

More flexibility needed to break Doha round deadlock: EU

AFP, Manila

Rich countries like the United States and the EU should offer more flexibility to break a deadlock on global trade negotiations before time ran out, the European Union's trade chief said Monday.

"We must see a breakthrough, the sooner the better, because time is running out," Mandelson told reporters in Manila ahead of a meeting with his Southeast Asian counterparts.

"It requires more flexibility, more openness in everyone's part,

particularly, but not only, developed countries who are best placed to contribute more," he said.

While developing countries need to share the burden, it was up to the EU and the US to "do even more in order to bring these talks to a balance and a successful conclusion," Mandelson said.

"If we don't see it this year, then it will be hard to see when it will come in any year," Mandelson said, underscoring the need to break the deadlock and finally come to an agreement.

The 149-member World Trade

Organization (WTO) is struggling to make progress on the so-called Doha round of trade liberalization.

Launched in 2001, the Doha round aims to boost world trade in an effort to increase development in poor countries. It was originally meant to end in 2004 but has stumbled because of persistent disputes between rich and poor countries over the concessions they should make.

Among the key stumbling blocks is the US government's refusal to cut high levels of farm subsidies even as it pushes for greater

access to agricultural markets around the world.

"To date, the United States has shown a preparedness to negotiate without making any firm commitment to making a start," in reversing a 2002 farm bill that called for higher subsidies, Mandelson said.

"We are reaching a moment of truth when people no longer should hold their cards to their chest, but to make clear what they are prepared to do (and) how far they are prepared to go in order to bring success to everyone," he stressed.



PHOTO: PRAN BEVERAGE

Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, deputy managing director of Pran-RFL Group, speaks at the first phase of the prize giving ceremony of a promotional programme styled 'Pran Football Challenge: Chumuke Germany' in Dhaka yesterday. Pran-RFL launched the campaign on the occasion of 2006 FIFA World Cup. Other senior officials are also seen.



PHOTO: FIRST LEASE

Enamul Haque, chief executive officer of First Lease International Ltd (FLIL), and Rubaiyat Jamil, CEO of ICE Technologies & Services Ltd (ITSL), exchange documents after signing an agreement on Wednesday. Under the deal, the FLIL will use ITSL's 'Ice Lease Multiplier', a software designed to run entire core operations of non-banking financial institutions.



PHOTO: SHAHJALAL ISLAMI BANK

Muhammad Ali, deputy managing director of Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd, and Md Arif Al Islam, acting finance director of mobile phone operator GrameenPhone (GP) Ltd, shake hands after signing a bill collection agreement recently. Under the deal, GP subscribers will be able to pay their post-paid bills, advances, security deposits and other charges through the existing 16 branches of the bank throughout the country.

FIFA WORLD CUP Pran's first phase of prize giving ceremony held

The first phase of the prize giving ceremony of a promotional programme styled 'Pran Football Challenge: Chumuke Germany' launched by Pran-RFL Group on the occasion of 2006 FIFA World Cup was held in Dhaka yesterday.

Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, deputy managing director of Pran-RFL Group, and Elias Mirdha, executive director of Pran, gave away the prizes among the lucky winners while other senior officials were also present, says a press release.

Officials said gifts are printed inside the scratch cards given along with the PET bottles of Pran Up, Pran Lemon and Pran Cola and under the green crown of Pran Mango Juice and Pran Cola glass bottles.

Under the campaign, customers have already won some prizes including return air ticket to Germany, colour television, camera mobile phone, VCD and football jersey.

The consumer programme, which was launched on March 10, will continue until the end of the tournament.



PHOTO: APOLLO HOSPITALS

Richard Larison, chief executive officer (CEO) of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, and Harikesha Wijesekera, CEO of Royal Park Residence, a business hotel in the capital, shake hands after signing a corporate agreement recently. Under the deal, the hospital will provide medical services and special corporate benefits for the staff of the hotel.

CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (May 15, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy
TT/OD	TT Clean
69.8700	68.7500
90.1323	86.6044
131.2089	127.0019
55.0436	52.2706
0.6369	0.6140
57.9594	55.7945
9.9886	9.0576
64.1775	61.8144
9.0333	8.8481
45.5654	43.7230
19.1782	18.5670
18.7792	18.1869
12.4837	11.2834
235.8812	233.8902

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar	
Indian rupee	60.05
Pak rupee	102.87
Lankan rupee	37.650
Thai baht	6.0954
Nor kroner	0.6302
NZ dollar	
Malaysian ringgit	3.59

Local Interbank FX Trading
Local interbank FX market was active on Monday. USD fell slightly against the Bangladeshi taka.

Local Money Market
Money market was active on Monday. Call money rate rose slightly and ranged between 13.00 and 14.00 percent compared to 12.00-13 percent on Sunday.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 15-5-2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Cakra Kember	Gl(Copra)	Sing	Mutual	26/4	17/5	455
J/2	Falcon Trader	Wheat(P)	Suez	Seacon	8/5	20/4	51
J/3	Midax	Slag	Viza	Move	30/4	17/5	3200
J/6	Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Baridhi	11/5	18/5	117
J/7	Taurus	Urea	Jubail	Psl	6/5	17/5	656
J/8	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	6/5	15/5	--
J/9	Banglar Shikha	Cont	P. Kel	Bsc	10/5	17/5	80
J/10	Phu My	Cont	P. Kel	Rsl	10/5	17/5	140
J/11	Western Star	Cont	Sing	Vega	9/5	17/5	132
J/12	Oel Freedom	Cont	Col	Pssl	8/5	17/5	346
J/13	Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Col	Seacon	4/5	15/5	144
Ccl/1	Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	Pml	9/5	17/5	426

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Helios-II	15/5	Sing	Prog	Gl(Pal/St)	--
Ocean Phoenix	15/5	Kashi	Litmond	Slag	--
New Blessing	16/5	P. Kel	Cel	Cont	Sing
Banga Bonik	16/5	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Banglar Moni	16/5	Col	Bsc	Cont	Cbo
Santa Suria-II	16/5	--	Ambl	Sode Chloride	--
Power	15/5	Maka	Bashun	C.Clinik	8000 Ctg
Ataraxia	16/5	--	Seacon	C. Clink	Pre/Oly
Al Muztuba	17/5	Chnna	Cla	Sugar(P)	--
Banglar Robi	17/5	Sing	Bsc	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya	17/5	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Coastal Express	17/5	Col	Bsca	Cont	L/Viza
Cape Henry	18/5	--	Apl	Cont	Sing
Xpress Makalu	17/5	Pkl	Seacon	Cont	Sing
QC Teal	19/5	Col	Qcsl	Cont	Col

Tanker due

Al Sabiyah	15/5	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd/Ms
Al Barakat-1	15/5	Belwa	Mtcl	Cpo(RM/8)
Tank Oil	16/5	Dumai	Rainbow	Cpo(RM/3)
Al Deerah	19/5	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd/Jp-1

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready	Cont	Col	Seacon	11/5
Osg Bosstec	Cont	Col	Seacon	11/5
Kota Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	11/5
Oel Wisdom	Cont	Mong	Pssl	7/5
Emily-C	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	12/5
Oel Excellence	Cont	Col	Pssl	13/5
Banga Bodor	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	14/5
QC Honour	Cont	P. Kel	Qcsl	14/5
Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	14/5
Maritime Chiangmai	Cont	--	Bsl	14/5
Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	11/5

Vessels not ready

Amanat Shah	Sugar	Chenn	Cla	3/5
Pearl	Wheat(P)	Russ	Usl	7/5
Zhi Qiang	Y. Pe/W/R.S.	Vanc	Litmond	12/5
Kulnatee	Cypsum	Karabi	Bsl	14/5

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Nicom	10/11/2004
Banga Barta	Ballast	Col	Baridhi	10/3
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	Bsc	R/A (30/4)

Vessels not entering

Ocean Heart	Salt	Kand	Sigma	13/2
Chang An	C.Clink	Sing	Val	5/5
Protec	C.Clink	Sing	Uniship	8/5
Thor Alliance	Wheat(P)	Novo	Rainbow	12/5

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

STOCK