

Five-day UN development confce begins US backs away from call for sharp increase in aid

AFP, Monterrey, Mexico

The United States went on the offensive at a UN conference here Monday, defending the scope of its foreign aid to poor countries but backing away from a UN call for a sharp increase in official assistance to fight poverty.

"We're proud and pleased about the story we have to tell about our contribution on this issue," Washington's United Nations representative John Negroponte said.

He was addressing reporters on the first day of a five-day UN conference to breathe new life into a faltering initiative to slash the proportion of people living in abject poverty by half between now and 2015.

The gathering opened Monday with discussions among ministers and senior officials from 120 countries, according to UN officials.

World leaders from more than 50 nations -- including

President George W. Bush -- are to convene a summit on Thursday and Friday to approve a draft document committing them to step up the fight against global poverty.

Bush last Thursday unveiled a fresh US initiative, pledging a further five billion dollars in foreign aid starting in 2004 to poor countries it deems to have made commitments to good government and market-oriented economies.

The gesture appeared designed to head off a renewed attack here on the United States for its comparatively meager assistance to developing countries, 0.10 per cent of its gross domestic product, the lowest such per centage of all industrialized nations. The European Union, which currently allocates 0.33 per cent of its output to development aid, last week pledged to boost that figure to 0.39 per cent.

City Bank course on accounting begins

A four-day course on "Accounting and City Bank Accounting Procedure" organised by The City Bank Limited began at the bank's training institute on Monday, says a press release.

AHM Nazmul Quadir, Managing Director (current charge) of the bank, inaugurated the course as chief guest.

The Managing Director said there is no end of training and at the same time training is the main tool for efficiency.

Badruddin Ahmed, Principal of City Bank Training Institute, also spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: ADCOMM

MF Consumers Ltd, sole importer of Johnson & Johnson CPD, held its Annual Conference 2002 in Kolkata to celebrate 2001 achievements. Picture shows a partial view of the conference.



PHOTO: CITY BANK

AHM Nazmul Quader, Managing Director (current charge) of The City Bank Limited, addresses the inaugural function of a four-day course on "Accounting and City Bank Accounting Procedure" at its training institute Monday.

Moody's, BNP Paribas see impact of Enron scandal Asian firms to come under greater market scrutiny

AFP, Manila

Asian companies will face greater market scrutiny from investors in terms of disclosure and transparency following the Enron scandal, Moody's Investors Service and French bank BNP Paribas said Tuesday.

"The clear issue we have always emphasised in the region is need for disclosure and transparency and I think Enron openly serves to emphasise that for a company outside of the region," the senior vice president of global ratings agency Moody's, Brian Cahill, told a

news conference here.

He was speaking with BNP Paribas officials after they jointly held a briefing for Manila-based investors.

Energy trading giant Enron Corp., the seventh largest US company, collapsed recently after concealing losses from shareholders through a maze of outside partnerships.

"If you are talking about an issue of transparency and disclosure of information, its often been said that Asia lacks a degree of transparency in information disclosure," Cahill said.

He said that "at least in the short term," there would be a greater global emphasis on disclosure by markets.

"So, Asian companies that are seeking to raise debt -- whether or not they have a rating -- need to have a good credit story to tell," he said.

Tom Cant, the London-based global head of ratings advisory in BNP Paris, said credit ratings agencies had come under a lot of criticism for "their lack of response" in relation to the Enron affair as well as the large number of investment grade defaults recently.

NIIT opens education centre in Feni

NIIT Limited, a multinational information solutions company, opened its new education centre in Feni, says a press release.

Devjit Sarkar, Location Head of NIIT Bangladesh Operations, Md Kabiruzzaman, COO of Beximco Systems Ltd, and Abdus Rais (Kaiser), Head of Feni Centre, were present on the occasion.

The new education centre at Feni offers NIIT's e-Technology Curriculum imparting skills on environments like Windows NT, LINUX, Java, VC++ and various Internet Technologies.

Rupali Bank training course concludes

A training course on "Application of Computer in Banking Sector and Necessary Feedback Realizing its Importance" for the zonal heads of Rupali Bank ended in the city on Monday, says a press release.

Twelve zonal heads of Noakhali, Pabna, Bogra, Faridpur, Sylhet, Dhaka North, Barisal, Moulvibazar, Feni, Comilla, Rangpur and Pataukhali attended the course.

Chaired by the Director of Rupali Bank Training Institute and Deputy General Manager, Md. Nurul Nabi, the ceremony was addressed by Md. Nurul Amin, DGM of Computer Division, and Sheikh Nazmul Haque, AGM and Zonal Head of Moulvibazar.



PHOTO: RUPALI BANK

Md Yeasin Ali, Managing Director of Rupali Bank, speaks at the concluding ceremony of a course on "Application of Computer in Banking Sector" conducted by Rupali Bank Training Institute for the bank's zonal heads on Monday.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank.

Selling	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc	OD Transfer
58.5500	58.5800	USD	57.4000	57.2314	57.1629
52.1681	52.1948	EUR	50.1963	50.0489	49.9890
84.0193	84.0623	GBP	81.4047	81.1656	81.0684
31.1603	31.1753	AUD	29.6012	29.5142	29.4789
0.4497	0.4499	JPY	0.4357	0.4344	0.4339
35.4204	35.4386	CHF	34.4125	34.3114	34.2703
5.7408	5.7437	SEK	5.5418	5.5253	5.5187
37.1416	37.1606	CAD	36.0236	35.9178	35.8748
7.5146	7.5184	HKD	7.3523	7.3307	7.3219
32.1880	32.2045	SGD	31.2977	31.2058	31.1684
16.0724	16.0806	AED	15.5026	15.4571	15.4386
15.7376	15.7456	SAR	15.1852	15.1406	15.1225

Usance export bills

TT/OD	30 days	60 days	90 days	120 days	180 days
USD	57.2817	56.9282	56.4564	55.9139	55.3242
EUR	50.0928	49.7837	49.3712	48.8967	48.3810
GBP	81.2369	80.7356	80.0665	79.2971	78.4607

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Lankan Rupee	Thai Baht	NorKroner	NZ Dollar	AUD
48.7	60.15	94.79	43.440	8.7685	0.4353	0.52395

The local interbank foreign exchange market was active on Tuesday. Demand for dollar was steady. Demand for BDT for overnight borrowing at call was steady and the call rate ranged between 9 and 10 per cent for the day.
At 1530 hours on Tuesday, euro traded at 0.87815/17 against dollar, pound sterling at 1.4254/60 and yen traded at 131.68/73 against US dollar.

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 19.3.2002

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import Disch
J/4	Ocean Pride	C.Clin	Lank	PSAL	10/3	20/3	1160
J/5	Asian Leader (Roro/24)	Vehi	Sing	JF	18/3	19/3	823
J/7	Jin Cheng (Liner)	Gi	Busa	Bdship	12/3	20/3	2240
J/8	Kaghan	Urea (BCIC)	JUBA	Atlantic	1/3	20/3	-
J/9	Pinya	Gi(Maizee/10g)	Yang	BNSSHIP	10/3	20/3	729
J/12	Orient Freedom	Cont	P.Kel	Pssl	18/3	21/3	191/16
CCT/11	Banga Birol	Cont	P.Kel	Bdship	13/3	19/3	51/51
CCT/2	Kota Singa	Cont	Col	Everbest	15/3	18/3	287/63
Cct/3	Jaya Mars	Cont	Sing	Rsl	17/3	20/3	267/15
RM/14	Banglar Mamata	Idie	Viza	SSA	13/2	21/3	-
CC/1	Togo Charm	C Clink	Lang	SSA	11/3	18/3	-
GS/1	Sara Star	Repair	Pan	Royal	6/3	21/3	-
TSP	Banglar Kallol	R.sulp	B.Abb	Atlantic	10/3	25/3	-
Rm/3	Wan Quan Hai	Bitumeen	Sing	H&H	18/3	19/3	-
DD	A.A. Venture	Repair	Col	CLA	9/3	25/3	-
DD/J1	Sonali	Repair	Yang	Angelic	31/10	20/3	-
DD/J2	Banglar Moni	Repair	Mong	BSC	17/1	20/3	-
RM/9	Banglar Kakoli	Repair	Chimny	BSC	24/2	21/3	-

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Name of cargo	Loading
Chahaya Star	23/3	Yang	-	-	-
Banga Barta (Cont)/9/3	20/3	-	Baridhi	Cont	col
QC Pintail (Cont)/5/3	20/3	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Aris	19/3	-	Rainbow	D.S. Dun Peas	-
Sagaing (Liner)	20/3	Chen	Everett	GI(Stc)	-
Skyros	25/3	CTown	JF	Scraping	-
Zante	23/3	Chin	JF	Scraping	-
Valverde	20/3	Sing	OTbl	-	-
White Amanda (48)/12/3	21/3	Yang	H&SL	GI(CR.Coil)	-
Radiant Canopus	21/3	-	Psal	-	-
Ravidas (E/L)/11/3	22/3	-	-	E/L	Ant.Dund
Banga Bonik (Cont)/10/3	22/3	-	BdShip	Cont	Sing
QC Teal(Cont)/9/3	22/3	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Bjoy	22/3	-	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Ocean Juliet	22/3	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Barge Wakaei	22/3	Sing	Arafen	Project Woks	-
Paim	22/3	-	Rssa	-	-
Hikari Orient	22/3	-	Jf	Scraping	-
Triumph Mumbai	23/3	yan	RML	GI (P Equip)-Jaami (cont)	-
16/3	23/3	-	Everbest	Col	-
Chief of Cherose (72) 17/3	23/3	Yang	Asa	GI(Stc)	-
Mana	24/3	-	RSA	GI(Stc)	-
QC Dignity(Cont)/13/3	24/3	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Achiever	24/3	P.Kel	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Caghan	24/3	Yang	H&SL	H.R.Coil	-
Xiang Jiang (Liner)	24/3	-	Bdship	Gi	-
Clover Star (Liner)	25/3	-	Bdship	Gi	-
Banglar Robi	25/3	Sing	Bsc	Cont	Sing
Sinhai (Cont)/12/3	25/3	Sing	Bsc	Cont	Sing
Qc Honour	26/3	P.Kel	Qcsl	Cont	Sing
Kota Nata (Cont) 9/3	27/3	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Boxer Capt Cook (Cont) 17/3	27/3	Sing	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Kota Naga (cont) 16/3	26/3	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
Boxer Capt Cook (Cont) 17/3	27/3	Sing	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya (Cont) 17/3	27/3	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Banga Biraj (cont) 17/3	27/3	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Xpress Resolve (Cont) 18/3	28/3	Sing	Rsl	Cont	Sing

Tanker due:

-Prandeya Dwitya	20/3	Sing	CTPL	Ms/Hsd
Armour-1	22/3	-	-	Cdso
Kinship	23/3	Rast	SSSt	Crude Oil

Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local	Date of
Qc Lark (Cont)	Cont	P.Kel	Qcsl	18/3
Mardios (Cont)	Cont	P.Kel	Rsl	18/3

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

STOCK