Key WTO nations set detailed timeline on global trade talks

WTO chief Pascal Lamy and ministers from 19 nations agreed on a detailed timeline Saturday to smooth progress over global trade talks, which one participant said was entering its "end game"

After the first political gathering since the World Trade Organisation's full ministerial conference in Hong Kong last month, Lamy said about 40 percent of a landmark deal on breaking down barriers to commerce still needed to be secured by the agreed

deadline of the end of the year. "There was a shared but sober realisation of what needs to be done," Lamy told journalists.

deadline," he added. "They all know they have to move. Some of the most contentious

issues, opening up markets for

farm trade, as well as industrial goods and services, are still on the

"We are entering the end game period, but we will be successful,' Swiss Economy Minister Joseph Deiss, who chaired the informal meeting, said in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos.

The ministers set out a timetable of intermediate steps that need to be completed on the way to two key meetings in April and July that were agreed on in Hong Kong, he added.

Full details were not made available because the rest of the WTO's 149 members still have to examine them.

Lamy said the trade talks had 'Nobody has questioned this covered "60 percent of the road on average", although he acknowledged that the negotiators have "a big nut to crack on agriculture and on non-agricultural market

Mercantile Bank Limited

Arab Bangladesh Bank Limited

Shah Md Nurul Alam, managing director and CEO of Mercantile Bank Ltd, and Kaiser A Chowdhury, president and man-

aging director of Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd, exchange documents after signing a drawing arrangement agreement

recently. The deal will facilitate channelising remittance and cash payment between the two banks for mutual benefits.

"The question is, how do we move 40 percent of the way in one year?" he added.

The primary battleline pits wealthy nations such as the United States and members of the European Union against the G20 group of poor countries led by emerging nations Brazil and India.

Those four key actors were among the 19 present on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, representing a crosssection of trade interests.

Developing countries want the United States and European Union to dismantle agricultural import barriers, while industralised nations are demanding that the G20 and others open up industrial markets and services.

An EU offer for tariff cuts on farm trade is regarded as insufficient, a similar one from the United States has been questioned, and each side is pressing the other to make the next move.

The timeline was designed to set intermediate targets showing what negotiators should achieve in the detailed technical talks over the coming weeks and months, and

That would allow the WTO to assess the state of progress on the way to the deadlines in Hong Kong and apply pressure where needed, the trade officials said. Many trading nations are insisting on parallel progress on all issues.

"That's absolutely key, to move in concert," Lamy said.

Ministers will be called in along the way when necessary, because some of the issues -- notably agricultural subsidies and import tariffs -- and the trade-offs will demand political choices from the



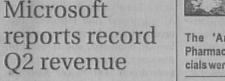
Thursday. The figure represented

Earnings per share were 33 cents, as forecast, while net earnings were 3.65 billion dollars, according to the company.

two percent drop in operating income on missed sales targets for

nesses was healthy during the quarter, driven by strength in Server and Tools and the success of our Windows Client products in a robust PC market," Microsoft chief financial officer Chris Liddell said in a written statement.

"The quarter also marked the beginning of an important product cycle for Microsoft with the launches of Xbox 360, SQL Server 2005, Visual Studio 2005 and Microsoft Dynamics CRM 3.0, all of which were extremely successful and well received by our customers.'



AFP, San Francisco

US software colossus Microsoft had record revenue of 11.84 billion dollars (US) for the financial quarter that ended December 31, 2005, the company reported on

Microsoft's best single-quarter revenue to date and was a nine percent increase over the same quarter a year earlier.

A company statement blamed a

the new Xbox 360 as well as marketing and product development expenses associated with major product launches. "The growth in our core busi-

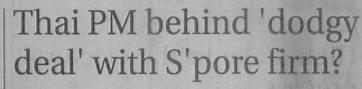
He also underlined the need of

launching a coordinated marketing offensive by participating in the exhibitions that are being held time to time in Chinese major cities. Ma Yi said some Chinese companies have shown interest working together with their Pakistani friends to enhance their textile business in the international market.

Several Chinese delegations have recently visited Pakistan to explore the possibility of undertaking joint ventures in textile and other fields, he added.

Pakistani companies can contact the China Textile Association and textile importers to expand their business links. Many textile companies of the developing countries have already opened up their representative offices in Western Chinese coastal cities like Shanghai, Guangzhou, Dalian and Tianjin to take full advantage of

Sunny Daj, vice-general man-



ANN/THE NATION

Emerging evidence suggests Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra condoned a questionable deal preceding his family's Bt73.3billion (US\$1.9-billion) sale of Shin Corp shares, Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva said Friday.

"Based on newly uncovered evidence, preparations for the Shin Corp transaction were not straightforward, and their manner has raised questions about tax liability and stock-market rules," Abhisit

Even though the sale of the company was a private deal, Thaksin should be held accountable for any legal improprieties because of his dual position as both prime minister and the Shinawatra business empire's nominal head, the Democrat leader stressed He added that the main opposi-

tion party would conclude its own

investigation into the sale of Shin

Corp within a month. The party's

probe will first zero in on suspi-

cious circumstances surrounding the transaction just three days

before the takeover of the company

by Singapore's Temasek Holdings,

an investment branch of the

During the suspect transaction,

Ample Rich, an offshore invest-

ment company located in the

British Virgin Islands, sold its 10.97

per cent of Shin equity stakes back

to two of Thaksin's children,

Panthongtae and Pinthongta, at

A few days later Panthongtae

and Pinthongta sold their shares to

Temasek at Bt49 (US\$1.26)per

tigate the reason behind the trans-

action between Ample Rich and

Thaksin's two children," the party

He added that the Revenue

Department and the Securities and

Exchange Commission owed it to

the Thai public to spell out the

leader noted.

"The Democrat Party will inves-

Bt1 (three US cents) per share.

Singapore government.



An official of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Ltd

In Bangladesh interviews a visually impaired candidate at Blind Education

Rehabilitation and Development Organisation (BERDO) recently. The HSBC

has joined hands with the BERDO to provide opportunities for a number of

visually impaired people. HSBC has offered internship to two students with

the prospect of full-time employment upon successful completion.

The 'Annual Marketing & Sales Conference-2006' of Jayson Pharmaceuticals Ltd was held recently in Dhaka. Directors and senior officials were present at the conference.

Pakistan eyes enhanced textile trade with China

Pakistan sees wide prospects to enhance its trade with China in textile sector, under the Early Harvest Programme (EHP) that came into effect this month.

Textile covers about 70 percent of Pakistan's total exports to China. However, it is mostly in raw form, mainly cotton yarn. The EHP provides a new opportunity to Pakistani traders convert their export products to China into

To encourage trade with Pakistan, China now provides 27 percent cut in tariff on import of cotton fabrics, manmade fabric, home textile and towels, said Ma Yi a senior member of China's Textile

In an interview with APP, he said the Chinese government encourages companies to enhance trade with Pakistan, under the free trade arrangements. Pakistani firms, he added should try to introduce high-quality textile products in the Chinese market to receive a more favourable response.

growing textile market in China.

ager of Yibin Grace group based in China's Sichuan Province, said the two countries can also establish textile industrial units in joint ventures to produce export-oriented goods.

enforcement of tax laws and stockmarket regulations pertaining to the Shinawatra family's sale of their empire's flagship business.

The transaction involving Ample Rich has raised several unanswered questions and may set a dangerous precedent for other investors trying to avoid paying taxes and circumventing stock market regulations through the manipulation of loopholes, Abhisit said.

"Many people are puzzled by the tax-collection standards of the Revenue Department, as average citizens are required to pay taxes while a huge tax liability is granted special exemption," he said.

Democrat MP Korn Chatikavanij has been appointed by the party to lead the team investigating the sale of Shin shares. "I will try to see if the prime

minister has used his position to secure lenient treatment for his family as well as pledge future favours in order to induce Temasek into signing the deal," Korn said. He added that Thaksin himself had conceded that it had not been easy to find a buyer willing to pay Bt70 billion for Shin Corp. Korn said he was particularly

interested in monitoring events as they had unfolded with regard to Temasek's Singapore Telecommunication and Shin's Advanced Information Service. He was referring to the licensing review for 3G mobile services.

Precedents have indicated that Thaksin might be willing to bend the law to benefit his family, he

A case in point was the law on foreign ownership, which was amended after Thaksin came to power to reduce the legal cap on foreign ownership in Thai companies to 25 per cent of equity stakes from 49 per cent, he said, which derailed a business plan of DTAC, a rival mobile-phone operator.

Yet three days before the Temasek deal, a revised law came into effect capping foreign ownership back at 49 per cent, he noted.



GLØBAL

Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, chairperson of Adcomm Ltd, an advertising firm, and Jahangir Alam, managing director

of Matador Group, a local business enterprise, sign an agreement on behalf of companies recently. Under the deal,

Adcomm will execute all kinds of advertisements for Matador for one year.



GD-126

Ministry of Agriculture Barind Multipurpose Development Authority Office of the Executive Engineer Naogaon Region-1, Naogaon

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/division	Ministry of Agriculture.
2	Agency	Barind Multipurpose Development Authority.
3	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer.
4	Procuring entity district	Naogaon.
5	Tender No	BMDA/Nao-11/2005-2006, Date 16/01/2006.
6	Invitation Ref. No	Memo No-2021, Date 16/01/2006.
7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.
8	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
9	Project/Program name (if applicable)	Command Area Development Project.
10	Tender package name	Supply of 200mm outer dia uPVC pipes and fittings.
11	Tender last selling date & time	13/02/2006, time up to office hour.
12	Tender Receiving date and time	14/02/2006, time 3.00pm.
13	Tender opening date and time	14/02/2006, time 3.30pm.
14	Name & address of the Office(s)	Address
	-Selling tender document (principal)	Office of the Executive Engineer, BMDA, Naogaon Region-1 Naogaon.
	-Selling tender document (others)	(a) Office of the Executive Director, BMDA, Rajshahi. (b) Office of the Executive Engineer, BMDA, Naogaon-2/Nawabgoni/Rajshahi Region.
15	Receiving tender document	Office of the Executive Engineer, BMDA, Naogaon Region-1 Naogaon.
16	Opening tender document	Office of the Executive Engineer, BMDA, Naogaon Region-1 Naogaon.
17		uPVC pipe & fittings production plant.

manufactures regarding supply of uPVC pipe & fittings.

Above eligible with trade licence, VAT registration certificate, TIN (Tax-payer's Identification Number) in compliance of Clause 184 Income Tax Ordinance Financial Act, 1997 person/firms may purchase tender documents showing their above original certificate. Attested photocopies of the same must be attached with tenders to be dropped. Or more than one supplier with certificates from single original manufacture only the first applicant will get the permission for purchase of tender documents.

Brief description of goods. Supply of 200mm outer dia uPVC pipes & Nominal wall thickness of uPVC pipes & fittings Minimum 2.5 mm Price of tender document (Tk) Tk. 10,000.00 (ten thousand) (non refundable Location of delivery: Completion time: 90 days 20 Tender security amount: 5.00 lac Taka

Different store of from the date of signing of Name of official inviting tender Md. Shamsul Huda Designation of official inviting tender **Executive Engineer** Address of official inviting tender BMDA, Naogaon Region-1, Naogaon. Contact details of official inviting tender 0741-52179 25 (a) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

(b) If the tenderer submits any false/incorrect or forged certificate, the tender security may be forfeited.

Note: In under any unavoidable circumstances tender documents selling, receiving and opening are not

possible on the fixed date as stated above then the next working day will be applicable for the same

respectively. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. Md Shamsul Huda Executive Engineer Barind Multipurpose Development Authority Naogaon Region-1, Naogaon

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

র্য়াপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭

পতেনা চট্টগ্রাম

শ্মারক নং-র্যাব-৭/বিজ্ঞপ্তি/২/২০০৫

তারিখঃ ২৩ জানুয়ারি ২০০৬

২০০৫-২০০৬ অর্থ বৎসরে র্য়াপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম এর সদর দপ্তরের জন্য মালামাল ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে "পিপিআর ২০০৩" এর রেগুলেশন-১২ মোতাবেক যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন এবং দেশের কোন আইন দ্বারা অযোগ্য নন ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা

31	কাজের নাম	র্য়াপিড এাকেশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭ এর সদর দপ্তরের জনাঃ
		ক। বিবিধ মালামাল - গ্ৰ•প ক
1100		খ। আসনাবপত্র - গ্রন্থ খ
		গ। যন্ত্রপাতি ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি - গ্রুপ গ
21	মস্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
01	দরপত্র আহ্বায়ক	পরিচালক, র্যাপিড এয়াকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭।
81	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজ নং	नाटकार्धे-२/२००६-२००५।
@1	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সত্র ও তারিখ	শারক নং ৭৭৫০/২/বিল/র্যাব-৭ তারিখ ১৫ জানুয়ারি ২০০৬।
91	দরপত্রের মূল্য	প্রতি ফ্রন্স ৪০০/-(চারশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
91	দরপত্র প্রান্তির স্থান	র্যাপিড গ্রাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
61	বায়নার টাকা	ক। বিবিধ মালামাল - ১৫,০০০/- টাকা
	(আর্নেস্ট্যানি) এর	খ। আসবাবপত্র - ৮,০০০/- টাকা
	পরিমাণ	গ। যন্ত্রপাতি ও অন্যান্য সরক্ষামাদি - ৮,০০০/- টাকা
16	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	র্য়াপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
301	দরপত্র বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০০৬ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যস্ত।
221	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০০৬ সময় ১২০০ ঘটিকা।
251	দরপত্র বক্স খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০০৬ সময় ১২৩০ ঘটিকা। র্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
100	দরপত্র খোলার	উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতা অথবা তাদের প্রতিনিধির
	সময় উপশ্বিতি	সম্পুথে দরপত্র বন্ধ খোলা হইবে (খদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে)।
781	দরপত্র দাখিলের শর্ত	দরপত্র দাখিলের শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ করা হইয়াছে।
501	বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বনিম্ন

দরপত্রসহ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার

পরিচালক

র্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম

ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

বিভি-১৮৮

1 Ministry/Division

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Agriculture Barind Multipurpose Development Authority Office of the Executive Engineer Naogaon Region-2, Patnitala, Naogaon

Invitation for Tenders

2	Agency	Barind Multipurpose Development Authority
3	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer.
4	Procuring entity district	Naogaon.
5	Tender No	BMDA/Nao-06/2005-2006 Date 17/01/2006
6	Invitation Ref. No	Memo No-1806 Date 17/01/2006
7	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
8	Budget and source of funds	GOB
9	Project/program name (if applicable)	Command Area Development Project.
10	Tender package name	Supply of 200mm outer dia uPVC pipes and fittings.
11	Tender last selling date & time	14/02/2006, Time up to office hour.
12	Tender receiving date and time	15/02/2006, Time 3.00pm.
13	Tender opening date and time	15/02/2006, Time 3.30pm.
14	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
	- Seiling tender document (principal)	Office of the Executive Engineer, BMDA, Naogaon Region-2, Patnitala, Naogaon.
	- Selling tender document (others)	 (a) Office of the Executive Director, BMDA, Rajshahi. (b) Office of the Executive Engineer, BMDA, Naogaon- 2/Nawabgon//Rajshahi Region.
15	Receiving tender document	Office of the Executive Engineer, BMDA, Naogaon Region-2 Naogaon.
16	Opening tender document	Office of the Executive Engineer, BMDA, Naogaon Region-2, Naogaon.
17	Eligibility of tenderer	

(c) Original manufacturer having own uPVC pipe & fittings production plant. (d) Representative of original manufacturer or recognised suppliers having certificate of original manufacturers

regarding supply of uPVC pipe & fittings Above eligible with trade licence, VAT registration certificate, TIN (Tax-payer's Identification Number) in compliance of Clause 184 Income Tax Ordinance Financial Act, 1997 person/firms may purchase tender documents showing their above original certificate. Attested photocopies of the same must be attached with tenders to be dropped. Or more than one supplier with certificates from single original manufacture only the

first applicant will get the permission for purchase of tender documents. Brief description of good: Supply of 200mm outer dia uPVC pipes & fittings. | Nominal wall thickness of uPVC pipes & fittings Minimum 2.5mm 19 Price of tender document (Tk) Tk. 10,000.00 (ten thousand) (non-refundable.

Location of delivery: Different | Completion Time: 90 days store of BMDA | from the date of signing of 20 Tender security amount: 5.00 lac Taka from the date of signing of Md. Shamsul Huda 21 Name of official inviting tender 22 Designation of official inviting tender Executive Engineer

0741-52030 Contact details of official inviting tender (a) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

(b) If the tenderer submits any false/incorrect or forged certificate, the tender security may be forfeited. Note: In under any unavoidable circumstances tender documents selling, receiving and opening are not possible on the fixed date as stated above then the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively. All other terms and conditions will be remain unchanged.

BMDA, Naogaon Region-2,

Md Shamsul Huda Executive Engineer
Barind Multipurpose Development Authority
Naogaon Region-2, Patnitala, Naogaon.

23 Address of official inviting tender

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