

Key farming meeting delayed after WTO deadlock

AFP, Geneva
A meeting on agriculture, one of the key stumbling blocks in the current round of talks at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), has been delayed following the collapse of negotiations in Mexico, the trade body said Monday.

6-9, chairman of the Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture Stuart Harbinson said in a statement.
Further talks would not take place until after the General Council -- the executive body of the WTO -- met on October 21-22, according to a WTO official.
"Because of the Cancun deadlock we will wait to see what the General Council says," he told AFP.

The next scheduled meeting of the farming committee is due to start the week of November 17.
Negotiations in the Mexican resort of Cancun to free up global trade as part of the Doha round of talks launched in 2001 collapsed earlier this month amid bitter divisions between rich and poor nations.
Agriculture is a key sticking point with developing countries demanding that WTO members which offer

heavy subsidies to farmers -- such as the European Union, Japan and the United States -- reduce this aid.
But farmers in these countries are concerned their business would be crippled by cheaper imports.
After missing a series of deadlines to devise a framework to cut trade-distorting tariffs and subsidies, the committee is expected to hammer out a new timeframe to overcome the impasse.



Masih ul Karim, managing director of Berger Paints, hands over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh to Nasima Akter, winner of the consumer promotion campaign titled Berger Million Taka Offer, on Sunday in Dhaka. The promotion campaign ran from March 15 to May 31.

CURRENCY

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

Sell		Buy			
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Slight Doc	OD Transfer
58.7300	58.7800	USD	57.8500	57.6801	57.6110
67.8919	67.9497	EUR	65.4688	65.2765	65.1984
98.0262	98.1097	GBP	95.1401	94.8607	94.7471
40.2359	40.2702	AUD	38.2157	38.1035	38.0579
0.5347	0.5352	JPY	0.5161	0.5146	0.5140
43.8972	43.9345	CHF	42.6182	42.4931	42.4422
7.5179	7.5243	SEK	7.0121	6.9915	6.9832
43.5779	43.6150	CAD	42.3282	42.2039	42.1534
7.5827	7.5891	HKD	7.4539	7.4320	7.4231
34.1097	34.1387	SGD	33.3084	33.2105	33.1708
16.1213	16.1351	AED	15.6237	15.5778	15.5692
15.7859	15.7994	SAR	15.3034	15.2585	15.2402
9.4067	9.4147	DKK	8.5814	8.5562	8.5460

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
45.76	57.85	94.8	40.070	7.0884	0.5894	3.80

Local Interbank FX Trading:
The local interbank foreign exchange market was active on Monday as the international money market was steady. Call money rate was open. Dollar ended almost unchanged against the Bangladeshi Taka.

Local Money Market:
Money market was active on Monday. Call money rate was steady. Call money rate ranged unchanged between 4.00 and 6.00 per cent.



Stephen Daintith (standing 3rd from right), managing director of British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB), and Azizul Haque (standing 4th from right), managing director of GlaxoSmithKline, jointly inaugurate the Hepatitis-B vaccination programme for the BATB employees on Sunday in Dhaka.

S Korea eases credit card rules to revamp economy

AFP, Seoul
South Korea eased consumer credit card rules Monday in an effort to boost the recession-hit economy as official indicators showed industrial activity remains sluggish.
Finance ministry officials said the government had eased restrictions on credit card firms allowing them to extend the maturity of loans while putting off a 2004 deadline to bring their cash advances into line with assets.

Domestic consumption drove South Korea's economic growth last year, promoted by easy credit that left a massive consumer debt hang-over.
This year, credit-tightening measures have produced a credit crunch that helped nudge the economy into recession.
The hoped-for recovery has been a long time in coming but industrial output figures for August showing 1.5 per cent growth from a year ago were viewed as positive despite falling below market expectations.
The figure compared unfavourably with last year's annual rate of eight per cent but was up on the 0.7 per cent rate seen in July, according to the National Statistical Office.
Industrial output rose on strong semiconductor and telecom equipment production and smaller losses from strikes at automobile companies, according to the NSO.



Members of Merchant Bankers Association (MBA), led by Mohammad Musa, convener of the association, met the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) management yesterday in Dhaka to discuss measures to restore investors' confidence in the capital market.

ReadyCash Raffle Draw Winners

The latest ReadyCash Raffle draw took place at ReadyCash Bangladesh office at Dhanmondi on last Saturday, says a press release.

Prizes	Name of Winners	Card No
China Junction Chinese Free Lunch for Two		Md Jashim Uddin
504798000049073		
Meal in the Box Free Lunch for Two	Md Fazlul Karim	5047980010023696
Kena Kata Free Gift Box	Saidur Rahman	5047980010023743
White Castle Free Lunch Package	Muhsin	5047980010023778
Liton's Snacks Free Meal Box	Zinat Ara	5047980010023898
Pabna Cloth Store Free Gift Box	Al-Haj Abdul Awal	5047980010023924
Desh Karupanna Free Gift Box	Hafez MS Zaman	504798000049083
Kamal General Store Free Gift Box	Md Abul Hashem Chy	5047980010023721

Winners can collect their prizes from the Executive, Promotion of ReadyCash within 30 days of this news circulation by producing their ReadyCash card transaction vouchers. ReadyCash encourages its cardholders to read The Daily Star and the Daily Prothom Alo on every Sunday or call our Customer Service at: 8123850, 8130497, and

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 29/9/2003

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date Of arrival	Lea-ving	Import disch
J/1	Ja Gang	Rice(P)	Chen	JNSL	15/9	3/10	266
J/3	Ourlania Smile	Wheat(G)	Sing	SSST	24/9	29/10	408
J/4	Wang Jae San	Sugar(P)	Bang	GPSL	18/9	1/10	498
J/5	Wong Jiang (Liner)	GI	Winch	BDship	24/9	1/10	1639
J/6	Sitlwe (Liner)	GI(StC)	Yang	Everett	20/9	29/9	1408
J/7	Banglar Doot	GI(ST & PA)	Pena	Prog	21/9	29/9	664
J/8	Chin Shwe Haw	Sugar (P)	Kaki	Able	22/9	30/9	538
J/9	Samii Po	Sugar (P)	Azel	HSL	24/9	3/10	704

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Alexis	29/9	Xing	Rainbow	GI	--
QC Honour	30/9	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
BBC Portugal	30/9	Sing	Mbl	P Equip	Sing
Litohoro	30/9	Bang	Mutubal	Sugar(P)	
Lyong Gun Bong	30/9	Oinz	Unique	Tsp(Fert)	
QC Teal	30/9	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Biroi	1/10	CHNN	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Jaami	1/10	--	Everbest	Cont	Col
Orient Excellence	2/10	--	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Bonik	2/10	--	Baridhi	Cont	Col
QC Dignity	1/10	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Ratna	2/10	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
Banglar Moni	2/10	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing

Vessels at outer anchorage Vessels ready:

QC Star	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	27/9
Banglar Robi	Wehat(G)	K Dia	SSST	23/9
Mardios	Cont	P Kel	RSL	28/9
Banga Borat	Cont	P Kel	Bdship	28/9
Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	29/9
South Cross	Urea	Ind	Oil	29/9
MMM Jackson	CPO	Dumai	MTCL	29/9
BBC Europe	P.Equip	Moka	Lutful	29/9
Macler	CDSO	Sing	USL	29/9

Vessels not ready

GuoShun	Fert (bag)	Sing	Unique	13/09
Safnaz	Fert (bag) Gi	Sing	PNL	19/09
Myeik	Gi	Yang	Total	22/09
Bhoruka Vikram	Sugar (p)	Viza	SSTL	22/09
Nikmary	CDSO	Drab	Pol	24/9

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction:

Banga Lanka	--	--	Bandhi	R/A(01/09)
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	BSC	R/A(22/09)
Assets Victory	--	--	Park	R/A(25/9)
Banga Borak	Repair	--	Bdship	R/A(28/9)
Amanat Shah	--	-	Cia	R/A(28/9)

Vessels not entering:

Prosperous Ocean	Clink	Sing	ANCL	22/09
Man Chang Hai	Dap(ert)	Sing	BSL	26/9
Bella	Mop(bulk)	Niko	Litmond	23/09
Filma	Rbd	Yang	Seacom	10/07
Accord	--	Sing	Viking	05/04

The above are yesterday's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by IERC Family, Dhaka.

STOCK