

Japan seeks revision of Cancun declaration draft

AFP, Tokyo

Japan on Monday expressed its immediate opposition to a draft declaration on freeing up agricultural and other areas of trade, and called for its revision ahead of WTO talks in Cancun next month.

Tokyo made the remarks a day after the World Trade Organization's (WTO) top official in Geneva circulated the draft of a declaration to be issued at a crucial ministerial trade summit in the Mexican resort city in two weeks.

"Although we can detect a certain flexibility, our stance explained in documents is not reflected" in the draft, Japanese farm minister Yoshiyuki Kamei said in a statement.

Kamei claims the draft's call for the introduction of a ceiling for tariff rates on imports would hurt Japan's rice industry which is currently effectively protected by a tariff of 490 per cent imposed on imported rice.

"We regard (the draft) as the one that contains considerable problems," Kamei said.

"We are going to continue demanding its revision," he said.

"We will do our best to let our voice be reflected."

WTO mediators place compromise plan

REUTERS, Geneva

Top World Trade Organisation officials Monday put forward a compromise plan aimed at breaking a deadlock in free trade talks, particularly over farm reform.

The blueprint is a draft declaration for trade ministers to agree on at a meeting in Cancun, Mexico, next month that could decide the fate of the troubled Doha Round of trade liberalisation negotiations. The negotiations, launched in the Qatari capital at the end of 2001 to give a boost to a flagging world economy, have missed several deadlines, with differences over agriculture providing a major obstacle.

The new text, drawn up by the chairman of the WTO's executive General Council, Uruguayan Ambassador Carlos Perez del Castillo, and backed by WTO Secretary-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, seek to bridge a gap between major farm exporting countries and the European Union and the United States.

It will be put to a two-day meeting of the Council, beginning on Monday, which is intended to smooth the way to an accord at the Cancun ministerial from Sept 10-14.

On agriculture, the Perez del Castillo plan drew heavily on ideas floated by the EU and the United States, which settled their long-running disagreements in a groundbreaking deal on farm reform earlier in the month.

The pact between the world's two biggest subsidisers sparked fierce criticism from major farm exporting countries, such as Australia and Brazil, as well as from poorer developing countries, which said it did not go far enough in dismantling massively expensive domestic support programmes.

Japan's trade surplus up 7.3pc in July

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's trade surplus in July rose 7.3 per cent from a year earlier to 799.2 billion yen (6.8 billion dollars), the finance ministry said Monday.

Exports for the month rose 5.6 per cent to 4.64 trillion yen while imports rose 5.3 per cent to 3.85 trillion yen, the ministry said.

Japan's trade surplus with the United States fell 6.2 per cent to 570.1 billion yen as exports declined 7.3 per cent to 1.16 trillion yen and imports slipped 8.4 per cent to 588.9 billion yen.

Honda to recall 31,000 faulty Accords in China

REUTERS, Shanghai

Honda Motor Co, Japan's second-largest car maker, said yesterday it would recall about 31,000 of its popular Accord models in China due to a faulty exhaust pipe that could emit harmful unburnt fuel vapour.

Subject to the recall are the new two-litre and 2.4-litre Accord sedans built at Honda's Guangzhou plant in southern China between January 15 and June 17. Honda had announced the recall of 29,494 Accord saloon cars and wagons in Japan last week citing a similar defect.



PHOTO: BKB

Two officials of Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) and DNS SatComm Limited sign an agreement in Dhaka on Sunday in presence of other officials of both the organisations. Under the deal, BKB will launch ATM service for its customers through BancNet service by DNS SatComm Ltd.



PHOTO: VANIK BANGLADESH

Officials of Vanik Bangladesh Ltd and Siemens Bangladesh Ltd sign an agreement in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Siemens has come under Vanik credit card network.

CURRENCY

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--|
| Following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank | | | | | |
| Sell | Currency | | Buy | | |
| TT/OD | BC | TT Clean | OD Sight Doc | OD Transfer | |
| 58.7500 | 58.8000 | USD 57.8200 | 57.6502 | 57.5812 | |
| 64.5898 | 64.6447 | EUR 62.1507 | 61.9682 | 61.8940 | |
| 93.1070 | 93.1862 | GBP 90.1992 | 89.9343 | 89.8266 | |
| 38.9219 | 38.9550 | AUD 36.8892 | 36.7808 | 36.7368 | |
| 0.5046 | 0.5050 | JPY 0.4884 | 0.4870 | 0.4864 | |
| 41.7259 | 41.7614 | CHF 40.5129 | 40.3939 | 40.3455 | |
| 6.9150 | 6.9209 | SEK 6.4741 | 6.4551 | 6.4473 | |
| 42.3240 | 42.3601 | CAD 41.0770 | 40.9564 | 40.9073 | |
| 7.5402 | 7.5466 | HKD 7.4066 | 7.3848 | 7.3760 | |
| 33.8227 | 33.8515 | SGD 33.0023 | 32.9053 | 32.8660 | |
| 16.1268 | 16.1405 | AED 15.6161 | 15.5702 | 15.5515 | |
| 15.7913 | 15.8048 | SAR 15.2963 | 15.2514 | 15.2331 | |
| 8.9183 | 8.9259 | DKK 8.1637 | 8.1397 | 8.1299 | |

| Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------|-----------|---|-----------|------------------|
| Indian rupee | Pak rupee | Lankan rupee | Thai baht | Nor kroner | NZ dollar | Malaysian ringit |
| 45.83 | 57.79 | 96.65 | 41.360 | 7.6540 | 0.6328 | 3.80 |
| Local Interbank FX Trading | | | | money market. Call rate fell slightly and ranged between 3.75 and 4.00 per cent compared with 4.0-4.25 per cent previously. | | |
| The local interbank foreign exchange market was active on Monday. Dollar rose slightly for import-related payments. | | | | At 1600 hour, euro was at 1.0905/07, GBP at 1.5770/78 and yen at 117.33/39 against dollar. | | |
| Local Money Market | | | | Liquidity position remained stable in the local | | |
| This memorandum is issued by Standard Chartered Bank and is based on or derived from information generally available to the public from sources believed to be reliable. While all reasonable care has been taken in its preparation, no responsibility or liability is accepted for errors of fact or any opinion expressed | | | | | | |



PHOTO: ROMSAK

Rangs Group Chairman A Rouf Chowdhury speaks at the annual conference of Rangs Industries Ltd on Friday in Gazipur as Rangs Industries Ltd Managing Director Rume Hossain, Service Manager Abdur Rahman, General Manager (Finance) Nurul Quader Chowdhury and General Manager (Sales) Mokhlesur Rahman look on.

Yearly confce of Rangs Industries

The Annual Conference 2003 of Rangs Industries Ltd, the distributor of Canon camera, Mitsubishi generator and Toshiba and Toshin products, was held on Friday in Gazipur.

Rangs Industries Ltd Managing Director Rume Hossain inaugurated the function, which was attended by officials from across the country, says a press release.

Rangs Group Chairman A Rouf Chowdhury distributed prizes among the selected salespeople at the function.

Rangs Industries Ltd directors Zakia Rouf Chowdhury and Romana Rouf Chowdhury and academic Shamsunnahar Hossain were also present at the conference.

STOCK

SHIPPING

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|
| Chittagong port | | | | | | | |
| Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 25-08-2003. | | | | | | | |
| Berth No | Name of vessels | Cargo | L Port call | Local agent | Date of arrival | Leaving | Import disch |
| J/1 | OceanPride | Gl (Log) | Yang | PSAL | 13/08 | 26/08 | 1088 |
| J/2 | Sofrana Bligh | Gl (Copra) | Sing | Aeka | 18/08 | 29/08 | 481 |
| J/3 | Induruwa Valley | Rice(P) | Kaki | Able | 21/08 | 28/08 | - |
| J/4 | Anny Dp | Wheat(G) | Viza | Uniship | 23/08 | 04/09 | 1305 |
| J/5 | Je Feng | C Clink | Sing | PSAL | 22/08 | 07/01 | - |
| J/6 | Marine Universal-ii | Gl (Peas) | Vanc | Mutual | 25/08 | 03/09 | 1668 |
| J/7 | Banglar Kakoli | Gl | Ind | BSC | 22/08 | 31/08 | 176 |
| J/8 | Sonali | Rice/WT/Sug | Kaki | NSSL | 04/08 | 28/08 | 602 |
| J/9 | An Kang Jiang | Gl | Ting | Bdship | 24/08 | 29/08 | 1238 |
| J/10 | Bosowa Sembilan | Rice(P) | Kaki | Able | 24/08 | 31/08 | 542 |
| J/11 | Banga Borak | Cont | Col | Baridhi | 22/08 | 26/08 | X |
| J/12 | Qc Lark | Cont | P Kel | QCSL | 23/08 | 27/08 | 507/370 |
| J/13 | Orient Freedom | Cont | P Kel | PSSL | 23/08 | 28/08 | (726/750) |
| CCT/1 | Xpress Resolve | Cont | Col | Everbest | 22/08 | 26/08 | 322/84 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Vessels due at outer anchorage | | | | | |
| Name of vessels | Date of arrival | L Port call | Local agent | Cargo | Loading port |
| Dawei (Liner) | 26/08 | Yangoon | Everett | Gl | 6 Units |
| Asimont | 25/08 | - | Seaborne | Cont | Sing |
| Gizan Glory | 25/08 | Pipa | Uniship | Clink(Mt/Mtc/Pad) | - |
| Titiana-I | 25/08 | Xang | Bma | Fert In Bag | - |
| Good Faith | 25/08 | Thai | OTBL | For Demolition | - |
| New Sea Star | 26/08 | P Kel | QCSL | Cont | Sing |
| Banga Biraj | 30/08 | Chnn | Baridhi | Cont | Sin |
| Rainbow Joy (Liner) | 28/08 | Sing | Everett | Gl | - |
| Pagan | 27/08 | Yang | MTA | Gl (Pulses) | - |
| Kota Singa | 28/08 | Sing | Pil(Bd) | Cont | Sing |
| Barrier | 28/08 | - | Everbest | Cont | Col |
| Banga Bijoy | 31/08 | CBO | Bdship | Cont | Ptp/sing |
| Leopard | 29/08 | Mumbah | Everett | Gl (Spl. Cargo) | - |
| Qc Teal | 29/08 | P Kel | QCSL | Cont | Sing |
| Banga Birol | 28/08 | - | Bdship | Cont | Sing |
| Qc Honour | 30/08 | P Kel | QCSL | Cont | Sing |
| Banglar Moni | 30/08 | Sing | BSC | Cont | Sing |
| Mardios | 31/08 | P Kel | RSL | Cont | Sing |
| Kota Cahaya | 01/09 | Sing | Pil(Bd) | Cont | Sing |
| Orient Grace | 02/09 | - | - | Cont | Sing |
| Qc Dignity | 04/09 | P Kel | QCSL | Cont | Sing |
| Pioneer Runner | 15/09 | P Kel | JF | Vehi | - |
| Banga Borat | 27/09 | Mgi | Bdship | Wtl | Sin |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------|----------|-------------|--|
| Vessels at outer anchorage | | | | | |
| Vessels ready | | | | | |
| Chios Harmony | Wheat (P) | Qinz | BSL | 17/08 | |
| Kota Naga | Cont | Sing | Pil (bd) | 23/08 | |
| Banga Bonik | Cont | Col | Baridhi | 23/08 | |
| Jaami | Cont | Hald | Everbest | 24/08 | |
| Eagle Strength | Cont | Sing | Nol | 24/08 | |
| Vessels awaiting employment/instruction | | | | | |
| Banga Borti | Repair | -- | Bdship | R/A (05/08) | |
| Al Muztuba | -- | -- | CLA | R/A (24/08) | |
| Mmm Jackson | Rbd | -- | USL | R/A (25/08) | |
| Banglar Jyoti | -- | -- | BSC | R/A (25/08) | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Movement of vessels for 26/8/2003 | | | |
| Outgoing | Incoming | Shifting | |
| J/1 | O Pride | J/11 | K Naga |
| J/11 | B Borak | | B Bonik |
| CCT/1 | Xp Resolve | CCT/1 | Jaami |
| CCT/3 | Xp Manaslu | CCT/3 | E Strength |
| RM/14 | Ja Gang | J/1 | Dawei |
| GSJ | George | RM/14 | Al Muztuba |
| DOJ | B Shourab | | Chios Harmony |

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