

India, Pakistan revive key economic body after 16 yrs

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan and India on Tuesday held a meeting of a joint economic body for the first time in 16 years, marking a further thaw between the South Asian rivals.

Visiting Foreign Minister Natwar Singh is leading the Indian side at the talks with his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Kasuri, foreign office officials said.

Singh also met President Pervez Musharraf at his Army House residence in Rawalpindi before the joint commission meeting. Details of the meeting were not immediately available.

Senior Indian diplomat Shyam Saran said the commission would discuss steps to promote trade ties between the nuclear-armed neighbours, who have fought three wars, two of them over the Himalayan region of Kashmir.

"This will be the first meeting of the joint commission after a gap of 16 years. This is a very significant event for our two countries," Saran told reporters late Monday.

"Our trade and economic relations are improving," he said, noting that Pakistan recently used their land border to import basic foods including onions, garlic and potatoes from India.

The decision on the economic commission was reached Monday when

Singh held talks with Kasuri to review progress on the peace process.

The two countries have also made some progress at talks on withdrawing troops from the Siachen glacier in Kashmir, a Pakistani foreign office spokesman said, but he rejected reports that a deal was imminent.

"There is some progress but I cannot say they are very close" to signing an accord, foreign office spokesman Naem Khan told AFP. "There are ideas that have been exchanged and there is some progress."

Indian newspapers reported a pact was near on withdrawing soldiers from the 6,300-metre (21,000-foot) glacier, where experts say cold and avalanches have killed many more troops than hostile fire.

The Hindustan Times said the deal was done and the wording was being worked out, while the Indian Express said talks went on into the night to thrash out the differences on Siachen and Sir Creek.

Holcim celebrates 5th anniversary

Holcim, a cement company, recently organised plantation and cleaning programme at the company's Meghnaghat plant in Narayanganj to mark its 5 years of operations in Bangladesh.

PN Iyer, managing director of the Holcim Bangladesh, inaugurated the day-long anniversary programme, says a press release.

Holcim, as the first cement company in Bangladesh which achieved ISO 14001 environmental international recognition, took this initiative to make awareness on environmental programme among employees and community people.

Besides ISO 14001, Holcim is also the first cement company in Bangladesh that achieved occupational health and safety international recognition OHSAS 18001 recently.

To mark this recognition, a safety programme has been exhibited demonstrating reasons of road accident, its consequences and the possible technique to avoid accident, the release added.



PHOTO: MILLENNIUM INFORMATION

Mahmud Hossain (R), chief executive officer of Millennium Information Solution Ltd, and Imrul Chowdhury, senior vice president (IT) of Al-Tuwajiri International, a Saudi conglomerate, exchange documents after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at a function on Wednesday in Dubai, UAE. Under the MoU, Al-Tuwajiri will help Millennium Information market its Islami Banking Software 'Ababil' in the Gulf countries.



PHOTO: COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON

Participants of a training course on 'Overview of banking operation in Bangladesh' organised by Commercial Bank of Ceylon Ltd pose for photographs with the senior officials of the bank recently in Dhaka.



PHOTO: DBBL

Bernhard Frey, director of the Board of Directors of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) and chief executive officer of Etacol Hong Kong Limited, cuts tape to open the bank's 24th branch at Netaiganj in Narayanganj yesterday.



PHOTO: HOLCIM BANGLADESH LTD

PN Iyer, managing director, KS Chung, VP (Technical), Bashir Ahmed, GM (Admin/HR), Abdur Rahim, DGM (Production), and other employees of Holcim (Bangladesh) Ltd are seen in cleaning programme to mark its 5th anniversary at the company's Meghnaghat plant in Narayanganj recently.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 3-10-2005

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Supreme	GI (Log)	Yang	Mutual	2/10	6/10	938
J/2	Hulan	GI (St. Bil)	Hald	Rsa	3/10	5/10	2769
J/3	Crystal Ace	Tsp/SAsh	Fang	Unique	14/9	5/10	2316
J/4	Yick Zao	What(P)	Ukea	Usl	17/9	8/10	2482
J/6	Pavonis	GI	Yang	Pml	21/9	4/10	841
J/7	Huai Yang	GI	L Gling	Cosco	2/10	7/10	615
J/8	Qing Jiang	GI	S. Hai	Cosco	27/9	6/10	1815
J/9	Emily C	Cont	Col	Everest	1/10	6/10	270
J/10	Al Baraka	GI (St. C)	Multi	Owsl	1/10	7/10	1979
J/11	B. Borti	Cont	P Kel	Bdship	29/9	5/10	258

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessel	Date of arrival	L/Rort call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
B. Robi	4/10	Col	Pml	Cont	Pkl
QC Honour	4/10	P.Kel	Qcsl	Cont	Sing
Coastal Express	6/10	Kolk	Bca	Cont	Viza
Peng Ping	5/10	Fouhal	Psl	B. Urea	Dam
Banga Biraj	4/10	Col	Bardihi	Cont	Sing
Marisa Green	6/10	P. Kel	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Kota Rukum	5/10	Sing	Pi (Bd)	Cont	Sing
Banga Lanka	5/10	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Pkl/Sing
Panajia	5/10	Cherni	Uniship	Slag	--
Meugang	6/10	--	Inship	Sugar	--
Kota Tegap	6/10	Sing	Pi (Bd)	Cont	Sing
Bao Shan	6/10	Xiji/Jng	Cosco	Sod Sulp	--
Orient Independence	7/10	--	Everbest	Cont	Col

Tanker due

Al Barakat-1	5/10	Bele	Mtcl	Cpo (RM/8)
Kamee	5/10	--	Rainbow	CPO (RM/3)
High Land	4/10	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd
Isokaze	5/10	--	Rainbow	CPO
Andhika Ashura	5/10	Sing	Rysll	CPO
Siam Bhabas	6/10	Pasir	Mtcl	CPO (RM/8)
Apsheon	6/10	--	Rainbow	Cdso
Heat Thy Falcon	7/10	Dumai	Snci	Cpo
Al Deeran	7/10	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd/JP-1

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Outside port limit

Jaharat Qatar	C. Oil	Rast	Uss	29/9
B. Jyoti	C. Oil	--	Bsc	R/A(8/10)
Leopard Tide	--	--	Ibsa	R/A(4/10)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready	Cargo	Local agent	Date of arrival	
QC Star	Cont	Pip	Qcsl	1/10
Oel Freedom	Cont	P. Kel	Psdsl	2/10
Banga Bonik	Cont	Sing	Bdship	3/10
Xpress Nuptse	Cont	P. Kel	Rsl	3/10
Siam Sathaporn	Cpo	P. Kel	Rsl	4/10

Vessels not ready

Murat Kiran	Wheat (P)	Vanc	Angelic	24/9
Tian Ling	C. Clink	Sing	Owsl	29/9
Milos	Peas	L/New	Litmond	2/10
Golden Harmony	C. Link	Kohsi	Asil	3/10
Al Kuwailiah	Hsd/JP-1	Kuwa	Mstpl	3/10
Capella	R. Phosp	Beihai	Litmond	3/10

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Burni Jaya	--	Visa	Unicom	10/11/2004
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The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPAs supplied by Family, Dhaka.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's (October 4, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	Sell		Buy		
	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
66.7700	66.8000	USD	65.7000	65.6781	65.6343
80.4579	80.4940	EUR	77.4932	77.4673	77.4157
118.0694	118.1224	GBP	114.4297	114.3915	114.3153
51.9404	51.9637	AUD	49.3013	49.2848	49.2520
0.5929	0.5931	JPY	0.5719	0.5717	0.5713
51.8441	51.8674	CHF	49.9772	49.9605	49.9272
8.8921	8.8961	SEK	8.0090	8.0063	8.0010
57.9148	57.9408	CAD	55.8484	55.8297	55.7925
8.6244	8.6283	HKD	8.4523	8.4495	8.4439
40.2593	40.2774	SGD	38.6926	38.6797	38.6539
18.3268	18.3350	AED	17.7505	17.7446	17.7328
17.9383	17.9464	SAR	17.3754	17.3696	17.3581
11.1013	11.1063	DKK	10.0922	10.0888	10.0821
225.1620	225.2654	KWD	223.8603	223.7880	223.6435

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.01	59.72	101.405	41.090	6.8115	0.6922	3.77

STOCK