

US urges WTO nations to take risks for trade deal

AFP, Davos, Switzerland
The United States on Thursday urged its trading partners to take risks and push for a balanced deal in struggling global trade talks, ahead of a meeting of WTO nations in Switzerland.

Portman smoothed over differences with the European Union and instead raised pressure on wealthier developing countries such as Brazil and India.
'In the ideal world you would have on the table some offers on increased access to the emerging developing countries for manufac-

tured products, matched by new proposals on market access to the developed country markets on agriculture,' he told reporters at the World Economic Forum in Davos.
'That would be a lot to ask because it involves a lot of risks on the part of all the parties but I think

that's what's needed now,' he added.
Ministers from about 25 key World Trade Organisation members, including the United States, European Union, India, Brazil, and WTO chief Pascal Lamy were due to hold an informal meeting in Davos on Friday.

Although there have been hopes they would try to move ahead on fundamentals of a trade deal, the Swiss, who organised the meeting, have billed it as an attempt to map out the path for the talks in coming months.

Ministers and senior officials were Thursday already holding private bilateral meetings in Davos in what was widely described as a relaxed atmosphere.
Portman placed the emphasis on opening up industrial and services markets, a key demand industrialised powers like the United States and European Union have been making of their poorer counterparts in return for opening up rich-country agricultural markets.



State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir inaugurates a 'Model Room' of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel at the National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation in the capital recently.

Dhaka Sheraton opens 'Model Room' at Parjatan's training institute

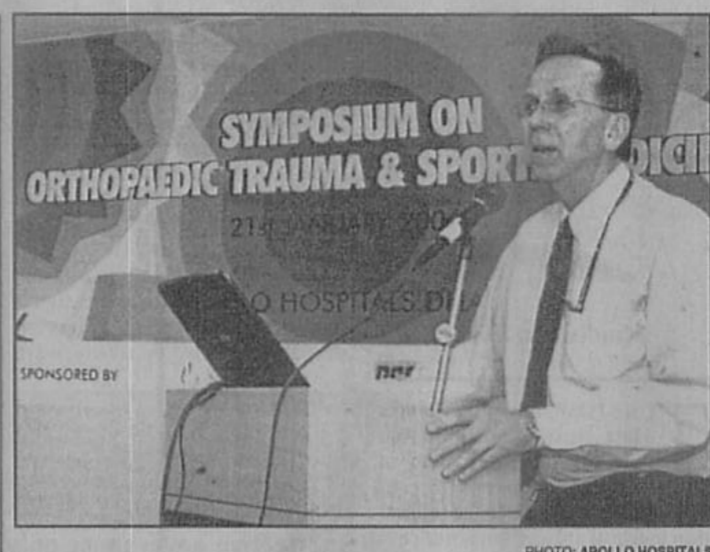
In a bid to help the trainees of tourism industry get better and practical knowledge about a five-star hotel, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel has recently opened a 'Model Room' at the National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute (NHTTI) of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC).

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir formally inaugurated the model room, says a press release.
Mahfuzul Hoque, BPC chairman, among others, was present at the inauguration.

The model room as a Sheraton deluxe room will help the trainees at NHTTI familiarise themselves with the room amenities true to the five-star standard.



The 11th annual business conference of Prime Bank Ltd was held on Thursday in Dhaka. Qazi Saleemul Haq, chairman of the Board of Directors of the bank, M Shahjahan Bhuiyan, managing director, and other senior officials were present at the conference.



Richard Larison, chief executive officer of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, speaks at a symposium on 'Orthopaedic Trauma and Sports Medicine' organised by the hospital recently in Dhaka as part of its continued medical education programme.

Weekly Currency Roundup

Local FX Market
Demand for US dollar was high in this week and USD remained bullish against Bangladesh taka.
Money Market
In the Treasury bill auction held on Sunday, bid for BDT 5,213.00 million was accepted, compared with total of BDT 9,338.00 million in the previous week's bid. Weighted average yields remained at the same level.
Over night call money rate ranged between 8.00 and 10.00 percent in the beginning of the week. The rate rose to 10.00-12.00 percent during the middle of the week before closing the week at 9.00-11.00 percent.

The dollar dropped to four-month lows against the euro and Swiss franc on Monday after comments from a Federal Reserve official added to selling last week on a growing belief that the Fed's tightening cycle is near an end. Worries about an escalation in the standoff between Iran and the West over Tehran's nuclear programme, a surge in oil prices and a sharp slide in Wall Street stocks on Friday also gave risk averse investors more reason to sell US dollar.

The dollar steadied against the euro during the middle of the week, staying away from 4-month lows hit the previous session, but with any fresh advance stemmed by worries the Federal Reserve is nearly finished with monetary tightening. The dollar has fallen sharply earlier in the week after Fed officials suggested the central bank's 18-month credit tightening cycle was nearly over and highlighted the dangers of the large US trade and budget deficits. On the data front, the focus in Europe was seen turning to Germany's Ifo business sentiment survey, for evidence of further confidence in Europe's biggest economy. It is expected to climb to 99.8 in January a five-year high, from 99.6 in December.

The dollar steadied on Thursday in cautious trade, hovering above recent four-month lows against the euro ahead of US economic growth data on Friday and next week's Federal Reserve policy meeting. After large swings earlier in the week, currencies were seen starting to settle as traders wait to see whether US gross domestic product figures due on Friday and the Fed meeting on Tuesday give investors more reasons to dump dollars. The dollar was steady against yen, after hitting 2-week highs on Wednesday in buying fuelled by stop-loss orders and options triggers. The New Zealand dollar held interest rates at 7.25 percent, but made slightly hawkish comments.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Table with columns: Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 28/1/2006. Includes columns for Birth No., Name of vessels, Cargo, L. Port call, Local agent, D of arrival, Leaving, Import disch.

Table with columns: Name of vessels, Date of arrival, L. Port call, Local agent, Type of cargo, Loading ports. Lists various vessels like Thor Scan, OGD Qidry, Xpress Nupte, etc.

Table with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo call, Last Port, Local agent, Date of arrival. Lists vessels like Onzo, Banglar Jyoti, Wira Kari, etc.

Table with columns: Name of vessels, Date of arrival, L. Port call, Local agent, Type of cargo, Loading ports. Lists vessels like Independent Spirit, Ocean Park, etc.

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

Advertisement for Corporate Bazaar featuring a large number '2' and the text '2 days to go'. Includes website www.corporatebazaar.com and dates for the event.

TRADED ISSUES IN THE WEEK

Large table with columns: Company, FV/ML (Tk/A), Price, Turnover, Share, DSE, CSE, Financial Performance. Lists various companies like AB Bank, City Bank, etc.

Weekly Market - January 23-26, 2006

Table with columns: Indicators, DSE, CSE, Financial Performance. Shows market indices and performance metrics.

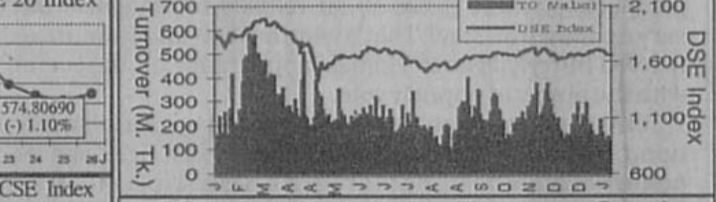
Table with columns: Company, Price, Turnover. Lists turnover leaders like Dhaka Stock Exchange, Chittagong Stock Exchange, etc.

Table with columns: Company, Price, Turnover. Lists capital gainers like Dhaka Stock Exchange, Chittagong Stock Exchange, etc.

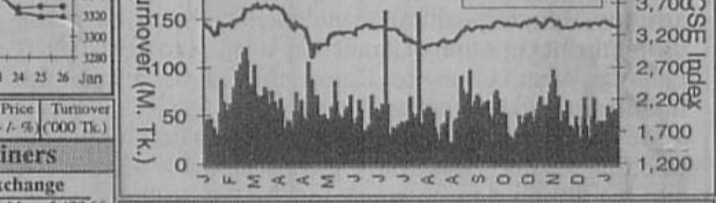
Table with columns: Company, Price, Turnover. Lists capital losers like Dhaka Stock Exchange, Chittagong Stock Exchange, etc.

Table with columns: Company, Price, Turnover. Lists book closers/AGM/Dividend/ IPO like Dhaka Stock Exchange, Chittagong Stock Exchange, etc.

DSE: One Year Index Turnover Graph



CSE: One Year Index Turnover Graph



Non Traded Issues

Table with columns: Company, FV/ML, Last, Last Trading Day, Last Trading Price, Last Trading Day, Last Trading Price, Last EPS, DPS, AGM (Tk.) (%). Lists various non-traded issues.

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