

China trade pact on course for passage in US Congress

Clinton's TV speech cancelled on democrats' advice

WASHINGTON, May 20: Republican congressional leaders said yesterday a landmark US trade pact with China was on course for passage next week after lawmakers reached an agreement to monitor Beijing's human rights record and at least five previously uncommitted members announced their support, reports Reuters.

But the White House's point man in the trade fight — Commerce Secretary William Daley — was not so upbeat. He said organised labour, which opposes the trade pact, could launch a major offensive over the weekend, turning undecided Democrats in the House of Representatives against permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) for China before Wednesday's vote.

"We're still short (votes), and if you're short by one, you still lose," Daley told the news agency in an interview.

In a blow to the White House, two key Democrats — Edward Markey of Massachusetts and Karen McCarthy of Missouri — said on Friday that they would oppose the pact.

The White House also abruptly cancelled plans for President Bill Clinton to deliver a televised address on China trade relations, which had been scheduled for Sunday. The decision was made at the urging of House Minority leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri and some other Democrats in Congress, who said it could raise the stakes of the political debate.

In a breakthrough hailed by the White House, Republican leaders said yesterday they would fold into a single package legislation granting PNTR to China along with the human rights monitoring plan. The plan would set up a commission to review Chinese policies and

possibly recommend sanctions against Beijing consistent with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

"I am very confident that with this package that we've now put together and the agreement that was just struck this morning between China and the European Union, that we will be able to have the votes necessary for a strong victory," said California Representative David Dreier, who was tapped by the Republican leadership to round up votes of PNTR.

Many Democrats had demanded the monitoring plan in exchange for supporting the trade bill, which would ensure that US companies benefit from a trade agreement ushering Beijing into the Geneva-based WTO. Without it, Daley said, PNTR would fail.

PNTR is fiercely opposed by organised labour and two out of three House Democrats are expected to follow labour's lead by voting against the trade bill, citing concerns about human rights and fears that the market-opening pact will cost hundreds of thousands of American workers their jobs.

At a news conference with Dreier, New York Democratic Representative John LaFalce, Colorado Democratic Representative Diana DeGette, Arkansas Republican Representative Asa Hutchinson and Ohio Democrat Representative Thomas Sawyer announced they would support the PNTR package because of the monitoring legislation. South Carolina Republican Representative Jim Demint said he was likely to support the China trade bill.

Separately, Massachusetts Democratic Representative Marty Meehan announced that he would support the White House. PNTR supporters said this

week's announcements put them within reach of the 218 votes needed to ensure passage in the House. According to business lobbyists working closely with the White House, the trade bill has the support of at least 207 lawmakers. 11 votes short of passage. In a Reuters poll, Clinton was still 29 votes short on Friday of the 218 needed.

Daley said he expected between 66 and 71 Democrats to support PNTR by the time of the vote, along with 148 to 154 Republicans, but stressed that neither party had reached their target. "Most undecided (Democrats) break against you at the end. They're going to be under enormous pressure this weekend by labour and I think

that's going to have an impact," he said.

Unlike the House, Senate approval is virtually assured in early June, and Missouri Representative Roy Blunt, a member of the House Republican leadership said he expected senators to back the human rights monitoring plan.

PNTR supporters said Friday's announcement of a trade agreement between China and the European Union should also ease US lawmakers' concerns. Beijing's deal with the EU removes the last hurdle to China's membership in the Geneva-based WTO.

But is a surprise move. Clinton cancelled Sunday's planned Oval Office address, meant to persuade undecided lawmakers.



Picture shows the launching ceremony of Coca-Cola re-ignition campaign. —Coca-Cola photo



Chairman of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Muhammad Shahiq Khan delivers the inaugural speech at a seminar on "Net Capital Balance Requirement and Maintenance of Separate Consolidated Customer Accounts — Rules and Practical Aspects" organised for the DSE members in the city yesterday. Chief Executive Officer of the bourse GQ Chowdhury, Senior Vice Chairman Onu Jaigirdar and Vice Chairman, Ahsanul Islam, among others, were present. — DSE photo

Metal: Weekly Roundup

Strong dollar, looming central bank sales down gold

LONDON, May 20: Gold prices fell back towards levels last seen in September under the pressure of a strong dollar and looming central bank sales, says AFP.

The cash price on the London Bullion Market slipped to 273.65 dollars an ounce from 276.20 dollars a week earlier.

The level is close to the 270 dollars last seen in September immediately before an announcement by European central banks that gold was important to the reserve system and they were limiting gold sales.

That announcement effectively reversed price falls prompted by the initial announcement that the Bank of England would progressively auction off 415 tonnes of its 715 tonnes of gold.

The bank's next sale of 25 tonnes will take place on Tuesday.

Jill Leyland, manager for economics and statistics at the World Gold Council, said that, although the central bank sales are expected, the Bank of England's decision to hold auctions to sell off reserves is particularly disruptive to the market.

The Swiss central bank is also in the process of selling 120 tonnes of gold, but it is doing so through the Bank of International Settlements and does not announce the precise time of sales.

Silver: Sliding. Silver prices weakened slightly in line with gold.

Cash prices slipped to 4.96 dollars from five dollars the week before.

Platinum and Palladium: Polished. Platinum prices crept higher on expectations of increased demand.

Platinum was changing hands at 520 dollars an ounce, compared with 514 dollars the previous week. Prices had risen as high as 573 dollars an ounce in mid-February while supplies remained blocked.

Palladium prices retreated slightly to 570 dollars from 572 dollars the previous week. At the end of February, Palladium reached a record 850 dollar.

Supplies from Russia — the world's biggest exporter of palladium and the second-biggest platinum producer after South Africa — were blocked for months as a result of Russian red tape.

Dealers say it is difficult to assess the extent of the recent resumption of Russian exports, but anticipate demand will increase because of the extensive needs of makers of catalytic converters.

Base Metals: Shiny. Base metals gained from continued high demand around the world.

Nickel prices rose back above 10,000 dollars a tonne as demand for stainless steel, the major outlet for the metal, remained strong.

Copper and aluminium prices also rose as market reserves dwindled.

Elsewhere, the world's leading mining and metals groups unveiled Monday plans to launch a new marketplace for metals on the Internet.

The market, expected to be operational by the end of the year, aims to reduce transaction costs and dispense with the need to hold large stockpiles of metal, the 14 participants said in a statement.

The online marketplace will result in a "more transparent supply chain" that will be open to all industry suppliers and producers.

Three-month nickel prices on the LME rose to 1,433 dollars a tonne from 9,730.

Three-month copper rose to 1,827 dollars a tonne from 1,797.

Aluminium prices rose to 1,519.5 from 1,463 dollars a tonne.

Zinc was trading at 1,172 dollars a tonne.

Coke launches re-ignition campaign

The Coca-Cola in Bangladesh has launched its campaign titled "Coca-Cola Re-ignition" amidst a lot of fanfare, says a press release.

This is part of a global marketing strategy that is being used across the world while keeping the local culture in mind. As part of the worldwide re-ignition programme, the "Coca-Cola Enjoy" campaign was also launched to re-ignite the passion for Coke among consumers.

Brand Coca-Cola is consumed over one billion times everyday around the world. This global marketing effort is expected to take this figure even higher.

The new campaign builds on the success of "Always Coca-Cola" and will continue to forge a strong bond with Bangladesh consumers.

The strategy we are now embarking upon is one of re-connecting with Bangladeshi consumers today by offering them an invitation to view life through Coca-Cola, said Khalid Raja, Business Operations Manager, Coca-Cola Far East Ltd.

The new campaign is centered on a fore proposition: "Drinking Coca-Cola is a multi-sensory experience." This is depicted with start of "sensation graphics" with the illusion of the cap popped and the beverage dancing out of the container.

The world "Enjoy" has been associated with the brand Coca-Cola for decades. In the new campaign, the word "Enjoy" is leveraged as an invitation to experience Coca-Cola and has heightened the sense of pleasure from the magical delight of Coke.

There is a lot more behind the launch of the new campaign than just words. The message the company will be trying to sell, along with the reasons for it are key to understanding the new initiative. The new campaign will maximise consumer and customer satisfaction, said PK Chatterji, Country Manager, Coca-Cola Far East Ltd.

Establishment and Freedom Fighter Institutional Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister, Khandakar Asaduzzaman, MP was the chief guest on the occasion.

The programme was presided over by Gazi Motiur Rahman, Managing Director of Tabani Beverage Company Ltd. It was also attended by high officials of Tabani Beverage.

CMA Bhaban opened at Agrabad

The newly-built Cost and Management Accountant Bhaban (CMA Bhaban) of the Institute of Cost and Management Accounts of Bangladesh at CDA Residential Area, Agrabad, Chittagong, was inaugurated Friday, says a press release.

Engg. Mosharraf Hossain, MP Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism and Housing and Public Works opened the new building.

In a speech, the chief guest urged people to come forward to take professional education with IT to face the challenges of the open market economy of the new millennium. He hailed the role of ICMAB in developing professional education in the country and reiterated the role of the cost and management accountants for economic development.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Vice Chancellor of the University of Chittagong, was present on the occasion as special guest.

M. Abul Kalam Mazumdar, FCMA, President of the Institute, said that the foundation of the CMA Bhaban was constructed with its own resources. To complete the rest of the bhaban and the Academic Council of the Institute in Dhaka, Mazumdar requested the minister for government assistance.

Among others past presidents of the institute Habibur Rahman FCMA, Mohammad Ishaque FCMA, Chowdhury Hafizur Rahman FCMA, Rafiq Ahmad FCMA, Muzaffar Ahmed FCMA and Dilip Kumar Sengupta FCMA, Chairman, Chittagong Branch Council, also addressed the function.

S'pore export growth below expectations

SINGAPORE, May 20: Singapore's non-oil domestic exports rose by a less-than-expected 1.2 per cent in April from the same month a year earlier, according to government data released Saturday, says AP.

The monthly figure is considered a key economic indicator in Singapore. The country relies heavily on exporting goods made in other countries.

Economists had expected on average about 13.6 per cent growth for April, although individual estimates varied from 8.1 per cent to 15.5 per cent, a survey by Dow Jones Newswires showed.

Total non-oil domestic exports declined to 8.3 billion Singapore dollars (\$4.8 billion) in April from 9.76 billion Singapore dollars (\$5.65 billion) in March, Singapore's Trade Development Board said in a statement.

The lower year-on-year growth rate was partly due to the fact that April this year had fewer working days than April 1999, the statement said. Non-oil domestic exports to the United States, Singapore's largest market, fell by 9.5 per cent in April from the same month a year ago.

International Re-Tender Notice for Supply of Petroleum Products During July-Nov, 2000

- Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) hereby invites offers from International Integrated Oil Companies with a proven record of reliability and expertise in the supply and transportation of petroleum products, for supply on C&F Chittagong basis of about 6.280 million barrels plus minus 10 (ten) per cent at BPC's option of Motor Spirit (MS), Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO), Aviation Turbine Fuel (Jet A-1) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) during the period July to Nov, 2000 in accordance with the delivery schedule and terms & conditions set out in the tender document.
- Tender documents will be available on all working days during office hours from (a) Commercial & Operations Division, BPC Head Office, HBFC Building (4th floor), 1/D Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong, (b) Bangladesh Missions in Singapore, Jakarta, Kuwait, KSA, Abu Dhabi, Tehran, London & New York and (c) BPC Liaison Office, 1/1 Pioneer Road, YMCA Bhaban, (2nd floor) Segun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000 on payment of non-refundable amount of Tk. 15,000/- or US \$ 300/-. No tender document will be sold on the tender opening date.
- Offers will be received upto 1200 hours (BST) on May 25, 2000.
- (a) in a sealed envelope delivered at BPC Head Office, HBFC Building (4th floor), 1/D Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong, Bangladesh. (b) through Telex No. 633280 FUEL BJ & 633009 FUEL BJ (Offers through Facsimile shall not be accepted).
- Unless exempted all offers must be accompanied by a Bid Bond in accordance with the provisions of tender documents and all offers must have validity upto 1800 hours (BST) on June 14, 2000.
- Bidders shall furnish along with the offer a declaration that the bidder has carefully examined and understood the tender document and his offer is subject to the terms & conditions contained in the tender document.
- Tenders shall be opened at 1205 hours (BST) on May 25, 2000 at the BPC Head Office, Chittagong, Bangladesh in presence of bidders or their authorised agents who would wish to be present.
- No rights of any kind shall be created in favour of any person by virtue of having obtained the tender document, nor shall any right be created in favour of any person by virtue of submitting an offer. BPC reserves the right to accept the lowest offer or to reject any or all offers in part or in full without assigning any reason.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
HBFC Building (4th Floor), 1/D
Agrabad C/A, Chittagong, Bangladesh
GD-472

Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority
222, New Eskaton Road, Dhaka-1000
No-BEPZA/CE-09/99/39 Date: 08-05-2000

Tender Corrigendum Notice

It will have to be read 180 days instead of 120 days as stated in serial No-3 in the tender notice No-35/99-2000, dated: 30-04-2000 regarding the work of 'Constructing a GM Bungalow at Sayedpur EPZ, Sangalshi, Nilphaman Project Area.

Other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

DFP-11772-15/5
Abu Reza Khan
Chief Engineer.
G-947

BJMC Advertisement International Tender Notice

Tenders are hereby invited by the Deputy General Manager, Baghdad-Dhaka carpet factory, North Kattoli, Chittagong from bona fide local agents/foreign suppliers for importing (1) Laser blade for Shearing Machine, (2) Ball, Roller, Taper, Niddle and Thrust Bearing and (3) spare parts and accessories (for jute carpet machinery).

Detail of tenders including description of goods should be dropped in tender box simultaneously at BJMC Head Office, Adamjee Court, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka; BJMC, Chittagong Zone, 99, Sattar Chamber, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and Mill office, North Kattoli, Chittagong upto 12:00 Noon of 12.06.2000 and tender boxes will be opened on the same day at 12:30 pm in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Taka 5000/- (five thousand only) (non-refundable) as earnest money for the form of any group should be submitted with the tender through Pay Order/Demand Draft in favour of Baghdad-Dhaka Carpet Factory, North Kattoli, Chittagong.

Tender schedule with detailed description for any group can be purchased at Tk 100/- (one hundred) only (non-refundable) per set from the office of the Deputy General Manager (Ac & Finance), BJMC, Adamjee Court, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka; Deputy-General Manager (Ac & Finance), BJMC, C.Z, 99, Sattar Chamber, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and Manager (Ac & Finance), Baghdad-Dhaka Carpet Factory, North Kattoli, Chittagong during office hours.

No tender schedule will be sold on the date of opening tender. No tender will be accepted without earnest money and the successful tenderer must obtain order with deposit of earnest money and security.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

BJMC-222
Dt-7/5/2000
DFP-11412-10/5 G-934

Marubeni to build pipeline plant in China

TOKYO, May 20: Japanese trading house Marubeni Corp said today it had joined forces with the China National Petroleum Corp to build a pipeline plant to help China meet its growing energy demand, says AFP.

The factory to be built in the Beijing region will supply materials for a 4,200-kilometre (2,625-mile) crude oil and natural gas pipeline linking Shanghai with the country's isolated northwest, said a Marubeni spokesman.

"We have formed a joint venture worth 30 million dollars with China National Petroleum Corp," said the spokesman, Hiroshi Nishizaki.

CHIEF GUEST - ENGR. MOSHARRAF HOSSAIN
MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION, TOURISM, HOUSING & P
SPECIAL GUEST - PROF. ABDUL MANNAN
VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF CHITTAGONG
DATE: 19 MAY, 2000

THE INSTITUTE OF COST AND MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS OF BANGLADESH

Engg. Mosharraf Hossain, Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism and Housing and Public Works, is seen at the inauguration ceremony of the CMA Bhaban at Agrabad in Chittagong Friday. — ICMAB photo

Higher oil prices, consumer demand widen US trade gap

WASHINGTON, May 20: The highest oil prices in a decade and relentless consumer demand pushed the US trade deficit to a record \$30.2 billion in March as record levels of exports failed to match imports, which also hit new peaks, reports Reuters.

The trade gap, which topped the \$29.4 billion forecast by economists, helped to weaken the dollar and sent stocks sharply lower on concerns

about the strong showing of consumer demand — a key concern of the Federal Reserve.

The Commerce Department said yesterday the US trade deficit rose 5.1 per cent from February's \$28.7 billion as imports of crude petroleum rose to a record \$7.6 billion and the price of crude oil rose to an average of \$26.38 a barrel.

That was the highest since oil prices averaged \$29.51 a barrel in November of 1990 during the Gulf crisis.

The data comes just days before a key vote in the bitterly divided US House of Representatives on granting trade benefits to China. While the US deficit with China shrank in March, the overall deficit was larger than expected and could harden the stance of some lawmakers who are against permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with Beijing.

Oil prices soared in March before oil-producing nations reached an accord to increase production late in the month. With oil prices so high, the US deficit with OPEC nations hit a record \$4.2 billion.

The increase in oil prices helped push overall imports higher for the sixth consecutive month to a record \$117.4 billion, up from February's \$113.6 billion. Higher oil prices, up 157 per cent since last year, have accounted for half of the deterioration of the trade balance so far this year.

In a sign of the broad strength of demand in the US economy, imports of industrial supplies, capital goods, cars and related parts, and consumer goods, all hit fresh records.

The ever-widening trade deficit is seen by most economists as a flaw in the current US expansion which cannot be sustained indefinitely.

"Domestic demand in this country is just simply too strong," said Eric Green, senior economist at Paribas Corp. "This extra demand has been met through imports but we are nearing the end of using this as a potential safety valve."

Economists worry that the US deficit is unsustainable because the ongoing economic recovery overseas coupled with strong consumer demand will eventually cause the United States to import inflation from overseas.

"Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan has indicated that the trade side is only one of two safety valves in our economy that are under extreme pressure," said David Jones, chief economist at Aubrey G. Lanston, noting that the other was the labour market where unemployment stands at 3.9 per cent, a 30-year low.

The inflation-wary Federal Reserve has raised interest rates six times — most recently earlier this week — in an attempt to cool the remarkably strong economy.

One reason that inflation has remained subdued in recent years has been weakness in overseas economies. But with a broad recovery underway in Europe and Asia, the US central bank is watching for signs of rising inflation.

Jones said that the Fed's rate hikes should dampen consumer demand and economies overseas should continue to recover, offering hope that the trade deficit could narrow in the second half of the year as higher interest rates take hold.

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

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.	High Voltage Test Probe Qty-04 Sets	23-5-2000 to 5-6-2000	6-6-2000	6240/NP-4 (4th Time)	Tk. 100/00
b.	Car Mercedes Benz Qty-01 in No	23-5-2000 to 19-6-2000	20-6-2000	6474/NP-1	Tk. 500/00

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (not refundable) during office hour between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hrs on the specified date of opening in the presence of tenderers (if any).

ISPR/Misc/2000/458
DFP-11922-15/5
G-943

Lt Cdr BN
For Director General.

Notice of Tender

Military Engineer Services

- Applications are invited by AHQ, QMG's Br, DW & CE (Army), Dhaka Cantt for issue of tender documents for the following works.
a. Construction of 2x 10 Mrd OR's Qtr (5 storey with 5 storied foundation) including internal/external services and furniture for Sta HQ at Ghatail Cantonment (GP-I).
- Eligible contractors may apply for tender documents as per MES regulations. Interested MES enlisted 'C' & 'D' class contractors may apply quoting their class, index numbers. Contractors must have VAT registration. VAT and other taxes are payable as per rules. Applications should be submitted to this Directorate within 07 days from the date of publication of the advertisement mentioning name of works at the top of the envelope.
- Authority reserves full power to accept/cancel any/all applications without assigning any reason.

MD Mizanur Rahman
Lt Col
For DW & CE (Army)
Dhaka Cantonment

ISPR/Misc/2000/456
DFP-11923-15/5
G-942