

Key developing states against early trade round idea

Concerns regarding resolution of past accords

GENEVA, June 23: Key developing countries made clear yesterday that they would not agree to a full new global round of trade liberalisation negotiations until their concerns about earlier agreements were resolved, reports Reuters.

Trade sources said the stance was set out by Asian states ranging from Pakistan and India to Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines at a World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting called to discuss problems that have emerged with past accords.

But some richer powers — including Canada and South Korea with support from East European states bidding to join the European Union — argued that a new round would be the best way to tackle these issues.

The sources, and diplomats present at the closed-door meeting, said the Asian were backed by Egypt and other African countries, while Latin Ameri-

can powers in the WTO signalled sympathy if not total agreement.

"It is quite clear there is not going to be much progress towards a round unless we really move to show them (developing countries) we are not just taking them for a side," said one European envoy.

The meeting was the first special session of the WTO's ruling General Council — which brings together all the body's 137 member countries — on implementation of agreements reached during the 1986-93 Uruguay Round.

Delegations present agreed to most again for one day in early July and then hold another full special session in mid-October to try to approve action on any recommendations tabled by then.

Many emerging economies, but especially least-developed, low-income countries in Africa

much of last year that they wanted formal discussions on problems many were finding with putting the round's wide-ranging agreement into force before a WTO Ministerial Meeting in Seattle in December.

Their anger at what they saw as an offhanded approach to their concerns by big powers — especially the United States but also by the European Union — was one of the causes of tension among delegations at the Seattle gathering.

Although it was not the immediate cause of the collapse of a project to get agreement there to launch a new round early this year, diplomats say it would have sunk the proposal if US and EU officials had not themselves failed to agree on key issues.

Developing countries in Asia and Latin America, as well as Japan, are especially concerned at what they argue is abusive use of anti-dumping actions by the United States on what they say are often purely protectionist grounds.

Business consultant from US visits Informatics

US business development consultant, Anthony J Palamone, from the Business Faculty of Indiana University, Pennsylvania, visited Informatics Institute Bangladesh Thursday, says a press release.

Among those present were Atif Rahman, Director, Paul Caparas, Centre Manager, and Kazi Mahmud Ahmed, Faculty, NSU. Palamone addressed the students at Informatics and talked about the opportunities for Asian IT professionals in the US.

He gave various examples of how Asian IT experts in USA were aiding different industries, such as metal, automobiles, textiles, education, etc. to facilitate and develop their production processes. Using computer-related technology, they can upgrade products and services and manufacture more goods in a shorter time.

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The 28th annual general meeting (AGM) of Bata Shoe Co (BD) Ltd was held at Dhamrai on Thursday. Picture shows (from left) Fernando Garcia, Managing Director, M Saiduzzaman, Company Secretary, Keith Weston, Chairman, and Rashidul Hasan, Director of the company, at the AGM.

— Bata photo

Africans blast donors over aid, trade

DURBAN, South Africa, June 23: African politicians denounced Western lenders yesterday, saying that the international donor community had failed to lift the poorest continent out of its misery after 30 years of failed aid and trade programmes, reports Reuters.

Tanzanian, regional powerhouse South Africa and Malawi accused international organisations such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank of strangling the continent with hefty debt repayments and erecting trade barriers to prevent Africans goods gaining access to lucrative foreign markets.

Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa said failure to deliver on promised donor funds had scuppered Africa's chances of development and condemned the continent to mire in economic marginalisation.

poverty and disease.

"There is a need for change, not just readjustment... What is required is that the global community put its money where their mouths are," Mkapa told delegates at a meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Durban, South Africa.

Mkapa's call was backed by other African officials, who said the time was ripe to write off African debt and infuse new funds and political capital in the same way that the Marshall Plan revived post-war Europe.

International donors have made aid, debt relief and improved trade relations conditional on moves by African governments to cement democracy, work to end wars that engulf the continent, and to open up domestic markets and fight corruption.

Bata announces 120pc cash dividend

The 28th annual general meeting (AGM) of Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Ltd, was held at Dhamrai on Thursday.

Keith Weston, Chairman of the company, presided over the meeting where the Board of Directors declared 120 per cent cash dividend comprising a final 60 per cent and interim dividend of 60 per cent for the year 1999, says a press release.

The meeting, attended by a large number of shareholders, okayed the audited accounts for 1999.

In his address, Keith Weston said that the company's turnover increased by 12 per cent despite the unstable business environment. He further stated that the company's sale pairs recorded a growth of 15 per cent against 1998. The growth in sale pairs was 20 per cent in wholesale mainly in Thong. "Sandak" footwear and Summerlines, which enabled Bata to restore its market share.

The company achieved a net profit of Taka 14.4 million in 1999. During 1999, the company contributed Taka 389 million to the national exchequer in the form of corporate tax, VAT, custom duties and other taxes.

The meeting was also attended by Fernando Garcia Restrepo, Managing Director, as well as Director of the company Rashidul Hasan, M Saiduzzaman, Company Secretary, and other senior executives were present.

Beximco Ltd declares 15 pc dividend

Bangladesh Export Import Co Ltd has declared a 15 per cent dividend for its shareholders for the year 1999.

The dividend was announced at the 27th Annual General Meeting of the company held in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

A S F Rahman, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, presided over the meeting.

The company earned a gross and net profit of Tk 61.01 million and Tk 19.39 million respectively for the year 1999.

Iqbal Ahmed, M A Qasemi, O K Chowdhury, A B Siddiquar Rahman, Dr Abdul Alim Khan, S M Kamal, Directors, and Md Asad Ullah, Company Secretary, attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Beximco Knitting Ltd has declared a 10 per cent dividend for its shareholders for the year 1999.

The dividend was announced at the 7th Annual General Meeting of the company held in the city on Thursday.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Beth position and performance of vessels as on 22.6.2000

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J-1	Banglar Doot	Rece(P)	Kara	BSC	8/6	25/6
J-2	Apex	Rice(P)	Saig	Cindy	10/6	23/6
J-3	Altair-SS	Sugar(G)	Kolis	Litmond	12/6	28/6
J-4	Top Glory	Wheat(P)	Sting	Rainbow	30/5	23/6
J-5	Egasco Fortune	Gl(Ash C Sda)	Const	BSL	14/6	27/6
J-6	Esco Virgo	Gl(Copra)	Sing	Prog	8/6	26/6
J-7	Areopolls	C.Chirk	Tuba	Mbl	8/6	26/6
J-8	Jin Hong	Wheat(P)	P.Said	Owl	7/5	25/6
J-9	Bay Fortune	Gl(BIT)	B Adb	Smsl	5/6	25/6
J-10	Sulu Warrior	Gl(ype)	Vane	Rainbow	2/6	23/6
J-11	Banga Birol (Flag)	Cont	P.Kel	Bdship	14/6	23/6
J-12	Norbuk Oal	C.Clin	Pada	Nwsl	8/6	27/6
J-13	Jutha Parichart(Cont)	Cont	Sing	Rsl	10/6	24/6
Cct/1	Orient Independence	Cont	P.Kel	Bdship	10/6	22/6
Cct/2	Acturia	Cont	P.Kel	Qsl	16/6	25/6
Cct/3	Boxer Capt cook	Cont	P.Kel	Bdship	13/6	23/6
Rm/14	Undox-1	Cement	Sing	Sds	22/5	23/6
Ccj	Ban Anna	Clink	Rml	Rml	15/6	22/6
Rm/3	Bukom	CPO	IND	Strainbow	15/6	22/6
Rm/6	Polt	HSD/JP-1	Baha	Atlantic	12/6	26/6
Doj	Al Sabiyah	Hsd	Kuwa	Atlantic	9/6	24/6
DD	Ocean-1	Repair	Yang	Smsl	13/5	-
Ddj/1	Bangler Monti	Repair	Sing	Bsc	17/4	22/6
Ddj/2	Developing Road	P.Mat	Shek	Karna	15/6	22/6
Rm/9	Bangler Joyti	Repair	-	Be	R/A	-
Kafco(U)	Mathilde Oldendorff	Urea	Pena	Oil	18/6	-

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Banglar Shikha (Cont)	18/6	22/6	Mong	Bsc	Cont
Mary Nour	22/6	Lank	Bsl	Cement (Scan)	Sing
Xpress Router(Cont)	11/6	22/6	Sing	Rsl	Cont
Gold Indus(48)1/6	22/6	-	Everett	Gl(st coll)	Sing
Banga Biraj(Cont)1/6	26/6	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Qant Star	23/6	-	H&H	Gl	Gl
Jaya Mari(Cont)	11/6	23/6	-	Eversest	Cont
Al Bauraq	23/6	-	Seacomm	Cement	CTG
Dragon Kalimantan (Cont)	19/6	24/6	Sing	Nol	Cont
Kedah (Cont)	14/6	23/6	Sing	Rsl	Sing
Jin Cheng	29/6	Shang	Bdship	Gl	Gl
Banglar Maya	25/6	Jedda	Bsc	Qsl	Cont
QC Pintal(Cont)	14/6	26/6	P.Kel	Qsl	Cont
Kota Nagal(Cont)	14/6	24/6	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont
Kapitan Petko Voivoda (48)31/5	26/6	Col	BBA	Gl(St.Coll)	Sing
Chong Gen	26/6	Viet	Sbs	Rice(P)	-
Bharatendu	26/6	Mongla	Ssl	E/L	Ant Dund
An Da	30/6	-	Lutful	St.Rails	-
Osg Alpha	26/6	Sing	Psal	C.Clink (Diamond)	-
Rimbun	26/6	Sing	Psal	C.Clink (Diamond)	-
Chu Hong	27/6	-	Qsl	Cont	Sing
Banglar Robi	27/6	Sing	Bsc	Cont	Sing
Hilda	28/6	-	Prog	Gl	-
Jaami	28/6	Sing	Cross	cont	Sing
Almutzuba	29/6	-	Cla	Rice(P)	-
Arabella	1/7	-	Qsl	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya	2/7	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing

Tanker Due

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Energy Explorator-IV	-	-	BBA	5/1
Ismaya	-	-	BBAL	17/8
Barge: Csk-6	-	-	BBAL	R/A(28/11)
Tug Magrit	-	-	BBAL	R/A(28/11)
Pea Champion	-	Balla	Arafeen	R/A(19/6)
Dea Conqueror	-	-	Arafeen	R/A(21/6)
Seabulk Command	-	-	IBS	R/A(29/4)

Vessels at Outer Anchorage

Ready on					

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