

Trade officials from 30 states to resume talks this month

Says Indian minister

AP, New Delhi

Top trade officials from 30 countries plan to resume talks this month on a new global treaty based on an agreement made at the World Trade Organization meeting in Hong Kong, India's commerce minister said Sunday.

The talks in Davos, Switzerland, will be held at a meeting on the sidelines of the annual World Economic Forum summit, which government and business leaders from around the world are expected to attend, said India's Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath.

The forum's five-day meeting begins on Jan 25. After missing an initial target to set a framework for a new trade liberalization treaty during the Hong Kong talks in December, ministers from the WTO's 149 member governments now aim to hammer out specifics of tariff and subsidy cuts on industrial and farm goods by the end of April.

In Hong Kong, they resolved some key issues that had earlier blocked progress in the talks.

These included an agreement to eliminate trade-distorting export subsidies to farmers by 2013; giving developing countries more flexibility in opening their markets to

foreign competition; and giving exporters in the world's poorest nations duty-free access to wealthy countries' markets.

Nath, who emerged as an important negotiator during the Hong Kong talks, said some tricky issues - such as cutting domestic subsidies to farmers in rich countries - still need to be resolved to reach a new global trade treaty before the year ends.

Eliminating farm subsidies, which total billions of dollars a year, is a major demand of developing nations. They say such subsidies in the United States, Europe and Japan undercut the competitive advantage of farmers in poor countries,

and threaten their livelihoods.

Nath said key WTO member nations - such as the United States, the European Union, India, Brazil, Japan and Australia - were also planning to hold bilateral meetings to expedite the talks.

India plans to follow up the Davos talks with a bilateral meeting with the European Union in London on Jan. 30, he said.

Nath said he expected the World Trade Organization to convene a meeting of all member nations sometime in June to reach a consensus framework for a new, binding trade treaty.



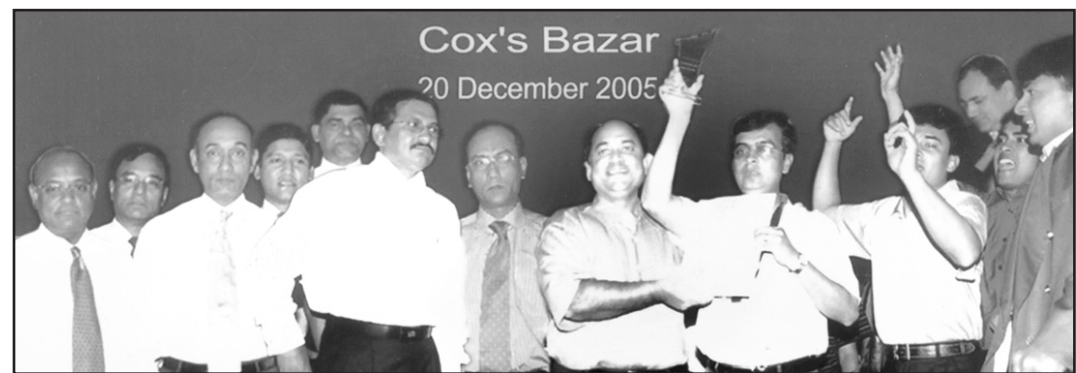
PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, managing director of Pubali Bank Ltd, inaugurates the shifted branch of the bank in Tongji, Gazipur recently. Other senior officials of the bank are also seen.



PHOTO: ORION INFUSION

Senior officials of Orion Infusion Ltd are seen at the company's 'Annual Sales Conference 2006' held recently in Cox's Bazar.



The 'Annual Sales & Marketing Conference 2005' of Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd was held recently in Cox's Bazar. Managing Director Tapan Chowdhury, Executive Director (Administration) MAH Chowdhury, Executive Director (Operations) Parvez Hashim, among other senior officials, were present at the conference.



Senior officials of Opso Saline Ltd are seen at the company's '19th Annual Marketing & Sales Conference 2005' held recently in Dhaka.

China for more Taiwan investment in mainland

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Hu Jintao has pledged better economic conditions for Taiwanese companies investing in the mainland and urged the island to establish direct links with China, state press said Sunday.

Hu was speaking Saturday to a group of Taiwanese businessmen in Fujian province, into which Taiwanese companies have ploughed billions of dollars of investment, the People's Daily reported.

"Your enterprises have grown very fast and this again shows that the investment by Taiwan businesses is beneficial to better profits, is beneficial to developing cross strait economic cooperation and is in the interests of pushing forward common economic development," Hu was quoted as saying.

"We welcome more Taiwan compatriots to come to the mainland to develop and through open cooperation, create wealth for both sides of the strait."

CURRENCY

Following is Sunday's (January 15, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	Buy	
					OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
68.4200	68.4500	USD	67.3000	67.2776	67.2327	
84.5192	88.5563	EUR	80.6456	80.6187	80.5849	
122.8429	122.8966	GBP	118.4817	118.4422	118.3632	
52.7997	52.8229	AUD	49.7818	49.7652	49.7320	
0.6059	0.6062	JPY	0.5841	0.5839	0.5835	
53.9973	54.0210	CHF	52.2070	52.1896	52.1548	
8.8851	8.8890	SEK	8.2826	8.2798	8.2743	
59.5164	59.5424	CAD	57.4428	57.4237	57.3854	
8.8379	8.8417	HKD	8.6708	8.6679	8.6621	
42.4679	42.4885	SGD	41.1596	41.1458	41.1184	
18.7797	18.7879	AED	18.1749	18.1689	18.1568	
18.3895	18.3976	SAR	17.8033	17.7974	17.7855	
11.6025	11.6076	DKK	10.5255	10.5220	10.5150	
230.8497	230.9531	KWD	229.1782	228.1782	229.1782	

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.1	59.87	102.1	39.600	6.6349	0.6993	3.74

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was subdued. Demand for USD remained high in the market.

Local Money Market

Money market was active. Call money rate eased after Eid and ranged between 20.00 and 30.00 percent compared with 20.00-50.00 percent previously.

International Market

International market was closed on Sunday. The dollar slipped against the euro on Friday after European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet said the bank must be vigilant in watching inflation expectations, using a buzz word that traders interpreted as hawkish. On Thursday, Trichet's omission of the word "vigilant" was viewed as less hawkish than expected and pressured the euro lower.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 15/1/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt Of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Siner Sejati-2	Wt. Cement	Bang	MBL	18/1	16/1	1190
J/2	Halda-048	Gl(SL Hc)	Mani	Barwil	11/1	16/1	3342
J/3	Midwest Angela	Spl. Cargo	Sing	Trident	13/1	16/1	X
J/5	Qc Star	Cont	Sing	QCSL	11/1	17/1	93
J/6	African Jaguar	Sl. Scrap	Aust	Everett	12/1	21/1	2293
J/7	Klirak	Urea(b/c)	Chn	PSL	5/1	16/1	24
J/8	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	11/1	18/1	80
J/9	Xiang Jiang	GI	Tian	Cosco	7/1	15/1	109

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Eastern Sea	16/1	Col	Seacon	Cont	Col
Tai Kang Hai	16/1	Hald	RSA	Ms. Billets	-
Uthai Navee	15/1	Kaki	Move	C. Clink	Schl/gazi
Ocean Hope	15/1	Kochi	Bashundara	C. Clink	-
Ataraxia	15/1	-	PSAL	Urea	Bdc
Coastal Express	15/1	Kol	BSC	Cont	Chnn
Antigoni-b	15/1	-	PSSAL	Salt	-
Germana	15/1	Sin	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Bass Bulker	16/1	Tampa	BSL	Tsp	-
Kyaw Yadanar	15/1	Yang	MTA	Gily. Map)	-

Tanker due

Onozo	23/1	Jebe	OWSL	Crude Oil	-
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Vessels at Kutubdia

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

Ionikos	C. Oil	Rast	OWSL	1/1
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	-	BSC	R/A
Asia Atlas	Ballast	-	Barwil	8/1

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Oel Enterprise	Cont	Sing	PSSL	11/1
Banglar Shikha	Cont	P. Kel	BSC	12/1
Cec Mayflower	Cont	Col	Seacon	12/1
Acoaxet Lady	F. Oil	Sing	PSL	12/1
Kota Rukun	Cont	Sing	Pi(Bd)	12/1
Possanger	CDSO	Sant	Rainbow	13/1
Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pi(Bd)	14/1
Oel Wisdom	Cont	Col	PSSL	14/1

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

STOCK