

Lawmakers, activists struggle for input in UNCTAD decisions

BANGKOK, Feb 8: Inspired by the failure of world trade talks in Seattle, lawmakers and activists struggled Tuesday to wrest some of the decision-making powers shaping globalisation away from governments, technocrats and corporations, says AP.

Legislators from 55 nations and activists from more than 100 non-governmental organisations are holding separate meetings in Bangkok this week to give input to the UN Conference on Trade and Development here Feb 12-19.

The four-yearly UNCTAD gathering is being billed as the first big meeting on trade since the bid by the World Trade Organisation to launch Millennium Round negotiations collapsed in violent protest and acrimony between nations in Seattle last November.

Organisers say that a major lesson of Seattle was that the voices of poor nations and ordinary people everywhere have not been heard — and must be — in trade decisions affecting their lives as the world economy makes its fastest changes since the Industrial Revolution.

Anders B. Johansson, secretary-general of the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union, which promotes dialogue between 139 parliaments, said his group was meeting Wednesday and Thursday in conjunction with UNCTAD for the first time.

"The IPU believes categorically that there is an absolute, crying-out need for parliaments to become more present in international negotiations," Johansson told a briefing. "The Seattle summit shows that people everywhere want their concerns addressed at these meetings."

Most of the 55 parliamentary delegations attending UNCTAD will be coming from developing countries, Johansson said.

Germany is the only Group of Seven member to attend. Japan and the United States are not sending legislators. Britain, France and Italy will be represented under a European Parliament delegation.

UNCTAD promotes trade as a tool for development in poor nations and does not negotiate

or enforce trade pacts like the WTO. But the meeting will address issues that dogged Seattle and officials hope some problems can be smoothed over to kickstart the WTO process.

The view is growing that public resistance to new trade deals will increase without more and earlier input from legislators who ultimately ratify treaties and from trade unions, environmentalists and others who will be affected by them.

"The lesson of Seattle is that externally excluded can have an influence on decision-making in international bodies," said Nettle Welbe, an activist for Latin American peasants.

Non-governmental petitioned the Thai government Monday for restricting access for protests at the main convention site, instead allowing only symbolic contingents near the delegates. Larger crowds will be confined to a park two kilometers (1.2 miles) away.

Protesters like Welbe's Via Campesina group prevented UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan from delivering a speech in Seattle urging that interna-

tional markets be opened to developing countries to trade their way out of poverty.

Annan plans to give that message in a keynote speech at UNCTAD, where he will also meet Southeast Asian leaders and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi. He leaves New York on Tuesday.

Fearful of Seattle-type rioting, Thai authorities have stepped security head of UNCTAD and detained thousands of foreigners, mostly illegal immigrants from neighboring Myanmar. Ten Myanmar rebels captured a Thai hospital and took hundreds of hostages Jan 24.

Though the rebels were killed the next day by Thai commandos, the country remains in the grip of a security scare.

In Geneva, WTO members agreed Monday to start global talks on trade in services and agriculture, as required by the treaty creating the WTO in 1994. But the talks are likely to take years, and nations have not yet agreed on the format, time-frame or scope of discussions.



Celebrating Emirates' ninth successive year as Best Airline to the Middle East are (L to R) David Parker, Senior Sales Executive, Laurie Berryman, Manager, UK North, and Vic Sheppard, Sales Manager, UK & Ireland. — Emirates photo

Exchange Rates

Following are yesterday's Standard Chartered Bank, rates of major currencies against Taka.					
Central bank USD/BDT rate: Buying-BDT 50.85/Selling-BDT 51.15					
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight	OD Transfer
51.2300	51.2700	USD	50.8200	50.8516	50.8531
0.4901	0.4904	JPY	0.4594	0.4579	0.4571
31.8929	31.7186	CHF	30.7553	30.6533	30.5443
31.6332	31.5579	SGD	29.8240	29.8240	29.4743
26.8242	26.5528	CAD	34.3425	34.2287	34.0998
5.9650	5.9957	SEK	5.8753	5.8699	5.8436
33.7913	33.8177	AUD	30.9545	30.8519	30.6463
13.6254	13.6360	MYR	13.2340	13.1902	13.1599
6.6355	6.6406	HKD	6.4809	6.4594	6.4457
13.7119	13.7226	SAR	13.4430	13.3985	13.3645
14.0634	14.0743	AED	13.7210	13.6756	13.6406
0.0456	0.0456	KRW	0.0448	0.0446	0.0446
82.4188	82.4332	GBP	80.1940	79.9282	79.6399
50.9175	50.9573	EUR	48.9551	48.8028	48.7176

Usance Export Bills					
TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
50.7132	50.4023	49.9846	49.5042	48.9821	47.8126

Exchange Rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar					
Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Tha Baht	Mal Ringit	Indo Rupiah	Sing Dollar
43.60/43.65	51.89/51.90	37.45/37.50	3.7999/4.01	7465/7495	1.899/1.8995

Market Commentary
On Tuesday the local interbank market was active and the demand for dollar was steady. The demand for call money plummeted a little and the call rate ranged between 5 to 6 per cent.

In the international markets, dollar powered to a fresh five month high against yen in Tokyo as the Japanese currency struggled amid growing worries over the outlook of the Japanese economy. Yen continued to be dragged down by a bearish mood that set in when Economic Planning Minister Sakai said on Sunday that gross domestic product probably contracted for the second quarter in a row for the October-December period. Although efforts by top Japanese officials to soothe the concern for the economy to turn slightly, slowed down temporarily the pace of dollar's rise against yen, many operators are eager to test it above 110 yen in the near term. The market players commented that Sakai's comment came at a time when sentiment for dollar was improving, which encouraged foreign operators to be further on the outlook for the economy. Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told in regular news conference that as a general trend Japan's economy is expected to improve despite fluctuations. Japanese investors were rumoured to be unwinding their large hedge fund positions against their holding of dollar-based assets. Meanwhile, US funds were increasing their hedge ratios against Japanese stock holdings given the yen's fall, the market players commented. Yen also remained under pressure in cross trade, which indirectly helped dollar against yen. Meanwhile, sterling jumped sharply against yen in the last two days, a rise triggered by media reports that Japan's NTT Docomo was considering a bid for Orange PLC worth as much as \$5 billion. Sterling was buoyed on speculation the Bank of England will raise short-term interest rates. The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee will meet on Wednesday and Thursday. At 1600 hours local time, dollar traded at 109.31/37 against JPY, euro at 0.9792/96 against USD and GBP at 1.6020/27 against USD.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 8.2.2000

Berth no	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Love Me Tender	Wheat(P)	Kemb	Royal	29/1	12/2
J/2	Lord-P	Wheat(G)	Sing	SSST	5/1	8/2
J/3	Young Jiang	G	Xing	BDSHP	28/1	8/2
J/4	Chung Jin-2	GL(BT)	BABB	SBS	1/2	11/2
J/5	Med Hope	Wheat(G)	Mong	Benam	15/1	8/2
J/8	DA Cheng(48)	G	Pela	BDSHP	9/2	9/2
J/9	Fengch Kan Shan	G	S Hat	BDSHP	3/2	11/2
J/10	Salgon-1	Ureal(G)	Bont	Royal	31/1	15/2
J/11	Phonex-M	Wheat(G)	KDIA	Benam	R/A	13/2
J/12	Banga Birol	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	7/2	10/2
J/13	Tiger river	Cont	Sing	NOL	1/2	8/2
CCT/1	OSC Alpha	Cont	Sing	RSL	2/2	8/2
CCT/2	Xpress Makalu	Cont	Col	Baridhi	3/2	8/2
CCT/3	Xpress Nilgiri	Cont	p.Kel	RSL	31/1	9/2
RM/14	Lissom Leader	C Clink	Kant	Sentrans	26/1	15/2
RM/15	Hui Yuan	Ureal(G)	Bont	BNSC	27/1	10/2
CGJ	Al Marzan	C Clink(Ruby)	Kant	RML	4/2	12/2
RSF	Vero	Wheat(G)	K DIA	Benam	R/A	11/2
RM/4	Pranvitya Paratama	R Phos	Sing	Atlantic	27/1	9/2
RM/5	Tenasek	Hd	Sing	ECSL	5/2	8/2
DOJ	Banglar Doot	Repair	Male	BSC	R/A	12/2
DDJ/1	Banglar Kakoli	GL(Repair)	Male	BSC	31/12	10/2
RM/8	Salamis	CDSO	Darb	Sealfit	29/1	8/2
RM/9	Banglar Kallol	Onion	-	BSC	R/A	12/2
CUFLJ	Mary Nour	Cement	Lank	Multimod	4/2	16/2

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
QC Pintail (Cont) 31/1	8/2	Sing	QCSSL	Cont	Sing
Pacific Challenger	1/2	Pada	NWSL C Clink (Armit)	-	-
Project Arabia (Roro)	9/2	Sing	Sunshine	P Mat	-
Jon Jin	9/2	Sing	SBS	Cement	-
Ocean pride	10/2	Sing	PSAL	Urea	-
Sunderland (24) 24/1	12/2	BOMB	Litmond	G	-
Kota Naga (Cont) 31/1	10/2	Sing	Pill(BD)	Cont	Sing
Soa, Ovrpu (48) 3/2	10/2	P Kel	ASA	(GI St. Coll)	-
QC Mallard (Cont) 1/2	11/2	P Kel	QCSSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Birol (Cont) 3/2	12/2	-	BD SHP	Cont	Sing
Acheiver (Cont) 3/2	12/2	P Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Jurong Balsam (Cont) 6/2	13/2	Sing	Nol	Cont	Sing
Jaya Mars (Cont) 6/2	13/2	-	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Min Jiang	13/2	-	BDSHP	G	-
State of Orissa	3/2 14/2	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
(E/L) 3/2	18/2	-	SSLL	E/L	Ant.Dund
Orange Breeze (Roro) 24/1 6/2 15/2	18/2	-	Everett	Vehi	-
Banglar Moni (Cont) 3/2	16/2	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Kota Cahaya (Cont) 6/2	16/2	P Kel	ECSS	Cont	Sing
Ever Wealthy (48) 7/2	17/2	-	Everett	GI(St. Coll)	-
Ever Brisk (Cont) 7/2	18/2	-	QCSSL	Cont	Sing
DABA (Cont) 3/2	20/2	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Aquidneck	8/2	-	Atlantic	HSD/J-1	-
Dai Hung	-	-	-	-	-
Aspiros-II	13/2	-	BSL	Crude Oil	-

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Engurgay explorer-IV	-	-	BBAL	5/4
Ismaya	-	-	BBAL	17/8
MFB Devi Matha	-	-	BBAL	24/10
MFB Sona	-	-	BBAL	24/10
MFB Lakshmi	-	-	BBAL	24/10
DEA Conqueror	-	-	BBAL	R/A (4/2)
SMT Lloyd-74	-	-	BBAL	R/A (28/1)
Seabulk Command	-	-	IBS	R/A (1/2)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Ready on:					
Sea Bird-1	Wheat(G)	Mong	Benam	17/1	-
Kota Singa (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Pill(BD)	4/2	-
Spress Resolve (Cont)	Cont	Sing	RSL	4/2	-
OSG Argosy (Cont)	Cont	Col	Baridhi	5/2	-
Pacific Silusa	GI(Pilas)	Sing	Rainbow	2/2	-
Technochem	Base Oil	Kafila	BSL	R/A (30/1)	-
Eco Elham	GI(BIT)	BABB	KSF	29/1	-
QC tealk (Cont)	Cont	Sing	QCSSL	7/2	-
Kota Berjaya (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Pill (BD)	7/2	-

Vessels not ready:

Pelcas-K	Cement	Kara	PSA	3/2	-
Tomis Wasst	SKO	N Mang	Atlantic	7/2	-
Malchachala	CDSO	Indi	TSL	7/2	-

Vessels awaiting instruction

Xing Ye	Rice(G)	-	MHCSL	R/A (20/2)	-
Revenge	-	-	Sunshine	R/A (9/10)	-
Phaethon	-	-	OWSL	R/A (21/12)	-
Tug Magarita	-	Manda	BBAL	17/9	-
Banglar Gourab	-	-	BSC	R/A (20/1)	-
Banglar Jyoti	-	-	BSC	R/A (27/1)	-
Banglar Shourabh	-	-	BSC	R/A (2/2)	-
Banglar Ibonda	-	-	Lams	R/A (19/1)	-
Chalothorn Naree	-	-	Litmond	R/A (7/2)	-
Vessels not entering	-	-	-	-	-
Leopard-1	C Clink	Sing	ANCL	29/1	-
Sibirsk	-	-	AFex	R/A (3/1)	-
Togo Charm	Cement	Jaka	SBS	5/2	-
Xoom Ocean	-	-	Able	R/A (24/1)	-
Karya Sentosa	Rice(G)	-	USTC	R/A (18/9)	-

Movement of vessels for 9.2.2000

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/8 DA Cheng	CCT/1 OSG Argosy	DOJ B. Doot to RM/8
J/11 Phonex-M	CCT/3 QC Tealk	J/3 Sea Bird to J/8
CCT/3 X Nilgiri	RM/6 Dai Hung	-
RSF F Spirit	RM/5 Aquidneck	-
RM/3 Techno Chem	RM/1 M achachala	-
	Coaster A/C	-
	J/3 N Friendship	-

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



Bangladesh Express Co Ltd (BANEX), licensee of FedEx, organised its biennial conference at BIAM's conference hall recently. The event was participated by all the Managers, Deputy General Managers, Executive Director and the Managing Director. —FedEx photo

Ctg Mayor strongly opposes private container terminal

CHITTAGONG, Feb 8: Sticking to his stance, the port city mayor has strongly opposed construction of a private container terminal at Patenga as a minister sought support from business leaders for implementing the stalled project, reports UNB.

Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil was here to exchange views with local chamber leaders and industrialists in the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry conference room on Monday.

City Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury and CCCI President Kamaluddin Ahmed were

present at the meeting. Advocating for the construction of the private port, the minister said if the container terminal was set up at Patenga, near the country's main seaport, it would give a boost to economic and industrial activities.

But Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, opposing the minister's views, said he feared construction of container terminal would threaten the Chittagong Port.

The mayor, however, favoured giving transit to Indian ships, which could earn revenue to the tune of Tk 20,000

crore a year. Chowdhury, also a ruling party stalwart in Chittagong, has been opposing the government plan for building a private container terminal to help expedite port services and contain port congestion, often complained by garment exporters.

An American company is scheduled to construct the private terminal, first of its kind in the country.

The minister said on completion of the private terminal on the bank of river Karnaphuli, it would enhance competitiveness of Chittagong Port and increase efficiency of port operators.

Apart from terminal, the commerce minister focused on exports and urged the business leaders to produce and market more non-apparel items to diversify country's export base.

Emirates again wins Travel Weekly award

Emirates has been voted Best Airline to the Middle East by readers of UK's travel trade paper, Travel Weekly. This is the ninth successive year that Emirates has won in this category, says a press release.

The award adds to Emirates' impressive medal tally, which includes Airline of the Year 2000 — the coveted industry 'Oscar' — which returns to Emirates' fold for the third successive year.

The Travel Weekly Best Airline to the Middle East trophy was presented in London, to Laurie Berryman, Emirates' Manager UK North, by ITV presenter Mary Nightingale.

Emirates operates five flights a day between Dubai and UK. These are three daily to London Heathrow and once daily to London Gatwick and Manchester respectively.

Emirates now serves 49 destinations with 31 aircraft. Bahrain was the latest addition to which flights commenced on January 25. In March, new services will be launched to Sydney and Entebbe, expanding the network to 51 destinations.

LDCs seek early implementation of action plan for market access

The world's least developed countries have demanded early implementation of their comprehensive new plan of action for easy market access of their products, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Ambassador and Permanent Representative in Geneva Dr Iftekhar Chowdhury said this as a spokesman of the LDCs while speaking in the WTO general council in Geneva on Monday.

"The eventual non-event in Seattle should not mean an abandonment of hope.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Survey Division and Project Manager, SAIP-I Segunbagicha, Dhaka Notice Inviting Tender No-03 of 1999-2000

1. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2908 are hereby invited from bonafide supplier/local agents for the undermentioned work/supply and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division No-1/II/City/Executive Officer, Arboriculture PWD Division, Dhaka under PWD Circle-I, Dhaka, PWD Division No-III/IV, Eden Bldg PWD Division/Medical College PWD Division, Dhaka under PWD Circle-II, Dhaka, PWD Maintenance Division, Dhaka under PWD Maintenance Circle, Dhaka up to 12-00 Noon on 23-02-2000 and will be opened on the same day at 12-30 PM in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work/supply superscribed on it. No tender schedule will be sold to them who do not have VAT registration.

2. Name of work : Supply and installing of Clone Computer with all accessories for the office of Superintending Engineer, PWD Project Circle-I, Dhaka and for the office of Executive Engineer, PWD Survey Division, Dhaka.

3. Earnest money : 2% (two per cent) of the total quoted amount.

4. Specification : As per schedule of items

5. Time allowed : 20 (twenty) days from the date of issue of work order.

6. (a) Tender documents consisting of BD Form No-2908, schedule of items, specifications, additional terms and conditions etc can be seen and purchased from the office of the undersigned and from the office of the Executive Engineers mentioned in paragraph-1 during office hours on all working days on payment of Tk. 400.00 (Taka four hundred) per set of tender schedule and Tk. 10/- (Tk. ten) per set of BD Form No-2908 only (non-refundable) up to 22-02-2000. No tender documents will be sold after that time and date.

Md Azmal Haque
Executive Engineer
PWD Survey Division &
Project Manager
SAIP Division-I
Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
DFP-2448-3/2
G-227

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Disaster Management and Relief Ministry Disaster Management Bureau House No-33, Road No-2 Dhannondri R/A, Dhaka-1205

No DMB/Admin/ ক্রাঃ ডাঃ-13/98-167 Dated: 31-01-2000Eng
18-10-1408Bang

Tender Notice