

Global trade talks seek care

Global talks on cutting down trade barriers will come under close care over the coming months while top-level political attention is sought to help nurse the stuttering WTO negotiations through to completion at the end of the year.

The troubled five-year-old talks received a shot in the arm with an agreement by 19 World Trade Organisation members Saturday on a detailed timeframe designed to guide the talks through to intermediate stages in late April and July.

After a "modest success" at the Hong Kong ministerial conference in December, WTO Director General Pascal Lamy said after the meeting in the Swiss Alpine resort of Davos that all 149 trading nations needed to "move forward in concert".

"The challenge is great. We've

got a big number of topics and secondly, most of the work has to be done in the first half of this year," Lamy said, while praising the constructive atmosphere among members.

"They're all in a state of mind where we're nearing the end game. They still need to put the chips on the table, but we're not there yet," he added.

The snow-topped hotels of Davos and lobbies of the World Economic Forum were teeming with senior trade officials for three days.

While the media was kept at arms reach, private contacts between ministers from opposing camps were by all accounts frank, but friendly and productive.

"I did hear some new things this morning which I can't repeat," Lamy said.

European Union Trade

Microsoft chief vents optimism on India, China

PTI, Davos, Switzerland

Microsoft CEO Bill Gates on Friday expressed optimism on India and China as they were showing tremendous changes in technology.

Addressing the World Economic Forum, Gates expressed great optimism about India and China and continuously referred to them as regions where tremendous change was taking place.

"While China has become the largest broadband country in the world," Gates said, adding "Indian market was growing and now faces the challenge of taking the latest technology to the rural areas."

He said that technology was also being used for disease reduction and new products. He elaborated on how the cellphone had transformed from an ear instrument to giving access to the internet and many more functions.

Gates said though, India and China may not be paying for software, sales in these two countries was increasing and Microsoft was very much there to stay. Moreover, personal computer sales were growing by 11 percent.



The 'Managers' Conference-2006' of Dhaka Bank Ltd. was held recently in the capital. Chairperson of the bank, Rokshana Zaman inaugurated the conference, which was presided over by Managing Director Shahed Noman.



Winners of 'Aarong BRAC Bank Fun Festival' campaign pose for photographs with the officials of the bank and Aarong at an award-giving ceremony recently in Dhaka.



Richard Larison, chief executive officer of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, inaugurates an information centre of the hospital at east Zindabazar in Sylhet recently. The centre will remain open from Saturday to Thursday from 10am to 7pm.



Khondkar Ibrahim Khaleq (C), managing director of Pubali Bank Ltd, speaks at the first conference of regional managers and heads of corporate branches of the bank on Thursday in Dhaka. Other senior officials are also seen.

CURRENCY

Table showing exchange rates of various currencies against US dollar as of Sunday, Jan 29, 2006. Columns include Sell, Buy, and various currency rates.

Table showing exchange rates of various currencies against US dollar. Columns include Indian rupee, Pak rupee, Lankan rupee, Thai baht, etc.

STOCK

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES January 29, 2006

Large table listing today's traded issues, including company names, FV/ML, DSE, CSE, and Financial Performance metrics.

Day's Market - January 29, 2006

Table showing indicators for the day's market, including DSE, CSE, and 7 days DSE 20 Index.

Table showing turnover leaders and capital gainers in the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

Table showing capital losers in the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

Table showing Chittagong Stock Exchange turnover leaders and capital gainers.

Table showing Chittagong Stock Exchange capital losers.

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Table showing berthing position and performance of vessels as on 29-1-2006.

Table showing vessels at Kuttubdia.

Table showing vessels at outer anchorage.

Table showing vessels awaiting employment/instruction.

Table showing vessels not entering.

Table showing vessels at outer anchorage.

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

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