

OECD in bid to pave way for new WTO talks

REUTERS, Paris

Ministers from industrialised nations sought ways Wednesday to avoid another Seattle-style flop at a key world trade meeting later this year which has already been preceded by new transatlantic tensions.

The ministers from the "rich club" of OECD countries are trying to iron out their differences ahead of the next meeting of the World Trade Organisation's 140 member nations in the Gulf state of Qatar in November.

European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said he did not expect tensions between the European Union and the United States to overshadow the wider push to launch a new WTO round of trade talks in Doha, the Qatari capital.

Earlier this week, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said the EU's threat to impose \$4 billion worth of sanctions on US goods in a row over an export tax break programme would be like "using a nuclear bomb" on the global trading system.

But Lamy, speaking at a meeting of trade ministers at the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), asked: "Do these bilateral trade frictions impact on the climate? I don't think so."

He said Washington had created "some momentum" ahead of the Doha meeting and there were positive signals from other governments.

"This does not mean that we would have today an agreement on the agenda of the round," Lamy said during a break in the talks.

At the end of the first of two days of meetings, the OECD called for a new round of WTO talks. "We renew our commitment to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system and our rejection of protectionist pressures," it said in a statement.

"Time is relatively short. The dialogue has been going for some time and they need to get more precise," Francois Huwart, foreign trade minister, told reporters.

WTO Secretary-General Mike Moore, also speaking in Paris, urged governments to work harder to ensure the Doha meeting did not flop like the previous meeting in Seattle in December 1999.

That meeting, which was marked by violent clashes between police and anti-globalisation demonstrators, failed to agree on issues like agricultural subsidies and minimum labour standards.

"I think we're in a much stronger position than we were 12 months ago, or even three months ago," Moore told reporters.

"If, however, we have the same agenda with the same width, depth and intensity that we had pre-Seattle, we'll have the same result as Seattle."

He said progress in November was vital amid "danger signs" of a slowdown for the world economy and improving access for goods from developing countries would also help relieve poverty.

"It is just unacceptable that one in five people on this planet live on less than \$1 a day and half our citizens live on less than \$2 a day," he said in a speech at the OECD meeting.

Poor countries have long complained that despite increasing free trade, their exports of goods like farm produce, textiles and clothing remain impeded by high tariffs.

The minister for industry and commerce of the African nation Alimata Toure, said poor countries were mistrustful of how free trade would benefit them, fearing they could not begin to compete until their crumbling infrastructure was modernised.

"We need concrete measures to create confidence among developing countries," she said.

Lamy said he was encouraged that ministers had agreed there was no need to pre-negotiate items to be discussed in Qatar, which was seen as one of the reasons the attempt to launch a WTO round in Seattle failed.

Putin calls for closer EU-Russia ties

AFP, Moscow

President Vladimir Putin played the European card against Washington on Thursday, calling for closer ties between Russia and the powerful 15-nation bloc at an EU-Russian summit in Moscow.

"I believe that European countries have every reason to see Russia as a reliable and prospective partner," Putin said opening talks with a delegation led by Prime Minister Goran Persson of Sweden, current president of the EU.

"Russia is ready to search together with the EU for joint responses to any global threats and challenges, as well as ways to solve regional conflicts," he told his European guests in the Kremlin's Catherine Hall.

Marking the seventh time the EU and Russia have held such dialogue, the bi-annual summit was to concentrate on boosting economic links and the future of Russia's Baltic Kaliningrad enclave inside an expanded European Union.

The Moscow talks would "focus on matters of economic cooperation that are important for the entire world community," EU foreign policy supremo Javier Solana was quoted as saying before the summit by IAR-TASS.

Putin told the European leaders that his country's economy was on the mend and deserved greater foreign investment.

"The positive political and economic changes in Russia are opening the way for new possibilities in dialogue" on trade and investment with the European Union, the Russian president said in televised remarks from the Kremlin.

Russia-EU trade added up to 58 billion euros (51 billion dollars) last year, an increase of more than 40 per cent on the 1999 figure.

But Moscow is pushing for the EU to stop its anti-dumping investigations against Russian steel exporters, denouncing them as "discriminatory."

It also wants the European Investment Bank to extend its operations in Russia and for Brussels to back Moscow's bid to join the World Trade Organisation.

Both sides are keen to expand energy cooperation. The plan is to increase Russian energy supplies to European Union and ensure a flow of EU investments and technologies into the Russian fuel and energy sector.

EU expansion into the former Soviet sphere of influence in Eastern Europe and its consequences for Russia were to feature prominently at the summit, including the future of Kaliningrad and questions of transit.

Russia is concerned that the enclave could become entirely surrounded by EU member states, if its neighbours Poland and Lithuania join the European Union after 2003.

CURRENCY

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against Taka to major clients.

Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling BC	Buying TT	Buying OD	Buying OD Transfer
US Dollar	54.300	54.300	53.8500	53.6970	53.6250
Pound Sig	77.9694	78.0124	76.7416	76.5236	76.4210
Deutsche Mark	24.9868	25.0006	23.9428	23.8747	23.8427
Swiss Franc	31.5588	31.6762	30.9198	30.8320	30.7907
Japanese Yen	0.4445	0.4447	0.4333	0.4321	0.4315
Dutch Guilder	22.1762	22.1885	21.2496	21.1892	21.1608
Danish Krona	6.4708	6.4744	6.3385	6.3205	6.3120
Australian \$	29.0559	29.0720	27.7112	27.6325	27.5954
Belgian Franc	1.2115	1.2121	1.1608	1.1575	1.1550
Canadian \$	35.6627	35.6824	34.6614	34.5630	34.5166
French Franc	7.4502	7.4543	7.1389	7.1186	7.1090
Hong Kong \$	6.9758	6.9796	6.8905	6.8709	6.8617
Italian Lira	0.0252	0.0253	0.0242	0.0241	0.0241
Singapore \$	30.3878	30.4045	29.4600	29.3763	29.3369
Euro	48.8700	48.8970	46.8280	46.949	46.6323
Saudi Rial	14.5179	14.5260	14.3191	14.2765	14.2593

Bill buying rates

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
53.7512	53.3665	52.9181	52.4696	52.0212	51.1243

US dollar London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)

TC Buying (USD)	TC Selling (USD)	Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months
53.6250	54.4000	USD	4.08125	4.03000	4.00000	4.09000	4.20000
Cash	Cash	GBP	5.25750	5.22836	5.21203	5.21844	5.24875
Buying (USD)	Selling (USD)						
53.8000	54.8000	EURO	4.59125	4.56438	4.46813	4.43938	4.42438

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Malaysian Ringgit	Indonesian Rupiah	Korean Won
46.942/46.950	61.48/61.54	45.31/45.34	3.7995/3.8005	11320/11360	1301.9/1302.0

Amex notes on Thursday's market

The high demand for US dollar in the inter-bank USD/BDT market persisted as the nationalised banks and the private banks have to make huge import payments while there are comparatively less exports and incoming remittances. The average call rate fell to 8.5-9.25 per cent from yesterday's 10-11 per cent as the Taka liquidity increased further today.

The euro rose as much as a ¼ per cent against the dollar and the yen today, with traders citing a variety of reasons including possible mergers and acquisitions activity and talk of European central bank bids. The dollar, which hit one-week lows against the euro, was also on the retreat against the yen after a Japanese press report got traders talking about the risk of intervention to stem yen weakness. The Swiss franc opened little changed in routine trading today ahead of Swiss producer and import price data due later today. The pound firmed very slightly against the dollar and the euro immediately after a much stronger-than-expected UK retail sales report. UK retail sales rose 0.6 per cent on the month in April.

At around 0914 GMT the exchange rates of major currencies against USD were GBP/USD 1.4308/1.4310, USD/CHF 1.7344/1.7354, USD/JPY 123.11/123.21, EUR/USD 0.8830/0.8835.

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Co Ltd (BAPEX)
(A Company of Petrobangla)
House Building Finance Corporation Building (9th Floor)
22, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000

Tender No. 123.71.14(AP)/06 Dated: 8.05.2001

Tender Notice

- Tenders are invited from interested purchasers for 'as it is where it is' basis auction sale of 961 items of condemned/useless consumables goods stored at company's Dhaka Regional Office, DRS Mirpur, Dhaka, Laboratory Division, Gulshan, Dhaka & different departments of the company's Head Office at House Building Finance Corporation building.
- Tender schedules consisting rules & regulations of sale will be available against payment of Taka 500 (five hundred) only (non-refundable) per set from 22.05.2001 to 31.05.2001 during office hours at the following offices:
(a) Accounts & Finance Department, BAPEX, Ibrahim Mansion (3rd Floor), 11, Purana Paltan, Dhaka.
(b) Regional Office, BAPEX, Port Connecting Road, West Nasirabad, Saripara, Chittagong.
- Tenders can purchase tender schedules from any of the offices at the aforesaid two places and submit the tenders at any office of the aforesaid locations.
- Tenders along with earnest money at the rate 10% (ten per cent) of the quoted rate will have to be dropped by 11.30 AM of 03.06.2001 in the tender boxes kept at the following offices:
(a) In the tender boxes kept at board room of the company's Head Office at House Building Finance Corporation building (4th Floor), 22, Purana Paltan, Dhaka and
(b) In the tender box kept at the office of in-charge, BAPEX, Chittagong Regional Office.
- Tenders will be opened on the same day i.e. 03.06.2001 at 11.40 AM at the said two places in presence of the tenderers (if any).
- Interested tenderers can inspect the goods to be sold in auction subject to permission of the in-charge, DRS Mirpur, Dhaka and Departmental Heads for those stored in different departments of the company's Head Office on production of the original receipt of purchasing schedule from 22.05.2001 to 31.05.2001 during office hours.
- Delivery order of the goods sold will be issued to the successful tenderer/tenderers after depositing income tax at the rate 3% (three per cent) on the quoted value according to government rule at Bangladesh Bank and submitting the original receipt of depositing the entire amount of the value at the Accounts and Finance Department of the company to the Convenor of Auction Committee.
- The company authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

General Manager (Consultancy) Convenor
Permanent Auction Committee.

DFP-12824-13/5
G-936



Syed Anisul Huq, Managing Director of Bank Asia, and Ziaul H Siddiqui, Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank, exchange the EEF Co-operation Agreement to extend equity support from Equity and Entrepreneurship Fund (EEF) to encourage investors in the risky but otherwise promising sectors.

US House okays bill with UN dues payment

REUTERS, Washington

The US House of Representatives Wednesday easily approved a wide-ranging bill authorising US foreign policy activities, including a payment of \$582 million in US arrears to the United Nations.

The bill authorising fiscal 2002 and 2003 activities of the State Department and related agencies sailed through the House on a 352-73 vote even though several contentious amendments were added during two days to debate.

24-hour pilots' strike Over 300 Lufthansa flights cancelled

AFP, Frankfurt

More than 300 flights across Germany were cancelled early Thursday as a result of the new 24-hour strike by Lufthansa pilots, the carrier and the pilots' union Cockpit said.

Airports all across Germany were affected by the pilots' walk-out, and the number of services affected was likely to increase sharply during the course of the day, spelling chaos and disruption of tens of thousands of passengers.

Cockpit said that the extent of the disruption was expected to match similar action about a week ago which grounded more than 900 flights and left around 30,000 disgruntled passengers looking for alternative means of travel.

But Lufthansa insisted that more flights would be able to take off this week owing to the extensive contingency measures it had taken to limit the disruption.

Cockpit, which represents around 90 per cent of Lufthansa's 4,200 pilots, had called another 24-hour walkout on Thursday after pay talks with management broke down in acrimony.

The talks were abandoned Wednesday after pilots rejected another improved offer from management, but each side blamed the other for the lack of any breakthrough.

Lufthansa spokesman, Klaus Walther, regretted the renewed walkout, saying "that is surely one of the blacker days in the history of the company."

Walther reiterated that management was still willing to return to the negotiating table, but warned that Lufthansa would maintain its hardline in the pay talks.

"If we jeopardise our competitive position via excessively high personnel costs, that will have dramatic effects for Lufthansa in the long term," the spokesman said on German public television.

The pilots are demanding a fixed increase of 24 per cent plus an unlimited profit-sharing element.

Lufthansa has offered pilots an average increase of 10.6 per cent for this year, additional increase in 2002, 2003 and 2004 in line with the average rate of wage agreements all across Germany, plus a share of the company's profits, equivalent to up to two months' salary.

Bank Asia signs EEF co-op deal with BB

Bank Asia Limited signed a co-operation agreement with Bangladesh Bank at Bangladesh Bank Head Office in the city on Wednesday to use Equity and Entrepreneurship Fund (EEF) to encourage investors in the risky but otherwise promising sectors, says a press release.

Syed Anisul Huq, Managing Director of Bank Asia, and Ziaul H Siddiqui, Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank, signed the accord on behalf of their respective sides.

Under this agreement, Bank Asia, as an Agent of Bangladesh Bank, will extend equity support to the projects in software industry, food processing and agro-based industry sectors.

The signing ceremony was attended, among others, by Bank Asia Executive Vice-President, Erfanuddin Ahmed, and Vice President Nasirul Hossain.

Senior officials of EEF Unit of Bangladesh Bank were also present.

Japan Tobacco profit falls on easing domestic demand

AFP, Tokyo

Japan Tobacco Inc. (JT) on Thursday announced a 14.0 per cent drop in net profit for the fiscal year which ended to March as domestic demand for tobacco fell, the company said Thursday.

Its group net profit fell to 43.7 billion yen (364 million dollars) from 50.8 billion yen a year earlier.

Revenue rose 3.0 per cent to 4.50 trillion yen but pre-tax profit fell 5.4 per cent to 132.1 billion yen, the company said in a statement.

"The entire tobacco market decreased due to the continuing severe economic situation and retail price increases in 1997 and 1998," JT said.

The amount of tobacco sold here decreased by 5.3 billion sticks from a year earlier, JT said.

US senator presses Bush on Vietnam trade deal

REUTERS, Washington

The top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee urged President George W Bush Wednesday to send a historic US-Vietnam trade agreement to Congress for approval.

"That agreement was a long time coming (and) provides a sound foundation on which to establish commercial relations," Montana Sen Max Baucus said at a confirmation hearing on Bush's nominees for several top government jobs.

Although the agreement enjoys wide support in Congress, the Bush administration has not sent it to lawmakers for a vote.

Last week, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said he was waiting to hear from the US embassy in Hanoi about concerns some US lawmakers have raised about religious freedom in Vietnam and certain trade issues.

Memo No. 2217 Dated: 9-5-2001

Tender Invitation Notice No. 64/2000-2001

Tenders through Bangladesh Form No. 2911 under sealed cover are invited from Public Works Directorate enlisted 1st class/1st class (combined) E&M Works' 1st/2nd class contractors having VAT registration book for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received in tender box kept at Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3, Dhaka & Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka offices on 31-5-2001 during office hours up to 12.00 Noon and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12.15 PM in presence (if any) of tenderers or their representatives. Tender schedule, form and terms & conditions can be purchased from Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3, Dhaka & Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka subject to cash payment of usual Tk 425/- (four hundred twenty-five) only (non-refundable) during office hours latest up to 30-5-2001. Earnest money at the rate 2% (two per cent) on estimated cost for part-1 and at the rate 2% (two per cent) on the amount quoted by the contractor for part-2 must be submitted with each tender in the form of Bank Draft/PO/SDR/CD from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh Bank in favour of Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-3, Dhaka. Contractor himself or his authorised representative can purchase the tender form on production of enlistment register with requisite papers. The undersigned reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

Sl. No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Prescribed time limit for completion of work
1.	Repairing internal electrification of officers'/employees' govt quarters of Monohardi Thana Health Complex at Narsingdi district.	Part-1 Tk 1,32,404/- Part-2 Amount quoted by contractor.	Part-1 at the rate 2% (two per cent) on the estimated cost. Part-2 At the rate 2% (two per cent) on the quoted amount	45 (forty-five) days from the date of issuing work order.

DFP-12882-14/5
G-935

S M Naimul Huq
Executive Engineer
Public Works E/M Division-3
Dhaka
Phone- 9555305.

ডেসা অফিসের জন্য বাড়ি ভাড়া আবশ্যিক

ঢাকা বিভাগে বিদ্যমান কর্তৃপক্ষের পরিচালন ও সংরক্ষণ এবং বণিকজাত পরিচালন বাসযোগ্য বিদ্যমানের জন্য ন্যূনতম ৪০০০ বর্গফুট ও ৩০০০ বর্গফুট মোট ১০,০০০ বর্গফুট এককভাবে অথবা আলাদাভাবে বাড়ি আবশ্যিক। বাড়িটি কুলাপাড়া, মাদানাবা, আহমদাবাদ, সবুজবাগ, বাসাবো (উত্তর, মধ্য, দক্ষিণ) ইত্যাদি এলাকায় অসীম দীর্ঘকালের সুতরকার আশে পাশে হইতে হইবে। বাড়ির সমস্ত বাড়ি পার্ক করার জন্য পর্যাপ্ত পরিমাণে জায়গা থাকিতে হইবে।

অগ্রাধী বাড়ি মালিকগণকে আগামী ২৪/৫/২০০১ইং তারিখের পূর্বে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নির্দিষ্ট দিকানায় বাড়ি সংক্রান্ত বিবরণী আলোচনা করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইতেছে।

তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী
গ্রাঃ সেবা মতিঝিল সার্কেল
১২/১/বি মতিঝিল বা/এ
(প্রোগ্রামার অবদানের দিখনে)
টেলিফোনঃ ৯২১৫০৪

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
পঃসে বিজ্ঞান, বাসাবো।
তাগতলা ৩৩/১১ কেডি
উপকেন্দ্র, বিলগাঁও
ফোনঃ ৯২১৩০৭০
জিডি-৪৭০

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 17.5.2001

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
1/3	Bright Star	Wheat (P)	Momb	MSA	20/4 24/5
1/4	Da Cheng	GI (P.Mat)	Xing	Bdship	1/5 19/5
1/5	Laridea	Sugar	Momb	Seacoast	8/5 19/5
1/6	Mawlamyne	Rice (P)	Yang	MTA	22/4 19/5
1/7	Titanas	GI (Ma)	Darb	USL	28/4 23/5
1/8	Bay Fortune	GI (Log)	Yang	SMSL	4/5 21/5
1/9	Triumph Hongkong	GI (St.C)	Viza	RML	5/5 20/5
	Jaguar	Spl. Cargo	Col	Everett	16/5 17/5
1/10	Sonali	Gypsum	Krab	RML	10/5 22/5
1/11	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	10/5 18/5
1/12	Apl Colombo	Cont	Sing	Nol	13/5 18/5
1/13	Kuo Hsiung	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	10/5 20/5
CC1/1	OSG Alpha	Cont	Col	Everbest	10/5 18/5
CC1/2	Arabella	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	8/5 18/5
CC1/3	Jami	Cont	Sing	Cross	12/5 17/5
RM/14	Sung Risan-9	Cement	Tuba	ANCL	28/4 22/5
GS1	Banglar Moni	Wheat (G)	Mong	SSST	11/5 4/5
TSP	Thank God	R.Phos	Hamr	Seacoast	12/4 25/5
RM/3	Sceptre	CDSO	Darb	Seacom	12/5 19/5
RM/5	Nongkhai Navee	Soda Feld	Sing	Mutual	14/5 25/5
RM/6	Al Sabiyah	MS/HSD	Sing	MSTPL	10/5 19/5
DOI	Banga Bijoy	Repair	Col	Baridh	15/5 21/5
DDI/1	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	-	BSC	R/A 23/5
SM/10	Tug Ocean Mercury	P.Items	Sing	MBL	10/5 -

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
QC Pintail (Cont) 26/4	17/5	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont Sing
Banga Lanka (Cont) 5/5	17/5	-	Bdship	Cont CBO
Kota Singa (Cont) 7/5	17/5	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont Sing
Handy Mariner	17/5	Kohsi	SBSC Clink (Hyundai)	-
Brave Eagle	17/5	Hal	UMTL Demolition	-
Mutlira	17/5	Jaka	OTBL	-
Acturia (Cont) 7/5	18/5	Sing	QCSL	Cont Sing
Kyklades K	18/5	-	OTBL	-
Nichiasu Maru No.21	20/5	-	BBA	-
Boxer Capt Cook (Cont) 9/5	19/5	P.Kel	TTL	Cont Sing
Ravidas (E/L) 3/5	18/5	Mong	SSLL	E/L
Chol San Bong	19/5	Mong	MBL	-
Banga Bonik (Cont) 10/5	21/5	CBO	Baridh	Cont Col
Anna S	20/5	TILB	Unship	Scrap
Xpress Nuptse (Cont) 13/5	20/5	-	Everbest	Cont Col
Khaleda (E/L) 8/5	20/5	Mong	OWSL	I.Goods
A A Venture	21/5	-	Cla	GI
Xpress Renown (Cont) 10/5	21/5	-	RSL	Cont Sing
Banglar Shikha (Cont) 2/5	23/5	-	BSC	Cont Sing
Sca Bright (Cont) 8/5	21/5	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont Sing
Banglar Robi (Cont) 15/5	21/5	Sing	BSC	Cont Sing
Triumph Chittagong (72) 16/5 21/5	21/5	Sing	RML	GI (St.C)

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Daugava	18/5	P.Kel	Rainbow	CP Oil
Olympic Flame	19/5	Sing	TSL	CPA
Eminence	21/5	Joba	ECSL	HSP
Belicia	21/5	-	Rainbow	CDSO
Chembulk Traders	22/5	-	Rainbow	CDSO
Danat Qatar	22/5	Rast	USS	Crude Oil

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Energy Explorer-IV	-	-	BRAL	5/4
Ismaya	-	-	Arafen	17/8
Dea Conqueror	-	-	Arafen	R/A (14/5)
Dea Champion	-	-	Arafen R/A	(16/5)
Seabulk Command	-	-	IBS	R/A (4/5)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Ready on

Name of vessels	Cargo	Local agent	Date of arrival
L. Karavelov	GI (Ms.Bil)	B. Abb	Kapital
Eltanin	GI (Log)	Yang	SMSL
Alam Tallang	Sheat (P)	Bhav	Rainbow
QC Laik (Cont)	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL
Banga Birol (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Bdship
Sittive	Rice (P)	Yang	MTA
Abuja (Cont)	Cont	Sing	RSL
Togo Charm	C.Clink	Tanj	Unship
Xpress Resolve (Cont)	Cont	Sing	RSL
Jorong Balsam (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Nol
Chopel-2	Sugar	Bank	Seacoast
Salzach (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Bdship

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