

EU leaders calls for increased aid pledges at UN summit

AFP, Paris

Prime ministers from the five leading nations in development aid pleaded for world leaders to significantly increase their assistance to poor countries as the UN conference on fighting poverty gets underway in Monterrey, Mexico.

The prime ministers of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Luxembourg and the Netherlands issued a joint appeal in the International Herald Tribune published here for leaders to "do what it takes" in order to meet their pledge to reduce by half the proportion of people who live in extreme poverty by the year 2015.

Fifty heads of state and government are convening at the Monterrey summit to review various sources of development aid and to draft the "Monterrey Consensus," a pledge to do more to combat poverty.

The prime ministers criticised the "Monterrey Consensus" for being too general.

"The consensus is good, but it does not deliver

specific commitments on a substantial increase of ODA (official development aid)."

Citing that current ODA falls far below the level necessary to meet the 2015 goal, the prime ministers urged leaders to use the Monterrey conference to "take a hard look at policy coherence."

Industrialized countries had committed 0.7 per cent of their gross national product in order to reduce the international poverty level at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000.

Total world ODA in 2000 amounted to 56 billion dollars, representing an average of 0.22 per cent of the GNP.

"We will not find long-term solutions to common challenges such as environmental degradation, climate change and the despair that feeds political violence and crime unless we get more serious about eliminating poverty," the ministers said.

DeltaSoft holds certificate-giving ceremony

The 3rd certificate giving ceremony of DeltaSoft Limited was held in the city on Monday, says a press release.

Syed Sajedul Karim, Chairman of Petrobangla, was present at the ceremony as chief guest.

Presided over by Azam J Chowdhury, Chairman of DeltaSoft Limited, the function was also addressed, among others, by Engr. Moinul Ahsan, Managing Director of Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), and Ashraful H Chowdhury, Managing Director of DeltaSoft Limited.

24 officers of GTCL and other corporate offices who successfully completed courses on e-office technology, A+, MCSD and MCSE received certificate from the chief guest.

Flora Systems holds open discussion in Sylhet

An open discussion session held recently at Flora Systems, Sylhet Centre marking the launching of a degree programme on "Bachelor of Applied Computing" jointly by APTECH Computer Education and Southern Cross University-Australia, says a press release.

Brandon Castro, Senior Manager of APTECH Ltd, attended the session as keynote speaker. Zabed Karim, Business Manager of APTECH Bangladesh Ltd, and Mahmudul Hoque, Centre Head of APTECH, Sylhet Centre, also took part in the discussion.



PHOTO: DELTASOFT

Syed Sajedul Karim, Chairman of Petrobangla, addresses as chief guest the DeltaSoft certificate-giving ceremony held in the city on Monday. (From left to right) Engr. Moinul Ahsan, Managing Director of Gas Transmission Co. Ltd, Azam J Chowdhury, Chairman of DeltaSoft Ltd, and Ashraful H Chowdhury, Managing Director of DeltaSoft Ltd, are seen in the picture.

CURRENCY

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

Selling	Currency	Buying			
		TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc
58.5500	58.5800	USD	57.4000	57.2314	57.1629
52.2383	52.2651	EUR	50.2652	50.1175	50.0576
84.1422	84.1853	GBP	81.5137	81.2743	81.1770
31.5350	31.5512	AUD	29.9685	29.8805	29.8448
0.4479	0.4481	JPY	0.4340	0.4327	0.4322
35.5409	35.5591	CHF	34.5284	34.4270	34.3858
5.7853	5.7883	SEK	5.5874	5.5709	5.5643
37.2954	37.3145	CAD	36.1598	36.0535	36.0104
7.5143	7.5182	HKD	7.3521	7.3305	7.3217
32.1615	32.1780	SGD	31.2721	31.1803	31.1430
16.0724	16.0806	AED	15.5026	15.4571	15.4386
15.7371	15.7452	SAR	15.1852	15.1406	15.1225

Usance export bills

	TT Doc	30 days	60 days	90 days	120 days	180 days
USD	57.2817	56.9282	56.4564	55.9139	55.3242	54.0032
EUR	50.1616	49.5820	49.4389	48.9638	48.4474	47.2906
GBP	81.3457	80.8438	80.1738	79.4033	78.5658	76.6899

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Lankan Rupee	Thai Baht	Nor Kroner	NZ Dollar	AUD
48.72	60.025	95.03	43.335	8.7252	0.4397	0.5304

The local interbank foreign exchange market was active Thursday. Demand for dollar was steady. Demand for BDT for overnight borrowing at call was steady and the call rate ranged between 8 and 9 per cent for the day.

Dollar lost ground against yen and euro in late Wednesday trade, but recovered some of the losses in Asian trade. Wall Street stocks nudged lower at the prospect of interest rate hikes brought through by Federal Reserve's new neutral stance on the monetary policy.

As further evidence of US recovery, a survey revealed that US Housing starts grew in the fastest pace in three years.

At 1430 hours on Thursday, euro traded at 0.8840/45 against dollar, pound sterling at 1.4266/74 and yen traded at 131.42/50 against US dollar.

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SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 21.3.2002

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import Disch
J2	Al Faihaa	R.S/M.S	Mumb	Mutual	16/3	27/3	136
J3	Radiant Sun	Wheat(P)	Kaki	Angelic	18/3	28/3	1694
J4	Ocean pride	C.Clink	Lank	PSAL	10/3	21/3	504
J5	Sagami (Liner)	-	GI	Everett	20/3	23/3	1666
J6	Maria-K	C.Clink	Kohst	SSA	19/3	29/3	500
J11	Banga Lank	Cont	P.Kel	BdShip	18/3	22/3	118/X
J12	Orient Freedom	Cont	P.Kel	PSSL	18/3	21/3	357/47
J13	QC Lark	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	18/3	22/3	369/X
CCT/1	Konlink	Cont	Sing	Nol	18/3	21/3	80/X
CCT/2	Mardios	Cont	P.Kel	RSL	18/3	22/3	302/X
CCT/3	OC Pintail	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	20/3	22/3	128/10
RM/14	Bangler Mamata	IDLE	Viza	BSC	13/2	25/3	-
GSJ	Sara Star	Repair	Panj	Royal	6/3	23/3	-
TSP	Bangler Kallol	R.Sulp	B.Abb	Atlantic	10/3	25/2	-
RM/4	Praneda Dwitya	F.Oil	Sing	CTPL	19/3	22/3	-
RM/5	Dailong	SkuJP-1	Sing	MSTPL	19/3	22/3	-
DOJ	Freja Breeze	HSD	Mina	ECNL	18/3	22/3	-
DD	A.A. Venture	Repair	Col	CLA	9/3	25/3	-
DD/2	Bangler Moni	Repair	Mong	BSC	17/1	25/3	-
RM/9	Bangler Kakoli	Repair	Chimney	BSC	24/2	25/3	-

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Name of cargo	Loading
Radiant Canopus	21/3	-	-	PSAL	-
White Amanda (48)12/3	22/3	-	Yang	H&SL	-
White Bonik (Cont)10/3	22/3	P.Kel	BdShip	Cont	Sing
QC Teal (Cont)9/3	21/3	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Naga (Cont)9/3	22/3	Sing	Pil(BD)	-	-
Valverde	22/3	Sing	OTBL	-	-
Ocean Juliet	22/3	Sing	Arafeen	-	-
Barge: Wakaei Maru-8	22/3	Sing	Arafeen	Project works	-
Orient explorer	22/3	Sing	Arafeen	-	-
Palm	22/3	-	RSSA	-	-
Hikari Orient	23/3	Sing	JF	Scraping	-
Skyros	23/3	C.Tow	JF	Scraping	-
Zante	23/3	Chin	JF	Scraping	-
Banga Bijoy(Cont)14/3	23/3	-	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Chahaya Star	24/3	Yang	-	Everbest	Col
Jaami(Cont)16/3	23/3	-	ASA	GI(SLC)	-
Chief of cherokee(72)17/03	24/3	Yang	BSL	C.Clink	-
World Themis	23/3	Sing	-	GI(SLB)	-
Mana	24/3	-	RSA	PQSL	-
QC Dignity (Cont)13/3	24/4	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Achiever (Cont)14/03	24/3	P.Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
CAGAYANG	29/3	Yang	H&SL	H R Col	-
Xiang Jiang (Liner)	24/3	-	BdShip	GI	-
Lima	24/3	BUKP	BSL	C.Clink	-
Clover Star (Liner)	25/3	-	Prog	GI(SLC)	-
Bangler Robi(Cont)12/3	25/3	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Sinhal (Cont)17/3	25/3	Sing	B		