

Global combat aircraft makers eye growing Asian civil aviation sector

AFP, Bangalore

Global combat aircraft makers are eyeing the rapidly growing civil and cargo aviation sector and are forging tie-ups with local firms to get a stronghold in Asia, particularly India.

"We are out to discuss such possibilities with Asian countries, particularly India," Pogosyan said.

He said Sukhoi was conducting market research to gauge the requirements for passenger aircraft in the region.

Pogosyan said the company's first project a 30-seater turboprop would be introduced in the market by 2003 and commercial production of the 70 to 100-seater jet would begin by 2005. The production of a third passenger aircraft, a supersonic business jet with a seating capacity of 15 to 20 people, is to begin by 2008.

Irkutsk president Alexey Fedorov said his company's 100-seater aircraft would have the capability to carry 15 to 20 tonnes of cargo and the plane would be on the market by 2007.

"We have a target of selling about 200 aircraft in Russia and India by 2015. We see a steady demand for such a transport demand," Fedorov said.

According to Boeing Co, India's

growing airline market will need 380 aircraft worth around 24 billion dollars over the next 20 years.

Boeing spokesman Suvendu Ray said the world travel market was expected to grow on average 4.8 per cent a year and that India would grab an increasingly larger share of the market.

Dinesh Keskar, Boeing president of aircraft trading, said the Indian travel market was growing at a faster pace than the global market, fuelled by the growth of India's economy.

He said demand would rise as more foreign companies set up bases in Indian cities such as the hi-tech capital Bangalore.

"In India we have not yet even scratched the surface of the market," he said.

Boeing is locked in a fierce battle with Airbus Industrie for control of the world's passenger jet market.

Yves Robins, Vice-President International Relations Defence

Dassault Aviation, said the French were also interested in selling its Falcon jets to Asia.

"The transport sector is witnessing rapid growth. The Asian market is a potentially important market. If you look at India it needs a lot of new aircraft," Robins told AFP.

"But business jets so far has not been in the culture of the Asian countries. In the future it may develop. There is a huge market waiting to be tapped in Asia," he said.

Robins hoped the infrastructural and government policies, which were hampering the growth of the civil aviation sector, would ease when the demand for more business jets took over.

"It [the demand for civilian aircraft and business jets] will certainly expand as the need for jets for corporations is not a luxury but a working tool," Robins said.

"In Japan corporations wanted jets but they have a problem with space in airports.

Filipino central bank governor in money laundering controversy

AFP, Manila

The governor of the Philippine central bank is at the centre of a storm for allegedly sleeping on the job while deposed president Joseph Estrada laundered millions of dollars using the local banking system.

Several congressmen instrumental in kicking Estrada out of office are now training their guns at Rafael Buenaventura, governor of the Bangko Sentral Pilipinas (BSP), asking him to quit over Estrada's reported illegal bank dealings.

But Buenaventura, Estrada's high school classmate and yet respected by the local and foreign banking community, has stubbornly stood his ground.

President Gloria Arroyo's top economic official, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo does not see eye to eye with Buenaventura. This makes it difficult for the central bank to coordinate with government in policy-making to steer

the economy out of trouble, sources said.

The powerful Bankers Association of the Philippines, the umbrella body for about 50 lenders, as well as the elite Makati Business Club in the capital's financial district have both backed the US-trained Buenaventura.

They urged Arroyo to respect the central bank's independence and Buenaventura's constitutionally guaranteed tenure.

Estrada named Buenaventura to the top central bank post in July 1999 for a six-year term after he had completed a distinguished career in private commercial banking spanning 35 years, including in US-based Citibank.

CURRENCY

Following are yesterday's Standard Chartered Bank rates of major currencies against Taka:

Selling		Currency		Buying	
TT/OD	BC	TT	OD	Sight	OD
		Clean	Doc		Transfer
54.2500	54.2800	USD	53.8150	53.6464	53.5779
50.5418	50.6287	EUR	49.3313	49.1479	49.0713
78.7905	78.8325	GBP	77.2966	77.0301	76.9755
29.5392	29.5637	AUD	28.4713	28.3789	28.2987
0.4652	0.4653	JPY	0.4534	0.4532	0.4522
32.8006	32.8251	CHF	32.2503	32.1558	32.0713
5.6305	5.6357	SEK	5.6366	5.5189	5.5030
36.0473	36.0719	CAD	36.4732	35.3796	35.2964
6.9598	6.9611	HKD	6.8984	6.8807	6.8633
31.166	31.1897	SGD	30.7335	30.6897	30.5760
14.8919	14.9095	AED	14.5023	14.5242	14.4838
14.5807	14.5991	SAR	14.2406	14.2039	14.1857

Usage 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
46.36/48.47	59.20/59.24	42.50/42.60	86.00/87.00	9580/9680	0.4367/0.4372

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 10.02.2001

Berth no	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
1/1	Southern Queen	GI	Sing	Aeka	28/11	-
1/2	Millennium Falcon	GI	Yang	Everett	4/2	10/2
1/3	Pacific Emerald	GI	P Kel	Alseas	21/1	-
1/4	Oriental Queen	C Clink	Kant	RML	2/2	18/2
1/5	Andhika Adikaraya(72)	GI (STC)	Hald	ASA	5/2	11/2
1/6	Jasmine	Wheat(P)	MCM	SMSL	15/1	13/2
1/7	Shun Cheng	GI	Sing	Seaglorry	5/2	15/2
1/8	Leona	GI	Sing	Prog	4/2	13/2
1/9	Weihsian	Urea(BCIC)	Nank	Apex	01/2	19/2
1/10	Topaz	GI (Maize)	Yang	Prog	22/1	11/2
1/11	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	6/2	12/2
1/12	OSG Alpha	Cont	Sing	BSL	1/2	11/2
1/13	Banglar Moni	Cont	Sing	BSC	7/2	12/2
CCT/2	Orient Independence	Cont	P Kel	BD Ship	2/2	13/2
CT/3	Kota Bintang	Cont	Sing	PII (BD)	31/1	10/2
RM/14	Banglar Kallol	IDLE	K/Dia	Lams	27/1	15/2
RM/15	Century	GI(WT CE)	Bang	Rainbow	1/2	13/2
CSJ	Agios Fanourios	Gypsum	Krab	BSL	1/2	11/2
GSJ	Taestela	Wheat(G)	K Dia	Lams	R/A	10/2
TSP	Piran	Rphos	Sing	Seacoast	29/1	16/2
RM/4	Khitira	CDSO	Durb	Rainbow	4/2	10/2
RM/6	Eminence	HSD	Juba	ECSL	5/2	-
DD	Banglar Shourabhi	Repair	-	BSC	8/A	-
CUFLJ	Mary Nour	Cement	Lang	BSL	4/2	20/2

Weekly Currency Roundup

Most Asian units fall against dollar

AFP, Hong Kong

Most Asia-Pacific currencies weakened slightly against the dollar during the week, with a variety of mainly domestic reasons responsible for the falls.

Japanese yen: The yen lost ground during the week as the Bank of Japan lowered its official discount rate amid growing pressure on the central bank to beef up the fragile economy, dealers said.

The Japanese unit was quoted at 117.10 against the dollar late Friday, compared with 115.16-19 a week earlier.

Australian dollar: The Australian dollar again fell victim to events abroad this week, and is likely to remain vulnerable in the short-term, dealers said.

"Initially the Aussie looked OK," Macquarie Bank currency strategist Jo Masters said.

The Australian dollar closed at 53.64 US cents on Friday, down from 55.41 US cents a week ago - a decline of 1.77 US cents.

New Zealand dollar: The New Zealand dollar closed Friday worth 43.55 US cents, down from 44.99 US cents the previous week.

"There was a lot of selling pressure overnight on the back of both the euro and the Aussie, and also a continuation of the institutional investor selling that we've seen over the last couple of days," a currency dealer said.

Singapore dollar: The US dollar traded at 1.7447 Singapore dollars in late session on Friday, down from 1.7357 on February 2.

Hong Kong dollar: The dollar traded slightly lower at 7.799-7.800 compared with the previous week's 7.7983-7.7993.

Indonesian rupiah: The Indonesian rupiah weakened over the

week to close at 9,580 to the dollar on Friday from 9,530 at close the week before, but off its mid-week lows of around 9,620 to the greenback.

Dealers said the currency stabilized Thursday, but was still prone to influence by the fragile domestic political situation.

Philippine peso: The Philippine currency closed higher Friday at 48.20 pesos to the dollar from 48.25 pesos the previous day, the Bankers Association of the Philippines said.

Trading ranged from 48.25 to 47.945 pesos to the greenback on a weighted average of 48.052 pesos.

South Korean won: The won weakened from 1,249.50 won per dollar a week earlier to 1,261.60 won Friday, reflecting a downward swing in the stock market and a strong dollar against the yen.

Dealers said the market would be mixed in the coming week.

Taiwan dollar: The Taiwan dollar edged up 0.1 per cent over the week to close at 32.282 against the greenback Friday as more foreign funds entered the local bourse, dealers said.

The unit stood at 32.309 on Monday. It rose to 32.288 on Tuesday and remained the same on Wednesday. It surged to 32.285 on Thursday.

Thai baht: The Thai baht weakened against the dollar over the week in line with other regional currencies as investors awaited the appointment of a new finance minister, dealers said.

The Thai unit closed Friday at 42.60-63 baht to the greenback compared to the previous week's close of 42.32-37.

Singer holds Sales Confce-2001 in Shillong

The 5-day Singer Sales Conference concluded in the Indian city of Shillong recently, says a press release.

The conference began on February 2 with the Chairman and Managing Director of Singer Bangladesh Limited Mahubul Jamil inaugurating.

Management committee members, national sales manager, area managers along with district managers, branch/shop managers, exclusive sales agents, sewing instructors and a large number of executives from the Singer family attended the conference.

Business session, sight seeing and free-day made the conference a colorful event.

During the business session of the conference Shamsul Haque, Branch Manager of the Feni Showroom-cum-Sales Center, was adjudged Man of the Year 2000 and Md Masukuzzaman, Directly Supervised Sales Agent of Bhatrab was named Man of the Year 2000 for his success and outstanding contribution towards the sales activities of the company under the business theme of 2000.

French employers near deal with unions

AFP, Paris

The French employers' federation Medef said Saturday it was near agreement with trade unions to maintain the right to a funded retirement at age 60 for private sector workers for the next two years.

Medef has proposed that it will continue fully financing retirement benefits for employees from age 60 until the end of 2002, in a U-turn on a policy it announced in December.



Dr Mathew Vincent, a researcher of Associate Octel Co Ltd, UK (2nd from left), Shahjahan Sinha, proprietor of Gulshan Service Station (2nd from right), and Shaheed Sinha of Udayan Corporation (extreme right), are seen at a seminar on "Valvemaster," a liquid used with fuel, held at Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management in the city recently. Udayan Corporation is marketing the product.

US, Mexico to join Canada to evaluate Brazilian beef

AFP, Brasilia

US and Mexican experts will join their Canadian counterparts Wednesday on a trip to evaluate the safety of Brazilian beef products barred from importation to the three North American nations because of concerns over "mad cow" disease, officials said Saturday.

Canada's agriculture minister, Lyle Vanclief, told his Brazilian counterpart, Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes, that the three countries would work together on the evaluation, said Luiz Carlos de Oliveira, farm affairs secretary in Brazil's Agriculture Ministry.

Vanclief said Friday the importation ban would be lifted as soon as the team in Brazil completes its work.

Canadian officials have said their decision February 2 to bar importation of corned beef, liquid beef extract and sliced beef in jelly from Brazil was prompted by concerns over whether that country was free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, known as "mad cow" disease.

The United States and Mexico - Canada's partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement - followed with their own bans on Brazilian beef.

But Brazilian officials have said they are convinced Canada's action is a thinly disguised shot in the ongoing trade dispute over alleged subsidies to each country's aircraft industry.

Their position was supported by statements from two senior government scientists, who told The Globe and Mail of Toronto the ban was prompted by politics, not health concerns.

The beef ban has sparked outrage in Brazil, including boycotts of Canadian products and threats of an all-out trade war.

Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Comilla

Notice Inviting Tender

- Tender Notice : 79/EE of RHD, Road Division, Comilla, during the year 2000-2001.
- Name of work : Earth work in road embankment at 18th (P) KM of Chowddagram-Laksham-Muddafforganj Road, under Comilla Road Divn., during the year 1999-2000.
- Estimated cost : Tk. 1,02,489/-.
- Earnest money : Tk. 2,050/- in BD/Pay Order in favour of EE (RHD), Road Division, Comilla.
- Name of office : Superintending Engineer, where tender bids will be received. RHD, Road Circle, Comilla & office of the undersigned.
- Name of office of the availability of tender bids : Office of the undersigned/EE, RHD, Road Divn., B'baria/Chandpur/Planning & Design Divn., Comilla & SDE's Office under this division.
- Time allowed : 15 (fifteen) days.
- Last date of selling of tender bids : 18-2-2001 up to office hours.
- Last date of dropping of tender bids : 19-2-2001 up to 12-30 PM.
- Date, place of opening of tender bids : 20-2-2001 in the office of the EE, RHD, Comilla.
- Date of lottery : 22-2-2001.
- Ch. to : 266-C.A.
- Eligibility of contractor : "A" to "E" general category of RHD contractor.
- Ref. of approved of estimate : Memo No. 2340 dt. 28-9-2000 of the SE (RHD), Road Circle, Comilla.

Md. Rafiqul Islam
Executive Engineer, RHD,
Road Division, Comilla.

NILOY CEMENT INDUSTRIES LTD. (AN ENTERPRISE OF NITOL GROUP)

ANNOUNCEMENT

71, MOHAKHALI COMMERCIAL AREA, DHAKA-1212

We are pleased to announce that by the grace of Almighty Allah, we have successfully completed the new unit of the Company to increase its capacity from 1,00,000 Metric Ton to 2,00,000 Metric Ton per annum and as per decision of the Board, the new unit will start its operation on February 15, 2001 Insha-Allah.

Sd/-
Md. Siddiqur Rahman
MBA, PGDFM, FICS
Company Secretary

NILOY CEMENT INDUSTRIES LTD. (AN ENTERPRISE OF NITOL GROUP)

DELIVERY OF DIVIDEND WARRANTS

71, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212, Tel : 9887074-79, Ex.187

This is for kind information of the valued Shareholders of the Company that the DIVIDEND WARRANTS for the year 1999-2000 are being delivered from the Share Department of the Company at 71, Mohakhali Commercial Area, Dhaka-1212 during office hours between 9-30 a.m. to 4-00 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday. The Shareholders are requested to collect their Dividend Warrants from the Share Department personally or through their duly authorised representative.

Dividend Warrant not collected within February 15, 2001 will send by Courier Service to the Shareholders at their mailing address recorded with us at their own risk and responsibility.

Sd/-
Md. Siddiqur Rahman
MBA, PGDFM, FICS
Company Secretary

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

পানির অপচয় রোধে কাজ শেষে কালের মুখ বন্ধ করান

Tenders are invited from the enlisted Class I, Class II ABC licence holder mechanical and electrical contractors of Dhaka WASA for installing 11/0.415 KV sub-station for just installed deep tubewell on Dhanmandi No-1 Government Primary Girls' School at Kalabagan 2nd Lane. The amount of estimated money for the work is Taka 2,91,479.88. Tenders will be received on 27/2/2001 till 12-00 noon and will be opened on the same day at 2-30 pm before the tenderers or their representatives (if anyone remains present).

Schedule of tender will be available in the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka and all MODS Zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other details will be available in the office of the undersigned.

Address: "WASA Bhaban"
98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka
WASA-PI-44/2001
DFP-3294-6/2
G-314

AKM Zafarullah
Project Director
Interim Project-4
Dhaka WASA

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Tug Seaways-4	9/2	Sing	OTBL	-	-
Juneau	10/2	Sing	OTBL	-	-
Sealantern	10/2	Kant	OTLM	C Clink	-
Banga Bonik (Cont) 5/2	13/2	CBO	BDSHIP	Cont	-
Tug Britoil-12	11/2	Jaka	OTBL	-	-
Nibung	11/2	Jaka	OTBL	Scraping	-
Dea Captain	11/2	Sing	Arafeen	P Mat	-
Indian Goodwill	11/2	-	PSAL	C Clink	-
Togo Charm	11/2	Kushi	Seacom	C Clink	-
Triumph HongKong(72) 4/2	12/2	Hald	RML	Proj Mat	-
Svendborg Guardian(72) 31/1	12/2	New	Everett	Projmat+Cont	-
Acutria (Cont) 1/2	12/2	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Biral (Cont) 1/2	12/2	P Kel	BD SHIP	Cont	Sing
Dannau Toba (72) 28/1	14/2	Yang	Everett	GI (St. Cl)	-
Kuo Hsiung (Cont) 5/2	13/2	-	QCSL	Cont	Sing
AA Venture	14/2	Kara	CLA	Rice/P+GI	-
Banga Biraj (Cont) 5/2	14/2	-	BD Ship	Cont	Sing
Pathain	16/2	Yang	MTA	Rice/PI	-
Xpress renown (Cont) 8/2	16/2	-	BSL	Cont	Sing
QC Pintail (Cont) 5/2	18/2	-	QCSL	Cont	Sing
DaFa (Cont) 8/2	19/2	-	BSL	Cont	Sing
San Mateo (Roro) 24/4/2	20/2	Sing	IF	Vehi	-

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port	Local agent	Cargo	Date of arrival
Timur Queen	10/2	-	Rainbow	CPO	-
Danat Qatar	10/2	Jebe	USS	Crude Oil	-

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	L port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Energy Explorer-IV	-	-	BBAL	5/4
Ismaia	-	-	Arafeen	17/8
Dea Conqueror	-	-	Arafeen	R/A (31/12)
Dea Champion	-	-	Arafeen	5/2
Seabuck Command	-	-	IBS	R/A (20/1)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Ready on

Name of vessels	Cargo	L port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Kota Berj				