

# Trading nations hint at historic step on farm with month to go

AFP, Geneva

meeting in Cancun, Mexico last September.

Poor countries rounded on the payments made to farmers in places like the European Union and the United States, warning that their own produce was unfairly priced out of world markets, while rich countries barely budged.

"The good news is that we all agree that export subsidies should be eliminated," US farm trade negotiator Allen Johnson said during yet another negotiating session.

"We all agree that this historic step has to be taken," he told journalists as the session drew to an end at WTO headquarters in Geneva on Friday, although he admitted the negotiators were still trying to figure out how.

Farm subsidies were at the heart of the collapse of a WTO ministerial

proposal upset France and several other EU members with large farming constituencies.

Brussels also said it was looking for "parallelism": in the jargon of the trade world, similar concessions from the United States on export credits or prices set by wheat boards in Australia and Canada.

That step appears to have stirred the talks on the critical "modalities" due by the end of July, which will effectively shape an eventual agriculture deal.

"There has been some movement for the first time on parallelism," a WTO official said on condition of anonymity after the latest meeting in Geneva.

Johnson said the member states had reached "a consensus" on the need to bring "disciplines" to all forms of export subsidies.

"Exactly how we do it is what we're talking about," he added.

The US negotiator also said there was "growing consensus" on the need to reduce other forms of agricultural subsidies paid to farmers, starting with the highest ones.

As for levelling open markets to imports -- another key poor country demand -- Johnson also detected "convergence" among member states on the need to reduce the highest tariffs more, while allowing countries to protect some "sensitive" produce.

But time is running short. The 147 negotiators have another four weeks to relaunch the whole Doha round of trade talks, with only three more days devoted to agriculture on July 14 to 16.

## Asean likely to invite Australia, NZ to summit for trade talks

AFP, Jakarta

Australia's leader attended the summit, which also involves Asean dialogue partners China, Japan, South Korea and India.

Natalegawa said such a summit would only be "commemorative" in nature and would not be a regular meeting.

The Australian government under Prime Minister John Howard had a prickly relationship with former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 27/6/2004

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J3	Pathain	Sugar(P)	Bank	Gpsi	29/5	27/6	766
J4	Ocean Pride	Gl	Yang	Psal	14/6	29/6	730
J7	Novgorod	Sugar(P)	Durb	Ksm	11/6	29/6	924
J9	Seaboss-1	Slag	Japan	Sst	14/6	30/6	1600
J10	QC Dignity	Cont	P. Kel	Qcls	27/6	30/6	--
J12	Banga Bodor	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	25/6	28/6	259
J13	Yanong Star	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	26/6	28/6	123
Cct/1	Kota Singa	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	24/6	28/6	383
Cct/2	Xpress Resolve	Cont	Col	Everbest	26/6	29/6	193
Cct/3	Mardios	Cont	P. Kel	Rsl	26/6	29/6	241
Cj:	Banga Bonik	Survey	Col	Baridhi	22/6	30/6	--
Gsi:	Urana Naree	Clink	Pena	Psal	17/6	30/6	--
RM/3	Global Juno	Cpo	Lumut	Rainbow	26/6	28/6	--
RM/4	Yapi	Cds	Tome	Usl	20/6	28/6	--
RM/6	Al Sabiyah	Hsd/JP-1	Kuwa	Mstpl	23/6	28/6	--
Doj:	Excellen	Clink	Indo	Asl	17/6	30/6	--
DD:	Pavonis	Repair	Yang	Pml	23/5	10/7	--
RM/9	Taramat Bibi	Repair	B. Abb	Nishat	25/4	1/7	--
RM/10	Salamat-2	Idle	--	Olm	R/A	28/6	--

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of call	L. port agent	Local	Cargo	Load	Arrival port
Orient Freedom	28/6	Sing	Pssi	Cont		Sing
Shivaji	27/6	P. Band	Intraport	Scraping		--
Jutha Vasana	27/6	Tuti	Otl	Gl(Hrc)		--
Amanat Shah	28/6	Kand	Cla	Gl(St.Pipe)		--
Dongtai Fortune	29/6	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing	--
Kota Naga	28/6	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Mgl	--
Global Spirit-1	28/6	Kara	Pml	W/Ld	Spl	Cargo
Liberty	28/6	Zuhai	Majestic	Demolition		--
An Long Jiang(Liner)	29/6	Inch	Bdship	Gl		--
Banga Bijoy	29/6	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col	--
Rio Negro	29/6	P. Kel	Pcs	Cont	Sing	--
Orient Wisdom	1/7	Hal	Pssi	Cont	Col	--
Banga Borak	1/7	—	Bdship	Cont	Pkl(Sing)	--
Kota Berjaya	29/6	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing	--
QC Star	30/6	P. Kel	Qcs	Cont	Sing	--
Forest Venture	1/7	Turk	Rsa	Gl		--
Sagging (Liner)	28/6	Yangon	Everett	Gl (St. C)		--
Van Xuan	30/6	—	Pssi	Cont	Sing	--
Orient Enterprise	30/6	—	Pssi	Cont	Sing	--
Banga Barata	30/6	P. Bandar	Baridhi	Gl(S.Ash)		--

### Tanker due

Ocean Porpoise	27/6	Sing	Mstpl	Hsd/Ms(Doj-2)
Andhika Ashura	28/6	Dumai	Usl	Cpo(RM/3/4)
Jag Preeti	29/6	New	Sssi	Hsd
Shalamar	29/6	Rast	Owsl	Crude Oil
Golden Dream	30/6	Sing	Rainbow	Cor/Doj
Gaz Master	3/7	Viza	Mbl	Ammonia K/A

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Dea Captain	--	--	Ibsa	R/A (26/6)

### Outside port limit

Vessels at outer anchorage
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Vessels ready:	Banga Borti	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	27/6
Vessels not ready:	Bangla Robi	Sugar (P)	Mumb	Pml	15/6

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

## STOCK

Mahbubur Rahman (centre), chairman of Eastland Insurance Company Limited, addresses the company's 17th annual general meeting in Dhaka yesterday. Managing Director M Azmal Hoque (left) and Secretary AFM Safru (right) are also seen in the picture.



Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, chairman of Bashundhara Group and managing director of Meghna Cement Mills Limited, speaks at the 12th annual general meeting of Meghna Cement Mills in Dhaka on Saturday. The company declared a 25 percent cash dividend for the shareholders for the year 2003.

PHOTO: MEGHNA CEMENT MILLS

PHOTO: EASTLAND INSURANCE