

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...

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...

Thai PM behind 'dodgy deal' with S'pore firm?

ANN/THE NATION

Emerging evidence suggests Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra condoned a questionable deal preceding his family's \$1.9-billion (US\$1.9-billion) sale of Shin Corp shares...

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...

During the suspect transaction, Ample Rich, an offshore investment 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 Pinthongtae...



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 '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

APP, Beijing

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 per cent 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 value-added.

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

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.

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.



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



Geeteara Saffiya 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.

Microsoft reports record Q2 revenue

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 Thursday.

The figure represented Microsoft's best single-quarter revenue to date and was a nine per cent increase over the same quarter a year earlier.

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

A company statement blamed a two percent drop in operating income on missed sales targets for the new Xbox360 as well as marketing and product development expenses associated with major product launches.

"The growth in our core businesses 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.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Ministry of Agriculture. Barind Multipurpose Development Authority. Office of the Executive Engineer. Naogaon Region-1, Naogaon. Invitation for Tenders. Includes details of tendering process, eligibility, and contact information.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. পরিচালকের কার্যালয়. র‍্যাপিড গ্র্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭. পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. Includes details of tendering process and contact information.

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. Includes details of tendering process and contact information.

See you tomorrow. 11:00 am to 9:00 pm. Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre.