

## EU promises more concessions

### Still hopeful about trade talks

AFP, Brussels

The European Union refused to give up hope on Wednesday for stalled global trade talks and vowed to cut its generous support of its farmers if its trade partners made similar sacrifices.

With progress on key issues such as agriculture and industrial tariffs proving elusive, the World Trade Organization has abandoned plans for a top-level meeting this week.

With the clocks ticking, ministers were planning to pin down the outline at the meeting for an overall agreement to be reached by the end of the year.

Eager for the talks not to grind to a halt, EU trade chief Peter Mandelson renewed a promise to go further on a standing offer to cut EU farm support, but only if the United States showed similar flexibility on its agriculture offer.

"If the circumstances allow -- if key partners put something worthwhile on the table -- the EU will be prepared to further enhance our current agricultural offer," Mandelson told a news conference.

"If the US is similarly willing ... to negotiate further on its agriculture offer, that is an important advance. I welcome it," the trade commissioner added.

"I will waste no opportunity to test this willingness in the coming period."

In Geneva, the United States said it would not make a new offer to cut subsidies unless it got a guarantee that the European Union would slash its customs duties first.

"We've always said that the offer we put on the table in October on domestic support was conditional on other members improving their offers on market access," the US ambassador to the WTO, Peter Allgeier, told AFP.

However, he said that the US would be prepared to talk.

"We are ready to negotiate. The

offer we made in October is not a take-it-or-leave-it offer," he said.

"It depends on what we see on the table."

Agriculture is one the main stumbling blocks holding back progress in the stalled talks and both Washington and Brussels have long traded accusations that the other is not offering big enough cuts in support to farmers.

Singling out Brazil, China and India, Mandelson also stressed that emerging economic powers had to show they were ready to compromise, especially on reducing their tariffs on industrial products.



PHOTO: JCI BANGLADESH

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Patricia A. Butenis poses for photographs with the JCI (Junior Chamber International) Bangladesh Board members in a recently held reception jointly organised by US Embassy and JCI Bangladesh. Among others, JCI Bangladesh National President S Rumi Saifullah was present.



PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

Md Sirajul Islam Bhuiyan, deputy managing director of Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Ltd, and Mir Rashedul Hossain, deputy head of Corporate Sales of mobile phone operator GrameenPhone (GP) Ltd, pose for photographs at an agreement signing ceremony recently. Under the deal, GP will provide complete communication facilities under its 'Business Solutions' package for the bank. Other senior officials from both the sides are also seen.

## China raises interest rates to keep economy on track

AFP, Beijing

China's central bank said Thursday it had raised its one-year benchmark lending rate by 0.27 percentage points to 5.85 percent in an effort to ensure "healthy and sustainable" economic growth.

"All other loan rate categories will be adjusted accordingly," the bank said in a statement on its website.

It said deposit rates would remain unchanged.

There had been speculation the authorities could move to tighten monetary policy after first quarter figures released last week showed the economy grew a faster-than-expected 10.2 percent, sparking fears of overheating.

The government had warned this week that it would take steps to rein in certain industry sectors felt to be most at risk of over-investment.

The rate hike "was made in an effort to strengthen macro-economic controls and maintain the overall trend of a sustainable, fast-paced, coordinated and healthy economic development," the central bank said in its statement.



PHOTO: EEC BANGLA GROUP

A Bangladesh-Thailand joint venture project, Switzerland-based coffee outlet 'Boncafe', was opened at Gulshan-2 in Dhaka on Saturday. Suphat Chitrakroh, Thai ambassador in Dhaka, and Palash Barua, managing director of EEC Bangla Group of Companies, the franchisee of Boncafe, among others, were present at the inauguration.



PHOTO: BENGAL ROOTS

Aminul Islam, chief executive of Bengal Roots, distributor of Habasit products in Bangladesh, speaks at a technical seminar on 'Habasit Printing Blankets' held recently in Dhaka. N Subramaniam, managing director of Habasit-lakoka Pvt Ltd, India, and Rajesh Parikh, managing director of Parikh Patel & Co, among others, are seen.

## CURRENCY

Following is Thursday's (April 27, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buy		
			TT Clean	OD Sight	Doc Transfer
70.3200	70.3500	USD	69.2000	69.1769	69.1308
88.5891	88.6269	EUR	85.0883	85.0600	85.0032
126.4002	126.4541	GBP	122.2764	122.2356	122.1541
54.0620	54.0851	AUD	51.3049	51.2878	51.2536
0.6209	0.6212	JPY	0.5990	0.5988	0.5984
56.0542	56.0781	CHF	54.0119	53.9939	53.9579
9.7948	9.7990	SEK	8.8931	8.8902	8.8842
63.0277	63.0546	CAD	60.7337	60.7135	60.6730
9.0889	9.0928	HKD	8.9033	8.9003	8.8944
45.3034	45.3228	SGD	43.4892	43.4747	43.4457
19.3022	19.3105	AED	18.6891	18.6828	18.6704
18.8987	18.9067	SAR	18.3049	18.2988	18.2866
12.2502	12.2555	DKK	11.0928	11.0891	11.0817
237.4410	237.5444	KWD	235.3828	235.3067	235.1545

### Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Norwegian	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.94	59.985	102.78	37.575	6.2809	0.6320	3.63

### Local interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was active. USD was stable against Bangladeshi taka.

### Local Money Market

Money market was active. Call money rate eased and ranged between 15.00 and 17.00 percent compared with 16.00-20.00 percent previously.

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 27/4/2006

Berth No.	Name Of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Brave Royal	C. Clink	Krabi	BRSL	21/4	28/4	3270
J/3	Ken Cape	R. Seed/WI	Vanc	USL	16/4	3/5	1817
J/5	Continent-4	GI(S.Ash)	P. Band	Cia	22/4	2/5	410
J/6	Paragon Pescadores	GI(St. C)	Sing	H&SL	25/4	28/4	2003
J/7	Western Star	Cont	Sing	Vega	18/4	28/4	358
J/8	Express Resolve	Cont	--	Seacon	R/a	27/4	--
J/9	OEL Freedom	Cont	PTP	PSSL	15/4	28/4	176
J/10	Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	PML	18/4	28/4	133
J/11	Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	16/4	29/4	347
J/12	Cape Henry	Cont	Sing	APL	18/4	--	--
J/13	Pu Trusty	Cont	Col	Seacon	20/4	29/4	210
CCT/1	Phy My	Cont	P. Kel	RSL	22/4	29/4	385

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Yongxing	27/4	PTP	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Coastal Express	27/4	Chenn	BSCA	Cont	Kol
Osg Bosstec	27/4	CBO	Seacon	Cont	Col
Vana	27/4	Nant	USL	C. Clink	Uni/Star
Alphaship	27/4	Pirae	JF	--	--
Xpress Makalu	28/4	PKL	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Kulnatee	28/4	Tanj	BSL	C. Clink	HCBL
Uranus	30/4	Yang	Everett	Urea	K(U)
Sea Bridge	28/4	Mong	Bshun	--	--
Caraka Jaya Niaga-iii	28/4	Viza	Mutual	GI(St. Bil)	--
Sea Master One	28/4	Sing	PML	GI(P. Cargo)	Sing
Diana Scan	29/4	P. Kel	Sunshine	--	--
Liberty Glory	29/4	Kala	Lams	Wheat(care)	--
OEL Enterprise	30/4	CBO	PSSL	Cont	Col
Kota Petani	29/4	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing

### Tanker due

Bonvoy-III	28/4	Lumut	Rainbow	CPO(RM/3)
Seal	28/4	--	MTCL	CPO(RM)
Mount Rainier	30/4	Kuwa	MTPL	HSD(M)
Acoaxet Lady	1/5	Sing	CTPL	Fuel Oil(RM/3)

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (23/4)

### Vessels at outer anchorage

#### Vessels ready

Romy	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	19/4
Emily-C	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	19/4
Pu Trusty	Cont	Col	Seacon	21/4
OEL Wisdom	Cont	Col	PSSL	21/4
Kota Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	22/4
QC Honour	Cont	P. Kel	QC SL	23/4
OEL Excellence	Cont	Col	PSSL	24/4

#### Vessels not ready

Au Co-1	Raw Sugar	Bang	Park	21/4
Pretty Flourish	Wheat(P)	Novo	Mutual	23/4
Cakra Kember	GI(Copra)	Sing	Mutual	26/4

#### Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicorn	10/11/2004
Banga Barta	Ballast	Col	Baridhi	10/3
Banglar Jyoti	--	--	BSC	R/a (24/4)
Nancy	--	Nant	Move	2/4

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

## STOCK