

## Six trading powers to spur WTO talks in London

AFP, Geneva

Six trading powers are due to meet in London Friday to try to narrow their differences ahead of a looming deadline for talks on bringing down barriers to commerce at the World Trade Organisation.

With just two months to go before an intermediate stage in a troubled four-year-old negotiations, an arrangement between Australia, Brazil, the European Union, India, Japan and the United States is widely regarded as essential if the 143 other WTO members are to follow.

These countries meeting in the British capital are not expected to make huge strides in the Doha round of trade liberalisation talks, which were launched in 2001 in the Qatari capital.

The six countries or regions, which represent a cross-section of trading interests in the talks, will be gathering for the first time since the WTO ministerial conference in Hong Kong overcame one long-standing obstacle that had defied previous deadlines.

The 149 WTO members agreed to eliminate export subsidies for farm produce by 2013.

However, wide differences remain between rich and poor

countries, net exporters and net importers, over tariffs for agricultural products as well as industrial goods and services.

Trade officials have set a deadline of April 30 for a settlement of those issues in order to sew together the technical details of a comprehensive barrier-busting trade deal by the end of the year.

In agriculture, the United States is demanding cuts of up to 90 percent on some tariffs, while the European Union does not want to go beyond 60 percent.

Meanwhile, a similar hurdle needs to be overcome for industrial goods, known as Non Agricultural Market Access (NAMA), which largely pits

rich industrialised countries against poor or emerging nations.

"Converging on key issues, that mostly mean numbers, is becoming urgent," said Don Stephenson, the Canadian ambassador trying to steer the negotiations on NAMA.

"The window for concluding the round in 2006 is awfully small. I would hope that they would begin to converge on the key modalities and at least begin to narrow the range of numbers," he added ahead of the London meeting.

In a recent interview with the French newspaper Le Monde, WTO Director General Pascal Lamy summarised the battlelines.



Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd (DBBL) under its 'Smile Brighter Program' organised a four-day plastic surgery campaign for cleft-lipped children in Chittagong City recently.



The annual conference of branch in-charges and executives of Global Insurance Ltd was held recently in Dhaka. Chairman of the company Syed Badrul Alam inaugurated the conference, which was attended by other senior officials.



Chairperson of Dhaka Bank Rokshana Zaman, directors, managing director and other senior officials pose for photographs with the participants of a foundation training course for bankers organised by the bank recently in the capital.



Aileen Ali, vice chairman of JIT International Ltd, a garments buying house, receives ISO 9001:2000 certificate from Ataur Rahman Khan, country manager of Moody International Bangladesh Ltd, at a function recently. Mir Hasan Ali, chairman, Zakir Hossain, country manager, and Abu Jafar Nizami, managing director of JIT International, were also present at the function.

## US business mission backs Vietnam's WTO accession

AFP, Hanoi

A US business delegation Wednesday voiced support for Vietnam joining the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as executives from 21 American companies started a visit to the communist country.

Vietnam, which is now negotiating WTO membership, has received recent boosts to its dynamic economy as corporate giants including the world's leading chipmaker Intel decided to set up plants here.

"Vietnam has recently been called the new frontier of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)," said US-ASEAN Business Council president Matthew Daley ahead of the tour of business hub Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi.

"I believe that our mission's large contingent of companies is a reflection of the business opportunities Vietnam has to offer in the ASEAN region.

"Vietnam's accession to the WTO is of enormous significance, and our companies look forward to it," he said in a statement.

## CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's (March 8, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy
TT/OD	BC
72.2200	72.2500
USD	USD
71.1500	71.1263
71.0789	71.0789
86.8012	86.8373
EUR	EUR
83.5088	83.4809
83.4252	83.4252
126.3344	126.3869
GBP	GBP
122.2926	122.2519
122.1703	122.1703
54.0567	54.0791
AUD	AUD
51.2992	51.2821
51.2479	51.2479
0.6221	0.6224
JPY	JPY
0.6011	0.6009
0.6005	0.6005
55.6352	55.6583
CHF	CHF
53.7062	53.6883
53.6525	53.6525
9.4248	9.4287
SEK	SEK
8.6152	8.6123
8.6065	8.6065
63.5124	63.5388
CAD	CAD
61.3098	61.2893
61.2485	61.2485
9.3258	9.3297
HKD	HKD
9.1459	9.1429
9.1368	9.1368
45.2195	45.2382
SGD	SGD
43.4743	43.4598
43.4308	43.4308
19.8243	19.8326
AED	AED
19.2162	19.2098
19.1970	19.1970
19.4114	19.4194
SAR	SAR
18.8223	18.8160
18.8034	18.8034
11.9841	11.9891
DKK	DKK
10.9072	10.9036
10.8963	10.8963
243.9572	244.0606
KWD	KWD
241.7875	241.7092
241.5527	241.5527

### Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.25	59.94	102.63	39.185	6.7224	0.6493	3.72

### Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was active on Wednesday. Demand for USD continued to remain high in the market.

### Local Money Market

Money market was active on Wednesday. Call money rate was almost unchanged and ranged between 10.00

### and 12:00 percent.

### International Market

The yen recovered slightly from the previous day's two-week lows against the dollar on Wednesday as investors awaited a potential end to the Bank of Japan's ultra-loose monetary policy on Thursday.

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 8/3/2006.

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	Lport call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/1	Kyaw Yadanar	GI (Y Ma/Pu)	Yang	Mta	R/A	8/3	700
J/2	Sarim	Wheat	Kersh	Litmond	16/2	--	1740
J/3	Seiyo-18	GI	Viza	Tmml	3/3	8/3	1861
J/4	Coastal Express	Cont	Viza	Bsca	2/3	8/3	132
J/5	Sweet Emma	GI (Pa/St)	Bush	Prog	5/3	10/3	2292
J/6	Kola Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pli (Bd)	1/3	9/3	274
J/7	Hanjin Brisbane	Wheat (P)	Russ	USL	22/2	10/3	2100
J/8	Win Moony	Urea (BCIC)	Qatar	Seacom	3/3	12/3	2032
J/9	Taraman Bibi	Urea (BCIC)	Qatar	Nishat	28/2	9/3	1672

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Lport call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Seaboss-1	9/3	Kant	ASLL	C Clink	Aman
Tim	8/3	Cebu	AHZ	Scraping	--
Caraka Jaya Niaga-III-32	8/3	Ind	Mutual	Bunker	--
Iran Sarbaz	8/3	S Kore	Uniship	C Clink	Mir/MTC
Banga Bijoy	10/3	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Banga Lanka	10/3	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Sing
Banga Barta	10/3	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Shang Hai Guan	9/3	Inchon	Cosco	GI	--
Sea Master One	9/3	Sing	Pml	Cont	Sing
Volcano	9/3	Uae	Rsship	Scraping	--
Rss-1	10/3	Indo	Pacific	C Clink	--

### Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Lport call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Atora	8/3	Sing	OTPL	Fuel (RM/3)	--
Crete	9/3	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD	--
Al Badiyah	12/3	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/MS	--

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival

### Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Kota Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pli (Bd)	3/3
Oel Enterprise	Cont	Sing	PSSL	4/3
Banga Borak	Cont	PKel	Bdship	4/3
Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	5/3
Emily-C	Cont	Col	Seacon	5/3
Blue Star	Rice (G)	Kaki	Saraf	6/3
Ultima	Cont	P Kel	PSSL	7/3
Banglar Shikha	Cont	P Kel	BSC	7/3
Germana	Cont	Sing	QCCL	7/3
Eltanin	Wheat (G)	K Dia	OWSL	7/3

### Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Yaad-E-Mostafa	Sugar	Chenn	CLA	22/2
Carina-II	Sugar	Durb	Mutual	23/2
Ocean Venture	Sugar	Tuti	Mutual	2/3
Champion Pioneer	Hsd	Kuwa	MSTPL	7/3
Al Muztuba	Salt	Kand	CLA	8/3

### Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicorn	10/11/2004
Xpress Manaslu	--	PKel	Seacon	R/A (21/12)
Xpress Resolve	--	Col	Seacon	R/A (21/12)
Salamat-2	--	--	Nishat	R/A (20/2)
Salamat-3	Ballast	Yang	Nishat	4/3
Banglar Kallol	Ballast	Dubai	BSC	8/3

### Vessels not entering

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Genesis	Ballast	Sing	QCCL	5/2
Ocean Heart	Salt	Kand	Sigma	13/2
KS Harmony	C Clink	Tanj	ASLL	5/3
Pavonis	Salt	Col	PML	4/3

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

## STOCK