Star BUSINESS

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Give highest priority to removing economic evils

G-77 urges UN

PTI, *United Nations*

The Group of 77 developing nations and China want Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to give highest priority to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed by the world leaders which seek to eliminate or drastically reduce several economic and social evils facing the world.

It also wants greater say for the developing nations in the international financial institutions where it feels it voice is little heard at present.

Briefing reporters on the agenda of G-77 for the current year, Chairman of the Group Ambassador Munir Akram of Pakistan conceded that G-77 have underlying differences with Ban on the way the issues should be addressed and prioritised.

The group, he said, wished to "see Ban succeed and to be seen as successful in the Organisation's operations".

However, the Group had its own developmental priorities and had stressed the need for the Secretariat to give the highest priority to implementation of the Millennium Goals and the internationally agreed development goals.

On the management reforms including bifurcation of the Department of Peacekeeping into field operations and mission support, differences continue to exist between developing countries especially troop contributors and the Secretariat supported the United States and its allies.

Akram said the group has not taken any position on that as it is an economic grouping but the Non Aligned Movement (NAM), which is a political gathering, has taken a stand. But he did articulate the position of the developing countries when he suggested that the support mission should be under the person in charge of the operations.

That's how the armies work, he said. Despite Ban having several round of talks with member States, this issue has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the development nations which has the sufficient strength in the 192-member General Assembly to block any such move.

Under pressure from the developing countries, Ban has agreed to bring his proposals before the General Assembly and those involving financial implications before the budgetary committee of the Assembly for discussion and approval.

PHOTO: BANGLALINK

Mobile phone operator Banglalink opened a 'Banglalink Point' in Satkhira recently. Senior officials of the regional team of the company, among others, were present at the opening ceremony.

Oil prices flat around key $60 level in Asia

AFP, *Singapore*

Oil prices traded flat around the key 60-dollar mark in Asia on Thursday ahead of a weekly US report on energy inventories.

At 2:05 pm (0605 GMT) New York's main oil futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in April, was down eight cents to 59.99 dollars a barrel after jumping 1.22 dollars to close at 60.07 dollars a barrel in late US trades.

Brent North Sea crude for April delivery slipped nine cents to 59.26 dollars a barrel.

"Looks like we finally broke through 60 dollars and we might be out of the weak season and going into a pre-season gasoline rally. The market may correct downwards by a bit, but the medium-term trend is on the upside," said Mitsubishi Corp energy risk manager Tony Nunan in Tokyo.

Prices closed above 60 dollars in US trade Wednesday for the first time this year after Valero Energy Corp warned of a shutdown of its fire-hit west Texas refinery.

Valero, the largest US refiner, said its McKee refinery could be closed for weeks after the weekend fire.

"As we approach the gasoline season, the market is going to be sensitive to any problems with refineries," Nunan said.

With the US winter coming to an end, attention is starting to shift to gasoline supplies as drivers return to the roads for springtime.

"Whenever we have such a problem in big refineries in the US, it has an impact on oil prices," Fimat analyst John Kilduff said during US trading hours.

The US Department of Energy's (DoE's) weekly snapshot of energy inventories was to be released later Thursday, a day later than usual because of Monday's Presidents' Day holiday.

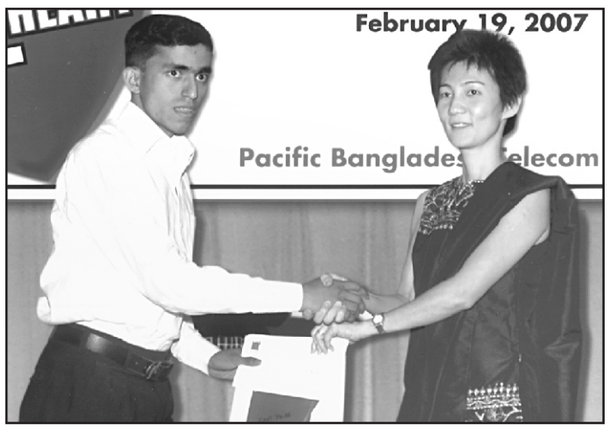

PHOTO: CITYCELL

The prize giving ceremony of 'CityCell Heart2Heart Contest 2007' organised to celebrate the Valentine's Day was held on Monday in Dhaka. Chief Marketing Officer of the mobile phone operator Ng Hwee Boon gave away the prizes among the winners.

CURRENCY

Following is Thursday's (February 22, 2007) forex trading statement by **Standard Chartered Bank.**

Major currency exchange rates

	BC Sell	TT Buy
US Dollar	69.45	68.10
Euro	92.60	87.90
Pound	137.18	131.35
Australian Dollar	56.32	52.47
Japanese Yen	0.59	0.56
Swiss Franc	56.97	53.89
Swedish Kroner	10.26	9.24
Canadian Dollar	60.84	58.04
Hong Kong Dollar	8.91	8.70
Singapore Dollar	46.34	44.28
UAE Dirham	19.06	18.39
Saudi Riyal	18.67	18.01
Danish Kroner	12.79	11.49
Kuwaiti Dinar	236.80	233.87

* All currencies are quoted against BDT

* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction

Exchange rate of some currencies

	Per USD	BDT per Currency
Indian Rupee	43.96	1.56
Pak Rupee	60.87	1.13
Lankan Rupee	108.65	0.63
Thai Baht	35.65	1.93
Malaysian Ringgit	3.49	19.69

USD forward rate against BDT

	Buy	Sell
1 M	68.20	69.57
2 M	68.32	69.78
3 M	68.46	70.00
6 M	68.90	70.71

Local Market

FX: Local inter-bank FX market was active on Thursday. The demand for USD remained stable, and the volume of cross transactions was steady. The USD remained unchanged against the Bangladeshi taka.

Money Market

Money market was active on Thursday. Call money rate remained unchanged and ranged between 6.50 and 7.00 per cent.

International Market

The dollar lose broadly on Thursday after robust inflation data and minutes from the Federal Reserve's latest policy meeting suggested officials were concerned higher inflation was a potential risk.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 22/2/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	C.Clink	Sing	Singi	Mbl	18/2	26/2	4700
J/2	Bellatrix-ID	GI	Chenn	Oil	21/2	25/2	852
J/4+3	Ariella	Wheat(P)	Odessa	Pol	6/2	24/2	1247
J/5	Asrar-a-Mostafa	GI(S.ash)	Okha	Cla	18/2	26/2	301
J/6	Banga Bodor	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	15/2	23/2	--
J/7	Cape Henry	Cont	Sing	Apl	16/2	23/2	163
J/9	Kota Rakayat	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	10/2	22/2	47
J/11	Kota Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	17/2	24/2	112
J/12	Pac Palawan	Cont	Sing	Cel	18/2	24/2	--
J/13	Martha Russ	Cont	Sing	Qcsl	13/2	--	142
Cct/1+2	Eagle Progress	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	13/2	22/2	--
Cct/2	Banga Borti	Cont	P.Kel	Baridhi	17/2	24/2	170

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Csav California	22/2	Cal	Pssl	Cont	Col
Pacific Express	22/2	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Shwe Thara Phu	22/2	Yang	Tcl	GI(Y. Ma)	--
Precious River	22/2	Sing	Vega	Cont	Sing
Mir Damad	23/2	Chenn	Bsca	Cont	Kol
Yong Yue-8	26/2	Hald	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Pan Express	23/2	Kohsi	Ancl	C. Clink	--
Lilac Ace	24/2	Cbo	Everett	Vehi	--
Vinashin Mariner	23/2	Sing	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Kota Cahaya	23/2	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Cape Bonavista	23/2	Pkl	Bdship	Cont	Pkl
Maria	23/2	Viza	Royal	Frtlzr	--
Ja Vesta	24/2	Sing	Vega	Cont	Sing
Kota Raja	24/2	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Bw Havsol	22/2	Viza	Mpl	Ammonia	K/a
Gulf Ahmadi	24/2	Kuwa	Mstpl		Hsd/ms
Al Badiyah	26/2	Kuwa	Mstpl		Hsd/JP-1

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Outside port limit				
Sea Drill-6	Pro. Equip	--	Ibsa	8/1
Gulf Dril-9	Pro. Equip	--	Ibsa	3/1
Pacific Champion	--	--	Ibsa	R/A(9/2)
Pacific Steel	P. Equip	--	Ibsa	R/A(14/2)
Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/A(21/2)
Vessels at outer anchorage				
Vessels ready				
Eagle Pioneer	Cont	P. Kel	Ct	16/2
Sinar Merak	Cont	P. Kel	Pssl	18/2
Yongxing	Cont	Col	Pssl	18/2
Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Col	Seacon	20/2
Coastal Express-1	Cont	Kol	Bsca	20/2

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

STOCK