000.00
(Vc one elect. sub-station)
B) At Nakhapara, Tejgaon, Dhaka
(All building comprises of 1250 sft suit)
Gr. IV: Bldg-1 & Bldg-2 Vc one Tk.12,79,00,000.00
elect. sub-station
Gr. V: Bldg-3 & Bldg-4 Vc one Tk.12,79,00,000.00
elect. sub-station
Gr. VI: Bldg-5, Bldg-6 & Bldg-7 Tk.18,06,00,000.00
4. Earnest money : Group I Tk.28,40,000.00
Group II Tk.27,74,000.00
Group III/IV/V Tk.25,58,000.00
Group VI Tk.36,12,000.00
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/incomplete or forged certificate, earnest money will be forfeited.
Tk. 775/- (Taka seven hundred seventy-five) only per set for each group.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Mirpur PWD Division

Road # 62, House # N. W. (D)-6

Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212

Notice Inviting Tender

- Tender No. : 232/SD II/1999-2000.
- Name of work : Construction of main building extension (hall room, meeting room, long class room and cafeteria) of National Institute Mass Communication, Dhaka (Sub-head: Sanitary and water supply arrangement) during the year 1999-2000.
- Estimated cost : Tk.7,38,00,000.00
- Earnest money : Tk.14,76,100.00
- Time allowed for completion of the work : 45 (forty-five) days from the date of issue of work order.
- Class of contractor : Enlisted as special class-I, class-I plumbing contractor under PWD & class-II plumbing contractors under PWD Dhaka Zone, Dhaka.
- Place of selling and receiving tender : Office of the all Executive Engineers under PWD Dhaka/Gazipur PWD Division/Manikganj PWD Division & this Division.
- Last date of selling tender : 6-12-1999 during the office hours.
- Date and time of : 7-12-1999 up to 12:00 Noon.
- Date and time of : 7-12-1999 at 12:15 PM.
- No tender will be sold to a contractor/firm who has no "VAT" registration certificate & TIN certificate. Attested copy of "VAT" registration certificate & TIN certificate must be submitted along with the tender.
- In case more than one contractor stood by quoting same rates, the lowest contractor will be selected by the lottery on 19-12-1999 at 11:00 AM in the chamber of the Executive Engineer, Mirpur PWD Division, Dhaka in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof.

Executive Engineer
Mirpur PWD Division
Dhaka.

DFP-26371-23/11
G-2037

ভূমি নীলামের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মাননীয় সাবজজ অর্থস্বর্ণ আদালত, সিলেট

অর্থস্বর্ণ জারী মোকদ্দমা নং ১/৯৮

জনতা ব্যাংক ডিক্টার

বনাম

আলী আমজদ খান পিতা মৃত আলম খান

সাং- মোহাম্মদপুর প্রকাশিত আলমপুর এবং লাউয়াই

থানা সদর, জেলা সিলেট।

. দায়িত্ব

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, নিম্ন তফসিল বর্ণিত ভূমি ২০০০ ইংরেজির ০১ মাসের ১৭ তারিখ দুপুর ১২ ঘটিকার সময়ে অদালাতে প্রকাশ্য নীলামে বিক্রী করা হইবে। অত্রী ক্রেতাপন যথা সময়ে অদালাতে উপস্থিত হইয়া নীলামে অংশগ্রহণ করিতে পারিবেন। অন্য ১৯৯৯ ইংরেজির ১১ মাসের ১০ তারিখে আমার স্বাক্ষর ও আদালতের মোহরযুক্ত মতে দেওয়া গেল।

তফসিল
জেলা সিলেট, থানা সদর মোকদ্দমা নং ১১২ খতিয়ান নং ৩১/৬, দাগ নং ১১, জমির পরিমাণ ১ শতক এবং তৎপরিবৃত্ত দৃঢ়ালা দালান।

আদেশক্রমে

সেহসদাদার

সাবজজ অর্থস্বর্ণ আদালত

সিলেট

জিডি-১১২২

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 told economic and diplomatic assumptions.

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

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

report said. In response, Southeast Asian ministers and their Northeast Asian counterparts are contemplating expanding regional cooperation far more widely than previously anticipated and the first steps in this direction could be endorsed this weekend.

The vision is for a common market encompassing the tiger economies of Southeast Asia and their three northern neighbors, later a common currency and perhaps even a common foreign policy.

Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung and Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji were to join leaders of the 10-nation Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) at an informal meeting in Manila this evening and at summit meetings on Sunday.

Cabinet ministers and senior officials from the participating nations have been talking about expanding regional cooperation far more widely than anticipated before and

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 been 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 personal exchange program with Indonesia.

BPDB's Local Tender Notice

সময় মতো সঠিক বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করুন

সরকারকে ঠাকি দেয়ার প্রবণতা বন্ধ 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 -600 Nos. 11 KV Lightning Arrester -600 Sets	
	Group-C: Performed Deadend Joint Service Bell -1500 Nos. Mid Span Joint -35000 Nos. -30000 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 Telefax/Courier etc. Bangladesh Power Development Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Biddut/Jana-772(5)99-2000
DFP-25759-18/11
G-2023

Director, Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka.

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

DFP-26330-23/11
G-2036