

WB urges Japan not to cut foreign aid

TOKYO, Dec 11: World Bank President James Wolfensohn on Monday urged Japan not to cut back its financial assistance to developing countries, says AP.

The Japanese government and the Japanese people have long recognized that (official development assistance) to the developing world is not a charity - it is part of Japan's growth," said Wolfensohn in Tokyo for a conference.

Japan, the world's largest donor of ODA, last year contributed \$15.3 billion and so far this year has spent \$9.37 bil-

lion. In recent weeks, Japanese lawmakers have been discussing whether to scale back foreign aid as a way of reining in the country's ballooning fiscal debt. Its debt is expected to exceed 130 per cent of its gross domestic product by March, the highest among industrialized countries.

Wolfensohn said he was not surprised by the government's debate, but he warned that if Japan slashes ODA by as much as 30 per cent, as some media reports say, it would have an

"enormous impact" on the health of smaller countries.

Regarding Russia, Wolfensohn said the World Bank will likely approve a loan to that country worth \$800 million over the next couple of years. Wolfensohn met in October with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"I told the president that we are very anxious to support them," he said, adding that the bank will set loan conditions that reflect the Russian government's own economic and political reforms.

Row over workers' service charge Owners temporarily shut down hotels in Nepal

KATMANDU, Dec 11: Tourists began vacating big hotels in Nepal on Monday after the owners ordered a temporary closure following a showdown with the workers, who are demanding a 10 per cent service charge on customers, says AP.

"All tourism entrepreneurs have agreed to the point that it is not possible to operate the hotels in the condition where the government cannot give protection and the industry is under the constant threat of service disruption," said a statement by the Industrial Friendly Committee, a body representing 16 tourism-related organizations.

The shutdown will be indefinite until the workers dropped their demand. It is likely to hit big hotels, accounting for nearly 30 per cent of rooms available in the Himalayan state. Small

hotels will remain unaffected.

The hotel industry employs nearly 200,000 people. Tourism is the biggest foreign exchange earner for Nepal. It fetched \$168 million in 1999.

The hotel workers demand that the management impose a 10 per cent service charge and pass that on to them.

The Hotel Association of Nepal has rejected the demand, saying it would hurt the tourism industry that already has faced a slump in recent years. Tourists already are paying 12 per cent government tax on their bills.

The association said in a statement that the government has refused to intervene in their dispute with the workers.

The big hotels put up notices last week, warning guests that they could not be entertained beyond Dec 11.



A Qantas jumbo jet (R) passes its British Airways counterpart at Sydney's Kingsford Smith airport yesterday. Qantas Airways Ltd. has rejected weekend media reports from Britain's Sunday Times newspaper which said the British Airways has entered into negotiations with the Australian government to take control of Qantas via a 450 million pound sterling share acquisition. - AFP photo



Two Malaysian women walk past a window poster at one of Kuala Lumpur's major shopping complexes yesterday. The Malaysian government has launched another nationwide "Megasale" campaign, with all retail outlets on sale for one month, to help curb inflation and improve the economy and plans to have it three times annually. - AFP photo

Syria to get \$66m loan from EIB

DAMASCUS, Dec 11: Financial cooperation between the European Union and Syria will gain new life this coming week, with the European Investment Bank (EIB) loaning Syria money - an estimated 66 million dollars - for the first time in almost ten years, reports AFP.

Francis Mayer, the EIB's vice-president, is expected in Damascus on December 14 to relaunch the institution's activities in Syria, Marc Pierini, the EU's representative in Syria, told AFP.

Syrian officials will sign an agreement with the EIB for an estimated 75 million euro loan, or 66 million dollars. The funds will go to bolster Syria's electricity distribution, specifically with high-voltage power lines and extra sub-stations.

The way for new EIB loans was cleared when Berlin lifted its bank veto on Syria at the end of October, following an agreement restructuring Syria's debt to Germany, which is estimated at 1.25 billion euros, or 1.1 billion dollars.

Syria had already restructured its debt with France in 1996 and with Italy in May 2000.

Meanwhile, Syria's Minister of State for Planning, Issam Zaim, is scheduled to meet EU commissioner for external relations Chris Patten in Brussels on December 15.

Zaim and Patten will fix the euro amount for the second phase of the EU's financial aid package to Syria, which falls under the EU's assistance program at Mediterranean countries (MEDA).

Taiwanese 'Silicon Valley' faces China challenges

TAIPEI, Dec 11: Taiwan's premier technology development park celebrated its 20th anniversary Monday amid fears the engine of the island's semiconductor industry could be losing firms to China, reports AFP.

President Chen Shui-bian, who vowed to build Taiwan into a "Green Silicon Island," hailed the achievements of Hsinchu Science Industrial Park, 70 kilometers (42 miles) south of the capital Taipei.

"It has become one of the most successful industrial parks in the world. With the park, the country has emerged as a key high-tech product producer," Chen said in a speech at Hsinchu.

"Its rich experience has emerged as a textbook for many countries, including mainland China, in formulating their own science and technology development policies."

Occupying a land of 600 hectares, the industrial park houses 390 companies, notably microchip makers, integrated circuit design houses, computer and computer peripheral companies.

With a combined total of 100,000 employees, the industrial park's output is forecast to surge to 900 billion Taiwan dollars (27.26 billion US) in 2000, up from 300 billion dollars in 1995.

But clouds have begun to appear on the horizon as China takes note of the park's success and offers tax holidays and other advantages to investors in technology on the mainland.

Taipei currently bans any China-bound investment worth more than 50 million US dollars and reviews technology and infrastructure investments on a case-by-case basis.

But the ban is widely flouted. According to official Chinese figures, Taiwanese companies have 45 billion dollars worth of investments on the mainland.

Drawn by China's huge market potential, particularly after its entry into the World Trade Organisation, many of Taiwan's leading electronics groups have set up production bases in the mainland.

The trend has deepened worries in Taiwan that the country's hard-won economic base will shift to the mainland en masse, jeopardising the entire island economy.

The latest joint venture to be announced was a 1.63 billion US dollar semiconductor company in Shanghai between Chinese President Jiang Zemin's son and Taiwanese investors including Winston Wang, son of Y.C. Wang, chairman of leading conglomerate Formosa Plastics Group.

The Shanghai Grace Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation Ltd. broke ground in the Pudong district of the coastal city last month. China's official Xinhua news agency said.

In November, 83-year-old Wang urged the government to scrap restrictions on investments in mainland China.

Taipei authorities are concerned that without the restrictions, Taiwan may become over-reliant on mainland China, even an "economic hostage."

The two countries share relations at best strained and at worst openly hostile. China regards Taiwan as part of its territory and threatens war if it declares formal independence.

Exchange Rates

Following are yesterday's Standard Chartered Bank rates of major currencies against Taka: Central bank buying and selling band of USD: BDT 53.85/BDT 54.15

Selling		Currency	Buying		
TT/OD	BC		TT Clean	OD Sight	OD Transfer
54.2500	54.2800	USD	53.8150	53.6464	53.5779
48.3108	48.3977	EUR	47.1288	46.9454	46.8688
78.8717	78.9137	GBP	77.3881	77.1216	77.0670
29.9453	29.9699	AUD	28.8860	28.7935	28.7134
0.4933	0.4934	JPY	0.4804	0.4802	0.4792
31.8896	31.9141	CHF	31.3583	31.2637	31.1792
5.5969	5.6021	SEK	5.5037	5.4860	5.4701
35.8714	35.8960	CAD	35.3008	35.2072	35.1240
6.9615	6.9628	HKD	6.9002	6.8825	6.8651
31.332	31.3530	SGD	30.8889	30.8451	30.7305
14.8919	14.9095	AED	14.5023	14.5242	14.4838
14.5799	14.5983	SAR	14.2402	14.2035	14.1853

Usance Export Bills

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
53.7041	53.3727	52.9304	52.4217	51.8688	50.6303

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US Dollar

Indian Rupee	PAK Rupee	Thai Baht	Lankan Rupee	Indo Rupiah	NZ Dollar
46.69/46.81	57.10/57.60	43.53/43.58	81.00/81.10	9545/95.60	0.4253/0.4260

The local foreign exchange market was active and demand for dollar was steady. The call money rate ranged between 9.0 and 10.0 per cent. Bangladesh Bank accepted payment for accepted treasury bills.

In the international markets, dollar turned the tables on the euro on Monday after the latest twist in the US election took Republican George W. Bush to within a hair breadth of victory. Dollar also got an early lift from Morgan Stanley Capital International's decision to shift to a free float system for its equity indices, where only shares free to trade internationally are counted.

Shipping Intelligence

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

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 11-12-2000

Berth no	Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local call	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Southern Queen	Gl(Copra)	Sing	Aeka	28/11	20/12
J/4	Le ding	W(G) - Gi	Cher	Litmond	8/12	18/12
J/5	Elios	Gi	Yang	SML	8/12	18/12
J/6	Chief of Cherokee	Gi	Visa	ASA	6/12	10/12
J/8	Ju Cheng	Gi	Qing	Bdship	29/11	-
J/9	Banga Lanka	Cont	Col	Baridhi	5/12	13/12
J/10	Diana	C.Clunk	Kant	NWSL	6/12	20/12
J/11	Banga Rul	Cont	Sing	Bdship	2/12	12/12
J/12	Kia Hsiang	Cont	P.Kei	QCSSL	1/12	14/12
J/13	Arabella	Cont	P.Kei	QCSSL	1/12	12/12
CCT/1	Osg Alpha	Cont	P.Kei	RSL	6/12	16/12
CCT/2	Jirong Balsam	Cont	Sing	NOL	2/12	12/12
CCT/3	Banglar Rul	Cont	Sing	BSC	7/12	12/12
RM/14	Banglar Urmi	Repair	BSC	R/A	15/12	-
RM/15	Princess of Lorne Sugar (TCB)	Bang	CCNI	2/11	14/12	-
CC/3	St Aubin	C.Clunk	Karb	Everest	30/11	11/12
TSP	Iran Sokan	R.Phos	Hamm	Seacon	27/11	-
RM/4	Bummi	CPD	Bela	Rainbow	8/12	12/12
DD	Banglar Nakoli	Repair	BSC	R/A	25/12	-
RM/8	Armour-1	C.DSO	Mumb	MTCL	27/11	12/12
MR/9	Banglar Shourabhi	Repair	BSC	R/A	12/12	-

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of Last Port arrival	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Tug Britoil-9	11/12	Indo OTBL	Towing D/VL	Progress
Pu Progress	11/12	Indo	Oil/For Scraping	-
Jami (Cont/3/12)	11/12	Sing	Cross	Cont L/Sing
QC Phantal (Cont/29/11)	12/12	PTP	QCSSL	Cont L/Sing
Ashik-1	12/12	-	Sbs	Sale
Zoe	12/12	-	SBS	TSP
Ibn Battolah	14/12	Tampa Litmond	TSP	-
Tuna-1	12/12	-	SBSCLink(Hyundai)	-
Amarta-Java-1723/12	13/12	Sing	ASAGI(St coil)	-
Boxer C Cook (Cont/3/12)	13/12	Bdship	Cont	L/Sing
Nyress Noreon (Cont/3/12)	13/12	Sing	BSL	Cont L/Sing
Bangla Bilyet (Cont/3/12)	14/12	Bdship	Cont	L/Sing
Ibn Battolah	14/12	Sing	RSL	Cont L/Sing
Da Fa (Cont/3/12)	14/12	Sing	RSL	Cont L/Sing
K Chaya (Cont/4/12)	14/12	Sing	PHBDI	Cont L/Sing
B.Bun (Cont/3/12)	14/12	Bdship	Cont	L/Sing
B Shikhat (Cont)	14/12	Sing	BSC	Cont L/Sing
Eco Charger	14/12	Aust	BSL Ferri(Urea)	-
Qena	15/12	-	SBSFerri(Urea/Bag)	-
Java Mars (Cont/5/12)	15/12	-	Everbest	Cont L/Sing
Bglar Kallol	15/12	Sikka	BSC C.Clunk (Ruik)	Diamond
Kota Naga (Cont/6/12)	15/12	Sing	PHBDI	Cont L/Sing
Bright Vega/Roro/24/22/11	15/12	-	Everest	Vehi
Kapitan Grishin (72/10/12)	15/12	Sing	Everest	St Coil
Qe Teal (Cont/10/12)	16/12	-	QCSSL	Cont L/Sing
O Independence (Cont/7/12)	15/12	-	Bdship	Cont L/Sing
Banga Bank (Cont/10/12)	19/12	-	Bdship	GI
Son Mateo/Roro/24/4/12	21/12	-	Ji	Vehi
Min Jung (liner)	22/12	-	Bdship	GI
Yong Jiang (liner)	25/12	-	Bdship	GI
Asian Century/Roro/24/4/12/27/12	27/12	-	Ji	Vehi

Tanker due:

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Spiros	Crude	Rast	BSL	10/12

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Nyress Mokam (Cont)	Cont	Col	Everbest	6/12
Kota Sing (Cont)	Cont	Sing	PHBDI	6/12
Actuarial (Cont)	Cont	P.Kei	QCSSL	6/12
Kota Lanyang (Cont)	Cont	Sing	PHBDI	6/12
Tiger River (Cont)	Cont	Sing	NOL	8/12
Tiger River (Cont)	Cont	Sing	NOL	8/12
Nyress Resolute (Cont)	Cont	Sing	RSL	10/12
City of Houston	GIS ASH	Cont	ASA	27/11
Sanna	GIS/ST	Mumb	SMSL	3/12
Crystal Venture	C.DSO	Remu	Seacon	7/12
Emmence	Hsd	Juba	ECSL	8/12

Vessels not ready:

Name of vessels	Cement	Lank	BSL	Date of arrival
Mary Nour	-	-	-	10/12

Vessels awaiting instruction:

Banglar Jyoti			
Name of vessels	Cargo	Local agent	Date of arrival
Den Captain	P.Mat	Kadia	Arafeen 10/12

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA. PHONES: 8914771-9, 8914730-4. CABLE: AIRBANGLA, TLX: 642649 DABG BU.

Tender for Hiring Bus

Tender No: 05/2000-2001

Tender for hiring bus for pick-up and drop of Biman staff are hereby invited in sealed envelop. Details are given in the schedule which will be available on all working days up to 15 January 2001 in Cash and Banking Section of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Biman Head Office, Balaka, Kurmitola, Dhaka and Office of the Manager Accounts, Biman Staff Office, Motijheel, Dhaka on payment of Tk 200/- (two hundred) only (non-refundable) for each route by submitting an application on own letterhead pad.

GD-1145 Dy General Manager (MT)

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA. PHONES: 8914771-9, 8914730-4. CABLE: AIRBANGLA, TLX: 642649 DABG BU. Ref: DACPL 26.2000.2001. Dated: 19-11-2000.

Tender Notice No. 11/2000-2001

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Biman Bangladesh Airlines from interested manufacturers/suppliers/distributors of the supply of the item mentioned below as per details/specifications mentioned in the schedule:

Sl	Description	Qty.
1)	Tyre Size: 400.8 Part No. 4810-40080	100 pcs.
2)	Pillow Sponge Size: 28x39 cm. Weight: 400 grms	4800 pcs.
3)	Pillow cover Blue Tetron Size: W=32 cm, L=45 cm. Flaps=20 cm	13600 pcs.
4)	Colouring Book with coloured pencil	36000 set.
5)	Disposable plastic Tea/Coffee cup, Milky white with handle	7000000 pcs.
6)	Rain coat (Gents)	3000 pcs.
7)	Rain coat (Female)	5000 pcs.
8)	Comb Nylon Gents Size: 12.02 cm.	39600 pcs.

Tender schedule mentioning full details/specifications of items, terms and conditions will be available from the Manager (Cash & Banking), Head Office "BALAKA" & Accounts Officer (Cash Payment Unit), Admin. Building, ZIA, Dhaka of Biman Finance Directorate, Dhaka on payment of Tk. 300/- (three hundred) only per set (per group) non-refundable by applying own letterhead pad during any working day upto 02.01.2001.

Sealed tender should be dropped in the tender box kept in Local Purchase Section, Stores & Purchase Directorate, Admin. Building, ZIA, Dhaka and Biman Press Building, Farmgate, Tejgoan, Dhaka latest by 11:30 hrs (BST) on 03.01.2001 and will be opened on the same day at 14:00 hours at the premises of Stores & Purchase Directorate, Admin. Building, ZIA, Dhaka in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Biman Management reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity of the items and can accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Choudhury Mohammad Khairul Alam
Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

GD-1146

WANTED

University of Dhaka: Applications in prescribed form, obtainable from the Office of the Registrar, are invited from the Bangladesh nationals for filling up three permanent posts of Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science.

Pay scale: Tk 7200-260X14-10840/=.

Qualifications: Candidates must have first class either in honours or in Master's degree in Political Science or in both or an equivalent degree from a foreign university with at least high second division in S.S.C. & H.S.C. examinations. They should have at least 3 years' teaching and research experience in a university. The above requirements may be relaxed in the case of those who have PhD degree or research publications in standard journals. Experience and performance as a teacher as well as significant contribution to different areas of university activities especially in guiding the overall educational and co-curricular activities of the students will also be treated as qualification. Other qualifications being equal preference will be given to those who have M.Phil degree.

Eight copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials and mark-sheets along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk 100/= only payable to the Registrar, should reach him on or before 31-12-2000. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel. GD-1144

বেপজা পাবলিক স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ

ঢাকা বিশ্বাবিদ্যালয় প্রকৌশল বিভাগ এলাকা
গণকবড়া, সাভার, ঢাকা-১০৪৯

ফোনঃ ৯০১২২০০০

Notice for Appointment

Applications in white paper are invited for appointment of some Asstt. Teachers for BEPZA Public School, DEPZ Savar, Dhaka from the bonafide citizens of Bangladesh.

Sl	Name of Post	Nos of Post	Sl	Name of Post & Nos of Post.
01.	Asstt Teacher (English)	01	05	Asstt Teacher (Com) =01
02.	Asstt Teacher (Bengali)	01	06	Asstt Teacher (G. Science) =01
03.	Asstt Teacher (Social Science)	01	07	Asst Teacher (Elective Math) =01
04.	Asstt Teacher (Islamiat)	01		

Conditions:

- Pay & allowance: As applicable to the teachers of govt affiliated school in the same grade and with same service conditions.
- Educational qualification: Subject teachers will have 300 marks of their respective subject in the degree level. Persons holding higher education degree in the subject and BE/MED will be given preference 3rd division in any examination will be considered as disqualification for the post.
- Age: Maximum Limit: 35 yrs as on 31.12.2000.
- Higher initial pay may be considered in case of suitable candidates.
- Name of the post applied for is to be written on the envelop.
- Person in service shall apply through proper channel.
- Interested candidates shall apply stating name, Father's name, Present address, Permanent address, Date of birth, Age, Nationality, Religion, Educational Qualification and Experience (if any).
- Attested copies of Educational Certificates, Experience Certificates and marks sheet for Graduate & Post-graduate Examination shall be enclosed with the application.
- 02 (two) copies of passport size photograph to be enclosed.
- A Crossed Postal Order for Tk 100/- (one hundred) only favouring "BEPZA PUBLIC SCHOOL" DEPZ, Savar, Dhaka to be enclosed with the application.
- Last date for receiving application is 21.12.2000.

Prof Gopal Chandra Burua
Principal
BEPZA Public School
Phone: 7701002

GD-1143

OPEC may cut output if oil sags further

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 11: OPEC will likely reduce oil production by a million barrels a day starting in January if crude prices continue to go down, Kuwait's oil minister said in an interview to come out today, reports AFP.

"OPEC members will examine a decrease in production at their next meeting, January 17 in Vienna. If prices continue to sink at the current rate," Sheikh Saoud Nasser al-Sabah told the Kuwait newspaper al-Rai al-Ahli.

"It is almost certain that an agreement on a reduction in production will be reached during the meeting," he said.

"About one million barrels a day will be taken away if it is necessary, especially with the coming of spring and summer, which bring a reduction in consumption levels and the worldwide demand for oil," Sheikh Saoud said.

Oil prices made a surprise slip of nearly five dollars a barrel over the past week even though Iraq has not resumed exports of oil suspended December 1.

The price of Brent North Sea

benchmark crude closed Friday in London at 26.56 dollar a barrel for January delivery.

Calling the upcoming OPEC meeting "decisive," Sheikh Saoud said oil-producing countries were "determined to assure stability on the international oil markets and maintain the prices at rightful levels that guarantee the interests of both producers and consumers."

In remarks published December 4, Sheikh Saoud rejected any overall new increase in production in light of Iraq's blocked exports, saying other OPEC members could compensate.

Baghdad, which was exporting 2.3 million barrels a day, halted Saturday its mat-soon resume exports, halted after a row with the United Nations over a pricing formula.

The 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) raised production four times over the past year in an effort to reduce oil prices that had gone beyond 35 dollars a barrel for the first time since the 1991 Gulf war.

Lloyds TSB to raise offer for Abbey Nat'l

LONDON, Dec 11: British banking giant Lloyds TSB may be preparing to make a new, higher bid for its rival Abbey National at the beginning of the week, the economic newspaper Sunday Business reported, reports AFP.

The newspaper said that Abbey National had rejected an offer from Lloyds of about 18 billion pounds (nearly 30 billion euros / 26 billion dollars), but that 20 billion pounds could now be put on the table.

Another newspaper, The Observer, said Sunday that Lloyds may cut about 8,000 jobs if it succeeds in taking over the home-loan specialist.

However it said the company would undertake not to close any Abbey National branch for two years.

Abbey had ruled out further talks with Britain's most profitable bank, preferring to concentrate on concurrent merger talks with Bank of Scotland.

Analysts said the rejection could prompt a hostile move on Abbey by Lloyds TSB, which is anxious not to miss out on the latest round of consolidation in the British banking sector.

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