

EU nulls trade breaks to help tsunami states

REUTERS, Brussels
The European Union wants to help the worst-hit tsunami states by lowering tariff barriers for their exports to Europe, its trade chief said yesterday.

India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, victims of the Dec 26 killer wave in the Indian Ocean.
'There are trade measures we can use to assist rebuilding in the countries affected by the disaster, notably by speeding up measures to improve their access to our markets,' Mandelson said in a statement.

2006.
The Commission proposed last year to give Sri Lanka extra duty-free access to the EU for a broader range of goods including its textile and clothing exports.



Apex Group Chairman Syed Manzur Elahi (centre) speaks at a luncheon meeting organised by Australia-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ABCCI) in Dhaka yesterday.



A participant speaks at a workshop on 'Entrepreneur and Vocational Training' organised by the Fair and Lovely Foundation at Juyurhat on Thursday.

India to drop anti-foreign investment provision

AFP, Calcutta
The Indian government will abolish a "restrictive" clause impeding foreign firms from forging joint ventures with local partners, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Wednesday.

The controversial Press Note 18 provision was issued six years ago as a regulatory safeguard to prevent conflict of interest in the event a foreign firm set up multiple joint ventures with Indian companies.

Lanka hopes for 2-yr debt freeze at Paris

REUTERS, Colombo
Sri Lanka hopes to secure at least a two-year moratorium on debt repayment when the Paris Club of creditors meet on Wednesday to consider relief for tsunami stricken nations, a senior finance ministry official said.

The Group of Seven (G7) industrialised nations, including Japan, Sri Lanka's biggest creditor, has already agreed to grant a debt moratorium for countries affected by the Dec 26 tsunami that killed more than 157,000 people, including 105,500 in Indonesia and 30,000 in Sri Lanka.



Chairman of Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd M Sahabuddin Ahmed inaugurates the bank's 20th branch with online banking facilities on Sri Lank Road in Khulna on Monday.



Director and Chief Operating Officer of Singer Bangladesh Ltd AM Hamim Rahmatullah inaugurates a new sales centre of the company at Kapasia in Gazipur Thursday.

CURRENCY

Table showing foreign trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank for Wednesday, January 12, 2005. Columns include Sell, Buy, and various currency pairs like USD, EUR, GBP, AUD, JPY, CHF, SEK, CAD, HKD, SGD, AED, SAR, DKK, KWD.

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar
Indian rupee Pak rupee Lankan rupee Thai baht Norwegian NZ dollar Malaysian ringgit

Local Interbank FX Trading demand. Local interbank FX market was active on Wednesday. Dollar Money market was active. Call money rate was continued to get stronger against Bangladeshi taka due to higher demand.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Table showing Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 12/1/2005. Columns include Berth No., Name of vessel, Cargo, L port call, Local agent, Dt of arrival, Leaving, Import disch.

Table showing Vessels due at outer anchorage. Columns include Name of vessels, Date of arrival, L port call, Local agent, Type of cargo, Loading ports.

Table showing Outside port limit. Columns include Name of vessels, Cargo, Last port call, Local agent, Date of arrival.

Table showing Vessels awaiting employment / instruction. Columns include Name of vessels, Cargo, Last port call, Local agent, Date of arrival.

STOCK

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES January 12, 2005

Large table containing stock market data for January 12, 2005. It includes sections for 'DSE', 'CSE', 'Financial Performance', 'Day's Market - January 12, 2005', and 'Non Traded Issues'. The table lists various companies, their share prices, and other financial metrics.