

WTO heavyweights try yet again to break Doha Round deadlock

AFP, Geneva

Key negotiators were on Sunday locked in talks as they made yet another attempt to break a deadlock in the World Trade Organisation's floundering Doha Round.

Top officials including US Trade Representative Susan Schwab, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and counterparts from Australia, Brazil, India and Japan face a stiff challenge: do something

to save the Doha Round, which is teetering on the brink after years of spats over the reforms needed to complete it.

The round, which was launched in 2001, has been marked by repeated rows among WTO heavyweights. With previous false starts in mind, negotiators have played down the latest talks, which are scheduled to continue on Monday.

"It's a low-key meeting," an EU

official told AFP. No announcements were expected until Monday, said other negotiators.

Much of the logjam at the 149-nation WTO centres on the farm trade, particularly US farm subsidies and EU customs duties on imported agricultural goods.

The key players are at loggerheads over the relative concessions required, constantly urging one another to make a move.

"I think what we're all looking for

now is to get beyond the rock, paper, scissors dynamic," said a senior US trade official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A simultaneous climb-down by the key players, albeit painted as a "win-win" result, is seen as the key to a breakthrough.

The Geneva gathering, behind closed doors at the US diplomatic mission, is scheduled to be followed by further talks here on July 28-29.



PHOTO: UNITREND

Berger Paints (BD) Ltd opened two 'Berger Color Bank' outlets in Comilla on Wednesday. Managing Director of the company Masih UI Karim inaugurated the outlets while other senior officials were present.



PHOTO: LEMON COMMUNICATIONS

Mehboob Chowdhury, chief commercial officer of mobile phone operator Banglalink, and KM Ahsan Shamim, director of United Group, a leading business house, exchange documents after signing a corporate agreement under Banglalink's 'Professional' package recently. Senior officials from both the sides are also seen.

Honda to build new plant to boost hybrid output

AFP, Tokyo

Honda Motor plans to build a new manufacturing plant to produce key components to be used in its hybrid cars, a Japanese business daily reported Sunday.

The facility, which is scheduled to come online in 2008, will enable the automaker to quadruple its annual output capacity for electric motors to 200,000 units, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said, without citing sources.

Honda is expected to spend about eight billion yen (68.87 million dollars) to build the plant in western Mie prefecture, the newspaper said.

Honda aims to sell 200,000 fuel-efficient vehicles, powered by both a gasoline engine and an electric motor, around the globe in 2009, the Nihon Keizai said.

By mass producing key components, the company believes it could price the vehicles at only about 200,000 yen higher than their gasoline-powered counterparts, the business daily said.

Honda currently produces hybrid cars based on the Civic and the Accord models, selling a total of around 50,000 of the vehicles in 2005.

Toyota Motor Corp leads its rivals in the hybrid market, selling 235,000 units in 2005 and aims to sell at least one million a year starting in 2012, the report said.



PHOTO: BEACON PHARMACEUTICALS

Mohammad Ebadul Karim, managing director of Beacon Pharmaceuticals Ltd, and Mohammad Akhter Hussain, director (Marketing), pose for photographs with the participants in a training programme titled 'Development of Team Building and Leadership Skills' organised by the company recently.

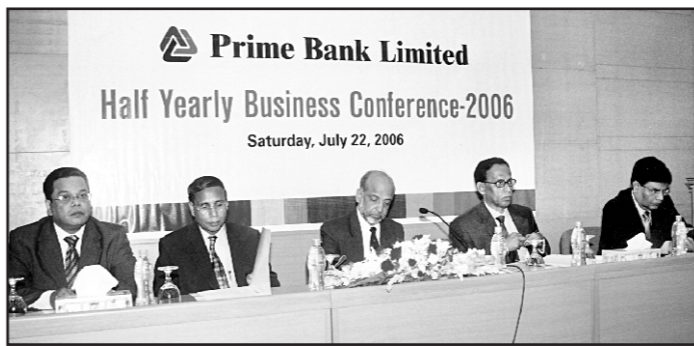


PHOTO: PRIME BANK

The half-yearly business conference of Prime Bank Ltd was held on Saturday in Dhaka. Chairman of the bank Imam Anwar Hossain and Managing Director M Shahjahan Bhuiyan, among others, were present at the meeting.

CURRENCY

Following is Sunday's (July 23, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Major Currency Exchange Rates		Exchange Rate of Some Currencies				
	BC Sell	TT Buy				
US dollar	70.30	69.05	Indian rupee	46.73	1.49	
Euro	90.76	86.59	Pak rupee	60.25	1.16	
Pound	131.83	127.07	Lankan rupee	104.00	0.67	
Australian dollar	54.10	50.92	Thai baht	38.04	1.83	
Japanese yen	0.61	0.59	Malaysian ringgit	3.68	18.94	
Swiss franc	57.31	55.30	USD Forward Rate against BDT			
Swedish kroner	9.63	8.94	1M	Buy	69.14	70.42
Canadian dollar	62.32	60.04	2M	Buy	69.25	70.52
Hong Kong dollar	9.05	8.87	3M	Buy	69.39	70.69
Singapore dollar	44.85	43.39	6M	Buy	69.54	71.24
Kuwaiti dinar	239.74	237.04				

* All currencies are quoted against BDT

* The forward rates are indicative only and fixed dated

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 23/7/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Continent-4	Sugar	Tuti	Cia	5/7	25/7	1188
J/2	Kanok Naree	Wheat(P)	Turk	Litmond	21/6	23/7	212
J/3	Fu Wen Shan	Gi	Lian	Cosco	21/7	27/7	1849
J/4	Thyi	Slag	Viza	OLM	10/7	23/7	--
J/6	Tu Qiang	Gi(Y.Pe/Lentils)Vanc	Mutual	10/7	04/8	498	
J/7	Kota Rukun	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	18/7	24/7	307
J/8	Ultima	Cont	Sing	PSSL	15/7	23/7	--
J/9	Cape Bonavista	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	18/7	24/7	88
J/10	Xpress Resolve	Cont	Col	Seacon	13/7	23/7	--
J/11	Phy My	Cont	P. Kel	RSL	15/7	25/7	225
J/13	Ocean Park	Cont	Sing	Seacon	18/7	26/7	111
CC/71	Ja Vesta	Cont	Sing	Vega	15/7	26/7	219

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Pattya Navee	24/7	Sin	PSAL	Urea	Boic
Banga Bonik	25/7	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
QC Teal	28/7	Col	QCSL	Cont	Col
Emerald Coral	26/7	Yang	Everett	GI(St. C)	--
Esham	25/7	P. Kel	CEL	Cont	Sing
New Sea Star	24/7	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Straits Express	28/7	Sin	NYK	Vehi	--
Zhen Hua-3	24/7	Bang	ARL	Scraping	--
We Fong	24/7	Thai	Kaptai	Gas Turb	--
Cape Henry	25/7	Sin	APL	Cont	Sing
Phu Tan	26/7	--	PSSL	Cont	Col
Merak	25/7	Sing	Asa	GI(St. C)	--
Zhe Hai 315	29/7	Sing	PML	Cont	Sing
Banglar Robi	28/7	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Al Barakat-1	24/7	Dumai	MTCL	CPO(RM/8/3)
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Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date Of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (22/7)
Lotus	C. Oil	Jebel	OWSL	19/7

Outside port limit

Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (22/7)
Lotus	C. Oil	Jebel	OWSL	19/7

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready				
Rio Lawrence	Cont	Ptp	Qcsl	16/7
Evangelos-L	Wheat(P)	Ukra	Pol	5/7
Banglar Shikha	Cont	P. Kel	BSC	18/7
Banga Borak	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	19/7
Marisa Green	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	19/7
OSG Bosstec	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	20/7
Banga Lanka	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	20/7
Kranj	Gi	Sing	ANCL	21/7
OEL Freedom	Cont	Col	PSSL	22/7

Vessels not ready

Maris	C. Clink	Krabi	Litmond	6/7
Port Alice	Gr. Slag	Japan	Everett	12/7
Amalia	Raw Sugar	Parana	Seacon	13/7
Heng Yu	G. Slag	Viza	Saraf	19/7
Ever Success	Wheat(P)	Ismir	Able	20/7
Sujitra Naree	R. Phos	Jedda	Seacon	21/7

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