

Demonstrators want WB, IMF to globalise justice, not capitalism

AFP, Washington

Demonstrators took to the streets of Washington Saturday to wish the World Bank and International Monetary Fund an "unhappy birthday" and demand that the two bodies, marking their 60th anniversary here this weekend, "globalize justice, not capitalism."

Under tight scrutiny by police on foot, bike, motorcycle and in an array of vehicles, protesters marched through the capital and rallied near the heavily guarded headquarters of the IMF and World Bank, a stone's throw from the White House.

Organizers estimated between 3,000 and 3,500 people marched -- still fewer and more peaceful than past anti-globalization protests in the US capital.

"Money for jobs and education, not for war and occupation," the mostly young, student demonstrators chanted to the beat of drums.

Gathered in a square near The Mall in central Washington, they demanded forgiveness of Third World debt and "global justice, not global capitalism."

"We want to cancel the debt now," said Robert Weissman, an organizer of the protest group that included women's rights activists, socialists, anarchists and Greens.

Gesturing to the sealed and tightly guarded portals of the IMF and World Bank, Weissman said the officials "are behind fences, behind closed doors, but people know how they are harmed by these institutions."

"A better world is possible," he declared.

The march included Canadian and South American contingents.

"The World Bank and the IMF create poverty," said Nora Cortinas, a member of the Argentine rights group Mothers of Plaza de Mayo.

"They are responsible for the disappearance and death of millions," she said.

"I think based on empirical evidence and even their own studies, their (IMF and World Bank) policies have been miserable failures in much of the world," said Lucas Shapiro of New York.

David Levy, spokesman for Mobilization for Global Justice, cited success of protests in stemming the globalization movement despite diminishing numbers of demonstrators.

"We've seen stunning success in

the past four or five years," he said.

"The WTO has been stopped in its tracks, the Free Trade Area of the Americas has been slowed down and watered down, the World Bank and IMF are on the defensive."

Barred by police cordons from approaching the environs of the World Bank and IMF, the marchers made programmed stops at the corporate headquarters of several multinationals, including Bechtel and Halliburton, holders of huge US reconstruction contracts in Iraq.

Marching with a small pro-capitalism group wearing red tee shirts emblazoned with, "Enjoy Capitalism," George Dun declared, "I'm for a free market."



PHOTO: NATIONAL BANK

Perveen Haque Sikder, chairperson of National Bank Limited, speaks at the inauguration of the annual conference-2004 of the executives and managers of the bank of Chittagong region in Chittagong on Thursday. SM Shameem Iqbal, Zakaria Taher, AM Nurul Islam, Prof. Mahbub Ahmed, Md Khalilur Rahman, Shahadat Hossain, Md Mahbubur Rahman Khan, directors, and M A Mazid Khan, managing director, Anwar Imam, deputy managing director of the bank, are also seen in the picture.



PHOTO: CRYSTAL INS

Abdullah Al-Mahmud, chairman of Crystal Insurance Company Limited, speaks at the inauguration of the 4th annual conference of branch in-charges and corporate office departmental heads of the company at a hotel in Dhaka recently.

US says no timetable for China joining G7

AFP, Washington

The Group of Seven industrialized powers has no timetable for letting China join although it is seeking closer ties with Beijing, a senior US Treasury Department official said Saturday.

"There is no timetable for that (China joining) at this point," the US official told reporters on condition of anonymity after meetings here of the G7 finance ministers and central bank governors.

The Chinese economy is expanding at a stunning rate -- estimated at 9.7 percent in the first quarter of 2004 -- as it sucks up imports, generates huge exports, and creates tensions on global commodities' markets.

But China has no place on the table of the Group of Seven -- Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States -- nor on the broader political grouping of the Group of Eight, which includes Russia.

"We recognize that China is a growing part of the global economy," the US official said.



PHOTO: DUTCH-BANGLA BANK

Md Yeasin Ali, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, presides over its 3rd Managers' Meeting-2004 of the bank in Dhaka on Saturday. Abul Hashem Khan, deputy managing director (Operation), and AAM Zakaria, deputy managing director (Administration), were also present.



PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, managing director of Pubali Bank Limited, cuts tape to inaugurate the new premises of the bank's branch at Dolaipar in Dhaka on Saturday. Earlier, the branch was located at BSCIC Hosiery Shilpa Nagari in Narayanganj.

CURRENCY

Following is Sunday's (April 25, 2004) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank						
Sell			Buy			
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer	
59.4000	59.4500	USD	58.5050	58.3332	58.2633	
71.3394	71.3995	EUR	68.3923	68.1915	68.1098	
106.2547	106.3442	GBP	102.8986	102.5964	102.4736	
44.3362	44.3735	AUD	42.1470	42.0232	41.9729	
0.5504	0.5509	JPY	0.5313	0.5297	0.5291	
45.5242	45.5625	CHF	44.0948	43.9653	43.9127	
7.6793	7.6857	SEK	7.1696	7.1486	7.1400	
43.9674	44.0044	CAD	42.6111	42.4859	42.4351	
7.6254	7.6318	HKD	7.4919	7.4699	7.4610	
35.2418	35.2714	SGD	34.3440	34.2431	34.2021	
16.3039	16.3176	AED	15.7998	15.7534	15.7345	
15.9660	15.9795	SAR	15.4775	15.4321	15.4136	
9.8454	9.8536	DKK	8.9563	8.9300	8.9193	
202.2472	202.4174	KWD	190.7564	190.1961	189.9685	
Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar						
Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai bath	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.06	57.36	98.24	39.615	6.9697	0.6787	3.80
Local Interbank FX Trading						
Local interbank market was subdued on Sunday. Dollar remained at a high level against the Bangladeshi taka due to rise in import demands.						
Local Money Market						
Money market was active. Call money rate was almost unchanged and ranged between 3.25 and 4.00 percent compared with 3.50-4.00 percent previously.						

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port							
Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 25/4/2004.							
Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Esco Horizon	GI(Copra)	Banet	Mutual	15/4	30/4	983
J/3	Inwa	GI	Yang	GPSL	19/4	29/4	240
J/4	Pacific Aries	Vehi	Sing	Purbachal	23/4	25/4	1286
J/5	Bumi Jaya	Sugar(P)	Bang	Mutual	14/4	29/4	1903
J/6	Continent-4	GI(S.Ash)	Pipa	Cla	23/4	28/4	1290
J/7	Derwent	Wt/entlis	Sing	Mutual	7/4	3/5	2008
J/9	Samsun Apollo	Clink	Hopin	Move	21/4	30/4	1204
J/10	Xpress Manaslu	Cont	P. Kel	RSL	22/4	27/4	325
J/12	Orient Enterprise	Cont	P. Kel	PSSL	21/4	25/4	--
CCT/1	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	19/4	25/4	118
CCT/3	QC Pintail	Cont	PTP	QCSL	22/4	26/4	213
CCJ:	Tuking	Slag	Viza	BSL	19/4	27/4	
TSP:	Banglar Kakoli	R.Sulp	B. Abb	Seacoast	20/4	27/4	
Vessels due at Outer Anchorage							
Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Cargo	Load port		
Ambika	25/4	Ind	Kaptai	GI(S.Ash)			
Rio Nergo	25/4	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing		
Fraternity Wisdom	25/4	Yangon	Everett	GI(SL.C)			
Taraman Bibi	25/4	B. Abb	Seacoast	R.Sulp/TSP			
Chiosluok	25/4	Thai	Litmond	Clink	Shah		
Banglar Shikha	26/4	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing		
Orient Wisdom	27/4	Col	PSSL	Cont	PKL		
Orient Excellence	26/4	Sing	PSSL	Cont	Sing		
Asian Tiger	26/4	P. Guda	JF	Scraping			
Tug Masindia-1	27/4	Sing	OTL	Towing D/VL Acrux			
Acrux	27/4	Sing	OTL	Scraping			
Bonny	27/4	Camero	Rsship	Demolition			
QC Star	28/4	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing		
Budi Aman	28/4	Sing	PII (BD)	Cont	Sing		
Kota Berjaya	28/4	Sing	PII(BD)	Cont	Sing		
Tanker Due							
Gaz Master	27/4	Hald	MBL	Ammonia K/A			
Nort Strleam	27/4	Sing	MSTPL	HSD/M8			
Argosy	28/4	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD			
High Tide	29/4	Kuwa	MSTPL	SKO/JP-1			
Vessels at Kutubdia							
Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival			
Outside port limit							
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	BSC	R/A			
Vessels at Outer Anchorage							
Vessels ready							
Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	24/4			
New Blessing	Cont	P. Kel	Seaborne	24/4			
Banga Lanka	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	25/4			
Vessels not ready							
Salamat-2	Bitumen	Hald	OLM	23/4			
Jimakos-t	Gypsum	Krabi	Litmond	23/4			
Vessels awaiting employment/Instruction							
Banga Biraj	--	--	Bdship	R/A (29/12)			
Vessels not entering							
Fivos	GYP/L.Ston	Krabi	Move	16/4			
Mima	Clink	Indo	Uniship	17/4			
Yick Luk	Clink	Tuban	Litmond	22/4			
Thanh Son	Feldships	Vish	ASA	20/4			
Maritime Songkhla	Clink	Indo	BSL	24/4			
The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by Family, Dhaka.							

STOCK