

# 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.

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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, will 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.

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### 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
0.5628	0.5633	JPY 0.5427	0.5411	0.5404
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

### STOCK



#### 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.
J3	Rise	Sugar (P)	Viza	SSTL	23/10	24/1	--
J6	Celje	Fer/Gi	Sing	ANCL	06/1	20/1	500
J8	Great Harmony	TSP(Fer)	Sing	Unique	02/1	22/1	1049
J11	Bangler Moni	Cont	Sing	BSC	15/1	19/1	283
J12	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	15/1	20/1	111
J13	Barrier	Cont	Col	Everbest	15/1	20/1	--
CCT/2	Qc Honour	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	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	
DOJ:	Bangler Shourabh	C.Oil	K.Dia	BSC	R/A	19/1	
DD:	Salamat-1	Repair	Iran	Olm	25/11	21/1	
DDJ-1	Bangler Maya	--	Braz	BSC	21/12	20/1	
DDJ-2	Dea Captain	--	K.Dia	IBSA	R/A	--	
RM/10	Al Muztuba	Repair	--	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	GI	P.Kel/Sing
Banga Borak	19/1	Sing	Bdship	Cont	
Karadeniz	19/1	Stax	SSST	Gtsp(Fert)	
New Blessing	20/1	P.Kel	Seaborne	Cont	Sing
Qc Dignity	20/1	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Bangler Shikha	20/1	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Sea Venus	20/1	Taiw	Litmond	Clink	Shah
Banga Borti	22/1	--	Bdship	Cont	Sing/Pip
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	GI(St.C)	59 Units
Banga Bijoy	22/1	--	Bandhi	Cont	Col
Ocean Pride	22/1	--	PSAL	Maize/Log	Sugar/Pulse
Katja	22/1	--	Sunshine	GI(St.Rails)	
Sagaing (Liner)	23/1	Yang	Everett	GI(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	GI(St.C)	
Banga Borat	25/1	--	Bdship	Cont	Ptp/Sing
Rio Nirgo	25/1	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	P.Kel
Dongtai Fortune	25/1	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Yong Jiang (Liner)	26/1	--	Bdship	GI	

Tanker Due					
Roberto Rizzo	20/1	Baha	EOSL	Sko/Jet-1 (DOJ)	
Nagotino	20/1	Kuwa	MSTPL		