

Nepal hopeful of WTO entry at Mexico meet

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal is hopeful it will be admitted into the WTO at its September conference in Mexico but developed countries have insisted it first commit to liberalizing its economy, officials said Monday.

The landlocked kingdom made a presentation last month in Geneva on membership in the World Trade Organization ahead of the September 10-14 ministerial conference in Cancun.

"Of the 146 members of the trade bloc, the majority had a soft spot for letting Nepal, along with Cambodia, enter the trade bloc," Prachand Man Shrestha, a senior official at Nepal's commerce and industry ministry, told AFP.

However, trade officials here said six developed countries — the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and one member of the European Union — along with Nepal's biggest trade partner India insisted the kingdom work to liberalize its economy.

In particular, the countries

wanted a commitment that Nepal would not hike custom duties and would guarantee other liberal trade policies, they said.

Nepal contended, however, there should not be a "complete bar" on increases in duties considering the kingdom's weak industrial sector.

Nepal, which began the accession process to the WTO in 1999, argues that it must join the global trade bloc because its two neighbors, India and China, are both members.

NCC Bank holds get-together to celebrate 10th anniversary

National Credit and Commerce Bank Limited (NCC Bank Ltd) arranged a get-together for its customers, patrons and elite in Dhaka to celebrate its 10th years of its business on Saturday, says a press release.

M Haider Chowdhury, founder chairman, Mahbul Alam Tara, chairman of the Board of Directors of the bank, M. Aminuzzaman, managing director, Mir Zahir Hossain, Tofazzal Hossain, directors and Syed Manjur Elahi, chairman of Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB), were present.



PHOTO: DUTCH-BANGLA BANK Md Yeasin Ali, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, speaks as chief guest at a workshop on Prevention of Money Laundering held at the bank's training centre in Dhaka on Thursday.

BP Visco CNG launched

British Petroleum (BP) has launched BP Visco CNG, a special engine oil for CNG/ petrol-run vehicles, in Bangladesh, says a press release.

BP Visco CNG is the first engine oil available in Bangladesh that tackles the special lubrication needs of CNG engines.

BP Visco CNG is a long life engine oil, extending oil change interval to more than 10000 kms in CNG engines and over 7000 kms in dual fuel engines.

Meghna Petroleum Limited, BP's franchise in Bangladesh, imports BP Visco CNG from Dubai. BP Visco CNG is available in four litres and one litre packs at CNG filling stations and select Meghna filling stations in Dhaka and Chittagong.



PHOTO: ADCOMM LTD Jeremy Bowen, chief representative of BP in Dubai, and Masudur Rahman, general manager of Meghna Petroleum Limited, pose at the launch of BP Visco CNG, a special engine oil for CNG/ petrol-run vehicles.



PHOTO: NCC BANK Mahbul Alam Tara, chairman of National Credit and Commerce Bank Limited, speaks at a get-together of the bank's customers and patrons organised in Dhaka Saturday to celebrate 10th founding anniversary of the bank.



PHOTO: FISON'S Fisons (Bangladesh) Limited has paid over Tk 69 million to the Ministry of Industries as dividend for the year 2002. A F M Sarwar Kamal, secretary of the ministry, receives the challan from Iftekharul Islam, managing director of Fisons (Bangladesh) Limited. Md Khalequzzaman, joint secretary, Ministry of Industries, and M Shafiqul Alam, director (Finance & IT) of Fisons (Bangladesh) Limited, were also present.

Oil prices firmer in Asia

AFP, Singapore

Crude oil prices were higher in Asian trading Monday amid concerns of possible OPEC production cuts and low gasoline inventories in the United States, dealers said.

At 12.50 pm (0450 GMT), New York's benchmark light sweet crude contract for July delivery traded at 29.85 dollars a barrel, up from its close of 29.56 dollars in New York Friday.

OPEC is expected to slash production at a meeting in Qatar on June 11 to avert a slide in prices.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
58.8500	58.9000	USD	57.9200	57.7499	57.6808
69.3959	69.4549	EUR	66.8802	66.6838	66.6040
96.5199	96.6019	GBP	93.5582	93.2834	93.1717
38.7998	38.8328	AUD	36.9877	36.8791	36.8349
0.4994	0.4999	JPY	0.4836	0.4821	0.4816
45.3180	45.3565	CHF	43.9520	43.8229	43.7705
7.5338	7.5402	SEK	7.3958	7.3741	7.3662
43.2593	43.2961	CAD	41.9893	41.8659	41.8158
7.5537	7.5601	HKD	7.4195	7.3977	7.3888
34.0962	34.1251	SGD	33.2682	33.1705	33.1308
16.1543	16.1680	AED	15.6431	15.5971	15.5784

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Lankan Rupee	Thai Baht	Nor Kroner	NZ Dollar	Malaysian Ringit
47.02	57.605	97.245	41.775	6.7429	0.6267	3.80

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 2-6-2003.

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Eltanin	Rice	Kand	Total	8/5	2/6	X
J/2	Pho Thae	Rice	Kaki	Able	20/5	8/6	1709
J/3	Shun Winner	C Clink	Indo	TOSL	22/5	5/6	2110
J/4	Kwan Mo BongSug/Rice (P)	Chann	SSTL	22/5	5/6	1530	
J/5	Sonali	Rice/S.Ash	Kand	OWSL	18/5	5/6	1145
J/6	Assets Victory	Wheat	Viza	Uniship	19/5	4/6	930
J/7	Eco Vision	RS/WT(P)	Sing	USL	21/5	3/6	2300
J/8	Ocean Pride	GI(R Log)	Yang	PSAL	30/5	8/6	1768
J/9	Al Mansoor	Rice	Kaki	Total	8/5	7/6	1072
J/10	Jat Na Mu	Wheat	Viza	Uniship	R/A	4/6	598
J/11	Kota Singa	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	31/5	3/6	230/307
J/12	Express Resolve	Cont	Col	Everbest	30/5	3/6	125/119
J/13	QC Lark	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	29/5	6/6	261/240
CCT/1	Xpress Manaslu	Cont	P Kel	RSL	29/5	4/6	164/289
CCT/2	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	30/5	3/6	117/117
CCT/3	Banga Borak	Cont	P Kel	BDSHIP	29/5	3/6	105/168
RM/14	Banglar Kallol	Repair	Mong	BSC	26/5	5/6	
TSP	Bright Moon	TSP (P)	Beihat	Unique	25/5	5/6	
RM/3	Plympic Champion	LBO	Bethai	Unique	31/5	2/6	

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of Arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Banga Biraj	2/6	P Kel	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Orient Freedom	2/6	P Kel	PSAL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Moni	2/6	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Mardios	2/6	P Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
KS Glory	2/6	Krabi	ASLL	Clink	Sing
Sailor-I	3/6	Indo	Litmond	Clink	Sing
Asha	2/6	--	Rship	For Demolition	
Arctic Blue	2/6	Sing	JF	For Scraping	
Feng Shun Shan (Liner)	6/6	Saka	Bdship	GI	
Banga Bonik	3/6	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Christiane Oldendorff	4/6	Sing	ASCL	Wheat	
Ruhunupura	4/6	Hald	PSAL	Cont	Yang
Sea Breeze	5/6	--	Seacom	GI	
Arcadian-I	3/6	--	PSAL	For Scraping	
Bosowa Sembilan	10/6	--	PSAL	Clink	
Banga Barta	5/6	--	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Presidente Tanaredo Neves	8/6	Fuja	OTBL	For Demolition	
Rimbun	10/6	Indo	OTBL	For Demolition	
Madura Ayu	6/6	Indo	OTBL	For Demolition	
Maritime Faith	5/6	Taiw	NWSL	Clink	
Theopisiti	6/6	Fuja	OTBL	For Demolition	
Hellin	7/6	Sing	TMMI	GI	
Jin Cheng (Liner)	8/6	--	Bdship	GI	--
Banga Borat	7/6	--	Bdship	Cont	Sing

Vessels at outer anchorage Vessels ready

Al Muztuba	Rice/WT	Kaki	CLA	25/5
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Movement of vessels for 3/6/2003

	Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/1	E Vision	CCT/1 Asimont	J/3 Shun Winner
J/10	Jat Na Mu	CCT/2 B Borti	J/8 O Pride
J/11	K Singa	J/13 Budi Teguh	J/2 Pho Thae
J/12	Xp Resolve	CCT/3 Qc Dignity	
J/13	Qc Lark	J/11 B Moni	
CCT/1	Xp Manaslu	J/12 Mardios	
CCT/2	B Bijoy	J/7 Al-Muztuba	
CCT/3	B Borak	J/3 Myeik	
RM/8	Titan Venus	GSJ C Michalis	
		Gaz Master	
		RM/5 E Aries	
		RM/3 (P) Star Dream	

STOCK