

# Star BUSINESS

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## Quiet diplomacy to revive WTO: US

AFP, Washington

US trade supremo Susan Schwab expressed confidence Tuesday that a series of quiet contacts with WTO counterparts would revive a stalled drive to free up global commerce.

Schwab said she had held a "healthy dialogue" with European Union trade chief Peter Mandelson here last week, but declined to

elaborate on the result of the latest low-key meeting among top World Trade Organisation players.

"We are in the resuscitation stage of the (WTO's) Doha Round. It's down but it is not out," the US trade representative said in remarks to the American Enterprise Institute, a free-market think-tank.

The WTO's Doha Round of negotiations was suspended in July

over an impasse between the EU and United States over agricultural reform. Major developing countries are also reluctant to open up their industrial and service markets.

There has been no formal session of WTO talks since then, but Schwab noted a series of "quiet contacts" among influential players including a meeting of agricultural exporters in Australia last month.

"I'm firmly convinced there will be a successful Doha Round outcome. What I can't tell you is the timeframe," Schwab said, noting that previous rounds of world trade talks had come back from the dead.

WTO chief Pascal Lamy told AFP last week that the 149 members of the Geneva-based club could still overcome their differences in time to clinch an ambitious agreement by the end of 2007.

For Schwab, complicating matters next year will be the expiry at the end of June of the administration's "fast-track authority" to negotiate trade deals, and the need for Congress to draft a new Farm Bill package of subsidies.

But she denied that protectionist resistance among US lawmakers could scupper any WTO deal, and played down the impact if opposition Democrats should retake control of one or both houses of Congress in November elections.



PHOTO: RANGS ELECTRONICS

J Ekram Hussain, deputy managing director of Rangs Electronics Ltd, inaugurates a showroom of the company at Bashundhara City shopping mall in Dhaka recently. Senior officials of the company, among others, were present.



PHOTO: PARTEX FURNITURE INDUSTRIES

Abdul Mannaf, president of Natore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, inaugurates 'Partex Gallery' of Partex Furniture Industries Ltd in Natore town recently. Senior officials of the company were also present.



PHOTO: STANDARD CHARTERED

Aashish Pitale, head of Structuring (India and South Asia), and Alamgir Morshed, director and head of Global Markets, Bangladesh, of Standard Chartered Bank, among others, pose for photographs with the participants in a workshop on 'Development of Derivative Market' organised by the bank recently in Dhaka.

## Hanoi rubber export surges

XINHUA, Hanoi

Vietnam, the world's fourth biggest natural rubber exporter, shipped abroad 493,000 tons of rubber worth 946 million US dollars in the first nine months of this year, posting respective year-on-year surges of 32.5 percent and 97.1 percent, according to a local trade agency.

China remained Vietnam's biggest rubber export market in the nine-month period with an average of 100 tons of the local product daily exported to the neighbour country in August, according to the Trade Information Center under the Vietnamese Trade Ministry.

Last year, Vietnam sold overseas 574,000 tons of rubber valued at 787 million dollars, mainly to China, South Korea, Japan, Germany and the United States, up 11.9 percent and 31.9 percent respectively, against 2004.



PHOTO: LEMON COMMUNICATIONS

MR Khan, managing director of Radiant Holdings Ltd, and Tanvir Ibrahim, head of Corporate Sales of mobile phone operator Banglalink, shake hands after signing a corporate agreement recently. As per the deal, the real estate company will enjoy special tariff and value added services under the mobile phone operator's 'Professional' package.

## CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's (October 4, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

| Major Currency Exchange Rates | Exchange rate of some currencies |        |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
|                               | BC Sell                          | TT Buy |
| US dollar                     | 67.85                            | 66.73  |
| Euro                          | 87.67                            | 83.53  |
| Pound                         | 129.15                           | 124.18 |
| Australian dollar             | 51.78                            | 48.23  |
| Japanese yen                  | 0.59                             | 0.56   |
| Swiss franc                   | 55.20                            | 52.68  |
| Swedish kroner                | 9.65                             | 8.75   |
| Canadian dollar               | 61.52                            | 58.81  |
| Hong Kong dollar              | 8.73                             | 8.54   |
| Singapore dollar              | 43.80                            | 42.02  |
| UAE dirham                    | 18.62                            | 18.02  |
| Saudi riyal                   | 18.24                            | 17.65  |
| Danish kroner                 | 12.09                            | 10.92  |
| Kuwaiti dinar                 | 231.23                           | 229.31 |

  

| Exchange rate of some currencies | Per USD |                  | BDT per Currency |                  |
|----------------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                  | Per USD | BDT per Currency | Per USD          | BDT per Currency |
| Indian rupee                     | 45.60   | 45.60            |                  |                  |
| Pak rupee                        | 60.57   | 60.57            |                  |                  |
| Lankan rupee                     | 103.91  | 103.91           |                  |                  |
| Thai baht                        | 37.58   | 37.58            |                  |                  |
| Malaysian ringgit                | 3.69    | 18.25            |                  |                  |

  

| USD forward rate against BDT |       |       |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|
|                              | Buy   | Sell  |
| 1M                           | 66.82 | 67.95 |
| 2M                           | 66.94 | 68.16 |
| 3M                           | 67.09 | 68.38 |
| 6M                           | 67.52 | 68.09 |

\* All currencies are quoted against BDT \* The forward rates are indicative only and  
 \* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction. \* fixed dated.

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 4/10/2006

| Berth No. | Name of vessels | Cargo     | L. Port call | Local agent | Dt of arrival | Leaving | Import disch |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------|--------------|
| J/1       | Asraf-a-mostafa | GI(S.Ash) | Okha         | Intraport   | 25/9          | 6/10    | 658          |
| J/2       | Pagan           | GI        | Yang         | MTA         | 2/10          | 6/10    | 441          |
| J/3       | Straits Success | Vehi      | Sing         | Nyk         | 4/10          | 5/10    | --           |
| J/4       | Fu Wen Shan     | GI        | Sira         | Cosco       | 27/9          | 6/10    | 1552         |
| J/5       | Kota Rakayet    | Cont      | Sing         | Pil(Bd)     | 30/9          | 8/10    | 691          |
| J/6       | OEL Enterprise  | Cont      | Sing         | PSSL        | 30/9          | 8/10    | 213          |
| J/7       | Leonis          | Urea      | Ruwa         | PML         | 21/9          | 7/10    | 909          |
| J/8       | Banga Borak     | Cont      | P. Kel       | Baridhi     | 29/9          | 8/10    | --           |
| J/9       | Xiang Jiang     | GI        | Ziang        | Cosco       | 21/9          | 5/10    | 959          |
| J/11      | Banglar Robi    | Cont      | Sing         | BSC         | 29/9          | 5/10    | 58           |

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

| Name of vessels          | Date of arrival | L. port call | Local agent | Type of cargo | Loading ports |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Gho Shun                 | 4/10            | Sing         | Move        | C. Clink      | --            |
| Banga Borak              | 4/10            | Sin          | Bdship      | Cont          | Sing          |
| Vinashin Mariner         | 4/10            | Sin          | PSSL        | Cont          | Sing          |
| Kota Petani              | 4/10            | Sing         | Pil(Bd)     | Cont          | Mong          |
| Carara Jaya Niaga-iii-32 | 5/10            | Yang         | Mutual      | GI(log)       | --            |
| Tai Shun Hai             | 5/10            | --           | Rainbow     | GI(y.pe)      | --            |
| Brave Royal              | 5/10            | Krabi        | BRSL        | C. Clink      | Royal         |
| Sea Master One           | 5/10            | Sing         | PML         | Cont          | Sing          |
| Song Shan                | 6/10            | Okha         | Cosco       | GI            | --            |
| Sky-I                    | 5/10            | Sant         | Litmond     | R. Sugar      | --            |
| Kota Berjaya             | 5/10            | Sing         | Pil(Bd)     | Cont          | Sing          |
| Csaw California          | 6/10            | Sing         | PSSL        | Cont          | Sing          |

### Tanker due

|               |      |       |         |           |      |
|---------------|------|-------|---------|-----------|------|
| Bw Havsol     | 5/10 | Kaki  | MBL     | Ammonia   | K/a  |
| Yanee         | 5/10 | Dumai | RYSL    | CPOL      | RM/3 |
| Tabtim        | 6/10 | Dumai | RWSL    | CPOL      | RM/3 |
| Kudam         | 6/10 | Rast  | OYSL    | Crude Oil | --   |
| Global Pallas | 8/10 | Lumut | Rainbow | CPO       | RM/4 |

### Vessels at Kutubdia

| Name of vessels | Cargo call | Last port | Local agent | Date of arrival |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| Wira Keris      | --         | --        | IBSA        | R/A (23/9)      |
| United Dynamic  | Crude Oil  | Jebel     | DSL         | 20/9            |

### Vessels at outer anchorage

| Vessels ready   |       |        |             |                 |
|-----------------|-------|--------|-------------|-----------------|
| Name of vessels | Cargo | Col    | Local agent | Date of arrival |
| Banga Bonik     | Cont  | Col    | Baridhi     | 1/10            |
| Eastern Star    | Cont  | Sing   | PML         | 2/10            |
| Coastal Express | Cont  | Chenn  | BSCA        | 3/10            |
| Yongking        | Cont  | Col    | PSSL        | 3/10            |
| Esham           | Cont  | Mala   | CEL         | 3/10            |
| QC Teal         | Cont  | Col    | QCCL        | 3/10            |
| Mare Hibernum   | Cont  | P. Kel | Seacon      | 3/10            |
| Pacific Express | Cont  | Sing   | Pil(Bd)     | 3/10            |
| Phu My          | Cont  | P. Kel | RSL         | 4/10            |

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

## STOCK