

## Asean urges WTO to resume trade talks by year-end

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Southeast Asian nations said Wednesday that stalled global trade talks must resume before the end of the year, and that a way forward must be forged in agriculture and market access.

\* Asean believes that WTO

members must put the process back on track before the end of 2006, and recognise that necessary breakthroughs in critical negotiations areas of agriculture and non-agriculture market access are needed," the regional bloc said in a statement at economic ministers' talks here.

The faltering World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha trade round was suspended last month amid a bitter dispute between Europe and the United States over farm tariffs and subsidies.

Expressing deep concern over the suspension of the trade talks, the Association of Southeast Asian

Nations (Asean) said the multilateral trading system cannot afford a "failure" in the Doha negotiations.

"This suspension has systemic implications on the efficacy of the multilateral trading system and its ability to continue to deliver key benefits in terms of trade liberalisation in goods and services," it said.

### Japan, Southeast Asia agree to study trade bloc

Another report adds: Southeast Asian nations and Japan agreed Wednesday to investigate establishing a giant 16-nation Asian trade bloc, but the two sides must first overcome a wrangle over their own free-trade deal.

Japan has proposed a massive new trade zone embracing half the world's population, from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) plus China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, India and New Zealand.

Despite the dispute, Asean economic ministers meeting here agreed to Japan's plan to carry out a study conducted by academics from the 16 nations into the prospects of an East Asia trade bloc.



PHOTO: CITYCELL

A memorandum of understanding was signed between CityCell and Persona recently in Dhaka. Under the MoU, Persona, the provider of beauty care services, will offer special discounts to CityCell phone customers. Kaniz Almas Khan, CEO, and Mostafa A. Tanveer, executive director of Persona, and CityCell's Ahmed Armaan Siddiqui, manager (product development & value added services), Sania Mahmood, general manager (marketing communications), and Taslim Ahmed, assistant vice president (marketing communications), among others were present.

## Navana's 'Fill & Fly' raffle draw held

The raffle draw of the 'Fill & Fly' programme of Navana Group was held in Dhaka on Tuesday, says a press release.

The programme was launched as a marketing campaign of the 4th generation luxurious vehicle SUV "FORTUNER".

The winners and their spouses will get the opportunity to enjoy the F1 racing in China. Navana Ltd will arrange F1 ticket, air tickets, as well as accommodation, as prizes of the draw.

Sajedul Islam Shouvro, director, Navana Group, Suzuki, general manager of TTC, J A Naser, senior general manager and Hamdur Rahman Simon, sales and marketing manager of the Group, were present among others.



PHOTO: NAVANA

Sajedul Islam Shouvro, director of Navana Group, picks a coupon of the lucky winners of the raffle draw for Fill & Fly programme on Tuesday. Suzuki, general manager of TTC, J A Naser, senior general manager, and Hamdur Rahman Simon, sales and marketing manager of the group, are also seen.



PHOTO: SIBL

Social Investment Bank Ltd (SIBL) launched 'Smile Brighter', a programme for free cleft-lip and cleft palate operation for the underprivileged, at the South View Hospital in Dhaka on Sunday. SIBL Chairman Rezaul Haque and Managing Director KM Ashaduzzaman, among others, were present on the occasion.

## CURRENCY

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

Major Currency Exchange Rates		Exchange Rate of Some Currencies			
	BC Sell	TT Buy			
US dollar	70.25	69.00	Indian rupee	46.41	1.50
Euro	91.13	87.00	Pak rupee	60.58	1.15
Pound	133.99	128.68	Lankan rupee	103.89	0.67
Australian dollar	54.64	51.77	Thai baht	37.62	1.85
Japanese yen	0.63	0.59	Malaysian ringgit	3.67	18.95
Swiss franc	57.68	55.31			
Swedish kroner	10.19	9.21			
Canadian dollar	63.67	61.22			
Hong Kong dollar	9.05	8.85			
Singapore dollar	45.63	43.71			
UAE dirham	19.28	18.63			
Saudi riyal	18.88	18.25			
Danish kroner	12.57	11.35			
Kuwaiti dinar	239.57	236.85			

\* All currencies are quoted against BDT  
\* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction

The forward rates are indicative only and fixed dated

Local Market  
FX: Local inter-bank FX market was active on Wednesday. The demand for USD remained stable and there was a steady volume of cross currency transactions. The USD remained unchanged against the Bangladeshi taka.

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 23/8/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Pine Bright	GI	Sing	Prog	20/8	24/8	1523
J/2	Royal Bulker	GI(Peas)	Aust	Litmond	9/8	25/8	963
J/3	Angel-III	GI(Y, Pe)	Vanc	USL	29/7	27/8	629
J/4	Jin Cheng	GI	Sira	Cosco	15/8	24/8	1560
J/5	Rewa	C. Clink	Sing	Pacific	20/8	30/8	1445
J/6	Hun Jiang	GI	Sing	Cosco	17/8	23/8	1672
J/7	Yaad-E-Mostafa	Urea(BCIC)	--	PML	R/A	24/8	203
J/8	QC Dignity	Cont	Sing	OCSL	20/8	25/8	252
J/9	Cape Bonavista	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	19/8	25/8	56
J/10	Banga Borti	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	19/8	25/8	262
J/11	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	18/8	23/8	30
J/13	Ocean Park	Cont	Sing	Seacon	20/8	24/8	187
CCT/1	Kota Rajin	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	18/8	25/8	294
CCT/2	Amer	Cont	P. Kel	CEL	18/8	23/8	70

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Da Tian	24/8	Hald	Cosco	GI	385 Pkgs
You King	23/8	Sing	PSAL	C. Clink	Dia
Cape Henry	23/8	Sing	Nol	Cont	--
Marisa Green	23/8	-	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Baik	23/8	Sing	Intraport	Scraping	--
Panagia-1	23/8	Sing	MTCL	Wheat(P)	--
Pattaya Navee	23/8	Krabi	Saraf	Gypsum	--
Dan Yang	24/8	Hba	Seacom	Gr. Urea	--
Ja Vesta	24/8	Sing	Vega	Cont	Sing
OEL Excellence	24/8	Sing	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Dolly	24/8	Sing	MTCL	Wheat	--
Pagan	25/8	Yang	MTA	Y. Maiz/Pul	--
Banga Borak	25/8	P. Kel	Baridhi	Cont	P. Kel
Iberian Express	24/8	P. Kel	PSSL	Cont	Sing

### Tanker due

Southern Zebra	25/8	Sing	Jardine	Lube Oil
Navakun-21	25/8	Bela	Rainbow	CPO(RmM3)
Iran Faraz	26/8	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD(JP-1)
Mega Crown No.1	28/8	Lumut	Rainbow	CPO(RM/3)

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Kudam	Crude Oil	Rast	OWSL	14/8
Wirra Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (22/8)

### Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready				
Name of vessels	Cargo	Port	Agent	Date
Rio Lawrence	Cont	Ptp	QCSSL	19/8
Banglar Robi	Cont	Col	BSC	20/8
Xpress Resolve	Cont	Col	Seacon	20/8
Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	21/8
Dali	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	23/8

### Vessels not ready

Toro	Wheat(P)	Novo	ESL	13/8
Adria	GI(Y, Pe)	Canu	Litmond	21/8
Bright Pacific	Hsd/MS	Kuwa	MSTPL	22/8

### Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Banga Baria	Ballast	Col	Baridhi	10/3
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	BSC	R/A (21/6)
Santa Suria	--	--	ANCL	R/A (06/8)
Banglar Umi	Ballast	Tuti	BSC	22/8

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

## STOCK