

Business & Metropolitan

# US, EU still at odds over WTO round agenda

## Negotiations on China's accession continues

WASHINGTON, Nov 3: The world's largest trading partners remain at odds on the agenda for the next round of world trade talks, nearly one year after efforts to launch the negotiations failed in Seattle, an EU aide said yesterday, reports Reuters.

"We're not quite there on a common agenda," EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy told reporters after a meeting with US Trade representative Charlene Barshefsky.

And by the way, we're not quite sure it would be a good thing that we appear to have a common agenda because of the need to build a broad coalition of World Trade Organisation members to launch a new round of talks, Lamy said.

Lamy's comments contrasted with Barshefsky's assessment of the situation just a few weeks ago.

In a speech at the National Press Club, she said the United States and the EU were "quite close to agreeing among our-

selves on the roughed-out bounds of an agenda for a new round."

After the WTO meeting in Seattle ended in failure, the United States and EU began discussions on an agenda that would appeal to both developed and developing countries, Lamy said.

One reason the Seattle meeting collapsed was because developing countries felt their concerns were ignored.

"It obviously did not work," Lamy said, referring to US-EU effort. "So, we have to review other options."

In 2001, the EU might work on forging a consensus with other WTO members on the agenda for new world trade talks and then try to bring in the United States, Lamy said.

In a separate news conference, Barshefsky touched only briefly on the issue of a new round.

"We agreed we would continue to work together as we

have been, as well as work with various trading partners to move that process forward," Barshefsky said in reference to her talks with Lamy earlier in the day.

Barshefsky and Lamy will meet again late on Friday afternoon to discuss bilateral trade issues.

Washington will host the semi-annual US-EU summit next month, and both sides are interested in resolving long-standing disputes over beef and bananas, if possible.

Another report says: Top US and European Union trade negotiators said yesterday they were working together to help China join the World Trade Organisation by the end of the year, but offered no assurances that would happen.

EU Trade commissioner Pascal Lamy, who was in Beijing last month for talks on the issue, said Chinese leaders were anxious to complete the WTO accession process this year.

Lamy told reporters after a meeting with US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky that the United States and EU were working together on that goal.

There has been some momentum in the last weeks," Lamy said, noting that Barshefsky had also recently been to Beijing to discuss the accession issue. "We want to use this momentum to push the Geneva process to a conclusion."

After negotiating bilateral accession agreements with the United States, the EU and other WTO members, China must now complete a multilateral pact with the WTO as a whole.

Those talks resumed this week in Geneva.

In a separate news conference, Barshefsky said it "would be very desirable to have China in the WTO this year."

A delay in China's entry could endanger the Chinese government's programme of domestic reforms, Barshefsky said.

### What's on today....

- Seminar:** A two-day seminar on "Agriculture Insurance, Experience in Developing Countries" will begin. Organisers: Bangladesh Insurance Academy (BIA), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and National Productivity Organisation (NPO). Chief guest: Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil. Venue: Auditorium of Dept of Agriculture Extension, Krishi Khamar Sharak. Time: 9:00 am.
- Donation ceremony:** Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank will formally hand over the donation from its Money-builder Scheme for support of the Assistance For Blind Children (ABC) education programme. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 9:30 am.
- Discussion meeting:** Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Associations (BFTA) will hold a discussion meeting to mark the 54<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of UNESCO. Venue: Abuzar Gilani University College. Time: 1:00 pm.
- Exhibition:** Mostafa Faruk Wahid's 10-day long photography exhibition titled Rupashi Bangla will be inaugurated. Venue: Aerial Centre, House No 15, Rd No 7, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:00 pm.
- Tribute to Ritwik Ghatak:** Chalachitra Film Society will screen *Titash Ekti Nadir Nam* on the opening day of the film session as tribute to renowned Bengali filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak. Venue: Auditorium of High Commission of India, House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:30 pm.
- Musical soiree:** Effat Ara Nargis will present an evening of songs. Venue: VIP Lounge of National Press Club. Time: 5:30 pm.
- Theatre:** Prachyanat will stage their fourth production *Circus Circus*. Venue: Guide House auditorium, Bailey Road. Time: 6:30 pm.
- Folk Drama Festival 1407:** Sharabhuj of India will stage *Bangla Loknata Nriya* (dances in Bangla folk drama). Venue: Mahanagar Natyanancha, Bangabandhu Square, Gulistan. Time: 6:30 pm.
- LETI Seminar:** Legal Education and Training Centre (LETI) of Bangladesh Bar Council will hold a seminar on "The Refugee Convention: Need for accession by Bangladesh. Chief Justice Latifur Rahman will inaugurate the seminar. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association premises.
- Mega Expo 2000:** Three different exhibition individually titled Comexpo, Elexpo and ConExpo will be held under the banner of Mega Expo 2000. Organiser: CEMS conference & exhibition management services. Venue: Hotel Sheraton's Poolside. Time: 10:30 am.
- Discussion meeting:** A discussion meeting will be held on "Cooperatives in Empowerment of Women" on occasion of the 29<sup>th</sup> National Cooperatives Day. Chief guest: State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives Advocate Md Rahmat Ali. Venue: BCIC auditorium, Dilkusha C/A. Time: 11:00 am.
- Meeting:** Freedom Fighters Council will hold a meeting. Venue: Gonoshasthya Nagar Hospital, Dhanmondi. Rd No 6. Time: 3:00 pm.
- Photography exhibition:** Bishwa Shalittyva Kendra will hold a 4-day long a photography exhibition titled "soul and soul beginning today. Venue: Bishwa Shalittyva Kendra, 14, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Bangla Motor. Time: 5:00 pm.
- Memorial meeting:** Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi will hold a memorial meeting on its former president Ranesh Dasgupta. Venue: Office premises at 14/2 Topkhana Road. Time: 5:00 pm.
- Painting exhibition:** A solo painting exhibition by artist KMA Quayyum will be inaugurated. Venue: Divine Art Gallery, Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 5:00 pm.
- Meeting:** Jatiya Nabamotsob Ujapan parishad will hold a meeting. Venue: 15/2, Topkhana Road (BMA Bhaban). Time: 5:00 pm.
- BIIT lecture:** Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought (BIIT) will hold a lecture-discussion on "Civilisational Dialogue". Venue: BIIT conference room. Time: 6:00 pm.
- BELA workshop:** Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) will begin a 2-day long workshop on "Environment, Environmental Law and Justice" in collaboration with Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI). Venue: CIRDAP auditorium.
- Talk:** A special talk on "Reflection on Religion and Politics in Asia" will be held. Venue: DU's IBA auditorium, DU campus.

### HERE and THERE

**Dhanmondi Recreation Club Ltd**

The annual general meeting (AGM) and election of the Executive Committee of the Dhanmondi Recreation Club Limited were held on Thursday at the Russian Cultural Centre premises in the city's Dhanmondi area, says a press release.

President of the club Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria presided over the AGM session.

Shah ASM Kibria, Fariduddin Khan Rumi and M Shafiqul Islam Khan were re-elected as president, general secretary and treasurer respectively in the election for the year 2000-2002.

**Manab Kalyan Society**

The central executive committee of Manab Kalyan Society-Bangladesh was formed recently, says a press release.

Members of the executive committee are Payar Ahmed - president, Zakir Hossain - senior vice-president, Prof. Alaiddin Miah - secretary general.

### Indian High Commissioner wishes Khaleda early recovery

By Staff Correspondent

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka ML Tripathi on Thursday sent a flower bouquet to Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia wishing her early recovery.

Party sources said the BNP Chairperson has been suffering from jaundice. She is reported to be recovering now.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan received the bouquet on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition.

### Retired engineer of Railway dead

Al-haj Joardar Sujauddin Ahmed, a retired Executive Engineer of Bangladesh Railway and a social worker, died at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital here Thursday night. He was 83, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, four sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

His *namaz-e-Janaza* was held at the New Colony Jame Masjid after *Ziara* prayers yesterday.

He will be buried at the family graveyard at Chuadanga today.

### Ex-govt official dead

Renowned leader of the Buddhist community Martanda Protap Barua died at a city clinic Thursday afternoon, family sources said. He was 70, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of friends, relatives and admirers to mourn the death. He was a civil servant and retired as deputy secretary, sources said.

Barua hails from Patia Upazila in Chittagong.

### ISPR clarifies position

Inter-Services Public Relation (ISPR) has said the cantonments are sensitive areas and hence movement of people can be controlled for the overall safety and security, reports UNB.

Clarifying the situation in view of question raised by Maj (rtd) Akhteruzzaman, MP, an ISPR press release on Thursday pointed to various laws governing the cantonment areas and said station commanders were entrusted with the responsibility of overall safety and security of inhabitants. Controlling movement of vehicular traffic is also part of the responsibility of the station commanders.

Akhteruzzaman in a press conference recently alleged harassment of civilians living in the Dhaka Cantonment areas during their movement, which, he said was against the Army rules.

### KMA Quayyum's painting show opens today

A ten-day long exhibition of KMA Quayyum opens at Divine Art Gallery at Hotel Sonargaon in the city today, says a press release.

Artist Quayyum Chowdhury will inaugurate the exhibition at 5:00 in the afternoon as chief guest while artist Hashem Khan will be present as special guest.

The exhibition will remain open from 10 am to 9:00 pm everyday till November 11, the release added.

### BUET student dies of cancer

Modabbir Hossain, a 20-year old first year student of architecture in BUET, died of cancer at the Thakurpukur Cancer Institute hospital in Calcutta yesterday morning.

Modabbir, son of late Major Nizam and an ex-cadet of Barisal Cadet College, is survived by his mother, three brothers and as many sisters.

His body will be brought to the city today. He will be buried at his paternal grand father's house in Ruppaganj, Narayanganj.

### HRMC confce today

The annual conference of the lawyers belonging to Human Rights Monitoring Cell (HRMC) of different district bar associations will be held today, reports BSS.

More than 400 lawyers including the president and secretary of each bar association will take part in the conference to be held at the Bangladesh Bar Council premises.

### World chip market seen surpassing \$200b in 2000

LOS ANGELES, Nov 3: The worldwide semiconductor industry will exceed 200 billion US dollars for the first time in 2000 and grow to 319 billion US dollars in the next three years, according to a US industry group, reports Xinhua.

In its closely watched annual forecast released on Wednesday, the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), leading voice for the US-based semiconductor industry since 1977, projected that global semiconductor sales would increase 37 per cent this year to 205 billion dollars, and grow 22 per cent next year to 249 billion dollars, spurred by sales of communications solutions for data networking, broadband, wireless, optoelectronics and continued strong PC demand.

"Responding to the challenges associated with the redefining and revitalisation of the global communications system will propel the semiconductor industry toward the 1 trillion dollar goal in the next decade," SIA said.



Chairman of the board of Deutsche Boerse AG, Michael Radtke (L), and his counterpart of the Vienna Boerse AG, Fritsch Obersteiner, cut the first pieces of a cake during the opening of the NEWEX stock exchange in Vienna yesterday. The new stock exchange will focus exclusively on central and eastern European share dealing. — AFP photo

# GM, DaimlerChrysler to provide low-cost Internet access to US workers

DETROIT, Nov 3: General Motors Corp and DaimlerChrysler AG yesterday became the latest corporate giants to hook employees up with the Internet, announcing a broad agreement with America Online Inc. to provide low-cost access to nearly 300,000 US workers, reports Reuters.

GM, the world's No. 1 automaker, and No. 5 automaker DaimlerChrysler said they will provide unlimited AOL access at a cost to the employees starting at \$3 a month, below the usual \$21.95 a month.

Workers will be able access personalized employee Internet portals, which will provide a variety of information such as health and retirement benefits, work schedules and other features as yet unimagined.

"This will help in a lot of ways," said GM Chief Executive Officer G Richard Wagoner. "If we told you today everything we're going to do, we'd probably leave out 90 per cent of the stuff, and half of it would be wrong."

The deal also includes offers for unionized and salaried workers with the automotive giants to get at a discount Hughes Electronics Corp's DirecTV interactive television service, or a receiver set-top box from Philips Electronics NV. Hughes is a unit of GM.

For \$5 a month, workers will be able to access AOL through AOLTV service, which brings

the online service to television sets through the Philips receiver. Or employees can choose to receive AOLTV through the Hughes DirecTV package at a cost of \$31.95 a month.

The companies declined to provide financial details of the deal, which is expected to begin rolling out in the first quarter of 2001. However, DaimlerChrysler North American president Jim Holden said the deal fits in with its strategy of trying to connect to employees over the Internet.

"It is imperative that all our employees have access to the Internet," Holden said. "We're spending a lot of money trying to create links with our employees. We think there's efficiencies there."

Holden said the service will be expanded to Canada, and DaimlerChrysler will later consider taking it worldwide.

No. 2 automaker Ford Motor Co., announced in February it would give free personal computers and printers to workers, plus \$5 a month Internet access.

The AOL agreement also in-

cludes links to Workscape Inc., a Reston, Va.-based online human resources company that the automakers plan to invest in.

Workspace has partnered with Sun Microsystems Inc. and iPlanet, as well as AOL, to create a platform which the automakers use for their employee portals.

It was the third deal this week with a major company for AOL, which is awaiting US regulatory clearance for its merger with Time Warner Inc.

AOL, the world's largest Internet provider, struck a multi-year, global pact with financial services firm Charles Schwab & Co. Inc., and a multi-year marketing agreement with food giant General Mills Inc. earlier this week.

"This is important because AOL is again aligning itself with large traditional companies, increasing its subscriber base and moving the medium closer to becoming a "must-have" utility for the mass consumer market and increasing its ties to the auto industry," Merrill Lynch analyst Henry Blodget wrote in a research note.

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### Tender Notice

Name of work: Installation of single phase subscriber's meter with neutral earthing in area under town feeder under Sakhira Electric Supply. Eligibility of contractor: Enlisted contractors of Power Development Board from 'Ka' to 'Gha' class. Cost of tender Taka 200/= (two hundred) (non-refundable). Place of availability of tender and date: Chief Engineer, Distribution, Western Zone, PDB, Khulna/Superintending Engineer, Operation and Maintenance Circle, PDB, Khulna/in the office of the undersigned with the permission from the head of offices will be sold till 19-11-2000. Date of receiving and opening tender: Tender will be received by the office of the Chief Engineer, Distribution, Western Zone, PDB, Khulna/Superintending Engineer, Operation & Maintenance Circle, PDB Khulna/office of the undersigned till 12:00 Noon and tender box will be opened the same day that is on 20-11-2000 at 12:30 PM before the tenderers (if any of the tenderers is present). Estimated expenditure: Taka 2,35,000. Other terms and conditions as mentioned in the schedule and all rules and regulations must be followed properly.

Resident Engineer (Executive)  
Sakhira Electric Supply  
PDB, Sakhira  
Bidout/Jana-821(4)/2000-2001  
DFP-26261-30/10  
G-1948

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড  
Bangladesh Power Development Board

সময়মতো সঠিক বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করুন  
সরকারকে ফাঁকি দেয়ার প্রবণতা বন্ধ করুন

### BPDB's Local Tender Notice

Local sealed tenders are hereby invited by the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) from the renowned manufacturers/suppliers for supply of battery charger against the tender enquiry written below:

Sl No	Tender Enquiry No & Date	Name of Stores	Value of T Docts	Submission of T Docts	Opening of T Docts
			Taka	Dt. & Time	Dt. & Time
1)	Pur-436/2000 dt. 25-10-2000	Supply of battery charger, 132 KV grid sub-station of Bheramara Power Station, PDB, Bheramara	500.00	10-12-2000 11-00 AM	10-12-2000 11-30-AM

A complete set of tender documents including detailed specification, terms & conditions may be sold to the interested eligible bidders against a written application on payment of taka (non-refundable) mentioned above against the tender in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh favouring Director of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka. The bidding documents will be available from 31-10-2000. No tender schedule to be sold after 06-12-2000.

All bids must be accompanied with a bid bond in the prescribed bid format @ 2% of the total bid price from a scheduled bank of Bangladesh in accordance with instructions to the bidders. Tender will be received up to 11:00 AM & will be opened at 11:30 AM on the same date in presence of the bidder or their representative, if any.

No tender documents shall be sent by post and no Telex/Fax offer will be acceptable.

Bidout/Jana-831(4)/2000-2001  
DFP-26329-30/10  
G-1939

Director of Purchase  
PDB, Dhaka

### ..... and tomorrow

- IDR conference:** Institute of Democratic Rights (IDR) will hold a day long "National Legal Aid Conference 2000". Venue: IDR Bhaban auditorium, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9:30 am.
- Conference:** A 5-day long International Water, Engineering and Development Centre Conference will begin. Chief guest: Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Zillur Rahman. Venue: Ballroom of Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9:30 am.
- BIDS roundtable:** Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) will hold a roundtable discussion on "Development as Empowerment". Venue: BIDS conference room. Time: 2:30 pm.
- Seminar:** Shaheed Dharendraanath Dutta Smriti Rakkha Parishad will hold a seminar to mark the 114th birth anniversary of Shaheed Dharendraanath Dutta. Venue: Kabi Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 5:00 pm.
- Seminar:** Shobar Jonnyo Shasthya (Health for All) will hold a seminar on "Child Health Problems: Infection of the lungs (ARI) problems". Keynote speaker: Dr Aleya Begum, Asstt Professor of National Medical College. Venue: Gono Shasthya Nagar Hospital, Rd No 6, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:00 pm.
- Tribute to Ritwik Ghatak:** Chalachitra Film Society will screen *Rendezvous* and *Subamarekha* in its tribute to noted film maker Ritwik Ghatak. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission, House N 25, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:00 pm.
- Folk Drama Festival 1407:** Natyalok from Siraganj will stage *Nurunnihar Pala*. Venue: Mahanagar Natya Mancha, Bangabandhu Square, Gulistan. Time: 6:30 pm.
- Procession:** Bangladesh Graduate Primary Teachers' Association will bring out a procession and submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister. Venue: From in front of the Central Shaheed Minar.

### Weather

Temperature may fall

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may slightly fall over the country, the Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest 18.5 degree at Syedpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:18 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:07 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.6	24.0	58	64
Chittagong	32.6	22.5	85	81
Rajshahi	32.0	21.6	64	81
Khulna	33.2	23.8	75	77
Barisal	32.5	22.2	79	92
Sylhet	32.5	20.0	66	71
Cox's Bazar	33.2	23.6	75	74