

# New urgency to relaunch WTO talks looms

## Trade ministers meet at Davos Friday

AFP, Geneva

More than 20 trade or economics ministers are due to meet on the fringe of a forum in Switzerland this week as evidence mounts that the new year has brought with it a new urgency to relaunch global trade talks.

The meeting on Friday comes after a high-level gathering in Bangladesh at the weekend, where trade ministers and experts from 37 countries called for the "urgent" resumption of the stalled World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations.

Attending the two-day confer-

ence in Dhaka, the European Union's chief WTO negotiator Pascal Lamy said the round should restart after March or April.

And, despite concerns that a US presidential election in November will overshadow the process, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick -- who is planning a global tour in February -- signalled Washington's commitment to the crucial talks in a letter to the WTO's 146 member states earlier this month.

Efforts to reduce world trade barriers, launched in November 2001 in the Qatari capital Doha, have ground to a near-halt since

the collapse of the last WTO ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico last September.

The Cancun session failed after bickering over cross-border investment and competition added to a more fundamental dispute over farm subsidies in richer countries and the high tariffs on agricultural exports from poorer nations.

Participants at this week's meeting on the sidelines of the annual World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort Davos, would discuss the Doha round, which is due to be concluded by January 1, 2005, said Manuel Sager, a spokesman for Switzerland's economics

ministry, which organised the event.

"The general idea is to analyse the situation, why it has been gridlocked and how the process can be moved forward in the coming months, hopefully leading to a (ministerial) meeting in Hong Kong later this year," he told AFP.

Sager was tight-lipped about the guest list but Canada's ambassador to the WTO Sergio Marchi -- who will be there with his country's new trade minister -- said although Lamy and Zoellick were not expected, ministers from countries such as Norway, Australia and Malaysia were scheduled to attend.



PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Shah Md Nurul Alam, managing director of Prime Bank Limited, and Peter E Albrich, managing director of Siemens Bangladesh Limited, exchange documents after signing a memorandum of understanding for providing credit facilities under the bank's consumer credit scheme on Thursday in Dhaka. Under the deal, Prime Bank will provide credit facilities to customers to buy fridge, TV and other electronics goods of Siemens.



PHOTO: SHAHJALAL BANK

Sajjatuz Jumma, chairman of Shahjalal Bank Limited, speaks at the Managers' Conference-2004 of the bank held in Dhaka on Thursday. Among others, Abdul Halim, vice-chairman of the bank, Syed Nurul Arefeen, chairman of executive committee, Md Solaiman, chairman of audit committee, Ashfaque U Chowdhury, advisor of the bank, and Md Jillur Rahman, managing director (current charge), were present.

## Japan warns another mad cow case can occur in US

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's farm ministry warned Monday that US measures to prevent BSE-infected beef entering the food chain are not enough to persuade Japan to lift its import ban and further cases of mad cow disease could turn up in the United States in future.

"What the United States has presented as (safety) measures are not deemed sufficient," Mamoru Ishihara, the vice minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, told a news conference.

He was speaking after the ministry published a report on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the United States, which stated, "There is no guarantee that BSE will not occur in the United States hereafter."

The report was based on findings by a team of government officials who returned here on Sunday after a 11-day tour of the United States and Canada following the discovery of the first BSE case in the United States last month.



PHOTO: BRAC BANK

Imran Rahman, deputy managing director of Brac Bank Limited, and MA Karim, managing director of Sandhani Life Insurance Company Limited, sign an agreement on 'nationwide payment services' on behalf of their organisations in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Sandhani Life will be able to execute payments to their beneficiaries all over Bangladesh.



PHOTO: DBBL

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited Chairman M Sahabuddin Ahmed inaugurates a new branch of the bank at Islampur in Dhaka recently. Among others, Abedur Rashid Khan, director of the bank, Md Yeasin Ali, managing director, and other senior executives were present.



PHOTO: SQUARE TOILETRIES

(From left to right) Sania Mahmood, manager (Marketing) of Square Toiletries Ltd, Mahmudul Haque, DGM (Finance), Anjan Chowdhury, managing director, Abdul Haque, director, and Md Tareq, national sales manager, pose for a photograph at the company's annual sales conference 2004 held in Cox's Bazar on Saturday.

## 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 |
| 59.1500   | 59.2000  | USD      | 58.2550  | 58.0839      | 58.0144     |
| 73.9079   | 73.9704  | EUR      | 71.3624  | 71.1528      | 71.0676     |
| 107.0970  | 107.1875 | GBP      | 104.0493 | 103.7436     | 103.6195    |
| 45.4864   | 45.5248  | AUD      | 43.3708  | 43.2435      | 43.1917     |
| 9.5628  | 9.5633   | JPY      | 9.5427   | 9.5411       | 9.5404      |
| 47.0902   | 47.1300  | CHF      | 45.5259  | 45.3922      | 45.3379     |
| 7.9830  | 7.9897   | SEK      | 7.4262   | 7.4044       | 7.3955      |
| 45.7569   | 45.7956  | CAD      | 44.3273  | 44.1971      | 44.1442     |
| 7.6234  | 7.6298   | HKD      | 7.4936   | 7.4716       | 7.4626      |
| 34.8166   | 34.8461  | SGD      | 33.9897  | 33.8899      | 33.8493     |
| 16.2357   | 16.2495  | AED      | 15.7327  | 15.6865      | 15.6677     |
| 15.8988   | 15.9123  | SAR      | 15.4110  | 15.3657      | 15.3473     |
| 10.2460   | 10.2546  | DKK      | 9.2940   | 9.2667       | 9.2556      |

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 19/1/2004

| Berth No. | Name of vessels  | Cargo     | L. Port call | Local agent | Dt of arrival | Leaving | Import Disch. |
|-----------|------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| J/3       | Rise             | Sugar (P) | Viza         | SSTL        | 23/10         | 24/1    | --            |
| J/6       | Celje            | Fert/Gi   | Sing         | ANCL        | 06/1          | 20/1    | 500           |
| J/8       | Great Harmony    | TSP(Fert) | Sing         | Unique      | 02/1          | 22/1    | 1049          |
| J/11      | Banglar Moni     | Cont      | Sing         | BSC         | 15/1          | 19/1    | 283           |
| J/12      | Kota Cahaya      | Cont      | Sing         | Pil (Bd)    | 15/1          | 20/1    | 111           |
| J/13      | Barrier          | Cont      | Col          | Everbest    | 15/1          | 20/1    | --            |
| CCT/2     | Oc Honour        | Cont      | P. Kel       | QC SL       | 17/1          | 21/1    | 270           |
| CCT/3     | Xpress Manaslu   | Cont      | P. Kel       | RSL         | 15/1          | 20/1    | 64            |
| RM/5      | Ocean Moray      | Hsd/Ms    | Sing         | MSTPL       | 16/1          | 19/1    | --            |
| DDJ:      | Banglar Shourabh | C. Oil    | K. Dia       | BSC         | R/A           | 19/1    | --            |
| DDJ-1     | Salamak-1        | Repair    | Iran         | Olm         | 25/11         | 21/1    | --            |
| DDJ-2     | Banglar Maya     | --        | Braz         | BSC         | 21/12         | 20/1    | --            |
| RM/10     | Al Muztuba       | Repair    | --           | K. Dia      | IBSA          | R/A     | --            |
|           |                  |           |              | Cla         | R/A           | 22/1    | --            |

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

| Name of vessels    | Date of arrival | L. Port call | Local agent | Cargo               | Load port   |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Orient Excellence  | 19/1            | P. Kel       | PSSL        | Cont                | Sing        |
| Banga Bonik        | 19/1            | Col          | Bandhi      | Cont                | Col         |
| Luccott            | 19/1            | Para         | Aga         | --                  | Scraping    |
| Jin Cheng (Liner)  | 19/1            | Xingang      | Bdship      | Gl                  | --          |
| Banga Borak        | 19/1            | Sing         | Bdship      | Cont                | P. Kel/Sing |
| Karadeniz          | 19/1            | Stax         | SSST        | Glsp(Fert)          | --          |
| New Blessing       | 20/1            | P. Kel       | Seaborne    | Cont                | Sing        |
| Qc Dignity         | 20/1            | P. Kel       | QC SL       | Cont                | Sing        |
| Banglar Shikha     | 20/1            | Sing         | BSC         | Cont                | Sing        |
| Sea Venus          | 20/1            | Taiw         | Litmond     | Clink               | Shah        |
| Banga Bortl        | 22/1            | --           | Bdship      | Cont                | Sing/Ptp    |
| Kota Singa         | 21/1            | Sing         | Pil (Bd)    | Cont                | Sing        |
| Orient Freedom     | 22/1            | --           | PSSL        | Cont                | Sing        |
| Mardios            | 22/1            | P. Kel       | RSL         | Cont                | Sing        |
| Advance Pescadores | 22/1            | --           | Everett     | Gl (St. C)          | 59 Units    |
| Banga Biljoy       | 22/1            | --           | Bandhi      | Cont                | Col         |
| Ocean Pride        | 22/1            | --           | PSAL        | Maize/Log           | Sugar/Pulse |
| Katja              | 22/1            | --           | Sunshine    | Gl (St. C) 32 Units | --          |
| Sagaing (Liner)    | 22/1            | Yang         | Everett     | Gl (St. C) 32 Units | --          |
| Continent-4        | 23/1            | Pipa         | Cla         | S. Ash              | --          |
| Xpress Resolve     | 23/1            | --           | Everbest    | Cont                | Col         |
| Orient Enterprise  | 23/1            | --           | PSSL        | Cont                | Sing        |
| Budi Aman          | 23/1            | Sing         | Pil (Bd)    | Cont                | Sing        |
| Kota Naga          | 23/1            | Sing         | Pil (Bd)    | Cont                | Mgl         |
| Jaami              | 24/1            | --           | Everbest    | Cont                | Col         |
| Kengtung (Liner)   | 24/1            | --           | Everett     | Gl (St. C)          | --          |
| Banga Borat        | 25/1            | --           | Bdship      | Cont                | Ptp/Sing    |
| Rio Nirgo          | 25/1            | P. Kel       | QC SL       | Cont                | P. Kel      |
| Dongtai Fortune    | 25/1            | Sing         | Pil (Bd)    | Cont                | Sing        |
| Yong Jiang (Liner) | 26/1            | --           | Bdship      | Gl                  | --          |

### Tanker Due

|               |      |      |       |                 |
|---------------|------|------|-------|-----------------|
| Roberto Rizzo | 20/1 | Baha | EOSL  | Sko/Jet-1 (DOJ) |
| Nagatino      | 20/1 | Kuwa | MSTPL | HSD (RM)        |
| Gaz Master    | 22/1 | Viza | MBL   | W/Ld Ammonia    |

### Vessels at outer anchorage

#### Vessels ready

|   |         |        |         |             |
|---|---------|--------|---------|-------------|
| Banglar Jyoti                             | C. Oil  | K. Dia | BSC     | R/A         |
| Vessels not ready                         |         |        |         |             |
| Safinaz                                   | Fert    | Fang   | Unique  | 17/1        |
| Vessels awaiting employment / instruction |         |        |         |             |
| Banga Biraj                               | --      | --     | Bdship  | R/A (29/12) |
| Aspen                                     | Ballast | Mong   | Rsship  | 11/1        |
| Margret Oldendoref                        | --      | Durb   | Litmond | 4/1         |
| Vessels not entering:                     |         |        |         |             |
| Ocean Wind                                | Salt(P) | Kand   | Sigma   | 25/12       |

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

## STOCK