

G8 sets a month's deadline for WTO accord

AFP, Saint Petersburg
G8 leaders have given WTO negotiators one month to reach agreement on a broad outline for liberalising world trade, EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said Sunday.

"We gave a mandate to our respective negotiators to come to an agreement on modalities within one month" in an effort to restart stalled World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on global trade,

Barroso told reporters. "It is an ambitious goal." Asked to elaborate on what he meant by "modalities," a spokesman for Barroso said the Group of Eight (G8) leaders had ordered their WTO negotiators to hammer out a "broad agreement on key figures" in plans for carrying the trade talks forward.

Barroso's comments came as G8 leaders holding summit talks here prepared to meet Monday with their counterparts from five key

emerging market countries to mount yet another bid to salvage a global trade liberalization campaign.

Presidents and prime ministers will try to smooth the way toward a successful conclusion to the Doha Round of trade talks, a prize that has eluded their trade ministers ever since the process got underway in the Qatari capital in late 2001.

With negotiations foundering, the rescue mission now falls to the Group of Eight -- Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan,

Russia and the United States -- aided by the heads of Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa.

Their talks, on the third and final day of an annual G8 summit, come just two weeks after ministers meeting in Geneva again failed to agree on how to reduce barriers to world commerce in a way that would enable the developing world to taste the fruits of free trade.



The foundation stone laying ceremony of the 100 percent export-oriented Badar Spinning Mills Ltd was held on Saturday. The Trust Bank Ltd Deputy Managing Director Ishtiaque Ahmed Chowdhury, among other senior officials of the bank and the mills, was present.



Ebadul Karim, executive director of Orion Group, and Mir Rashedul Hossain, deputy head of GrameenPhone (GP) Corporate Sales, pose for photographs while signing an agreement recently. Under the deal, GP will provide its Business Solutions package for Orion.

Thai auto market slumps after years of record growth

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's hopes for another record year of auto sales are looking shaky after half-year volume plummeted due to high oil prices and the prolonged political crisis, analysts say.

After several years of double-digit growth, domestic car sales dropped by 3.2 percent in the period from January to June, according to Toyota Motor Thailand, which compiles industry statistics in the Southeast Asian country.

The commercial vehicle sector plunged 5.7 percent over the six-month span.

Toyota, Thailand's largest auto manufacturer, predicted that sales would drop even further in July, citing the impact of oil prices and other factors hurting the country's economy.

"We have seen a clear signal that domestic volume has plunged since May, with sales of pick-up trucks down for the first time year-on-year," said the spokesman for the Automotive Industry Club, Surapong Paisitpattanapong.

"While interest rates have not gone up a lot, banks have tightened loan offers because of the worry of an economic slowdown due to oil prices and political uncertainties."



Nasser Rizvi (L), director of Virgin Drinks, hands over Tk 20,000 prize money to Shafkat Hasan, the winner of the 1st Annual PlayStation 2 competition, organised by InfraBlue Technology in Dhaka recently. Virgin Drinks, Oriental Services Ltd, Transcom Electronics and Fortuna Fried Chicken (FFC) sponsored the gaming event. Over 130 gamers demonstrated their skills on Pro Evolution Soccer 5, the highly popular PlayStation 2 game.



M A Mannan, chairman and managing director of Butterfly Marketing Ltd, recently opens an LG-Butterfly showroom in Sylhet.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's (July 16, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buy		
			TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
70.3400	70.3700	USD	69.1200	69.0970	69.0509
90.5205	90.5592	EUR	86.3931	86.3643	86.3067
130.4737	130.5293	GBP	125.7915	125.7496	125.6657
54.1618	54.1849	AUD	51.0106	50.9936	50.9595
0.6141	0.6144	JPY	0.5901	0.5899	0.5895
57.4767	57.5012	CHF	55.4824	55.4639	55.4269
9.6461	9.6502	sek	8.9567	8.9537	8.9478
62.8990	62.9259	CAD	60.6156	60.5954	60.5550
9.0567	9.0606	HKD	8.8786	8.8757	8.8697
44.7228	44.7419	SGD	43.2866	43.2721	43.2433
19.3083	19.3165	AED	18.6680	18.6617	18.6493
18.9061	18.9141	SAR	18.2857	18.2796	18.2674
12.4535	12.4588	DKK	11.2496	11.2459	11.2384
239.8823	239.9868	KWD	237.2695	237.2695	237.2695

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
46.2	60.285	103.96	38.060	6.2350	0.6211	3.67

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was subdued on Sunday. USD remained unchanged against the Bangladeshi taka.

Local Money Market

Money market was active. Call money rate remained unchanged and ranged between 6.50 and 7.00 percent.

International Market

The international market was closed on Sunday. The dollar climbed on Friday against major currencies as the escalating conflict in the Middle East and a stand-off over North Korea's missile launches sent investors into the relative safety of the US currency.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 16/07/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Caraka Jaya Niaga-iii	Gl(log)	Yang	Sunshine	12/7	15/7	131
J/2	Kanok Naree	Wheat(p)	Turk	Litmond	21/6	19/7	2554
J/3	Xuan Cheng	Gypsum/tp	Fang	Cosco	17/6	18/7	205
J/4	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	8/7	--	2278
J/5	Hawahani Eye	Gl(ht. St)	Japan	Prog	12/7	17/7	2079
J/6	Long Grow	Sugar	Tuti	Litmond	5/7	--	726
J/7	Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	PML	14/7	18/7	245
J/8	Yong Jiang	Gl	Inch	Cosco	5/7	18/7	2187
J/9	Golden Star	Ureat(Bcic)	Ruwai	PSAL	27/6	20/7	1102
J/10	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	8/7	16/7	241
J/11	Cape Henry	Cont	Sing	APL	7/7	16/7	--
J/12	Phu Tan	Cont	Col	PSSL	12/7	17/7	324

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Coastal Express	16/7	Kol	BSC	Cont	Viza
Tropical Star	16/7	--	Archangel	Towing	Goryo-2
Goryo-Zho	16/7	--	Archangel	Dead Vessel	--
Rio Lawrence	16/7	Ptp	QCSSL	Cont	Ptp/Sin
Xiang Jiang	18/7	Inchon	Cosco	Gl	--
Kota Rukun	18/7	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Pan Express	18/7	Krabi	ANCL	C. Clink	Mi
Qel Freedom	18/7	--	FSSL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Shikha	18/7	Pkl	BSC	Cont	Sing
Ocean Park	18/7	--	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Marisa Green	19/7	--	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Banga Borak	19/7	Pkl	Baridhi	Cont	P. Kel

Tanker due

Al Barakat-1	22/7	Dumai	MTCL	CPO(RM/8/3)
Lotus	20/7	Jebel	OWSL	Crude Oil

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port agent	Local	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (7/7)

Outside port limit

Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (7/7)
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Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Col	Seacon	9/7
Xpress Makalu	Cont	Sing	Seacon	10/7
Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	11/7
Yongxing	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	11/7
Qc Honour	Cont	Sing	QCSSL	11/7
Pacific Envoy	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	11/7
Banga Borti	Cont	Sing	Bdship	12/7
Oel Excellence	Cont	Col	PSSL	8/7
Amer	Cont	P. Kel	CEL	13/7

Vessels not ready

Evangelos-I	Wheat(p)	Ukra	Pol	5/7
Maris	C. Clink	Krabi	Litmond	6/7
Al Kuwaitiah	HSD/MS	Kuwa	MSTPL	7/7
Tu Qiang	Gl	Vanc	Mutual	10/7
Al Badiyah	HSD	Kuwa	MSTPL	10/7
Port Alice	Gr. Slag	Japan	Everett	12/7
Brave Royal	C. Clink	Krabi	BRSL	12/7
Amalia	Raw Sugar	Parana	Seacom	13/7

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Banga Barta	Ballast	Col	Baridhi	10/3
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	BSC	R/A (21/6)

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

STOCK