

## New round of global trade talks

## EU to put forward 7-point plan to appease developing nations

## Cathay to sack pilots for pay cut rejection

HONG KONG, June 9: Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific Airways, in a bitter row with senior aircrew, vowed again today to sack pilots who reject a pay cut by a Friday deadline, says Reuters.

The warning came hours before Cathay and the pilots' union meet government mediators to try to settle the dispute, which has forced the cancellation of hundreds of flights and disrupted travel for tens of thousands of passengers since May 28.

"We have made it very clear that if our pilots don't agree either to the new contract or the voluntary separation scheme that we put in place, that we will be terminating contracts," said Tony Tyler, Cathay's director of corporate development.

"We have made that clear to everybody. I do hope that no one is in any doubt of that," he told

Hong Kong government radio, RTHK.

He was answering a question about what would happen after the contract deadline for more than 600 senior aircrew.

Cathay, which has leased 23 full-time charter planes and crews since the row began, has contingency plans to cope with disruption of its service after the deadline, Tyler said.

The charters have put Cathay on a battle footing for the row but the planes are pricey, with analysts estimating each aircraft and crew cost Cathay about US\$1.1 million a month.

"We have contingency plans," Tyler said. "Let's not forget we are currently undergoing a degree of disruption which is very significant and yet the airline continues to operate."

Cathay had a HK\$542 million (US\$ 69 million) loss in 1998, its first in 35 years.

CAIRO, June 9: The European Union's top trade official said in Cairo he had specific proposals to ensure that a new round of global trade talks would address the concerns of developing countries and meet their aspirations, reports Reuters.

"I have a seven-point plan for meeting the concerns of the developing countries with regard to the new trade round and I believe that can be done," Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan told Reuters in an interview in Cairo on Monday.

"I think we are making progress on that, and I think everybody understands that there cannot be agreement unless the concerns of the developing

countries are met," he said.

His proposals, announced later in a speech to political think-tank Al Ahram Institute, meant to appease developing countries which have often complained that the international terms of trade work against them.

They say demand and prices for commodities they mainly produce are less buoyant than those of the manufactured goods and hi-tech products made by industrialised countries.

The seven-point proposals include WTO members offering support "where a member has encountered genuine difficulties in implementing WTO agreements" and, secondly, addressing market access across the board, including the priorities of developing countries.

"Third, as part of market access, all industrialised countries should commit themselves to tariff-free treatment on essentially all products from the least developed countries to be implemented by 2003, while more advanced developing countries could also make a contribution," he said.

"Fourth, the needs of the developing and least developed countries should be an explicit objective of negotiations in all areas," he said, with talks in new areas like investment and competition supporting development.

WTO members must also be

open to discussing proposals from developing states aimed at their fuller integration into the global trading system, he said as a fifth point, including proposals to make special and differential treatment more operational.

Developing countries complain that the special and differential treatment provision, agreed under GATT, has still not been put into practice.

The final proposals are for institutional improvements, including "targeted technical assistance" and longer term cooperation with other development bodies like the World Bank and UNCTAD, as well as better coherence between trade, money and finance.

## Annan urges US business leaders

## Press Washington to pay UN \$1.6 b

WASHINGTON, June 9: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged business leaders yesterday to press the United States to pay some of the \$1.6 billion it owes the United Nations, reports Reuters.

"The United States has now been in arrears in its payments to the United Nations for 13 years," Annan said in remarks prepared for delivery to the US Chamber of Commerce. "The private sector, more than any other, understands the meaning of a contract. It is a matter of honour, of keeping one's word."

Annan said pressure from business helped persuade the US government to renew funding for the International Monetary Fund last year, and the same pressure might be brought to bear on paying US arrears to the United Nations.

"I am convinced that the Senate and Congress would listen again if you spoke up on the question of arrears," Annan said. "... Your voice, loud and clear, could again make an important difference."

The United States has already been warned that it must pay at least \$250 million — a

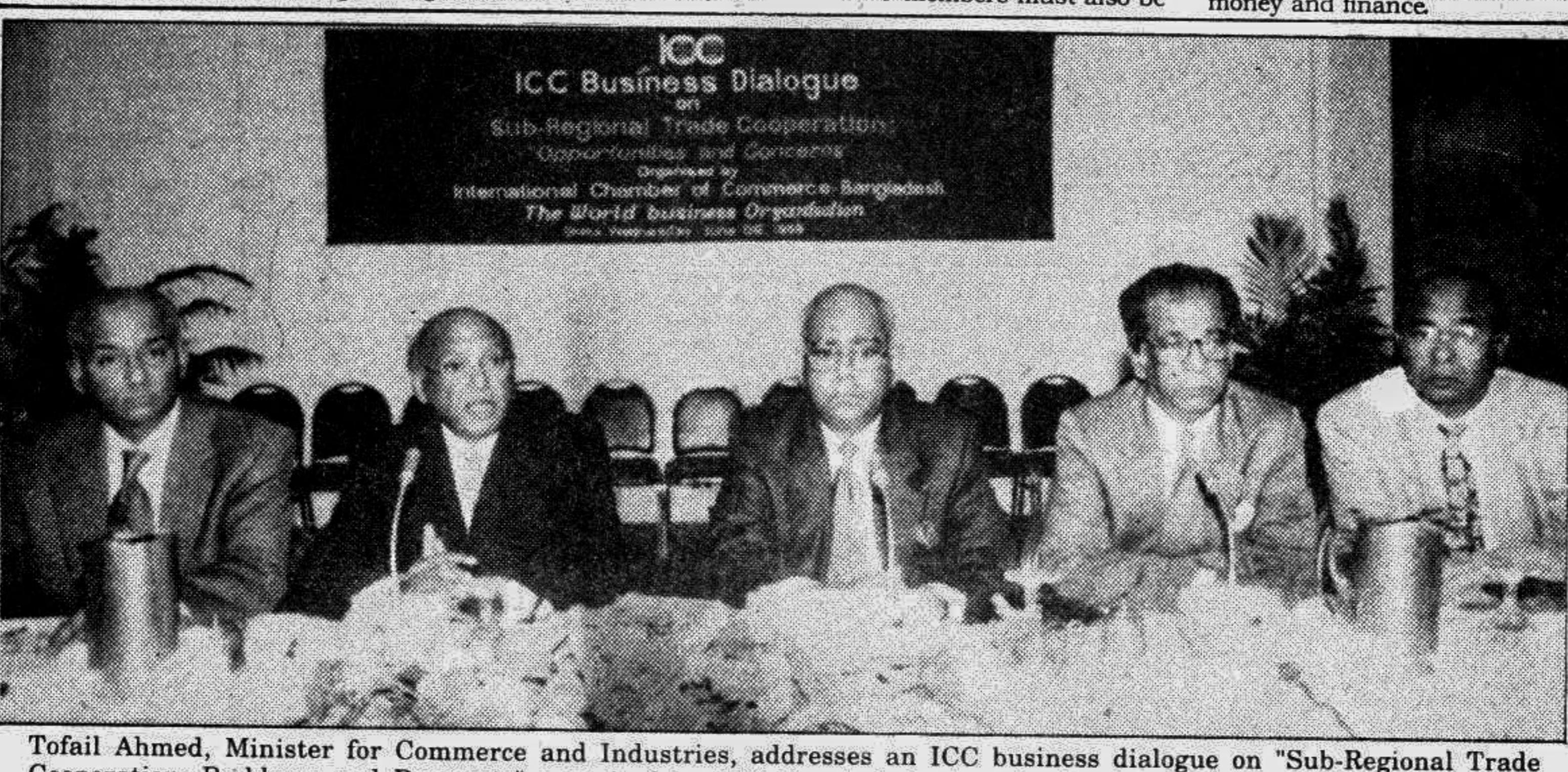
small percentage of what it owes — by the end of this year if it wants to vote in the gala millennium UN General Assembly in September 2000.

Conservatives in Congress, including Jesse Helms, the North Carolina Republican who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, have held up the \$1.6 billion in dues to the United Nations, saying its programmes for sustainable population growth encouraged abortion.

But last month, a group of Democrats and moderate Republicans pushed to restore the \$20 million US share of an UN family planning programme.

President Bill Clinton last year vetoed a Republican measure to pay nearly \$1 billion of the arrears if US aid was barred to international family planning groups that press countries to liberalise their abortion laws.

Annan left behind UN Security Council wrangling over a peace plan for Kosovo to make the rounds of business and political powers in Washington.



Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries, addresses an ICC business dialogue on "Sub-Regional Trade Cooperation: Problems and Prospects" organised by ICC Bangladesh at a city hotel yesterday. Mahbubur Rahman, President of ICC Bangladesh, M Shamsul Islam, MP, former minister for commerce and A Rob Chowdhury, Vice President of ICCB, are seen on his left while Latifur Rahman, Vice President of ICCB, is on his right. —ICCB photo

Dispute over 'hormone-treated beef'  
US hopes to avert EU ban

BRUSSELS, June 9: The United States is hopeful of resolving a row with the European Union over traces of hormones found in meat and of averting an EU ban on US beef imports threatened for next week, a US trade official said yesterday, reports Reuters.

The EU's Executive Commission said in late April it would ban imports of US beef from June 15 unless the United States made sure meat destined for the EU market contained no hormones.

The US official said the two sides had been having "very good discussions" on the issue and the United States was

working on providing assurances that the beef was hormone-free.

"We are trying to find ways to sort out the problem," the official said.

"We are hopeful of maybe finding a solution. It may be right up to the wire," she said, referring to the June 15 deadline.

The Commission moved to ban all US beef after scientific tests showed that 12 per cent of supposedly hormone-free US beef contained hormone residues.

The EU already bans imports of US hormone-treated beef because of fears it could be

harmful to human health.

The EU's import ban on hormone-treated beef is the subject of a long-running dispute with the United States and Canada. After winning a World Trade Organisation (WTO) case, Washington has threatened to impose punitive duties on \$202 million of EU exports because of the EU's refusal to lift the ban. Canada is seeking sanctions of C\$75 million (\$51 million).

The EU ruled out removing the ban after an EU scientific committee found evidence that one of six hormones commonly used in the North American cattle industry could cause cancer.

## Hanoi moves to cut spending

HANOI, June 9: Under government efforts to cut spending, some state agencies are being told that employees can keep part of the money saved if their departments come in under budget, a Finance Ministry official said Wednesday, reports AP.

The pilot programme is part of the ministry's efforts to implement a government decree last year to "promote thrift and eliminate waste" by introducing budget discipline into the civil service.

The idea of shifting part of the saved money to civil servants as a financial incentive has been tried in Ho Chi Minh City and is now being experimented with in some other provinces.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Dhaka PWD Division No IV, Dhaka

## Notice Inviting Tender

1. Fresh sealed tender in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from Special Class-I (one) & Class-I (one) enlisted building contractors/firms under PWD, Class-II (two) enlisted building contractors/firms under PWD Dhaka Zone, Class-III (three) enlisted building contractors/firms under Dhaka PWD Circle-II, Dhaka & Class-IV (four) enlisted building contractors/firms under this Division for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer of PWD Division No I/II/III/City PWD Division, Dhaka/Eden Building PWD Division/Azimpur PWD Division, Dhaka/Motijheel PWD Division, Dhaka/Medical College PWD Division, Dhaka/Resource/Maintenance/ Mohakhali/Savar/Mirpur/Sher-e-Bangla Nagar PWD Division No I/II/III/Executive Engineer (staff officer), PWD, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Executive Officer, Arboriculture PWD Division, Dhaka in their respective chamber up to 12:00 Noon of 21-6-99 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of intending tenderers whom may like to remain present. The tender will be in a sealed cover separately for each group subscribing the name of work. No tender form will be sold to the contractors/firms who has no VAT Registration and Tax-payers Identification Number (TIN). And no tender will be sold after 20-6-99.
2. Name of work : Construction of boundary wall (part) around the compound of Govt. Staff Quarter Building No. 7, 8 & Chaya Building (east and south side) at Khilgaon, Dhaka during year 1998-99.
3. Estimated cost : Tk 3,66,458/-
4. Earnest money : Tk 7,330/-
5. Time allowed for completion of the work from the date of work order is 45 (forty-five) days.
6. Tender form No 2911 together with schedule of items, specifications, terms & conditions etc can be seen & obtained from the office of the undersigned and from the office mentioned above in para-1 on payment of usual charges (non-refundable) during office hours on all working days up to 20-6-99.
7. The amount of earnest money as shown in Para-4 mentioned above duly pledged in Pratirakha Sanchaya Patra or 5-year BD Sancbaya Patra or Bonus Sanchaya Patra in favour of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division No IV, Dhaka must accompany each tender. Those who have fixed deposit with this department must quote the reference to that effect and enclose FD certificate obtained from the concerned Executive Engineer issued not earlier than 90 (ninety) days from the date of dropping tender. FD holders are to furnish balance earnest money exceeds fixed deposit in the form as mentioned above. Earnest money in no other form will be accepted under any circumstances.
8. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

DDP-12796-6/6  
G-1078

Md Akhterul Alam  
Executive Engineer  
Dhaka PWD Divn No IV, Dhaka

**Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited**  
(A Company of Petrobangla)

প্রাক্তিক গ্যাস একটি সীমিত সম্পদ  
এর ব্যবহারে মিতব্য হোন

## Employment of Legal Advisors (Retainers) and Panel Advocates

Applications are hereby invited in plain paper from the members of the District Bar Councils of Dhaka, Comilla, Chandpur, Feni, Maijdee and Chittagong for appointment of Legal Advisors for Comilla and Chittagong Area and Panel Advocates two each for Dhaka, Comilla and Chittagong and Panel Advocate one each for Chandpur, Feni and Maijdee Area for a period of two years for conducting suits in different courts on the following terms and conditions:

1. The applicants must have ten years experience as legal practitioner in Civil Courts including five years experience in High Court Division. An advocate having a Bar-at-Law or Doctorate Degree in any discipline of law will be given preference.
2. Retired District Judges (age not exceeding sixty years) who are engaged in legal practice are eligible to apply.
3. The applicants must be Bangladeshi by birth.
4. The applicants must possess a good physique.
5. The Legal Advisors will be paid a monthly retainer fee of Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) Legal Advisors and Panel Advocates will be paid legal fees separately at BGSL's schedule rates(s).
6. Advocates engaged as Legal Advisor/Retainer in any other organisation are not eligible to apply for appointment as Legal Advisor/Retainer in BGSL.
7. Interested candidates should submit 2(two) copies of applications stating name, father's/husband's name, present and permanent address, 2 (two) attested copies of certificates regarding nationality, experience/qualifications and 2 (two) copies of recent passport size photographs duly attested by First Class Gazetted Officer directly to the Secretary, Bakhrabad Gas Systems Ltd, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla, within 15 (fifteen) days from the day of publication of this notice.
8. The words "Application for the post of Legal Advisor/Panel Advocate" should be mentioned on the application and envelope.

BG-35/June '99

DDP-12718-6/6  
G-1080

## Exchange Rates

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against the Taka to major currencies						
Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling BC	Buying T. + Clean	Buying OD. Sight Export Bill	Buying OD Transfer	
US Dollar	48.7300	48.7700	48.3100	48.1570	48.0650	
Pound Stg	78.581	78.6026	77.3238	77.0849	76.9697	
Deutsche Mark	26.4376	26.4593	25.4440	25.3634	25.2525	
Swiss Franc	32.0972	32.1236	31.5917	31.4916	31.4445	
Japanese Yen	0.4101	0.4104	0.4028	0.4015	0.4009	
Dutch Guilder	23.4638	23.4831	22.9880	22.5105	22.4768	
Danish Krona	6.9094	6.7463	6.7249	6.7148		
Australian \$	32.5127	32.5393	31.2421	31.1341	31.0966	
Belgian Franc	1.2818	1.2828	1.2236	1.2227		
Canadian \$	33.3950	33.4224	32.4250	32.3223	32.2740	
French Franc	7.8827	7.8892	7.5665	7.5612	7.5512	
Hong Kong \$	6.2948	6.3000	6.1960	6.1867		
Italian Lira	0.02267	0.02267	0.0257	0.0256	0.0256	
Norway Kroner	6.2402	6.2453	6.1130	6.1044		
Singapore \$	28.8534	28.8569	27.9087	27.8203	27.7787	
Saudi Rial	13.0298	13.0405	12.8453	12.8046	12.7855	
UAE Dirham	13.3040	13.3150	13.1167	13.0751	13.0556	
Swedish Krona	5.7335	5.7383	5.6409	5.6325		
Qatari Riyal	13.4213	13.4323	13.2298	13.1682		
Kuwaiti Dinar	164.6284	164.7635	152.4937	151.0017	151.7835	
Thai Baht	1.3211	1.3222	1.3076	1.3035		
Euro	51.7074	51.7498	49.7641	49.6065	49.5324	

## Bill buying rates

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days



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