

# GCC, EU make 'good progress' on free-trade agreement

AFP, Riyadh

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and European Union (EU) made "good progress" in negotiations held here Monday to strike a free-trade agreement between the two blocs, a Saudi official said.

"We discussed exempting exports of agricultural and industrial products and fisheries" from customs duty, said Jabara al-Suraisri, head of the GCC delegation and Saudi Arabia's deputy finance minister.

"These are very important sectors in any free-trade agreement and in forming a common market

between the two blocs ... The meeting was very useful," he told reporters.

"We made good progress in this round."

Suraisri said another round of talks between the two sides would be held in Brussels next month.

"We have discussed all exports from the two sides including sensitive products like aluminium, petrochemicals and oil products. All these products will be dealt with within the framework of the agreement," he added.

But Suraisri said no final agreement was reached.

"In next rounds, we will discuss

all the lists of exports of each side in detail and we hope to reach an agreement," he said.

The two sides will on Tuesday discuss the issue of intellectual property as part of the proposed agreement.

The two-day meeting, at the level of experts, follows a decision by EU and GCC foreign ministers who met in Spain in February to step up efforts to create a free trade zone linking the two groups.

The 15-state EU has insisted that the GCC must have its own customs union before it signs a free-trade agreement with the petromonarchies, in a campaign

that has already lasted more than a decade.

The GCC resolved in its Muscat summit meeting last December to bring forward the creation of the customs union from 2005 to January 2003, as well as set up a monetary union in 2005 and a single currency by 2010.

The European Union is the GCC's principal market and its second supplier after Japan.

EU exports to the GCC were worth 29 billion euros (25.2 billion dollars) in 2001, with imports amounting to 22 billion dollars, according to the EU.



PHOTO: SHAHJALAL BANK

The 11th meeting of the Board of Directors of Shahjalal Bank Limited (SBL) was held at the board room of the bank on Monday. Presided over by the bank Chairman Sajidat Jumma, the meeting discussed various issues relating to banking policies and investment. Chairman of the bank's Executive Committee Anwer Hossain Khan, Chairman of Policy Committee MA Mannan, Members of the Board and Managing Director Matin Uddin Ahmed, among others, were present at the meeting.



## SHIPPING

### Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 28.05.2002

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Impt disc
J/1	Ever Wise	Gl	S Hai	Prog	20/5	29/5	1425
J/2	Amarta Jaya-1(72)	Gl	Sing	Asa	27/5	29/5	1689
J/4	Shun An	Gl	Sing	RML	22/5	31/5	405
J/5	Amalfi	C Clink	Pada	KSL	14/5	30/5	1020
J/6	Jin Cheng	Gl	S Hai	BD Ship	20/5	30/5	700
J/8	Xiang Jiang	Gl	Sing	BD Ship	25/5	2/6	1477
J/9	Banglar Maya	Gl (S Ash)	P Band	BSC	24/5	7/6	250
J/10	Banga Bonik	Cont	P Kel	BD Ship	24/5	29/5	103X
J/11	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Held	Baridhi	26/5	29/5	172/68
J/13	QC Dignity	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	24/5	29/5	36X
CCT/1	CCT/1	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	26/5	30/5	112/38
CCT/2	Jaami (Flag)	Cont	Col	Everbest	26/5	30/5	158/23
CCT/3	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	26/5	31/5	341/30
RM/14	Banglar Mookh	Idle	Babb	BSC	30/4	3/6	-
RM/15	Banglar Robi	Idle	Sing	BSC	18/5	31/5	-
CCJ	Mikado	C Clink	Krabi	BSL	21/5	31/5	-
GSJ	Argentina	C Clink	Kant	Uniship	8/5	28/5	-
TSP	Patachara Naree	Phos	Akaba	Litmond	14/5	3/6	-
RM/6	Banglar Gourab	C Clink	Krabi	OWSL	22/5	2/6	-
DOJ	Haminia	HSD/MS	Sing	ECNL	22/5	28/5	-
DD	Hamnia	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	30/5	-
DDJ/2	Amanatshah	Idle	Col	Cla	17/4	30/5	-
RM/9	Banglar Mamata	-	-	BSC	R/A	30/5	-
RM/10	Banglar Shourab	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	31/5	-
KU/1	Rak Won	Urea	Sing	MBL	19/5	31/5	-

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Banglar Moni (Cont) 5/5	28/5	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
QC Pintail (Cont) 12/5	28/5	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Maritime Peace	28/5	Tarf	Bsl	C.Clink	-
New Auspicious	28/5	Vanc	Litmond	Wheat/D.Peas/R.Seed	-
Xpress Manaslu (Cont) 18/5	29/5	P Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Barta (Cont) 16/5	30/5	-	BD Ship	Cont	-
Star Sea Bird	30/5	Juba	BDShip	C.Clink	-
CHC No. 2	29/5	Kohsi	ASLL	C.Clink	-
Consistence(Cont)	31/5	-	PSSL	Cont	Sing.
Banga Biraj (Cont) 20/5	30/5	-	BD Ship	Cont	Sing.
Energy	30/5	Kohsi	SSA	C.Clink	-
QC Lark(Cont) 20/5	31/5	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	P Kel
Kota Berjaya (Cont) 21/5	1/6	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	G (P Mat)
Ocean Bird	31/5	-	Everett	Cont	-
Banga Lanka (Cont) 20/5	2/6	-	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Win Song	2/6	B Abb	RK Ship	Bitumeen	-
Asimont (Cont) 27/5	2/6	-	Seaborne	Cont	Sing
Orient Patriot (Cont) 22/5	3/6	-	PSSL	Cont	Sing
QC Honour (Cont) 23/5	3/6	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	-
Asian Wing (Liner)	3/6	Yang	H&SL	GI (St. Prod)	-
Kota Naga (Cont) 27/5	4/6	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
BalticLeader(Roro)24/27/27	4/6	P Kel	JF	Vehi	-
Mardios (Cont) 22/5	5/6	P Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Xpress Resolve (Cont) 22/5	5/6	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Birol (Cont) 27/5	6/6	-	BDShip	cont	Sing
Kota Singa (Cont) 23/5	7/6	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
<b>Tanker due</b>					
World Sea	30/5	Sing	MSTPL	SKOJP-1	Sing
<b>Vessels at Kutubdia</b>					
Dea Captain	-	-	-	Arafeen	R/A(28/1)
<b>Vessels at outer anchorage</b>					
<b>Ready on</b>					
Kuo Hsiung(Cont)	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	27/5	
<b>Vessels not ready</b>					
Radiant Star	C Clink	Pipi	OLM	19/5	
Shun Winner	C Clink	Bela	Unique	20/5	
Vegalic	C. Clink	Lunut	SSA	17/5	

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

## CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's foreign exchange rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy	TT Clean			OD Sight Doc			OD Transfer			
		USD	EUR	GBP	AUD	JPY	SEK	CAD	HKD	SGD	AED
58.5500	58.5800	57.4000	57.2314	57.1629							
54.4164	54.4443	52.3718	52.2179	52.154							
85.7406	85.7846	83.1095	82.8653	82.7662							
33.1334	33.1504	31.5356	31.4429	31.4053							
0.4723	0.4725	0.4573	0.4560	0.4554							
37.15334	37.1724	36.0734	35.9674	35.9244							
5.9375	5.9406	5.7325	5.7157	5.7089							
38.3532	38.3729	37.1858	37.0766	37.0322							
7.5142	7.5181	7.3534	7.3318	7.3230							
32.7699	32.7867	31.8588	31.7652	31.7272							
16.0724	16.0806	15.5026	15.4571	15.4386							
15.7376	15.7455	15.1852	15.1406	15.1225							

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar