

G-15 summit ends with call for unity to bridge N-S gap

AFP, Jakarta

The 11th summit of the G-15 nations closed here Thursday with fervent appeals from heads of state for greater unity among developing nations in closing the gap in wealth and privilege with the developed world.

"We have to unite, there are no other options," said Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez as he assumed the rotating chairmanship of the G-15 forum during its closing ceremony.

"All of us are certain we need to raise our awareness of our need to unite."

Venezuela will play host to the next G-15 summit in Caracas in 2002, taking over the chairmanship from Indonesia.

Indonesia's president Abdurrahman Wahid, whose impending impeachment hearing overshadowed the two-day summit, warned that the G-15 was at risk of vanishing unless there was greater unity between its members.

"We have to pool our resources. Only in this way will the developed world listen to and hear us," Wahid said.

The 19 heads of state and government at the two-day summit,

including four presidents and three prime ministers, agreed on a resolution called the Jakarta Declaration, which Chavez insisted on expanding in last minute deliberations.

He won agreement that the declaration would include or be accompanied by the setting up of a commission that would coordinate all decisions made in G-15 summits and make recommendations to the forum's heads of state.

The Declaration focused on bridging the digital divide between the developed and developing worlds. Its key platform was the establishment of a G-15 taskforce on information and communication technology (ICT).

It warned that without efforts to bring developing nations up to speed with their wealthier counterparts in ICT, the "information and knowledge revolution could increase economic inequalities among and between peoples, countries and regions of the world."

"We are ... deeply concerned that at present the huge potential of ICT for advancing development is largely eluding most developing countries resulting in a growing digital divide," it stated.

The document called on multilateral institutions and developed countries to "encourage and strengthen ICT-related applications and local industry in developing countries" through investment, education and training.

Chavez described the agreement on a commission for coordinating such resolutions as the "most positive outcome" of the summit.

In his closing statement, he said it was a matter of "great concern" to all that the work of the summits resulted in resolutions that just gathered dust.

The newly-agreed on commission would instead "follow up and promote all our decisions and provide recommendations to the heads of state."

The commission would be made up of two or three member states from the three regions represented in the G-15 forum, Chavez said, referring to South America, Asia and Africa.

Several speakers at the summit attacked the developed nations, a sentiment Chavez picked up in his closing remarks.

"I think the North-South dialogue has become a litany in the desert, in which one side is deaf

and even mute," he said, urging strength from the G-15 so that "the North will listen to us seriously."

Indonesian vice president Megawati Sukarnoputri, who presided over the summit discussions, said the representatives had aired their frustration with the developed world.

"Strong concern was expressed at the increasing tendency of countries of the North to make decisions on key global issues ... without taking into account the interests of developing countries," she said, wrapping up discussions.

"Developed countries have shown an inclination to use multilateral institutions like the World Bank and IMF as instruments of their own foreign policy to the detriment of developing countries."

Megawati is expected to replace Wahid if the national assembly impeaches him, as is expected, within two months.

The G-15 now groups 19 countries: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

Vietnam-US trade pact may boost Hanoi's exports

REUTERS, Hanoi

Vietnam's export revenues from the United States are expected to surge once an historic trade pact with Washington is ratified, trade experts said Thursday.

A Democratic Senate aide in Washington told Reuters earlier this week US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick had indicated that the agreement, which was signed last year, would go to Congress for ratification by Monday.

Analysts say ratification of the agreement could double Vietnam's annual exports to the United States, to more than \$1.0 billion within one or two years from about \$600 million in 2000.

An official of the state-run Vietnam Textile and Garment Co (Vinatex) said Vietnam could earn \$200 million this year from exports of textiles and garments to the United States, compared with \$60 million in 2000.

"The \$200 million figure assumes the trade agreement is ratified for implementation later this year," the official at Vinatex's export promotion centre told Reuters.

The trade pact would give Vietnam "normal trade relations" status with the United States and lead to big cuts in tariffs on Vietnamese exports. Those on textiles would fall to around five per cent from around 60 per cent.

Phan Dinh Do, chairman of Vietnam Shoes and Footwear

Association, said the footwear industry had been actively preparing since last year for greater access to the US market, where it is expected to face fierce competition from China.

The US market has a strong import demand for footwear, but China has been exporting there, taking some 60-70 per cent of total US footwear imports, Do said.

He said China would have further advantages over Vietnam when it joined the World Trade Organisation. Vietnam is still years away from WTO membership.

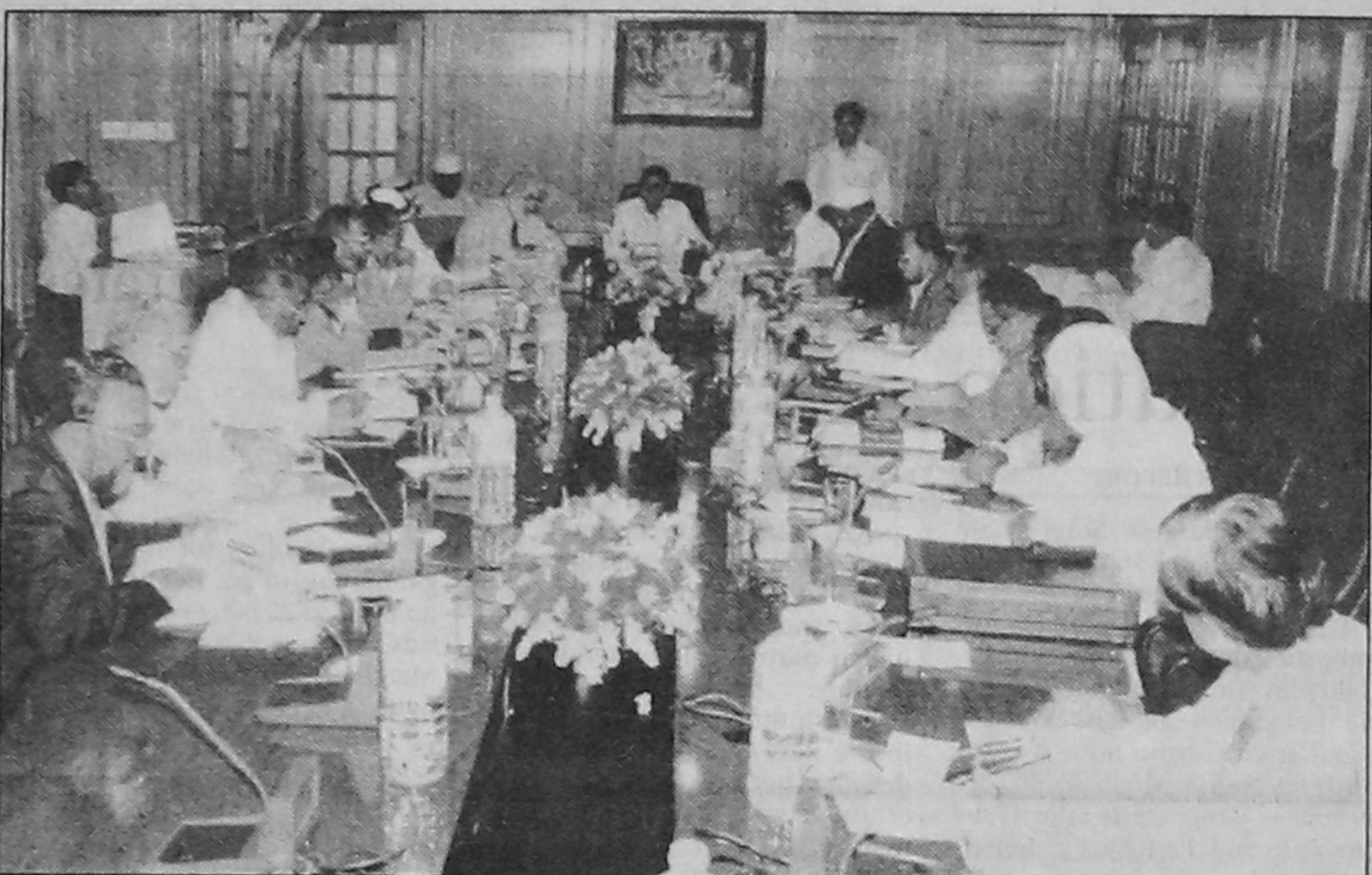
"It does not mean though that we won't compete with China in the US," Do said. "We are not worried about our quality and design, but cheap prices of Chinese products are an issue." "Once the trade pact is in place, our export revenues will be double or triple that amount," he said.

A trade expert from the Fisheries Ministry said the US market was already a key destination for Vietnamese aquatic products, especially shrimp and fish.

He said sale of aquatic products to the United States last year accounted for 24 per cent of the industry's total export earnings, while those generated from Japan were 33 per cent.

Official data shows that Vietnam earned a total of \$1.48 billion from aquatic product exports last year, up 51.9 per cent from 1999.

Picture shows a meeting of the Board of Directors of Islamic Bank Bangladesh Limited (IBBL) held yesterday in the city with Shah Abdul Hannan, Chairman of the bank, in the chair. Local and foreign directors including Yousif Abdullah Al-Rajhi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the bank and representative of Al-Rajhi Company for Industry and Trade, KSA; Professor Korkut Ozal, representative of Islamic Development Bank (IDB); and Engineer Mohammad Fouad Al-Khaeef from KSA were present in the meeting. The meeting reviewed the overall performance of the bank and expressed its satisfaction.



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DaimlerChrysler, S'pore to develop alternative fuel

AFP, Singapore

DaimlerChrysler and Singapore authorities Thursday announced a joint programme to step up the development of hydrogen as a fume-free alternative fuel source for vehicles.

Testing will begin in 2004, the same year the German-US auto giant expects to begin commercial production of noiseless and non-polluting "green" cars.

However, the company believes it will take another seven years before the fuel cell-powered cars will be cost competitive. The Singapore-based test programme will be part of a global study involving Japan, Europe and the United States.

"Conditions are different all over the world and we want to gather as much information as possible on how the technology performs in these conditions," Helfried Scharf, a DaimlerChrysler spokesman, told AFP.

The high demand for US dollar has persisted because of the low supply of US dollar in the inter-bank USD/BDT market. The average call rate remained at the higher range of 14-15 per cent today.

The euro shed almost two yen and over half a cent against the dollar today to test its lowest level this year after officials in Japan and Europe appealed to play down the prospect of intervention. Intervention jitters eased after European Central Bank council member Klaus Liebscher said conditions now were "completely different" from when the ECB last intervened and that the euro's exchange rate was only one of a number of risk factors for inflation. The euro's weakness also translated into strength in the yen, which climbed almost one per cent against the US dollar. The Swiss franc opened off overnight lows after news that May consumer price inflation accelerated to 1.8 per cent, the highest in six months. Sterling was broadly steady after BOE says UK net consumer credit rose GBP 1.685 billion in April from a revised 813 million month before, while M4 money supply was up a final 7.9 per cent in April.

At around 0913 GMT the exchange rates of major currencies against USD were GBP/USD 1.4174/1.4184, USD/CHF 1.7930/1.7940, USD/JPY 118.75/118.85, EUR/USD 0.8477/0.8482.

This commentary is for informational purposes only. AEB cannot guarantee its accuracy and completeness.

CURRENCY

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against Taka to major clients.

Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling BC	Buying TT Clean	Buying OD Sight	Buying OD Export Bill
US Dollar	57.6300	57.6800	56.4500	56.2970	56.2250
Poland Sig	82.3850	82.4570	80.1920	79.9755	79.8732
Deutsche Mark	25.6217	25.6410	24.2502	24.1845	24.1536
Swiss Franc	32.5106	32.5308	31.5099	31.4245	31.3944
Japanese Yen	0.4843	0.4848	0.4668	0.4655	0.4649
Dutch Guilder	22.7398	22.7595	21.5226	21.4641	21.4367
Danish Krona	6.6447	6.6595	6.4382	6.4207	6.4125
Australian \$	30.0233	30.0494	28.2871	28.2104	28.1743
Belgian Franc	1.2422	1.2433	1.1757	1.1726	1.1711
Canadian \$	37.6258	37.6595	36.1674	36.0693	36.0232
French Franc	7.6395	7.6461	7.2305	7.2110	7.2017
Hong Kong \$	7.3948	7.4011	7.2235	7.2039	7.1947
Italian Lira	0.0259	0.0259	0.0245	0.0244	0.0244
Singapore S	32.2068	32.2148	30.8774	30.7937	30.7543
Euro	50.1117	50.1553	47.2293	47.2007	47.2002
Saudi Rial	15.3896	15.4029	15.0105	14.9698	14.9507

Bill buying rates

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
56.4512	55.9796	55.5092	55.0388	54.5683	53.6275

US dollar London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)

TC Buying (USD)	TC Selling (USD)	Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months
56.2250	57.6300	USD	4.05625	4.00000	3.99000	4.10000	4.25000
Cash Buying (USD)	Cash Selling (USD)	GBP	5.25125	5.24250	5.25000	5.30750	5.37000
56.2250	57.6300	EUR	4.50063	4.55000	4.47938	4.46625	4.46000

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Malaysian Ringgit	Indonesian Rupiah	Korean Won
46.9827	63.387	45.307	3.79957	11100	1282.5
46.992	63.45	45.34	3.8005	11150	1282.9

AMEX notes on Thursday's market

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SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 31.5.2001

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L-port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Eltanin	GI(LPG)	Yang	SMISL	9/5	2/6
J/3	Jasmine	M. Wt (P)	Viza	SMISL	14/5	5/6
J/4	Jubilee	GI(LPG)	Yang	OTBL	27/5	4/6
J/5	Silver Fish	C. Clink	B. Abb	BSL	21/5	9/6
J/6	Anna S	L. Scrap	Tilb	Uniship	25/5	10/6
J/7	Jin Cheng	GI	Susa	Bdship	24/5	1/6
J/8	Ban Ann	C. Clink	Sing	RML	14/5	4/6
J/9	Sittive	Rice(P)	Yang	MTA	30/4	4/6
J/10	Huai Yang	Sugar(TCB)	Bang	CCNL	23/5	4/6
J/11	Sea Bright	Cont	Sing	PJ(BD)	23/5	31/5
J/12	Jaya Mars	Cont	P. Kel	RSL	26/5	3/6
J/13	Banglar Shikha	Cont	Sing	BSC	29/5	1/6
CCT/1	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	26/5	3/6
CCT/2	O Independence	Cont	P. Kel	TTL	26/5	2/6
RM/15	Sung Ri San-9	Cement	Tuba	ANCL	R/A(28/4)	8/6
CCJ	Agios Fanourios	C. Clink	Pada	Seacom	23/5	31/5
GSJ	Nongkhai Navee	Soda Fuld	Sing	Mutual	14/5	1/6
TSP	Mirna	R. Sulp	B. Abb	Seacom	12/5	7/6
RM/3	Blumen	Bit BULK	Sing	H&H	29/5	1/6
RM/6	Eminence	1. HSD	Juba	ECSL	21/5	3/6
DOI	Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	-	BSC	R/A	1/6
CU/11	Mary Nour	Cement	Bang	BSL	26/5	10/6

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L-port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Ahuja (Cont) 23/5	31/5	-	Everbest	Cont	Col
API Colombo (Cont) 24/5	31/5	-	Nol	Cont	Sing
Kuo Hsiung (Cont) 21/5	31/6	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
QC Tack (Cont) 10/5	31/5	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Brave Eagle	30/5	Hald	UMTL	Demolition	-
Bright Hope (Liner)	1/6	Sing	Prog	GI (St. Paper)	-
Burru Tide	30/5	Sing	Arafoon	P. Equip	-
Cosmic Master (72)20/5	1/6	Mong	Everett	GI (St. C)	-
Andhika Adikarya (72)27/05	1/6	-	Avera	GI (St. C)	-
Pioneer Breeze	1/6	Buelba	JF	-	-
Tug Tropical Star	1/6	Sing	OTBL	-	-
Ocean Conquest	1/6	Sing	OTBL	-	-
Bago	2/6	-	Total	Wheat(P)	-
Tug SM-88	6/6	-	Karna	-	-
Banga Birol (Cont) 21/5	2/6	-	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Duman Gang	2/6	Krab	NWSL	C. Clink	-
Argentina	20/6	Tuba	ANCL	C. Clink	-
Jurong Balsam (Cont) 29/5	2/5	-	NOL	Cont	Sing
Banga Lanka (Cont) 22/5	3/6	CBO	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Prima (72) 21/5	3/6	-	Oil	GI (St. Coil)	-
Bridge	3/6	MAD	UMTL	-	-
Banglar Moni 9 (Cont) 30/5	3/6	Mong	BSC	Cont	Sing
QC Lark (Cont) 24/5	4/5	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Singa (Cont) 27/5	4/6	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
Banga Bijoy (Cont) 27/5	4/6	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Banga Bonik (Cont) 27/5	5/6	-	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Joy World (72) 10/5	5/6	-	SLL	GI (St. C)	-
Keng Tung (72) 23/5	5/6	-	Everett	GI (St. C)	-
Topaz	1/6	-	Rainbow	GI (Wt. Cement)	-
QC Pintall (Cont) 21/05	6/6	-	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Asian Century (RORO) 24/27/5	6/6	Sing	JF	Vehi	-
Boxer Capt Cook (Cont) 28/5	6/6	-	TTL	Cont	Sing
Xpress Renewon (Cont) 28/5	8/6	-	RSL	Cont	Sing

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Energy Explorer-IV	-	-	BBAL	5/4
Ismaya	-	-	Arafoon	17/3
Dea Conqueror	-	-	Arafoon	R/A (14/5)
Dea Champion	-	-	Arafoon	R/A (16/5)
Seabul Command	-	-	IHS	R/A (27/5)
Danab Qatar	C. Oil	Rast	USS	22/5
Banglar Shourabh	C. Oil	-	BSC	R/A

Vessels at outer anchorage Ready on

Yuan Zhi	WT(P)/Y.PE	Sing	Mutual	14/5
Da Fa (Cont)	Cont	II Pla	Everbest	26/5
Arabella (Cont)	Cont	P. Kel	QCSL	29/5
Isami (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Cross	29/5
Kota Berjaya (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	29/5
OSG Alpha (Cont)	Cont	Sing	RSL	30/5

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

জাতীয় মহিলা সংস্থা কমপ্লেক্স প্রকল্প

জাতীয় মহিলা সংস্থা
১৪৫, নিউ বেইলী রোড
ঢাকা-১০০০

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জাতীয় মহিলা সংস্থা পরিচালিত 'জাতীয় মহিলা সংস্থা কমপ্লেক্স প্রকল্পের' নিম্নবর্ণিত পদ সমূহ সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে পূরণের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে নিম্নোক্ত শর্তাবলী সাপেক্ষে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন	বয়স	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১।	হোস্টেল সুপারিনটেনডেন্ট (মহিলা) স্কেল ৪৩০০/- ৭৭৪০/- সর্বসাকুল্যে- ৬৪৩০৫/- (সার্বজনিক) সিনিয়র ইলেকট্রিক্যাল টেকনিশিয়ান স্কেল ৩৪০০/- ৬৬২৫/- সর্বসাকুল্যে- ৫৩০০/-	১টি অনূর্ণ -৪৫ বছর।	- সমাজ বিজ্ঞানে ২য় শ্রেণীর স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী - হোস্টেল পরিচালনা এবং তত্ত্বাবধানে ৩ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা ও কম্পিউটার চালনার জ্ঞান। - যে কোন স্বীকৃত টেকনিশিয়ান ইন্সটিটিউট হতে ডিপ্লোমা সার্টিফিকেট। - বৈদ্যুতিক সাব-স্টেশন, জেনারেটর, এসি এবং অন্যান্য বৈদ্যুতিক লাইন এবং সরঞ্জাম নিষ্টিং এর কাজে দক্ষতা এবং ৫ বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা।
৩।	কোয়ার্টার টেকার (অডিটোরিয়াম) স্কেল ২৫০০/- ৫৫০৫/- সর্বসাকুল্যে- ৪২০৫/-	১টি অনূর্ণ -৩৫ বছর।	- স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতক ডিগ্রী। - অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থী আবেদনকারী যোগ্য।
৪।	রিসেপশনিষ্ট স্কেল ১৮৭৫/- ৩৬০৫/- সর্বসাকুল্যে- ৩২৪৫/-	১টি অনূর্ণ -৩০ বছর।	- এইচ এসসি পাস। - অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থী আবেদনকারী যোগ্য।
৫।	টেলিফোন অপারেটর স্কেল ১৮৭৫/- ৩৬০৫/- সর্বসাকুল্যে- ৩২৪৫/-	১টি অনূর্ণ -৩০ বছর।	- এইচ এসসি পাস। - অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থী আবেদনকারী যোগ্য।
৬।	এলডিএ কাম টাইপিষ্ট স্কেল ১৮৭৫/- ৩৬০৫/- সর্বসাকুল্যে- ৩২৪৫/-	১টি অনূর্ণ -৩০ বছর।	- এইচ এসসি পাস। - অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থী আবেদনকারী যোগ্য।
৭।	লিফটম্যান স্কেল ১৬২৫/- ২৯০৫/- সর্বসাকুল্যে- ২৮৯৯/-	২টি অনূর্ণ -৩০ বছর।	- ৮ম শ্রেণী পাস। - হালকা বৈদ্যুতিক কাজে দক্ষ প্রার্থী আবেদনকারী যোগ্য।
৮।	প্রায়র স্কেল ১৬২৫/- ২৯০৫/- সর্বসাকুল্যে- ২৮৯৯/-	১টি অনূর্ণ -৩৫ বছর।	- ৮ম শ্রেণী পাস। - হালকা বৈদ্যুতিক কাজে দক্ষ প্রার্থী আবেদনকারী যোগ্য।
৯।	সুইচার স্কেল ১৫০০/- ২৪০০/- সর্বসাকুল্যে- ২৭৩০/-		