

Asia-Pacific forum opens ministerial meetings

AFP, Sydney

Ministers from 21 Asia-Pacific economies Wednesday launched talks in Sydney expected to be dominated by North Korea's nuclear programme, climate change and efforts to revive global trade talks.

The 40 foreign and trade ministers were whisked into a harbourfront Sydney convention centre which has been turned into a fortress, with a two meter (seven-foot) high steel and concrete wall designed to keep protesters at bay and block potential car or truck bombings.

The ministers immediately went into a closed-door meeting. They are also scheduled to meet for dinner, as US President George W Bush began a three-day official visit to Australia ahead of a weekend regional summit.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum members account for 48 percent of world trade, 56 percent of global economic output and 41 percent of the earth's population.

Bush, the leader of Apec's

wealthiest and most powerful member, arrived in Sydney amid high security late Tuesday, while China's President Hu Jintao arrived the previous day and Russia's Vladimir Putin was expected on Friday.

Australian Trade Minister Warren Truss has said he would meet his counterparts Wednesday to try to give the difficult Doha round of talks of the World Trade Organisation another push in hopes of concluding the six year-old negotiations by the end of the year.

NO ROOM FOR INDIA AS APEC SHUTS DOOR ON HOPEFULS

Another report adds: India is among a dozen nations set to remain out in the cold after foreign and trade ministers of the Asia-Pacific grouping declined Wednesday to discuss expanding the 21-member club, an official said.

India believes its geographical location, trade and investment interaction and the size of its economy all serve to strengthen its bid to join the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, which was set

up in 1989.

Backed by Australia, which is hosting this year's Apec summit, it has been knocking on the door of the forum for years and had been hoping the end of a 10-year moratorium on new members from 1997 would help its case.

But a Japanese official said the ministers decided to take no action. "I understand the chair concluded that the status quo should be maintained for the membership issue," Japanese foreign ministry spokesman Mitsuo Sakaba told reporters.

The ministers were asked to express their views on admitting new members.

However, "no hands were raised for speaking on this matter" effectively shelving any decision.

The lack of enthusiasm was consistent with what Apec senior officials had recommended in preparatory meetings earlier this week, when they proposed the body should first consolidate its existing work before any enlargement.

Germany, UAE to invest in ceramics, shipping sectors

Germany and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are going to invest jointly in Bangladesh's shipping, porcelain and crafts sectors.

Besides, RAK Group of UAE is keen to invest in the country's real estate business.

Khater Massaad, chief executive officer of RAK Group and managing director of RAK Ceramics Bangladesh Pvt Ltd, said this at the 'Dealers' Annual Get Together 2007' of RAK Ceramics Bangladesh held on Saturday in Dhaka, according to a press release.

SAK Ekramuzzaman, director of RAK Ceramics and senior officials, among others, were present at the function.

Intel expects rapid US answer on STMicro deal

AFP, New Delhi

The world's largest microchip maker Intel Corp expects a quick verdict by US anti-trust regulators on a deal with Europe's STMicroelectronics to merge their memory chip units, its chairman said Wednesday.

Earlier this year Intel and French-Italian firm STM announced their "Numonyx" joint venture for the worldwide sale of "flash memory" -- a type of memory card widely used in mobile phones, digital cameras and music players.

The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) "made a second request for some additional minor information before giving approval," Intel chairman Craig Barrett told reporters in New Delhi.

Intel would give "a very rapid response back to FTC and then FTC would give a very rapid response back to us," said Barrett, who heads next Bangladesh to push the company's health and education assistance programmes.

"This is a minor second request" from the FTC, Barrett said.

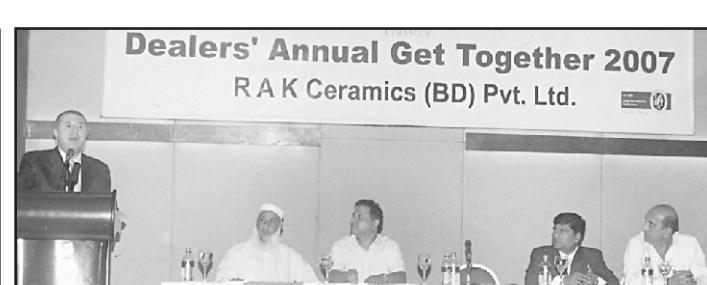


PHOTO: WE COMMUNICATE

The 'Dealers' Annual Get Together 2007' of RAK Ceramics Bangladesh Pvt Ltd was held in Dhaka on Saturday. Khater Massaad, chief executive officer of RAK Group and managing director of RAK Ceramics Bangladesh Pvt Ltd, SAK Ekramuzzaman, director of RAK Ceramics, and senior officials, among others, were present at the function.



PHOTO: SUVASTU DEVELOPMENT

Chairman of Suvastu Development Ltd Rezaul Haque Siraji inaugurates 'Suvastu Arcade' shopping mall on New Elephant Road in Dhaka yesterday. Director of the company Md Abidur Rahman, Managing Director Nazmul Haque Khan and other senior officials are also seen.

Nepal sees Thailand as potential labour destination

ANN/ THE KATHMANDU POST

Nepal is looking at Thailand as a potential labour destination, a high-ranking source at the Labour Ministry revealed.

"We have sent a letter to the Thai government recently, expressing our interest to export Nepali labourers there, given the vast potentiality of jobs for Nepali workers there," the source told The Kathmandu Post.

"We have not yet received any official response in this regard from Thailand. But still, we are pretty hopeful of a positive reply," the source added.

Thailand is seen as a potentially lucrative destination for Nepali job seekers. However, the number of Nepali labourers employed in the country, so far, is negligible.

Records of the Department of Labour and Employment Promotion (DoLEP) show that only one Nepali worker used the formal channel to go to Thailand in the last one decade.

Since the demand for skilled foreign labourers is high in Thailand, the employment opportunity may be limited for most of the Nepali labourers for some years, Keshar Bahadur Baniya, director general of DoLEP said. Most of the Nepalis leaving for foreign employment fall under unskilled or semi-skilled category.

Nepal has also approached Bahrain and Kuwait with similar proposals. In the fiscal year 2006/07, 2,155 and 2,587 Nepali blue-collar workers left for Bahrain and Kuwait respectively.

Nepal has opened more than a hundred countries for foreign employment.



CityCell and ZTE Corporation Bangladesh Ltd have recently entered into an agreement under which customers of the mobile phone operator will be able to repair and replace their ZTE handsets from all CityCell Customer Care Centres and Customer Care Points, in addition to the ZTE Handset Service Centre, Cell Bangla Ltd. Customers of CityCell will also be able to buy ZTE batteries and chargers from CityCell Customer Care Centres and Customer Care Points. Md Tarikul Hasan, chief (Customer Care) of CityCell, and Zheng Ting, marketing manager of ZTE Corporation Bangladesh, signed the deal.

STOCK



SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 5/9/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J3	Tay Bac-18	Rice(g)	Kaki	Hsa	3/9	8/9	90
J4	Tay Son-1	Gi(hrc)	Sing	Jr	3/9	6/9	3692
J5	Sunvazs	Urea(bic)	Sing	Seacom	2/9	9/9	938
J6	Hunjang	Gi	Tha	Cosco	5/9	11/9	--
J7	Asrar-a-mostafa	Rice(p)	Kaki	Cla	1/9	10/9	210
J9	Oel Singapore	Cont	P. Kel	Pssl	4/9	7/9	330
J10	Banga Borti	Cont	P. Kel	Bardhdi	2/9	6/9	78
J11	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Bardhdi	4/9	7/9	305
CCT/1	Eagle Pride	Cont	P. Kel	Qsl	3/9	7/9	--
CCT/3	Merkur Bridge	Cont	Sing	Apl	2/9	6/9	--
GSJ:	Bangler Robi	Feldspar/gi	Viza	Royal	19/8	7/9	--

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Cape Henry	4/9	Col	Apl	Cont	Col
Josco View	5/9	Pkel	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Sunny Falcon	6/9	Basu	Litmond	Urea(bic)	--
Arctic Night	5/9	Viza	Kship	Scraping	--
Golden Wish	5/9	Sing	Ssst	Wheat	8000 W/lt
Banga Bonik	6/9	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Agnes Scan	6/9	Mumb	Sunshine	P.p. Equip	--
Eid-a-mostafa	8/9	Kaki	Cla	Rice(g)	--
Asraar-e-mostafa	6/9	Kohsi	Pol	C. Clink	--
Kissama	7/9	Kol	Bsca	Cont	U/para
Oel Freedom	6/9	Sing	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Dali	7/9	Col	Seacom	Cont	Col
Ap Lilac	7/9	Sin	Apl	Cont	Sing
Ataraxia	7/9	Chenn	Asa	G(hr Stc)	--
Brave Royal	7/9	Krabi	Bsl	C. Clink	--
Hua Hui	7/9	--	Uml	Urea(bic)	--
Energy Falcon	8/9	Indo	Litmond	C. Clink	--
Vien Dong-2	8/9	Sin	Prog	Gil(st.p.a)	--
Hansa London	8/9	Sing	Pssl	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Smooth Sea-4	6/9	Mal	Usl	Cpol	Rm/4
Khadijah	5/9	Bawl	Mtl	Cop(m/8)	--
Champion Star	7/9	Braz	Usl	Cds(m/3)	21000 W/lt
Al Sabiyah	7/9	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd	--

Vessels at Kutubdia

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

Outsider port limit

Onozo	Crude Oil	Jebel	Uniglobal	21/8
Bangler Jyoti	C. Oil	--	Bsc	R/a (5/9)
Maritime Newanda	Wheat	Cana	Rainbow	3/9
Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/a (4/9)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready
Kota Raja
Pac Makassar
Smooth Sea-6
Kirana Tritya

Vessels not ready

Bitumen Glory	Bitumen	Mal	Oti	25/8
Butei	Urea(bic)	Sing	Mhs	3/9

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Borak	--	--	Fsa	R/a (4/8)
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The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by Family, Dhaka.