

Little to show but words after ministerial flurry at WTO

AFP, Geneva

A flurry of high-level visits to the WTO over the past week has done little to drive forward sluggish talks on tearing down barriers to commerce and have left observers suffering from a sense of déjà vu.

Senior government officials traded stern warnings in recent days about the World Trade Organisation's 149-nation Doha Round talks.

Statements about an impending "moment of truth", the need for "ambition", "realism" and "political

will" abounded, as well as claims that the European Union bore particular responsibility for ending the deadlock.

Such refrains, which leave WTO-watchers anxiously reading between the lines to find a hint of something new, have become commonplace during five years of stop-start global trade talks.

The round, launched in the Qatari capital Doha in late 2001, marked a drive to smash trade hurdles and harness global commerce to boost the economies of the poor countries.

Despite intermittent progress at smoothing some differences last year, the talks have yet to get anywhere on the fundamental issues that have dogged the round from the outset.

They include the depth of market-opening concessions by Western countries to the developing world, what poor nations must do in return, and which rich governments should do the most.

In the weeks leading up to an April 30 deadline, negotiators acknowledged that an accord on the mathematics for cutting customs

duties and other trade hurdles was still beyond reach and decided to drop the target.

That intermediate goal was agreed upon barely five months ago at a ministerial meeting in Hong Kong.

On Monday, WTO chief Pascal Lamy warned negotiators that they had "no more time to spare", calling for "meaningful progress" within "weeks rather than months".

A handful of key players came to Geneva in the first half of the week for a meeting that -- in public -- they said they had simply taken stock of the state of play.

Washington's team included outgoing US Trade Representative Rob Portman and his deputy and expected successor Susan Schwab.

They met with Lamy, Australian Minister for Trade Mark Vaile, Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim and Shoichi Nakagawa, the agriculture minister of Japan.

Evermarch launches printing cartridges

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Cartridge manufacturer Evermarch Bangladesh, a subsidiary of China-based Evermarch Technologies (Suzhou) Co Ltd, yesterday launched X and E series and colour LaserJet toner cartridges in local market.

The company introduced LaserJet toner cartridge for the first time in the country.

Officials said users who previously used A series cartridges will enjoy up to 23-60 percent reduced printing cost by using these new products.

ST Lim, chairman of Evermarch Bangladesh, officially launched the products at a press conference in Dhaka.

At the press conference officials also elaborated the company's success in Bangladesh since its inception in October 2003.

Presently Evermarch Bangladesh has 15 percent market share in local cartridge business.



PHOTO: JANATA BANK

Managing Director of Janata Bank SM Aminur Rahman hands over a crest to an official of Arab National Bank, KSA at a bilateral discussion on boosting remittance business through electronic fund transfer system held recently in Dhaka. Other senior officials from both the sides were also present.

CURRENCY

Following is Sunday's (May 7, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy
TT/OD	BC
69.9200	69.9500
90.5534	90.5922
131.1699	131.2262
55.1948	55.2185
0.6307	0.6310
57.5047	57.5294
9.5481	9.5522
63.8247	63.8521
9.0302	9.0341
44.9762	44.9955
19.1919	19.2002
18.7932	18.8012
12.4608	12.4661
236.0203	236.1238
TT Clean	OD Slight Doc
68.8000	68.7771
86.5573	86.5284
126.6608	126.6186
52.1091	52.0918
0.6064	0.6062
55.5780	55.5595
8.8798	8.8769
61.5660	61.5455
8.8638	8.8609
43.5829	43.5684
18.5805	18.5743
18.1991	18.1931
11.2654	11.2616
234.0402	234.0402

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.85	60.05	102.855	37.810	6.1165	0.6431	3.61

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was active on Sunday. USD eased slightly against the Bangladeshi taka.

Local Money Market

Money market active on Sunday. Call money rate remained unchanged and

ranged between 11.00 and 13.00 percent.

International Market

The international market was closed on Sunday and no trading took place. The dollar slipped on Friday after below-consensus US job growth in April.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 7/5/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Banglar Gourab	Wheat(care)	K. Dia	Lams	3/5	10/5	985
J/2	Kakra Kember	GI(copra)	Sing	Mutual	26/4	12/5	582
J/4	Pretty Flourish	Wheat(p)	Novo	Mutual	23/4	9/5	1937
J/5	Continent-4	GI(S.Ash)	P. Band	Cla	22/4	8/5	390
J/6	Banga Borak	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	29/4	10/5	--
J/7	Taurus	Urea	Jubail	PSL	6/5	13/5	--
J/8	Oel Enterprise	Cont	Col	PSSL	1/5	9/5	--
J/9	Qc Teal	Cont	Col	QCCL	30/4	8/5	44
J/10	Allison	C. Clink	Nant	MBL	3/5	11/5	3464
J/11	Kota Petani	Cont	Sing	Pi(Bd)	29/4	10/5	--
J/12	Independent Spirit	Cont	Sing	APL	29/4	9/5	253

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Esham	8/5	P. Kel	CEL	Cont	Sing
Oel Freedom	8/5	Col	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Uranus	7/5	Yang	PML	GI	Log
Protec	7/5	Korea	Uniship	C. Clink	M/mtc
Falcon Trader	7/5	Sing	Seacom	Wheat(p)	--
Western Star	8/5	Sing	Vega	Cont	Sing
Helios-3	8/5	Mumb	PML	GI(Cr.c)	--
Banglar Shikha	10/5	Pki	BSC	Cont	Sing
Pu Trusty	7/5	--	Seacom	Cont	Col
Eastern Star	8/5	Sing	PML	Cont	Sing
Yongking	11/5	Sin	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Anabas	10/5	Sing	IBSA	--	--
Cec Light	10/5	Okty	Seabird	Spl. Cargo	--
Phu My	10/5	Pki	RSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Biraj	11/5	Sin	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Thor Alliance	12/5	Novo	Rainbow	Wheat(p)	--

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo
Salamat-3	7/5	Hatl	Nishat	Bitumen (RM/3)
Pacific Onyx	7/5	Kuwa	MSLPL	HSD/Kso
Tabtinn	8/4	Dumai	SNCL	CPO(RM/3)
Theresa-ii	9/5	--	Seacom	Cpol

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wire Kenis	--	--	IBSA	RI(A/5/5)

Outside port limit

Wire Kenis	--	--	IBSA	RI(A/5/5)
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Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Cape Bonavista	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	30/4
Pacific Envoy	Cont	Sing	Pi(Bd)	1/5
Selatan Megah	Cont	Sing	Pi(Bd)	3/5
Xpresa Manaslu	Cont	Col	Seacom	4/5
Banga Borti	Cont	Sing	Bdship	4/5
Coastal Express	Cont	Kol	BSC	4/5
Ja Vesta	Cont	Sing	Vega	4/5
New Sea Star	Cont	Sing	QCCL	5/5
Marisa Green	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	6/5
Kota Ratu	Cont	Sing	Pi(Bd)	6/5
Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	6/5

Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
AU Co-1	Raw Sugar	Bang	Park	21/4
Midas	Slag	Viza	Move	30/4
Hilal-1	Wheat(p)	Niko	Litmond	1/5
Amanat Shah	Sugar	Chenn	Cla	3/5
Pearl	Wheat(p)	Russ	USL	7/5

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



PHOTO: EVERMARCH

ST Lim (C), chairman of Evermarch Bangladesh, speaks at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday to mark the launch of the company's X and E series and colour LaserJet toner cartridges in local market.



PHOTO: RAHIMAFROOZ CNG

Khondker Fazle Rashid, deputy managing director of Dhaka Bank Ltd, inaugurates 'Tahsin CNG Filling Station' at Uttara in Dhaka recently. Mohiuddin Moin, managing director of the filling station, and Shahzad Akhtar, director and COO of Rahimafrooz CNG Ltd, are also seen. Rahimafrooz CNG extended support for setting up of the filling station.

STOCK