

# Refusal to okay China pact will fuel Sino-Taiwanese tension

## US president warns Congress

WASHINGTON, May 9: President Bill Clinton predicted yesterday that tensions between China and Taiwan would escalate "exponentially" if Congress refused to grant permanent trading privileges to China in a key vote this month, says Reuters.

Former Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and George Bush pressed Congress on Monday to support legislation that would extend permanent normal trade relations to China and ensure that US companies benefit from Clinton's landmark trade agreement with Beijing.

Clinton used a Democratic fund-raiser on Monday evening to press for the bill's passage, warning of dire consequences if the House of Representatives failed to approve it.

"I think the chances that there will be trouble between China and Taiwan will go up exponentially if the United States says no," Clinton told a crowd at a fund-raising event for Indiana Representative Baron Hill.

"I've already had to send car-

rier groups to the Taiwan Straits once, and I don't want to do it again," Clinton told guests at a private residence in the upscale Maryland suburb of Bethesda.

In the latest Reuters poll of the 435-member House, 161 lawmakers said they would or were likely to support permanent normal status for Chinese trade. 57 short of the number needed for passage. One hundred sixty members said they would or were likely to oppose the bill when the House voted in the week of May 22. Another 98 lawmakers said they were undecided, and 16 members did not respond.

In contrast to the House, passage by the Senate is virtually assured in early June.

The trade agreement, which paves the way for China to join the Geneva-based World Trade Organisation, calls on Beijing to open a wide range of markets, from agriculture to telecommunications.

In exchange, the White House says, Congress must permanently grant China the normal trade status it now enjoys only after an annual congressional review. The status would guarantee Chinese goods the same low-tariff access to US markets as products from nearly every other nation.

The trade bill faces stiff opposition in the House from Democrats, who have demanded that China show greater respect for human rights and improve its labour standards.

Another report says: legislation granting China permanent trading privileges in the United States will easily win Senate approval next month, Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle said yesterday.

"We have more than enough votes to pass it," Daschle of South Dakota told ABC's "This Week."

The Senate is expected to take up the trade legislation in early June, after a vote between May 22-26 in the deeply divided House of Representatives.

Its prospects for passage in the House remain uncertain because of stiff opposition from Democrats, who have demanded that China first im-

# Growing interest to surf Net

## Japan PC sales hit record last year

TOKYO, May 9: Sales of personal computers in Japan jumped more than 30 per cent to a record 9.94 million units last business year, reflecting Japan's growing appetite to surf the Net, industry data showed today, reports Reuters.

The Japan Electronic Industry Development Association (JEIDA), said domestic PC sales in the year ended in March marked a solid jump of 32 per cent, while predicting the number would grow further this year, extending a rise that started since 1997/98.

Amid an Internet boom among consumers and an information-technology revolution at firms, sales for 2000/01 would likely hit 11.5 million units, up 15.7 per cent from a year ago, it said.

PC shipments in the January-March quarter totalled 3.4 million units, up 30 per cent from the same quarter a year earlier. It was the first time the sales surpassed three million units in any single quarter, it said.

Behind the growth was a sharp rise in first-time PC buyers wishing to surf the Internet and exchange e-mail, while steady demand for replacement models and falling PC prices also fuelled the appetite for new PCs.

"Demand for using the Internet and e-mails supported the uptrend," an official at the group, whose members include 18 computer makers operating in Japan, told a news conference.

He predicted PCs for individual use would grow by 20 per cent in 2000/01, while those for corporates will rise by 13 per cent.

It was hard to foresee the day when all Japanese people have their own PCs, given the current popularity to use mobile phones as a handy tool to go online. Consumers will also be able to access the Net through other tools like Sony Corp's mainstay PlayStation2 home video game console, he added.

Internet use in Japan, the world's second-biggest PC market, has been held back by the relatively low number of home computers and high interconnection charges.

# Exchange Rates

Following are yesterday's Standard Chartered Bank rate 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
51.2250	51.2500	USD	50.8500	50.8815	50.5900
0.4778	0.4780	JPY	0.4610	0.4594	0.4666
29.8723	29.8869	CHF	29.2275	29.1306	29.0297
30.1465	30.1613	SGD	29.0538	28.9575	28.9070
34.5975	34.6143	CAD	33.7739	33.6620	33.5364
5.6716	5.6743	SEK	5.5763	5.5679	5.5493
30.8221	30.8371	AUD	28.0285	27.9356	27.7351
13.6255	13.6321	MYR	13.2405	13.1966	13.1633
6.6109	6.6140	HKD	6.4945	6.4730	6.4592
13.7705	13.7773	SAR	13.4517	13.4071	13.3731
14.0620	14.0688	AED	13.7291	13.6936	13.6487
0.0464	0.0464	KRW	0.0456	0.0454	0.0453
79.1170	79.1556	GBP	77.4852	77.2284	76.9418
46.4867	46.5094	EUR	44.5955	44.4477	44.3700

Usance export bills

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
50.7452	50.8321	50.0141	49.5335	49.0110	47.8406

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Mali Runggit	Indo Rupiah	Sing. Dollar
43.63/43.68	51.75/52.10	38.40/38.44	3.7955/05	7960/7965	0.4895/0.4902

US dollar Libor

Buying	Selling	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
50.65	51.25	USD 6.46125	6.7	6.91375	7.33
50.6	51.2	GBP 6.12625	6.31031	6.49125	6.76

Market commentary

On Tuesday, the interbank foreign exchange market was very active with the demand for US dollar remaining extremely high. The earlier trading range of dollar prevailed. The demand for call money went up and it traded between 7.5 to 8.5 per cent.

In the international markets, euro stayed on a shaky ground after the European finance minister expressed concern about its weakness, but failed to back it up with a threat of intervention. In a statement issued by Euro-zone after a meeting in Brussels, the region's 11 finance ministers and the European central banks shared a common concern about the present level of euro. The euro's fall stemmed by some wariness over possible action by European authorities.

## Export Promotion Bureau

Information Division  
122-124, Motiheel Commercial Area  
Dhaka

Sealed tenders are invited from advertising agencies enlisted with the Bureau for printing colour posters on exportable (1) Fruits and vegetables and (2) Leather and leather products of Bangladesh by 3:00 PM on 15-05-2000. Schedule of tender can be procured till 14-05-2000 everyday during office hours from the General Section of the Head Office of Export Promotion Bureau, 122-124, Motiheel Commercial Area on payment of Taka 400/- (four hundred) only (non-refundable). The Publication Section of the Information Division of Bureau may be contacted for details about the subject.

DFP-10541-6/5  
G-857

Md Abdul Mazid Bhuiyan  
Director (Information)

## India's largest bank union to strike work tomorrow

BOMBAY, May 9: Nearly 600,000 employees of Indian banks will strike work on May 11 in protest against the government's plans to privatise state-run banks, a top union official said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The strike has been called to protest against the proposed privatisation and the likely job cuts in nationalised banks," Tarakeshwar Chakraborty, general secretary of the All Indian Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) told Reuters.

The strike is expected to affect the working of banks and financial markets.

AIBEA is the largest bank union in the country

Johnson's Baby Powder prize giving ceremony was held at a city hotel recently. The programme was arranged by MFCL, sole importer of Johnson & Johnson, CPD in Bangladesh. Regional Sales and Marketing Executive of Johnson & Johnson Prasenjeet Chatterjee and Marketing Manager of MFCL M M Siddiqui are seen in the picture.

—Adcomm photo

## OECD secy general says Japan must tackle its brewing debt crisis

TOKYO, May 9: Japan must tackle its surmounting domestic product, according to conservative estimates.

The OECD chief said this brewing crisis would have to be tackled "once the government is satisfied that the resurgency in the economy is for real."

"At some point, the government will have to take a decision to shift gear and move forward fiscal consolidation," he said.

"Getting the timing right will be a big challenge," he noted. "But it is equally vital not to delay too long, once economic circumstances make it possible."

"It is a question of judgment, based on many indicators."

The government has said it will tackle the debt situation by raising taxes and cutting spending only when the economic recovery is more firmly entrenched.

In November the OECD forecast the Japanese economy would grow by 1.4 per cent this calendar year and 1.2 per cent in 2001.

Johnston, visiting Japan ahead of next month's annual OECD ministerial meeting in Paris, noted that Japan's gross public debt was ballooning to the highest levels in the grouping of developed nations.

After years of massive state spending on the depressed economy, the gross debt figure is topping 120 per cent of gross

## Shipping Intelligence

### Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 9.5.2000

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Jin Cheng	R. Seed	S. Hal	Bdship	4/5	10/5
J/2	Clipper Eagle	Gil(STC)	Alba	Litmond	2/5	19/5
J/3	Sea Galant	CClink(Cont)	Sing	Everett	6/5	10/5
J/4	Allegro	Wheat(P)	Krabai	RML	6/5	16/5
J/5	Marine Express	Sugar(G)	Teker	Total	9/4	12/5
J/7	Elmwood	Cont	lame	CCNL	4/5	15/5
J/8	Banglar Robi	Cont	Sing	BSC	6/5	8/5
J/10	Mergul	Rice(P)	Yang	MTA	29/4	9/5
J/11	Arkan	Wheat(P)	Rasa	Seagory	23/4	15/5
J/11	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	PLI (Ed)	5/5	11/5
J/13	Arbella	Cont	P. Kel	QCSL	4/5	9/5
CCT/1	Dafa	Cont	Sing	RSL	5/5	11/5
CCT/2	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	PLI(BD)	5/5	9/5
CCT/3	Qc Pintal	Cont	Sing	QCSL	6/5	11/5
RM/14	Professor Pavlenko	Cement	Sing	PSAL	4/5	10/5
RM/15	Hyoksin	Cement	Zaka	PSAL	27/4	12/5
CSJ	Leopard-1	C. Clink	Kant	ANCL	24/4	14/5
TSP	Elizabeth	R.Phos	hamre	Seasome	22/4	13/5
RM/4	Novo Voyager	Odso		OTL	25/4	8/5
DD	Banglar Mont	Repair		BSC	R/A	30/5
DDJ/1	Banglar Shikha	Repair	Sing	BSC	17/4	15/5
RM/8	Jaami	Idle	Hald	Cross	5/5	10/5
CULFJ	Mary Nour	Cement	Mala	BSL	3/5	15/5
Kafco(U)	Sioral Naree		Rowa	Ranbow	17/4	10/5

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Triumph Kaeshung(48)30/4	9/5	Yang	Rml	Cr. Coll	
Tug Pantalmas	8/5	Sing	Everbest		
Banga Bijoy(Cont)30/4	9/5	P. Kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Kota Cahaya(Cont)27/4	9/5	Sing	PLI(BD)	Cont	Sing
Norbulk Namir	9/5		PSAL	Cement	
Ocean Prayer	11/5		PSAL	C. Clink (Diamond)	
Chu Hong (Cont)30/4	10/5	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
North Wind	10/5	Sing	OTBAL		
Ocean-1	12/5	Yang	SMSL	Rice/Logs	
OSG Aegly (Cont)3/5	10/5	Cbo	Everbest	Cont	Col
Qc Teal	11/5	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Ever Cheer	11/5	Sing	RML	GI (Cr Coll)	
Al Shams	10/5	Krabai	RML	C. Clink (Rub)	
Paulina	12/5	Bang	Fortune	Sugar	
Triumph Hongkong(48)8/5	13/5	Sing	RML	G. C. Coll	
Banga Biraj	13/5		Bdship	Cont	Sing
Surenes	13/5		Everest	Urea	
Kota Singa (Cont)3/5	13/5		PLI(BD)	Cont	Sing
Achiever 9(Cont)17/5	14/5	P. Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Orient Independence(Cont)2/5	15/5	P. Kel	Bship	Cont	Sing
Xpress Resol ve(Cont)7/5	16/5	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Tiger River (Cont)26/4	18/5	Sing	Nol	Cont	Sing
Sin Hai (Cont)07/5	19/5		RSL	Cont	Sing
Green Ace (Roro)24/7/5	19/5		JF	Vehi	
San Mateos(Roro)24/7/5	20/5		JF	Vehi	
Vladi	22/5	Pusai	Sinochem		

### Tanker due:

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Acushnet	13/5	Atlantic	HSD/JP/1	
Hert Field	14/5	Atlantic	SKO	
Romania G	14/5	Rasth	ASTA	C. Oil

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Energy Explorer-IV			BBAL	5/1
Isniaya			BBAL	17/8
Mfb Devi Matha			BBAL	24/10
Mfb Sona			BBAL	24/10
Mfb Lakshami			BBAL	24/10
Barge: Csk-6			BBAL	R/A (28/11)
Tug Magarita			BBAL	R/A (28/11)
Tug Dharma Sakti-108			BBAL	R/A (28/11)
Dea Champion			Arafeen	R/A (7/5)
Dea Conqueror			Arafeen	R/A (5/50)
Seabulk Command			IBS	R/A (29/4)
Equator			OTBL	2/5

### Vessels at outer anchorage:

Ready On:

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banga Birol (Cont)	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	6/5
Chavchavazde	Cdso		Sealtif	28/4
Novo Voyager	Cdso	Kapt	Oil	25/4
Amer Energy	Hsd/Jp-1	Citra	Atlantic	21/4
Lima-1	Cement	Zaka	SBS	4/5
Xpress Nilgiri (Cont)	Cont	Sing	RSL	9/5
Ocean Bird	GI	Mong	Total	9/5
Royal Pescadores	R. Seed	Addal	MSA	7/5

Vessels not ready:

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Axon Andriane	Wheat(P)	Turk	Total	15/4
Handy Humanity	Wheat(P)	Dars	Total	28/4
Lady Hind	Wheat(P)	Band	Angelic	5/5
Jung-Hong Hai	Wheat(T)	Tedt	OWSL	7/5
Green Jsland	GI/JP/L	Sing	Royal	7/5
Bright Star	Cement	Tuda	UML	8/5

### Vessels awaiting instruction:

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Ning Ye	Rice(G)		MHCSL	R/A (20/2)
Banglar Gourab			BSC	R/A (18/3)
Banglar Yumi			BSC	R/A (27/4)
Banglar Shurabh			BSC	R/A (2/5)
Banglar Jyoti			BSC	R/A (7/5)

### Vessels not entering:

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Accord	Cement	Sing	Viking	5/4
Sonali			OWSL	R/A (5/3)
Ascan Glory	Cement	Tuban	UML	2/5
Norbulk Oak	C. Clink	Kabh	Seasome	3/5
Dena	Scraping	F. Isl	Simml	8/5
Revenge			Sunshine	3/8
Karya Sentosa	Rice(G)		USTC	R/A (18/9)

### Movement of vessels for 10.5.2000

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/1 Jin Cheng	CCJ	Al Shams
J/3 Sea Galant	J/11 K. Cahaya	RM/8 Jaami to J/9
RM/14 P Pavlenko	J/8 Axton Andriane	J/11 Arkant to J/11
	RM/5 B Gourab	
	RM/6 B. Urml	

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

## BCIC Sale Notice

বিসম্বাহিনীর পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Khulna Newsprint Mills Ltd, Town Khalishpur, Khulna invites sealed quotation vide Tender Enquiry No. MPIC/110/2000-2001(1) Dated 18.4.2000 for loading — unloading, carrying — stacking etc works intending experienced contractors. Quotation will be received up to 11:00 AM on 22.5.2000 and will be opened immediately thereafter. If the tender is unopened in time due to unavoidable circumstances the same will be received up to 11:00 AM & will be opened immediately thereafter in the next working day. Tender documents will be available with (1) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong & (3) Accounts Deptt, Khulna Newsprint Mills Ltd at Tk 100/- (one hundred) each set (non-refundable) except opening date. Management reserves the right to accept/reject part or whole of tender without assigning any reason thereof.

BCIC-319-30/4/2000  
DFP-10609-4/5  
G-853

For Managing Director

## NOTICE OF TENDER

### MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES (ARMY)

1. Applications are invited by AHQ, QMG's Branch, DW & CE (Army), Dhaka Cantt from bonafide suppliers/dealers/local distributors of foreign manufacturer for issue of tender documents separately for undermentioned works:

- Following works for under Construction 1x Auditorium for Sta HQ at Savar Cantt:
  - Provision of external electric supply connection.
  - Provision of external water supply connection
  - Supply and installation of 1 x 500 KVA Static Generator including ancillary works.
  - Supply and installation of 1x 500 KVA Transformer including ancillary works.
  - Provision of area lighting.

2. Eligible contractors may apply for tender documents as per rules of MES. 'C' & 'D' class contractors enlisted in MES may apply for tender documents by quoting class & Index No. ABC licence, dealership/agency certificate (where applicable). VAT registration certificate should also be attached with each application. Envelopes containing applications should be marked with the name of works and be sent to this Directorate within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this advertisement. Firms/contractors not enlisted in MES are required to apply with Bank Draft/Pay Order of Tk 100.00 from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh issued in favour of AHQ, DW & CE (Army), Dhaka Cantt.

3. Authority reserves the right to accept/cancel any or all applications without assigning any reason.

ISPR/Misc/2000/395  
DFP-10576-4/5  
G-855

DW & CE (Army)  
Dhaka Cantt

## Notice of RHD Inviting Tenders

- Tender Notice : Chuadanga. 33/1999-2000. of No Chuadanga Road Division.
- Name of work : Repair with sealing coat and primer seal coat at 15th (P), 16th (P) & 17th (P) km of Darsona-Mogibnagar Road under Chuadanga Road Division during 1999-2000 Eng.
- Estimated cost : Tk. 4,99,517/-
- Earnest money : Tk 9,990/-
- Time allowed for completion : 30 (Thirty) days
- Eligibility of contractor : "A" to "E" class under general category of RHD.
- Name of offices of availability of tender documents : Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Chuadanga/Kushtia/Jhenidah/Magura/Narail/Jessore/Sub-Divisional Engineer, Road Sub-Division, Chuadanga.
- Name of officers by whom tender will be received : Superintending Engineer, RHD Road Circle, Jessore, Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Chuadanga/Kushtia/Jhenidah/Magura/Narail/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Chuadanga.
- Last date & time for selling tender : Up to 5.00 PM on 21-5-2000 Eng/07-02-1407 Bang
- Last date & time for receiving tender : Up to 12.30 PM on 22-5-2000 Eng/08-02-1407 Bang.
- Last date & time for preparing the list of tender : At 12.45 PM on 22-5-2000 Eng/08-02-1407 Bang.
- Date & time for opening of tender : At 10.30 AM on 25-5-2000 Eng/11-02-1407 Bang.
- Date & time of : At 11.30 AM on 28-5-2000 Eng/14-02-1407 Bang.
- Chargeable head : 266 Development.

Md Abul Kalam Azad  
Executive Engineer (RHD)  
Road Division, Chuadanga

DFP-10590-4/5  
G-856

## Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence  
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

### Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in foreign currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturers/Dealers/Suppliers/Indentors (Enlisted Firms in DGDP) for supply of following items for Bangladesh Navy:

Sl No	Name of Items & Qty	Selling date	Opening date	Tender no	Tender value
a	Reverse Osmosis Plant Qty-02 in No	10-5-2000 to 23-5-2000	24-5-2000	6234/NP-4	Tk. 1500/00