

Market access for LDCs imperative

WTO chief says at UNCTAD X in Bangkok

BANGKOK, Feb 16: World Trade Organisation Chief Mike Moore said today that giving poorer countries better access to rich country markets was "moral as well as economic imperative..."

"Globalisation is not a policy option, an ideology, a theory invented by rich men in Davos," he said. He was referring to last month's annual meeting of world business and political leaders in the Swiss mountain resort where anti-free trade protesters mounted demonstrations.

Poor nations should have more say on trade

WB says at UN trade meet

BANGKOK, Feb 16: The president of the World Bank said Wednesday that people in poor nations want the same things as people everywhere — better lives, opportunity, security for their children, reports AP.

Summit set for July in Japan

US wants trade, economy to top G8 agenda

TOKYO, Feb 16: The United States told Japan today that it hopes the world economy and free trade will top the agenda at the Group of Eight (G8) summit to be held in Japan in July, reports Reuters.



A Chinese postal worker leaves with his bike after delivering mail to a fashion salon decorated with a porcelain dog drinking a US soda out of a straw in Beijing on Wednesday.

US seeks 'strongest possible' man at IMF helm

WASHINGTON, Feb 16: The United States declined to be drawn into the debate on a new head for the International Monetary Fund yesterday, repeating its tried and tested line that a new IMF boss must command international respect, reports Reuters.

Rising oil prices push Dow up

NEW YORK, Feb 16: A rally in oil stocks and some bargain-hunting buoyed the Dow Jones Industrial Tuesday. In a major turnaround from recent weeks, the strength in blue-chips helped pull technology stocks out of a severe slump, reports AP.

Asian Stocks Roundup

Japan, HK shares up, other markets flat

SINGAPORE, Feb 16: Stock markets in Tokyo and Hong Kong rose more than one per cent today with resurgent banking shares leading the way as a technology and telecom rally ran out of steam, reports Reuters.

Putin defends vodka, denies price increase

MOSCOW, Feb 16: Acting President Vladimir Putin lost no time on Tuesday in distancing his presidential campaign from a proposed price increase for vodka that angered voters in Russia, reports Reuters.

Ex-governor donates books for BB library

A K N Ahmed, former Governor of Bangladesh Bank, has donated some books for the Bangladesh Bank Library, says a press release.

S Korean consumer outlook bullish

SEOUL, Feb 16: More South Korean consumers plan to spend than save in the next six months as they stay bullish on the economy's swift rebound, a government poll published today showed, reports Reuters.

Exchange Rates table with columns for currency, selling/buying rates, and US/Dollar rates.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Rashtra Pratikshakarakon (BEPZA) regarding a book donation drive for the Bangladesh Bank Library.

Foreign tourists get awkward welcome in DPRK

CHANGJON, North Korea, Feb 16: An American sightseer strays too close to the edge of a fenced tourist compound. A North Korean soldier blows a whistle and raises a red flag in warning, the American retreats, says AP.

Mountain compared to the Grand Canyon. Then she asked: "What are the seven wonders of the world?" Many South Koreans visit the North because they are curious about people with whom they share a common history.

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