

EU reassures China's competitors over end of textile quotas

AFP, Brussels

EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy sought Tuesday to reassure textile-exporting developing countries who fear the end of EU textile import quotas in 2005 will open the floodgates from China, at their expense.

He said there was no question of renegotiating the end of the quotas from January 1, 2005, agreed under the last, so-called Uruguay Round of global trade talks in the 1990s.

"The end of quotas was the great victory of the developing countries 10 years ago and I don't think we can come back on it," he told the international trade committee of the European Parliament.

Countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are now concerned that the end of the quotas removes the relative protection for their exports to the European Union, and that they will be squeezed out by massive Chinese exports.

"There are a lot of worries at

home, among businesses and unions, but also elsewhere, in developing countries, given the Chinese competition," said Lamy.

But he pointed out that developing countries could use "flexibilities" in a number of EU import tariff regimes, such as rules of origin, general preferences and the Everything But Arms initiative.

These "would allow them to pull back some ground in terms of competitive edge against the

Chinese," said Lamy.

European Union countries imported some 12.3 billion euros' (14.98 billion dollars) worth of textile products from China last year, by far the biggest single slice of the 70 billion euro value of the sector.

Some 47 countries, including industrialised and developing countries, asked the World Trade Organisation on June 17 to delay the abolition of textile quotas until December 2007, fearing an avalanche of Chinese imports.



PHOTO: ASIATIC MINDSHARE

Lever Brothers Bangladesh Limited Chairman and Managing Director Sanjiv Mehta poses for photographs with the management committee members of the company showing Unilevers 'Sustained Innovation Performer' award 2004.



PHOTO: CITYCELL

Intekhab Mahmud, head of Marketing of CityCell, and Raquibul Kabir, managing partner of Unicom Cellular, exchange documents after signing an agreement on behalf of their organisations recently in Dhaka. Under the deal, Unicom Cellular has become a CityCell dealer. Chris Maloy, chief executive officer of CityCell, and Shafiqullah Rana, chairman, Unicom Cellular, are also seen in the picture.



PHOTO: GP

GrameenPhone Ltd (GP) Managing Director Ola Ree, Deputy Director (Sales and Marketing) Kafil HS Mueyed, and General Manager and Head of Distribution Mahboob Hossain pose for photographs with the winners of the company's sales incentive programme, "Going Beyond", at a function held in Dhaka recently. The programme was organised to award highest selling dealers of Dhaka and Barisal zones during June to July period this year.

Poll spending, cellphone use boost Philippine economy

ANNI/Philippine Inquirer

Election spending and higher use of cellular phones allowed the Philippine economy to grow by 6.2 percent in April-June despite the government's fragile fiscal position.

This lifted the growth of the gross domestic product (GDP), the total value of goods produced and services rendered in the country, in the first six months to 6.3 percent, up from 4.5 percent in the same period last year.

Neighboring countries, however, are growing at much robust rates. Malaysia posted 8 percent; Hong Kong 12.1 percent; Taiwan 7.7 percent; China 9.6 percent and Singapore 12.5 percent.

The country's gross national product (GNP), which combines the GDP with net factor income from abroad, grew by a slower 5.7 percent in the second quarter, down from 6.5 percent a year ago.

This was due to the "negligible" 0.3-percent growth in net factor income, which includes remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), according to the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB). Compensation income of OFWs grew by only 3.3 percent, much weaker than the 11.5-percent growth posted last year.

The government is expecting to meet the full-year GDP growth target of 4.9 to 5.8 percent, it said.

CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's (September 1, 2004) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

| Sell | Currency | Buy | Buy | Buy |
|----------|----------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| TT/OD | BC | TT Clean | OD Sight Doc | OD Transfer |
| 59.8000 | 59.8500 | USD 58.6050 | 58.4329 | 58.3629 |
| 73.6078 | 73.6694 | EUR 70.7011 | 70.4934 | 70.4090 |
| 108.5430 | 108.6337 | GBP 104.9440 | 104.6357 | 104.5105 |
| 42.8766 | 42.9125 | AUD 40.5840 | 40.4648 | 40.4163 |
| 0.5550 | 0.5555 | JPY 0.5327 | 0.5312 | 0.5305 |
| 47.8209 | 47.8609 | CHF 45.8927 | 45.7579 | 45.7032 |
| 8.3165 | 8.3235 | SEK 7.6254 | 7.6030 | 7.5939 |
| 45.9329 | 45.9713 | CAD 44.2135 | 44.0836 | 44.0309 |
| 7.6742 | 7.6807 | HKD 7.5062 | 7.4842 | 7.4752 |
| 35.1537 | 35.1831 | SGD 34.1421 | 34.0419 | 34.0011 |
| 16.4137 | 16.4274 | AED 15.8268 | 15.7803 | 15.7614 |

| Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar | | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Indian rupee | Pak rupee | Lankan rupee | Thai bath | Nor kronor |

Local Interbank FX Trading
Local interbank FX market was active Wednesday. US dollar ended stronger against Bangladesh taka on back of higher demand.

Local Money Market
Money market was active. Call money rate rose slightly and ranged between 4.50 and 5.00 percent compared with 4.00 and 5.00 percent previously.

International Market
The dollar struggled on Wednesday to rise from the previous day's six-

week lows versus the yen and a one-week trough against the euro brought by weak US data, as caution remained high ahead of other key releases. Tuesday's sharper than expected fall in the Chicago purchasing management index may have heightened worries. Among important data, analysts are expecting the August Institute of Supply Management Index, due at 1400 GMT, to edge down to 60.0 from July's 62.0 US job data is also due on Friday, where economist are expecting a gain of about 160,000 jobs in August.

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SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 01/09/2004.

| Berth no. | Name of vessels | Cargo | L. Port call | Local agent | Dr of arrival | Leaving | Import disch. |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| J/1 | Kramak/Kd Kaiston | Wheat | Mala | EQSL | 29/8 | 1/9 | -- |
| J/2 | Kd Lektu | Wheat/Chili | Mala | EQSL | 29/8 | 1/9 | -- |
| J/3 | Shew Thon Dari | Sugar (P) | Kaki | Seaglor | 13/8 | 3/9 | 269 |
| J/4 | Gracia | Sugar (P) | Durb | OTL | 22/8 | 6/9 | 1519 |
| J/5 | Kranj | GI | Sing | ANCL | 28/8 | 4/9 | 626 |
| J/6 | Taraman Bibi | Sugar (P) | Thai | Nishat | 25/8 | 4/9 | 1759 |
| J/7 | Carina-II | Sugar (P) | Darb | Mutual | 12/8 | 4/9 | 1070 |
| J/8 | Friendly Ace(Liner) GI(SL.C) | Sing | Sing | Everett | 30/8 | 1/9 | 3284 |
| J/9 | Pearl | Sugar (P) | Bang | Jardine | 21/8 | 5/9 | 1900 |
| J/11 | Kota Tampan | Cont | Sing | PHI(B) | 30/8 | 2/9 | 211 |
| J/12 | Qc Star | Cont | Hald | QCSL | 30/8 | 1/9 | 06 |
| J/13 | Banga Bonik | Cont | Col | Baridhi | 31/8 | 3/9 | 273 |

Vessels due at outer anchorage

| Name of vessels | Date of arrival | L. Port call | Local agent | Type of cargo | Loading ports |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tua Masindra-9 | 1/9 | Indo | OTL | Towing Barge | Searev-Vii |
| Barge Searev-Vii | 1/9 | Indo | OTL | Scraping | -- |
| Banga Bator | 1/9 | Sing | Bdship | Cont | Pki/Sing |
| Van Xuan | 1/9 | Sing | PSSL | Cont | Sing |
| Xiang Ruimen | 1/9 | Kaki | Move | C. Clink | Schl |
| An Long Jiang(Liner) | 2/9 | Sing | BSC | Cont | Sing |
| Banglar Moni | 2/9 | Sing | BSC | Cont | Sing |
| Rio Negro | 2/9 | Sing | OCSL | Cont | T/Pelepas |
| Straits Express | 2/9 | Hald | Nyk | Wheh 172 Pags | -- |
| Orient Excellence | 2/9 | -- | PSSL | Cont | Sing |
| Magway (Liner) | 2/9 | Yang | Everest | GI(SL.C) | -- |
| Xpress Resolve | 3/9 | Col | Everest | Cont | Col |
| Hapaan | 4/9 | Yang | GPS | GI(Log) | -- |
| Orient Wisdom | 2/9 | Col | PSSL | Cont | Col |

Tanker due

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-------|---------|------------|
| Tank Oil | 2/9 | Lumut | Rainbow | CPD (RM/3) |
| Gas Millennium | 4/9 | Viza | MEL | Ammonia(A) |
| Batavia | 4/9 | Kuwa | MSTPL | -- |
| Lombardia | 7/9 | Jebel | OWSL | Crude Oil |

Vessels at Kutubdia

| Name of vessels | Cargo | Last Port call | Local agent | Date of arrival |
|-----------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
|-----------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|

Outside port limit:

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|------|------------|----|
| Dea Captain | -- | Ibsa | R/A (29/8) | -- |
|-------------|----|------|------------|----|

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready:

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|----------|------|
| Salamat-2 | Bitumen | Hald | Oim | 22/8 |
| New Blessing | Cont | P. Kai | Everbest | 1/9 |
| Eastern Star | Gr. Slag | Vish | SSA | 29/8 |
| Vessels Not Ready: | | | | |
| Amar | Wheat (P) | Siva | Mutual | 29/8 |

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction:

| | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|--------|-------------|
| Banga Biraj | -- | -- | Bdship | R/A (29/12) |
| Banglar Jyoti | -- | -- | BSC | R/A (26/8) |
| Empire Strength | -- | -- | Hel | R/A (26/8) |
| Banglar Shourabh | -- | -- | BSC | R/A (31/8) |

Vessels not entering:

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------|-------|----------|------|
| Pavonis | S. Bulk | Visa | Move | 20/8 |
| Santa Barbara | C. Clink | Padra | Uniship | 26/8 |
| Bibibey | Mau (P) | Niko | Linscott | 21/8 |
| Brave Royal | C. Clink | Kabi | BRSL | 28/8 |
| Tag Sympathy-5 | Scraping | Gali | Raship | 29/8 |
| Sella Jaya | Scraping | Gale | Raship | 29/8 |
| Easton | Scraping | Mala | MSTPL | 30/8 |
| Neapolis | Scraping | Hald | JF | 30/8 |

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

STOCK