

Rich nations woo poor for new WTO round support

Developing world unimpressed by trade concessions on offer

SEATTLE (Washington), Dec 2: The industrial world wooed poor countries here yesterday in a bid to win their support for a new round of global trade liberalisation, but the developing world was unimpressed by the concessions on offer, reports AFP.

"We must accord priority and urgency" to ensuring that the developing world reaps the promised benefits of the previous Uruguay Round of trade talks "before we embark on any new negotiations," Malaysian trade ministry secretary general Asmat Kamaludin told a meeting of ministers from the 135-member World Trade Organisation here.

His remarks echoed comments from other developing countries who feel they have been short-changed in previous trade talks, being forced to open their markets but gaining only limited ability to export their

goods to the industrial world. Developing country delegates also hit back at efforts by the industrial world to add labour standards to the WTO's mandate as US President Bill Clinton proposed trade sanctions against countries using child labour and violating workers' rights.

"Trade sanctioning should not be accepted as a means to promote the adoption of core labour standards," Thai Commerce Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi, who is to take over as WTO director general in 2002, told ministers.

"We need a dialogue on trade and labour... but this dialogue should be a one-off meeting" grouping relevant organisations such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the WTO, but not a WTO-organised even and not designed to draw up binding labour rules, he said.

Industrial countries have been under pressure to offer some new concessions to the developing world to win them over to the idea of a new global trade round, due to be launched here at the end of the WTO meeting Friday.

Much of the developing world is reluctant to agree until the Uruguay Round has been fully implemented, citing a whole list of areas where promised access has been slow in coming, from textiles to leather goods.

But so far the industrial world has failed to agree on a hoped-for offer to scrap tariffs on all imports from more than 40 of the world's least developed countries, or to offer instant improved access on textiles.

A proposed text for the ministerial declaration to be issued Friday, prepared by the European Union and supported by Japan calls for "positive mea-

sures designed to ensure that developing countries, and especially the least-developed economies, share in the benefits of freer trade.

But while it says "more progress needs to be made towards realising this objective" it does not propose tariff-free access for least developed nations.

Even if such an offer is made, it would exclude key textile and agricultural exports, undermining an initiative which could provide significant benefit to the world's poorest nations, critics say.

The EU proposed agenda also offers an accelerated move to the next phase of previously-agreed market opening.

But international aid agency Oxfam said that if textiles are excluded from the tariff-free offer to the world's poorest countries the most important items would be left out.



US President Bill Clinton addresses a luncheon in honour of the ministers attending the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference at the Four Seasons Hotel December 1 in Seattle, Washington. In an earlier speech to Washington State farmers, President Clinton defended genetically engineered foods.

—AFP photo

Exchange Rates

Following are yesterday's Standard Chartered Bank rates of major currencies against Taka.									
Central Bank USD/BOT Rate: Buying-BOT 50.85/Selling-BOT 51.15									
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight	OD Transfer				
51.2300	51.2700	USD	50.8200	50.6516	50.5631				
05151	05155	JPY	0.4817	0.4801	0.2793				
32.5518	32.5772	CHF	31.6714	31.5695	31.4525				
31.2626	31.2870	SGD	29.5617	29.4537	29.4023				
36.7277	36.7556	CAD	33.5466	33.4366	33.3112				
6.0270	6.0317	SEK	5.9195	5.8999	5.8876				
33.6479	33.6741	AUD	30.8223	30.7202	30.5148				
13.6256	13.6375	MYR	13.2327	13.1888	13.1555				
6.6436	6.6489	HKD	6.4888	6.4673	6.4535				
13.7771	13.7878	SAR	13.4469	13.4024	13.3684				
14.0637	14.0747	AED	13.7236	13.6782	13.6432				
0.0444	0.0444	KRW	0.0436	0.0436	0.0434				
82.7365	82.8011	GBP	80.5080	80.2422	79.9504				
52.4134	52.4543	EUR	50.4185	50.2514	50.1637				

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar									
Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Mal Ringit	Indo Rupee	Sing Dollar				
43.35/43.40	51.875/51.90	33.87/38.91	3.7955/05	72707310	1.6787/1.6797				

On Thursday, trading in the local interbank market was moderate as the market was still adjusting to the new rate of Bangladesh Taka to the US dollar. The call money market was in a state of flux with rates fluctuating between 5.5 and 6.00 per cent.

In the international markets, yen was a bit firmer against the dollar and euro but failed to hold on to earlier gains amid wariness of potential Bank of Japan intervention. The yen had risen after the Bank of Japan kept its daily money market surplus of a trillion yen confounding the speculation that it would leave Tuesday's forex intervention unsterilised. The Bank of Japan decision drove home the message given by Bank of Japan officials on Wednesday when they dismissed talk of not sterilising, saying that the issue was irrelevant. The Bank of Japan officials commented that the current zero interest rate policy was a more effective way of supplying liquidity to the money market than so called unsterilised intervention.

At 1715 hours local time dollar traded at 102.48/58 against JPY, 1.0098/02 against euro and GBP at 1.6004/44 against dollar.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 02:12:99						
Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Date of leaving
J/1	Tao Jiang	GI (Maize)	Ching	Royal	13/11	5/12
J/2	Golden yt	GI(Maize)	Chin	Seacom	11/11	3/12
J/3	Fantasy	GI/R/S	Kaki	Litmond	3/11	5/12
J/4	Hua Yang	C Clink	Karab	RML	20/11	2/12
J/5	Meghna	R Seed	Voro	Fortune	14/11	2/12
J/6	Bhavabut (48)	GI	Mad	SSLL	26/11	2/12
J/7	AL Muztaba	Rice	-	-	-	7/12
J/8	UJanki	Wheat (G)	Aust	Ancient	20/11	8/12
J/9	Dusita Naree	D. P/M/S	Sing	Litmond	10/11	6/12
J/10	Ken Koku	Wheat(G)	-	Lams	R/A	6/12
J/12	Yusuf Kalkavan	Wheat(P)	Varna	Angelic	16/11	12/12
J/13	Achiever	Cont	P Kel	RSL	28/11	3/12
CCT/1	Banglar Moni	Cont	Sing	BSC	2/12	4/12
CCT/2	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	29/11	4/12
CCT/3	QC Thal	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	30/11	3/12
RM/14	Banglar Shikha (Cont)	Repair	Sing	BSC	21/12	5/12
RM/15	Dewan-1	GI(Bit)	B. Abb	OWSL	28/11	13/12
CGJ	Corali	C.Clink	Kata	RML	27/11	6/12
GSJ	Wavelet	Wheat(G)	P Suez	Lams	15/11	7/12
TSP	Gill	R Phos	EGYP	Seacom	14/11	6/12
RM/3	Global Jupiter	CPO	Sand	TSL	2/12	5/12
RM/4	Ocean Pride-C. Clink (D.Mond)	R.D	Karav	Apex	28/11	4/12
RM/5	Ervillea	HSD	Sing	ECSL	28/11	4/12
DDJ	Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	-	BSC	R/A	3/12
DDJ/1	Banglar Maya	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	14/12
DDJ/1	Banglar Doot	Wheat(G)	Busa	BSC	25/11	3/12
RM/9	Phaethon	Repair	Durb	OWSL	10/6	6/12
KACPOU	Martina	Fert (Bag)	Mong	SMSL	12/10	30/12

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Evrmedon	3/12	P Said	Ancient	Wheat (G)	-
APJ Anand	2/12	Sing	Alseas	GI (Copro)	-
Triumph Kaoshing (48) 23/11	2/12	Sing	RML	GI (St. Coll)	-
Bunga Mas Lapan (Cont) 21/11	2/12	P Kel	BOSL	Cont	Sing
Xpress Resolve (Cont) 22/11	3/12	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Chahaya Star	4/12	Yan	Uniship	GI (logi)-Onton	-
OSGO Alpha (Cont) 18/11	4/12	Viza	RSL	Cont	Sing
Jaya Mars (Cont) 21/11	4/12	Mong	Baridhi	Cont	Col
QC Pratal (Cont) 22/11	3/12	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Sea Chahya (Cont) 23/11	3/12	Sing	PHI (BD)	Cont	Sing
Scan Swan (48) 26/11	3/12	Sing	Everett	GI (P. Cargo)	-
Jin Cheng	3/12	Sing	BD Ship	GI	-
Bao Ji Shan (48) 29/11	3/12	Sing	RML	GI (St. Coll)	-
Jutha Sanupak	4/12	-	Ancient	Wheat (G)	-
Ruth M	3/12	Sing	OTL	In Ballast	-
Jurong Balasam (Cont) 28/11	5/12	Sing	NOL	Cont	Sing
Southern Lion	4/12	Sing	UMTL	Scraping	-
Cormorant	4/12	Ilyc	Litmond	MOP	-
Ruhimpura (Cont) 13/11	6/12	T Prk	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Novocherk Assk (38) 29/11	5/12	Mong	Seacom	M seed	Sing
Xpress Makuhi (Cont) 29/11	6/12	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Kallol	6/12	Kara	BSC	Ontion	-
Jordan	6/12	-	Apex	GI (maize)	-
Bao Lan Shan (48) 23/11	7/12	-	ASA	GI (St. Coll)	-
QC Mallard (Cont) 29/11	6/12	-	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Bunga Mas Enam (Cont) 28/11	6/12	P Kel	BOSL	Cont	Sing
Tiger River (Cont) 28/11	6/12	Sing	BD Ship	Cont	Sing
Banga Birel (Cont) 28/11	9/12	Sing	BD Ship	Cont	Sing
DARA (Cont) 28/11	14/12	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Xpress Nilgiri (Cont) 1/12	10/12	Sing	SSST	Wheat (G)	-
North Friendship	11/12	Qub	SSST	Wheat (G)	-
Banglar Kakoli	12/11	Male	BSC	GI	-
Banga Biraj (Cont) 28/11	14/12	Sing	BD Ship	Cont	Sing
Roro Siam (Roro/24) 1/12	18/12	P Kel	JP	VEH	-

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Romandarm Fedko	4/12	Chen	OWSL	COSO
Eburna	3/12	Sing	ECSS	SKO/JET-1
Timur Queen	6/12	Jab	Seacom	C Soda In Bulk

Vessels of Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Energy Explorer-IV	-	-	BBAL	5/4
Dea Champion	-	K Dia	BBAL	R/A (1/12)
Ismaya	-	-	BBAL	17/8
MF8 Devi Matha	-	-	BBAL	24/10
MF8 Sona	-	-	BBAL	24/10
MF8 Lakshmi	-	-	BBAL	24/10
Seabulk Command	-	-	IBS	R/A (28/11)
Ostero	-	Sing	SI Chy	2/12
Smit Lloyd-27	-	Sing	SI Chy	2/12
Tug Pacific Centurion	-	Sing	SI Chy	2/12
Marine-305	-	Sing	SI Chy	2/12
Tug Smitlloyd-110	-	Sing	SI Chy	2/12
Spiros	C.Oil	-	BSL	1/12
Banglar Shourabh	C.Oil	-	BSC	R/A (30/11)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Ready on									
Tac Dong Gang	GI (Maize)	DHIL	Total	18/11					
Lady Emily	Wheat (P)	Sing	MSA	23/11					
Dubai Success	GI	Mum	Seacom	25/11					
Xiang Jiang	GI	Col	Bdship	27/11					
Yuuzan (40)	GI	Sing	Everett	27/11					
Banglar Robi	Wheat (G)	-	BSC	R/A (12/11)					
MI Jiang	GI	S Hal	Bdship	28/11					
Global discovery	GI (peas)	Sing	Seagory	26/11					
Shun An	GI	Mong	RML	22/11					
Mihalis-F	Wheat (G)	P Said	Ancient	22/11					
Banglar Urmi	Wheat (G)	BSC	R/A	(25/11)					
Phoenix-M	RS/WTFP	Lapa	MSA	20/11					
Apisara Naree	Wheat (P)	Darb	Rainbow	27/11					
Sea Bird (E/L)	E/L	Cal	Everett	30/11					

Vessels awaiting instruction

Vessels awaiting instruction				
tz	Rice(P	-	Cross	R/A (25/9)
ing Ye	Rice(G)	-	MHCSL	R/A (20/9)
ania	-	-	Nishan	R/A (29/7)
venge	-	-	Sunshine	R/A (9/10)
ug Magarita	-	-	BBAL	17/9
mit Lloyd-74	-	-	BBAL	R/A (19/11)
unity	Ballast	Mong	SSST	19/11
Shiri	-	-	Seagory	R/A (29/11)
nglar Gourab	-	-	Seagory	R/A (29/11)
oom Ocean	Cement	Nampan	-	1/12

Vessels not entering

Vessels not entering				
Anglar Mookh	Wheat(G)	-	BSC	R/A (1/11)
Sea Bird-1	Cement	K Dia	Apex	15/11
Hal Shen	Mop (Bag)	ILYC	Litmond	28/11
Sokolica	Scraping	Sing	Simni	28/11
Karya Sentosa	Rice(G)	-	USTC	R/A (18/9)

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

Cuba calls for poor states to join forces at WTO

SEATTLE, Dec 2: Cuba yesterday urged poorer countries to band together against what it called the dictate of big powers, especially the United States, in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), reports Reuters.

In a speech to a conference of the WTO's 135-member states, the Communist island's trade minister, Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, said that little benefit had come to developing economies from the opening up of global markets.