

## EU approves new approach to revive WTO round

AFP, Brussels

The European Union has approved a new mandate for its executive arm to pursue a more flexible approach designed to revive stalled talks at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

A meeting of EU foreign ministers late Monday said it "endorses the analysis of the (European) Commission and the approach the Commission proposes to explore", according to a statement.

The EU said it backed an early relaunch of the WTO's Doha Development Agenda "and is

determined to participate constructively and actively in efforts to this end".

It called on the Commission to explore negotiations with other WTO members "with a view to refining the EU negotiating approach in a number of areas".

"The EU expects all members of the WTO to act in the same spirit by being willing to reflect on their own approach and come back to the negotiations with the flexibility needed to show their commitment to a successful resumption of negotiations," the statement said.

WTO countries will attempt to

relaunch the liberalisation drive on December 15, following a failed ministerial conference in the Mexican resort of Cancun in September.

But little progress has been made and member states now doubt the current round of negotiations will be concluded by January 1, 2005, as originally planned.

The Cancun meeting collapsed because of disputes over farm subsidies in richer states and the high tariffs on agriculture imports from developing nations.

An added complication was the

European Commission's late insistence on tackling the so-called Singapore issues -- cross-border investment, competition, trade facilitation and government procurement.

Under its new mandate, the Commission says it is willing to separate negotiations on "one or all" of the four Singapore issues in a bid to break the deadlock.

But the official gathering on December 15 is expected to rubber-stamp whatever is decided at an informal meeting of WTO ambassadors on Tuesday, with diplomats predicting the impasse will continue.

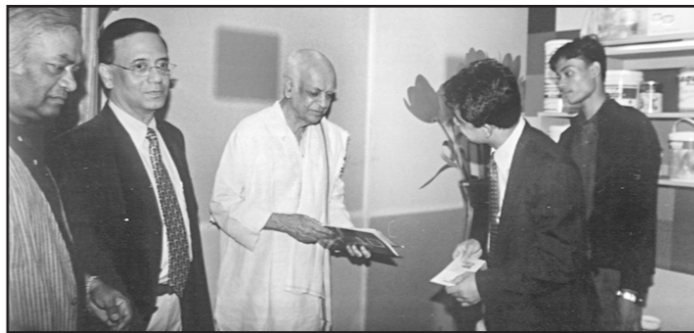


PHOTO: AQUA PAINTS

Architect Mazharul Islam along with Mobaswer Ali, acting president of Institute of Architect Bangladesh (IEB), and architect Rabiul Husain, former president of IEB, visits a stall of Aqua Paints at the just concluded international building material exhibition at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Friday.

## India for free movement of IT people

AFP, New Delhi

India said Tuesday it had offered to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) liberal movement of people into several domestic sectors in the hope of getting similar access to the service industries of other countries, particularly information technology.

"We have just finalised our initial conditional offer in services. We have offered enhanced access in terms of larger number of sectors and also introduced the category of contractual service suppliers," junior commerce minister S.B. Mookherjee said at an Asia Tech summit in New Delhi.

"We hope through this to empower ourselves to seek similar

commitments from our trading partners," he said, adding that India's stance for liberalisation of trade in services was derived from its strength in information technology.

He added India would measure the success of trade negotiations on the services sector based on the extent of crossborder movement of people allowed and provisions enabling it to attract more foreign investment.

"Indian IT companies and professionals have proved themselves to be the best in the world. We are trying, through the negotiations at the World Trade Organisation, to create an even more conducive environment for the export of services by the Indian information technology sector," he added.

## Chinese trade fair in Dubai generates \$112m

AFP, Dubai

The first two days of the second Chinese Commodities Fair in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has generated business deals valued at 112 million dollars, organisers said.

The five-day fair, which is being held in the Gulf emirate of Sharjah, part of the UAE, and runs until Wednesday, features 600 Chinese enterprises and 1,300 exhibitors.

A press statement said that total business worth 112 million dollars had been generated for exhibitors in its first two days, with an attendance of more than 9,300 visitors from 44 countries.

Investment prospects from China's thriving Shenzhen economic zone, near Hong Kong, have also led to the signing of three investment contracts worth 600,000 dollars, it said.

The UAE's bilateral trade with China increased 42.8 per cent in the first nine months of 2003 to 3.998 billion dollars, trade promoters Chinamex said last month.

Total trade for this year between the two countries -- linked since 1985 by an economic and trade accord -- is expected to hit five billion dollars, it said, making China the UAE's fifth biggest trade partner.



PHOTO: JANATA BANK

Managing Director of Janata Bank Murshid Kuli Khan and President of Export Import Bank of Thailand exchange documents after signing an agreement on Monday in Dhaka. The agreement will help implement account trade between Bangladesh and Thailand. Commerce Secretary Suhel Ahmed and Thai Ambassador in Dhaka Prithak Prombubpha are present.



PHOTO: JETAGE AIR SERVICES

Air Macau Commercial Director Wang Xuefeng along with leading passenger and cargo agents and other officials of JetAge Air Services Ltd, the GSA of Air Macau in Bangladesh, poses for a photograph during his recent visit to Dhaka.

## CURRENCY

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

Sell	BC	Currency	TT Clean	Buy	OD Slight Doc	OD Transfer
58.7300	58.7800	USD	57.8850	57.7150	57.6459	
72.5316	72.5933	EUR	70.0640	69.8582	69.7746	
102.5367	102.6240	GBP	99.6432	99.3506	99.2316	
44.1297	44.1673	AUD	42.0766	41.9530	41.9028	
0.5545	0.5550	JPY	0.5352	0.5336	0.5330	
46.7186	46.7594	CHF	45.3431	45.2099	45.1558	
8.0373	8.0441	SEK	7.4708	7.4488	7.4399	
45.5201	45.5588	CAD	44.1971	44.0673	44.0146	
7.5703	7.5767	HKD	7.4469	7.4251	7.4162	
34.4862	34.5156	SGD	33.6932	33.5943	33.5541	
16.1209	16.1346	AED	15.6332	15.5873	15.5686	
15.7855	15.7990	SAR	15.3131	15.2681	15.2498	
10.0655	10.0740	DKK	9.1448	9.1180	9.1071	

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Lankan Rupee	Thai Bath	Nor Kroner	NZ Dollar	Malaysian Ringit
45.56	57.3	96.5	39.880	6.6529	0.6473	3.80

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 09/12/2003.

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt Of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/1	Malakand	Sugar (P)	Kchi	SSTL	2/11	15/12	1571
J/3	Gulsum Ana	Clink	--	PSAL	3/12	17/12	2600
J/4	Ja Gang	Sugar (P)	Viza	Able	12/11	12/12	--
J/5	Rise	Sugar (P)	Viza	SSTL	23/10	16/12	431
J/6	Elise Oldendroff	Gi	Durb	PSL	6/12	9/12	3868
J/8	Al Muztuba	Gi (Yma/ Pulse)	Yang	Cla	19/11	11/12	241
J/10	Barrier	Cont	Col	Everbest	6/12	10/12	--
J/11	Orient Enterprise	Cont	Yang	PSSL	8/12	9/12	--
J/12	Asimont	Cont	P. Kel	Seabome	8/12	12/12	--
J/13	Banga Borat	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	6/12	10/12	365
CCT/2	Cc Dignity	Cont	P. Kel	QCSL	5/12	10/12	165
CCT/3	Orient Grace	Cont	P. Kel	PSSL	8/12	11/12	306

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Load port
Banga Bonik	10/12	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Col
Beluga Independence	9/12	Sing	Pij (Bd)	Cont	Sing
Orient Freedom	9/12	P.Kel	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Jaami	9/12	Hald	Everbest	Cont	Col
Zorina	9/12	Lumut	Move	Clink	MtoAra
Pathain	9/12	Yangon	GPSL	Gi	Polty Feed
Rio Nigro	10/12	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Mardios	10/12	P. Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Ocean Pride	12/12	--	PSAL	GI (Maize/Log/Sugar/Pul)	GI (St.C & Machinery)
Thanh Son	12/12	Kaoh	ASA	Cont	Sing
Banglar Moni	11/12	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Bright Star-1	16/12	Qinz	Pacific	TSP(Lag)	Sing
Sea Maiden	13/12	--	SSST	Wheat (G)	Sing
Xpress Resolve	12/12	--	Everbest	Cont	Col
Banga Bjoy	13/12	--	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Kota Cahaya	12/12	Sing	Pij (Bd)	Cont	Sing
Taraman Bibi	12/12	P. Band	Nishat	Clink	Col
Kota Singa	14/12	Sing	Pij (Bd)	Cont	Sing
Qc Star	15/12	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Borak	15/12	--	Bdship	Cont	Sing/P.Kel

### Tanker due

Ocean Moray	11/12	Sing	MSTPL	HSD/MS (RM)
Star Dream	11/12	Sin	Rainbow	LoI (RM/3)
Bunga Semarak	14/12	--	Rainbow	CPO (RM/3)

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
<b>Outside Port Limit:</b>				
Revelation	Dr. Equip	Sing	IBSA	16/11
Dea Captain	--	--	IBSA	R/A (6/12)
Afroditi	C. Oil	Rast	SSST	4/12
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	BSC	R/A

### Vessels at outer anchorage

<b>Vessels ready:</b>				
Banga Bodor	Cont	Col	Baridhi	5/12
Amar	Rice (P)	Kaki	Pacific	6/12

### Vessels not ready

Gemini	M. Seed	Hald	USL	2/12
Delos	FMP & GTSP	Sing	TOSL	3/12
Banga Birol	Cont	--	Bdship	R/A (5/12)
Wang Jae San	Sugar (P)	Kaki	Able	7/12
Handy Prince	Gi (St.C)	Sepet	Seaglory	8/12

These are shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by H.R.C. family, Dhaka.

## STOCK