

Key WTO players to try keeping up G8 momentum

AFP, Geneva

Six World Trade Organisation heavyweights were gearing up Monday for another effort to salvage the floundering Doha Round negotiations on tearing down barriers to commerce.

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, US Trade Representative Susan Schwab and counterparts from Australia, Brazil, India and Japan were due to hold talks on Monday evening at the WTO's Geneva base.

trying to hone down differences among the organisation's key players, was also scheduled to take part, said Aurelia Blin, spokeswoman for the global body.

The Geneva meeting comes in the wake of related talks on the sidelines of the summit of the Group of Eight (G8) -- the world's leading industrialised powers -- in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

On Sunday, the G8, which comprises Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States, set a mid-August deadline for negotiators to thrash

out the broad outlines of a deal to help finish almost five years of struggling negotiations.

"We expect everyone to translate the political commitments they made in Saint Petersburg into real flexibilities," Fabian Delcroix, spokesman for the EU's trade embassy at the WTO, told AFP.

The Doha Round negotiations, which kicked off in the Qatari capital in 2001, are meant to yield a wide-ranging treaty that will tear down trade barriers such as subsidies and customs duties and harness global commerce to improve the lot of the

developing world.

The round was meant to end in 2004, but that target was later pushed back to December 2006 because of persistent disputes between rich and poor nations over the relative concessions required.

Developing countries are targeting the subsidies paid to farmers in rich countries, particularly the United States, which critics say skew commerce in favour of American agribusiness, as well as the customs duties levied by the European Union.



PHOTO: BANK ASIA

The 'Half-yearly Managers' Conference 2006' of Bank Asia Ltd was held recently in Dhaka. Syed Anisul Huq, president and managing director of the bank, presided over the conference, which was also attended by other senior officials and branch managers.

Sonargaon Textiles approves 10pc cash dividend

Sonargaon Textiles Ltd has approved a 10 per cent cash dividend for the year 2005.

The dividend was approved at the 20th annual general meeting (AGM) of the company held on Thursday in Barisal, says a press release.

Managing Director of the company AKM Azizur Rahman presided over the AGM.

Singapore's key exports up 16.9pc in June

AFP, Singapore

Singapore's key non-oil domestic exports (NODX) grew 16.9 percent in June compared with a year earlier, boosted by bigger shipments of integrated circuits and chemical products, the government said Monday.

Non-oil domestic exports (NODX) in June were valued at 14.13 billion Singapore dollars (8.88 billion US), compared with 13.41 billion dollars in May when they were up 18.1 percent compared with the same month a year earlier, International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore) said.

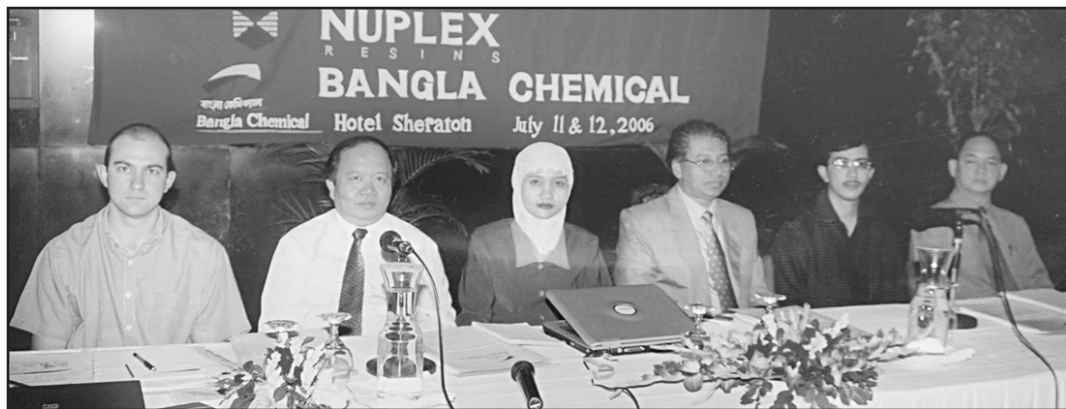


PHOTO: BANGLA CHEMICAL

Holland-based Nuplex Resins and Bangla Chemical jointly organised an international seminar on 'Emulsion & Resins for Coating & Ink' recently in Dhaka. MS Siddique, chief executive officer of Bangla Chemical, and officials of Nuplex attended the seminar.



PHOTO: KHANSONS GROUP

Managing Director of Sonargaon Textiles Ltd AKM Azizur Rahman speaks at the 20th annual general meeting (AGM) of the company on Thursday in Barisal. Directors of the company are also seen.



PHOTO: BASHUNDHARA GROUP

A seminar on advantages of using kraft paper bags was jointly organised by Shahjalal Newsprint Industries Ltd, a concern of Bashundhara Group, and Sweden Mondy Packaging recently in Dhaka. Md Mustafizur Rahman, deputy managing director of Bashundhara Group, presided over the seminar.

CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (July 17, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
70.3700	70.4000	USD	69.1500	69.1270	69.0809
90.0032	90.0416	EUR	86.0572	86.0285	85.9711
130.5364	130.5920	GBP	126.4727	125.4309	125.3472
53.9879	54.0109	AUD	51.1503	51.1332	51.0991
0.6146	0.6149	JPY	0.5908	0.5906	0.5902
57.6520	57.6768	CHF	55.4442	55.4257	55.3886
10.0490	10.0533	SEK	9.1002	9.0972	9.0911
63.0104	63.0372	CAD	60.6313	60.6111	60.5707
9.0704	9.0743	HKD	8.8728	8.8698	8.8639
45.2395	45.2586	SGD	43.3515	43.3371	43.3082
19.3154	19.3237	AED	18.6746	18.6683	18.6559
18.9141	18.9222	SAR	18.2922	18.2861	18.2739
12.4348	12.4401	DKK	11.2328	11.2290	11.2215
239.9868	240.0912	KWD	237.3541	237.2773	237.1238

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	103.955	38.135	6.2557	0.6220	3.68

Local FX Market

Local interbank FX market was active on Monday. There were more cross currency transactions on Monday compared to Sunday because the international market opened for the week. The USD rose slightly against the Bangladeshi taka.

Money Market

Money market was active on Monday.

Call money rate remained unchanged and ranged between 6.50 and 7.00 percent.

International Market

The dollar rose to its strongest level in over two weeks against the euro and yen on Monday, as investors sought safe havens as Middle East tensions escalated.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 17/07/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Continent-4	Sugar	Tuti	Cla	05/7	23/7	210
J/2	Kanok Naree	Wheat(P)	Turk	Litmond	21/6	22/7	1844
J/3	Xuan Cheng	Gypsum/Tsp	Fang	Cosco	17/6	18/7	539
J/4	Thyi	Slag	Viza	OLM	10/7	21/7	965
J/5	Hawahani Eye	GI(Ht. St)	Japan	Prog	12/7	17/7	1081
J/6	Long Grow	Sugar	Tuti	Litmond	05/7	18/7	677
J/7	Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	PML	14/7	18/7	336
J/8	Yong Jiang	GI	Inch	Cosco	05/7	18/7	2130
J/9	Golden Star	Urea(Bcoic)	Ruwai	ANCL	27/6	20/7	878
J/10	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	11/7	20/7	203
J/11	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	8/7	18/7	224
J/12	Phu Tan	Cont	Col	PSSL	12/7	17/7	75
J/13	Xpress Manasu	Cont	Col	Seacon	9/7	20/7	278

Vessels due at out anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of Arrival	L Port Call	Local Agent	Type of Cargo	Loading Ports
Xiang Jiang	18/7	Inch	Cosco	GI	--
Cape Bonavista	18/7	Pkl	Bdship	Cont	P. Kel
Kola Rukun	18/7	Sing	Pil(Bd)	ANCL	Mong
Pan Express	19/7	Krabi	ANCL	C. Clink	Mi
Banglar Shikha	18/7	Pkl	BSC	Cont	Sing
Ocean Park	18/7	Sin	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Marisa Green	19/7	--	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Banga Borak	19/7	P. Kel	--	Baridhi	P. Kel
Oel Freedom	19/7	--	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Ocean Blue	19/7	P. Kel	Everett	Vehi	49 Pkgs
Maritime Songkhla	19/7	Tarj	BLS	C. Clink	Hbl
Fu Wen Shan	21/7	--	Cosco	GI	--

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of Arrival	L Port Call	Local Agent	Type of Cargo	Loading Ports
Lotus	20/7	Jebel	OWSL	Crude Oil	--
Al Sabibah	21/7	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/Sko	--
Al Barakat-1	22/7	Dumai	MTCL	CPO(RM/8/3)	--

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A(07/07)

Outside Port Limit

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A(07/07)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port Call	Local Agent	Date of arrival
Xpress Makalu	Cont	Sing	Seacon	10/7
Yongking	Cont	Pip	PSSL	11/7
Qc Honour	Cont	Sing	QCSL	11/7
Pacific Envoy	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	11/7
Banga Borti	Cont	Sing	Bdship	12/7
Oel Excellence	Cont	Col	PSSL	08/7
Amer	Cont	P. Kel	CEL	13/7
Xpress Resolve	Cont	Col	Seacon	13/7
Qc Dignity	Cont	P. Kel	QCSL	15/7
Phu My	Cont	P. Kel	RSL	15/7
Ultima	Cont	Sing	PSSL	15/7

Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port Call	Local Agent	Date of arrival
Evangelos-L	Wheat(P)	Ukra	Pil	05/7
Maris	C. Clink	Krabi	Litmond	06/7
Al Kuwailiah	HSD/MS	Kuwa	MSTPL	07/7
Tu Qiang	GI	Vanc	Mutual	10/7
Al Badiyah	HSD	Kuwa	MSTPL	10/7
PortAlice	Gr. Slag	Japan	Everett	12/7
Brave Royal	C. Clink	Krabi	BRSL	12/7
Amalia	Raw Sugar	Parana	Seacon	13/7

The Above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong port as per berthing sheet of CPA Supplied By Family, Dhaka.

STOCK