

WTO powers inch towards trade deal as deadline looms

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Leading trading powers said Saturday after talks here that they had inched forward on crafting a WTO deal, but the global body still faces an uphill task to clinch agreement by the end of this month.

US Trade Representative Rob Portman, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim said the informal two-day meeting, which was joined by WTO chief Pascal Lamy, had been "candid" without yielding any major breakthrough.

tours of a deal, but neither do we have an empty canvas," Mandelson told a joint news conference.

Each representative stuck to his guns in pressing for the concessions that each says others have to make to fulfil the World Trade Organization's "Doha Round" ambition of enriching the lives of millions of the world's poor through freer trade.

Amorim, whose country is a leading player in the G20 bloc of developing countries, stressed that agriculture must come first and foremost in the Doha negotiations.

"We all know we have to have some movement. The question is how much and how," the Brazilian foreign minister said.

"The true negotiation has to be processed in Geneva (at WTO headquarters)."

Brazil, backed by its partners in the G20 bloc, such as India and South Africa, insists the European Union must slash the generous trade protection afforded to its farmers.

Agricultural reform, they argue, would do more than anything else to better the lives of the world's poorest citizens.

But the EU, backed to an extent

by the United States, retorts that developing nations must give something in return through opening their markets to more industrial imports and service industries.

Mandelson said that France, which is commonly seen as the staunch defender of generous European subsidies for farmers, was not in fact opposed to agricultural reform but wanted it to take place in a "prudent and managed" manner.

"Our job is to create a sustainable agricultural sector in Europe, not to put farmers out of business," the EU trade chief said.



PHOTO: BSHRM

Mamun Rashid, chief executive officer of Citibank NA, Bangladesh, addresses a seminar titled 'The Role of HR Professionals in Corporate Governance' arranged by Bangladesh Society for Human Resource Management (BSHRM) held in Dhaka on Saturday. Musharraf Hossain, president, and Parveen Huda, joint secretary of BSHRM, are also seen.



PHOTO: JANATA BANK

Janata Bank Managing Director SM Aminur Rahman (L) presides over the 'Branch Managers Conference-2006' of Chittagong division of the bank in Chittagong recently.

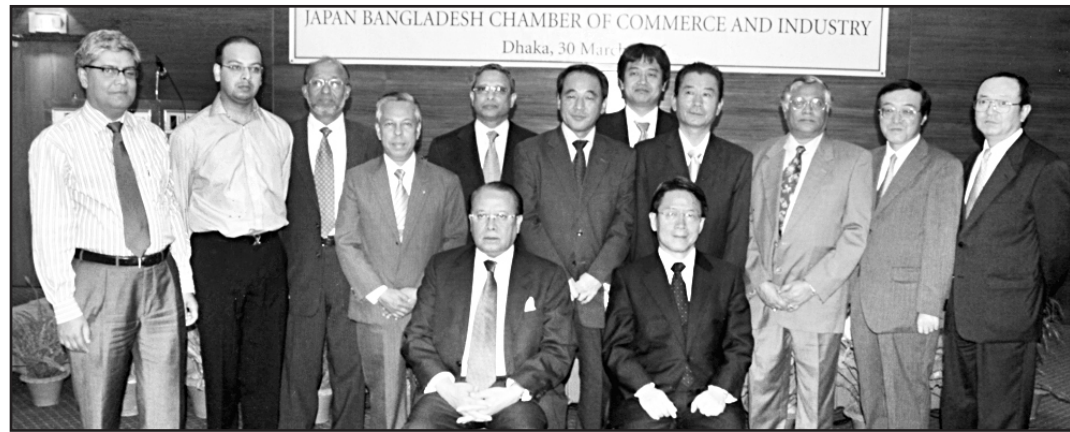


PHOTO: JBCCI

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Matsushiro Horiguchi are seen along with the newly elected board of directors of the Japan Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI) at the 2nd annual general meeting of the chamber held in Dhaka on Thursday.



PHOTO: APOLLO HOSPITALS

Richard Larison, chief executive officer of Apollo Hospital, Dhaka, and Arun Bansal, managing director of Ericsson AB, exchange documents after signing an agreement on behalf of their companies held in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Apollo Hospitals will provide medical services and special corporate benefits for the staff of Ericsson AB.

Pakistan, Lanka trade bodies ink MoU to set up jt business council

APP, Islamabad

Pakistan and Sri Lanka have agreed to set up a Joint Business Council between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of both the countries.

The signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was witnessed by the Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse at a breakfast meeting and an interactive session arranged by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Saturday.

Besides the Pakistani businessmen, the meeting was attended by the members of visiting Sri Lankan delegation including leading businessmen from Sri Lanka. FPCCI and FCCISL -- Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Sri Lanka -- signed the MoU for setting up a Joint Business Council to boost trade and economic cooperation between the private sectors of two countries.

President FPCCI Chaudhury Muhammad Saeed and President FCCISL Nawaz Rajabdeen signed the MoU in presence of the President Rajapakse.

Earlier, President FPCCI Chaudhury Muhammad Saeed in his address urged the need of increased bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

CURRENCY

Following is Sunday's (April 2, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy
TT/OD	TT Clean
71.7700	70.7000
88.5139	84.7905
125.9348	121.7949
52.6146	49.5678
0.6167	0.5958
55.4551	53.7152
9.1963	8.5914
61.9241	59.8645
9.2596	9.1004
44.8675	43.5452
19.6986	19.0937
19.2894	18.7012
12.1453	11.0331
242.3974	240.3179

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.5	59.995	102.575	38.875	6.5521	0.6174	3.68

Local Interbank FX Trading
Local interbank FX market was subdued on Sunday. Demand for USD remained stable versus BDT.

Local Money Market
Money market was active on Sunday. Call money rate ranged between 25 and 30 percent.

International Market
International market was closed on Sunday. The dollar rallied on Friday after a slew of economic data reinforced the view that the Federal Reserve will most likely raise US rates at least once more this year.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 2-4-2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Amanat Shah	Rice(G)	Kaki	Cla	28/3	5/4	2246
J/2	RSS-1	C. Clink	Indo	Pacific	23/3	3/4	610
J/3	Excellent	C. Clink	Sing	Mbl	22/3	--	2980
J/4	Kyaw Yadanar	Gl(y. Map)	Yang	Mia	21/3	2/4	238
J/5	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	25/3	4/4	140
J/7	Love Star	Urea	Qatar	Litmond	25/3	5/4	1303
J/8	Hun Jiang	Gl	Chin	Cosco	29/3	3/4	2297
J/9	Capella	Gl(Pa/st)	Hochi	Prog	1/4	6/4	1189
J/10	Cape Bonavista	Cont	K. Kel	Bdship	28/3	4/4	264
J/11	Banglar Shikha	Cont	P. Kel	Bsc	25/3	4/4	206

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Selat Mas	2/4	Sing	Vega	Cont	Jakarta
Romy	2/4	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
EI Enterprise	2/4	Col	Pssl	Cont	Col
Nancy	2/4	Nant	Move	C. Clink	Ano/star
Pressing	3/4	--	Pacific	Scraping	--
Freedom	2/4	Sant	Usl	Raw Sugar	--
QC Honour	4/4	Pkl	Qcsl	Cont	Sing
Emily-C	3/4	Col	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Banga Bodor	5/4	Pkl	Baridhi	Cont	Pkl
Oel Excellence	3/4	Sin	Pssl	Cont	Col
Phu Tan	4/4	Ptp	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Ocean Star	3/4	Sing	Qcsl	Equip(Oil & Gas)	--
Hone Ywa	6/4	Yang	Mia	Gl(Y. Ma)	--
Kota Cahaya	4/4	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Mgl

Tanker due

Chembulk Ulsan	Rasawulan	Thistle
2/4	3/4	8/4
Aqaba	Sing	Rast
Seacom	Jl	Owsl
Phos Acid	Phos Acid	Crude Oil
Cufl	Cufl	--

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	30/3
Oel Freedom	Cont	Ptp	Pssl	30/3
QC Teal	Cont	P. Kel	Qcsl	31/3
Banga Lanka	Cont	Sing	Bdship	31/3
Marisa Green	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	31/3
Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	Pml	31/3
QC Star	Cont	Malay	Qcsl	28/3
Martraveller	Cont	Sing	Api	1/4
Salamat-3	Bitumen	Hald	Nishat	1/4
Western Star	Cont	Sing	Vega	1/4
Oel Wisdom	Cont	P. Kel	Pssl	1/4
Kota Ria	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	2/4

Vessels not ready

Brave Royal	C. Clink	Thai	Brel	25/3
Shwe Thara Phu	Gl(Beany. M)	Yang	Tcl	26/3
New Hope-II	Slag	Viza	Move	31/3
Black Rose	C. Clink	Chin	Litmond	31/3
Cey Pioneer	Gl(st. Bil)	Viza	Bsl	31/3

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicorn	10/11/2004
Xpress Manaslu	--	P. Kel	Seacon	R/A (21/12)
Express Resolve	--	Col	Seacon	R/A (21/12)
Banga Barta	Ballast	Col	Baridhi	10/3
Yaad-e-Mostafa	--	--	Cla	R/A (29/3)
Power	--	--	Saraf	R/A (1/4)
Diamond	Ballast	Hol	Cosco	31/3

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

STOCK