

# Star BUSINESS

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## ROK unveils steps to boost services sector

AFP, Seoul

South Korea Thursday unveiled tax incentives and other steps to boost economic growth and employment by rejuvenating its services sector.

The measures include a variety of tax incentives and financial aid for those involved in tourism, culture, leisure, sports and other service businesses.

The finance ministry said the service industry, which accounted for 56.3 percent of gross domestic product in 2005, should play a greater role in boosting the economy amid a stagnating manufacturing sector.

"We will put more resources and energy into the services sector in an effort to boost growth, as the manufacturing sector has been stagnant for a long time," ministry official Yoo Yong-Joon told AFP.

## WTO chief says large countries signal flexibility

REUTERS, Manila

World Trade Organisation (WTO) chief Pascal Lamy said on Thursday that all leading WTO member states had signalled flexibility for a re-start of global trade talks, but it was not yet clear if they were ready to negotiate.

"All the big players have given general signals of flexibility," Lamy said in a video conference call with a Philippine audience.

The five-year-old WTO talks over reducing global trade subsidies and barriers were halted in July after major powers locked horns over politically sensitive issues, especially calls to dismantle agricultural protection.

Trade officials say the suspension could last years without a breakthrough in early 2007.

Discussions restarted on a limited basis last month, with various negotiating groups in Geneva revisiting technical issues.

"They all said they wanted to resume the negotiations, which were done at the technical level in Geneva, but not yet at the ministerial level," Lamy said.

"Whether and when it will result at a stage where ministers would be able to rejoin the table of negotiation -- not just to discuss, not just to think where we are, but to negotiate -- is something which is not yet clear," he added. "I hope it will clarify in the coming weeks."

## Microsoft, HP target business market with \$300m alliance

AFP, San Francisco

Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard said on Wednesday they would jointly invest 300 million dollars in a three-year partnership to become the go-to source for business computer systems.

Microsoft software expertise would be combined with HP hardware savvy to tailor networks to meet individual company needs from e-mail and voice mail to video conferencing and infrastructure, executives said at a news briefing.

"It's a perfect time to go to market as one single stack of the best combination of hardware and software available today," said HP senior vice president John McCain. "It is a great opportunity."

Microsoft chief operating officer Kevin Turner said the partnership was aimed at winning a major share of the business network market, which is predicted to exceed 50 billion dollars in 2007.



PHOTO: BRAC BANK

MA Momen, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), and Imran Rahman, managing director and CEO of Brac Bank Ltd, pose for photographs at a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) Monday in Dhaka. Under the MoU, both the parties will jointly organise fair and roundtable on SMEs. The bank will also provide SME loans for the prospective SME entrepreneurs associated with the DCCI.



PHOTO: BASHUNDHARA GROUP

The 'Eid-ul-Fitr Grand Raffle Draw-2006' for shopping in Bashundhara City shopping mall was held on Tuesday in Dhaka. Senior officials of Bashundhara Group, among others, were present at the raffle draw.

## Cisco to invest \$50m in China telecom firm

AFP, Beijing

Global networking giant Cisco Systems inked an agreement Thursday to invest 50 million dollars in China Communications Services, Chinese state media said.

According to the contract, Cisco and the Chinese company will jointly provide telecommunications services commissioned by Chinese enterprises, such as network operation and management, the Xinhua news agency said.

The Chinese company is a Hong Kong-listed company specializing in telecommunications services and support in China's telecom market. Its shareholders include China Telecom Group, China Mobile and China Unicom.



PHOTO: CITYCELL

Mobile phone operator CityCell and United News of Bangladesh (UNB) have recently signed an agreement to provide push-pull SMS-based news services, through which CityCell customers will receive latest updates on news items from the news agency. Chye Hoon Pin, chief executive officer of CityCell, and Roushan Zaman, executive editor of UNB, signed the deal while other senior officials from both the sides were also present.

## CURRENCY

Following is Thursday's (December 14, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank.

Sell		Buy			
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
69.5200	69.5500	USD	68.2500	68.2273	68.1818
93.2402	93.2805	EUR	88.6363	88.6067	88.5476
138.2753	138.3350	GBP	132.5756	132.5314	132.4430
56.0679	56.0921	AUD	52.2932	52.2757	52.2409
0.6045	0.6047	JPY	0.5770	0.5768	0.5764
58.5974	58.6227	CHF	55.4382	55.4197	55.3828
10.6405	10.6451	SEK	9.5732	9.5700	9.5636
61.1918	61.2182	CAD	58.4432	58.4237	58.3848
8.9662	8.9700	HKD	8.7625	8.7595	8.7537
46.1681	46.1881	SGD	44.1719	44.1572	44.1277
19.0821	19.0904	AED	18.4325	18.4264	18.4141
18.6852	18.6932	SAR	18.0536	18.0476	18.0356
12.8889	12.8944	DKK	11.5872	11.5834	11.5757
237.0866	237.1910	KWD	234.4469	234.3711	234.2195

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.62	60.85	108.13	35.285	6.1808	0.6937	3.55

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 14/12/2006.

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/2	Ocean Blue	Vehi	Sing	Everett	14/12	15/12	--
J/2+3	Sarim	Sugar	Kohsi	Litmond	25/11	20/12	946
J/4	Seiyo Spirit	GI(st.c)	Yang	H&S	13/12	16/12	1947
J/5	Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	7/12	15/12	166
J/8	Fu Wen Shan	GI	Pusa	Cosco	12/12	18/12	1958

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Hong Yun	15/12	Chin	Litmond	Urea(bic)	--
Malaysia Star-1	14/12	P.kel	QCSL	Cont	L/ptp
Coastal Express	14/12	Kol	BSCA	Cont	L/viza
Esham	15/12	Sing	CEL	Cont	Sing
Baltic Frontier	15/12	Slax	SSST	Tsp/badc	--
Addu Star	16/12	--	Seacom	R. Phos	--
Yuan	15/12	--	AHZ	Scraping	--
Ratna Abha	16/12	Kuwa	MSTPL	Scraping	--
Banga Bodor	16/12	P. Kel	Baridhi	Cont	P. Kel
Banga Borat	16/12	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Dali	16/12	Col	Seacon	Cont	Col

### Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Al Deerah	16/12	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/JP-1
Topless	19/12	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/JP-1

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Sea Bulker	Wheat(p)	--	Total	5/12
Medi Melbourne	Wheat(p)	Jedd	Jnship	8/12
Elii	Crude Oil	Rast	DSL	4/12
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	BSC	R/A (14/12)
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (14/12)

### Outside port Limit

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Pacific Express	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	10/12
Csav California	Cont	Col	PSSL	10/12
Kota Rukun(cont)	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	11/12
Sea Master One	Cont	Sing	PML	12/12
Kota Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	12/12
Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	12/12
Eagle Pioneer	Cont	Sing	Cl	13/12
Banga Borak	Cont	Sing	Bdship	13/12
Rio Lawrence	Cont	Sing	QCSL	14/12

### Vessels at outer anchorage

#### Vessels ready

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	BSC	R/A (21/6)
Asrar-a-mosiafa	--	--	Inraport	R/A (6/10)
Banglar Mookh	Repair	Damm	BSC	18/11
Layar Sentosa	--	--	Mutual	R/A(3/12)
TCP-6	--	--	SNCL	R/A(4/12)
Orionis	--	--	PML	R/A(10/12)

### Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	BSC	R/A (21/6)
Asrar-a-mosiafa	--	--	Inraport	R/A (6/10)
Banglar Mookh	Repair	Damm	BSC	18/11
Layar Sentosa	--	--	Mutual	R/A(3/12)
TCP-6	--	--	SNCL	R/A(4/12)
Orionis	--	--	PML	R/A(10/12)

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

## STOCK