

EU puts final touches to WTO talk stance

AFP, Brussels

European Union (EU) foreign ministers met Monday to finalise their negotiating position at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks which open in Geneva this week.

Dutch Foreign Minister Ben Bot said the EU has to take a firm and united stand at the WTO talks starting Tuesday, and downplayed tensions notably over farm subsidies, where France does not want to give any more ground.

"I think we will get a good mandate for the Commission and we have seen to it that all member states of course are on the same line," said, referring to the European

Commission which will represent the EU in Geneva.

He added that he had "high hopes" all EU states would agree on agricultural subsidies.

The WTO negotiations starting Tuesday, the first since the breakdown of talks in Cancun in Mexico last September, is seen as crucial ahead of changes of administration in both Europe and the United States later this year.

Failure to reach a deal in the so-called Doha round of talks could lead to a stalemate in the talks that could last for years, WTO director-general Supachai Panichpakdi has warned.

The EU will be represented in Geneva by Trade Commissioner

Pascal Lamy, one of the two French commissioners.

The Commission, the EU's executive arm, welcomed a new draft compromise as "a basis for further work" when the head of the WTO's general council, Japanese ambassador Shota Oshima, presented it in mid-July.

But France disagrees with the commission on the issue of farm subsidies. France has complained that the Oshima compromise "is deeply unbalanced to the disadvantage of the EU."

The Commission points out that the latest WTO plan makes room, for example, for market access for certain sensitive products for devel-

oped countries. It also takes up the demand by Brussels for equivalent treatment for export subsidies, which are largely used by the EU, and other mechanisms of support such as food aid, which the US commonly uses.

Responding to the concerns of Raffarin and France's powerful farming lobby, European Commission head Romano Prodi said France was also mistaken about the negotiating timetable because the talks next week are aimed at defining a framework for more conclusive talks and are not the conclusions themselves, which will depend on the balance of compromises to come.

WTO TRADE TALKS

Farmer groups from EU, Japan, Canada voice concern

AFP, Geneva

Farmer groups from the European Union, Japan and Canada said Monday they were very worried about the way talks on bringing down global trade barriers were heading.

Representatives of a coalition of farmers federations said after a meeting with World Trade Organisation chief negotiator Shota Oshima that their concerns focused on the drive for market access by bringing down tariffs.

"We told him we were not opposed to the progress of the negotiations, but certainly not with the text on agriculture," Jean-Michel Lemetayer, vice-president of the Committee of Agricultural Organisations in the European Union said afterwards.

The draft compromise text Oshima released to the WTO members states on July 16 calls for the elimination of export subsidies on agriculture and cuts in import tariffs.

The 147 member states are due to meet at a ruling WTO General Council meeting from Tuesday to try to reach an agreement by the end of the week on new guidelines that would galvanise troubled global trade talks.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) President Fazlul Hoque (2nd from right) addresses a press conference at BKMEA office in Narayanganj yesterday.

CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (July 26, 2004) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Currency	Buy
TT/OD	BC	TT Clean
60.9500	61.0000 USD	58.9500
74.6516	74.7128 EUR	70.7037
112.6722	112.7546 GBP	107.4486
44.1278	44.1640 AUD	41.2040
0.5832	0.5837 JPY	0.5332
48.7678	48.8078 CHF	46.1493
8.3633	8.3702 SEK	7.5628
46.5836	46.6218 CAD	44.2329
7.8218	7.8282 HKD	7.5444
35.5601	35.5893 SGD	34.0688
16.7293	16.7431 AED	15.9078
16.3826	16.3961 SAR	15.5376
10.3604	10.3689 KWD	9.2299
207.4329	207.6030 QWD	192.6700

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor Korean	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
48.3	58.36	102.925	41.075	7.0210	0.6898	3.80

Local Interbank FX Trading
Local interbank market was active on Monday. US dollar got slightly weaker against Bangladesh taka due to less import demand.

Local Money Market
Money market was active. Call money rate eased and ranged between 3.00 and 5.00 percent compared with 4.50 and 8.00 percent previously.

International Market
The dollar slipped from last week's three-week highs against the euro on Monday as the market awaited data to see if it supported Federal Reserve chief Alan Greenspan's recent optimism on the US economy. After the dollar rose around 3 percent against the euro, Swiss franc and sterling following Greenspan's testimony in Congress, dealers were still trying to assess how much of the move was short covering after a steep dollar selloff in previous weeks. Consumer confidence on Tuesday, durable goods on Wednesday and gross domestic product on Friday will be key tests for the dollar after Greenspan said last week that recent weaknesses in the economy were transitory, indicating interest will need to go further.

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DISTRIBUTION OF BONUS SHARE

The stock dividend in the ratio of 12 (twelve) shares for every 50 (fifty) shares held i.e. @ 24% for the year ended on 31st December 2003 was approved in the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 29th June 2004. The corresponding Share Certificates are ready for distribution among the Shareholders whose names appeared in the Register of Members of the Company as on 7th June 2004. The certificates will be distributed as per following schedule:

Date of Delivery	Folio Numbers	
	From	To
01-08-2004	000001	002000
02-08-2004	002001	003458

The valued shareholders are requested to collect their respective Share Certificate(s) personally or through their authorized representative from the Share Department, Bank Asia Limited, Corporate Office during office hours as per schedule mentioned above.



Corporate Office: Rangabhaban (8th floor), 113-116 Old Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215, Phone: 9137512-5, Fax: 8155858

STOCK

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES July 26, 2004

Company	FM/ML (Tk./No.)	DSE			CSE			Financial Performance		
		Closing	Price Chg (%)	Turnover Share	Closing	Price Chg (%)	Turnover Share	Last AGM	EPS (Tk.)	DPS (%)
BANK										
AB Bank Ltd.	10005	204.50	1.24	202.00	1640	250.00	Not Traded	---	27/09/03	5.02
City Bank Ltd.	10005	548.00	0.14	547.25	780	278.00	Not Traded	---	28/04/03	5.36
IFC Bank Ltd.	10005	230.75	-0.54	232.00	570	250.00	Not Traded	---	07/12/04	15.8
Islami Bank BD Ltd.	10001	366.00	1.00	362.75	707	364.00	Not Traded	---	17/09/04	19.5
National Bank Ltd.	10002	258.25	1.18	255.25	3840	259.00	0.29	258.25	24/09/04	20.4
Pabali Bank Ltd.	10005	740.00	0.54	736.00	877	750.00	Not Traded	---	28/12/03	19.9
Rupali Bank Ltd.	10010	213.25	2.16	208.75	2100	215.50	0.70	214.00	02/08/03	22.9
UCBL	10005	592.75	1.11	586.25	315	580.00	Not Traded	---	15/09/99	15.6
Uzara Bank Ltd.	10005	270.75	0.75	261.25	585	131.75	Not Traded	---	14/06/04	192.50
The Oriental Bank Ltd.	10005	350.00	0.13	349.75	228	---	Not Listed	---	08/11/03	92.1
IDLC Ltd.	10020	750.50	1.38	740.25	240	675.00	Not Traded	---	26/05/04	77.5
Eastern Bank Ltd.	10020	400.00	0.00	400.00	20	---	Not Listed	---	30/06/04	41.2
United Leasing Co. Ltd.	10020	106.00	0.00	106.00	3140	106.00	Not Traded	---	26/04/04	52.55
Utara Finance and Invs.	10050	580.25	4.22	556.75	3200	580.00	0.17	579.00	30/05/04	83.25
Al Arafa (Ummi) Bank	10005	920.00	3.76	885.50	220	1000.00	3.15	1042.00	10/05/04	21.6
Prime Bank Ltd.	10050	353.50	1.07	349.75	7221	354.75	2.60	345.75	20/05/04	36.1
Southeast Bank Ltd.	10050	362.75	1.47	357.50	1140	364.50	0.97	361.00	29/09/04	45.20
Dhaka Bank Ltd.	10050	315.00	0.96	312.00	2775	308.00	Not Traded	---	27/05/04	40.5
N C C Bank Ltd.	10050	206.25	1.73	202.75	2050	206.00	1.10	203.75	25/07/04	12.1
Scotiabank Investment Bank	10050	2800.00	2.26	2736.00	30	---	Not Listed	---	02/06/04	101.20
Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd.	10050	245.00	1.18	242.50	680	240.00	Not Traded	---	21/03/04	101.20
Midas Financing Ltd.	10050	772.00	1.30	768.50	750	---	Not Listed	---	16/10/03	7.30
Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.	10050	264.50	1.93	259.00	2900	256.00	Not Traded	---	04/05/04	26.4
First Lease Int'l. Ltd.	10050	179.25	1.41	176.75	8800	179.00	1.13	177.00	04/05/04	19.5
Standard Bank Ltd.	10050	203.25	1.75	199.75	7300	198.75	Not Traded	---	09/06/04	20.0
One Bank Ltd.	10050	205.00	2.50	200.00	6850	204.00	2.26	199.50	07/06/04	13.1
Bank Asia Ltd.	10050	372.50	1.22	368.00	6650	355.00	Not Traded	---	29/06/04	29.0
Mercantile Bank Ltd.	10050	279.00	0.63	277.50	2200	275.00	-1.79	280.00	50/04/04	27.0
INVESTMENT										
4th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	497.50	0.00	497.50	10	476.00	Not Traded	---	12/08/03	30.9
5th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	290.00	0.00	290.00	60	295.00	Not Traded	---	12/08/03	19.3
6th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	188.00	-0.53	189.00	10	170.00	0.00	170.00	12/08/03	14.8
7th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	160.00	-0.78	160.00	30	171.50	Not Traded	---	12/08/03	14.6
8th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	162.00	2.53	158.00	400	153.00	Not Traded	---	12/08/03	10.8
1st BSRF Mutual Fund	10050	92.00	0.00	92.00	300	95.00	Not Traded	---	5/8/04	5.00
AIMS First	12500	11.3	1.80	11.1	62500	11.3	0.89	11.2	01/11/01	10.0
ICB AMCI First Mutual Fund	10010	144.50	2.50	142.50	50	145.00	0.11	142.00	2000	20.0
ENGINEERING										
Afrah Automobiles Ltd.	10005	577.25	3.03	560.25	3175	582.25	5.86	550.00	20/12/03	87.7
Aspi Pipes Ltd.	10005	68.00	1.12	67.25	490	73.00	Not Traded	---	29/06/04	18.1
Olympic Industries Ltd.	10050	174.00	2.05	171.00	900	177.00	Not Traded	---	24/12/03	6.73
Bangladesh Lamps Ltd.	10005	510.75	2.41	497.50	910	515.00	Not Traded	---	24/06/04	27.7
Eastern Cables Ltd.	10005	199.50	2.18	195.25	1646	198.50	1.53	195.50	26/06/04	11.1
Monno Jutea Ltd.	10005	100.00	0.74	99.00	50	---	Not Listed	---	18/12/03	32.4
Monno Staffers Ltd.	10005	522.25	12.68	463.50	125	---	Not Listed	---	26/06/03	22.0
Atlas Bangladesh Ltd.	10050	275.00	0.22	274.00	400	275.00	Not Traded	---	23/12/03	28.6
BD Autocare Ltd.	10005	55.00	5.26	52.25	995	21.00	Not Traded	---	24/12/03	20.8
Quatern Drycells Ltd.	10050	14.70	0.00	14.70	5500	14.60	Not Traded	---	17/12/03	10.1
Renwick Jipswear Ltd.	10005	21.00	5.19	19.25	380	---	Not Listed	---	17/12/03	11.0
National Textiles Ltd.	10010	857.00	1.63	837.25	890	---	Not Listed	---	21/12/03	11.9
Wander Land Toys Ltd.	10050	36.75	0.26	35.25	350	40.50	Not Traded	---	24/12/03	1.06
Rongdur Foundry Ltd.	10050	20.90	0.97	20.70	3500	20.50	Not Traded	---	17/06/04	19.5
FOOD & ALLIED										
Amam Sea Food Ltd.	10005	138.00	-2.47	141.50	10	---	Not Listed	---	24/12/03	2.9
Apex Foods Ltd.	10005	428.00	3.69	407.00	440	411.00	-8.67	450.00	30/09/03	22.7
Bangas	10005	260.50	3.38	251.50	30	260.00	Not Traded	---	31/12/03	13.4
BLIC	10005	475.25	4.93	452.25	370	475.00	Not Traded	---	14/12/03	14.9
BATPOL	10050	144.80	1.61	142.50	2150	146.00	Not Traded	---	30/06/04	14.5
National Tea Co. Ltd.	10005	813.25	1.02	805.00	15	640.00	Not Traded	---	28/04/04	33.6
Talip Dairy & Food Ltd.	10010	24.25	-6.73	26.00	50	---	Not Listed	---	26/06/01	-1.5
Bonisco Fisheries Ltd.	10020	28.25	1.80	27.75	1900	28.25	Not Traded	---	26/06/04	0.7
Bengal Biscuits Ltd.	10020	26.00	4.00	25.00	440	25.75	Not Traded	---	30/06/03	-1.4
Meghna Shrimp	10020	32.25	3.20	31.25	300	35.00	Not Traded	---	26/12/01	15.2
Rapit Inc (bd) Ltd.	10050	1.60	6.67	1.50	6000	1.50	Not Traded	---	24/12/02	1.02
AMCI (Phan)	10010	530.75	4.07	510.00	1010	490.00	Not Traded	---	24/12/03	55.4
Kacha Fisheries Ltd.	10050	35.00	2.72	34.75	300	35.00	Not Traded	---	17/12/03	11.1
Shamspur Sugar Mills	10010	3.50	2.94	3.40	1000	---	Not Listed	---	12/11/03	14.4
Rahima Food Corp.	10050	20.00	5.26	19.00	800	18.00	Not Traded	---	24/12/03	-0.8
Gulf Foods Ltd.	10050	31.25	0.81	31.00	600	30.50	Not Traded	---	30/12/03	1.82
Mona Food Int'l. Ltd.	10050	17.75	4.41	17.00	250	18.25	Not Traded	---	29/12/03	-1.5
Gachhata Aqua.	10050	20.75	5.06	19.75	8950	20.50	2.50	20.00	24/12/02	10.7
Bionic Seafood	10050	5.80	0.00	5.80	21500	---	Not Listed	---	29/09/03	0.15
Fu Wang Food Int'l.	10050	14.20	0.71	14.10	20000	14.30	1.42	14.10	24/12/03	1.54
Meghna PET Industries	10050	2.50	4.17	2.40	2000	---	Not Listed	---	24/12/03	0.11
German Bangla Food	10050	1.60	6.67	1.50	1500	1.60	Not Traded	---	---	---
Beach Hatchery Ltd.	10050	6.20	1.64	6.10	16000	6.20	1.64	6.10	9500	---
Fine Foods Ltd.	10050	6.90	4.55	6.60	17500	7.10	Not Traded	---	24/12/02	1.18
FUEL & POWER										
BCCL (BD) Ltd.	10050	149.00	1.78	146.40	100	142.00	Not Traded	---	20/01/04	13.5
Eastern Lubricants Ltd.	10050	135.80	2.11	133.00	250	---	Not Listed	---	17/03/04	2.96
Bangladesh Welding	10050	4.90	0.00	4.90	2000	4.90	Not Traded	---	29/09/03	0.12
JUTE										
Jute Spinners Ltd.	10005	325.50	1.70	277.50	160	---	Not Listed	---	31/12/03	16.0
Sahaj Food Corp.	10020	1.30	8.33	1.20	1200	---	Not Listed	---	28/09/02	-2.1
TEXTILE										
Ashraf Textile Ltd.	10050	6.30	1.61	6.20	2200	6.00	Not Traded	---	03/12/03	-6.5
Quasem Textile Ltd.	10050	3.00	0.00	3.00	400	---	Not Listed	---	30/09/03	-3.0
Styelaresh Ltd.	10005	769.25	3.23	1828.25	10	---	Not Listed	---	04/09/03	229.40