

## Developing states prepared for battle at WTO talks

AFP, Nairobi

Developing nations on Tuesday vowed to push for a fair deal at World Trade Organization (WTO) talks in Kenya this week in a bid to pump life into the Doha trade liberalization process.

In three days of talks that begin Thursday in the port city of Mombasa, trade officials from nearly 30 nations will seek to narrow differences between poor and rich nations ahead of a December WTO ministerial meeting in Hong Kong.

Poor countries want "to build concrete content on development

questions, specific commitments, concrete deadlines" from richer nations on agriculture and development issues, Kenyan Trade Minister Mukhisa Kituyi said.

"Let us build more human considerations in the rules of world trade, such that the weak and vulnerable do not transfer the benefits of their labour because of poor unfair relationships (of trade)," he told reporters.

"We want to use the consultations in Kenya as an opportunity to reach out for compromise and flexibility," Kituyi said.

Rwandan Trade Minister Nshuti

Paul Manesser said poor nations would not agree to anything short of fair trade, maintaining that current practices have developing countries to the brink of poverty.

"For developing countries and particular Africa ... trade is life," he said. "People don't appreciate when we say we need fair trade, we need abolition of farm subsidies. Our poverty is anchored on imbalanced trade."

"We are saying that this cannot go on, time has come that we have to have fair trade," Manesser said.

The Mombasa meeting comes a year after Kenya hosted an informal

session of WTO talks in Mombasa amid hopes for a breakthrough in negotiations that had stalled due to bitter north-south disagreements, notably over agricultural subsidies.

That deadlock forced the WTO to scrap a planned end-2004 deadline for the conclusion of the Doha round, named for the Qatari capital where it was launched in November 2001.

Attempts to rescue the talks in September 2003 failed at a ministerial conference in the Mexican resort town of Cancun over disagreements on the agenda and fallout over the farm subsidies in the west.



PHOTO: THE ORIENTAL BANK

Managing Director of The Oriental Bank and Chairperson of SWIFT Member Group of Bangladesh CM Koyes Sami (2-R) addresses a meeting of the technical committee of SWIFT recently in Dhaka. Visiting officials from Equant (SITA), UK and Belgium Bart De Kerpel and Tracey Howett and Executive Vice-president of Bank Asia Ltd Irteza Reza Chowdhury also attended the meeting.



PHOTO: IMCB

Deepak Adhikary, acting general manager of SouthAsia Enterprise Development Facility (SEDF), speaks at a certificate awarding ceremony of a training programme on 'Assisting SMEs to Grow' organised by the Institute of Management Consultants Bangladesh (IMCB) in association with SEDF in Dhaka recently. Prof Hafiz GA Siddiqi, chairman, M Saidul Haq, president of IMCB, and Dr Afreen Huq, consultant of SEDF, were also present at the function.



PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

Sk Raihan Ahmed, chief executive officer of Seven Circle (Bangladesh) Ltd, the cement manufacturing company of Seven Rings brand, and Tanvir Ibrahim, head of Sales of GrameenPhone Ltd, sign a corporate agreement on behalf of their organisations recently in Dhaka. Other senior officials from both the sides are also seen.



PHOTO: RAHIMAFROOZ BATTERIES

Chairman of Rahimafrooz Batteries Ltd Afroz Rahim poses for photographs with the winners and participants of the company's largest promotion in the automotive battery industry -- Lucas-Kolome Kolome Kuala Lumpur-- in a prize distribution ceremony held recently in Dhaka.

## S'pore-based budget carriers announce new routes

AFP, Singapore

Singapore-based budget carriers announced new service routes Wednesday as the rivalry for the Asian low-fare market further intensified.

Qantas-backed Jetstar Asia said it will begin plying the increasingly busy Bangkok route from March 23 after cancelling its Pattaya service due to poor demand.

In a separate statement, Tiger Airways, which is 49 percent owned by Singapore Airlines, announced what it described as a "major" network expansion with flights to Macau from March 25, Ho Chi Minh City from April 1 and Hanoi from April 7.

To promote the launch of the Bangkok service, Jetstar Asia will give away 1,000 tickets for a return trip between the two cities for bookings made on its website between March 3 and 16.

During the promotional period, tickets for a one-way trip to Bangkok will start from 28 Singapore dollars (17 US dollars).

"Bangkok remains one of the top business and tourist destinations in the region and is an incredibly popular destination with Singaporeans," Jetstar Asia's head of marketing Dorit Grueber said in a statement.

## CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's March 2, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

| Sell     |          | Buy      |          |               |             |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|-------------|
| TT/OD    | BC       | Currency | TT Clean | OD Slight Doc | OD Transfer |
| 64.2000  | 64.2500  | USD      | 62.9050  | 62.7202       | 62.6452     |
| 85.2383  | 85.3047  | EUR      | 81.9904  | 81.7495       | 81.6517     |
| 123.8675 | 123.9640 | GBP      | 119.8152 | 119.4632      | 119.3202    |
| 50.9353  | 50.9760  | AUD      | 48.3865  | 48.2444       | 48.1867     |
| 0.6222   | 0.6226   | JPY      | 0.5965   | 0.5947        | 0.5940      |
| 55.6037  | 55.6470  | CHF      | 53.2777  | 53.1212       | 53.0576     |
| 9.7577   | 9.7653   | SEK      | 8.6391   | 8.6138        | 8.6035      |
| 52.0977  | 52.1383  | CAD      | 50.0916  | 49.9444       | 49.8847     |
| 8.2397   | 8.2462   | HKD      | 8.0580   | 8.0344        | 8.0247      |
| 39.6958  | 39.7267  | SGD      | 38.5376  | 38.4245       | 38.3785     |
| 17.6224  | 17.6361  | AED      | 16.9890  | 16.9391       | 16.9188     |
| 17.2562  | 17.2696  | SAR      | 16.6415  | 16.5927       | 16.5728     |
| 11.8739  | 11.8832  | DKK      | 10.6509  | 10.6196       | 10.6069     |
| 215.5428 | 215.7145 | KWD      | 214.6758 | 214.0658      | 213.8180    |

| Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar |           |              |           |            |           |                   |
|---|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Indian rupee  | Pak rupee | Lankan rupee | Thai baht | Norokroner | NZ dollar | Malaysian ringgit |
| 43.6  | 59.365    | 99.565       | 38.330    | 6.2298     | 0.7756    | 3.80              |

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## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 02/03/2005.

| Berth no. | Name of vessels | Cargo      | L. port call | Local agent | Dt of arrival | Leaving | Import disch. |
|-----------|-----------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| J/2       | Van Xuan        | Cont       | Sing         | PSSL        | 1/3           | 3/3     | 150           |
| J/3       | Toro            | Wheat(p)   | Durb         | Pacific     | 21/2          | 6/3     | 1747          |
| J/4       | Floral Lake     | Wheat(p)   | Argen        | MSA         | 22/2          | 8/3     | 3227          |
| J/5       | Spring Trader   | Gl (st. C) | Yang         | Everett     | 26/2          | 2/3     | 2203          |
| J/6       | Al-muztuba      | Rice(p)    | Yang         | Cla         | 19/2          | 3/3     | 1230          |
| J/7       | Chin Shwehaw    | Gl(y.ma)   | Yang         | MTA         | 23/2          | 3/3     | 756           |
| J/8       | Rong Cheng      | TSP/GI     | Xing         | Cosco       | 19/2          | 4/3     | 3461          |
| J/9       | Amar            | Rice(p)    | Viza         | Total       | 22/2          | 5/3     | 2364          |
| J/10      | Banga Borti     | Cont       | Sing         | Bdship      | 27/2          | 5/3     | 228           |
| J/11      | Eastern Star    | Cont       | Sing         | BSC         | 26/2          | 2/3     | --            |
| J/12      | Kota Berjaya    | Cont       | Sing         | Pil(bd)     | 1/3           | 4/3     | 184           |
| J/13      | Mellum          | Cont       | Sing         | QCSL        | 28/2          | 4/3     | 278           |
| CCT/1     | Banga Bonik     | Cont       | Col          | Bardhi      | 28/2          | 2/3     | 245           |
| CCT/2     | Banga Borak     | Cont       | P. Kel       | Bdship      | 27/2          | 3/3     | 70            |

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

| Name of vessels | Date of arrival | L. port call | Local agent | Type of cargo | Loading ports |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Pavonis         | 2/3             | Yang         | PML         | Gl(log/y.ma)  | --            |
| Ashan Premier   | 3/3             | Chin         | Litmond     | Urea(b/cic)   | Col           |
| Oel Enterprise  | 2/3             | Haid         | PSSL        | Cont          | Sing          |
| Maris           | 2/3             | Kant         | Litmond     | Clink         | Shah          |
| Banga Borat     | 2/3             | Sing         | Bdship      | Cont          | Sing          |
| Continent-4     | 2/3             | Yang         | Cla         | G             | --            |
| Keng Tung       | 3/3             | Yang         | Everett     | Gl(st.c)      | --            |
| New Blessing    | 4/3             | P. Kel       | Everbest    | Cont          | Sing          |
| Xpress Resolve  | 4/3             | Cbo          | Everbest    | Cont          | Col           |
| Oel Freedom     | 5/3             | Pkl          | PSSL        | Cont          | Sing          |
| Marissa Green   | 4/3             | Sin          | Everbest    | Cont          | Sing          |
| Banga Biraj     | 5/3             | --           | Bdship      | Cont          | Pkl/sing      |

### Tanker due

|           |     |      |        |         |
|-----------|-----|------|--------|---------|
| Al Deerah | 3/3 | Kuwa | MSTPL  | HSD/MS  |
| Salamat-3 | 3/3 | Haid | Nishat | Bitumen |
| Mado      | 4/3 | Sing | MBL    | Ammonia |

### Outside port Limit

|                     |           |           |         |           |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Rig Ocean Sovereign | --        | Sing      | Beeline | 18/11     |
| Gulfdrill-9         | --        | Pr. Equip | IBSA    | 27/11     |
| Dea Captain         | --        | --        | IBSA    | R/A(19/2) |
| Wira Kenis          | Dr. Equip | Sing      | IBSA    | R/A(22/2) |
| Solieau Tide        | Dr. Equip | --        | IBSA    | R/A(28/2) |
| Lady Bargaret       | Dr. Equip | --        | IBSA    | R/A(28/2) |

### Vessels at outer anchorage

| Vessels ready  |          |        |         |     |
|----------------|----------|--------|---------|-----|
| Banglar Shikha | Cont     | P. Kel | BSC     | 1/3 |
| Banga Bodor    | Cont     | P. Kel | Bdship  | 1/3 |
| Hermes         | Base Oil | Ukra   | Kaptai  | 1/3 |
| Kota Cahaya    | Cont     | Sing   | PIL(BD) | 2/3 |

### Vessels not ready

|                 |            |      |     |      |
|-----------------|------------|------|-----|------|
| Yaad-e-mohammed | Sugar(p)   | Bang | Cla | 26/2 |
| Celtic          | Wheat (p)  | Kand | HSA | 27/2 |
| Kyaw Yadanar    | Rice/pulse | Yang | MTA | 28/2 |
| Mongla          | Gl(y.ma)   | Yang | MTA | 2/3  |

### Vessels not entering

|                 |          |       |       |      |
|-----------------|----------|-------|-------|------|
| Ocean Pride     | P. Feeld | Viza  | PSAL  | 17/2 |
| Kurushuma Sea   | Salt     | Bedi  | Apex  | 21/2 |
| K.s.harmony     | Clink    | Kohsi | ASLL  | 27/2 |
| New Hope-II     | Clink    | Kaki  | Move  | 27/2 |
| Banglar Moni    | Gypsum   | Krabi | SSA   | 28/2 |
| Tug Gps Pioneer | --       | Indo  | Sigma | 26/2 |
| Dredger Bd-5006 | Scraping | Indo  | Sigma | 26/2 |

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

## STOCK