

Four states to make huge gains from professional services trade

Says UNCTAD

AFP, Geneva

Developing countries have a huge amount to gain from agreements to liberalise the trade in professional services but must also bring down barriers among themselves, UN and government officials said Monday.

architects from developing countries faced substantial restrictions on their movements and could gain a far greater share, UNCTAD underlined. Talks at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on bringing down global trade barriers were ill-suited to the growing demand for service workers, because they focused predominantly on granting short-term work permits, it added.

Recent studies indicated that industrialised countries would face a shortfall of 14 million service workers by 2020, officials said. But African nations had shown "considerable ambivalence on the issue," Gerrishon Kiara, a senior official at Kenya's transport and communications ministry told journalists.

Kiara said there was pressure from the growing body of architects, engineers and doctors in Kenya to work or train in Europe and America, as well as in neighbouring African countries where they also faced barriers. "We also face suspicion within our own governments," he said. Many African countries had wooed foreign investors shortly after independence, allowing big western companies to establish a dominant hold on the services market in many parts of the continent, Kiara underlined.



Jakarta gets \$5b loan offers for infrastructure

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesia said Tuesday a two-day summit pitching for infrastructure investment had drawn foreign loan commitments worth up to five billion dollars and interest from investors in Singapore, Japan and Malaysia.

The pledges came from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan, said a statement at the end of the two-day conference in Jakarta.

Indonesian officials at the conference earlier said the country needed 150 billion dollars in investment over the next five years. "The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank announced their readiness to act as catalysts for private investment and provide between 3-4 billion dollars for infrastructure development in the next three years," the statement said.

Japan will announce at Wednesday's summit of the Consultative Group on Indonesia (CGI), which groups the country's main creditors and donors, a commitment of some one billion dollars for infrastructure projects for the year 2005, it said.

Osvaldo Ammirati, resident manager of Siemens Mobile Communications SpA, Rudolf P Klink, managing director and CEO of Siemens Bangladesh Ltd, and ANM Golam Sarwar, managing director of Tele Barta Ltd, with other senior officials from both the organisations pose for photographs after signing a deal in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Siemens will supply digital microwave system to Tele Barta.



JC Jamar (middle row, 4th from left), chairman, and KM Zahid Uddin (middle row, 3rd from left), general manager (Marketing and Sales) of HeidelbergCement Bangladesh Ltd, pose for photographs along with the members of marketing and sales department of the company at the daylong annual sales kickoff 2005 in Dhaka recently.



Chairman of Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd Sajjatz Juma speaks at a managers' conference of the bank in Dhaka Friday. Among others, Vice-chairman Md Towhidur Rahman, Director Syed Nurul Arefeen and Managing Director M Kamaluddin Chowdhury were present.



Saikat Chakroborty (sitting left), general manager, Atif Rahman (sitting centre), chief operating officer of Air Alliance Ltd, a service partner of United Parcel Services (UPS) in Bangladesh, and Vincent Wong (sitting right), sales trainer of UPS in Asia Pacific Region, pose for photographs with the participants of a three-day workshop on 'Making Major Sales' recently in Dhaka.

CURRENCY

Table showing currency exchange rates for various countries including USD, EUR, GBP, AUD, JPY, HKD, SGD, AED, SAR, KWD, NZD, and MYR.

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was mostly unchanged Tuesday. Dollar was almost unchanged against Bangladeshi taka.

Local Money Market

Money market was active. Call money rate remained almost unchanged and ranged between 12.00 and 15.00 percent.

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SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Table showing berthing position and performance of vessels as on 18/01/2005, including columns for Berth No., Name of vessels, Cargo, L. Port call, Local agent, D/O of arrival, Leaving, and Import/Disch.

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Table listing vessels due at outer anchorage with columns for Name of vessels, Date of arrival, L. port call, Local agent, Type of cargo, and Loading ports.

Tanker due

Table listing tanker vessels with columns for Name, Date of arrival, L. port call, Local agent, and Loading ports.

Vessels at Kutubdia

Table listing vessels at Kutubdia with columns for Name of vessels, Cargo, Last Port call, Local agent, and Date of arrival.

Outside port limit

Table listing vessels outside port limit with columns for Name, Date of arrival, L. port call, Local agent, and Loading ports.

Vessels at outer anchorage

Table listing vessels at outer anchorage with columns for Name, Date of arrival, L. port call, Local agent, and Loading ports.

Vessels not ready

Table listing vessels not ready with columns for Name, Date of arrival, L. port call, Local agent, and Loading ports.

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by TREC Family, Dhaka.

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Large table containing market data for various stocks, including columns for Company, FV/ML (Tk.No.), Price, Turnover, DSE, CSE, Financial Performance, and indicators like DSE-30 Index, DSE-20 Index, and Turnover Leaders.

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