

Miami alert as Americas free trade talks start

AFP, Miami
 Rows of police officers stood guard around central Miami Wednesday, as tens of thousands of anti-globalization activists prepared for protests during free trade talks by officials from across North and South America.
 Police surrounded a six-block downtown area with barricade fences and roadblocks as mid-level trade officials worked on details of the Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement.
 Trade ministers from every country in the Americas, except Cuba, will meet Thursday and Friday at a hotel within the protected area to work on the plan for a pan-American free market by 2005.
 The massive security operation,

which involves some 2,500 police, is being funded by an 8.5 million dollar federal grant and was part of the 87.5 billion dollar military and aid package for Iraq and Afghanistan approved November 3.
 Miami police say they are trying to avoid the violence that shook meetings of the World Trade Organization in Seattle in 1999 and in Cancun, Mexico, in September.
 There were police on horseback, on bicycles, on foot and in vehicles patrolling the downtown area. Police in light boats guarded the coastline and waterways.
 Some officers stood guard in full body armor, wearing helmets and clutching large shields. Others wore straw hats and short-sleeve shirts, and

wielded long wooden clubs.
 There were Miami city cops, Florida state highway patrol officers, the US Coast Guard, US Marshals -- more than 40 law enforcement agencies in all.
 Police even have a fire engine on loan to use, if necessary, as a water cannon on any rowdy protesters.
 "Police all over the place, helicopters buzzing at all times -- this is like a state of siege," complained Edgardo Robles, who works at one of the myriad of small stores near the fenced-off area. Many have been close since Monday.
 The large police presence "is all about intimidation," said Genaro Lopez, who traveled from San Antonio, Texas to participate in the protest.



PHOTO: ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH

Islamic Banks Consultative Forum (IBCF) Chairman Shah Abdul Hannan and top executives of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited exchange views at a discussion in Dhaka on Tuesday.



PHOTO: DBBL

The 7th managers' meeting of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) was held in Dhaka on Monday. Yeasin Ali, managing director, Abul Hashem Khan, deputy managing director (Operation), and AAM Zakaria, deputy managing director (Administration) of the bank, were also present.

S'pore, Europe sign intellectual property pact

AFP, Singapore

Singapore and the European Patent Office agreed on Thursday to increase cooperation on the protection of intellectual property, the government said.

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore said in a statement it signed a memorandum of understanding with the European agency aimed at further strengthening existing agreements through a series of activities between 2004 and 2006.

The activities will include improving expertise through training and increasing awareness of the need to safeguard intellectual property.

"With the growing emphasis on innovation, research and development, intellectual property protection of new ideas, products and technologies is therefore increasingly critical to companies and individuals, particularly when they can gain commercially from their intellectual capital," it said.

The Munich-based European Patent Office is the executive arm of the European Patent Organisation.

Japan's trade surplus with Asia soars on record exports

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's trade surplus with the rest of Asia in October soared 57.9 percent year-on-year as surging demand in China brought exports to the region to a record, the government said Thursday.

The trade surplus with Asia reached 526.11 billion yen (4.8 billion dollars) to post a year-on-year rise for the fourth consecutive month.

Asia-bound exports rose 13.4 percent to a record 2.33 trillion yen, with exports of audi-video equipment parts up 76.4 percent and cameras and other optical devices up 33.2 percent.

Shipments to China, which accounted for more than a quarter of the Asia-bound exports, jumped 27.8 percent to a record 614.15 billion yen.



PHOTO: GREYWORLDWIDE

Abdullah Al Mosaddeque, general manager (Marketing) of Gallerie Apex, inaugurates a new showroom of the company at Chawkbazar in Barisal recently.

China plans tariff hike on some US imports

AFP, Beijing

China said Thursday it may hike tariffs on some US imports if Washington fails to comply with last week's World Trade Organization ruling that steel tariffs violated global trade rules.

No further details were given in the Xinhua news agency report, although the news came just days after Washington said it would slap import quotas on Chinese textiles.

Citing Chinese Vice Trade Minister Ma Xihong, Xinhua said China was currently studying plans on how to raise tariffs on US imports, if the US did not adhere to the WTO decision.

Ma urged the United States to observe the ruling and terminate the

protective measures for its ailing steel industry.

In March 2002, the administration of George W. Bush raised tariffs on imported steel products by nearly 30 percent, a move that analysts said was largely politically motivated.

Earlier this month the WTO ruled the US tariffs violated global trade rules after the EU lodged a complaint at the Geneva-based group.

It was joined by Brazil, China, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea and Switzerland.

Ma said the Chinese government attached great importance to the issue and was working with other WTO members to solve it.

CURRENCY

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

Sell	Currency		Buy		
	TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc	OD Transfer
58.7300	58.7800	USD	57.8700	57.7000	57.6310
70.6816	70.7417	EUR	68.2172	68.0168	67.9354
100.4577	100.5432	GBP	97.5399	97.2534	97.1370
43.1489	43.1857	AUD	41.0993	40.9786	40.9295
0.5464	0.5468	JPY	0.5274	0.5258	0.5252
45.3689	45.4075	CHF	44.0411	43.9117	43.8592
7.7891	7.7958	SEK	7.2528	7.2315	7.2228
45.3478	45.3865	CAD	44.0210	43.8917	43.8392
7.5779	7.5843	HKD	7.4525	7.4306	7.4217
34.4235	34.4528	SGD	33.6238	33.5251	33.4850
16.1209	16.1346	AED	15.6291	15.5832	15.5648
15.7864	15.7998	SAR	15.3099	15.2850	15.2467
9.7952	9.8035	DKK	8.9121	8.8859	8.8753

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Lankan Rupee	Thai Baht	Nor. Kroner	NZ Dollar	Malaysian Ringgit
45.61	56.4	95.75	39.910	6.8648	0.6382	3.80

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 20/11/2003.

Berth No.	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L. Port Call	Local Agent	Dt of Arrival	Leaving	Import Disch.
J/1	Ocean Pride	GI (Log)	Yang	PSAL	10/11	24/11	931
J/2	Oc Dignity	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	19/11	--	--
J/3	Bosowa Delapan	Sugar (P)	Viza	Able	6/11	24/11	1732
J/4	Ja Gang	Sugar (P)	Viza	Able	12/11	28/11	--
J/5	Jin Cheng	Fert/GI	S Hai	Bdship	8/11	21/11	1993
J/6	Genius Mariner	Sugar (P)	Tai	HSL	20/11	28/11	--
J/7	Blue Express	GI	P Kel	JF	18/11	21/11	259
J/8	Iduruwa Valley	Sugar (P)	Kaki	Able	6/11	23/11	--
J/9	Myeik	Sugar (P)	Thai	Pol	12/11	24/11	400
J/10	Banga Borat	Cont	P Kel	Bdship	18/11	22/11	320
J/11	Orient Excellence	Cont Cont	P Kel	PSSL	18/11	21/11	270
J/13	Oc-Honour	Cont	P Kel	QCSI	17/11	20/11	72

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	L. Port Call	Local Agent	Cargo	Load Port
Banga Bodor	20/11	P. Kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing/PTP
Sonali	20/11	Thai	Nishat	Sugar (P)	--
Jaami	20/11	Sing	RSL	Cont	Cbo
Kengtung (Liner)	21/11	Sing	Everett	GI (st.c.)	--
Asimont	21/11	PKL	Seaborne	Cont	Sing
Kota Cahaya	21/11	Sing	Pil (bd)	Cont	Mong
Rio Negro	22/11	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Toi Vijay	23/11	Yang	Kapalai	GI (log)	--
Barrier	22/11	Sec	Everbest	Cont	Col
Pioneer	22/11	Ukra	RSA	M. Seed	--
Banglar Moni	23/11	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Yong Jiang (Liner)	29/11	--	Bdship	GI	--
Banga Bonik	22/11	Chenn	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Kota Berjaya	22/11	Sing	Pil (bd)	Cont	Mong
Boluga Dependence	24/11	Sing	Pil (bd)	Cont	Sing
Developing Road GI	26/11	--	Bdship	Proj Cargo	--
Gemini-1	24/11	Kara	USL	M. Seed	--
Orient Freedom	24/11	Sing	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Cool Star	25/11	Sin	Everett	Vehi	--

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Revelation	Dr. Equip	Sing	lbsa	16/11
Dea Captain	--	--	lbsa	R/A (19/11)

Outside Port Limit

Revelation	Dr. Equip	Sing	lbsa	16/11
Dea Captain	--	--	lbsa	R/A (19/11)

Vessels at Outer Anchorage Vessels Ready

Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pil (bd)	20/11
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Vessels Not Ready

Rise	Sugar (P)	Viza	SSTL	23/10
Malakand	Sugar (P)	Kchi	SSTL	2/11
Banglar Shourabh	C. Oil	K. Dia	BSC	R/A
Al Kuwaitiah	Hsd/jip-1	Kuwa	MSTPL	18/11
Jimakos-1	Sugar (P)	Thai	Litmond	19/11
Bosowa Sembilan	Clink	Kaki	Uniship	19/11
Al Muztuba	GI	Yang	CLA	19/11

Vessels Awaiting Employment / Instruction

Banga Lanka	Ballast	--	Mong	Baridhi	08/11
Banglar Jyoti	--	--	--	BSC	R/A (19/11)

Vessels Not Entering

Continent-4	Salt	Kand	CLA	05/11
Aspen	Salt (P)	Kand	Apex	10/11
Amar	Sugar (P)	Kohsi	Safe	9/11
Prosperous Ocean	C. Clink	Karbi	ASLL	14/11
Litohoro	--	--	Rship	R/A (19/11)
Accord	--	Sing	Viking	05/04

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPAs supplied by I.I.C. Family, Dhaka.

STOCK