

G7 vows to resist protectionism

Pledges support for Doha round

AFP, Washington
The Group of Seven industrialized nations pledged support Friday for the faltering Doha round of trade liberalization talks and vowed to resist protectionism.
G7 ministers and central bank governors meeting here said in a final statement they would "resist protectionism and promote liberalization of trade and investment including an ambitious outcome from the Doha Development

Round."
Their statement came at a critical moment in the round, which is currently foundering and threatened with collapse in the face of lingering disagreements on how to reduce trade-distorting subsidies and slash import tariffs.
In Geneva Friday, World Trade Organization negotiators acknowledged that a key deadline would likely be missed, throwing into doubt chances for completing the round by the end of the year as the

WTO had hoped.
European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said the WTO's 150 member governments had failed to narrow their differences sufficiently to reach an outline agreement on cutting tariffs and other trade barriers by the target date of April 30.
The Doha round was launched with great fanfare in the Qatari capital in late 2001 and is aimed at harnessing freer trade as a means to improve living standards in

developing countries.
Failure to complete the process, it is feared, could give rise to a wave of protectionism.
Already in Europe recent moves by France and Spain to resist takeovers of French and Spanish companies by foreign investors have sparked protectionist concerns.
The G7 groups Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.



PHOTO: BANGLALINK
Banglalink recently opened its 12th sales center in Savar. Rumana Reza, customer care director of Banglalink, formally inaugurated the centre. Among others, Kazi Monirul Kabir, direct sales manager, Md Shawkat Ali Mian, direct sales assistant manager, and GM of Kallol Group of Industries Anisul Haque were present.

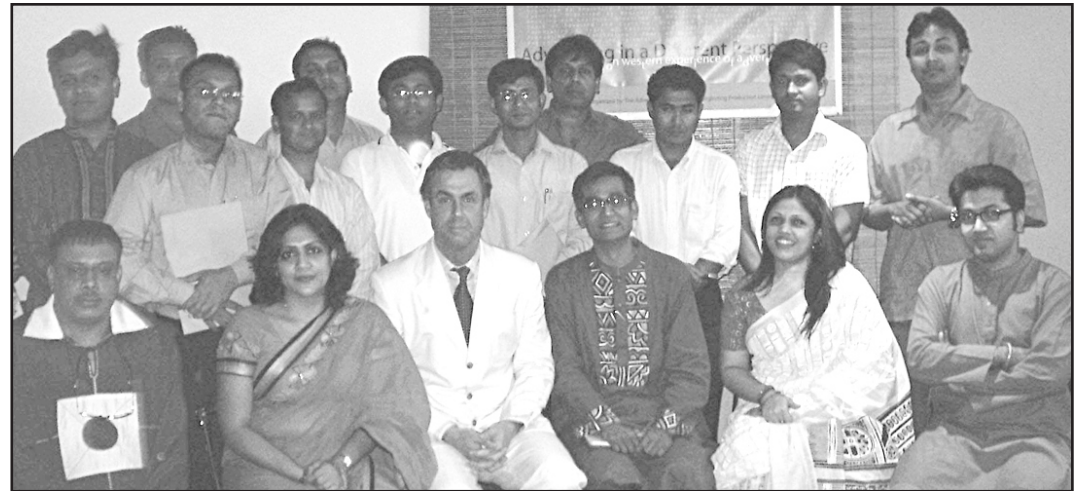


PHOTO: BEGINNING PRODUCTION
Participants of a seminar pose for photographs in Dhaka recently. The seminar was jointly organised by Beginning Production Ltd, an advertising agency, and The Advertising Club Dhaka to mark the 5 years of operations of Beginning Production.

MRDI starts advocacy session for journalists

The Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) has inaugurated its first advocacy session for journalists on WTO and trade issues in Barisal yesterday.
Correspondents of national dailies from Barisal, Bhola and Patuakhali and reporters from local dailies participated in the session held at BDS auditorium, says a press release.

The session discussed international trading system, trade policy and WTO and their implications for Bangladesh. Zillul Hye Razi, trade adviser, Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh, and Tanim Ahmed, senior staff reporter of the New Age, attended the session as resource persons.

MRDI organised the session under a project titled "Open Flow of Info on Trade & Economy", supported by Delegation of the European Commission. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) is giving technical assistance to this project.

The aims of this project are to develop a critical mass of journalists well-versed in WTO and EC rules and issues, post-MFA market access scenario, EU trade- and investment-related legislation and preferential trade facilities like the GSP, trade barriers, FDI and TRIPS.

MRDI will organise similar advocacy sessions in Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chittagong. Besides, residential foundation and advanced training will be organised for economic journalists of national dailies and TV channels.

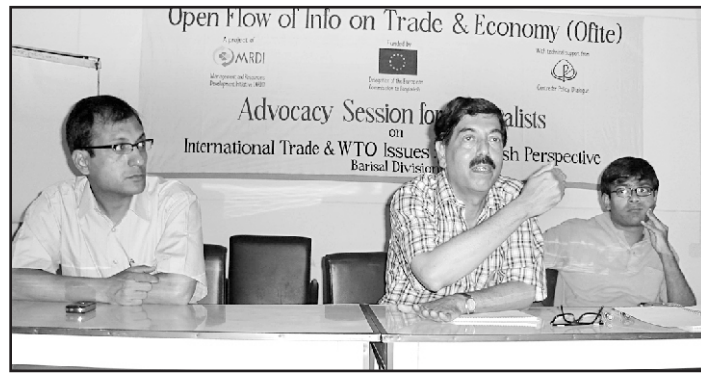


PHOTO: MRDI
Zillul Hye Razi (centre), trade adviser, Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh, speaks at an advocacy session for journalists on WTO and trade issues in Barisal yesterday as Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) Executive Director Hasibur Rahman (left) and Tanim Ahmed, senior reporter of the New Age, look on.



PHOTO: GP
Officials of GrameenPhone's (GP) Customer Management Division pose for photographs at a function to exchange views with subscribers under its 'Grahok Katha' programme in Rajshahi on Friday. Among others, Musfek Ahmed, head of Programme Office, Mahmudul Hasan, head of International Roaming, Shahid Muhiduzzaman, head of Credit Management, Ashfaquzzaman Choudhury, head of Travelers to customers, Iskandar Mirza, regional head of Customer Manager of Rajshahi division, were present.

ADF okays debt relief to 13 African states

XINHUA, Addis Ababa

The African Development Fund (ADF) has approved 8.5 billion US dollars for financing debt relief to low-income countries in Africa under the fund's multilateral debt relief initiative (MDRI).

According to a press release posted Friday on the fund's website, 13 African countries, including Ethiopia, will be immediate beneficiaries of the debt relief initiative.

The other 12 immediate beneficiary countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, according to the release.

"The aim of the MDRI is to assist the eligible countries make progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), while preserving the long-term financing capacity of the ADF," the release said.

The African Development Fund, part of the African Development Bank Group, provides long-term interest free loans, grants, and policy assistance to the poorest countries in Africa to reduce poverty and spur economic growth. It finances investments in health, education, agriculture, sanitation, and infrastructure.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 20/4/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/1	Biti-M	GI(St. Bil)	Chenn	Rsa	15/4	24/4	3838
J/4	Maribor	GI	Sing	Ancl	18/4	21/4	1060
J/5	QC Teal	Cont	Col	Qcsi	16/4	20/4	--
J/6	Coastal Express	Cont	Kol	Bsca	16/4	20/4	164
J/7	Yong Jiang	GI	Inch	Cosco	18/4	23/4	2895
J/8	Oel Enterprise	Cont	Col	Pssl	18/4	21/4	244
J/9	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	14/4	20/4	228
J/10	Independent Spirit	Cont	Sing	Apl	10/4	20/4	--
J/11	Banga Borti	Cont	Sing	Bdship	13/4	21/4	147

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Dolphin-II	20/4	Viza	Sunshine	GI(St. Bil)	--
Brave Royal	20/4	Kant	Brsi	C. Clink	Royal
Phu Tan	21/4	Ptp	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Oel Wisdom	21/4	Col	Pssl	Cont	Col
Zorina	22/4	--	Seacom	C. Clink	17500 Ctg
Esham	22/4	P. Kel	Cel	Cont	Sing
Continent-4	22/4	P. Band	Cla	GI(S. Ash)	--
Karnat Tari	22/4	--	Seacom	--	--
Phu My	22/4	P. Kel	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Oel Excellence	22/4	Cbo	Pssl	Cont	Col
San Mateo	23/4	Sing	Nyk	Vehi	5 Pkgs
Kota Ratna	22/4	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
QC Honour	23/4	P. Kel	Qcsi	Cont	Sing
Pretty Flourish	23/4	Novo	Mutual	Wheat(P)	--
Banga Bodor	24/4	P. Kel	Baridhi	Cont	P. Kel

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Astia Lion	21/4	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd
Gaz Millennium	21/4	Hald	Mbl	Ammonia
Navakun-21	22/4	Mala	Jnship	Cpo(RM/3)
Tabtim	23/4	Lumut	Rainbow	Cpo(RM/3)
Smooth Sea-III	23/4	Lumut	Rainbow	Cpo(RM/4/3)
Al Kuwailah	24/4	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	lbsa	R/A(12/4)

Outside port limit

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	lbsa	R/A(12/4)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	14/4
New Sea Star	Cont	Sing	Qcsi	16/4
Kolana	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	17/4
Marisa Green	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	17/4
Banglar Shikha	Cont	Sing	Bsc	18/4
Cape Henry	Cont	Sing	Apl	18/4
Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	Pml	18/4
Oel Freedom	Cont	Ptp	Pssl	15/4
Western Star	Cont	Sing	Vega	18/4
Banga Braj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	16/4
Emily-C	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	19/4
Stolt Orchid	Phos. Acid	Isabela	Bdship	19/4
Romy	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	19/4
Express Manaslu	--	P. Kel	Seacon	R/A(21/12)
Express Resolve	--	Col	Seacon	R/A(21/12)

Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banglar Shourabh	C. Oil	K. Dia	Bsc	R/A
Kan Cape	R. Seed/Wt	Vanc	Usl	16/4
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	K. Dia	Bsc	R/A

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

G-24 calls for political commitment to world trade talks

XINHUA, Washington

Ministers of the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four (G-24) have called for renewed political commitment by rich and poor nations to make progress in the critical global trade liberalization talks that are currently in difficulties.

In a communique released on Friday after its 75th meeting held here before the joint spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, G-24 ministers said "many critical issues have yet to be agreed upon, which underscores the need to increase the political commitment on the part of both developed and developing countries to a successful and ambitious outcome" on the Doha Round world trade negotiations.

The G-24 ministers also warned that many developing countries were "off-track" in efforts to meet the Millennium Development goals, which was adopted by world leaders

in 2000 and called for the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day to be halved by 2015.

While they welcomed an increase in aid and debt relief commitments by rich countries, G-24 stressed that "mechanisms are needed to ensure that these commitments are adhered to."

G-24 ministers also renewed their instance that developing countries be given a stronger voice in the leadership of the World Bank and the IMF and said measures were needed to ensure that wealthy nations honor their aid commitments.

The G-24 countries called for rapid progress toward increasing the representation of their governments in the World Bank and the IMF and said "concrete progress" was "imperative" ahead of the next annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF to be held in Singapore in September.