

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 Millenium 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.

EU ready to impose tariffs on US imports in steel response

AFP, Rome

The European Union is ready to impose tariffs on US products in response to US tariffs on steel imports, an Italian industry official said Wednesday.

"The European Union will respond in a clear, determined, and opportune way to the United States' decision to impose tariffs on steel,"

Italy's industry representative Adolfo Urso said in a statement, adding that the EU would implement safeguard measures against its own steel and iron industry.

His remarks matched a statement by the European Commission which said the body would be ready "within a few days" to respond to the controversial measure by implementing the safeguard aimed at

warding off an influx of steel imports to the EU.

"If this doesn't force the United States to renounce this measure which we consider unjustified, we will take other measures, beginning with a list of products on which we can put retaliatory measures, as approved by the World Trade Organization," Urso 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 Ashraf 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 Cestro, 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 Ashraf 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	OD Transfer	
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	AU D
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. Wal 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.						
This memorandum is issued by Standard Chartered Bank and is based on or derived from information generally available to the public from sources believed to be reliable. While all reasonable care has been taken in its preparation no responsibility or liability is accepted for errors of fact or any opinion expressed herein.						



PHOTO: UCBL

Muhammad Sajid-ul-Haq, Managing Director of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL), speaks at the certificate awarding ceremony of a course on "Foreign Trade and Foreign Exchange" at the UCBL Training Institute yesterday. Hamidul Huq, Additional Managing Director of UCBL, and A H M Nurul Islam Choudhuri, Principal of the institute, are also seen in the picture.

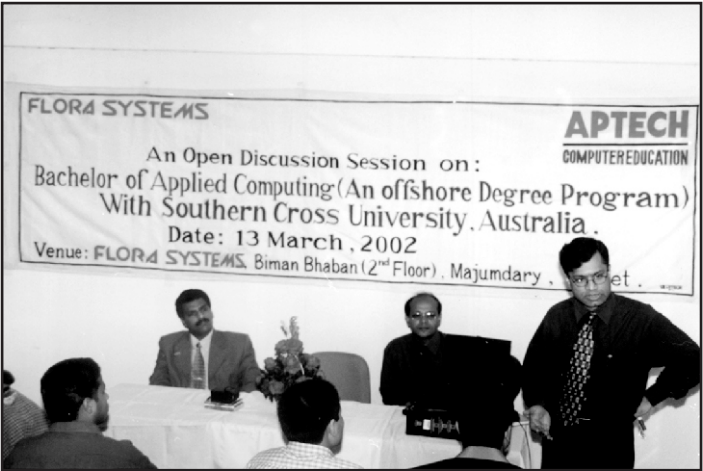


PHOTO: FLORA SYSTEMS

Picture shows an open discussion session held at Flora Systems Centre in Sylhet recently.

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
J/2	Al Faihaa	R.S/M.S	Mumb	Mutual	16/3	27/3	136
J/3	Radiant Sun	Wheat(P)	Kaki	Angelic	18/3	28/3	1694
J/4	Ocean pride	C.Clink	Lank	PSAL	10/3	21/3	504
J/5	Sagaing (Liner)	Gl	Chen	Everett	20/3	23/3	1666
J/6	Marla-K	C.Cink	Kohst	SSA	19/3	29/3	500
J/11	Banga Lank	Cont	P.Kel	BdShip	18/3	22/3	118/X
J/12	Orient Freedom	Cont	P.Kel	PSSL	18/3	21/3	357/47
J/13	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	QC Pintail	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	20/3	22/3	128/10
RM/14	Banglar Mamata	IDLE	Viza	BSC	13/2	25/3	
GSJ	Sara Star	Repair	Panj	Royal	6/3	23/3	
TSP	Banglar Kallol	R.Sulp	B.Abb	Atlantic	10/3	25/2	
RM/4	Pranedyia Dwtiya	F.Oil	Sing	CTPL	19/3	22/3	
RM/5	Dailong	Sko/JP-1	Sing	MSTPL	19/3	22/3	
DOJ	Freja Breeze	HSD	Mina	ECSL	18/3	22/3	
DD	A.A. Venture	Repair	Col	CLA	9/3	25/3	
DDJ/2	Banglar Moni	Repair	Mong	BSC	17/1	25/3	
RM/9	Banglar 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	C.Clink	-
White Amanda (48)12/3	22/3	Yang	HBSL	Gl(Cr.Coil	-
Banga 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	-	-	-
Jaami(Cont)16/3	23/3	-	Everbest	Cont	Col
Chief of cherokee(72)17/03	24/3	Yang	ASA	Gl(St.C)	-
World Themis	23/3	Sing	BSL	C.Clink	-
Mana	24/3	-	RSA	Gl(St.Bil)	-
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 Coil	-
Xiang Jiang (Liner)	24/3	-	BdShip	Gl	-
Lima	24/3	BUKP	BSL	C.Clink	-
Clover Star (Liner)	25/3	-	Prog	Gl(St.C)	-
Banglar Robi(Cont)12/3	25/3	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Sinhai (Cont)17/3	25/3	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
QC Honour (Cont)16/3	27/3	P.Kel	QCS	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
Kota Singa (Cont)19/3	29/3	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cnt	Sing
Banglar Gourab	29/3	Pipa	BSC	S.Ash	-
Kuo Hsiung(Cont)19/3	30/3	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Birol (Cont)20/3	30/3	-	BdShip	Cont	Sing
Triumph Mumbai	31/3	Yang	RML	Gl(P.Equip)	-
Baltic leader (Roro)2420/3	Sing	JF	Vehi	-	-
Tug Hua An	6/4	Sing	OWSL	-	-
Sub: Barge Zhong Ren-3	6/4	Sing	OWSI	-	-

Tanker due:				
Nedimar	21/4	Sing	EOSL	Naptha
Kinship	22/3	Rast	SSST	Crude Oil

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

STOCK