

EU, Asian states voice cautious optimism on WTO farm deal

AFP, Paris

reducing barriers to the multi-billion-dollar global trade in farm goods.

French Agricultural Minister Hervé Gaymard welcomed the deal to continue negotiations and the fact that "the United States accepted controls on its agricultural policy it had not accepted before."

Germany -- a major recipient of EU farm aid -- had found itself isolated among its European Union partners as the sole hold-out at the talks, prompting several representatives of the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, to criticize France's "purely political" stance.

But Gaymard said France dropped opposition "once the efforts were balanced".

The deal aims to cut export subsidies, reduce domestic support and restrict export credits -- a plan that

would mainly affect wealthy European countries, Japan, South Korea and the United States.

A deadline will be set for the total elimination of farm export subsidies, and Gaymard said: "I think the deadline will be some time around 2015 or 2017, which will give us time to react."

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Reception was mixed in Asia. In Thailand, government spokesman Jakrapob Penkair stressed the deal was "only a starting step".

The Thai government will cooperate in pushing world trade liberalization forward through FTAs (free trade

agreements), as Thailand will create agreements both bilaterally and multilaterally," he said.

China saw the accord as generally "not bad" though "the developing countries are not fully satisfied," Sun Zhenyu, Chinese ambassador to the WTO, was quoted as saying in the China Daily.

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But Australia was lukewarm. Prime Minister John Howard said the WTO deal was basically "an agreement to talk in detail about an agreement." "It's positive news but I don't think people should get over-excited about it because there is still a long way to go."



PHOTO: UNITED INS
Yasmeen Murshed, chairperson of Scholastica Group, and Syed Aziz Ahmad, managing director of United Insurance Company Limited, shake hands to exchange documents after signing a contract for health insurance scheme for Scholastica in Dhaka on Saturday.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 3/8/2004

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J4	Pontomedon	R.Shed	Sing	USL	15/7	5/8	1368
J5	Xiang Jiang (liner)	GI	Inch	Bdship	31/7	3/8	3015
J7	Iran Ashrafi	Wt/picanoa	Vanc	Mutual	7/7	6/8	1282
J9	Jaani	Cont	Col	Everest	31/7	4/8	267
J10	Qs Star	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	30/7	3/8	—
J11	Banga Borti	Cont	Sing	Bdship	1/8	5/8	266
J12	Van Xuan	Cont	Sing	PSSL	1/8	3/8	109
CCT/1	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	28/7	3/8	120
CCT/2	Kota Tampan	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	1/8	3/8	152
CCT/3	Rio Negro	Cont	Sing	QCSL	1/8	5/8	545
RM/3	Siam Sriwatan	CPOL	Bela	Pol	1/8	3/8	—

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Banga Bonik	3/8	Col	Bandhi	Cont	Col
Al Mohammed	4/8	Bang	Cla	Sugar(p)	—
Santa Barbara	4/8	Krabi	Uniship	Clink	—
Nememcha	4/8	Plinkon	Rainbow	Sugar	—
Xoress Manasu	4/8	P.Kel	RSU	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya	4/8	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Star Providence	4/8	Novor	RSA	Githr.coil	—
Feng Kang Shan(liner)	5/8	Xing	Bdship	GI	—
United Prosperity	4/8	Duri	OWSL	Spl.cargo	—
Daisy-t	5/8	Yang	Everett	GI(st.c)	—
New Blessing	5/8	P.Kel	Everest	Cont	Sing
Orient Excellence	5/8	P.Kel	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Orient Wisdom	6/8	Col	PSSL	Cont	Col
Banga Borak	6/8	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	Pkl/sing

Tanker due

Hua Mulan	3/8	Lumut	MTC	CPOL (RM/3/4)
Tank Oil	3/8	--	Rainbow	CPOL (RM/4/3)
Ionikos	4/8	Rast	Crude Oil	--
Gaz Master	6/8	Sing	MBL	Ammonia R/A

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Dea Captain	--	--	Ibsa	R/A(31/7)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Tiraniaga-ii	CPOL	Dumai	BMA	2/8
Star Dream	CPOL	Indo	Rainbow	3/8

Vessels not ready

Proliv Viktoria	Sugar(p)	Sing	OTL	31/7
Amar	Sugar(p)	Bang	Total	1/8
Sinhai	C. Clink	Indo	NWSL	1/8
Maritime Songkhla	C. Clink	Tarj	BSL	3/8
Defiant-t	Wheat(p)	Kiki	Pacific	3/8

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Banga Biraj	--	--	Bdship	R/A(29/12)
Bangler Jyoti	--	--	BSC	R/A(25/7)
Bangler Shourabh	--	--	BSC	R/A(31/7)

Vessels not entering

Pavonis	Clink	Kaki	Move	31/7
Brave Royal	Clink	Krabi	BRSL	2/8
Angeliki-d	Sugar	Sant	Litmond	3/8
Creda	Scraping	Pira	H&SL	29/7
Papuda	Scraping	Hald	ASA	31/7

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

STOCK

Following is Tuesday's (August 3, 2004) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank							
Sell		Currency	Buy				
TT/OD	BC		TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer		
60.4500	60.5000	USD	58.7550	58.5824	58.5123		
73.4528	73.5136	EUR	69.9537	69.7482	69.6647		
111.1796	111.2716	GBP	106.6227	106.3095	106.1823		
43.1855	43.2212	AUD	40.5351	40.4160	40.3676		
0.5537	0.5541	JPY	0.5273	0.5257	0.5251		
47.8282	47.8677	CHF	45.5324	45.3987	45.3443		
8.2183	8.2251	SEK	7.4842	7.4623	7.4533		
45.8371	45.8750	CAD	43.7784	43.6498	43.5976		
7.7583	7.7647	HKD	7.5262	7.5041	7.4951		
35.3509	35.3801	SGD	34.0609	33.9608	33.9202		
16.5921	16.6058	AED	15.8673	15.8207	15.8018		
16.2483	16.2617	SAR	15.5437	15.4980	15.4794		
10.1860	10.1945	DKK	9.1382	9.1114	9.1005		
205.6822	205.8523	KWD	192.1982	191.6337	191.4043		